

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973!

During this past quarter we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the start of this common journey of ours, and we saw the our 50-year Legacy Class, the Class of 2023, start their own journey. It occurred to me—and amazed me—that by the time they reach this point in their lives, it will have been 100 years since we walked up the Bring Me Men ramp. As I write this, the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11's landing on the moon is only five days away. We have been blessed to live, serve and soar in the time we did.

Speaking of that day 50 years ago—23 Jun 1969...Bob **Munson**, CS-34, reported: "On a day not too different from the one 50 years ago, a few of us marched up the ramp to represent all who did so back then. Someday, one of you will explain to me why it's easier to look back now...when 50 years ago I was just looking forward to the end of the day."

Right: (L-R) Rich **Fazio**, CS-16, Bob **Munson**, Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15, and Mike **Mosier**, CS-34.



Below: Jack **Hudson**, CS-25 (left) and Sid **Gutierrez**, CS-20, in front of the A-10 in the National Museum of the United States Air Force's Cold War Gallery.



Mike **Smith**, CS-24, is our class history project lead. The project kicked off in June, and you should have received an e-blast about it. If you didn't, please let me know (contact info below). We want to capture stories and their associated leadership lessons to pass to the next generation, particularly to our legacy class of 2023. You can go to the class website at www.usafa73.org to get more information on the project and how to submit stories. We hope to publish a book in advance of our 50th reunion, so don't delay sending us your inputs.



CS-33 Mini-Reunion on Kentucky Bourbon Trail. L-R: Lee **Buckner** (trail guide), Karen Rotach, Ellen Wallace, Shelly Meister, Judy Blokland, Don **Meister**, Al **Rotach**, Gary **Blokland**, Kent **Buchanan**, Rick **Wallace** at Rabbit Hole Distillery.

Speaking of the 50th anniversary of our arrival, Gary **Blokland** and a few other guys from Thirty-Three celebrated by gathering in Louisville, KY for three days on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. Rick & Ellen **Wallace** were the hosts. Participants included Don & Shelly **Meister**, Al & Karen **Rotach**, Gary & Judy **Blokland** and Kent **Buchanan**. Rick's brother-in-law, Lee Buckner, owner of Travel the Trail took them to multiple distilleries for tastings and tours in Bardstown, Versailles, Lawrenceburg and downtown Louisville. They visited 4 Roses, Heaven Hill, Bulleit, Woodford Reserve, Willett, Lux Row, Rabbit Hole and Angels Envy Distilleries. They shared old memories, created new ones and started a new tradition: Rick is now the keeper of the "73 CS-33" bottle of bourbon which will travel to all future get togethers for toasts to all their 33rd classmates.



CS-33 Mini-Reunion with Tour the Trail Van. L-R, Karen Rotach, Judy Blokland, Ellen Wallace, Shelley Meister, Rick **Wallace**, Gary **Blokland**, Don **Meister**, Al **Rotach**, Kent **Buchanan**



Left: Tom **Kennedy**, CS-31 Grim Reapers, finally retired from the Defense Logistics Agency. His commander, Brig Gen Linda Hurry, just happened to also be a Grim Reaper, performed his retirement ceremony. Tom took the opportunity to present her with a copy of the hated "Lost in Space" CS-31 logo (she hadn't heard of it). Tom noted, "Fortunately, after a year or so of being 'lost' we returned to being Grim Reapers."



Right: Rich and Connie **Hayes**, CS-31, traveled to Japan and apparently gained some new skills. Or at least new clothes.

Dave **Hannan**, CS-25, and Orville **Wright**, CS-39, both participated in the Weapons School dinner 14 Jun 19 in Las Vegas, though in different capacities. Orville, as the Air Force Association president, was the guest speaker. Dave and his wife were guests of his niece, CMSgt Laurie Hannan Bach, who delivered the missing man toast. Not sure of the story, but apparently Dave had the “opportunity” to perform CPR on an attendee. Hope the patient is OK.



CMSgt Randy Bach, CMSgt Laurie Hannan Bach, Dave **Hannan**, Dave’s wife Pam Hannan, son Capt Matthew Hannan '09, and his wife Major Dana Cates Hannan. Quite a military family!

