



# Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 5 Issue 4

November 2008



## From the President's Pen - Max Elliott '58

On 18 October 2008, we held our Annual Meeting in the hanger of Steve (1965) and Sydney Nash.

There were 29 in attendance. The minutes will be posted on our website and later in this newsletter. Following the meeting, there was a gathering and steak fry held at the Elliott's in Pierson. Once again, Chef Eyre (1959) cooked the steaks to perfection! In addition to Dennis and the hosts, those who enjoyed the steaks were Jim Turner (1959), Thornton Ridinger (1959), Jeff Fawsett (1960), and Harry (1965) and Zora Silvis.

We had three members who flew their own planes in for the meeting. They were Richard Young (1966), Thomas "Skip" Randle (1967), and Alex Nelson (1963). Shucks, with Steve Nash's plane, we had our own FMS Air Force!

In addition to the Annual Meeting and Gathering attendees, I have had recent contact with Bob Speir (1960), Robert Mouro (1966), David Tooker (1963), Lee Hansen (1964), Jerry Alleyne (1957), Bill Andrus (1960), Bill Dicus (1962), Wesley Leake (1960), John Barry (1963), Gary Aitken (1960), John Hartman (1960), Peter Jubb (1967) and E. J. Jones (1965). As before, if I have left anyone out, forgive me and let me know and I'll put it in the next newsletter. If you have news, please contact Sue or me and let us know. We do enjoy hearing from you.

With each newsletter that goes out, we "lose" about 15 to 20 of you. I try to relocate them to keep them on the mailing list. First I try to call the old phone number, then I try the email address we have and failing all that, Sue tries the white pages on the internet. So, if you move, please give us your new contact information!

This last time, we have "lost" Gary Boyd (1969), John Chandler (1965), Jim Holmes (1965), Lowell Purvis (1964), Victor Gran (1961), Tom Sheldon (1964), and Leroy Dickson (1963). Unfortunately, we were also notified that Bob Lee (Staff), Rick Berry (1960), Donald

Rowland (1960), Claude Ridinger (1957-PG), and Robert Yawn (1959) were deceased.

Thanks to Bill Andrus (1960), we now have Beazy Stephens (1960) on our roster. Welcome aboard, Beazy!

Those of you that have internet access and have not visited the official FMSA web site ([www.fms-assn.org](http://www.fms-assn.org)) should do so and see the fine job that our webmaster, Asa Dean (1960) is doing! Also, check it for updates for the 2009 Reunion. Again, Asa, many thanks.

In this issue, we are really asking for help, in many ways, for the FMS Reunion 2009 – The Return of the Knights! We have a real need for volunteers, donations, sponsorships, and patrons. See below for details. We would like this event to be special for everyone!

The five initial classes, 1957-1961, will use the reunion to celebrate their respective 50<sup>th</sup> reunions, hosted by the center class, 1959.

I know that Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 seems a long time away, but, it is now LESS THAN NINE MONTHS AWAY! Start making plans and MARK the dates on your calendar.

**FMSA Official Website:**  
[www.fms-assn.org](http://www.fms-assn.org)

## **IMPORTANT-**

Please **check** the information on your mailing label. Make sure it is entirely correct. This is what will be printed in the 2009 DIRECTORY.

Also – please send your CURRENT accurate email and phone numbers to Max Elliott @ [sgcourtney@att.net](mailto:sgcourtney@att.net) ASAP so that information can also be updated.

MAILING ERRORS ARE COSTLY AND THE USPS IS BECOMING VERY PICKY IN DELIVERING THOSE WITH EVEN SIMPLE ERRORS!

**ANNOUNCING: FMS Reunion 2009**  
**“The Return of the Knights”**

July 30, 31, August 1, 2  
(Thurs. – Sunday)

**Reunion Registration fee:**

**\$60\*** per cadet and **\$40** for guests and spouses  
\*- Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book. Additional copies available for order. Registration forms and book forms in our next newsletter.



Front entrance

**Holiday Inn Express –  
Daytona Beach, FL**

(note the change of venue)

2620 International Speedway Blvd.  
(I-95 exit 261A south or exit 261 north)

**Room Rates:** (same as 2006)

Double: \$59 per night plus tax  
King: \$59 per night plus tax  
Suite: \$89 per night plus tax

A block of rooms is reserved for FMSA so be sure to mention FMS when making your reservations.

The Holiday Inn Express will honor the rates prior to and after the scheduled reunion if you would like to make it an extended vacation. It is a lovely resort location conveniently located to endless attractions, and is easily accessed via air or I-95.

