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The Association of Graduates recently learned of the death of Col (Ret) Ted **Schroeder**, CS-04 class of 1963. Col Schroeder passed away on 27 Feb 2014 in St. George, UT after battling illnesses related to Parkinson's disease. A private memorial service was held in St. George, UT in accordance with Col Schroeder's wishes. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Susan: Mrs. Susan Schroeder; 243 N Butch Cassidy Trail; St. George, UT 84722-3022

Diff Report: You should have received an email (if we have your correct address) requesting a small donation to cover 50th reunion cost overruns and future class needs. We hosted 45 family members of our 18 KIAs Thursday night and covered the expenses for our POWs, the former AF Secretary Mike Wynne, the Superintendent, and their families for the dinner on Thursday. And, we purchased 50 reunion coins for KIA families and gifts for our two POWs and Secretary Wynn. These additional expenses were incurred in the best interests of the Class. Looking forward, our ability to support classmate's memorial services with flowers sent by the AOG depends on having a positive balance in our class Agency Fund (not to be confused with our large USAFA Endowment Fund; currently @ \$868,529). This fund has been sustained over the years by unsolicited giving. Demands on the fund have been small; however, in the future, greater demands will be incurred by the fund. Donations to the class Agency Fund are not tax deductible. We, as all other classes, also have a class Gift Fund. At this time we have no need to maintain a balance in this fund as Gift Funds (tax deductible) are used for class fund-raising for gifts (statues, buildings, etc.) to the Academy. The AOG allocates \$75 for each classmate memorial service; so, approximately \$25K+ will be needed to cover these costs. This balance is not required now; however, over time the Agency Fund must show a positive balance. If you would like to help make you donation check payable to: "AOG/Class of 1963 Agency Fund" and send to: Association of Graduates, 3116 Academy Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840-4775.

2014 Mini-Reunion: Word from Bob **Hayes** is this year's Mini-Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 27th at the Boise State football game. After a short

poll taken the decision was unanimous. The Falcon's schedule conspired somewhat and we didn't want to put up with the potential of having the Navy game start at 9:30 am to accommodate East Coast fans like it did in 2012. Later game dates would put us into a greater threat for cold weather and at our advanced age we need to be careful. We usually tailgate before the game at our usual spot; then we watch the football game and go to Arnold Hall afterwards to turn the cups of our recently deceased and then enjoy a catered dinner. Bob should be able to provide planning updates to all those on his list. To get on the list just send him an e-mail at bcahayes@comcast.net. See you there!

Short Reports: the other day Linda and I were reminiscing about our first automobile and wondering if we had purchased a sports car or something like a Mustang (not available to us in 1963) and given our first born came along about 15 months after graduation would we have kept the car for long. Well, Bob and Shirley **Hall**, without knowing any of this, partially answered the question with the following photograph e-mailed to me a couple of days later. The gist of his e-photo below is this: 50 years with the same wife and the same car. What a story!



Bob, Shirley and Austin Healy together for 50 years

Mick **Roth** wrote he was getting ready to travel to the Academy to lecture in two classes in the Management Department. He has done this for some time, he says, and is something he really enjoys

John **Shmoldas** has been flying "Wounded Warriors" in ASK-21 sailplanes each month for over a year. These magnificent young men and women, recovering from serious wounds encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan, seem to enjoy the rush of adrenaline from an acrobatic ride over the San Gabriel Mountains and desert east of LA. These events were well captured on CNN.com under "Veterans Sail the Skies for Cure". John also says he was unable to make the 50th reunion as his wife Lea was under his and hospice care in their home in Thousand Oaks, California. Sadly, Lea passed away on 15 Mar 14 after battling Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), a rare neurological disease.

John Heimburger wrote saying he is planning to climb Mount Ararat in 2015 and get a glimpse of The Ark! He said Astronaut Jim Irwin's wife Mary who lives in Colorado Springs and I have been corresponding regarding the location of Noah's Ark. Irwin went on 5-6 Expeditions in an attempt to locate The Ark. He has already had a meeting with the Turkish Consul last month in Houston and gained their support for the trip. John sends *beaucoup* photos of his doings but the one he took at the May 2013 USAFA Graduation celebration is a photo of five exceptionally distinguished classmates taken during the Superintendent's reception in the Falcon Stadium press box.



L-R: Dick **Brown**, Denny **King**, Gordy **Bredvik** John **Heimburger**, Stinky **Steinbrink**

Butch **Verdier** attached the picture below of him pinning wings on Grandson, Ben Brown-Class of 2012 while on the flight line at Laughlin AFB on April 4th. Ben will be flying the C-5M.



New wings from Gramps.

Gil Merkle added a short note with a little more information about class participation for our 50th year activities: “In addition to written biographies and photos, we have collected 417 short video clips from classmates. The videos totaled 2,905 minutes or 48.4 hours of recorded personal stories that were collected by classmates and placed onto the class histories website at www.usafaclashhistories.org. These videos were recorded and collected during the 18 months preceding our 50th reunion in October 2013. Thanks to all who participated in or worked on this project.”

Classmates who have yet to record videos for our USAFA CLASS Histories website are welcome to record and submit a DVD to Gil **Merkle**. If you don't have the necessary recording equipment you can contact Lou **Matjasko** and he might be able to provide some advice or let you know if any of the video kits are still available. Questions on how to access and update can be directed to Gil at merkleg@texas.net or Lou at usafa63historian@msn.com.

More Videos: here is a videos you might find interesting: “USAFA History:” Use the following URL for this Rocky Mountain PBS Documentary.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnslusqiyPA&feature=youtu.be>. Go to the AOG web page and view a number of excellent videos. The Founder's Day video is especially good.

That's it for now. Thank you all for all the great inputs. Until next time we ask everyone to stay healthy and safe.