

MAY 23RD, 2014

A Night
to Remember
CLASS OF 2015
RING DINING OUT & DANCE



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

A Night Remember CLASS OF 2015

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Class Crest: The class crest is one of the most treasured representations of class unity and class pride. Until graduation, we, the Class of 2015, will wear the ring with the class crest facing inward, closest to our hearts. After graduation, the ring is turned so that the Academy Crest is closest to the heart of an officer ready and willing to protect and defend with the training we have received. This is a unique tradition in which all graduates of the Academy are forever united. Through the blood and the sweat, the triumphs and the failures, we have become brothers and sisters for life.

2015 USAFA Ring - The Academy Crest is placed on the left side of the ring. The bezel surrounds a stone or inset plus the words "United States Air Force Academy." These are encircled by a chain of 59 links to represent the first graduating class and the bond each class shares with the preceding ones. These elements have remained constant throughout the years and serve as yet another bond all classes share together.

The Class of 2015 crest decorates the right side of the ring. It is composed of both compulsory and optional elements that together represent our Academy experience.

RING ELEMENTS

1. Class Year - '15 is boldly displayed at the top of our crest so that everyone will see and know the year that we graduated with the class of 2015!

2. Class Motto - Our class motto in Latin "Una Pugna, Una Caterva" is translated to "One Fight, One Team". As a class we carried this motto from the beginning of basic military training, through the struggles of our four degree year, through the intensity of recognition and we will continue to carry it into our bright futures!

3. Eagle - The centerpiece of the crest, the eagle, is an honored symbol of our country known for its power and grace in flight which is something we as future officers of the Air Force look to emulate.

4. American Flag - The American Flag clutched by the eagle symbolizes the patriotism and respect we have for the country we serve. There are fifteen rather than fifty stars to represent our pride in being the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

5. Polaris - The North Star, forever portrayed as a symbol of honor and guidance, is also grasped by the eagle's talons. This symbolizes the integrity each of us possesses within our hearts needed to be an officer of character.



6. Orville and Wilbur Wright - As our Class Exemplars, we honor both by including an "O" and "W" hidden in the beams of the Polaris.

7. Wright Flyer - It is because of our exemplars, the Wright Brothers, that powered flight is possible. The Wright Flyer illustrates the creativeness and ingenuity that is the base of the United States Air Force.

8. Class Number - We are the 57th graduating class, represented by the Roman numeral LVII which is hidden in the Wright Flyers wing supports.

9. Prop and Wings - The prop and wings were included in the crest to forever remind us of the struggles we have been through during recognition, and to remind us that we can make it through any hardship we face.

10. Saber - Finally, the saber is a symbol of leadership and authority. It is placed at the base of the crest to remind us that officership is the foundation for which we will grow in our future careers.

THE RULES OF THE MESS

1. *Arrive within ten minutes of the appointed hour.*
2. *Do not bring drinks into the mess.*
3. *Do not leave the mess while congregated.
Military protocol overrides all calls of natures.*
4. *Ensure that your glass is always charged when toasting.*
5. *Keep toasts and comments within the limits of good taste and mutual respect.
Degrading or insulting remarks will be frowned upon by the membership.
However, good-natured needling is encouraged.*
6. *Do not murder the Queen's English, as such shall be treated
as a premeditated crime against humanity.*
7. *Do not open the hangar doors (shop talk).*
8. *Consume your meal in a manner becoming gentlemen.
Vulgarity and airborne projectiles (food and drink) will not be tolerated.*
9. *Express your approval by tapping your spoon on the table.
Clapping your hands will not be tolerated.*
10. *Enjoy yourself to the fullest extent of the law.*

*A Night
Remember*
CLASS OF 2015

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Reception and Social Hour
Chime to Take Seats
Head Table Members Enter
Ruffles and Flourishes
Posting of the Colors
National Anthem
Introductions
Toasts
Distribution of Rings
Dinner
Guest Speaker
Superintendent Remarks
Unveiling of Class Crest & Painting
Ring Christening, Commandant
Head Table Members Depart
Dismissal of the Mess
Dance Begins – Arnold Hall



A Night
Remember
CLASS OF 2015

MENU

Beef Medallion with Sherry Mushroom Sauce

Tortellini Cheese with Pesto Sauce

Green Beans Almandine

Caesar Salad

French Dinner Rolls and butter

Bundtinis

White Sparkling Juice

TOASTS

Toast: "I propose a toast to the Colors of this great Nation. To her we drink, for her we pray, our voices silent never, for her we fight – let come what may. The Stars and Stripes forever."

