

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973!

After a meeting the other day, Steve **Lorenz**, CS-15, and I think we figured out the origin of our class nickname, “The Illustrious Class of 1973.” At the time of our 25th reunion, Steve was the Commandant of Cadets. Corona was the same weekend as our reunion, and somehow we had worked into our Friday schedule an “Air Force Update” by SecAF Sheila Widnall. We had all gathered in H-1 and were waiting for the Secretary to arrive. When she did, Steve, in his role as Comm and a member of the class, introduced us as “The Illustrious Class of 1973.” That was 1998. Think of all that our class has done in the past 20 years to contribute to our nation and alma mater. We truly have become The Illustrious Class of 1973. Congratulations, all!

Speaking of the Illustrious Steve Lorenz... At the 2018 USAFA Founders Day Dinner on Friday, 6 April, Steve was honored by the Academy and the AOG as a Distinguished Graduate—our class’s first, and undoubtedly not the last. Well done, Steve! The video used at the banquet to recognize Steve’s accomplishments is on the ’73 website (usafa73.org) under Updates Past and Present. Pix and videos of the Founders Day Dinner are at <https://www.usafa.org/News/FoundersDay2018>. We had 12 or 13 classmates plus assorted wives at the dinner to support Steve.



L-R: Bob Munson, CS-34; Kirk **Samelson**, CS-35; Mike **Arnett**, CS-09; Rich **Fazio**, CS-16; Distinguished Graduate Steve **Lorenz**; Ron **Scott**, CS-34; Bruce **Meyer**, CS-16; John **Barry**, CS-26; and Mike **Edwards**, CS-13, following Steve Lorenz’ DG award



L to R: Kirk & Betty **Samelson**, Pam & Bob **Munson**, Janet & Bruce **Meyer**, Leslie **Lorenz**



Distinguished Graduate Steve **Lorenz**' acceptance speech



(R) Leslie Lorenz kissing larger-than-life picture of Steve on a banner at the banquet

Former USAF Chief of Staff Norty **Schwartz**, CS-34, and wife Suzie's memoirs, "Journey," was published in March. I recommend it highly. I particularly appreciated Norty and Suzie's descriptions of their emotions during so many events in their lives. Class President Ron **Scott**, CS-34, remarked after reading it that it ought to be mandatory reading for all cadets.

Frank **Klotz**, CS-04, became the fourth recipient of the the James R. Schlesinger Medal for Energy Security upon his departure as the National Nuclear Security Administrator. Prior to retiring from the Air Force, Frank was selected as the first commander of Global Strike Command (now a 4-star position) and tasked with restoring the Air Force's grip on its nuclear mission and assets. The reward for a job well done being more work, Frank was asked to serve as the Department of Energy's Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration from April 2014 until 20 Jan 2018. Well done, Frank! More info at <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-bids-farewell-nnsa-s-klotz> and <https://www.energy.gov/schlesinger>. Thanks to Bob **Fraser**, CS-29, for forwarding info about Frank's receiving the award and departing DOE. In the "it's a small world" category, Bob's daughter, Kristen, works in the same office Frank was in.



Frank **Klotz** (far right, front) testifying before Congress as Department of Energy Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration. Bob **Fraser's** daughter Kristen is third from the right in the second row.

Dan **Romceovich**, CS-23, is in his 21st year as an adaptive ski instructor for disabled vets and others with disabilities with the National Sports Center for the Disabled at Winter Park/ Mary Jane ski area in Colorado. He says it's a great job with great people and a great view at the top of the world at 12,006 ft.



Left: Dan **Romceovich** with disabled vet at Winter Park/Mary Jane ski area



Right: Dan **Romceovich** and disabled vet skiers



Left: Devin **Stilson**, CS-01, reports that a certain alumnus from CWDS-01 got his "tat" refreshed for the upcoming reunion. [Devin, your attitude is showing.]



Ted Kammire, CS-18, sent in a picture of himself, two other grads and this year's unlucky porker after the 9th Annual South Florida AOG Pig Hunt.

(L-R) Greg Arnold '72, Ted Kammire '73, Rob Stewart '75

Al Kinback (R) and Stalker Reed (L), both from Seagram's Seven, are back on the road again: "We spent 25 Mar - 4 Apr in London for the RAF's 100th Anniversary. We visited many of the museums: Imperial War Museum (4 of them), Greenwich Maritime Museum, British Museum,... We even threw in Lord Baden Powell's Boy Scout Museum, Benjamin Franklin's house, London Museum, and a Canal Museum (Alan had rented a canal boat with his wife a few months prior). Our lodging was



ideal at the RAF club on Green Park where we met many of the "Generals" and a docent who was able to give us cockpit access to the Concorde at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Alan, who has a much better memory, is prepared for the lecture circuit at our 45th reunion this fall."

