

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



*Class of 1975*

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

OCTOBER 8, 2010



## **THE CLASS OF 1975 MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

The Class of 1975 Memorial Ceremony is conducted this year as part of the 35th Reunion and provides an opportunity for the graduate community to honor and remember those classmates who have passed away.

The first ceremony of this type occurred in 1964 with a memorial service in the Cadet Chapel. In 1965 the ceremony was changed to a formation on the terrazzo, and then returned to the Chapel in 1990 for classes celebrating their 25th or later reunion. This year's memorial ceremony, conducted in the Cadet Chapel, will be highlighted by a roll call of deceased classmates. As each deceased class member's name and squadron are called out, a classmate responds, "Absent, sir." Following the roll call, the ceremony will close by a moment of silence and closing activities.

This memorial ceremony is dedicated to those members of the Class of 1975 who have gone before us. It is a time to embrace the memories of our fallen classmates. In this ceremony, we recognize our departed classmates, and celebrate as a community the experiences that made us the USAF Academy Class of 1975.



## OFFICERS OF THE CLASS OF 1975

President	Jim Carlson
Scribe	Jeff Chappell
Treasurer	Scott Hente

## MEMORIAL CEREMONY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

**OCTOBER 8, 2010**

Organ Prelude  
Welcome and Invocation  
*America the Beautiful*  
Scripture Reading  
Message  
Roll Call  
Moment of Silence  
*Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly*  
Benediction  
Bag Piper  
*High Flight*

## ONE MORE ROLL

We toast our hearty Comrades  
Who have fallen from the skies,  
And were gently caught by God's own hands  
To be with Him on high.

To dwell among the soaring clouds  
They've known so well before,  
From victory roll to tail chase  
At Heaven's very door.

As we fly among them there  
We're sure to hear their plea,  
Take care my friend, watch your six,  
And do one more roll for me.

*—Commander Jerry Coffee  
in Hanoi, 1968*

## LORD GUARD AND GUIDE THE MEN WHO FLY

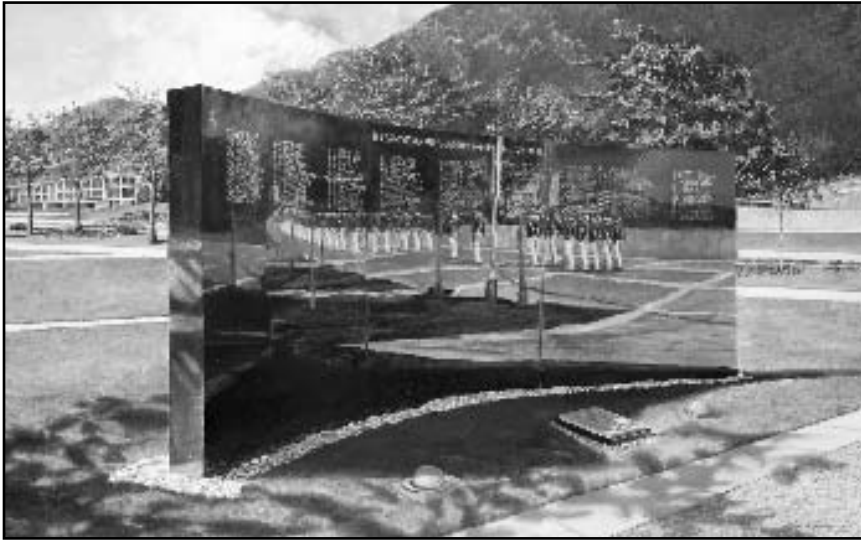
Lord guard and guide the men who fly  
Through the great spaces of the sky;  
Be with them traversing the air  
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.

You who support with tender might  
The balanced birds in all their flight,  
Lord of the tempered winds, be near,  
That, having you, they know no fear.

Control their minds with instinct fit  
Whene'er, adventuring they quit  
The firm security of land;  
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.

Aloft in solitudes of space,  
Uphold them with your saving grace.  
O God, protect the men who fly  
Through lonely ways beneath the sky. Amen.

*—Mary C. D. Hamilton*



## THE WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial stands on the terrazzo on the north end of the Air Gardens and faces the American flag for which the deceased graduates listed on the memorial died. The memorial is a striking curved monolith constructed of three 7'x21' slabs of black starlite granite. The inscription "In memory of our fellow graduates who have fallen in battle ..." is a simple but eloquent statement of why a name is inscribed on the memorial. The criteria for being remembered on the War Memorial are:

1. Graduates who died from direct hostile action.
2. Graduates who died within an area of conflict as the result of an incident which was in direct support of the conflict.
3. Graduates who died outside an area of conflict while directly supporting the activities within that area will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates.

