December 15, 2003

Dear Fellow West Pointer,

We are beginning the 2004 membership drive, and this mailing is going out to all graduates in the Washington metropolitan area using labels provided by the AOG. I would ask all current members to renew their membership promptly and all others receiving this letter to seriously consider joining their Society.

We feel that our Alma Mater is important to the nation, has had a lifetime impact on us as individuals, and deserves our support. Our Society’s mission is to do whatever it can to support West Point, your class and you here in the National Capital Region. With more than 1,800 members, we are the flagship Society of the more than 113 West Point Societies worldwide. We are also one of the most active, rendering a wide range of support and service. Examples are:

**Admissions**: Our National Capital Region Society admissions Field Force, all volunteers, had our most successful year in respect to filling the USMA Class of 2007. Locally, some 60 young men and women accepted and were admitted to the Academy on R-Day. The Field Force is already active in the admissions cycle for the Class of 2008.

**Career Advisory**: Our Career Advisory Service has been active for over ten years and has helped a score of local graduates either in entering the civilian work force, or in placement in another position once within the work force. We have grown so successful that we receive numerous solicitations from companies with job offers, looking for graduates.

**Social and Professional Gatherings**: Annually, we host three luncheons, Founders Day Gala, an Army-Navy Luncheon and Football Rally, two golf tournaments, and two Career Networking Sessions. Our initiative to host events for the younger classes has been very successful, and we intend to expand the effort. For the luncheons and football rally, we feature notable speakers from the top level of the military and government - key lawmakers, distinguished graduates, officials at the secretariat level, service chiefs, and senior JCS officials.

**Awards**: The Society presents both the Castle Memorial Award and the Distinguished Member Award to deserving recipients nominated by the classes each year at the Founders Day Gala. We look forward to repeating this recognition of service related to the Academy in the tradition of “Duty, Honor, Country” again in 2004.

**Cadet Support**: Each year, the Society contributes $1,000 each to five cadet clubs or activities which are not now supported by appropriated funds. In addition, annually we present the Maxwell D. Taylor Leadership Award at the USMA Prep School.

**Newsletters and Directory**: The Society publishes at least five newsletters each year which highlight Society activities and provide for signing up for events. In addition, e-mail through the AOG is used for timely announcements to all alumni in the area with an e-mail address at the AOG. The 2002-03 Directory was published last year, and we will publish another this coming year. In the past the Directory has come out every two years, but we will go to one each year, and offer members the option of receiving it on a disc.

**Website**: We have our excellent website [www.wpsdc.org](http://www.wpsdc.org). It is current and a great assist in keeping up to date on Society activities. Plus you can use it to recon upcoming activities and sign up for our activities on-line. Give it a try.

In sum, your Society is at the forefront of USMA alumni activities and services. Based on our activities, the Society has been named a Distinguished Society by the AOG each year the award has been in being. We need your support to continue our efforts. Your dues are the major source of income we have to support our activities and are a modest $30 per year (classes of 1994 and later - $15). This mailing includes the newsletter which I recommend you read to catch up on our activities, a flyer and envelope for the Winter Luncheon, January 21st and the membership form. Please complete the form, referring to the codes on the reverse side, and return it with your check in the envelope provided. For current members, remember to check the various listings in the Directory so that you will be accurately covered in the future. You can use our website to renew your membership, change information for the Directory, or join the Society. Using the on-line application allows you to pay your dues by credit card.

I thank each of you in advance for your support to our Alma Mater.

Sincerely,

THEODORE G. STROUP, JR.
Lieutenant General, US Army (Ret)
President, West Point Society of D.C. and the National Capital Region
Membership Drive Underway

The membership drive of the West Point Society of DC for 2004 is underway. Please note the letter of Society President LTG Theodore G. Stroup, Jr. ’62 on the front page, urging current members to renew and other West Pointers who are not members to sign up for membership. Our Society’s objectives certainly merit the participation of all graduates in the greater DC area.

Annual dues are $30 and, for the Classes of 2004 and later, only $15—a tangible reduction to encourage younger grads because of expenses associated with living in this area.

We intend to continue doing everything we can to benefit our Alma Mater and to make membership in the Society a worthwhile association. Borrowing an idea from the Army recruiting program: Let’s be “A Society of One,” with every member a staunch representative of West Point.

CAS Meeting Rescheduled

An enclosed flyer provides information about the Career Transition and Business Networking meeting, which was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Thursday, 15 Jan 04. Same time, same place as originally set. Please note this change.

