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Class News: 1963:

The Association of Graduates informed us of the death of Mr. Charles V. **Bush**, CS-19. Chuck passed away on 5 Nov 2012 in Lolo, MT after a long illness. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Bettina: Mrs. Bettina Bush; 11561 Stella Blue Dr; Lolo, MT 59847-8493.

The Association of Graduates also notified us of the death of Col (Ret) Grover E. Musselwhite, CS-22. "Gene" passed away on 24 Jan 2013 in Rock Hill, SC. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any of the following charities: The First Presbyterian Church; 234 E. Main St; Rock Hill, SC 29732, Hospice Care of South Carolina; 1230 Ebenezer Rd; Rock Hill, SC 29732 or the Alzheimer's Association; PO Box 96011; Washington, DC 20090-6011. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Joan: Mrs. Joan Musselwhite; 1667 Huntcliff Dr; Rock Hill, SC 29732-9346

50th Celebration Events: During Graduation Week, May 27-29, our Class will present 2nd Lt bars, inscribed on the back with "63-13 USAFA", to newly commissioned officers from the Class of 2013. Squadron commissioning will occur in two sessions at approximately 20 locations on base. We need volunteers for the commissioning ceremonies and to participate in other graduation week activities. Our activities include: Monday, May 27th, meet at a local eatery for dinner and go over final instructions on participating in commissioning ceremonies. Tuesday, 28th, participate/observe Graduation Parade in the morning, have lunch at the golf course or Falcon Club, then participate in commissioning ceremonies at 1630 and 1900. We must have one classmate at each ceremony; two would be better. One at each commissioning will say a few words, no more than 4 or 5 minutes, welcoming the new class to the long blue line. After our talk and words by the squadron AOC, commissioning will begin and we will present the engraved bars with an attached message to each 2nd Lt after he/she is commissioned. There will be lots of family and friends at each ceremony; we, as expected, play a minor role. Wednesday, 29th, we'll have brunch with the Superintendent at the top of the football stadium and afterwards observe graduation from there. We'll probably get together again that evening for an informal dinner.

Want to volunteer? Contact Bob **Hayes** at [719-481-9693](tel:719-481-9693) or email him at bcahayes@comcast.net. If you've already contacted Bob, he'll email you later with more info.

Reunion Reminder: In November you received a letter from Bill **Ball** and Denny **King** full of information about 50th reunion events and schedule. Give it a good read and mark your calendars for **October 23-26, 2013**. Please watch the reunion website for more information: at www.usafa.org/reunion/1963.

Mick **Roth** writes: "We are looking forward to a grand celebration of our 50th anniversary. It has

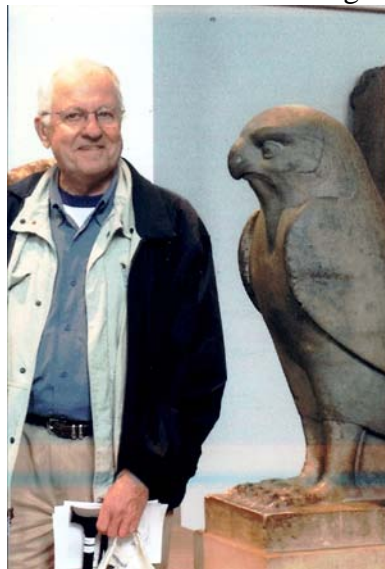
been a challenge and a pleasure to chair your 50th Gift Committee for this event. Our Committee has had a meaningful experience in crafting the concept for a special 50th Anniversary Gift to our Academy. We zeroed in on the new Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD); specifically, what benefits will go to cadets from this \$30 million building. We are establishing a Class Endowment Fund to provide annual support to programs in the CCLD, to the History Department's Center for Oral History, and to our Class of '63 Class Histories project. As you are probably aware, we played a role in connecting the Center for Oral History with CCLD; and in that process, there emerged the idea our Class Histories might also complement the CCLD. In that regard, we urge two things from all Classmates: record your personal part of our Class History and also provide whatever support you can to our Class Endowment Fund. To those who have already taken these steps we send our thanks.

Our gift is unique; it will provide financial support annually, and hopefully in perpetuity, for programs to teach cadets to lead the Air Force in an honorable and noble manner.”

The Class Histories Team reported in saying over 111 videos were completed and posted to the Class History website. If you haven't done yours yet because you don't know if you really have something to add we suggest you think otherwise. The video content from our classmates is wide-ranging—covering many life moments and they are compelling. For quick access to the videos Google the one word [usafaclasshistories](http://usafaclasshistories.com) and immediate access. Select the “1963 Heritage Display” and click on “1963 Classmates.” To schedule a video session contact a member of the Class Histories Team (Lou **Matjasko** usafa63historian@msn.com or Gil **Merkle** merkleg@texas.net) and they will set you on a direct heading to one of the Class Video Producers near you. Meantime, pull together your personal history and upload it to your part of the Class History Website. Forgot/lost your password? Gil can fix the problem.

News: John **Borling's** book, *Taps On The Walls*, Poems From The Hanoi Hilton is being published in hard cover by Master Wings Publishing LLC. You can find a copy on Amazon.Com.

Ken **Broman** reports working on trail building on the Olympic Peninsula, traveling to the UK with Kay and considering a knee replacement—the knee was damaged at USAFA in 1960.



Ken at the British Museum

Paul **Verdier** had a partial knee replacement last year and was out on the golf course four weeks later. On a cold October morning before the Navy game Bob **Hayes**, Tom **Fryer** and I observed his game and it is good! Butch had the honor of swearing in grandson, Ben Brown, Class of 2012, at Ben's graduation at USAFA last May.



Testing Butch's Swing

Again, many thanks to Jimmie **Butler** for the picture of our fallen Classmates from the SEA Conflict.



1st Lieutenant Robert M. **Gilchrist** was reported missing on 7 October 1966 after his F-4C aircraft was shot down in North Vietnam. His status was changed to Killed in Action on 6 March 1978. He was promoted to major posthumously. Bob was a member of the 497 TFS at Udorn, RTAB, Thailand.

Captain Joseph S. **Pirruccello** was reported missing on 8 December 1968 while on a RESCAP mission in northern Laos. The A-1 aircraft he was piloting was hit by small arms fire, crashed and exploded on impact. Joe's status was changed to Killed in Action on 31 October 1969. He was a member of the 602 SOS at Nakhon Phanom RTAB, Thailand.

1st Lieutenant John P. **Skoro, Jr.**, was killed on 13 September 1966 while on an in-country F-100 mission near Qui Nhon, South Vietnam. After reporting to the area FAC, the F-100 aircraft he was piloting began an air to ground strike and was subsequently shot down in Viet Cong territory. His

remains were recovered on 17 September by personnel of the 1st Cavalry Division. John was a member of the 615 TFS, Phan Rang AB, SVN.

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