It was a record-breaker: Homecoming 2012

Four-hundred twenty alumni, family, and VF friends came from as far away as Japan, Egypt, China, the Dominican Republic, Texas, Puerto Rico and California to enjoy the brotherhood and buff and blue spirit of Homecoming 2012. Tom McCullough ‘41 represented the oldest class and led the Alumni March-On. The glory that is Valley Forge shone through! Our covers are off to Homecoming Chairman, Capt. Dan McSweeney ‘88, USMCR and Regiment Chairman, Sean Condron ‘97 for all that they did to orchestrate a most successful Homecoming. Dan renewed the idea of no-charge for the Friday night reception. Sean provided marketing expertise as well as the beautiful VF leather luggage tags that each guest received in his Homecoming packet.

Art Lambert ‘61 provided a first-class Silent Auction replete with mint julep glasses, cobalt blue pottery and VF jewelry. Art’s artistic efforts brought in over $5,000. In addition, Mike Curley ‘84,’86C organized a Friday night raffle which amassed over $2,500. Robin Lahiri ‘85 and Matthew Kineke ‘86 provided live music at the Tailgate. Robin played a classical guitar prelude and postlude at the Sunday Chapel service.

Words do not adequately describe the variety of activities and the fantastic attendance. You can get a minute by minute photographic reflection of the weekend by visiting the Valley Forge website at: http://www.vfmac.edu/About/PhotosandMultimedia.aspx. Pictures can also be purchased.

Beat the Rush!

Historically, December 31 and June 30 are the most heavily-trafficked “giving” days for the Forge Fund. There are 31 days left in the fiscal year. Instead of stressing whether your gift will make the deadline or not, might we suggest to simply make your gift today? Our 2011-12 Forge Fund campaign ends June 30, 2012.

Don’t miss your chance to have your name added to the Honor Roll of Donors 2011-12 with your classmates and company mates. Every gift counts and makes an impact on the quality of cadet life. Thank you for allowing us to continue to maintain the traditions and excellence for which Valley Forge is known.

You may give on-line through our secure on-line giving site: https://secure.igi.net/OnlineGiving/VFMAC/. Checks may be made out to Valley Forge Military Academy Foundation and mailed to VFMA&C, Development, 1001 Eagle Road, Wayne, PA 19087.
If you have questions or need some advice on the best way to give, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail Holly Cheshire, Director of the Forge Fund, 610-995-6008, hcheshire@vfmac.edu. She would be most happy to assist.

Bob Bacine '60 and Skip Benjamin '63, members of Meadowlands Country Club, 711 Boehms Church Road, Blue Bell, PA 19142 encourage you to join them at VFMA&C’s Annual Golf Outing. Enjoy the camaraderie of your classmates, family and business associates at a first-rate club all to benefit Valley Forge.

Registration begins at 11:00. Lunch is served at noon. The shotgun start is set for 1:00 p.m. A reception, dinner, and silent auction begins in the clubhouse at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be offered for low gross, low net, longest drive, accurate drive, and closest to the pins.

Golfers, duffers, and non-golfers can participate. For further information, please be in touch with Denis Spizuoco, Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, 610-989-1342, dspizuoco@vfmac.edu. Join us for dinner if you are not able to attend all day. Do not hesitate to make a contribution or become a sponsor. Registration and sponsorship materials are downloadable from the “How to Give” page of the VFMA&C website at: http://www.vfmac.edu/GivetoVFMAC/GolfOuting.aspx. Register today. Space is limited and filling up quickly.

Alumni Graduation Dinner Speaker: CAPT Mark S. Wooley, USN, (Ret.) '76
On May 14, 2012, Eisenhower Hall, CAPT Mark S. Wooley addressed the graduating College Class of 2012. CAPT Woolley served 30 years in the United States Navy. During his naval career he was assigned to ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and made deployments to the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Seas, Western Pacific, Arabian Ocean, and Persian Gulf. After graduating from Valley Forge Military Academy in 1976, Captain Woolley earned a Bachelor of Science from Villanova University where he graduated cum laude. He attended the Naval Postgraduate School and received a Masters in Systems Technology. Captain Woolley also earned a Masters Degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College where he graduated with distinction. He was a Fellow in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Foreign Politics, International Relations, and National Interest Program. Captain Woolley’s personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legion of Merit Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, and the Navy Achievement Medal. Captain Woolley retired from active duty in May 2010. Upon retirement he was commissioned into the New York Naval Militia as a Captain. The New York Naval Militia has over 2500 members who are primarily US Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard Reservists. It is the naval component of the New York State defense forces and complements the Army and Air National Guard programs, as well as the New York State Guard. Captain Woolley serves as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Director for Operations.
Dr. Dennis W. Rowe ’69: The Union League of Philadelphia, The Youth Work Foundation, Alumni Achievement Award

