

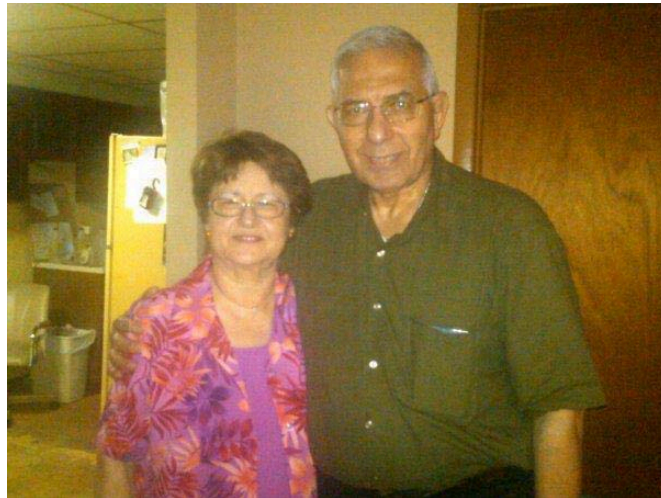


June 2012

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Class News: 1963:

Jerry **Adinolfi** announced he “finally retired again.” After 14 years as rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Coffeyville, Kansas and regional dean of the Southeast Convocation, Jerry retired from the Episcopal priesthood. But, that is not all the news. According to his Face Book post (confirmed) he is getting married. Now that is great news. Bella Rennick and Jerry are engaged to be married on August 25, 2012 in Westerlo, New York. They plan to make their new home in the Albany, NY area.



*Bella and Jerry*

Bob **Hayes** updated status for this year’s mini-reunion scheduled for Oct 6<sup>th</sup> during the Navy game. TV coverage makes the proposed noon kick-off time a question and along with it the normal mini-reunion events. The plan as it is includes a pre-game tailgate. Post-game activities include the cup turning ceremony, catered dinner in Arnold Hall along with some Gift Committee updates. As we get more information Bob will provide updates via e-mail. If you are thinking of attending this year you should get yourself on Bob’s e-mail list. Send a request to [bcahayes@comcast.net](mailto:bcahayes@comcast.net) or call him at 719-481-9693. Football tickets are normally obtained online through the USAFA Athletic Department ([www.goairforcefalcons.com](http://www.goairforcefalcons.com)). Individual seats are released around the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.



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*Diff and Mick shake hands with Gen Steve Lorenz, '73, CEO of the Endowment*

Mick writes: The photo shows the formal signing of the Class of 1963—Academy Endowment to establish the 1963 Fund in support of the Center for Character and Leadership Development, the Center for Oral History, and the 1963 USAFA Class Histories. The signing took place in conjunction with the Gift Committee meeting at USAFA on April 18 and 19. Our class gift is moving ahead rapidly; by this time you should have a folder explaining in detail the Gift. **Gil Merkle** and **Lou Matjasko** are circulating video kits with the goal of recording a short history of every member of our Class. Please support this effort. Our goal is 100% participation.

**Bill Ball** reports the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee met in April and “. . . is now fully off the runway and airborne. And, we even know our destination. The Thursday evening memorial for our 18 fallen classmates, and 2 POWs, in Southeast Asia is well underway. See the names of all in the March Checkpoints. Any stories, info, pictures of yourself or classmates during the war in Southeast Asia along with your thoughts/inputs for that evening should be sent to **Jimmie Butler** ([jimmieb@q.com](mailto:jimmieb@q.com)). We need more; so keep it coming.

“On Friday at the Chapel Ceremony we plan to turn, for the first time, John F. Kennedy's cup. Of course, also being turned will be the cups of our classmates who have died since our 45th reunion. That evening we will have our dinner at the Marriott hotel per our normal schedule. What will be different is a program to round out our 50th celebrations. **Denny King** and **Drue DeBerry** will be putting together a review of the world events that we, as a class, lived during our 54 years as cadets and graduates. A very large part of the program will be funny stories from you about our cadet years and of those years since graduation. Just make sure your stories will hold the audience spellbound and rolling in the aisles. So start thinking; put your thoughts down and send them to **Denny** ([denny63@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denny63@sbcglobal.net)) and **Drue** ([drue.deberry@comcast.net](mailto:drue.deberry@comcast.net)). If you can't put it on paper give them a call. We plan to select the best inputs and use them that evening. Who knows, you may even be the one telling your story that night. We envision an evening of memories and a lot of fun.”

The Squadron Reps need your help with the contact list for our class. To date they have been unable to “raise comm” with 15 classmates. The fifteen names are, Robert B. **Simpson** CS-02,



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Richard Max **Brown** and James Allen **McKean** CS-09, Robert J. **Melone** CS-14, Richard F. **Graham** and Joe Hans R. **Wilson** CS-15, Anthony D. **Dunn**, Richard H. **Hubbard** and Lynn R. **Weber** CS-18, Dwight A. **Haworth** CS-19, Allen E. **Wolf** CS-20, James I. **Woods** CS-21, and, Robert J. **Desanto**, John **Halligan** and Warren **Manchess** from CS-24. If you are on this list or know of their whereabouts please contact the relevant Squadron Rep—their names and e-mail addresses are listed on the 63 Web Page at <http://www.usafa63.org/sqreps.pdf>. You can also give me a call or shoot me an e-mail. Many thanks in advance for your help on this issue. I can't say enough as to how important it is that we are able to contact each and every classmate as we move toward the 50<sup>th</sup>. We want everyone there.

On a related matter, Pres **Davis** sent me a note asking for help resolving a particularly vexing inaccuracy in the Class contact database for our class. Two of our deceased classmates are not being claimed by the Cadet Squadron listed at graduation in the AOG database. Other data sources have not helped. They are (with the graduating squadron in parens): Russell **Turner** (7), and Bert **Reinstein** (14). If you have the information please pass that back to Pres at [chdphd@earthlink.net](mailto:chdphd@earthlink.net) or me at [54wrs63@gmail.com](mailto:54wrs63@gmail.com).

In the next few *Checkpoints* we plan to feature those 18 fallen heroes. Below are three of the 18. Many thanks to Jimmie Butler for the picture.



Major Frank **Ralston** was killed on 14 May 1966 (officially MIA until 9 January 1978) as an F-4C pilot on an armed reconnaissance mission. He was a member of the 433 TFS, 8 TFW, Ubon Thailand.

Major Thomas **Clark** was killed in Laos on 8 February 1969 as an F-100D pilot when his plane crashed (officially until 28 September 1973). He was a member of the 416 TFS, 37 TFW, Phu Cat AB, Vietnam.

First Lieutenant Harold **Knudsen** was killed on 14 September 1966 as an F-4C pilot when the plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Phan Rang AB, Vietnam en route to a strike mission in South Vietnam. He was a member of the 389 TFS, 366 TFW at the time.

I know this is a bunch of information on the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion but at the moment a lot of things are coming together and we thought it best to get you up to speed. Take care out there and get those videos done. When your classmate producer calls be ready!