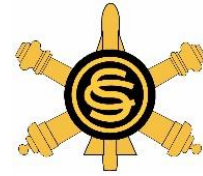




**ARTILLERY OCS ALUMNI CHAPTER**  
**PO Box 33612**  
**Fort Sill, OK 73503-0612**  
**580-355-JARK (5275)**



**January 2018**  
**Greetings to Alumni and Friends**

**Important Information**

- We send the annual newsletter and reunion invitation to everybody on our postal mailing list in the hope of keeping you up to date on our activities and plans. It's our one chance each year to get a hard copy of our correspondence into as many hands as possible. We run the mailing list through a USPS verification process to get the latest address changes.
- We send out a monthly email update to all email addresses we have on file. The problem with that is a significant number of those emails are never opened by the intended recipients. Many of them end up in junk email boxes, or are identified as spam or blocked by the receiving (ISP) Internet Service Provider. We have no control over that.
- Certain ISP's are giving us fits and "bouncing" most of our correspondence. The main problem is currently with AOL, which accounts for the majority of our bounced emails.
- On average over the last year only about 50% of the emails we send are opened by the intended recipients and another 8% are bounced (not delivered) for any number of reasons. After we receive a "Hard Bounce" three consecutive times our Email Service Provider automatically removes that address from our contact list and stops sending to that address. Since October, 90 email addresses have been permanently removed from our list (69 were AOL). We know for a fact, that most of those individuals are expecting or desire to receive our correspondence.
- **If you are not getting the monthly emails, please help us out by providing your current email address and if you use AOL, maybe you can give us an alternate.**
- We have a lot going on right now and are working on ways to keep the legacy and history of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill alive and more readily available for the public. We are doing our best to keep the memories alive and feel an obligation to keep doing it for as long as we can. Read more about what we are doing in the Newsletter and let us know what you think.
- The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual OCS Alumni Reunion invitation is on page 2 for those who are interested
- The Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Newsletter is on pages numbered 3-11.

*Visit the Chapter Website often for updates on our activities: [www.artilleryocsalumni.com](http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com)*



## **The 34th Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion: May 9-12 at Lawton/Fort Sill**

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter invites you and your guests to attend the 34th Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion May 9-12, 2018 at Lawton-Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Planned activities include:

- Optional Golf outing at the Fort Sill Golf Course on Wednesday morning (May 9)
- Icebreaker and Buffet (casual) - Wednesday evening (May 9) at Hilton Garden Inn, Lawton
- Artillery Live Fire Training Exercise with Static Equipment Displays and interaction with soldiers
- Durham Hall (Building 3025 - the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame)
- Optional Early Morning Jark Stroll up Medicine Bluff 4
- Tours of training facilities and updates from the Fires Center of Excellence
- Tours of the U.S. Army Artillery Museum, Artillery Park and the Air Defense Artillery Museum
- Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Annual Membership Meeting and Progress Report
- Social and Buffet (casual) - Thursday evening (May 10) at the Fort Sill Patriot Club
- Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony (coat & tie) - Friday evening (May 11) at the Patriot Club

A tentative schedule will be posted on the Alumni Chapter website ([www.artilleryocsalumni.com](http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com)) as soon as available. **The final schedule of events will be provided during the sign-in on Wednesday May 9th.**

**Sign-in and the Casual Icebreaker-Bufferet will be at the Hilton Garden Inn Lawton-Fort Sill Convention Center, located at 135 NW 2nd St, Lawton.** Sign-in will be from 9 am until 5 pm on May 9. Additional optional activities will be available on Fort Sill during the day. Come enjoy fellowship and good food at the icebreaker kicking off at 5 pm followed by a buffet at 6:30 pm in the Great Plains Ball Room. Late sign-in will be available during the evening event.

