

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973!

Hope all are doing well and, by the time you have read this, have received your COVID vaccinations.

Starting off with Bob and Pam **Munson**, CS-34: “The big change for us is that until commercial travel restrictions let up, we’re letting the Red Cross be our travel agency...any excuse just to get out of the house. Between the two of us we’ve been on ‘all expenses paid vacations’ to Texas and Louisiana for hurricanes Hannah and Laura, and Puerto Rico for earthquakes. There has been no shortage of need for volunteers this year. We have worked locally as well, helping the Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management deliver mask making materials to volunteers with sewing machines. Pam sewed over 130 masks to contribute to city first responders and workers. She also increased her hours at the TriLakes Food Bank for volunteers sidelined because of risk. Same for me as a physician volunteer at the Academy and for the Colorado Springs COVID shelter for the homeless. Full disclosure: we did travel to Cape Cod when Massachusetts was quarantining travelers...but it was ‘business related’. Really.”

Celebrating CS-20 Troll Frank **Gambardella**’s retirement from the Indian Health Services in South Dakota, Jim and Ellen **Harris** organized an early October get-together for Trolls within a day’s driving distance of their beautiful lake home overlooking the Grand Lake of the Cherokees, northeast of Tulsa. Frank, along with Jim **Russell** and Mark and Peggy **Baldwin**, joined Jim and Ellen for three outstanding days of great food, reminiscing and a lot of laughter celebrating Frank’s final retirement before he moved to Denver to retire for real. For the Trolls that couldn’t make it, you missed an outstanding time.



L-R: CS-20 Trolls Jim **Russell**, Frank **Gambardella**, Jim **Harris** and Mark **Baldwin**

Bill **Drury**, CS-32, checked in with a picture of himself and Pat **Jordan**, also CS-32, standing next to Bill’s Cessna 170. “We both spent our Academy time in CS 32, and both were Instructors in the Soaring Program. Pat lives in Atlanta with bride Teri, and I am in Tennessee with Trish. Pat recently got back into gliding, and here we are at Chilhowee Gliderport in Tennessee about to fly in a sailplane together for the

first time since the early 70's. We made it back on the ground safely, and the aircraft is still useable so it must have been a great landing!"



CS-32 Roadrunners Bill **Drury** (L and Pat **Jordan** standing next to Bill's Cessna 170

Remembering Brig Gen (Ret) Chuck Yeager after his passing on 7 Dec 21, Class Webmaster Craig **MacPherson**, CS-39, sent the wonderful photo below of Gen Yeager with several class wives and noted, "He still had it at 89 as three CS-39 Campus Radical wives Clare **Romain**, Pat **MacPherson** and Jana **Motley** attracted to the "Right Stuff" at the Embassy Suites during NCLS 2013." Class Vice President Bill **Diffley**, CS-11, commented that his 35-year-old son had described Gen Yeager perfectly: "his aura transcended generations."



CS-39 Campus Radical wives (L-R) Clare **Romain**, Pat **MacPherson** and Jana **Motley** with Brig Gen (Ret) Chuck Yeager at the Embassy Suites during NCLS 2013.

CS-16 Proud Chickenhawk Rich **Fazio** has done more than anyone else to make sure our class remembered important occasions and got together regularly. He sent the following report about December activities. Rich is moving on to focus on other things. Thanks for all you've done, Rich!

Friday, December 18, CS-16 Chickenhawks' BEAT ARMY! Pep Rally via Zoom. Evidently we didn't rally hard enough, or---STRANGER THAN FICTION---this game required more mojo than the '73 Chickenhawks produced by themselves. Attendees and where they joined us from: Johnny and Nancy **Whitaker**, Marietta, GA; Ken **Volkman**, Floyds Knob, IN; Don and Joan **Sutula**, COS; Pete and Wavey **Penta**, Camden-Wyoming, DE; Gene and Barbara **Ogilvie**, across the pond, all the way from the UK; Bruce and Janet **Meyer** from their lakehouse in St. Louis Park, MN; Tom and Sally **Mayberry**, Larkspur, CO; Wayne and Barb **Maricle**, Navarre, FL; Craig and Ann **Lady**, Aspers, PA; Rich and Teresa **Fazio**, COS; and Mike and Marilyn **Koser**, Palmyra, PA. Since May's eblast to the class about Koser's battle with Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), he has undergone three bone marrow transplants, two from what the doctors thought was the better match than the third, from his brother. He is SLOWLY getting better, to the point where he is out of the hospital and was even well enough to "take his rifle for a walk" during hunting season.

Friday, December 18, pennant-placing at the graves of 33 classmates and 2 spouses interred at the USAFA Cemetery, in preparation for flag placing the following day during the Wreaths Across America

ceremony. Pennant-placing classmates: Mike **Arnett**, CS-09; Dale **Birch**, CS-39; Rich **Fazio**, CS-16; Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15; and Bob **Munson**, CS-34.

Saturday, December 19, Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony. Classmates who participated included: Mike **Arnett**, CS-09; Dale **Birch**, CS-39; Rich **Fazio**, CS-16; Teresa **Fazio** (PROUD to be married to a PROUD Chickenhawk!); Monnie **Gore**, CS-05; Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15; Bob **Munson**, CS-34; Mike **Cutter**, CS-30; and Brig Gen (Ret) Mal **Wakin**, the first—and only—honorary member of the Illustrious Class of 1973.

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Mike Arnett

Class Scribe

“Here’s a toast...to the host...of the men we boast...the U.S. Air Force!” but in God we Trust.

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