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The Association of Graduates informed us of the death of our classmate Col (Ret) Robert J. W. "Bobby" **DeSantos**, CS-24. Bob passed away on 20 June 2015 in Austin, TX. No services are scheduled and burial was on 29 June 2015 in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX. The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the following charities: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; 6931 Arlington Rd, Suite 200; Bethesda, MD 20814 and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) Foundation; 330 Dundee Rd, Suite C4; Northbrook, IL 60062. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Irene: Mrs. Irene P. DeSanto; 2000 Westfalian Trail, Apt 6; Austin, TX 78732-1977



New plaque between the Class Cups and the Baldachi Cabinet

You might recall last time we reported the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, requested we call attention more clearly to our Heritage Display in Arnold Hall: Pat's ring, and the kiosks. **Diff** added; when escorting cadets through A-Hall, the Superintendent was

describing our Heritage Display; she knows the story of Pat's ring having been at our 50th, but realized a visitor would not understand why the ring in the middle of the cups. She asked her Aide to check with the class and have them install a description of the display and ring. Hence, the new plaque. Bob **Hayes** and Bill **Ball** led an effort to have a plaque made and placed beside the cup cabinet in Arnold Hall. This effort, ongoing for many months with lots of negotiations with various Academy agencies, was recently completed and it is a splendid addition to the Heritage Display. Many thanks to Bob and Bill. The inscription on the plaque reads:

The Class of 1963 Heritage Display consists of Class Commemorative Cups, Nino Baldachi Ceremonial Cabinet, 1860 Audubon Chromolithograph of the Icelandic (Gyr) Falcon and two kiosks which provide access to the Class of 1963 history and class member stories. The cups represent each of the Class's 499 graduates and one honorary graduate, President John F. Kennedy, who was presented an Air Force Academy Diploma when he spoke at the Class of '63 graduation, June 5, 1963. When a class member passes, his cup is turned during our most cherished ceremony. President Kennedy's cup is in the lower, right corner. Pat's Ring was worn by Major (then First Lieutenant) Pat Wynne, Class of '63, when his F-4 Phantom was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966. His Remains were repatriated and buried at the Air Force Academy in 1977. His class ring was missing and considered lost for 42 years. Pat's ring was given to the Class of 1963 and dedicated by his brother, Mike Wynne, Former Secretary of the Air Force, at the Class's 50th Reunion in October 2013. The kiosks provide access to their stories. Select the 1963 Heritage Display. There you will find a breakout for Class Cups, JFK Cup, Pat Wynne Ring, Baldachi Cabinet, Gyr Falcon, Cup Turning Ceremony, and more information on the Class of '63 graduates and events. Similar historical data for other Academy classes can be found at <http://www.usafa.org>.

Mini Reunion: Your issue of Checkpoints will likely land in your mailbox either just before or just after this year's mini reunion thus I will not go into the details and only hope if you are interested in the mini-reunions and are not on Bob Hayes e-mail list please let him know by giving him a call at 719-481-9693 or sending him an e-mail to bcahayes@comcast.net. Due to a couple of factors, the late start of the game with San Jose State (8:15 pm), and "Homecoming" weekend Bill Ball and Bob had to work especially hard to plan. The cup turning ceremony will be on Saturday afternoon at the Eisenhower Golf Course followed by a pre-game dinner sort of a tailgate. We'll gather the first evening (Friday, Sep 11th) at the Villa in Palmer Lake in their bar room for a social hour and dinner. Our cup turning ceremony this year will honor four of our classmates: David Dougan (CS-7), 19 Dec 2013, Hugh K. Webb (CS-15), 15 Oct 2014, Carlton T. West Jr. (CS-22), 15 Mar 2015 and Robert K. DeSanto (CS-24), 20 Jun 2015.

In the June 2015 issue of Checkpoints we reported David Ramsay of the Colorado Springs Gazette was doing a story on our 1963 graduation ceremonies and the graduation Speaker President Kennedy. Last week I found the Gazette article on-line. You might be interested in what he wrote and some of our classmate's memories of that time. Go on-line and put this URL in your web browser: <http://gazette.com/52-years-after-presidential-afa-graduation-speech-we-couldnt-do-what-jfk-said/article/1553063>.

Ramsay also provide a link to a video of the complete 18 minute JFK address to the Class. If you can't find the proper link for JFK's complete address try this direct link:

<http://millercenter.org/president/kennedy/speeches/speech-5763>. The video and transcript is provided by the Miller Center of the University of Virginia.

Watching the video was the first time I really heard the entire speech and I was taken aback at what he was saying. For one whose mind on 5 June was focused on getting through the moment of our graduation, I admit not much of JFK's speech resonated. Please listen and you might agree the speech was prescient.

A mailer from John Heimberger contained info about a team he led putting together a special VFW Veterans Tribute for over 1,000 veterans and families on April 8th in NE Houston. Many guest speakers and entertainers were present. One special guest was classmate Loran **Schnaidt** (MGen Retired) and former Commander of the Missouri Air National Guard. Unfortunately, per John, Loran was forced to bow out when his home was damaged by a tornado in St. Louis two days before the event. Loran was there to speak partly for the benefit of 120 Jr ROTC Cadets who were also present. Of all the pictures John sent I really liked the one of John and his son Hunter.



Top Gun hat a gift from ex-POW/Keynote Speaker Navy A-7 pilot Mike Penn

Short Bursts:



George & Sharon Frederick and John & Sara Patton celebrating 52 years of bliss
 Linda and I recently enjoyed an evening at Hank and Nancy **Hoffman's** home in Scottsdale. It was a cool evening—more ways than one. The weather was delightful, wonderfully cool for this time of year in Arizona, and there were many interesting and fun guests including Ed **Reisdorf** and we were pleasantly surprised to find Bill and Jean **Gabel** who were in town from Columbus, Ohio for a visit with friends. The conversation went on for a while.
 That's it for this time. We are planning to be at the Mini-Reunion in September. Hope to see you there!