

Post-2010 40th Class Reunion Report by Mike Gentile

Mates:

I've had a couple of notes, from mates unable to attend, requesting to know how the Reunion was. So I thought I would do a short recap to let these folks know that they missed a heck of a good time and that we missed them too.

As you probably know the east coast took a pretty good hit of rain and high winds on Friday. So some of our Classmates had 4 hours drives turn into 9 hours. So there were late arrivals.

The day started off with 70 well represented at the golf tournament, It went nine holes before being rained out. The class did well. T-Bone has the details of who all played and the outcome. Larry Beason, one of our classes MD's was called on for some emergency treatment of a couple of incidents at the tournament. Well done.

For those who arrived as planned, Friday the drill was cancelled due to inclement weather. However, Intrepid 70 climbed the hill to the chapel. (We were unable to drive up as the road was closed to those not living on the hill. Figures) Once at the Chapel we gathered by Hopley Yeaton's tomb to remember our Classmates who have crossed the bar.

Those remembered were:

Dave Binns
Ernie Blanchard
Mike Cooley
Dick Crane
Davey Jones
Buzz Johnson
Denny Pittman
Fred Squires
Greg Voyik

Also Craig Eide & Al Scanga, originally 70, late of 71'

Also some who did not graduate with us:

Bruce Goodsell
Dave Hall
Joe Steen
Steve Umoff

Also mentioned for our prayers were Rich Muller and Bruce Stubbs who had just been admitted to hospitals that very day. Bruce is okay. He had a gall stone which was removed and he is back at work. I will keep you posted on Rich.

Finally, we thought of Myron Tethal and Celeste who continues to deal with Myron's advanced Alzheimer's.

The ceremony opened with the call to gather on the Highland Pipes. I played "The Sky Boat Song" and "High Cathedral"

I read the names and Individuals who chose to speak talked about our classmates individually. We left no one out.

We closed with the pipes "Closer My God to Thee" and finally we sang The Coast Guard Hymn.

About 40 of us and our spouses or significant others were able to attend the remembrance.

From there we retired to the Marriott for a cocktail party and a casual dinner. Everybody seemed to have a great time. Some of us were already losing our voices and we still had a football game coming.

Jim Sylvester and Rick Larabee attended to award the Distinguished Alumni Award to Lawson Brigham. The award was awarded at a dinner the evening before and represented so a greater number of the Class could participate. Lawson made some poignant remarks. His 88 year old mother was able to attend on Thursday and he remarked that in all his world wide Arctic adventures something the thing which struck him so vividly and was a great source of pride was the high regard with which the other countries and agencies held the United States Coast Guard. Well done, Lawson.

T-Bone handed out our favors(uniform) for the football game walk on. Red mock 70 turtle neck, a powder blue fleece vest. 70 baseball. They were striking and a hit. Guy Goodwin did the legwork on the favors and they came out great.

I brought the old suit case of Cadet memorabilia Tide Rips, Howling Gales, gray gloves, gallowsses, white gloves, bathrobe, Academy blanket, Dixie Cups, a white jumper, favors from previous reunions and posters of the Springmaid Girls from the Sunday New York Times(do you remember them?).

Saturday began with an all Classes Memorial Service at the Chapel. Tim Balunis and Greg Ketchen represented the Class. Tim read the names of those passing in the last five years.

Prior to the walk on Bone had arranged a tail gate on the balcony of the Alumni center. Good food and more memories. Bone also had these special gloves which all wore marching onto the and the wives and sweethearts had in the stands. When you clapped with them, they had a plastic in the center that caused the clapping to be incredibly loud. As we were announced and walked on we clapped and those in the stands clapped. It was loud and impressive. My wife said it also sounded like some very strange mating ritual. Somehow that seems appropriate.

The football team did a nice job against Fitchburg State winning 19-7 and making us all very happy. I even was able to remember the words to the Alma Mater.

Post game many of us over to the cocktail party in Leamy Hall. There we got to tell some more lies with friends from other classes.

Finally the Saturday evening cocktail party and sit semiformal dinner with dancing to follow.

Tony Souza opened with a very moving Grace followed by a wonderful dinner.

Jay Creech was in attendance and so was Coach Elderidge, who was looking very well.

During the party Greg Ketchen brought a printer which took pics from the party and made them into post cards. He supplied postage and everything. So we folks took pictures in groups of four to six, printed a card, put an address and stamp on it, put a little greeting to Myron Tethal on it. Greg mailed over thirty cards. Celeste will be so pleased that we remembered. More to the point it reminds us all that "There but for the Grace of God go I". Keep Myron and Celeste in your prayers.

Then came the Dancing to the GENTS. Yesiree! The original GENTS. The Academy Rock Band we first heard swab year. Paul Pluta & Steve Schember 67', Jim Clow 68', Jim Smith 69'. I'm sorry but I don't remember the other two members of the band.(Senior moment!) Maybe you will recall them. All original members and playing the old tunes. "Good Lovin", "Jumping Jack Flash", "Satisfaction", "Gloria" to name a few. And of course, "We Gotta Get Out of This Place!" The band had written some custom lyrics about

'70' into several songs. The lyrics included the house in Ocean Beach and the New London Seven. They really did their home work.

Finally massive thanks to the folks who carried the load of the organization of this event. In my opinion, it was one of the best we've had.

Larry Beason attended all the various meetings at the Academy that are required. (The five year events are a really big deal these days). Thanks, Larry.

Guy Goodwin who took the lead on the favors. They were perfect. Thanks, Guy.

Vic Guarino has been shepherding our Class Fund and a substantial gift to the New Sail 44 acquisition and the placing of memorial bricks for our departed Classmates at the Alumni Center. Thank you. Vic.

Most Important: Marilyn and Tom Taylor who got the Marriott (really nice and convenient), arranged really good food and coordinated everything. The food was great and the whole thing worked like clock work. The Class owes a great deal of thanks to this lovely couple of forty years. They did a magnificent job.

Finally some parting thoughts:

Jay Sadilek was back for the first time in forty years

At the remembrance, I asked the Class to picture the thought of "Professor Tim Balunis". There was a collective silence until I said I meant Timm Balunis, number one son, who is now stationed at the Academy. There was also a collective sigh of relief. Ingrid is where the smarts came from I think.

I mentioned John Ryland and Jim Clark responded instantly, "Cadet Number 68681 - License to bounce". John actually works for Larry Lanier. I wonder if John has to sit the bench a lot for Larry?

Chris Desmond arrived at the last possible minute before the walk on. Several guys standing immediately around me said "It's 1966!" But you have got to see Diz dance. This lad can really cut a rug these days.

Jim Frederici came all the way from Willow, Alaska. You'll have to look it up.

There was a lot more to remember and I hope I didn't miss anyone who deserved credit for organization of our Reunion.

It was great to see all those made it and I for missed all those who didn't.

Hope to see you all and more at the 45th.

Be well and keep all those in the Class in your prayers. I'm sure there are instances that we don't know about that make prayer needed and appropriate.

Mike Gentile