



Florida Military School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Volume 4

Issue 1

March 2006

Special 50th Anniversary Reunion Issue

From the President's Pen...

Max Elliott
Class of 1958

The **2006 Golden 50th** reunion countdown is now at **4 months** and counting! Remember - DeLand, Florida - August 4, 5 & 6! I'm really looking forward to it and I hope you are also.

This President's column will be cut short as the entire issue will be devoted to information about the reunion and registration information. Also, please, if you can, check out our website - www.fms-assn.org as information and registration forms will be contained there also.

We are still looking for FMSers. If you know of someone that we don't have in our database, please let us know who they are and how to contact them. In the next newsletter, we will publish a list of those we have found and then lost contact with and maybe you will know where they have moved.

Back to the **2006 Golden 50th** reunion - I hope to see you there!

NOTES -
From Your Secretary -
Sue Elliott

Hey, guys....are you getting excited yet? Our biggest reunion yet is only a little over four months away. Plans are well underway but there is still so much to do. The skeleton of the reunion has been formulated and now we are trying to flesh it out. We decided that it was foolish to try to re-invent the wheel. Our 2002 Lollapalooza went so smoothly that we are using that as a starting point and adapting things for the warmer summer weather, and hopefully, a bigger turn-out.

Instead of mailing out a separate flyer for registration, we decided to use this issue of the newsletter to better explain all the activities and functions and attach a registration form to the back. This not only will save on postage and printing, it does allow us to give more details. So once you have read through the newsletter, please start making your reservations for the reunion so we can better gauge how many we need to plan for and adjust our sights. It is especially important that we reach each and every possible cadet so if you know of someone who has moved, or has not been added to our mailing list, please let us know

quickly. We do not want anyone to miss this great opportunity to reconnect.

You might notice that our masthead and format has changed a bit on the newsletter. We can thank Harry Silvis for providing us some ideas and formats. We will probably try to do one more newsletter before the reunion if there is enough to report, and then an extra special edition after the reunion to sum it all up.

FLORIDA MILITARY SCHOOL GOLDEN 50th REUNION August 4- 6, 2006 Holiday Inn, DeLand, Florida

PROGRAM Overview

FRIDAY, August 4th -

- 3-8 p.m. - Registration Desk open - Stetson Suite - 6th Floor
- 3-8 p.m. - Hall of Memories set up and open
- Dinner on your own - area restaurants
- Informal and special interest gathering - at dinner or after
- Downtown Nights - downtown DeLand

SATURDAY, August 5th -

- 8 am - 2 p.m. - Registration Desk open - Stetson Suite - 6th Floor
- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Hall of Memories open
- 8- 10 a.m. - Informal & Special Interest Gathering
- Breakfast - on your own.
- 10 a.m. - Morning Historical Tour leaves
- 11:00 a.m. - Beresford Lady Cruise
- Noon - Lunch on Your Own (Sky Dive DeLand or airport restaurants suggested, or the hotel or other area restaurants)
- Noon - 5 p.m. - Independent Activities - Downtown Tour, Ghost Tours, etc.
- 2 p.m. - Afternoon Historical Tour departs
- 2-4 p.m. - Tropical Pool Party - Poolside Holiday Inn

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SATURDAY, August 5th

- 6-7:30 p.m. – Pre-dinner Cocktail gathering – Poolside Holiday Inn
- 7:30 – until ? – Banquet - Holiday Inn Ballroom
- After Hours Gatherings

SUNDAY, August 6th –

- 9 am – Breakfast Buffet - Holiday Inn Ballroom
- 10 am – (approximate) FMSA Business Meeting and Memorial Service

Raffle Drawings at the conclusion of business.
(End of Formal Reunion activities)

- Lunch – on your own
- Area activities
- Noon – 2 p.m. – Hall of Memories. Closes at 2 p.m.,
- Hospitality Suite – open from Noon until ?

Hotel Accommodations –

The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Deland on International Speedway Boulevard, Deland. Although most costs have gone up since 2002, the Holiday Inn has graciously extended us the same rates that we had in 2002. Rooms are \$59 a night and the rates are good from Thursday, August 3rd through Monday, August 7th. If you are interested in staying longer, you can discuss this directly with the hotel.