At the dedication ceremony in 1970, Brigadier General Robin Olds, Commandant of Cadets, brought the essence of the memorial forcefully home with the following words:

*This monolith of simple beauty contains the names of graduates of the Air Force Academy who have given their lives in combat. Each was a gallant man, devoted to his country and proud of his heritage. Each died bravely, as one's country sometimes calls upon her sons to do. Remember these names. Honor them. They are a part of you, the Wing. They represent your past, as you today represent our future. Reflect on their example of selfless devotion to duty and gain courage so that when you face your test, you may add honor and glory to the annals of the Wing—and of the Air Force—and of our country.*

There are presently 175 graduates listed on the War Memorial.

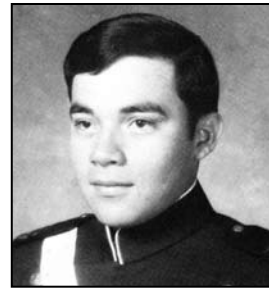
Located north of the Class of '59 Challenge Bridge at Doolittle Hall is a replica of the War Memorial. The replica, a gift from the Class of 1970, was completed and set in place in May 2004.

**Memorial Locations** – Cadets and graduates may be memorialized in several different locations at the Academy. The names of those who die on active duty are placed on plaques just outside the Cadet Catholic Chapel. Names of other deceased graduates may also be found on the plaque at the Memorial Tree Grove located just East of Doolittle Hall, in the memorial section of the Academy cemetery, or on a memorial paver at Doolittle Hall. Graduates who died as a result of combat action are memorialized on the War Memorial.

## HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*—John Gillespie Magee Jr.  
(1922-1941)*



**JOSE RICARDO  
CASTRO-AGUIRRE**  
Lieutenant Colonel  
3rd Squadron  
d. 16 April 2006



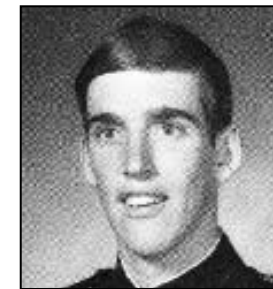
**JOSEPH CHRISTIAN  
BENNER**  
Major  
38th Squadron  
d. 10 December 1987



**THOMAS  
WORTHINGTON  
BRUNDIGE IV**  
Captain  
4th Squadron  
d. 15 December 1981



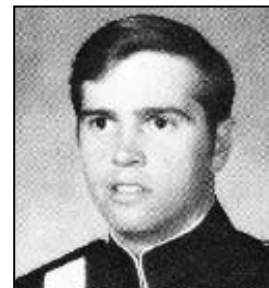
**MICHAEL EUGENE  
COX**  
Captain  
10th Squadron  
d. 22 May 1985



**JOHN BRUCE  
DODDS**  
39th Squadron  
d. 28 March 1983



**THOMAS ALLEN  
HARTWELL**  
40th Squadron  
d. 26 August 1993



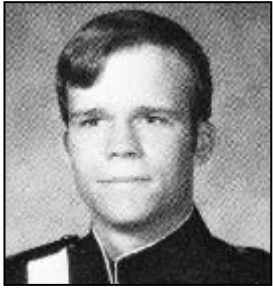
**KENNETH LYNN  
HOSSLER**  
Captain  
29th Squadron  
d. 29 September 1981



**ROBERT KEVIN  
HOWARD**  
Cadet 4th Class  
9th Squadron  
d. 11 October 1971



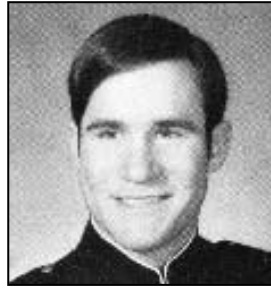
**WALTER RAYMOND  
JOHNSON JR.**  
First Lieutenant  
16th Squadron  
d. 14 July 1977



**PHILIP RANDALL  
JONES**  
Second Lieutenant  
36th Squadron  
d. 14 December 1976



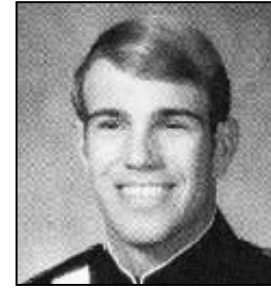
**JACK R.  
KUMMERFELD**  
Major (Ret.)  
7th Squadron  
d. 19 October 2004



