



Artillery OCS News and Commentary February 19, 2025



*The Artillery OCS Heritage Hall is open during Artillery Museum hours.
Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm.
Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays.*

Greetings From Fort Sill:

We have been busy with our efforts to preserve the legacy of Artillery OCS and the history of the other Army OCS programs dating back to 1941. Collaborating with fellow graduates from other OCS programs who appreciate preserving our history and getting it right has been rewarding. None of us care where the historical information comes from as long as it is accurate. If we unintentionally get it wrong, we fix it as soon as possible to get it right. Oddly enough, the most significant impediment to our progress is the national organization that professes to perpetuate history and commemorate and memorialize the sacrifices and contributions of graduates from all OCS programs to our Nation. More on that later.

Heritage Hall Update Status Report:

Gordon Blaker, our Museum Curator, reports that the classroom is seeing growing use for battalion-level quarterly training briefings, leadership development classes, family readiness group meetings and especially promotions, re-enlistments and the associated receptions.

We now have up to 120 chairs available and more tables coming from the Army. The biggest problem in the classroom is that the two portable monitor stands for the sides (provided by the Army) came with only about half the required hardware, so they are both partially assembled. We'll get it right.

The sustainment funds set aside for the Heritage Hall will be needed as the Army funding diminishes. There is a need for volunteers in the Artillery Museum who enjoy doing paperwork. There is an inspection of the museum in August that, as expected, can be described as a nightmare.

Kiosks for the Heritage Hall Classroom:

The Board of Directors will soon discuss the acquisition and installation of two floor-mounted Kiosks that will provide access to our complete digital collection (albums of pictures, OCS history, documents, pamphlets, class books, rosters, and Hall of Fame Biographical Sketches).

The www.artilleryocshistory.org website is accessible within the classroom using a handheld device (tablet or phone). Visitors can bring a laptop and sit down at a table if they choose. Information about all OCS programs will be included on the website and the kiosks. Artillery Museum visitors are likely curious about more than just Artillery OCS, so we would like to be the go-to source of accurate information for anything about the US Army Officer Candidate Schools. We are also attempting to ensure that the historic information being provided to the Officer Candidates at Fort Moore is correct.

We are proud the Heritage Hall annex was built and gifted to Fort Sill on behalf of the Artillery Officer Candidate School graduates.

Twenty-Six Forgotten WACs:

There are currently only 33 women in the Army OCS Hall of Fame. One is a graduate of WAC OCS at Fort McClellan in 1965 and 32 were commissioned from the Branch Immaterial OCS at Fort Moore between 1977 and 1998.

Graduates of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) OCS at Fort Des Moines, Iowa during World War II seem to have been forgotten, but they paved the way for all those who followed. The very first WAC was Oveta Culp Hobby. She received a direct commission on May 16, 1942, was appointed the first Director and was later promoted to Colonel. Every other WAC commissioned in the US Army from 1942 to 1950 was an OCS graduate, starting with Charity Adams, the first to graduate on August 29, 1942.

In just four weeks this year, over 52 million Netflix viewers worldwide learned about our now famous OCS graduate (Charity Adams), portrayed in the movie "***Six Triple Eight***." We could not get her into the Army OCS Hall of Fame this year, but the rest of the world knows who she is.

In a joint effort with the Florida Chapter of the US Army OCS Alumni Association, we will nominate 20 women from WAC OCS at Fort Des Moines (1942-1945), two from WAC OCS at Camp Lee (1949-1950) and four from

National Guard and State OCS for induction into the Hall of Fame in 2026. The nominees include eight women who served as Director of the Women's Army Corps from 1945 to 1978 and three who served as Director of the Women's Air Force. Eight of our nominees attained general officer rank and seventeen retired as colonels.

The "OCS Team" expects to find several more outstanding women to be recognized in the Army OCS Hall of Fame.

The United States Army OCS Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA) and commentary from Randy C. Dunham:

Penny and I have done our best to represent the Artillery OCS community with dignity and respect for over 20 years. Facts are facts, and the opinions that follow are mine. I sincerely hope things will change with the new leadership at TUSAOCSAA.

Most US Army OCS Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA) members are indeed cherished "OCS Brothers and Sisters." However, a toxic individual on the Board of Directors can discredit any organization.

The mission of the Association includes preserving the history of OCS and honoring the legacy of its graduates (all branches). We have been trying our best to help with that for several years. Much of this could have been accomplished years ago, but it is never too late to get it done.

No female OCS graduate from World War II is in the OCS Hall of Fame, and General John M. Shalikashvili (Class 4-59), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the nation's highest-ranking military officer), was not put into the Hall of Fame until 2018. His name was left off the 2018 honor panel in the National Infantry Museum until 2024. Twenty-three of the 74 OCS Medal of Honor recipients were not recognized until 2022, while a Medal of Honor recipient who is not an OCS graduate was erroneously put into the Hall of Fame in 2000. His picture still hangs in the Hall of Fame, and his family still wonders about it.