There are a minimum number of mini-suites available for \$99per night if you are interested. The regular rooms are very spacious and are available with either a kingsize bed or two queen size beds. The mini-suites are located on the far ends of each floor and they do have a small kitchenette. Sizewise, you really have more room in a regular room though. There is one advantage of the suites. If there are several cadets who want to be together with a mini-fridge and a gathering place, the Inn will book you with the two rooms on either side of the suite and you can be in a cluster.

If there are several of you that want rooms near each other, but wish to book regular rooms, we suggest you either make your reservations together or inform the Inn as to how many of the rooms you wish to have in close proximity.

Your hotel arrangements are your responsibility. It is preferable to contact the Holiday Inn directly (386- 738-5200 or fax 386-943-9091), although you can call the Holiday Inn national number if you prefer. In either case, identify yourself as a member of the **Florida Military School Association 50th Reunion group**, to receive the special rates.

Since rooms will be reserved on a first come, first served basis, we strongly suggest that you make your reservations early. Should all rooms at the Holiday Inn be booked, they will place the overflow at other nearby hotels at the same rate. But, if you want to be at the heart of the action, act early to reserve your room.



350 E. International Speedway Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32724
Phone 386-738-5200
Fax 386-943-9091
Or call Holiday Inn Worldwide at
1-800-Holiday
www.holiday-inn.com/delandfl

NOTE:

You make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel, not through the FMSA.

Reunion Reservations –

In response to a request from several cadets, we will offer two kinds of Reservations. As we did in 2002, we will offer a package deal rate for cadets that will include the Saturday night banquet, Sunday Breakfast Buffet and the basic registration with goodie bag and Directory. A package rate will also be available for the spouse or guest of a cadet.

The second type of reservations, we call the Ala Carte system. If you are unable to attend the entire reunion, you can pay a registration fee, and then pick and choose the meals you wish to have included.

Special trips, like the Beresford Lady Luncheon cruise, and Historical Tours will also be extra for either type of reservation.. Simply indicate on your reservation sheet how many tickets you wish to purchase for each event.

When you arrive at the Reunion, you will receive an envelope with all your tickets included. It will be necessary for you to present the appropriate ticket for admission to the banquet, breakfast meeting, tours, etc. Since these are prepaid tickets, and if you change your mind, you may trade among yourselves. We only need to know how many to plan for each event, not the actual names of those planning to participate.

All Inclusive Plans

- Package Plan A** – Cadets
Registration fee, Goodie bag, Directory,
Sat. Banquet, Sunday Breakfast Buffet,
.....\$60.00
- Package Plan B** – Cadet & Spouse/Guest
All inclusive, as listed in Plan A & B
.....\$100.00
- Package Plan C** –FMSA Guests
Registration fee, Sat. Banquet ticket, and
Sunday Breakfast
ticket.....\$40.00

Ala Carte Reservations –

Registration fee – (required)
(Covers all administrative costs, mailings,
Nametags, etc. as well as a Directory)
.....\$ 20.00
(those not wishing to get a Directory , deduct \$10)

Saturday Banquet)...
..... \$28.00 per person

Sunday Breakfast Buffet -
.....\$16.00 per person

As you can see, the Package plans do offer a cost savings to the participant.

Hospitality Room

The Stetson Suite, on the 6th floor of the Holiday Inn, will again serve as a Hospitality Room for the Reunion. This will be a good gathering place or a refuge from other activities. There is a small kitchenette so you can get a cup of coffee or tea, or an alka seltzer if you need one. Unlike 2002, no displays or video shows will be in this area. It will just be a place to sit and talk or rest a bit.

Memorabilia and Displays

Conference Rooms A & B on the main floor of the Holiday Inn, near the Ballroom, will be the location for all static displays and video shows this year. One end of the room will also house our official vendor’s, Harry Silvis, display of his wares for your purchase. Harry has developed some interesting new items for the reunion as well as items you may be more familiar with. These rooms will be open most of the day on all three days of the reunion. Hours will be posted on site.

