



Christmas Newsletter 2011

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

Honoring Those Lost In Service:

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Web Update

Jim Wambold

Gentlemen, we have found another of our classmates, Phil Thompson (Arlington, TX), during this year's efforts. Although Sam Dauer and I continue our internet and telephone quest for the other unaccounted-for graduates, the results become fewer every year. The success rate in accounting for our graduates since initial research began in 2004 has been rewarding inasmuch as, to date, we have located or accounted for 97% of our graduating class; that's 83 of 86 ... not bad for amateur sleuths! Your help in finding Paul R. Griffin, Robert M. St.Clair, Jr and James E. Taylor will be appreciated. That would bring us to 100% accountability and fruition of a lengthy process. We've received recent email and address updates from Dauer, Charlton, Harris and McFarland. It would great for those of you who have not submitted a biography of your service and current status provide one for publication. There is a link on our web to do that, or, you may submit the information in any format to the webmaster. Your classmates would like to read your service career highlights. If you have photos from your O.C.S. adventures, please send those to Larry Swank who has been running the photo section of our web.

Remember, if you want to access the "Address/Phone" area of the web it is "passworded". An easy way to find the User Name and Password is by clicking the spinning O.C.S. logo on our main

page. (User Name= candidate, Password=24-66)

In October of 2012 we will celebrate our 46th anniversary of graduating from Artillery O.C.S. If you are planning to attend this year's annual reunion at Fort Sill, the dates are 2-5 May.

Sam's Sermon

Rev. Sam Dauer
"Lost and Found"

My short term memory is slipping these days. It seems I'm always losing my car keys, glasses and chain of thought. I spend hours looking for lost things, going room to room searching. There have been times that I was so intent on searching that I forgot what it was that I was looking for. My life is like the old Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder joke. Recently, I was diagnosed with A. A. A. D. D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests itself: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the rubbish bin under the table, and notice that the bin is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the

rubbish first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye: they need to be watered.

I place the coke down on the work surface, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the work top, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone has left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the lounge where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers,

but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: The car isn't washed. The bills aren't paid. There is a warm can of coke sitting on the work surface. The flowers don't have enough water. There is still only one check in my checkbook. I can't find the TV remote. I can't find my glasses and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. Oh, I just remembered, I left the water running.....

This joke would be funnier if it wasn't so filled with truth, at least in my case. Now I've lost my chain of thought. Oh, now I remember, I was discussing the concept of lost and found. When I first retired six years ago I had time on my hands and one day I found a box of memories with bits and pieces of things that I have kept over the years. In the box was a few OCS items, such as my OCS notebook (remember those, we carried them everywhere), also there was the graduation pamphlet that listed all of our names. That gave me the idea that it might be nice to search for some of my old Army buddies and find out how their lives have turned out. The first "contemporary" I found was Jim Wambold and in talking with him we decided to seek out the rest of the class. To date we have accounted for 97% of the class, quite an accomplishment. While

we have found so many of our lost classmates I have found so much more. I found friends that had been lost for over 40 years; I found Jim but also, Frank Linster, Frank Hise, Bob Thomas and many other whom I now hear from regularly. For me it is the finding of a real treasure as precious as gold (we are in our golden years). We are now down to trying to find the last of our lost classmates, Paul R. Griffin, Robert M. St. Clair, Jr and James E. Taylor. If any of you have any leads let us know so we can account for them as well and add them to our list of found.

As we approach this Christmas I am mindful that Jesus had a lot to say about lost and found.

Luke 15:3-7 (HCSB)

So He told them this parable: "What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don't need repentance.

Luke 15:8-10 (HCSB)

"Or what woman who has 10 silver coins, denarius if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her women friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

And the most famous of the Lost and Found parables is the story of the Prodigal Son where the father of the lost son says upon the return of the son:

Luke 15:24 (KJV)

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

As classmates we spent over forty years being lost from one another but now we are enjoying the rewards of having found each other. Some of you may still be spiritually lost, I tell you, our God is seeking you that you may be found and share in the joy of salvation. For this is the reason behind the Christmas Story.

Luke 19:10 (HCSB)

For the Son of Man has come to seek (*find*) and to save the lost."

In Closing

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukka, Seasons' Greetings, and Happy New Year to you and your families.

Although O.C.S. seemed, at times, to be our biggest hurdle in life ... it wasn't. There have been 45 years since graduation and many other more significant events that we've endured. Use our web site to find and communicate with your classmates to keep the spirit of Delta Battery going. Take some time to remember those we lost in combat and along the way.



In case you care, Tet Nguyen Dan (Tet) will be celebrated on 23 January 2012 as the year of the dragon. "Keep Your Heads Down".