



# Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 10 Issue 1

JANUARY 2013



**From the  
President's  
Keyboard**

Harry C. Silvis '65  
FMSA PRESIDENT  
386 218-5558

kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net

Zora Mae, Leslie and I finally got a contract on a home in Deltona and made our move to Florida the first week of October. "Short Sales", are a nightmare.

The floor plan is like the home we had found in DeLand earlier so our plans for furniture and appliances fit well. We live next door to a City Commissioner so my repairs have to be done properly and quietly. The major job that has occupied my time is the repair of the wooden fence, section by section, but the end is now in sight. We would like to thank: Sue/Max Elliott 58', Steve Nash 65'. Dennis Eyre 59', Jimmy Turner 59', Peter Bulat 66' and Palmer Nash 75' for their assistance with the move, as they helped make it work!

It was nice to be able to just drive up the road to the Annual Meeting instead of the 8+ hour drive in the past. We plan to divide our time between Atlanta and Deltona for the near future.

As the reunion quickly approaches us, we are starting to work on it. First, the Holiday Inn Express International Speedway has changed its name. Same owners, same staff and same deal, but now they are the **Best Western Plus**. They have just finished upgrades to the property. They plan to roll out the red carpet for us, as always.

There was discussion about moving future reunions to the beachside. After contacting many of the hotels on the beach, we were not able to come anywhere close to matching our present room rates and other facility costs. Summer is the high season and our group is not large enough to entice any deals. The membership all agreed that a summer reunion was the best time

for most to attend, as there are many who are still employed.

We have been made aware that Lillian Hess, formerly of the Holiday Inn DeLand and Holiday Inn International Blvd., has recently become general manager of the Clarion Hotel in DeLand (formerly a Holiday Inn) and wants to make it worth our time to return there in 2015. We will explore this later.

One thing I want to add back into this reunion is the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the attending cadets from 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 and present them with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary diploma on Friday night.

I am also soliciting nominations for the "President's Award 2013." I give it to a cadet that has shown Honor-Wisdom-Self Discipline in their adult life. The winner must attend the reunion.

We continue to receive a half dozen or so newsletters back from each mailing marked as *undeliverable*. Please make sure that we have your address after you move, as the post office does not always handle your address change very well. We do not want to again post you as missing!

Our new webmaster is Rex Riley '70, and he is in the process of rebuilding our website. He hopes to have it up and running soon. FMSA does have a Facebook page that many are using in the meantime.

**THE FMSA OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**  
**temporarily unavailable**

**MAILING ADDRESS:** FMSA c/o Max Elliott  
P.O. Box 5 Pierson, FL 32180

**Email contacts:**

**Harry Silvis-** kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net

**Sue Elliott-**sgcourtney@att.net

---

---

## ANNUAL MEETING 2012

The annual meeting was held on October 13 at Steve Nash's hanger at the Deland airport. First we all gathered for lunch at the *Perfect Spot* while we watched the skydivers.

This year's meeting was well attended. There were 26 cadets, wives and friends present. There was a first place tie for class attendance with the Classes of '59 and '66, each having four present. There was a three way tie for second place with the Classes of '58, '60, and '65 each having three present. The later years were mostly unrepresented except for Rex Riley representing the class of '70. The classes of '62, '63, '67, '68 and '69 were unrepresented.. Ms. Earp and her friend Elizabeth Williamson made their annual trek from Ocala to have lunch with us. They never miss our meeting.

There was a discussion at the business meeting concerning the FMSA website. There was concern that we would lose our tax status due to some comments of a political nature posted on the webpage by a few of our members. After discussion, a motion was made to remove all reference to religious and political views from the website and place them elsewhere. Our status as a Not for Profit educational organization does not permit us to post such views. The motion passed 14 to 4.

Other business at the meeting concerned discussion of various items concerning the upcoming reunion.

The President, Harry Silvis, appointed Thornton Ridinger '58' as Chairman, of the Election Committee to bring the membership a slate to vote on at the annual meeting. As stated in the by-laws, the Officers/Directors serve from reunion to reunion. They further states that other members may nominate their own slate but, must have a written statement from each member on the slate agreeing to serve. Anyone wanting to nominate a slate must have all the information to Thornton Ridinger by June 15, 2013. Send to FMSA c/o Max Elliott, P.O. Box 5 Pierson, FL 32180.