On May 17, 2012, Dennis W. Rowe ’69 earned the Alumni Achievement Award sponsored by the Youth Work Foundation of The Union League of Philadelphia. Dr. Rowe is a past Good Citizenship Award Winner. In addition, he has been deemed to uphold the traditions and principles of American Patriotism. He has demonstrated outstanding service and contributions to the community through charitable or civic work. He has demonstrated excellence in his profession as a Lead Systems Engineer at the MITRE Corporation’s Center for Advanced Aviation System Development in McLean, VA. Dennis shares the values of The Union League of Philadelphia as epitomized by its motto, “Love of Country Leads.”

Dr. Rowe made significant contributions to government and industry. A Viet Nam era veteran, Dr. Rowe spent a third of his career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. For the past decade, his research in new airspace designs and concepts has played an increasingly important role in the evolution of Air Traffic Control System. In addition, Dr. Rowe plays an active role in the lives of high school students from around the country through the Reach for Tomorrow Program, Inc. As a volunteer in this program, he helps students develop an appreciation for the value and benefits of education; raise academic, career, and life goals; improve overall academic performance; and prepare to meet the requirements for admission to college.

Two Valley Forge cadets earned Good Citizenship Awards that evening: Cadet Anthony Masucci ’13, Band, Hellertown, PA; and Cadet Erik Moessner ’13, B Company, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Reflection of a member of the illustrious Class of 1957:
The Alumni Office has received dozens of “thank you” notes and “attaboys” since Homecoming. This one from COL Michael E. Ekman, U.S.A. ’57, Waynesboro, VA captures the collective positive sentiment which resulted from the Homecoming:

“"The faculty members... are focused on their missions... (T)he Corps... is very impressive. Cadets were well turned out, positive, and pleasant. I am sure that academic gains, critical thinking, problem solving also follow this trend. Most telling: cadets hold your eye during conversations. My informal sampling of grads over the weekend was very positive. The consensus: Press on with Colonel Gray’s master plan... Successes will bring increased alumni support as the word gets out that under Colonel Gray, VFMA&C is returning to the basic principals, and that the institution is in good hands.... .”

COL Michael E. Ekman ’57, Waynesboro, VA, Order of Anthony Wayne, former member of the Board of Visitors, A Company.

Announcing: 2012 Mustang Man of the Year, Richard A. Hocker ’64
Valley Forge is pleased and proud to inform you that the Mustang Foundation has chosen our distinguished alumnus and Board of Trustee member, Richard A. Hocker '64, as the 2012 Mustang Man of the Year. Rich will be honored by the Mustang Foundation at Eisenhower Hall on the evening of September 12, 2012. Details are forthcoming. Thank you for marking your calendars, now.

“We pray as once he prayed. Valley Forge for thee.”

With great sorrow, we report that since our last Alumni eNewsletter the following members of the Long Line of Grey are TAPS. The Valley Forge community sends heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, classmates, and associates:

Paul A. Powell ’40, TAPS, Fairfield, CA, October 9, 2012,


Rear Admiral Peter K. Cullins ’47, TAPS, Temple Hills, MD, May 3, 2012
Served more than thirty years in the Navy. Trained in guided-missile technology and computer programming. In Vietnam, he was operations officer on the nuclear-powered cruiser Long Beach. He commanded the destroyer Waddell and the cruiser Little Rock. His decorations included two awards of Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy Commendation medal.

Dr. Richard F. Cullins, VFMA, Class of 1968, Annapolis, MD is the son of Rear Admiral Peter K. Cullins ’47.

MSG Harry C. Boyer, III, ’50, TAPS, Carney’s Point, NJ, May 16, 2012
Involved in Environmental Protection Agency. For decades, he was a Lieutenant Detective for the Philadelphia Police Department as well as a Master Sergeant in the Army.

Martin T. Green, ’51, TAPS, Medford, NJ, May 26, 2012
In 1955, “Marty” served in the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery as a Guard for The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and served in the Army in the Korean Conflict.

J. Robert Bower ’52, TAPS, Wellsboro, PA, May 6, 2012
Bob and his wife Nancy attended Bob’s 60th Reunion and attended every event possible during Homecoming 2012. He was a pharmacist for 30 years. He served on many committees including the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital, Wellsboro Cemetery, and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

E. Delroy Stutzman ’53, M.D., TAPS, Schaumburg, IL, April 12, 2012
Addiction specialist with a big heart who treated famous movie stars and musicians

Donald L. Woods ’62, TAPS, Reading, PA May 16, 2012
History buff who enjoyed visiting historical sites.
