

Les HIGH

A Long Term Collateral Duty (A Four Decade Love Affair)

by Les HIGH

What an Honor it has been to be the Class Advisor to the Class of 1965 (here after referred to as "The Class") of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. For my wife, Carol and me, my selection by The Class to be their Class Advisor was one of the luckiest days of our lives. All the Joys, Challenges and Rewards that have come to us over the last 36 years (September, 1961 to date) are almost beyond description, but I want to share my thoughts with The Class and any others that may be interested. Only The Class and I know how very special our relationship has grown to be. I will try and tell you how I have seen it develop and grow over the years.

Selection and Duties of a Class Advisor?

Since I can not remember well my 1961 selection, I asked the Superintendent, RADM Douglas TEESON, '65, how it is done today. He advised me that Article 1-2-17, Cadet Regulations, outlines a procedure for "solicitation" of volunteers for Class Advisor from the "faculty and staff", for interviews of the primary candidates and then the selection by the class and the Administration. The same article states the duties "shall be, in general, those of counselor to the class and to the individual members of the class and act as liaison between the class and the Commandant of Cadets."

The Class of '65 always seems to do things in a different way and with pizzazz, so I was selected by their own unique system. I was assigned to the Academy in the staff aviator billet in June, 1961, and ran the Cadet Aviation Training Unit (CATU) in Elizabeth City, NC, that summer. Some of the Second Classmen, who came back from CATU, suggested to The Class that they might want to consider the new, eager, LCDR, all Coast Guard, staff aviator, for their Class Advisor. Evidently, some in The Class decided they wanted to interview me on the subject. The Commandant of Cadets contacted me and asked if I was interested in being the Class Advisor for '65? If so, I would be considered.

Although I had been an aviator for ten years (and loved flying), I had been campaigning, since I was a lieutenant, to be assigned to the staff aviator billet at the

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Academy, for I wanted to have an influence on the development and training of our future Coast Guard Officers. Since the billet had been filled by CAPT\ '92s and CDR's for 15 years, my likelihood of going to the Academy was nil. Yet, with the support of CDR (later RADM)

JENKINS I got the aviators job. Great! Now, as Class Advisor, I was being given a real chance to influence Cadets. I was ecstatic. Well, I got to talk to The Class in McAllister Hall to explain "what I was all about." Such things as: I was a family man with five kids with all the responsibilities that entailed, I was a firm believer in the military system with little sympathy for slackers or non-performers, I was a dedicated, CG officer, and aviator, who loved the Coast Guard and Coast Guard work; I was different from the rest of the Academy staff, for, at times, I wore brown shoes and a green uniform; I was new at the Academy (as an instructor), so I had challenges that could detract from Class Advisor duties; and I was a person interested in their development as Cadets and wanted to help them become strong, dynamic, officers and individuals, who would make a difference in this world.

Still, these wonderful guys (sorry, ladies, this was before your time and all we had were guys) selected me to be their Class Advisor. Of course, I am sure that some in The Class were a little leery and may not have agreed, but "Thank God" I won the job! From that day forward, Carol and I have had our lives enriched beyond belief.

We are all aware of some of the well known, esteemed Class Advisors, such as CAPT Victor PFEIFFER, '39, who the Class of '51 so dearly loved, bless his soul, and CAPT William EARLE, '40, who continues to be an inspiration to the Class of '56, All Class Advisors want to do a good job, but there is really no job description to follow. To me, I needed to show The Class that I belonged to them and that I cared about them. That I would answer to their needs for counsel and help them develop, using a "size-fourteen" foot on them, when necessary and being sympathetic when appropriate. The Class will admit that I never was "easy" and that a strict, military attitude was what to expect from this Class Advisor. I liked the Cadets and The Class of '65 was very special. Being a Class Advisor has several corollaries in life, such as: (1) raising a family, with the need for continual nurturing, plus instilling in your children, self discipline and personal development for what the future holds as an adult; and, (2) a reverend and his flock, where the guidance and development of individuals of integrity, honesty, responsibility and moral character, are of vital concern to the preacher. These are the things that went through my mind as I assumed this remarkable opportunity and awesome responsibility as Class Advisor for '65.

Together at the Academy

The relationship started to build significantly from the very beginning. I told The Class that, if possible, I intended to spend as much time with them as they desired. I would attend all their major social events (formal dances, tea dances, etc.) and major sports events (football, basketball, etc.). I would be attending Church at the Academy with my family, with the desire to see many of them socially, afterwards. One of the most significant things The Class did to enhance our togetherness was to ask me to attend all of their Class Meetings (which I was more than willing to do). This turned out to be phenomenal! I got to see The Class in action, their thoughts and concerns, got to answer their questions (where I could) and each session, I got to talk to them for about 4 or 5 minutes, concerning the Coast Guard, family life, the Academy (and Why it does things, the way it does), future career opportunities, or whatever overwhelmed them or was giving them problems.

Each year some of The Class fell by the wayside, but those who survived the system and demonstrated a desire to be successful at the Academy, grew before my very eyes and as they excelled in various ways, whether academically or in sports, they made me very proud of them and proud to be their Class Advisor. I knew at the social events, they used to acknowledge that their Class Advisor was an aviator, for I would see them telling their date about the gold wings I wore on my uniform, pointing to their chest where wings were worn.

Generally, our relationship went smoothly. I know it was difficult for them, when I would put them on report for an infraction of the regulations. I was a Coast Guard Officer first and a Class Advisor second. Requiring Cadets to be regulation was a "given" with me and The Class knew this. I heard a story recently that one of the 65er's sections was marching back to Chase Hall from class and they knew that I was behind them. Some thought they could stop along the way and throw some snow balls and others said, "No way will CDR HIGH allow us to do that!" Well, they were right! The section went on report for "Section in disorder" (or whatever was correct, for that type of dalliance with the REGS). It was always difficult for me to report a '65er, but it was no different than disciplining one of my own children. After two and a half years, my job at the Academy changed from being the Head of the Navigation Section to becoming the Assistant Commandant of Cadets. As you all know, this is the "black whip or a uniquely disciplinarian" position at the Academy. The one position that was primarily responsible to see that the military discipline system worked and was effective. When this job change occurred, I suggested to The Class that they might prefer to have a Class Advisor who was not in the Cadet Administration Area and certainly one whose primary job is other than enforcing Military Discipline. Obviously,

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I told them that I would probably be harder on them and hold them to a higher standard than I would the other classes. The Class met and discussed the issue of selecting another Class Advisor with the pros and cons involved, including my likelihood of being harder on them than other classes. Still, The Class decided to keep me as their Class Advisor. I was so pleased! It is true. "Yes," I was more demanding on them, and "Yes," they responded beyond my highest expectations.

The Joys, Challenges and Rewards during our time together at the Academy were numerous. It was such a joy to see these young men grow and mature into officers and gentlemen. Carol loved to invite members of The Class and sometimes their dates to our home for a home cooked meal and make them feel comfortable (at least with Carol, gentle soul that she is) in our family environment. One comment might be, "Holy Cow, the Commander let us take our coats off" If they had said I let them loosen their tie, I would have told them that is not true, for that is not something I would let them do, even in my home! The challenges were many. Some '65ers got discouraged and you needed to bolster their spirits. The Academy and I had very few discipline problems with The Class. I felt my job was to see that they were treated fairly, but not "try and get them off" for violations of the REGS. Some considered me "hard-nosed," but most '65ers were mature enough to see the reason for my firm, military stand, as a necessary part of their training to become Coast Guard Officers. The rewards were many. In the Fall, at Parents\ '92 Week-end, Carol and I got to escort the Honorary Parents from the Class of '65 to all the special events, such as the parade, the ball game, the dinner-dance, and Church on Sunday. I got to work with The Class when they revised the "Running Light." I was the content editor for the "Tide Rips" for The Class. This Class is one of very few who won the pulling boat races during Graduation Week, all four years they were at the Academy. I was very pleased that The Class still wanted to win their last year, even though first classmen are usually looking for perks and not challenges their last week or so! On Graduation Day, I was so proud of these guys. I know the sheepskins and commissions were handed out by the dignitaries, but that warm smile and hand-shake I got, when they came off the stage, was worth millions.

Now the most significant reward for me, from our time together at the Academy, was a total surprise. Since I had been the content editor for the "Tide Rips," I assumed I had seen every page in the book. Imagine my surprise, when a delegation of The Class came to my Assistant Commandant of Cadets Office and presented me with a copy of the "Tide Rips." What I did not know was that these unbelievably special, people in my life, had dedicated the 1965 "Tide Rips" to Les HIGH, CDR, USCG, their Class Advisor. This is one of the nicest things that has happened to me in the U. S. Coast Guard. My medals, my wings, my promotions were great, but this was unique and extra-ordinarily

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special. I admit I loved these guys and my association with them at the Academy could not have been more rewarding for me (and my wife, Carol).

As I said in a Bulletin Issue in February, 1994 (C65 column), "As I reflect on our Academy Days together, I remember that 'early on' I began to realize that our relationship was more than a formality (Every Class has a Class Advisor). The young men I was dealing with and learning to admire and respect were becoming more important in my life every month. I began to feel more concern for your development and ultimate success in life, not just as Cadets, but as significant human beings on the face of this earth. As the Class matured and continued to grow, my pride in your performance grew, also. Then, at Graduation, when you had proved that you were outstanding young men, well qualified to be Coast Guard Officers, it seemed sad to me to think our close relationship at the Academy was over! "

Together After the Academy

From 1965 to 1975, I had some great assignments: Senior Officer, Basic Operational Training Unit (BOTU) and later Commanding Officer (CO) CG Air Station, Savannah, Project Officer and later Executive Officer, CG Aviation Training Center, Mobile, CO, CG Air Station, Detroit; National War College, Class '70, CGHQ\ '92s, Chief, Training and Procurement Division, and, CO, CG Reserve Training Center, Yorktown. Even with all these wonderful, challenging jobs, I still missed the contact with The Class.

As The Class went to their assigned duty, aboard CG Cutters, and Carol and I went to CGAS Savannah, I wanted to know "how and what" The Class was doing? Thus, my first letter of Christmas, 1965, was sent to The Class asking them to keep in touch. Well, history has proven that was another stroke of luck! The Class responded well, with 73 out of the 114 graduates sending us notes or cards. I sent letters every year, since, and the responses have increased to about 85 each year. In 1967 (third year) with the help of The Class, I was able to put together an address list for The Class. For the first several years we used the duty station as their address. As The Class members married and raised families, they started telling me their home address, so our list shifted to Home Addresses. Early on, I established a pattern of writing my letter to The Class at Thanksgiving time, so that they would have the letter and the Class Address List to use to send Holiday Greetings to their Classmates. Carol and I write a Form letter that tells a little about our family and our activities and about The Class activities, that we knew about, such as marriages, promotions, retirements, new jobs, deaths, etc. I kept track of

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the responses we got from each Member of The Class each year, whether it was a note, letter, picture, or phone call. I would extract from the information received, facts on a wife and children and other family details. I know more about all the members of The Class, than anyone else in The Class. Some will know a lot about a few friends, but I know a lot about all 114? According to my records, to date, more than 33 Classmates have been married 30 years and an additional 25, at least, have been married 25 years. Pretty good out of 114, isn't it?

My annual routine includes updating the address list, by using some '65er in HQS, and other volunteers to submit corrections to me by 15 November. I then make up a new address list and write our Form letter. Then, I start writing a personal (one page, hand written) letter, on the back of the Form letter, to each of The Class. I get out the "Tide Rips", The Tribute Book (a picture album) and the last correspondence and/or phone call information (I keep notes) from each member, read it, and then make my comments, questions or thoughts known, until I fill the page.

Carol and I have received hundreds of unbelievably, loving, and caring letters over the years. Some of The Class are regular and dependable letter writers each year and others write intermittently and some not at all. Some of the letters are short notes and/or form letters, but usually everyone, who writes, adds a hand-written, personal comment to us. In some cases we get letters from both the husband and the wife (as a general rule, about 5 to 10 families do this)! We get letters about every subject. I like to ask philosophical questions and a number of The Class respond in kind. At times, we have received 10, 12 or 14 page, hand written, letters, on 8.5" by 11" stationery. Carol and I have learned that "not all people are letter writers." At first, I found it sad and somewhat hurtful not to hear from some of The Class each year. We soon realized that The Class members had lives of their own to live, with a new wife, children, challenging careers and their own interests, and that The Class just may not have time for or a desire to include a Class Advisor. Not hearing from them, did not make us any less interested in their well-being or what they were doing. Because of our close contact with The Class, Carol and I have lived vicariously the lives of 114 additional sons. As The Class completed their obligated service, a number (35 or 40%) went on to excel in the civilian fields. I have learned so much from them, as they describe duties and tasks that are little known to this Coast Guard officer (what a fuel cell does). As a Class Advisor, it is delightful and rewarding to hear the Civilian, as well as the Military, Classmates, tell how meaningful their Academy experience was and how the Academy background has helped them in their new careers and in their lives. The frequent, close association within The Class is always mentioned in a very positive manner, by both Military and Civilian members of The Class.

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Besides letters, Carol and I have received so many great family pictures. As you know, we considered The Class and their wives are like adopted grownup sons and daughters. To Carol and me, they belong to us (in a loving, caring, .nurturing way and not in a possessive or smothering manner). The Class and their families continue to occupy a very warm place in our heart. What a delightful, extended family we have. Many of the letters we have received over the years were written by the wives, for they were more likely to tell me what their husbands were doing or had accomplished. The Class, as a rule are not braggarts, so anything I get from them, I have to pump out of them, and some of the wives have been a "treasure of information" for me. As the years go by, Carol and I are as close to many of the wives as we are to their husbands. The warmth and love The Class and their wives show us, when we attend one of their Reunions or when they come to call on us in San Diego, is fantastic and almost unbelievable.

I hope you will bear with me as I brag a little about The Class. Right' from the very beginning we have had addresses for most of The Class. We lost track of three guys for about 8 years ('80 to '88), but since that time We have contact with all of The Class. Unfortunately, five of The Class and two of the wives have passed away, since 1965. At the 25th Reunion The Class wanted the telephone numbers added to the address list. Within a year we had all the phone numbers. This year, when The Class got into E-mail, we determined that in The Class, 74 "have E-mail" and 34 "have no E-mail capability." It took less than two months to contact everyone in The Class. Yes, The Class is a very responsive group!

Besides the wonderful letters, visits and calls, Carol and I have been Honored in so many ways over the years. Here are just a few of the Honors. (1) The "Tide Rips" dedication; (2) A large, engraved, silver tray, when we left the Academy; (3) Two needlework plaques (one of the Coast Guard seal and one of the Academy seal) upon my retirement in 1975; (4) At your 10th Reunion (1975) you gave us the Master copy of the Album that was to be copied for each member of The Class, (5) You made us Honorary Members of The Class, at the 20th Reunion; we have the brass plaque of the Eagle; we still have the two buttons with the theme "HIGH ON '65" and "SPIRIT OF '65", and we have the two (Les and Carol) tee-shirts, (6) At the 25th Reunion, you gave us the Tribute Book, a photo album with a page of pictures and a message card from each one of you, about your thoughts and comments on our relationship (what a treasure this album has become, and, since we add pictures to it all the time, it has grown to be two volumes); (7) Being Honored guests at your 30th Reunion dinner party and other events (getting to march with you at the football game and sit with you was great); and, (8) The engraved, limited edition, lithographic, six color print, of the USCG Academy Chapel, given to us on the occasion of our 50th Wedding Anniversary.

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One of the most generous acts of The Class, after Carol and I retired to California, was the offer to fly us to your Reunion in 1975. I guess you knew I was "out of work (retired)," so you put together the "Fly High Club." Fortunately, we never needed to accept your thoughtful and considerate act, but you can imagine what it did for our self-esteem to think you wanted us there enough to actually pay our way! Incredible!

I know it is always risky and some times unfair to put names in a story like this, but you need to know! The Class President (for life, it seems), VADM RUFÉ, has always invited us to every special event The Class has had since 1965. When visiting a brother in Long Beach, Roger and Barbara drove 100+ miles each way, to visit with us in San Diego. Neil and Susan JOHNSON, while visiting a son in Santa Barbara, drove all the way to San Diego (160+ miles each way) to see us. The ONSTAD's, STATON's and Mike O'CONNOR have driven from Los Angeles area to visit. The OFFUTT's flew from Dallas/Fort Worth to San Diego to have lunch with us one Saturday. Dick and Cathy RUFÉ, who live 30 miles away, bless their hearts, stop by when they can, mostly on the way to and from the San Diego airport. Tom LUCEY (who manages 200 Billion (that is right, Billion) dollars in Putnam Funds) gave Carol and me 10 hours of his busy time, one day last February. Why do I have this computer? When Tom LUCEY found out that my XT computer did not have a capability to contact The Class on E-mail, he went back to Boston and sent me a 486 COMPAQ computer, color monitor, Windows, and high-speed modem, so I could be in E-mail contact with The Class!! Can you believe that? Since Dick MANNING, is handling our E-mail Address List and is now Class Correspondent for the Bulletin, I have had 170 message exchanges with him, alone, since Tom LUCEY helped get me on E-mail.

To give you some idea of the magnitude of my correspondence with The Class, I have two and one-half file drawers full of letters and cards from the last 32+ years. Some of these letters will bring tears to your eyes, and they can pull at your heart-strings, when they describe some small gesture or act, Carol and I may have done in the past, that may have helped a Classmate or his family through a difficult time. The original 3" X 5" file cards, one for each Classmate, are just about worn out from use. They have all the changes of address, wife's name, date of marriage, name and dates of birth of the children, the dates of promotion, retirement, special jobs, etc. My records on The Class and my letters are like "gold" to me. Although I spend, in the neighborhood of 60 to 70 hours writing my letters to The Class in November, it is one of the most pleasant times of each year. It is "not work" but a "joy" to have this time with my guys and their ladies.

Why am I proud of The Class and their wives? Here are some of The Class' accomplishments: (1) Five have Doctorates; (3 in Education, 1 in Chemistry, and 1 in

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Naval Architecture), (2) Five made admiral (two made three stars and one, Academy Superintendent); (3) Five were Sloan Fellows (four, selected while in the Coast Guard, normally each class only gets one); (4) Four Graduated in Finance from Wharton; (5) Twelve are lawyers (13, if you count me); (6) Two are Airline Pilots (American and United); (7) Three are professors in colleges, (8) Two run large plants, (9) Two are in High Finance (Putnam Funds etc.), (10) Three are comptrollers for large firms or a college; (11) One develops and runs American Airline's computer system; (12) One trains "Fortune 500 Company" Executives all over the world for BLANCHARD ("One Minute Manager") and Associates; (13) At least a dozen own and operate their own business, (14) One owns an island on a lake in Canada and he lives there, part of each year, in semi-retirement; (15) Two are in the Big-Time Insurance Business (in Zurich and Texas (USAA))! E! The wives are equally impressive. Several are lawyers (one even tried to hire me, onetime, when she thought I was goofing off), many are nurses, many are school teachers, one writes novels, several are into research, one is an archeologist, and many are such delightful mothers. Obviously, we are as proud of our new adopted grown daughters as we are of their husbands. You can see what an impact our association with this group of extra-ordinarily, special people has been on our lives. Carol and I love it.

It was an Honor to be a Coast Guard officer, and three of my greatest personal rewards in my CG Service were: (1) Being the Class Advisor for The Class of '65 ; (2) Having the 1965 "Tide Rips" of the USCG Academy dedicated to me; and (3) Having my Reserve Training Center (RTC), Yorktown, personnel (Officers, Enlisted and Civilians) recommend me, their Commanding Officer, for the coveted JARVIS Award, the Navy League's Outstanding Coast Guard Officer Leader of the Year Award, two years in a row, and winning the Award the second year. There is nothing more gratifying to a leader than to have his people (those he works with every day) think he is the best! Being selected as a Class Advisor was a stroke of luck! The "Tide Rips" dedication came from the marvelous Class of 1965. The JARVIS Award as Outstanding Coast Guard Officer Leader of the Year in 1975, came from my remarkable team of dedicated personnel at RTC. My style of leadership has always been the same throughout my Service Career. When a strict, disciplinarian type officer, such as myself, is acknowledged, honored, respected and rewarded by those with whom he works, it confirms my theory that a "firm and fair military discipline system (with care and concern)" will always make a sharp, close knit, efficient, humanitarian and/or military group, with respect and dignity for all. Soon, the respect for each other grows and grows. Then, you develop unbelievable, special, Relationships, like the one I have with The Class of 1965, USCG Academy. I will always be grateful to The Class for this unique and matchless Relationship!

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I know I have dwelt on the uniqueness of The Class of '65, but I am sure that all the other Class Advisors have similar thoughts of love and concern for their Class. As a Coast Guard officer, I have found that those officers with whom I worked, were generally, very dedicated, hard-working, and a credit to the U. S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Academy can be very proud of the officers they graduate, and especially those like The Class of '65. I have had the pleasure of working with many other Academy graduates, and I am gratified and pleased that many of them consider me a friend and in some cases a mentor.

All Class Advisors will approach their relationship with their Class in a different manner. In my case, I was blessed with a Class that responded well to my type of leadership and influence. Regardless of your style of leadership, for those of you, who are given the opportunity to be a Class Advisor, jump at the chance! You will relish, enjoy, appreciate and be blessed with a relationship that continues to grow beyond belief; for the rest of your life. I am 73 years old and I am unaware of anyone else my age, who has a closer cadre of younger people they can call "dear friends" than our unbelievably, special, Class of '65 and their beloved wives. Carol and I love them all. Wouldn't you, if you had experienced the joys we have over these 36+ years.

Les HIGH

Letters

1965 - 2016

1965

111 Jenkins Drive - Savannah, GA

Dear [insert hand written 65er name]

Much as I dislike sending a mimeograph or ditto message rather than a personal message, I find it necessary to use this method of communication in order to be able to contact all members of the Class of 1965.

My wife and I want to send our best wishes to each of you and hope that you have happy Holidays. Of course, we have hopes of keeping in touch with as many of you as we can and are therefore looking forward to hearing from you all. We want to know about your life in the Coast Guard. Are you married or contemplating marriage? How do you like your ship and the area where you live? What jobs do you have on the ship and how well did your Academy training prepare you for your assigned duties? For the bachelors, how's the liberty, etc.? We are interested in any news of the Class and hope that you will keep us posted on your address so that we can at least send a Christmas card each year.

You may wonder why we are located in Savannah and so I'll explain briefly. Shortly before we were due to leave the Academy for Detroit and establish a new CG Air Station in that area the Coast Guard found that it didn't have sufficient money to build the hangar and facilities necessary for the Air Station. Thus, the Detroit Air Station was to be delayed in its establishment. Therefore, my orders were changed and I'm now stationed at the Basic Operational Training Unit (Rotary Wing) at the CG Air Station, Savannah, Georgia. "BOTU" is primarily a training unit and we instruct qualified helicopter pilots in the proper operational use of the HH-52A (our newest helicopter). This is an excellent job for me for I get a lot of flying which is most welcome after my four years of limited flying at the Academy.

The family and I are enjoying the warm weather in Georgia and invite you to stop and see us if you are ever in our area. We obtained some black and white pictures from the Academy photo laboratory taken at your graduation and we would be happy to show them to you. We got some colored pictures ourselves of some of the class right after graduation but far too few I'm afraid.

Let us hear from "you all."

Best wishes,

Les and Carol High

Les HIGH

27 November

1966

CDR & MRS. L. D. HIGH
422 Azalea Road
Mobile, Alabama 36609

The Holidays will soon be with us and since we hope to hear from as many of the class as possible; my wife and I will get our cards out early.

Last year we were very pleased to get cards from about eighty percent of the class and personal notes from well over half of you. We still are deeply interested in you, your family and your activities both in and out of the Coast Guard so let us know how the world has been treating you.

As many of you have changed your duty stations we hope that we will get your card to you all right. As you may have noted, we have changed duty stations also. Last year at this time it looked like I was going to be the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Air Station at Savannah. Well, when CDR Flessas retired on 31 March I relieved him as Commanding Officer. Early in the year Coast Guard Headquarters decided to build a new Coast Guard Air Station at Mobile, Alabama. I was chosen as the Project Officer which has proven to be a most interesting and challenging job. The family and I arrived here in Mobile July 1st and like it very much. Since the Prospective Commanding Officer arrived in September, I now perform the duties of Executive Officer which will be my permanent job when the station goes in commission in mid-December.

The new station will be one of the largest Coast Guard Air Stations and will be involved in Search and Rescue and Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing Operational Training in the six HU-16E and four HH-52A respectively.

Carol and I have not seen many of the class since graduation. The few ships that made visits to Savannah had several of the class aboard and we were happy to see them even if only to say hello in some cases. We hope this year more of you may be in the Mobile area or passing through and will stop to see us.

We have received some wedding invitations and announcements and several birth announcements and are always pleased to hear the happy news.

May you and yours have Happy Holidays.

Our best wishes,

Season's Greetings

1967

CDR & Mrs L. D. High
422 Azalea Road
Mobile, Ala. 36609

My wife and I wish to extend Holiday Greetings to you and your family. We know that many of you are unfortunately away from your loved ones at this time and this is difficult for all concerned. We hope and pray that you will be together again soon. For those of the Class in Southeast Asia we feel the Defense of Freedom in the World and protection of our way of life are worthy causes in which you can be proud to a participant. For other members of the Class scattered around the world in any varied Coast Guard missions your work, too, is most important to humanity.

We have been very pleased to hear from many of you in the last year, either by your Christmas cards, a note or letter added, or a special letter or announcement of a special event in your life. We follow with great personal interest the individual happenings of each of you. We feel your attitude toward your work in the Coast Guard has been tremendous and we received reports of the outstanding performance of the Class generally throughout the Service. We have been very pleased to visit with some of the Class in the Pensacola area and meet the wives and children. The many letters we have received this last year have been wonderful and most appreciated.

Our family of seven has dwindled some in the last couple of years. Our two oldest boys (John and Jeffrey) are attending the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and are now junior and sophomore respectively. We were pleased to have them home with us during the summer months while they were trying to make a little money to help pay for their college education. Gregory is a junior in high school and all the boys like long hair, and compose and play their own music. Mary, 11, and Suzette, 6 continue to grow-up very rapidly. Carol has all the youngsters in school now, and yet she still keeps busy sewing, cooking, helping with civic projects, retarded children, etc.

The Coast Guard Air Station, Mobile was commissioned on 17 Dec 1966 and now has been in operation about a year. We still are going to grow and build some more at the station, we believe, and the daily routine and planning for future expansion keeps the station busy. We have been flying eleven aircraft during the last year (6 fixed wing HU-16E's and 5 HH-52A helicopters). It is very likely we will get the twin-engined helicopter (HH-3F) between March and July of 1968. Staging helicopter crews for the icebreakers at Mobile seems very likely by about July 1969. My job as Executive Officer of a new station has been most interesting and keeps me busy.

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Hurricane BEULAH, which hit the south Texas coast in September 1967 altered our routine at Mobile for about a week. We sent 3 helicopters and several fixed wing aircraft to assist in the recovery operations. I was fortunate enough to be assigned on-scene commander at Harlingen, Texas for six helicopters from Mobile, New Orleans, and Houston. We rescued 446 persons from positions of peril in 5 days, which was most rewarding and a very challenging operation.

We just learned that I have been selected to Captain on the recently published list and this makes us quite happy. It looks like we will be around for a few more years anyway, before we have to retire.

Let us hear from you.

Our sincere best wishes,

Les HIGH

Dear

1968

Carol and I want to take this opportunity to extend Holiday Greetings to all of the Class of 1965 and their loved ones. This has been a very rewarding year for us and we hope it has been the same for you. We know that there are still many of the Class in Southeast Asia defending Freedom in the World. For those of you who have returned we wish to welcome you back and hope the rest of the Class will soon arrive in the States safely. For all the other members who are widely scattered around the world performing Coast Guard missions, we are proud of you and the necessary work you accomplish.

Of course, June 1969 is approaching rapidly and the day of decision concerning your future career is of vital concern to all of you. Let's hope that most of the Class has decided to make the Service a career and that you are happy with what you have been doing or in what you see for yourself in the future. We hope that the Service has been challenging to you and that you see an opportunity to contribute your efforts, energies and talents in the improvement of the Coast Guard in the years to come. Although the Coast Guard may not be all you wish it to be, it can provide you with one of the most rewarding and humanitarian jobs in the world. For those few who might be considering other endeavors outside the Military life, please give careful consideration to all the pros and cons to insure that you are making the best decision for you. Your close Coast Guard family ties and friendships will be very difficult to replace outside the Service. Carol and I will miss those of you who leave but that does not mean we no longer have an interest in you. We want to hear from all the Class and will be available to assist any and all of you in any way that we can. "Once a Class Advisor Always a Class Advisor."

Early in the year I got orders to be Commanding Officer, USCG Air Station Detroit which is a helicopter unit located at Selfridge AF Base, Michigan. We left Mobile on 30 June 1968. I was promoted to Captain, 1 July 1968 and became CO at Detroit on 6 August 1968.

We certainly did receive some wonderful cards and letters from the Class last Christmas and throughout the year. So many people commented about the address list, so a current list will be included this year. Pete Poulos is stationed here at Detroit, also, and he has expended a great deal of time making us the current address list. If there are corrections or additions please let us know. It has been very pleasant to have Pete and Jeanette here at Detroit with us and we look forward to serving with more of the Class in future years. We had an opportunity to attend Homecoming at the Academy this year and were pleased to see about fifteen of the Class at New London.

Les HIGH

We are still extremely interested in hearing from all of you, so when you get a chance write us a letter or note and let us know how the world is treating you. Those wives whom we have not met as yet, we want to get to know as soon as possible, for your husbands are very special to us and we are sure you will be, too.

Sincere best wishes,

1969

Captain & Mrs. L. D. High
415 Underhill Place
Alexandria, VA 22305

Carol and I wish to extend Christmas and New Year Greetings to the U.S.C.G. Academy Class of 1965 and their families. This has been a year of big decision making for many of you, we know. We trust that those of you who chose to go to civilian life are happy in your new endeavors. For those of you who stayed on in the Coast Guard, our wish is that your year has been interesting and rewarding too.

Perhaps most of you know that I am now attending the National War College, Washington D.C. This is a tremendous school and I find every day most interesting. Presently I'm devoting many hours each day to study and preparation of a Research Paper along with the regular academic program. Also, I'm working on a Masters at George Washington University. This is in conjunction with the N.W.C. program.