We are working toward getting **all the Artillery OCS Hall of Fame members** included in the Army OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Moore, Georgia and the National Infantry Museum, starting with those awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC). Our Four-Star Generals and those awarded the Medal of Honor have already been included, thanks to COL (Ret) George A. Bannon, Class 1-67, who made that happen on his initiative.

The DSC has been awarded to 95 Artillery OCS graduates, and there is currently only one in the Hall of Fame. We are fortunate to have the like-minded members of TUSAOCSAA mentioned earlier who are collaborating with us on this project and the Woman's Army Corps (WAC) recognition initiative. We have nearly all

the Vietnam and Korean War OCS Heroes (Artillery, Infantry, Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Armor and Engineer) missing from the Hall of Fame approved for 2024. Most of the rest (primarily World War II) will be nominated later this year. Sixty-six of the more than 400 DSC recipients we are currently vetting are from Artillery OCS.

The mission of the Army OCS Alumni Association includes assisting in the perpetuation, financial support, and election of members to the Hall of Fame. There is no requirement for an OCS Hall of Fame inductee to be a member of the OCS Alumni Association, as the Hall of Fame is the responsibility of the OCS Battalion and is an Army function.

The President emeritus of the Association told the Board of Directors at their Board Meeting on February 8, 2024, **that four or five weeks after the deadline, which is 1 October, “We” dumped 113 DSC nominees directly on the (OCS) Battalion Commander (Army OCS Hall of Fame) causing TUSAOCSAA to incur an unexpected cost of \$40,000 to honor the new inductees properly.**

"Dumping" does not seem the correct word when the process has been facilitated jointly with the OCS Battalion Commander. The President Emeritus was initially briefed on the project in 2022, and the Battalion Commander indicated on September 30, 2024 that he would discuss the way forward with the Selection Board. The President emeritus noted on October 3, 2024 by email that he supported one total effort to place them in the Hall of Fame, and by email on October 15 and October 24, 2024 he stated in effect - Great Work, Let's move forward.

I find it exceedingly difficult to accept the following comment by TUSAOCSAA President Emeritus at the February 8 meeting: **“This is the type of stuff that needs to be slapped down whenever you see it. The policy is the policy. Deadlines are deadlines and if you can't adhere to that, you probably need to go somewhere else.”**

Note: I’m sorry, but he probably needs to go somewhere else. I hope the new leadership of TUSAOCSAA can see the damage he is doing to the organization founded to represent and preserve the legacy of the OCS.

End of Commentary (Thank You)

We have at least seven living DSC heroes included in the 113 just approved for induction. Our best “guess is that the DSC induction will be done on the OCS Birthday in July. We will let you know as soon as the induction date is finalized.

Here are the Artillery OCS Distinguished Service Cross recipients who will be inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame this year (Alphabetical Order). Rank at time of award:

1LT Beach, Martin H 6-67 Vietnam
MAJ Bell, Lewis D 50-54 Vietnam KIA
1LT Bragg, Jr Fred G 10-65 Vietnam KIA
1LT Breed, Rolla M 7-63 Vietnam
CPT Chatelain, Ronald M 17-67 Vietnam
MAJ Conner, Eugene J 44- 53 Vietnam KIA
1LT D'Orlando, Michael 508-68 Vietnam
CPT Faldermeyer, Harold J 30 67 A Vietnam KIA
CPT Fraker, William W 71-55 Vietnam
1LT German, Bromley H 25-66 Vietnam KIA
CPT Johnson, Jr William D 53-54 Vietnam
1LT Kelly III, George T 512-68 Vietnam KIA
1LT Klinefelter, Joe T Fort Bliss 6-52 Korea KIA
1LT Koski, Richard A 25-66 Vietnam KIA
1LT Mayer, Frank H 6-63 Vietnam
1LT McDonald, William E 8-52 Korea KIA
1LT Parris, Harold G 73-43 Korea KIA
1LT Piper, John D 2-65 Vietnam
1LT Rubin, Kenneth E 6-63 Vietnam
CPT Sanders III, Horace G 34-67 A Vietnam
1LT Schlottman, James C 8-65 Vietnam
2LT Steiner, Mark S 1-68 B Vietnam KIA
1LT Taylor, James E 29-67 A Vietnam KIA
1LT Thurman, Jerry W 16-67 Vietnam
1LT Tissler, John G 42-67 A Vietnam
1LT Wessel Jr, Leon M 9-66 Vietnam
2LT Wright, Robert C 9-69 Vietnam KIA

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 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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