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The Association of Graduates recently learned of the death of three of our classmates; William J. **Hentges**, CS-11, Lt Col (Ret) William V. **Keenan, Jr.**, CS-05, and Grant O. **Bornzin**, CS-01. Bill Hentges passed away on 20 April 2017 in Kennesaw, GA. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on 27 April at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church; 1206 East McCarty St; Jefferson, MO 65101. Burial with Military Honors was held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery in Taos, MO. The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Our Lady of Confidence Carmelite Monastery Building Fund; 11 West Back St; Savannah, GA 31419 (912) 925-8505 <http://carmelofsavannah.com/campaign>. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Melba, 5288 Stone Village Cir NW; Kennesaw, GA 30152-7770

Bill Keenan passed away on 18 Apr 2017 in Sumter, SC. Services were held in Sumter, SC at the time of his passing. He is buried in St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery in Sumter, SC.

Condolences may be left on line at www.bullockfuneralhome.com or may be sent to his family in care of his son, Richard: Mr. Richard Keenan; 4185 Lake Mist Ln; Snellville, GA 30039-8434. Bill was one of the 28 members of our class to have been awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Grant Bornzin passed away on 31 May 2017 in California after suffering a brain hemorrhage. Condolences may be sent to his children Mr. Bret Bornzin and Ms. Janel Bornzin in care of Mrs. LaDonna Bornzin at 3792 Duchamp Dr.; Irvine, CA 92606-1810. A graveside service will be held on 22 Sept 2017 at 1000 hours at the USAFA Cemetery.

Diff writes: I have made a change of class officers; Les **Denend** is now your Vice President. Denny and Colleen **King** are graciously placing their family needs before all else and I have relieved Denny from further class business, and what could be the task of the Presidency. These changes are mutually agreeable to Denny, Les, and your other class officers.

West Virginia Micro Mini report by Bob **Kennedy:** Some of the boys of 63 held their annual Micro-Mini Reunion following the Memorial Day weekend at Ed and Caroline **Pickens'** West Virginia Retreat. The Reunion included, two days of golf for the boys, while the ladies were on excursions.



The entire group in attendance, left to right in the boys and wives picture, included Jim and Maureen **Hannam**, Bud and Joyce **Gilligan**, Caroline **Pickens**, Jan and Doug **Hardgrave**, Bob and Vevonna **Kennedy**, Ed **Pickens**, and Patty and Bob **Venkus**, had a grand time and plan to carry on the tradition next year.

Jimmie **Butler** filled us in on the ceremony held early in May dedicating the A-26 Plaque honoring Graduates who flew the Douglas Invader in Southeast Asia. The ceremony was inside the Southeast Asia Pavilion near Doolittle Hall, with the unveiling on the east-facing wall alongside other such plaques overlooking the Plaza of Heroes.

Designated B-26 when flying in World War II, Korea, and during the Farmgate Project early in South Vietnam, it was later designated as the A-26 when flying combat missions out of Thailand in 1966-1969. The Air Force contracted to have 40 B-26s modified, including beefing up the wing structure, hard points under the wings to carry external ordnance, and .50 cal machine guns in the nose. Our classmates, Mick **Roth** and Roger **Graham**, flew as Nimrods (Call sign of the A-26s). Roger documented what that was like in his book, The Nimrods. . Roger spoke during the ceremony about the 609th Air Commando Squadron/Special Operations Squadron's dangerous and deadly night operations out of NKP.



Mick wasn't at the ceremony, but sent this note to us: "Dear DIFF AND ALL, This communication brings back vivid memories. One of those is a song which Bob Hope did on his visit to NKP in 1967. *"The A-26 was once a B, But we don't bomb from here you see. Every night when we hit the air, That load in our belly ain't really there."* I have indeed had to cope with Alzheimers, but I can vividly recall how exciting (and sometimes more than excitement) it was to fly the A-26. And I often thank The Lord for helping me get through those 146 missions. And it is a pleasure to communicate with my wonderful Classmates. I wish you all the best, Mick." The names of both Mick and Roger are listed on the Silver Star plaques in the Plaza of Heroes

Tom **Fryer** wrote he had just returned from DC as a member of the Kansas Honor Flight. "It was a 3 day, 2 nite trip-an awesome and intense 3 days. My 'guardian' was my son Wesley which made it special." They were able to locate the names of all 18 classmates on the Vietnam Memorial Wall during their time at the Wall. Another highlight of the trip was at Arlington. The Kansas group got to do the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. "There were 4 of us: Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force-I was the AF rep - what an honor."

Tom sent the a list of our 18 classmates whose names are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall with the panel references where they can be found in case other classmates travel there and want to locate their names. I will send the list to Gil to be added to our Web Page or you can contact me and I'll send it to you,

Jim Hannam and Dick Guild sent a photograph and reported on the Red River Fighter Pilots Association's 50th Anniversary Reunion. Class of '63 was well represented at the Reunion held in Louisville, KY where Ron Fogleman was the guest speaker. According to Dick, Ron's speech at the River Rat banquet was magnificent. The crowd was totally attentive as he spoke about the profession of arms with emphasis on air warriors.



Taking a break from storytelling and taking refreshments at the Flight Suit Party are Ron **Fogleman**, Jim **Butts**, Jim **Hannam**, and Dick.

Mini Reunion 2017: Bob **Hayes** is hard at work planning this year's min-reunion scheduled to take place the Sep 23rd weekend. The football game on the 23rd is Air Force vs. San Diego State. Don't know if you will receive this edition of Checkpoints in time but if you do and you have not received Bob's e-mail detailing the events please get hold of Bob via phone: 1-719-481-9693 or Email: bcahayes@comcast.net.

Hank and Nancy are moving! Hank **Hoffman** says he and Nancy are moving from Scottsdale to the C-Springs area into a new home north of the North Gate. Expect to see them at the mini-reunion come September.

Some more thoughts about the Warrior Ethos discussion were received. It is very clear to me some are not happy with the state of the Cadet Wing and think BCT and 4th Class year should revert to earlier times.

That's all for this time. Please let's be careful out there and hope to see you at the 55th Reunion if not before.