**WILLIAM EVAN  
LINN**  
2nd Squadron  
d. 2 March 1991



**JOHN PATRICK  
OWENS**  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)  
11th Squadron  
d. 29 November 1994



**CARL IVOR  
PETERSON**  
8th Squadron  
d. 26 September 1996



**KERRY ROGER  
PUTT**  
Captain  
1st Squadron  
d. 8 October 1980



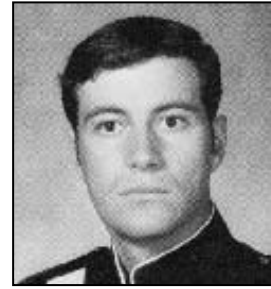
**BRAD ALLEN  
LOGAN**  
Captain  
10th Squadron  
d. 13 March 1980



**EDWIN PAMITTAN  
MALLO**  
Captain (Ret.)  
15th Squadron  
d. 19 November 1985



**MICHAEL JAMES  
MARK**  
First Lieutenant  
38th Squadron  
d. 6 July 1978



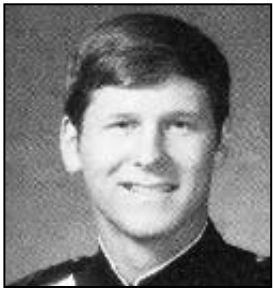
**LAWRENCE  
KESTHER RIDGE**  
Second Lieutenant  
20th Squadron  
d. 10 December 1976



**CHARLES FRANCIS  
RIORDAN III**  
Major (Ret.)  
28th Squadron  
d. 27 February 2005



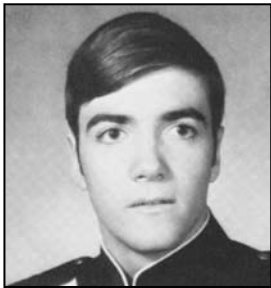
**JAMES MARCUS  
SIMONITSCH**  
First Lieutenant  
26th Squadron  
d. 4 May 1978



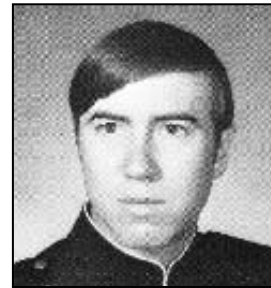
**DAVID CRAIG  
MCCARTHY**  
Major  
6th Squadron  
d. 7 March 1986



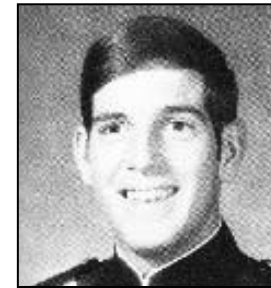
**MICHAEL GLEN  
MCVAY**  
Major  
36th Squadron  
d. 31 October 1985



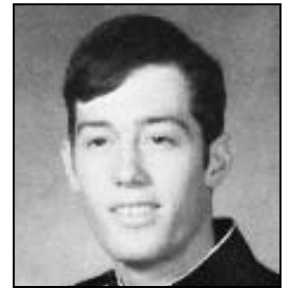
**CHARLES WALTER  
NYSTROM JR.**  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)  
7th Squadron  
d. 14 August 2008



**MICHAEL ALAN  
SIMPSON**  
Captain  
23rd Squadron  
d. 21 January 1981



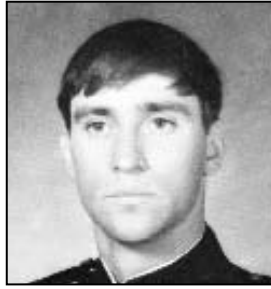
**JOHN MICHAEL  
STEWART**  
Lieutenant Colonel  
7th Squadron  
d. 17 December 1993



**PETER PAUL  
STRUNK**  
Major ANG  
25th Squadron  
d. 11 April 2003



**THOMAS STORY  
SUMMERS**  
26th Squadron  
d. 8 October 1992



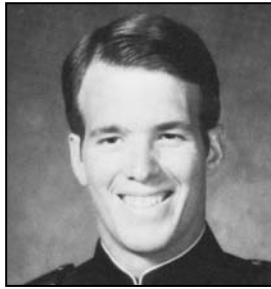
**WILLIAM FRANK  
THOMPSON**  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)  
8th Squadron  
d. 4 February 2005



**JON ROBERT  
TURNER**  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)  
USAFR  
10th Squadron  
d. 10 March 2005