Director of Sales is Lillian Hess, who worked with us at the Holiday Inn in Deland. Should you have any questions or problems you may contact her:

386-258-6333,or  
doshiexpress@elitehospitality.com



Lobby area

The amenities of the Holiday Inn Express include: **Full Breakfast Buffet daily**, Business Center, Olympic Swimming Pool, 6 Lighted Tennis courts and a fitness room.



Breakfast area



6 Lighted Tennis courts



Fitness Room



Pool area

The rooms are spacious and clean. There are in-room coffee-makers, ironing boards, hair dryers, complimentary wireless high speed access, and private balconies or patios.



Double room



King suite

They offer a **Free shuttle** from near by Daytona International Airport. There are numerous restaurants and attractions near by and The Daytona International Speedway is within walking distance. The Daytona Ale House is next door and offers delivery to your room. Shopping venues are extensive. Of course, The World's Most Famous Beach is only a short drive away.

To sum it up, in their own words: This 12 acre resort is an ideal location for the business or family traveler. Amenities include Florida's largest Olympic size hotel pool, six lighted tennis courts, fitness center, jogging trails, and the Indigo Lakes 18 hole championship golf course. We are adjacent to over 75 restaurants and shops. The hotel offers shuttle service to Daytona International Airport, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona 500 Experience and Volusia Mall. The Holiday Inn Speedway Resort is the closest hotel to USA Tennis Center, LPGA International, and Greyhound Race Track. The resort atmosphere is a natural setting for meetings and reunions with its 4,000 square feet of meeting space.

## Schedule of Events **THURSDAY, July 30<sup>th</sup> Focus Day** 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Classes –

1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961

It is hoped that special activities for each class will be planned through out the day by respective class representatives. Members of the various classes are being contacted for these activities.

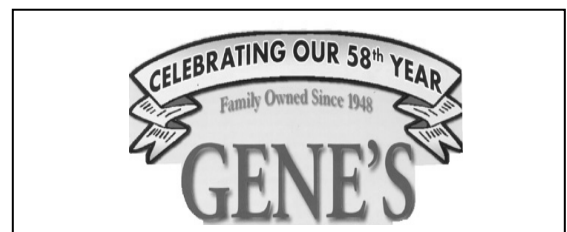
**GENERAL REGISTRATION** for the Return of the Knights reunion will be available Thursday for the convenience of those arriving early.

There are any number of relaxation activities in the vicinity. For the sports minded there are six tennis courts on site, and golf is available at nearby Indigo Lakes or LPGA courses. Some may wish to relax by the pool, visit the beach, or take a boat trips in Deland or the Daytona Beach area. Deep Sea fishing can also be arranged. If shopping is your interest there are the near by Volusia Mall and other centers. Daytona USA and the International Speedway are close by, and also the Dog Track and Gaming (Poker) Room.

Those wishing to venture a bit further may wish to explore the Deland area, visit FMS Museum and the old school site, or even venture off to Disney World, Sea World or the Spaceport. All are in easy distance from your hotel location.

### Special 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Banquet

A special banquet for the reunion classes is being planned for this evening. All of the reunion classes will meet together at Gene's Steak House at 6:00 p.m. for a cocktail hour prior to the dinner at 7 p.m.



Gene's is a premiere restaurant and the food is outstanding. It has been in operation for 60 years, and some may remember it being on the highway between DeLand and Daytona Beach. It is only 4 miles west of the Inn and carpools can be arranged. The restaurant has an FMS connection in that it is owned by the family of a former cadet -- John Costello, Class of 1959. A separate room will be set aside for our group. It is hoped that as many of the class members as possible will attend. You only celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> once!

## FRIDAY – July 31<sup>st</sup>

**GENERAL REGISTRATION** will be available during the day. Attendees will receive their nametags and goodie bags at this location. We are seeking volunteers to work the shifts at the registration desk.

This day is ideal for the many relaxation activities we listed for Thursday or for just sitting and visiting with old friends, and maybe some new ones.

Arrangements are being made for a riverboat cruise for the 50th reunion classes and any others arriving early. In addition, visits to the museum and the campus grounds will be arranged

The late afternoon/early evening time is a great chance for a group to sponsor a cocktail party or various groups may wish to plan an outing or dinner together. We purposely did not over structure this evening for the convenience of those who wish to relax and visit.