Last summer we were happy to have been able to see quite a few of the class of '65 and their wives and children. We are sorry we were not able to attend the big Homecoming gathering in New London.

To tell you of our family---our oldest son is at Yorktown, Coast Guard O.C.S., now. The other two boys are at Univ. of Michigan. Our daughters are in grades 3rd and 8th and like Alexandria schools very much.

The family likes the Washington D.C. area. We find it quite exciting really, if one doesn't get bogged down in traffic mess too often. We hope to learn a great deal and see many interesting places while we're here.

If any of you come this way, do contact us.

Your days are busy ones too, I'm sure. Your families are growing and we look forward to hearing from you one and all.

Merry Merry Christmas and the Best in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Dear

1970

It comes time for Carol and I to extend our Holiday Greetings to the Academy Class of 1965 and their families.

Our contacts this last year with the Class have been most enjoyable. Your wonderful letters, notes and cards have been heartwarming to receive. Walt and Diane Viglienzone's wedding and reception was a very special event which we enjoyed so much. Carol and I were pleased and honored to be included in the Class activities at Homecoming and having an opportunity to speak to the group for a few minutes to express our pride in your accomplishments was most appreciated. As we meet more of the wives and become better acquainted with the charming ladies, we must compliment the Class on their excellent judgment in picking their partners.

Of course, we are very interested in hearing what you have been doing since last you wrote us. We keep a file of your letters and notes and it is nice to review these from time to time; so please keep us up to date. We must admit that many of the wives have joined the spirit of communication and helped considerably in bringing us up to date. Keep it up, please.

We are still located in the Washington area. Our oldest son, John, is an Ensign in the Coast Guard Reserve stationed in Washington. A son, Jeffrey, is now attending the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in Yorktown. Gregory is a sophomore in the., at the University of Michigan. Mary is a high school freshmen and Suzette is in the fourth grade. Carol is staying very busy as Co-Chairman of the Coast Guard Charity Ball, escorting visiting friends around the sights in Washington, cooking for visiting Officer Candidates, etc.

I'm afraid that this year my personal notes to each member of the Class may not be possible. My new job as Chief, Training and Procurement Division in the Office of Personnel takes my full time at the office plus most of my free time in the evening and on week-ends. There is so much to learn about the job for each training command, Academy, Training Centers Cape May and Alameda, Governors Island, etc., all have special needs. Also, there are a number of projects that I'd like to instigate for improving our training. In addition, the future procurement problems for the Coast Guard as the draft pressure goes off will present one of the major challenges to the Coast Guard in the next several years, so planning new programs to solve this takes time. Then, the routine job of keeping 1500 Officers, Cadets and Officer Candidates and 1800 recruits and 1400 other enlisted men in training can keep our Division really hopping.

Les HIGH

Roger Rufe here in Headquarters and Jim White at the Academy have put together the address list for us this year. So many of the Class have commented on this addition to the Greeting that we will continue it as long as it proves useful. For those of you who did not get your greetings last year, we will forward them again this year just to prove that we attempt to reach each of you every year.

Again we want to wish you all the best of luck in the coming year. For those of you that have left the fold of the Coast Guard let us hear from you, too. We are so pleased to see so many of the Class, remaining in the service, receive advanced training. For those that have not been so blessed to date, do not be discouraged. Advanced training in middle management (LCDR's) still offers an opportunity. Also, for several there is the chance to go to school even as a Captain as I did last year at the National War College. Besides completing the N.W.C. course, I was able to get a Masters Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University on off-duty education.

Let us hear from You.

Sincerely,

Les HIGH

Dear

1971

Carol and I and our family extend our Holiday Greetings to the Academy Class of 1965 and their wonderful families.

We wish to thank all these members of the Class (and the wives) who wrote to us this last year with the welcomed news of the accomplishments of the Class, the address changes and the philosophical comments and ideas on many subjects. Christmas time has proven to be a wonderful time of year for us for we have received so many special notes and letters from many of you. We hope you will continue to find time to remember us this year and in the future.

We are very sorry that we missed Homecoming this year and missed seeing those in attendance. Carol has been having some sinus, allergy and asthma problems since we have been in Washington and was scheduled for (supposedly minor?) surgery the day after Homecoming so we felt we should not attend. She entered the hospital for several days, but the doctor decided it would be best to delay the surgery until they got a better handle on her asthma problems. While in the hospital, however, she received some lovely flowers from the Class of 1965. We wish to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness. I personally wish to thank you for pleasing my Dear Wife by your kind remembrance. Fortunately new medication has made Carol feel much better and so she is deeply involved again in many projects both for the family and friends.

I am still Chief, Training and Procurement Division in the Office of Personnel USCG Headquarters. The job continues to be very challenging. I have some excellent people working with me and they all are deeply involved in carrying out our mission. CDR Schroeder, who taught engineering at the Academy 1960-1964, is the Assistant Chief and LT Wilkins Class of 1964, is Chief, Procurement Branch. Both are impressive officers who you may remember.

Carol and I now have two sons who are officers in the Coast Guard. John is a LTJG and Jeffrey is an ENS. Gregory is a junior at the University of Michigan. Mary is a sophomore in high school and Suzette is in the fifth grade.

We hope that all of the Class and all of the wives have had an interesting year. We would be most interested in hearing of your activities. For those in the Coast Guard what part of your job has been most challenging; for those who are civilians tell us what your job consists of and what are your challenges? The activities of the wives are also of interest to us, whether they be HOME MAKERS or involved in a job to supplement the family income or to satisfy career desires.

Our best wishes to all of you and may you continue to be successful in your individual endeavors.

Sincerely,

Christmas

1972

415 Underhill Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22305

Christmas is normally a joyous time of the year, but this year we are sorry to report that Bud SANDERS has passed away. Bud was ill at Christmas time, 1971, but his letter to us in January, 1972, was cheerful and optimistic. Unfortunately, the medical profession has not discovered a cure for cancer and our beloved Classmate slipped away from us on 30 September 1972. Priscilla, his brave little wife, was able to endure this grievous time with excellent courage. Her 16 October, 1972, thank you note to the Class, I quote below:

"Dear CAPT HIGH,

This is not only a letter from me, but from Bud and I to you and to the Class of 1965, as Bud would have wanted it to be.

Your thoughtfulness during this past difficult time and your telegram and flowers were so deeply appreciated. The whole SANDERS family as well as myself will have something to keep in our family remembrance of the United States Coast Guard and one of its most devoted members.

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

/s/ Priscilla Jean SANDERS"

The Best Man at their wedding, Del PHILLIPS, flew down from Alaska to San Francisco to assist Priscilla in her time of need (Thank you, Del). It saddens us all to lose such a wonderful friend and our love, prayers and sympathy go with Priscilla and Caroline (age 2 1/2). Born Feb 1970

Carol and I wish to extend Holiday Greetings to the Class, their wives, children and loved ones. Our annual visit by cards, notes and letters has become a most enjoyable pastime. Our plan, which we hope to carry out each year, goes like this: (1) We try to maintain a current address list throughout the year; (2) Some willing member or members of the Class (this year Roger RUFÉ, and Dick RUFÉ) sends us an up-dated list of addresses by 15 November; (3) After minor additions from our list, we get the list typed and printed; (4) Carol obtains the cards, stamps, return labels and Christmas seals; (5) The evening before, Thanksgiving Day and every spare minute until completed, I write letters to each member (and his wife); (6) Mary addresses the envelopes; (7) Suzette puts on the stamps; (8) The whole family helps stuff the envelopes--we aim to complete the project and mail the letters by Sunday evening. Then we sit back and enjoy the many wonderful responses we receive. Last year we were

Les HIGH

blessed with 98 messages, most were letters or notes. In some letters, pictures were included. The many philosophical comments and ideas on many subjects confirms our frequent praise of the intellect of the Class members and their wives. Many of the wives have responded to our note and we appreciate your willingness to participate, even though we have never met in some cases. As our file grows each year, we feel we are really beginning to know a lot more about the whole Class.

Our family is well and happy. #1 son, John is a LTJG and in CGHQ. He completes his 3 years in the CG in Jan '73 and will be going to school in Los Angeles. #2 Son, Jeffrey is a LTJG and in CGHQ. He is working on a Master's Degree from Univ. S. Calif. (extension) on the off duty tuition program. #3 son, Gregory will graduate from Univ. of Mich. in Dec, 1972. #1 Daughter, Mary is sixteen and a junior in high school. #2 daughter, Suzette is eleven and in sixth grade. #1 wife, Carol is my "Pride and Joy" and keeps me happy every day of my life. Carol's health has improved and she stays busy all the time (she is out on some Fund drive right now).

Congratulations are in order for Bill KURTZ, Dave AMOS, Skip ONSTAD and Roger RUFÉ on their "deep selection" to LCDR last December, 1971 and to the rest of the Class for their selection to LCDR this Fall (of course the results of the Selection Board are not out yet, but I assume that all of the Class of 1965 will be selected).

Carol and I would really like to receive a letter from each of you each year, if possible, and a picture of the whole family from time to time if one is available. We know you are busy, but still invite you to share with us your trials and tribulations. We thank you all for your terrific response last Christmas--we are looking forward again this year to news of your many successes.

Christmas

1973

Quarters #1
CG Reserve Training Center
Yorktown, Va. 23690

Here we go again with our Christmas message to the Class of 1965 and their families. Carol and I have been so pleased with this joyous exchange of greetings and news that we would not think of giving it up. Even Mary and Suzette have found many of the notes and letters interesting to read and they, too, remember many of your names and speak of your accomplishments at times.

Since last year, as you can see, we have moved from the Washington area to Yorktown, Virginia. We are finding it very enjoyable in this area. The two girls, Mary, a senior, and Suzette, a seventh grader, are both well settled in school, drag down mostly A's and have found some nice new friends (last night Suzy had two friends and Mary had four friends stay overnight).

Fortunately the quarters will handle many people. Carol stays very busy performing the many duties of the Commanding Officer's wife. She averages one luncheon a week for visitors and the number of guests may vary from one to twenty-five. As Honorary President of the Wives Clubs she attends a lot of meetings, planning sessions, etc. The job of CO is great! I like to spend most of my office working hours talking with the people on the base, whether they be students or station personnel, so I get to do much of the paperwork at night and weekends. That should slow down in another month or so, I believe.

It is good to see some of the Class start to wear their LCDR insignia. As you can imagine, we were surprised to see so many pass overs in the selections last fall (1972) and hope that many will be picked up this fall (1973).

We had some wonderful letters and notes last Christmas and also throughout the year. Keep them coming, please. If you have a picture of the family you would like to share with us, we would appreciate it. Thanks to the many wives who have joined in the correspondence for this helps so much in keeping us posted on the many activities. I know some of the guys just would not get around to write. TIME is sure hard to come by sometimes.

We are sorry we missed Homecoming, but we were in New Orleans attending Jeff's wedding on 20 October. Jeff gets out of the Coast Guard in January 1974 but will stay on

Les HIGH

and work in Coast Guard Headquarters as a civilian Civil Engineer. John, our oldest son, is now in Laguna Beach, California, and Greg, our youngest son, is working in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Have a Happy Holiday season and good luck in the coming year. Let us hear from you, please.

Sincerely,

As we approach another Holiday Season, Carol and I and our family want to extend our best wishes to the members of the Class of 1965 and their loved ones.

We all are most grieved at the loss of our beloved Classmate and friend, John Carbin, who died of a heart attack 10 January 1974, while playing basketball at Andrew Air Force Base, Maryland. Pat, bless her heart, has withstood her tragic loss with great courage. She has relocated to Clearwater, Florida, and lives within several miles of her parents. On 9 September 1974, she gave birth to a daughter, Mindy Joy, and now she has two children to raise and to keep her company. I want to thank all the members of the Class who were attentive to Pat's needs in her days and weeks of personal crisis. Pat's comments concerning John's classmates from the Academy are: "They have all been so kind to us. Ralph Anderson took over after John's passing and still calls every few weeks to check on us. So many people have written or called and offered their help. I could never thank them enough."

We have heard from many of you in the last year and hope that the opportunity to write us will present itself again this year. Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, has proved to be a good spot to see a member of the Class from time to time. Walt and Dianne Viglienzone are now located here at RTC, as Walt runs the Officer Candidate School. We have seen Andy Horsey, Kent Williams, Russ Hebert, Bill Kurtz, Bob Luckritz, and Dick Ruhe at RTC during the last year.* Commanding Officer of RTC continues to be a challenging and rewarding assignment, which I truly enjoy.

Our family is smaller. Suzette, 13, rules the roost. Her sister, Mary, is now attending the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg. John and Jeffrey and his wife are in the Washington area, and Gregory and his wife are in Ann Arbor. Carol stays very busy being involved in entertaining visiting official guests, assisting in Wives Club activities, and keeping me on the straight and narrow. Fortunately, for me, she handles all the entertaining requirements beautifully, and I never have to give that area a second thought. Carol is still having allergy problems in this area of the country, but they haven't kept her from taking tennis lessons. It is pretty hard for me to keep her slowed down and to take care of herself.

Again, I have heard a lot of fine things about the members of the Class of 1965 and your Service performance. Keep up the good work. I want to thank all the wives for their wonderful support and contribution to the success of their families. Many of you dear ladies are providing the response letter or note that keeps us well informed of

Les HIGH

recent activities in your families. Carol and I still desire to have pictures of you all and your youngsters if they are available.

Since this has been a "togetherness" class, we all hope that each member of the Class will look toward Homecoming at the Academy 25 October 1975 as an opportunity for a gala Tenth Anniversary for the Class 1965, USCGA.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and let us hear from you.

Love,

Les HIGH

September 15, 1975

[from The Class of '65]

Dear Captain and Mrs. High,

Over ten years have passed since we first put on our Ensign bars. In that time, the Class has been scattered throughout the Nation, and the world. We don't see each other as much as we once did. Yet, in many respects, we're closer now than we were at CGA. Much of the credit for this belongs to you because of your genuine and continuing interest in the Class of '65 as a group and as individuals. We consider you part of the class and would like you to help us celebrate our ten year reunion over Homecoming weekend (25-27 October). Class functions will center on a dinner-dance at the Groton Holiday Inn on Saturday evening. There will also be a class cocktail party at the Groton Holiday Inn on Friday evening and no doubt there will be several smaller informal gatherings during the weekend.

We realize that San Diego is a long way from New London and that your studies may not permit such a trip right now. Please let us know if you can come. In any case, we know you'll be with us in spirit and you can be sure we'll be thinking of you. In case you cannot join us, let us take this opportunity to wish you happiness and success in your new life. May it be as rewarding as your tour in the Coast Guard.

The Class of '65

Capt. & Mrs. L. D. High
USCG (Ret.)
6076 Cozzens Street
San Diego, California 92122

22 September, 1975

Dear Class of '65,

Yes, this is a big year for the Class of '65. Ten years ago we all went our merry ways from the Academy to do the Coast Guard job. Since that time, many things have happened to the Class. Many of us are no longer on active duty. But regardless of whether we are in uniform or not, we can look at the accomplishments of the Class over the last ten years and be justly proud. Besides the many accolades I have heard about the Class in the Service, I have heard of the significant achievements of those who are civilians. As a group you have made great strides in advancing your education and personal development. Most of you have married, and I have found the young ladies I have met very charming, talented, and bubbling with the Class of '65 spirit. I'm sure that your future years will be equally successful.

Carol and I would dearly love to be with you at Homecoming (25-27 Oct.), but I believe it is best that I remain on the job as a first year law student. Many of you know the demands of law school or postgraduate training and realize why I feel I should stay at the studies. We will miss seeing you all and being brought up to date on your activities. Hopefully, you can fill us in at Christmas time. We will try and get out a Christmas letter this year, too, but I can't promise a very lengthy personal note.

Have a Happy Reunion.

Love,
Les and Carol High

GREETINGS TO THE CLASS 1965, USCGA
6076 Cozzens Street
San Diego, CA 92122
9 November 1975

1975

Dear

First, Carol and I want to wish you all a Merry Holiday Season and hope that your Reunion was a big success for all of you who attended. Those we have heard from indicated it was great, even though the weather did not cooperate too well. Ten days before the Reunion, we received the wonderful needlework plaques, one of the Coast Guard seal and the other of the Academy seal which the Class so kindly sent in remembrance of our retirement. We will always enjoy these beautiful plaques, especially because they came from The Class.

For those who may not know, I retired the 1st of July 1975 and we moved to San Diego, California, where we are busily enjoying retirement. Carol is doing the usual house and yard work and looking after the needs of the two girls and me. Suzy is in 9th grade and Mary works at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation as a nurses' aide. I am staying busy as a first year law student and find it most challenging and very time consuming.

Carol and I are grandparents as of 7 November. Jeff and Kathy had a son, "Robbie" Robert Anthony High.

Carol and I had a wonderful two years at Yorktown and the Reserve Training Center gave us a memorable retirement sendoff. Our trip across country was hasty as we were anxious to arrive before our household effects. Carol and Suzy flew ahead from Iowa and closed on the house I had bought a month before and received the HHE. Mary and I drove out a few days later. We like our new home very much.

I am very sorry that I will not have time to write each of you a letter this year. Our finals for the term start on 10 December and I have a number of writing projects to finish at Thanksgiving and I should spend all my time studying for the exams. Next year maybe I can get out a letter to each one of you. We will have to wait and see. At the time of this writing, I do not know who should get credit for the address list. Walt Viglienzzone, Dick Ruhe and others are involved. Hopefully, we will get it together by 1 December. Suzy and Carol will help in the mailing of the letters.

Wishing you the best in your future and please write if you have a chance. Love,

GREETINGS TO THE CLASS 1965, USCGA

1976

It is getting time to think about our Christmas "togetherness" program. Last year I was late with the letter and addresses, and I know that it caused problems for some of you. This year, hopefully, you will get the addresses by 1 December. "Skip" Onstad has agreed to be responsible for putting together the final address list this year and it is my hope to put the letters in the mail Thanksgiving week-end as in years past.

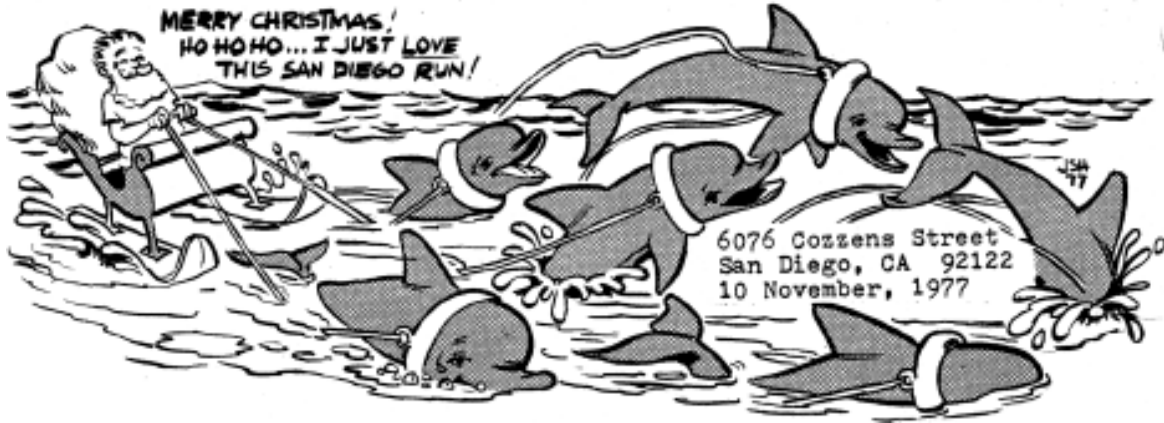
Carol, Mary, Suzy and I are enjoying San Diego very much. The weather here is delightful. The whole family seems to be very busy. Mary is back in college, in her second year. Suzy, a sophomore in high school, is on the swim team and has all the excitement of competition keeping her enthused. Carol coordinates the many needs of the family, runs most of the errands, entertains out of town guests, puts up house guests, works in the local church, is an officer in the CG Officers Wives' Club, and even got back to visit the grandson in Washington D.C. in September. I spend most of my time studying law. I went to summer school and will probably continue with the accelerated course to get out in Dec. 1977. I admit to enjoying school very much and certainly have had no time to be bored in retirement.

Carol has found a fine civilian doctor at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation and he has curtailed almost completely her previous chronic asthma and so we are pleased about our move here for that primary reason. It is great to see her so chipper with her breathing problems reasonably solved, we both enjoy our programmed (not always accomplished) daily swim in our backyard pool. We are able to swim about 6 months of the year without heating the pool. So you see we are enjoying our Southern California living.

We hope things are going well for all of you. If the opportunity presents itself, we would appreciate a note, letter, or picture of you and your family.

Love,

Les HIGH



Dear

1977

Carol and I sure hope things are going well for all of you. We were very pleased to hear from about 85% of you last Christmas and hope that this year will bring a similar response. I'm not sure when I will find the time to mail out the address list this year, but it will get done some way. "Skip" Onstad has indicated that he will do the address list again this year and hopefully the address sheets will arrive before Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, the mail takes 7 to 10 days from the East Coast sometimes--especially if mailed in large manila envelopes and which look like government business. One thing you will know, if you get this letter at the regular time (early December) everything went as planned.

We are very busy in California; as are most of you, it seems. We are very pleased that two of our sons, John and Greg, have relocated to San Diego. They are both working for a commercial art company and live about 10 miles away so we see them often. Mary is in the "University of California, San Diego" and Suzy is a junior in high school. Carol stays busy at so many things I can't keep track. I'm in my last term of law school. I still have a paper to finish for this term and a mock trial, plus the normal academic courses and finals to complete by 23 Dec. Then, I take the California Bar examination in February 1978. As you can see, it won't be long before I complete Law School. I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the law training, but I'll do something about that next spring after a little break. Carol and I have to have some time away from the rush of school to find out what "retirement" means.

Good luck to you all.

Love,
P. S. Our son John designed the letterhead.

Merry Christmas

1978

Well, it is that time of year again when we try to bring each other up to date on the news about the Class of 1965. We have some good news and some that is sad to report, but will share both with you so that you will know.

Our saddest news and very hard to accept was the unfortunate death of Jan Cicerelli in an automobile accident on Sunday morning, 29 October. Ray and his wife were riding in the back seat of a friend's car when the car went off the road. Ray was shaken up pretty badly also, but no broken bones. The doctors suspected that Ray had a concussion but fortunately that was not true. I talked to Ray several days ago and he and the three children are holding up well. Hopefully, Ray's desire for an Academy tour will materialize next summer so that he and the youngsters can be near Jan's folks in Waterford for the next few years.

Yesterday, we learned of the selection of a large number of the Class to Commander. Congratulations to those of you who were selected. I am not sure how accurate my list is, but if correct, there were several members of the Class that were not selected this year.

It appears to me that there were about 16 of you that were not in the zone this year, but you guys will head the list next year, after they pick up the 7 class members that were overlooked this year. It is tough to miss selection the first time around, but since The Class of 1965 was the group that was split, not many numbers will be lost by anyone.

Our family had a number of happy events this year. Our oldest daughter, Mary, was married on 2 September to a law school classmate of mine, Jeff Bostwick and so now we have one more son in our family. Suzy, our senior in high school, has reached an age where she can finally get a job. It is so hard for teenagers to get any working experience. She has worked at a fast food shop (Carl's Jr.), been selected to be a library aide working for the city when a job in our area becomes open and today, Sears hired her for the Holiday rush, so she is happy with these opportunities. Carol continues to stay busy. Grandma Cooper has been with us off and on during the year and the two of them stay busy sewing. Carol got a new sewing machine with many kinds of stitches available and now each of them has a machine on which they can sew.

My good news is that I now have daily contact with the Class of 1965. I graduated from Law School on 31 December, 1977; took the Bar Exam on 21-23 February, 1978; passed the Bar on 19 June; was sworn in as a licensed attorney on 23 June; and went to

Les HIGH

work in Darvy Mack Cohan's office on 17 July. Mack is a great guy to work with and he is helping the "old man" get acquainted with the law field. Mack asked me at 11:00 if I was ready to go to work and after taking me to lunch, had me working in his office by 1:00. What a great way to get a job and it is a joy to be working with Mack daily and to see Trisha frequently.

This year I should get a decent letter or note off to each one of you. Andy Horsey and Dave Spade in HQs and Jim Morgan at the Academy, along with many others helped with the address list this year. Mack and I will finalize it and print it at the office. Mack has an IBM Mag II memory typewriter and a fancy IBM 6640 Document Printer, which can do everything but write my personal notes to you. I really do not want anyone else to do that anyway, for that gives me a lot of pleasure. Of course, your many cards, letters, notes and pictures are treasures to Carol and me each year. Hopefully, you can again find time to send us your news of the exciting things in your life, since you last wrote to us.

Dear

1979

Another year has quickly gone by and it is time for my favorite project of the year--- contact with the Class of 1965. Carol and I are just returning from a very pleasant trip to Washington D. C. and while we were there the Class members in that area held a luncheon get-together at Holgates on the Potomac river so that I could see and talk with as many of the Class as possible. There were a dozen of us at the luncheon, which Andy Horsey ably arranged.

Congratulations are in order again this year for those selected to Commander and it was great to see that a number of the Class members have already been promoted. It was gratifying to see that the Selection Board picked up a couple members of the Class that were overlooked last year, but, as I said last year, I expect next years Board to pick up the remaining three members of the Class to be eligible for Commander. It is unfortunate the Selection system is not as refined as my personal judgment or you would have all made it the first time.

We hope that life is treating you all well and that this last year has been a happy one. We note that there are a number of changes in the address list, and again this year Andy Horsey did most of the work in determining the changes . When I get back to San Diego, Mack Cohan and I will use his fancy office equipment to print the corrected address list and our news letter. As you noted last year we changed the format on the address list to the block type and many in the Class have said they liked it much better.

Things are much the same for Carol and me. We both are in excellent health and enjoying our retired life very much. The only problem is finding time to do all the things that we want to do. Suzette, our only child at home, is now a freshman at the University of California, San Diego, which is located 3 miles from our home so that she can commute to class. She works about 15 hours a week as a library aide for the City of San Diego in several branch libraries. Mary and Jeff (our lawyer son-in-law) have a new daughter, Jennifer Marie Bostwick, and have a new three bedroom home about a mile from us in the University City area of San Diego. Our sons Steve and Greg are still in San Diego and working as commercial artists. Jeff and our daughter-in-law Kathy and their two sons just purchased a new spacious home near Reston, VA and the reason for our trip to D.C. was to see them, the grand children, the new house and to help with the move.

Mack and Trisha are still working very hard. Trisha is now a full time law student at the University of San Diego. Several months ago I was able to wind up most of the cases I was working on for Mack and I asked Mack to limit my involvement in the office

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as much as possible, since I had a number of personal things I wanted to do, such as help Mary and Jeff find a house, paint our house, work in my shop, etc. Mack, being the kind fellow that he is, understood, and let me out of the office to do my retirement things. We still stay in touch and I do a few things for him, but generally I am taking a break from full time law practice. I am still very interested in this intellectual pursuit and involvement, but have other interests that also occupy my time.

Well, we are approaching Denver and soon will be in San Diego on what has been a very fine trip East. Besides the delightful luncheon with the Class, Carol and I got to visit the Reserve Training Center, Yorktown and see all the new building and improvements there. We truly enjoyed our grandchildren and probably will not wait another 4 years before we go back to Washington D.C.

We hope to hear from all of you, again this year and if anyone has corrections for the address list please let us know. Remember, if you are in the San Diego area be sure and call us.

Dear

1980

Greetings to all the members of the Class of 1965 and your families. Carol and I always look forward to this time of year for we receive a lot of the recent news of the Class. It is so enjoyable to hear about all the many things you and your families are doing. It is always great to hear that so many of you are progressing so successfully. Almost all the Class members have now made CDR. I am sure glad that you guys did not have to wait eighteen years like I did to get your "scrambled eggs". We have had a number of the Class write during midyear with a special message for us and we do appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration. For those of you that have had things go a little tough this year, we are concerned, but want to encourage you to look forward with optimism. My philosophy is that life gets better every year.

Now that we have been out of the Coast Guard for five and a half years, we have lost touch with much of the day to day activities. The little bits of insight you give us in your letters and notes about your job or the Service are helpful to keep us somewhat posted. We had a nice visit with "Howie" Newhoff a few weeks ago. He was in town for a convention and he and Mich and Sandy Trammell came by the house for a very enjoyable evening. Carol and I learned a lot about the big CG operation handling the Cuban refugees - you guys involved have had quite a challenge and problem, but as usual it appears the CG has handled it very well.

Carol and I are returning from a bus tour to Death Valley and have had a very enjoyable time. The weather was mild and delightful for our few days there (high 70, low 45). We found the desert an interesting place to visit, when conditions are livable. We did some hiking and exploring and viewed the sunsets and sunrises with awe at the unbelievable beauty.

Our retired life is continuing to be most enjoyable. Our interests still center around our family with much of the situation the same as last year. Suzy is now a sophomore at UCSD. We have a new granddaughter, Kristina Rose High (5 April, 1980) and Jeff and Kathy now have two boys and a girl. I do not work at Mack Cohan's office anymore for Carol and I seem to stay busy doing other things. We do enjoy being able to spend time with our other granddaughter, Jennifer Bostwick, several hours a week. Jeff and Mary are doing fine. Jeff is an associate in a downtown law firm now and so he and reading the professional journals keeps me posted on the law to some degree. I still like to read, work in my shop and play a little golf. Carol still sews a lot for our family and takes care of Grandma Cooper when she comes to stay with us. She comes about twice a year for several months each time. Gram Cooper has had several heart attacks, so when she visits Carol stays pretty close to home.

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Roger Rufe has helped me with the address list this year so if you see him thank him for his efforts. As you will note, we are losing track of members of the Class every year. The addresses which I have left blank represent members whose letters were returned to me for the last couple years. If anyone knows where any of these people are, please write me or call me collect (714-453-4651) so we can get their names back on the list with a correct address.

As you know, Mack Cohan has been helping me put the address list together at this end. It certainly is nice to have the list on IBM card for it is so much easier to make changes than trying to type the list from scratch each year. Also, by using the same cards Mack has been able to address the envelopes for me. Mack and Trisha are doing fine. Trisha is continuing in law school and will finish this next term.

Again, I will invite you all to send us a letter or a note telling us about your activities. If the fellows do not have time or are not inclined to write, we would love to hear from the wives, too. We are still hearing from about 75/80% of you each year, which is great. We are always pleased to get pictures of you parents, the children or both if possible. It has been a pleasure talking to you all each year through these letters. Good Luck to you all.