Military Records

In our Nov 03 newsletter, we published an article about obtaining military records from the National Personnel Records Center. It turns out that the name and address given us were incorrect. We have been advised that the correct address for copies of DD-214 and other documents from military files is: National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records Section, St. Louis, Missouri at (314) 801-0800. The center has a website, which may be of value to some, at www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records.html
Our January Luncheon Speaker

An enclosed flyer invites you to attend our luncheon at the Ft Myer Officers Club on 21 Jan 2004, featuring Vice Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey, Jr., as our speaker.

Commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1970, he has served in operational assignments in Germany, Italy, Egypt and the United States and commanded at every level from platoon to division. He became the 30th Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army on 17 Oct 03.

His principal staff assignments have been as a Congressional Liaison Officer; Special Asst to the Army CoS; CoS, 1st Cavalry Div, Ft Hood, TX; Operations Officer and CoS, V (US/GE) Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs, Joint Staff, J5; Comdr, Joint Warfighting Center/J7, US Joint Forces Command; and Director, J5, Joint Staff. He has also served as a UN Military Observer in Cairo with the UN Truce Supervision Organization.

GEN Casey is the son of MG George W. Casey ’45, who commanded the 1st Cav in Vietnam and was killed in a helicopter accident.

We are privileged to have GEN Casey as our Guest of Honor, and we expect a good turnout for the luncheon.

Assembly’s Memorial Articles to Appear in a Separate Publication

In January 2004, subscribers to ASSEMBLY will receive a second magazine bundled along with it. Entitled Taps, the new publication will contain the memorial articles that used to appear in the back pages of ASSEMBLY.

The AOG is beginning its separate publication of memorial articles for a simple reason. It had become impossible to do otherwise. In recent years, the number of such articles submitted for each issue of ASSEMBLY had grown dramatically, and given the demographics of the graduate population, projections of future submissions foresaw huge numbers as time went on. Meanwhile, the magazine is confined to a maximum of 192 pages. Because of the way it is bound, any more than that will make for a product that cracks at the spine and falls apart. The net result of these factors in the not-too-distant future would be an alumni magazine whose limited size would force it to consist mostly of obituaries.

It was several years ago that these considerations first led the AOG Publications Committee and staff to decide to publish a separate magazine for memorial articles. When it announced that decision, however, graduates raised a storm of protest. In response, the AOG suspended action on the decision and brought the matter up for consideration at a subsequent West Point Society and Class Leaders’ Conference. Once the AOG presented its rationale for the decision, addressing in the process the concerns that were raised, the attendees concurred in its soundness. Next, the proposed course of action was presented to the Board of Trustees, which also concurred, and planning went forward for the new magazine.

Sent to ASSEMBLY subscribers at no additional charge two or three times a year, Taps will be a publication of a quality equal to its sister magazine, with a cover in full color and printed on glossy paper. That is, its design and composition will serve to pay appropriate respect to departed members of the Long Gray Line. And the very fact that it is a separate publication will further heighten the Association’s tribute to them.
West Point Parents Club
by Fred Naigle, President, WPPC MD-DC-VA

It has been a very busy yet enjoyable fall season for the Parents Club of MD-DC-VA.

The Academy sports programs have brought us local competitions in soccer, crew, sprint football, and of course the Army 10-miler and Marine Corps Marathon. These last two events were particularly enjoyable because we joined camps with the WPSDC to support our runners. We always get such wonderful feedback from the cadets about how much they appreciate our support, and we need to share that recognition with our WPSDC friends. HooAH!

Now on to the future... As you read this article, the WPPC Army fans will have already braved another chilly Army-Navy Football Classic – and cheered Army to victory! As we all know, the Army-Navy game showcases classic sportsmanship surrounding the only rivalry in college sports where victory is measured equally by the outcome of the game and the friendship and camaraderie of two Corps. Thanks to all the Alumni who played in games past. You enriched the legacy of the contest we know today – Thanks to you all!

On 27 Dec, at the McLean Hilton, our WPPC will host the Joint Service Academies Ball (JSAB). This event brings together cadets and midshipmen, their families and friends, from the five Service Academies. It is our only time to gather together with our young men and women from all the services in common purpose. The JSAB offers a chance for parents to swap stories (brags) and for cadets and midshipmen to commingle with contemporaries. Our Chair Persons, Vince and Ruth Ogilvie, and their organizing team have really put together a great night. The JSAB has all the trimmings of a military formal and will include the Old Guard and of course the traditional toasts. Our guest speaker this year is LTG (Ret) Daniel Christman, the 55th Superintendent of USMA. A band and a DJ will entertain the cadets, midshipmen, families, and friends until 0130hrs. These great events are made possible through the generous donations from individuals and corporations. We deeply appreciate the generosity of the WPSDC to help defray the cost for our Cadets attending the JSAB.

