MEMORIAL CEREMONY

CLASS OF 1969

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

21 October 1994
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

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THE CADET/GRADUATE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

This memorial service is dedicated to those members of the Class of 1969 who have died. A reunion is a time to share memories, and it is fitting that we include memories of our fallen classmates. This ceremony should be a celebration in having known each other and in sharing the experiences that made us the USAFA Class of 1969.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Prelude
Invocation
America the Beautiful
(Cadet Chorale)
Scripture Reading
Message
Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly
(Cadet Chorale)
Roll Call, Deceased Classmates
Moment of Silence
Taps
Benediction
High Flight
(Cadet Chorale)

UNIFORM

Active duty personnel: Service dress
Nonactive duty members: Appropriate civilian attire

THE CLASS OF 1969 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The Class of 1969 Memorial Ceremony is conducted this year as part of the 25th Reunion and provides an opportunity for the graduate community to honor and remember those graduates who have passed away.

The first ceremony of this type occurred in 1964 with a memorial service in the Cadet Chapel. In 1965, the ceremony was changed to a formation on the terrazzo. Both the Cadet Wing and the graduates, comprised of civilian and military members and commanded by a senior military graduate, form on the terrazzo. This year's 25th Reunion ceremony conducted in the Cadet Chapel will be highlighted by a roll call of deceased individuals. As each deceased class member's name and squadron are called out, a cadet responds "ABSENT." This cadet response to the roll call represents the continuing bond the Cadet Wing and graduates have with our departed comrades-in-arms. Following the roll call, the ceremony will be closed by a moment of silence, taps, a prayer, and a rendering of High Flight by the Cadet Chorale.

Cadets/graduates may be memorialized in several different locations at the Academy. The names of those who die on active duty may be placed on plaques just outside the Cadet Catholic Chapel. Names of other deceased graduates may also be placed on the plaque at the Memorial Tree Grove, located just west of the Cadet Chapel or in the Memorial section of the Academy cemetery. Graduates who die as a result of combat action are memorialized on the War Memorial, discussed on the following page.
THE WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial, standing on the north end of the Air Gardens, contains the names of graduates killed as a result of hostile action during a state of military conflict.

The idea of the War Memorial was conceived by Captain Richard T. Matthews (Class of '60) the first Alumni Secretary, who died on 8 April 1967 before seeing the Memorial completed. Fund raising efforts among graduates and parents of graduates began in May 1968 and construction of the $24,000 Memorial commenced in Spring 1970. Monumental Services of Colorado Springs was the contractor while the Guardian Monument Company of Vermont was the manufacturer. On 10 October 1970, during Homecoming, the Association of Graduates presented the War Memorial to the Air Force Cadet Wing.

The War Memorial stands on the terrazzo on the north end of the Air Gardens and faces the American Flag for which those deceased graduates listed on the Memorial died. The Memorial is a striking curved monolith constructed of three 7' x 21' slabs of black starlite granite. The inscription "In memory of our fellow graduates who have fallen in battle..." is a simple but eloquent statement of criteria for a name to be included on the Memorial. The actual determination of those graduates who are remembered on the War Memorial follows the circumstances listed below:

1. Graduates killed in direct hostile action.

2. Graduates killed within an area of conflict as the result of an incident which is in direct support of the activities therein.

3. Graduates killed outside an area of conflict while directly supporting the activities within that area of conflict will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates.

At the dedication ceremony in 1970, Brigadier General Robin Olds, Commandant of Cadets, brought the essence of the Memorial forcefully home with the following words:

This monolith of simple beauty contains the names of graduates of the Air Force Academy who have given their lives in combat. Each was a gallant man, devoted to his country and proud of his heritage. Each died bravely, as one's country sometimes calls upon her sons to do. Remember these names. Honor them. They are a part of you, the Wing. They represent your past, as you today represent our future. Reflect on their example of selfless devotion to duty, and gain courage so that when you face your test you may add honor and glory to the annals of the Wing—and of the Air Force—and of our country.

There are presently 157 graduates listed on the War Memorial, including 9 members of the Class of 1969.
ROBERT DAVID ALEXANDER
16th Squadron
Robert D. Alexander was killed on 30 November 1973 in a military aircraft accident near Gail, TX. He was a T-37 instructor pilot at Webb AFB, TX. He was survived by his parents Mr. And Mrs. Harry L. Alexander.

ALLISON SPEIRS BERRY
1st Squadron
Allison S. Berry was killed in a military aircraft accident on 24 January 1970 near Randolph AFB, TX. He is survived by his parents Colonel (Ret.) and Mrs. Maurice A. Berry.