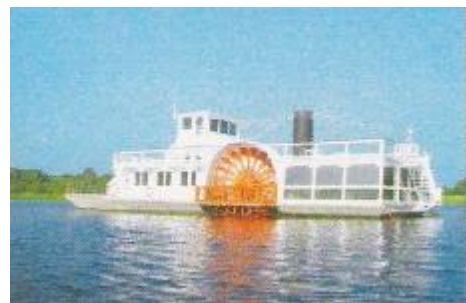
This is a “must do” activity during the reunion. There will be several videos playing during the open hours and you may even find yourself as a star in one of them, so be sure to stop by to see.

Beresford Lady Luncheon River Cruise

This is a delightful addition to our activities. It does however, have a maximum capacity so you will need to get your reservations in early so you do not miss out. It will be a first come, first served basis for the 80 tickets available.



This two and a half hour eco cruise takes you along Lake Beresford and the St. John’s River. Come reminisce the old way traveling aboard this authentic side wheel paddle boat. Let the Captain & crew take you back to “Old Florida” while you relax to the sights and sounds of the paddles churning the water. You can visit the second deck to observe some local wildlife in their natural habitat including alligators, turtles, manatees, birds of prey and other critters. The price of your ticket includes a delightful meal.



.The cruise will board at 11 a.m. and depart at 11:20 a.m. and will return to the dock at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$32 per adult or \$25 per child, and includes tax. Transportation to the dock is not included, and carpools are suggested.



There is a connection between FMS and the Beresford Lady. President Max Elliott and his wife Sue were married on the upper deck on

November 22, 2003 and held their reception aboard, and be sure to ask Ruth, your tour director about her brother. He was an FMS cadet.

You will have plenty of time to include this as one of your activities and still explore the Main Street Deland or attend the pool party at the hotel. Don't miss out on this!

Order your tickets on your FMSA Reunion Reservation form.

Riverboatin' at its Best!!!

Deland Historical Tours

This tour was a big hit in 2002 and is back by popular demand. Bill Driggors as Henry DeLand, will again be the tour conductor. The two hour trip will be by bus with stops at areas of local interest such as the Henry Deland House and museum, and the old Deland Hospital Museum with our Florida Military School Museum room. There will be a morning and an afternoon tour on Saturday and the cost this time is affordable. A minimal fee of \$5 is being charged to cover the cost of the gas and the driver and a small donation to the Deland Historical Society.



Tom Sperling, a former faculty member at FMS and presently Director of Public Works for DeLand is graciously providing the transportation for these tours.

Again, space is limited for these tours so it will be a first come, first serve situation. The morning tour will depart from the Holiday Inn at 10:00 a.m. and return at approximately noon. The afternoon tour will also depart from the Holiday Inn at 2 p.m. and will return at approximately 4 p.m. Bill says the tour will be 1.5 to 2 hours depending on the group so don't miss this fun experience.

(**Note:** Should you be involved with another activity, The Florida Military School Museum Room can also be visited independently on Saturday and the hours will be posted at the Holiday Inn, and directions will be available.)

FMS Museum

Thorntonn Ridinger, ('59) our Archivist, has worked closely with Tom Sperling to set up our museum. Tom Sperling, a former faculty member at FMS, is the Director of Public Works for the City of Deland and he was instrumental in getting us space for our exhibits on the third floor of the Deland Hospital Museum. We opened the exhibit for the Lollapalooza in 2002, but it has grown since then.



We will arrange to have the museum available for visit on Friday afternoon and again during the day on Saturday. It is a scheduled stop on the Historical Tours that are scheduled for Saturday morning and afternoon, but you may also go independently for a visit. The stop on the tour is a brief one, so you may also wish to return on your own for a more extensive visit.

Downtown DeLand – Shopping Tours

We are working in conjunction with the MainStreet DeLand Merchants' Association to develop some incentives for visiting some of the stores and eateries downtown. The old town has changed a lot since the days when you were a cadet here, and you will find quite a variety of boutiques, antique shops and specialty shops as well as a great variety of eateries. The merchants have worked hard to make the area a gathering place with lots of sidewalk cafes and parks. There is actually a self guided walking tour that they have developed and we will have those booklets available to you.

