

West Point Association of Graduates Timeline

By J. Phoenix, Esquire

July 13, 1853: The Class of 1821 held the first Class Reunion at West Point. Five members of the initial class to serve all four years under Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, invited him to join them, but he was unable to do so. Instead, the five members of the class met at West Point, probably watched the daily cadet review on the Plain, and then had dinner in that portion of the cadet mess reserved for staff and faculty.

1860: Joseph E. Johnston, Class of 1829, was the first Academy graduate to be promoted to brigadier general when he was appointed Quartermaster General. Thus Robert E. Lee's class was the first Academy class "that stars fell on."

1863: Joseph G. Totten, Class of 1805, the Chief of Engineers since 1838, was promoted to brigadier general and died on active duty a year later on April 22, 1864, at age 75. Fort Totten in Queens, New York, is named in his honor.

January 28, 1869: Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, in a letter to Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, suggested the formation of an association of graduates to promote the welfare of the Academy. Thayer subsequently envisioned an oversight committee of graduates and recommended that cadet appointments be based upon competitive examinations; that a permanent Board of Improvement be formed; and that an Inspector of Studies be appointed. Because of poor health, both he and Anderson were unable to attend the organizational meeting. Anderson's daughter suggested that her father may have traveled to the meeting but left prematurely because of his weakened physical condition.

May 22, 1869: The organizational meeting, initially scheduled for Washington's Birthday, finally was held at the College of the City of New York. Known to have attended were: Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818, president of the College; Alexander S. Webb, 1855; Abraham Van Buren, 1827; Francis Vinton, 1830; and Thomas J. Leslie, 1815. Since no detailed records survive, other graduates may have attended all or part of the meeting as well.

The constitution and bylaws were adopted, but members ignored any oversight activities and focused purely upon fraternal activities ("to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates"); and they prohibited political discussions or any other discussions foreign to these purposes.

Invitations to join the Association, including a copy of the constitution and bylaws, were mailed to all graduates, North and South.

Thayer was appointed president of the Association, but he attended no meetings because of his ill health. Professor Charles Davies, 1815, the next senior member of the Association, was elected permanent chairman and presided over five of the first six annual meetings.

June 17, 1870: The first annual reunion of the Association was held at the West Point Chapel (now the Old Cadet Chapel) on the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Of the 128 paid members of the Association, 43 were present. None of the three Southern members (Richard S. Ewell, 1840; James Longstreet, 1842; and Nathaniel R. Chambliss, May 1861) attended.

June 17, 1871: At the annual meeting it was resolved that the Association should meet on June 17th whenever that date falls on a Thursday. At all other times, the meeting should be on the Thursday preceding June 17.

June 14, 1872: Eugene McLean, Class of 1842, then one of seven Southern members, was the first former Confederate officer to attend an Association reunion. His classmates included Rosencrans, Doubleday, and Longstreet.

A list of all of the names given to the Cadet Summer Camps on the Plain from 1818 to 1872 was included in the 1872 *Annual Reunion* publication. It was a tradition to name each year's summer camp after a graduate who had distinguished himself or other prominent military or civilian leader.

June 11, 1874: At the annual meeting it was resolved that all graduates should be encouraged to join the Association and attend the 1875 meeting to celebrate the centennial of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Resolutions were "enthusiastically adopted" inviting both Northern and Southern graduates to attend the next reunion in 1875. Professor Davies wrote personal letters of invitation to many Southern graduates, and the number of Southern members increased to twelve.

June 17, 1875: Seven of the twelve Southern members attended the sixth annual reunion (Francis H. Smith, Class of 1833; Robert Ransom, 1850; James Longstreet, 1842; Sewall L. Fremont, 1841; Joseph R. Anderson, 1836; Eugene McLean, 1842; and Richard C. Tilghman, 1828). A record 112 members attended overall.

1877: Superintendent John M. Schofield, Class of 1853, invited the faculty and students of Vassar College to visit West Point. Approximately 400 accepted, beginning an annual tradition that continued for a number of years.

June 14, 1877: At the annual meeting, a committee of five, including former superintendent George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, and current superintendent John M. Schofield, Class of 1853, were appointed to coordinate the removal of the remains of Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808 and former Superintendent (1817-33), from South Braintree, Massachusetts, to West Point and the placement of a suitable monument in the West Point Cemetery.

October 10, 1877: The remains of George A. Custer, Class of June 1861, were removed from the Little Big Horn battlefield and re-interred at West Point. His brother Thomas, awarded the Medal of Honor twice during the Civil War, was re-interred at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, along with the other officers who fell on June 26, 1876. Phillip H. Sheridan, Class of 1853, had sought funding for the re-interment of Custer from William T. Sherman, Class of 1840, at the request of Elizabeth Custer. Initially, the request was denied due to economic conditions within the Army at the time. The belated approval included an admonition from the Secretary of War to keep the expenses "as small as possible."

November 8, 1877: The remains of Sylvanus Thayer were re-interred at West Point.

June 13, 1878: At the annual meeting, it was reported that two pallbearers at the re-interment of the remains of Sylvanus Thayer were cadets when he arrived as Superintendent (1817) while two others were members of the last class to graduate during his tenure (1833). Unfortunately, due to the then-current economic depression and the failure of the government to pay its officers for several months, sufficient funds had not been raised to provide a suitable monument.

Strangely, no mention is made of the Custer re-interment that took place a month earlier, likewise involving the entire Corps of Cadets and many graduates, but also attracting a large number of civilian mourners as well.

Also at the meeting, it was resolved that the Executive Committee "prepare suitable badges, to be worn by members on the day of the meeting" and that "the Annual Dinner shall take place immediately after parade."

June 12, 1879: Francis H. Smith, Class of 1833, Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, and a classmate of Executive Committee Chairman George W. Cullum, was the first Southern graduate to deliver the opening address at an Association annual reunion. His presentation, titled "West Point Fifty Years Ago," included the repercussions of the casual remark made by the Honorable Joel R. Poinsett, president of the Board of Visitors in 1833, to the effect that "it was difficult for him to conceive how the class [1833] could have done so well without knowing beforehand the subjects upon which they would be examined." When the remark was reported to Thayer, he insisted that the entire graduating class be re-examined the following day. When informed by

Thayer as to why the re-examination was necessary, the members of the class felt that an appeal was being made to their honor as well as their pride, and they performed splendidly again. A few months after graduation, Thayer and Smith happened to be staying at the same hotel in Providence, Rhode Island. The former superintendent told him, "Yours was the *last* class to graduate under my superintendency, and I regard it as the *best*."

August 30, 1879: The legendary Custer statue was unveiled on the Plain. Although unanimously approved by a committee that included at least four persons who knew Custer personally (but not including Mrs. Custer), it was criticized immediately upon its unveiling. "No soldier even held a sword and a pistol that way." The saber was held in a defensive "parry" attitude, and the pistol, added as an afterthought, was positioned awkwardly, almost as if Custer were considering using it to commit suicide. Another attendee added, "He certainly would not fight in such a coat." Mrs. Custer tried unsuccessfully for many years to have it removed, finally succeeding in getting the permission of six of the ten original donors. Robert Todd Lincoln, the Secretary of War, then ordered it crated and stored, and the Superintendent received permission to move the engraved base to the West Point Cemetery. In 1905, Mrs. Custer added a simple obelisk and her husband's brevet general officer rank. The statue is believed to have been shipped to Stanford White's studio in New York City so the head could be re-fashioned into a bust for display, but when White was killed on June 25, 1906, all knowledge of the status of the statue evidently died with him.

1880: A branch of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was founded at West Point; in 1907 it initiated the publication of *Bugle Notes* as a guide to incoming Plebes.

June 17, 1880: At the annual meeting, the Treasurer of the Thayer Monument Fund reported that over \$3,100 was on hand. The Committee on the Thayer Monument reported that several designs had been submitted but that some graduates opposed a monument in the cemetery and preferred a simple monument on the Plain.

In order to bring the date of the annual meeting/reunion closer to graduation, the tradition of using the date of the Battle of Bunker Hill as the focal point was amended to set the date as follows: "On such as date in the month of June as shall be designated by the Executive Committee."

June 9, 1881: At the annual meeting, the opening address by Judge John K. Findlay, Class of 1824, included his recollections of cadet marches to Philadelphia in 1820 and to Boston in 1821. Events profound and humorous were recalled, but the most memorable was shaking hands with the second president of the United States, John Adams, as part of the Boston road march.

Included in the *1881 Annual Reunion* publication was a long and comprehensive essay titled "Personal Reminiscences of the U.S. Military Academy" by the late Professor Albert E. Church, Class of 1828. It provided a detailed description of the physical plant, policies, and personnel during 1824-28 and anecdotes, including a "mutiny" regarding drill when the Commandant inadvertently scheduled a drill for November 1, although regulations stated that drill ceased on October 31.

June 12, 1882: At the annual meeting, the chairman of the Thayer Monument Committee reported that a clay model of the statue of Thayer and pedestal had been viewed by committee members in November 1881 and suggestions made for improvement. At the time of his report, the statue was being sculpted of white granite and would be completed before spring 1883, for dedication at the next annual meeting, coincidentally 50 years after the departure (July 1, 1833) of Superintendent Thayer from West Point. There was unanimous support for a resolution thanking Mr. J. B. Moulton, a nephew of Thayer, for the loan of two likenesses, plus an 1812 uniform and sword for the committee and sculptors to use.

In belated response to the 1879 resolution appointing a committee to create an Association badge to be worn by members at annual meetings, a rather elaborate design memorializing the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, and the Indian Wars was presented. Action was postponed until the next annual meeting. A sketch of the design was included in the *1882 Annual Reunion* publication.

June 11, 1883: The Thayer statue was dedicated; former Superintendent (1864-66) George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, delivered the dedicatory address.

June 12, 1883: At the annual meeting, it was determined that almost \$4,800 had been raised for the Thayer Monument, sufficient to cover all costs of the removal of the remains to West Point and the white granite statue of Thayer and its pedestal. It was hoped that the remaining funds would be adequate to place a plain, massive tablet over the gravesite in the West Point Cemetery.

Also at the meeting, the whole issue of selecting an Association badge was postponed indefinitely.

February 17, 1884: The first 100th Night Show was performed by cadets.

June 13, 1884: Issac R. Trimble, Class of 1822, who had commanded a division in Ewell's Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, was the second Southern graduate to deliver the opening address at an annual reunion of the Association.

At the annual meeting, it was reported that approximately \$150 remained after all expenses of the removal of remains, the creation of the Thayer statue, and the

placement of a massive cemetery tablet were paid. These funds were transferred to the Association Treasurer to be used for current expenses.

A series of enthusiastic cadet letters describing the march conducted by the Corps of Cadets from West Point to Hudson, New York, in August 1819 was included in the *1884 Annual Reunion* publication.

February 1, 1885: Herman J. Koehler was appointed Master of the Sword.

June 12, 1885: The *1885 Annual Reunion* publication included an extensive compilation of letters describing and commenting upon "The March of the U.S. Corps of Cadets to Boston, between the 20th of July and the 26th of September, 1821" compiled by Mr. John H. B. Latrobe, ex-Class of 1822, who also was the winner of the competition for the design of Kosciuszko's monument held prior to his resignation.

June 15, 1885: The first dress coats (tunics) were issued to cadets. Previously, full dress coats had been worn to almost all formations (including class).

June 10, 1886: At the annual meeting, the deaths during the previous twelve months of President Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843 (July 23, 1885), George B. McClellan, Class of 1846 (October 29, 1885), and Winfield Scott Hancock, Class of 1844 (February 9, 1886), sadly were noted.

1887: The 1851 cadet mess hall was renovated and named Grant Hall in honor of President Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843. It was the first structure at West Point to be given a specific name.

June 9, 1887: At the annual meeting, a committee was formed to adopt a button of suitable design "in the form of that of the Legion of Honor of Napoleon" to be worn by Association members. This particular design suggestion was logical, in that Napoleon's Legion of Honor was an award of merit instituted on May 19, 1802, shortly after West Point was founded based upon the model of L'Ecole Polytechnique.

June 11, 1888: At the annual meeting, an Association button of unrecorded design was adopted and order forms were to be sent to all graduates. Bailey, Banks & Biddle of Philadelphia agreed to produce the buttons. In the *1902 Annual Reunion* publication, a "bell button" was identified as being adopted in 1888.

June 12, 1889: At the annual meeting, a resolution to amend the by-laws to permit an annual assessment of not more than one dollar per member to pay current expenses of the Association was rejected.

June 12, 1890: Following the annual dinner, the President of the New York Central Railroad Company placed a special train at General William T. Sherman's disposal for

his return to New York City. About a dozen other graduates accepted his cordial invitation to accompany him.

November 29, 1890: The inaugural Army-Navy football game was played at West Point. Cadets voluntarily contributed funds to assist with the travel costs of the Midshipmen, but the more experienced Navy team won easily, 24-0.

June 12, 1891: At the annual meeting, it was resolved that the Association be incorporated under the laws of New York. George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, formally presented the 1890 edition of his *Register*.

November 7, 1891: The Association of the Graduates of the United States Military Academy sought incorporation in the State of New York with its object being "To cherish the memories of the Military Academy at West Point, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its Graduates."

November 12, 1891: Justice Willard Barrett of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial District of the State of New York, approved the submitted certificate of incorporation for the Association and consented that it be filed.

November 13, 1891: The State of New York certificate of incorporation for the Association was filed.

November 28, 1891: Coached by Dr. Harry Williams, Yale Class of 1891, and captained by Dennis M. Michie, Class of 1892, the cadets make their first road trip ever to defeat Navy at Annapolis, 32-16.

February 28, 1892: George Washington Cullum, Class of 1833, died. His bequest provided \$250,000 to fund the construction of a Memorial Hall (later named in his honor), \$20,000 in trust to purchase appropriate plaques, portraits and statuary, and another \$20,000 in trust to ensure the continued updating and publication of his *Register*. The pertinent paragraphs of Cullum's will were included in the *1892 Annual Reunion* publication.