BRANDON P. BLOWSHINE
28th Squadron
Brandon P. Blowsheine died on 2 September 1983 in Fairfax County, Virginia after open heart surgery. At the time of his death, he was serving as a Department of the Army Civil Engineer in the Federal Republic of Germany. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blowsheine; sister, Mrs. Sherry McBee; and two brothers, Richard and William.

RONALD LESLIE BOND
1st Squadron
Ronald L. Bond was reported Missing in Action on 30 September 1971 while flying as a navigator of an F-4E over Laos. His status was changed to Killed in Action on 6 February 1979. He is survived by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Errol Q. Bond.

MICHAEL DEAN BURMEISTER
28th Squadron
Michael D. Burmeister was killed in an aircraft accident at Hamilton AFB, CA, on 26 November 1972. He is survived by his wife, Judy and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Burmeister.

GEORGE CHARLES CAMERON
20th Squadron
George C. Cameron died as a result of an 0-2A aircraft accident on 6 September 1974 near Naurod, Germany. He is survived by his wife, Innes and his parents, Chaplain, Colonel (USAF Ret.) and Mrs. George J. Cameron.
GARY DALE COMBS
14th Squadron

Mr. Gary Combs was medically retired from the Air Force in 1974 with a brain tumor. He moved to Minnesota and participated in evangelical causes until his death. He was buried 21 September 1978. He is survived by his wife, Linda and two sons, Mark and Kevin.

GARY KEITH DAVIS
28th Squadron

Lieutenant Gary K. Davis was killed during a training flight near Williams AFB, AZ on 25 September 1969. He is survived by his parents CMSgt and Mrs. Don M. Davis.

DEMMY JOHN DEVENGER
15th Squadron

Mr. Demmy J. Devenger died at Loudoun County Hospital in Leesburg (near Washington D.C.) on 27 August 1994 of injuries he received that day in a traffic accident. He is survived by his wife, Maureen; their two daughters, Jamie and Casey; and his mother, Nancy Margaret Devenger.

JOHN MICHAEL DEZONIA
6th Squadron

Lieutenant Colonel John M. DeZonia died in a T-38 aircraft accident near Holloman AFB, NM on 12 February 1988. He was the squadron commander of the 6586th Test Squadron. He is survived by his wife, Candi; his two children, Jake and Hannah; and his parents, Lt Col. (USAF, Ret.) Laurence and Mrs. Patricia DeZonia.

RONALD LEE DIEHL
29th Squadron

Captain Ronald L. Diehl died in an F-4D aircraft accident on 28 August 1979 near Nellis AFB, NV. He is survived by his wife, Theresa; his daughter, Jennifer; his son, Michael; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Denver Diehl.

ELMO ALBERT EVANS, JR.
15th Squadron

Elmo A. Evans died as a result of a military aircraft accident near Centenera, Spain on 3 June 1971. He was a copilot in the 34th Air Refueling Squadron. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmo A. Evans, Sr.
PETER PAUL HALVONIK, JR.
6th Squadron

Peter Halvokit, Jr. died, along with his wife Carol, in an automobile accident on 28 December 1974 in California. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Halvokit, Sr.

GEORGE WAYNE KAMENICKY
20th Squadron

Lieutenant George W. Kamenicky was killed in action while flying an A-1E aircraft over Laos on 30 September 1971. He is survived by his wife, Linda; and his parents, Senior Master Sergeant and Mrs. Julius G. Kamenicky.

WILLIAM THOMAS JENKINS
7th Squadron

Captain William T. Jenkins died of injuries received in a military aircraft accident near Aalborg Air Station, Denmark on 21 August 1978. He is survived by his ex-wife, Mrs. Emily A. Roth, two daughters, Patricia L. and Jessica C.; and by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Jenkins.

ROBERT ALAN KOHN
22nd Squadron

Captain Robert A. Kohn died from a military aircraft accident near Nakhon Phanom Airport, Thailand on 21 November 1972. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman R. Kohn.

THOMAS DANIELS JONES, JR.
8th Squadron

Captain Thomas D. Jones, Jr. died in an aircraft accident near San Angelo, TX on 30 April 1973. He was an instructor pilot at Webb AFB, TX. He is survived by his wife, Helen; a daughter, Jennifer; a son, Thomas; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Jones, Sr.
MARTIN JEFFREY LESBERG
8th Squadron

Mr. Martin J. Lesberg died on 29 April 1972. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mae F. Lesberg.

DOUGLAS KENT MARTIN
13th Squadron

Captain Douglas K. Martin was Killed in Action on 18 April 1973 in an F-4 crash over Cambodia. He is survived by his wife, Karen; and his parents, Major General (Ret.) and Mrs. Sherman F. Martin.