Denny **Clark**, CS-09, got his first hole in one while playing with Ed **Hageman**, CS-09 DNG, recently. Having moved just down the street from Denny, Ed has joined Denny's daily golf group and got his second hole in one two weeks prior to Denny's. Denny also said he would miss the reunion, but would send pics from Paris. Look for them in next winter's column.

From Stan **Osborne**, CS-21: "In 2016 Kathye and I moved from Lubbock, TX to Estes Park, CO and I retired from 22 years flying for Southwest Airlines. Our house is next door to the house where Bart **Dannels**, CS-21, grew up, and his mother was a wonderful neighbor our first year here. I'm busy with golf, skiing/snow shoeing, hiking (twelve "14ers" so far), music groups, volunteering, and travel, especially trips to Texas to see our 3 kids and a grandson. Hoping to see lots of Blackjacks at the reunion!

Fred **Beckmann**, CS-3, is still enjoying retirement in Ellicott City, MD.

Ken **Vargas**, CS-27, reports their petroleum engineering business has been very slow "as the oil and gas industry up in Alberta, Canada is down the tubes." Nonetheless, he and Hermila will do their best to be at the reunion. If anyone knows anyone in the petroleum industry, please pass Ken's name on to them. I have contact info.

Unfortunately, not all our class news is uplifting. Larry **Dodge**, CS-05, passed away on 20 Jan 18 after a valiant battle with leukemia and various other health issues. He was interred at the Academy cemetery on 26 Jan. A number of classmates were able to attend. He is survived by his wife, Trena, six children and 21 grandchildren. More info at <http://www.pfh-co.com/notices/Larry-Dodge>. Several classmates emailed memories and condolences.

Upon hearing the news of Larry's passing, Sam Blanchard (CS-31/39), sent the following: "This is indeed very sad personal news for me. I knew Larry Dodge, Charlie Stallworth, and Feet Pride since our days at the USAFA Prep School. We all were graduated from the Prep School in 1969 and from the USAF Academy (except for Fleet). I came from the Regular AF so I was older than most of our classmates. I am 70 years old now."

We had good representation at NCLS again this year, with 23 classmates, some with wives, attending from around the country. If you have never attended, I highly encourage you to check it out next year. I'll guarantee you you'll be impressed.

Those of us on the Front Range have continued to be active, getting together for lunch or dinner each month. Check out the descriptions with pics on the class website under the "Sq and Class Incl Front Range" heading.



Jan 2018 Class Luncheon at the Caspian Café in Colorado Springs. L-R: Trapper **Carpenter**, Donna **Felton**, Rich **Fazio**, Amy **Smith**, Mike **Smith**, Pamela **Diffley**, Teresa **Fazio**, Bill **Diffley**, Dale **Birch**, Charlie **Quinnell**, Dave **Brown**, Monnie **Gore**, Mike **Edwards**, Dennis **Haugh**, BJ **Stanton**, Donna **Stanton**. Monnie Gore delivered a moving invocation; Rich Fazio led the toast with water to those who have gone before us.



The March luncheon was at Walter's 303 Pizzeria & Publik House on Northgate Blvd.

Spousal units in attendance, L to R: Teresa **Fazio**, Mary (Queen of **Scott**), Pamela **Diffley**, Pris **Arnett** (happily waving).



L to R: Bill **Diffley**, Steve **Lorenz**, Dale **Birch**, Mike **Arnett**, Ron **Scott**, John **Stefonik**. Not shown: Rich **Fazio**. Last minute cancellees: AJ **Briding**, Tom and Sally **Mayberry**, Jim **Parker**. Bill **Diffley** led us in the invocation, Rich **Fazio** (because of a last-minute cancellation) led the toast with water to those who have gone before us.



Rich **Fazio** in cockpit of Grumman F7F Tigercat

Finally, from Rich **Fazio**: “One of the last days I volunteered at WestPac [aircraft restoration company associated with the National Museum of WW II Aviation located at the Colorado Springs airport], I was ‘sent’ to the cockpit of one of the Museum’s two Grumman F7F Tigercats to cycle the gear and flaps during an annual inspection while those on the hangar floor tried to find the source of a hydraulic leak. My biggest takeaway: the 20 mm cannon which were right next to the cockpit...in a night fighter!”

Planning continues for our 45th reunion on Navy weekend, 3-5 Oct. If you are not getting updates from me via email and you would like to, please contact me.

Mike Arnett

“Here’s a toast...to the host...of the men we boast...the U.S. Air Force!”