

September 2011

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Class News: 1963

The AOG recently learned of the death of Louis J. **Gavin**, CS-02 class of 1963. John passed away on 10 June in Seattle, WA of surgical complications. A memorial service was held June 18th at the St Paul Cathedral, Yakima, WA with a reception at the Yakima Country Club. Graveside services were held on July 11th at the USAFA Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his daughter, Kerry Stout, 190 Basalt Spring Way, Naches, WA 98937

John had a great sense of adventure. Even though he was an Air Force officer, following his tour at USAFA as a football coach, he attended the U.S. Army Special Forces School, seven months long for officers, and served in SEA as a member of the Studies and Operation Group (SOG), the most secret U.S. military unit to serve in the war in Vietnam.

Pete **Ognibene** sent a terrific photograph of John taken back in the Summer of 2002 at John's summer home in Seaview, WA.



Class Gift Update: Mick **Roth**, chair of our Fiftieth Reunion Gift Team, reports the team made great progress over the past year. The team, ten classmates picked by **Diff** and Denny **King**, began its work two years ago. From the outset, the team operated under three broadly accepted principles: the gift should be special; it should have a life beyond a presentation ceremony during

our reunion; and if possible, it should take advantage of the placement of our Heritage Display (cups, brandy case, falcon portrait, & kiosks) in Arnold Hall.

After months of discussion, gnashing of teeth, and sound reasoning, your team delivered on all three. Mick is happy to report the team unanimously adopted a resolution following its most recent meeting at the Academy and every member of the team completed a financial pledge in support of the gift. The Class of 1963 Fiftieth Reunion Gift will be an endowment with annual distributions to support the **development of curriculum** tailored to enhance character and leadership development at the Academy. We will complete the Class of 1963 history—a database of photos and facts about our class and classmates, including those who have passed, achievements of members of the class, interviews, and personal videos by members of the class presented on two kiosks in Arnold Hall (the kiosks have been in place there since April 2011.) In addition, we will support the Center for Oral History (AFA History Department) and the Center for Character and Leadership Development (COH and CCLD). The COH's goal is to record, with academic rigor, the experiences of notable grads as well as grads who have overcome failures. The team strongly supports this effort. We will also provide financial support to CCLD programs. We will play a unique role in developing dynamic content to match the magnificent structure.

Mick says every member of the class has a role in the gift; first, to supply information about his career and complete a video; and second, to provide financial support to make the gift happen. More on all that later.

Bob **Hayes** confirmed the 2011 mini-reunion date as Saturday, September 24th coinciding with the Tennessee Tech vs. Air Force football game. Game time is 1:00 PM, and as usual, we'll tailgate before the game—starting around 10:00 AM. Afterwards we'll convene at Arnold Hall to turn the cups of those classmates who have died since last year's get together. We'll also enjoy a catered, casual dinner for those who want to stay (Cost about \$15-16 pp). Additionally, our 50th Reunion Gift Planning Committee will want to demonstrate the two new information kiosks now installed across from our Heritage Display and tell us more about our 50th reunion gift plans. Go to the AFA Athletic Dept web site at www.goairforcefalcon.com to purchase game tickets. Bob will put out additional information in early August. Get on his e-mail list by contacting him at bcayahyes@comcast.net or telephone 1-719-481-9693.

On a related subject, Diff sent a note establishing policy for the Class Cups: “Only a graduated member of the Class of 1963 may have his cup displayed in the distinctive case now located in Arnold Hall. There are exactly 500 graduates including former President John F. Kennedy who accepted and publically acknowledged his honorary membership in the Class of 1963. Former classmates who did not graduate as members of the Class of 1963 are welcome to participate with the Class in ceremonies honoring fallen members of the Class; and, when toasts are to be made, will be provided cups by the Class for the occasion.”

Many thanks to Dick **Guild** for the photo of Classmates at the internment ceremony for Harry **Wilson** at Arlington Cemetery.



Cutline: L-R: Bill *Ebert*, Mary (Wilson), Dean **Hess**, Sarah (Wilson) and Yohan, Bud **Gilligan**, Bob **Hall**, Holly **Thomas**, Gordy **Bredvick**, Doug **Hardgrave**, Ed **Pickens**, Jerry **Westerbeck**, Mary Beth **Wilson**, Barry **Walrath**, Jennifer (Wilson), Jim **Hannam**, Cassandra (Wilson), Bob **Venkus**, Fred **Frostic**, Dick **Guild**, John **Elfers**. Dick added that Rufe **Harris** also attended, but escaped the photo patrol.

Ike **Payne** sent an update back in June: “Just taking it easy in Albuquerque. A little travel: considering a return to the Montréal Jazz Festival this year. Lots of reading: Civil War history, currently. Volunteer: Meals on Wheels. Five grandkids, age 7-13, whom I try to encourage to organize their thoughts in the form of letters to me. Exchange Christmas cards and e-mail with Lee **Lilly**, Mike **Lloyd** & Bud **West** -- old 22nd Sq folks.”

Big News: Denny **King**'s daughter, Karen (King) Borta, is a new co-host on the CBS TV program “THE TALK.” Check local listings for time. He says Karen replaced Julie Chen on the show. Karen has been the prime time anchor for many years on the CBS owned TV station in the Dallas Fort Worth market.

Denny also wrote that the Class of 1959 started a trend (not yet a tradition) that subsequent classes are also adopting. The event: the class celebrating its 50th year, supplies the gold bars for the class that trailed them by 50 years. A '63 organizing committee is forming to look into us doing the same thing with the Class of 2013. Will try to keep you informed of future developments.

Ralph **Wetterhahn** has gone nautical on us. He is volunteering on a WWII veteran Merchant Mariner (SS Lane Victory) for several years now having managed to obtain a Merchant Mariner license at the age of 65 as an ordinary seaman. According to Ralph “ordinary” is the operative word. I liked Ralph's description of driving a ship vs. jet: from 1,100 knots in an F-15 to 11 knots. He was also elected President of the *U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II*. The ship sails out to sea in the summer and if any of you want to feel the wind in your hair and salt spray on your face, go to Pier 94, San Pedro, CA.” Take a look: <http://www.lanevictory.org>.

Bud and Joyce **Gilligan** moved across the country to southern Utah and are installed in their new home at 456 Tee Circle (on the golf course), St. George, UT 84770. Phone 435-986-3924 and e-mail bud.gilligan@yahoo.com.

To close: here is a picture taken on the banks of the Rock River. Linda and I spent a wonderful afternoon and evening in Rockford, IL with Lou and Karen **Matjasko** and John and Myrna **Borling**. We are all looking forward to the Mini-Reunion in September and hope to see as many of you there as possible. Take care.



Cutline: L-R: John, Myrna, Karen, Lou, Linda & Skip