June 9, 1892: At the annual meeting, the death on February 28, 1892, of George Washington Cullum, Class of 1833, was noted sadly. As a sign of recognition and appreciation, it was resolved that the Executive Committee "prepare a suitable program of exercises, to include an oration and a poem, which will fittingly testify to the virtues of the deceased" at the laying of the cornerstone of the Memorial Hall provided for in his last will and testament.

November 21, 1892: The Army Officers Athletic Association was founded.

June 9, 1893: At the annual meeting, the Association president noted that he had attended the first annual meeting in 1870 and provided a brief description of the dinner in a tent in front of the West Point Hotel on the Plain.

Also at the meeting, Egbert L. Viele, Class of 1847, presented to the Association a portrait of Robert Anderson, Class of 1825 and founder of the Association, donated by Anderson's daughter, Mrs. Eba Anderson Lawton. The portrait was titled "First Gun at Sumter." Viele then gave a presentation of Anderson's life and his contributions to our Nation. In an almost contemporary (2012) reference, Viele described the Civil War as a contest of Orient (Moslem) versus Occident, a battle of the ages in which "the degradation of man, and the debasement of woman, were crushed forever in free America." A black & white reproduction of the Anderson portrait was printed in the *1894 Annual Reunion* publication.

June 12, 1894: At the annual meeting, the Memorial Hall bequest from George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, was briefed. Court action questioning the application of the 5% New York State inheritance tax to the bequest was pending at the Court of Appeals, and an act relinquishing the tax had been passed by the legislature but vetoed by the governor. The firm of McKim, Mead & White was appointed the architect and submitted a number of preliminary drawings, of which one was selected, with modifications. When more complete drawings were prepared, the estimate exceeded the funds available. At the time of the meeting, revised drawings were in production.

June 10, 1895: At the annual meeting, the modest memorial to Andre Freis, assistant librarian of the Academy for 50 years, was described as a boulder, set in the cemetery, with his name on one side and this gilded inscription on the other: "This stone was erected by the graduates of the Military Academy as a memorial of Andre Freis, born 1820 died 1894, who, as Assistant Librarian, served this school faithfully for fifty years." Graduates were solicited for donations of not to exceed one dollar each, and \$277 was raised, sufficient to cover all costs involved.

June 11, 1896: George S. Greene, Class of 1823, was the last Association president appointed on the basis of age ("The oldest graduate belonging to the Association shall be the President; and in his absence, the senior graduate present shall preside at meetings of the Association"). He was first appointed in 1893-94, and served under this provision through 1896-97. At the 1896 meeting, changes to the Constitution were proposed, including one making the Superintendent the President of the Association, ex-officio, and another requiring an annual election of the Association President.

May 31, 1897: The Battle Monument was dedicated, and the Honorable David J. Brewer, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, delivered the main oration. Although a site for the monument had been dedicated on June 15, 1864, with Major General George B. McClellan, Class of 1846, delivering the dedicatory address, eventual difficulties in raising funds delayed the construction of the monument for over three decades. The monument then was emplaced on a site adjacent to the one dedicated earlier.

June 10, 1897: George S. Greene, Class of 1823, also was the first elected president of the Association, 1897-98 (“That the President of the Association shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting, and hold office for one year, or until a successor be chosen”).

June 9, 1898: At the annual meeting, David S. Stanley, Class of 1852, was elected president for 1898-99 under the terms of the 1897 amendment.

October 13, 1898: The Academy Coat of Arms and the Academy Seal, including the motto “Duty, Honor, Country,” were adopted.

March 24, 1899: The colors black, gray and gold, having met the approval of the Army Officers Athletic Association and of the Cadet Athletic Association, are adopted as the colors of the U.S. Military Academy for use in all athletic games.

June 7, 1899: At the annual meeting, a circular proposed to be sent to all graduates, including the Class of 1899 (due to a need for officers in the Philippines, they had graduated early on February 15), was read. It sought “to secure, if possible, the record of every graduate who served in the Confederate army during the rebellion, as well as the civil history of all graduates who were not in the army when the last edition of the Cullum Register was issue in 1890.”

Included in the *1899 Annual Reunion* publication were the memorial articles for Lieutenant Dennis M. Michie and a number of other graduates who fell during the Spanish-American War. All graduates were earnestly requested to aid the Association in providing appropriate obituaries for deceased graduates, especially by submitting relevant newspaper clippings.

June 10, 1900: The Catholic Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity was dedicated. The first Roman Catholic cadets entered the Academy following the Louisiana Purchase, ratified on October 20, 1803.

June 12, 1900: The Cullum Memorial Hall was dedicated. Funding had been provided by the generous bequest of \$250,000 for construction from former superintendent, Civil War veteran, and author of the *Register of Officers and Graduates*, Brevet Major General George W. Cullum, Class of 1833.

The bylaws were amended to permit a graduate to become a member either by paying a one-time initiation fee of ten dollars or by paying an initiation fee of two dollars and annual dues of one dollar.

September 1, 1900: The size of the West Point Military Reservation was 2,361 acres.

March 2, 1901: Hazing at the Academy was forbidden by Act of Congress.

June 8, 1901: At the annual meeting, the name of Oberlin M. Carter, first man in the Class of 1880, was dropped from the rolls due to his conviction by general court martial of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. (Note: Carter served five years confinement at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and spent the remainder of his life attempting to have the conviction overturned and almost succeeded. Both political and personal jealousy may have been involved due to his assignment to a number of prestigious committees, his support for Panama over Nicaragua for the construction of the canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the lavish lifestyle financed by his father-in-law, even after the early and untimely death of his daughter, Carter's wife.) The second man in the Class of 1880, George W. Goethals, succeeded Carter and built the Panama Canal.

An index to the obituaries of graduates published from 1870 to 1900 inclusive appeared in the *1901 Annual Reunion* publication.

June 9, 1902: Of the 45 living graduates who had served in the Confederate Army, 27 were members of the Association, and E.P. Alexander, Class of 1857, addressed the Alumni Day meeting held in Thayer Hall, the name then given to the ballroom of the new Cullum Memorial Hall. The 350 graduates attending were housed in the cadet barracks.

At the annual meeting, a motion was passed unanimously to replace the Bell Button badge adopted in 1888 with an undisclosed design to be made known to all members once arrangements for production had been made.

June 11, 1902: As part of a cadet review during the Centennial Celebration, President Theodore Roosevelt awarded the Medal of Honor to Plebe Calvin P. Titus, Class of 1905, for his heroic actions in leading a climb up the 30-foot city walls during the Siege of Peking. At the time, Titus was a bugler in Company E, 14th Infantry Regiment. During the Centennial, the gray Corps of Cadet colors were carried for the first time on parade.

Centennial Exercises were held in Cullum Hall, followed by Graduation Parade at 7:00 p.m., a banquet in Grant Hall (the cadet mess), fireworks, and an illumination of the post.

President Theodore Roosevelt stated: "This institution has completed its first hundred years of life. During that century no other educational institution in the land has contributed so many names as West Point has contributed to the honor role of the nation's greatest citizens."

1903: The authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets was 521.

June 13, 1905: At the annual meeting, a committee of five, consisting of two non-resident members and three resident members, was authorized to be appointed by the President "to consider the steps to be taken to secure a larger attendance at our annual meetings with power to make the necessary arrangements for the next meeting."

June 11, 1906: The report of the committee to increase attendance at the annual reunions was read and adopted but not included in the *1906 Annual Reunion* publication. A fourth resident member was added to the committee.

1907: The inaugural edition of *Bugle Notes*, the unofficial cadet handbook, was published as a Young Men's Christian Association project.

June 13, 1907: At the annual meeting, it was moved and carried that the matter of an Association-funded memorial be referred to the Executive Committee. Possible memorials included an organ for the new Cadet Chapel and bronze doors for Thayer Hall (the ballroom in the new Cullum Memorial Hall).

June 12, 1908: At the annual meeting, the Executive Committee reported that a Memorial Window for the new Cadet Chapel would be more appropriate than an organ for the new Cadet Chapel or bronze doors for the Cullum Memorial Hall ballroom. A committee was appointed to "investigate the matter and procure designs and estimates."

The bylaws were amended to provide that any annual member who has "paid into the Association twelve dollars in dues, including initiation fee, shall become a life member. Conversely, any member three years in arrears in payment of annual dues will be notified by registered letter and have six months after the notification to pay the dues or be held to have resigned his membership in the Association."

Also at the meeting, a motion to have the Superintendent declare one day during graduating week as "Graduates' Day," with special features added, was unanimously adopted and referred to the Executive Committee, along with the requirement for suitable commemoration of the centennial of the birth of George W. Cullum in 1909.

The name of Benjamin D. Greene, Class of 1866, was dropped from the list of members due to his conviction and subsequent sentencing for defrauding the government.

1909: Building 600 (now Taylor Hall), the headquarters building, was completed.

March 4, 1909: The cadet trip to the inauguration of President Howard Taft was marred by strong winds, a ten-inch snowfall, and temperatures just at freezing. Cadets had to cut fallen telephone poles and shovel snow in order to arrive in time to take a position near the rear of the parade formation instead of a position of honor in the vanguard.

June 10, 1909: At the annual meeting, a letter from Mrs. Eba Anderson Lawton, daughter of Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, was read. In it she expressed concern that her father was not listed as a member of the Association, even though he was substantially responsible for its creation.

The *1909 Annual Reunion* publication included a letter of April 9, 1865, describing celebrations at the Academy on the 3rd and 4th following the receipt of news of the fall of Petersburg. Also included was General Order No. 54 concerning the significance of the event published by Superintendent George W. Cullum, Class of 1833, who then granted amnesty for 400 punishment tours and 251 Saturday confinements.

1910: The East Gymnasium was completed.

February 20, 1910: The final competition was held for the design of the Memorial Window over the altar of the new Cadet Chapel. A gift of the Association, the cost was estimated at \$8,000. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts requested and received permission to display the drawings of the winning design for two weeks.

March 17, 1910: The contract for the Memorial Window was awarded to The Willett Stained Glass and Decorating Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

June 12, 1910: "The Corps," composed as a centennial poem by Chaplain (later Bishop) Herbert S. Shipman, was set to music by W. Franke Harling, Chapel Organist and Choirmaster, and sung for the first time at the closing of the Old Cadet Chapel on the level of the Plain upon the completion of the 1,500-person capacity Cadet Chapel on the heights overlooking the cadet area of barracks.

June 14, 1910: At the annual meeting, the Memorial Window was discussed, with a completion date anticipated of not later than March 17, 1911. The very detailed design thesis of the winning artist was included in the *1910 Annual Reunion* publication.

Also at the meeting, the change of the official Association badge from the bell button to the black, gold, and gray rosette was discussed. Since many members preferred the bell button, it again was made the official badge, with the rosette as an alternate.

1911: The Riding Hall (that became the Thayer Hall academic building in 1958) was completed.

June 10, 1911: The removal of the Old Cadet Chapel from the level of the Plain to the West Point Cemetery was completed, including the addition of a basement crypt. The re-construction of the superstructure was begun on August 25, 1910, but the excavation for the foundation and crypt had been accomplished the previous year. The total cost of the removal and rebuilding was borne by an allocation of \$32,000 from the appropriation for general improvements. Full details of the project were included in the *1911 Annual Reunion* publication, including the fact that no cornerstone was found. Instead, a flat stone was discovered at ground level in the northeast corner of the chapel; it was protected by a lead sheet and the date "November 1, 1834" was cut into the stone. The lead sheet had "Charles Lamb, mason" scratched into it. A full inventory of the flags captured during the War with Mexico that had been displayed in the old chapel was included. These battle trophies eventually were returned to Mexico in 1950.

June 12, 1911: At the annual meeting, it was reported that a Memorial Window in the new Cadet Chapel was presented to the Academy by the Association. The Treasurer's report noted a final payment of \$6,800. One of the architects on the selection committee commented: "It is very seldom that one sits on a committee of award in matters of this kind and is thoroughly satisfied with the design selected. In this case, however, we cannot imagine anything better."

November 19, 1911: The "Alma Mater," written by Paul S. Reinecke, Class of 1911, as a "furlough song," while walking the area in the fall of 1908, first was sung as a hymn.

June 11, 1912: At the annual meeting, the receipt of a historic letter dated February 12, 1869 from Sylvanus Thayer to Robert Anderson regarding the formation of an association of graduates was acknowledged. A gift from Anderson's eldest daughter, Mrs. Eba Anderson Lawton, the handwritten letter was reproduced in the *1912 Annual Reunion* publication. Thayer wrote that Anderson's proposal would "fulfill a wish I have long entertained."

1913: The East Academic Building (renamed Bartlett Hall in 1966) was completed.

June 11, 1913: At the annual meeting, the executive committee was increased to six members: four appointees plus the Association President and the Academy Superintendent.

The Class of 1863 held a reunion on the 50th anniversary of their graduation. All five living members of the class attended.

1914: The Master of the Sword, Herman J. Koehler, became the Father of Army Physical Training with the publication of the so-called "Koehler Manual," War Department Training Reference No. 115-5, *Physical Training With and Without Special Equipment*.

June 12, 1914: At the annual meeting, it was resolved unanimously that the Superintendent be requested to invite the members of the graduating class to the annual meeting to be received as members of the Association.

1915: The authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets was 706.

June 11, 1915: At the annual meeting, it was announced that a number of windows in the new Cadet Chapel would be reserved for memorials to the various classes, and each class would be allowed to put in at least one panel. The cost for each window panel on the ground floor would be \$250. When these were filled, windows above would become available, probably at \$300. It was anticipated that each class with living members would insert a panel.

A resolution was passed unanimously to the effect: "That the officers of local or branch alumni organizations of the U.S. Military Academy be requested to furnish the Secretary of this Association with briefs of the proceedings and the attendance at their meetings."