GEORGE BARRY LOCKHART
16th Squadron

Captain George B. Lockhart died in a B-52 crash over North Vietnam on 21 December 1972. He is survived by his parents, Colonel (Ret.) and Mrs. George M. Lockhart; his wife, Mrs. Kathryn Elliott; and his brother, Robert.

MARK ANDREW MRAZ
28th Squadron

Captain Mark A. Mraz died near Travis AFB, CA on 27 October 1974 in a private aircraft accident. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mraz.

GERALD DAVID LUALLIN
32nd Squadron

Captain Gerald D. Luallin died in a boating accident on 22 July 1978 on Lake Champlain, NY. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; and his mother, Mrs. Irene R. Luallin.

DAVID GARY NOLTENSMeyer
26th Squadron

Captain David G. Noltensmeyer died on 15 October 1973 as the result of a C-130 crash on Sugar Loaf Mountain near Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; and his mother, Mrs. B. J. Noltensmeyer.
KENNETH CLAYTON NUSS
11th Squadron

Mr. Kenneth C. Nuss died on 13 July 1988 from illness. He had been working in the space program in Huntsville, Alabama. He is survived by his twin daughter and son, Jamey and Jason; his former wife, Kitt Nuss Schindler; and his mother, Mrs. Wilhemina Nuss.

CRAIG ALLEN PAUL
23rd Squadron

Captain Craig A. Paul was Killed in Action over North Vietnam in a B-52 crash on 20 December 1972. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Paul.

PETER RAYMOND PLATT
15th Squadron

Captain Peter R. Platt died from an OV-10 aircraft accident near Riegenroth, Germany on 28 April 1975. He is survived by his wife, Audrey; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Platt.

ROBERT EDWARD RYAN
2nd Squadron

Lieutenant Robert E. Ryan was Killed in Action over Laos on 30 October 1971 while piloting an 0-2. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

JOHN MICHAEL RYDLEWICZ
24th Squadron

Lieutenant John M. Rydlewicz was Killed in Action over Binh Tuy Province, South Vietnam on 12 August 1971. He is survived by his wife, Anne; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Rydlewicz.
JAMES EDWARD SCOTT
9th Squadron

C1C James Scott died on 23 February 1969 in an automobile accident. He was graduated posthumously.

JAMES RYAN SIMONS
31st Squadron

Major James R. Simons died on 24 May 1986 when his Pitts biplane crashed near Houston, TX. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Agnes and Rulon Abbott; and two sisters.

JEFFREY LOWELL SMILEY
1st Squadron

Lieutenant Colonel (AFRES) Jeffrey L. Smiley died in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 5 February 1988, after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Minnie; his son, Sean; his daughter, Julie; his mother, Ruth; and his sister, Sherry.

BENJAMIN FREDERICH STARR III
29th Squadron

Mr. Benjamin F. Starr III died from exposure in the mountains near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on 23 February 1991. He is survived by daughters, Jessica, Rebecca, and Hailey; his parents, Major General (Ret.) and Mrs. B. F. Starr, Jr; and a sister, Cindy Kintner.

KEITH ROLAND TALLADAY
9th Squadron

Mr. Keith R. Talladay died in a civilian aircraft accident on 21 May 1991. He is survived by his wife, Sharon and children, Kristin, Jay, Matthew, and Timothy; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Talladay; and a brother, Barry.

JAMES GREGORY TELIZYN
29th Squadron

Mr. James G. Telizyn died in an automobile accident. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph J. Herman.
GEORGE HENRY TOUSLEY III
31st Squadron

Captain George H. Tousley III died from a military aircraft accident over North Central Laos on 8 February 1972. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Tousley, Jr.

HENRY McCULLOUGH TURNER, JR
26th Squadron

C1C Henry Turner died on 27 May 1969 in an automobile accident. He was graduated posthumously.

STEPHEN VINCENT TURNER
30th Squadron

C1C Stephen Turner died on 26 January 1969 in an automobile accident. He was graduated posthumously.

One More Roll

We toast our hearty Comrades
Who have fallen from the skies,
And were gently caught by God’s own hands
To be with Him on high.

To dwell among the soaring clouds
They’ve known so well before,
From victory roll to tail chase
At Heaven’s very door.

As we fly among them there
We’re sure to hear their plea,
Take care my friend, watch your six,
And do one more roll for me.

*Commander Jerry Coffee, in Hanoi, 1968*

Lord Guard And Guide
The Men Who Fly

Lord guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces of the sky;
Be with them traversing the air
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.

You who support with tender might
The balanced birds in all their flight,
Lord of the tempered winds, be near.
That, having you, they know no fear.

Control their minds with instinct fit
Whene’er, adventuring they quit
The firm security of land;
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space,
Uphold them with your saving grace.
O God, protect the men who fly
Through lonely ways beneath the sky. Amen.