All: "To the Colors!"

Toast: "To the President of Ecuador."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of Georgia."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of the Republic of Korea."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of Lebanon."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of the Republic of Lithuania."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of Peru."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of the Republic of Senegal."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To the President of Singapore."

All: "To the President."

Toast: "To our Commander-In-Chief, the President of the United States."

All: "To the President."

TOASTS

Toast: *"To the Chief of Staff of the United States Army."*

All: *"To the Chief."*

Toast: *"To the Commandant of the Marine Corps."*

All: *"To the Commandant."*

Toast: *"To the Chief of Naval Operations."*

All: *"To the Chief."*

Toast: *"To the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force."*

All: *"To the Chief."*

Toast: *"To the Superintendent."*

All: *"Here, Here."*

Toast: *"To the Commandant of Cadets."*

All: *"Here, Here."*

Toast: *"To the Dean of the Faculty."*

All: *"Here, Here."*

Toast: *"To the Director of Athletics."*

All: *"Here, Here."*

Toast: *"To the Class of 2015."*

All: *"Bros!"*

**I WOULD NOW ASK THAT EVERYONE FILL HIS OR HER GLASSES
WITH WATER AS WE PERFORM OUR FINAL TOAST.**

Toast: *"To our brothers and sisters in arms, and our veterans who have served our country throughout history, and our comrades who are still listed as prisoners of war or missing in action."*

All: *"Here, Here."*

GUEST SPEAKER

Susan Grant

Susan Grant is a Boeing 747-400 pilot for United Airlines with more than 18,000 hours of flight time and twenty-five years flying around the world. Known for using her aviation experience as literary inspiration, Ms. Grant is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of nineteen novels and novellas that have garnered numerous critical and publishing industry honors.



Ms. Grant was commissioned in 1982 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Upon completing Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, she was selected to be a T-37B instructor pilot for the 85th Flying Training Squadron, earning a Master Instructor rating and serving as an instructor pilot, ground school instructor, and executive officer for the 47th Student Squadron Commander. In her follow-on assignment to Mather AFB, California, Ms. Grant piloted T-43As for the 323rd Flying Training Wing as an aircraft commander in support of Undergraduate Navigator/Combat Systems Officer training.

Of her many career achievements, Ms. Grant considers her military service the most rewarding and of which she's the most proud.

THE CLASS PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Class of Bros,

We are fast approaching yet another monumental landmark in our journey here as Cadets of the United States Air Force Academy.

I was originally going to write to you about all the things that we have accomplished in the three years we have been here at USAFA. I was also going to list off the things that we have received, moments we have experienced, and lesson we have learned, and most importantly, how they have shaped us. Then I thought we all know what we have done, we all know what we have received, but what we do not know is what our future holds and how our experiences and invaluable knowledge we have gained here can lead to so many possibilities.

While events such as Acceptance Day, Recognition, and Commitment are very important, they do not represent our readiness to become officers in the United States Air Force. The same can be said for the class ring we are about to receive. It may sound cliché, but civilians, Airman, and other officers will be holding us to a higher standard, and we owe it to them to meet their expectations. To be honest, I'm nervous about becoming an officer myself, because I know what I expect out of a good officer and I know I am not there yet. I ask that you look at yourself and decide if you are where you want to be, and if not, take those necessary steps to become that officer you would want to follow. Take this ring and wear it everyday to remind yourself of the reason why you are truly here. We have one more year to become who we want to be and our last year will not simply be handed to us. We have to work for it just like we have worked for everything else we have accomplished thus far.

