West Point Society of DC

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Dear Fellow Graduates,

Well, spring has finally sprung (I hope!) after a far-too-long winter in the greater Washington, DC area. It’s a great time of year, as we all recall, when things are starting to green up at West Point and anticipation grows as graduation approaches.

The same is true here in the Nation’s Capital. Spring brings a host of West Point Society activities and opportunities that I want to bring to your attention.

But first let me report that the 212th West Point Founders Day gala on March 15 was a huge success. I received many compliments on the program and the evening in general. Many thanks go to our Society Vice President Pat Kane, ’73 and our Founders Day committee chair Kafi A. Joseph, ’03 who teamed up to put on a first class event. The Dean, Brigadier General Tim Trainor, ’83, did a fine job of updating us on all that is happening at West Point and the vaunted West Point Alumni Glee Club outdid themselves with their version of “In the Army” modeled after the Village People’s hit “In the Navy.” Kudos also go to Youngest Graduate First Lieutenant Brian Asman, ’11 for his brief but humorous remarks and to the West Point Parents Club of MD, DC, and VA for hosting the Class of 2018 new cadet candidates.

Congratulations go to Lieutenant General (RET) Joe DeFrancisco, ’65, our Society past president who received the prestigious Castle Memorial Award. Also receiving awards were Lieutenant Colonel (RET) Terry Ryan, ’65 and Mr. Steve Kraner, ’79 who were both recognized as Distinguished Members of the WPSDC.

Speaking of awards, two of our Society’s finest Colonel (RET) Bill DeGraf, ’50 and Mr. Fred Malek, ’59 will be recognized on May 20, 2014 on the Plain at West Point as two of this year’s class of Distinguished Graduates of West Point. Congratulations to both!
I want to extend my thanks to Carl Cecil and Phil Panzarella both from Class of ’79 for once again hosting West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference in March. This seventh annual event focuses on local high school students and exposes them to methods and techniques when dealing with difficult ethical issues. The West Point cadets who mentor the students during the seminar were first rate and really established a peer-to-peer learning environment.

Likewise, Pat Locke, ’80 established the first-ever West Point Society of DC-sponsored “Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM” (LEADS) Workshop for middle schoolers in the District. Our goal is to encourage young people to consider studies in science, technology, engineering, and math as they become the future leaders of our communities and our nation. Well done to Pat and all who assisted.

As I mentioned, there are a large number of Society events coming up between now and summer. You absolutely must check the Society web page at www.WPSDC.org for a full listing, but here are a few:

The Society’s Spring Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at the Fort Myer Officers Club. Our guest speaker will be Lieutenant General Mike Linnington, ’80 who is the Military Deputy to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the 71st Commandant of Cadets. He will bring us up to speed on a host of issues facing the Army that seem to be in the news quite frequently these days. The Luncheon is a great way to meet classmates and other fellow graduates.

For our golfers don’t forget to sign up for the Black-Gold-GRAY Tournament at Andrews AFB slated for May 22, 2014.

Your Society will be hosting a night with the Nats at Nationals Park on May 30, 2014. Reduced price tickets and special seating will be available to Society members.

Finally, on Sunday, June 8, 2014 the West Point Parents, with assistance from the Society and the 50 year affiliation Class of ’68, will host the New Cadet Candidate welcome picnic at Fort Myer to welcome local prospective members of the incoming West Point Class of 2018 (yes, that really is 2018!).

This is just a short list of activities coming up. See the rest of this newsletter for more information. And again, check the Society website frequently at www.WPSDC.org for key events happening here in the National Capital Region. You can also use the website to become a member of the Society. The membership fee is quite nominal - $40 or less for a year - and you will receive a host of benefits available to members only.

On behalf of your West Point Society of DC, thank you for your membership in and contributions to West Point.

GO ARMY! BEAT NAVY!

Guy

GUY C. SWAN III, ’76
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Retired
President
West Point Society of the District of Columbia and the National Capital Region
Lieutenant General Mike Linnington was born in Cape May, NJ. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980 and was commissioned an Infantry Officer. His civilian education includes a BS from the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, and a MS in Applied Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. His military education includes the Infantry Officer’s Basic and Advanced Courses at Ft Benning, Georgia, US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, KS, and the National War College in Washington, DC where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security Strategy.

