

Illustrious classmates,

This column is going to be a bit heavy on our Legacy Class of 2023's Ring Night on 20 May 22. In many ways it encapsulates our involvement with '23, highlighted by their inclusion of "73" in their ring design. As usual, I received too many pix and stories to include everything here, so check out the expanded online version at usafa73.org.

The Ring Night activities started with the Ring Dining Out at Mitch's. It was a cold and snowy evening, and the trek across the terrazzo between A-Hall and Mitch's was brutal for the ladies. The cadets were excited and anxious to get their rings and forced to be polite through the toasts, speech and meal. In the buildup, 2023 filled shot glasses with Hennessy V.S at each table to toast their class entering the Long Blue Line. The Hennessy V.S toasts were modeled after our toast to 2023 at their Forged In Blue ring melt ceremony last year. It may be a new tradition.

The Ring Dance was chiefly marked by handsome men, terrifically dressed women, and a high sense of excitement. In a quick straw poll, none of the '73 attendees remembered being this excited about getting our rings.



Kirk and Betty **Samelson**, Amy and Mike **Smith**, Pam and Bob **Munaon**, and Suzie and Norty **Schwartz** on Ring Night. In attendance, but not shown: Monnie and Theresa **Gore**, Jim and Flo **Parker**, Kent and Sarah **Magnusson**, and Bill and Pamela **Diffley**.

Following the dance, many of the class of '23 and three intrepid souls from '73 braved the blizzard and attended an "after" event at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum at old Lowry, hosted by classmate and WOR President and CEO, John **Barry**. Along with John, classmates Mike **Mosier** and Chris **Taravella** provided chaperone services for the event.

Throughout the memorable evening, members of the Class of 2023 expressed their appreciation and gratitude for our support and involvement. Once again, we have set the standard as we continue to earn the title of The Illustrious Class of 1973.

Back to the Hennessy V.S toasts for a moment. We chose to use Hennessy V.S at 2023's Forged in Blue ceremony because the Doolittle Raiders had chosen it for their toasts at their annual reunions. How appropriate, then, that Jack and Marsha **Hudson** were invited to travel to Florida for the upending of the last upright Doolittle Raiders goblet after Dick Cole, Doolittle's copilot, passed away at 103, marking the end of an era.

From Class President, Ron **Scott**: "Our latest quarterly class officer update is posted to our Class website. It includes a detailed summary of the Class of 2023 Legacy program, chaired by Class VP Bill **Diffley**. Honchoed by Mike **Mosier**, the manuscript for our class book is scheduled to be submitted to our publisher at the end of July 2022. It is on schedule to be presented to 2023 graduates and to be available for our 50th reunion. Proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Class of 1973 Long Blue Line Legacy Fund."

Frank and Nancy **Klotz** have settled in Alexandria, VA. Frank retired from government service four years ago, but still does some consulting work, spending two weeks working with Howard "Mitch" **Mitchell** on a project recently. They are enjoying retirement, traveling to places they had never had the time (or permission) to visit before.

Duke **Mitchell** checked in from his hometown of Richland, WA. After retiring from the Air Force as a Lt Col in 1993, Duke worked at Hanford Reservation for several different civilian contractors from 1993-2011.



CS-39 Campus Radicals Craig **MacPherson**, Bob **Decker**, Hiram **Payne**, Paul **Motley**, Dan **Pierre** and Kelly **McCullar** on the North Texas Whiskey Trail”

Patric **Jordan**, CS32, and former glider IP at USAFA, recently flew his own glider 300 km out of an old bomber training base in southern Georgia to achieve an internationally recognized certificate known as a Gold Badge with Diamond.

Paul **Stucky**'s widow, Meredith, graciously wrote to thank the class for all the kind words after Paul's passing, and to invite us to his memorial service. It will be held at the Church at Litchfield Park, Litchfield Park, AZ at 1300 PT on 22 Oct 22. Meredith invited classmates to throw a nickel on the grass in the Garden of Memories either before or after the service. The service will be streamed live at tiny.cc/LPfunerals and saved on the church's website. Meredith is looking for any pictures of "Stook" we might have. Contact me for her contact info.

Vic and Connie **Thuotte**'s grandson, Matt, is now a third-generation cadet, Class of 2026. Their son, Christopher, and daughter, Renee, both are 2002 grads. Quite a heritage, Vic!

Tim **Cooper** played in the 2093 VFW Community Band at a Memorial Day service in Orlando in May. Tim met his wife, Wasana, and married her while serving at Udorn AB, Thailand in 1974-75. Their son, James, a recent transfer to Space Force, was emcee of the program.



Tim, Wasana and Lt Col James **Cooper**, USSF”

See the online version for Tom **Kennedy**'s CS-31 update.

CS-07 will be having a mini-reunion in Peachtree City, GA in October. Latest count is 21 classmates and spouses, including two widows.

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

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