Don **Pettit**, CS-09 squadronmate and ex-roomie showed up at my house one afternoon in early June after finishing up some business in Denver. As any good roomie would, I immediately put him to work spreading sod and dirt in my back yard. Other ex-roommates, beware! Don tried again to retire from working full time in March...only to be called back to work the next day. He may try again in August, but I wouldn’t count on it. He says, “Spooky space stuff is still cool!” While Don was driving down from Denver, I tried to line up any of our four other Niner squadronmates in the Springs (Skip **Smith**, Bill “Trapper” **Carpenter**, Eric **Nickerson** and Jack **Glavan**) for dinner. None were available, but Skip and Jack had interesting excuses. Skip is one of the foremost space law experts in the world and was at a dinner in New York City. As the manager of Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain, an enterprise of the City of Colorado Springs, Jack is responsible for the Pikes Peak Highway and city activities at the summit. That

includes the new Summit House Project, started last year and scheduled for completion in 2020. The evening I called, he was at a fund-raising dinner for the project. Not bad for a dirt major!

Charlie **Clatterbaugh**, CS-32, had the honor of representing the USAF recently during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Veteran's Park in Huntersville, NC. There were speakers from every branch of the military, including the Coast Guard. Charlie's comments focused on all the service members we've lost or were wounded in combat since Memorial Day last year. He talked in some detail about the youngest service member we lost, the oldest, and the most highly decorated. The average age of all service members lost was just shy of 29 years old.



Col (Ret) Charlie **Clatterbaugh**. "Retired for 22 years now.... and the uniform still fits!!"

Don **Ramm**, CS-19, sent in a new “There I was” story about flying T-34s in formation at March Air Reserve Base. In his words:

“I fly with the March Aero Club which has a “fleet” of T-34s (4 of them and sometimes all four of them are “up” at the same time). We do flybys for parades, special events, and lots of committal services. Most of the time the flybys we do for a fallen veteran are at Riverside National Cemetery which is literally across the street from March ARB. Recently we got a call for a flyby at the Miramar National Cemetery which is off the end of the runway at MCAS Miramar. After our second pass (1st pass diamond at end of Taps, 2nd pass fingertip/missing man) as we were departing, as casually as I could, I said “Tower, this is Hog Flight, request a flyby”. I expected “Negative, Hog Flight, the pattern is full” or “Get the heck out of my airspace”. Instead he said something about right downwind for runway 24...which is where we were. There was other chatter on the radio and – I learned in the debriefing -- I apparently missed a call from the tower that cleared us for right base runway 24. They were going to let us make a pass down the runway. Damn! If I hadn’t been predisposed to getting my butt chewed out I might have really had something to tell the kids about. We did turn the smoke on as we flew past the tower north of the field. Beautiful smokers, our T-34s.



“Yes, #2 (right wing) is wide. Damn airline pilots. Yes, #4 is ‘sucked’ (Navy term that has been adopted by civilian formation flying community) and is a Navion. Like I said we have four but they aren’t always up and the same time. 😊

“Videos of our two passes:

“Diamond: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhbQVt0tWe8>

“Missing Man: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeMg91lCX6s>”

Stalker **Reed** and two other Seagram's Seven classmates, Al **Kinback** and Greg **Chapman**, traveled to London for the formal banquet marking the 75th anniversary of the Great Escape. In Stalker's words:

"Three members of CS-07 flew to London the second week of May to attend the formal banquet marking the 75th anniversary of the Great Escape: Stalker **Reed**, Dr Greg **Chapman**, and Al **Kinback**. Stalker and Greg were guests of Al **Kinback**, who is a member of the RAF club near Green Park, where the banquet was held (pic). The speaker at the banquet, Paul Beaver, the author of the 'Great Escape,' was very excited that we knew Albert P Clark, a key organizer of the escape and mentioned several times in his book.

"While there, they extended a week to visit key Battle of Britain sites: Uxbridge Command post controlling the SE Sector, Bentley Priori, Fighter Command HQ, and Bletchley Park of enigma fame. Had we known about the AOG tour of 8th AF sites two months later, we could have been guides – HA!

