



# Christmas Newsletter 2009

Class 24-66 Artillery O.C.S. ~ Formed 1 May 1966 ~ Graduated 11 October 1966

Honoring Those Lost In Service

James F. Fuhrman, Michael L. Phillips, Donn L. Sweet, Warren L. Wozencraft, John S. Hughes, Jr.

Web Site: [www.ccil.org/~wambinam](http://www.ccil.org/~wambinam)

## WebMaster's Notes Jim Wambold

Holiday greetings to you and your families. At my age it's wonderful to be celebrating another Christmas season and have the ability to keep in touch with this great group of guys.

This year, in our search for classmates, we succeeded in accounting for Bloodgood, Dowling, Williams and Wolf ... that leaves us with 12 more to find. So far, we've accounted for 74 members of our 86-man class – 86%.

If you have any leads on Bowen, Griffin, McCauley, McLaughlin, Mullholland, O'Neill, Parrish, Peake, Shelton, St.Clair, Taylor, or Thompson, please let me know. Our goal is 100%.

This Spring our classmate, Lin Accurso, was recognized for his lengthy service in the Army and became our first inductee into the O.C.S. Hall of Fame.

Earlier this Fall I had the pleasure of having an extended lunch with Bob Brown at a local watering hole here in the Philadelphia area. Wow, what great O.C.S. stories were recalled.

Sam Dauer, after years of hesitation, visited with the parents of our fallen classmate, Jim Fuhrman, and was able to visit the gravesite to provide a "salute" on behalf of our class.

Donn Sweet's sister, Evie, continues her efforts in speaking before groups and personalizing the events described in her book, "His

Name Was Donn". She received communication from Steve Schuette, our classmate Myron Schuette's son, that his middle name is Donn in honor of the O.C.S. relationship between Myron and Donn.

Please visit our web site to see additional information and PLEASE send us any updates that should be published.

## Thanks and Giving Chaplain Sam Dauer

As I write this, Christmas is still a little over three weeks away and Thanksgiving was just last week. As you would expect, both holidays have a special significance for a preacher and this year there is even more significance for me. This year found me at the gravesites of two men.

The first most of you knew, Jim Fuhrman. In 1968, his family buried him in a small cemetery in Glasgow, Montana, about 170 miles from my home. Though I have lived this close for over 20 years I never could muster the courage to make the trip.

The second gravesite was for SGT Richard H. Hervatin. Rich and I were the closest of friends in high school. It was often said that if you wanted to find Sam Dauer, just look for Rich Hervatin, then look down about a foot. Rich stood nearly 6 and a half feet tall and on a good day I can just make 5 and half. After high school he and I joined the Army to-

gether, went to basic and tank crewman training together. After that we went to different units and lost track of each other until a few years ago. When he died earlier this year his wife asked me to attend his funeral that was being held at Arlington Cemetery.

Now what does going to these two gravesites have to do with thanks and giving?

First, I find myself thankful. While it was emotionally demanding to visit the graves of two of the best friends that I ever had, I am thankful. Each, in his own way, was the friend I needed at every difficult point in my life. They didn't ask for anything or demand anything; they just gave of themselves to a skinny runt who needed a friend. They gave far more than they got back in return. While God took them sooner than I would have liked; I am thankful for their presence in my life, as short as it may have been. Their giving of friendship helped make me the man I am today.

Secondly, I am mindful of giving. Initially, I went to these gravesites for selfish reasons. I hoped to gain a measure of peace by visiting their final resting places. However, I found that by being there I was able to give something back that I couldn't give them while they were alive. I gave comfort to their families. In Jim's case I was able to answer some of the questions that his family had about how he died. I told them of our time in OCS and Vietnam

together, I was able to give them photos that I had of his unit and even a model of a M42 Duster like the one he died on.

In Rich's case I flew from Montana to Washington D.C. to take part in the burial service. I took my dress blues with me and I had the honor of presenting his flag to his widow. I was the only person there who had known Rich in life and was not a member of the family. After the burial we went to a hotel and I spent over an hour telling them stories of the times that Rich and I spent together in high school and in the Army. I gave them my happy memories of him.

I am thankful for something else, I am thankful for my classmates. We have found or accounted for an amazing 86% of our class. While this is an achievement, it is not as important as the fact that these efforts have resulted in many of us reconnecting with old friends whom we can still appreciate in the here and the now. Take time and give a little of yourself, make a telephone call or send an email or even a Christmas card to an old classmate. Let them know that you are thankful that they have been a part of your life.

