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The AOG has informed us of the death of Mr. Carlton T. "Bud" West, CS-22 class of 1963. Bud passed away on 15 Mar 2015 in Dahlonega, GA after suffering a heart attack. The funeral service was held the on the 17th. Burial was in Cavender Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Dahlonega, GA. Bud's family suggested memorial donations be made in lieu of flowers to the American Heart Association; PO Box 840692; Dallas, TX 75284 (800) 242-8721 [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org). Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Mrs. Sue West; 331 Summit Dr. Dahlonega, GA 30054

Jim **Kuhn** attended the service for Bud and thought it was very nice. Among the attendees were many of Bud's relatives. Jim added when making plans to go, he thought he might be the only one, but 22<sup>nd</sup> Sq was well represented with Ike **Payne** and Roger **Kornberg** in attendance also. Ike has taken the role of preparing an obit for Checkpoints and I know he would welcome any comments you might be able to add. The family really appreciated that we showed such respect to our fallen classmate. It was an honor to be there.

**Notes from Diff:** Our Class Endowment continues to grow as pledges steadily and faithfully come in. The Academy Endowment, our fiscal manager, reports the Fund returned 4.5% in 2014. Our fund is invested in a long term, world-wide diversified portfolio. While US stocks (S&P 500) were up 11%, non-US stocks were down about 7%, thus the moderate 2014 gain. Thanks to the efforts of Bob **Hayes** and Bill **Ball**, soon there will be a most attractive plaque beside the cup cabinet in Arnold Hall. The Superintendent requested we call attention more clearly to our display, Pat's ring, and the kiosks. This effort has been ongoing for many months with lots of negotiations with various Academy agencies. It will be a super addition to the Heritage Display. Many thanks to Bob and Bill.

**Mini Reunion 12 Sep!** Bob Hayes announced that like the last several mini's, we've picked Sep 12th, AF vs. San Jose St, as better than an Oct date, but we can't come up with definite times/events now because we don't have a start time for football—morning, afternoon or evening. We live in the new TV age.

Specific plans for the mini will remain in limbo until after *Checkpoints* is published in June. Hopefully, it will be an afternoon game and we'll do our usual Friday evening dinner, Saturday tailgate and cup turning ceremony and dinner after the game. We'll adjust and get the word out if it's a morning or evening game.

**Special Request:** Just in case not everyone saw the e-mail from Bob McAllister of the AOG making a special request to the Class of 1963. Bob, the AOG Senior VP of Communications, relayed a request from Colorado Springs *Gazette* columnist David Ramsay who is working on a feature about President John F. Kennedy's 1963 graduation address here at the Academy. He would appreciate hearing from '63 graduates about any special memories or stories that you have to share. Please contact him at [david.ramsey@gazette.com](mailto:david.ramsey@gazette.com).



Fryer and JFK

I heard from Peeps **Bogaert**. The Hawaiian trade winds blew some of us winter weary '63 grads and wives to Waikiki. Frolicking in the sun at the Hale Koa's Barefoot Bar were Sandy and Jim **Johnston**, Lynne and Dick **Shutack**, "Peeps" and Jim **Bogaert**, and Tere and Bob **Brenci**. The Zoomie gathering is becoming a tiny tradition, as some of the couples have been meeting for several years at the military hotel in the February-March time frame. Plans are to meet again -- same time and place -- in 2016.



R to L: at the Hale Koa Hotel's Barefoot Bar are Sandy and Jim Johnston, Lynne and Dick Shutack, Peeps and Jim Bogaert, and Tere and Bob Brenci.

A note from Dan **Ringler** telling me he is heading up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military Airlift Squadron reunion 19 -22 October in Fairfield, California (near Travis AFB). Along with a number of classmates Dan and I were both in the then 3<sup>rd</sup> ATS while at Charleston between 1964 and 1965. Charleston was our first assignment out of flight school and that triggers a lot of memories.

The story goes: a number of us newly minted pilots arrived at Charleston AFB back in October 1964. Classmates I remember included Barney **Bartlett**, Gordon **Bredvick**, Dick **Ferency**, Denny **Haycraft**, Dan **Ringler** plus a West Point '63 grad, Bill Sipos. We were right out of pilot training and destined to become airlift pilots for MATS. Without any aircraft training enroute or anything else such as survival at Stead, we reported for duty with either the 3<sup>rd</sup> ATS or the 17<sup>th</sup> ATS. The powers to be didn't know what to do with us but over time we went through ground and simulator training in Old Shaky and an occasional flight in the pattern with an Instructor and on the line as 3<sup>rd</sup> Pilots. Then, in the spring of 1965 rumors were confirmed: we were given orders to travel to Tinker AFB, OK for training in the brand new C-141! We were in the first Charleston class (P-13) along with a group of other neophytes and an equal number of old-head C-124 Instructor Pilots and Flight Engineers. We returned to Charleston from Tinker in August of 1965 and precisely one year later most of us new co-pilots left for SEA assignments—I was to be a FAC in the O-1. Dan's experience was very similar but was off to SEA after a year's training learning to fly helicopters and then the HH-53B prior to heading to Udorn RTAFB. Dan added that Carl **Oliver** was his flight instructor for the H-19 at Sheppard AFB, TX when he started helicopter flight training. "Ollie"

also ended up in Udorn with Dan flying the HH-53Bs. Dan said Carl was a great helicopter pilot, and it's really sad that he lost his life (through no fault of his own) while flying an HH-53B training mission over the Gulf of Mexico when he was at Eglin AFB and after he returned from SEA. Must be many stories like this. If you have one send it along with photos.

On 6 May 2006, C-141 SN 66-0177 the last operational C-141 (the famous *Hanoi Taxi*) landed for the last time and was received in a formal retirement ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. There are, I am told, only 15 of the airplanes on display throughout the country.



Dan and SonHe

Dan says he still dabbles some in real estate as well as working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> MAS reunion. Dan's wife, SonHe, has a great job working at Johnson & Johnson in Vacaville and stays very busy. They are planning a cruise to Mexico in May. That's it for this time. Linda and I are planning to be at the Mini-Reunion in September. Hope to see you there!