"On a sad note, CS-07 lost our beloved fishing guide and janitor, George Granger June 16th to a massive stroke [obituary at end of column]. Al **Nacke** had just talked to him two days prior to his death to coordinate their 30th annual fishing trip. George told him he had to drop out of the trip to care for Linda, who could no longer live alone due to Alzheimer's. He figured the Lord had given him the caregiver role as his purpose."



Stalker **Reed**, Greg **Chapman**, and Al **Kinback** at the Churchill bar adjacent to the banquet hall at the RAF club in London



Stalker **Reed** climbing into Kinback's Carbon Cub as part of his required "conditioning" to fly the 7 hours to Oshkosh 2019.

In the last column, I reported that Chip **Frazier**, CS-02, had suffered significant flooding at his house not far from Offutt AFB. He sent in an update you can read in the expanded online column. The good news is that though the flood scotched the pending sale of the house when it hit on 14 March, they were able to sell it later. They are moving to North Carolina but considering maybe not living only two blocks from the beach. Having survived one flood, no need to tempt fate and hurricane flooding. Here's his update.

"The "Nebraska Floods of 2019" (some say it was a 500-year flood) that swamped NE, MO, & KS on 14 March, hit the Frazier lake house rather hard. We lost the entire lower level of our home to Platte River and Hanson's Lake #3 water that rose 15 feet above the normal level. We had 78" in our basement that receded over 5 days, but the upper level, our main living space, was untouched! When we were evacuated on 16 March, we were welcomed into our son's home 10 minutes away for the following nine weeks. Ed & Cory, (both Class of '99) and their children, Beck and Ashleigh, provided a welcomed diversion to dealing with our loss. We were warm, dry, and safe. When we moved back into our home on 24 May, we had replaced the mechanical infrastructure (HVAC, plumbing, and basic electrical) thanks to financial relief from FEMA and the Small Business Administration.

“As if the demands of losing and repairing a basement were not enough, I am also the Chairman of the Sanitation Improvement District for our community of 320 homes (kind of a village-type government). It was up to me to lead this community back to some semblance of normalcy. Together with Sarpy county, FEMA, countless volunteer groups from all over the country, and a hard core of fantastic neighbors, we were able to protect our dike and restore our roads and sewer service. Once again, this community proved that moving here 24.5 yrs. ago was the right choice. Good people, kindness to strangers, patience, whatever we needed, there was someone there with it. Mostly, it was love and caring for one another that got us through.

“Prior to the flood, we had a contract to sell our house with a closing on 30 April. We were moving to a lot we were purchasing on Oak Island, NC and then taking a couple of months to walk the 500 mile El Camino de Santiago across northern Spain in the Fall. We lost that contract due to the flood and refocused our efforts on flood recovery. Ironically, the day we moved back in, we closed another deal to sell our house ‘as is’ to a young couple who wants a more affordable home and will refinish the basement. The new closing date is 15 July.

“Although we have seriously reconsidered our desire to live two blocks from the Atlantic Ocean, we are still bound for the Southport, NC area on or about 17 July. If you are en route to NC, we may beg a bunk from you in exchange for a meal and precious time together. With God’s continued blessing, we will pick up our plans to walk the Camino on schedule.”

The local Colorado ’73 group also celebrated our arrival at USAFA, in addition to half a dozen other events in the past quarter. Some involved our Legacy Class, the Class of 2023, which in-processed on 27 Jun and was sworn in the following day. On May 22, seven classmates, two classmates’ widows, and honorary class member Brig Gen (Ret) Mal Wakin placed class pennants at our classmates’ gravesites at the USAFA Cemetery. The next day, five classmates placed American flags on the graves for Memorial Day. Names of participants and descriptions of those and other activities are in the expanded column on the website. If you’re in the area and aren’t participating, you’re missing some great camaraderie.

On 22 May, the following placed class pennants at our classmates’ gravesites at the USAFA Cemetery in preparation for the next day’s flag-placing event: Class President Ron **Scott**, CS-34; Dale **Birch**, CS-39; Donna (Charlie) **Felton**, CS-10; Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15; Tom **Mayberry**, CS-16; Bob **Munson**, CS-34; Charlie **Quinnell**, CS-27; Nancy Stewart, widow of Valedictorian Clay **Stewart**, CS-02; and Honorary Class Member Brig Gen (Ret) Mal Wakin. Afterward, almost all joined Teresa Fazio and Mary Scott at the Colorado Mountain Brewery for fellowship, food, and libations.

