

5 June 2015

Memorandum For: Class of 1970

Subject: 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion After-Action Report

1. **Background:** After being a member of the planning committees for a number of prior Class of 1970 Reunions, I agreed to assist and eventually take over from classmate Jim McHone for the 45<sup>th</sup> reunion. Jim, as you know, was unfortunately in failing health, eventually passing away on 1 April 2015. Jim and I had brought on classmate Pat Thornton about one year ago, joining with Joan Emmer, who was contracted to be our Reunion coordinator. The basic agenda for the reunion was finalized in December of 2014 and approved by the class executive committee.
2. **General:** 225 Classmates and Widows, and their guests attended the Class of 1970's 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion from Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pre-reunion activities included golf organized by Jim Crawford and a two day "first ever" bike ride from the NYC 911 Memorial to West Point organized by Rick Thibodeau and Dave Wagner. The **final Reunion Agenda** is at **Enclosure 1**. Highlights of the reunion included: Thursday night reception with entertainment by the "Happy Daze"; Friday Luncheon Cruise of NYC; Saturday Memorial Service with Class Glee Club support; Saturday Dinner Dance with entertainment by Tommy Sullivan of "Brooklyn Bridge" fame. Tommy Maertens coordinated entertainment support; Guy Drab coordinated the Memorial Service with Bill Spracher organizing the Glee Club support. AOG and the Reunion Committee conducted a post-reunion survey and a summary of the results is at **Enclosure 2, Summary of Reunion Survey** (details available upon request). As stated, Joan Emmer and her EMR Agency provided us excellent reunion coordination, planning and execution.
3. **Details:** List of Attendees is at **Enclosure 3**. Event Attendance Totals are at **Enclosure 4**. All reunion documents and files have been retained by the planning committee (available upon request).
4. **Finances:** The reunion suffered a net loss of \$1899.59, primarily due to a shortfall in expected attendance at the Friday Luncheon Cruise (contracted for 300, 263 attended). (NB: The reunion committee believes that some of this shortfall was caused by a problem with the Directorate of Academy Advancement (DAA)'s scheduling and the Superintendent's briefing, originally planned to take place at the Reunion Hotel, and later moved to USMA, and then finally back to the Reunion hotel. This resulted in classmates opting for travel to West Point on Friday in lieu of the luncheon cruise). It should also be noted that the registration fee was reduced slightly from the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion in an attempt to keep attendee costs down.
5. **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Planning:** (NB: **Enclosure 5– List of Classmates who Want to be Part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee** and **Enclosure 6 – List of Classmates who Want to be Part of the Class Giving Committee** attached): Based on the survey results, the Executive Committee gave the following guidance:

- a. Although there is a wellspring of class desire for a Fall reunion centered around a football weekend, plan on the 50<sup>th</sup> being at the traditional pre-Graduation week time.
- b. Prepare a survey with supporting explanation of pros/cons/issues on Spring versus Fall reunions, traditional 50<sup>th</sup> reunion activities and 50-Year Affiliation requirements to gather the class desires and garner support on this question. See **Enclosure 7, Class of 1965's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Agenda** for a sample of a traditional 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.
- c. Work toward a secondary, mini-reunion on a football weekend to satisfy the class desire for such an event.
- d. Announce reunion planning items, considerations and rationale early and often, beginning about a year from now.
- e. For the 50<sup>th</sup>, increase activities at West Point. Include a comprehensive, guided tour as a highlight event. Work to find closer housing accommodations and consider making the reunion HQs at the Thayer Hotel and/or Cullum Hall.

6. **Questions:** Contact below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Monaco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F" and "M".

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Enclosure 1 – Reunion Agenda

Enclosure 2 – Summary of Reunion Survey

Enclosure 3 – Attendee List

Enclosure 4 – Event Totals

Enclosure 5 – List of Classmates who Want to be Part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee

Enclosure 6 – List of Classmates who Want to be Part of the Class Giving Committee

Enclosure 7 – Class of 1965's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Agenda