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Class News: 1963:

The AOG informed us of the death of Col (Ret) Raymond A. **Hamilton**, CS-22. Ray passed away 16 Feb 2013 in Auburn, AL as the result of a heart attack. A memorial service was held 22 Feb 2013 at the Shades Crest Baptist Church of Birmingham, AL. Graveside services were held March 1st at USAFA. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his children, Christine and Rex: Ms. Christine Hamilton; 818 Balsam Ln; Ft Collins, CO 80526-1902 and Mr. Rex Hamilton; 1041 42nd St S; Birmingham, AL 35222-4229. The family suggested donations be made in Ray's memory to the Alzheimer's Association; PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

Last week the AOG also notified us of the death of Dr. Robert (Bob) **Mazet**, CS-03. Bob passed away on 15 Apr 2013 in Phoenix, AZ after a long illness. A memorial service was held at the Hansen Mortuary in Scottsdale, AZ. As of this writing a graveside service is planned for 25 Apr 2013 at USAFA.

If you have not received the April mailing from our 59th Reunion Committee, please get in touch with either of the co-chairs, Bill **Ball** at balljw@msn.com or Denny **King** at denny63@sbglobal.net. Also, check the reunion web site at www.usafa.org/Reunion/1963. Formal signup for reunion activities can be made online beginning June 1st. No internet? Contact Emma Ross at the AOG (719) 472-0300 Ext. 136 and she will mail the necessary forms to you. The ladies need to put in orders for their 50th Pendant if they haven't already. Important for those with special needs and/or inclement weather: our tailgate for the Notre Dame game will be followed in Doolittle Hall by a TV showing of the game. Refreshments will be available. We want this to be our most-attended reunion. Please reserve the fourth week in October for this event and encourage classmates to attend.

From Diff and Mick: We have received donations or pledges to our class Endowment Fund from one third of the class totaling an amazing \$700,000. Meaningful distributions will begin soon to the Center for Character & Leadership Development and to the Center for Oral History. Fund-raising continues; the larger the fund, the greater will be distributions to these Academy agencies. **Hint:** If you have any questions or concerns call the USAFA Endowment Class Giving Officer for the Class of 1963 Endowment Fund, Razelle Doherty. Raz can be reached at Razelle.doherty@usafaendowment.org or (719)472-0300 Ext. 222. Video production continues; if you've not made one, please consider doing so. These videos enhance our class history and help complete the class USAFA Class Histories. See you in October. BEAT ND.

Lou **Matjasko** reports 175 to 180 videos recorded. Wholeheartedly suggest taking a look at the currently posted Class History videos. You will find them to be very diverse in nature and honestly fascinating. A link can be made from the Class web site. If you have yet to do a video,

e-mail/call Lou at usafa63historian@msn.com or 815-624-7690. He will let you know where the Video Kits are located and who to contact.

Ken **Kopke** provided some info about his post Air Force life that I had not known: thanks for sharing. Ken wrote “After we retired from the AF in 1983 Bonell, I, and the kids packed up our cars and drove north out of LA. Destination ... unknown. We meandered through southern, central, and northeast Oregon, into Idaho, finally Montana. Found the sweet spot about 60 miles northeast of Missoula in Seeley Lake. Came for a week, but stayed six years. The first winter we lived in an old log cabin on the lake. Fireplace heat, claw foot bathtub, and a wood-burning cooking stove and oven in the kitchen. Our next door neighbor was Norman McLean, author of “A River Runs Through It.” Our baby sitter’s husband was a trapper. He spent several months a year in the Bob Marshall Wilderness gathering pelts. Built a home. But finally got lured out of the mountains for Colorado Springs. Good times and the wildlife was incredible: eagles, ospreys, elk, bears, lions, and moose.” Wow! What an experience.

Articles about John **Borling** were published in the *New York Times Magazine* and the *May Reader’s Digest*. These days John is on the book signing circuit for his book *Taps On The Wall* where he was seen at the National War College and the San Francisco Yacht Club. Photos from the events include classmates who, as far as I can recollect, have never been pictured in this column. Here are two: Barry **Meuse** and Matt **Lee**.