A telegram was received from Honolulu that 120 graduates dined together and sent felicitations to those gathered at West Point.

May 4, 1916: The authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets was doubled to 1,332 because of the ongoing war in Europe.

May 19, 1916: The equestrian statue of President George Washington was dedicated. The superintendent, Colonel Clarence P. Townsley, Class of 1881, had mentioned at a dinner party that he thought a copy of the 1846 statue standing in New York City at Union Square would be appropriate for West Point, and an anonymous Civil War veteran provided the funds. Initially, it was positioned near Battle Monument and remained there until 1971, when it was moved to a more appropriate position to the front of the expanded Washington Hall.

June 12, 1916: At the annual meeting, the Class of 1885 initiated a fund to purchase a full set of chimes for the Cadet Chapel at an estimated cost of \$15,000 as an Association, rather than a class, project. The fund was begun with a \$1,000 donation from a member of the Class of 1885 plus the excess funds the class had collected for their chapel window.

At the meeting, John M. Wilson, Class of 1860, related an amusing incident from his time as superintendent (1889-93). A refined Southern lady with exquisite penmanship

wrote him a letter requesting more information about his fine military academy. She added that if, after reading the material, she felt then as she does now, "I should like to send my daughter there." Sixty years from the time of this annual meeting (and perhaps 85 years from the date of the original letter) women first were admitted as cadets.

Also at the meeting, large dinners held in March 1916 in Boston, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Academy were mentioned, along with dinners held in Manila and Honolulu by graduates.

June 12, 1917: Due to the war, there was no annual meeting of the Association held in 1917, and the name of the annual publication was changed from *Annual Reunion* to *Annual Report*.

June 11, 1918: Lieutenant (Retired for wounds) Charles Braden, Class of 1869, resigned his position as Secretary of the Association after serving for 31 years (1880-1900 and 1907-18). He worked with George Cullum in preparing the 1890 *Cullum Register*, and was the editor of the 1910 edition.

June 10, 1919: At the annual meeting, a new bylaw was added:

"The Secretary shall drop from the rolls of the Association any member who is dismissed from the service, resigns for the good of the service, or is dropped for absence without leave."

A resolution was passed officially recognizing Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, as the originator of the Association of Graduates of the Military Academy. The resolution also mentioned the presentation of the chimes to the Cadet Chapel, courtesy of a generous donation made by Anderson's daughter, Mrs. James M. [Eba Anderson] Lawton. In 1909, Mrs. Lawton first had raised the issue that her father never had been included in the lists of members published annually by the Association.

October 21, 1919: The French Cadet Monument was presented to the Academy by the association of graduates of L'Ecole Polytechnique. The original statue was created by Corneille Theunissen and dedicated in July 1914 to mark the centennial and to commemorate the courage of the cadets who were mobilized to help defend Paris in 1814. The original statue stands proudly on the Court of Honor at L'Ecole Polytechnique, but a copy was made and presented to West Point after World War I.

June 11, 1921: At the annual meeting, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Class of 1886, nominated William N. Dykman, Class of 1875, for president, and Superintendent Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, moved that the nomination be unanimous.

Dykman noted that the Executive Committee over the past year had made efforts to secure a new hotel, a new Memorial Hall, and a stadium with no definitive results. Michie Stadium would not be completed until 1924 as a gift from the Army Athletic Association. The Hotel Thayer would not be completed until 1926, and a larger Memorial Hall never would be built, although Eisenhower Hall, officially opened on May 30, 1974, eventually served the purpose.

Although the Society of the Cincinnati had been authorized to provide the north window for the Cadet Chapel, they had been unable to do so and relinquished all rights. It was estimated that the window could be provided by the Association for \$15,000, and the motion to do so was carried unanimously. Thus the two major stained glass windows in the chapel (front and rear) were provided by the Association.

June 12, 1922: At the annual meeting, amendments were passed to amplify the statement of the object of the Association (“to cherish the memories of the Military Academy at West Point, *to promote its welfare and that of its graduates*, and to foster social intercourse and fraternal friendship”), provide for a vice president, and increase the executive committee to 30 members.

Lovell H. Jerome, Class of 1870, spoke about having an Alumni Day at the 1923 Annual Reunion, and a resolution was unanimously carried authorizing the President to form a committee for the purpose. A similar proposal had been made in 1908 for a “Graduates’ Day.” Why “Alumni Day” was selected over “Graduates’ Day” by the Association of *Graduates* remains unknown, since former or ex-cadets (who qualified as alumni but not graduates) were not allowed to join the Association until 1926.

June 10, 1923: The North Memorial Window of the Cadet Chapel, a gift from the Association, was dedicated as a memorial to those graduates who gave their lives in the World War. The final payment on the window was \$9,000.

June 11, 1923: The first Alumni Day was held at West Point, including an alumni wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Sylvanus Thayer, the Father of the Military Academy.

September 15, 1923: The first edition of the cadet semi-monthly magazine, *The Pointer*, was published. Its predecessor was *The Bray*, which first appeared on November 26, 1919.

1924: Michie Stadium was completed and named in honor of Dennis Mahan Michie, Class of 1892, first coach and captain of the Academy football team. Lieutenant Michie was killed in action at San Juan, Cuba, on July 1, 1898. The 16,000-seat stadium, completed at a cost of \$300,000, was a gift from the Army Athletic Association.

June 10, 1924: The inaugural Regimental Review for the Presentation of Stars to [academically] Distinguished Cadets was held. This ceremony was held to provide public recognition because the *Army Register* ceased its practice of annually publishing the names of [academically] Distinguished Cadets.

June 11, 1924: At the annual meeting, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Class of 1886, was elected as Association President for 1924-25. The outgoing president, William N. Dykman, Class of 1875, was praised for his efforts to enlarge the Association and interest young graduates in its work.

A motion was carried to authorize the Association Secretary to join the national Association of Alumni Secretaries.

A resolution was passed stating the opposition of the Association to any graduate or ex-cadet using the fact of his graduation or class membership to further any private business venture. Officers of the Association were responsible for sending graduate or ex-cadet violators a copy of the resolution.

June 12, 1924: The Class of 1924 was the largest to graduate in the history of the Academy. At 405, it dwarfed the 262 graduates of the Class of 1923.

November 27, 1924: The privately financed Bear Mountain Bridge formally was opened. Pioneering construction methods used in its construction influenced the George Washington Bridge (1931) and the Golden Gate Bridge (1937).

1925: The first three graduates/cadets were awarded Rhodes Scholarships: Francis R. Johnson, Class of 1923, and Standish Weston and Charles E. Saltzman, both Class of 1925. Although the scholarships were first awarded in 1903, cadets and graduates were not permitted to compete until 1924 because the Academy did not award a baccalaureate degree. A 1925 accreditation sufficed until Congress authorized the award of a degree in 1933.

June 11, 1925: At the annual meeting of the Association, the oldest graduate present made yet another impassioned plea for a new Memorial Hall—a plea that re-echoed in one form or another for decades: “Build a Memorial Hall dedicated to honor and righteousness Build an imposing building that shall have a tower that reaches as high as the heavens. There should be a place here at West Point where our exercises can be held with dignity worthy of the place itself. Let West Point have one thing that no other institution has, let it have a Memorial Hall that is dedicated to honor and righteousness. Other institutions can teach scientists, lawyers, literary men and doctors, but West Point is a place that turns out men of character and honor.”

October 31, 1925: The Association of American Universities, at the request of the Superintendent, accredited West Point so that the Academy graduate Rhodes Scholars selected in 1925 and afterwards could attend graduate schooling in Great Britain.

May 27, 1926: The United States Hotel Thayer opened, replacing The West Point Hotel built on the Plain in 1829 by Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, while Academy Superintendent.

June 11, 1926: At the annual meeting, it was reported that all 152 members of the Class of 1926 had elected to become members.

Also at the annual meeting, former cadets who had served at least one academic semester and had been honorably discharged were authorized associate membership upon the recommendation of two graduates and the approval of the Executive Committee. They were to have all benefits except those of voting and holding major offices but could not become members until after their respective classes had graduated. In addition to polling graduates, 45 other colleges and universities were consulted. The vast majority extended membership to non-graduate alumni.

A resolution to extend membership to other Army officers and prominent citizens was withdrawn to facilitate passage of the existing resolutions.

June 13, 1927: At the annual meeting, the cost of a lifetime membership was increased from \$10 to \$25, except that members of the graduating class could join at a reduced rate of \$15 prior to July 1st of their graduation year. Additionally, the initiation fee for graduates not opting for life membership was raised to \$5 plus annual dues of \$2 with no provision for conversion to life membership after payment of \$12 or any other aggregate sum in initiation fee and dues.

At the annual meeting, provisions were made for the solicitation of voluntary, annual "Sustaining Memberships" (of \$5, \$10 or \$25) to provide necessary operating funds for the Association on a temporary basis.

Also at the annual meeting, provisions were made for the establishment of an Endowment Fund, the annual income from which would provide necessary operating funds for the Association in perpetuity, similar to the endowments established by Cullum for his *Register* and for memorial items for his Memorial Hall. Five trustees, including the Association president and the treasurer, would govern the fund.

The reason for the above actions was to ensure the continuing solvency of the Association in the face of rising costs of publishing the decennial *Cullum Register*, the inadequacy of membership fees to cover annual operating costs, and the recent influx of associate members following the mailing of a letter to all graduates seeking

recommendations as to non-graduates qualified for such membership. About 200 non-graduates already had paid their membership dues, and another 800 remained eligible and pending.

June 8, 1928: The *1928 Annual Report* noted that, for the first time ever, the Association Secretary had made arrangements with the railroads of the country to secure reduced rates for graduates attending the annual reunion by implementing a certificate system.

Included in the report was a "Letter from Wartime Graduates" expressing their grievances regarding the placing of a large contingent of officers commissioned directly from civil life ahead of West Point graduates on the Army promotion list due to wartime expediency in 1916 and the postwar expansion during 1920. The graduates sought the assistance of the Association in redressing these grievances.

In response to a complaint from a senator that there should be a direct route through West Point, the Superintendent sought and received an Association resolution supporting the deferring of a decision on such a road until buildings currently scheduled for construction were completed. The very limited amount of level land for building was cited.

1929: Washington Hall, the 2,500-seat cadet dining facility, was completed.

June 12, 1929: In the annual report, the 1928 retirement of Professor Wirt Robinson, Class of 1887, the officer in charge of the *Cullum Biographical Register* for years in addition to other Association duties and heading the Department of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology, was noted. At that time, the wisdom of expecting one officer to perform all of these duties was questioned, and the same logic was applied to the Association treasurer (the head of Mathematics) and the Association secretary (the head of Drawing). The Superintendent thus sought and received the cooperation of the Chief of Staff of the Army in assigning an active duty officer to West Point as officer in charge of the *Cullum Register* and as assistant to the active duty secretary and the active duty treasurer of the Association. A separate Association office was established in June 1929.

The Association certificate of incorporation was amended to change the purpose as follows: "The object of the Association shall be to cherish the memories of the Military Academy at West Point, *to promote its welfare and that of its graduates* and to *foster* social intercourse and fraternal fellowship." The number of vice presidents was increased to five and the number of trustees to 30. An assistant treasurer and an assistant secretary were added. This, in part, formalized actions already taken at the 1922 annual meeting.

The members of the Association also voted to extend temporary financial assistance to the publication of the 1930 *Register* until such time as the revenue from the sale of the volumes was realized—the interest from the original Cullum trust being inadequate to fully finance publication. Earlier, loans from individuals were accepted or special solicitations (“sustaining memberships”) made.

The president of the Association, in an essay titled “Giving to Our Alma Mater,” reiterated the need for a new Memorial Hall to supplement Cullum Memorial Hall as a meeting venue and repository for additional donated treasures and memorials.

In the annual report it was noted that the first circular inviting the various classes to organize for the purpose of contributing their share to the Endowment Fund was dated January 1, 1929 and mailed a few weeks later. As of the annual meeting, \$38,255 had been received in cash and \$12,835 in pledges, for a total of \$51,090 towards a goal of \$100,000. Although the initial response was gratifying, the goal would not be realized for many years due to the ensuing Great Depression.

The annual report also exhorted graduates to respond promptly to Association letters requesting updates to their current status for the Register and encouraged graduates to forward newspaper clippings concerning themselves or other graduates to the Association secretary. Sometimes it was necessary to send seven letters before a reply was received, while hundreds of graduates never responded at all.

November 1929: The first separate *Roll of Members* of the Association was published. Previously this information had been incorporated into the *Annual Report*.

June 11, 1930: The harmonic division of the organ at the Cadet Chapel, a gift of the Association, was dedicated. The division consisted of 62 separate ranks of pipes, totaling 3,607, requiring an expenditure of approximately \$18,000.

In the *1930 Annual Report*, the commissioning of a dozen West Point commemorative Wedgwood plates, available for shipment on April 1, 1931 at a cost of \$15.00 per dozen was announced. Each plate featured a different view of West Point and was available in blue or pink.

1931: Grant Hall, on the first floor of a wing of South Barracks, was completed on the site of the old cadet dining facility built in 1852 and re-named in honor of Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, in 1887. This hall served as the official reception area where cadet guests initially arranged to meet their cadet upon visiting West Point.

The indoor ice hockey rink was completed and later named in honor of Major General William R. Smith, Class of 1892 and Superintendent during 1928-32, who had championed its construction.

The offices of the Association moved from the Administration Building to Cullum Hall, the Superintendent having provided two large rooms for the secretary-treasurer and the active duty officer in charge of *Cullum's Biographical Register*.

June 10, 1931: A bronze memorial tablet honoring Herman J. Koehler, Master of the Sword, was dedicated in the main hall of the gymnasium.

In his remarks to the annual meeting of the Association, Samuel E. Tillman, Class of 1869, who was recalled to active duty to serve as Superintendent during wartime (1917-19), noted that the definition of leather from his textbook on Descriptive General Chemistry recently had become required memorization for Plebes.

