



March 2017

TWIN CITIES ARE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

The Northern Zoomie



2017 Air Force Academy Founders Day Dinner and the Air Force's 70th Anniversary Celebration

ATTENTION IN THE AREA
MINUTES!!!! – TCA AOG STYLE



Members of the TCA AOG:

There are 22 days until the TCA AOG Founder's Day Dinner

Uniform of the Day is Business Attire

The Founder's Day Dinner includes your choice of:

Chardonnay Chicken;
Sauteed Walleye;
Sirloin Steak; or
Linguine Primanera

\$50 per person--Secure your seat now by visiting <http://tcausafaaog.org/>

Prez Prose – Chapter President Tom Wilson '61

I sometimes wonder how many Chapter members ever really read this column. I try to make it fairly interesting as to what our Chapter is either doing or trying to do, but apparently, I am not always successful. I would love feedback from any of you as to what you might prefer in our Newsletters. Better still, how about "Random Grad Inputs?" Maybe you would like to share one of your own stories, or comment on what we do and what we could do better...

To return to my column, there are a few items I wish to pass on and /or to request assistance from all members. The first item is the Founders Day Dinner scheduled for Saturday, 22 April. As you have heard or read, B. Gen. Steve Ritchie, USAF (Ret) is our guest speaker. As the only USAF Pilot Ace of the Vietnam era, Steve will have plenty to share with us. It promises to be a memorable evening so please plan on joining us. (Additional info/details are found elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

I have attempted to establish a Grad Class Rep list and have been moderately successful. The good news is that all classes are covered from 1959 to 2010. The "bad" news is that there was a shortage of volunteers from some of the classes, so some Board members have agreed to assume responsibility for some of the classes that graduated close to their own years.

Simply, I am still hopeful to complete this list as appropriate. There is a three-fold purpose behind this effort: FIRST, I realize that with the larger class sizes, not all members of a particular class will even know all their own classmates. One of the

requests is to change that and encourage each Class Rep to arrange a "Get-Acquainted" party/happy hour/or whatever to at least give each of you a chance to either meet or become reacquainted with your classmates. If at a later date you would like to expand your "Meet and Greet" to those other classes that graduated around your year, so much the better.

SECOND: A major advantage to the Chapter would be that the Rep would take on the responsibility of updating member contact information and keeping the Chapter roster current. This is a relatively easy task once initial contact is made, but saves the Chapter all kinds of effort and frustration. The Rep then acts as a conduit to pass along Chapter info to his /her respective classmates.

THIRD: The above two actions hopefully will encourage more active involvement and participation in our Chapter events and ability to fulfill our stated goals...

So please, get involved and do your share for your Class Rep. I will publish the "Current" Class Rep soon, if you don't have it already.

At the last Board meeting, one of us suggested that it would be a terrific idea if our Chapter could assist Minnesota military families that remain here while the father or mother is deployed. This would revolve around our own Academy graduates, but certainly would include all military families. One major problem is the lack of some Grad to step forward and undertake the overseeing of such an effort. If any of you are so inclined, please contact me and we'll start the process. I think fundraising would be relatively easy to obtain for a goal like this.

An additional need of the Chapter is to solicit someone to volunteer to assume the duties associated with the selection of

and the purchasing of gifts for special events (like the FDD, et al) and for departing Chapter Officers and Directors. Plaques are something that we have arranged in the past, but are not really appropriate or necessarily wanted by the recipients. (We all seem to have too many already due to past military assignments – just sayin'!!!) If anyone has a bit of time and is even somewhat creative in this area, please step up. We can sure use the advice and suggestions.

Lastly, I need to address a financial issue – that of donations. Yes, donations come in the form of time, talent and treasures, but it seems that without money, many of our best thoughts and efforts never reach fruition. The Board has decided to raise funds only twice a year. The first major event that requires substantial funds is the Founders Day Dinner. For this we seek corporate and individual sponsorships and donations for speakers and associated costs. The second effort is for individual donations. Our intent is to solicit these annual requests from the membership in association with Veterans Day. This eliminates the need for us to continually ask for funds. Just so we all understand, ANY donation is acceptable ANYTIME and in ANY AMOUNT!!! This support advances the work of the chapter supporting cadets, cadet families and the graduate community.

Hope to see many of you at the Founders Day Dinner!!!