**Registration fees for the 2018 reunion are:**

- **OCS Alumni and Cadre: \$200**
- **Spouses and Guests: \$195**

The fee includes evening meals and complimentary beverages on May 9, 10 and 11 and noon meals on May 10 and 11. Also included is a pro-rated share of the printed reunion mailings, registration materials, Hall of Fame Program, event liability insurance and other costs directly associated with the reunion. **Advance registration and payment is required for all reunion attendees. The deadline for receipt of paid registrations is April 27th. If your paid registration is received and you are unable to attend - your payment will be refunded.**

**The 2018 Reunion Registration packet is available on the Chapter website. If you are not able to access the packet, or download and print it or do not have access to the internet, please call us at 580-355-5275 or email us: admin@artilleryocsalumni.com. We will mail you a hard copy of the registration packet (includes registration forms, Fort Sill Access Policy, Request for Unescorted Access to Fort Sill Form 118a, contact information for local lodging and other important information)**

As soon as we receive your paid registration, you will be placed on our special reunion information email list and receive updates on our planning and all relevant information available for the 2018 reunion.

***Please read the Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter News  
On the following pages (3-11)***

## ***Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter News - January 2018***

### **Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter**

Chapter Officers are Mr. Bill Ford (TAC 1966) -Vice President, Mr. Mike Dooley (Deputy Commandant U.S. Field Artillery School) -Treasurer and Mr. Randy Dunham (10-69) -Secretary. The Directors are BG (Ret) Billy Cooper (1-69), COL (Ret) Harvey Glowaski (1-67), COL (Ret) Wayne Hunt (21-70), LTC (Ret) Dave Kendall (8-65), Mr. Rich Cobin (19-67) and LTC Dave McRae (Commander, 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery).

### **Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Annual Meeting - May 10, 2018**

The Annual Meeting of the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter will be held at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during the 34th Annual Reunion. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday May 10 (time & location TBD). In addition to the regular business and updates on Chapter activities, three Directors will be elected to fill the three-year terms of LTC (Ret) Dave Kendall, Mike Dooley and LTC David McRae that expire this year. LTC McRae was appointed Director to serve out the final year of the term of LTC Mike Anders who he succeeded as commander of our host unit, the 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery. All three have indicated a desire to seek re-election. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Chapter bylaws require current membership in the United States Field Artillery Association, to run for the position of Director, vote in the election or vote on any business that comes before the membership. The Chapter has 238 individual members including 145 Life Members. A quorum for the transaction of business is five (5) percent of the membership.

### **Background: The Society of Graduates and the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter**

The Society of Graduates was established on December 20, 1968, shortly after the OCS Hall of Fame opened. A lifetime membership in the beginning was \$1.00 (later raised to \$2.00) and the purpose of the organization was to perpetuate and maintain the Hall of Fame. The Society of Graduates Board of Governors was responsible for supervising the operation of the Hall of Fame and approving the nominations of individuals for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Society of graduates dissolved in accordance with its bylaws when the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill closed in July 1973. The net assets of the organization at that time (\$837.96) were turned over to the Fort Sill Museum System to assist in the maintenance and administration of the Hall of Fame and were soon depleted. The Hall of Fame collection and records were moved to building B441 in 1975 under control of the Fort Sill Museum system and remained under their control until 1984, when it was moved to its present home in Building 3025. The building was memorialized as Durham Hall in 1999.

The FAOCS Alumni Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association was formed as a new private organization on Fort Sill in 1986. The Alumni Chapter operated as a loose confederation of OCS graduates from its founding until incorporating in the State of Oklahoma in 2002. The IRS granted 501c3 status to the Alumni Chapter in 2003. The name was changed to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter in 2015.

The Alumni Chapter has leased Durham Hall from the Army since 1999 and is responsible for the insurance, utilities, maintenance and daily operation. The historical archives, memorabilia and records associated with the Officer Candidate School located in the building are the property of the Alumni Chapter. The planning and coordination of the annual reunion of graduates and all administrative duties associated with the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame are handled by the Alumni Chapter.