June 9, 1932: The *1932 Annual Report* of the Association noted that, although the market value of the securities held in the Endowment Fund had shrunken from \$61,000 to \$44,000 due to the Depression, no default on interest had accrued.

May 25, 1933: An Act of Congress authorized the Academy to bestow the Bachelor of Science degree. Previously, all graduated cadets received only a diploma and a commission. The first diplomas indicating the baccalaureate were awarded to the Class of 1934, but, in June 1937, the Act was amended to award all living graduates a retroactive Bachelor of Science degree.

June 11, 1934: In the annual report of the Association, the Memorial Hall Committee noted that, due to the Great Depression, no attempt had been made to secure subscriptions to the Memorial Hall Fund during the past year.

Also in the annual report, the Secretary noted that the number of members of the graduating classes joining the Association during the past two years had fallen off considerably due to the cut in cadet pay caused by the economic depression.

June 7, 1935: An Act of Congress increased the size of the Corps of Cadets to 1,960.

June 11, 1935: For the first time, the annual report of the Association included a series of short essays describing the activities and some of the history of the various reunion classes—a precursor to “Class Notes” (originally titled “Report!”) first published in *ASSEMBLY* magazine in April 1942.

1936: At the request of several members over the years, the Association undertook and completed the task of providing the “Standard Design for United States Military Academy Coat of Arms” in full color. An oil painting of the coat of arms was created by T. Loftin Johnson, a Yale graduate and Academy art instructor who had designed and was painting the Washington Hall Mural at the time. The Association then had a four-color plate made of the painting.

June 11, 1936: The *1936 Annual Report* noted that the Academy had reverted to the “old system” of appointing corporals from the third class, sergeants from the second class, and cadet officers from the first class. Later abandoned once again, this system was resurrected in 1991 as part of “The Change.”

The chairman of the New Memorial Hall Committee reported that such a facility was needed for dances, graduation exercises, lectures, and theatrical and other entertainments. It should provide ample space for plaques, tablets and similar memorials and be large enough to seat at least 5,000 and to serve lunch to 1,000.

June 11, 1937: The *1937 Annual Report* included the presentation made by Superintendent William D. Connor, Class of 1897, in which he lamented the fact that many older graduates had succumbed to “writer’s itch” and erroneously criticized the Academy. He noted that “the real truth is that without long and patient study, a graduate of fifty years ago is not competent to write about the Military Academy [of today], and when he does, his production is filled with errors, and the damage that he can do to his Alma Mater is very great.”

The annual report also included the report of the president in which he deemed inadvisable the suggestion of his predecessor that a retired officer be hired as Secretary of the Association to replace the active duty officers currently providing those services as an additional duty. This was not done until 1972.

June 13, 1938: The *1938 Annual Report* noted that the Act of Congress of May 25, 1933 that authorized the Academy to bestow a Bachelor of Science degree upon all succeeding graduates had been amended in June 1937 to provide the degree to all living graduates of classes prior to that date and that the distribution of certificates to these graduates had been completed in January 1938.

1939: The New North Barracks was completed.

The Field House [now the Gillis Field House] was completed. Although primarily used for indoor athletics and practice sessions during inclement weather, it was the site of graduation ceremonies for decades until the classes following the expansion of the sixties became too large for the facility. President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the Class of 1939, the first class to have their graduation ceremony there, on June 12, 1939.

Doubleday Field, the baseball diamond adjacent to the Plain, was named in honor of Major General Abner Doubleday, Class of 1842.

June 10, 1939: The *1939 Annual Report* noted that 2,000 of the 7,441 living graduates were not yet members and that \$4,000 has been expended to purchase and install

furniture in the living room and front and side halls of the Superintendent's quarters. The endowment fund of \$85,411 had produced a net income of \$3,119, inadequate to cover annual operating expenses in excess of \$5,000.

In his address to the Association, Superintendent Jay L. Benedict, Class of 1904, reported that "We do need the new memorial building projected for the old hotel site. It would provide the large theatre auditorium and assembly hall to supplement Cullum Hall which we have quite outgrown." South Auditorium in the refurbished Thayer Hall academic building finally satisfied this need in 1958. With the increase in the size of the Corps in the sixties, however, only the auditorium and ballroom of Eisenhower Hall, opened on May 30, 1974, sufficed.

June 10, 1940: The annual report of the Association noted that 352 of the 450 members of the graduating class had become members and that "As a result of the maneuvers being held last March [1940], a number of posts and stations, where anniversary dinners [now Founders Day] would normally have been held, reported an inability to continue the custom because of all graduates being in the field." Informal gatherings of graduates in the field, however, were mentioned.

June 10, 1941: The *1941 Annual Report* indicated that "A suitably inscribed record playing machine was installed in the Thayer Hotel ballroom, for the use of cadets and their guests" and that renovated Association furniture was donated to several cadet club rooms and the museum.

June 16, 1941: The luxury line *America* was commissioned as the U.S.S. *West Point* for wartime service. By the time she was decommissioned on February 28, 1946, she had crossed the Atlantic 41 times and the Pacific 15 times, always traveling alone and never in convoy, without the loss of any of 500,000 soldiers, graduates, wounded, POWs, Red Cross workers, dignitaries, diplomats, and USO performers. Erroneously reported sunk at least seven times by "Axis Sally," she quickly earned the nickname "The Grey Ghost."

October 20, 1941: Stewart Field at Newburgh, New York, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent for the purpose of providing Army Air Corps branch instruction to cadets beginning in 1942. As a result, the Corps of Cadets was divided into Air Cadets and Ground Cadets.

1942: The authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets was increased to 2,496 because of the ongoing war in Europe.

Lake Popolopen and the surrounding area (approximately 10,500 acres) were acquired by the Academy for cadet field training.

April 1942: The inaugural issue of *ASSEMBLY* magazine was published.

June 2, 1944: The Air Cadet Memorial was dedicated in honor of those cadets who died during World War II flight training at Stewart Field and elsewhere. The Classes of 1943-45 voted to form a committee to prepare such a memorial, all costs to be borne by the three classes. On May 22, 1943, the Superintendent had approved the placement of a Blue Westerly Granite memorial near Lusk Reservoir.

December 1, 1944: The term Black Knights first is applied to the Army football team. In a doggerel poem titled “Salute to Cadets” and used as filler in the sports section of the *New York Sun* on the eve of the Army-Navy game, sports writer Will Wedge wrote: “Blaik’s Black Knights ride to Baltimore-town”—and the rest is history.

1945: The Tactical Training and Firing Center at Lake Popolopen was renamed Camp Buckner in memory of General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., Class of 1908, killed in action on Okinawa, June 18, 1945.

December 26, 1945: The West Point Alumni Foundation, Incorporated, was established as a Maryland corporation for the purpose, among others, of publishing “books and magazines which may contain advertising.” This separate foundation was required because for many years the annual Army appropriations bill had provided that “No appropriation for the pay of the Army shall be available for the pay of any officer or enlisted on the active list of the Army who is engaged in any manner with any publication . . . which carries paid advertising of firms doing business with the War Department.” Because rising printing costs had made infeasible the original concept of defraying the costs of publishing *ASSEMBLY* with the proceeds of a one-time life membership fee paid by graduates upon joining the Association, it was believed that the revenues from paid advertising from government suppliers and contractors in an annual, rather than decennial, *Register* would cover the costs of the publication of *ASSEMBLY* and provide additional operating funds for the Association to supplement its limited membership revenues.

1946: Army Air Corps flight instruction was terminated for cadets at the Academy.

July 10, 1946: The Alumni Foundation filed to do business in New York State as a foreign (Maryland) corporation for the purposes of publishing the annual *Register* and any football programs containing advertising and acting as the business manager for the *Register* and *ASSEMBLY* (which contained no advertising). In essence, it also published *ASSEMBLY*.

August 6, 1946: The Alumni Foundation was authorized to do business in New York State.

The first annual *Register of Graduates* was published by the new Alumni Foundation. Advertising revenues fell below expectations, however, and the cost of providing ASSEMBLY at no cost to all graduate members threatened the solvency of the Association.

1947: ASSEMBLY magazine became a paid subscription publication.

May 31, 1948: Colonel William E. Morrison, Class of 1907 and Professor of Modern Languages, 1925-48, became the first Academy Professor to be retired as a brigadier general.

July 24, 1948: Administrative control of Stewart Field was transferred from the Superintendent to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

December 1, 1948: The Association was granted tax-exempt status by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. All gifts made after that date became tax deductible. This action was sought at the request of several graduate donors. The letter from the Treasury Department, however, indicates that the affidavit submitted included the verbiage shown below in the July 5, 1949, amendment of the certificate of incorporation. Apparently the amendment passed at the June 12, 1949, annual meeting had not been submitted formally to the State of New York. Thus the change was submitted belatedly to conform to the tax exemption affidavit. It was noted that the Association itself already had been exempted from federal income tax in 1938 and affirmed in 1943. Finally, the letter states that "Contributions made to you are deductible by the donors in arriving at their taxable net income...."

July 5, 1949: The certificate of incorporation belatedly was amended to change substantially the Association purpose: "The objects of the Association shall be to acquire and disseminate information on the history, activities, objectives and methods of the United States Military Academy; to acquire and preserve historical materials related to that institution; and to encourage and foster the study of military science there by worthy young men."

November 30—December 3, 1949: The inaugural Student Congress on United States Affairs (SCUSA) convened at West Point under the auspices of the Department of Social Sciences. Fifty-two colleges and universities in the eastern United States sent 126 delegates, who were divided into six round tables of 21 participants each to discuss "A European Policy for the United States: Problems and Objectives of the Next Decade." Faculty members from West Point, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and other distinguished institutions as well as government executives participated. SCUSA was well received by students and academia in general and continues on to this day.

1950: In his "Report of the President of the Association of Graduates, 1949-1950," Chauncey L. Fenton, Class of 1904, stated the following after quoting the earlier change to the Association constitution and bylaws: "All parts of our mission are important, but our greatest effort is put on acquiring information on the history, activities, objectives and methods of the United States Military Academy and disseminating it to our graduates. The reason for this work is that West Point is weak in public relations. We have been so informed by members of the Service Academy Board, by many educators, industrialists, and by our own graduates. The Superintendent knows this to be a fact and so do the officers of our Association."

March 15, 1950: At dinner in Washington Hall, Chauncey L. Fenton, Class of 1904, the president of the Association, announced the winners of a cadet essay contest sponsored by the Association. Cadet Richard M. Strohm, Class of 1950, and Cadets David E. Rogers and John Byers, both Class of 1951, received checks for \$50 each for their historically accurate character sketches of deceased graduates who became famous for achievements prior to World War II that could be attributed to elements of character and education stressed at the Academy. Twenty-three cadets from all four classes submitted 1,500- to 3,500-word essays, and the winning entries were printed in the *Pointer* magazine.

June 3, 1950: A National Public Relations Committee of the West Point Societies was formed after the Association invited all West Point Societies to send delegates to a dinner meeting at the West Point Army Mess to discuss the concept. Approximately 30 delegates attended, representing nine Societies and three other groups of graduates.

August 19, 1950: The Patton statue facing the Academy library was unveiled. The Dade Monument, previously having occupied the site, was moved to the Cemetery.

June 4, 1951: The Pershing portrait was unveiled.

June 30, 1951: The size of the U.S. Military Reservation was 15,065 acres.

January 5, 1952: The inaugural Ceremony of the Sesquicentennial included a "band box review" in Central Area attended by Secretary of the Army Frank Pace Jr.; the president of the National Guard Association, Major General Ellard A. Walsh; and Governor Thomas Dewey. The National Guard Association presented the Academy with flags of the various states and territories for display in Washington Hall. A concert followed that evening at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

January 17, 1952: A portrait of Robert E. Lee, Class of 1815, painted by Dickinson, was presented to the Academy as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Attendees included Lieutenant General Maxwell Taylor, Class of 1922, and representatives of West Point classes and the Daughters of the Confederacy.

May 20, 1952: The first academic convocation was held at West Point as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration, but inclement weather forced the ceremony inside the Field House. Delegates participated from 260 colleges and universities; 26 foreign countries; 35 foreign military academies; U.S. institutions; and learned societies. Diplomatic representatives included 12 ambassadors; two ministers; and 58 military attaches. President Truman; General of the Army Omar Bradley, Class of 1915; and Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of M.I.T., were special guest speakers. A reception in Cullum Hall and a banquet in Washington Hall completed the day.

1954: The certificate of incorporation was amended to provide greater flexibility in the number of trustees as follows: "The number of Trustees shall be not less than twelve (12) nor more than sixty (60)."

February 9, 1955: John Ford's motion picture, *The Long Gray Line*, based upon the book, *Bringing up the Brass*, by Marty Maher, as told to Nadia Reeder Campion and "Red" Reeder, Class of 1926, premiered in Washington, DC.

December 7, 1955: The Alumni Foundation moved its offices to West Point.

March 16, 1956: The conversion of the old riding hall to the Thayer Hall academic building was begun with a dedication on Founders Day by former Secretary of the Army Robert E. Stevens.

October 1956: *The West Point Story*, a weekly dramatic television series, debuted on CBS-TV. Up and coming young actors in the series included Clint Eastwood, Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman, and Leonard Nimoy. During the Bicentennial, prospective subscriptions were taken for a complete film set of the series, but graduate interest was inadequate to cover the costs of reproduction.

1957: *The West Point Story* moves to ABC-TV before terminating in 1958.

March 21, 1958: The inaugural Sylvanus Thayer Award was presented to Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, but President Eisenhower, Class of 1915, was prevented from attending by a severe snowstorm. The Class of 1931 donated \$500 to defray initial costs, and the medal was designed by Laura Gordon Fraser.

October 15, 1958: The Admissions Division of the Academy was established to "encourage outstanding potential leaders... to seek admission" to West Point.

