



# Florida Military School

## Alumni Association



Vol. 6 Issue 1

February 2009



### **“Return of the Knights” Reunion**

Only **6** months and counting !!!!

#### **From the President’s Pen -**

Max Elliott '58

FMSA activity has significantly increased since the last newsletter. The 2009 Reunion is responsible for the lions share. The FMS Book is really coming along. The first draft has been reviewed and work is progressing. Thanks to all that submitted input for us! The pictures and articles, as well as your memories, have all been helpful. We are currently checking out publishing options and costs. More on that later in this newsletter.

**E.J. Jones (1965)** has been invaluable in preparing our reunion directory. He has set up an Excel worksheet for us and loaded a ton of data into it. Now we need to load another couple of tons into it!

We have been working with the Holiday Inn Express on setting up event details. Thanks to all of you that have so far volunteered to help out with various events. Thanks also to those that are submitting items for raffle, auction, goodie bags, or the FMS museum. Your donations will be especially helpful. Some were specifically for the book and some general to be used in all phases.

I have had so many recent FMS contacts that I don't have room to list them all. Thank you all for your contact and input. We have located about 5 more cadets. Unfortunately, we also learned about four more deceased cadets. **Peter Venos (1958)** reported the 2009 death of **George Georgiadis (1959)**. **Phil Howell (1970)** relayed that his brother, **David Howell (1961)**, died in 2001. **William Curnutte (1965)** informed us that his bother, **Donald Curnutte (1965)**

passed away in 2008. One cadet, **Tim Blue (1966)**, emailed and asked to be removed from our list and not be contacted in the future.

Between newsletters, if you have access, please keep up the progress of the **FMS Reunion 2009 – The Return of the Knights!** on our official web site ([www.fms-assn.org](http://www.fms-assn.org)). Also note the wonderful job that our webmaster, **Asa Dean (1960)** has done and continues to do!

We are repeating our call for assistance with this reunion. We still have a real need for volunteers, donations, sponsorships, and patrons. See below for details. We want this event to be special for everyone!

I know that Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 seems a long time away, but, it is now **LESS THAN SIX MONTHS AWAY!** Start making plans, **MARK** the dates on your calendar, make your Holiday Inn reservations and register with FMSA!

**FMSA Official Website:**  
[www.fms-assn.org](http://www.fms-assn.org)

## **FMS COFFEE TABLE BOOK**

**(“The History of FMS”)**

**The book is a reality,** or at least 85% of the way to being a reality. In spite of all our aborted efforts and obstacles we finally have something on paper. The first draft is finished and we are now in the process of doing the final editing and proofing. There are lots of photos and comments from various cadets over the years. It looks like it is going to be something we can all be proud to leave as our legacy.

Now we have reached a decision point. As it stands, we can finance most of the cost of the book without too much trouble, if we publish it entirely in black and white. We do have a selection of nice color photos that could be included in color. The big problem is cost. To publish the book with any color at all is almost double the cost.

The only way we can even consider publishing in color is with the support of patrons. If we can raise enough money to cover the additional cost then we will do the color. So, you might say that the "ball is in your court". We will need to make our final printing decision by the first of March to ensure having the final book in time for reunion. So, now is the time. If you would like to be a patron and have your name included on the "Patrons" page, we need to hear from you soon. So far we have had a couple of patrons step forward, but we have a long way to go.

Should we not get enough to print in color, but receive enough financial support, we will try adding a color dust jacket to the book, with some good color photos. Let us hear from you now.

**The Diamond Patrons** – donations of \$1000 or more

**The Platinum Patrons** - donations of \$500 to \$999.

**The Gold Patrons** - donations of \$250 – \$499

**The Silver Patrons** – donations of \$100 - \$249

**The General Patrons** – donations of \$20 to \$99

## **CHALLENGE:**

An anonymous donor has come forward and is willing to match any one donation toward the publication of the coffee table book up to \$1000. With that be matching **your** donation?

This coffee table book will be a living memory for our school.

# **ANNOUNCING: FMS Reunion 2009**

## **"The Return of the Knights"**

**July 30, 31, August 1, 2  
(Thurs. – Sunday)**

### **Reunion Registration fee:**

**\$60\*** per cadet and **\$40** for guests and spouses

We have not increased the registration fee since our first reunion in an attempt to keep the reunion affordable to all. The \$60 per cadet includes a tote bag complete with a copy of the current Cadet Directory, a copy of the coffee table book, program and ticket for the buffet Saturday night. The \$40 spouse or friend fee does not include the books or bag. Each attendee will receive a reunion nametag.

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## **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Please do not confuse your hotel reservation with your reunion registration. They are not the same thing. You must make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel, but your reunion registration needs to be made with FMSA. A registration form is included for your convenience. We have already received several and the hotel reports that many have called in for their hotel reservations. Don't delay in making your reservations so that you do not get closed out.

