CLASS OF 2021
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
RING WEEKEND BANQUET
3 OCTOBER 2020
• MENU •

Chicken Breast Stuffed with Brie Apple

Sweet Potato Souffle

Green Beans

Greek Salad

Key Lime Pie

New York State White Wine

Non-Alcoholic Sparkling Beverage
PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies ..................................................... Cadet Zachary Calderone
Invocation ..................................................................................... Cadet Cole Smith
Toasts:
To the President of the United States ......................................... Cadet Matt Rivera
Response: “To the President”
    To the United States Army .......................................... Cadet Adam McElligott
    Response: “To the Army”
    To the United States Military Academy........................ Cadet Alex Heldstab
    Response: “To the Military Academy”
    To our Guests ................................................................... Cadet Ananth Ghosh
    Response: “To our Guests”
    To Fallen Comrades .................................................. Cadet Connor McQueen
    Silent toast

DINNER

Introduction of the Guest Speaker ........................................ Cadet Katarina Christianson
Address ..................................................................................... General Richard D. Clarke
Toast:
To the Class of 2021 ........................................................... Cadet Emma Begin
Response: “Until the Battle Is Won”
General Richard D. Clarke currently serves as the 12th Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. Prior to assuming command of USSOCOM, General Clarke served as Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J5), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

General Clarke’s other assignments as a general officer include: Deputy Commanding General for Operations, 10th Mountain Division from 2011 to 2013; the 74th Commandant of Cadets, United States Military Academy at West Point from 2013 to 2014; and the Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division.

His formative and key, Army and special operations, assignments include: Director of Operations, Joint Special Operations Command from 2009 to 2011. Eight years in the 75th Ranger Regiment first as a company commander, then as a battalion commander, and finally as the regimental commander. He also served as commander of 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

General Clarke has led Soldiers at all levels in Airborne, Ranger, Mechanized and Light Infantry units in five different divisions, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 75th Ranger Regiment in the United States, Europe, Iraq and Afghanistan. His deployments while serving in the aforementioned positions include Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guardian in Macedonia, three deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, four deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one deployment as the commander of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve.

General Clarke was born in Germany and raised in an Army family. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, and was commissioned into the Infantry in 1984. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point and a Master of Business Administration from Benedictine College. He is a distinguished graduate of the National War College earning a master’s degree in Security and Strategic Studies.
A Message from the Ring and Crest Committee Chairman

Ring Weekend is a West Point tradition that began in 1835--now thousands of members of the Long Gray Line wear the coveted West Point ring. Originally, the ring was worn on the left-hand ring finger to signify that the wearer is married to his or her Alma Mater. While still a cadet, the class crest is worn closest to the heart. Upon graduation, the ring is flipped, and the West Point crest will be closest.

Our class crest on our ring consists of many symbolic elements: the cadet and officer sabers, the eagle, our class motto “Until The Battle is Won”, USMA, the flag with 9 stars and 11 stripes, our class year, and the gold itself.

The simplicity of our crest parallels the class crest of our 50-year Affiliate, the “Professionally Done,” Class of 1971. The simplicity has a more intricate meaning, however. The design does not have many elements that distract from the core elements that all crests share. This simplicity also parallels the design of West Point. West Point is a stone fortress. A timeless landmark in the history of the United States. There is a special stalwart-like appeal to the immutability of its infrastructure and like our crest, loses the risk of becoming outmoded.

The cadet and officer sabers are an element on every class ring. The Cadet Saber represents our time spent as cadets and each cadet’s journey in becoming a commissioned leader of character. The officer saber represents the years we will spend leading our nation’s soldiers to fight and win our nation’s wars.

The eagle represents the United States and is a reminder that each cadet will become a professional representative of our nation and reflect the best of what America stands for. There are 36 feathers on the head of the eagle to stand for the year 1936, when Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. graduated from the academy. Davis Barracks opened our Plebe year.