The Society of Graduates Lifetime Membership card that was issued over the years to those who contributed a dollar or two or were inducted into the Hall of Fame is not a membership in the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter. It makes a very nice keepsake. We once saw one for sale on eBay that appeared to be a counterfeit.

## **United States Field Artillery Association (USFAA)**

The Field Artillery Association directly supports us through the yearly Chapter Grant Program (\$3.00 for each new member and \$2.00 for each sustaining member who chooses to be affiliated with the Alumni Chapter). Our Chapter Grant for 2017 was \$489.00.

We have been asked how much of the USFAA membership dues go to the Alumni Chapter? A new one-year membership is \$25.00 and \$3.00 (12%) goes to the Chapter. Renewing a yearly membership (\$25.00) results in \$2.00 (8%) going to the Chapter. A new Life membership (\$300 for a 61-70 year-old or \$265 for a 71-80 year-old) results in \$3.00 to the Chapter for the first year and \$2.00 each year thereafter for as long as you live. If you purchased a \$300 Life membership five years ago, we have received \$13.00 so far. The bulk of the dues are used by the USFAA in support of their primary mission as a professional association to help perpetuate the rich heritage of the Field Artillery. No matter how you look at it - It is all good.

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter **DOES NOT** have membership dues and does not collect or process membership applications for the Field Artillery Association.

If you join the Field Artillery Association or renew your membership, **DO NOT** send your payment to the Alumni Chapter. Send it directly to the Field Artillery Association and make your check payable to "USFAA".

### **The following alumni and friends became USFAA Life Members during 2017:**

Matthew Dallas	4-61	James Gleckler	17-67
Frank L. Furgiuele	10-65	John W. Porter	R2-63
Ray Schackelford	5-66	Douglas Lamude	Instructor Group

The chapter membership now consists of 145 Life Members and 143 sustaining members. There are twenty-six Artillery OCS graduates out there who are Life Members of the Field Artillery Association and have chosen to be affiliated with another chapter. There are six more not affiliated with any chapter at all. It is a personal choice, but we would sure like to have the six "unaffiliated" alumni choose the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter.

## **Artillery Journal Information**

The Fires Bulletin, previously known as the Field Artillery Journal and later the Field Artillery Bulletin is available on-line at <http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin/>. The Fires Bulletin is a joint effort of the FA and ADA branches and free to the public.

The entire archives of the publication, available on-line include every issue since 1911:

Field Artillery Journal (1911-1950), Artillery Trends (1957-1969), Field Artilleryman (April 1969- 1972), Field Artillery Journal (July 1973- May/June 1987), Field Artillery Bulletin (July/Aug 1987- March/April 2007) and Fires Bulletin (May/June 2007 to date).

For you members who are wondering why you are not getting the Artillery Journal in the mail as a privilege of membership. The **U.S. Field Artillery Association stopped printing and distributing a paper copy of the "Artillery Journal" in 2014.** The current "Artillery Journal" is basically the Fires Bulletin with a different cover and some advertising and other information inserted in each issue. It is available to Field Artillery Association members through a link on the USFAA website. Members use their membership number as both the user ID and password to gain access.

***\*The best way to maintain contact with us is to provide us with your email address\****

### **Perpetuating the Memory of OCS at Fort Sill - by MG (Ret) Leo Baxter (Class 6-70)**

As the last Fort Sill Officer Candidate School graduated some 45 years ago, its relative importance to the Fort Sill Community has diminished. Even 19 years ago as the Commanding General, I took some very specific steps to secure a long-term lease and to stop plans which would have had the World War II era building housing our artifacts and our history, demolished.

Today we do not fight the same threat, but a different one; the advancing age of our graduates and our responsibility to create a permanent and lasting way to memorialize OCS at Fort Sill in perpetuity.

We considered moving the existing building to the footprint of the Fort Sill Museum but ultimately rejected that plan as too expensive; but also, that it really didn't solve the problem as the FA Museum and the Army are unable to absorb it into its historical collection or provide resources for it. Therefore, we are moving toward a workable and affordable solution.

