

CGA'53 25th Reunion

Homecoming, October 6-8, 1978 New London, CT

With 54 classmates returning for our 25th reunion, our class had the largest reunion group at the Academy's 1978 Homecoming. Eighty nine people showed up for the our "early bird" reception on Friday night, and one hundred and three attended our dinner dance on Saturday night. Both events were at our class headquarters for the weekend, the New London Holiday Inn.

On Saturday morning, we gathered at our class memorial and heard Ernie Rowland speak in remembrance of our seven deceased classmates. Most of the class also attended the Alumni Association luncheon, football game, and post-game cocktail party.

On Sunday morning, following church, we topped off our perfect weekend with a class brunch hosted by Jim and LaVerne Irwin (Commandant of Cadets) at their quarters on "the hill".

Bud Grader came the longest distance to attend (Afghanistan), but many others came considerable distances also. Bill and Helen King (San Juan, PR), Rick and Beth Cueroni (Seattle, W A), Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu (Seattle, W A), Bill and Dixie Linn (Los Altos Hills, CA), Dick and Janie Donnelly (Newport Beach, CA), Frank and Jan Frauenfelder (Golden, CO), John and Elaine Gibbs (Fort Worth, TX), Bud and Sally Duernberger (Dallas, TX), Paul Roberts (Houston, TX), and Roger and Juanita Madson (Miami, FL).

The senior member of our class at that time, Colonel Jim Hiteshew, USAF and his wife Billie came from Knoxville, TN. Jim was heading up the USAF ROTC program at the University of Tennessee.

Our First Class Year advisor, CAPT Al Lawrence and his wife Jean joined us for the entire weekend. Admiral E.J. Roland, and our former instructors CAPT Bob Boardman, CAPT Bill Earle, and Professor Nels Nitchman and their ladies attended some of our events.

Rick Cueroni was master of ceremonies at our class dinner on Saturday night. Highlights included Arty Striker singing his classic "Ode to a Submarine", some nostalgic trumpet solos by Ted Smith, and some good "advice" from Al Lawrence. Ray and Liz Stevens won the door prize for the most children (9), and interestingly enough, they also won the prize for being married to each other for the shortest time. John and Elaine Gibbs had been married the longest.

Hank Fisher and Frank Frauenfelder beat Dan Briganti and Bill Clark for the class tennis championship.



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(Continued)

To commemorate our 25th reunion, our class presented the Academy with a burglar-proof ring case for the Academy's ring collection, and we also published a class mini-year book.

Graeme Mann headed the class gift committee. Jim Irwin handled the local arrangements, and Wee Smith coordinated the overall reunion activities.

In CAPT Bill Earle's write-up in the Alumni Bulletin about Homecoming 1978 he said, "[the class spirit in '53 is hard to beat. What's their secret? Start early and include all classmates, not just graduates.](#)"

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This is a complete list of our classmates who attended our 25th Reunion: Ken (Eve) Barrett, Roger (Shirley Italiano) Bascom, Ed (Peggy) Baumgartner, Bob (Lynnell) Benson, Murray (Kaye) Boggs, Gene Bowers, Larry Bates, Dick (Jan) Bowers, Dan (Sue) Briganti, Bill (Ann) Clark, Dan (Helene) Colussy, Rick (Beth) Cueroni, Linc (Ellie) Crane, Ed (Becky) Daniels, Dick (Janie) Donnelly, Wendell (Jean) Driggers, Bud (Sally) Duernberger, Hank (Gloria) Fisher, Jay (June) Flanagan, Tom Flood, Frank (Jan) Frauenfelder, John (Elaine) Gibbs, Jim (Shirley) Grabb, Bud Grader, Hap (Virginia) Hazard, Jim (Billie) Hiteshew, Roger (Esther) Holmes, Bernie (Peggy) Hoyland, Clay (Jan) Hughes, Jim (LaVerne) Irwin, Rin (Bert) Keyzer, Bill (Helen) King, Bill (Barbara Pijanowski) Lehr, Dick (Irene Winnick) Lewis, Bill (Dixie) Linn, Gerry (Pauline Goldman) Lipsett, Dick (Donna) Littlefield, Skip Lord, Roger (Juanita) Madson, Max Maire, Graeme (Barbara) Mann, Bill (Joyce) Markle, Bud (Betsy Ann) Mathieu, Al (Dee) Pledger, Warren (Carolyn) Powers, Bill (Mickey) Reilly, Paul Roberts, Ernie Rowland, Bill (Margie) Russell, Bob (Mimi) Schmidt, Ted (Mary Frances) Smith, Wade Smith, Wee (Jane) Smith, Ray (Liz) Stevens, Arty (Ilma) Striker, Gene Trainor, Bob (Mary) West, and Dave (Millie) Zurzuski.

Our guests were: Professor Al (Jean) Lawrence, Coach Nels (Jane) Nitchman, CAPT Bill (Cynn timer) Earle, CAPT Bob (Rives) Boardman, and Admiral E.J. (Jane) Roland.