I invite the members of the WPSDC to visit our club website at www.wppc-mddcva.org for information about us and the support we give to the Academy and the cadets. Anytime you see cadets in town we are probably nearby, so please come out and join the fun. Together we make an awesome noise!

God Bless our Alumni, our Servicemen and Women in harms way, and our Cadets. GO ARMY! BEAT NAVY!

Painting Commissioned

Fred Naigle, our Parents Club President, has informed us that the WPPC MD-DC-VA has commissioned Don Stivers to make a painting for the Class of 2004 to commemorate the Historic Taps Vigil held by the Corps of Cadets following the terrorist attacks of 11 Sep 01. The Vigil was held on 17 Sep 01 and was filmed by NBC News.

Beginning sometime in early 2004, the Parents Club will offer limited West Point edition prints titled “9-11 Taps Vigil” at a price to be determined. Initial sales will be offered to the graduating class before being offered to the general public. Proceeds from the sales will reimburse WPPC JSAB expenses and the Class of 2004 fund. Many business details are still pending.
Your Admissions team is busy finishing up interviews for the various Congressmen in the National Capital Region (NCR) in preparation for the Congressmen’s selection of nominees for their Appointments. As you may recall there are two primary ways to receive nominations to West Point, both of which are dictated by law.

The first is the Congressional Nomination which every applicant should attempt to secure. Accordingly, each candidate should apply to their US Congressman and their two US Senators for this Nomination. Traditionally the deadlines are in late October or early November for an applicant to complete their file with their Congressman.

The second classification of Nomination is the Military Connected Nominations, which include the Presidential Nomination for the sons and daughters of Active Duty, Retired, and Reserves/National Guard (who are either called up for active duty or have their 20 year letter). In the National Capital Region, I see many young candidates eligible for the Presidential Nomination who don’t realize that a simple request to West Point Admissions for this Nomination, accompanied with a DD 214 or some other proof of honorable service and status, automatically guarantees the Nomination. I also see many soldiers forgetting that a recommendation from their Active Duty or Reserve commander to West Point Admissions will guarantee a Nomination through the Army.

Nevertheless, the Nomination is the easy part. It is the Appointment that continues to be highly competitive, especially here in the NCR. My advice to those of you assisting your children or grandchildren, or the friend of a classmate or neighbor, is to get an early start. Ideally, the Admissions process should start in January or February of the candidate’s Junior year in high school. Candidates should go online to the West Point web page at www.usma.edu/Admissions and complete an application. They should also apply to the Summer Invitational Academic Workshop (IAW) on the same website and spend a week in June at the Academy. Next, they should open a file with their Congressman, complete the Physical Aptitude Exam (PAE) with their high school coach, and have the military medical exam completed. If all of this is done by the first of November of their Senior year, then they will be at the head of the line for the rolling admissions done by the Admissions committee at West Point.

As the files are completed, the Academy will send one of three letters to the candidate. The first may be a letter that they are disqualified either for noncompetitive academic scores or medical issues and West Point is closing their file.

The next two letters will be either a Letter of Encouragement (LOE) or a Letter of Assurance (LOA). The LOE is exactly that, a statement that the file looks good but the candidate should continue to complete the file and improve his or her scores.

The LOA is a promise of a seat in the class contingent on the candidate securing a Nomination, successfully completing their file, passing the PAE and the Medical exam. The LOA is Admissions’ way of going out on a limb to attract and secure the highest qualified candidates.

If the candidate has competitive academic scores (60% of the overall grade) and extracurricular activities and leadership in those activities (30% of the overall grade) and passes the PAE (10% of the overall grade), secures a Nomination, passes the medical, and meets all deadlines, then the Admissions Committee has an easy job of selecting them for an Appointment.

Your local Admissions team has been working hard getting this information out to potential candidates at College Fairs and Academy Days. We also have cadets visit high schools and civic groups before Thanksgiving to spread the Admissions word.

Finally, we ask you, the graduates and friends of West Point, to send us your sons and daughters to help West Point and the Nation. Together we develop and educate the Nation’s future leaders.

(Note: John can be contacted at (703) 696-0761, by fax at (703) 696-2181, or e-mail him at mitchamj@fmmc.army.mil.)
Happy Hour

by Hope Donnelly ’86, Chair, Young Grads Committee

A big thanks goes to Barb Gerovac ’84 and her husband, Greg ’81, for organizing another Young Grads Happy Hour. That one was held on Fri, 24 Oct, at Founders in Old Town Alexandria. The owner of Founders, an Army brat and former Marine, welcomed a crowd of over 40 graduates. The oldest “Young Grad” was from the class of 1969; the youngest grad was born that same year!

