

[View this email in your browser](#)



Chapter News - July 2021

Fellow OCS Alumni,

Our Chapters are slowly climbing out of the COVID malaise and alumni members (Active, Reserve and National Guard) are getting together to renew their camaraderie as OCS Alumni and to honor their OCS heritage.

Please mark down 29 April -2 May 2022 for our national reunion down in Columbus Georgia (Marriott) and on Fort Benning. You won't want to miss this opportunity to "wake up the echoes"

At the end of this newsletter, I'll be sharing some exciting news about our chapter growth across the country. As always, contact me if you have any questions.



David W. Taylor
VP-Operations
COL (Ret) SF

VP-Opns@ocsalumni.org

(Mobile) 330-321-3370

Medina, Ohio

Class 06-68



Chapter Commander
John O'Shea - COL (Ret)
Burke, VA

Jroshea4@aol.com

(Mobile) 571-839-0669

Class 030-69

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

lifting of some of these restrictions will allow us to return to the in-person events, which we are now working on now.

Recently I represented the OCS Alumni Association during the ceremonial groundbreaking for the "Wall of Remembrance" at the Korean War Memorial. Officiants included President Moon of South Korea, the Korean Ambassador to the U.S., Governor Hogan of Maryland (whose wife is a Korean American), and the U.S. Secretary of Defense. On Memorial Day, Myself (Col. O'Shea) and Col. Fields presented wreaths at the three war memorials in Washington DC on behalf of the Alumni Association.

We intend to do the same on Veterans Day later this year, and present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on November 12, the day after the 100th anniversary of the Tomb Guards.

We had a series of speakers in coordination with Post 20 of the American Legion. The Post is unique as it is not located in a community, but rather at the National Press Club in Washington. We have an on-going relationship with Post 20 of the American Legion, where many of the Post members are also members of the Press Club. The Post Commander, Jim Noone, and I agreed to share our mail list to notify Legion and Alumni Association members of the presentations sponsored by the two organizations.

Back on November 13 we co-sponsored with Post 20 a presentation by Brigadier General Carl Riddell, USAF (Ret). General Riddell was Chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and led the organization for 19 years through the design, construction, and dedication of the Memorial in Washington D.C. last September 17. General Riddell is an historian by education and practice and a specialist in Russian Studies. He spoke about the challenges of providing a fitting tribute to the remarkable leader and statesman, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. A month later, Professor Will Hitchcock



Col John O'Shea (left) is with Col Cliff Fields USA (Ret) during Memorial Day ceremonies at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Col Fields is also an active member in the DC Chapter.

different perspective.



Col John O'Shea (left) is pictured next to Lt. Col. Byung Lee. Colonel Lee was commissioned through the ROK Army OCS program and fought in both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The two were attending the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Memorial in DC. The names of all those Americans and KATUSAs who died in the Korean conflict will be etched into a wall at the memorial.

The OCS Alumni Chapter One in Washington DC participated in the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) from October 13 thru 15. Last year's annual meeting and exposition was held virtually, a first for the AUSA and other organizations that have had to respond to the restrictions of the pandemic. Our OCS Alumni Association, as have other exhibitors, had a "virtual booth" during the exposition. The technology used by AUSA did not track visitors to our virtual booth, nevertheless we benefited from the visibility afforded us as a partner organization and, through our special relationship with the staff at AUSA. This year the exhibition will be on site with a reduced number of exhibitors. Our request to be selected was approved.

The DC Chapter conducted two zoom meetings that were very well received. These Zoom meetings consisted of my class (OC 24-69) meeting with senior candidates at Fort Benning. Despite a difference of 50 years, each group felt a kinship with the other.

