

Dave Church
Remarks for 50th Reunion Dinner Dance
10-22-17

Here we are! What a glorious weekend. What a great class you are!

Welcome to historic Dahlgren Hall where many of our midshipmen day were centered. If you will look up to my right on the balcony floor (point) you will see Classmate John Ryan's official USNA Superintendent portrait.

Before we go on, please ensure you stop at the photographer's booth and get your formal photograph taken.

Please stand for the blessing:

"Oh Lord, thank you for the opportunity for us to gather here as brothers-in –arms, along with our families and friends.

"Please keep watch over us in the days and years to come and keep us all united as the Great Class of 1967.

"Bless this food you have put before us and bless those who have prepared it.

"Finally, we ask for your continued blessing and to see us all safely home.

"Amen"

BRIGADE SEATS!

After dessert;

Again, Welcome and...what a glorious weekend. I thank our Chaplains for the extraordinary weather. It couldn't have been better.

First off – I'd like all our spouses, family members and friends to stand and be recognized. These are those who have supported us all these years. [applause]

Second: I'd like to recognize Lisa Washington, our USNA dinner coordinator and Chef Eric Lindstrom, the Naval Academy Club chef, for the marvelous set-up and meal [applause]

Thank you to the USNA Garden Club for the great table centerpieces (N Stars). Under the pad at one chair at each table is a sticker – that person can claim the centerpiece.

Now: I want to publically thank the magnificent staff of our 50th Anniversary Book. Please stand as I call your name:

Ed Mills – (couldn't be with us tonight) the editor-in-chief of our graduation Lucky Bag, graciously accepted when I asked him several years ago if he would take the lead in the 50th anniversary book. I think he has rued that decision several times during the production phase.
What a great job being the leader!

In the past few days you have received the electronic version of the book biographies and questionnaires – 2,600 pages in all. What a treasure of history of our class. Be sure and read it all.

The book itself will be mailed in the next month.

Tony Wayne - the Class biographer; over 700 biographies

Dick Glasow, Pete Smullen and Jack Macidull – editorial staff

And finally:

Ed Kerins – our outstanding advertising chief. His stellar efforts through advertising sales brought the original price per book from \$100 to \$25. What a job.

We will have mementoes for them at a later date.
Finally, will all the Company Representatives please stand.
They were our communications leaders!

A round of applause for these dedicated classmates [applause]

Next – I want to again report on our Class 50th Gift: many of you saw the big check we presented to the Superintendent on Friday – here it is. Jack Parry, our gift co-chairman, who along with John Morton, assisted me in delivering the \$2,481,034 on the goal of \$1,967,000. Interestingly the Foundation told us our goal should be \$1.5M, but our larger committee said “hell no” – go for the \$1,967,00. Since this total was from a week ago we have moved far ahead.

This is a warning from me to you all – we have until 31 December to raise even more – you will be hearing from me. Thank you Jack.[laughter] & applause]

I want to thank Russ Johnson, Jerry Beavers and Doug Faber for the very moving memorial service this afternoon – there wasn't a dry eye in the house – thank you. [applause]

I want to again acknowledge our magnificent “Another Link in the Chain” (ALITC) chairman – Jack Parry, and his assistant Nita. This was 5 years of service as we sheperded the Class of 2017 through their four years, from their I Day through graduation. I know '17 will be at our side in the many years to come. Jack & Nita – thank you. [applause]

I want to thank the Alumni Association for their assistance in executing this memorable reunion. In particular, Holly Powers, the reunion coordinator was a vital member of our committee.

Also, our music playlist coordinator is classmate Rick Davis.

A big hand for both [applause]

Now – to the big thank you!

Our 50th reunion committee: they have worked hard these past two and ½ years to plan & bring you this reunion

please stand as I call your name-

Wayne & Jane Savage

Jack & Nita Parry

Jim & Pat McNeece

Steve & Maureen Phillips

Charlotte Church

A big round of applause so we can show our appreciation [applause]

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce the president of our Glee Club, Jim Edwards. He and our Glee Club members have rehearsed and will now entertain us.

Songs, and Navy Blue and Gold. BEAT ARMY!

Now – a few words from our VP – Wayne Savage.

Finis

Dancing