The evening was a rollicking success. Next time, the management will set up a separate bar and bartender just for us!

For these Young Grad events, don’t let the “Young” dissuade you from attending. We welcome all grads, no matter your age, to come out and join the fun.

...And More Young Grads’ Gatherings

by Chris Hartley ’91

On Fri, 12 Sep, the West Point Society of DC kicked off its new relationship with the Army and Navy Club in downtown Washington by hosting a Young Grads Happy Hour at the Club’s Eagle Grill. The event was a smashing success and was attended by over 60 guests ranging from the classes of ’70 to ’95. Although many classes had multiple graduates in attendance, the class of ’86 had the largest turnout with 6 members present and the class of ’94 was a close second with 5. Also in attendance were the Club’s President, the Honorable Carlos C. Villarreal, and the Club’s General Manager, Mr. John Twitchell. Both guests of honor were extremely pleased with the turnout and hope that this event would be a catalyst for making the Army and Navy Club a home for many future Young Grad Events.

On 14 Nov, over 25 graduates and guests were in attendance for the DC Capital Area Network’s ("CAN") Washington Capitals Alumni Night at the MCI Center. Although the attendees were part of a large, energetic crowd, they were disappointed with the outcome of the hockey game as the Capitals lost to the Tampa Bay Lightning by a score of 5 to 2. Several West Point Society members met for a pre-game Happy Hour at the Irish Channel Pub that was also sponsored by the Capital Area Network. The West Point Society of DC’s attendance at the CAN event also marked a new relationship in which the Society hopes to broaden its variety of social activities and benefit from the organization, infrastructure, and camaraderie of CAN’s 193 local alumni chapters.

Just In ....

...The WPSDC has received thank-you notes from the USMA and USAFA Marathon Teams for providing the Hooah Tent at the Army 10-Miler on 5 Oct. We sponsored the Hooah Tent for the cadet marathon team, which came to DC to run in the AUSA event.

...We also received a picture and thank-you note from the USMA Triathlon Team for the gift of $1,000 sent by the Society for their use.

(Over the past nine years, the WPSDC has contributed $32,000 for use by cadet clubs and teams which do not receive appropriated funds. We continue to provide $5,000 a year so that each of five selected clubs/teams receives $1,000.)
WPSDC Member Named to Board of Visitors

The Honorable Samuel K. Lessey '45, longtime member of our Society, has been appointed by President Bush to serve on the USMA Board of Visitors.

In addition to West Point, BG Lessey is a graduate of the Harvard School of Law and Business. He authored a new course in Military Law for the U.S. Naval Academy following the introduction of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in 1951. Previously, he served as Inspector General of the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation for President Reagan (1982-86) and as Director of the Selective Service System for Presidents Reagan and Bush (1987-91).

Tracing its origin to 1815, the present Board of Visitors is constituted in accordance with Section 4355, Title 10, U.S. Code, and consists of four Senators, five Representatives, and six Presidential appointees. The current chairman is Senator John F. Reed '71. Other graduates who have served on the Board include Mike Grebe '62, Jim Kimsey '62, Doug Bennett '64, and Bill Mundy '64.

Oldest Member Dies

Major General Mercer C. Walter ’28, oldest member of the WPSDC, died on 27 Oct 03 at DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Ft. Belvoir. He was 97.

During his 36 years of active duty, Gen. Walter served in a number of sensitive Intelligence assignments. He was a military advisor during key moments of the Cold War, and his work took him from Europe to East Asia. In the mid-1950s, he discussed with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia the possibility of military assistance. He was then dispatched to Pakistan as chief of a military assistance advisory group to instruct in combat readiness. As Intelligence director for the Army in Heidelberg, West Germany, he provided crucial advice during the Cuban missile crisis, construction of the Berlin Wall, and other episodes that highlighted the distrust between Soviet bloc countries and the Western allies. He briefed President John F. Kennedy on military matters just before the President’s “Ich bin ein Berliner” speech in 1963.

During World War II, he was an Intelligence officer assigned to the 3rd Infantry Div to prepare for the launching of amphibious operations at French-held Morocco in late 1942. The next year, he commanded an artillery battalion in North Africa before continuing his Intelligence work to prepare the Army’s assault on Sicily and the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno campaigns that led to the liberation of Italy. Toward the end of the war, Gen Walter was named commandant of the Army Military Intelligence Training Center at Camp Ritchie, MD. In 1949, he became Chief of British-U.S. Intelligence in the Free Territory of Trieste.

His decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and two awards of the Legion of Merit.

Gen Walter is survived by a daughter who is married to a member of the Class of 1950, Colonel Joseph A. Gappa of Santa Rosa, California.

