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Big news: Denny **King** (via Facebook) said his book was selected for an award by the Writer's Digest Self Published eBook Awards. The book, ***Price For A Patriot*** was considered in the Mainstream/Literary Fiction category. The judges rated the book in 6 areas and it received top scores in four and one point less in the other two areas. They described their impressions in the following way: "The author is obviously well versed in his subject and researched any deficiencies he may have felt. As he served in the Air Force, he quite likely pulled these characters —good and bad—from those he met along the way. The cast is large but each one has an important role. They are presented with humor in a somber story. Having good guys show up in all venues helps move the story along. While the book has enough plot lines to fill a book shelf, King has artfully pulled them all together to complete a very satisfying read. This book should have wide appeal with a bit of something for everyone. It should reach those who have cut reading teeth on many big names in the literary world."

Ralph **Wetterhahn** just keeps on keeping on. He wrote that "After four years serving as president, chairman of the board, and president of the SS Lane Victory berthed here in San Pedro, CA I have finally turned over the helm. It allows me to now concentrate on seven newly acquired gold claims in Northern CA. I wonder about the sanity of this new endeavor, considering the fact that in all the vintage photos of miners over the last two centuries, you see mustaches, cowboy hats, shovels and picks. But you see no beer guts! Not one. As a sideline, I now own a casino . . . well, not exactly. We have become the owners of three vintage slot machines. All acquired in disrepair, all fully operational now. Come visit, Bring nickels and dimes. We have 100% senior and military discounts on the rooms here! Plus free Wi-Fi!



Ralph's Slots

Recommended Videos: In the December *Checkpoints* there was a story covering the Plaza of Heroes dedication. Great story! A video of the ceremony was posted on the AOG web site. Here is the link thanks to Tom **Fryer**: take a look: [Dedication Ceremony Honors Academy's Vietnam Veterans.](#)

Another video about the lighting ceremony for Polaris Hall is a progress report on the Center for Character and Leadership. Again thanks to Tom and take a look:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0okN5Pf0fLk&feature=em-sub digest-g>.

Book Suggestion: Back in late 2013 Fred **Lindahl** recommended a Book called the ***Red Eagles***. I uploaded the book to my holiday reading list on my Kindle. A good read and many of the stories are just plain astonishing. You should recognize some of the book's characters who are members of the Class of 1963.

Mini Reunion for 2016: from Bob **Hayes** and Bill **Ball** today. They are tentatively looking at the Navy weekend for a mini-reunion. The Navy game is usually the first Saturday in Oct which is the 1st of October this year. If the AF Chief of Staff and the Chief of Naval Operations concur we can probably plan on doing a mini about then.

We would probably follow a format similar to last year. Conduct a cup turning ceremony at the golf course, probably Friday before the game on Saturday which could be anywhere from starting at 0900 til 2015 depending on TV scheduling which continues to rule our start times. We'll keep you informed.

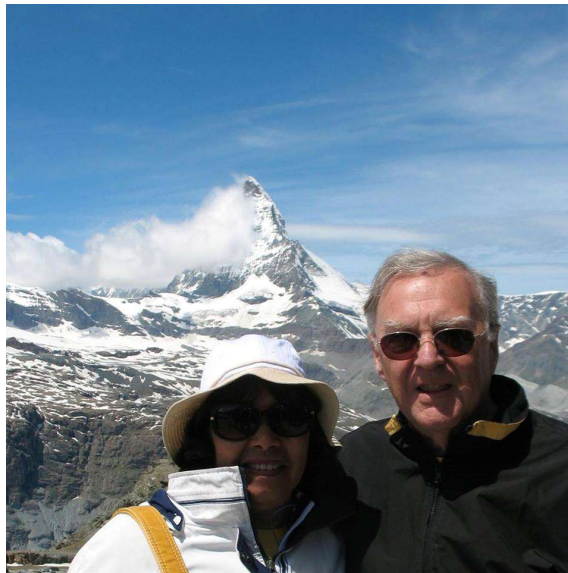
Speaking of last year's mini, John and Chris **Heimbürger** treated everyone to bags of kettle corn which turned out to be a great deal for Linda and me. John writes that son Kais (2009) was married recently while preparing for his 4th deployment east. The photo is particularly fitting with John sporting his Class A's. They still fit! He also said that after having his F-150 rear ended for the second time in eight months he is seriously thinking leaving Houston and moving back to Western Colorado. He is also looking to

sell his Maui Ocean Club time shares. Interested? Get in touch:
johnheimburger@gmail.com.



Heimburger Wedding Party

Due to space problems over the past few issues I have not been able to publish all the photos sent to me. It also appears my organizational process is deteriorating leaving me little info about the pictures. As they say, a picture can replace many words or better a peek is worth a thousand cross checks.



Pete and Bev Van Allen. Can you identify the location?

I also got a photo taken at the 50th and best I can tell was sent by Father Jerry. I know the line-up do you?



OK it is time for some reflection: JFK's 1963 graduation speech was featured on several occasions lately. In September the C-Springs Gazette Telegraph article about JFK and our Graduation in 1963 was included; thanks to Gary Bender we were alerted to a TV commercial (mostly associated with Falcon Football) with the JFK's graduation speech as the audio background for the commercial scenes; and now, Dick Slowik referred us to the December Air Force magazine's "Keeper File" with an abridged version of the speech and a picture showing JFK and some of our classmates. All of this is, in my mind, a worthwhile memory reminding us of this important moment in our lives. It is clear to me that the more I hear the speech and read the entire transcript there is much to appreciate and learn. The AF Magazine's abridged version left out among others a very prophetic next to last paragraph which depicts a clear-cut view of the future by JFK and his top advisors. Something I think subsequent administrations over and over again failed to recognize. For that reason, I think it important to reproduce that short paragraph where we are told: *"We live in a world, in short, where the principal problems that we face are not susceptible to military solutions alone. The role of our military power, in essence, is, therefore, to free ourselves and our allies to pursue the goals of freedom without the danger of enemy attack, but we do not have a separate military policy, and a separate diplomatic policy, and a separate disarmament policy, and a separate foreign aid policy, all unrelated to each other. They are all bound up together in the policy of the United States. Our goal is a coherent, overall, national security policy, one that truly serves the best interests of this country and those who depend upon it. It is worth noting that all of the decisions which we now face today will come in increased numbers in the months and years ahead."* I am truly saddened that JFK's time with us was cut so short and maybe fatally so.

That's it for now. Time these days seems to be moving on at a quickened pace but hope you are enjoying every day. Take care and we look forward to hearing from you.