1. We will establish an OCS-themed display within the FA Museum which will depict 2LT Pinky Durham as an OCS Candidate in the Vietnam Era. It will include a mannequin which is created in his image, with OCS uniform, helmet, bunk and footlocker. Additionally, as part of a project of the US Field Artillery Association to build a classroom onto the existing museum, we will have OCS story boards around the walls depicting the history of OCS at Fort Sill, as well as a number of display cases where our most prominent memorabilia will be displayed. Our contributions to this effort would be \$125,000 which we have on hand.

2. Then we intend to establish a monument in Constitution Park adjacent to the museum. This monument will be first class; will contain the Robinson Barracks Arch, cannons and several granite pillars depicting various areas of importance to the FAOCS. Our crest will be the centerpiece. We have contracted with an architect for a design which we will have shortly, and will use private monies, already pledged, which should cover the cost. We will come to our graduates if we need further support.

We have not as yet completely solved the issue of how to dispense of the memorabilia currently in the existing building; we may create a period of time where graduates may come and claim items they donated or care about, and dispose of other memorabilia by auction or in some fashion which will benefit the FA Association Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter.

Those of us who are here are working on this; Generals Franks, Baxter, Stricklin, and Cooper plus Randy and Penny Dunham are all involved. We do not pretend to have all the good ideas, but we know if we do not act now to preserve our heritage, it may be lost forever. We welcome your thoughts and questions, as always.

### **Fallen Comrades - Correction to our Vietnam War Memorial**

James Allen Crowley II, who was KIA on October 16, 1968 graduated from Armor OCS Class 13-67. He is not a graduate of Artillery OCS Class 9-67. He was incorrectly identified as such by the Fort Sill Officer Candidate Brigade staff in 1969 and we did not catch the error until last April. Thank You to John R. Moore of the Armor OCS Project for bringing this to our attention.

1,315 graduates who died during WWII (932), the Korean War (69) and the Vietnam War (314) have been identified and memorialized. Information on the fallen can be accessed on the website and those who died during Vietnam are recognized on a large memorial board inside the Hall of Fame.

***Visit the Chapter Website often for updates on our activities: [www.artilleryocsalumni.com](http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com)***

## **OCS at Fort Benning**

In April 1973, a Branch Immaterial Officer Candidate School was created to replace the branch specific courses and the length of the course was reduced to 14 weeks. OCS for female officer candidates remained at Fort McClellan, Alabama until December 1976, when it merged with the branch immaterial OCS program at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Today's officer candidates enter the school from throughout the force. OCS continues to provide commissioned officers to the total force for all sixteen basic branches of the Army.

The mission of OCS remains; to train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership; basic military skills; instill professional ethics; evaluate leadership; candidate's potential; and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants in all sixteen branches of the Army.

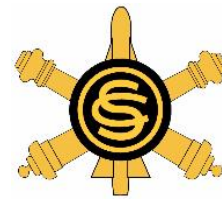
The OCS program at Benning originally had eight classes scheduled for FY 2018 with up to 160 in each class. In October 2017 the 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment (OCS), 199th Infantry Brigade Commander LTC Mathew B. Chitty reported that the end of year total for FY 2017 graduates would be approximately 920. The Army will be growing again soon, and OCS will play a direct role the battalion will add two additional companies in late February or early March that will begin training candidates in the summer.

