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The Association of Graduates informed us of the death of our classmate **Col (Ret) Robert L. Murphy**, CS-14. Bob passed away on 19 Nov 2013 at his home in Mountain Home, AR. Entombment will be in Baxter Memorial Gardens. The family suggest donations can be made to the St Peter's Scholarship Fund; PO Box 298; Mountain Home, AR 72654. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his daughter, Theresa L. Murphy, 1941 Old Turnpike Rd; Oakham, MA 01068

Gift Report: Diff sent a report saying "this is the final report on our 50th Reunion Gift Campaign. We reached 63 percent participation – yes, 63 percent – an amazing achievement! Thanks again to all Squadron Reps who did a terrific job reminding and emphasizing the importance of our class gift. Two squadrons, 21st and 22nd, achieved 100 percent participation.

"The Class Endowment Fund is well funded at nearly \$900,000. The USAFA Endowment manages the fund and will make distributions to the Air Force Academy each year for character and leadership development. The Endowment's mission is to provide superior stewardship. As a result, we as donors will receive annual reports on distributions and status of the fund.

"Thanks for your outstanding support. On to the 55th; let's all be there!"

There is still time to join that long line of participation. Our giving officer at the USAFA Endowment is Razelle Doherty razelle.doherty@usafaendowment.org. She can be reached at (719)472-0300, ext. 222. The Endowment address is USAFA Endowment 3116 Academy Drive USAF Academy, CO 80840.

Here is a piece from Fred **Bauer** on the CS-2 Squadron Rejoin. Fred wrote that one of his strongest memories was how hard it was for him to herd all the Class of 1963 members of CS-2 together at one place and at the same time just prior to graduation to get a photo and I paraphrase: it just might be that this photo represents the **FIRST** time that we (just us, alone) got together (as a separate, identifiable group at the same place at the same time). Yes, we were 'all together' for the four years we were Cadets, but we were always coming and going, together in other sub-groups, and mingling with other people, but I cannot think of another time when we gathered together - just us. I have always cherished this photo in my album and in my mind, but this new insight makes this photo even more special for me.

"I reflect on the fact that, after Graduation, we were dispersed into the Air Force, like seeds in the wind, and we rarely saw each other again. In our minds, we knew we were all out there,

somewhere, but we rarely met again, if ever. In all my Air Force assignments, I rarely served in a unit with '63 Grads, although I did serve with a few Academy Grads of other classes.”



Cadet Squadron 2, Then and Now

Squadron Reunion Photo: Fred says he “looks at our 50-Reunion photo and I see material changes, yes; but also, I see how hard it is, still, to get us all together. In fact, I look at the names in the “golden box,” and I see that, materially, ALL of us will NEVER be together again. So, here is another insight: our Squadron Graduation Photo might not only be the first time that we came together; but also, it surely is the LAST time that we were all together.” Thanks Fred—a great contribution and spot on.

Hank **Hoffman** wrote about his memories of the 50th Reunion and sent this photograph of our two intrepid Class Flyby pilots. He wrote that “Saturday was the day for me! Lucky **Ekman**, my table mate from UPT was determined to have a flyby. All such aerial activity had been canceled with the sequester budget cuts, so he arranged to fly recently deceased classmate Bob **Mazet**’s Spanish fighter/trainer, a SAETA HA-200B over the football game with Notre Dame. He even paid for the gas. My own lucky star was shining bright, and Lucky selected me to fly in his back seat! If I had a motto, it would be ‘Better to be lucky than good!’ I had done a flyby or two, but never over the Academy or a football game. I was totally stoked to be a part of the

Academy's first septuagenarian acrobatics team! I had considered that it could well be my last flight in a military fighter, but not that it could be my last flight, period. All the same, two weeks later I had a triple bypass heart operation, and I'm sure glad we didn't find that out while airborne over the Academy in front of just everyone. Cheated Death again!!!"



Septuagenarian Acrobatics Team: Lucky and Hank

It plays out that according to an e-mail about the bypass procedure Hank was going to an appointment for an elective angiogram when the cardiologist found the need for the bypass operation. Indeed, lucky. He reports his health is no longer an issue.

2014 Mini-reunion: Bob **Hayes** wrote he will not be available to participate in the 2014 mini if it is held during the Navy football game (first weekend in Oct). He added if a local brave soul were to volunteer to be the go-to person for that weekend Bob can help organize/plan it beforehand. Otherwise, the mini will need to be held during a September football weekend. By the end of March we should know the football schedule. We'll keep you updated.

Very Important Subject: If you haven't logged-on to the Class of 1963 Web Site and brought up the USAFA Class Histories site you should. I spent a lot of time over the holidays looking at and listening to the many videos posted by our classmates. They are funny, informative and insightful and downright riveting. A real treasure.

Classmates who have yet to record their videos for our USAFA CLASS Histories website are welcome to record and submit a DVD to Gil **Merkle**. Also, there are video kits with Gordon **Bredvik** in C-Springs, Gil **Merkle** in San Antonio, and Lou **Matjasko** and John **Borling** in Northern Illinois. A good number of bios and other personal data are still missing for many

classmates. Questions on how to access and update can be directed to Gil at merkleg@texas.net or Lou at usafa63historian@msn.com. Videos and Photos are still available for purchase—again the info is on the Class Web page.

Lou also passed along a photo last September that has yet to find its way into the Class News. Since my records don't show Dave **Johnson** has ever appeared in the Class News it needs to be published!



The Johnsons and Matjasko on the Lake Michigan shore just north of Two Rivers WI last August. L-R: Karen M, Mary J, Dave and Lou

That's it for now. Thank you all for all the great inputs. Until next time we ask everyone to stay healthy and safe.