His 33 year career includes duties in key command and staff positions at Ft Ord, CA; Ft Riley, KS; West Berlin (Divided), Germany; multiple assignments at Fort Campbell, KY; the Republic of Korea, and several tours in Washington, DC (Army and Joint Staffs). From Jun ’02 to Jun ’04, then COL Linnington commanded the 3d BCT, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) where he deployed both in OEF 1 (Afghanistan) and OIF 1 (Iraq).

After selection to Flag Rank, Linnington held positions of responsibility at Ft Benning, GA (DCG), West Point, NY (Cmdt of Cdts), Kabul, Afghanistan (ISAF Joint Command), and in Washington, DC (Cdr, US Army Military District of Washington). LTG Linnington assumed the duties as Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) in Jul ’13.

LTG Linnington will be speaking at the WPSDC Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, 21 May 2014 at the Fort Myer Club. SIGN UP
THE WEST POINT ALUMNI GLEE CLUB
MUSIC MOUNTAIN
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2014
6:30PM

Celebrate the U.S. Army’s 239th Birthday and the 237th Flag Day with the West Point Alumni Glee Club

The West Point Alumni Glee Club will present a program of Patriotic, Inspirational and Just Plain Fun songs in celebration of the Army’s Birthday and Flag Day.

The West Point Alumni Glee Club was established in the Fall of 2007 to carry on the rich legacy of singing patriotic and inspirational music, a significant element of the Warrior Spirit. It consists of West Point Alumni who enjoy singing and believe in the importance of traditional music in our service to the nation. Members average almost 20 years of active duty service with over 75% being veterans of America’s wars. Our motto is “No Fun Without Music; No Music Without Fun.” Our goal is to spread the love of music among American warriors; to sing for veterans, servicemen, and their families; and to generate funds to support the West Point Cadet Glee Club enabling them to conduct more performances as ambassadors of West Point and the Army.
The Club held its annual Winter Social at the Crystal City Sports Pub on Sunday March 2nd, just beating out the arrival of the day’s snowstorm. Over 114 parents came out to enjoy great food, fellowship and to hear about Club activities. Thanks to Jackie Copp, Woody Ricker and Cindy and Rocky Mengle for their efforts to organize this great event.

Great turnout of members enjoying good food and fellowship.

Thanks to Socials Chairman Jackie Copp for organizing this great event!

We have great parents!
President Becky Weber welcomes everyone to the Social and makes some announcements about upcoming activities.

No one went away hungry!

Members enjoyed the awesome brunch buffet at Crystal City Sports Cub.

2nd Vice President Rocky & Cindy Mengle provides some good counsel to 2017 parents as they prepare for the upcoming Plebe-Parent Weekend. Don’t miss the uniform factory tour and bring your bubble wrap for the wine glasses!

1st Vice President Woody Ricker talks about the upcoming Graduation Luncheon. Reservations are open for this convenient, nice and affordable event for our graduates and their families.

WPPC MD DC VA

Joint Service Academy Ball (JSAB) Planning is Underway!

Presidents and Ball Representatives from area Parent Clubs from Air Force, Navy, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard and our Club met on March 1 to begin planning for this year’s Ball. The Ball is a great formal military event for your family and your Cadets. It also serves as a
fundraiser for Wounded Warriors and the USO. It will be held during Christmas week. Please look for a Save the Date very soon when the date and venue are confirmed. This year, our Club is serving as the host academy, led by our able and enthusiastic JSAB Representative, Holly Shannon. We are aiming to host a highly-attended and attractive event for Cadets and Midshipmen and their families. Please begin talking this up with your Cadets and plan to make this event part of your holiday family celebrations!

As the host academy, we are in need of an Army (!) of volunteers. Several parents have already indicated a willingness to serve on the JSAB Committee but we need many more parents to volunteer to help with event planning, corporate fundraising, silent auction, door prizes, etc. This is a great way to get involved with the Club. If you would like to be on the JSAB Committee and help to make this a successful, exciting and fun event, please email Holly directly at dalshannon@aol.com

WPPC MD DC VA Service Project at Boulder Crest Retreat Center

Over 30 members donned their galoshes and came out on a beautiful spring day for the Club's first ever service project to help do creek mucking and clearing at the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military & Veteran Wellness Center in Bluemont, Virginia. Thanks to Mary Lynn Hickey, our Wounded Warrior Coordinator, for organizing the day and to Boulder Crest for bringing joy and healing to our nation's wounded warriors, veterans and their families.

