

# MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER —

Hey OCs, It has been over a year since the last edition of the Mustang Matters so we will try to bring you up to date on activities over the past year and to discuss the future of the organization. Your local Wing Staff members Jerry Nolan, Fearless Leader, Joe Scarlett, Chief Money Man (since the formation of the association), plus our Jack of All Trades and Head of our History and General Knowledge Department, Chuck Ulmer have been meeting regularly since the September 2019 Reunion. I'm not bragging about working hard, it just happens that the local Dutch Bakery has really good coffee and delicious pastries.

## 63<sup>RD</sup> OC Wing Officers

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## 2019 REUNION REPORT —

The Reunion was a great success. We had about 50 attendees and all agreed that it was great to meet and greet again. The hotel, with their free cook-to-order breakfasts, several hour Happy Hours with plenty to drink and eat were great, and our Welcome Reception and Closing Banquet were all excellent. The tours were well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Friday tours went to the Peterson Air Force Base Museum, and the Olympic Training Center, both were very enjoyable and about the right length of time. (Patricia Holmes told me she really enjoyed being “chauffeured” through the Olympic Training Center.)

Saturday's trip to the Cripple Creek Museum was a great look at one of the iconic mining centers in the West. This was followed by a visit to the huge open-pit gold mine that is still mining gold, as well as several rare minerals today. You can't believe the size of the tires on the trucks they use!

Thanks to the help of a lot of volunteers, the Hospitality Suite was open from early morning until late in the evening. The term "late in the evening" does not have quite the same meaning that it did in the 1900's or early 2000's. As a result, the per capita expenses for the Hospitality Suite were down significantly.

## FUTURE REUNION PLANS —

At the Business Meeting, on the last day of the Reunion, we asked if there was anyone who would like to host a Reunion in 2021. There were no takers. However, Mary Small, 63D, offered to set up a cruise out of Houston, TX. (Note: At the Reunion, Mary replaced Jim Clutter as 63 Wing CV, as Jim had to resign for health reasons.) I know of several other organizations that have done this and had a great experience. In a near unanimous vote the membership voted in favor of this option. Planning for this, as you might imagine, has been on hold status. We will let you know as soon as the COVID situation allows Mary to proceed.

In the years beyond 2021 an alternative to a Reunion with tours, formal dinners, etc. would be just an informal get together, where we meet in a city at one hotel, without the meals and tours. If anyone would like to plan and host we would be glad to work with you. Or, possibly another cruise.

## 63<sup>RD</sup> WING ASSOCIATION STATUS —

Based on the lack of takers on running another Reunion, we think it may be time to consider plans to retire the organization, which would allow us to close the records in an orderly fashion. Our plan would be to continue to

operate until after the cruise. Until that time we would continue to acknowledge deaths with donations to requested causes and plan something special for all association members participating in the cruise. After the cruise and any final expenses, we intend to contribute the remaining assets to the "Gold Star Mothers" as approved by the association membership at the reunion in Montgomery AFB, Alabama in 2015.

The creation of the AFOCS Association was initiated by Tom Hansen in 2003 at the first reunion of all AFOCS classes. In 1992 Tom had organized a reunion of Classes 63A and 63B at Las Vegas. He followed that up with a reunion of all AFOCS classes in 2003 which was held in San Antonio. At that reunion, Tom proposed the creation of an organization for the purpose of organizing future reunions and establishing memorials to perpetuate the memory of AFOCS, thus the beginning of the 63rd AFOCS Association. The effort was funded through any excess cash from the reunion, and the sales of hats, pins, coins, etc. We may not have a museum display, but we do have an Association Memorial Plaque in the AF Museum Memorial Park at Wright-Patterson AFB and two Memorial Benches at Lackland AFB's Memorial Park.

### **USAF OCS ALUMNI WEBSITE —**

We are also in the process of determining the future of the AFOCS Web Site. Fred Holmes tells me that we are still getting a lot of hits on it. I recommend that you take a fresh look at it. Fred is going to provide us with a financial status on the cost of running the site. He has also scanned a lot of Shavetails onto the site. (Over the past few years, he has purchased a fair number of Shavetails for the website, but that project is now on hold until we can find a place that might like to have them after we closedown). We were hopeful that a museum on Lackland AFB or the Enlisted Museum on Maxwell AFB would live on, but we understand both locations are closing. We are certainly open to any suggestions on someplace that might be interested in our OCS Memorabilia. Ideally, we will come up with a plan to keep the website in operation for a few more years.

Something that some of you might be interested in are the Bios that you posted on the web site. If you are interested, you could make copies, if you don't have one. Just the kind of thing your kids and/or grandkids might like to see while you could still answer questions about it.

On a more somber note, we have lost one of our most senior members of the association – Ted Jones 59A Ted has attended almost all of the association's reunions and will be greatly missed.

We received the following emails from his wife.

*If this is the first time you have heard of Ted's death, he passed away on Sunday, October 25th in the cancer hospital in Quito, Ecuador.*

*If you need me to friend you on Ted's Facebook page, just send me a request- Ted really loved each and every time we could come to the OCS reunions, and so enjoyed all the visiting and reminiscing with all you guys, even those from different class years. I don't know who is doing the association newsletter these days, but if something of his passing could be put into the next edition, I think he would appreciate getting the word spread.*

*He was one of the older guys...87 last August, and from 59 A class, so each time we would get together, there were always fewer left. I'm so glad that we were able to attend the last reunion in CS a year ago, and his class celebrated their 60th Anniversary since graduation.*

We will try to get the future issues of "Mustang Matters" out in a more timely manner.

