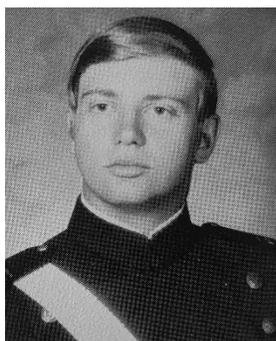
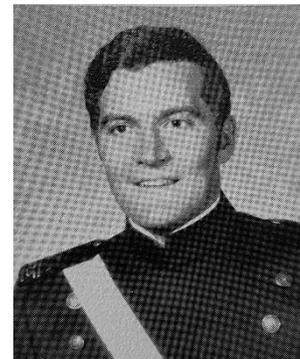


Illustrious Classmates, as I finally get around to updating this and posting it to the web on 20 Mar 2020, we are in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. I have updated references in the Class News column published in the hard-copy March 2020 Checkpoints that were to future events (as of when I wrote that column in January) that are now in limbo or have been postponed to some indeterminate date in the future. As a point of reference for those who read this in the future, California, New York and now, this afternoon, Illinois, have instructed people to remain in their homes unless they have vital reasons to go out. What further actions are taken and where this pandemic takes us beyond this point is anybody's guess. Hopefully, when we read this at some point in the future, we will be able to look back and say, "Boy, didn't we overreact?" And hopefully, we will have lost no classmates or family members to the virus. In the meantime...

The Illustrious Class of 1973 continues to add to our accomplishments--we helped the Washington Nationals' win the 2019 World Series! According to the Washington Post at <https://tinyurl.com/uzdvumu>, the prayers of the Nats' Catholic chaplain, classmate Monsignor Steve **Rossetti**, CS-37, may have been the real reason the Nats won. Steve, appropriately humble, refused to take credit.

Congratulations to Norty **Schwartz**, CS-34, for being named a Distinguished Graduate by the AOG. He will be recognized at a Founders Day dinner in A-Hall at some point in the future. Keep an eye out for the new date and come join those of us who will be there to celebrate Norty's achievements. It's good to see him recognized for all his accomplishments and contributions to the nation.

From the high to the low, we lost classmate Lt Col (Ret) Dean **Haylett**, CS-14, on 28 Dec 2019 doing what he enjoyed most, golfing. Circumstances allowing, he will be interred at the Academy Cemetery on 1 May 20. His obituary may be viewed at tinyurl.com/uz78br9. Our condolences to his wife Patty and their family.



We also received word on 6 Aug 19 that Tom **Stilwell**, CS-36, died several years ago, on 23 Dec 15. I have no further information at present. Tom and I were in the Baptist Student Union while we were at USAFA, but I hadn't heard from him in years. Wish we had received more timely notice of his passing.

If you did not receive an email from me notifying you of Dean's and Tom's passing, please send me a note and your current email.

Bob Allen, CS-12, says Aloha! from Hawaii. He retired from Civil Service at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command on 31 Oct 2019. After retiring from the Air Force in 2002, Bob spent six years as a defense contractor, followed by ten years at INDOPACOM as a Navy Civil Servant. "50 years paid by DoD seemed like a good point to stand down." He and Debbie will be staying in Hawaii.



1Lt Gen Minihan, INDOPACOM Deputy Commander, retiring Bob Allen

Don Ramm, CS-19, began transitioning from San Diego to a new house in Mazatzal Mountain Airpark in Payson, AZ. They'll be spending about a week a month there for the next few years. Don's looking for a Kitfox or RV-12 which he can fold/remove wings and store in the large third space in the garage until he can get a hangar built. He joins Howard "Mitch" **Mitchell**, CS-31, in Payson. Here's Don's full email update:

With young kids (20 & 21) still in college and parents (3 out of 4...all well into their 90s) still with us, I've been nose to the grindstone (working) without much thought about the future until a few months ago. We visited a friend in Payson AZ who lives next to the airport. The street is a taxiway -- how cool is that! A new house went up for sale and we bought it. Lots must have room for a hangar so that and an airplane to go in it is in our plans, but I want something to fly now so am looking for something like a Kitfox or RV-12 which I can fold/remove wings and store in the very large 3rd space in the garage. I went to pilot training at Willie and A-7/A-10s at Davis Monthan so am looking forward to flying through the skies of Arizona again. We haven't left Chula Vista (CA) yet but plan on spending a week at a time in Payson. Being a self-employed computer geek I'm able to do most things remotely so I will probably never "retire" -- I can always use some extra income for "avgas money".

