



# *Association & Foundation Update*

## Class Advisory Senate

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Jan. 21, 2025

# 2024 Highlights

- Single Employer
- Checkpoints- Best in Class
- Young Alumni Ambassador Program
- All Academy Awards Program – Long Blue Line Weekend
- 11 Reunions/6,000 Guests/6 Weekends
- Class of 1970 Endowment for Reunions
- Added 2,239 New Members = 72%
- Branding Logo Work
- Completed Campaign



# 2025 Areas of Focus

- Election
- Madera Cyber Innovation Center
- Wecker Hall/Yost Plaza
- Acclimate New EVP Alumni Relations
- Grow Membership
- Next Gen







# *Here's A Toast: Gone But Not Forgotten* Class Advisory Senate

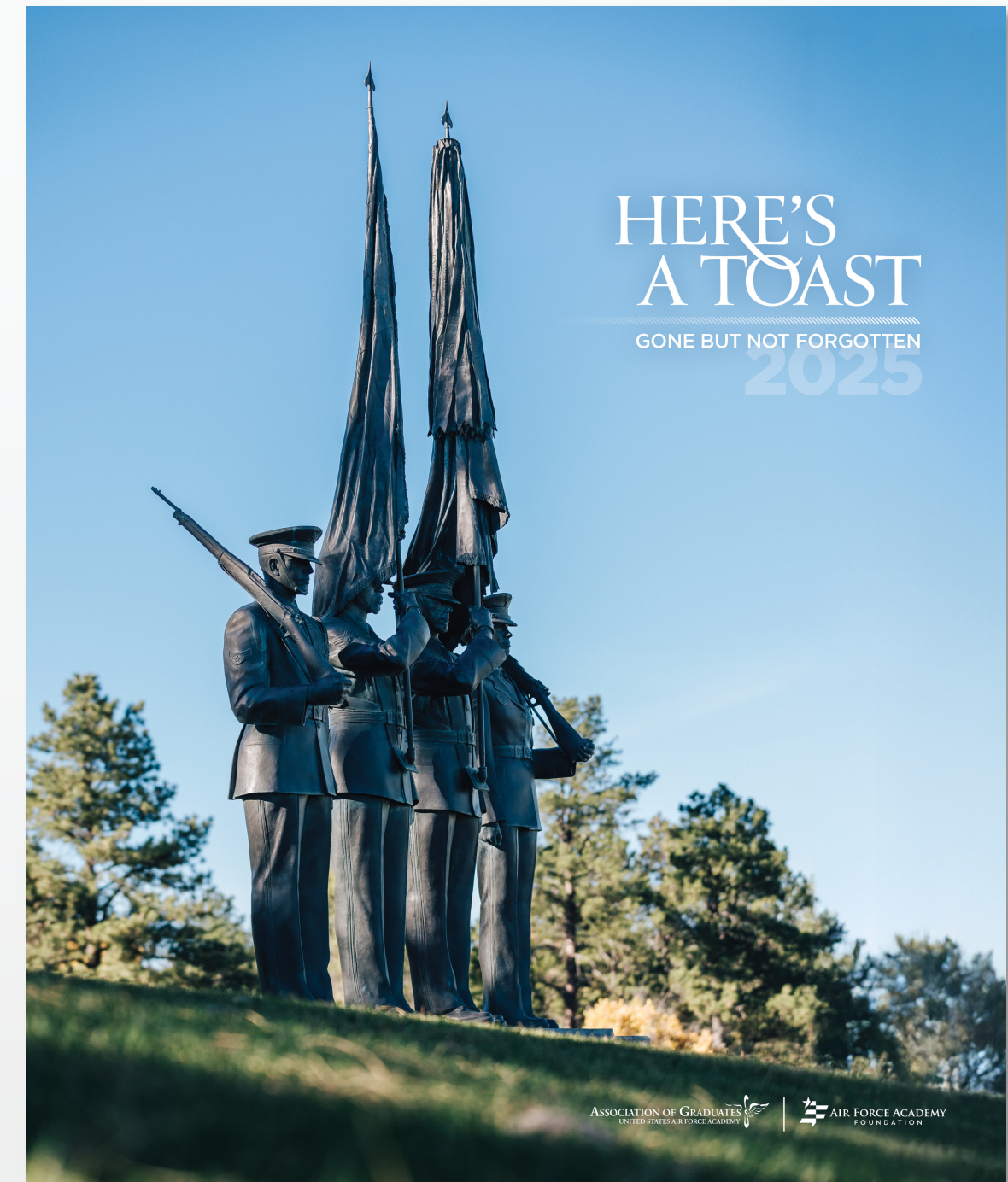
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Jan. 21, 2025