This ring, our ring, will be with us throughout our entire journey. People and places will come and go, but this symbol will be with us everyday to represent where we have been and what we have done. Wear it proudly knowing that you are from the Class of 2015, and represent us well by setting a good example for the classes below us, and upon graduation, to the Airmen both above and below us. These rings do not just represent a degree, or even a completion of training; they are a mark of everything we have to offer to this world. Wear your mark with pride.

*Andrew Dane
Class President, Class of 2015*

CLASS OF 2015 EXEMPLAR MR. ORVILLE WRIGHT AND MR. WILBUR WRIGHT



The Wright Brothers are credited with the development of the first successful airplane and the creation of the first viable system for controlled, powered, and sustained heavier-than-air flight. Their contributions to the development of aviation laid the groundwork for all aerospace pioneers and provided the foundation for what would become modern military airpower.

The Wright Brothers were two of seven children born to Milton Wright and Susan Catherine Koerner. Wilbur was born near Millville, Indiana, in 1867; and Orville in Dayton, Ohio, in 1871. In 1878 their father brought home a toy "helicopter" for his two younger sons. The device was based on an invention of French aeronautical pioneer Alphonse Pénau. Made of paper,

bamboo and cork with a rubber band to twirl its rotor, Wilbur and Orville played with it until it broke, and then built their own. In later years, they pointed to their experience with the toy as the initial spark of their interest in flying.

The brothers began their partnership by establishing a small print shop in 1889. Capitalizing on the national bicycle craze in the early 1890s, the Brothers opened a bicycle sales and repair shop in 1892, the Wright Cycle Exchange, and began manufacturing their own brand of bicycle in 1896. They used this endeavor to fund their growing interest in flight.

The Wright Brothers followed the example of Otto Lilienthal by studying the fundamentals of flight through testing of experimental kites and gliders. The Wrights realized that the problems of stability and control were the major obstacles to the development of a successful flying machine. They observed that birds, like bicycles, banked while making turns and were the first to understand the necessity for a flying machine to make coordinated turns to maintain balance. They puzzled over how to achieve the same effect with man-made wings, and eventually discovered wing-warping when Wilbur idly twisted a long inner-tube box at the bicycle shop.

The Brothers developed a system of airframe manipulation which was revolutionary for its time, and which continues to be the standard of all modern aircraft: three-axis control. Wing-warping for roll, forward elevator for pitch (up and down), and rear rudder for yaw (side to side). On March 23, 1903, the Wrights applied for their famous patent for a "Flying Machine", based on their successful 1902 glider. Some aviation historians believe that applying the system of three-axis flight control on the 1902 glider was equal to, or even more significant, than the addition of power to the 1903 Flyer.

For their 1903 powered Flyer, the Brothers used their preferred material for airframe construction, strong and lightweight spruce. They constructed a Spartan but robust machine and designed and carved their own wooden propellers. The Wrights wrote to several engine manufacturers, but none met their need for a sufficiently lightweight power plant to propel their powered 1903 Flyer through the air. They turned to their bicycle manufacturing shop, where they designed and built an engine in just six weeks. To keep the weight low enough, the engine block was cast from aluminum, a rare practice for the time. The Wright engine was a primitive version of modern fuel-injection systems, having no carburetor or fuel pump. Gasoline was gravity-fed into the crankcase through a rubber tube from the fuel tank mounted on a wing strut. The Flyer had a wingspan of 40.3 feet, weighed 605 pounds, and sported a 12 horsepower, 180 pounds engine.

MR. ORVILLE WRIGHT AND MR. WILBUR WRIGHT

On December 17th, 1903, in camp at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, the Wrights finally took to the air, making four flights from level ground into a freezing headwind gusting to 27 miles per hour. The first flight, by Orville, covered 120 feet in 12 seconds, at a speed of only 6.8 miles per hour over the ground, and was recorded in a famous photograph. The next three flights traversed approximately 175 feet, 200 feet, and most significantly, 852 feet in in the final test flight that day of 59 seconds.

This began the dawn of the new age of flight. In the ensuing years, the Brothers would capture hundreds of aviation firsts, setting new standards in speed, altitude, and most of all, controllability. Public demonstrations all around the world were given by the Brothers to prove their invention and their mastery of its operation. Their work would lead to a government contract and the creation of the first world's first military airplane: U.S. Army Signal Corps Airplane No. 1, a modified Wright Model A. Thus began the long and proud history of U.S. Military Airpower.