## **Artillery OCS Polo Shirts – Third (maybe the last) Chance**

If you missed getting a polo shirt embroidered with an Artillery OCS logo the last couple years, we are offering them again. The shirts will be delivered to you by mail for a suggested contribution (non-tax deductible) of \$33.00. Description: Port Authority K500 Silk Touch Polo: 5-ounce, 65/35 poly/cotton pique with flat knit collar and cuffs, Metal buttons with dyed-to-match plastic rims, double-needle armhole seams and hem with side vents. You choose the logo you want, the shirt color (Red, Black or Olive Green) and size (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)



The logo is 3" x 2" on the left side of shirt



We will collect the shirt orders and have them embroidered locally. Since we are very busy with other things right now the shirts will not be shipped until after the reunion. If you order a shirt and plan to attend the reunion, we will have it ready for you to pick up when you sign in. Call or email us if you have any questions

We also have some of those iconic George Finley prints available. Mr. Finley has been kind enough to provide us with the "Greatest Killer on the Battlefield" and the "Artillery Lends Dignity to What Would Otherwise be a Vulgar Brawl." We can offer them for a suggested contribution (non-tax deductible) of \$25.00 dollars each delivered in a mailing tube to your address. The prints will be mailed to you as soon as we receive payment.

**We would like payments for shirt orders as soon as possible. Deadline for this round is March 31st. Payment for shirts or prints should be made by check to "Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter" and mailed to:**

**Artillery OCS Alumni  
PO Box 33612  
Fort Sill, OK 73503**

### **Alumni Chapter Scholarships for 2017**

Two \$1500 Scholarships were awarded during 2017, in partnership with the Field Artillery Association. Congratulations to these very deserving students as they continue their education:

- Christopher S. Moretti, Jr., a cadet at the Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina
- David Can-Woo Lee, a student at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

### **Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame - Nomination Deadline is March 2**

The deadline for receipt of nominations and the supporting paperwork for the May 11, 2018 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is March 2nd. Details on the nomination procedure and the required information can be found in the Hall of Fame section of the Chapter website at [www.artilleryocsalumni.com](http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com). Please take a few minutes to review the Hall of Fame criteria. You or some other worthy OCS alumni could be eligible. If you know of an OCS graduate deserving of the honor, please take the initiative and get started with the nomination process. We will be glad to help you. If you are a retired Colonel (O-6) or above and have not been inducted into the Hall of Fame, please let us know. We hope to recognize all graduates who meet the Hall of Fame criteria. We are not aware of the retired rank of all graduates or the remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions many have made to the nation. Contact us if you have any questions or need a hard copy of a Hall of Fame nomination packet mailed to you.

**It helps us to have the paperwork in our hands as soon as possible. A considerable amount of work goes into the process after it arrives here at Fort Sill. The completed packets go to the 428th Field Artillery Brigade Commander for review and signature.**

### **Congratulations to the 2017 Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Inductees**

(listed in class order)

LTC (R) Robert E. Bent 4-61

Mr. Raymond L. Shackelford, Jr. 5-66

COL (R) Richard L. Throckmorton 14-67

COL (R) Clyde L. Savell 27B-67

Mr. Wilmer R. Cooksey 28A-67

LTC (R) Edwin M. Potratz 4-68

COL (R) Charles R. Wise 503-68

Mr. William R. Whitworth 1-69

COL (R) Everett E. Hawthorne 10-70

### **2017 Alumni Reunion**

189 graduates and 134 guests attended the reunion. It was one of the largest gatherings in recent years. The weather cooperated. We were honored to have Mr. Harry Speight and his three grandsons (Derek, Patrick and Harrison Sharp) with us for the reunion. The Speight family donated a wonderful collection of military memorabilia and personal items from CPT Harry Speight (Class 64-43) who was KIA in Korea on 9/26/1950. We will be creating a display case in Durham Hall to properly honor CPT Speight.

### **LTG (Ret) Steven Boutelle (Class 4-70) visits Hall of Fame**

It's always great to have a distinguished graduate of the Artillery Officer Candidate School stop by for a visit and then follow up with a Thank You note and pictures. LTG (Ret) Steven Boutelle (Class 4-70) and his wife Tracy spent some time with us at the Hall of Fame last summer. He had just retired as Vice President of the Global Government Solutions Group at Cisco, Inc. Before joining Cisco, he served as the Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Army, responsible for the Army's worldwide use of information technology. He established the Army Knowledge Online portal and the Defense Knowledge Online portal to provide streamlined access to content for 6 million defense users.