From the Supe

Dear Alumni:

I wanted to give you an update on the football coach search. I have established a panel; we are taking names from every source; establishing criteria for the Army coach (the '58 letter helped); and establishing contracting details. So far I have received over 100 names for consideration and probably 20-30 names of suggested panel members and search firms. Thank you for your suggestions.

I also have access to great advisors who know Army football: Pete Dawkins, Bill Parcells and others who will be instrumental in the appointment. I know there are a lot of rumors out there; many of you have your favorites, but until you hear from me, these are only rumors. We will get the right coach for Army. We expect an announcement in December. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Bill Lennox
How Many Chapels at West Point
by J. Phoenix, Esquire

Ask someone familiar with West Point about the number of chapels there, and you most probably will hear the number three: the Cadet (Protestant) Chapel, the Catholic Chapel, and the new Jewish Chapel. After a few moments, they also may recall the Old Cadet Chapel at the cemetery for a total of four, and the Post Chapel for a total of five, but actually there are six.

There was a time when there were no chapels at West Point—or chaplains. In March of 1812, an Act of Congress remedied the latter deficiency, but the Reverend Adam Empire did not arrive until 9 August 1813—and even then he also served as professor of geography, history and ethics, as did all chaplains until 1896. Prior to the arrival of Reverend Empire, visiting clergy from the surrounding area conducted religious services, supplemented by the Superintendent or other officers providing rudimentary services and bible study at various locations. In 1836, the construction of a wood and granite Cadet Chapel on the level of The Plain where Bartlett Hall now stands remedied the former deficiency. The small, Classic Revival chapel was perfectly adequate for the small, primarily Episcopalian corps and staff and faculty of the time. It was graced with the mural “War and Peace” by Robert W. Weir, Professor of Drawing from 1833 to 1876, and gradually accumulated a series of plaques honoring the heroes of the American Revolution and later wars.

At the level of the choir loft rail on the east side is the ambiguous plaque to an unnamed major general born in 1740. Those in the know realize that the blank second line should read “Benedict Arnold” and the blank fourth line should read, “Died 1801”—appropriately, a year before the fortress he sought to give over to the British became the site of the new nation’s first military academy and engineering school. When the current Cadet Chapel was completed in 1910, graduates raised funds to move the “old” chapel to the cemetery for use for other denominational services and funerals. The last plaque was added in 1955—honoring the two sole members of the Class of 1802, Joseph Gardner Swift and Simon Magruder Levy. In 1991, COL Richard Maffry ’42 and his wife Dorothy donated funds to install a columbarium in the basement of the chapel. It has 432 single and 216 double cremation niches.

The “new” Cadet Chapel, in Military Gothic style, was dedicated on 12 June 1910. The stone for it was quarried from a nearby hill behind the Superintendent’s quarters, as was the stone for the riding hall (Thayer Hall) and North Barracks. Inside, stone ribs, a Guastavino vaulted ceiling, and broad-leaded, stained glass windows create a majestic, serene impression. In addition to a carillon, it houses one of the largest church organs in the world and has stained glass windows dedicated to each graduated class through 1976 (when the last available window was dedicated). At one time, war-torn battle flags from the Civil War and later conflicts were displayed high upon the walls. Total cost in 1910 was slightly less than a half million dollars. At the lower level of the Cadet Chapel is St. Martin’s Chapel, used by the Eastern Orthodox Chapel Squad since 1969. This is the elusive sixth chapel at West Point—admittedly a bit of a trick answer.

Thomas Jefferson appointed the first Catholic cadets to the Academy in 1806 from the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, and they attended chapel variously in Cold Spring and Highland Falls until the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated on 10 June 1900. The chapel is patterned after the Abbey Church of St. Ethelreda in England and was under the care of the archdiocese of New York until January 1999, when the Academy assumed responsibility for maintaining and staffing it. The Catholic Chapel has been expanded over the years as the Corps has grown.

The Post Chapel, a Georgian-style building near the cemetery, was dedicated on 4 June 1944—just two days before the graduation of the Class of 1944 and the Normandy Invasion. A modest stained glass window honors the famous “Four Chaplains” of World War II-Poling, Washington, Fox, and Goode—who were last observed.

Continued on page 10
Ring Recovery Report

by Bill O’Neill ’92, LTC Michael McGurk ‘85 and David McClellan, '01 father

This report covers our efforts for the period I July-30 Sep 03.

On 16 July, we recovered the 1992 class ring of Douglas Berwin Gutormsen from a helpful eBay seller who closed his auction in order to facilitate returning the ring to its owner.

