

March 2011

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Class News: 1963

The Association of Graduates recently learned of the death of our classmate Col (Ret) Harry F **Wilson**, CS-14 class of 1963. Harry passed away January 17, 2011 in Virginia as the result of pancreatic cancer. Services were held Jan 22nd at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross in Dunn Loring, Virginia. The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Col Wilson's name to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network; 1500 Rosecrans Ave, Ste 200; Manhattan Beach CA 90266 www.pancan.org. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Mrs. Mary E Wilson; 20520 Falcons Landing Cir Unit 2102; Potomac Falls VA 20165-7597. A memorial service will be held at Arlington Cemetery on May 26th at 11:00 am. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network became a cause for our classmates in the DC area. Bud **Gilligan**, started it off saying a class gift to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network in Harry's name would be a good idea. He then ante-upped \$100. So far the count of donations is over 16 all of whom have committed at least \$100. Dick **Guild**, took over the responsibility of heading up the contributions and collections process because Bud is recovering from surgery. If you are interested in making a donation just contact Dick (or me) and the donation form to be mailed with your check can be sent in an e-mail.

Many thanks to Caroline **Pickens** for keeping us up to date while Ed was out of town.

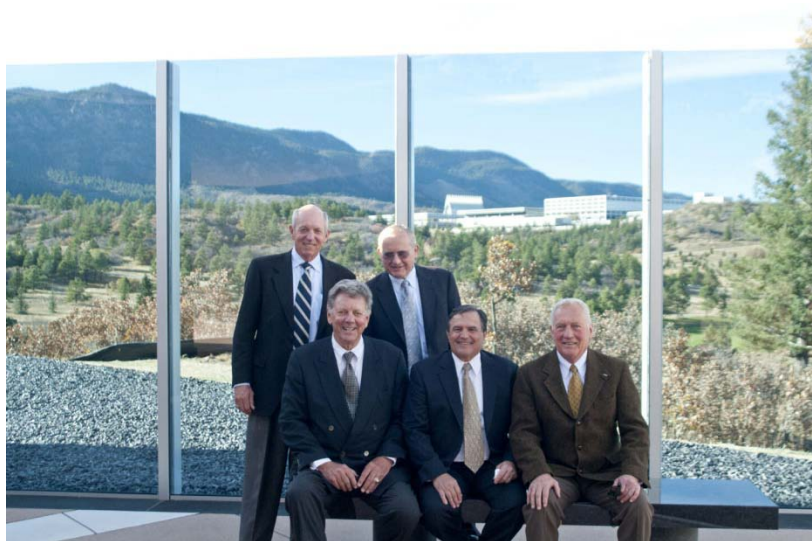


DC Golden Boys out to dinner last November

LR: Dick Guild, Doug Hardgrave, Bud Gilligan, Ed Pickens, Harry Wilson, The Venk and Jim Hannam.

Class Gift Team: “The Gift Team held a telecom on 1/14/11. A motion was passed authorizing the website development subcommittee to continue Phase II to have kiosks in Arnold Hall across from the class cups by June Week and to have the full USAFA Class Histories (UCH) website technical development completed later this year. This Phase is to stay within defined financial guidelines. In the next months, the Team will concentrate on resolving these issues: (1) technical feasibility and supportability of the UCH, (2) the value to cadets and the USAFA, (3) funding issues, and (4) a permanent home for the UCH. A working group from within the Team will meet with a leadership team (suggested by our Team) of pertinent Academy personnel to resolve the issues requiring Academy alignment. Complete Academy endorsement of the UCH is the goal of these meetings. A late April meeting of the Gift Team will discuss the results of this effort and a final "go-no go" will be made. Expect further information by mail or email.” Thanks to Mick **Roth**, Gift Team Lead, for the update.

If you recall, the last column described the Southeast Asia Memorial Pavilion somewhat. Jimmie **Butler** just provided the following photograph of a few of our classmates and the view from the Memorial.



