



Artillery OCS News November 14, 2024

Greetings From Fort Sill,



Artillery OCS Heritage Hall Ribbon Cutting November 2, 2024 (Recap):

About 95 individuals were present for the ribbon cutting in front of the main entrance to the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall on November 2nd.

A special Thank You to the Artillery OCS graduates and spouses who not only contributed to the Heritage Hall building project but made the trip to Fort Sill to attend the ceremony: BG Greg Townsend, COL and Mrs. Alvin Ginsberg, COL and Mrs. Tom Brown, COL and Mrs. Harvey Glowaski, Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, MAJ Terry August and Mr. David A. Jones, Penny and I enjoyed visiting with all of them and we sincerely appreciate their continuing support.

Artillery OCS Alumni President Bill Ford provided his heartfelt and inspiring opening remarks and background on the project. Fort Sill Garrison Commander, COL Derek Baird, spoke to the group and helped cut the ribbon. COL Baird graduated from the Branch Immaterial OCS program at Fort Benning, and his remarks about never forgetting where he came from were timely. His twin brother will soon retire as an Army Command Sergeant Major. I was pleased to inform COL Baird that he has been selected for induction into the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. We will also nominate him for the Army OCS Hall of Fame.

Penny and I were especially pleased that COL (Ret) Michael Hayes, GEN (Ret) Tommy Franks' Chief of Staff, attended the event on his behalf. Several other distinguished visitors who have also been great supporters and friends to us through the years were present. LTG (Ret) David Halverson and his wife Karen, LTG (Ret) Gary Cheek and his wife Leslie and MG (Ret) Brian McKeirnan helped make it a great day.

Another special guest was COL (Ret) Frank Siltman, who retired recently as Western Region Director of Museums, U.S. Army Center of Military History. We met with him and Museum Curator Gordon Blaker several years ago at Durham Hall. During that visit, the planned purpose of the proposed facility and how to best present the OCS story in an Army classroom environment was hatched. It was apparent from that day that we were all in sync. They were always straight and to the point and understood what we were trying to accomplish. Working as a team with Frank, Gordon and Museum Facility Operations Specialist Michele Mabry has been a pleasure, and we greatly respect and appreciate them.

Walking around incognito during the event was enjoyable, as was hearing the candid comments of distinguished visitors and guests. I recognized several faces but could not put names with most of them. As I meandered around, trying to keep out of the way, I wondered if the **Fort Sill Commanding General or the Chief of Staff** was in the crowd. I have not been privileged to meet either of them or their immediate predecessors, and I only talked to two of the eleven Field Artillery Hall of Fame Inductees.

The Fort Sill Public Affairs Office's promised photographer did not materialize, and the RSVP list I was provided with needed to be more accurate.

I was happy to see genuine interest in the displays and OCS history panels on the walls. The Field Artillery Museum tour and Artillery OCS Heritage Hall gathering were the only 2024 Field Artillery Hall of Fame Day events on Fort Sill. **It was a great day.**

Army OCS History - The OCS Graduate (All Programs) 1941-Date:

We are collaborating with Emory Deason, an Infantry OCS graduate who is creating a database of **all OCS graduates from every OCS program from 1941 to the present.** This massive undertaking is vital to everything else we are trying to do. You cannot recognize the individual accomplishments of a group if you cannot identify the group members. Our Artillery OCS Fallen Comrades from WWII, Korea and Vietnam could not have been identified without the rosters of graduates we compiled over time. Our Hall of Fame criteria depends upon verification of the OCS connection, as does the Army OCS Hall of Fame.

Emory has described everything associated with this as a "living document." Our compilation of OCS history becomes more accurate each time we update or correct it. Some folks need to understand that it is not about being right or wrong but about being accurate.

The Army Officer Candidate Schools story is an important part of our Nation's history that must be documented and shared. Emory and I are determined to identify every OCS graduate who was killed in action during and since World War II, and we are also working toward getting every OCS graduate who is a Distinguished Service Cross recipient recognized and inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame and recognized in the National Infantry at Fort Moore. **Long overdue. One small step at a time.** The WAC OCS program that started at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in 1942 is also getting our attention. More to come.

Since we were working on several projects simultaneously, Emory and his spouse Sue came to Fort Sill to exchange information and ideas. It was a very productive and delightful get-together. While we were in the Heritage Hall Classroom, four OCS graduates who were each separately visiting the Field Artillery Museum stopped by. **All Good!**

113 Army OCS DSC Recipients Nominated for the Army OCS Hall of Fame: We are starting with 99 OCS DSC recipients from Vietnam and 14 posthumous DSCs from Korea who are not yet in the Army OCS Hall of Fame. **Twenty-eight of them are Artillery OCS.** We also have more than 400 from all OCS programs during World War II and more than 100 from Korea that will be nominated later. On November 13, The Vietnam and Korean War lists were sent to the Fort Moore Infantry School Commandant and the Commanding General for approval. The Army OCS Alumni Association President and the OCS Battalion Commander have vetted and approved the nominations. **This is Teamwork!**

LTC Charity Adams Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) Class # 1 (Fort Des Moines, Iowa):

Emory Deason and I worked together to nominate LTC Charity Adams for induction into the Army OCS Hall of Fame. By the end of World War II, she was the highest-ranking African American in the Women's Army Corps (WACs). She gained fame as Commander of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in the European Theater of Operations. The 6888th was a multi-ethnic unit with more than 850 African Americans who worked around the clock in three shifts, for eight hours per shift, seven days a week. They were tasked with clearing all the backlogged mail in six months but accomplished their goal in three months. Fort Lee, Virginia, was renamed Fort Gregg-Adams after LTG Arthur J Gregg (also an OCS Graduate and in the OCS Hall of Fame) and LTC Charity Adams.

A page on the website with more information about Charity Adams and a copy of the Hall of Fame Nomination is available at:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/ltc-charity-adams.html>

Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter:

813 alumni and friends have contributed \$767,323 since November 1, 2019. We have achieved 97.75% of our \$785,000 goal for the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall project (Building and Sustainment). If you have already contributed, please accept my THANK YOU. If you have not, please consider joining this effort

and becoming part of the Team. Working together to complete and sustain this project will be a wonderful and lasting tribute to our departed Brothers.

The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter is an IRS 501(C)3 charitable organization.

Donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID: EIN # 74-3052514. You can send a check to Artillery OCS Alumni PO Box 33612 Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Click on the link below to see how you can support our efforts:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/support-us.html>

The Support Us page has a PayPal link for credit card donations.

Thanks for your continuing support,

Randy C. Dunham (Class 10-69)

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