

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### FRIENDS' 2008 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON



*Friends' Luncheon 2007*

*Below: Mr. Hal Littrel, Brig. Gen. Phil Caine, and new Friends' Board Member Susan Stone Woodward*



On May 6, 2008, The Friends will hold its annual Board of Directors' meeting and luncheon. The board meeting will begin at 9:30 in the Academy Falcon Club (formerly the Officers' Club). The luncheon will also be in the Falcon Club beginning with a social hour at 11:30 followed by lunch at 12:00. We are very fortunate to have as our speaker for the occasion the Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins. General Desjardins graduated from the Academy in 1980, the first class with female cadets. Since then she has served in a variety of command and staff positions prior to becoming the Commandant in December 2007. She has commanded an air refueling squadron, an operations group and, just prior to her assignment to the Academy, the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina. Her staff assignments have

been at major command, Air Force headquarters, and Joint Chiefs of Staff levels, including a tour as deputy military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force. This is the first time we have had the Commandant of Cadets as our speaker and are looking forward to her comments.

Last year we had a large turnout for the luncheon and hope that we can have record attendance this year. The gathering is always a great place to meet old friends and learn more about The Friends' activities. The deadline for reserving a place at the luncheon is April 29. For your convenience, a reservation form is enclosed in this newsletter. Currently visitors can enter the Academy through both the North and South gates without any special access requirements. We hope to see you all at the luncheon.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In conjunction with the celebration of its 20th anniversary at the annual luncheon in May 2007, The Friends published a brochure highlighting the many contributions the organization has made to the Air Force Academy Library over the last two decades.

That important work has continued during the past year. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Dr. Phillip Meilinger has reported significant progress in researching and writing the biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon. The Friends has also maintained an active oral history program. It includes interviews with individuals who have made historically significant contributions to the Academy, and the transcription of interviews with members of the American Eagle Squadrons of World War II.

The Friends are particularly proud of its support of the multi-year heritage project to gather material pertaining to the lives of the 170 Air Force Academy graduates whose names are inscribed on the Academy's Graduate War Memorial Wall. Additionally, in a collaborative effort with the Academy's Department of English and Fine Arts, The Friends has placed the cadet creative writing publication *Icarus* on its website. The arrangement has given this excellent publication, showcasing the talents of our cadets, broad accessibility.

Finally, I am delighted that the Commandant, Brig. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins has agreed to be the guest speaker at the annual luncheon on May 6, 2008. We keenly anticipate her remarks on the current state of the Academy and the challenges that lie ahead.

## BIOGRAPHY OF LT. GEN. HUBERT R. HARMON "THE FATHER OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY"

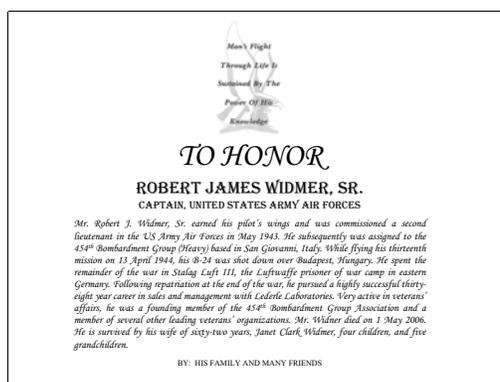
In a recent letter to The Friends, Dr. Phillip S. Meilinger writes that he has made excellent progress in his research into the life and military career of General Harmon. Commissioned by The Friends to write the biography in 2006, Dr. Meilinger reports that he has taken General Harmon's story to 1954 and is looking forward to continuing his research into Harmon's role in the origin, establishment, and early operation of the Academy. In

preparing the biography, Dr. Meilinger is drawing heavily on the rich collection of official archives, oral histories, and the Harmon family papers that are housed within the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library. Scheduled for publication in 2009, this important biography will augment the institutional history of the Academy significantly.

*General Harmon signing General Order No. 1 which activated the Academy at Lowry AFB on August 14, 1954*



## THE FRIENDS' HONOR BOOK PROGRAM



For those wishing to honor someone in a very special manner in a location readily accessible to cadets and McDermott Library visitors, The Friends offers a unique commemorative program. For a donation of at least \$50 a handsome certificate will be placed in The Friends' Honor Book that is displayed in the Clark Special

Collections Branch of the Library.