## SATURDAY – August 1<sup>st</sup>

**Registration** will continue for those late arrivals.

**A Ladies Coffee Hour** is planned for 10:00 a.m. in the Hospitality Room. This will be a time for the ladies to visit and we will have a special gift bag for them at this time.

We have changed the **MEMORIAL SERVICE** to a new day this time. We will hold our service at the church that adjoins the Holiday Inn Express at 11 a.m. We did this so that it would not interfere with their Sunday activities and we felt the location would add dignity to the service as well.

In response to the requests that many made at the 2006 reunion, we will attempt to arrange a series of **“Meet & Greet” gatherings**. These will be small group visits with the Colonels and other faculty members. These will be held in The Board Room and the Upper Deck area at various times on Saturday and available on a sign up basis so as not to overload any session. The sign up sheet available at registration table.

**Lunch** will be at your leisure. There are so many possibilities to choose from so everyone should be happy, from fast food, to more formal restaurant fare.



After lunch you may wish to continue the relaxation activities or plan to join us for a **POOL PARTY** from 2 – 5 pm. A cash bar will be available.



The culmination of the activity will be our infamous **DUCK RACE**. There will be more ducks available for purchase this year and the course is longer so we should have an exciting race. Remember it is to help defray our expenses as well as for fun.



After an hour and a half break for those that wish a quick rest and refresh, we will return for a **COCKTAIL HOUR** – by the pool from 6:30 – 7p.m.

**NO** formal banquet this year, stuck at crowded tables. Instead we will have a **Buffet by the Pool** beginning at 7 p.m. and casual dress is encouraged. Even bathing suits will be acceptable for those who wish to continue enjoying the lovely pool.

We will have **dancing** in the poolside Indigo Lakes Room, with music provided by a DJ. During this evening of fun and socializing, we will also hold our socializing, and our famous **Auction**. We are soliciting items for this auction now so if you have something you can contribute please let us know. This auction helps us "pay the bills" and also funds our newsletter for the future.

## SUNDAY – August 2<sup>nd</sup>

After a leisurely breakfast, we will gather in the Indigo Lakes Room at 10 a.m. for our **Business Meeting**.

Following the General Business, Election of New Board Members and Officers, we will have our **RAFFLE** drawing. More details about this meeting and the raffle will be released in the next newsletter.

Our final official activity will be a **FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR** in our hospitality room. There will also be one last opportunity to visit our displays and make a purchase of a piece of FMS memorabilia provided by our official vender, Harry Silvis ('65).

For those departing – have a safe trip!  
**We'll see you in 2012.!**

To those fortunate ones who are able to extend their vacation - ENJOY and we'll see you in 2012 as well!!

## Reunion Notes –

**FMS GHOST TOURS** will be available throughout the reunion in the Lobby of The Indigo Lakes Room by the pool.

**A STATIC DISPLAY and SALES AREA** will be in the Verandah Room next to the Hospitality Room. This area will be available throughout the reunion at posted times. If you have something you would like to display during the reunion this is the area to place it. As before, we will have various CDs and DVDs running and available for sale.

A larger **HOSPITALITY ROOM** will be open in the Plantation Room overlooking the tennis courts and pool. This is a great place to gather and visit or relax with friends throughout the reunion. Hosts and hostesses are needed to staff this room for various shifts.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

A large gathering such as this cannot work without a generous backing of volunteers. Most of the volunteer activities are needed during the reunion itself. Please find an area that you can help.

- **Registration** – short shifts, could be combined with hospitality.
- **Raffle** – selling tickets, conducting, etc.
- **Duck Race** – selling tickets, assisting with the race.
- **Ghost Tour** – set up
- **Hospitality** - shifts maintaining the room. Could be combined with registration.
- **Dance** – host and set up
- **Memorial Service** – assist Thornton Ridinger
- **Tennis** – organize matches, etc.
- **Golf** – organize pairings, etc.
- **Ladies Coffee Hour** – to organize and hostess this activity.
- **Meet & Greet coordinator** – to oversee sign ups and set up.
- **Goodie Bags** – someone to gather items and prepare the bags
- **Auctioneer** – for our Auction Sat. night
- **Auction** – to gather and organize items for the auction

## DONATIONS & SPONSORS SOUGHT –

We will need items for our auction and the possibilities are endless; single items, a weekend in your vacation condo, an aerial trip over the old campus, FMS memorabilia, items from your business, etc. As we learned in 2006, almost anything will bring a price. It is through the money we raise from the auction, duck race and raffle that we pay our bills and fund the newsletter for the next few years.

