



Artillery OCS News August 21, 2024

Greetings From Fort Sill,



Heritage Hall Classroom Ribbon Cutting and VIP event for Field Artillery Hall of Fame Inductees on November 2, 2024:

We are honored to have an opportunity to participate in this gathering. The Field Artillery Museum Curator (Gordon Blaker) will give a tour of the Museum starting at 1000, with Heritage Hall as the last stop. There will be Ribbon Cutting at the Courtyard (East) Entrance at 1115, followed by a light lunch inside the classroom.

The participants from Fort Sill confirmed at this time include:

Commanding General and his Spouse, Field Artillery School Commandant and his Spouse, Long Range Precision Fires Cross-Functional Fires Team Director, Fort Sill Chief of Staff, Assistant Commandant, Garrison Commander, Marine Detachment Commander, Chief Warrant Officer of the Field Artillery and the Post CSM.

The Field Artillery Hall of Fame inductees and spouses who will be in attendance include:

GEN J.H. Binford Peay III, LTG & Mrs. David Halverson, LTG & Mrs. Gary Cheek, LTG J. T. Thomson, MG & Mrs. Mark McDonald, MG Brian McKeirnan, MG Guy Bourn, Honorable & Mrs. Brian Birdwell (LTC) Ret US Army, the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps & Mrs. Ronald L. Green, COL Sam Coffman and Mr. Bill Ford.

The Field Artillery Hall of Fame is a US Field Artillery Association function.

If you are in the area on November 2nd and would like to attend this event, please contact us. There will be room for some Artillery OCS Alumni.

Heritage Hall Traffic:

This year's Attendance figures lead us to expect more than 28,000 visitors to the Field Artillery Museum in 2024. Nearly 25% of the visitors are soldiers (as part of the history lessons during AIT, BOLC and Captains Career Course). Many parents and families attending Basic and AIT graduations visit the Museum with their Soldiers. One way or another, more than 100 individuals are exposed to the OCS story every day the Museum is open.

Nearly every time Penny and I are in the classroom, we encounter visitors. We usually hear them coming from the museum and down the hallway lined with all the pictures. Many are genuinely fascinated by our unscripted presentations. We have piqued the interest of some enlisted college graduates and a few others almost to that point who have never really thought about becoming commissioned officers.

We are creating a trifold handout for visitors to the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall. The handout will contain links to the Artillery OCS website and an Army web page with information on the different paths available for becoming a U.S. Army Officer. Additionally, we plan to include an information panel on the wall that will function as a recruiting tool. We got this idea after a discussion with COL Jerry Bijold, Class 8-66 a few months ago.

The current Garrison Commander joined the Army in 1997 as a research technician and was selected for Officer Candidate School in June 2000. His journey serves as an excellent example of what can be achieved.

Update: Artillery OCS Hall of Fame - Pictures and Bios Online:

We last reported that 48% of the bios were loaded on the website. I am happy to report that we are now more than **98%** completed. Bios for 1,337 of the 1,359 Artillery OCS Hall of Fame members are now on the website.

The Hall of Fame pages on the website are in alphabetical order by last name.

- You use the drop-down menu to choose a letter in the alphabet.
- Find a name, hover over it, and click on it to see a picture.
- Hit the back arrow or swipe to return to the page. (phones, tablets and desktops all work a little differently).
- Click on (Bio) to the right of the name and class to view the individual's biographical information.

Note: The biographical information is in a wide variety of formats. Some have loads of information, while others are relatively sparse.

Membership Meeting June 18, 2024:

A summary of the Board of Directors Meeting and the Membership Meeting held at the Heritage Hall on June 18th is available at this link:

[Click to View BOD and Membership Mtg Summary 6-18-24](#)

Tax Returns:

Our Federal and State Tax Forms were filed on August 10 and 15, respectively. Jim Snyder, Class 26A-67, has prepared our taxes pro bono for many years. We greatly appreciate his generosity, patience and attention to detail.

A copy of our tax form is available on the website:

[Click to View Tax Form 990 for YE 9-30-2023](#)

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Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter:

812 alumni and friends have contributed \$762,208 since November 1, 2019. We have achieved 97.09% 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)

admin@artilleryocsalumni.com

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/index.html>

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

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