Respectfully,

Tom Wilson, '61 Chapter President -- 651-430-2269

Founder's Day Dinner Keynote Speaker:

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steve Ritchie '64

Originally from Reidsville, NC, General Ritchie is a 1964 USAFA graduate. He was a starting halfback for the Falcon football team and ended his collegiate gridiron career playing in the 1963 Gator Bowl.

In 1965 Steve Ritchie graduated at the top of his Undergraduate Pilot Training ("UPT") class at Laredo AFB, TX. He was one of only a handful of Second Lieutenants selected to fly the F-104, Starfighter immediately following UPT.

Only four years into his flying career, General Ritchie became one of the youngest instructors ever at Fighter Weapon School, Nellis AFB, NV. Shortly after his stint at the Air Force's version of "Top Gun," Steve Ritchie had the chance to demonstrate his dogfighting prowess...and he didn't disappoint.

During his second combat tour in Southeast Asia in 1972, then Capt. Ritchie became the only American pilot in history to down 5 MiG-21 enemy fighter airplanes, a record that may never be equaled. During his 2 combat tours, General Ritchie became one of the most decorated pilots in Air Force history, including:

- The Air Force Cross
- 4 Silver Stars
- 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses
- 25 Air Medals

During his Air Force career he logged more than 4000 hours including 800 combat hours in the F-4 Phantom during 339 sorties in Southeast Asia. General Ritchie left active duty in 1974, but continued in the Air Force Reserve and The Air National Guard, serving his country until his retirement in 1999.

In "retirement" General Ritchie has run for Congress, served in the Reagan Administration and has held various executive positions with civilian corporations. He is presently still "retired" and serves as the President of Steve Ritchie Associates, Inc. Motivational Speaking.

On April 22, 2017, General Ritchie, accompanied by his wife Mariana, is trekking to the Twin Cities to speak at the TCA AOG Founder's Day Dinner and the Minnesota Parents Club Spring Banquet. The evening promises to be one to remember. Mark your calendar and register now!

22 April 2017-6pm
Rush Creek Golf Course
Maple Grove MN



Hockey Article from the Gazette—Thanks for the Great Season!

Falcons iced out of first Frozen Four berth as Harvard hangs on for 3-2 victory in regional final

By: [Joe Paisley](#) March 25, 2017 Updated: March 25, 2017 at

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Air Force hockey's season may be over, but it left the NCAA Tournament feeling defiantly proud after pushing another of the nation's best to their limit.

The Falcons' comeback attempt fell short, which left them one win shy of the program's first Frozen Four appearance following a 3-2 loss to Harvard on Saturday night.

"No one left early, huh?" Air Force coach Frank Serratore said.

"I don't know how many times we have to prove we aren't an easy out," he added. "We lost to (No. 1) Denver in overtime and lost by one to a team like (No. 2) Harvard. We weren't just thrilled to be here. We came to win and you saw that in our comeback."

Harvard built a three-goal lead, but Air Force battled back with two goals in 15 seconds to make the score 3-2 entering the third period.

The Falcons took advantage of a delayed penalty for an extra attacker, creating a rebound in front that Brady Tomlak tapped in with 8:37 left in the second. On the subsequent penalty, junior leading scorer Jordan Himley cut into the crease to knock in a loose puck to make it 3-2.

"We knew we were never out of it," junior captain Dylan Abood said. "I am proud of our guys and how we responded. We will be back (in the NCAAs), no question about that. I wish I could go back to work tomorrow."

Crimson goalie Merrick Madsen (27 saves) made a save with 13 seconds left on a redirected shot by Matt Serratore that secured the win and a berth in the national semifinals April 6 in Chicago.

It was only the second time the Falcons had reached a regional final, losing in 2009 to Vermont in double overtime. It was also the fifth one-goal loss for the Falcons (27-10-5) in six NCAA tournament appearances.

The difference ending up being that Harvard did what hadn't been done in seven games - scoring on Division I's best penalty kill. Senior Tyler Moy collected a pinpoint cross pass and fired a backdoor shot that went in off sophomore goalie Shane Starrett's back for a 3-0 lead.

"That is a great team, that Harvard team, and people around the country know the guys in blue are pretty good too," Serratore said. "We took their best shot in the second period and we responded."

"All year long we persevered and came back from deficits like that. I couldn't be prouder of our guys."

<http://gazette.com/falcons-iced-out-of-first-frozen-four-berth-as-harvard-hangs-on-for-3-2-victory-in-regional-final/article/1599718>

Newsletter Possible Thanks to these Great Sponsors!



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TCA AOG Key Personnel Roster

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12-20-2016

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