WPPC MDDCVA volunteers at Boulder Crest Retreat for Military & Veteran Wellness
CAREER ADVISORY SERVICE NEWS

Carl S. Savino, ’78

UPCOMING CAREER EVENTS

The next Military Officer Career Networking Night sponsored by the West Point Society of DC will be held from 6:30 pm to 9 pm on June 5 at the Army Navy Country Club (ANCC) in Arlington, Virginia. This event is free to WSPDC members. To register, visit https://www.westpointaog.org/WPSofDC-MilitaryOfficerCareerNetworkingNight

The next Service Academy Career Conference in the DC area will be held May 29-30, 2014 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The SACC is a career fair exclusively for Service Academy graduates. The cost for job seekers is $40 if paid in advance or $45 at the door. For more info, visit www.sacc-jobfair.com.

The next West Point Society of DC’s Military Officer Job Fair will be held on December 5, 2014 at the Waterford Reception Center in Springfield, Virginia. Registration will be via www.WestPointJobFair.com.

Tips for a successful Job Fair...

- Research the companies in advance
- Practice your 30-second sales pitch
- Update and polish your resume
- Dress for success
- Firm handshake; strong opening and closing
- Project a professional, confident image
- Meet with all of the employers
- Keep your options open; stay flexible
- Get contact information and follow-up


Best websites for U.S. Service Academy networking: www.ISABRD.com and www.LinkedIn.com. Both enable you to identify and contact fellow West Pointers who can assist you in your job search. Be sure to use it to initiate informational interviews with individuals working for your target companies.

JSAJE (www.JSAJE.com) is a jobs database exclusively for Service Academy graduates. Search the database and post your resume. This free service is provided by the West Point AOG.

GRADUATES SEEKING JOBS

If you are seeking employment, please send a one-paragraph description of your background and career interests to WPSDC.CareerServices@gmail.com so that it can be included in the next WPSDC Newsletter.

COMPANIES OFFERING JOBS

If you are a WPSDC member and work for a company with openings in the Washington, DC metro area, you can submit a “hot job” for free. Send email to WPSDC.CareerServices@gmail.com. You must be the contact for the job opening.

CAREER TRANSITION RESOURCES

To view our Society’s Career Advisory Services page, visit www.wpsdc.org and select the link Career Advisory Service.

The West Point Society of DC Directory is free to WPSDC members and a great networking resource. West Point AOG alumni career transition services: visit www.westpointaog.org; hover over Services and then Career Services.

PROSPECTIVE MENTORS

If you’re willing to mentor fellow grads who are seeking civilian employment, e-mail WPSDC.CareerServices@gmail.com and provide your name, West Point class, home or work phone number, e-mail address, and industry area.
WPSDC POOP
Admissions – April ‘14

The local West Point admissions field force has been busy these last three months interviewing candidates, assisting those with offers, and representing USMA at area college nights/fairs. At the end of April we had 52 high school seniors accepting our offers of admission with a record number of women (17 of the 52) accepting. Many of these candidates visited West Point to validate their decision to attend. Feedback from these visits validates the investment West Point made in upgrading its athletic facilities and the academic facilities upgrades. Alumni and class donations made many of these upgrades possible and definitely helped us recruit outstanding men and women to be our Army’s future leaders.

In conjunction with Founder’s Day, we held a reception for 28 candidates and their parents prior to the March 15th Founder’s Day. The Dean, BG Timothy Trainor ‘83 spoke and we had two cadets and the Parent’s Club on-hand to answer questions from the candidates and their parents. BG Trainor’s daughter recently graduated and a son currently attends USMA so he was uniquely qualified to discuss what it was like as a parent watching them both apply, decide to attend West Point, and have a great cadet experience.

Additionally, our Society sponsored a Candidate By-Invite on March 27th for local area Juniors interested in USMA. Over 100 candidates and their parents attended and heard MAJ John Turner, West Point’s Southeast Region Admissions Officer, discuss applying to USMA and the steps needed to get an offer. On March 29th, the two Virginia Senators hosted a Service Academy Day in Charlottesville with MAJ Turner doing a superb job differentiating West Point from the other four Academies. Our local admissions Field Force is now busy recruiting the Class of 2019!

