



Artillery OCS News April 28, 2024

Greetings From Fort Sill,

Sorry for not getting this out sooner. When I sent myself a test email of this newsletter a few days ago, I got an alarming error message when I clicked on one of the blue links. The message said we did not exist. I wondered how it was that we did not exist. I provided a screenshot to our website hosting company, and the chat person said: "**Your website has no files.**" I asked him how that could be, and he replied, "**You need to talk to your system administrator to address the issue.**" Great!!! That's me...and he was very patient when he found out how clueless and desperate I was. The issue was resolved after a few days. I am cleaning up some loose ends and trying to remember the changes I made over the last couple of weeks to redo them.

Back to the original newsletter content:

LTC (Ret) Rhoi Maney (Class 5-71) POW status finally recognized:

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, sixteen service members and, in some cases, their families were held hostage, trapped in the American embassy in Kuwait and then taken to the embassy in Iraq. Rhoi Maney was among that group.

Iraq let family members leave the country in late August 1990, but kept the U.S. service members in Baghdad. The family members traveled overland by convoy to Turkey. Once they returned to U.S. soil, they had to fight to get their military medical and other benefits restored because they had destroyed their military IDs and other documents in Kuwait to keep their military identities secret.

Two months later, a few of the hostages confined to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad were tapped to participate in a risky but successful escape. The other service members were among the hostages Iraq released in December, weeks before Operation Desert Storm began in January 1991.

In 2009, COL (Ret) Fred Hart, one of the captives, requested POW status for all the military members who were in Kuwait in letters to the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy. He got no response.

In 2021, he sent another letter to the Army after doing more research. The Army awarded him POW status the following April.

You can read about his efforts to get his Kuwait comrades' POW recognition and the pitiful excuses that the service branches have offered in response.

[Click Here for the Story of the Fight for POW Status](#)

Artillery OCS Heritage Hall - Update:

We should soon have the words **Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall** and the **OCS Logo** attached to the East Side of the building that the Artillery OCS Alumni and Friends built for Fort Sill. The Arrow Sign Company assured us that the lettering and Logo will soon be in place if all goes well. Possibly by the end of this coming week.

If you were told there might be an issue with the color of the letters on the new building not matching the color of the letters on the Field Artillery Museum, you might think it was a joke. Most people would expect brown letters on the side of a building in the hot Oklahoma sun to fade just a tiny bit in 15 years..... Most people, anyway.

Recap (Timeline):

July 21, 2023: Artillery OCS requested permission to place “**Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall**” on the building.

April 24, 2024: Arrow Sign has the letters and the logo and is working with Fort Sill on the exact shade of brown to paint the letters.

Inside the Heritage Hall Classroom:

Most of the Audiovisual equipment is in the classroom and is now set up as an Army classroom. There are two extra-large screens mounted on the west wall of the classroom. Two additional large screens are ready to be mounted on carts (on backorder). When the classroom is filled beyond half capacity, they can be hooked up on the north and south walls. When not in use, the portable screens can be stored out of the way so the Medal of Honor displays (on the south wall) and Fallen Comrades displays (on the north wall) will not be obstructed.

Major (Ret) Paul Harrington Class 77-43:

Paul passed away on September 4, 2023, at the age of 100 years and 23 days. He attended many reunions and was one of our most well-known Army Liaison pilots. He flew one of the first planes in the air on December 17, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge and in March 1945, he saw his first ME262 (the world's first operational turbojet fighter) trying to bomb Remagen Bridge. He remembers his fellow aviators saying, “That thing can't fly; it doesn't have any props.”

He will be missed. A page on the website is dedicated to Paul Harrington:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/maj-paul-harrington-77-43.html>

Artillery OCS Endowed Scholarship:

During the Cameron University ROTC Fall Award Ceremony on November 17, 2023, the Artillery Officer Candidate School Endowed Scholarship in Leadership was awarded to Cadet Jeran Rivera, a member of the Ranger Challenge Team.

Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter:

812 alumni and friends have contributed \$757,178.51 since November 1, 2019. We have achieved 96.5% of our \$785,000 goal for the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall project. 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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<https://artilleryocshistory.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/artilleryocsalumni/>

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