## Holiday Inn Express –

### Daytona Beach, FL

(note the change of venue)

**2620 International Speedway Blvd.**

**(I-95 exit 261A south or exit 261 north)**



#### Room Rates:

**Double:** \$59 per night plus tax

**King:** \$59 per night plus tax

**Suite:** \$89 per night plus tax

A block of rooms is reserved for FMSA so be sure to mention FMS when making your reservations. Holiday Inn Express will honor the rates for three days prior and three days after the scheduled reunion if you would like to make it an extended vacation.

#### **Director of Sales: Lillian Hess**

(Formerly our contact at Holiday Inn Deland)

Phone: 386-258-6333, or

[doshiexpress@elitehospitality.com](mailto:doshiexpress@elitehospitality.com)

Amenities include: Complimentary Full Breakfast Buffet daily, Business Center, Olympic Swimming Pool, 6 Lighted Tennis courts and fitness room. In room coffee-maker, ironing board, hair dryer, complimentary wireless high speed access, and private balcony. A **Free shuttle** is available from nearby Daytona International Airport.

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**ONLY 6 months to go –**

**Bigger and better**

**And the last one for four years ....**

**So plan to attend...**

**Don't miss the FUN!!!**

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## REUNION

## REGISTRATION–

A downloadable form is available on the FMSA website, or you may use the one included in this newsletter. All registrations must be received **by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2009**. **Late registrations after June 30<sup>th</sup>, will include a \$20 late fee.** **Make your reservations EARLY!!!!** No refunds available after July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Reunion Registration fee:

**\$60\*** per cadet and **\$40 each** for guests and spouses

\* Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book.

Additional copies available for order.

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## HELP WANTED –

In these trying times, that is a sign that gets attention more than ever. And we are hoping that it will get yours. Seriously, we do need help. This reunion can not be a “two man” job. Yes, we have done it several times and it does get easier each time but we still need others to assist.

There are so many areas that we can use your assistance. Some people have stepped forward already to volunteer but there are still jobs that need you.

- **Registration** – short shifts, could be combined with hospitality. We need a coordinator, and people to work the shifts.
- **Greeters** - Jim Turner will coordinate this group who will act as our official greeters . Volunteers needed to assist him on Thursday and Friday.
- **Raffle** – selling tickets, conducting, etc. Trudy Bulat has volunteered to be coordinator. This lady with her “Purple Pumpkin” was hard to say “No” to at our last gathering. She has several fund raising activities planned and would gladly accept help.
- **Duck Race** – selling tickets, assisting with the race. David Tooker did such an outstanding job last time that we have recruited him again. This year it will be bigger

and better and remember the prize is \$\$\$\$. He will need assistants to pull it all off.

- **Ghost Tour** – Harry Silvis has prepared our Ghost Tour posters, but he can use help in the set up, etc.
- **Hospitality** - shifts maintaining the room. We do need a coordinator to oversee the operation of this room. And we also need hosts and hostesses to man a shift or two during the weekend. (**NOTE:** any class group that would like to sponsor any hospitality event would be welcome.)
- **Memorial Service** –Thornton Ridinger is coordinating this event. He will need help with the set up, and people to participate in the service, or to give out the programs, etc.
- **Sports** - a coordinator to work with Lillian Hess in organizing the following activities, plus others to coordinate the specific sport.
  - **Tennis** – organize matches, etc.
  - **Golf** – organize pairings, etc.
- **Ladies Coffee Hour** – A coordinator is desperately needed for this special event. Other hostesses to assist are needed as well. (**NOTE:** a class group might want to sponsor this event.- . provide coffee, and get doughnuts or cookies donated, etc)
- **Meet & Greet coordinator** – A coordinator is needed to oversee sign-ups and set up for these sessions with the Colonels. The place is arranged, but sign up for the various times is needed. Some work on logistics as well.
- **Goodie Bags** – someone to gather items and prepare the bags. The gathering should be done prior to the reunion and perhaps some local cadets could handle the preparation of the bags, so they are ready to distribute by Thursday afternoon when registration begins. Items are also needed.
- **Auctioneer** – Lee Hansen did such an outstanding job that we have enlisted him again for our Auction Sat. night.
- **Auction** –Prior to the reunion, we need a Coordinator, and possibly assistants, to gather or solicit items for the auction. The possibilities are endless...single items, perhaps a weekend in someone's timeshare or beach house; items from

businesses, etc. The auction can only be fun and productive if we have good things to auction.