Borling East Coast (National War College) to West Coast (San Francisco Yacht Club)
Left to Right: Guild, Meuse, **JB**, Walrath, Rosendahl, Hannam, McTasney, Wecker, Lee, Harris, **JB**

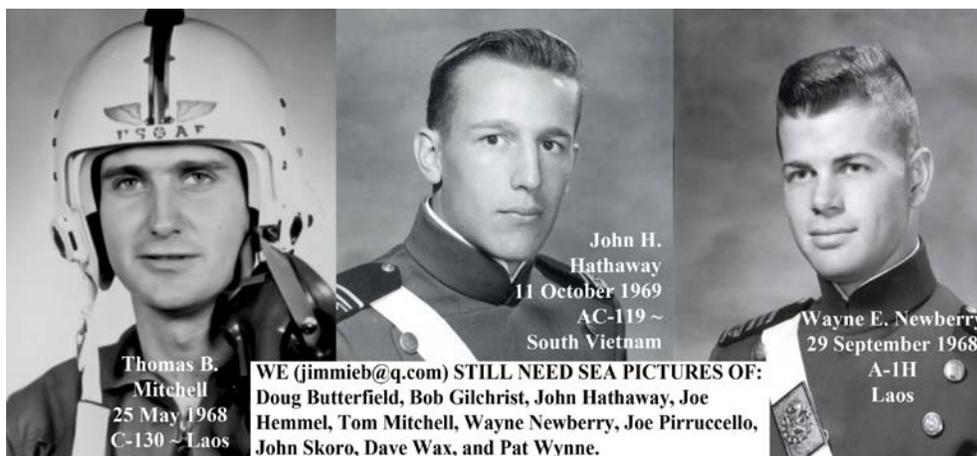
Found a movie trailer in my inbox from Bill **Flynn** that included scenes from his latest film *CRY* which was screened at the Dallas Film Festival April 4th and 10th. Bill also included a demo reel with scenes from his other films. A very versatile fellow!

Gary **West** sent a piece about his daughters and rubbings they made while visiting the Vietnam Memorial on a school field trip years ago. The photograph, taken at a "River Rat" golf tournament, is a montage of before and after. Kneeling (L-R) Stormie and Danell. The rubbings project is posted on the Class Web Site at "Vietnam War Casualties." Click on the rubbing and you will be rewarded with a Graduation Photo and related data. Nice.



Top picture: Danell, Stormie & Hillery

This is the next to last group of our fallen classmates from the SEA conflict. Kudos to Jimmie **Butler** for the photographs.



Major Thomas B. **Mitchell** was reported missing on 22 May 1968 while on an operational mission in Laos. The C-130 Blind Bat aircraft he was co-piloting did not return to friendly control and he was declared MIA at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. His status was changed to KIA on 27 February 1975. Tom was assigned to a detachment of the 41st TAS at Ubon AB, Thailand. He was promoted to Major posthumously.

Captain John H. **Hathaway** was killed on 11 October 1969 while on a combat gunship mission in South Vietnam. Immediately after takeoff, the AC-119 aircraft he was co-piloting caught fire.

The aircraft went into a sharp left turn and crashed 500 yards to the left of the west runway and burst into flames. John was assigned to the 17th SOS at Tan Son Nhut, RVN.

Captain Wayne E. **Newberry** was reported missing on 29 September 1968 while on an operational mission in Southeast Asia. The A-1H he was piloting was observed to crash after being struck by hostile fire. His status was changed to Killed in Action on 23 September 1969. Wayne was assigned to the 6th SOS based at Pleiku, AB RVN

That's it for this time. Remember to set the reunion dates on your calendars, upload your bio to the UCH while thinking about a video topic and consider making a pledge.

More Stories and Photographs—'63 Web Site only:

River Rats Convention: two photos

Here decked out in their flying suits are the 63 grads who attended the Pensacola River Rats Reunion in April. Included are Lucky Ekman, Jim Butts, Jim Hannam and Dick Guild. Second picture includes Jim and Sylvia Butts, Jim and Maureen Hannam, Dick Guild and Carolyn Smith, and Lucky Ekman. Thanks to Jim and Dick for the photographs.



Memorial Services held at the USAFA Cemetery are not normally covered in the magazine version of the Class News. That's because of space requirements. However, when given a chance some words/pictures are added to the Web Site version. This time (March and April) three of our Classmates returned to the Academy as their final resting place. Many thanks go to Jimmie Butler who continues to do a great job reporting on these events.