Our class motto is “Until The Battle is Won.” This motto serves as a constant reminder that the wars we fight, foreign and domestic, with ourselves and as a country, may never end and we must always be prepared to progress until victory. Under our class motto, “USMA” serves as a reminder of where we came from and all the lessons we learned from the great mentors, instructors, officers and cadets we encountered in our 47-month experience.

The American flag, representing the pride we have in our nation, fills the background of the crest. It is because of the United States we are the people each of us has grown to become. The United States has placed a special level of trust in each of us—a trust that we hope to keep over our upcoming years of service as we seek to repay America for the great opportunities our nation has granted us. The flag is adorned with nine stars and eleven stripes, symbolically tying our class to the 20-year anniversary of 9/11 as a reminder of that infamous day and to celebrate the generations of warriors that came before us.

The eagle’s talons wrap the year of our graduation as a reminder of the strong bond between classmates with whom we have stood shoulder to shoulder in our time here at the academy.

The gold in our rings is melted together with the gold from past graduates both living and deceased. Their gold in our rings further connects us to the Long Gray Line and all the great leaders who graduated from West Point. Our class had 42 ring donations. These rings were donated by graduates spanning the Classes of 1919 to 2001 and two of the rings belonged to family members of our fellow classmates. In total, Legacy Gold from 617 rings are included in our rings.

Ring Weekend is a time of celebration. Receiving the class ring is the first major event of Firstie year bringing our class one step closer to graduation. Each member of our class has worked hard and diligently to earn their rings. The final line of the cadet creed says “I am a future officer and a member of the long gray line”—the class rings we now wear signify the short time we have to wait until we become officers. Finally, I wish to offer congratulations to all my classmates for reaching this momentous occasion, and I wish to extend a warm thank you to all of the guests here to share this special landmark with the Class of 2021.

Until The Battle is Won
Adam McElligott
2021 Ring and Crest Committee Chairman
West Point Association of Graduates’ Class Ring Memorial Program  
Annual Ring Melt Ceremony Summary

Every West Point class since the Bicentennial Class of 2002 has been able to “Grip Hands” with graduates from the past who donated their rings to the Ring Memorial Program. The West Point Association of Graduates held the 20th Annual Ring Melt on January 24, 2020. This marked only the second time that this event was held on West Point. 42 class rings were donated by graduates spanning the Classes of 1919 to 2001. These rings brought the program total to 617 donated rings. The rings that were donated to the Class of 2021 were melted with the Legacy Gold from the previous nineteen ceremonies and incorporated into the class rings for 2021.

Donated Rings for the Class of 2021

**LIVING DONORS**

- Mr. Lloyd S. Adams Jr., 1946
- Mr. Daniel P. McMahon, 1952
- Mr. Paul Lansky, 1954
- LTC Robert W. Faulkender, 1957
- LTC Joseph A. Adelman, 1971
- COL Richard M. Bridges, 1971
- COL Randall G. Oliver, 1971
- LTC Alan J. Rock, 1971
- Mr. Robert A. Haviland, 1975

**IN MEMORIAM**

- MG Hobart Hewett, 1919*
- COL Edwin H. Ferris, 1935
- MG William C. Haneke, 1936
- COL Francis R. Sullivan, 1940
- COL Joseph L. Knowlton, 1941
- Col John M. Anderson, 1942
- Col Francis X. Kane, 1943
- LTC Alfred H. Jones, 1945
- COL John T. Rhett Jr., 1945
- COL William D. Grant, 1947
- Mr. Edwin B. Greene, 1947**
- LTC Floyd A. Johnston, 1948
- LTC Jack R. Miller, 1948
- Mr. Charles D. Nash, 1948
- Lt Col Robert M. Hoover, 1950
- COL Emmett A. Niblack Jr., 1952
- COL Richard E. Mackin, 1956
- COL Stanley D. Cass, 1957
- Col Gerald L. Jagrowski, 1957
- LTC Robert H. Miller, 1958
- Mr. William I. Murphy, 1958
- Doctor Donald T. Simpson, 1959
- LTC Donald H. Barrell, 1960
- Mr. James R. Kane, 1960
- LTC John E. Parker, 1963
- LTC John H. E. Parker, 1963
- Mr. Kenneth E. Bloomfield Jr., 1964
- Mr. Henry L. Strickland, 1964
- COL Zigmund J. Roebuck, 1965
- Mr. Thomas H. McCord, 1969
- Mr. James M. Kesler, 1971
- LTC David E. Bassett, 1985**
- MAJ Christopher D. Thomas, 2001