This is an ideal way to give special, perpetual recognition to classmates, fellow crew members, a friend, a team, or an organization of special importance to you. The honoree(s) need not be military or deceased to be commemorated with a certificate. To

date, well over 1,000 individuals, units and organizations have been commemorated. Among the honorees are veterans who have served their country in the nation's wars; individuals who have served the nation, the Air Force, or the Academy in other ways, Academy cadets, graduates, and family members; and Academy faculty and staff and members of their families.

At left is an example of the certificate. Specific details on this unique Academy program and other examples of Honor Book Certificates are available on The Friends' website, [www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com). Specifics can also be obtained by contacting The Friends using the form enclosed in the newsletter.

We encourage you to consider participating in our Honor Book Program!

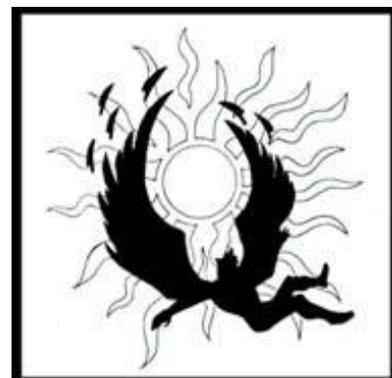
## CADET PUBLICATION PLACED ON THE FRIENDS' WEBSITE

In collaboration with the Academy's Department of English and Fine Arts, The Friends has placed the cadet publication *Icarus* on its website. Col. Kathleen Harrington, head of the department, expressed her appreciation to President Clark stating "I want to thank you and The Friends for hosting the Academy's student creative writing publication, *Icarus* on your website. Your generosity . . . has saved us thousands of dollars in printing

costs and allowed the magazine to reach a world wide audience. . . . The student editors worked hours to design the inaugural electronic edition; thank you for giving them a venue for this publication."

To see the latest artistic endeavors of our cadets, including selections of art, poetry, prose, and photography, please go to:

[www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com).





## A FRIENDS' HERITAGE PROJECT, THE USAFA GRADUATE WAR MEMORIAL, DEBUTS ON LINE

Since early 2006, a team of four Academy graduates has been immersed in the painstaking work involved in a multi-year heritage project supported by The Friends. The project's goal is to assemble all of the available material dealing with the adult lives of the 170 Air Force Academy graduates whose names are currently inscribed on the Academy's Graduate War Memorial Wall. The commemorated graduates span the class of 1959 through the class of 2001. On October 24, 1964, Valmore W. Bourque, '60, was the first of those to die in combat; and Michael W. Butler, '76, the most recent on May 12, 2007.

Team members, who spent countless volunteer hours on the project, are Jock Schwank, '60 (Friends' Treasurer); Andi Biancur, '60; Dick Sexton, '60; and, Dick Coppock, '61. Building on

original work accomplished by Doug Johnson, Chief, Systems Management Office, McDermott Library, the team has collected, scanned, electronically filed, and indexed more than 15,000 pages of written and photographic documentation on the honored graduates. There is no central location for information about these graduates nor is much of the existing information readily accessible. Therefore, the team relied on exceptional cooperation from the staffs of the Academy's Association of Graduates and the McDermott Library to make the project a reality.

On July 1, 2008, all of the collected material can be accessed electronically on The Friends' website, [www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com). It will be available there for study and reflection by members of the Cadet Wing, graduates, family members, and

researchers interested in the lives of those graduates holding a place of honor on the War Memorial Wall. It will also be available in hard copy in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The team has established procedures for updating the files as more information on these special graduates is acquired from additional sources and as the names of other graduates are added to the War Memorial Wall.

We encourage supporters of The Friends to visit its website after July 1 and enjoy the fruits of this historic project. The Friends involvement in the War Memorial Wall project reflects our long-standing commitment to help record and preserve the Academy's heritage. We believe it will have a lasting impact - indeed as long as the Academy exists.