November 11, 2021 is the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Commander of Legion Post 20 and I have been meeting with SGM Gavin McIlvenna, USA (Ret), President of the Society of the Honor Guard, TUS. The Society has a robust plan of activities scheduled to culminate in the Centennial anniversary and we will have an opportunity to be part of those celebrations as planning continues.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

I met with Col Steve Lee, Operations Officers for the Korean Defense Veterans Association. The KDVA partners with other organizations but is willing to co-brand with us on events we will co-sponsor. GEN Vincent Brooks is Chairman of the association and with our partnership, we could invite him to speak to our membership. A former War College colleague of mine has a relationship with LTG H.R. McMaster and through him we would have access to General McMaster as a speaker. These activities provide not only professional development for our chapter members, but they also raise the visibility of the association.

Sunshine State Chapter



Chapter Commander
 Steve Epkins
 COL (Ret)
 Fort Myers, FL
 Sepkins123@comcast.net
 239-810-0488
 Class 013-69

I believe we had a great meeting on Saturday, 17 July 2021.

The highlights of our Meeting were:

1. Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the US Army OCS from 1941-2021. Past National President John Ionoff offered comments on how far OCS has come as an institution in the past 80 years. It was and is a significant and defining moment in our lives. The first OCS class graduation speech was read (written by General George C. Marshall); a 80th birthday cake cutting was held by Ionoff and Alice Saddler, Chapter Executive Officer.

2. John Ionoff presented the Distinguished Member of the Regiment and Order of Saint Maurice awards to Phil Kearns and Ray Trahan.



OCS Chapter Meeting – Florida Style!

Our guest speaker was MAJ (Ret) Bryan Williams. He is a graduate of Fort Benning and a member of our OCS Chapter. He served 25 years on active duty before starting his second career as an Army JROTC Instructor. He was selected as the Number Two Best

3. Chapter Commander Steve Epkins was also formally given his honorarium as a 2021 Inductee into the OCS Hall of Fame, by OCS Alumni Association President Emeritus John Ionoff. Because of COVID, an in-person formal HOF ceremony could not be held this year at Fort Benning.

New Chapter Initiatives: We have one new chapter in the Melbourne, Florida area – The “Space/Treasure Coast OCS Chapter” and the newly elected commander is Rob McCall. Another new chapter, the Jacksonville Chapter, will be meeting soon to conduct their initial meeting and John Bowles has been the leader in this effort. We are still looking for points of contact to take on the task of creating chapters in the Panhandle Area, Orlando/The Villages and the Miami areas.



Ray Trahan receives Distinguished Member of the Regiment and Order of Saint Maurice awards



Phil Kearns receives Distinguished Member of the Regiment and Order of Saint Maurice awards



Steve Epkins (left) formally was award by the Florida Chapter honorarium by John Ionoff



Guest speaker Bryan Williams presented recognition awarded by the Florida Chapter

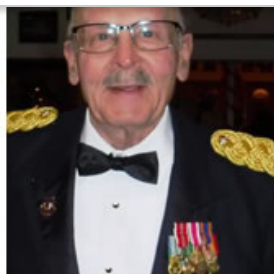
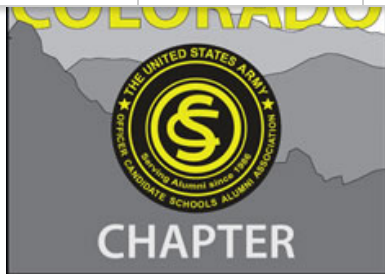
Our next meeting will be on October 16 in or near The Villages. We have a great guest speaker lined up. If any members have suggestions on where to hold the meeting in that area please let me know. There are some VFW and Legion locations in that area as well. Steve Epkins

Subscribe

Past Issues

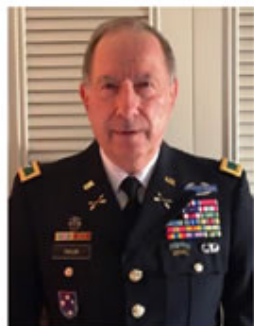
Translate ▾

RSS



Joseph Zmugg O-1 (Ret)
 Denver, CO
jzmugg@outlook.com
 303-360-7956
 (Mobile) 303-472-3743
 Class 029-67

We are still climbing out of the COVID situation. Anyone in Colorado, especially in the Denver area, please give me a call to get a meeting started. We are looking for new members.