The odyssey of the 1878 class ring of the late LTC Charles Grenville Starr has been completed. The ring was recovered from an on-line auction site in late Apr 03. It was donated by Ring Recovery to the Military Academy Museum, which was grateful to receive it and who praised its condition and its contribution to their collection.

We have asked the Museum to record the donor as “Friends of West Point.” Also, this summer, a relative of LTC Starr on his wife’s side donated a collection of his service-related documents, photograph and related material to the Military Academy Library.

At the very end of the quarter, on 29 Sep, Ring Recovery facilitated the return of the 1992 class ring of Richard Warren Knight from a very kindly citizen of our nation who sought to return the ring to its owner. This story begins with the following email sent to “owner-ring_recovery” and stamped 6:14 pm that day: “My daughter found a West Point ring at her school bus stop this afternoon. It is a ring from 1992 with the name Warren Knight inscribed inside. Please let me know how we can find its rightful owner.” Incredible! This email just popped up in our inbound email!

After a short series of emails and a phone call, the story ends with this email, stamped 11:40 pm the same day about five and a half hours later: “Rick just picked up his ring. What a nice guy. He seemed very happy to have it back. We were certain very glad to help reunite him with such a special memento. We showed him the area that we found the ring and he will come back in daylight to look for the other items that were lost.”

We are most appreciative of the effort of these persons, the Edmonds family, to return this ring to its owner after it had been lost the Saturday before. At last word, the owner of this ring was endeavoring to take this family to dinner to show his gratitude. In addition, Ring Recovery has provided a certificate of appreciation to the owner which will be presented in appropriate circumstances to the young lady of the family who found the ring and made its return possible.

Finally, the story of the 1871 ring of the late Colonel Henry Peoble Kingsbury of the Class of 1871 has come to an end. We began work on that ring, a part of a collection of property that included items of Colonel Kingsbury’s father-in-law, the late Major General Henry Warner Slocum of the Class of 1852, at the end of last January. Our persistent email exchanges with the gentleman dispersing the collection for its owner were all focused on keeping this ring in the West Point Community and, in late May, we had every reason to believe it was to be donated to the USMA Museum.

We were disappointed when, late in the third quarter, the ring was offered for sale to Ring Recovery at a price of $3,000. After serious thought and sincere debate among ourselves, we concluded the obvious: we couldn’t afford to buy it, even though we were well along in a very successful fund drive that was to bring in $8,507 in donations. In the end, we had interest in the ring by Dr. Christopher Wright (author of the wonderful article accompanied by ten pages of ring photos in the front of the 2002 Register of Graduates) as well as by the Class of 1970 which was beginning to consider whether it could take on the acquisition of this ring as a class project. Both of these options were explained to the seller of the ring. While we are not privy to his decision process, we believe he took the expedient route and it went to Dr. Wright who is a great friend of West Point. (We believe, ultimately, Dr. Wright’s collection of both Military and Naval Academy rings will be in the hands of the respective alumni affairs offices.)

We will publish a full financial report for the third quarter very shortly. In the meantime, tax deductible donations will enable us to continue our efforts to recover and repatriate rings and will be gratefully received; they may be made via this url by credit card: https://www-secure.west-point.org/ring_recovery, or by check mailed to the address of Bill O’Neill which is also posted there. We would also mention that periodic donations by direct deposit can be arranged.

.... We would be really happy to respond to any questions that may arise. Please send them to us at this email address: usmarings@west-point.org.
Remembering a Classmate
by a '46 grad

Members of the Class of ’46 recently received notification of the death of Grover Asmus, which, although sad (as all such notifications are), reminded me of how diverse and full of not only military achievements but also unusual personal aspects the lives of West Pointers can be. These highlights of Grover’s life are taken from an e-mail from another classmate, Bob Eichenberg, who attended the funeral service and also spoke at the reception that followed, both in Beverly Hills, CA:

Bob remembered that Grover had been proud of his service as Aide to “nine stars,” four with GEN Palmer and five with GEN Omar Bradley. When GEN Bradley was military consultant for the movie “Patton,” he had Grover introduced to some of the Hollywood people. That is when Grover met Donna Reed, who he later married. Some time after Donna passed away, Grover married Betty Carey, ex-wife of MacDonald Carey. Betty also passed away; and after a time Grover again married, this time to a friend of both Donna and Betty, an actress named Louisa who had had an extensive career in Hollywood, appearing in 57 movies.

At the reception, Louisa’s longtime friend Phyllis Diller was asked to speak and told several stories, including many humorous although never disrespectful one-liners. Other speakers were John Raitt and Shelley Fabares, who attended with her husband, Mike Farrell. Shelley had played the “daughter” to Donna Reed on “The Donna Reed Show” and the wife on the “Coach” TV series.