Farewell to Bob **Mazet**

On a sunny, late-April morning, the USAFA Class of 1963 gathered at the Academy Cemetery for the third time in two months to bid a final farewell to a classmate. Bob Mazet was laid to rest after a long period of hospitalization and long-term care.

Bob had no surviving next-of-kin. The lady from the funeral home said they'd been told to expect very few people at the memorial service. However, I told her that Bob was a member of the Class of 1963, and we show up. Also a few of Bob's friends had flown up from Arizona representing what seems to have been an extended family of friends of Bob among many people he had helped over the years. Bill Wecker mentioned he'd had a call yesterday from a woman in California for whom Bob had performed some medical miracle. So Bob's good works spread far beyond his days at the Academy and his years in the Air Force. Ed Reisdorf accepted the folded flag on Bob's behalf.

Bob had flown approximately 350 combat missions in F-4s in Southeast Asia. One of the final acts of the morning was the placing of a few nickels on Bob's casket.

Among those who gathered were Ed Reisdorf up from Arizona, Bill and Mary Linn Wecker (and local daughter and son-in-law) from California, Butch Verdier from California, along with Bob Hayes, Jack Ott, Jim Olsson, Gordon Bredvik, Denny King, Jim Hauser, Phil Tate, Ev Vaughn, Drue Deberry, Dave & Carol Nuss, Stinky & Karen Steinbrink, Jimmie Butler, and Vic Andrews, class of 66 who was one of Bob's doolies he trained so many years ago. I apologize if I missed any classmate or spouse.



Chuck **Bush**'s Memorial Drew a Full House



If you get the chance go ahead and click on the video memorial. It's worth the time.

At 1500 hours, 16 March 2013, the Alumni Pavilion at the USAFA Cemetery was full with what I'm guessing was one of the largest crowds ever for a memorial service in that building. TV crews were there for the entire ceremony. General Gould, USAFA Superintendent, presented the flag to Chuck's widow, Tina, and another 3-star attended along with some other generals. We had a good turnout of classmates including Barry Walrath, who was Chuck's roommate during Doolie summer and had come from the D.C. area.

Chuck's daughter, Bettina—who sang the national anthem at one of our reunion football games—and Michael Wills sang one of Chuck's favorite songs, Blowing in the Wind.

Many of us stayed for the reception at Doolittle Hall afterward. We were able to get a picture of most of us who attended along with the class flag and Tina, Bettina, Kyra, and Chip. It's a nice picture I'll attach along with a few others including a great one I'd discovered this week of Chuck during our 1st Class year.

Shortly after that picture taking, Bettina introduced a great 17-minute video tribute to Chuck, which is available at: <<http://vimeo.com/61906991>> . If that URL doesn't get you there, you can search Mimeo.com for Charles V Bush. Much of the video is an interview with Chuck relating his career and his efforts to open the Academy and military to more, qualified people from diverse backgrounds. Lots of good pictures of Chuck and family. He talks some about the historical context of becoming a cadet and makes you appreciate once again what a significant historical step it was for Chuck, Roger, and Ike to join us on 26 June 1959.

Ray **Hamilton** Graveside Report.

On a crisp, sunny March 1st morning, we said a final farewell to our classmate Colonel (Doctor) Ray Hamilton. Ray had passed away unexpectedly at Auburn, Alabama, where he was a noted professor. Ray's son, Rex, and daughter, Chrissy, along with other family members and friends from Alabama were in attendance. Ray's wife, Melissa, had preceded him by a couple of years after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and they now are buried together at the Academy Cemetery. Nearly a dozen classmates and several wives were in attendance. Jim Kuhn had been Ray's roommate at graduation, and Jim's wife, Ann, joined us. Jim is finishing up at their previous location and will be joining the local group of classmates in a couple of days as the Kuhn's settle here.

Afterward, many in attendance gathered at the clubhouse of the Eisenhower Golf Course and shared memories about Ray. Most were funny; some were poignant. It was a reminder, once again—as we are always reminded at our mini-reunion cup-turning ceremonies—of what an extraordinary group of young men joined together at the Academy on 26 June 1959.

The full military honors were done superbly, as ever, by the Academy Honor Guard, chaplain, and the colonel who presented the flag. It was a fitting service for a great man and a great classmate.