Dear

1981

Greetings from Southern California. Carol and I hope things are going well for all of you. We did get a chance to see more of the Class of 1965 members this last year than in some of the previous years because we went, on a trip around the United States.. On 14 September we departed on a driving tour to the East coast via the Mid-west to attend the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls (Organization of CG Aviators) National Meeting in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Homecoming at the Academy, and a New England driving tour with our daughter Mary, her husband Jeff and their daughter Jennifer. We planned to stop at Air Stations and Bases at which we had been stationed to see all the improvements and recall fond memories of various tours in the Coast Guard. We visited relatives in Iowa and Illinois and stayed with our son Jeff and his family (four children now, 2 boys and 2 girls) in Washington D.C. area.

We got to see Joe and Ginny Coleman in Elizabeth City and talk to Don Jensen on the phone. At the Academy we saw Pete and Jacqueline Poulos. I saw Marty Dillian and Ray Cicirelli in New York. I talked to Roger Rufe in Washington and he is helping with the address list again this year. We saw Ron Fritz while in Mobile. There are many of you we missed and we are truly sorry, but even though we were gone five weeks, each place we visited we were only there a day or so and in some cases only a few hours. Del and Cordelia Phillips stopped to see us on their way to Alaska and Ron and Jan Wetzel said they were going to stop and see us one of these days while in San Diego from their home in Ventura CA.

Mack and Trisha Cohan are doing fine. Trisha finished law school and has taken the Bar Exam. Dennis Kurtz is still into a number of business deals in San Diego area. Mick and Sandy Trammell stay busy running a rent-a-car business and are building a new office building on their lot downtown.

Carol is still busy with Church work, sewing, cooking and gardening. I am busy being retired, eating (somebody has to eat Carol's cooking) and reading the law Journals and my law books. I have acted as judge for USD Law School Moot Court competition and help the S. D. Police Dept. Community Alert Crime Prevention Program. Suzy is still at home and a junior at University of California, San Diego. Steve and Greg are still commercial artists in San Diego. Mary and Jeff (attorney son-in-law) live close and so we get to spend a few hours a week with Jennifer, our granddaughter. Jennifer goes on errands with Grandpa and that is great!!

Hope to hear from you all this year.



Dear

1982

Carol and I send our Holiday Greetings again this year. We hope that things have been going well with most of you. With a group as large as the Class of 1965 there is always a chance that some unfortunate event has occurred that brings sadness to us all.

Many of you may know, but for those who do not, I am sorry to say that we lost our dear, sweet, lovable Mary ZANOLLI about a year ago (25 November, 1981). Mary, vibrant person that she was, experienced pains in her left arm in August, which was diagnosed as cancer in October. I have talked to Jerry recently and he and the family have made a good adjustment. Jerry's folks were with the family for awhile. Jerry is very proud of his four wonderful children. He says they have all been so helpful and strong in knitting the family together in their sorrow. I am sorry to be the bearer of such sad news, but feel those of you who did not know should be advised.

This has been a busy year for Carol and me. Carol is involved as Worship Coordinator at the church so she has many details to arrange each Sunday. She still sews a lot and then takes care of her Mother the four months that Grandma COOPER (86) visits each year. I am not sure why I said I was busy, for I do not seem to accomplish very much, but still seem to have no idle time. Generally we get to see most of our family once a week. Suzy is at home and is a senior at the University of California, San Diego. Each Wednesday noon Carol has a luncheon for the family and Mary, Steve and Greg usually come and our son-in-law Jeff, the attorney, comes when he is not in court or with a client. Steve was married in March to a young lady with two children so we picked up more grand children in a hurry. Carol and I went on a trip to Europe (London, Paris, Antwerp, and Amsterdam) in August, which Carol has wanted

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to do for many years. It was a fun-filled two weeks and we saw a lot. I still putter around in the shop on little projects, built a grandfather clock back in February, play games with my programable calculator and keep reading. Got the Rubic Cube figured out and now would like to get a computer one of these days to play with and for word-processing capability. If I ever got a word-processor I might write you all two or three times a year. Wouldn't that be a nuisance or a shock?

Roger RUFÉ is helping me to get the address list accurate and up to date again this year. Mack COHAN will provide the Mag Card II listing and will address the envelopes for me on his IBM printer. Incidentally, Trisha COHAN passed the California Bar last year about this time and is now practicing law with Mack in La Jolla CA. When our four grandchildren (Jeff and Kathy) from Washington D.C. visited, we had to rent a van a couple of days and of course Mich and Sandy TRAMMELL took care of us, for they run a Car Rental business in San Diego. Their new office building is very nice. Bill KURTZ has a fine job with a Computer firm that deals in communications, which are both his forte (computers and communications).

Carol and I have received many wonderful letters from many of you. We do not care when you respond. If it is in Jan. Feb. or even July, we are pleased that you have found the time to think about us and share with us some of your news. One of these days you may realize that we would just like to be your friends and you can address us as Carol and Les. It won't be long and all of you in the Service will be Captains. Wasn't that great that Kent WILLIAMS was deep selected for CAPT this year? We were so happy to hear the news and know that additional deep selections are likely again next year.

Steve, our number one son, did the new letterhead for Dad.

Les HIGH

Dear

1983

Carol and I certainly have enjoyed our relationship with the Class of 1965 over the last 22 years and the letters and notes we receive each year are priceless. At times we hear from the fellas, at times from the gals and believe it or not at times from both.

You all are so busy doing so many things and involved with family, community and work activities. We feel extremely blessed when you find time to communicate with Les and Carol High. We have about half of the Class convinced it is "Les and Carol" and if the rest of YOU will relax and call us such then we will have achieved another step in our fellowship and togetherness. A number of the Class took my suggestion to write after Christmas and we received some lengthy letters that really brought us up to date.

There is sad news again this year that some of you may not have heard. Your Classmate, Gary Johnson, suffered a massive heart attack at 8 P.M. on April 5, 1983 and was gone by 9:05 P.M. Gary was only 39 and his passing comes as a shock to all of us. Brenda advised me by letter and I called her the 9th of April when I got her letter. The funeral was held that day and Brenda, sweet lady that she is, was holding up quite well. I have heard from Brenda several times since and she, Scott (17) and Sheri (16) are getting on with their lives even though they have lost a devoted husband and father. Brenda kept their insurance business going for awhile, but recently sold it. The tragic loss of loved ones in the Class and their families is difficult to accept, but we are a large group so losses are inevitable even though they wrench our heart each time. Brenda remarked that a number of the Class, some she did not know, sent her sympathy cards which pleased her very much and I thank you, too, for your thoughtfulness. The Class really is concerned about each other!!

The big news from our house is that we are now grandparents of twins!! Mary had twin girls 8 March, 1983. Emily and Melissa are absolute dolls and give Carol and me a new and delightful project in helping to care for them from time to time. Jennifer (M) is still my little helper in the shop, in the office or on errands and she is such good company for me.

Our youngest daughter, Suzette, graduated from the University of California, San Diego, in June and is now working as a financial advisor with a local firm. She is still learning the ropes, but appears to be a go-getter. She hates to admit it, but gets more like her Dad every day. I love to see her enthusiasm and willingness to work and see her give the company her full effort all the time. Being in the business world is maturing her outlook very rapidly and I expect great things from her in the future.

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Carol, dear heart, continues to work, work, work. She's still the Worship Coordinator at the church and does half the preacher's job. She takes care of her Mother (87) with complete devotion and has little time for her own hobbies. She sews when she gets the chance and of course we both love to have the 'twins' and Jennifer to care for several times each week.

I am busy, but I still do not know what I really accomplish. I got a small computer (Timex) and printer to play with but have not decided on which computer with word processing capability I want to buy. Maybe next year I will have one.

Roger Rufe helped with the address list again this year so thank him if you see him. The Academy is asking for Class agents to be contact points for Class reunions, Alumni Bulletin news, etc. Roger has volunteered to do this and so I want to announce that Class coordinated activities should be arranged through Roger. You could not get a better Class agent, for he has been great helping with the address list over the years (Just as have Andy Horsey, Walt Viglienzone, Pete Poulos, Dave Spade, Jim Morgan, etc.). Our address list seems very pure now days with fewer errors each year. Mack Cohan and his office-help provide the clerical assistance for the list now days. We still need to find Hall, Harold and Rutherford so let me know if you hear anything (call collect 619-453-4651). Now that you are approaching twenty year military retirement we must guard against losing touch with the new civilian types that go into retirement. Please contact me, Roger or any Classmate still writing to me about any changes. Do not let us lose track of you just because you do not want to write to me!!

Someone asked, "do you really have that many books in your office--in front of the door, etc.?" To be honest I just counted and I have 329 linear feet of book shelves in the house filled with books (probably near 2000). You can see why Carol never likes to let me get near a book store or a book sale. I love to research and read about many topics.

Greg bought a house in Escondido (25 miles away) and both Greg and Steve are still commercial artists in San Diego. We see most of our children at the weekly Wednesday lunch that Carol serves along with her many other activities. Jeff our son in Wash. D.C. was promoted to GS-14 this last year and his family visited us last February.

Wonderful to hear from you all. We think you all are great and the 75% that write each year get gold stars in our book. Hope that some of you may visit San Diego this next year and will give us a call or come by to see us. Your letters now take a little more than one file drawer for storage. They are so valuable, I am about ready to buy a fireproof file cabinet to keep them secure.

Dear

1984

Twenty years we have been doing this letter exchange. Many of you have responded most years, some fairly regularly and a few rarely, if at all. Nevertheless, it has been a joyful and successful project. The address list was a good addition after the first several years and since Mack COHAN prints it for us, the readability is super. This year Bob STORCH has helped with the list, so if you see him thank him.

Congratulations to Roger RUFÉ and Dick RUHE on their deep selection to Captain. I was hoping for more, but the system just can't stand fifty or so Class of 65ers moving up a year group or two.

Well, decision time is close for twenty year retirements. Each of you must know that Carol and I just want you to do what is best for you and your family. Those of you who leave the Coast Guard will be missed I am sure. You all have contributed so much to the Service, but now it is your turn to decide what is best for you. There are many opportunities on the outside as well as in the Service, and we expect that you will be a great success whichever way you go. As a group, I have never seen such a talented bunch of people, as the Class of 65 and their wives. Anything you set your mind to you can accomplish, I believe. There are some advantages in staying in the Service, such as (1) Better retirement at 30, (2) Better and more responsible jobs as Captain or Admiral, (3) Class of 65 and its peers can truly be running the Service. The advantages of leaving might be (1) A new and exciting job, (2) More time with family and less moving, (3) Probably more money, when established, etc. I would not begin to try and advise you on what to do, but feel free to call, if you think I can make your decision easier.

Our life continues on as usual. Carol is busy doing church work, taking care of her 88 year old Mother when she is with us, caring for the granddaughters (twins 20 months and 5 year old), sewing when she gets a chance, swimming her laps in the summertime in our pool. I just stay busy trying to stay out of the way. I got a KAYPRO-4 computer and BROTHER-15 printer, which I use primarily for word processing. This machine has so many capabilities that I still have to learn about. I still like to read a lot. Trying to stay current on the law by reading the Journals takes much time and I am probably falling behind. I also enjoy time with the granddaughters. I have dieted and lost between 40 and 50 pounds. We have enjoyed a visit from several of the Class going through San Diego or calling by phone. John PIERSON visited SD with the USCGC TAMPA in February, Bob STORCH was here several hours on 6 November and the SCHORRs have called a number of times this year, when they had parties with Classmates. I got to talk to a number of you that way. Thanks Bill and Linda. My list of things to do gets longer every day, so I am not bored. Carol and I had

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a motor trip to Iowa last summer, which is the extent of our travels this year. We are still both in good health and enjoy the sunshine and mild climate in San Diego every day. Our children are fine and staying busy with their own lives.

Write when you get a chance. If you retire next summer, send us your new address so we can keep track of you. Anybody know anything about HALL, HAROD or RUTHERFORD? If the Class has a twentieth reunion at Academy Home Coming and Carol and I are invited, we would be happy to attend.

Dear

1985

My goodness what a wonderful and exciting year we have had this year. Our youngest daughter, Suzette, was married on 24 August to Robb Monette. They both work in parking administration at the University of California, San Diego. Carol and I got to see so many of the Class and their families at Homecoming. Carol and I had a great flying trip and visit to the East Coast with our son Jeff and family. While there Carol and I attended the National Meeting of the Pterodactyls (Aviators of the Coast Guard) in Washington, DC. We drove to New London in Hurricane "Gloria", spent a fabulous two days with the Class of '65. We then went on a driving foliage tour of New England, visiting friends in Portland, returning to Lake Winnepesaukee (where we had our honeymoon 39 years ago), drove through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania in a brand new, jazzy, little, rented, '85 GRAND AM Pontiac for three days. Quite a difference for me to drive a sports car, for I usually prefer Buick or Cadillac sedans.

There is so much news about the Class this year. First I must congratulate all of those who were selected to CAPT on the September board. I see the Board made a mistake on six of the Class, but I am sure that next year's Board will see the light and pick those 65er's up for CAPT. There were 13 Members of the Class who retired on 20 years service: CHAZAL, GRAY, HORSEY, KOLOSKI, ONSTAD, PENNINGTON, POULOS, RUHE, SAMEK, STEPHAN, WALTON, Jim WHITE and WRIGHT. We want to wish this group all the success in the world in their future endeavors. Since I do not know what all these retirees are doing or going to do I hope to hear from each of you this year so we will not lose touch. On 7 September, 1985, Randy PETERSON had a severe heart attack which put him in intensive care for awhile. He later had another attack which caused him to be hospitalized. I talked to Randy on 19 and 26 September and on 7 October and he was improving a great deal. He feels the doctors know what his problem is; they have him on a good diet and exercise program; and convinced him to stop smoking. According to Roger RUFÉ several days ago, Randy was back to work at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces "half days" and will soon be back "full days", with a full recovery expected. Good to hear, Randy!

The Homecoming gathering with the Class was beyond description for Carol and me. You and your lovely wives make us feel so honored and so close to the Class. We want to thank all those who came and participated in the activities. We also want to thank the Class for the plaque with the inscription "With Special Thanks To Our Classmates Les and Carol High" and the two inspirational buttons "HIGH on '65" and "SPIRIT of '65" which were also on the plaque. The 10 Year Anniversary Book which was presented to us at the dinner is a wonderful memento (it tells us about your first

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ten years after graduation). Hopefully, for the Class records, there will be another book some time in the future to cover the second ten years. The pictures, the comments and the information was so great to see and have. I will share the book with any Classmates who visit with us. Bill SCHORR and Mike KOLOSKI and their wives did much of the work. Thanks! Thanks to Jim WHITE, Roger RUFÉ and Dick RUHE for the 20th Reunion planning and activities. Bob STORCH did a lot of work on the address list this year so if you see him, thank him for his efforts. We are still missing some Classmates: HALL, HAROD and RUTHERFORD. Anyone know where they might be? Several Members have suggested that we might want to list with the Class address list the name and address of some former Classmates who did not graduate (Tom SIDES, Ricky WELLS, etc.) but who still maintain contact with some of the Class. What are your thoughts on this? I will do whatever the Class wants to do? Give me your comments? Of the original 114 Members in the Class, we now have 49 active duty, 62 retired or civilians and 3 deceased.

Dear

1986

Well, Carol and I had another full and exciting year. We have a new granddaughter, Rebecca Carol BOSTWICK, born 15 October. We celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary (5 June) by attending a Class of 1947 (graduated in 1946) 40th Reunion in San Francisco (1-6 June) with 17 Classmates and their wives/friends and another Class of 1947 40th Reunion at Homecoming in New London (2-5 October) with 63 Classmates and their wives/friends. We started collecting Social Security (if that can be considered exciting). Carol spends many hours each week doing Church work or projects, sewing for the grandchildren or helping her 90 year old Mother on her sewing projects, working on drives for the Heart Fund, Leukemia Society, etc., working in the yard, swimming her laps (1/4 to 1/2 mile a day) in the summer from May to late September, aerobics 6 class two to three times a week for the rest of the year, taking care of her Mother about 4-5 months of the year, taking care of the new granddaughter, her 3-1/2 year old twin sisters and 7 year old sister (who live about a mile away and we see almost every day). I am licensed as an attorney in California but am fully retired.) I help Jeff BOSTWICK, our son-in-law, who is a sole practitioner, with some of his paperwork, use my KAYPRO-4 computer to write letters to Congressmen, State officials, the Bar Associations, letters to the editors of local newspaper and national magazines, TV stations to try and change programing, a volunteer in several medical research programs (Alzheimer [control group], a Sleep and Activity Study, and a Memory Study), a Block Captain for the local Crime Prevention program, still collect and read many books each year, as limited amount of yard work as I can get away with (the same goes for household tasks), Class of 1965 letter and address list project, and now my own Class of 1947 address list. Carol and I attend a number of play series like the Old Globe and see about 30 plays or light opera productions a year. We attend two PGA tournament events in the area (MUNY Tournament of Champions, La Costa and the Andy WILLIAMS Torrey Pines Tournament). Four of our children are in the San Diego area and Carol has a lunch for the family almost every Wednesday which is usually well attended. So you can see we do stay busy and out of trouble. We both are in good health and thoroughly enjoy our delightful San Diego weather (it gets to be 65 degrees every day of the year on our patio, with the average temperature of 68 degrees the year around).

Congratulations to the Class on attaining Captain rank - you caught up with me and some will soon be Admirals. I see the Selection Board still has failed to select several of the A Class, but hopefully next year all the rest will make it. The new address list has many changes because the Class is still on the move. Doug TEESON helped with the list this year, so if you see him, thank him, please. Carol and I heard from 76 members of the Class (67%) last year. Most of contacts were by letters or notes. It is so great to

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get the information. Thanks to the wives who "take on the duty", if their husband does not write. One of the sweet, adorable and thoughtful wives pointed out that my comment about how many years it had been since we had heard from the family was "laying a trip" on them and would I please stop "making them feel guilty". I am so sorry!! I only put the "number of years" in the letter to inform the family of the period of their life on which we need to be brought up to date. We still are missing addresses for HALL, HAROD and RUTHERFORD. I only had several comments about listing former Classmates (who did not graduate) on our list. No one objected and some thought it might be a good idea. I will add any names and addresses that are forwarded to me. If you guys thought it was great getting together at the 20th Reunion, wait until the 40th Reunion - it is wonderful!!

It is really important that we keep close track of each other so everyone can be informed and included in the future Reunions (25th, 30th, 35th, etc.). At our 40th, I actually saw some Classmates who I had not seen since Graduation in 1946.

Dear

1987

It is "that time", again, for me to start on my favorite project of the year. Greetings from Southern California. Carol and I hope that all is going well for all of you and your families. We received contact last year from about 75 members of the Class in the form of letters, notes and calls. No one is more aware of how busy you all are at this time in your life, so those that did not write or contact us are excused... for one year, at least. We had a chance to see several of the Class during the year. Dave (John D.) SPADE and John PIERSON were here on an ICAF Study program in the Spring. Tony FINIZIO was in town for several hours this Summer on a Wednesday when Carol has the lunch for the family and Tony got to see our oldest son, Steve. Cece ALLISON was here in San Diego in October on the BOUTNELL and I got to visit with him (Carol was in Northern California to a family reunion with her sisters and her Mother). We seem to stay quite busy. Carol is now the Publicity Chairman for the Church so she writes letters about advertising and letters with "News Article" type information for several of the local papers. In fact, she is writing more letters on the computers than I do right now (from one to five letters a week and I do about two or three a month). I got a KAYPRO PC-3D (IBM compatible, MS/DOS) and an EPSON EX1000 dot matrix printer in July. Carol sews, when she gets a chance, takes care of the four grandchildren a lot and when her (92 year old? Mother is here, spends many hours taking care of Oma's needs. I play with my computers, help a little with the grandchildren, collect and read books, do volunteer work for the Alzheimer Disease study, Neighborhood Watch system and generally "goof-off". I try to limit my yard work and household tasks as much as possible for they are of little interest to me!!

Unfortunately, I lost my sister, Jean (Elgin, Illinois) to a massive stroke in January of this year, so none of my original family (Father, Mother, Brother or Sister) are still alive. Jean's husband, Jac, who was ten years younger than Jean, took the loss very hard. (They had no children of their own) I have spent a lot of time in contact with him over the last 11 months. I call him or he calls me about every third day. Fortunately, he has a TANDY MS/DOS machine so we have had computer things to talk about to help divert his attention away from the loneliness. I hope I have helped. You never know for sure. He seems to be in good spirits now. Of course, I have my own wonderful family of wife, five children and ten grandchildren to help me over the loss. Also, I have the Class of '65 and their wives as my extended family so I have no feeling of being alone.

New Subject! 25th Reunion for Class of 1955. Walt VIGLIENZONE thought it would be a good idea for all of you to start thinking about what you all might want to do and where you might want to hold a Reunion (if not at the Academy)? Roger RUFÉ and

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Jerry PAYNE have evidently volunteered to collect the suggestions and to try and put together some proposals for the Class to consider.

Generally, Carol and I have been in good health, but at the present I have "tendonitis" in my right shoulder and I really can not write too well. So, if you do not get a personally written note this time, you will know the reason why. I expect to write to you later, if I am unable to get a personal note to you at this Thanksgiving Day weekend mailing.

"Look Ma - No Hands" (I mean no tendonitis). As you can see my hand-writing has not improved, but I got rid of the tendonitis so I could get on with this, may favorite project. Les

Dear

1988

This is the 24th year we have been doing this. Hardly seems possible! And, I seem to enjoy it more every year. The project is filled with much joy and a few frustrations. The joy comes from the letters, notes, phone calls and personal contact Carol and I have with the Class and their loved ones. The frustrations are self generated and include (1) my inability to locate some of the Class who have left the fold, (2) my inability to convince some of the Class to keep in touch with me or some other member of the Class and (3) my limited time and space, when penning my personal note to each of you, to write and tell you all the things I would like to share before I go on to the next letter. As you may have guessed, I write all of the letters within about 5 to 7 days and I mail them all on the same day. Because there are 114 letters to write, I can only spend about 20 or 30 minutes on each hand written note. You may wonder why, since I have 2 computers, I handwrite the notes rather than use the word processor? Well, I still can write faster than I can type and when I type, I usually stop to edit the copy. I do not want to edit my letters. I want them to be spontaneous and conversational rather than formal. You can "bet" this personal contact with my friends and colleagues in the Class of '65 is a wonderful thing for this "senior" citizen.

Carol and I have had a fine year. It started rather sadly. Carol's 92 year old Mother, Oma, came to stay with us 28 December, 1987, and died in her sleep about 5:00 a.m., 4 January, 1988. Oma had a good life. She stayed with her three daughters (2 in California and 1 in Iowa) and moved around every 3 to 6 months. She had several minor heart attacks in the last ten years and took medicine for asthma. Oma was very thin because she had very little appetite. She has always been ambulatory, never used a cane and was "sharp as a tack" to the very end. She was a perfect "Mother-in-Law." Never interfered in family problems and her primary purpose in life was "What can I do for you?" Carol held up fine. Since Oma lived with us just part of the year, we (Carol and I) had the feeling after Oma died that she was visiting with one of the other sisters and would soon be back. Thus, we got through the absence and loss without too much grief. Carol knew her Mother had a full, rewarding, Christian life and Oma died in peace.

What a way to go!! To die in one's sleep has to be a blessing. Carol and I have noted that a number of the Class and your wives have lost fathers, mothers, siblings and even spouses over the years. As with Oma, it is hard to accept, but we must be strong and life must go on!

Carol is still publicity chairperson for the Church and writes lots of church articles for the local newspapers. She baby-sits a lot. Mary and Jeff had a boy, 13 October, 1988,

Les HIGH

to go with their four girls. Steve and Greg are still commercial artists in the SD area. Suzy is an analyst at the University of California, San Diego. Jeff is a Coast Guard civilian employee working in HQ(CPA) reviewing AC&I projects. Carol and I attend a lot of the local plays, walk for exercise, and listen to the Padre baseball games. I do a number of volunteer projects such as Alzheimer, heart study, Community Alert, etc., read a lot and play with my computers.

Six of the Class retired this year (AMOS, ARECCHI, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, SEROTSKY and YENTSCH). Tom LUCEY asked about his Classmates the other day and I told him you all are generally in good health. Carol and I saw Bill CARR, Bill KURTZ and Dick MANNING on visits this year and Judy NORRIS called on a visit to SD. Doug TEESON, Marty DILLIAN, John PIERSON and Walt VIGLIENZONE helped with the list this year so, if you see any of them, thank them for a job well done.

Carol and I hope you have a great Holiday Season and a "smashingly" successful 1989.



Dear

1989

On this 25th Epistle from Les HIGH to the Class of '65 we have some exciting news to share with my favorite group of people. How anyone can call a "Form letter" an epistle is beyond me, but you realize the "old man" has license just from his seniority in years.

Our congratulations go to Kent WILLIAMS (and Gerry) upon his selection in September to Rear Admiral. Kent honored me by sharing his news the same day he was advised by the Commandant. Before the ALCOAST announcement is published, only immediate family and very close friends can be informed by the Selectee. Thanks, Kent, for putting me in the "very close friend" category. All of the Classmates I have talked to have been ecstatic about your selection and all feel it is very well deserved. Now I will try and wait patiently for more of the Class to be so selected. What did I say earlier about seniority--I believe the Class Advisor is just senior to the most senior admiral in the Class, don't you? I'll await the Class' final vote on that issue.

Another great thing that happened this year is the location of Jeff HALL, Randy HAROD and Dave RUTHERFORD. I won't tell you how we did it, but through the ingenuity of several of the Class, Social Security numbers and computer data banks, they were "returned to the fold." Welcome back!! I talked to each of them briefly last year and Jeff HALL sent me a 20 year update via a 5 page (legal size) letter. Classmates closest to these guys at the Academy or their duty stations ought to drop them a line or give them a call.

The last exciting thing to think about this year is the forthcoming 25th Reunion in the Fall of 1990. "A group of the Class (TEESON, RUFÉ, VIGLIENZONE, CICIPRELLI, SCHORR, etc.) met at QTRS #1, CG RTC Yorktown the 30th of September to plan the event. I talked to Roger a few days ago and he said there would be a "mail-out" with information in a week or so-maybe even before you get this letter.

Les HIGH

Marty DILLIAN and John PIERSON helped with the list this year. You will note that I have changed the address format and added telephone numbers. Marty thought it might be a good idea to have the phone numbers to make people easier to locate and to help people get in touch with each other- especially those who do not write letters too often. Let me know if you want your "Home" phone number listed or omitted., We can discuss this more at the Reunion. It will be very difficult to keep phone numbers current, but I can try.

CHAPMAN and NEWHOFF retired this year. 36 are on active duty. Carol and I got to see Carl HELMAN for dinner one evening in May. Mack COHAN and Jeannette came later for desert. It is always great to see "out of town" visitors when you are in San Diego so give us a call.

Carol and I are fine. We went to a couple "reunions" this last year. One called "Oma COOPER" reunion (for the descendants of Oma) was in NW Iowa in June and the other Carol's Nurse Class reunion in the Ozarks in October. We do the trips the easy way. Fly to the destination, rent a car, stay in motels, with family or friends and then fly home.

Carol stays busy with her Church Publicity job, taking care of grandchildren, swimming, walking, going to plays, etc. Our kids are doing fine. Jeff is now GS-15 with the CG and the Class includes him in some of their luncheons at Headquarters. I seem to stay busy watching Carol work, talking to friends, fixing things, reading and collecting books and writing letters.

Holiday Greetings!! Carol and I send our best to all of you. Have a "Super" 1990!!

Dear

1990

What a wonderful group of people you are! The Class of '65, their wives and families have just made this last year, in fact the last 29 plus years, fabulous for Carol and me. Besides all the warmth, love and affection you have demonstrated to us over the years with your letters, phone calls and visits with us in San Diego, you continue to honor us at your Reunions. Those of you who were there, know that Carol and I had a tremendous and exhilarating time during our several days together with the Class. The Committee (Roger RUFÉ, Doug TEESON, Don JENSON, Neil JOHNSON and their wives) did a super job of planning and executing a very successful period of "special togetherness". Pete POULOS (busy running several businesses and going to school) helped set up the Hospitality Suite late Friday afternoon so we got to see him even though he could not make any of the other events. The "Tribute Book" for Carol and me was especially nice and we have enjoyed many hours looking at it and sharing it with others. Thanks to Neil and Sue JOHNSON for their efforts in gathering, assembling and design lay-outs of the information that those of you in the Class sent them. Those of you who got to see it Saturday night, could see how special such a remembrance type book is for older folks like Carol and me. All aspects of the week-end were great. I liked best of all the opportunity to see and talk to you and your family. But admit, wearing your specially designed sweatshirt and marching on to the field with the Class was terrific, and the chance to speak to the Class at the Dinner Dance was very enjoyable for me. You are such a select group of remarkable and distinctive people with many talents, interests and successful careers. (The wives, who know me well, know that, when I speak of the group, I am talking about the wives, also.) By my count, I saw 63 members of the Class at New London. The 25th Reunion was a "roaring" success. We all are distressed that those of you, who could not or did not attend, missed a wonderful time. Hopefully, you will make the next reunion.

Incidentally, if any of you have material for a page in the "tribute" book, please send it to me, in lieu of the JOHNSONS. They have provided me with the blank pages so that I can add any late contributions. Also, John PIERSON helped with the address list this year.

On our trip East, Carol and I also sojourned to the Washington area to see our son, Jeff, who is attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. One morning, I visited Headquarters and got to see eleven of the Class in their working environment. Carol and I also visited Yorktown (my last Command).

Besides our delightful trip to see many of the Class at the Reunion (Homecoming), we had visits in our home in California with the BOWENS, RUHES, COHANS,

Les HIGH

MANNING, and NEWHOFF. We saw the ZANOLLIS at a change of command of the 11th District and I saw Bob OFFUTT (business trip to SD) and Marty DILLIAN (now CO) at the CG Air Station, San Diego.

Our family is fine. Steve and Greg are commercial artists in the area. Mary (with five kids) still manages to handle the bookkeeping and accounting work for her lawyer husband. Suzy is still an analyst at UCSD. Carol has stayed very busy doing Church work (publicity, the directory, board meetings, special projects) and baby-sitting many hours with the grandchildren. I stay busy watching Carol and Mary do all their things. I am in a few volunteer studies and spend many hours reading and playing with my computers. Carol and I walk 2 miles almost every day which gets me out of my office and my comfortable chair.