We just celebrated Thanksgiving and soon we will be giving presents to friends and loved ones as part of the celebration of Christmas. While we enjoy our time with those we care about, let us not forget to give thanks to God, for he gave us a son.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)

**Remember Jesus is the reason for the season.**

## 2010 FAOCS Reunion Randy Dunham (Class 10-69)

The 2010 FAOCS Alumni Chapter Reunion will be at Fort Sill May 5-8:

It looks like there will not be any on-post lodging available at Fort Sill for the 2010 reunion. The final word on this will be forthcoming. Renovations of the high rises will likely be in full swing during May. TDY soldiers account for 95% of the room occupancy and we expect that room availability during the high rise renovations will be severely limited. We will be working with our local motels to block rooms for the reunion. Our traditional Wednesday evening event (Hospitality Room and hamburger/hot dog feed) will likely be at a local motel with a facility large enough to accommodate our crowd.

Military buses will be used for all on-post transportation to activities and will be available each day at a centrally located assembly point on Fort Sill. Our schedule will be adjusted to allow for the commute time between the civilian lodging and Fort Sill. Car pooling and pre-planned ride sharing by all attendees will be encouraged to help overcome the inconvenience for those who had planned to stay on-post.

Tracking Down Your OCS Classmates – We need your help: We have received numerous inquiries on the subject of tracking down classmates. A lot of folks are starting to track down classmates for the upcoming reunion so we have put together a document that we hope will help you out.

Some of you have done a remarkable job and we are pleased to share some tools

and tips that have been used by some of the more persistent and successful “trackers”.

We need more of you out there to join in the effort. A lot of progress has been made the past few years but we only have contact information on 35% of the 1950's graduates, 15% of the 1960's graduates and 7% of the 1970's graduates. If you are currently searching for classmates, please let us know how you are progressing. We encourage you to share your experiences with us. Please check out our tools and tips document by clicking here: [Tracking Down OCS Classmates](#) We will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

### Durham Hall:

We continue to make improvements to the building that is home to the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame, the archives of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School and the FAOCS Alumni Chapter – Durham Hall (building 3025).

The roof was replaced in early October. Some fairly good sized leaks had caused us a lot of problems, but all is well now. We will now be replacing some ceiling tile. The furnace and evaporator which service the upstairs were replaced just last week. The downstairs furnace and air conditioner were replaced two years ago.

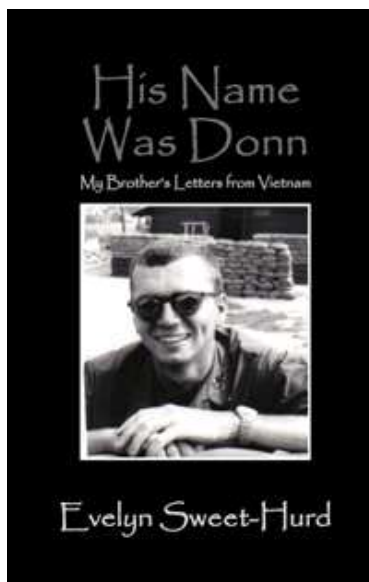
[www.faocsalumni.org](http://www.faocsalumni.org)

### Col. Linden J. Accurso Hall Of Fame Inductee

Colonel Accurso's initial assignment after Officer Candidate School was with the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg. He then attended Flight School at Fort Rucker and served a tour of duty as an Aviator in Vietnam. He served two years in Germa-

ny with the 28th Field Artillery prior to a second tour in Vietnam. He left active duty and joined the Reserve Components, where he served in many leadership positions as a Special Forces Officer, Master Army Aviator, Battery Commander, Military Intelligence Detachment Commander and Medical Battalion Commander. He was called to active duty during Operations Desert Shield/Storm and accompanied the 429th Medical Battalion to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. His last assignment was as the Assistant Chief of Staff Comptroller with the 143rd Transportation Command, Orlando, Florida. He was appointed to Federal Civil Service as a Budget Counselor for the U.S. Army Community Services, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He served in positions of increasing responsibility in the Accounting field and culminated his career as the Deputy Director of Finance, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Orlando, Florida. Colonel Accurso's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster with V- device and the Air Medal (28 awards).

**“His Name Was Donn”  
My Brother’s Letters  
From Viet Nam**  
By Donn Sweet’s younger  
sister, Evie.



The Book Is Available In  
Hard Or Soft Cover At The  
Following Link:  
<http://outskirtspress.com/webpage.php?ISBN=978-1-4327-1779-7>

**Photos Needed !**

We need more of your old O.C.S. era photographs to add to our archives. If you should find any, please send them to Larry Swank for inclusion on his section of our web site.

To view those already posted, just go to our site and click the [“Photo Pages”](#) link at the top of the main page. We’ve included instructions for various ways to send your pictures to Larry.

**2011 Class Reunion ??**

Do any of you have an interest in getting together sometime in 2011 in the Washington, DC/Arlington, VA vicinity for a Class 24-66 Reunion? Or, would it be a better idea for us to attend

the annual Ft. Sill Reunion event? It would be great to have a large group celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of graduation from the Comanche County Cannon Cocker College.

Contact [Jim Wambold](#) with your comments and suggestions.

**God Bless Our Troops  
and  
God Bless The U.S.A.**