### **Tax Deductible Contributions to the Alumni Chapter**

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc. is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c) (3) and all contributions are considered charitable donations. Contributions are used to help with the preservation and maintenance Building 3025 (Durham Hall), the Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Fame located in the last remaining WWII era wooden barracks on Fort Sill); defray Alumni Chapter operating expenses; promote educational programs and scholarship opportunities; and help grow the Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation. The Endowment Fund will eventually be the primary source of funds to continue our activities and maintain our legacy in perpetuity.

**To make a tax-deductible contribution please send a check or money order. Clearly designate that it is a contribution on the face of the check and send to:**

**Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Inc., PO Box 33612, Fort Sill, OK 73503**

### **Hall of Valor**

We are looking for copies of General Orders for our Fort Sill Artillery OCS Hall of Valor compilation. The Hall of Valor is an enhancement to the Hall of Fame and will include recipients of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star with "V", Air Medal with "V" and the Army Commendation Medal with "V". Individuals who were inducted into the Hall of Fame for having received the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross will also be recognized in the Hall of Valor.

If you are the recipient of an above-mentioned award, we would like a copy of the GO or citation or other documentation for inclusion in our project. We can use a good quality scan sent by email or a hard copy sent by mail. This is an ambitious project and will take some time to complete. Our current count on documented Silver Stars we have is 414 from WWII, 32 from Korea and 105 from Vietnam. We have just scratched the surface. If you know of anybody who should be included, please let us know.

Awards for valor are an important part of the legacy of the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill 1941-1973. You can help us document and preserve that history. Don't let it fade away.

### **CPT William D. Johnson, Jr. Class 53-54 Distinguished Service Cross**

We continue to research and recognize the heroism and exceptional achievements of graduates. Sometimes, it takes a long time to verify things.

Our efforts on verifying the source of commission for CPT William D. Johnson, Jr., date back to February 12, 2007, when we sent an SF-180 to the National Personnel Records Center requesting information. We followed up several times with no luck on getting any more information. The NPRC was very appreciative for us sending a copy of the DSC Citation (the archive technician told us they did not have a file for CPT Johnson), so they could not even tell us his source or date of commission. His serial numbers and Social Security numbers were of no use to us in the process. A very long story.

We have finally verified that the CPT William D. Johnson, Jr., who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for action on July 4, 1964 is a graduate of Fort Sill Artillery OCS Class 53-54. He will now be recognized in our Hall of Valor and officially inducted into the Hall of Fame. 85 Artillery OCS graduates have been verified as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (56 during World War II, four during the Korean War and 25 during Vietnam). 31 of the awards were posthumous.



### **Artillery OCS Website Will Soon be Vastly Improved**

At some point in time, not so far down the road, the primary information source about our history will be the Artillery OCS website. The website is currently available to everybody with an internet connection and there is already a load of information there and much more on the way.

Our records indicate that during the last 14 years, less than one-third of you reading this newsletter have been inside the building housing our Hall of Fame and the OCS historic collection. We are busy laying the groundwork to bring that experience to you and the rest of the world through a new and improved website experience. In time, a visitor to the website will be able to explore and view everything that is now on display inside the Hall of Fame and much more.

The new and improved website combined with our presence in the Artillery Museum and our partnership with the Field Artillery Association on the classroom addition to the Museum are positive steps in preserving our legacy and making our remarkable story more accessible to the public. And finally, the monument planned for Constitution Park near the Museum will be a fitting tribute to Fort Sill Officer Candidate School. It is all Good.

### **One Last Request for OCS Memories and Reflections (from Randy Dunham)**

We hope you might consider putting your OCS memories or reflections in writing to share with us, so we can include them in our ongoing compilation project of “The OCS Experience”. If you have already contributed to our effort, feel free to revise or add to what you previously provided. Everything that was submitted to us after the original “OCS Experience” was published in 2013, is on file and is being incorporated into the more polished and enhanced final version. The finished product is expected to be more than 600 pages and it will be the only comprehensive history of the Artillery Officer Candidate School. Your participation is appreciated.