Chapter Commander
 Dave Taylor COL (Ret)
 Medina, OH
dave.taylor@zoominternet.net
 (Mobile) 330-321-3370
 Class 06-68

Greetings from the Buckeye State!

We have been trying to arrange our first chapter meeting in the state capital of Columbus, but things down there are still COVID-slow in opening up, even some of the Veterans Halls. So we will have our first meeting up closer to Cleveland and Akron, in Medina, Ohio at the Medina County Veterans Memorial Hall, 620 North Broadway, Medina, OH 44256 on Saturday August 21. The Hall is only 10 minutes off Interstate I-71.

We will start congregating at 11:30am, have lunch and a short business meeting, then I will give a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation on the Vietnam War, covering the tactics, terrain and nature of the enemy in the war. This will be based on my book about the Vietnam War titled "Our War. The History and Sacrifices of an Infantry Battalion in the Vietnam War" The book is now in its third printing. We can discuss the Vietnam until people want to leave.

The Hall itself is worth visiting. In 2014-2015 I raised \$492K to modernize the facility and over the last 18 months raised \$23K for history displays that cover Medina County in the wars from the Civil War to the present Global War on Terrorism. OCS Alumni from neighboring states are welcome to attend! Give me a call!



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Dave Osborne COL (Ret)
 Lexington, KY
dcosborne@comcast.net
 703-888-6500
 Class 05-82

As the OCS Alumni Association's newest chapter, we are contacting our new members and making plans to get together and do things across the Bluegrass State. I recently learned the previous OCS Battalion Commander at Fort Benning is now assigned to Fort Knox and we look forward to making visits to that post as well. All alumni members in the Bluegrass State, please contact me.

Low Country Chapter in Formation!



2L1 Christopher C. Miller

Christopher Miller
 MAJ (RA now inactive reserve)
 IN & MI Branches
 Now in Civilian Employment
 OCS Alumni member
 Class 006-72 (50th Company)
 Text: 703-627-5730
OCS@nsa9.33mail.com

Chris Miller is working to start a "Low Country" Chapter which will encompass some or all of Beaufort, SC (his home area), Savannah, Hilton Head, Bluffton and the Charleston area. Contact Chris if you live in the Low Country area!

Chris is also starting a Class Chapter (006-72, 50th Company, 1972). Over 20 members have now been contacted. Our goal is to meet at next spring's national reunion in Columbus, Georgia.

As an MI Officer, Chris has been successful at locating people and is willing to assist any alumni members or chapter commander by providing suggestions and assistance on the use of available location tools and databases. Anyone out there in the alumni community needing assistance can contact him.

As an MI Officer, Chris has been successful at locating people and is willing to assist any other alumni members or chapter commanders in providing suggestions and assistance on the use of available locational tools and databases. There are many out there and Chris has experience working with them. They all have their strengths and weaknesses. Contact Chris!

One Alumni Association – Many Ways to Come Together!



OCS Alumni Annual Reunion

Set your calendars now for 29 April – 2 May, 2022 at Columbus, GA and Fort Benning. A great way to come together for a class reunion, a chapter gathering or to meet OCS classmates you haven't seen for a long time. You can make reservations for a hospitality room for your group. More details to follow!



OCS Virtual Chapters

Don't have time to travel, or organize meetings? If you have a group of OCS Alumni interested in keeping touch and would like the financial and collegial support of being an OCS Chapter, consider a virtual chapter where you can have periodic meetings via the internet.

Subscribe


Past Issues

Translate ▾

RSS

LIVING THE LEGACY

OCS Established 1941



Class Chapters


Area Chapters

- State-wide
- County-wide
- City-wide
- Area-wide

(Cross state boundaries for metropolitan areas)

Contact Dave Taylor
VP-Operations for any
inquiries about
chapter formations

Branch Chapters
(ALL BRANCHES!)



And others not pictured



Copyright © 2021 OCS Alumni Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