Young Grad Tentative Schedule for 2014

Below is the tentative 2014 schedule of events for the Young Grads and WPSDC members of all vintages with a young grad mindset. If you have an idea for a new Young Grad event or want to help organize or host an event this year, please contact Ben Rodgers, ‘96 at berodgers@gmail.com or 202-679-7314.

MAY

7 – TLDG Happy Hour with WPSDC @ Metropolitan Club
19-25 — GI Film Festival Event
30—Nationals Game

JUNE

30—Nationals Game **Alumni Glee Club Singing**

TBD—West Point Leadership: Profiles in Courage event at the Metropolitan Club in D.C.

JULY

TBD—Happy Hour
TBD—Twilight Tattoo

AUGUST

1—Nationals Game

SEPTEMBER

6—Army Football vs. U of Buffalo Watch Party (Coach Monken’s debut)
27—Army Football v. Yale Watch Party

OCTOBER

12—Army 10 Miler
13—AUSA Young Grad Happy Hour

NOVEMBER

1—Army Football vs. Air Force Watch Party

DECEMBER

13—Army-Navy Football Watch Party
WPSDC Membership

The new dues year is well underway. We have 370 Life Members, but so far have only 174 annual members signed up for 2014.

There are 623 who were members in 2013 but have not renewed their membership. We need all the members we can get both for the companionship of the grads and for the many programs we run or support. We have an ambitious budget for 2014.

You can renew on line at www.WPSDC.org or by check to WPSDC, 4248 Autumn Olive Ct., Amissville, VA 20106. Dues are $20 (classes 2004 and later) or $40.

OLD GRAD’S TALK ‘14

For what I am about to say my credentials are as follows: I was in combat as an artilleryman for two years in 8 major campaigns. I started life as a forward observer in Normandy.

I believe that the main product of West Point is the company grade combat leader. I know that its fame comes from the remarkable leaders of this country it has produced and that it takes great pride in its academic program but I still insist that its primary duty is to give the Army first class junior combat leadership. It does a magnificent job of this. My class lost 74 men in combat and received over 1800 combat awards, all company grade officers. Jan 43 had a similar record – the Korean and Vietnam classes combat records parallel these and there is clear indication that the classes involved in the recent fighting are stringing up impressive records. All the product of junior grade – company grade officers – the “follow me” leadership element of the Army.

In a letter I wrote to the Superintendent prior to our 70th I suggested that these records be used as a basis for USMA by various means to let the citizens of this country know how well it is doing the job entrusted to it. I still think that it should be done.

Edward Burr, June ‘43
eburr2b@verizon.net

OLD GUARD

The 3d US Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard continues to tell the Army story in everything that we do, but we need your help. You can help us get the word out on our great Army by participating in our social media sites and encouraging your friends and families to do the same. Please take the time to "Like" us on Facebook (search for 3d US Infantry Regiment or go to https://www.facebook.com/#/oldguard).

If you want to go the extra mile, invite your friends and family to like us as well. You can also follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/The_Old_Guard or subscribe to our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/OldGuardVideo. We are doing the best in the newest media channels, so follow us on Google Plus as well (look for 3d US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)). We hope to see you all participating in our social media updates and helping The Old Guard in its mission to tell the Army story to the citizens of this great nation and the world!

We also hope to see you at Twilight Tattoo this summer on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, held each Wednesday evening beginning April 30th! Join us for an hour-long, live-action military pageant featuring Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own." Audiences will experience a glimpse into American history through performances by The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and The U.S. Army Drill Team.

The West Point Society of DC needs your help!

We need assistance in the many activities we support such as: Treasury, Leadership and Ethics Seminar, Job Fairs, Newsletter, Founders Day, and more. If you’re interested in volunteering to support West Point and the Long Gray Line, please contact Rich Huh at rich.huh@gmail.com
Cadet Candidate Admissions Meeting
The West Point Women Association wants you to know about the power of networking. Do you know that the West Point Society of DC is the largest in the WORLD!!!! Do you know how many fellow women grads are within a 50 mile radius of Washington DC?

These women include grads of all ranks, new mothers, (not so) old mothers, mothers of cadets, mothers of grads, non-mothers, single women, married women, divorced women, nurses, teachers, athletes, career changers, government employees, college professors, small business owners, doctors, politicians, government employees and business women up to and including senior executive levels. LET’S NETWORK!!!!