FMSA operates entirely by donations and monies we can raise with various fundraising activities, such as the Raffle, Duck Race and Auction. Without those activities we would have ended our last reunion well in the red. But thanks to you all, we had enough money to keep the association operating for these past few years and allow us to continue publishing the newsletters.. The reunion itself is not a money making event. In truth, we are really lucky if we can break anywhere near even after all the unforeseen incidentals are covered. We would have been almost \$4000 in the red after the 2006 Reunion if it hadn't been for the results of the various fundraisers at the reunion.

After much discussion, it has been decided that another sword will be made available as a Raffle item. So for those of you that missed out last time, you now will have another opportunity to possess your very own sword.

Several events at the 2006 reunion were sponsored by individuals or class groups. The D.J., the cocktail hour, the coffee hour and the videotaping of the weekend were some of the events sponsored by cadets. This time we would welcome sponsors for the Hospitality Room, and the Ladies Coffee Hour. The cocktail hour this time will be a cash bar, but if a group wanted to sponsor cocktail nibbles that would be nice. We will use a DJ for our Saturday night music and a sponsor is always welcome for that as well.

It seems we are always asking for help but we are totally a non-profit organization and have been kept afloat only by your generous support.

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## **SPECIAL 50<sup>th</sup> Classes'**

### **'57, '58, '59, '60, '61**

### **ACTIVITIES**

After arrival on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, we hope everyone will take time to relax, mingle and get re-acquainted. This would be a good time for the representatives of the respective classes to plan a special activities for each class will be planned through out.

Our cocktail gathering will be at 6 pm at Gene's (see daily schedule) followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Rather than a set banquet, you will be able to order what you would like off the regular menu. This will be our main event for the reunion classes.

# 2009 REUNION

## Schedule of Events

On Friday morning and early afternoon, arrangements are being made for us to participate in breakfast at the Sugar Mill at DeLeon Springs and the opportunity to take a short boat trip on the river. The boat accommodates 21 people per trip so it will make several trips. The cost is \$12 per person. The visit to the Sugar Mill is fun and you get to cook your own pancakes right at your table. For those who wish, you can also have a swim in the Springs.

Time will still be available for visits to the FMS Museum, downtown DeLand and the former campus before heading back to the Holiday Inn to join the others who are arriving for the general reunion.

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **December 31, 2008**

At the annual meeting, a cash balance of @2,937.91 was reported.

From that date through December 31, 2008 there have been the following transactions:

Deposits: \$80.00

one donation of	\$20.00
one registration of	\$60.00

Withdrawals: \$568.39

museum acquisitions of	\$72.13
newsletter expenses of	\$416.28
reunion supplies of	\$79.98

This leaves an end-of-year balance of \$2,449.52

Respectfully submitted,  
Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

### THURSDAY, July 30<sup>th</sup>

**Focus Day  
of the**

**50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Classes**

### 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Classes –

**1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961**

It is hoped that special activities for each class will be planned through out the day by respective class representatives. Members of the various classes are being contacted for these activities.

**GENERAL REGISTRATION** for the Return of the Knights reunion will be available Thursday for the convenience of those arriving early.

There are any number of relaxation activities in the vicinity. For the sports minded there are six tennis courts on site, and golf is available at nearby Indigo Lakes or LPGA courses. Some may wish to relax by the pool, visit the beach, or take a boat trips in Deland or the Daytona Beach area. Deep Sea fishing can also be arranged. If shopping is your interest there are the near by Volusia Mall and other centers. Daytona USA and the International Speedway are close by, and also the Dog Track and Gaming (Poker) Room.

Those wishing to venture a bit further may wish to explore the Deland area, visit FMS Museum and the old school site, or even venture off to Disney World, Sea World or the Spaceport. All are in easy distance from your hotel location.

### Special 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Banquet

A special banquet for the reunion classes is being planned for this evening. All of the reunion classes will meet together at **Gene's Steak House** at **6:30 p.m.** for a cocktail hour prior to the dinner at **7p.m.**

This was a popular watering place for many of these classes and the food is outstanding. Gene's is only 4 miles west of the Inn and carools can be arranged. The meal will be a "pay as

you go” affair to allow for individual tastes. A separate room is being provided for our group. It is hoped that as many of the class members as possible will attend. You only celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> once!

## **FRIDAY – July 31<sup>st</sup>**

**GENERAL REGISTRATION** will be available during the day. Attendees will receive their nametags and goodie bags at this location. We are seeking volunteers to work the shifts at the registration desk.

This day is ideal for the many relaxation activities we listed for Thursday or for just sitting and visiting with old friends, and maybe some new ones.

The late afternoon/early evening time is a great chance for a group to sponsor a cocktail party or various groups may wish to plan an outing or dinner together. We purposely did not over structure this evening for the convenience of those who wish to relax and visit.