Great to see so many of you at the Reunion, Headquarters and here in San Diego. We have received 89 notes or letters this last year. Also, I have talked to 20 or 30 of the Class by phone. Thanks for your many kindnesses and loving consideration for Carol and me. You are truly "super" and can not be beat!!

Dear

1991

What a wonderful life Carol and I have, together. Although we have some separate interests, we share many treasured relationships. We have a terrific family of five children, and eleven grandchildren. We shared a super career in the Coast Guard and we met and served with many outstanding people, who have blessed our lives beyond description. Of course, the Class of 1965 has had a significant impact on us both. You, your wives and children have given and continue to give us "great joy." Thank you for being so special!

Great news! For those who do not already know, our esteemed Acting Class President, Roger RUFÉ, was selected for Rear Admiral in September, 1991. We all are very pleased for Roger and Barbara. In January, Del PHILLIPS sent us a 20"x28" Reunion picture of the Class taken at Billard Hall. It is framed and hangs in our front hallway for all to see.

John PIERSON was the primary person who helped with the list this year, although many others had input to make the list as correct as we can get it. You will note that we now have telephone numbers for practically all of the Class. That was Marty DILLIAN's idea several years ago and I was surprised at how soon we were able to gather this information. I love having the phone numbers for then I can call and talk to you anytime! I called Rich JOHNSON, in London the other afternoon and he had already gone to bed (10:30 p.m.)...you guys will never be safe, again. When you see or write to John PIERSON, please thank him for his help with the list this year.

Seven in the Class retired this last year: BECKER, DENNIS, DILLIAN, Gene JOHNSON, OFFUTT, PEARCE, and VIGLIENZONE. Unfortunately, the Coast Guard has gotten top-heavy with Captains so the Class had to endure a "Continuation Board" this year, and, therefore, at least nine more Members of the Class will be retiring this year. It is too bad all this talent has to be lost to the Service, but the pyramid has to be maintained. I am certainly glad that I was not on the Board that had to decide who can stay and who will go. Of course, I feel most of you are qualified to be Admirals, but I am partial, you know.

Carol and I had a wonderful year. We attended our High School 50th Reunion in Iowa in July. We spent a week in Edmonton, Calgary, Jasper and Banff National Parks to celebrate our 45th Wedding Anniversary. We spent a week in New England to attend the 45th Reunion of the USCGA Class of '47 (graduated '46). We spent a week in the Gulf area attending the 75th Anniversary of CG Aviation being celebrated by the "Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls" at Pensacola, Florida. Carol and I visited the CG

Les HIGH

Aviation Training Center, Mobile on this 25th Anniversary of its commissioning (I was the Project Officer in 1966). We visited the SIMPSON's home and talked with Tony PETTIT on Cape Cod and truly bumped into Paul BLAYNEY and Jim WHITE at the Academy. We saw the SEROTSKY's in Pensacola and visited with the CHAZAL's in their home in Alabama. In March, the RUHE's had a dinner party for the East Coast visitors, the JENSEN's, Bob STORCH, Gene JOHNSON and the COHAN's and Carol and I were included. Also, the 29th of March, Neil and Sue JOHNSON drove all the way to San Diego from Santa Monica just to visit with us.

Carol had foot surgery (some toes straightened) on both feet from April to end of June and now she has no more trouble with her feet. She can get around better than I can and in August she climbed the Canadian Rockies with no trouble. Our children are doing fine. Two changes: Suzette, our youngest, has a new job as Business Manager of the Student Health Center at the University of California, San Diego and Jeff is back from ICAF and works in the Logistic Management Division for Tom OMRI in CG Headquarters. Carol stays busy with Church work and entertaining the grandchildren. Mostly I stay out of the way. We enjoy all your letters and calls.

Dear

1992

Can you believe that Carol and I celebrated our 46th Wedding Anniversary last June? 1992 was the 31st Anniversary of the relationship of the Class of '65 and the HIGH's, so I guess that is believable! Now "there" are a couple of lasting relationships, don't you agree? Carol continues to put up with me and we both enjoy your "sharing" your lives with us through your letters and calls. Since this is the "Year of the Woman," I should acknowledge, as I have many times before, how much I appreciate the wonderful wives and lady friends of the Class. Many of the wives are almost like daughters to us and you have accepted the Class of '65 relationship with affection and enthusiasm. Countless significant facts about each family have been shared with Carol and me, by the wives, and we love you for that and feel very close to you, because you are so special. Cathy RUHE, whom we see most often, is the epitome of a Class of '65 wife, and Carol and I feel she personifies and symbolizes all you ladies with her gracious warmth and loving nature. Every time we give her a hug we are giving all of you a hug, as well.

Paul BLANEY was selected for Rear Admiral in September and we all are so very happy for Paul and Mary. I was disappointed that the Class did not have more members selected for admiral, for we have so many who are well qualified to run the Coast Guard, but who knows how the Boards work? Of course, I am really partial toward the Class.

We now have 18 in the Class still on active duty. The following Classmates retired since my last letter: ANDERSON, CICIRELLI, FRITZ, HAMILTON, JOSEPHSON, MASON, PETTIT, SANIAL, SCOBIE, SIMPSON, and STORCH. Some have new jobs and others are doing other things. I know Tony and Madonna PETTIT are sailing around on their sailboat. Tom OMRI helped with the list this year, so thank him when you contact him. Bill and Virginia BLANCHARD visited San Diego in August and spent a couple hours with us and the COHAN's.

Our family is fine. The kids have been fortunate to ride out the recession, and have stayed employed. Carol stays very busy doing Church work and sitting with the grandchildren. Carol has little luck in getting me to do much around the house. We did, with help, take off all our wall paper and paint most of the inside of the house this last year. Carol had new linoleum installed in the kitchen and hall and we got new carpeting in much of the house. You can imagine the problems of moving my 3000 books and 16 bookcases so that we could paint and carpet my office and the library. Some of the fun things we did were: Buick Open Golf Tournament; Carol hosted a reunion of her '44 Nurses Class in SD; two of my sisters-in-law, who will not fly, came

Les HIGH

by train from Iowa to visit us; day on the CGC BOUTWELL for the American Cup Races; a dozen PADRE baseball home games; Starlight Light Opera; etc.

Since Dick RUHE is the Class correspondent for the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Asso. Bulletin, he writes six articles a year. If you want to read the clever things he writes about you, the USCGA Alumni Asso. fee is \$36 per year. I feel the support of the Academy is a personal thing and have never encouraged you to join, for our relationship was "for us" not for the Academy or the CG. I am sure that many of you are proud of your Academy experience and what the Academy did for all of us in our development and successes in life. One of the most important things the Academy did for me was to bring us together, initially. The last 31 years of togetherness has been a fabulous "plus" for Carol and me.

Our Class membership in the Asso. is only 56%, which is quite small compared to some of the other classes. Supporting an alma mater is rewarding for some people. I am not asking you to join, but it might be something you would feel good about. I mention this subject because several of the Class have written to me about our limited membership in the Asso. Please do not join, just because of these comments and/or for me. I want you to truly want to join on you own volition, if you do!

Dear

1993

My goodness, what a wonderful year this has been for Carol and me. We both are experiencing excellent health, "our kids still come home" and we have been continually blessed with a warm and loving relationship with the Class of '65!

Congratulations are in order for Dave and Linda SPADE and Doug and Phyllis TEESON. Dave and Doug were selected for Rear Admiral in September, 1993. Dave has already made flag and is Joint Task _Force #4 in Key West and Doug will get the next available billet for admiral. We now have five admirals and hopefully we will get a few more. Kent WILLIAMS is now a Rear Admiral (Upper Half). Randy PETERSON and Gerry ZANOLLI retired this last year. We still have 16 Classmates on active duty. I expect the other 11 guys to make admiral this next year!!! Not possible for there will not be that many vacancies.

Carol and I had several '65ers visit us in San Diego. Cece ALLISON was here for a conference on 17 Dec, '92, We met the COHANs for dinner and then got to talk to Cece at home for three hours. Jerry PAYNE came for dinner 23 Feb '93 and later the RUHEs and the TRAMMELLS joined us for a great evening. Walt VIGLIENZONE came for lunch 23 Mar '93 and called 14 Oct '93. On 23 Jul '93, Skip and Sue ONST AD took us to dinner and later came to the house to see the Tribute Book, the 20th Anniversary Book, and the tape of the 25th Reunion. We kept talking until almost 2300 even though Skip was supposed to work the next day. I warn you folks, once we get you in our house you may have trouble getting away! As Class correspondent, Dick and Cathy RUHE have experienced this numerous times. Dick comes by for info for CGA articles, about 10 times a year, and we love to see the RUHEs any time.

One of our contacts with a '65er was unusual and very unique. Bob STATON's son Dave is on the 40 man roster of the PADRES and Dave was "called up" in early Sep '93. We had been following Dave's progress and I had been sending Bob newspaper articles for several years. Dave gets tickets for special friends, so Bob and his mother (visiting from Penn.) took Carol and me to one of the games. We sat with the wives and got to meet Dave's wife and son, got an autographed 25th Anniversary baseball and Dave STATON card. We enjoyed this singularly exclusive time with Bob and his family.

Carol is doing all her normal Church work and frequent baby sitting, following grandkids games, etc. I'm still just trying to stay out of the way. Our children are still doing fine. Suzette went on a 19 day safari to Kenya and Tanzania in Feb '93. Steve and wife had a two week paid vacation in England in Sep '93. Greg and Irene go on backpacking trips in the High Sierra and really have some wonderful footage of

Les HIGH

outback, here in the good old USA. Jeff is now in the Dept. of Transportation's Senior Executive Service Training program and hopefully this will lead to a SES job (and promotion) one of these days. Mary and Jeff are coaching All Star and regular girls' softball plus maintaining Jeff's domestic law practice. I have become an inactive attorney in CA this year. I still like my hobbies of being Class Advisor, collecting books, reading, and writing letters.

Carol and I have been on three trips this year. We had a 17 day trip to New Zealand, a 9 day driving trip to a family reunion in Oregon, and a 15 day flying-driving trip to Branson, Lake of the Ozarks, St. Louis, and Hannibal Missouri, and to Iowa to visit family and friends. We stopped in Davenport, IA to see Bill and Judy CARR. Bill was on a trip but we saw Judy long enough to see the office. They are consultants to RV dealers and RV parks, I believe. Carol and I loved the bus tour in NZ, and I got to see a lot, instead of driving all the time. Went to both Islands from Auckland to Milford Sound and Dunedin. The Class of '47 USCGA met in Lake of the Ozarks to celebrate the 47th Anniversary of the Class of '47 (graduated '46). Although we are "homebodies/" we enjoyed all of our 41 days away on trips. We like to see special people, but seeing the unspoiled "outback" of NZ was spectacular.

Tom OMRI helped with the address list this year, so please thank him when you see him.

As the 30th Reunion approaches, Carol and I request the emphasis be placed on "Honoring the Class and your accomplishments." We want to share with you this special occasion, but we want to be on the sidelines. Please limit our participation to simply our presence.

Les HIGH

Dear

1994

Since this is my thirtieth letter to you, I'll bet you believe that it will not be able to think of anything to say? Don't you believe it!! The Class of 65 is a very important part of our life "now" and has been since 1961.

As I look back, my life has been filled with one blessing after another. First, I was born and raised in the Mid-West at a time when morality, hard work, responsibility and honesty were the basis for family life and good living. My parents always expected me to give my best effort. My teachers endowed me with a strong interest in "the search for knowledge. I met, wooed and married the best wife in the world. Carol is just as sweet and adorable as the day I met her in 1939. Her warm and loving nature and ability to put up with my many eccentricities attests to her stature as a "super wife", Carol gave me five wonderful children, who are all very different, but each of whom gives us delight every time we see or talk to them. I had a great career in the Coast Guard and had many challenging and rewarding experiences. Carol and I have been blessed with many marvelous friends. Of these, the Class of 65 has to be tops! You have honored us in many ways since 1961. First, selecting me as your Class Advisor, dedicating your Tide Rips to me, responding regularly to my letters, making us Honorary Members of the Class, giving us a Tribute Book at the 25th Reunion, and even unofficially promoting me to "Admirable" Les HIGH. We truly appreciate the love and concern you and your families have heaped on us through the years from your letters, notes, visits, phone calls, pictures, special gifts, and warm hugs and handshakes. Now a little information on the Class.

Congratulations are in order for Kent and Gerry WILLIAMS for Kent is now Chief of Staff of the CG and is a Vice Admiral (three stars). Since John SCHWARTZ retired 1 October, 1994, there are now 15 Classmates on active duty: 5 Admirals and 10 Captains. The ADMs are: RUFÉ - 17th District; BLAYNEY - 2nd District; SPADE - Dep. Task Force #4; and TEESON - Maintenance and Logistics Command, Atlantic. The CAPTs are: HQ Office, District, MLC, and Pollution Fund Deputies - COLEMAN, ROGERS, PIERSON, MANNING and OMRI; SOMERS - CO, CG Activities Europe; JENSEN - CO, National Strike Force Center; ALLISON - HQ Command and Support Div.; HELMAN - Planning in Command, Control and Communications Office; and NORRIS - Legal Officer, Maintenance and Logistics, Command, Pacific. As you can see our Class holds some high level jobs in the CG.

Carol and I received 85 pieces of correspondence last year which included nice long letters, notes, pictures, invitations to change of commands and weddings, birth announcements, etc. I love to hear all about your lives and you can philosophize and

Les HIGH

describe in detail what you do or what you think and I will love it. One Classmate asked if his five page single spaced letter was too much? Never too much! I have received several thirteen page letters in the past, which I cherish. Carol and I have had about 25 or 30 phone calls from or to the Class. We love to see you in person when possible. Roger and Barbara RUFÉ from Alaska came to see us in March. We were able to get the COHANS and the Gerry WHITEs here for the evening, too. Our son Jeff and his wife were here visiting at the time so Jeff and Kathy had a chance to see what joy the Class brings to our life. Bob STATON visited us in early April on his way to see his son, Dave, play for the Padres baseball team. On a visit to Traverse City, Michigan, Carol and I had dinner and a pleasant evening with Carl and Beth PEARCE on 3 October and had lunch with Tess GRAY on 4 October (Bob GRAY, who flies for American Airlines was on a Paris run at the time). It was wonderful to meet Beth and Tess for the first time. What charming ladies they are and even though they both work full time (Beth a 6th grade teacher and Tess an executive secretary for an oil company) they were willing to give that extra effort to spend time with us. I will admit the Class really has talent in picking mates. You wives are all part of the treasure trove the Class gives to Carol and me. Kent and Gerry WILLIAMS have had a couple gatherings of the Class since they returned to the D.C. area. I called their home on 29 October and got to talk to nine of the Class and Gerry. What a pleasure! Jeff, our son, now works for Kent. It is great that Jeff has been able to enjoy and appreciate the Class over the years for he has worked with many of you in numerous areas of the CG. Jeff called me about the gathering. Tom OMRI helped with the list this year so when you see or talk to him please thank him.

Carol and I continue to enjoy our lives together. She stays busy taking care of me, baby sitting, going to games, Church work, and generally making our house a "home", I like to read, collect books on many subjects, write letters and keep track of our kids and the Class of 65. Our children still come home and we do relish and treasure every contact we have with our kids. They are all fully employed. Although Mary is a housewife with five children, she is as "fully employed" as anyone I know, for she does the billing for her husband's domestic law practice, has numerous volunteer jobs with the Mormon Church, Scouts, and school committees, etc., plus run kids to many events. It always bothers me when our children are away or on the road. As you can imagine, these trips gave me much concern: (1) Suzette's two week driving trip to Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Oregon; (2) Mary and her family's trip to Yorktown, VA for her 20th High School Graduation Reunion and a week in New Mexico at the National Boy Scout Camp; (3) Greg's frequent back-packing hikes in the High Sierras; and (4) Jeff and his family's trips back and forth across country. I always feel better when they are all home safe and sound. Carol and I took a two~week fly/drive trip to Iowa in October to attend Carol's Nursing Class 50th Reunion in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On our way through

Les HIGH

Davenport, IA, we got to have lunch with Bill and Judy CARR. They are doing well and we appreciated the time they gave us from their busy schedules.

The Thirtieth Reunion will soon be with us and this will be my last letter before some of you retire from the CG. You retirees should search for something to do that gives you pleasure and contentment. "Making money" is certainly one goal, but for me, "making friends" gives me my greatest rewards. A warm relation with people (such as our relation with the Class of 65) can pack your hours and days with many fulfilling and gratifying thoughts of treasured days in your life. We have had three phases in our relationship: 1st - The Academy Days (4 years); 2nd - the Career Days (30 years) both in and out of the CG Service; and 3rd - The Retirement Days or After Work Days (Now and forever). The first two phases have been unbelievably wonderful. Let's make the 3rd phase just as "Super". I just hope that the Class will have as much fulfillment, joy and happiness in their "After Work" days as Carol and I have had. We hope to see you all at the 30th Reunion. Love you all!

I promise you that next year I will limit my "form" letter to one page!

Les HIGH

Dear

1995

What a great time Carol and I had at the 30th Reunion. Each of the gatherings: Friday night "Welcome Cocktail Party", Saturday "Class Meeting", "Tailgate Party" in the park behind the Chapel, the "Football Game" which we won and the "Radisson Class Dinner" all went by too fast. We really enjoyed our conversations with each of you. We were glad that so many of you had a chance to see the "Tribute Book" and, of course, we are looking forward to some "up-to-date" photos, when you get a chance. Forty-six of the Class attended (AMOS, ANDRASICK, ARECCHIs, BLAYNEYS, BRUNDAGES, BRUNETTEs,i CARRs, CHAZALs, CHRISTIANSEN, CICIRELLIS, COHANs, COLEMANs, DUFFYs, FULLERs, GEORGEs, HEBERTs, HELMANs, JENSENs, (Gene) JOHNSONs, KOLOSKI, KRUSZEWSKI, LUCKRITZs, MANNINGs, McDERMITTs, MCGILLs, NORRISs, OMRI, PAYNEs, PENNINGTONs, PETERSONs, PHILLIPS, ROGERSs, RUHEs, SANIALs, SIGLER, SIMPSONs, SPADEs, STATONs, STORCHs, VIGLIENZONES, WALKERS, WALTONs, (Jim) WHITEs, WILLIAMS, WRIGHTs, ZANOLLIS) Also, Phyllis TEESON, Carol and Les HIGH and several friends of the Class were there. I got a total of 92 people at least. Not a bad showing!

Ten Classmates retired this last year: (ALLISON, COLEMAN, HELMAN, JENSEN, MANNING, NORRIS, OMRI, PIERSON, ROGERS, and SOMERS). ALLISON and SOMERS moved to the Northwest, MANNING and PIERSON moved to Florida and the rest stayed where they were. Some have new jobs already, some are looking, and others are just enjoying some free time. We wish them (and their wives) all the best in their "after CG years."

The five Admirals in the CG are: WILLIAMS (three star), RUFÉ (upper half, two star), BLAYNEY, SPADE and TEESON (lower half, one star). I expect the last three to go to upper half next summer, probably.

Besides the Homecoming, Carol and I got to see Roger RUFÉ in Williamsburg, VA and later in D.C. Jim WRIGHT stopped in one night in Feb or March with Dick RUHE; the OFFUTTs flew out from Texas one Saturday in July to have lunch with Carol and me (and the RUHEs), 17 October, Ed and Susan CHAZAL stopped to see us and 6 November, Phil FULLER was able to have soup and salad with us at the local Soup Exchange. We do so enjoy seeing you, whenever you get a chance to stop. Those who see Tom OMRI, thank him for helping with the list again this year!

Carol seems to stay so busy doing all kinds of things, but she likes to spend time with the grandchildren best of all. She cooks, sews, reads, does her Church volunteering, now is in a "women's health study" and, of course, she spends all kinds of

Les HIGH

time taking care of me! I seem to stay busy reading, writing letters and telephoning friends around the country. Our five children are still employed, keeping busy, in good health and bless us by staying in touch. We love to see them and talk to them, anytime. Carol and I had a couple trips to the desert to see the flowers, to Los Angeles to see friends, and a two week trip to the East Coast (to see, Jeff and his family, visit Yorktown, to attend the 30th Reunion, to visit with friends in Connecticut and D.C. area).

As I said at the Reunion, "Truth" can set you free. Be "true" to yourself and you will enjoy "inner peace" and have the "secret to emotional health". Some of the "basic truths" to remember are: (1) To err is human; (2) You can't please everyone; (3) You don't have to do things; (4) You are not entitled; (5) There is no gain without pain; (6) You can not have everything; (7) You are going to die. Here are some cliches that are probably "true" also. "You can run but you can't hide"; "Things are not always as they seem"; "You train people to treat you the way they do"; "Most of the problems that you worry about never happen"; "You tend to get what you expect"; "Contentment begins with being satisfied with little"; and "Good things come to those who wait".

Great words from Bob and Gayle OFFUTT - "May you find time for: (1) The Joys of Friendship; (2) The Warmth of Memories; and (3) The Wonders of Love."

We love you all and hope your lives are truly as happy as ours.

Les HIGH

TO OUR CLASSMATES
CAROL AND LES HIGH
ON YOUR 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
YOU CONTINUE TO BE OUR INSPIRATION
WE LOVE YOU
USCG ACADEMY CLASS OF 1965
JUNE 5, 1996



Dear

1996

"Heaven knows" what a wonderful time Carol and I had this year. On June 5, 1996, we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary by spending three days with our five children at the Naval Air Station, Coronado, CA. We had a very nostalgic time, reminiscing our military life, our various duty stations, homes, schools, teachers, neighbors, our Sunday O'Club brunches or "Grinder" and malted milks, the Academy experiences with 65ers (Cadet dinners in our home, reviews, church, sports, etc.) and our life together as a family dedicated to each other. Dick and Cathy RUHE represented the "Class of 65" at our 50th, by spending a Friday evening with the family at a dinner dance at the O'Club and late night conversation and family banter at one of our rooms at the Lodge. We could not have had a more meaningful or special way for us to celebrate. We got zillions of cards of congratulations and specifically requested "no gifts, please", but The Class of '65 is known to surprise and delight Carol and me in the past, and so, again, we were presented with a limited edition, lithographic, six color print of the USCG Academy Chapel. Lloyd GEORGE, Kent WILLIAMS, Jim WHITE, and Dick RUHE were all involved in this distinctive gift and we want to thank those four as well as all of you who participated in this thoughtful and generous gift. Dick RUHE presented it to us in early June. (Inscription shown above).

Isn't that a delightful message!? We do appreciate all your continued and many kindnesses. We think and speak about you often. Dick and Cathy RUHE were the only members of the Class to visit us in our home this last year. We saw Barbara and Roger RUFÉ, Bob STATON, Skip ONSTAD in Long Beach, when Roger as Pacific Area Commander took over command of the 11th CGD. We saw Barbara and Roger, Bob and Michele STATON, Mack and Jeannette COHAN and Dave SPADE in San Diego at the retirement of CG Reserve RADM SLDNSEN. In Willimantic, CT, we saw Fran and Gene BOWEN (took a tour of Univ. of Conn), Pete POULOS (had a picnic lunch with Pete at a nearby park and visited the school where he teaches computer programs and coaches),

Les HIGH

Carole and Bill SIMPSON in their home at East Haddam, and Jim WHITE two times at the Academy. Paul BLAYNEY and Jim WHITE helped with the list this year so please thank them when you see, write or talk to them. In the next year or so I will probably have the Commandant helping me with the list for one of our five Admirals will surely be Commandant. We already have two "three star" admirals. Roger RUFÉ, PACAREA Commander and Kent WILLIAMS, Atlantic Area Commander. All operating units of the Coast Guard are now under the command of 65ers (Roger and Kent)!

Carol and I continue to be in good health. Our five children still come home. Jeff is now on a sabbatical from the CG and is a professor at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Our two artist sons are now free-lancing. Mary works 3/4 time for the school and Suzy is still manager of the Student Health Center, UCSD. Carol and I had three, one week, trips this year. In August to Iowa where Carol planned a Reunion honoring her Mother's life. Oma died eight years ago at 92. About 40 people attended a three day event. In October, to New England and Academy for my Class '47, 50th Reunion and late October in Branson, Missouri for Carol's nurses' Class 52nd Reunion.

At the Academy, the Class of '47 was the Honored Class so we got to sit on the field, take the review and get Medallions (what you get if you live 50 years past graduation). Mine is pictured above (actual size) front and back and Carol's is the same except is six-tenths as big. While on that trip we spent a day on Martha's Vineyard Island and a couple days driving out Cape Cod and seeing the foliage in MA, RI and CT.

May our relationship continue to strengthen and flourish. Although life may be getting shorter for Carol and me, it seems to get better each day because of the many loved ones we have, who enrich our life on a daily basis, whether it be a visit, a call, a hug, a letter, a picture or a smile. Yes, you continually bless us and we thank you!

Dear

1997

Here I am pontificating to some of the smartest guys and gals in the world and you are still reading my stuff. I am amazed and flattered. The Class suffered a tremendous loss on 12 September, when Marty HOPPE died of an unexpected heart attack. We all send our love and best wishes to Lynn and the children, Emily and Matt. Nothing will replace our wonderful Marty, but we must continue our celebration of his life "here with us," by telling the hundreds of delightful stories our association with him has generated. Marty will be missed by us all. Another bit of unhappy news, which saddens our heart, was the learning of Joe HIBBS' death. My letter to Joe was returned last year, so I contacted Joe's Mother, Kathryn HIBBS in Kentucky and discovered the sorrowful news that Joe died on 29 March, 1994, of a self inflicted gunshot wound. Why? Why? Why, would our beloved Joe do such a thing? I recently talked to Kathryn and Joe's wife, Margaret (married Joe in 1993) and neither could fathom such a tragedy happening. Joe enjoyed his life with Margaret and enjoyed her three adult children. He had recently sold his business but was managing the business for the new owner. Still he seemed troubled and depressed at times for whatever reason no one knows. Kathryn and Margaret are delightful ladies of the line "Kentucky tradition." Remember them in your prayers as you recall fond remembrances of our Dear Classmate, Joe HIBBS.

The Class continues to bless Carol and me. We had some wonderful visits this year. Mike O'CONNOR in late December, Ron FRITZ and Tom LUCEY in February, Angelo ARECCHI in July and Bob LUCKRITZ in October. I am afraid that none of them got away with a short visit (anywhere from 4 to 10+ hours), and I can assure you that Carol and I loved every minute with each one of them. We got to see Dick RUHE and Mike TRAMMELL for a few minutes at a time, several times through the year.

Three of the five admirals in the Class moved last year. In May Kent WILLIAMS (VA to TX) retired as Alantic Area Commander and he was relieved by "Our front runner for the Commandant", Roger RUFÉ (CA to VA). In June, Doug TEESON (CA to CT) became Superintendent of the USCG Academy. Paul BLAYNEY is still Chief Legal in CG HDQ and Dave SPADE is still Commander, 13thCGDistrict, Seattle. The Secretary of Transportation will soon pick a new Commandant, and we all know who we are rooting for!! Go Roger! Go Roger! Roger would be a "shoo-in," in my opinion, if merit was the complete criteria, but we all know that in the political arena, who knows what the DOT Secretary might do? HERR, LOY, CARD, SAUNDERS and SHKOR are all line officers and would make good Commandants, but the Class has its prejudices and we lean toward "Our Own Class President (for life?)" Roger RUFÉ!

Les HIGH

Carol and I are doing fine and staying in good health. Carol had surgery in July, with a two day hospital stay for women plumbing repair (hernias, hysterectomy, etc.) and she came through it fine. She was supposed to rest for six weeks, but still she was back to doing our daily walk of three miles in less than three weeks. Our family is fine. Steve, a free-lance artist, recently was contracted by the Commandant to do a perceptual painting of what a new CG Cutter might look like! Jeff is still an instructor at The Industrial College of The Armed Forces. Greg, also a free-lance artist does courtroom art in the local Federal Court for local TV stations, as one of many jobs he takes on. Mary still works for the School System helping place disadvantaged kids in jobs. Mary's husband recently was appointed a Commissioner (like a judge) of the Superior Court, so is no longer a Sole Practitioner. Suzy is now called Administrative Service Director of Student Health Services at the University of California, San Diego. Carol does all her normal feeding and helping to transport grandkids, volunteering to do Church work, in a health study for women and takes care of me. I just try to stay out of the way of all the things going on.

One big change in my routine has been the access to E-mail. When Tom LUCEY was in San Diego, he learned that I did not have E-mail capability with my XT computer and it appeared that I was not going to buy a computer able to handle E-mail. When Tom got back to Boston, he sent me a 486 COMPAQ computer, with colored monitor, Windows, and a fast US Robotic modem (Arrived 4 April). You can imagine my surprise at such generosity, but that is Tom! The learning curve I went through trying to learn Windows, Word, Modem use, E-mail use, etc. was significant, but it worked out fine and I finally got on E-mail by 25 April. Since then, all the Classmates have been contacted and we know that 75 have E-mail and 36 do not. For any new E-mail subscribers, Dick MANNING <manningr@mediaone.net> is maintaining the E-mail Address list and has a Home page on the WEB. I have exchanged hundreds of messages with the Class (255 with Dick MANNING alone). It has been a wonderful way for me to stay in better touch with the Class, and Tom LUCEY knew this!! Tom gets all the credit for my being on E-mail and helping the Class of '65 to have one of the most complete E-mail systems of any Class at the Academy. '65ers "being number one in anything you name" does not surprise me at all.

I recently wrote an article for the Alumni Association Bulletin, which I am sending along for your edification in case you are not an Alumni Association Member, or in case they do not publish the article. I certainly did enjoy writing the article and I hope you find it interesting. A number of people in the Class had been urging me to write this article. I finally got around to it, when my youngest son, Greg, told me I needed to do it for the Class and to tell the rest of my family about this part of my life (that you guys and gals have filled so wonderfully). Take care of yourself and each other. The warm

Les HIGH

Class Bonding at the time of Marty's death was a joy to see, and only demonstrates to me the extra-ordinary people you all are, and what a Blessing it is to know you and be able to call you our friends. Carol and I send our warm wishes for a joyous Holiday and a great 1998 for you and yours.

Dear

1998

This Class truly has a big, warm and loving effect on our lives. This last year, we received 82 "snail mail" letters, cards, notes, pictures, brochures, etc. and 500 E-mail messages (400+ from Dick Manning). I made about 100 calls to the Class and we received about thirty calls (10-15 from Dike Ruhe from Korea or wherever). We had delightful visits in our home with the Lucey's, Norris's, Jensen's, Arecchi's, Offutt's (2) and Ruhe's (2) and Tony Pettit. These wonderful visits were 2-8 hours depending on the time available. The thoughtfulness of the Class overwhelms Carol and me and we thank you so very much!