# New Publication

- Launching early spring 2025
- Similar to West Point's *Taps*
- Memorial tributes for grads, ATOs, cadets and honorary members lost in previous calendar year
- Articles up to 400 words in year 1; up to 800 in year 2
- Digital (free) and print (nominal fee)



# Availability

- Digital – Available to all members at no cost on USAFA.org this spring
- Print – Available to all members for nominal fee of \$25 at shop.USAFA.org – covers costs + 1 complimentary copy for each family
- Pre-orders for print open through Jan. 29
- Individual keepsakes on parchment available for \$15 – covers costs
- Death notices will still run in *Checkpoints* and on GBNF website



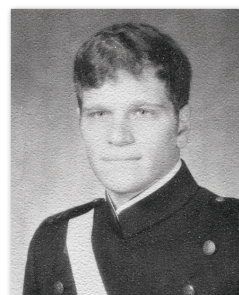
# Why?

- Hard reality – aging grad population; increasing number of submitted obituaries – “hockey stick”-like curve; get in front of it now
- *Checkpoints* limitations – costs rising; 144-page limit
- Meaningful investment in Gone But Not Forgotten program
- New benefit that surviving loved ones and friends will appreciate





# Mock-Ups



**Gary M. Horowitz '74**  
May 28, 1952 – Oct. 17, 2023



**Gary Martin Horowitz, MD**, 71, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Kari (Karen) Kovach Horowitz; and his children, Alexander Horowitz and Rachel (Christopher Fisher) Horowitz. Beloved son of the late Israel M. Horowitz and Betty J. Muranyi Horowitz. Loving brother of the late Jo-Ann Horowitz Monjeau. Additionally, he leaves behind his beloved dogs, Bellatrix and Gypsy.

Gary was born May 28, 1952, in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. He attended The Juilliard School, graduated from Sayville High School in 1970 and the U.S. Air Force Academy (CS-37) in 1974. After flying C-130s for the Air Force for nine years, he realized his dream of serving his community as a physician and went to the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Class of 1985. He served his residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center in San Antonio, Texas, at Lackland Air Force Base. He served in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Wanting to help patients with infertility, he completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Mount Sinai Center in New York. He worked in an academic format in multiple places across the United States, both as a division director of REL and as a resident coordinator. During his career, he received multiple awards and accolades for his teaching and practice.

Gary was an avid football fan and loved attending hockey games with his beloved daughter, Rachel. He shared his love for European soccer with his loving son, Alexander. Gary was a voracious reader and passed his love for literature on to his children. He and his wife, Kari, loved cooking together, caring for their dogs, watching documentaries and exploring museums.

Gary rests in the United Hebrew Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. Gary fell in love with Africa after visiting with his son in 1995 and wanted to help further the education and wellbeing of the people there. He funded medical students through their education in Kenya. Contributions in Gary's memory may be made to The Samburu Project at [thesamburuproject.org](http://thesamburuproject.org). *(Joseph Brezovic, classmate)*



**Joseph C. Hoyle '74**  
July 31, 1952 – Sept. 27, 2024



**Joseph Charles "Chuck" Hoyle**, 72, danced his way into heaven on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

Chuck became a paraplegic when he was injured in a small plane crash 36 years ago — so living half of his life in a wheelchair. But Chuck didn't let his circumstances bring him down. His life became an incredible story of a man who was determined to live a "normal" life without the use of his legs and feet. He achieved success as a CPA and an attorney. A sensitive and talented man, he adopted and raised nine children and supported and nurtured many others — his nieces and nephews, along with many, many friends of his kids.

Chuck's physical achievements were also incredible. With only his hands and upper body, he drove cars, rode bikes, waterskied, played basketball, swam and more. Chuck often took down trees around his wooded yard, often using a chainsaw to drop big trees precisely where they were supposed to go. But this time the tree went the wrong way, and Chuck entered into his heavenly home, finally healed and restored and able to greet so many who had gone before him, including his beloved Wanda Robertson and parents, Betty and Gene Hoyle.

Chuck was a graduate of the Kings Mountain High School and the U.S. Air Force Academy, CS-36. He also graduated from Lincoln Law School in Sacramento, California, and served as a lawyer and CPA for many years in Shelby and Kings Mountain.

Left to cherish Chuck's memory are his brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Nancy Hoyle of Kings Mountain; sister and brother-in-law April and Scott Shauf of Boiling Springs; children and spouses: Richard and Crystal Hoyle, Anna Hoyle, Charles and Dixie Hoyle, Emily and Josh Carpenter, David Hoyle, Caleb Hoyle, Robert Hoyle, Rebecca Hoyle, Tyler Hoyle, and Kylan Hagen; and 10 grandchildren.

Chuck was also blessed with many dear friends locally and throughout the U.S., including California, Oregon, Colorado and Texas.