1960: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Leone deeded 956 acres of land in Central Valley ("Leone's Farm") to the U.S. Military Reservation. Mr. Leone said that he was moved to do so upon seeing new cadets and cadre participating in the Plebe Hike marching off into the early morning fog after having encamped overnight on the property at his invitation for many summers.

220 members of the Class of 1961 participated in overseas Army Orientation Training as platoon leaders or assistant platoon leaders with Seventh Army units in Europe.

1961: The West Point Superintendent's Fund was established under the supervision of Chairman Lucius Clay, Class of June 1918, and Vice Chairman George Olmsted, Class of 1922.

February 13, 1961: Superintendent William C. Westmoreland, Class of 1936, acknowledged that the Alumni Foundation had agreed to hold funds raised in trust until needed for specific projects designated by him and his successors.

April 10, 1961: Major General Westmoreland prepared a memorandum of record regarding a visit to Congress to discuss the formation of a Superintendent's Fund to raise money for "'nice to have' facilities for the Academy and for the use of the Corps of Cadets." All agreed that the projects to be supported were "not of the type that the Congress would favor obtaining from appropriated fund sources." The fund would be an integral part of the Alumni Foundation.

May 15, 1961: The Sylvanus Thayer Award was presented to General of the Army and former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Class of 1915.

August 30, 1961: West Point was designated an Official National Historical Landmark.

May 12, 1962: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1903, received the Sylvanus Thayer Award and delivered his famous "Duty, Honor, Country" speech.

June 6, 1962: President John F. Kennedy delivered the commencement address and was made an honorary member of the Class of 1962.

December 21, 1962: The cornerstone of the 1964 library was dedicated.

January 14, 1963: A policy committee of senior graduates was established to advise the superintendent on the disbursement of unrestricted funds from the West Point Superintendent's Fund. The president of the Association, Leslie R. Groves, Class of November 1918, was a member.

September 28, 1963: The renovated West Point Officers Open Mess officially reopened. The Palmer E. Pierce [Class of 1891] Memorial Fund originally was envisioned as providing funding for a structure to connect the Association offices in Cullum Hall with the West Point Officers Open Mess, but the project was deemed impractical. Instead, upon the death of Mrs. Pierce in 1961, the funds were re-allocated to finance a multi-story addition, including a large ballroom and an equally large dining room, and other facilities, including a barber shop and private rooms on separate floors

on the river side of the mess. The construction had begun in July 1962, when dining operations temporarily moved to Cullum Hall.

1964: Public Law 88-276 decreed the expansion of the Corps of Cadets to 4,400 by 1973. Initial funding provided for the expansion of the mess hall and construction of additional barracks wings.

July 1, 1964: The first expansion class of 991 cadet candidates entered; 706 graduated in 1968 as compared to 583 in 1967.

November 13, 1964: A new library with a storage capacity of 500,000 volumes to serve the increased Corps of Cadets was dedicated on the site of the old 1841 “triple-turreted castle” library designed by Delafield. The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance, Deputy Secretary of Defense and former Secretary of the Army, spoke, and representatives of the Naval, Air Force, and Coast Guard Academies presented their Academy colors.

December 1964: The Plebes of the Class of 1968 were authorized Christmas leave; earlier classes had remained at West Point during Christmas for the traditional “Plebe Christmas.”

1965: Since the Plebes of the Class of 1968 did not remain at West Point over Christmas, a Plebe Parent Weekend was scheduled that permitted parents, family and friends to visit them at the Academy while the upper classes were on Spring Leave.

The Class of 1925 donated a six-foot geophysical globe for display near the entrance of the new library.

June 9, 1965: The Graduation Ceremony was held at Michie Stadium for the first time. Previous graduation ceremonies were held at Trophy Point until 1939, when they were moved to the Field House.

July 1, 1965: The second expansion class of 1,137 cadet candidates entered; 800 graduated in 1969 as compared to 706 in 1968.

1966: Reunions of younger classes were moved from June Week to Homecoming due to the limited facilities available. The increased availability of air transportation had allowed more graduates to attend reunions more easily.

The East Academic Building was renamed Bartlett Hall in honor of William H. C. Bartlett, first man in the Class of 1826; Professor, USMA, 1836-71; and eminent educator and author of scientific texts.

May 15, 1966: Sylvanus Thayer was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University, ending a decades-long effort by graduates.

June 5, 1966: The largest permanent electronic carillon in the world was installed in the Cadet Chapel.

1969: The West Point Superintendent's Fund was renamed The West Point Fund.

September 11, 1969: The MacArthur statue near the Superintendent's Garden was dedicated.

1971: The Cornerstone of Mahan Hall was dedicated.

The Washington statue was moved from a position near Battle Monument to a more appropriate position of honor in front of the expanded Washington Hall cadet dining hall.

1972: The Supreme Court determined that Chapel attendance by cadets must be voluntary, not mandatory.

Inaugural "adventure" summer training for cadets included 49 in flight training; 12 at Ranger School; 507 of 512 earning airborne wings; and 70 attending Northern Warfare Training prior to summer duty with platoons in Alaska.

February 8, 1972: A Memorandum of Agreement was signed transferring publications personnel and publications responsibility from the Alumni Foundation to the Association.

May 21, 1972: Eisenhower Hall was dedicated by Mamie Eisenhower.

June 2, 1972: It was noted at the annual meeting of the Association that the Endowment Fund now exceeded \$3,000,000 and provided interest and dividend income of over \$100,000 annually to fund operating expenses. In recognition of the current surplus, a gift of \$25,000 was presented to the Academy.

September 1, 1972: Upon his retirement on August 31, 1972, Robert J. Lamb, Class of 1946, became the last active duty officer to serve as a member of the Association staff. He had been Alumni Secretary on the Superintendent's staff but also served part time as head of the Association Secretariat. The following day, he was appointed to the new, Association-paid position of executive vice president. With no active duty officers assigned to the Association, responsibility for the publication of the *Register of Graduates* (which accepted advertising) was transferred from the West Point Alumni Foundation, along with *ASSEMBLY* magazine (which did not accept advertising at the time). Michael J. Krisman, Class of 1939, was named publisher-editor of both publications. A director of development was to be appointed shortly.

1973: The Thayer statue was moved to a more appropriate position across from Quarters 100, the Superintendent's quarters built and first occupied by Sylvanus Thayer. Once considered the oldest quarters extant at West Point, it was discovered by author and historian George S. Pappas, Class of 1944, that the adjacent Commandant's

quarters were older. Thayer, a bachelor, voluntarily lived in the basement of the unfinished Quarters 100 so that workmen could complete the quarters for the Commandant, who had a wife and several children to shelter before winter set in. Thus the Commandant's quarters are the oldest by virtue of being completed first, although both quarters were started at about the same time.

November 1973: The appeal for gifts this month was the first combined appeal integrating the needs of the West Point Fund and Association operating funds.

With 23,525 members, only 15,708 (67%) were subscribers to *ASSEMBLY* and/or the *Register of Graduates* as the Association assumed full responsibility for both publications.

May 30, 1974: Eisenhower Hall officially was opened.

1975: A one-semester cadet exchange program with the Naval and Air Force Academies was approved for the academic year 1975-76.

March 28, 1975: A Memorandum of Agreement was signed detailing the eventual phasing out of the West Point Alumni Foundation.

September 9, 1975: The Thayer Award ceremony was rescheduled from March (on or near Founders Day) to autumn to preclude interference from severe winter weather. The 1975 recipient was W. Averell Harriman.

1976: The Bicentennial of the United States was celebrated by the partial restoration of Fort Putnam and the presentation of facsimile cannon by the Class of 1976.

December 15, 1976: The Special Commission on the U.S. Military Academy (known as the Borman Commission, headed by astronaut Frank Borman '50) delivered its report on cheating to the Secretary of the Army.

1977: The natural grass at Michie Stadium was replaced by artificial Astro Turf.

June 8, 1977: The graduation ceremony for the Class of 1977 was held on the Plain because of construction work (Astro Turf) at Michie Stadium. Earlier, with the completion of the Field House in 1939, subsequent graduations were held there. With the doubling of the size of the Corps of Cadets in the sixties, graduation was moved to Michie Stadium to accommodate the increased number of cadets and guests, but the Class of 1977 took a step well back in time because the Field House was too small to accommodate all of the graduates and guests. Luckily, the weather cooperated, which often was not the case at Michie Stadium.

June 30, 1977: The West Point Society of New York sponsored the premiere of the motion picture *MacArthur* starring Gregory Peck.

1979: The West Point Preparatory Scholarship Program of the West Point Association of Graduates was launched to provide partial scholarships to deserving candidates who are scholar leaders or athletes needing some additional preparation to ensure success at West Point.

Association members participated in a joint cruise from Texas to inaugurate the Association travel program.

May 28, 1980: The first 62 women graduates joined the Association as members of the Class of 1980.

September 1982: The Association purchased Wang computers to automate graduate records.

1983: For the first time, 25th, 35th, and 45th reunion classes were invited to schedule their reunions on a home football weekend other than Homecoming.

May 3, 1983: The Eisenhower statue was dedicated near the clock tower.

September 8, 1983: The Vietnam-era Killed in Action/Died of Wounds/Missing in Action plaque was installed on the second floor of Cullum Hall.

September 20, 1983: The cornerstone for the first Jewish Cadet Chapel at West Point was set. Mayor Koch of New York City was one of many guests attending the ceremony.

October 22, 1983: The Association Board of Trustees was briefed by Robert M. Wilson '50, chairman of the committee studying the feasibility of constructing a Museum Gallery and Association Headquarters building near the Plain.

November 13, 1984: The first services were held at the new Jewish Cadet Chapel.

October 17-18, 1986: The Board of Trustees of the Association approved the creation of The West Point Societies Program, with Morris J. Herbert '50 as its first director and James W. Wensyel '52 as deputy director.

May 1, 1987: The Inaugural West Point Societies Presidents Conference was convened. Presidents and other officers from 53 Societies traveled to the Academy for a one-day conference inaugurating the new West Point Societies Program. Denis F. Mullane '52, Chairman of the Societies Committee, set the theme of the conference: encouraging mutual efforts to help the Academy; strengthening our Societies and our Association; and encouraging a closer relationship among the three.

March 21, 1988: The West Point Alumni Foundation was dissolved.

May 5, 1988: The Jewish Chapel officially was dedicated; the first services had been held in November 1984.

September 23, 1988: The Class of June 1943 presented an enlarged and modernized Thayer Gate to the Academy. It was placed on a bias in anticipation of the angling of Thayer Road in the vicinity to accommodate a parking lot on the same side of the road as the Thayer Hotel.

May 1989: The Crandall Pool was dedicated.

The Class of 1949 held its 40th Reunion aboard a ship anchored near South Dock.

November 1990: The 1990 *Register* celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of General of the Army and President Dwight David Eisenhower, Class of 1915.

October 28, 1991: The Class of 1940 officially presented their 50th anniversary gift to the Academy: special copies of *The Illustrated History of West Point*, the book by Dr. Theodore J. Crackel with photography by Ted Spiegel that they had commissioned at their 50th Reunion.

March 1992: Herbert Hall reached 65% design status, and the contract was expected to be awarded by October with occupancy by the summer of 1994.

May 1992: *ASSEMBLY* turned 50 years old; the event was commemorated in the March-April 1992 issue.

May 26, 1992: The first Distinguished Graduate Awards were presented to Andrew J. Goodpaster, Class of 1939, and Thoralf M. Sundt, Jr., Class of 1952, at West Point. In March, James A. Van Fleet, Class of 1915, received his award at his hometown of Polk City, Florida, in conjunction with his 100th birthday celebration on March 19. Association President Denis F. Mullane, Class of 1952, made the presentation. Matthew B. Ridgway, April 1917, received his at his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 18. Superintendent Howard D. Graves, Class of 1961, made the presentation.

November 5, 1992: The Flight Memorial, near the Air Cadet Memorial, was dedicated to all graduates killed in military flight, whether in combat, training, or air accidents.

1993: All graduates, beginning with the Class of 1994, became members of the Association without the requirement of paying an initiation fee. As such, they no longer received a free copy of the *Register* and a free one-year subscription to *ASSEMBLY*.

Associate membership in the Association was extended “to all officers and civilian personnel assigned to the Academy who have as their principal duties the instruction, training, coaching and guidance of cadets.”

The Development staff increased to 18 and raised \$8.84 million from 15,731 gifts. The number of active West Point Societies increased to 108, including Fort Hood, Texas and Lawton, Oklahoma. The West Point Societies Program became the Office of Alumni Support, with elements supporting Societies, individual graduates, and communications. Career advisory services included a “resume on diskette” program.

The name of the West Point Societies Program was changed to the Alumni Support Program, reflecting an increased role regarding all graduates. The program, adding a Communications (information technology) element to Organizational Support (Societies) and Alumni Services (Classes), remained under the leadership of John C. Snodgrass, Class of 1956.

The page size of the *Register* was increased to be the same as that of *ASSEMBLY*, and surnames were added to the page headers in the alphabetical locator to facilitate searching for names of graduates. The increased size also allowed the same advertisements to appear in both publications and reduced the page count by including more biographies per page.

For the first time, *ASSEMBLY* magazine was completely designed in-house using desktop publishing software that provided the Association with complete control of layout and design.

Development raised \$8.84 million from 15,731 gifts.

April 8, 1993: Ground was broken for Herbert Hall, named in honor of James K. Herbert, Class of 1930, whose bequest provided initial funding for plans and design.

May 1993: The Association President noted that, pursuant to the recommendations of the 1900 long-range planning committee approved by the Board, the Washington Affairs, Long Range Planning, and Class Affairs Committees were in place and operating. The Long Range Planning Committee had submitted its first report, recommending, for example, an aggressive approach towards promoting the value and importance of West Point, enhancing the Association image with our graduates and the Academy leadership, and improving Association technical support facilities.

The recommendation to establish a contractual relationship between the Association and the individual Societies to pursue common interests, unfortunately, was not implemented due to lack of agreement on a number of details. The recommendation to establish a Superintendent’s Advisory Committee of distinguished graduates to serve as a “sounding board” on policies also was shelved.

