

Hello 50th Company:

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, despite repeated flood-like rains, wildfires, tornados, the onset of hurricane season, and whatever else Mother Nature throws at us. This will be my last newsletter before our reunion in Huntsville, Alabama, October 5-7/8. In this message I'd like to share three 50th Company-related comments with you.

OUTSTANDING CLASSMATE RECOGNITION: (Bob Tomes): It is such a pleasure for me to recognize classmates who have distinguished themselves for exceptional performance. I recently learned that Bob Tomes is one such classmate. It was only after his death in October that I learned, in addition to numerous other awards, he also received a **CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION** shortly before he passed. This is a nomination-based award that recognizes both the military service and community service of veterans living in the 3rd Congressional District of Texas. Recipients "are exceptional Americans who served our country as a former member of the United States Armed Forces." After I announced his passing in a message to the Company, a number of classmates praised Bob for helping them through their OCS experience. As they say, you can measure a man by what he says, what people say about him and most importantly what he does. Bob's obituary shows that he was a very successful businessman who gave back to his community and family in many ways. To me, Bob represents the very best of our generation, as well as the very best of OCS. I am proud to have been a classmate of his. Rest in Peace, Bob. Well done!

COMRADES IN DISTRESS PROGRAM: Several years ago, the Reunion Planning Group began to focus on reaching out to classmates and/or their families during difficult times. Often, we can only send a get-well or condolence card, or reach out to them by phone or email. When possible, we try to send a class representative to the memorial service. I was proud that Steve Porter was able to represent 50th Company at Bob's Tomes' service and extend our class's condolences. We do not receive (or solicit) feedback from the families. However, we did receive a very touching note from Bob's widow, Barbara, which I have attached to this newsletter.

Please, when you become aware that a classmate or a spouse is going through a rough patch, please let us know so that we can reach out. Inform your spouse and children that we are concerned when you or your spouse is experiencing a challenging medical condition, or another emergency, and ask them to contact us on your behalf.

2025 Huntsville, Alabama Reunion: This will be my last call for those of you who have not yet signed up for our upcoming reunion. The Planning Group has worked hard to keep costs down while still providing a quality event. If you are still unsure about joining us in "Rocket City" please go ahead and sign up. I realize that, as we age, traveling to places and doing things becomes more and more difficult. But our 50th Company gatherings are definitely worth the effort. If you would like to bring family members along to assist you, we welcome that. Especially if you have never attended one of our reunions, please try to make this one. You will not be sorry. More information, including registration instructions, can be found on our 50th Company OCS website. [Click Here for 50th](#)

[Website](#) If you need help registering, get back to us ASAP. The deadline for getting a room at a special reunion group rate is September 5. The special rate includes a warm breakfast (with grits, thanks to Mike and Robin Eberhardt).

Thanks, once again, to my editorial sidekick, Brian Flora.

Until Huntsville, Stay Well, Stay Healthy and above all else, STAY POSITIVE!

Lou Lallo