The ’46 Howitzer describes Grover as “too varied a personality to be classified.” We could have no way of foretelling the unique circumstances his future would hold.

’66 Honors June ’43

Edward Burr II, ’66 class president, announced publication of “Still Loyal Be” by Dr. Tom Carhart ’66 in May. He noted that it is the story of the Class of June ’43, which graduated in the middle of World War II. The book points out that the class’s graduates immediately went into battle as fighter and bomber pilots, Infantry platoon leaders, tank commanders, forward observers, combat engineers, and signal officers.

The history of the contributions of this class is detailed in Dr. Carhart’s book, which highlights the following awards and decorations: 6 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Air Force Cross, 52 Silver Stars, 148 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 187 Purple Hearts, 272 Bronze Star Medals (32 for Valor), and 1,197 Air Medals.

The book hails the Class of June ’43 with this summation: “The involvement of this class in the defense of this great nation as related to these statistics may never be equaled. It is characteristic, though, of what all graduates of West Point have done and are doing to honor their commitment to “Duty, Honor, Country.”"

Chapels at West Point

Continued from page 8

singing hymns on the deck of a sinking troop transport after having given their life jackets to other soldiers. Several outside chaplains provide Southern Baptist, Church of Christ, Mormon, and Lutheran services there.

The newest chapel at the Academy, the Jewish Cadet Chapel, was completed in May of 1984. Also designed in Military Gothic, it contains an extensive collection of Judaica, a library, special exhibits, and an impressive Sanctuary plus a Meditation Garden outside. Although Jewish cadets were a part of the Corps since 1802, during the years of mandatory chapel prior to 1938 they attended either Protestant or Catholic services. In 1934, a Jewish Chapel Squad was formed and optional services were offered on Saturday afternoon—although attendance at Sunday morning Christian services also was required. Wednesday afternoon services were tried for a time, but in September 1938 Jewish services were moved to Sunday mornings at the Old Cadet Chapel, thereby eliminating the need to attend Protestant or Catholic services as well.

Although there are several Muslim cadets at West Point, there are no plans for a seventh chapel at this time. An Imam from Highland Falls tends to their spiritual needs every Friday.

Special thanks to the late Merton Singer ’38 and the Reverend Edson J. Wood, OSA, for providing much of the material to JPhoenix@aogusma.org.

Newsletter of West Point Society of the District of Columbia
Career Advisory Service News
by Carl S. Savino '78

Upcoming Career Events

The next West Point Society of D.C. Career and Business Networking Night will be held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm on 15 Jan 04. Free to all West Point Society of D.C. members and their spouses. Highly recommended for anyone in career transition! The next Service Academy Career Conference will be held on 6-7 May 04 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City. This event is only for Service Academy graduates. Cost: $35. For more info, visit: www.aogusma.org/as/career/index.htm.

Tips for a successful Career Fair...

• Research the companies in advance
• Practice your “30 seconds” sales pitch
• Update and polish your resume
• Dress for success
• Firm handshake; strong opening and closing
• Project a professional, confident image at all times
• Meet with all the companies
• Keep your options open; stay flexible
• Be respectful of the recruiters' time
• Get contact information so that you can followup
• Send a thank you note and an updated resume to companies of interest

Graduates Seeking Jobs

Philip Tull '89 seeks a finance or program management position that requires use of finance experience and leadership skills. Areas of interest include consulting, banking, and federal government. MBA from Notre Dame. Cell: (871) 235-7088; philiptull@hotmail.com.


Jerry Boden '85 seeks an operations management position. Has 11 years of plant operations management experience. Has implemented numerous improvements in productivity, quality, inventory management, customer service, and cost reduction for large manufacturers. H: 301-604-6090; e-mail: jerryboden@earthlink.net.

Gerry Smith ’66 seeks an international marketing position. MBA in Marketing. Considerable experience in the transportation and energy sectors. Open to opportunities in the D.C. area. Phone: (708) 460-1868 or e-mail gerryandjoal@prodigy.net.

Note: If you’re seeking civilian employment and want other USMA graduates in our area to know, e-mail SavinoC@aol.com and include a description of your skills and interests, along with contact information, so that we can include it in our next Society newsletter.

Firms Looking For Talent

Booz Allen Hamilton seeks engineers to provide technical, engineering and program management support to DoD clients. Candidates with degrees in electrical, mechanical, aerospace and systems engineering, as well as physics, chemistry, and biology with Secret and Top Secret/SCI desired. Contact Stephen Wilcox ’71 at his e-mail, wilcox_stephen@bah.com; 703-465-2658 or Will Carter ’93, carter_wilbert@bah.com.