Over the next decade, the Brothers continued to refine and improve aircraft control and dynamics among an increasingly competitive global marketplace for aircraft, while also trying to protect their inventions from patent infringement. The Wright Company was established on 22 November 1909 for the creation and development of new aircraft. The Brothers sold their patents to the company for \$100,000, received one-third of the shares in a million dollar stock issue, and a 10 percent royalty on every airplane sold. The company survives today as the Curtiss-Wright Corporation and was the largest aircraft manufacturer in the United States at the end of World War II. Today, the corporation has evolved as a component manufacturer, specializing in actuators, aircraft controls, valves, and metal treatment.

Between 1910 and 1916, the Wright Company flying school at Huffman Prairie, Ohio, trained 115 pilots who were instructed by Orville and his assistants. Second Lieutenant Henry "Hap" Arnold, a graduate of this flight school, later rose to Five-Star General, commanded the U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II, and became first head of the U.S. Air Force.

On a business trip to Boston in April 1912, Wilbur Wright became ill, and after returning to Dayton, he was diagnosed with typhoid fever. He lingered in and out of consciousness for several weeks until he died, at age 45, in the Wright family home on May 30, 1912.

After his Brother's death, Orville retired from business and became an elder statesman of aviation, serving on various official boards and committees, including the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), predecessor agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Orville Wright served NACA for 28 years. In 1930, he received the first Daniel Guggenheim Medal for notable achievements in the advancement of aeronautics (established in 1928). In 1936, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Orville died on January 30, 1948, after his second heart attack, having lived from the horse-and-buggy age to the dawn of supersonic flight. Both Brothers are buried at the family plot at Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.

The Wright Brothers demonstrated, through resolution and unconquerable faith, that it is possible to reach any goal. Their unrelenting passion for their craft and their inspirational ingenuity in creating the first controlled, powered, and sustained heavier-than-air human flight, serves as an example by which we can all follow and apply to our own lives. For their accomplishments and the character displayed in achieving their dreams, the Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, are proudly declared as the exemplars of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

POW/MIA TABLE



As you entered the dining area this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor near our head table. It is set for one. The military caste is filled with symbolism, and this table is our way of honoring members of our profession of arms that are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POW/MIA – our brothers and sisters. They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them in this manner.

This table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who kept the faith awaiting their return.

The ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

There is salt upon the bread plate symbolic of the families' tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted – they cannot toast with us this night.

The chair is empty – they are not here.

Remember!

SPECIAL THANKS

The Class of 2015 would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who put in their time and effort to make our Ring Dining out & Dance possible:

Ms. Susan Grant, Guest Speaker

Ms. Jean Hollander, Cadet Activities

Mrs. Jeannie Schroeder, Mitchell Hall Special Functions Coordinator

Ms. Julie Yuenger, HAPS Place Manager

Mr. Tommie Jones & Hector Castillo, Cake Artist

Class of 2016 Ring Committees and Set-up teams

Association of Graduates

Jostens Inc.

Custom Glassware

American Printing & Copying

USAFA Honor Guard

In the Stairwell

Arnold Hall Staff

Mitchell Hall Staff

Thank you for your hard work and support in making this a memorable Ring Dinner and Dance.

In Recognition:

Officer in Charge: Maj Mathew Elleby

Non Commissioned Officer in Charge: TSgt Shaila Lane

Cadet in Charge: C2C Emma Dridge

Assistant Cadets in Charge: C2C Hillary Keltner

Arnold Hall: C2C Seth Miller and C2C Cody Hancock

Mitchell Hall: C2C Meredith Prinz and C2C Brenna Crow

Logistics: C2C Victoria Foster and C2C Rachael Trafford

Finances: C2C Jenny Healy

Class President: C2C Andrew Dane

Mr. & Mrs. Vice: C2C Angela Johnson and C2C Jacob Hernandez

"A big thanks to everyone for all of your dedication, support and hard work!" –C2C Emma Dridge, Ring Dance CIC