This would be a good activity if you arrive early or stay late, or something you might want to fit into a spare moment.

Ghost Tours

Since the Florida Military School campus has pretty much ceased to exist and is now overrun by industrial buildings, we really don't have a place for you to visit and reminisce. In 2002, we did come up with the idea of Ghost Tours and we posted pictures at the old sites and provided people with a self-guiding booklet. But this time, it will be August and the Florida sun can be brutal so rather than have you walk the actual sites, you may take the self guiding booklet and walk the tour in the comfort of the air conditioned Holiday Inn. The booklets and directions to the tour will

be available and you can take your tour anytime. For those who are brave and hearty, you can go over to the actual areas but perhaps you want to do so in the air conditioned comfort of your car.

Tropical Pool Party

Saturday afternoon from 2 – 4 p.m. there will be a Tropical Pool Party at the Holiday Inn pool. A cash bar will be available and special tropical drinks and beer will be featured. If you are hot and tired from touring or talking, this is a great place to gather and relax and cool off before our fun evening.



Don't forget to pack that swim suit, and of course, some sunscreen will be in order. Remember, the Florida sun can sneak up on you so maybe the sunscreen should be used all day while you are here.

Pre-Dinner Cocktail Reception

After a rest and maybe a shower, meet back at the pool area on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to visit and imbibe. A full cash bar will be open and they tell us it will remain open into the evening for those who would like to sit outside after dinner, and visit.

We would like to provide hors d'oeuvres for this affair and perhaps a class or group would like to sponsor them. If so, get in touch so we can discuss the details.

Saturday Night Banquet

The Saturday night activity will be held in the Banquet facilities at the Holiday Inn, following a cocktail hour. This will be a relaxed, casual evening but the summer heat prevents us from using an airport hanger. We will bring our festivities into an air conditioned environment, but will continue the casual dress. Since we are expecting a full house at the Reunion, we decided that a seated service, rather than a buffet would eliminate a lot of confusion. The main banquet room can comfortably accommodate 300, and if necessary, other areas can be included.

We are eliminating a head table and will thus be able to add more tables. We plan to have some musical entertainment, but otherwise, we are our own entertainment. If groups would like to reserve a table together, such as Class of '59, this can be accomplished if you will make your requests known early, so appropriate signs can be placed on your tables.



The staff at the Holiday Inn has worked with us to develop two affordable menus. You will need to select an entrée when you submit your reservation form, and the appropriate ticket will be in your registration packet. You will place your ticket at your place so that the wait staff will know your choice. What if you change your mind? No problem. You can find someone else who has also changed their mind and trade tickets. We will not be able to do that for you, but you can place a note on the message board to connect with someone who will swap with you.

The Menu Choices are:

Colorburst Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
Grilled Rib Eye Steak Seasoned to Perfection
Or

Breast of Chicken Picata with Lemon Demi Caper Sauce
Old Fashioned Creamy Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Seasoned Vegetables
Dessert

(Warm Rolls and butter, coffee and iced tea included)

(Those vegetarians among us can also be accommodated, if you will give us advance notice.)

After Hours

The Rhythm Street Blues Lounge, at the Holiday Inn, is a great place to meet for a drink or gather to rehash the day. Conveniently located, it provides good music and good drinks. And the fun goes on to the wee hours.

Special Interest Groups – Break-out Gatherings

The individual classes or special interest groups such as the “Jocks” (sports groups), Band

Company, or The Cavalry may want to schedule their own mini-gathering during the reunion. If

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you are interested in planning a pizza party, or beer party, breakfast meeting, coffee, or any other such gathering, we will gladly assist you in obtaining necessary names and addresses so you can contact potential participants. Gail Hinton, or Lillian Hess at the Holiday Inn can also assist you if you wish to plan a gathering on site. We can also provide you with information for other locales so you may make your arrangements.