On another matter, we will provide timely updates on the progress of the "Reunion Cruise."

Please continue to let Joe Scarlet, Chuck Ulmer, Fred Holmes, or myself know of any major changes in status of Association members or their families.

***We would especially like your thoughts on the proposed shut down of the Association, both pro and con.***

**–JERRY NOLAN, 63A**

**FROM THE DCOMM —**

If you are reading this on the web site because you did not receive it via e-mail, it is because your Class Communicator doesn't have your e-mail address—or maybe you don't have a Class Communicator. If you need help updating your status, e-mail me at k8tl@earthlink.net with your name and class number. It is also possible that your class is not a member of the association; if you would like to be on the mailing list contact me.

Just a reminder: remember how you used to be hounded to keep the BASE LOCATOR information updated? Do the same with your Class Communicator.

– **TOM LUBBERS, 63C**

**FROM THE CV — Hello Everyone!**

It was really great to see many of you at the last reunion. As you will remember, we decided then that we would have another reunion in 2021 and it would be a cruise. However, we all know what's happened since the last reunion. COVID has put a stop to most of my travel plans for the near future as I'm sure it has yours. The cruise lines had some unpleasant experiences with COVID and are still uncertain when.

My question to you is "Who is interested in going on a reunion cruise next October, November or December?" If enough people are interested then I will contact you and we'll determine when and where we'll go. Please contact me by phone or text at 832 443 7501 or email me at smallmaryc@aol.com.

I'd like to hear from you and get your input **before 20 December**. Thanks everyone

– **MARY SMALL, 63D**

**FROM THE WEBMASTER/HISTORIAN — WHAT IS IT WORTH TO YOU?**

'WORTH' is measured many ways. In this case, the question concerns the continuation/discontinuation of our OCS Alumni web site. There is no measurable dollar value of a website. The value is determined by the number of people interested in the content and the number of times the site is visited.

In June of 2018, my daughter Michèle installed a visitor tracking program called 'Jetpack'. It counts the number of visits to the web site by tracking which pages or sections are visited. No personal information is taken from the visitor, just the destination of the visit.

- In 2018 there were 1,736 visits to the website with, notably, 281 views on 25 Oct 2018
- In 2019 there were 1,904 visits
- In 2020 there were 1,069 visits.

The most visitors in a month was over 200 in October 2018, and this has trended gradually down until the number of visitors in October 2020 was 70.

The current dollar costs that are measurable are for the domain name, and the security program to prevent people from disrupting or damaging the material on the website. These costs average approximately \$142.00 per year, split between domain name protection and website security. The hosting arrangement is not a cost factor in this as my daughter Michèle handles that with her Hosting company.

Another question involves the maintenance of the website: updating software as required, answering e-mail queries for contact information, and seeking appropriate historical data to add to the website. As all of you know, I have an ongoing interest in discovering the complete history of OCS through the Shavetails published over the years. The Shavetails offer a clear picture of the history of Officer Candidate School from its inception in 1942 at Miami Beach through the graduation of Class 63D on 23 June 1963. Some Shavetails even contain class rosters. There are 48 Shavetails on the website and I have 17 yet to scan or re-edit. There is no other spot on the internet (that I know of) where you can find this written and illustrated history in one place.

The Shavetail page-turning method is accomplished by a program called Adobe Flash Player. This program will no longer work after 31 December 2020. Therefore, I must convert all my scanned Shavetails to another program and another format. The conversion software has already been purchased at a cost of \$68.

Because of the many hours required to complete this conversion the Shavetails will not be available for several months. PLEASE NOTE THIS: YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE SHAVETAILED ON THE CLASS LISTS MENU ON THE WEBSITE after 31 December 2020.

As we continue to discuss the future of the Association and the website, I would appreciate any help with the website or maybe, even, finding someone to take it over. If someone wishes to take over the care and feeding of the website, there may be further discussion regarding the disposition of all the items that were in the museum at Maxwell AFB, AL. Also, determining the future location of the many, many Shavetails scattered between me and OTS Training School at Maxwell AFB and the Historical Museum at Lackland AFB.

### **WEBSITE SURVEY —**

In view of the foregoing narrative, there are some questions the General Membership of the Association can answer.

1. Are you interested in seeing the website remain active?
2. Should the website continue to be maintained as it is or should we pay for a professional entity to do it.
  - a. If maintained as at present, the costs for domain name and security are approximately \$175.00 per year. Previous costs shared between Association and Webmaster.
  - b. If handled by a professional, costs are unknown.
3. If so, would you be willing to contribute a small amount for its upkeep?

After you have decided how you feel about this, please respond to your Class Communicator however way you can.

Thank you very much for your input.

**– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C**

### **FROM THE CHAPLAIN —**

Please inform me at f4flh@yahoo.com of the passing of any OCS graduate or spouse from the classes listed as part of the Association. All info will be appreciated and handled as appropriate. Their names are added to the Dedication page on the website, and the Association sends a donation to the specified charity as a memorial.

**– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C**



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Be sure to visit the web site at [www.usafocsalumni.org](http://www.usafocsalumni.org)**