OCS at Fort Sill has a long and interesting history to document and preserve: The first class started on July 10, 1941 and the last class graduated on July 6, 1973 and one person was there both days: LTG (Ret) Carl H. Jark.

**We need your input as soon as possible.** Unless we get the memories documented they will be lost forever. Memories fade, and time is flying by. The first few classes from 1968 graduated more than 50 years ago The Fort Sill Artillery Hall of Fame was established June 29, 1968 and has been in the current location since 1984.

We prefer that your contribution to our project be in the form of a word document. That is the most convenient and easiest for us to work with, but we will accept any format.

Pictures, slides and videos from your time in OCS are also needed to help document our OCS history. We are continuing to grow our photo library. I have been going through letters I sent home during my time in the Army and saved by my grandparents, parents and girlfriend. They really helped fill in gaps in my OCS memory bank and were very useful in putting together the OCS history timeline for the Artillery Museum.

### **Flag Raising at Fort Sill Honors OCS Graduate**

1LT Robert Ross (Class 25B-67) was honored at Fort Sill on February 8 when a special flag detail from 428th FA Brigade hoisted the colors in front of McNair Hall. The flag was then returned to Ross’s hometown and flown at the 1LT Ross Memorial Park at the Peabody (MA) Western Little League field on opening day. LT Ross was KIA in Vietnam on August 22, 1968. The flag was one of three flown across America in his honor. It was sent to us and a friend of OCS, LTC (Ret) Jerry Orr, who had served with LT Ross in Vietnam and was instrumental in arranging for the ceremony.

## **Endowment Fund**

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund (a Charitable Organization Endowment Fund with the Lawton Community Foundation) was established in 2005. In accordance with the fund agreement, the annual distribution (if not gifted back to help the fund grow) is for educational outreach, costs associated with the preservation of the OCS archives and maintenance of the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. The Fund Balance was \$163,832 on January 19, 2018.

To achieve maximum growth, the Board of Directors chose to gift back the annual distributions until this past year. The November 2017 distribution of \$6,531 was deposited into the Chapter Checking account and will be used for expenses associated with the current lease agreement, educational outreach and Hall of Fame expenses. It is anticipated that future distributions will help fund the yearly operating expenses associated with the Chapter website, educational outreach, our Fort Sill Museum presence and administration of the Hall of Fame.

## **On-Line Photo Gallery and Class Pictures**

### **Website Photo Gallery**

There are 138 albums with 5,636 photos available on the website:

58 separate albums with reunion highlights from 2004-2017.

**12 separate albums with class photos from 1941-73 (230 individual class photos).**

27 albums with photos from the daily life of candidates provided by graduates and 18 other albums of recent and historic pictures of Fort Sill, the FA and ADA museums, OCS training and other items of interest.

Here is the direct link to the Photo Gallery: <http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com/photos.html>

**\*\* Please consider scanning or sharing pictures with us from your days in OCS \*\***

### **Website Class Pictures (1951-73)**

We have 330 of the 348 class pictures that were taken, in our collection. These are the group photos that were taken until mid-1964 and the class photo collages (1964-73) made from the individual graduate photographs. Most of them are professionally mounted in frames and hanging in the Hall of Fame. A lot of the photographs are in poor condition and most of the class photos and collage pictures are mounted in large frames containing as many as six pictures. They are very difficult to dismantle, scan and piece back together. But that is the only way to get a good scan. So far, we have scanned 268 of them. Please be patient.

Here is the direct link to the Class Picture Gallery: <http://www.artilleryocsalumni.com/classpictures.html>

**We are still in need of the following class pictures:** 9-52, 32-53, 35-53, 41-53, 43-53, 49-54, 57-54, 58-54, 64-55, 65-55, 68-55, 1-56, 1-57, R1-63, R1A-65, 12-69, and 3-73. If you can help us, please let us know. Hard copies or good quality scans are appreciated. Please coordinate with us before you scan something. We welcome any class photos or other pictures from the 1940s, since there is little in our collection from that time.