Dave Spade retired in August and was relieved as Commander 13th CG District by Paul Blayney. Sorry, Roger Rufe did not make Commandant last year, but he gave Jim Loy a run for his money. As VADM (three star) Roger remained as Commander Atlantic Area. Roger says he and Barbara will retire next summer. Doug Teeson is still Superintendent, USCG Academy. Doug said Dick Ruhe gave an inspiring lecture on "Ethics" to the Corps of Cadets! Great!

Dick Manning has done a superb job in handling the E-mail Address List for the Class. He has established a Web Class Page listing current addresses. We now have 98 Classmates with E-mail and several that are likely to join soon. Dick has been sharing his "Wisdom" with the "old man" on a daily basis. He has helped me learn to be comfortable with E-mail, plus given me much insight into many additional mind-boggling subjects. When you get a chance, please thank Dick for all his fine work.

Carol and I are in surprisingly good health, when I compare with others our age. We continue our 3 mile/one hour walk a day and Carol swims about 1/4 mile a day in our pool in the summer months (May thru Sept). We have been on a few trips this year. In Feb we went to Las Vegas with our son, Greg, for four days. Carol spent a week with her sister in N. CA at Easter. We cruised 12 days in the Western Mediterranean in May. A fly/drive 2 week trip to IL and IA in Oct (54th Nurses' Reunion, with relatives) (also saw Bill Carr). Our children are doing well. Steve works for Sony. Jeff was promoted in June to the Senior Executive Service (Civilian admiral equivalent) and is Director of Waterways Management in CGHQ's. Greg is painting a lot with many shows and has a Web page listing, which Dick has attached after my name on the Class Page. Mary's still with the School System. Suzette got an MBA from Webster University Extension, SD, in June and won the Outstanding Graduate of the Year Award (out of 88). Carol stays so busy with grandkids' activities (feeding, ball games, practices, etc.), Church work and keeping me happy. I rarely get caught up on my reading and writing (E-mail, letters, etc.) and I do as little yard work as possible!!

Les HIGH

Carol and I took Howie Newhoff's advice and went on a wonderful 12 days cruise on the Royal Caribbean Ship Splendor of the Seas. We had shore excursions in Marseille France; Pisa/Florence, Italy; Venice* Messina Sicily* Rome' and Villefranche (Monaco) France. Howie told us he would make it special and he certainly did! As manager of Security for all the Royal Caribbean Ships, Howie has influence! He arranged a reduced fare, an upgrade on our cabin, wine served to our table several evenings, dinner with the Captain on the first Formal Night, a visit to the bridge on the morning entry to the port of Venice and special care by many of the staff (waiter, cabin steward, purser's office, etc.). We had a delightful cruise. The ship was big, beautiful, comfortable, plush and a great way to visit many ports. Thanks, Howie!

It is always wonderful to get personal letters, notes, cards and pictures, but if you find it would be more convenient, simpler and easier to respond to us via E-mail then please do. (JUNO only reads "text" format) We love our close relationship with all of you!

Dear

1999

Each year, when it comes time for me to write to The Class, I find myself filled with many loving thoughts. You continue to bless us almost beyond description. Each year, we still get our standard 80 to 85 letters, 600+ E-mail messages (400+ from Manning alone), many phone calls and at home visits. Tom and Caroline Lucey on 8 Jan. for several hours, Del Phillips on 3 Mar. from 2100 until 0100, Gerry and Patty Kane and their four children (7-13) for several hours 3 Sep. and Dick Ruhe on 20 Feb. for 2 hours. Dick and Cathy Ruhe took us to dinner and Special Musical evening starring Melvin Hamlisch on 18 Sep.! 11 July, the Helmen's held a party honoring visiting Classmate Dave and Linda Spade (attendees Coleman, Duffy, Helman, Horsey, Gene Johnson, Pennington, Spade, Storch and Yentsch and their wives). I was able to talk to all present except Ann Horsey and Alice Pennington. At Roger Rufe's retirement party there were 24 Classmates and many wives. Roger called Carol and me. Gerry Kane (visiting us at the time) and I got to talk to about 20 Classmates on Roger's nickle! It is wonderful how much you include us in your lives. Carol and I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!

As stated above, Roger and Barbara Rufe retired 3 September. Roger made a low key but brilliant speech. He truly enjoyed having so many Classmates present on his final day. The Quarters party from 1500 to 1700, turned into a Class Reunion bash, closed by Viglienzzone and McGill at 2300! It was a "super day," by all my reports. Jeff, our son, was invited and he read "some of my thoughts" about Roger, Barbara and their family. For those who did not attend, I am sending along a copy. We now have two Classmates on active duty. RADM Doug and Phyllis Teeson, Superintendent U. S. Coast Guard Academy and RADM Paul and Mary Blayney, Commander 13th Coast Guard District, Seattle.

Our family is doing well. Steve works for SONY, Jeff is an SES in CGHQ, Greg is a painter and free-lance artist, Mary works for the SD School system and Suzette is Managing Director of the Student Health Center, UCSD. Carol stays so busy doing things for other people, following the grandkids games (helping drive them), making food for the family and grandkids, who love to stop here after school. She teaches Sunday school, ushers, greets, assembles the Church Directory, etc. I stay busy keeping in contact with the Class, doing E-mail, reading, a few volunteer studies (Alzheimer, Mental Tests, etc.) and avoiding yardwork as much as possible. We are in excellent health and walk 3 miles each day. For those of you with health problems, we strongly urge you to share them with us and your Classmates, to allow us all to help cheer you up and insure a speedy recovery! We are very proud that Jeff's youngest daughter is now a Cadet at the USCG Academy. Katie seems to be doing well and truly enjoying the challenges.

Les HIGH

Carol and I went on a couple short, driving trips this year. Our son, Greg, took his Mom and Dad to Las Vegas for four days for Mothers' Day. We had a great time! For Carol's birthday, we had a trip to Flagstaff (Grand Canyon and Sedona areas) for four days. After seeing the Canyon, I am in awe that your Classmate, John Schwartz, recently made the hike to the bottom and hiked back out the next day. Again, you wonderful, delightful, loving, caring, people, thanks for enriching our lives for the last 38+ years.

Les HIGH



Dear

2000

This epistle is all about the wonderful people in our life, which includes our children and their families, the Class of 1965 and their families and a number of close friends. We continue our good health and pleasant life for we are surrounded by special people.

We have five children who have filled "our being" with numerous acts of love and concern. Steve, our eldest, made me a new letterhead this year, which you see above. He is a "conceptual artist" for Sony. He is separated from his wife and lives with us right now and provides us with many hours of intellectual stimulation with his vast knowledge and delightful wit. Jeffrey, who many of you know, is a Senior Executive for the Coast Guard working and living in the DC area. He has a challenging life as Director of Waterways Management for the CG. He and Kathy, his wife, recently sold their home and are building a 4000+ square foot new home in a new development less than 100 yards from their old house. Gregory, the fine art painter and graphic artist, still does courtroom sketches for the TV industry and free lance work to keep food on the table. His fine art paintings of landscapes, portraits, etc., are truly "fine art." Greg and Irene had an exciting three weeks hiking the John Muir Trail in the Sierras this summer. They hiked 225+ miles in about 21 days. See the Internet at <greghigh.com>. Mary, our eldest daughter, is in the Career Development area of the Scripps Ranch High School. Her recent project was to arrange a day for all the 500 juniors to go out into industry and "shadow" a person doing a job in which they might have an interest in the future. Can you imagine the details involved in that effort? Mary has five children of her own, (one a senior in college), who keep her involved in many "after hours" activities. Suzette, the Managing Director of the Student Health Center, University of California, San Diego, has an intriguing job dealing with people, from MD's to part time student help, plus all the challenges of making the whole operation work within the budget. Suzy is the Class mascot, for she was born on Friday, 7 July, 1961, three days before you guys entered the Academy on Monday, 10 July! Suzy was married, for the second time, on 2 October, to a great guy, Gregory Tsiknas. Greg has his own computer company that develops software for military and civilian companies in need. Suzy and Greg had a super honeymoon at San Juan Island, Washington.

Les HIGH

The Class of 1965 continues to honor and bless Carol and me beyond description. Carol and I flew East for two weeks to see Jeff and family and to attend your 35th Reunion. We had an absolutely fabulous time. The three days in New London with the Class was outstanding. Besides having us as your guests to the Tailgate Party at The Teeson's, Quarters One, and at the enchanting and congenial evening at Lighthouse Inn, we had many delightful hours talking and enjoying you adorable and loving folks. The forty-two attendees and their wives and lady friends made us feel like "king and queen" of the universe. We cherish our time and contact with all of you. This year, we have had contact with all but about ten of the Class through letters, phone calls, the reunion and e-mail. Thank you again for being so special, unique, warm, loving and caring about Carol and me. We love you like our kids! With all the hugs we got, we will probably live forever, if you keep this up!!

Carol and I stay busy. Carol does her standard caring for others, such as me, her kids, the grand children, the members of the Church and all of you. She cooks, sews and reads as time permits. I like keeping in touch with the Class and other close friends and to read. We were blessed by visits in our home from Tom and Karen Omri, Walt Viglienzzone and Dick and Cathy Ruhe. As you can see our "Treasure Trove" goes on!

Dear

2001

Although the events of 11 September play very heavy on our hearts and we feel compassion for all those directly and indirectly impacted, we must continue with our lives as best we can. God has meant for us to be of a loving nature and yet there are those who seem to walk with the devil and commit heinous acts. Society must do what is necessary to identify evil doers and punish them or eliminate them from our "civilized" world. Still, we should continue our lives in a warm and loving existence with the "good guys" who make up the vast majority of the world's population. Families and close friends must be supportive of each other and continue to enjoy life with the same enthusiasm we have always practiced.

As I have frequently stated, it is the people in our lives that make life worth living and each person gives us joy in his/her own special way. I expounded on our children extensively last year. Here are some changes. Son, J elf and wife Kathy moved into a large, new home where the "Open House" of 7 October (to which you all were invited) was held. Mary's twins are now in college. Melissa at UConn on a field-hockey sports scholarship and Emily is at University of California, Irvine. Suzette and her husband are now owners of a 4 acre ranch in Ramona, where they have two horses, two burros, two dogs and four cats. Steve and Greg still do lots of commercial art work and some of Greg's court-room art work has been on national TV.

Carol and I were blessed with a lot of contact with the Class, this year. The most significant contact is an almost daily E-mail message exchange with Dick Manning. Visitors in our home included Tony Pettit (20 Dec '00), Angelo Arcchi (30 July), Tom and Alice Pennington (9 Aug), and Tom and Karen Omri (10 October). We saw Phyllis and Doug Teeson at the CGA (29 Sep) and Gene and Fran Bowen in their home (30 Sep). At the 7 October party at Jeff and Kathy's we saw 9 members of the Class and some of the wives; Carl and Paulette Helman, Bob Luckritz, Tom and Alice Pennington, Joe and Candy Rogers, Roger and Barbara Rufe, Bill and Linda Schorr, John Schwartz, Bob and Mary Storch and Tom and Fay Yentsch. It was wonderful to see so many 65ers personally and get all those warm and loving hugs. Also, while trying to bring our E-mail participation to 100% (which we now have) and a number of other issues, I made many phone calls and talked to: Dick Kramer, Judy Carr, Dick Chapman, Dave and Mary Faurot, Ron and Sue Fritz, George, Gipson, Jeanne Hebert, Bart Hennessey, Kathryn Hibbs (Joe's Mom), Lynn Hoppe, Roger Kushla, Tom and Caroline Lucey, Dick Manning, Jim McDermott, Gayle and Bob Offutt, Tom and Alice Pennington, Maija Ray, Roger Rufe, Dick and Cathy Ruhe, Linda and Dave Spade and Phyllis and Doug Teeson. Of course, Dick Ruhe calls Carol and me frequently from wherever he is located, whether it be Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, etc. Except when being honored by the Class at

Les HIGH

your Reunions, we have never reached so many in the Class in a year. It is always a wonderful, exhilarating experience to see and talk to all of you whenever we get the chance.

Carol and I had three trips planned this year. Two days at Catalina Island, 55th Wedding Anniversary, 5 June. Our 60th High School Reunion in Iowa for 15 September was cancelled by the WTC disaster. We did visit Jeff and Kathy in Herndon (25 September to 9 October) and took a six day driving trip to CGA for our 55th CGA Reunion and to see our two grand children (Katie, CGA '03 and Melissa at UConn) and other friends. We had a marvelous time with Jeff and Kathy and seeing so many 65ers at the party was a real treat.

The retirement of our last active duty officer, Doug and Phyllis Teeson was a major event this year. A large contingent of Classmates attended and every one had a super time. Also, Tom Lucey retired from Putnam in May. Tom, who gave me this computer so I could be on E-mail, also, made a significant donation to your CGA Class Fund this year.

Carol and I are in good health, for which we can thank you and our kids. You make us feel that we are very important in your lives and what greater incentive for maintaining good health than having loving people, who you cherish beyond description, being concerned about your well-being. We love you all and hope these unsettled times will not infringe on your love for life and joyful, happy living.

Dear

2002

When you are 78 and you sit down to write to a bunch of guys you remember as being in their late teens, when you first met them, you would think it would seem like ages ago, while, in fact, it seems like it was yesterday. We have traveled so far in our 41 years together and you have achieved such heights and acclaim that Carol and I are in continued awe (From Dick Manning) "Some guy asked the barber what he had for gray hair. The barber responds, "great respect!" Well, that is what you all have had for Carol and me for many years, but as you move into the "gray hair stage" we have moved on to almost "totally white hair" and that seemingly has doubled your love and concern for us. We thank you so much. Age is a relative thing. Bill Riley's daughter asked for any comments we might want to share on the occasion of his surprise 60th Birthday Party. What I sent was addressed to Bill and Jeanne but it could have applied to all of you in the Class, for it was some thoughts about age and an expression of what you mean to Carol and me. Maybe Bill will share these words with the Class, someday.

"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." (Author unknown). Some of the moments that have taken my breath, away are: (1) When that cute little country girl, Carol, came to our High School. I dated this sweet lady for seven years and have been married to her for 56+ years! (2) The day I graduated, CGA, and we were married in 1946! (3) Our first born son in 1947 and our other four children's births. (4) My earning a set of "gold wings" and all the challenging and exciting moments flying can bring to your life! (5) The selection by the Class of 1965 to be their Class Advisor in 1961! And, you still "take my breath away" whenever our paths cross, whether by personal contact, phone calls, E-mail or letters. We had no 65ers visits in our home this last year, but I see I made over 60 calls to 65 ers and many of you have called us. Dick Ruhe calls from anywhere he happens to be! Dick Manning, bless his heart, has been in almost daily E-mail contact! Dick has done a superb job of being the class correspondent for the USCGA Bulletin and now Del Phillips has jumped into the harness and he will do a super job, too. Carol and I had a delightful evening and meal with Walt Viglienzzone, Gerry McGill and Jim Morgan on 10 October in Pensacola, FL. Carol and I were in Mobile to a Pterodactyl gathering and drove over to see "our guys!" No one in the world gets treated with more fondness, respect and love than we get from the wonderful Class of 1965 and their wives! Thanks again!

Sad events not previously reported. Donna Payne passed away suddenly on 10 April, 2002. Many of you contacted Jerry and I thank you for that. Wendy Walker Lopes died of lung cancer 17 October, 2001. Pris Sanders Campbell's husband, Joe, died of cancer, 25 September, 2001. The loss of these wonderful, special people is devastating

Les HIGH

to all of us and Jerry Payne, Bob and Jean Walker, and Pris Campbell, you all have our deepest sympathy. We send warm, loving, supportive thoughts!

Our lives continue to be full and tilled with love. Our family situation is much the same as last year. Carol attended a grandson's wedding in Virginia in June and we had a 2 week trip to Mobile (4 days) and to see Jeff (our son) and Kathy in DC area for 10 days. Jeff and I spent a number of days Working on his "finishing the basement" project. Carol and I remain in good health for we have the support of so many young people. Our daily three mile Walk is a great way to start the day. We think about you all many times during the year and God truly blessed us when he brought you into our lives for all these many years!

Dear

2003

Welcome to another year of togetherness for the Class of 1965 and Carol and Les High. As we pass through another stage in our life (reaching 80, Carol in September '03 and mein February '04), each member of the Class, also, has or will pass through a new stage in his life (reaching 60)! Some, such as Skip Onstad have started getting their Social Security checks (at 62) and at 60 a number of CG Reserve guys (Mack Cohan, Russ Hebert, et al.) are now "collecting money" from the CG again. As Terry Brady says, we all are like pristine wine, we just grow with age and provide more "full-bodied" advice and "quality" time to those we love and cherish. The Class has blessed Carol and me in many ways this year. We had personal visits in our home from Fred Hamilton, Walt Viglienzzone (2 evenings), Dick Ruhe and Linda and Rod Wilburn. Over 70 Christmas annual letters or cards, 75 Emails (plus almost daily [300+] Emails from Dick Manning), 20 calls and I made 40 calls. Dick Manning and Del Phillips have mentioned 93 Classmates in the Bulletin (some numerous times) so we are getting great family news coverage in that area and we thank them very much. Thanks to the Class for your concern for our safety during the "terrible" San Diego fires a few weeks ago. As you know from my message the SD '6Sers and Carol and I made out fine. Some of you experienced equal threats when the Hurricane that hit the East Coast several months ago, uprooted trees, downed power lines and damaged homes. We hope all is well with those who suffered losses.

We have noticed with pleasure the gatherings of Classmates around the country for special events. Walt Viglienzzone and Jerry McGill's Mullet Toss, Walt's Bolling AFBase gathering, Andy Horsey's Labor Day week golf gathering, Jim Wright's retirement from United Airlines, etc. On 23 August, we had the United States covered. Roger and Barbara Rufe attended Tom Lucey's 60th Birthday bash at Cape Cod, Dick Manning was in Chicago and had lunch with Roger Kushla and Carol and I were blessed by Rod and Linda Wilburn's visit in our home in San Diego.

Carol and I made one trip this year with two stops. We attended the Graduation Ceremonies at the CG Academy where our grand daughter Katie High became the newest CG Officer in our family. President Bush was the speaker and presented the Commissions to those who did not have "family presenters." Jeff and I both presented the commission to Katie. The President congratulated Katie and both of us with a handshake. My only comment to him was "God Bless You, Mr. President" and he said, "Thank you very much" with a warm smile. We spent about 7 days in the New London area with Jeff and family. Then we flew to Chicago, rented a car for an Iowa trip of a week. 15 miles from O'Hare, Carol and I had a Lunch Reunion with two of her Nurse Classmates of '44. We drove to Iowa, stopping in Dubuque to see a High School

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Classmate of ours in a Home. We spent 3 days in our hometown with a sister-in-law. Had a Lunch Reunion with 8 High School Classmates and some mates. Spent 3 days with Carol's sister and family in NE Iowa. On the way back to Chicago, we stopped to see the Classmate in Dubuque, again. He needed the visits!

Our children are staying active. Steve, our oldest, is now doing free lance work since Sony down-sized him along with others last spring. We are remaining in good health. Our three mile walk each day does wonders for our psyche. Our regular contact with you loving folks continues to make us feel young and vibrant. Roger Rufe said the other day, "Les, you are just as enthusiastic as ever!" Thank you, one and all for being so kind and loving to Carol and me.

Dear

2004

Can you believe that this is the 40th year we have established this personal contact at the Holiday Season? It seems just like yesterday that we were together at the Academy and you guys were beginning to demonstrate to me your many talents, skills and future capabilities. You and your mates have grown to an immense degree during the period of our acquaintance. The achievements of the 65ers (includes wives) are beyond description, whether it be "doctoral degrees," reaching flag rank, commanding ships or stations, raising children, teaching school, nursing (TLC), director of a team of FEC lawyers, managing a fleet of cable laying ships, CEO of a major shipping company, expanding a major investment fund company, or running a bank in Europe. The list could go on, but you get the idea. Carol and I are so proud of all of you. The most delightful thing for us, is, that the group seems to grow closer to us as time goes by. We love all the extraordinary things you do for us. This last year we had visits in our home with Steve and Carolyn Cox and Bill Peterman. We saw Mack and Jeannette Cohan a couple times. We saw Tony Pettit and Margie on his S/V Popeye going through San Diego and Bart and Denise Hennessey while Denise had back surgery in SD. From my limited records we had 90+ telephone calls and 621 E-mail messages (490 with Dick Manning alone!). Dick Ruhe continues to call us "from work" whether it be Denver, Montreal, Korea, Hongkong, etc.. Bob Offutt, the computer guru, who lectures widely at International Conventions, and Gayle, send us cards from Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Ireland, France, Norway, etc. and frequently send 8 or 10 pictures of the many sights they see. They rent things like castles to stay overnight! Yes, we treasure being involved in your lives, if only to a minor degree. God Bless you all for your many kindnesses to us.

We had some tragic events of the last year that impacted the Class. Brenda (Gary Johnson) Downing lost her husband, Chuck, on 22 May, 2004. You have our condolences, Brenda. The other major loss for 65ers, has been the extensive property damages caused by the four hurricanes that have struck Florida this last season. The damages have been from a minor loss of shingles or a few trees to major structural damage requiring rebuilding, which happened to Jeff and Glenda Hall. Our many calls of concern at the time of these hurricanes found those "in harms way" as much concerned about other Classmates as about their own situation. 65ers would be that way, as a matter of practice, but it still "glorifies you all" in my thoughts for you are "so unique" in your regards for other people! Also, we had a second earthquake in the Paso Robles area and the threats of Mount St. Helen erupting! Fortunately, those threats caused no loss or damage to "our own!"

Les HIGH

Our family continues to make us proud. Steve is back with Sony as an independent contractor. Jeff is Director of the Maritime Domain Awareness Program Integration Office, CGHQ's. Greg, a free lance artist, does courtroom sketches for TV stations, illustrates books, etc. Mary is developing and managing a new program in the school system to improve students' "work force skills." Suzy, Managing Director of the Student Health Center, UCSD, has extra tasks renovating existing spaces and planning for a new wing. Carol and I continue in excellent health. We still do a daily, three mile walk, in one hour.

Carol and I had two trips this year. On 5 June (our 58th wedding anniversary), 2004, two of Jeff's daughters got married in "back to back" ceremonies, followed by a lavish reception for 200+ people. We spent a week in Virginia enjoying the excitement and the joys that flow from two loving granddaughters and their specially chosen guys. Quite an "honor," when these "sweet ladies" chose our special day for their own special day, too. Our other trip was two weeks in Iowa, in late September. Carol and 7 of her 18 classmates from St. Lukes Hospital Nursing Class of 1944, celebrated their 60th Reunion for three days. Although these 80+ year old ladies have some difficulty getting around, a fun time was had by all. They talked and shared their lives, visited the Hospital in a five wheelchair brigade and generally cherished their time together. Each of the attendees and four other Classmates submitted a written history (a page or two) which I typed, copied and put into a 26 page book for them. They loved it. We had a High School reunion luncheon with 12 Classmates and 4 spouses in Grundy Center one day. The rest of our super trip we spent with Carol's sister and husband in Fredericksburg and with my sister in law in Grundy. The Iowa crops never looked better!

I want to thank the Class of 1965 for their many warm wishes on my 80th birthday in early February. From 65ers, I got 13 E-mail messages, 17 cards, many with the big "80" on them and about 10 calls. Jeff and Kathy came from VA and the rest of our family helped us have a very wonderful day! Thanks, again, for your love and concern for Carol and me.

Dear

2005

Greetings from two of your greatest fans, Les and Carol High. This has been an especially warm, loving and wonderful year for these two octogenarians. Our family of five children, nine grand children and one great grand child fills our lives with many loving memories. Of course, the Class of 1965 and their mates also continue to enrich our lives with your many kindnesses.

What I find most heart warming is the continued honor, respect and love that flows to Carol and me after so many years. We had two great trips this year in which we were so blessed. Jeff, our son, retired from the CG, on 31 May, 2005, as a Senior Executive, after 35 years of service. During his speech he talked of the benefits of having a mentor and he had these things to say about his Father. Besides some of his mentor bosses, he said; "Clearly, I had one advantage over my peers because I had one other special mentor. In my mind, I had the best mentor the Coast Guard has ever seen ... he's mentored many Coast Guard men and women, and continues to do so, even into his 80's. And his mentoring sessions are not just idle conversations ... they are 'in your face' challenging leadership lessons ... of course, I'm talking about my Dad, CAPT Les High, USCG (ret.). I still get the leadership lectures every Sunday after we cover all the family updates in our weekly phone call. Dad, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for me and the Coast Guard." ... Jeff also thanked his Mom for her contribution to his "values and spiritual base." What a nice tribute from our son on that delightful two week trip.

Our second trip was to attend the 40th Reunion of the Class of 1965 in New London, CT. During three days of togetherness, the Class showered us with affection and love. Thanks to Rod and Linda Wilburn and the Class for making possible the brick, "In Honor of Les and Carol High, 1965 Class Advisors," on the Alumni Center Patio. Thanks to Bill Simpson for the perfect Reunion arrangements and Del Phillips for the clever and entertaining "skits" and for obtaining the '65er caps and sports shirt. The Hospitality Room effort by Walt, Andy and committee was magnificent and the special wine and cheese by Brady and Cox was a "super touch." The Doug and Phyllis Teeson's Sunday brunch was such a marvelous addition to the festivities. Having a chance to see 48 Classmates, 43 mates and two children for these few days has put Carol and me on "cloud nine" ever since. Yes, it was certainly very sad that we lost "our beloved Kip Grassit" on 6 February! Mary Ann, we are so pleased that you and Eric came to the 40th Reunion to give all of us a chance to "share with you some of our warm thoughts about Kip." Eric, thanks for playing one of my kids in the skit. Carol and I can not thank "The Class" enough for such a special week end with you folks.

Les HIGH

During Jeff's Retirement reception at CGHQ's and also in his home, I had several people come up to me and say, " Les High, I finally get a chance to meet you! Do you know you are a 'Legend in the Coast Guard?'" Your son, Jeff, the Class of 1965 and some of the people who have worked with you over the years, have spoken about you, the way you "lead" and "deal with people" in such "glowing terms" it is "hard to believe you are for real!"

What is hard for me to believe is that I can be remembered and spoken about 30+ years after I retired. Thank you, 65ers, for keeping 'my image" alive all these many years. Warms the "old man's" heart, that is for sure.

Glenn and Janie Serotsky were in San Diego on 7 May to see their daughter, who now lives here, and we got to see them and Dick and Cathy Ruhe for several hours over lunch. This last year, we heard from about 85% of the Class either by visits, phone calls, Emails, letters, cards and the unbelievable 40th Reunion.

Carol and I continue our good health and our daily, three mile walks. We cherish our family and our 44+ year relationship with "our own Class of 1965 and their families!" We love you all and Carol and I both thank you all for "keeping us vibrant, alive, happy, and always enthusiastic about our lives together (59 years so far)."

Dear

2006

What a wonderful and joyous year this has been for Carol and me. We were able to celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary on 5 June with a special, family only, week together in early June. Our son, Jeff, and Kathy from Herndon, VA, funded and ran the event. Arriving in San Diego on 31 May they came to stay in our home, and took over the planning the meals for the next week. J&K paid for all their children and grandchildren to come and stay in a nearby Motel from 4 days to 6 days depending on their schedule. Our daughter, Mary and her husband, Jeff were able to reserve the local Mormon Stake Center dining room and kitchen area for a Special Dinner on 3 June, catered by the family with chocolate fountain and all the trimmings. All of our children, and their mates and grandchildren (except Melissa in Europe) and their mates or friends plus two great grand children were there for a total of 27 adults and 2 babies. Carol and I got to dance and I got a chance to tell the group about what "a catch" Carol was for me ... thank them for their love and for coming to help us celebrate. The rest of the days together were super with plenty of time to talk in our home over lots of food. We truly have had an amazing 60 years together!!

Carol and I had two trips this last year. One two week trip to Iowa in September and a one week trip to CT to my USCGA 60th Reunion in October, where we saw some 65ers.

This has also been a super year for contact with 65ers. I see Del Phillips has mentioned 64 members in the Bulletin in the last year. We got letters from 70, had Email from 11 plus almost a daily Email from Dick Manning, 51 telephone calls or personal contact with 15 others. Besides these contacts, I see the Andy Horsey golf gathering was well attended in Sep. and 9 couples joined the Horsey's on a Mediterranean Cruise in Oct. Our one on one contacts started with Mary Ann Grassit and her brother, Mike, home visit on 27 Dec, 2005 for lunch, two visits with Mack and Jeannette Cohan in their office on 25 Jan and 16 Oct, a call from Dick and Cathy Ruhe from Hong Kong on 24 Jan, a home visit with Del Phillips and Gerry White on 29 Apr for lunch, visit with Dick and Cathy Ruhe at dinner and a show, "The Rat Pack," in Escondido on 24 June, and Tony Finizio had an evening home visit with us on 10 Oct. On our trip East, on 18 Oct we drove to Boston to see Tom, Caroline, Siobhan, and Conor Lucey in their home and had lunch at their Country Club. Later we saw Stan, Jeri Kruszewski and son Erik for several hours in their home. On Sun, 22 Oct, we drove to Willimantic, CT to see Pete and Lynne Poulos in their home, where they made sure we had New England "grinders" for lunch and to take with us for snacks! Monday evening, 23 Oct we cornered Doug and Phyllis Teeson at a local Applebys for an hour of delightful

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conversation over dinner. We enjoyed all these personal contacts this year and want to thank the Class for letting us be a part of your lives.

Our trip to Iowa to see Carol's sister and my sister-in-law was very enjoyable. We had a 65th High School Reunion, gathering 14 Classmates and four mates for lunch one day. Since we asked for the meeting we picked up the tab to everyone's surprise. Less than 150 bucks for 18 people plus a 25% tip! Iowa is the place to entertain! We had a 62nd Nurses Reunion at the home of another nurse in Cedar Rapids. Carol and I picked up 2 nurses in Cedar Falls and Independence and took them with us. The four gals had a wonderful two days together and I brought in all the food. On our trip we enjoyed the Iowa fresh raspberries and lots of great times with family and friends.

Our 60th at the Academy was well attended by 27 Classmates and 27 mates and/or children. We had two dinners, the football game and time together at the hospitality room at the hotel. Great trip, but you 65ers added!

