

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973.

Former USAF Chief of Staff and classmate Norty **Schwartz**, CS-34, was awarded the Thomas D. White National Defense Award by the Academy on 9 Sep 2015. Norty joins a list of distinguished recipients that includes scientists, presidents, luminaries and military, Congressional and Industry leaders. He is only the second grad to be so honored, after former Chief of Staff Gen Ron Fogleman. Well deserved, Norty! A quick Internet search will take you to a fact sheet about the award and a video about Norty's receiving it.

The story of "Miracle on the Hudson" pilot Sully **Sullenberger**, CS-18, will be coming to the big screen. Clint Eastwood will direct and Tom Hanks will play Sully. Filming has already started, with the release planned for 2016.

Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15, will step down as CEO of the USAFA Endowment effective 31 December, after four and a half years as chief fundraiser for the Academy. He currently (mid-Oct) has no plans other than spending more time with family. Steve's capstone fund-raising program, the Center for Character and Leadership Development new Polaris Hall, is scheduled to be officially opened before his departure. The concept and plan for the building, which has transformed the already iconic skyline of the Academy, can be attributed to John **Regni**, CS-28, when he was Superintendent.

The first major event for Polaris Hall will be the upcoming National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS), 25-26 Feb 2016. '73 has been invited to attend all sessions, meals, and the symposium dinner at no charge, but you still need to register online ASAP. As Flagship Sponsor, our class gifts and pledges to date exceed \$2.0M, and we are widely recognized at the Academy for our lead-by-example role in increasing and sustaining the emphasis on character development. Come join us for two packed days of inspiring speakers, interaction with cadets and connecting with classmates and other grads.

Ed **Hawkins**, CS-11, recently retired as President of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and was presented with an Imperial Decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, from the Japanese Government for working to promote US-Japan relations. Sincerest congratulations, Ed. It's not very often one of us gets honored by a foreign government.



Japanese Consul General (L) with Ed and Grace **Hawkins** at presentation of Order of the Rising Sun

Heard from several guys from CS-15 War Eagles. First up: Glyn **Ottogy**. He and his USAFA sweetheart, Nancy, have been married 20 years and are living in Las Vegas, where they've adopted and are raising their grandson. His post-AF resume includes construction, aerospace contracting, real estate, certified

financial advisor and more. He's currently working to launch several gaming websites based on a patented team gaming concept he obtained. I had to condense Glyn's report considerably. For more details, see the USAFA 73 Facebook page.

Ken **Ritchhart**, CS-15, reports that he retired from civil service at DHS/CBP (Customs and Border Protection) last year. After he and Tena moved from Virginia to the Tampa area, he got bored and returned to work in July with Oracle Corporation as Vice President, Business Development & Strategic Planning.

Noel **Johnson**, CS-15, reported on the USAFA 73 Facebook page that he had moved to Southern California. If you'd like his address, check his comment to my post on the Facebook page about the Polaris Tower, or just contact me.

Bill **McKenzie**, CS-02, and his wife Susan climbed Mt Whitney this summer. After also climbing Half Dome in Yosemite and hiking the John Muir Trail this summer.



Bill & Susan **McKenzie** at the summit of Mt. Whitney

Ed **Whitt**, Seagrams Seven, is retiring from Southwest Airlines in mid-December (turns 65 on 19 Dec). He's starting a photography business with his daughter, Maggie Colvin, called C&W Photography. You can find out more at the C&W Photography Facebook page. By the time this column is printed, Ed expects to have six grandchildren: two in Anchorage, AK; one in Scotts Valley, CA; and three down the street in Bryan, TX.

CS-37 Smilers had a mini-reunion at the Navy Game in Annapolis this year. Bad weather and other factors cut the expected attendance roughly in half, but they made the best of it in spite of a disappointing game played in poor conditions. Geoff **Michael** sent the report in, but wasn't in the picture. Maybe he was taking it.



CS-37 Mini-Reunion at Navy Game. Standing L to R: Dee **Bromberek**, John **Petro**, Kathleen & Ed **Heisey**, Stefania Aulicino, Greg **Cummins**, Jim **Condon**, Msgr. Steve **Rossetti**, Lou **Befano**, Dave **Ochmanek** (6th Squadron)

Skip Sanders posted a picture on the USAFA 73 Facebook page with Bruce & Janet **Meyer**, CS-16; Fil & Kim **Thorn**, CS-34; Bob & Pam **Munson**, CS-34; Skip & Joanne **Sanders**, CS-34; and Pat Nelson at the Lobster Trap on Cape Cod.

Speaking of Bob **Munson**, that guy gets around! Kirk **Samelson**, CS-35, reported that he and Bob rode their bikes (as in *bicycles*) from Portland, OR to Jackson, WY, where their wives met them to drive them home. They only had rain 12 out of 13 days, and headwinds most of the time, but it was a great trip. People were friendly and the only mechanical problems were a couple of flat tires. Kirk sent a picture of them at the top of Teton Pass on their last day. See pic on Facebook.

Monnie **Gore**, CS-05, sent in another squadron mini-reunion picture, with 15 of 22 Fifth Squadron 73 grads there. They had dinner at Monnie's house in Manitou Springs on Friday, tailgated on Saturday afternoon, and the Wyoming game Saturday night. They also had lunch in Manitou on Saturday to make sure no one went hungry or thirsty. Great war stories and lies. Frat Fivers have been having an annual "reunion" for four or five years in case we can't make it to the next official gig. See pic on Facebook.

Some events from CS-07, as reported by Stalker **Reed**: Glenn **Johnston** retired from Continental/United and moved into Pine Valley housing at USAFA. He says he has plenty of bunk space for wayward alumni to crash. Bill **Paterson** (retired USAir/American) and Al **Nacke** (Delta) made their 8th "once in a lifetime" fishing expedition in drought-stricken NW Nevada/California in Sep. Stalker **Reed** (Delta) joined AFA roommate Al **Kinback** (American) and his wife, Debbie, at Yellowstone in Sep. Finally, Bill

Hanlon, CS-07 DNG, is ground trekking around Sri Lanka as he continues sailing his 1924 Schooner around the world.

At the end of July Jim & Jeanne Almeida moved to Fort Collins, CO and joined the ranks of the retired. Contact me for address.

Until next time, "Here's a toast...to the host...of the men we boast...the U.S. Air Force!"

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