Following tradition, all attending the meeting were invited to retire to Max and Sue Elliott's home for

a cookout. Dennis Eyre '59 was our outstanding steak chef. It's amazing how he cooks every steak to perfection, in spite of all the varied cooking requests. (Maybe he should be our chef for the reunion?)

Now, speaking of reunions --- ours is looming on the horizon. Have you made your room reservations yet?

---

---

## FMS Reunion 2013

### **"The Triumph of the Knights"**

#### ***Our 8<sup>th</sup> Crusade***

July 26, 27, 28,  
**(Fri. – 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, program and tickets for lunch and the buffet Saturday night. The \$40 spouse or friend fee does not include the bag. Each attendee will receive a reunion nametag.

Mark your calendar and plan your budget. Make this your big vacation for 2013.

---

---

## **BEST WESTERN PLUS –**

### **Daytona Beach, FL**

**2620 International Speedway Blvd.**

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



## Room Rates:

**Double:** \$69 per night plus tax

**Poolside/Courtyard 2 dbl beds:** \$69 per night plus tax

**Standard King:** \$69 per night plus tax

**Suite/ king or 2 dbl beds:** \$99 per night plus tax

### **RESERVATION CUT OFF 7/12/13**

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: Theresa Graves**  
Phone: 386-258-6333, or  
tgraves@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.

## **SAILING, SAILING** **....Off to follow a dream.**

(Who knows where we will hear from them next time.)

### **UPDATE –**

“Just wanted to touch base. All is well here in Panama where it is trying to catch up with Seattle where rain is concerned. God is keeping our water tanks full and second rinsing my laundry on the line. A little slow at getting our bearings but we will get there.

We are not receiving any info on the reunion in Daytona this summer, any way you could send that to us? Not sure where we will be then but are thinking about flying in to Daytona for that, then just driving down to Cocoa to see family. Take care.”

Sue and Earl (Lamar)



# **OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Will YOU volunteer?**

Yes, the reunion is almost half a year away but it is NOT too soon to begin to plan. 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.

- **Registration** –
- **Greeters** -
- **Raffle** –
- **Ghost Tour** (Memorabilia)
- **Hospitality** -
- **Memorial Service**
- **Ladies Coffee Hour**
- **Games Coordinator** -.
- **Goodie Bags**.- also items needed
- **Auctioneer**–
- **Auction** – items needed

## **IT's GETTING CLOSE !!!!!**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**10/22/2011 - 10/13//2012**

Beginning Balance – 10/22/2011	<b>\$6886.82</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
11/28 – Sword purchased	\$125.00
12/6 – DVD sales	\$ 37.00
3/26 -	\$ 39.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME -</b>	<b>\$ 201.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
10/24 – Annual Meeting calendars	\$150.00
11/4 – Postage Newsletters	\$286.00
11/4 – Printing – newsletters	\$150.00
2/24 – Postage - newsletters	\$292.50
2/24 – Printing - newsletters	\$150.00
4/14 – Annual Report Filing	\$ 61.25
7/20 – Postage – newsletters	\$292.50
7/21 – Printing – newsletters	\$150.00
Service chg 5/31.6/29,7/23,8/06,9/21	\$ 10.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES -</b>	<b>\$ 1542.25</b>
<b>Income – expenses = -</b>	<b>\$ 1340.75 for the year.</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS 7/15/2012</b>	
Cash/Bank Account BB&T	<b>\$ 5546.07</b>

*Sue Elliott, Treasurer*

There have been no financial transactions since the Annual Meeting.

# In Memoriam.

---

---

## Richard Clark Jr. '64

Mr. Clark died Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 at his residence in Eufaula, Alabama.

Born Oct. 19, 1946 in Columbus, Miss., he was the son of the late Richard Harold and Ann Cox Clark, Sr.

Mr. Clark was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Viet Nam Conflict. He was a graduate of Florida Military School in 1964. He was a graduate of the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla., with a degree in accounting. He moved to Eufaula in 1982 where he owned and operated Midlake Bait & Tackle. Later he was employed with the Eufaula Water Works and Sewer Board as the accounting and office supervisor. Survivors include, his wife of 29 years: Louise "Weesie" Conner Clark of Eufaula; son, Richard H. "Rich" Clark III of Louisville, KY.



by his parents Mary and Frank Craig of Eau Gallie, FL. He is survived by his partner Xavier Lama, Orlando, brother Clayton T. Craig, Eau Gallie and sisters Carole C. Hersey (Robert), West Palm Beach and Betsy Craig, Altamonte Springs.