Carol and I are showing our age. We both have hearing aids which we use selectively when we feel the need. Carol has memory problems (possible onset Alzheimers) but it limits our activity very little. We still faithfully do our three mile walk each day. We spend much of our time together each day so I can help her remember things, where to put dishes, etc. For me, it is a delight. That is what I wanted, when I first met her, was to spend as much time with that "doll" as I possibly could. We have a warm, loving life together filled with days of "constant charm" from my fabulous wife and mate of sixty plus years. I am so blessed!

Dear

2007

As Carol and I reach one third of the way through our octogenarian years (84/83) we find our life filled with joy that comes from the many loving people in our life. Our immediate family, extended family of 65ers and many friends have blessed us in so many ways.

Our kids "still come home!" Our youngest daughter, Suzy, (the Class mascot, in a way, for she was born 7 July, 1961, three days before you guys entered the Academy on 10 July, 1961), who lives in Ramona, 30 miles away, comes and visits or stays overnight with us about once a month. Mary, the mother of five children scattered about the country and who works long hours in the school system, stops by most Sundays at least, on her way to Church. Greg, a self employed graphic artist, who is the Courtroom artist for the local TV stations, comes by frequently to have a bite to eat and check on Mom and Dad. Jeff, who is employed by Northrop Grumman, frequently has business trips to San Diego so we see Jeff and Kathy three or four times a year. Last year, they even came to attend the Holiday Bowl and the Rose Bowl game (Michigan vs. USC, both universities from which Jeff has degrees) and celebrate New Years with us. Steve, a self employed graphic artist (did the letterhead on this letter years ago), has had lots of work with the Old Globe Theatre, which he enjoys a great deal. He is now 60 years old (5 October) so that does categorize Carol and me as "rather senior, senior citizens!"

Our 46+ year relationship with the Class of 1965 just grows beyond description. This last year we had over 70 cards or letters, hundreds of Email messages (534 with Manning, 36 with Phillips and 49 other contacts), 62+ phone calls and five fabulous visits in our home. On 10 May Mike Meany came from Palm Springs and spent 4 hours and 15 minutes with us. He brought Carol a lovely orchid plant for Mothers Day, which stayed in bloom for 3+ months by using only three ice cubes a week of our precious CA water! Dick Manning visited us twice, 27 May and 30 June, while getting his "proton treatments" in Loma Linda, CA, near Riverside. Dick made the sacrifice of driving 2+ hours each way to spend 6+ hours with us each time. You ought to see him clean out my computer and "beef up" its capability in just minutes. Mary Ann Grassit, her daughter, Cheryl and her husband Mike and 2 month old daughter came by for 2.5 hours. The traffic on a Friday caused them to take 3 hours coming and 4+ hours returning to the north side of Los Angeles. Mary Ann, bless her heart, seemed to enjoy the visit, for she is talking about coming back again after that "onerous driving day!" Dick and Cathy Ruhe came by for almost 2 hours on 7 September, to deliver a personally signed and dedicated copy of his recent book, "Know Can Do" authored with his boss Ken Blanchard. Personal time with all you 65ers is like gold to us! Del Phillip's Bulletin and Email Address effort has been super. I counted 98 Classmates

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covered this year in the Bulletin, some a number of times, so Del does report the Class activities beautifully. He has included numerous, wonderful pictures of many of the Class. His effort and skill is amazing. Another delightful thing for Carol and me to see is the number of times 65ers gather in groups to enjoy their close relationship. Andy Horsey has established a "tradition" of several golf encounters in the DC area each year. The Horsey's promoting a Mediterranean cruise reunion last fall attended by nine Classmates and mates was a significant event which all enjoyed so much. Even the maladies, such as prostate cancer for Dick Manning and others and "hip replacements" for Gerry Kane and Walt Viglienzona has generate vast expressions of love and concern that only makes the Class become closer and closer. You guys and your lovely wives are truly a treasure.

Carol and I continue to be active with our three mile walk each day that now takes about an hour and ten minutes instead of an hour. We had two nice trips this year. We spent a couple days at Catalina Island to celebrate our 61st Wedding Anniversary and did another 2 week trip to Iowa, similar to the one in 2006, where we visited my sister in law and Carol's sister, had a mini 66th reunion of our High School Class, mini reunion of Carol's nursing Class and enjoyed the fall harvest season in full swing. We are growing older and slowing down more each day. Our hearing aids are helping and Carol's memory problems continue to challenge us, but still we have an absolutely wonderful life together, because we have a great family and you unbelievable 65ers enriching our lives daily with your care, concern and your love. We thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Dear

2008

It is always a joyful experience for me, when I sit down to write to the Class each November, but this year has been a sad one for all of us for we have lost three loving souls from our midst. Dave Spade, Alice Pennington and Ron Gipson. Their passing was difficult for the families and the Class, but we all have gained strength and been blessed by their presence in our lives. Dave Spade showed us all what strength and courage is all about in his lengthy battle with cancer of his blood system. Alice Pennington, the gracious and warmhearted lady, with an equally devastating kidney cancer, fought her battle essentially alone, without burdening her friends, with a bravery and strength beyond comprehension. Ron Gipson, the gentle giant from Texas, bore his severe multiple organs cancerous malady with humor and grace to his final breath. This charming lady, Alice, and these two stellar gentlemen, Dave and Ron, were all unique persons who were treasures to our society. They all revealed to the Class and the wives, that they were as exemplary in their passing as they were in their lives. We will all cherish our time with them, for they enriched our lives over the years and certainly we will miss them beyond description now that they have gone. May God Bless them all. By their "very being" and their positive approach to life, they have shown clearly what makes life worth living.

As we grow older, and the Class enters their mid sixties, losing loved ones becomes a reality that is hard to accept or tolerate. I noted in many of your letters and notes that you have lost parents, aunts, uncles and in some cases siblings, over the recent years. We must bear these losses with strength and determination. In some cases the illness or infirmity is long and painful, but we can endure this in peace as we find comfort in family and friends. A group of friends, like the Class of '65, can be such a great support and soothing influence in periods of grief and sadness. The gathering of Classmates at the Academy Celebration of Life for Dave Spade and his two Services in Florida and California, demonstrates the kind of closeness that does wonders for the morale of the families in their time of loss. Examples of loving friendship, such as the numerous Classmates who traveled many hours to attend Alice Pennington's Service, are what really impresses me over and over again. Ron, poor guy, happened to depart our company with few Classmates reasonably near to personally attend his Services but the many people who responded via Email and telephone, revealed to the family that Ron had many close friends in the Class, also.

As Carol and I get older (85/84) we realize that our routines in our life are changing. The hills where we do our three mile walk each day seem to be more difficult. I declare it must have been a California earthquake that made them steeper but Carol opines that it is our grumpy old bones that are getting more tired each day. We find there is less

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time each day for things other than our routine of staying alive. With Carol's Alzheimer's, we do most tasks together, such as the laundry, vacuuming and food preparation and kitchen duties (except for doing the dishes, which Carol insists she should do on her own). I admit that when I cook I seem to make mountains of dishes, and thus I do help develop her dishwashing skills. Time is the one factor that is diminishing with the speed of light. As our life changes, we know, that for the Class of 1965, like our own children, your lives are changing radically, too. As many of you are now retired, semi-retired or thinking about retirement, we know that you will have less time to invest in Carol and me. There are new things to do such as the ever present "Honey do list," new travel adventures, new hobbies to develop and maybe relocating to another area or acquiring a second home. In addition, your children have married and are developing families that warrant and merit your major investment of time. The joys and blessings of grandchildren are now upon you and your stories of this new adventure in your life is heartwarming to us, even though it may mean we may get less time or attention from the Class. Carol and I believe in the benefits of a close family so that when you send us your family pictures we are being assured that you, too, find great personal strength and happiness from your offspring and their new little ones. So, if you do not find as much time for Carol and Les High, we will understand.

Nevertheless, the Class togetherness was significant this last year and we certainly were blessed. We received or sent 816 Email (551 with Dick Manning and 38 with Del Phillips), I made or received 162 telephone calls. One call, on 12 December, was from Dick and Cathy Ruhe who were in Rome. Dick said, "The Pope told him to call his Class Adviser, Les High," so he felt obligated to do so. The Class members were mentioned 180 times in Del's Email Class Columns (some many times and others not at all). We had three visits from 65er's in our home during the year. On 13 March, Glenn Serotsky was in San Diego to help his daughter locate a condo or a home so he sneaked away to spend a couple hours with us. On 8 April, Ralph and Martha Anderson, who were in San Diego attending a conference for Ralph's work, came by for a super 2.5 hour visit. Martha's Mom had Alzheimer's so we learned a lot about the care of those with this debilitating condition. Surprisingly, on 27 August, Don Jensen and Tony Finizio, were both in San Diego on business, so were able to spend about three hours with us to bring us up to date on their lives. On 8 April, Jim Sanial called to report that he and his team had been in San Diego several days installing refrigeration equipment on a CG Ship. He just could not get away for a visit and unfortunately was leaving early the next morning. On 12 April, Carol and I joined Dick and Cathy Ruhe for dinner and a show, "Mikado" (light opera) at the California Center for the Arts, in Escondido. It was a delightful evening but having Dick and Cathy spend \$300 (Tickets \$65+ each and dinner) on Carol and me seems an excessive expression of kindness for this Scotsman. Spending time with the Ruhe's is always a joy. The Class held numerous

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mini-reunions this last year. The Andy Horsey annual golf meet and camaraderie in September has become a tradition and is in its ninth or tenth year. This year 10 or 12 attended. There was a Mini-reunion of golfers in Pensacola on 24-28 April with at least 10 there. Reunion with Dave Spade in Florida in January with 4 or 5 there. Dave Faurot has Peck's disease and Del, Steve Cox, the Brady's and Jim Wright visited for several days in June. As you all know, Del Phillips has continued to do a fabulous job as Class Correspondent and the Class has submitted many wonderful pictures memorializing these many events. What a pleasure for Carol and me to see so much Class togetherness. We love it. Also, the Class continues to be famous with major awards for Jim White and Tom Lucey at the USCG Academy and Jim Andrasick in the Marine Environment in a New York City event. We are always so proud of all of you.

As for our family, little has changed since last year. Steve and Greg are still into free lance graphic arts. Jeff has been with Northrop Grumman for three years and is now vested into their retirement system. Mary and Jeff Bostwick have two children on Mormon missions. Rebecca is in Hong Kong and Kenny is in Latvia (Baltic area). Jeff was reelected to another six year term as Superior Court Judge beginning in January, 2009. Suzette is part-time at UCSD Student Health Center as analyst and special project officer (new electronic medical records, digital X-ray machine, etc.). The biggest trip for Carol and me this year was a driving trip to Julian (60 miles East) for a day with Suzette and Greg to check out the Apple Center of CA. We have made no trips to the East Coast since 2005. We now have five children, 9 grand children and 6 great grand children (three of them born in the last year). As Carol and I move into our "sunset years," you will see that we are being replaced on the Earth by these many new young people.

Sorry, this year's message is so long. (One page next year, I promise). There were so many things I felt I needed to say, such as, our loss of loved ones, your changing busy lives, reports on 65er's activities (reunions and awards) and your wonderful, loving contacts with Carol and me. We love you all.

Dear

2009

Carol and I have truly had a fabulous year filled with many contacts with the Class for many reasons as I will outline soon. The only real “downer” for the year was the loss of our beloved Classmate Dave Faurot to that devastating Pick’s disease on 28 October. Dave, in his serene and quiet style, even made his passing a form of togetherness for us, as he generate “warm and fuzzy” thoughts about our contacts with him. His very nature as a friend, teammate, and shipmate, made all who knew him and served with him, love and appreciate this special person in our lives. Our hearts go out to Mary, Ian and Laurel in their sorrow and sadness in the loss of our beloved Dave. May God Bless his soul and give him eternal peace. Dave would have us move on and share with you the many blessings and loving contacts the Class has bestowed on Carol and me this past year.

To recap the Christmas contacts we received 84 cards or letters this last year. My telephone log is fifteen pages long and records “thoughts” on 207 calls. The Emails are in the hundreds with 485 with Dick Manning alone, 35 with Del Phillips and well over 100 from others in the Class. This last year, I tried to call each one of you that sent us a message in response to my Annual letter, (1) to thank you for the message, (2) to let you know that we had received it, (3) that we had read it and (4) we loved getting it, along with the other things you sent like pictures, articles, pot holders, etc. I loved those conversations for some lasted as long as twenty minutes, if the 65er could endure talking to Les High for that long. Still, the most significant and wonderful aspects of this year was the actual personal contacts with 65er’s and their wives.

As I said in our trip report, earlier, Carol and I had done practically no traveling in 2008, but Mike and Jill O’Connor invited us to ride the train from San Diego to Paso Robles (Los Osos area) and spend a weekend with them. This got us thinking about traveling again. Our son, Jeff, then got us last minute, first class, airline tickets for a week with them, by our traveling Christmas Day and New Years Eve. That trip went so well we did the driving trip (5-9 March) to see Mike and Jill for two wonderful days, seeing the Norris’s on the way North and Mary Ann Grassit on the way South. Thanks, Mike and Jill for getting us started. Previously, on 14 February, Bob Staton, on a trip from Oregon to Los Angeles on business, drove to SD to spend four hours with us. Bob has been a frequent visitor from his earlier days in Anaheim. Our next visitors, Eugene and Lynn Johnson, were on a business trip from Dover to Santa Barbara, but landed in Los Angeles and drove to SD and spent two nights on Coronado Island in order to see us from 1030 to 1545, on Tuesday, 5 May. Their 5.5 hours of time with us sailed by and I loved it. On our 13-23 May trip to Iowa, we spent 2.5 hours on Saturday morning with Priscilla Sanders Campbell in her home in the Minneapolis area before boarding our

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airplane for SD. Priscilla is another treasure of a person for 65er's to get to know and appreciate. She served us local Danish and a fruit plate, plus drinks. Thanks Priscilla! On Wednesday evening, 10 June, Cathy and Dick Ruhe held a dinner party honoring Jim Sanial, on his visit to the SD area (son, Greg, new CO of CGC Chase) with Jeannette and Mack Cohan and Carol and Les High also as guests. What a super evening and mini reunion. On Thursday, 11 June, John Schwartz came to our home for light lunch and three hours of priceless conversation plus a photo opportunity. On a DC trip in July, we saw eleven 65er's and 7 wives. On our short visit to Yorktown, Tom Pennington hosted Carol and me in his home Wednesday evening, 22 July, for 3 hours with a great meal of local specialties including homemade blueberry pie. Tom was renovating his home after a furnace melt down but still graciously shared his space and time with us. He even chased me down in his car when he saw I made a wrong turn leaving his home. Thanks, Tom! The next two days, at the 50th Anniversary of Yorktown Training Center, we were blessed to spend time with Phyllis and Doug Teeson, first at dinner and ball and then meeting numerous times the next day at other events of the occasion. Both looked great and were their charming selves, as always. The "visits of 65er's" in Herndon, VA, in our son Jeff's home was near perfect. On Saturday, 25 July, Dave and Donna Duffy visited from 1055-1155 on the way to Dulles Airport enroute to Alaska. Lloyd and Barbara George, daughter Michelle & husband P.J. and granddaughter of 4 Months came at 1350 - 1545. Lloyd had a fruit tree delivered for visitors during our stay and he made sure pictures were taken to record the mini reunion of sorts. At 1500 - 1615 Roger and Barbara Rufe arrived with Barbara bearing a loaf of bread still steaming hot from the oven. Thus, the Georges's and Rufe's had overlapping visits which we all enjoyed so much. On Sunday, 1450-1640, Bob and Mary Storch, Carl and Paulette Helmen and Tom and Fay Yentsch arrived from various DC area locations to bring joy to their Class Advisor and his wife. Paulette brought some whole wheat bread. Um, delicious! On Monday, Joe Rogers came from 0950 -1130. Joe looked trim from his Weight Watchers success (minus 25 or 30 lbs.) Wednesday, Bill Schorr came at 1545 -1835 but Carol and I were at a Arlington Ceremony and Reception until 1650. Bill, the audio book enthusiast gave me a copy of the 100 books he has read this year, already, so he has lots of subject to discuss with anyone. On Thursday Dick Chapman visited from 1000 - 1140 and his varied career with the CG, DOT and Justice Department is inspiring information to hear about. The visits with all these 65er's was absolute superb. I know it involved personal inconvenience to drive to Herndon in the traffic and all but it was so rewarding to Carol and me to see all of you who sacrificed for us with your donation of your time and effort. Some did participate and ate a brownie or two or a cinnamon roll made by yours truly. Thanks you all! Our final contact with 65er's this year was with Dick and Cathy Ruhe at their oldest son, Michael's wedding to Sharlyn, on Friday, 11 September at Our Lady of the Rosary Church and the reception dinner at the Admiral Kidd Club. What a

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fabulous affair and Carol and I were seated with the close relatives (sisters of Cathy) next to the bride and groom's and parent's table. We felt so honored. Yes, in all the contacts, messages, letters, cards, calls, Emails and visits we feel so HONORED and BLESSED by the Class. As I said we have had a unbelievable year with some of our favorite people in this world.

As for our family, things are going well. The economy was a little difficult for the self employed graphic artists sons, Steve and Greg, but they continue to survive. Northrop Grumman, defense contractor, continues to keep Jeff busy and on travel a lot, like India, London, Australia, etc. Mary has been promoted from staff to management in the SD School System and her husband continues in his second 6 year term as a Superior Court Judge. Suzette now works part time (3 days a week) as an analyst and special project officer for the Student Health Center and enjoys more free time for her on line studies and more time with her animals on their ranch. Carol and I continue handling her malady with Alzheimers with enthusiasm and trying to keep things orderly and routine. Taking care of our property is not my favorite thing and I abhor yard work. Dick Manning says, "Les, they didn't build Mexico so close to San Diego, if you were expected to do yard work!" Meaning, "Go rent a guy standing on the corner, Les!" We have upgraded some things. We have replaced our fence built around our property. We installed 600+ square feet of cement on the south side of our lot from the sidewalk in front to the back of the house. The front lawn (1250 square feet) is now artificial turf so no watering or mowing for Les High anymore.

Carol and I are always pleased to hear of the Class togetherness and mini reunions around the country such as the Andy Horsey's Maryland golf gatherings in the early fall each year and the Walt Viglienze and Gerry McGill gatherings in Pensacola in April the last couple of years. I see the Wrights's visit with various groups as they travel. Dick Manning got together with Del Phillips and Cece Allison on his way through Seattle on an Alaskan cruise. Talking about togetherness, we all owe Del Phillips accolades and appreciation for his seven plus years of gathering and publishing Class news. He has done marvelous and superb work and he has my sincere thanks and undying gratitude.

Carol and I have had a magnificent year and you 65er's and our family have made it so. We wish you continued success and look forward to seeing any and all of you who may find time to visit us in the future. Sorry about the length of this epistle but you are all important to us and we do not want to short-change anyone by omitting their contact.

Dear

2010

What a fantastic year Carol and I have had and we owe much of it to the Class of 1965. The expression, "It is more Blessed to Give than to Receive," seems to have applied vociferously to our family, to the Class of 1965 and a number of our other friends and relatives in their dealing with us this year. Carol and I have received so many "Gifts" they are almost impossible to enumerate in one letter. First, our family has made a humongous effort to assist Dad in the care of their Mother and they have supported Carol and me in our various escapades during the year. The family as a group has done hours of house cleaning and sorting, cooking, yard work, pool care, and supported the Class of 1965 in the gathering of pictures for the cover of the book, for the photo album and acquired, arranged and served the food available for the Book Presentation Ceremony and event. Jeff has been able to make frequent business trips to San Diego with Northrop Grumman and Cathy comes and cooks and cleans seemingly all the time she is here. Greg truly keeps the yard looking sharp and is always ready to help move furniture like when we needed to install a new mattress in the Master Bedroom. Greg and Irene frequently arrive with the dinner ready to serve whether it is pizzas or burritos and salad or some other delicacy. Of course Greg and Irene did the camera work and Greg developed the DVD record of the Book presentation. Mary frequently stops to check on Mom and Dad and her access to Costco helps keep our larder filled with special things we like from there and of course, much of the foods served at the Book presentation came from Costco. Suzy visits regularly, the days she drives her own car and does not ride the UCSD van pool to her job at the Student Health Center. Suzy usually has the latest information on Alzheimer care facilities and medication. Steve is busy as a "story board artist" for Sony on their video game development projects. The Class of 1965 has been giving Carol and me gifts all year. To refresh your memory, I have enclosed "in small print" copies of the Email messages I have sent you acknowledging many of these items. All those words of thanks still apply!

Although most of our contacts with the Class this year were joyous, we did lose our beloved, stalwart, gentleman Classmate, Bob Walker, on 11 May, 2010. He fought a courageous battle with his brain tumor and won out over the malady for over two years. We will miss Bob's steady demeanor and his always positive attitude. Jean, his loving wife, brought great joy to the Class by attending the 45th Reunion. I saw her enter the lobby of the Marriott Hotel and could easily identify her from across the room as she hustled to register. I rushed over to welcome her and got one of those warm hugs that 65er wives bestow frequently on the 'old man1" We sat with Jean at the Saturday morning Memorial Service honoring Bob Walker, Dave Spade, Ron Gipson, Dave Faurot and Alice Pennington. Jean still looks and acts delightfully young. It was

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so wonderful to have Jean participate in this 45th Reunion. The Reunion itself has been thoroughly reported by Lloyd George and was handled so well by Roger and Barbara Rufe, Doug and Phyllis Teeson, Dick Ruhe and his program presenters, Bill Carr and his Program Day participants and all the many of you that made the "Gift of Leadership" possible, Francis Wright and Joe Coleman and their wives and all those that produced the unbelievably fabulous photo album, Mike Koloski and his dedicated effort in painting a marvelous portrait of Carol and me, Pete Poulos and his First Day, US Coast Guard, 175 Anniversary Stamp, 4 August, 1965. Barbara Rufe's center pieces and treasure chests with sea shells and Lloyd and Barbara George's commemorative coins all were significant gifts that warrant mentioning over and over again. Carol and I had a wonderful week and enjoyed every minute we had with all of you.

There are a number of special 65er things that I want to emphasize this year. First, we must all thank Del Phillips for his seven plus years as the Class Correspondent and all the fine work that he did to contact and publish comments from as many people in the Class that would allow him to feature them in his column. Del, you did a superb job and Del, you have our sincere appreciation. Second, I want to recognize and acknowledge the superlative job that was done to plan, collect and publish the absolutely fabulous book, "Gift of Leadership by the Class of 1965," which you dedicated to Les and Carol High. Third, I want to identify and appreciate the sheer effort and hours of hard work invested in publishing a current Photo Album of the Class of 1965 for Les and Carol High to cherish and enjoy many hours of delightful memories of you many Special people in our lives. Thanks so much for all these hundreds of dedicated hours invested for Carol and me. Thanks, hardly seems enough!

Notwithstanding all the other accolades outlined above, we also were blessed this last year with 84 cards or letters, 227 telephone calls, hundreds of Emails with 536 with Dick Manning, 36 with Del Phillips, 52 with Lloyd George and 26 with Walt Viglienzone and dozens with lots of other folks. The 65er's that come to visit in our home always makes me very happy. This last year Dick Manning visited with us on 8 December, 2009, Bob Staton on 9 February, 2010, Donna and Dave Duffy on 16 April, on their way to Tahiti (they sent us a DVD of their trip), Diane and Gerry White on 22 May, Dick Ruhe on 17 July (to deliver the First Class American Airline Tickets). Of course, on 18 September, we had the very "Special Visit" for the Class of 1965 Book Presentation Ceremony with Dick and Cathy Manning, Dick and Cathy Ruhe, Bob and Judy Norris, Gerry and Diane White, Bob Brunette, Bill Peterman, Mike Trammell and Darvy Cohan attending. Dick Manning's presentation was very dignified, straight forward, brief and heartwarming. Dick's kind words truly touched the "old man's heart!" What a "great honor" was bestowed on Les and Carol High at that moment and time. Besides all these other kindnesses, Dick and Cathy Ruhe invited us to have lunch with them and

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attend a unique and exceptional “music of the Forties” program at the Escondido Performing Arts Center on 13 February. It is always a joy to hear our vintage music with fantastic people like the Ruhe’s.

As you can see, Carol and I have had an unbelievable year. No one in this world is more blessed than Les High. I have my lovely wife, Carol, and our five great kids and their families. In addition, I have the Class of 1965 and their charming ladies and their families to love and cherish. And, unquestionably, I had a wonderful, exciting, and rewarding Coast Guard career filled with challenging jobs and assignments. At 86 and 87, no one seems to be blessed with more treasured and loving family and friends than Carol and I have gathered and collected close to our heart over the years. We thank you from the bottom of our heart for all you have meant to us in our lives. You truly are some of God’s Special People.

One item of clarification for those of you who observed Carol in a wheelchair at most events at the Reunion. Carol is not wheelchair bound! We had her in the wheelchair to facilitate moving her from one event to another and to conserve her strength so that we could attend each event as long as possible. At home, right now, the only time she uses a wheelchair is when we go for our walk of 1.3 miles per day. I get to push for my exercise and she rides and gets the fresh air.

Dear

2011

As I review my near perfect life I quickly become aware of how lucky I have been. As you all know, I was able to marry Carol, the most gorgeous, charming, sweet, talented and loving lady God ever produced. Our 65 years together also represents our affiliation with the Coast Guard for we were married on Graduation Day, 5 June, 1946. We have been blessed with five children, who have given us 9 grand children and they in turn have given us 9 great grandchildren. Our children continue to help Dad with his duties of caring for Carol in our own home. They have almost relieved me of any routine house cleaning, yard and pool tasks and functions. Their most recent efforts include acquiring a shower chair, shower mats, secretary chair for Carol at the dinner table (on wheels), etc. Also, they are trying to visit more often to try and get Dad to get more rest and particularly more sleep at night. I am not the easiest guy "to help" for I have strong feeling these are my responsibilities and I should handle them, BUT they are winning for my 87 year old body does tire more easily each day. Life is wonderful with a loving family.

Since I am talking about a loving family, I shift quickly to our "other loved ones, the Class of 1965 and their families!" As I recall last year with all the many accolades, warm words and significant gifts, I am aware there is no way the Class can "replicate their actions of 2010" BUT when I start to enumerate the specific items of our life that are the result of Class of '65 actions or impetus they "never seems to end" and we love it. A couple simple, daily events that we love and appreciate. #1 is your gift of the '65er jacket and cap you gave to each of us last year. I want you to know that Carol wears one of those jackets every day when we go on our wheel chair walk. Even on a warm day she wears hers. On cold days (low 50's) she wears a "down jacket" with my '65er jacket over the top. Can you imagine a more loving gift than "one we use every day!" #2 The super portrait Mke Koloski painted for Carol and me sits on a "home made easel" in our family room about 20 feet from our dinette table and I get to see and enjoy this treasure every time I sit down to eat or work at the table which is at least half a dozen times a day Another gift we enjoy multiple times each day. Thanks, Mike. Your star gets brighter every day!

The Class contacts with us, as usual, are significant. We received 82 card, letters or Christmas Emails. My telephone log is thirteen pages and is a record of 226 calls! We have many Emails from the Class with 486 exchanged with Dick Manning, alone! How is that for dedicating time to the Old Man? Thanks, Dick! With the Class Correspondent, Lloyd George, probably over 30.

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VISITS (total of 5) are what we cherish for we get that “one on one time” that is like gold to us. #1. Each year in February, Bob Staton, when on business and visiting his children in Long Beach, drives 1.5 hours each way to see us. This year, on 14 February, he visited us for 2.5 hours and for my birthday he even gave us a gift card to Claim Jumpers, a fancy restaurant. We rarely eat out but thanks anyway, Bob. #2. On 2 May, 2011, Bill and Judy Norris drove a couple hours from near downtown Los Angeles and spent part of the afternoon with us (1.5 hours). Having two lawyers visit at one time is great fun for me! The next three visits were when we were on the East Coast at, our son, Jeff’s and Kathy’s home. Carol and I had calls from Roger and Barbara Rufe and Carl and Paulette Helman, that they were going miss us for they would be out of town, the Rufes in FL and the Helmans in NV. #3 On Thursday, 29 September, Paul and Mary Blayney drove a couple hours from Port Republic, MD, to Jeff’s to spend 2.5 hours with us. Carol had a nurse classmate (’44 St. Luke’s) and daughter visiting at the time but I still got 1.5 hours of one on one time with Paul and Mary. It was Mary’s birthday so they were having dinner in DC on the way home I presume. #4. On Friday, 30 September Bill Riley flew from Palm City, FL to the DC area, stayed in a Hyatt for two nights so he could attend our open house at J&K’s. When he got to the Hyatt at 1900, Jeff picked him up and so we got to talk until I finally let him go at 2230. Bill did hundreds of hours on the book so I got many of the details of all the wonderful, loving dedicated work you all did on the “Gift of Leadership” book. #5. On Saturday, 1 October, Joe and Candy Rogers and Bill Riley came at 1355 for a couple hours. Another treasured visit, for this time Candy came, too, and I missed her in 2010 when Joe came to visit. Again, seeing Bill for another two hours was like “frosting on the cake!”

Of course another special day was Saturday, 30 April, when the Mini-Reunion group in Pensacola called to talk to the Class Advisor. I got a chance to talk to Carl Helman, Mary Christiansen, Bob Christiansen, Gerry McGill, Jerry Payne, and Gene Johnson. They always seem to have a super time at this Reunion so I would not be surprised to see the numbers grow in the future. Speaking of Reunions, I must remind you that there is a Mini-reunion being planned, 10-11 February, 2012, in San Diego, as I requested when speaking to you at your 45th Reunion. One of the delights for Carol and me is that we have more numerous contacts with Dick Ruhe as he works on this event. Where he finds the time in his busy schedule, I will never know? We hope that a number of you will be enthused to visit San Diego and experience some of our mild winter weather and also let Carol and me have some of your precious time while here. We have no idea how many of you will come but “the more the merrier!” Our hope is that all who come will have a chance to visit us in our home as well as at the events that are scheduled. It is occurring at the time of my birthday but I want to emphasize that we want no gifts but your “presence in San Diego.”