July 1993: A joint letter was sent to the Honorable Sam Nunn, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, signed by Chairman Meyer and President Mullane, stating

the belief of the Association leadership and the majority of graduates that continuing the ban on avowed homosexuals in the military was warranted.

In the same issue, Robert F. Foley '63, Commandant and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions in Vietnam, formulated another bedrock concept, to accompany Honor, when he added "Consideration of Others" as one of the twelve dimensions of leadership upon which each cadet is evaluated sixteen times during the four-year West Point experience. It focused on issues such as establishing a positive leadership climate and eliminating prejudice, racism, and sexual harassment while aiding all subordinates in achieving their potential.

August 1993: An inaugural Association newsletter for the Societies and Classes, entitled *First Call*, was published.

September 1993: An advertisement for a history of West Point, *To the Point: The United States Military Academy, 1802-1902*, by Colonel (Retired) George S. Pappas '44 appeared in *ASSEMBLY*. A second volume, *More to the Point*, covering 1903-2002, was completed but never published by Praeger.

In the same issue, the Association first announced a "Resume on Diskette" program to assist graduates in transition to civilian careers.

October 15, 1993: The Herbert Hall cornerstone was unveiled during Homecoming Weekend.

November 1993: A short article in *ASSEMBLY* provided details on a number of new services available to graduates transitioning from the military to civilian careers. They included an electronic bulletin board service, a transition handbook, a resume file, a resume on diskette service, and an affiliation with Job Bank USA.

"First brass" was presented to the Class of 1994 at Branch Night in November by the Association, inaugurating a new tradition.

Cullum numbers were added to the page headers in the biographical entry section of the *Register*, again to facilitate searching for graduate entries.

1994: The Association initiated a password-protected electronic bulletin board.

June 6, 1994: The 50th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. The May 1994 issue of *ASSEMBLY* honored this solemn anniversary and was sent to all graduates with a good address on file, including a substantial number of non-subscribers. Colonel (Retired) "Red" Reeder '26 provided a first-hand account of the landing at Utah Beach from a letter he wrote to his grandnephew in 1984, and this was supplemented by an interview

conducted by his son-in-law, Colonel (Retired) Dale E. Hruby '58, a speech Red made to the Association of the U.S. Army in 1980, and various other letters and documents.

July 1994: In *ASSEMBLY* magazine, General Meyer, Association Chairman, took note of a recent *Time* magazine article critical of West Point and questioning the rationale for its continued existence, primarily on a cost-per-graduate basis.

October 1994: The *Washington Monthly* contained another article critical of the high cost of a service academy education and the isolation of cadets/midshipman from society in general. When re-printed by a number of other publications, including *The Boston Globe*, it received much wider circulation. The Academy wrote to the editors of all of publications involved, providing a point-by-point rebuttal and offering comparisons to the cost of officers from institutions such as MIT, Stanford, and Cal Tech—even before ROTC instruction costs are added. The editor of *The Boston Globe* noted that the article had “attracted more responses than any other article in 1994 and that almost all responses supported the academies.”

1995: In the January 1995 *ASSEMBLY*, Lieutenant General Graves commented about the so-called “groping incident” of October 1994, in which several female cadets were inappropriately touched by members of the football team during an afternoon “spirit run.” The Commandant immediately ordered an investigation, the entire football team met with the officer representative, and the guilty cadets were identified. Three cadets received demerits, punishment tours, and confinement, and the identities of both the victims and the guilty cadets were kept confidential. Representatives of the *New York Times* happened to be at the Academy for a scheduled meeting, so they were briefed on the incident immediately. As a result, the chain of command was praised in print by the *Times* for the “rapid, intelligent and open” handling of the matter.

General Meyer also discussed the incident in his letter to graduates, seconding the praises for the prompt, open, and efficient handling of the incident while acknowledging the role of the Association in disseminating timely information via our fax network and electronic bulletin board. The age of instantaneous electronic information flow was dawning as Herbert Hall opened its doors.

With a goal of \$8.84 million, \$11.04 million was raised by Development from 14,454 gifts. Graduate participation increased to 24%, an all-time high.

Army downsizing made the Career Advisory Conference on the Association electronic bulletin board the most popular site.

The Association website was launched, while the password-protected electronic bulletin board was retained for information of a more sensitive nature.

A *Register* section titled “West Point Firsts and Lasts” was initiated, along with a request that all classes submit firsts or lasts for their class so that future lists would be more complete. The response from class members and officers was encouraging.

Eighty-four Societies participated in the Distinguished Society Award competition for 1995, and 33 were named Distinguished Societies based on activity and participation criteria.

As the Association was initiating various electronic services, an independent, graduate volunteer organization called West-Point.org was formed. Expeditus Bolanos, Class of 1990 (graduated but not commissioned), who worked for a computer technology company in Texas, was allowed to use company facilities to create a series of websites for West Point Parents Clubs. Additionally, a West Point Forum encouraging free discussion of West Point and Association policies became popular as a means of voicing criticism. In time, this independent graduate endeavor provided a popular service to the Parents Clubs, who were under the purview of the Academy, not the Association, but eventually began to compete with the Association by offering class websites and computerized reunion registration services.

Over 1,000 copies of the 1995 *Service Academy Business Resource Directory* (SABRD) were sold.

February 15, 1995: Tragedy struck the recently graduated Class of 1994 with the deaths of Lieutenants Spencer David Dodge and Curt Guy Sansoucie of hypothermia during the Florida phase of Ranger School. Many graduates first became aware of the Taps Vigil, a relatively new tradition at West Point, by means of an emotional description of “Cadet Taps” by Frederick C. Rice '60 in the May 1995 issue of *ASSEMBLY*. This evening ceremony now is conducted upon every death of a cadet or recent graduate.

February 25, 1995: Herbert Hall officially was opened.

March 1, 1995: The Association staff moved into Herbert Hall.

April 21, 1995: An Open House was held at Herbert Hall for West Point and local community leaders.

May 1995: Criticism of West Point continued in the media, and, in the May 1995 *ASSEMBLY*, the Superintendent took note of a CBS-TV “60 Minutes” telecast in early April that again deemed the academies too expensive and insufficiently valuable to maintain. This was preceded by a favorable article, however, in the 19 March edition of *The Sunday Boston Globe*. General Meyer, Association chairman, addressed the questions of what is being done to inform Congress and others of the value of West

Point and how graduates can help. Noting that General Sullivan, Army chief of staff and a Norwich graduate, was an outspoken supporter of the Academy, he encouraged all graduates to get the facts concerning West Point and inform their Congressmen (few of whom have any military experience) and neighbors how vital the Academy is to the future of our Army and our Nation.

June 1995: The Chairman, General Edward C. Meyer, Class of 1951, announced three objectives:

1. The focus must be on service—to the Societies, the Classes, and to individual Graduates.
2. The momentum of fundraising activities must be maintained.
3. The Association must improve its capabilities to communicate, especially to provide timely information to the Societies, Classes, and Graduates about West Point and challenges to its continued contribution to our Nation.

Rebecca E. Marier, was the first woman to be rated the top all-round graduate—academic, military training, and physical training—since women first graduated in 1980. As a recipient of the Mason Award scholarship, she began medical school at Harvard in the fall of 1995, graduated in 1999, and currently (2012) is an active duty Army doctor.

Herbert Hall officially was dedicated, with Herbert family members as the guests of honor.

July 1995: General Meyer, Association Chairman, addressed a “hot button” issue in his letter to graduates in the July 1995 *ASSEMBLY*: locks on the doors of cadet rooms. As barracks were renovated, locks were added to room doors for nighttime privacy and overall security of computers and other equipment during leave and weekend absences. After considering the horizontal configuration of most new barracks and the increased number of persons with access to the cadet area, he opined that it constituted a correct command decision on the part of the Academy leadership. With the integration of female cadet rooms throughout the barracks, the decision also contributed to the privacy and welfare of all cadets.

Michael W. Mahan, Class of 1970, succeeded Robert A. Strati, Class of 1955, as acting Vice President of Development.

1996: A banner year for fund-raising, with 14,561 donors contributing a record total of \$12 million, as per the Chairman’s annual report to members. Of this amount, three million dollars went to facilities; \$2.4 million was provided to the Academy in unrestricted funds; \$2 million was allocated to support academics; \$1 million to Cadet Activities; \$1 million to the Association; and the remainder to various activities.

The 1996 *Service Academy Business Resources Directory (SABRD)* sold over 1,200 copies. The online listing of jobs available was moved from the Electronic Bulletin Board to the Association website and outsourced to JOBTRAK.

The Association endowment fund grew from \$14.5 million to \$17 million.

Royalties received by the Association from affinity programs exceeded \$139,000.

January 1, 1996: The Information Systems Department officially was activated, with Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Thomas P. Mulyca, Class of 1973, as Vice President of Information Systems. He had been Director of Communications for Alumni Support since 1994.

March 1996: The fourth joint Service Academy Career Conference was held in Arlington, Virginia, featured over 50 corporations, and attracted 500 graduates of the four academies.

July 1, 1996: The Information System Department officially was activated under Thomas J. Mulyca, Class of 1973, upon the recommendation of a blue ribbon communications advisory committee chaired by former Association president Denis F. Mullane, Class of 1952.

July 11-13, 1996: The first Distinguished Society Awards were presented for the year 1995 at the Annual Societies Presidents/Class Leaders Conference.

September 13, 1996: Johnson Stadium officially was dedicated. It included 880 permanent seats, locker room, training room, and team room at Doubleday Field, at a cost of \$4.4 million dollars, all from private gift funds. The lead donors were Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., son of Rupert H. Johnson, Class of 1921, and his wife Maryellie.

Later, a press box was added, thanks to a generous gift from former Army team captain Eugene D. Atkinson, Class of 1966, and his wife Carol.

November 1996: The Minority Outreach Committee of the Association, formed in 1995, organized and convened the first Minority Alumni Conference. A second conference was scheduled for 1998. The name later was changed to the Diversity Leadership Conference.

The November 1995 issue of *ASSEMBLY* magazine, themed "Potential Unlimited for the 21st Century," featured a handout of the Air Force Academy's 17th Military History Symposium, "Educating Junior Officers in the 20th Century," held in Colorado.

1997: Development staffing increased to 30 of an authorized 32 positions, organized into Annual Giving, Class Giving, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Major Giving, and Planned Giving. A record \$18.7 million was raised from a record 14,858 donors.

Royalty income for the Association exceeded \$146,000.

Advertising revenue for *ASSEMBLY* and *Register* was a record \$84,000.

The Raiser's Edge database by Blackbaud was selected to store the Association database in place of earlier systems. Lyris List Server software was purchased to permit the transmission of mass emails to desired groups, such as class or Society leaders, members of classes or a particular Society or subscribers to electronic newsletters like *Herbert on Sports* or *Gray Matter*.

All leadership letters and selected feature articles from *ASSEMBLY* were added to the Association website, along with *Register* tables, statistics, and brief biographies of prominent early graduates.

March 1997: Lieutenant General Daniel W. Christman, Class of 1965, announced that West Point would join Conference USA in 1998 to play more away games in the South, near several Army posts. In the first season, Army lost 25-30 at East Carolina (near Ft. Bragg) but had one of its two victories in Conference USA play at Houston, Texas. The following season, we lost all away conference games, amassed a 3-8 record, lost to Navy, and unceremoniously fired Coach Bob Sutton. In 2000, under new head coach Tom Berry, Army was 1-10, with our only win against Tulane at Michie Stadium. By 2003, Army went 0-13, fired Coach Berry mid-season, and hired Bobby Ross for 2004. Army left Conference USA at the end of the 2004 season with an overall conference record of 9-41 and returned to independent status.

April 24-26, 1997: The fifth Service Academy Career Conference was held in Arlington, Virginia, attracting over 50 top-tier companies and about 500 Academy graduates; another was scheduled for San Diego in October.

May 1997: The Association website was updated to include, among other features, online voting for the Board of Trustees.

August 1997: The first class coin was presented at an Affirmation Ceremony to members of the Class of 1999.

November 1997: "Herbert on Sports," by Morris J. Herbert, Class of 1950, debuts as a weekly email summary of, and commentary on, West Point sports activities.

1998: A banner year for the Bicentennial Campaign included a record \$24.6 million in gifts raised for the Academy. Major areas supported included: facilities, \$11.3 million; Cadet activities, \$3.7 million; academics, \$3.4 million; and unrestricted, \$1.1 million.

A "Lost & Found" section for Class rings was added to the Association website.

March 1998: “Gray Matter,” sponsored by the Department of Information Systems and written by a number of paid, freelance authors, often military spouses, debuted as a weekly email essay on various aspects of the West Point experience. In January 2003, it was brought in house until discontinued in April 2011.

April 23-25, 1998: The second Minority Alumni Conference was held at West Point.

May 1998: The conversion of the Association main database to Raiser’s Edge, by Blackbaud, was completed. All cadets were brought onto the database with each new class added early in Plebe year. They later then became either ex-cadets or graduates.

The Death Notification System (DNS) was fully implemented to send email notification of the death of a graduate to the Association leadership and classmates within 24 hours of the receipt of confirmed information.

An initial password was issued to every graduate, along with instructions for personalizing it if desired.

All internal systems were assessed for Y2K readiness during the transition into the 21st Century.

August 15, 1998: The Bicentennial logo, carved in stone in the courtyard of Taylor Hall (Building 600), was unveiled, and the Bicentennial flag was unfurled.

The Acceptance Day Parade was held for the Bicentennial Class of 2002.

Representatives from most graduating classes shook hands with a representative group of cadets from the Class of 2002. Seventy-five members of the Long Gray Line from the Class of 1920 through the Class of 2001 participated, with only five of the oldest classes lacking a member. Brigadier General Hasbrouck ’20 was the oldest graduate present. When asked how West Point had changed since he was a cadet, he replied: “We’ve all taken the same oath. I see no change.”