SY Coleman has opportunities to support the Army Staff, particularly in Force Development. Immediate openings at the Analyst and Senior Analyst level in a variety of functional specialties and Army branches. Previous force development and HQDA experience desirable. Contact Harry Dolton ’69; harry.dolton@us.army.mil, (703) 692-6485.

GSI seeks two Senior Logistics Research Analysts to provide program and management support to the Army G-4/DCSLOG. Selected candidates will perform Supply Management Army/Army Working Capital Fund analysis and coordination. Contact Cheng Yu Huang ’76; cyhuang@gsi-us.com, 703-914-8008.

Davies Consulting seeks a Data Analyst to perform analyses, produce reports, and document methodology. Facility with SQL, Access databases and MS Office a must. Skills in database design, Transact SQL, PL/SQL, Visual Basic, and VBA helpful. Contact Jack McGuinness ’87 at (301) 692-4535 or jmcmguinness@daviescon.com.
Eagle Systems and Services, an Oklahoma-based small business, seeks part-time business development assistance in the Washington, D.C. area to help market its training, logistics, and I.T. services and capture business with DoD, FAA, DHS, and others. Contact James “Tony” Foster ‘80 - t foster@esascorp.com.

Stellar Systems seeks a Senior Business Process Manager. Requires knowledge of Army system development, 3 projects in a similar role, a Secret clearance, and 7-9 years of experience. Also need a Senior Program Analyst. Successful candidate will track large system development program finances, conduct financial analyses, and do cost forecasting. Requires knowledge of POM and budget process, system financial planning, 3 projects in a similar role, Secret clearance, and 7-9 years of experience. Contact Jim Foss ’69 703-442 3236; jimfoss@stellarsystems.com.

IBM Global Services is seeking technical individuals with a Top Secret clearance (TS/SCI); visit: www.ibm.com/employment/us/events/hotjobs.shtml. Contact Gary Gesu ‘80 at (856) 912-6042 or gdigesu@us.ibm.com.

Johnson and Johnson has Pharmaceutical Sales, Medical Device, and Biotech job opportunities across the country. Call Mike Mitchell ’97 at (732) 524-1051 or e-mail: mmitchel3@corus.jnj.com.

Schafer Corporation, an employee-owned, small business, seeks acquisition professionals, engineers, and scientists to support DoD and the Intelligence community in diverse areas such as software, lasers, missile defense, engineering and integration services. Call Mark Washechek ‘82 at (703) 558-7900 or mwashechek@schaferdc.com.

Army National Guard seeks CPTs, MAJs and LTCs for part-time positions. Officers must have operations experience and be eligible for a TS clearance. The unit is located in Arlington, VA. Contact MAJ Kevin Vink ’87 (kevin.vink@us.army.mil) or MAJ Kim Knur ’89 (kim.knur@us.army.mil).

Joint Warfare Analysis Center has multiple civil service openings for experienced electrical, mechanical, petroleum, chemical, telecommunications, and logistics engineers. Contact Pete Rayna ‘88 at (540) 653-5601 or emailprayna@jwac.osis.gov.

Marymount School of Business Administration has an open for an Associate Dean. Contact: Ronald Hudak ’69, Dean of Health Care Management at (703) 284-5965 or ronald.hudak@marymount.edu.

UDH, a Rockville-based systems integration firm, is looking for business developers with a background in marketing services to the Federal Government. Contact Pattie Buel ’85, pbuel@uhd.com.

Northrop Grumman Information Technology has a wealth of employment opportunities for individuals with strong skills in program management, information technology, systems engineering and information security. Most positions require security clearances and many require polygraphs. For requisition specifics, visit careers.northgrum.com/ExternalHorizonsWeb.

Questions? Contact Philip Hyland ’78 at Philip.Hyland@ngc.com or at 703-633-8300 x4053. Note: West Point graduates who are members of the Society and who work for a company with job openings are welcome to submit opportunities for free. Send a short description of the job to SavinoC@aol.com. You must be the contact for the position. Please limit description to one paragraph.

Career Transition Resources
Our local Career Advisory Service web site: www.wpsdc.org/Job Seekers.htm.

West Point Society of D.C. Directory – Free to WPSDC members at WinSkelton@aol.com.

USMA AOG alumni transition services:
www.aogusma.org/as/career/index.htm.


Prospective Mentors
If you’re willing to talk with fellow grads in job search mode regarding your occupation and/or industry, please send e-mail to SavinoC@aol.com and provide your name, West Point class, home or work phone number, e-mail address, occupation/industry, and the best time for someone to call you.

CAS Motto and Commitment:
“Grads Helping Grads!”

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