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The Association of Graduates recently learned of the death of three of our classmates: Mike **Gibbons**, CS-20, Bob **Parlette**, CS-21, and John **Medina**, CS-11. Michael F. "Gibber" Gibbons passed away on August 15, 2017 in Dallas, TX after a long illness. A service was held on 25 Sept 2017 at the USAFA Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Sharon: Mrs. Sharon Gibbons; 7824 El Pensador Dr; Dallas, TX 75248-4312.

Robert L. Parlette passed away on September 26, 2017 in Wenatchee, WA after battling acute myeloid leukemia. His family suggests that memorial donations be made in lieu of flowers to the Complete the Loop Coalition; PO Box 1192; Wenatchee, WA 98807 or to the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance; 25 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801; www.evergreenmtb.org. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Linda: Mrs. Linda Parlette; 661 Wheeler Hill Rd #15; Wenatchee, WA 98801-9703

Lt Col (Ret) Jon E. Medina passed away on October 4, 2017 in Rocklin, CA. A graveside service was held October 17 at the USAFA Cemetery. His family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project; PO Box 758517; Topeka, KS 66675; (877) 448-3997; www.woundedwarriorproject.org or the Marine Toys For Tots Foundation; Gift Processing Administrator; 18251 Quantico Gateway Dr; Triangle, VA 22172; www.toysfortots.org. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Renodia: Mrs. Renodia Medina; 2520 Ruby Ct; Rocklin, CA 95677-2226

Mini Reunion 23 Sep 2017:

This year's mini-reunion was well attended. In addition to our regular activities, two memorial services were conducted at the Academy Cemetery: one for Grant **Bornzin** on Friday and one for Mike **Gibbons** on Monday. The Friday night social was held at a new place; this time Bourbon Brothers Smokehouse and Tavern just north of the North Gate. Bob Hayes reported over 70 for dinner and about 90 for the Tailgate Buffet and Cup

Turning Ceremony on Saturday at the Eisenhower Golf Course. A number of the family members of our honorees were in attendance. We got started early with some arriving shortly after 11 am to enjoy Bloody Mary's and Mimosas. After the cup turning the Mexican Buffet provided plenty of food to go around. The party began to wind down around 3:30 to allow those attending the game to make their way to the Stadium. The game itself is another story. Jimmie **Butler** described the ceremony as very well done and as usual allowed us to learn many things about our departed classmates. Those whose cups we turned were Klem **Kalberer**, Barry **Wetherington**, Bill **Keenan**, Bill **Hentges**, Grant **Bornzin** and Mike **Gibbons**. I especially liked Jimmie's comments and Mike Christy's Final Toast. One of the things really worth attending mini-reunions for is the cup turning ceremonies which remind you once again of what an extraordinary group of young men came together on 26 June 1959 to become the USAF Academy Class of 1963. Truly a cherished brotherhood.

The rain started slowly at game time but the sky was menacing. Midway through the 1st Quarter the winds and showers picked up soon followed by thunderstorms. Cold winds and rain roared through the stadium. The game was stopped for an hour and a half and the Stadium emptied due to lightning. By the time the game resumed almost everyone, including Linda and yours truly, were sitting in a warm place, watching it on television and enjoying a nice glass of wine and a good plate of pasta.

A group picture was impossible. Jimmie did forward a large number of snapshots. Space limitations preclude including many photos but they will be on the Class Website version of this Article in December. At the Mike Gibbons memorial ceremony on Monday Jimmie did find 14 classmates who stayed over to attend. His after-ceremony picture is included below.



L-R Bill Ball, Jerry Ahmann, Barry Bielinski, Bob Donovan, Mike Christy, Jim Kuhn, Pres Davis, Jimmie Butler, John Edwards, Bill Mitchell, John Haluska, Larry Hoffman, Drue DeBerry, Lucky Ekman

Ed Pickens wrote about his trip to Oslo and time spent with our classmate **Joe Hans R. Wilson**. Joe was last seen by his classmates of 15th Squadron at Graduation, June 1963, when he went into the U.S. Army. Skip **Lee** and Dave **Nuss** found Joe via the internet in Norway several years ago. I (Ed Pickens) told Skip at that time that if I got to Norway that I would try to meet up with Joe. On 24 July, 2017, on our trip to Norway, Caroline and I arranged to meet Joe for lunch in Oslo. Five hours later we were still talking at the lunch table. Old friends, despite 54 years apart, melded back together quickly. After graduation, Joe went into the Infantry; found the Love of His Life in 1965 on a visit back to Moss, Norway, where his grandmother lived; spent 7 years in the Infantry with a tour in Vietnam; in 1970 got the Army to pay for a Masters in Social Work; spent the next 12 years at Brooks Army Hospital in Social Services; and retired in 1983 as Department Head of Social Services at Brooks. Joe and Berit immediately moved back to Moss, Norway. It took Joe 6 months to learn how to read and write Norwegian, upon which he took a job in Social Services in Moss. Joe ultimately became head of the Moss Department. After retiring from his job at Moss, Joe became a sculptor of small, whimsical figures and is now a regionally known sculptor in Norway. Our 5-hour lunch with Joe was the highlight of my trip to Norway.



Joe Hans and Ed

Randy **Reynolds** has a new book you can find on Amazon: *Rouge Pilot and Other Stories About Aviators*. The collection of stories is about individuals who have been connected with aviation and flying.

Jim **Hannam** wrote about the AFA's black tie celebration for the AF's 70th Birthday, September 18, 2017, when the AFA presented Ron **Fogelman** with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Ron gave a superb acceptance speech at the event. Jim was also honored at the same event as AFA Member of the Year! Congratulations to both Ron and Jim.

I just have to show a picture sent by Dave **Nuss** from his home away from home in South Africa. You can believe this: he has purchased an airplane (pictured) and is determined to not only fly the plane but also earn his Pilot's License! After all these years, there is one thing I know and admire about David: when he says he is going to do something he does it!



David's new ride

Latest news from the 55th Reunion Team; the Chapel will be available for our Cup Turning Ceremony! Expect to hear more in the spring. *Don't forget to update your profile with the AOG!*

Note to JJ: According to Linda, JJ Kennedy was right on: the Shrimp Paesano was the best.