## **SATURDAY – August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Registration** will continue for those late arrivals.

**A Ladies Coffee Hour** is planned for **10:00 a.m.** in the Hospitality Room. This will be a time for the ladies to visit and we will have a special gift bag for them at this time.

We have changed the **MEMORIAL SERVICE** to a new day this time. We will hold our service at the church that adjoins the Holiday Inn Express at **11 a.m.** We did this so that it would not interfere with their Sunday activities and we felt the location would add dignity to the service as well.

In response to the requests that many made at the 2006 reunion, we will attempt to arrange a series of **“Meet & Greet” gatherings.** These will be small group visits with the Colonels and other faculty members. These will be held in The Board Room and the Upper Deck area at various times on Saturday and available on a sign up basis so as not to overload any session. The sign up sheet will be available at registration table.

**Lunch** will be at your leisure. There are so many possibilities to choose from so everyone should be happy, from fast food, to more formal restaurant fare.



After lunch you may wish to continue the relation activities or plan to join us for a **POOL PARTY** from **2 – 5 pm.** A cash bar will be available.



The culmination of the activity will be our infamous **DUCK RACE.** There will be more ducks available for purchase this year and the course is longer so we should have an exciting race. Remember it is to help defray our expenses as well as for fun.



After an hour and a half break for those that wish a quick rest and refresh, we will return for a **COCKTAIL HOUR** – by the pool from **6:30 – 7p.m.**

**NO** formal banquet this year, stuck at crowded tables. Instead we will have a **Buffet by the Pool** beginning at **7 p.m.** and casual dress is encouraged. Even bathing suits will be acceptable for those who wish to continue enjoying the lovely pool.

We will have **dancing** in the poolside Indigo Lakes Room, with music provided by a DJ. During this evening of fun and socializing, we will also hold our socializing, and our famous **Auction**. We are soliciting items for this auction now so if you have something you can contribute please let us know. This auction helps us “pay the bills” and also funds our newsletter for the future.

## **SUNDAY – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

After a leisurely breakfast, we will gather in the Indigo Lakes Room at **10 a.m.** for our **Business Meeting**. An election of new officers will be part of the business. These officers will be installed at the Annual Meeting in October.

Following the General Business, and Election of New Board Members and Officers, we will have our **RAFFLE** drawing. More details about this meeting and the raffle will be released in the next newsletter.

Our final official activity will be a **FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR** in our hospitality room. There will also be one last opportunity to visit our displays and make a purchase of a piece of FMS memorabilia provided by our official vender, Harry Silvis ('65).

For those departing – have a safe trip! **We'll see you in 2012 !**

To those fortunate ones who are able to extend their vacation - ENJOY and we'll **see you in 2012** as well!!

## **Reunion Notes –**

**FMS GHOST TOURS** will be available throughout the reunion in the Lobby of The Indigo Lakes Room by the pool.

**A STATIC DISPLAY and SALES AREA** will be in the Verandah Room next to the Hospitality Room. This area will be available throughout the reunion at posted times. If you have something you would like to display during the reunion this is the area to place it. As before, we will have various CDs and DVDs running and available for sale.

A larger **HOSPITALITY ROOM** will be open in the Plantation Room overlooking the tennis courts and pool. This is a great place to gather and visit or relax with friends throughout the reunion. Hosts and hostesses are needed to staff this room for various shifts.

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## **Attention – Cadets of “65,'66,'67**

A special dinner gathering is being arranged for Friday night. Harold Kaniaris is presently working on securing a nearby location and further details will be available in the next newsletter. It will be a relaxed affair with shorts the order of the day and good food and lots of just reminiscing old times. If you have any questions, Harold's phone number is 800-639-3673 at work or 386-673-5502 at home.

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**NOTE:** A **book order form** will be included in our next newsletter for those who will not be attending the reunion but would like to receive a copy of the **Coffee Table Book**.

We will need an accurate count of the books needed prior to going to press, so this will be the only opportunity for ordering your copy. Attendees of the reunion will receive one copy as part of their registration. Additional copies of the **2009 Directory** will also be available for order.

# **REUNION 2009 REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Names: \_\_\_\_\_

(as you want them to appear on nametags)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee:** (\$60 per FMS cadet and \$40 for each guest prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.) ( Late fee of \$20 after June 30<sup>th</sup>) (Each cadet registration includes a copy of the FMS Coffee Table Book and a 2009 FMSA Directory)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60    \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ included

**\$20 Deposit per person reserves your places. Final payment due by July 1, 2009.**  
**No refunds after July 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**TOTAL DUE** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Due by June 30<sup>th</sup> = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to :** Florida Military School Assoc.

**Send to:** FMSA

c/o Max Elliott, PO Box 5, Pierson, FL 32180