



# Florida Military School

## Alumni Association



Vol. 7 Issue 1

April 2010



### From the President's Keyboard

Harry C. Silvis '65  
FMSA PRESIDENT

As many of you know, on January 18<sup>th</sup> of this year Zora Mae and I were called to Kennestone Hospital, at 7:15pm and were told that our only child, Kevin Scott Silvis, 33, had been killed in a motorcycle accident on his way home from work. He was killed on impact by a 20-year-old woman from Sparta, GA that pulled out in front of him. She was still on a restricted license and has been charged. We would like to thank all of you for your calls, cards and emails, during this time of grief. A special thanks to John Kendrick, my roommate at the school for 3 years, for assisting me in cleaning out Kevin's home, as I could never do it alone. While we have four other children, which we either adopted or were permanent foster children, we now have a problem, as Kevin was going to take care of Leslie our oldest daughter. She is Developmentally Delayed and in most ways is only a 3 year old. We recently funded a scholarship program with Zora's Optimist Club to fund scholarships for needy 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Acworth Elementary for a week of summer camp. We will later be making a contribution to Sprayberry High School, "Band of Gold" as well as a contribution to Tuba Christmas, two of Kevin's favorite high school activities. Kevin's body was cremated and his ashes are to be spread along the Cherohala Skyway after a brief ceremony in Kennesaw later this spring. The Cherohala Skyway crosses through the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee and the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina and was his favorite motorcycle ride. There is a facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kevinsilvis](http://www.facebook.com/kevinsilvis)) in memory of Kevin.

Besides our personal tragedy, I have been dealing with AT&T turning over their internet service to Yahoo. I am not too sure that the address book is correct. If you get this newsletter via snail mail and it should have been emailed to you, please just submit again to me. The number asking has only been about 20 and it includes Col Ward.

As you will read later, our contact at Holiday Inn Express, Lillian has been laid off. We are disappointed but not surprised. We will meet with the management of the facility and will report to you what we find out. We again have a signed contract in hand, so we are covered!

The Viet Nam War, or as LTC Henry referred to it, "the war across the big puddle," was a defining moment in our lives as well as that of the school. I have completed a search of "the wall," and the school's database of cadets. With my double monitor set-up it was a little easier as was having the middle initial and hometowns of the cadets. I have identified 7 cadets that died in Viet Nam, four by hostile actions and three by other means. You will find the list in the newsletter. If you are aware of anyone I missed or worst yet, if I named you as deceased, please let me know, and you can yell at me. Also, if you have personal information on these seven, please get it to me as I am planning on forwarding it to the group that runs the Education Center. They want pictures and information for each of the names on the wall and will show the pictures on a rotating basis at the center.

2011 is coming faster than any of us would like. We are going to again recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> year classes. This time it will be 1962, 1963 & 1964 at a dinner on Thursday night. We will most certainly again have the buffet on Saturday night as well as pool party, and the moving memorial service. Let's not forget the auction that in past reunions has been very good to the alumni organization in providing us with funds to run the organization. If you had likes, dislikes or

things we missed, speak up or forever hold your peace! I will be calling on individuals from each class to act as coordinators to work with their classmates to increase participation at the upcoming reunion.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find reprints from THE LANCE Vol. 1 No.1 from December 10, 1960.

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

FMSA Mailing address will continue to be:  
**FMSA c/o Elliott**  
**PO Box 5**  
**Pierson, FL 32180**

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## **FMSA BOARD -**

### **Florida Military School Association, Inc. GOVERNING BOARD**

**President - Harry Silvis**  
**Vice President – Rex Riley**  
**Secretary/Treasurer - Sue Elliott**  
**Member-at-Large - Jerry Alleyne**  
**Member-at-Large - Dennis Eyre**  
**Member-at-Large - Lee Hansen**  
**Member-at-Large - Asa Dean**  
**\*Past President – Max Elliott**

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### **GET YOUR NEWSLETTER DELIVERED VIA THE INTERNET**

There have been a number of requests that the FMSA newsletter be delivered electronically, thus saving the association around \$2.00 per cadet, per year, using this delivery method.

#### **Here is how it will work:**

1. You send me an email requesting electronic newsletters
2. When newsletter is ready, Asa will post it on FMSA web-site
3. Then you will be send an email with the link to the FMSA web-site newsletter so you can view it there or down load and print it if you choose
4. IF your email is returned as undeliverable for any reason, you will be removed from the email delivery, and snail mailed the newsletter
5. You will then have to reapply by an email to be put back on the list

### **Email requests to**

[kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net](mailto:kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net)

This method is not labor intensive and will only require that we remove the labels from those printed for the newsletter mailing. **Be aware**, we will only use "Bcc" Blind carbon copy to keep your email address private.

## **Florida Military School**

Cadets on the Viet Nam War Memorial Wall

Harry C. Silvis class of 65'

I have compared our ROLL CALL list to the names of the war dead from the Viet Nam War. While I have tried to be very careful in naming the dead from the cadet corps, I can only work from the annuals list as well as the Department of Defense information that constitutes the names on the wall.