The raffle item for this reunion has yet to be decided but suggestions are more than welcome.

We will also need items for the general goodie bags and also some items for the special ladies goodie bag that will be given to those attending the Saturday morning coffee hour. Again there are endless possibilities. Perhaps you would like to include a promotional item for your business, or some candy or a special FMS item. All donations are welcome.

In 2006 we had sponsors for our DJ, the cocktail hour, the coffee hour, the video graphing of the reunion, etc. Those would be more than welcome again. Our budget is slim going into this reunion and we are keeping the registration fees and room costs as economical as possible so that more can attend. We are totally a non-profit organization and have been kept going only by your generous support.

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## Florida Military School Association 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

DeLand, Florida

18 October 2008

### MINUTES

1100 to 1300 hrs: Social Time & Lunch at SkyDive  
DeLand

As has been our custom, Harry Silvis, our official vender, prepared a "Goodie Bag" for attendees, as well as a display of his FMS memorabilia for members to browse.

Also, as has been our custom, we met in the airport hanger of Steve and Sydney Nash, who have hosted every Annual Meeting (6) since our conception! And Ms. Earp made her appearance, maintaining her **perfect attendance record!** She just has to see "her boys."

1300 to 1400 hrs: Conduct of Meeting

### FMSA Board Members in Attendance:

Max Elliott (1958), President  
Thornton Ridinger (1959), Vice President/Treasurer  
Sue Elliott (1960-HM), Secretary  
Dennis Eyre (1959), Member at Large

### FMSA Members in Attendance:

Harry Silvis (1965)  
Zora Silvis  
Fletcher Gardner (1959)  
Mary Ann Pittman  
Terry Hollinsworth (1966)  
Bill Dubberly (1960)  
Judy Dubberly  
Bobby Howard (1966)  
Ron "Borg" Wiborg (1966)  
Richard King (1964)  
Thomas "Skip" Randle (1967)  
Alex Nelon (1963)  
Richard Young (1966)  
Steve Nash (1965)  
Sydney Nash  
Alda Earp (Faculty) and 2 friends  
Karl Ivey (1964)  
John "Peter" Bulat (1966)  
Trudy Bulat  
Jim Turner (1959)  
Ron Brinkerhoff (1959)  
John Hartman (1960)  
Jeff Fawsett (1960)

### Welcome:

President Elliott called the meeting to order. He announced the convening of a Nominating Committee consisting of Harry Silvis (Chair), E.J. Jones (Member) and John Kendrick (Member). The committee will be responsible for accepting nominations for the FMSA board and preparing slates for an election. The election will be conducted at the 2009 Reunion and the Board installed at the following Annual Meeting. An outline of the procedures will be presented in the next newsletter.

Elliott reported that Harry Silvis has been appointed as Chair of an FMSA By-Laws review committee. Silvis will select the other members of the committee. The committee will make recommendations to the Board concerning changes to the By-Law.

Elliott announced that all were invited to his house in Pierson for a cookout with Chef Dennis Eyre following the meeting. Elliott then introduced the report presenters.

### Reports:

Sue Elliott led a discussion concerning potential sites for the 2009 Reunion. A vote was held and a site in Daytona Beach was selected. Details concerning the site will be presented in the next newsletter.

She then discussed the status of the FMS History Book, grand opening of the FMS Museum, events planned for the 2009 Reunion, and issued a call for volunteers. She also reported that the attendance award for this meeting was a tie between '59 and '66.

Thornton Ridinger discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Classes (1956-1961) reunion activities planning, the FMS Museum, our connection with the West Volusia Historical Society, and the FMSA financial report.

Harry Silvis led a discussion of the historical activities of FMS and some of the 2009 Reunion displays in planning.

### Open Floor:

Items from the floor were presented and discussed. Funding issues for the FMS History book and several ideas were discussed, as were concepts for the Reunion activities. Volunteers to lead some of the activities were accepted. Karl Ivey (1964) displayed 2 knives that he is making to donate to support the reunion. He stated we could use them in the

auction or another event. More information will be given in the next newsletter and presented on the FMSA web site.