Join us for our quarterly West Point Women Networking events. WEST POINT WOMEN WEDNESDAYS! Mark your calendars for these 2014 events:

- Wednesday, April 23rd
- Wednesday, July 23rd
- Wednesday, October 22nd

Networking Happy Hours are held at the Army Navy Club downtown in the 2nd floor Daiquiri Bar

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Cost: Free, honor cash bar

Location: The Army Navy Club, 901 17th Street NW
Washington DC 20006

Valet parking available

Metro – Farragut or Farragut North

**Congrats to Women’s Lacrosse on becoming a Division I sport. Hooah!**
Congresswoman Norton and LTG Caslen Converse About Future Leaders

Washington, DC – On Friday April 11, 2014, the West Point Society of DC hosted the West Point Leadership Ethics and Diversity in STEM (LEADS) Workshop at Howard University (HU) for high schools and middle schools in the Greater Washington DC Area. The workshop had as facilitators, Howard University ROTC Cadets and Cadets from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY. Additionally, the workshop had professors from the HU College of Engineering and West Point’s Admissions, Department of Mathematical Science, Behavioral Science and Leadership and Electrical Engineering. This workshop engaged students in leadership and STEM activities, with an objective of inspiring students to become leaders in STEM-based professions.

The Superintendent, Lieutenant General Robert Caslen, was the keynote speaker for the program and spoke about the importance of education and character to leadership. He expressed the absolute necessity that America’s Army and especially its leadership “reflect” the nation. Congresswoman Norton, was the honored guest at the event and spoke to the audience about the academies as an excellent way of obtaining an outstanding education and leadership training. She referred to West Point as the “oldest” of the service academies with an outstanding reputation for developing leaders.

After the morning plenary session, the Congresswoman and Lieutenant General (LTG) Caslen had an opportunity to speak about the path ahead. LTG Caslen expressed desire to have the United States Military Academy increase its presence in the District of Columbia, since many students and educators are less familiar with the United States Military Academy. Congresswoman Norton responded that she was pleased that the programs are focusing on the younger students in middle schools, familiarizing them with the requirements of top colleges, especially in STEM coursework. She also expressed that high-performing students in the District of Columbia are “heavily recruited” by top colleges. It would be beneficial for the Academy to increase its presence so that students will know the Point is a possible option for them.

LTG Caslen expressed to the Congresswoman the continuing work on the diversity at the Academy, not just on recruitment, but on retention at the Academy and in the Army, with an objective of maintaining a diverse Army Leadership by encouraging diverse populations of cadets to choose combat arms branches, such as Infantry, Armor and Engineers. Historically, the combat arms have produced the bulk of general officer leadership for the Army. There are currently three 4-star African American general officers (the highest rank possible) of the thirteen 4-star Army general officers.
New Location and Record Attendance at West Point Leadership & Ethics Conference 2014

After six years at the main campus of George Mason University, our conference moved to the GMU campus in Arlington. The transition to a new venue remarkably had very few glitches and a majority of praiseworthy comments in our post-event survey. The only exception being just like Soldiers, the students enjoyed the food but had lots of suggestions for additions such as gluten-free options, and of course, “Where’s the hot food and pizza?” The conference was held on March 20, 2014. We had 45 National Capital Region high schools send 200-plus student and faculty delegates. Our conference this year was during the West Point spring break week so we were not able to take advantage of using Cadet Public Relations Council (CPRC) cadets who traditionally launch out a few days before the week of spring break to give presentations at schools in their hometowns. This year we relied on a few CPRC cadets along with a number of cadets on leave who are from the DC Metro area, three stellar ROTC cadets from GMU, as well as recent grads from The Old Guard, 1LTs Brian Asman, USMA ‘11 and Brendan Wright, USMA ‘10. Held simultaneous with the student small group workshops, faculty members from the high schools are led in discussions for the second year in a row by MG (Ret) John Macdonald, USMA ‘79, and BG (Ret) Anne Macdonald, USMA ‘80. The Macdonalds proved what a great team they are once again.

