



March 2012

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Class News: 1963:

The Association of Graduates recently learned of the death of Lt Col (Ret) Lynn E. **Gulick**, CS-09. Lynn passed away on 17 Dec 2010. The AOG apologized for having no other information available. Lynn's last address was at La Quinta, CA. Whenever we receive more concerning Lynn's death we'll post it on the Web Site.

Lloyd Milton **McKnight** of CS 11 passed away on Friday, January 27th. Milt made a final entry on his Facebook page on the day of his passing: "Today I earned my new wings. To all my family and friends, thank you for all your prayers and the time you allowed me to spend with you!" As of this writing a memorial ceremony is planned for February 11th at the Mowell Funeral Home Peachtree Chapel In Peachtree City, GA

50th REUNION UPDATE: Bill **Ball** sent the following: "As noted in the December *Checkpoints* our overall schedule will be similar to previous reunions. There will be a few things thrown in to make the 50th special. We'll keep you in the loop through these updates in *Checkpoints*."

One major addition will be the Thursday evening gathering this time in Arnold Hall and a special recognition of our class's Vietnam KIAs and POWs. Jimmie **Butler** (jimmieb@q.com) has the lead for Thursday night's program. Preliminary plans show more stories, info, and PICTURES for those classmates being honored are needed. Anyone with inputs/thoughts that you think will be useful, please forward them to Jimmie. Thursday's program will include a special presentation of Pat **Wynne's** Ring currently displayed in our cup case.

Our Class's two former POWs, of course, are John **Borling** and Jerry **Driscoll**. The 18 classmates who did not come home from Southeast Asia are: Lee **Adams**, Park **Bunker**, Doug **Butterfield**, Tom **Clark**, Bob **Gilchrist**, Jim **Goodman**, John **Hathaway**, Joe **Hemmel**, Gene **Knudsen**, Tom **Mitchell**, Wayne **Newberry**, Joe **Pirrucello**, Frank **Ralston**, Bob **Rex**, John **Skoro**, Leo **Thomas**, Dave **Wax**, and Pat **Wynne**.

A Piece of History: answering the call for pictures and stories for the Class History Tom **Fryer** included a .pdf file and photograph in an e-mail to Lou **Matjasko**. The file is a report(copy) on the loss of an F4 and crew during an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam in August 1966. The report, filled out by the other pilots of OZARK flight, is a fascinating piece of history. The lost airplane was OZARK 3 that supposedly included our Classmate Pat **Wynne** (the pilots in the missing airplane are not named in the report). The photograph that was included in the e-mail shows Tom and Pat Wynne at Travis AFB as they were headed to SEA in June of 1966. There are four other pilots in the picture—like Pat and Tom all were GIBs. Tom



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identified three of the other pilots as Bunny Talley (between Pat and Tom), Bob Clements the 2nd from the right and a USMA grad. The 3rd from the right is Joe Merrick. The pilot on the far right is unknown. In a recent book about Mike Wynne and Pat, 4 of the 6 in the photograph were shot down!



Mick **Roth** updated the Class Gift progress: “Our Class of ’63 Gift Committee is very close to ironing out the final details of what we believe will be a unique and extremely meaningful gift to our Academy. “Our focus is on what the Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD) will actually pass on to cadets. Its new structure will be magnificent. We want to help make its lessons for cadets just as magnificent. And that idea leads us to the establishment of an Endowment Fund which will support the CCLD, the History Department’s Center for Oral History (COH) , and our own effort; USAFA Class Histories (UCH). Through our efforts, and in conjunction with the Superintendent, the Dean, the Professor of the CCLD, and the Professor of History, there has been a recognition of how these three entities; CCLD, COH, and UCH, can complement each other and become key efforts in teaching about Character and Leadership. Our goal is to initiate what we hope will be long-term support for this unique effort. We have concluded the best way to do this is to establish a significant fund to provide meaningful support during our lifetimes; and importantly, to initiate the idea among other classes and donors this is a long-term project. We’ll be contacting you soon.”

George **Frederick**, said he sent video and picture links of Tom **Clark’s** memorial ceremony to 11th Squadron classmates so they could see the memorial ceremonies. George says he is collecting reminiscences about Tom from our classmates to be shared with Tom’s family. If you have a chance to visit the Tom Clark website you will see a number of our classmates signed the guest book. Go to: <http://barnettfuneralhome.net/obituary/major-thomas-e-clark>.



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Beautiful music

Bob **Mazet** (pictured above) attended a four day party given by our classmate Bill **Wecker** and wife Mary Lin celebrating Bill's 70th birthday at their new home (which, says Bob, took four years to build) in Novato CA; north of San Francisco. The entertainment the second night was a classic guitar player and you can easily see Bob concentrating intently on the melodic strumming of the musical instrument

John **Heimbürger's** e-mails evaluating the presidential primaries and caucuses in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina are marvelous. John has visited and worked in each of the events. The stories are intriguing and you hear and see things that you can't get from the media. Next, I expect to hear about Florida. John has been busy lately. Back in September he took a biking trip across Ireland—536 miles. He says he will try the same thing in The Holy Land in 2012. John and wife Chris bike 40 miles very early each Sunday morning (4 a.m. to beat the Texas heat) and treated themselves to a 28-mile downhill cruise on Maui's Haleakala Volcano.

We received some very nice holiday notes from classmates in December with lots of news and updates. I particularly liked the photo John **Borling** sent along and have displayed it here. John can do some pretty classy things especially when Myrna is involved!



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John and Myrna

Ed **Pickens** had the most noteworthy holiday letter informing us that both his sons now live and work overseas. Son Mark and new wife Juliet are living in Kigali, Rwanda (for 2 years) helping VISA set up cell phone banking in Africa. Son Geoff and family have recently moved from Japan and now live in Singapore. Lots of fun trips coming up for Ed and Caroline as they travel the world to visit family.

We received sad news from Dick **Ferency** that Lynne passed away Sunday, January 8th after a long battle with cancer. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.lohmanfuneralhomes.com.

Well, that's it for this time around. We are enjoying some fairly nice weather here in Tucson. A little rain and cool this week but golf and outdoor activities are good. Everyone take care and let us hear from you.