We suggest that you make contacts with potential participants early so everyone is aware of your plans. We will also have a Message Board available at the Holiday Inn for any announcements. Friday, Friday night and Saturday morning are all excellent times for these gatherings. Or maybe even after the Sunday morning activities conclude or a late night get-together after hours. Here's your chance...get busy and set your plans!

RAFFLE

The Raffle in 2002 provided us with both entertainment and money to cover the unbudgeted expenses. We are planning to repeat this event this year. Tickets will be sold up to the Sunday Breakfast meeting and the drawings will be held at the conclusion of our Business Meeting.

At present, we are seeking donations of items and suggestions for items for this raffle. In 2002 we had a sword as the main prize, and may repeat the offering again this year. We do however want other items to include, so if you have a business and would wish to donate an item, we certainly would welcome it. Even a bottle of wine or champagne are welcome. Please get in touch so that we can properly publicize this event, and give recognitions where appropriate.

Sunday Morning Buffet Breakfast & Meeting

The Sunday Morning Breakfast will also be held in the Banquet Room, however, it will be a buffet. The menu selected is:

Sunrise in Style

*Assorted Juices – Florida Fresh squeezed
Orange, Apple and Cranberry
Sliced Seasonal Fresh Fruits,
Fluffy, scrambled Eggs, Crispy Bacon and
Sausage Links, Country Fried Potatoes
Assorted Mini Danish and Muffins
Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated
Coffee and Assorted International Teas.*

Our only official meeting will be held following the meal. As we did in 2002, we plan to introduce guests, recognize people, conduct some minor business and hold the drawings for our raffle

items. We will also include a brief Memorial Service to honor those who are no longer with us.

Downtown Deland – Friday Nights Out

The Downtown Merchants frequently plan special Friday night activities downtown for the locals. If they have anything special planned we will post that information for you, and encourage you to participate. Other than special interest groups planning gatherings, there are no formal activities for the reunion planned for Friday night so you will not miss anything.

Other Activities in the Area

The DeLand area has many other activities to offer for before, during and after the reunion. DeLand is also centrally located for sightseeing to other areas so plan to stay awhile and make this a family vacation, as well as a school reunion.

For the local History Buff –

- Self-guided walking tour of Deland – a pamphlets available
- Historic DeLand Mural Walk again with a pamphlet guide.
- Henry A. DeLand House Museum
- Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts, Inc.– Barberville – Historic buildings and exhibits dedicated to the education and preservation of the life-styles and activities of our spirited forefathers.
- DeLand Naval Air Station Museum
- Stetson University
- DeLand Memorial Hospital Museum – our FMS Museum is also housed here on the third floor.

For the outdoors, nature or water lover –

All located in near proximity to Deland (15-30 minutes)

- DeLeon Springs State Park – DeLeon Springs – swimming, fishing and hiking. Breakfast or lunch available in the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant where you can cook your own pancakes made from stone ground flour at tableside griddles.

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For the outdoors, nature or water lover –

- Blue Springs State Park – Orange City offers swimming, hiking and picnic facilities.
- Hontoon Island State Park- DeLand – has canoeing, hiking, fishing and picnic area.
- Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge-near DeLeon Springs – Nature trails, hiking, and observation areas.

For the Adventurous or Sports Minded –

- Golf at any of the 37 courses in Volusia or Flagler county. Eight are in the West Volusia area in or around DeLand.
- Sky Dive Deland (see write up in another area) – also entertaining for non-participants.

Driving Tours – (Near By)

- Self-guided Lake Helen & Cassadaga Areas
- Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp –Walking Tour – “where mediums, séances and spirits are part of every day life.”

Shopping –

- Downtown Deland – abounds with boutiques, galleries and other stores
- Many local (DeLand, Orange City, Deltona) shopping malls
- Volusia Mall – Daytona Beach (30 min.)
- Seminole Mall- Sanford (30-45 min.)