### **JAMES ROBERT DEAN, JR**

ORLANDO, FL  
CLASS OF 1965  
15W Line 109  
Hostile Helicopter Crash

### **JAMES G. HODGSKIN , JR**

ORLANDO, FL  
**CLASS OF 1964**  
19W Line 61  
Helicopter crash non-hostile

### **ROBERT CHARLES SCHELL**

ORLANDO, FL  
Horseheads, NY  
**COLLEGE**  
19W Line 109  
Hostile, Ground Casualty  
Gun, Small Arms Fire

### **DANIEL MARTIN BROWN**

OKEECHOBEE, FL  
**CLASS OF 1967**  
20w Line 63  
Accidental self-destruction

### **CHARLES DAVID KIESER**

ORLANDO, FL  
**CLASS OF 1964**  
24E Line 30  
Died in the Forrestal fire

### **CHRISTOPHER SMITH**

WINTER PARK, FL  
Torrance, CA  
**CLASS OF 1966**  
33W line 85  
Hostile, Ground Casualty  
Gun, Small Arms Fire

## **RONALD ELMER JOHNS**

JACKSONVILLE, FL

Daytona Beach, FL

**CLASS OF 1965**

44E Line 59

Hostile helicopter Crash

### **THE CORPS OF CADETS SALUTE YOU**

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## **THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL**

The winning design of the memorial was by Maya Ying Lin of Athens, Ohio, who at the time was a 21-year-old senior at Yale. Lin received a B- for her work in a class at the university.

She said that she wanted it to reflect the pain of war - a gash in the ground. Many people did not like this design as it did not reflect the human side of war, so in 1982, they decided to add a sculpture to the memorial site. This sculpture is called the Three Soldiers.

The names on the wall are arranged chronologically and typeset from a computer tape of the official Vietnam casualty list. There are over 58,000 names inscribed on the walls with names being added as veterans die as a direct result of wounds from the War. Eleven hundred of the names are names of soldiers still missing.

The list of names begins at the vertex of the wall, below the date of the 1st casualty in 1959 and continues to the end of the east wall. It resumes at the tip of the west wall, ending at the vertex, above the date of the last death signifying closure meeting with the beginning and the end.

An individual name can be located by referring to the directories on each end of the memorial to determine the panel and line on which the name appears.

Friends and family leave small mementos near the names of their loved ones. These include poems, letters, military medals, photographs, bracelets, and I've even seen motorcycles left. Each evening, these items are collected and taken for storage at the Smithsonian.

Each name is preceded (on the W wall) or followed (on the E wall) by a symbol:

\*Diamond - denotes that death was confirmed

\*Cross - denotes those MIA

\*Circle - will be inscribed around the cross if a man previously listed as MIA is found alive. There are no circles on the wall.

There are 8 females' names on the wall.

### **THE THREE SOLDIERS STATUE**

This statue was the result of the controversy surrounding Maya Ying Lin's design of the wall. It was added to provide a personal depiction of human aspect of the war.

The men are wearing Vietnam era uniforms and could be from any branch of the US military at that time. Some say the troops have the stare of combat soldiers while others say they are looking for their own names on the wall.

### **THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL**

This statue was completed by Glenna Goodacre who also designed the Sacagewea Dollar.

The sculpture is in the round, representing that women's work during the war was all encompassing.

The 1st woman, Charity, is tending to a wounded soldier. The standing woman, Hope, is looking up in search of a helicopter (or perhaps God). The kneeling figure, Faith, stares at an empty helmet.

The soldier's face is covered so that it could be any soldier. This was intended to be a monument for the living

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## **REUNION . . . . 2011**

The presently un-named reunion of 2011 is scheduled to occur from **July 28th to July 31st 2011**. It was approved at the Annual Meeting in October 2009 that we would return to the Holiday Inn Express International Speedway in Daytona. The contract with Holiday Inn Express International Speedway has been prepared, but since then our contact, Lillian Hess, was laid off by the hotel for economic reasons. We will be contacting the hotel to see if they are willing to honor our pre-negotiated contract and give further information in the next newsletter. Hopefully we will be able to work well with them. Lillian was such an asset that it is hard to begin without her. Step One – we need a name for this reunion. Suggestions welcome. Meanwhile we will secure the date and the details.

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As an on-going feature, we will revisit events during various periods of the school's history. Those featured in this issue come from the early years of 1957-1960. They were submitted by those recent 50<sup>th</sup> reunion classes. We would welcome selections and memories from the classes of 1962-1964 for our next edition. Please send submissions to either Harry or Sue.

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**The following are from the December 10, 1960 Lance. These articles give us a glimpse back at the early years of the school.**

## **(FMS) UNIFORM CHANGES ACROSS THE YEARS**

The uniform of FMS had a few changes in the first five years. For the first two years the basic uniforms were the same; for everyday wear there were the long gray pants and shirts. For dress parades and formal occasions, we wore the dress uniform which is the same as with one exception, the fourth yearman's braid. There was a mixed uniform.