This year the team decided to add a theme to our extremely successful conference on leadership and ethics. Inspired by Superintendent LTG Robert Caslen, USMA ’75, and his goals for West Point, we placed the overarching theme of “Living an Honorable Life” as our primary conference objective for our delegates. For the past six years, we have focused on providing our student delegates with a methodology to approach and solve ethical problems. We have impressed the importance of living a moral life, but the superintendent’s goal is a bigger and longer lasting objective. We have framed our discussion from this long term view rather than just how to solve tough ethical trials. We asked the student delegates about their decision: “Would your parents be proud of your decision?” That question frames the here and now. We then looked long
term: “Would you be proud of your decision in 20 years, looking back?” Our intent is to make this one of the most memorable impressions in their lives up to that day. We hope that our student delegates will aspire to live an honorable life. The morning keynote, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General John Campbell, USMA ’79, discussed the Army’s Three C’s – Commitment, Competence and Character. LTG Caslen shared his perspective on our topic in the afternoon keynote. Conference Co-Chair Phil Panzarella, USMA ’79, provided a few of the comments solicited from the students:

“This conference has been an invaluable experience. I wish everyone had a chance to be a part of this at least once in their life”.

“It was a good experience and I really enjoyed the collaboration with people. I learned that we all had some kind of value and character within us. While ethics and morals are important, it is important to trust others.”

In the past we have only had one keynote address in the morning. This year with the opportunity of two outstanding keynote presenters, the team modified the format for ethical scenario ‘skits’ the student teams present to the entire group. In the first round, pairs presented their solutions to each other and were graded by the facilitators. Only 6 teams moved forward and presented to the entire group. A panel of 3 “American Idol-style” judges – Frank Hull, USMA ’79 (Golf Daddy), Pat Walker Locke, USMA ’80 (P-Lo), and Mike Greer, USMA ’80 (M I Cool) – guided the audience with their observations prior to hand and voice votes. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were selected and received iTunes gift cards. The new format saved some time on the busy schedule and was entertaining as well.

"I truly almost cried when I heard the keynote speakers talk about the sacrifices people [Soldiers] make. I came to the realization that people give up their lives for a cause because it is the right thing to do and really worth it. It was a pleasure meeting the leaders, the cadets and other students at the conference. Meeting everyone gave me better hope that there are ethical, kind-hearted people who will make this world a better place.”
Our past keynote speakers include LTG (Ret) Robert Van Antwerp, USMA ’72, General Lloyd J. Austin, USMA ’75, General Barry McCaffrey, USMA ’64, LTG (Ret) William Lennox, USMA ’71, LTG (Ret) David Palmer, USMA ’56, and Dr. Len Marrella, USMA ’57. Juniors must have at least a 3.5 GPA and be recognized as leaders in their schools. Our conference is one of the premiere leadership conferences in the country recognized by many top universities as a significant leadership achievement for which to be selected. Student leaders learn how to use an ethical decision making model to gather important facts and make tough decisions.

This annual conference has become a popular mainstay with local high schools, districts, students and faculty. This year we invited select high school seniors who participated the previous year to help out with the small groups. Young AFCEANS from local businesses are also part of the small group leadership teams. We have also successfully added a few new West Point alumni to our volunteer committee each year, and more are always welcome. Planning for WPLEC 2015 has begun so if you are interested, contact Carl or Phil. Carl.Cecil@cox.net or Phil.panzarella@cps-ps.com.

Carl Cecil, USMA ’79 and Phil Panzarella, USMA ’79
Co-Chairs WPLEC
Celebrating 212 Years – Founder’s Day for the West Point Society of DC and the National Capital Region

Tyson’s Corner, Virginia
March 15, 2014

Close to 500 alumni and their guests attended this year’s Founder’s Day Gala at the Hilton McLean Tyson’s Corner for a night of celebration and camaraderie. Our guest speaker this year was BG Timothy Trainor, ‘83 who serves as the Dean of the Academic Board at USMA. The Dean provided perspectives on current initiatives at the academy, specifically those relevant to the curriculum as it relates to our future Army leaders and the national excellence for which the academy has been recognized.

We took the time to present outstanding members of our society with the Distinguished Member and Castle Awards. The Distinguished Member Award is presented to the USMA graduate who is also a member of our society who has contributed greatly to the efforts of our society to promote the mission of West Point. This year we were fortunate enough to have two awardees. The awardees of the Distinguished Member Award for 2014 were LTC Terry Ryan, ‘65 and Mr. Steve Kraner, ‘79.

