

## **30th Reunion**

### **June 10-12, 1983 at Academy**

### **Ed Nelson, Superintendent**

“Who wants to hold a Reunion at the Academy in June?” “Don’t you realize that the Academy will be vacant and there won’t be the usual traditional activity.” “There’s a good chance that your reunion will be a flop due to lower attendance and spirit.” Ignoring these words of caution, we went ahead and held our Thirtieth Reunion at the Academy on the weekend of June 10th-12th, 1983. And for these 38 members of our class who attended (Glenn Young, Ray Stevens, Gerry Lipsett, Bill King, Ernie Rowland, Ted Smith, Dick Bowers, Jay Flanagan, Gene Bowers, Dick Donnelly, Frank Frauenfelder, Dave Howland, Roger Bascom, Skip Lord, Jim Irwin, Dean Ridyard, Ed Baumgartner, Graeme Mann, Larry Bates, Ed Daniels, Dick Lipson, Don Coffelt, Fred Sponholz, Arty Striker, Ed Nelson, Rin Keyzer, Ted Wojnar, Bill Lehr, Roger Holmes, John McKenna, Rick Cueroni, Bob Benson, Cal Crouch, Ken Barrett, Pete Hall, “Steamboat” Lewis, Dave Zurzuski, and Wee Smith) and their 43 guests, (several brought their children), it was nothing less than a spectacular success!

Our rationale for holding our reunion at the Academy in June instead of at Homecoming was two-fold. We wanted to have more time to visit leisurely with our classmates and have a better chance to see the Academy as it is today in contrast with the Academy we attended thirty years ago. Our recipe: take equal parts of organized and informal activities, add touches of tradition and nostalgia, and blend well.

Highlights of our 30th reunion: gathering Friday afternoon in the Hospitality Suite at the New London Holiday Inn which Gerry Lipsett and Dave Zurzuski had set up; a relaxing and informal cocktail party and buffet dinner that night at the Holiday Inn; a walking tour of the Academy on Saturday morning which included McAllister Hall, which had just undergone a \$5.5 million renovation and expansion, Chase Hall, the “First Class Parking Lot”, (yes, that’s right, this for their automobiles), and the CG Museum in Waesche Hall; assembling in Dimick Hall for presentations by the Director of Admissions (Bob Getman ‘54), Commandant of Cadets (Howie Thorsen ‘55), Dean of Academics (Rod White ‘50), and the Superintendent (our own Ed Nelson) on the Academy today vs. “when we were cadets”; gathering and pausing at our Class of ‘53 Ring Memorial to remember our classmates who had died — Larry Bates offered a prayer and Ernie Rowland reminded us that “When we dedicated our memorial nearly ten years earlier, we decided it should be a memorial to the entire class because it would only be a short time between those who had gone before and those who would follow. Now we wonder less of ‘Why did God taken them so early?’ and more about ‘Why has he allowed the rest of us to live so much longer?’”



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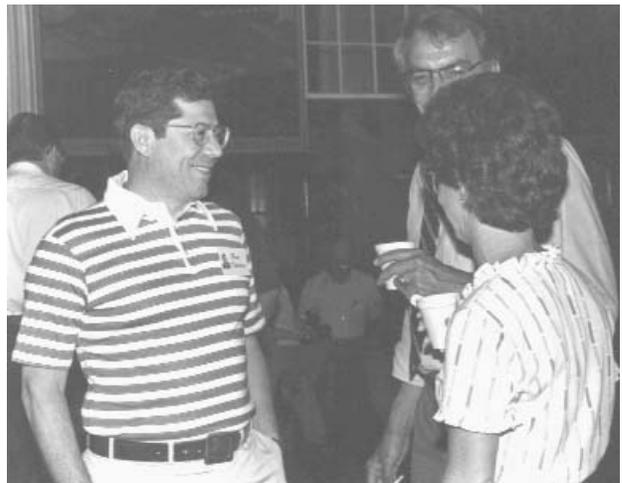
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Lunch was at the Officers' Club with some of our former instructors (CDR Tex Woolfolk '45, Math instructor and Assistant Commandant of Cadets; CAPT Bob Boardman '45, Math instructor; and CAPT Eph Rivard, Electrical Engineering instructor) and Ray Klecznyski who started giving us haircuts way back when we were Third Classmen; "free time" on Saturday afternoon to go sailing, play golf, sight-see, visit Connecticut College, go to the Academy Visitors Center, shop at the Academy Exchange, or see the Academy's new Rowing Center; Saturday evening's dinner at the Officers' Club and dancing to "Music from the Fifties"; and Sunday morning's outdoor brunch at Ed and Joyce Nelson's Quarters #1 on "The Hill".

In his closing remarks at Saturday's dinner, Ernie Rowland said it best of all when he said, "we can pick our friends, but we should thank God for our classmates". Amen!



# 30th Reunion Academy 1983



# 30th Reunion (Continued)

