



Norman I. (Skip) Lee  
63119 E. Cat Claw Lane  
Tucson, AZ 85739-2058  
Home: (520)825-7980  
Cell: (520)241-3498  
E-mail: [54wrs63@gmail.com](mailto:54wrs63@gmail.com)  
Class Web Site: [www.usafa63.org/](http://www.usafa63.org/)

Class News: 1963:

The Association of Graduates notified us of the death of two of our classmates. Mr. William H. **Simpson**, CS-21. passed away on 10 May 2012 in York, PA. A Memorial Mass was held May 14th at St Patrick's Church in York. The family requests donations be made to the following charities or a charity of your choice: Steam Into History, Inc.; 221 W Philadelphia St, STE E600; York PA 17401; William H. Simpson Fund for Community Advancement; York Community Foundation; 14 W Market St; York PA 17401. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Judith, at 2532 Hepplewhite Dr; York, PA 17404-1216.

Mr. James A. **McKean**, CS-09 passed away on 17 July 2012 in Mabank, Texas as the result of cancer. Services were private for family only. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his partner, Mr. Dan Collier and his son, Sean McKean, at 233 Bushwacker Dr; Mabank, Texas 75156-7211

Mini-Reunion Status: this year's mini will be Oct 6th during the AF-Navy football game. The game starts early at 9:30am; therefore, we will not have our traditional tailgate. A pre-game get-together and dinner is planned for Friday evening, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at the Eisenhower Golf (start time 5:30pm). After the game we'll gather in Arnold Hall in front of the Class Cups for the traditional cup turning ceremony. Afterwards we'll enjoy a catered dinner. As soon as you decide to join us please e-mail Bob **Hayes** ([bcahayes@comcast.net](mailto:bcahayes@comcast.net)) or call (719-481-9693). Price for Friday will be \$18 per person plus a no-host bar and Saturday evening will be \$16 per person. Send checks to Bob at 18535 Augusta Drive, Monument, CO 80132. He can always accept cash but no checks the day of either dinner.

50<sup>th</sup> Reunion (23-27 Oct 2013): the Committee led by Bill **Ball** and Denny **King**, met in April. Plans for the Thursday evening memorial for our 18 fallen classmates, and 2 POWs, in Southeast Asia (SEA) is well underway. We previously asked for any stories and/or pictures of classmates in SEA but need more. Send your stories to Jimmie **Butler** at [jimmieb@q.com](mailto:jimmieb@q.com). At the Friday Chapel Ceremony we plan to turn, for the first time, John F. Kennedy's cup and, of course, the cups of our classmates who have died since the 45th reunion will be turned. That evening we will have dinner at the Marriott hotel per our normal schedule plus a special program to round out our 50th celebrations. We envision an evening of memories and a lot of fun. Denny **King** and Drue **DeBerry** are putting together a review of all the world events that we lived through during our 54 years as a Class. Please send your stories to Denny ([denny63@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denny63@sbcglobal.net)) and Drue ([drue.deberry@comcast.net](mailto:drue.deberry@comcast.net)). If you can't put it on paper just give them a call.



As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations and in keeping with the AOG Class Legacy program, our class will present 2LT bars to the class of 2013 during Graduation Week. We need 40 volunteers to present the bars. If you would like to be involved, now is the time to let Bill Ball ([balljw@msn.com](mailto:balljw@msn.com)) or Bob Hayes ([bcahayes@comcast.net](mailto:bcahayes@comcast.net)) know. The event will cost our class about \$10,000. All classmates are welcome to support this new tradition financially, send your contribution to The Class of 1963 Class Legacy Program Fund at The USAFA Endowment, 3116 Academy Blvd., USAF Academy, CO 80840.

Mick **Roth** reports: You have received a folder describing our class 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift to the Academy, a Perpetual Endowment Fund, to provide annual support to what has emerged as, perhaps, USAFA's primary challenge: the content and lessons that will come from the Academy's new Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD). More important than its magnificent structure, the CCLD must address the character and leadership challenges facing today's cadets. Our Fund will help do that by providing (1) An annual contribution to the CCLD to support programs, such as notable speakers, (2) An annual contribution to the USAFA History Department's Center for Oral History (COH) which is allied with the CCLD in the effort to teach Character and Leadership, and (3) Our USAFA Class Histories: recording personal stories of our classmates as well as members from all classes will be a unique complement to the CCLD. We look forward to a successful fund-raising campaign to establish our Endowment.

**Doug Hardgrave** and **Dick Guild** reported on the annual (since 2002) WVA Memorial Day get-together at Ed & Caroline **Pickens'** mountain top lodge in Lost River. This is a really enjoyable time for classmates & their ladies.



(L to R) - Bob **Kennedy**, Fred **Frostic**, Dick **Guild**, Bob **Venkus**,  
Doug **Hardgrave**, Jim **Hannam**, Bud **Gilligan**, Ed **Pickens**



Lou **Matjasko** had a picture taken with John **Elfers** and John's original '63 red Corvette Roadster. Lou and Karen were visiting John and Dottie at their farm to record John's UCH video. They had a great time. John is still practicing dentistry there in central Wisconsin. How many of our classmates still have their "graduation cars?"



This is the second installment of our plan to feature the 18 fallen classmates from the war in Southeast Asia. Thanks to Jimmie Butler for putting the composite photo together.



L-R: Park's picture courtesy of Ravens Chad Swedberg ('68) and Craig Duehring; Leo's picture provided by Bob **Venkus**; and Jim's picture provided by **JJ Kennedy**.



Captain Park G. **Bunker** was killed in action on 30 December 1970 while flying an O-1 Bird Dog on an operational mission over Laos. He was a Raven FAC assigned to the 56th SOW, Udorn, Thailand and on attachment to the US Ambassador to Laos. Park had flown over 130 combat missions when he was shot down.

Captain Leo T. **Thomas**, Jr. was reported missing on 19 December 1971 while on an operational mission in Laos. The F-4D aircraft he was piloting was seen as a fireball on the ground after communication with the crew was lost following a run on the target. Evidence of death was received on 28 December 1971 and his status was changed to KIA. His remains were recovered on 3 June 1994 as a result of a joint U.S.-Laotian excavation. Leo was a member of the 555 TFS, 432 TRW, Udorn, Thailand. This was Leo's second tour in SEA. He had served a previous SEA tour in the F-105.

1LT James D. **Goodman** was killed on 9 January 1967 while on a flare and gun support mission near Duc Pho, Vietnam close to the coast, about 20 miles south of Quang Ngai. A Vietnamese Air Force Special Forces observer saw the AC-47 aircraft he was co-piloting crash after it had been struck by hostile ground fire. Jim was assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> ACS, 14th ACW, Nha Trang AB detached to Da Nang AB Vietnam.

Well, that's it for this time around. Remember we are looking to make contact with all our classmates before the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Please continue your work to find those we listed as missing (3 of the 15 were found) from the last issue of *Checkpoints*. Beat Navy!