The next day, five classmates placed American flags at our classmates’ gravesites at the USAFA Cemetery: Class President Ron **Scott**, CS-34; Dale **Birch**, CS-39; Dave **Brown**, CS-19; Dale **Birch**, CS-39; Rich **Fazio**, CS-16; and Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15.

The next event, sponsored by Wreaths Across America, is a countrywide effort on Saturday, December 14.

On Thursday, May 30, the following attended a class cookout at Rich and Teresa Fazio's, where they viewed the Class of 2019 graduation ceremony on TV and then the Thunderbirds aerial display live: Mike and Pris **Arnett**, CS-09; AJ **Briding**, CS-19; Rich and Teresa **Fazio**, CS-16; Charlie and Donna **Felton**, CS-10; Dennis **Haugh** and Ginny Gallagher, CS-13; Glen **Johnston**, CS-07; Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15; Tom and Sally **Mayberry**, CS-16; and Denny and Heidi **Merideth**, CS-08.

This summer, '73 participated in several events with our 50-year Legacy Class, the Class of 2023. Classmates from as far away as Wisconsin, North Carolina and Northern Virginia joined us locals as we talked with parents, participated in honor lessons, attended a couple of parades, marched back from Jack's Valley with the basics, and more.

At In-Processing on 27 June, the new basics were given a special edition of Contrails that identified the Class of 1973 as their legacy class (the term legacy class is used for both '73 and '23). Ron Scott's dedication from '73 was prominently placed in the front of the book, ahead of even the current Superintendent's letter. We also contributed about half of cost of the publication of the Contrails to upgrade the binding. As a result of budget cuts over the years, the quality of the binding had been downgraded to paperback and was so poor that pages were falling out by the end of 2nd BCT. We decided to remedy that for 2023. We weren't able to get the cover embossed as ours was, but we were able to get it published with a hard cover and sewn binding.

As the arriving cadet candidates were kept rather busy during in processing at the Field House by the Academy staff and cadet cadre, we were asked to interact with parents at the AOG's Doolittle Hall. About 10 of us mingled with parents as they wandered among various tents and booths and the Heritage Trail. Many were quite interested in talking with us, especially first-time parents. (I was surprised how many multiple-cadet families there were.) Of course, there were a few verklempt mothers who were already missing "little Johnny," as Rich **Fazio** likes to refer to the generic fledgling who has just left the nest. One über-helicopter mother related she had installed an app on her son's phone that would allow her to see just where he was in the Cadet Area all day long. Don't guess she got the memo that he wouldn't have his phone at all during BCT.

The next day was the Oath of Office Parade. About 20 assorted classmates and family members attended. How things have changed. Instead of the candidates taking the oath in some room on the Terrazzo right after getting their shots, the Academy has turned it into something the parents can attend on the parade field. It was fun watching parents try to identify their son or daughter as they marched by, having had their locks shorn the day before and camouflaged among some 1155 classmates.

Well, that's it for another electronic edition. Please let me know if you see any inaccuracies. I can always get the online version changed. Don't forget George Louis Granger's obituary below.

[73!](#)

Mike Arnett

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

George Louis Granger

June 18, 1931 - June 16, 2019 (age 87)

Obituary



George Louis Granger, 87, died suddenly June 16, 2019 at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

George was born June 18, 1931 in Queens, NY to Louis and Jeanette Granger.

George is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda Granger, brother Raymond (wife Barbara) Kappes, two children Lorraine and Chris, two grandsons, Christian (wife Leigh-Ann) Loveland, Justin (wife Molly) Granger, and three great grandchildren Isabelle, Ryken, and Bristol. George will forever be remembered by extended family and dear friends.

George served faithfully, honorably, and proudly in the United States Air Force for 21 years including Korea (1948) and Vietnam (1969).

George was an avid outdoor enthusiast including hunting, camping and fishing. George never met a stranger.

Service was Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 10am at St Paul's United Methodist in Colorado Springs.

<https://www.cappadonafh.com/notices/George-Granger>