September 21, 1998: The 8th Annual Bicentennial Steering Group Conference was held at the Pentagon. Although there were media representatives covering the Acceptance Day Parade for the Bicentennial Class of 2002, virtually no conferees reported seeing any coverage in their local media. It was suggested that the winners of the regional Bicentennial Bridge Design Competition be offered appointments to West Point if otherwise fully qualified in regards to age, citizenship, academic standing, medical, and physical attributes. This would be considered a newsworthy item by the media—in the nature of a national search for the best engineering candidates. A counter suggestion was made that winners be encouraged to apply for an appointment instead.

1999: Although 1998 was great, 1999 was better, with Development raising a record \$32.9 million from 15,363 donors for the Bicentennial Campaign. Of that amount, \$13.7 million came in the form of direct contributions in the Major Giving area.

Use of the Association's recently redesigned website increased by 51% during 1999, with over 7,900 graduates logged into the graduates-only area.

The 1999 Service Academy Business Resource Directory contained listings for 6,680 West Point graduates and sold out, generating almost \$50,000 in revenue.

The 1999 *Register of Graduates* included instructions for the use of the Association email forwarding service. By using the first eight letters of a graduate's name, his or her first name initial, and the last two digits of the graduation year, any message will be forwarded to the graduate by the Association as long as he or she has a current email on file.

January 24, 1999: The Lichtenberg Tennis Center officially was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as the first completed physical development facility of the Bicentennial Campaign. It was a gift from the Class of 1955; Herb Lichtenberg, Class of 1955; and Alan Lichtenberg, Class of 1951.

May 8, 1999: Forty-three of the 75 leadership donors to the Bicentennial Campaign were recognized as the Corps of Cadets passed in review. On this date the campaign officially was made public and its unprecedented goal of \$150 million announced. Over \$100 million in cash and pledges already had been received.

May 29, 1999: At the graduation of the Class of 1999, the Class of 1949 inaugurated the tradition of the 50-Year Affiliate Class presenting a set of second lieutenant bars to the graduating class.

2000: The internet-based Joint Service Academy Resume Database System (JSARDS) completed its first full year of operation, hosted about 1,100 resumes from graduates of all four academies involved, and brought in almost \$50,000 in revenue to the Association.

The 2000 *Service Academy Business Resource Directory (SABRD)* contained a record 9,175 entries and sold 1,228 copies. The academies involved agreed to place the entries online in 2001 as iSABRD.

Royalties from affinity programs exceeded \$254,000.

The number of active Societies is 125.

April 6-8, 2000: The third Minority Outreach Conference was held at West Point. The capstone of the conference was the dedication of the former South Auditorium of

Thayer Hall as a memorial to General Roscoe Robinson, Jr. Class of 1951, the first African American graduate to achieve four-star rank.

June 22-25, 2000: The 14th Annual West Point Societies Presidents' Conference (including 46 Class leaders) was held and, for the first time, published a record of proceedings, both in hard copy and online.

August 2000: At a gathering of campaign leaders in Laguna Niguel, California, a pledge was made that pushed the Bicentennial Campaign over the \$150 million mark in gifts and pledges. By year end, a campaign total of nearly \$155 million had been raised, including \$32 million from a record 16,163 donors in 2000 alone.

At the Affirmation Ceremony for the rising second class, the Bicentennial Class of 2002, each member was given a Class Coin in a plastic case, courtesy of the Association. On the obverse was the class crest, in color; on the reverse was the class motto, a raised second lieutenant's bar with "2002" on one side and the date of the ceremony on the other. Beneath were the words, "Acceptance to the Profession of Arms."

For the first time, graduates were invited to march back from the Lake Frederick training site with the incoming class of new cadets at the completion of "Beast Barracks." This march back became so popular that the number of graduates marching the entire distance had to be limited to preclude interference with the training value of the march, but all graduates were welcome to march the last two miles from the Victor Constant Ski Slope to the area of barracks. Cadet road marches in the summer have a long history, with the march back's immediate predecessor being the old 100-mile Plebe Hike that was completed over five days and included overnight encampments at various sites, including Leone's Farm. Earlier there were mounted and dismounted movements by the upper classes that included some time spent off the reservation. Finally, in Thayer's time, several public relations marches were held, the most renowned being the march of the entire Corps of Cadets to Boston in 1821

October 22-23, 2000: The Association database software was upgraded from Raiser's Edge 6 to Raiser's Edge 7 over the weekend.

November 20, 2000: The inaugural ring melt of the Class Ring Memorial Program was held at the Herff Jones Company in Providence, Rhode Island. Based upon a suggestion from Ron Turner, Class of 1958, in the May 1999 issue of *ASSEMBLY*, donated West Point class rings were melted down and the resulting gold ingot—less a small amount saved for the following years—added to the gold used to produce the rings of the Bicentennial Class of 2002. The procedure has been repeated each year, but in the following years it has been held at the Pease & Curren Refinery in Warwick, Rhode Island.

November 2000: WebBoard, an online conferencing system, was used quite effectively by graduates to exchange tickets to the sold-out Army Navy game.

2001: At year end, almost \$184 million had been raised for the Bicentennial Campaign, exceeding its \$150 million goal with \$122 million already in hand. Unfortunately, since \$75 million had been designated by donors for approved Academy requirements not part of the campaign, 15 priority needs were only partially funded, and one had no funding at all.

On the plus side, \$31.6 million had been raised in 2001 from a record 20,153 donors, including \$8.2 million for facilities; \$6.1 million for Cadet Activities; \$3.4 million for athletics; \$2.4 million for leadership, moral and ethical development; and \$2.4 million in support of the Bicentennial.

The year 2001 marked the first during which Cadets could log into the Association website, allowing a smoother transition for our frequently moving, difficult to contact recent graduates.

For the first time, the Organizational Support element of Alumni Support began maintaining records on states issuing USMA license plates.

August 2001: A Class flag for the first time was presented to the Class of 2004 at Camp Buckner. The flag was to be displayed at Herbert Hall and provided to the Class, upon request, for ceremonies at West Point before graduation and elsewhere afterwards.

A Class flag also was presented to the Class of 2002 when they received their Class rings.

August 16-18, 2001: The 15th Annual West Point Societies Presidents' Conference was held at West Point (including 56 class leaders) and published a volume of proceedings both in hard copy and online as well.

September 11, 2001: Al Queda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger planes and crashed three of them into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon. The passengers on a fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, resisted the terrorists, forcing the plane to crash near Shanksville, Pennsylvania instead of into another target in Washington, DC.

December 2001: For the first time, the Association's Organizational Support element coordinated all aspects of the annual Army-Navy Tailgate; previously this had been the purview of the West Point Society of Philadelphia. West-Point.org created an online registration system used by over three-quarters of the over 700 attendees.

The Joint Service Academy Jobs Electronically (JSAJE) began pay-to-post operations under the overall administration of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association.

2002: Due to the growing size of the graduating classes of the 20th Century, the Centennial Celebration honoring the Class of 1902 was the last to be held. The Centennial Celebration was initiated by Lieutenant Colonel David Quinn on May 26, 1966 to honor the 100th anniversary of the graduation of his father, James B. Quinn, Class of 1866. According to an article in the January 1994 edition of *ASSEMBLY*, David, born in 1912, was the youngest of three children of James B. Quinn and his third wife, Estelle C. LeBlanc, and received his commission from Officer Candidate School following combat service in the Pacific during World War II. The elder Quinn's first two wives having died, he married again at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on June 11, 1907, two days after retiring from the Army. The Centennial Committee, essentially a volunteer effort dependent upon private donations, was managed by Quinn for 20 years and then taken up by West Point graduate volunteers.

Late in 2002, a Perpetual Flowers Program was initiated by the Association. For a one-time fee of \$6,000, flowers would be placed upon the graves of graduates or family members in the West Point Cemetery in perpetuity on four dates each year selected by the family.

Royalties received from affinity programs exceeded \$385,000.

The number of Friends of West Point reached and exceeded 200 during the year, including 38 Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army.

The number of graduate logging into the Graduates Only area of the web increased to 15,070, including 740 cadets who could not log in prior to this year.

March 1, 2002: The Association lost all merchant credit card accounts due to the acquisition of the West Point Federal Credit Union by the Pentagon Federal Credit Union. Information Systems took this opportunity to convert from a keypad system to PC Charge, making any desktop computer capable of serving as a credit card terminal.

March 15, 2002: The Bicentennial Reception at the Russian Tea Room was followed by the Bicentennial Concert at Carnegie Hall.

March 16, 2002: The Bicentennial Coin and the Bicentennial Stamp were issued at West Point.

The Bicentennial Banquet at Washington Hall was followed by fireworks and the Bicentennial Ball at Eisenhower Hall. Due to the world situation at the time, no high level civilian or military leaders from Washington were able to attend. In deference to the

memory of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the traditional last dance of "Army Blue" was followed by "God Bless America."

April 11-14, 2002: The fourth Minority Outreach Conference was held at West Point with an overall theme of "Leading Diversity in America."

April 18, 2002: The 2001 Thayer Award, scheduled to be presented on October 24, 2001, but postponed due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, was presented to Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, a World War II combat veteran.

April 27, 2002: The finals of the Bicentennial Bridge Design Competition were held in the Great Room of Herbert Hall at West Point.

May 28, 2002: The Caufield Crew and Sailing Center was dedicated. Lead donor was Frank J. Caufield, Class of 1962, son of the late Brigadier General (Retired) Frank J. Caufield, Class of 1934.

August 2002: When a Class flag was presented to the Yearling Class of 2005, members of the 50-Year Affiliation Class of 1995 participated in the ceremony for the first time. A Class flag also was presented to the Class of 2003, so that all three upper classes had a flag.

August 15-17, 2002: The Annual Leaders Conference (formerly the West Point Societies Presidents' Conference) was held at West Point with 64 Society leaders and 44 Class leaders attending. Proceedings were posted on the Association website.

October 3, 2002: The 2002 Academy Bicentennial Thayer Award was presented to "The American Soldier," with the Sergeant Major of the Army accepting the award.

November 2002: The 2002 *Register of Graduates* was a publication befitting the West Point Bicentennial. A full *Register*, it contained the biographies of all graduates from 1802 to 2002; the genealogical succession table; a selection of significant articles from past issues of *ASSEMBLY*, such as coverage of the March 15 reception at The Russian Tea Room and concert at Carnegie Hall, and the March 16 dinner at Washington Hall, the Class of 2002 Acceptance Day, Firsts and Lasts, Class rings, the *Howitzer*, Cullum Hall, the West Point coat of arms, Sylvanus Thayer, and Medal of Honor recipient Calvin P. Titus; and the Memorial Articles of historically significant graduates, including Grant, Lee, Goethals, Pershing, MacArthur, Patton, Bradley, Eisenhower, Robinson, Shea, and Versace. Historical photos were integrated throughout.

December 20, 2002: The Bicentennial Flag was furled following the December graduation of the last 24 members of the Class of 2002.

December 31, 2002: The Bicentennial Campaign for West Point successfully concluded with more than \$218 million pledged and \$160 million already in hand. During this, the first comprehensive fund-raising campaign for a federal service academy, an unprecedented 48% of graduates donated. In the final year of the campaign, \$32.8 million was raised from 21,104 donors. Major beneficiaries included: Athletics, \$10.4 million; Academics, \$8.4 million; the Bicentennial Celebration, \$4.3 million; Cadet Activities, \$3.1 million; Academy Unrestricted, \$1.3 million; and the Association, \$1.3 million.

2003: Widows and widowers of graduates were made associate members of the Association upon the death of their spouse.

On the heels of the historically successful Bicentennial Campaign, Development nevertheless raised \$17.5 million from 20,338 donors during 2003.

As of mid-year, 34% of all subscriptions to *ASSEMBLY* magazine were for more than one year. Advertising revenues exceeded \$110,000.

Printing of *ASSEMBLY* magazine adopted cutting edge “direct computer to plate” technology and the use of a new software program, InDesign.

The Association database was converted to Microsoft Sequel Server and installed upon a more powerful machine. This database was fast and integrated well with other databases, allowing it to form the basis of the Association information structure.

Royalties received from affinity programs totaled almost \$350,000.

January 2003: Authorship of the weekly electronic newsletter, “Gray Matter,” was moved in-house due to budget limitations. Julian M. Olejniczak, Class of 1961, vice president for publications, assumed the pseudonym of J. Phoenix, Esquire, similar to John Phoenix, Esq., used by satirical author George Horatio Derby, Class of 1846. Until terminated in April 2011, the newsletter covered customs, traditions, history, and current activities at West Point.

July 2003: A 64-page donor supplement was included with the July-August issue of *ASSEMBLY* magazine for the first time.

September 5, 2003: The Kimsey Athletic Center at the Michie Stadium Athletic Complex was dedicated. In addition to extensive facilities for the football team and coaches, it contains the state-of-the-art O'Meara, Malek, Dawkins, Class of 1959 Strength Development Center and the Kenna Hall of Army Sports. The lead donor was James V. Kimsey, Class of 1962.

September 5, 2003: Hoffman Press Box at Michie Stadium was dedicated; the lead donor was Mark B. Hoffman, Class of 1969.

September 2003: A new, experimental, complete, online version of *ASSEMBLY* magazine was sent to all of the younger classes with a subscription offer (at a discount) to the hard copy version. Approximately 300 subscribed. A free online version, made available to all, contained the Academy leader letters plus a sampling of feature articles.

November 2003: The 2003 Register was available in soft cover only and celebrated the Centennial of the Class of 1903, with special emphasis upon General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. All subscribers to the hard copy version also received a year of free access to the online version as well.

2004: Development raised \$24.9 million from 19,956 donors, \$7 million more than in 2003. Of the amount, \$3.2 million was donated to the Association to sustain operations.

The electronic version of *First Call* reached 32,000 readers each month.

Royalties from affinity programs exceeded \$334,000.