### UPDATE FROM THE McDERMOTT LIBRARY

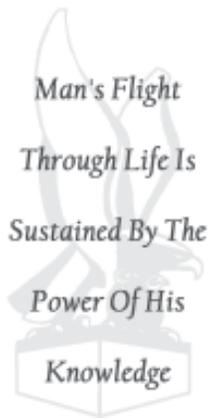
Thanks to The Friends, Martha Stanton sent flight logs from Yvonne "Pat" Pateman which will be added to the former's extensive WWII WASP collection. Robert Baron donated twenty-nine items on America's early space program, which will also be a great resource for cadets. Col. Barrett Taylor sent a large "Toby Jug" of a falconer made by Royal Doulton, a striking addition to the Library's falconry collection. With General Clark's help, there were several donations to the Stalag Luft III collections including a charming drawing by Bram van der Stok, the Dutch POW who successfully escaped from German-occupied territory during "the Great Escape."

Special Collections is supporting numerous research efforts. One of these is by members of the Class of

1959 and sculptor Mario Chioto, who has been hired by the class to create a memorial statue of General Hubert Harmon. Other recent researchers in Special Collections have been Sally McLaughlin, daughter of a Stalag Luft III POW, and Col. Joseph Codispoti, Chief, Logistics Readiness Division, Scott AFB, who published an article on Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Knerr in *ER*, the quarterly journal of the Logistics Officer Association. Colonel Codispoti considers General Knerr a hero and foundational leader of the Air Force and is preparing a second article. Cadet research topics included Honor Code history (using interviews from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary oral histories), American reconnaissance pilots in China during WWII, and Stalingrad snipers.

Security restrictions are still in force

for the cadet area. As indicated in earlier newsletters: **DoD cardholding visitors** who are not assigned to an agency within the cadet area will be issued a 1-day Temporary (T) or Visitor (V) badge and 1-day parking pass in exchange for a driver's license at the cadet entry gates near Sijan Hall and the Fieldhouse; DoD cardholders may not escort non-DoD cardholding visitors. **Non-DoD cardholding visitors** must be sponsored into the cadet area by prior phone call to Mary Elizabeth Ruwell at (719) 333-4674 or Ed Scott at (719) 333-2590. They can meet visitors at the North Gate parking lot, the Visitors Center or the Academy Falcon Club (formerly the Officers' Club). Because of security concerns, groups larger than five must make arrangements at least two weeks in advance of their visit.



## THE FRIENDS NEED YOU!

In the near future The Friends have planned to complete several very important projects. We need your financial support to help us make them a reality. Yes, we received major endowment funding from the estate of General Yudkin. However, the earnings from this endowment will not fully fund these projects. Your support has enabled us to accomplish major projects in the past and we continue to need your assistance to make our future efforts successful.

As soon as financial support is assured, we expect to fund the following projects:

- Video tape and print oral history interviews with at least four key individuals in the Academy's history annually. Although many of the initial interviews focused on the founding of the Academy and its very early years, we are now interviewing individuals who were central figures in the Academy's subsequent history.
- Publish General Harmon's biography. Although the contract to write the biography has been funded using the Yudkin endowment, the publication of this important book has not been funded.
- Transcribe video interviews with several former commanders of the USAF Academy Preparatory School.
- Conserve/preserve/digitize a number of very important holdings in the Library's Clark Special Collections Branch. Many of these documents are in a fragile condition. Action must be taken so that they can be made available for use.
- Fund a special line of credit account that the Director of the Academy Library can use to purchase rare or unusual books that he otherwise would be unable to add to the Library's holdings.
- Print and bind the transcriptions of interviews of World War II American Eagle Squadron members.
- Produce an up-to-date catalog of the Gimbel collection that would be available worldwide online as well as in hard copy.
- Enhance The Friends' website. The addition of *Icarus, The Cadet Journal of the Arts*, the Doolittle photographs, and information about the Graduate War Memorial broadened the scope of our website and demonstrated the wide range of materials that can be made available for worldwide viewing.

These special projects and our continuing work will provide much needed long-term enhancements for the Library. We need your help to accomplish these undertakings, which range in cost from a few thousand dollars to over a hundred thousand dollars. An unrestricted gift of cash is the easiest and most immediately beneficial way to help support the Library. However gifts of assets, securities, and bequests are also welcome. A contribution in any amount will help our continuing efforts. The Friends is a tax-exempt, charitable 501(c)(3) foundation and your donation may be tax deductible.

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# WWW.FRIENDS.USAFALIBRARY.COM

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