After several delays, Phil **Yavorsky**, CS-31, finally retired 30 Aug 2019 from Booz Allen Hamilton. He and wife Christine are staying in the O'Fallon, IL area around kids and grandkids. Phil says it's time to get all those delayed projects done and play more golf!

Fred **Beckmann**, CS-03, reported he's still living in Ellicott City, MD and became a proud grandfather this year.

In typical fashion, squadronmate Ed "Boy" **Parry**, CS-09, reported: "I'm back, went to Scotland. Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Glasgow, and a few places in between. WOW! Learned to fly fish. e" and wouldn't respond to my request for more detail.

Mike **Dendinger**, CS-28, sent in a picture (right) of three '73 classmates at their mutual 50th reunion for Holy Cross High School in Dover, DE. With only about 60 kids/30 boys in their class, he noted how amazing it was that three of them wound up in The Illustrious Class of 1973 and all three attended their 50th. Here's his full input:



Like many of us, I attended my 50th high school reunion in 2019; ours was in October. I attended a tiny Catholic high school (Holy Cross) in Dover, Delaware. At any given time there were only about 60 kids in our class...being an Air Force town, there was a lot of turnover as military families came and went.

As it turns out, three of us who attended Holy Cross at one time or another ended up in the Academy Class of '73 and all three of us were at the high school reunion.

In the picture below, Mick Schlabs (CS-27) is in the middle. He attended Holy Cross from 4th through 7th grades, then left when his dad got transferred to Ramstein.

Troy Sponaugle (CS-20) is on the right. He transferred in shortly after Mick left and graduated with the class.

I (CS-28) am on the left, and overlapped those two. I attended Holy Cross from 4th through 11th grade.

At any rate, I thought it was interesting that a tiny school that never had more than about thirty boys in the class sent three to the Academy.

Jack **Hudson**, CS-25, continues bicycling apace. His input:



"In 2019 I set a stretch goal to get at least 100x '73, or 7300 cycling miles (outdoors plus indoors) finished 2019 with 7421 miles. Am still teaching indoor spin classes at WPAFB a few times a week. Got out on 1 Jan with friends for our annual "Polar Bear" bicycle ride. Have attached a photo after a recent ride here in Beavercreek OH with retired USAF B-1 EWO Brian Ewert, Syracuse '87, my oldest son John, Ohio State '02, and mecold weather does not stop us! The Museum tour offer still stands for any '73ers who come thru the Dayton area!"

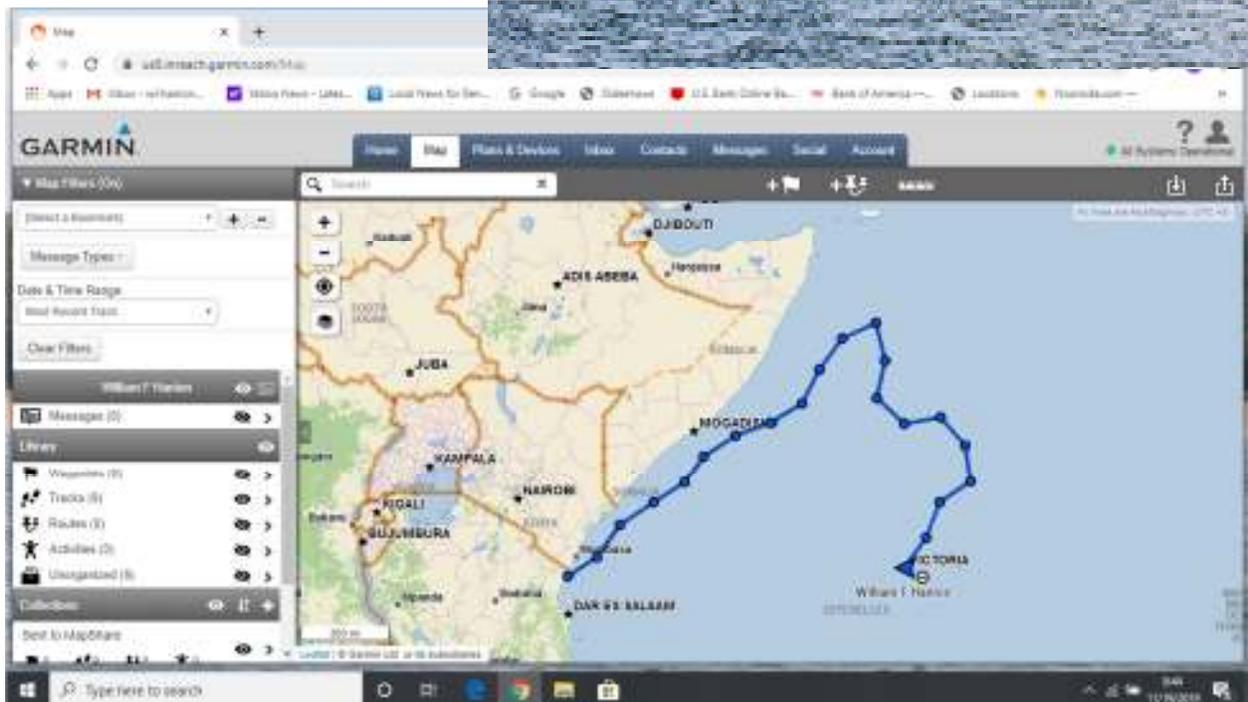
Stalker **Reed**, CS-07, provided another update of **Bill Hanlon's** (CS-07, DNG) continuing round-the-world life, this time from the Seychelles.



