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Founders Day and Why We Celebrate it

Dwight Lee was the first to write in after the last set of Notes. In his email, he was also the only classmate to check in with the news that he attended this year's Founders Day gathering. Class attendance may be waning due to lack of interest in delivering the oldest grad speech...



Dwight Lee ready for Founders Day in Pawleys Island

Dwight also passed along a copy of the *Birmingham Bar Bulletin*, the quarterly publication of the Birmingham Bar Association. That journal showcased **Jimmy Walsh**, the most recent recipient of the L. Burton Barnes III Public Service Award – an accolade that recognizes a member of the Birmingham Bar Association who has given freely of his/her time and energy in public service for the benefit and betterment of the general public. Jimmy is well known in the State of Alabama for his work with the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI), of which he is a former President and current member of the Alabama State Executive Board. Other civic activities include the Boy Scouts and the American Diabetes Association. Besides the Boy Scouts, he attributed everything he is to his first detail squad leader.

Jimmy Walsh flanked by two members of the Birmingham Bar Association



West Point Marathon Team Hosts Half Marathon to Honor Fallen Graduates

In case you missed it in Cadet News, in mid-March the Army West Point Marathon team hosted the 2024 Fallen Comrades Half Marathon at West Point that attracted approximately 700 participants. The event consisted of a challenging 13.1-mile course in remembrance of 13 fallen West Point graduates. This year **Bill Little** was among the 13. At each mile marker along the

route stood easels bearing poignant descriptions of the fallen graduates, underscoring the solemn purpose of the event.

Pres & Clem Miller Host The West Point Triathlon Team in Arizona

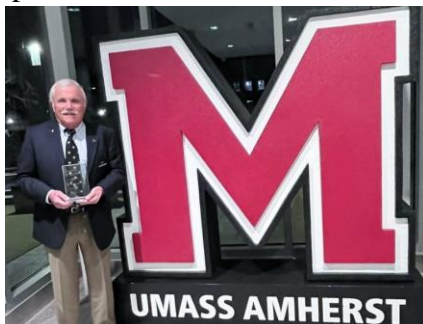
At the end of April the Cadet Triathlon Team took its annual Spring break to work out in the warmth of the Phoenix area of Arizona. In reality, the team knew that it had a soft touch at the home of **Pres & Clem Miller** that offered a great place to swim, congregate, and do carbo loading. Clem noted that she loves this annual occasion where they show this group of future leaders some local sites, provide a pizza-heavy dinner, and Pres schools them in the finer points of leading nearly perfect “Rocket.”□



The 2024 West Point Triathlon team and their coaches with Pres Miller at his and Clem’s cottage in Paradise Valley, Arizona

A Proud Daughter Moment

Tom Jewell’s step-daughter, Dawson, gave a shout-out to her stepdad for his induction into the University of Massachusetts -Amherst’s Civil & Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni in early April. This award recognize the outstanding contribution of professionals like Tom. His involvement with UMASS was circuitous and began prior to West Point, but his graduation and involvement in the Central Highlands of Vietnam as an aviator certainly contributed to world knowledge of the International Environmental Engineering profession.



Tom Jewell at UMass-Amherst after receiving his Distinguished Alum accolade

Some Classmates Cash in on Carry-Over Sport Advice

It seems that every Notes posting contains at least one reference to golf. This time, the lead-off was from **Bruce Korda** who was with **Charlie Lieb** and Gen Fred Franks ('59) at the Kensington Golf and Country Club in Naples, Florida Golf and Family Day in support of physical and mental health services for veterans and their families living in Southwest Florida. Bruce served with the General Franks twice. Some may know that he lost his leg during the Cambodia Incursion (1970) while a major in 2/11ACR. He was allowed to stay on active duty as an amputee, becoming the first amputee General Officer to serve in the Army since the Civil War.

Charlie Lieb and Bruce Korda flank Gen Fred Franks mugging for the at the troops and their families in Southwest Florida



Later in April, **Chick James**, sent photos of classmates and brides from the 2024 Golfing Grads event at the Mission Inn and Resort at Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. They had a great time and were blessed with perfect weather. A total of 220 golfers from various USMA classes attended this year. We had ten classmates represent the class.