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The other major event for Carol and me was to attend my Class ('47-graduated 1946-we were a three year WWII Class) 65th Reunion at the Academy. We had 20 Classmates and many wives, friends or family and three widows attend for a total of 50 people. We had a great time for Jeff and Kathy made it easy for us to attend. We flew to their home in Herndon on Airline tickets that they had upgraded to First Class and once we arrived in their hands my "care giver job" became a piece of cake. They drove us to New London in a van with reclining seats, made potty stops, and grinder stops. We stayed at the Navy Lodge (which are very familiar to Carol so she feels at home there). I admit it was wonderful to see Classmates and their wives and reminisce about our Cadet days and our careers. BUT a couple of significant events involving the Class of 1965 occurred on this trip. About ten days before our departure from San Diego I got an Email from Laurie Somers advising me he was going to be inducted into the Academy Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, 22 September. Ultimately, we were able to time our departure from DC to arrive so that Jeff and I could attend this Ceremony. Laurie and Carol were pleased that we were there and now Laurie could tell folks his Class Advisor came all the way from San Diego to be with him on "this Special Award Day!" Laurie is a great guy so what a pleasure to be able to support him in this honor. A number of Classmates (Whites, Teasons, Bowens) were there also to show '65er support. Another item of interest. Jennifer Grubb, 65er Richard Johnson's daughter, was interviewing the Academy Superintendent Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz at 1300, on Friday, 23 September, so at the Awards Ceremony Admiral Stosz ask me (and Jeff) to come by and meet Jennifer. What a delight to talk to Jennifer. She is a tall lady, like her Dad, and she had the same intense look in her eyes as she looked down at me while I was talking with her. Reminded me so much of Frank (Rich) as a Cadet. He used to absorb every thought or idea that came his way and "Jennifer was so like her Father" it seemed to me. As you 65er can see, the delights you give Les High never end and they may come from anywhere. So our 65th Reunion (Class of '47) was punctuated with 65er events (pun intended).

One other tidbit of information: If you look at Mary Faurot's new address you will note that she got "65" in her ZIP Code. 83712-6565. In fact she got it in there twice. Good work, Mary! Not sure a person can arrange that, but I gave her credit, anyway!

As Carol and I move into old age, we realize that all you dear 65ers and your families keep giving us unending love, care and concern and we want you to know how much we appreciate each and every kindness you "send our way!" No one we know has such a large group of "endearing supporters" and with that "cheering on" we will probably live forever! God Bless you all.

Dear

2012

My annual event to communicate with the Class of 1965 will be most difficult this year for I have lost the most precious person in my life, my beloved wife, Carol. You are well aware of the details from my previous endearing words but I want to dwell a little on what this marriage and this wonderful Angel from Heaven has meant to me in my lifetime. First, she enchanted me with her many charms as a teenage classmate in High School and once that happened she was never out of my mind. Whatever life had to offer, I wanted this desirable, delightful young woman to be my wife and soul mate. It took seven years of courtship and then 66 years and 66 days of pure marriage bliss to describe our perfect life together. Carol knew how to make me love her more each day. She gave us five wonderful children. She helped me to develop into a successful Coast Guard Officer and to achieve a level in the Service above my personal goals and expectations. She was always so proud of all that I achieved. She relished being a part of CG duties such as being an Officer's wife and especially loved her role as Class Advisor (Mom) to you '65er and wives. Now she has gone to be with God. I admit I was somewhat shocked when she passed peacefully in August for I thought she would be with us a year or so more (probably wishful thinking rather than being truthful with myself!). My unbelievably talented, witty, sharp, clever and gorgeous wife and Mother of our five children leaves me with absolutely no sadness but thousands of happy, warm, touching, poignant, heart fulfilling, loving memories of our delightful life together. How can I be sad when I had such a perfect life with her? Even in her passing she blessed me by granting me the great honor to be by her side in her final heart beats. Yes, dear ones, I will be talking about this Angel, Carol, for the rest of my life and this may be just the "first paragraph."

This year was fraught with the other sad news of the passing of two of our dearest Classmates, Dave Duffy on 1 June and Tom Yentsch on 8 September. You have all had a chance to read my personal comments on these outstanding gentlemen and know that they were held in high esteem by their Class Advisor. We all know they left us too early in life but each left his indelible mark on all of us as a Husband, Father, Classmate and Friend. Dave, the Man of God, lived the life filled with Heavenly good works as he partnered with Donna to save the world and the people in it. Dave worked very hard to try and "save Les High with God" and I thank him for that. Tom, bless his soul, was the example of an All American Hero for he was a kind, smart, thoughtful, loving, talented, caring fellow to all he knew. Tom's letters are treasures for Les High. We will all miss these wonderful fellows with all our heart. Please continue close contact with Donna and Fay for losing a husband of 45+ years will bring many lonely moments. These lovely ladies, and all the other young widows in the Class, deserve and warrant

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our thoughts and concern for their continued happiness after the devastating loss of their husbands.

As I usually start my letter with words of appreciation to the Class for all that you have done for Carol and me in the last year, I can state this last year was particularly very special. Of course I am talking about the February, 2012 Mini Reunion in San Diego. Since it was such a significant event and occurred nine months ago, I am sending a copy of my thoughts on the REUNION that were sent to you in February, 2012, to refresh your memory about things I will mention later in this letter.

The most fabulous thing about the reunion was that you dear, unique, exceptional people in our life gave Carol (and me) one more distinct and extraordinary event in her ebbing life before she said "Goodbye!" When I asked you at the 45th to have the next Reunion in San Diego in Jan/Feb 2012 I was hoping Carol would be lucid and coherent enough to appreciate you and your presence at the gathering and in our home. As it turned out Carol was still alert enough to enjoy her wonderful time with the 52 persons who came to SD to celebrate. Carol could not remember who she talked with but the next day she admitted she had a good time with her '65ers. What a blessing you gave Carol and me. We had about twenty separate visits to our home involving about 35 persons. These "personal time" visits are such precious gifts to Carol and me and you came from all over the country to share this time with us and your Classmates. The two dinner parties outlined in the remarks were absolutely fabulous and those were done almost entirely by Dick and Cathy Ruhe and their family. The other events, including the sailing events on Michael and Sharlyn's boat, the golf, the cruise, etc. made the reunion a super success. Carol soon became much weaker, so this last "Hurrah with the Class" was delightful and pleasing for Carol. I might point out that she seemed to be aware that the "'65ers" were something special in her life even when I mentioned something about a '65er in our last few months together. Yes, she loved you guys and gals to the very end so all your many years of effort to "please her with your constant kindness, love, care and concern did warm her heart and soul and helped her to enjoy life to the very end, even with her Alzheimer malady!"

The Celebration of Life for Carol on 27 August was another warm, loving event. I am enclosing a copy of the program and a copy of the remarks made by Steven. It is a little hard to send Greg's song and the song by Mary and her children but you will get some of the flavor of the event. You have previously seen my comments on this special tribute to Carol. Besides all the loving work our children did for this memorial, they were ever so helpful to Dad in the care of their Mom. In the last week before Carol entered the home Greg and Suzy took turns being with Dad and Mom 24 hours a day to help. Suzy was really the lead person to arrange for Carol's care with Hospice and later

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the Care Facility where Carol had her final eleven days. Jeff, bless his heart arrived in less than 12 hours after Carol's passing. He went home and came back with Kathy and almost the whole East Coast contingent. A daughter who was a recent mother and husband were not able to attend, doctor's orders. All the rest of the 9 grand children were present. The house is filled with many of Carol's pictures displayed at the Memorial and they provide me a warm, comfortable place to be with my sweetheart of all my dreams. I will never be alone for I will always have "my Carol" and all the beautiful memories she inspires.

I will give you a little tally of the "gifts" you gave to Carol and me this last year. We received annual letters and cards from 84 of you '65ers. My JUNO Email files got fouled up but I know that I have over 600+ exchanged with Dick Manning and over 80+ with Lloyd George. I have 23 pages of logged phone calls totaling over 264 calls. The most significant change this year was an increase in "visits" with Carol and me from 5 last year to 31 this year. In years past I used to tell about each visit but you can see that you folks have expanded your contact with Carol and me and, with the reunion, these VISITS have become a phenomenal blessing and one of the most treasured events you can bestow on us (me)! The Class sent me 68 sympathy cards and over 21 made donations to Hospice or Alzheimer and in some cases both. What a demonstration of support for Carol and me. I am so pleased to have you wonderful, giving, loving persons as a part of my life and helping to make "my very being" meaningful, rewarding and Heavenly Blessed! Thanks so much!

Dear

2013

As I begin my favorite project of the year, writing to the Class of 1965, I will admit that my life has changed, for my beloved wife of 66 years and 66 days, Carol, is no longer with me physically but I can assure you she is with me in spirit every minute of my day. In almost every call I have received from you loving 65ers this year you have asked and wondered how I am doing living alone after so many years of my "perfect marriage with Carol." Dick Manning on his visit of 29 January, 2013, and Bob Staton on his visit of 16 February, 2013, both assured the Class that I was doing well. This annual epistle gives me an opportunity to share with you the wonderful life that I live each day. I may be living in somewhat of a fantasy world for my day is filled with magnificent and amazing memories of my life with Carol. Almost everything that I do has a memory of our togetherness. As I get up in the morning, the first thing I see is a lighted picture frame from son Greg for his Mom, with three pictures in it: "Home Sweet Home," "Love You, Mom" and a picture of Carol and me at age 45 in a warm, loving embrace with both of us with big smiles. This was Carol's night light during her whole Alzheimer experience and when she awoke each time she saw this familiar picture and I am sure it made her feel comfortable about where she was. As I go down the stairs there is her electric chairlift that she used the last several years to get upstairs and downstairs. On my 1.3 mile walk, I continue to go the same route I used to push her in the wheelchair every day for over two years, so she could get some fresh air and I could get some exercise. As you may recall we are famous by being on Google Maps that shows Carol riding in her chair and me pushing her a few houses away from our home. Carol, bless her heart, must have decided during our time together that I am going to give Les High the best marriage he could possibly have and make it so like "Heaven on Earth" that he will never forget me. Well, Carol certainly did that! As I do routine things like cooking I can hear and feel Carol lovingly chiding me about boiling the water over or adding too much salt, etc. Carol was an excellent cook so I learned no cooking skills until it came time to "care for her" and preparing our food became my responsibility. Carol was easy to care for. She thanked me and any care givers we had for everything we ever did for her. She maintained her pleasant disposition right to the end and never had the very common "agitations" that are normal for Alzheimer patients that makes them so ornery and difficult to care for. Carol was always her "sweet, adorable self" so I was so Blessed. I can assure the Class that I have no sadness in my life. God gave me Carol for 66+ years and I could ask for nothing more wonderful, pleasing and perfect than that. And, I still live a joyful life remembering the thousands of fantastic things Carol did for me to make our marriage superb and me the happiest guy in the world. I told you last year that I would probably be writing about this "Angel in my life" forever and so this is just the second paragraph. I assure you there will be more.

Les HIGH

As you know, after our being together (Class of 1965 and I) for 52+ years, I survive and exist on the great joys that my loved ones in my life give to me. My children continue their loving concern for Dad. Mary, who lives a mile away, visits me each Sunday on her way to Church and frequently asks me to dinner. I rarely go, for she cooks like her Mom and I could gain so much weight eating all the super food she offers. Suzy, comes once a week and stays overnight so we have an evening together. Steve and Greg stop by when "out and about" on freelance jobs or errands so I see them almost weekly. Jeff and Kathy, who recently moved from Herndon, VA to NC come to the West Coast almost three or four times a year. Besides my family, I have you 65ers! Visits with Carol and me have always been the most pleasing gift you could give us. That still applies for me. Six guys have visited this last year. Dick (and Cathy) Ruhe have visited me three times in my home this last year. They are always so much fun to see. They have lots of local family news to share and Dick still travels extensively in his work. Dick was in the Boston Marathon and a half mile from the explosion, as I recall. Mack Cohan has stopped by to have coffee. Since I am a non-coffee drinker, he decided to make his own to insure he "got coffee like he wanted it!" Mack is always an interesting guy to share stories with. Mack is the Classmate that hired me as a lawyer in his office for a couple years after I went to Law School. Bill Kurtz was in San Diego in July and came by to see me for an hour or so. I had seen Bill at the February, 2012 Reunion in SD so this was a short visit. He needed to get to the airport. Bill Schorr came to visit on 28 May. Bill drove down from Los Angeles to see me and Mack Cohan. I got Bill in my house and "locked the door" and he did not get out for 3+ hours (1300-1615). We had a delightful time. Bill does the audio books and you can talk to him on any subject. Bill has recently given me a couple books and I admit that I have not gotten around to read them as yet. Bill never did get to see Mack Cohan (traffic problem) but got to see Mack at lunch the next day in LA when Mack was there on business. Bob Staton made his annual trek to San Diego on 16 February. Bob comes to Los Angeles for business and to see his daughter and family and then he almost always drives to SD to see me. Bob always gives me a couple hours of his time but this time he stayed for three hours. The most significant visit this year was from Dick Manning from 29 January to 2 February, 2013. Although Dick and I exchange Emails almost daily, Dick wanted to come and see how I was doing without my Sweetheart, Carol. Dick maintains a vegetarian diet so he fixed all his own foods and thus my duties as host were very limited to pointing to the bed for him to sleep in. Dick wanted to look me in the eyeball to decide for himself how I was doing. He realized very soon, that Les High was surviving beautifully in his ideal and amazing fantasy world filled with constant memories of his life with Carol. Dick and I had an outstanding time together for about four days. Besides these six outstanding visits, I had 67 cards or letters or Email greetings last Christmas season and during the year. I have made and received 180

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telephone calls to and from the Class and numerous Emails. Between Dick Manning and me, we have exchanged 670 messages. Unfortunately, my JUNO files got corrupted in July and I lost many messages from the Class that I had not printed. Although my contacts this last year have not been as extensive as in the past, there are logical reasons for this. In the first place, when Carol was with me, you made many loving and caring contacts asking about her health and progress. Now there is just me to be concerned about and I am in disgustingly good health. Also, your lives have been changing rapidly in recent years. Many are fully retired, now, which means you are into more travel, visiting children, relocating, new hobbies and many new grand kids to cherish and treasure. So, if I get less of your time, care and concern, I will not be surprised or unhappy. I do appreciate your many loving and warm contacts over this last year. Thanks.

Briefly, I would like to discuss my age. In February, 2014, I will be 90 years of age. My own family will obviously honor their Dad. Jeff and Kathy will come to San Diego and we will celebrate. I am not much of a party guy and going out to eat is not my thing. So I will ask them to come and "spend time with Dad" and we will eat some specially prepared food, I am sure, but it will not be just one big meal and it is all over! It will mostly be about "letting me have time with them!" Well, the Class of '65 is invited to come to San Diego and be a part of this gathering. Any of you who may visit SD at this time, might generate a Mini Reunion of your "own makings" so that you see each other, while you are here. I am making no plans to generate such a Reunion and I definitely do not want Dick and Kathy Ruhe to feel any thoughts about "generating another affair like the one they superbly executed in 2012 for Carol and me!" It would be absolutely great for me to have some of you decide to visit SD at the time of my Birthday but it seems to me that you might have many more important things in your life that take priority over this event. I expect to maintain my good health and hope to be able to attend your 50th Reunion in New London in the Fall of 2015.

As you can see, Les High is a "happy guy!" The Good Lord gave me Carol, super kids, grandkid and great grandkids and the fabulous Class of 1965 and their families. With all these loving, caring, adoring, kind and warm people in my life, I will never feel isolated or alone. Many old folks have no one in their lives. My life is truly filled with "all you loving soles" who I cherish, appreciate and love with all my heart. Bless you All.

Dear

2014

When you have been writing a letter to the same delightful people (Class of 1965) for 50 years it is hard to think of a way to make this letter different or original. You have often heard me describe my life as being “perfect” so I would like to share with you some of the many things each of you have done that has contributed to “my perfect life!” I expect to list names of 65ers for different happenings to insure that you know these are facts and not just things I am making up.

My perfect life all started with Carol, my beloved wife. When God decided that man needed a mate and he created women, it may have been the smartest thing he ever did. Carol was my sweetheart from the first day I saw her and she was going to be a part of my life forever, if I had anything to do with it. It took me seven years to get her to marry me but when she did we started the most fabulous 66 years and 66 days of marriage any guy will ever have! She made my life like “Heaven on Earth.” Carol had many attributes. Besides being gorgeous, she was intelligent about worldly things. She understood people and how God wanted them to relate to each other. “Love” describes her very being. As you have heard me often say, “Carol made me love her more every day of our time together!” By her very example of sweetness and kindness, she taught me to be a better, more caring person. When you 65ers came into our life in 1961 by selecting us to be your Class Advisor, you began to “reap the benefits of this amazing woman, my Angel of a wife.” Many of you say you learned things from me, but I was already trained by Carol to be the Les High that you have known for 53 years. So you see, you, too, have benefited from Carol’s influence on us all. Carol loved to have the Sunday dinners for Cadets and their dates and I have letters from some of you wives remembering “that special event” and commenting that they went away saying to themselves, “I want to be like Mrs. High. She is so down to earth, so Classy, so gracious and caring it is unbelievable!” So one of the first things the Class did to make my life perfect was to select Les High to be their Class Advisor.

Carol gave me five wonderful children who fill my 90 year old life with much love. My two darling daughters bring intense and vivid memories of Carol to mind by the way they smile, talk or move at times. Mary has been swimming in my pool several times a week this summer and fall and visits on the way to Church on Sunday. Suzy comes once a week to have dinner with me and stay overnight. She sees that the TV series are taped in case I ever want to watch TV. Greg and Steve stop by from time to time when in the area on errands or freelance work. Greg does yard work for me from time to time. Jeff and Kathy, who live in NC, visit almost every two months for about a week to check on Dad. Suzy and I got to visit Jeff and Kathy in their new lake property for 7 days recently and had a great time. The family helped me celebrate my 90th

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birthday in February '14. Tom Pennington came to visit on my actual birthday, Wednesday, 12 February to help me and my family celebrate with dinner and cake and ice cream. What a treat, Tom. My dining room table was filled with over a 100 special cards. On Saturday, 15 February the family had an "Open House" and Bob and Michele Staton, Dick and Cathy Ruhe, Gerry and Diane White and John Schwartz all came to partake in the special foods and desserts the family had arranged. The Staton's came from OR, Schwartz from VA and the Ruhe's and White's were local. Nice little mini gathering. I obviously had a super 90th birthday!

Since personal visits have always been the most "significant gift you have given Carol and me over the years" I want to tell you more about the 18 visits I have had this year from 65ers! Mack Cohan who lives in Delmar has visited me three times. A couple times (12 Nov,'13 & 10 Feb) on the way home from work. He has to make his own coffee but our "talking" is what is important. The other visit was combined with the Ruhe's on 11 Oct. The Ruhe's arrived with Subway Sandwiches and Mack came with special Starbuck coffee. Cathy, sweetheart that she is, brought me three large frozen containers of Dick's Dad's special spaghetti sauce like they served at the Party in their home at the Mini Reunion in 2012. The Ruhe's visited one other time on 29 Dec'13. They are such fun! I rarely let them get away in less than an hour or so.

Here is a little info about the other eight 65er visits I have had this last year. What a surprise on 27 Nov'13 when John and Judy Fagg stopped to visit on the way to embark in San Diego on a cruise through the Panama Canal. They were going to stop for a few minutes but were here 55 minutes. John is an ordained minister and he closed with a wonderful prayer about Carol and me and what nice things we have done for the Class of '65. He recalls that he may have been involved in the Class selecting the "new aviator" to be the Class Advisor. On Thursday, 20 March Neil and Sue Johnson, who were visiting their two sons in the Los Angeles area, drove to visit with me for 4 hours and 35 minutes. We had a great time discussing their recent relocation from FL to Colorado. They helped make the corned beef sandwiches and got to try my brownies. What a joy that visit was. On 7 April Don Jensen was in San Diego running an Oil Spill exercise for local agencies so he came to visit for three plus hours. I was able to pick him up and delivery him at the Hilton near the airport. We had a great time sharing thoughts and ideas. On 2 August Ron and Carolyn Wetzal came to visit with their poodle. I am not a dog person but it worked well for the poodle was a lap dog and Carolyn held her the whole hour and twenty minutes of their visit. They took a house visit and rode in Carol's electric chair lift for the stairs. They had brownies on their short but super visit. When I was in NC, Rod Wilburn and friend Russ came to Jeff's to see me from 0915 to 1100 on Thursday, 23 Oct'14. At 1030 Linda Spade, who lives in FL but was visiting her daughter in Charlotte, came for a two hours visit with me. Linda and Ron met for the first time and had a half hour together with me. Linda looks lovely

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and Ron is still a Southern gentleman of renown. I thoroughly enjoyed both visits. On Monday, 27 Oct Tom Livingston stopped from 1345 to 1545 on his way to Pinehurst to play golf. I had only seen Tom one time since the Academy. What a delight to catch up and learn a lot about Tom's life after the CG.

Dick Manning's visit was particularly special. He flew from Reno, NV to check on me on 15-18 Jan'14. He did this also last year so it is almost a tradition. He comes and he buys and makes his own vegetarian food. He always does a lot of work on my computer to insure it is operating at optimum speed and efficiency. He handles his "distance learning" classes with ease from my home. We got to talk a lot and drove to a few unique San Diego visitor sites like Pt. Loma for a little variety. Besides this annual special visit (for he is scheduled again on 7-10 Jan '15) Dick, bless his heart, invests at least thirty minutes or more each day writing me an Email message and/or answering my daily Email. I suggest a Sunday day off but he rarely takes it. We have been doing this for 8 or 9 years! Thanks, Dick, for your dedication to the "old man!"

My contacts with the Class this last year has been fabulous. I have heard from all but about 18 65ers either as a Christmas message or a 90th birthday greeting. As I reviewed the Sympathy cards and donations to Alzheimer and Hospice services I found that at least 70 of the Class participated. Thanks so much for all your warm, loving thoughts on Carol. I have had 296 calls this last year and well over 800 Emails, 700 with Manning alone. I realize that my selection as an "Alumni of Distinction" was based on a recommendation from the Class of 1965. Thanks you so much! I had a Classmate, Jack Hayes, former Commandant, who was not selected, while I was, so I feel quite honored. The joy of being the Class Advisor to a group like you 65ers is "you never stop honoring Carol and me." At the 45th Reunion it was the dedication of your "Gift of Leadership" book and the many honors at the Reunion itself. All these special events in my life have made my life perfect!

On a sad note, we lost a charming and delightful wife this year, unexpectedly, when Carole Simpson passed away on 24 January, 2014. Bill Simpson has remarked about the wonderful support that he received from the Class. Bill, you have our condolences. Carole was such a sparkling and active person so learning of her demise was a shock for me. I am hoping that memories of Carole are so rich and vivid that Bill has many happy days reliving their life together. May God Bless you Bill, This has been a devastating loss.

The Class has had many events each year where they come together to enjoy each other's company. The Andy Horsey Golf gathering each September is a wonderful tradition. The recent Mini gathering at Bolling AFBase was especially special with lots

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of great pictures. The present river cruise in Europe where nearly a dozen Classmates are joining the Horsey's for time together is super. All these gatherings makes me so happy! The Journal project for the 50th Reunion is going well. Del Phillips, as editor of the final submissions has been sharing them with me and they add to what makes my life perfect. A history of each of your lives including some of your accomplishments is like "gold" to me. I love it. Of course, Lloyd George captures all these significant "happening" in his great Bulletin Articles and Class Notes!

I want you to know that the memories of Carol continue to make me a happy guy. I am so Blessed to be your Class Advisor and love that role with all my heart. I thank each of you for all the warm loving care and concern you have given Carol and me since we met 53+ years ago. You all are a "Unique Treasure" to me and I love you for that.

Dear

2015

As I reflect on the 50 years since your graduation from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, there are many experiences and events for me to write about to describe what fabulous people you all are to me (and Carol)! After I attended and participated with you many loving people at your 50th Reunion, I realize we have a relationship of love, affection and honor that probably no other group may have or will ever experience. Bless you, for you have taken Carol and me (and now me) into your life and honored us like Mom and Dad and in some cases as a treasured part of your family. We never expected that being Class Advisors could be so worthwhile, pleasing and rewarding. Let me share with you some of the things you have done that will make the Class of 1965 the most marvelous and remarkable 50th Year Honored Class the Academy will ever have!

First, let us talk about the Class Advisor relationship. No other Class, I am sure, even considers doing some of the things you have done. Let us start at the Academy. After our first meeting, I was invited to attend all of your Class meetings. After a short time of several meetings a week in the first year alone we became well acquainted and you accepted Carol and me and our way of life, family standards and simple Iowan ways and philosophies as a part of your life as a Cadet. You honored us by coming to our home for dinner and meeting the family. You introduced us proudly to your dates at Cadet Dances and sports events. You dedicated your Tide Rips to Les High, which was an unbelievable honor for a Commander Aviator with 19 years of Service. After the Academy, you accepted our quasi Mom and Dad approach and warmly responded to my annual letters and personal notes. Some of the many honors through the years including a photo album at the 10th Reunion, Reunion invitations regularly, Photo Album at the 25th, at the 45th Reunion the "Gift of Leadership" book dedication, Photo Album, Koloski's painting and first class airline tickets to the event and regular Christmas letters from about 80 percent of you over the years. And you had Les High (and some of his family) at the 50th Reunion, No other Class even does one tenth of this and in most cases none of these items occur! So there is no question in the "Class Advisor" category you are unique, special and beyond description! No one else does it like you do. Thanks!

The 50th Reunion was an awesome event organized and executed with precision by your "President for Life" Roger Rufe (and Barbara) and his committee. The Academy may never have another 50th Reunion to match this one. It was the culmination of an amazing year of 65er's doing their thing. It started in 2014 with the Journey effort by Andy Horsey and his committee. What an unbelievable result in a spectacular Journey book with 50 year articles from all but six Classmates. The book was filled with many

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wonderful photos and brilliantly assembled by Del Phillips and proof read and edited with the help of Dick Manning and others. So many had a hand in this extraordinary production and that was impressive. In addition, Andy handled the distribution so well to many Classmates before the Reunion and the rest at the 50th Reunion. I loved having a chance to submit an article, too. Carol and I both loved the chance to “give back something to each member of the Class” by allowing us to provide this remarkable book for your reading pleasure for your future years. The other incredible and astounding accomplishment at the 50th Reunion was the “over a Million Dollar Award” to the Alumni Association for Arctic Studies Program at the Academy and support for the Coast Guard Arctic involvement. This was a marvelous effort lead by Kent Williams and Doug Teeson and supported significantly by some of the Class’ heavy hitters like Tom Lucey, Jim Andrasick, Rod Wilburn, Bob Luckritz, as well as Kent and Doug, and others. When the Class of 1965 raises the bar four times (\$250,000 to \$1,000,000) for such a donation by the 50th Year Honored Class that is impressive. I realize it is the effort of all the Class for such a success so I am so proud of all of you.

An interesting fact about this 50th Reunion, your Class Advisor, Les High (Class 1947) was the senior Academy graduate attending this Home coming event, which is pretty unique for not many Class Advisors attend reunions at 91 years of age and especially from as far away as San Diego, CA! I want to share with you some of the joys of my super week end with you special people in my life. For those who did not attend, I want you to know that my daughters Suzette and Mary and my son, Jeff and his wife Kathy attended the 50th Reunion with me. They did a wonderful job of taking care of Dad’s needs, including renting and driving the car, taking me to all the events, etc. My son Jeff and I attended the Thursday evening Awards dinner where VADM Roger Rufe was honored with the USCG Academy’s Distinguished Graduate of the Year Award. The Superintendent, RADM James Rendon, ‘83, made some nice remarks about Roger and also commented about our Class relationship of 54 years. Roger’s remarks were outstanding, as usual. A number of ‘65ers were there in support of Roger. The ones I saw and greeted were Laurie Somers, Bob Christiansen, and Ralph Anderson. They all are so tall they make me feel like a very short guy and getting shorter in my old age!

Friday was filled with many events. The lunch with the Cadets was very enjoyable although quite short for the Cadets are only in the mess hall about twenty minutes, it seems. The Memorial Service for the deceased Classmates, Spouses and Carol was so touching and well done by Walt Viglienzzone, Doug Teeson and Roger Rufe ringing the bell. We then assembled at the Class Reception at the Alumni Center. I might note that the Alumni rents golf carts (Supported by some Class’ Donation) and the staff and their family volunteers drive them and take you anywhere on the Academy you need to go. A wonderful service and makes getting around the Academy easy for us older folks like

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me. We were greeted by the Superintendent RADM Rendon and briefed by CAPT Andrea Marcille, Alumni Association President on the procedures for the Cadet Review and the Medallion Ceremony. We attended the Cadet Review. Roger trooped the line to represent the 50 Year Class and he looked great out there on the field. The next event was presentation of the Medallions in Roland Hall. Roger arranged that Les High got a Medallion, too. He also fixed it so all you Classmates who did not attend Home Coming got a Medallion, too, which will be presented by a Classmate in your area or sent to you by Tom Omri. The Medallion Ceremony was extra special. The Vice Commandant VADM Charles Michel, '85, spoke glowingly about the Class of 1965 and your many accomplishments in the Military and Civilian life. I admit my "buttons were popping." I was so proud to hear Senior CG people comment on your many achievements, which Carol and I have known about for years! Then the Admiral went to each Classmate, the widow of a Classmate, and me and placed the Medallion around our neck with warm, congratulatory remarks. As this was happening there was a picture of the person's Cadet days on a big screen. The Cadets were in attendance and gave Bill Simpson (he is a professor on the staff these days) an extra special cheer when his award was made. Besides speaking with the Vice Commandant after the Cadet Review I got to speak with him after the Medallion presentations, also. He had lots of nice things to say about you guys. A number of Cadets came to greet this old guy and were in awe that I was actually there with you after 50 years. So we did have some impact on the young folk that we can be proud of. We then had our picture taken with the Class and the admirals and then another with the Class and their wives in group picture. We then went to the Officers Club for our Friday night Buffet and a time for talking. Dick Manning and Russ Hebert got me a "bar stool" to rest on while I talked to people in the Class. I set it up at the end of the room and invited the Class to come and talk with me if they wanted to. I was very pleased to be busy talking to you great people most of the evening. My family made sure I got a little bit to eat from time to time. It was a great evening but ended relatively early for most people were quite tired for they had experienced a full day starting just before noon until a little after 2100 with no breaks.