Above: Dinner time!

Right: At anchor in the Seychelles

Below: Bill's route last fall, when he planned to enter the Red Sea, only to have freakish and unseasonable adverse winds force a U-turn to the Seychelles.



Bill, like an ever-shrinking number of classmates, can still wear his cadet-issue uniform. Stalker said the occasion was Bill's 50th high school reunion. The fatigues were a counterpoint to the tie-dyed Woodstock T-shirt theme his class had chosen for the reunion. Congrats to him and those of you whose uniforms still fit!

As of press time in January, Stalker was planning to join Bill in the Seychelles 23-27 March, then join wife Gerry for a cruise out of Dubai. With international travel curtailed, I can only presume those plans have changed.



Speaking of Stalker and clothing, Stalker left his '73 jacket on a bus at our 45th reunion in October 2018. Somehow it wound up in the possession of Rich and Teresa **Fazio**, CS-16. In Stalker's words:

"I am in awe that a jacket I left on a shuttle bus at our 45th reunion would find its way back to me 26 months later -- FedEx express, no less, that I had to sign for (few minutes ago).

"Whatever compensation they are paying our class officers, it needs to be

doubled. To have this jacket hanging around for 26 months and not lose its identity AND for you/Teresa to hassle with finding my address and sending it back overnight (?) should go in the annals of '73 history as an example of exemplary servanthood well beyond any expectations.

"It was like the lost prodigal son returning to me - I was thrilled to have the empty coat hanger once again filled."

Geoff **Michael**, CS-37, reported CS-37 held a mini-reunion in Albuquerque in November. The plan was to attend the AFA-UNM football game, but unfortunately it was postponed. That didn't stop the intrepid Smilers from touring the area, including a trip to Santa Fe. They also took on the challenge of an escape room which required them to overcome multiple obstacles in order to launch their nuclear missiles. Sounds like a modern Project X. What was your target, guys?

Geoff also noted an error I made in my last column, citing “Fred McGregor” for Fred McMurray in the Jimmy Stewart movie clip citing the Academy. Thanks, Geoff!



CS-37 Smilers John Petro, Dee Bromberek, Stefania Alicino, Jim Condon, Ron Hoskins, Mason Brooks (CS-04), Lou Befano, Geoff Michael after a successful escape.

Troy **Sponaugle**, CS-20, reported he resigned from the Air Force in 1984, retired as owner of Advanced Digital Technologies in 2014, and is now leading one of the top real estate teams in Northern Virginia.

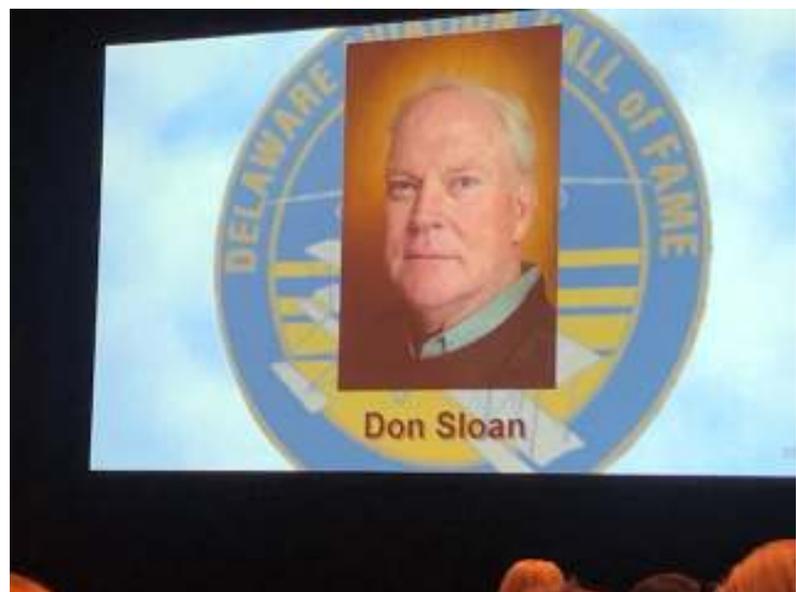
Devin **Stilson**, CS-01, sent New Year’s greetings. “Just the ‘SOS’ here in Goshen, CT – ‘The land of milk and honey... and big ass bears.’ I hope all is well with you.”