*Cadet Hewett and his classmates entered as the Class of 1921 (100-Year Affiliate Class), graduated two and a half years early with the Class of November 1918, then were called back as second lieutenants to complete classroom work. They then graduated in June 1919 but maintained their 1921 crest.

**Donor has children or grandchildren in the Class of 2021.

Program instituted by the West Point Association of Graduates with the United States Military Academy Bicentennial Class of 2002 and continued through the Class of 2021.
The Legacy Gold

Every year since 2001, the West Point Association of Graduates has accepted donations of rings of graduates—from both deceased and living—and melted those rings into an ingot of gold at an annual Ring Melt Ceremony. Most of the resulting gold ingot is added to the commercial gold that will constitute the next graduating class’s rings. A small portion of each year’s gold ingot, however, does not go into that year’s rings. Instead, that gold is preserved and added to the rings that are being melted for the following year’s Ring Melt. Once the new ingot is made, again a shaving is taken from that ingot to be used in the subsequent Ring Melt. The gold shavings are known as the Legacy Gold because it contains gold from every ring that has been donated over the years.

Because of this Ring Melt process, each West Point ring since 2002 contains gold from class rings of previous generations of the Long Gray Line. The Class of 2021’s rings include trace elements of gold from 617 class rings spanning the Classes of 1896 to 2001, including five rings from the 50-Year-Affiliate Class of 1971. The rings were worn by graduates who served in the Army, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard. The graduates served our nation in armed conflicts around the globe—in the Philippines, the Mexican Expedition of 1916, both World Wars, Korea, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Panama, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The oldest ring that is part of the Legacy Gold belonged to Colonel Percy Myers Kessler, Class of 1896, who fought in the Philippines Insurrection and whose son and grandson also graduated from the Academy. The newest ring was donated this year by the surviving spouse (who herself is a West Point graduate) of a 2001 graduate.

Nine four-star generals donated their rings:

- GEN Charles P. Cabell, Class of 1925
- GEN Hamilton Hawkins Howze, Class of 1930
- GEN Henry Miley, Class of 1940
- GEN George S. Blanchard and GEN John J. Hennessey, both from the Class of 1944
- GEN Lew Allen, GEN Robert Shoemaker, and GEN William J. Evans from the Class of 1946
- GEN George D. Iverson from the Class of 1957.

Another notable inclusion in the Legacy Gold is the class ring of Lieutenant General James “Jumping Jim” Gavin, Class of 1929, who was not only the youngest division commander in World War II but also the only American general officer to make four combat parachute jumps. The rings also contain gold from the ring of William Arcuri, Class of 1970, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, as well as that of First Lieutenant Frank Stanley Reasoner, Class of 1962, U.S. Marine Corps, who was awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor for heroic action in Vietnam.

Each West Point ring symbolizes one’s commitment to Duty, Honor, and Country, and the gold in each ring embodies the Long Gray Line of leaders who are united across generations by their unwavering commitment to those values. May the service and sacrifice of the ring donors remain physically and symbolically with the Class of 2021 as they proudly wear their class rings.
CLASS COMMITTEE
President ..................................................................... Cadet Katarina Christianson
Vice-President .................................................................. Cadet Zachary Calderone
Secretary ........................................................................... Cadet Emma Begin
Treasurer ............................................................................. Cadet Ananth Ghosh
Historian ............................................................................... Cadet Matthew Rivera
Information Systems Officer ........................................... Cadet Alexander Heldstab

RING AND CREST COMMITTEE
Chairperson ............................................................................... Cadet Adam McElligott

CLASS ADVISOR
Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Hartsock
Armor

CLASS OFFICER IN CHARGE
Captain James Beebe
Logistics