

Illustrious classmates,

Wow...where to start? It was a busy second half of the summer. Let's start with class stuff.

At the Forged In Blue ceremony, 13 classmates' rings were melted down into two ingots. One will be used in the Class of 2023's rings. The other will go into the "Forever Ingot," some of which will be included in every future class's rings, along with rings from past and future Forged In Blue ceremonies. About 40 members of the Class of 23 joined us for the ceremony. It was quite a "Welcome to the Long Blue Line" for '23. There's a nice article with additional info, including the names of and comments by the donors, and pix at <https://www.usafa.org/News/ForgedInBlue73>.

13 classmates attended 2023's Commitment Dinner. John **Barry** was the featured speaker. Class President Ron **Scott** and Bob **Munson** also spoke. The Commitment Dinner was started by classmate Steve **Lorenz** when he was the Comm as a way to recognize the gravity of the commitment cadets were making to the Air Force and our nation as they started their 2nd year. A good description and pictures are at <http://www.usafa73.org/legacy-class-updates.html>.

Norty Schwartz was formally recognized as a 2019 USAFA Distinguished Graduate awardee at the annual Founders Day Banquet on 6 Aug 21, after being postponed from 3 Apr 20 due to COVID. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/32ftsbht> to see the full writeup of Norty's life and accomplishments. Norty, you have served our nation well. We're proud to be classmates.



Rich **Fazio**, A.J. **Ranft**, Mike **Arnett**, Kirk **Samelson**, Norty **Schwartz**, Ron **Scott**, John **Barry** at Norty's USAFA Distinguished Graduate Award ceremony

Highlights of squadron reunions are below. See the full treatment at the class website.

Frat Five headquartered at Monnie **Gore**'s house in Manitou Springs. Activities included a tour of Special Collections in the Cadet Library and the dedication of the squadron's "honor case," containing toasting cups to honor squadron members. The honor case is permanently housed in the library/bar at the AOG.

Seagram's Seven had a reunion 14-17 Sep 20 in the Vail Valley, moved up from 2022 due to Mike "Kid" **Davenport**'s medical condition. Unfortunately, Mike passed away during cancer treatment two weeks before the reunion. A Memorial Mass and reception were held for Mike on 9 Sep in Fairfield, CA. His GBNF memorial should be in this of Checkpoints and is on the class website. A sudden and severe illness also kept Tom and Debbie **Grayson** from attending the reunion. Fortunately, Tom survived his stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, and sepsis as the doctors aggressively sought treatments. Keep Tom and Debbie in your prayers.



Bob **Munson**, Vice and Connie **Thuotte**, Chong Sun and John **Kuconis**, Mike **Chalifoux**, and Pam Munson kick off the USAFA 73 New England Chapter

Alan **Hoover** took 2nd place in the Biplane Division, Silver race, in his fifth year of racing at the National Championship Air Races in Reno, NV. Classmate Rick **Van Dam** is also a long-time participant in the Air Races.

Alan **Kinback** is putting his PA18 (Carbon Cub) to good use. He recently flew an ecology photographer documenting the dramatic line of the red tide on Florida's West Coast, where fish die on one side of the line and thrive on the other. He has flown scientists throughout Florida to research mangrove swamps, invasive species, manatee population inventories, oil exploration impact on the everglades, shark migration in the Gulf Stream, and more.

Bob **Eames** and Warren **Smith** came to the Academy from the same hometown, Pomona, CA. They recently spent a day catching up among the wonderful displays at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA. What a place for two Zoomies to catch up!



CS-06 squadronmates John **Rosser** and Ken **Bonn** at Ken's house in New Hampshire

Dr. Charles **Stewart**, DDS, now has all four of his children working with him at Stewart Family Orthodontics in Weatherford, TX.

See Jack **Hudson**'s quarterly update featuring his 8-year-old granddaughter Etta is on the class website.

Tom **Kennedy**'s CS-31 quarterly update is in the expanded version of this column on the class website. One nugget from the update: Dan **Connelly**'s interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at 1300 hrs 31 Jan 22. The family would appreciate any class members who could honor Dan with your presence.

With the space limitations in this column and increasing numbers of classmate deaths, I cannot render appropriate honors to all our fallen classmates here. Please forgive my brief treatment and go to the Gone But Not Forgotten section of usafa73.org for more information about them.

John "Row" **Rogacki**, CS-19, passed away unexpectedly on 30 Jun 20. Eleven squadronmates gathered at the Academy to say farewell to and celebrate Row's life on 23 Sep 21.

Jim **Scully**, CS-11, lost his long battle with cancer on 11 Aug 21 in Oak Harbor, WA and was interred at the Academy cemetery on 17 Sep.

Resty **Ergonis**, CS-11/20, passed from this life on 27 May 2019. He is buried in the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Merced County, CA. No other information is available at this time.

John **McMurray**, CS-38, of Iowa Park, TX, passed away on 30 Sep 2021. A service was held on 3 Oct 21 at the Wichita Valley Airport in Iowa Park.

“Here’s a toast...to the host...of the men we boast”

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