**JOHN EDMUND  
VANDEN DRIES JR.**  
Colonel (Ret.)  
21st Squadron  
d. 1 February 2002



**JOHN THOMAS  
WOLTER**  
30th Squadron  
d. 19 December 2008

**CLASS OF 1975  
CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING**

SQ	NAME	DATE	CAUSE & LOCATION
09	Robert K. Howard	11 Oct 71	Unknown/Raton, NM
20	Lawrence K. Ridge	10 Dec 76	Auto Accident/Mesa, AZ
36	Philip R. Jones	14 Dec 76	T-38 Crash/near Enochs, TX
16	Walter R. Johnson Jr.	14 Jul 77	F-4 Crash/near Gila Bend, AZ
26	James M. Simonitsch	4 May 78	C-130 Crash in CA/San Antonio, TX
38	Michael J. Mark	6 Jul 78	F-15 Crash/near Salm, West Germany
10	Brad A. Logan	13 Mar 80	F-4G Crash/Mancavo Mountain, Zaragoza, Spain
01	Kerry R. Putt	8 Oct 80	T-38 crash/Williams AFB, AZ
23	Michael A. Simpson	21 Jan 81	F-5 Crash/near Moapa, NV
29	Kenneth L. Hossler	29 Sep 81	Cessna 414 Crash/near Tonopah, NV
04	Thomas W. Brundige IV	15 Dec 81	F-15 Crash/near Tonopah, AZ
39	John B. Dodds	28 Mar 83	Cancer/Vacaville, NC
10	Michael E. Cox	22 May 85	F-4D Crash/over the Caribbean
36	Michael G. McVay	31 Oct 85	Motor Glider Accident/Monument, CO
15	Edwin P. Mallo	19 Nov 85	Denver, CO
06	David C. McCarthy	7 Mar 86	F-15 Crash/Luke AFB, AZ
38	Joseph C. Benner	10 Dec 87	Grand Coulee Dam, WA
02	William E. Linn	2 Mar 91	Extended Illness/Minneapolis, MN
26	Thomas S. Summers	8 Oct 92	Leukemia/San Clemente, CA
40	Thomas A. Hartwell	26 Aug 93	Scleroderma Disease/Kingwood, TX
07	John M. Steward	17 Dec 93	F-16A Crash/over Atlantic Ocean
11	John P. Owens	29 Nov 94	Cancer/Prattville, AL
08	Carl I. Peterson	26 Sep 96	Lou Gehrig's Disease/Boulder, CO
21	John E. Vanden Dries Jr.	1 Feb 02	Anchorage, AK
25	Peter P. Strunk	11 Apr 03	Auto Accident/Pinetop, AZ
07	Jack R. Kummerfeld	19 Oct 04	Cancer/Cocoa, FL
08	William F. Thompson	4 Feb 05	Cancer/Universal City, TX
28	Charles F. Riordan III	27 Feb 05	Heart Attack/Niceville, FL
10	Jon R. Turner	10 Mar 05	Cancer/Colorado Springs, CO
03	Jose R. Castro-Aguirre	16 Apr 06	Renal Failure/El Salvador
07	Charles W. Nystrom Jr.	14 Aug 08	Auto/Bicycle accident
30	John T. Wolter	19 Dec 08	Blood Disease/Colorado Springs, CO

## THE MEMORIAL PAVILION

Since the inception of the Air Force Academy, our graduates have willingly laid down their lives in the line of service to our great nation. It is the right of every graduate to be buried—with military honors—here at the Academy cemetery. During much of the year, Colorado's unpredictable weather can turn memorial services into punishing ordeals, wrought with rain, snow and ice. These conditions only add to a grieving family's mental anguish, often making it difficult to lay their loved ones to rest. Seeking a solution to the Academy's unforgiving climate, the classes of 1966, 1981, 1983, 1984 and others, through the assistance of the Association of Graduates, constructed the Memorial Pavilion at the Academy Cemetery to accommodate funeral services on this sacred ground. The Memorial Pavilion provides both indoor and outdoor settings where families may conduct the time-honored ritual of saying goodbye to their loved ones. Today, it is a place of dignity and respect for graveside services held either outdoors in a quiet, peaceful mountain setting, or inside, protected from Colorado's unpredictable weather. Located on the north side of the cemetery, the Memorial Pavilion comfortably seats 100-150 guests with facilities to accommodate reflection and viewings. Adjacent to the east wall there is a columbarium appropriate for interment of urns.

## DIRECTORY BUILDING

The directory building is located near the west entrance to the cemetery so that grave sites can be easily located. It includes a record locator room that houses a touch screen information center. The system can show visitors the exact location of every grave and how to find them. A selection titled "Gone But Not Forgotten" provides guests specific information about each of our honored dead. Those buried here may be located by class year, last name, or cadet squadron. Information presented includes a cadet photograph, class year and a biographical tribute, complimented by a respectful rendition of Taps. The system also lists USAFA graduates honored on the War Memorial.

Maps depicting the locations of Class of 1975 members who are buried/memorIALIZED in the cemetery are included at the end of this brochure. During the 35th reunion weekend their site will be marked with a flag and a class coin.