Excerpt from the Orlando Sentinel on September 9, 2012

---

---

## Thomas F "Tim" Sweeny '60

Thomas F "Tim" Sweeny '60 of DeLeon Springs, FL passed away December 23, 2012. Tim was a day student at FMS, and graduated in 1960. He wife Anne was the daughter of Bob Lee, who was one of the first organizers of the Florida Military School flight program.

Tim was born in Daytona Beach and was a lifelong resident of the DeLand area. He was a member of the Elks, Moose, Eagles and the DeLand Country Club.

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Catholic Church in DeLand, followed by interment at Oakdale Cemetery in DeLand.

---

---

---

---

## Frank Elliott Craig, Jr., '64

**CRAIG, JR., FRANK ELLIOTT "BUDDY"**, of Orlando, FL, passed away on Thursday, September 6, 2012. He was surrounded by family and friends at the time of his passing. Born in Philadelphia, PA on June 26, 1946 Frank grew up in Eau Gallie, FL, graduating from Florida Military School, DeLand in 1964 and received his Associates Degree from Brevard Community College, Cocoa. Frank took great pride in being a 35-year Central Florida business owner of Millennium Marketing Group/Fulfillment Partners. He was an avid skydiver at Skydive DeLand and enjoyed his years as a recreational small plane pilot. He also took pleasure in scuba diving, boating and loved to travel. Frank was processed in death



---

---

## 50<sup>th</sup> REUNION CLASSES

At the 2013 reunion, we will be spotlighting the classes of **1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964** as they observe their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation.

We are presently **seeking organizers** from each of these classes to help in coordinating the activities they would like for their celebration. If any of you in those classes are interested in helping with the planning, we would love to have your assistance.

It would also be helpful if several would volunteer to contact the members of each of these classes to encourage their attendance for this event. We have the contact information and can assist you in making the needed contacts. Just let us know that you are willing to assist.

---

---

## **INPUT REQUESTED – But Not received.**

During this planning stage for the reunion, we are seeking your input of what you would like at the reunion. This is the time to speak up so there is no need for grousing later. All constructive suggestions will be considered.

Presently we are starting with the format of the 2013 Reunion, and plan to allow the participants as much unstructured time as possible for visiting and enjoying each others' company. We will have the Saturday box lunch again and the Saturday evening dinner. There will be a Ladies Gathering and the Memorial Service at the conclusion of the weekend.

### **Do you remember these from our last newsletter?**

Do you have any interest in a Saturday afternoon river cruise? Or any other special activity? What type of special activity would the ladies like?

Do you have any special theme idea? Do you want dancing at the end of the Saturday evening dinner? Or is there any other type of entertainment you would like to have?

This is your chance to help us formulate the plans for this Reunion. Don't wait. Send us your input now.

Well, our response has been practically nothing. So, if we don't hear from you very soon, we can't include your ideas and thus you will have to enjoy what we come up with. Talk to us now or please don't complain. Let's hear from you NOW!!

---

---

## **Will YOU be part of this picture in 2013?**



---

---

Registration form to be included in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, make your hotel and travel arrangements.

---

---

## **Walter Cowart '60**

After 35 years with the United States Small Business Administration Walter Cowart retired last August. He and his wife Laura have toured Europe and China in retirement and plan other adventures as time with their three grandchildren allow.



Here they dance the Tango at their retirement party attended by well over 100 friends and fellow workers. Laura retired the same day after 21 years with USDA.

---

---

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

May 2013 be a positive one in our lives and may we all experience health and happiness. To end 2012 and begin 2013 on a positive note, and one that you were taught at FMS: "to respect and support". You might want to visit the following site. Bill Cook seems to focus those thoughts.

"Republican, Democrat or other, this is a must see for all Americans. Yeh, lots of reasons we put up a flag..... Puttin' Up The Flag  
<http://www.billcook.net/puttin-up-the-flag.html>

In the spirit of this, let's not lose our focus on the purpose of the Florida Military School Association.

"Promote fellowship among FMS alumni, friends and associates..."

It is the camaraderie that binds us together and allows us all, from our various classes and walks of life, to appreciate our complex diversity and still maintain that bond. Our commonality is our foundation at FMS.

Let's make this the biggest reunion ever.

**SEE you in Daytona in JULY!!!!**

Max Elliott  
Post Office Box 5  
Pierson, FL 32180

Address Correction Request

«firstname» «lastname»  
«address1» «address2»  
«city» «state» «zipcode»



*Scenes from the 2012  
Annual Meeting at Sky  
Dive Deland.*