Don **McMillan**, CS-40, reported his 9-year-old grandson Reese McMillan won the SE Region drive, chip and putt competition at TPC Sawgrass and was to compete in the national finals during this year’s Masters golf tournament in Augusta, GA. Unfortunately, the Masters has been postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis. Hopefully Reese will be able to compete when it’s rescheduled. Don invites any 73ers attending to cheer Reese on to victory. Young Reese is quite a prodigy. Congrats, Don!



Frank **Childers**, CS-27, sent in a pic of (L-R) Kathy & Frank **Childers**; Susan & Randy **Putz**, CS-33; Bill & Gail **Roberson**, CS-36; Pam & Pete **Peterson**, CS-23; and Jan & Gordy **Purcey**, CS-28, at Rudy's BBQ in Waco for a Navigators mini-reunion.

In his quarterly CS-31 Grim Reapers update, Tom Kennedy included photos from Don **Sloan's** induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame on 2 Nov, as mentioned in the last edition of Checkpoints, as well as Don's induction letter. Tom proudly attended and reported that Brig Gen (Ret) Ernest Talbert from the Delaware Air National Guard also sat at his table. Tom flew C-141s with him in Charleston in the 1970s, and this was their first meeting in 40 years.





Don Sloane Speaking at His Induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame



Don Sloane at his induction



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July 8, 2019

Col. Don Sloan, USAFR (ret.)
1340 Persimmon Tress Lane
Dover, DE 19902

Dear Col. Sloan,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, it is my honor to inform you that you have been selected for induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. Congratulations!

Your induction will take place at this year's Honors Banquet, to be held November 2, 2019, at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall.

The Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame was established to honor our aviation greats and to promote public recognition of the role of flight in the progress of The First State and in defense of Country. Each year, the Trustees of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame select six outstanding individuals for induction to the Hall of Fame. Criteria for selection include: outstanding contribution(s) to the advancement of aviation in Delaware; achievement in aviation bringing singular credit to The First State; and/or gallantry in aviation by a Delawarean in service to state or country. Your accomplishments certainly fit this criteria and we look forward to recognizing your service.

To guide you through the induction process, the Board has assigned you a "wingman" (Mike Parry), whose job it is to make your induction an enjoyable and successful experience. Your wingman will contact you soon to begin the induction process.

Congratulations again on your accomplishments and your selection for induction to the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Lambrecht".

Bruce Lambrecht
President

Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 4303
Greenville, DE 19807-0303

Tom didn't let any moss grow 'neath his wheels the rest of the year, either, visiting with other Grim Reapers across the country. Breakfast in Charlotte with Michael **Hub** (right).

Lunch with Charlie **Meyer** in Sequim, WA (below)—extra credit if you know how to pronounce Sequim without looking it up.



*Michael **Hub** and Tom **Kennedy** in Charlotte, NC*



*Charlie **Meyer** and Tom **Kennedy** in Sequim, WA*

Along the way, Tom made it to Phil **Yavorsky's** youngest daughter Cathy's wedding in O'Fallon, IL.



*Tom **Kennedy** and Phil **Yavorsky** in O'Fallon, IL*



*Phil **Yavorsky** walking his daughter Cathy down the aisle*



Jim Boehm at Halloween

On Jan 16, 2020, Dr. Dan **Connelly** received the Physician Integrity Award from the Adventist Health, formerly known as Shawnee Mission Hospital, Shawnee Mission, KS. Finally, Bud **Gammon** will be moving from his home in Alabama and moving to Orlando FL to be closer to his daughter and grandson. The Grim Reapers have been busy!



Fil and Kim Thorn are once again enjoying life in Texas. Unfortunately, Tom didn't identify others in the photo.

Stay safe and reach out to others who are adversely affected by Covid-19.

73!

Mike Arnett

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