There were no subtractions made from the uniforms in the first or second years. But, the second year did see the in coming of the overseas hat. Before the overseas hat was adopted, all that cadets wore was the barracks hat which through much service became quite deformed. Colonel Ward decided we needed a garrison hat. When the small hats arrived the cadets accepted it immediately for its size and weight. As for the barracks hat, it has remained the same except for the hat emblems. The first year the emblem was a wreath with FMS in letters throughout the middle. It was somewhat like the ROTC hat emblem. The second year the emblem was one with the letters FMS across the top. Because of the fact these emblems kept turning up bent and filed down, it was decided to try out a cloth emblem in the shape of the second year emblem. This did not work out too well so the emblem was changed again.

In the third year, a major change took place and the Bermuda shorts came to the campus. At first, the old cadets did not take to this uniform, but they soon realized its advantages during especially hot weather.

The only change after this was the overseas hat with a new cloth emblem that shows the coat of arms and

tells where the school is located, instead of the old circled "F".

The last addition to the uniform during this period was the shako and its plume. They were designed like the ones at West Point. The Plumes differ according to the rank of the cadet. From private to 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant the plume worn was black. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants wear a blue plume and for the dorm captain to colonel a golden plume is worn.

These changes were either brought about through necessary or for the betterment of the appearance of the corps of cadets of FMS.

(Note: further changes appeared in the later years of the school)

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## **History of F.M.S. 1955-1960**

Cadet G/Sgt. Alex Nelson - Class of 1963

In 1955, Florida Military School opened its facilities to less than 100 cadets, they were housed in the old Sky Harbor Station Hospital building which is now a furniture outlet. In the middle of that first year, the cadets moved to what is now Howard Hall.

**That first year** was one of trial and error where the cadets arose with the sun and turned in at ten. There were many bridges to cross but each was crossed by hard work and determination. The graduating class numbered only five but their names will always be remembered here because they were the first.

**The second year** of the school's operation was met with high ambitions and hopes. The goal was reached when the Third Army Division recognized us as an honor rated school. This was the first time to our understanding that any school so young received such an honor. The state Board of Education accredited our curriculum, which is one of the best in the state.

At the beginning of **the third year**, the struggling young school of two years past was greeted by approximately 230 cadets. During this school term the Schaefer building was completed and we received from the army, two hundred fifty M-1 rifles. We also earned a superior rating which is the highest honor a school of our type can have.

**The fourth year** saw the beginning of the recently completed swimming pool that the cadet corps had long been awaiting. We saw three hundred twenty cadets arrive on opening day, nearly 250 more than that first day in 1956. The first four year cadets to graduate from here finished on May the twenty-third with a class that exceeds the first five Alumni by nearly eightfold.

Now we have begun **the fifth year** of the school's successful life and we know that this year and those to come will be as rewarding as those gone by.

### School Improvement

Cadet G/Sgt. Alex Nelon – Class  
of 1963

Since the school began in 1955, many improvements and renovations have taken place. The most recent is, of course, the completion of the new swimming pool.

The first major restoration took place with the rebuilding of the gymnasium. The floor in the gym itself was replaced and new wall paneling and ceiling were put in. Lights and bleachers were installed and an air circulating system. A fresh coat of paint and several practice basketball baskets topped off the restoration. We now have a gym that everyone can be proud of and enjoy.

Second on the list came the conversion of the old mess hall into what is now the canteen and equipping what is now the surplus storage room adjoining Howard Hall lobby as the mess hall.

The building of the new dining hall highlighted the 1958-59 school term and the swimming pool was also planned toward the end of that year.

The 1959-60 school term saw the swimming pool project in full swing. Lt. Colonel Prentiss' house was finished and the old handball courts were torn down to make way for the 2 new basketball courts which were recently installed and the canteen to come. We came back this year to many improvements over past years. First and foremost with the cadet corps is the swimming pool which is of junior Olympic size

and features nine meter and three meter boards and a well equipped bath house. There were improvements in the barracks too, for they along with the classroom building and the mess-hall, were painted a light beige. This is a sharp turn upward from the dark somber green of years past.

To mark the current scene, Major Moore now has a house going up on the campus and in things to come we see within the next 10 years, new barracks and a new canteen.

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### **Treasurer's Report** **10/1/2009 – 3/30/2010**

#### **Balance Brought –**

#### **Forward from Previous Treasurer**

**\$8149.72**

#### **Income/Expenses**

SALES - \$580.00

#### **Total Income**

\$580.00

#### **Expenses**

Newsletter 406.00

Web Services 132.00

Postage 39.60

Taxes 61.25

W. Vol. Hist. Soc. 150.00

#### **Total Expenses**

\$788.85

#### **Closing Balance**

\$7940.87

#### **Balance Sheet - as of 3/30/10**

Report submitted by:

Sue Elliott, Treasurer/Sec.

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