



**Artillery OCS News and Commentary**  
**November 11, 2025**

***Veterans Day 2025***



**Veterans Day Greetings from Fort Sill,**

Our Heartfelt thanks to all of our Veterans. You have helped secure our way of life. Thanks for what you have done and what you continue to do.

Let's not forget our families and friends who supported us along the way and the sacrifices they made. Those who stood by our side and quietly shouldered the burdens of our effort to serve our Nation with honor. It was not easy.

**Kiwanis Foundation Contribution in Memory of Bob Cressy (10-65):**

A special Thank You to the Kiwanis Foundation of Bethesda, Maryland, for another generous \$1,000 contribution received on November 1st. Bob and Nancy Cressy initiated this annual contribution six years ago. Their support over the years has been greatly appreciated. This year, the funds went to the Artillery OCS Endowed Scholarship in Leadership at Cameron University.

### **The Field Artillery Hall of Fame:**

The United States Field Artillery Association administers the Field Artillery Hall of Fame. The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter administers the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. The two halls of fame are not connected in any way.

We are proud that a service award presented by the Staff of the Field Artillery Association is named after our chapter president. In 2024, Bill Ford was the first recipient of the award named in his honor, the **William L. Ford Service Award**, for his continued dedication to community service.

Bill Ford was commissioned as an Artillery officer from ROTC in 1964 and served in South Korea as a firing platoon leader of the MGR-1 Honest John Rocket System. He and his men were credited with saving the lives of over 50 villagers near Chuncheon, South Korea, from the ravaging floodwaters in June 1965.

In 1966, Bill returned to Fort Sill to serve as an OCS TAC Officer. Preserving the Legacy of OCS has been a passion of his since that time. He has held the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter together as a non-profit organization from the beginning in 2002, and he spearheaded the establishment of the Artillery OCS Endowment Fund in 2006 to perpetuate our legacy. Without his continuing support and encouragement, the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall would not have happened. Bill was inducted into the Field Artillery Hall of Fame in 2022 and the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2019.

**Read more about our outstanding OCS Alumni Chapter President here:**

<https://www.fieldartillery.org/william-l-ford-service-award>

### **Recap of our Fallen from World War II and Korea:**

This might be more of a Memorial Day topic, but we have found ten more Fallen Artillery OCS graduates from World War II since we established the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall. The discoveries are a by-product of our search for **ALL** of the Fallen OCS graduates from all Army OCS programs. Earlier this year, we found three additional Artillery OCS Fallen from the Korean.

We have come a long way in honoring our Artillery OCS Fallen. When we took on the project in 2005, we found a Vietnam Memorial Board with the names of 194 Artillery OCS graduates who had been killed. It had not been updated since November 1969, and there was no trace of an organized effort to identify losses from the Korean War and World War II.

**Fallen Artillery OCS graduates verified as of November 11, 2025:**

World War II: 949

Korea: 73

Vietnam: 322

**WAC Nominations to the Army OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning:**

As I mentioned before, I nominated 24 women from the Women’s Army Corps OCS program to the 2026 Army OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. They are the groundbreaking women who rose to the highest positions in the WAC and WAF from 1945 to 1978.

I was reminded on October 2 that I was not a “person of stature” and not qualified to make the nominations, so a helpful Army OCS Hall of Fame member provided 24 nomination letters to bring the effort into compliance. I was confused, since I had a previous nomination approved in 2022 without issue and another that was accepted last year (LTC Charity Adams delayed to 2026 to go along with the 24 submitted this year).

I have recently learned there is a significant cost associated with those long-overdue nominations. We are expected to **“find a way to buy HOF Pavers for all 24.”** The Hall of Fame Pavers cost \$250 each, so the cost is \$6,000. More about this in a few weeks. The Hall of Fame Selection Committee meets on November 20 to determine who will be inducted for 2026.

**A Recent Surprise:**

COL (Ret) Julius Coats (Class 4-69) was inducted into the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame in December 1992. He was on the mailing list that we inherited in 2005, and we sent him hard copies of our newsletters by USPS through January 2023. We had no email address for him and no response from him for 20 years... until a phone call on October 31, 2025. He was in town for the Field Artillery Hall of Fame Induction on November 1. **Congratulations, Sir!**

<https://www.fieldartillery.org/hof-coats-us-army->

Julius Coats is only the fourth OCS graduate to become a member of the Field Artillery Hall of Fame. The three other OCS graduates in the Field Artillery Hall of Fame (by virtue of the prestigious Musical Tattoo) are: GEN Jack N. Merritt (1987), GEN Tommy R. Franks (2002) and MG Leo J. Baxter (2010).

<https://www.fieldartillery.org/us-field-artillery-hall-of-fame>

Since nominees must be living at the time of nomination, there will never be many Artillery OCS graduates in the Field Artillery Hall of Fame.

**Contributions to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter:**

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 making credit card donations. Thanks for your continuing support, and thanks for your patience,

**Randy C. Dunham (Class 10-69)**

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