**Meeting Adjournment:** - 1400 Hrs

**Current FMSA Board Members:**

President..... Max Elliott  
Vice President/Treasurer..... Thornton Ridinger  
Secretary.....Sue Elliott  
Member@Large..... Jerry Alleyne  
Member@Large..... Dennis Eyre  
Member@Large..... Lee Hansen  
Member@Large/WebMaster..... Asa Dean

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## FMSA ELECTIONS/BY-LAW CHANGES

The Officers & Board of Directors intend to change the by-laws to change the terms of office from two to three years. At the same time, the election will be moved to the reunion to give more of the membership the opportunity to vote on the Officers and Directors. Additionally, the Officers & Directors will be responsible to plan and implement the next reunion in 2012.

In accordance with the FMSA By-Laws, it is time again for the election of officers and directors. President Max Elliott has appointed a committee to handle this task. Heading the committee is Harry Silvis 65' and the other members are E.J. Jones 65' and John Kendrick 65'.

Anyone wishing to nominate another slate please contact Harry Silvis 65' on or before noon EST on July 10th 2009 in writing with the names of the slate you wish to nominate (in accordance with the FMSA By-Laws). The nominator must certify that each person on that slate has been contacted and has agreed to be on the slate and is able and willing to perform the duties required of them. The committee will then evaluate the slates submitted to make sure all nominations are members of FMSA and wish to serve. The membership will then be notified at the 2009 Reunion as to the slates presented and an election will be held at the business meeting. Slates may be sent to Harry @: fax 770-421-1745; kennesawgraphics@bellsouth.net; Harry Silvis, 4526 Hickory Grove Court, Acworth, GA 30102

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Annual Meeting

### October 18, 2008

At the 2006 Annual Meeting, a cash balance of \$5,542.44 was reported.

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, a cash balance of \$4,357.12 was reported.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, a cash balance of \$2,937.91 is being reported.

Income for the past year totaled \$700.00, all in donations.

Expenses totaled \$2,119.21 as follows:

- Newsletter expenses:
- Corporation Annual Fee:
- West Volusia Historical Society Membership
- Flowers for Ms. Earp (faculty)
- Museum Acquisition
- Annual Meeting Expense (calendars, et al)

For the year, expenses exceeded income by \$1,419.21

Our current bank balance is \$2,937.91

Respectfully submitted,  
Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

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## FMS BOOK

Sue Elliott

The FMS book (coffee-table edition of the Florida Military School history) is moving forward. A general format has been developed and now the pictures and snippets are being selected to flesh it out.

We plan to use some excerpts from several publications and clippings and letters to and from cadet families as part of the history. Key pictures will highlight the narrative.

So far a few cadets have offered comments or snippets to be included. The later years from 1967 through the closing needs more input. This is your opportunity to be included in history so please submit your comments and memories, and photos as soon as possible. Every class year will be represented in this volume. These should be sent to Max Elliott at PO Box 5, in Pierson, FL 32180.

**PATRONS (sponsorships)** are being sought to help underwrite the cost of this publication. It was decided that we would offer

## FMSA

c/o Max Elliott  
PO Box 5  
Pierson, FL 32180

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

different levels of support similar to those in other organizations. Names of those donating in each patron bracket will be listed in the book on the Patrons page. This is your opportunity to have your name included in the book showing your support. No gift is too small. We hope everyone will find an opportunity to support this endeavor.

The **Diamond Patrons** – donations of \$1000 or more

The **Platinum Patrons** - donations of \$500 to \$999.

The **Gold Patrons** - donations of \$250 – \$499

The **Silver Patrons** – donations of \$100 - \$249

The **General Patrons** – donations of any amount up to \$99

Donations may be sent to us at any time prior to publication. Please indicate that your contribution is for the book when sending your donation.

A single copy of the book will be included with each cadet reunion registration packet. Additional copies and copies for those unable to attend the reunion can be preordered in advance of publication. We hope to go to publication by early March so reserve your copy soon and send your sponsorship donation.

## FMSA MUSEUM OPENING

Our FMS Museum had a “Coming Out Party” in conjunction with the West Volusia Historical Society Ice Cream Social at the Deland Hospital Museum on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We were well received. We continue to add new items as some more clippings and Commencement Programs and other such items are sent to us. We always have room for more. We would like to leave behind the most complete history of our school's existence as we can, so dig into those long forgotten corners in your closets and attics and see what you can turn up.

Both our exhibit at the Hospital Museum and the Henry Deland House Museum are open to the public so you will be able to stop in and visit when you are in Deland. It is approximately 18 miles from the Holiday Inn Express and complete driving directions to each museum will be available. The docent is on site at the Hospital Museum Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm, and will be available to open our room to visitors. Our exhibit continues to be a work-in-progress but even now, it is quite impressive. Be sure to stop by and see it!