Chick James, Dick McClelland, Dwight Lee, Ken Hauck, Bruce Korda, Tom Beierschmitt, Lee Outlaw, Dick Powell, Mark Hansen taken before their early morning Monday tee time



*Seated: Tom Beierschmitt, Carole James, Dick McClelland, **Mike Palone**, Dick Powell;
Standing: Mary Beierschmitt, , Mark Hansen, Bruce Korda, Lee Outlaw, Chick James, and
Dwight Lee taken before the Tuesday class meal on the patio.*

Rowing Buddies

Jock Merriam sent photo of himself with company mate **Alvion Kimball** taken at the



Florida State Rowing Association championships in mid-April in Sarasota. They thought about putting on a smiley face but decided to do a “game face” so they could add energy and send good hunting vibes to Jocko’s rowing club team, North Palm Beach Rowing Club. It must have worked because his kids pulled in five gold medals, a silver and a bronze across several categories. Alvie and Jocko offered another calmer, milder, more adult pose in case the “game

face” broke my computer – which it did. Jock mentioned that, needless to say, it was good catching up with Alvie & Cindy still flourishing in their snow-bird haven. They flew north soon after the meeting, but Jock & Malena hope to see them as Jock’s team race again in regional. .



*Rowing teammates Jock Miriam and Beth Eisleman talk about how a recent George Clooney produced film (*The Boys in the Boat*) is inspiring folks of all ages to join the rowing club.*

John & Margie Take Advantage of New Orleans – and Survive

In late April John & Margie Hedley traveled to New Orleans to attend a wedding of one of Margie's relatives. Since the wedding date was within days of the Hedleys' 44th wedding anniversary, they left Lake Norman early and returned from NOLA late to not only rest from the fun of the Big Easy but to enhance the food and drink experience of the anniversary celebration.



Margie & John Hedley at Antoin's in the French Quarter celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary

A cousin and '67 USNA grad with John Hedley at the WWII Museum blocking out each other's Alma Mater



Jack & Meg Miller Host Mini (Mini) Reunion for A-2 Locals

Jack Miller reported that he & **Meg** recently organized a Mini (Mini) A-2 Reunion of Classmates living in Madison County, Alabama which included (besides Jack), **Bill Thygerson**. Jack had organized such a shindig several years ago and decided it was time for another one but wanted to expand the gathering. For this event, he invited a "Guest Speaker" from Devon, UK -- **Bruce Brown**. The Reunion was held at The Ledges in Huntsville. Needless to say, when one gathers two or more classmates in a unique setting, especially a bar, there is always a plethora of memorable topics that surface for sharing. Meg and Bill's bride, **Lucille**, also were on hand to keep the small gathering civil.

Jack said he hopes to double the attendance for the next Madison County A-2 Reunion – possibly by adding other companies that would include, **Tom Barnes, Mike Bressler, David Carl, Frank Chapuran, Bob Echols, Don Jones, David Jones, Jerry Ogles, John Oneal, Pete Poynter, Nick Sepsas, Mike Toole, and Jimmy Walsh.**

Bill Thygerson, Bruce



Brown, and Jack Miller at A-2's Mini (Mini) Reunion

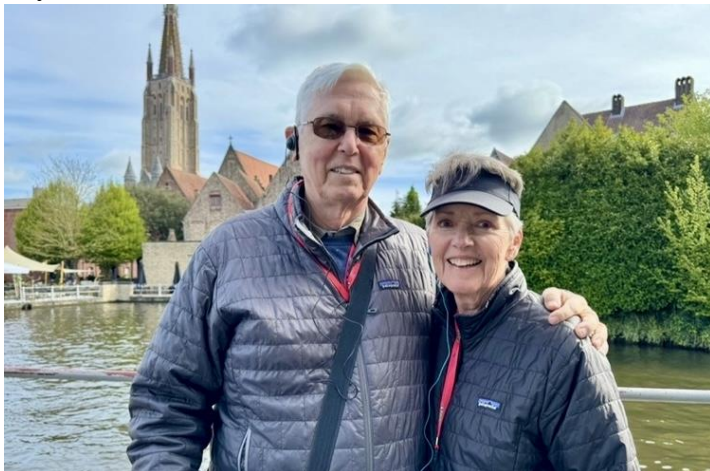
Speaking of **Don Jones**, he shared a photo of his main exercise. He recently completed a “metric century” (62 Mile) bike ride on recently. Note that the jersey he is wearing is the West Point Cycling Club jersey



Don Jones on the road and still in a boyish figure

The Dallens and McKennas are Back on the Road and Water

While the Gerards are still playing catch-up from our travels, **John & Frances Dallen** and **Brian & Karen McKenna** are still traveling. At least John is admitting to being mostly in good health and is taking it easy since most of the places they are visiting are repeats from earlier times. They can concentrate on repeats while at least one of the Gerards is still at the heads up, eyes wide, baseball cap, and sucking toothpicks stage. John keeps a very thorough daily journal and posts it online. If travel is in your future, check with him and he'll share his advice. This time, they visited Paris (mostly museums and favorite eateries), The Netherlands (including Amsterdam museums and beyond to visit windmills and tulips), and Belgium (Antwerp and beyond)



John & Frances Dallen in Bruges, Belgium