For Pre- or Post Reunion Excursions – (to name only a few of the many available)

- Daytona USA – NASCAR attraction at the Daytona International Speedway – Daytona (30 minutes east on Rt. 92)
- Disney – Orlando (1-1.5 hrs via I-4) Magic Kingdom Park, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, Animal Kingdom, Downtown Disney.
- Universal Orlando – (1- 1.5 hrs. via I-4) Islands of Adventure, Universal Studios

Ponce deLeon Light house – Florida’s tallest light house you can climb. Ponce Inlet (Daytona) (30-45 minutes on Rt. A1A)

- St. Augustine attractions and Outlet Mall. (II-4 north via I-95) (1 hr)

- Marineland – north of Flagler Beach on A1A (1.5 hr)
- Kennedy Space Center – Titusville (Rt. 92 to I-95 south) (1.75 hrs.)

These are only a few.

SKY DIVE DELAND –

This is an exciting activity for both observers and participants, and it is located near the former campus of FMS. It has gained a world-wide reputation and you will find an international mix of participants on any day.

During our 2002 Lollapalooza the daughter of one of our cadets made a tandem jump and had a great experience. Perhaps one of our cadets will take the plunge this year. No, Col. Ward will not be jumping!



The tandem parachuting method makes it easier for first-time jumpers to enjoy the thrill of skydiving. Just as you can fly in an airplane without being a pilot, you can now take a parachute ride just as easily.



If you decide to take the lunge...be sure to let us know so we can get a cheering section arranged for you. Information for making your own arrangements is provided below.

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PRICES

TANDEM COURSE

TANDEM SKYDIVE	\$169* ea.
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Group Discounts:
 4 to 6 persons \$155* ea.
 7 or more persons \$145* ea.

VIDEO & STILLs	\$85* ea.
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CLASS ORGANIZERS Needed:

We certainly don't want anyone to miss out on this big event and we cannot do it all alone. We really need you to volunteer to contact members of your class and encourage them to attend. Organizers might also want to enlist a few to help with an on-site gathering while at the reunion. We will provide you with class contact lists and you take it from there. Several classes are already making their plans and we don't want your class to be left out. Don't assume that someone else is going to do it, because they probably think you are going to do it, so it is fine if more than one person steps forward for each class.

The class or group organizers (confirmed) we have so far are:

FACULTY - Jerry Alleyne

COLLEGE CADETS – Harvin Carter

ATHLETIC GROUPS - Tom Bresnahan

SKY HARBOR ACADEMY – Lisa Lane &
Tim Taylor

FEMALE CADETS – Robin Kolb

WARD FAMILY - Carlene Despard

CLASS of 56-59 – Thornton Ridinger

CLASS of 61 – Tommy Register

CLASS of 65 - Harry Silvis

A quick email (sgcourtney@att.net) or phone call (386-749-4031) or even snail mail (Elliotts – PO Box 5, Pierson, FL 32180) and we will get you the necessary contact information to get started. Let's see which class can have the greatest percentage of participation.

(Editors Note: Max & Sue are in the process of building a new home thus the new post office address in Pierson. But never fear we will be keeping the old address for awhile. Mail just reaches us faster at the PO Box.)

SPONSORS Needed:

There are several opportunities for individuals or groups to assist by helping to underwrite parts of the reunion. Some of the opportunities that immediately come to mind are:

- Hors d'oeuvres plates for the Sat. night pre-dinner cocktail gathering.
(suggestions and prices available)
- Hospitality Room refreshments – (cold drinks, coffee, tea, etc. and cups, etc.)
- Raffle Items – bottles of wine or champagne, tickets, gift items, etc.
- Sat. morning doughnuts or pastries in the hospitality room.
- Friday night or Sat. nibbles for the Hospitality Room

If you are interested in sponsoring any of these or other things, please contact us so we can coordinate. The Holiday Inn has given us price lists for some of the items.

EVENT COORDINATORS still Needed –

Raffle Coordinator –

- A) to oversee the sale of raffle tickets at the Reunion primarily.
- B) Also someone to help enlist items for the raffle.

Ghost Tour Coordinator -

To give out self-guided tour pamphlets and assist with the tours.

All willing hands are welcome. If you are willing to assist in any way, please contact us. This is YOUR reunion and we want you to take an active part in it.

Don't let your class miss out....volunteer today!