Cut Line: LR: Mike Christie, Bill Mitchell Pres Davis, John Haluska and DeVere Henderson

Garet **Nenninger** retired September 30th from the Johnson Space Center after twenty-six years with the last ten years in the Astronaut Office as a crew representative. He says the Astronaut Office was an ideal place to work as it has a unique mission, staffed with highly qualified people, and the quickest humor on the planet. Garet wrote “Before leaving, I wanted to leave a token of my appreciation for the astronauts who are Air Force Academy graduates. Attached is a picture of the presentation I made to Steve Lindsey, Class of 1982. He will be commanding STS-133 which is the next shuttle mission scheduled to launch on November 1.” (ed. note: the mission is on hold, due to fuel tank repairs, with a proposed launch date of Feb 24th). The presentation is a Don Eckelberry Limited Edition print of Baffin. Eckelberry was commissioned by the AOG in 1972 to paint the White Gyrfalcon.



Garet presents White Gyrfalcon to Steve Lindsey ('82)

Thanks to Gareth for the input. Something I just now learned; it turns out Gareth, Barney **Bartlett** and I served as FACs in II Corps during 1967 and we all worked out of Bao Loc in Lam Dong Province during that year but obviously at different times.

In a recent e-mail exchange I discovered that Ken **Kopke** continues to work as a subcontractor working for the Air Force in the Joint Space Operations Center on Vandenberg AFB. Ken says he still has an Air Force email account. The e-mail he used with me was his Yahoo account: ken.kopke@yahoo.com.

Dave **Skilling** provided an update saying he is fully retired, traveling quite a lot, flying light planes a bit, and enjoying life. Dave got his FAA CFII through a new FAA procedure allowing your military instructor time to substitute for a flight test. One caveat is that you must have a formal instructor course in the records, in addition to IP flight time. Dave never instructed in ATC, but his fighter weapons school course counted. If you know anyone who's interested, have them contact Dave (Abbyndavid@aol.com) and he'll advise them on how to study for the test.

John **Borling** wrote he had nothing special for the Class News but then on second thought, he told me about his just published book Poems for Pilots (and other people) and suggested it might be worth a mention in this column. As usual John was right! He also added "...the poems and prose were mentally composed and kept memorized those many years ago in Hanoi as a weapon to make time an ally and stay mentally acute. . . ." The Book is on E-Bay or guys can email John if they have any interest.

Denny **King** reports a spelling error was discovered on the Class Commemorative Cups case and a fix is in the works. Turns out three classmates spell their last name HOFFMAN and one spells his HOFMANN. We have four spelled alike on the case.

Jerry **Adinolfi** alerted us to an article published in Military Officer that covers the story on Lou **Matjasko**. Lou is the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization called Circle of Change, in Rocton, Illinois. Lou's wife, Karen, also works in the organization as a program director—they are both volunteers. Through the program, veterans with depression, PTSD and other mental health issues work with a trainer to rehabilitate dogs who once were abused, neglected, or unwanted. Pretty Neat! I would like to include the photograph of Lou in the article, however, don't know how to get the MOAA's permission. Thanks to Jerry for sending.

Good works by members of our Class never end. The USAFA Endowment announced recently, on behalf of the Academy, that Bill **Wecker** and his wife Mary Linn have committed \$1 Million towards the construction of

the new Center for Character and Leadership Development. Take a look at the AOG web page to see some pretty nice conceptual drawings for the Center.

This week (Jan 17-21) is the 50th anniversary of the JFK Inauguration and of course the parade that about half of the wing marched in while the rest of us flew back to Colorado when our planes couldn't land at Andrews because of weather.

That is it for this time. Happy New Year and take care out there.

Note: here are three photographs that did not get into Checkpoints (we're limited to 3 per article)—thought you might like to see them.



See Denny's latest of our class cups and the miss-spelling of Bob Hoffmann's name.



Classmates at Jerry Bowers' Funeral



The Heimburger Family