Chuck loved to give back to the community. Two of his big efforts were with the Joni and Friends ministry and the Wake the World organization, for which he founded and coordinated the local Moss Lake Wake the World event every August. These help families with disabilities to find hope in Jesus. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations go to those two organizations. *(Joseph Brezovic, classmate)*



**Michael D. Lyons '74**  
June 19, 1952 – March 23, 2024



**Michael Dennis "Denny" Lyons**, 71, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, went home to be with the Lord on March 23, 2024, after a battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his father, Dennis Lyons and daughter, Tammy Lyons. Denny is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Pam Lyons; mother, Kitty Lyons-Estep; brother Tim (Terry) Lyons; daughters, Kate (Stephen) Cain and Cindy Lyons; son, Denny (Ashleigh) Lyons; and grandchildren, Lucille, Eleanor, Clara and Walter.

Denny was raised in St. Albans, West Virginia. It was there that he fell in love with music. Denny played the organ in countless churches across the nation. Grace Baptist Temple was his favorite place to play; not because of the beautiful setting, but because the church had a parking spot dedicated to the church organist, and it was there that 12-year-old Denny got to park his bicycle each Sunday morning. Being left-handed, Denny was ambidextrous. His ability to switch hit led his teams to victory on many occasions. In tennis, he had no need to learn backhand, he'd simply switch the racket to the other side. He loved all sports, but his favorite was baseball.

During high school, Denny was appointed to the Selective Service Youth Advisory Committee and later to the United States Air Force Academy. He graduated from USAFA in 1974 and just two days later, married Pam. Denny spent five more years in the Air Force before being honorably discharged.

Denny then entered the corporate world. His dynamic personality and easy-going demeanor made him a highly qualified fit for personnel management. He worked as a VP in three Fortune 500 companies before starting his own company as an employment specialist for engineers.

Denny's greatest titles were husband and father. It was not unusual to see him running through an airport with a briefcase in one hand, and a child's teddy bear in the other, balancing his professional and personal life.

He loved the water — family vacations to his parents' beach cottage, hot tubs at Vistana Resort, cruising the Caribbean islands, tubing a lazy river. They say a man's stories make him immortal, and to all that knew him, Denny will forever live on as our Big Fish.

Denny will be laid to rest at 10 a.m. on Oct. 2 at USAFA before the classes 50-year reunion. *(Pamela Lyons, wife)*



**James A. Nemetz '74**  
April 26, 1952 – June 23, 2023



**Jim Nemetz**, a.k.a. Nummy, of Phoenix, Arizona, died June 23, 2023. Jim was born to Elaine and Albert Nemetz in Fort Worth, Texas. As an Air Force brat, he lived in Texas, Alaska, Alabama, Virginia, Colorado and Ohio. After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1974, Jim followed in his father's footsteps by pursuing a career with the U.S. Air Force. He took to the skies in the T-37, T-38, F-4C, F-16A, and F-16C, serving his country for 22 years. During his career, he lived in Alabama, Arizona, Germany, Korea, Nevada, Korea, Arizona, Alabama, Florida, and Denmark. He was proud to be a Weapons School graduate and for having earned an Airman's Medal. After retiring from the Air Force in 1995, Jim flew as a commercial pilot for Southwest Airlines for an additional 22 years. Jim lived in Phoenix for the last 28 years of his life. As an Air Force brat, this was the longest he ever lived in one place.

Jim loved bass fishing. He spent as much time as possible enjoying this sport and really loved introducing young people to the pastime.

Nummy's greatest joys were his family and friends. He loved nothing more than retelling his jokes in exchange for laughs and groans. His sense of humor was truly unmatched, and he proudly referred to himself as "your fighter pilot hero and fishing idol."

Jim's interment and Celebration of Life were held Nov. 11, 2023; it was both Veterans' Day and his 34th wedding anniversary. The family would like to acknowledge some of the many people who helped make this date something to be remembered: Michael Sromek, Michael Hostage, Jim Zeitler, Raymond Randall, Steven Pennington, the Luke Chapter of the Barstoolers, Richard Zurek, and so many others who came from near and far to remember Nummy and share stories.

He is survived by his wife Ellen Nemetz; children Ali (Michael) Hoover, Britt (Diego) Ezrre, Jake Nemetz; grandchildren Austin and Madison Hoover; sister Judi Halasi; brother Joe (Karen) Nemetz; his nieces and nephews; many in-laws and out-laws; and his beloved dog Milo. He is preceded in death by his parents, Elaine and Albert Nemetz, and his sister, Jane (John) Eanes. *(Ellen Nemetz, Jim's wife)*





# How Are We Communicating This?

- *Checkpoints* – all 4 issues in 2024 + March 2025
- ZoomiEnews
- USAFA.org
- Eblasts
- Class Advisory Senate

*No negative feedback so far*



Thank You

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