The Castle Memorial Award is presented each year to the USMA graduate who has distinguished him or herself by exemplifying the ideals of West Point—Duty, Honor, Country—in either a military and/or civilian capacity. The award honors BG Fred Castle class of ‘30 who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for an air mission during the Battle of the Bulge in which he lost his life. This year’s Castle Award was presented to LTG Joseph DeFrancisco, ‘65, for his sustained lifelong service to the nation in both the public and private sector.

Special recognition was given by our Society President and MC for the night, LTG Guy Swan, ‘75 to our former Distinguished Society Members, Castle Award winners and Distinguished Academy Graduates. Distinguished Academy graduates for 2013 were LTG Ted Stroup, ‘62
and LTG Joe DeFrancisco, ’65 and COL Bill DeGraf, ’50 and Mr. Fred Malek, ’59 will be recognized as awardees for 2014.

Toasts were given by LTG Dick Trefry, ’50, who presented the first toast to the Commander-In-Chief; LTG Max Noah, ’53 presented the toast to the Army; COL Si Hunt, ’46 presented the toast to the Air Force; LTG Ted Stroup, ’62 presented the toast to the Corps of Cadets; GEN Eric Shinseki, ’65 presented the toast to our fallen comrades; and CPT Francesca Graham, ’04 presented the toast to spouses and guests. We’d like to offer a special thank you to Chaplain (CPT) Brian Eastham, for giving the invocation. Chaplain Eastham is the Arlington National Cemetery Chaplain.

Our oldest living graduate present was COL Si Hunt, class of 1946. The youngest grad in attendance was LT Brien Asman, ’11 – Third platoon leader, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion in the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). The class of 1965 led the way with the most graduates in attendance with the class of 1987 close behind.

For the third year in a row we have had a record number of West Point Women Graduates – 39 women graduates attended. The women in attendance represented classes as early as the first class of women, 1980, and as recent as 2009.

This year we welcomed a new photographer, Bill Knopf from Tamarack Publications. While Bill continued offering couples and class photos, he was also instrumental in the addition of affiliated class photos where graduates from across the decades were photographed together. These photos, along with other photos from the event can be viewed in the 2014 Founder’s Day Album at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/wpsdc/sets/72157642752069355.

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at ODIA we again held a raffle this year for football tickets and some nice athletic attire! As a thanks for our society’s continued support of the over 900 cadet-athletes at West Point the Army A Club provided four complimentary tickets and a parking pass good for one of four Army Football games. We were also able to raffle off a framed West Point print circa 1844 which was donated by LTC George Day, ’59.

Following dinner we enjoyed a performance by the Alumni Glee Club, who added a twist to their program this year, which was a real treat! The program ended with the Alma Mater and post-dinner dance music was again provided by Randy Bolce from ABC Deejays.

A resounding success, Founder’s Day afforded those in attendance to see old friends, get updates on the Academy, and have a good time while honoring the founding of West Point and the traditions of the Long Grey Line.
Spring Luncheon Signup

Mail reservations and payment to:
West Point Society of DC (WPSDC)
4348 Autumn Olive Court
Amisville, VA 20106

Luncheon and Membership Signup can be done online at www.WPSDC.org
Remember to update your contact information with AOG!
*Please use an envelope when mailing to ensure the privacy of your information.

Membership Signup/Renewal

Mail payment to:
West Point Society of DC (WPSDC)
9100 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, A-216
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Spring Luncheon Signup

Enclosed is $______________($35 per person/ $40 non-members) for the Spring Luncheon. Make checks payable to West Point Society of DC (WPSDC)

Name _______________________________  Class _________________

Telephone ______________________________

Guest Name(s)_____________________________

Mail reservations and payment to:
West Point Society of DC (WPSDC)
4348 Autumn Olive Court
Amissville, VA 20106

Membership Signup/Renewal

Enclosed is $______________ for my 2014 membership dues (2004 to present $20, all other classes $40). Please make checks payable to West Point Society of DC.

Name _______________________________  Class _________________

Telephone ______________________________  Cullum #______________

Active Duty _____  Reserve _____  Retired____  Other_____  (check one)

Mail payment to:
West Point Society of DC (WPSDC)
9100 Belvoir Woods Pkwy, A-216
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060