Herbert Hall hosted ten wedding receptions, 13 private parties, and 42 West Point Community functions as well as 30 Association events.

January 2004: The inaugural issue of the *TAPS* supplement (Memorial Articles) was co-mailed with the January-February issue of *ASSEMBLY* magazine.

April 1-4, 2004: The fifth Minority Outreach Conference was held at West Point.

August 2004: In a slight departure from a new tradition, the Class of 2007 flag was presented, with several members of the 50-Year Affiliate Class of 1957 attending, at the midpoint of Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner, rather than at the end. The Class of 2007 president carried their Class flag during the run back to barracks at the completion of training for the summer.

October 2004: Publications is reduced from a department to a directorate under Alumni Support.

2005: Bill Foley, Class of 1967, and his wife Carol made the largest single gift ever to the Academy when they pledged \$15 million to build an Indoor Athletic Center near Michie Stadium that included an artificial turf football field. Overall, Development raised \$28.9 million in gifts from 19,911 donors, with \$2.5 million earmarked for Association support.

Major changes in Association governance, long overdue, were made. Fiduciary responsibility and governance was vested in a 15-person Board of Directors to include a

Chairman, Vice Chairman, and President. An Advisory Council was formed consisting of 18 advisors-at-large; 18 Class advisors; and 15 Society advisors. The Association President became the chief executive officer as well. Directors and advisors-at-large served a three-year term with term limits of nine consecutive years of service. To prevent self-perpetuation of the board and council, the majority of the members of the Nominating Committee are neither directors nor advisors but representatives of Classes and Societies. These changes took effect on January 1, 2006.

An experimental “full *Register*,” including all graduates from 1802 to the present, was published in soft cover. Traditionally, only the decennial *Register*—published in years ending in zero—had been a full *Register*. With the rise of electronic information sharing, publication of a full Register every five years eventually would replace annual publication.

The *Service Academy Business Resource Directory (SABRD)* ceased publication in hard copy and migrated to online only as iSABRD.

The Gift Shop exceeded one million dollars in annual sales for the first time, including providing gifts and mementos in support of twelve reunion classes.

Royalties from affinity programs provided almost \$323,000 to the Association.

An annual gift from George S. Pappas, Class of 1944, provided initial funding for the procurement of reproductions of early cadet hat brass (first worn in 1839, 1842, 1869, and 1878) for sale to graduates under the Publications Legacy Brass program.

February 1, 2005: All new Cullum File entries were scanned and saved in digital format rather than on microfiche. Existing files were to be converted as resources permit.

July 2005: The 72-page Donor Supplement for 2004 that was co-mailed with the July-August 2005 *ASSEMBLY* was out-sourced to an independent contractor, edited by Publications, and brought in on time and well under budget.

August 10-12, 2005: Sixty-five Society leaders and 34 Class leaders attended the Annual Leaders Conference at West Point.

August 25, 2005: The password-protected, online version of *ASSEMBLY* magazine, dubbed *e-ASSEMBLY*, was made available to all subscribers to the hard copy magazine at no extra cost, as well as to those holding paid subscriptions to the online version alone. The major advantage of *e-ASSEMBLY* was that it is placed on the web upon the approval of the final copy for printing; thus it could be accessed about two weeks before the printed version arrived by mail.

September 30, 2005: Randall Hall, a part of the Michie Stadium Athletic Complex, officially was dedicated. The lead donors were the late Robert D. Randall, Class of 1956, and Mrs. Randall.

2006: John H. Haskell, Jr., Class of 1953, made the largest gift yet to the Long Gray Line Endowment, almost \$260,000. To date, the endowment stands at \$26 million and provides annual income to support Association operations.

In January, the Association webserver software was upgraded to Microsoft's Internet Information Server and paved the way for the installation in July of Blackbaud's Net Community (BBNC) Content Management System to host the next version of the Association website. BBNC is specifically designed for college and university alumni associations. The acquisition of an Internet Merchant Account eliminated manual credit card processing for web transactions, enabling the Association to meet a growing number of requests from Classes and Societies for online processing of tailgates, reunions, and other events.

Prior to their 60th Reunion, the Class of 1946 became the first class to contract with Publications to prepare a post-reunion booklet capturing the various events using Academy Photo and classmate photography and adding historic documents and reprints of selected articles from *ASSEMBLY*. The resulting "Spirit of '46" was well received. The Class of 2001 also requested a pre-reunion booklet be prepared for them, with a schedule of events, map of West Point, and photographs of various monuments and sites.

April 6-8, 2006: The first Diversity Leadership Conference, successor to the earlier Minority Outreach Conferences, was held at West Point. The theme was "Leading in Diversity Admissions."

June 2006: The first West Point Women's Conference was held to celebrate the integration of women into the Corps of Cadets; recognize the contribution women leaders are making to the Army and the Nation; and to plan for future contributions to an increasingly diverse Army and Nation. Of the 419 registrants, 296 were graduates, 73 were guests, and 50 were cadets.

Information Systems began the conversion of all remaining historical microfiche into digital images.

June 26, 2006: The Class of 1960, as part of the 50-Year Affiliation Class Program, sponsored the Open House held at Herbert Hall for the family and friends of the incoming Class of 2010.

July 2006: The Association fiscal year was changed from April 1-March 31 to the calendar year, effective January 1, 2007. Thus the 2006 fiscal year only had nine months.

Blackbaud's Net Community (BBNC) Content Management System was installed to host the next version of the Association website. BBNC was created specifically to meet the needs of higher education alumni associations to publish content on the web easily and target audiences based upon attributes maintained in our constituent database. Navy and Air Force also have adopted BBNC for their websites.

September 27, 2006: The inaugural Nininger Award for Valor at Arms was presented to Major Ryan L. Worthan, Class of 1997. The concept of the award was suggested by Doug Kenna, Class of 1945, and funding annually and in perpetuity was provided by Doug and his wife Jean. The award is named in honor of Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Class of 1941, who was killed in action in the Philippines on January 12, 1942, and became the first Army recipient of the Medal of Honor during World War II.

November 2006: The 2006 Register celebrated the bicentennial of the Class of 1806, featuring Eleazer Derby Wood and Alden Partridge, and the centennial of the Class of 1906, featuring General Jonathan M. Wainwright.

January 2007: The project to digitize all existing Cullum Files on graduates was completed. The Association fiscal year is now the calendar year.

February 4, 2007: Seth F. Hudgins Jr., Class of 1964, retired after 17 years as President of the Association.

February 5, 2007: Robert L. McClure, Class of 1976, assumed the duties of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

March 6, 2007: A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the Foley Indoor Athletic Facility, the gift of Bill Foley, Class of 1967, and Mrs. Foley. This facility had been a top priority for the football team, but a number of other Army teams also make good use of it.

May 2007: The Anderson Rugby Complex was dedicated. Lead donors, Lee Anderson, Class of 1961, and his wife Penny, also added a generous gift to fund the men's and women's Army rugby programs for at least ten years and provide a full-time coach.

May 4, 2007: The General John J. Pershing Reflective Essay Inaugural Luncheon is held at Washington Hall. The Pershing writing competition was devised by Lieutenant General (Retired) John H. Cushman, Class of 1944, in 2006 and initially endowed by him and Anne Cabaniss (widow of Jelks H. Cabaniss Jr., Class of 1944) to challenge cadets to reflect on the opinion stated by General of the Armies John J. "Blackjack"

Pershing, Class of 1886, on January 11, 1919. "The longer I live, the further I have gone in the Service, the more I reverence the things that inspire the heart and soul of young men at West Point." The competition is conducted as an in-classroom theme and supported by the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic. A gold medallion is awarded for the best essay overall, while the best essayist in each regiment receives a silver medallion, and the battalion winners receive bronze medallions.

July 2, 2007: As part of the 50-Year Affiliation Program, the Class of 1961 hosted the first R-Day Open House for the parents, family, and friends of incoming new cadets to be held at Benny's Lounge in Eisenhower Hall rather than at Herbert Hall. They reassured the parents of the Class of 2011 and treated all with coffee, orange juice, fruit, and breakfast pastries as the first of many Affiliation Program events to come, ranging from the March Back and Acceptance Day Parade to Ring Weekend and Graduation. It was a joint undertaking with the Directorate of Cadet Activities.

July 19-22, 2007: The first Glee Club Reunion ever held culminated with a joint concert with the Academy Band at the Trophy Point amphitheater.

August 2007: Following the Acceptance Day Parade, the Association hosted an inaugural picnic for the parents and other family members of the Class of 2011 as they awaited the release of their cadets for the afternoon.

The Association launched its new, state-of-the-art, feature-rich website establishing all constituents as members of a unique net community.

October 1, 2007: The position of Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Association was created, with John A. Calabro Jr., Class of 1968, as the first to hold that office. James E. Johnston, Class of 1973, succeeded Calabro as Vice President for Alumni Support.

December 31, 2007: Ms. Jean A. Hoey, for many years the executive assistant to the chief executive of the Association, retired after 61-plus years of service, having witnessed the graduation of almost 48,000 cadets.

2008: Service Academy Career Conferences were held in Washington, DC; Savannah, Georgia; Austin, Texas; and San Diego, California on a joint basis with the other service academies.

For the third consecutive year, annual Gift Shop sales exceeded \$1 million.

April 10-12, 2008: The Diversity Leadership Conference was held at West Point with the theme: Faces of Diversity.

May 2008: The Association stood up a local area network with direct access to the internet but independent of the Academy/Department of Defense network. The immediate effect was to permit world-wide access to the Association website for our graduates overseas, but it also provided access to critical commercial sites for disaster recovery and continuity of operations programs.

August 20-23, 2008: The Class of 1967 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference was held at West Point with 75 Society representatives as well as representatives from 30 West Point classes.

September 17, 2008: The third annual Alexander R. Nininger Award for Valor at Arms was presented Captain W. Bryan Jackson, Class of 2005, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart for his actions in Iraq.

September 24, 2008: The New Jefferson Hall Library was dedicated. Although construction was financed with appropriated funds, numerous upgrades were provided by private donations from Academy classes, individual graduates, and others through the Association.

November 2008: Brian Crockett, Rutgers Class of 1982, became the first minority and first non-graduate selected as Vice President for Development.

2009: Royalties received from affinity programs exceeded \$400,000.

Using social media to engage graduates and other supporters of West Point, the Association Facebook page had over 3,400 fans while our Twitter page had over 300 followers.

January 2009: The nucleus, or “quiet” phase, of the ambitious “For US All: The Campaign for West Point” began. Funds are to be raised to support five areas: Cadets; West Point, the Landmark; the Nation; Today (unrestricted funds); and The Long Gray Line [Endowment].

April 2-4, 2009: The 2009 Diversity Leadership Conference was held at West Point with the theme of Building a Culture of Diversity and Inclusion.

May 15, 2009: The Patton statue was unveiled at its new location between the new Jefferson Library and Doubleday Field. It had been removed from its original location in the planned footprint of the Jefferson Library and placed in storage for almost four years during excavation and construction.

August 12-15, 2009: The annual Class of 1957 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference was held with the theme of The Point of Leading.

October 2009: *ASSEMBLY* magazine began the transition from bi-monthly to quarterly publication by substituting an October-December 2009 issue for the September-October and November-December issues. The transition was completed with the publication of the January-March 2010 issue. The *TAPS* memorial articles supplement was published only twice during 2010.

October 15, 2009: The West Point Sylvanus Thayer Award was presented to Ross Perot, a 1953 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

November 2009: Kristin Sorenson became the first woman and second non-graduate Vice President for Development.

November 13, 2009: The 25th anniversary of the Jewish Cadet Chapel was celebrated. At the ceremony, Lou Gross, Class of 1954, presented a plaque to the widow of Herbert S. Lichtenberg, Class of 1955, and their two sons recognizing his efforts in helping make the only free-standing Jewish Chapel in the entire Department of Defense a reality.

2010: In year two of the Nucleus Fund Phase of "For *US* All: The Campaign for West Point," over \$107 million has been raised.

The Association Facebook page had almost 6,400 fans, while our Twitter page had over 750 followers.

Royalties from affinity programs produced revenues of over \$400,000 for the Association.

March 1, 2010: The tenth annual Ring Melt ceremony was held to provide historic gold to be added to the rings of the Class of 2011. Twenty rings, ranging from the Class of 1908 to the Class of 1984, were donated for the 2010 melt. Although the first melt for the rings of the Bicentennial Class of 2002 was held a bit earlier (in October of 2000), subsequent melts were held in the spring of the year prior to graduation.

April 7-9, 2010: The Diversity Leadership Conference was held at West Point with the theme of Advancing Diversity at West Point.

June 11, 2010: The 100th anniversary of the Cadet Chapel was celebrated with a processional from the original site of the Old Cadet Chapel to the site of the 1910 Cadet Chapel overlooking the Cadet area. Special services were conducted in the chapel, and a special cake, depicting the chapel with a bride and groom walking under a wedding arch of sabers, was cut and distributed to hundreds of attendees.

August 11-14, 2010: The Class of 1957 West Point Alumni Leaders Conference was held at West Point with the theme of Engaging Every Heart in Gray.

2011: The Office of Alumni Support began comprehensive reunion support services, with six of nine fall reunions opting to use Association services.

January 2011: The first issue of the quarterly *West Point* magazine, the winter 2011 issue, was mailed to all graduates with a working address on file at the Association and to others selected by the Department of Alumni Support. Publication initially was programmed for October 2010 but postponed in order to refine the concept and move the project into the next fiscal (calendar) year.

February 2011: The Publications Directorate becomes a staff element under the Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the phasing out of *ASSEMBLY* magazine and the continued production of *West Point* magazine.

July 2011: The final issue of the quarterly *ASSEMBLY* magazine, the July-September 2011 issue, was mailed to all subscribers. Class Notes transitioned to online publication effective in September, and Publications ceased to exist as a separate directorate.

October 19-21, 2011: The Diversity Leadership Conference was changed from an Association event to an Academy event with minor Association support.