**Thank You to everybody who helped us this past year by providing missing pictures.**

**Those of you who will soar with eagles in the morning should not hoot with owls at night"**  
***LTG Carl H. Jark First Commandant of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School***  
***at the graduation of Class 4-73 the Final OCS Class at Fort Sill on July 6, 1973***

## **Gen (Ret) Jack N. Merritt (Class 35-53) Died on January 4, 2018**

Only 218 individuals have attained the rank of 4-star general while on active duty in the US Army. On December 1, 1985, General Jack N. Merritt (Artillery OCS Class 35-53) became the 127th Individual to reach the rank while on active duty in the US Army. He was the first of five Artillery OCS graduates to attain the 4-Star Rank. The first Army 4-star general was Ulysses S. Grant with a date of rank July 25, 1866.

## **Noteworthy**

COL (Ret) Doug Middleton (Class 8-65), was elected National Senior Vice-Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart in 2017.

Crockett Elementary in Midland, Texas, was officially unveiled as “General Tommy Franks Elementary” during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 24, 2017.

## **Contact List and Yearly Mailings**

We only have contact information on a fraction of the 49,000 graduates of the Fort Sill Officer Candidate School. We know a large percentage are deceased. We have done our best to maintain communication with you. This year we are sending out 4,200 hard copies of the yearly Newsletter-Reunion Information notification. The cost of printing and postage is significant, but we know many of you are not hooked up on the internet or do not use email. There is no perfect solution - our alumni are anywhere from 63 to 100 years old and some use the internet daily and some do not.

We want to remain in contact with all of you, but in many cases, we are sending the yearly mailings by postal mail to folks who have been gone for years. Our correspondence is meant to keep you informed about what we are doing to preserve the legacy of the OCS program at Fort Sill and a Hall of Fame that will perpetuate that history. Hopefully, this will not be the last time a hard copy of the newsletter/reunion invitation goes out by postal mail to every person on our mailing list. We have held off moving to a digital only version because we know many people who do not use the internet like getting the yearly update and others who do use the internet still like having something in their hand to read.

We get notes letting us know we can stop sending the newsletters and invitations because the recipient is no longer with us. In many cases the intended recipient has been gone for several years. In those cases, we are just throwing money away and the mailing is ending up going into the trash can.

There is a problem with email too. We lose contact with many alumni each year. Notifying us of an email address change is obviously not at the top of everybody’s list. We also realize that many inboxes are filled with junk mail and sometimes things we send end up directly in your Junk e-mail box, regardless of your wishes. We will continue our efforts to keep in contact with everybody on our list.

## **Facebook**

Facebook is not for everybody, but it can be a very positive experience, if you focus on the good. We encourage you to follow our Facebook page. We post pictures from the OCS archives, historical information, videos and Fort Sill happenings on a regular basis. If you go to the page and click the LIKE button below the cover page photo, our future posts should appear on your Facebook news feed.

***Quick the link to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/artilleryocsalumni>***

**\*\*\*\*\* Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter \*\*\*\*\***

Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter  
PO Box 33612  
Fort Sill, OK 73503-0612

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2000  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Look Inside: Artillery OCS Alumni Reunion - May 9-12, 2018**  
**Alumni Chapter News and Comment**



**\*\*\*The 13th Annual Artillery OCS Alumni Golf Outing\*\*\***

**0800 HOURS WEDNESDAY MAY 9, 2018 AT THE FORT SILL GOLF COURSE**

**\$1.00 REGISTRATION (PAID IN ADVANCE TO KEEP TRACK OF PLAYERS)**  
**\$25.00 COURSE FEE (INCLUDES GREEN FEE AND CART) PAID AT GOLF COURSE**