

June, 2010

Class News: 1963

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The AOG confirmed the death of our classmate William F. **Flanagan** who passed away February 24<sup>th</sup> in Lynn, Massachusetts as the result of complications from surgery. The Funeral Service was held 4 March at the Base Chapel at Hanscom AFB. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Mrs. Fabienne J. Flanagan, 15 Valley Rd., Lynn MA 01902-1141

Jerry Sailors asked me to include in the next Checkpoints that his wife Doreen died of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis on January 10, 2010. Pulmonary fibrosis is essentially a progressive hardening of the lungs that leaves a person gasping for breath. IPF is not a well-known disease, but rivals breast cancer in its frequency. There is no definitive cause or effective treatment. Jerry said that in Doreen's case, she was on O2 24/7 for the last two years, but her heart had to work so hard just to get sufficient oxygen into the blood it eventually gave out. Jerry added that not many of our classmates knew Doreen, but she was a special lady. Of course, Jerry thought she was one of a kind and set up a memorial online at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

Back on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February I received an e-mail from Katy Groceman, daughter of our classmate George (Dutch) **Holland**. She was surfing the web looking for information about her father. The 23<sup>rd</sup> is the day in 1966 he was killed in a plane crash near Yuma, AZ. She is looking for someone who may remember her father and be able to tell her something about his time at the Academy. Gil placed her e-mail on the Web Site Guest Book but I was unable to make contact with any member's of Dutch's Cadet Squadron (2<sup>nd</sup>). If you have anything for Katy about her Dad she would love to hear from you. Her E-mail address is [dkatyg@yahoo.com](mailto:dkatyg@yahoo.com).

**Class Gift Committee Report:**

From Mick Roth: Your Gift Team met at USAFA 5-7 Apr. The attendees were: John **Borling**, Drue **DeBerry** (advisor), Les **Denend**, **Diff** (Pres), Art **Johnson**, Lou **Matjasko**, Gil **Merkle**, Bob **Hayes** (local class rep), and me (MJCR-Team Lead). It was, I am happy to say, a great meeting. We spoke freely and openly, and crafted the 50th anniversary class gift. On the first afternoon we had a brief ceremony at the cups in A Hall attended by Generals Gould and Born and key people from the AOG, the Endowment, the History Dept. and support staff. The Superintendent and the Dean were both very positive about our ideas and the course we will take. We had valuable discussions with "T" (William Thompson, AOG CEO) and Col Wells (Hist. Dept. Head) over the next two days which resulted in exciting ideas such as crafting

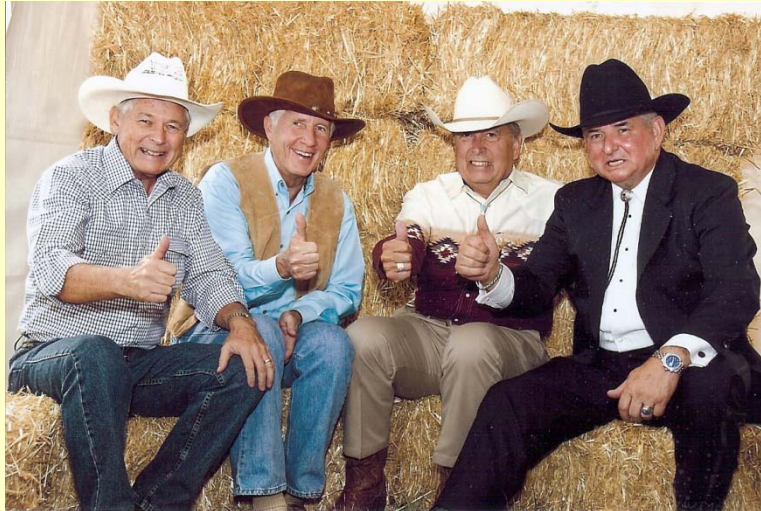
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detailed "First-Person (oral) Histories" in a way that would allow a scholar, cadet, or any other person to search for and find commentary on a specific topic of interest. This will become an integral part of the Center for Character & Leadership Development (CCLD). Near our cup display will be kiosks from which friends and family can connect to each 1963 classmate, both living and departed. This capability will be extended to all classes who chose to participate. Lou and Gil have done incredible work on the content and technology for the kiosks and database. Diff has further detail on our efforts.



Mick, LtGen Gould, Diff

From Diff: Following the early April meetings of the Gift Team, your 50th anniversary gift to the AFA will be: the creation of our class and Academy history database and website (hosted on a server with remote access) with two kiosks near the display; the creation and population of a class key data template (called the "USAF CLASS HISTORIES") that can be used by all classes to add their class history; and, our primary gift will be a significant dollar contribution to the History Department "First-Person History Project", which has received "pre-funding" for five years from the Superintendent. This gift complements the Center for Character & Leadership Development (CCLD) and will be the igniter for the History Dept project. I have appointed Lou Matjasko as the Class Historian. Lou needs you help, all of you, so please open those old blue footlockers and dust off that stuff and get it to Lou (if you want to retain the material, send copies, the original will NOT come back). His address is: 231 Cliffside Place Rockton, Ill 61072 and email: [lsmatjasko@msn.com](mailto:lsmatjasko@msn.com)<<mailto:lsmatjasko@msn.com>>. Les Denend will be the Lead for fund raising; he's putting that part together now; you will be given more information soon. We are most excited about this gift and we hope you share our enthusiasm. (Note from Gil Merkle: Gil is developing a Gift section for the Class Web Site. He says a 'beta' version of the Class Gift should be up and running on the Web Site in early autumn).



Four Cowboys L-R: Ray Fuller, Dan Dietz, Jim Winzell and The Foge

Back at the 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion Jim Winzell gave me the above picture; so it has been waiting a while to get published. The gathering was Miss Jane's and Foge's 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Ray **Fuller** said the party was held at their (Jane's and Ron's) ranch outside Durango, about 100 folks, big tent, catered dinner, dance band, open bar all evening.

Ray's wife Donna recently retired so she and Ray were planning an RV trip to the Pacific Northwest for several weeks, then back to Flagstaff, AZ to stay cool for the rest of the summer. They go home to Chandler in early September for a short stay and then head the Winnebago toward the Northeast to see changing of the colors. Road Trip!

Bob Mazet sent this picture taken at the recent annual Classic Jet Aircraft Association (CJAA) Convention for owners of Jet war birds held recently at Holloman AFB where he was stationed 45 years ago as a First Lieutenant. Good photo!



## Bob and the F-22 Raptor

By the time you read this the 2010 mini-reunion will be less than 4 months away. Bob **Hayes** reminded me that at last year's mini we agreed to convene this year at the Navy game scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due to television (Versus) the game starts early on the 2nd at 10:30 AM MT. This makes our mini planning a little awkward. Normally the pre-game tailgate is planned for 2-3 hours before the game, but Bob said he can't imagine many people gathering at 7:30 or 8:00 AM. He plans on polling the local folks for their ideas/inputs (they are the heavy lifters for the tailgate logistics). He is thinking of simplifying things with just coffee, juice, sweets, a few breakfast snacks and Bloody Marys. Arnold Hall is reserved for the after-game gathering, cup turning ceremony and optional catered dinner. Expect to pay \$15 each more or less for Dinner. Get the latest mini info by joining Bob's e-mail list at [bcahayes@comcast.net](mailto:bcahayes@comcast.net). See you there—Go Falcons Beat Navy!

That's it for now. Take care out there and many thanks for the great inputs.