Saturday, my family and I attended the All Class Memorial Service at 1030. The nice thing about the Academy, it gives a VIP Parking Pass to older graduates so I could park near McCallister Hall, across the street from the Stadium and centrally located. With the golf carts, it is a piece of cake to get around even at 91. We went to the Tailgate party at the Alumni Center, had brunch and the Class was greeted by the Commandant, ADM Paul F. Zukunft, '77. He, too, had some very complementary remarks to make about the Class. I met him earlier for I was near the front door, when the Commandant entered the lobby, and Jeff, who knows him well, introduced me to him and his wife. They had been told of our long Class relationship so he was pleased we got to talk. You

Les HIGH

guys are making me famous in the CG by bragging and telling about our long time together (54 years, can you believe that?). Thanks. Then, the carts took us to the other end of the football field for the Class march on. Being the Honored Class, the Class came on last with Kent Williams and Doug Teeson carrying the CGA 65 sign with the Million Dollar check underneath it and I got to walk between them, behind the sign. I wore my Class of 1947 white straw hat so no one in the audience would think that anyone in the Class of '65 looks as old as I do! I was honored to be up front. Thanks. In the next row you guys put the widows that marched on the field (most did). When the Class arrived on the field the Commandant, Superintendent and President of Alumni Association came out to receive the symbolic Million Dollar Check! Big event, very impressive and again I was so proud of the Class! Then the Academy football team proceeded to beat MIT 28-13. It was a great afternoon cheering the team and being together. It got a little cool in the stands but the win made it worthwhile. I had a sweater, blazer, rain coat and gloves and a cushion to sit on provided by Tom and Karen Omri so I was very comfortable. There was an All Hands Cocktail Party in Leamy Hall that I did not attend but Jeff, Kathy and Suzy did and they enjoyed it very much. The evening dinner at the Marriott was another very special event primarily made for talking with each other. The table decoration committee of Fay Yentsch and others got pictures from the Tide Rips and had people see if they could locate the former Cadet and talk with them. They put my Cadet picture at most tables so I had lots of people bring the picture to me to show they could locate me. Roger got up to thank his committee and let me speak to the room full of loving people. I only spoke for about five minutes so the Class could talk with each other as much as possible. Again, Dick Manning got a "bar stool" for non-drinking Les High to use while he talked with the Class. I had from about 2030 on, to talk to my loving group. The first time I noticed the time it was 2330 and many had departed for the night. I had a great evening talking with the Class. I got to speak to more people this year than any time in the past. I probably only missed a half dozen folks that either did not want to talk with me or just never got the opportunity.

As you all know by now one of the most joyful things in my life is to have a "one on one" conversation with each of you whenever the opportunity occurs. I had almost six hours of that precious time during the two evenings together at the 50th Reunion which was like heaven to me. Besides these special nights, I have been honored to have a number of visits either in my home or other locations. Dick Manning has come to visit me each year in January for three days since Carol has passed to make sure I am surviving and doing well. He gets his own food and prepares it, plus does all the driving. He tunes up my computer, does his "distance learning course" from my dining room and he gives me many hours of talking and togetherness. One special event on his visit was to drive to Carlsbad to have a Subway picnic lunch with Bill Peterman.

Les HIGH

Fortunately, Dick and Cathy Ruhe were able to come from Escondido to join us for almost three hours in a local park where it was easy to talk. I loved it. On Saturday 14 February, Bob Staton came from the LA area (visiting his daughter and business) for his annual visit with Les High. He has been doing this for years and we talked for over three hours. I had a wonderful visit with Rod and Linda Wilburn on Tuesday, 1 September for over four hours. They came at 1330 from the Old Town area of SD and so we had the rest of the afternoon to cover lots of subject and it was a special visit. On Sunday, 25 October I was able to deliver the Medallions to Gerry and Diane White in my home. They came for almost two hours loaded with sweets which they know I like. On Monday, 26 October, my daughter, Mary, and I drove to Carlsbad to present Bill Peterman his Medallion and got to spend a couple hours with him at the Senior Care Center where he volunteers to entertain the old folks. It was good to see him doing well after his hip operation back in February, 2015. It was great to get to present the Medallions to the Whites and Peterman. On Monday, 2 November, Dick and Cathy Ruhe came to visit and bearing soup and other goodies. Mack Cohan came also, for he had arranged to present Dick his Medallion at my house so I could be involved. We had a super early evening together. I do so enjoy talking with you folks. It is like gold to me. It really charges my battery!

As for the rest of my life in San Diego, I do well living alone in my two story house. I still am able to go for my 1.3 mile walk each day. I live a happy life for everything I do I can imagine Carol being there with me. The memories of Carol and our life together is still what makes my life so full. My children are always thoughtful of Dad's needs. Some of you got to meet and talk with Suzette, Mary and Jeff and Cathy at the Reunion. They were doing their care thing. Steve, oldest son is now established in Medicare and in the throes of Social Security. Greg is still doing a little freelance work and often does any yard work that Dad needs. Mary and Jeff's family have given me 8 great grandkids (four this year, alone). Suzette is going through a divorce at present but still checks on Dad frequently. Jeff and Kathy visit often from NC. My daily walk has resulted in an article in the University City newspaper about Les High (Captain, 29 year Veteran, 91 year old widower who walks every day). Early in October, the CG Aviation Association (Pterodactyls) had a reunion in San Diego and I was invited as a guest of the Commanding Officer of the Air Station (Sector Commander). I guess I am somewhat of a legend in CG Aviation. I am the eighth oldest CG aviator alive today. In 1966, I was the Project Officer in the building of the CG Air Station, Mobile AL, which is the premier Air Station today where all aviators go each year for a week to renew their Qualifications and Instrument Card in the Simulators/ Aircraft. I was senior man in the starting of the "Standardization Program" in Savannah, GA. I brought CG Aviation personnel training from the other services to the CG, which ultimately resulted in the CG Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, NC (where the rescue

Les HIGH

swimmers are trained). When you do these sorts of things and live to 91 you become a "legend."

I must briefly acknowledge the great work Lloyd George has done on the Bulletin this last year. My 23 pages log of telephone calls is impressive and I got lots of warm, loving letters and cards last Christmas and through the year. Dick Manning Emails me almost daily and puts out the Les High Address List.

Carol is telling me in the strongest words to make sure the Class understands how much you have meant to us for the last 54 years! The Class of 1965 has filled this year with so many outstanding events that have brought great joy to my life. It is hard to believe that you still want to enrich my life more each day. You all can be very proud of your part in making me one of the happiest guys alive. Bless you all. Love you all. Les

Les HIGH

Dear

2016

As I (Carol and I) sit down to write to my/our dear 65ers for another year (51st) I want you to know that this loving epistle is primarily about me (Les High) because I, as a 92 year old geezer, attended two major events during the year that were most enjoyable to me and I want to share with you. The first event was my U. S. Coast Guard Academy Class of 1947's (graduated in 1946) 70th Reunion in New London, CT on 23-24 September and the other event was the celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of Coast Guard Aviation, 50th Anniversary of the Aviation Training Center, Mobile and personally, CAPT Les High, USCG (Ret.) was inducted into USCG Aviation Hall of Honor on 28-29 October, 2016, at Mobile, AL. I would like to reveal some of the warm, loving memories and thoughts that come to mind about these rewarding occasions in my life. I will punctuate my remarks with many family and 65er stories. You will note, for the first time in our relationship I am talking extensively about my aviation career. As your Class Advisor for the last 55+ years I have avoided expounding on my aviation activities for I wanted the Class to feel that I was the Class Advisor for "all the Class" and did not want to show any favoritism to Class aviators. This letter may be different and it may disclose some things I did as an aviator that you did not know before.

Yes, my sweet, beloved wife of 66 years and 66 days, Carol, is still a part of my very being. She is constantly at my side and in my thoughts so I do very little without her influence. As I have told you all many times before, she trained me to be "a good guy" 15 years before we ever met in 1961. I will have more stories about her as this letter progresses.

First, as many of you know well, the most blessed thing you can give to Les High is to talk with him directly or on the telephone and I especially like when your kindness for me includes a visit with me in my home or at some special events. I had visits in my home with Jim Andrasick, 4 Dec.'15; Dick Ruhe, 22 Dec,'15; Dick Manning, 20-23 Jan; Visit to Ruhe's, 22 Jan; Dick Ruhe, 23 Jan; Cec Allison, 17 Mar; Larry and Mary Cochrun & Mack Cohan, 4 April; Bob Staton, 7 May; Mini Reunion, 28 Oct, Walt & Diane Viglienzzone, Jerry McGill, Glenn Serotsky Jim and Jacke Wright, Dick and Cathy Ruhe and Rod Wilburn in O'Club, NAS, Pensacola, Fl. All these were such special times for me for I got to capture you wonderful folks generally in my home for the "one on one" conversations I dearly love. Jim Andrasick was in San Diego on business and made some time to come and see me for three hours from 1048-1302. I found his managing a large shipping business generated many questions. Dick Ruhe's visit (22 Dec.), who lives 30 miles away, came to bring his Christmas card and a huge plate of cookies from Cathy. Cathy was home baking cookies with her grand children. Dick Manning's was on his third visit to check on Les High to see how he was getting along without his

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beloved Carol. We had a great three day visit. Dick and Cathy Ruhe (22Jan) has us for dinner. I took the Class Photo Album to share and forgot it when I left which resulted in another Dick Ruhe visit the next day to return it. That sounds like a Les High trick to get to see Dick Ruhe one more time, doesn't it? Dick Manning always helps tune up my computer when he visits. Cec Allison was in attending the decommissioning of the Boutwell and so he came from 0945-1220 the morning of his departure. We had lots to talk about. What a treat to see Larry and Mary Cochrun from 1225-1612, punctuated with a visit from Mack Cohan from his legal work. We had a little mini reunion in my home. Bob Staton visits me annually, when in the LA area on business and seeing his daughter and grandkids. He always has new things to share with me and was here from 1150-1510. The last visit I mentioned was the Mini Reunion. We had a nice lunch and got some photos. Walt invited a couple CG student aviators to the lunch so they got to talk with Dick Ruhe, Jim Wright and Les High about aviation and the others about the CG or their civilian jobs. Always nice to have a number of the Class meet with the Class Advisor.

Can you imagine any Class anywhere having a 70th Reunion. I am proud to say that my USCG Academy Class of 1947 did that. Several years ago a few of us thought this might be a possibility. After I was able to attend your 50th Reunion in 2015, I was convinced that I could easily attend a 70th Reunion and actively promoted it. We had some difficulties along the way as you might imagine for a group of folks all over 90 years of age. Fred Kelsey volunteered to be head honcho. He was doing famously, contacted most of the about 35 living members of the Class and had a list of about 19 "maybe's" on his initial canvassing. Soon several Classmates cancelled because of health reason. Several died, including Fred Kelsey, who had a minor stroke one week and implied he still would try to attend and then a few days later a major stroke took his life. Here is a case of a guy, right to his dying day, was still trying to help his Class. CAPT Bob/Pat Dinsmore (does our column for the CGA Bulletin), who lives in Falmouth, MA and RADM Pat Bursley (Maintains our Class Email List) took charge and put on a fabulous 70th Reunion. Seven (six guys and one widow) of us showed up with numerous family members providing loving support (total of 20). Vince Bogucki was signed up for all the events but only showed up for the Tailgate Lunch at the CGA O'Club with his four family members. The Clarion Inn Hotel provided us a conference room for a hospitality meeting place and the Dinsmores had it stocked with snacks and drinks. Friday, unfortunately, it was threatening rain so the Cadet Review was cancelled but that did not deter us for having a wonderful gathering in "our hospitality room the rest of the day." We took a break to go to an "Out Back Restaurant" within walking distance and then back for "togetherness time" until well past 2200. Pete Petterson was one of my favorite fellow aviators and "Liz" came with her son and daughter so I got to tell the kids lots of stories about their Dad and our flying times together. We were last

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together in Bermuda. Saturday was another super day of togetherness. Most gathered at the Memorial Event on Saturday morning. Our list of those lost in the last five years totaled 36 names. This was a very touching event for these were all "dear classmates." Can you imagine what the number would have been if the wives names had been included! We had our own table at the Tailgate Lunch and Vince and his family were there so that made it special. Then, we did the March on the Football field. The last class on was 1966, the Honored Class but the "hit for the crowd" was the six of us in 1947. Five guys and Liz marched on the field wearing our "47 Straw Hats" (I wore mine last year with you folks), two fellows were using a cane but no one needed an electric cart. We were slow marching on but the people loved seeing the "old folks" and gave us a standing ovation. The Cadets won the football game. Several of us attended the Cocktail Party in the newly dedicated "Otto Graham Hall of Athletic Excellence" in Billard Hall. What a pleasure for me to see Donna White (I talk with her for over a half hour) and Ralph and Martha Anderson for a short visit. The Saturday evening Class dinner at the Hotel was a Class Act. Bob and Pat had the dinner served in our conference/hospitality room. They had invited a couple of the Alumni Association Staff members, Sue Fage and Lolly Owens, to attend as our guests and they truly loved hearing us old folks talk and reminisce. They asked me to be MC which entailed nothing but a few remarks about how wonderful it was to be with my Classmates and their families and tell a few jokes to get the '47 attendees to get up and tell us about their life. Don Vaughn started it off and all six present that night got to share their feelings and a few stories. Pete's/Liz's son made some touching, loving remarks about his first time visit to the Academy and after hearing so many poignant, stirring and moving stories about his Dad, he was sorry he had never come to these events before when invited by his Mom. It was an unbelievably emotional evening and Carol and I loved it (She was there with me every minute, I assure you!) We finished our Reunion at about 2245, Saturday night, WOW, it was great! Sunday afternoon, as another treat for Dad, the family took me to visit with Vince Bogucki, at his doctor (MD) daughter's home in Norwalk, CT for an hour and a half. Vince, is in pretty good health but he does not see well and has a hearing problem so he feels most comfortable in his recliner in a home environment. Cathy used to work for Vince early in her career so our visit had a double meaning. Besides all this, on Sunday the Anderson came to visit with me for about an hour at the Navy Lodge in Groton Ct. It goes on, for the next day dear, sweet Donna White came to spend time with me for almost two hours at the Navy Lodge. She brought me a small loaf of banana bread for our trip home and I assure you it was delicious. So you can see for Carol and me that our 70th Reunion could not have been better.

Yes, as of 28 October, 2016, Les High is in the CG Aviation Association Hall of Honor. Mine was the nineteenth selection so far. To me it seemed like I had a normal aviator

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life. I got my wings in late 1950 and reported to CG Air Station, San Diego as a duty pilot. I was stationed also at CGAS's Kodiak, Alaska, Traverse City, MI, and Bermuda. As the Staff Aviator at the USCG Academy from 1961-65 I became your Class Advisor (What a stroke of luck for Carol and me!) I was able to establish Aviation Training Units in the summer to train Cadets in Elizabeth City, NC. When you graduated and I left the Academy, I had about 5000+ hours in seaplanes, amphibious aircraft, land planes and helicopters. I was an aircraft commander in all the airplanes I flew for the CG and in our day we duty pilots normally flew all the aircraft on the ramp for most of the pilots were dual qualified (fixed and rotary wing). I had many exciting missions including an off-shore landing in San Diego, a number of 14 hour med-evac PBM flights to Cabo San Lucas, landing and taking off the side of a mountain on Loran runs in Alaska, fun helicopter flights off the fantail of the CGC Mackinaw, flying the "Cadillac of seaplanes," the P5M in Bermuda, and in charge of a helicopter rescue unit for Hurricane Beulah in Brownsville, TX where we removed 400 people from positions of peril in just a few days. Starting in early 1965 the CG's new HH-52 helicopters were having many minor accidents. Training pilots in a new airplane meant sending an CG Air Station pilot to the factory for a few flights with the test pilot and then return and training the rest of us to fly the airplane. This was so "unprofessional" so the CG decided to start "Standardize Training" in the HH-52. (BOTU) Basic Operational Training Unit was established and guess who ended up being the Senior Officer of this Unit? Yours truly, Les High. We had four other instructors. They were outstanding pilots and we developed a very successful program and the minor accidents "went away!" It was soon decided we needed "Standardize Training" in our fixed wing aircraft, too, so the search for a larger facility resulted in locating and building of the CG Aviation Training Center, Mobile, AL. Guess who got to be the Project Officer for this new Air Station? Yours truly, Les High. What a delightful job with lots of good people helping with the task. I wrote a Log of this operation so there is a 175 page document describing this historic event of 50 years ago. After Commissioning ATC, Mobile I was the first Executive Officer, so I got to write or oversee the writing of all the new directives, so they were "laced with my ideas, standards, and philosophies about the CG." I loved this opportunity. The Commanding Officer, CAPT James Durfee, accepted almost everything my staff and I presented to him. I, next, became Commanding Officer of the CG Air Station, Detroit, MI and Pete Poulos became the only 65er aviator to ever serve with me. I was only there one year for I was selected to attend the National War College in the one billet the CG had at the time. I then became Chief of PTP in CGHQ's. I was Chief of Training and Procurement (People – Enlisted, Cadets, OCS and Direct Commissioned Officers, etc.) Best job in HQ's in my opinion and I loved it. All my CG flying career the CG had most of their aviation rates trained by other Services like the Navy, Army, Air Force, etc. and I was sure we could do it better. I got Chief of Aviation Engineering, D.C. Thompson to give me LCDR George Krietemeyer for one year in my

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office to study Enlisted Aviation Training. George did this and his suggestion to establish an Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, NC, across the field from AR&SC, our CG repair facility, was brilliant. I moved on to CO, Yorktown but George Krietemeyer took the project forward for the Commandant's approval, then the building of ATTC, and became ATTC's first Commanding Officer. We have been training our own aviation rates since 1978. Because of my extensive background in training, I presume I was awarded this fine honor.

The annual Pterodactyl Roost was coordinated with the actual HOH Award event this year and is a whole another story of Carol, 65ers, dear dedicated plank owners, and fun for me. Wednesday, 26 Oct., Mary, my daughter and I flew to New Orleans where we met Jeff and Kathy (son&wife). On Thurs. 27 Oct, we drove to Mobile. As an aside, we stopped in Ocean Springs, MS to see a Classmate '47 of mine who could not attend our 70th for his wife had a stroke in May. She is recovering slowly but still has some paralysis on her left side. This was a short 45 minute visit but so meaningful to us old folks. We arrived in Mobile and went directly to the Air Station. The CO was gone on business but the CDR, XO took me, Mary, Jeff and Kathy on a wonderful 30 minute driving tour of the base. There were 4 buildings on the base when I arrived on 13 July, 1966, and there are now 51 buildings fifty years later. An aviator of my age will know so many people at a Roost like this so walking into the Hotel the reunion started. We attended a Cocktail party at the home of a former CAPT at Mobile, at Dauphin Island. They expected about 80 people and had about 180. I saw 30 people I knew including several three star admirals that considered me a mentor over the years.

Friday was a big day. The Roost had a visit to the NAS Pensacola Museum scheduled at 1000. Many went by bus but we chose to drive. Jim and Jackie Wright rode with us to Pensacola so I got to talk to Jim for over an hour "one on one." We went to the CG wing of the Museum and got to see a number of the types of airplanes I flew like the SNJ (low-wing monoplane - flight training) PBM seaplane, HU-16 Amphibious, JRF Amphibious, H03S, HO4S and HH-52 helicopters. Now for the big surprise! About 1045 Dick and Cathy Ruhe arrived at the Museum. We had not expected them until that evening. They changed their flight from Pensacola to Birmingham AL (250 miles away). They arrived Thursday night and drove part way. Coming the rest of the way to be with us and the rest of the Class at the noon Mini Reunion event. At noon we met at the O'Club for a couple hours of wonderful togetherness with the people I named previously. At the Award reception, we had the family, the Ruhe's and the Wright's and Liz Petterson, widow of Pete and the one that attended the 70th Reunion just a few weeks before, at our table. As a complete surprise to me the "Azalea City Quilters Guild" presented a Quilt of Valor to CAPT Les High. These quilts are presented to Military persons they want to Honor so upon the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of

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CG Aviation, they wanted to make a presentation to the CG and I got selected. They wrapped me in the quilt while the citation was read and took pictures. After the fact, the quilt has come to have great meaning to me! On the quilt it says Carol Johnson Petterson made the quilt, Carol Balch quilted it. When I later saw that two Carol's were involved "my heart thumped." Also, "Johnson was the name of the Best Man at our Wedding (Bruce). Pete Petterson was my best CG aviator friend who went through flight training with me and we were stationed together in Bermuda. Also, Pete's widow, Liz, was sitting at our table at this event! Carol Peterson, that made the quilt said she really liked my biography that contained many loving remarks about my wife, Carol so she put a copy in the back of the citation for my ancestors to find and see those loving words about Carol. Being a strong believer in the "after life" I say this was all arranged by my beloved wife, Carol. Soon thereafter they brought me up on the stage and read the citation on the Award. I was given an opportunity to speak. I talked for about four minutes to the room full of CG people I love and cherish. It was so super to have the Dick and Cathy Ruhe and Jim and Jackie Wright there with Mary and Jeff and Kathy for this special event. I want you all to know that just before I got the award, when I was a little frustrated for they wanted me to limit my remarks to a couple minutes, I got to talk with Cathy Ruhe for about five minutes, "one on one," and this was a very calming effect. As I look back on much that happened to me at these two special events in my life I can feel so strongly that Carol was guiding much of what was happening to me. This amazes me every time I think about her continued influence on what I do and what I think. For me, her love just goes on and on and I feel so blessed.

I know this is long and If you did not read it I would not blame you. I did so enjoy writing and sharing these thoughts. There are many things I have missed in this annual letter but they must wait until next year. I want to thank Bill Carr for doing a fine job with the Class column. Carol and I love you folks with all my heart (yes, she is a part of me).

Dear

2017

It is time for Les (and Carol) to sit down and try and thank you wonderful folks in the Class of 1965 for all the things you have done for us this last year. You would think that there is little you can do to make this a "near perfect existence for Les High" but you do. I admit I get my greatest joy in life these days when I hear from "my loved ones!" That means my children, my family, my dear friends and especially you stellar members of the Class of 1965. This last year, I received contact from 81 of you by the normal mail, I have had 249 telephone contacts and most meaningful of all there have been 13 visits in my own home by you dear individuals. When I can capture you in my own home and talk to you "I am in Heaven and this is like gold to me!" I want to report on these occasions on the chance that it might encourage and inspire others of you to make similar visits in the future before my time is gone. The list may seem onerous to you, but I assure you, to me each visit was fabulous for "yours truly!" This epistle is mostly about visits but I have other items to share and will later.

Before I go farther, I need to report that last year (2016 mailing) the U.S. Postal Service failed to deliver about 75 of my letters with personal notes on them. First time this has happened in 50 years and I hope it never happens again. I, as usual, (with Carol's help) spent my 75 hours and 16 minutes joyously and lovingly producing those letters just for you super people and then the system lost two thirds of them. I had the USPS searching for them for many weeks and the hope was that they would appear "magically out of nowhere" but no such luck. I assure you I will invest the same loving time again this year to produce this year's Annual Les (and Carol) High's letter and I hope you receive yours.

The visits to my home vary from a fifteen minute stop, to a Mini Reunion of the Class, to an overnight stay by Bill Carr and a four day Fifth Annual visit by Dick Manning. The first visit of the year was on Sunday, 18 December, 2016, from Dick and Cathy Ruhe. They stopped with a big tin of homemade cookies (at least ten kinds) to celebrate the Christmas season. Cathy, sweet lady that she is, left me three jars of meatball sauce for spaghetti, some garlic bread, and a package of greens for salad and a box of pasta for a whole Spaghetti Dinner. Those two, also left me two bottles of wine as well. All this was on a "fifteen minute" stop. They needed to leave soon to catch a "parking place" at the Special Christmas Show. What a joy they are to have in (Carol and) my life. As you can see, Carol, my Angel is with me constantly and I love it.

The next visitor was Mack Cohan, who hired me back in 1978 to work in his law office, and he stopped to chat after work from 1600-1839, Thursday, 29 December, 2016. We talked about a lot of things but mostly about his business and his adventurous

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“diving” trips in many interesting places on this Earth. On Thursday, 12 January, 2017, from 1400-1502, Dick and Cathy Ruhe stopped by to visit on a trip back from South San Diego, They were on their way to visit their son and family in Terra Santa after he comes home from teaching for the day. We had a nice chat and they got to sample my banana bread and yogurt. It is so nice to have some of the San Diego area 65ers call on me from time to time.

The next visitor was Dick Manning on his fifth mission to check on Les to see how he is doing without his beloved Carol at his side every delightful moment. Dick arrived at the SD airport at 1000, Wednesday, 18 January and departed at 1420, Saturday, 21 January, 2017. The nice thing about Dick’s visit is that the minute he arrives I never have to drive again until I get in the car to drive it home when he leaves. This wonderful four days of togetherness included the Tribute Book presentation event which included a number of his Classmates. Dick and I have a marvelous time together. He sees that I get on my daily walk and we find unending things to talk about. His annual visit has become a tradition and I see he plans to visit with me again on 24-27 January, 2018.

Can you imagine any 92 old guy getting a Tribute Book. Well, that is what you folks do for me (and Carol). Bill Carr and Dick Manning decided Les should have a Tribute Book to “capture the aviation honors events of 2016 for our beloved Les High.” (From the Class Notes) The result is unbelievably stunning, loaded with 25 pages of pictures of the Hall of Honor Award event and other activities of that week-end with 65ers at Pensacola, the Ruhe’s and the Wright’s at the Award with Les and his family, etc. The 16 pages of 65er comments are to “die for” to an old guy like me. Who else in this world has people “touting them” like you 65er’s do! Dick made a great presentation and gave me the book. What a treasure in my hands. I got to thank him briefly. One delightful aspect of the event was Dick Ruhe, Bill Carr and Dick Manning got to read their submissions in the book “personally to Les High” and the final passage read by Bill Carr was the one submitted by Stan Kruszewski. Stan’s words were inspirational as well as very touching!

The Tribute Book Presentation Event at 1000 on Saturday, 21 January, 2017, was a family affair as well. Greg and Irene (son and wife) came and took pictures from which Greg has made the brilliant videos. Mary (daughter) provided the culinary offerings and they were delicious. Even my great grandson, Logan, and his parents, Rebecca and Dave were here to help me celebrate. Of course Dick and I were present, when Bill Carr and Mack Cohan arrived a little before 1000 and then Dick Ruhe arrived so the festivities started. We had a marvelous time together with lots of stories, camaraderie and the room filled with love. About 1230 my family, Dick Ruhe, Bill Carr and Mack

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Cohan said their goodbyes and Dick Manning and I headed for the SD Airport for his flight to Reno. A day with my family and the Class of 65 for a "Tribute Book Presentation to Les High" will be hard to beat in this lifetime.

The following several days I got to enjoy the company of Bill Carr for a couple surprising visits. On Sunday, 22 January, 2017, Bill came by to visit and chat from 1615-1835. We covered lots of subjects and I learned a lot more about his Vietnam experiences. I tried to convince him to visit me one more time and for an overnight, if possible. The next day he arrived at 1625 and stayed the night until 1010, Tuesday, 23 January, when he needed to leave to turn in rental car and catch an airplane to Iowa. That overnight visit was extremely special for we got to exchange stories for hours. I am afraid Bill got too many Les High stories but that is the price you pay "to let me have so much of your time in my home!" I love it, Bill!"

My next visitor was Bob Staton who came from 0930-1403, Saturday, 11 February. Bob has been visiting Les High every year for years about the time of my birthday. On this particular weekend Jeff and Kathy High (son and wife) were here visiting me from NC for my Birthday so we all had a wonderful time enjoying Bob's company. Kathy was able to see Bob got a little more to eat than I often offer. Folks, I like "talking" better than "eating." Dave now lives in OR with another home in Las Vegas, NV. He always has lots of interesting things to share with me.

The next four visitors came as a result of the Mini Reunion Walt Viglienze arranged in conjunction with the CG Vietnam Veterans Convention in SD, 8-12 May. That group would have a few CG 65ers (Walt, etc.) in attendance and they were scheduled for an "off day of 9 May" so Walt suggested a 65er Mini Reunion that day." Since the number of 65ers was limited I asked that their Mini Reunion events be at my home. Jeff and Kathy and Mary were going to be in attendance to take care of the two meals we planned for the day. It was an "Open House" type of invitation so any 65er could come any time and stay all day, if they liked. I was hoping for some "one on one" visits and was so rewarded. Del Phillips visited my home from 1450-1605, Sunday, 6 May. I had a great time talking with just Del Phillips and thus being brought up to date on his life. Del and Cordelia do so many interesting things and travel a lot. On Monday, 8 May, 1025-1300 Rod and Linda Wilburn visited with me and Jeff and Kathy. It is so great to have those warm, Southern accents flowing through my home. I was able to ask Rod about his past businesses and learn from Linda about her many civic projects. On Tuesday, 9 May, my home was inundated by Walt, Delgene, Rod and Linda (and his cousin Rob and Carie Merrit) Lloyd George, Gerry White, and Mack Cohan and we had a full day of conversing and enjoying each other. Fortunately, Greg and Irene were here to record the event and thus I had another superior video of the whole day. After all the

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warm, loving 65ers had left for the day, Jeff, Greg and Mary could see how pleasing having 65ers visit made Dad's day! Dad loved talking to them at length! It was a Mini Reunion with not many 65ers but we all, especially me, had a smashing time.

A day or so later, Walt was still at the CG Vietnam Convention so he stole away and visited me from 1120-1210, Thursday, 11 May. Jeff and Kathy had returned home so all was quiet when Walt came to visit the last time. Walt and I finally got some "one on one time" which is so special I feel. Walt got me special invitations to the CG Vet events but that was not where I wanted to be. I wanted to be here in my "own home with my special CG 65er loved ones!" Walt's efforts to gather 65ers is appreciated by this old guy.

The last couple to visit was Wayne and Jeannie Becker. They arrived at 1403 and departed at 1730, Tuesday, 27 June. This was their first visit to our SD home. They had visited our home in DC area in early '70s when we both worked in HQ and both lived in Alexandria. This great couple was able to review many of the CG books gathered on my dining room table, like the photo albums, the Tribute Book, see the Hall of Honor Plaque, see my collection of photos of Carol, visit my office and see where and how I generate the Annual Les High Letter. The recent picture in the Bulletin was taken by Wayne as I was explaining one of my thoughts to Jeannie. That afternoon was just a super, delightful time for Les High.

So my dear beloved Class of 1965 you have heard about some of the special, wonderful, loving times in my own home the Class has Blessed me with this last year. Hopefully, more of you will wander into my domain one day soon.

Well, I will tell you a little about each day with my beloved Sweetheart, Carol. The first thing I do each morning is walk to a "Stop and Go light" about 0.7 of a mile from my home and back. This is the same route I used to push Carol in her wheelchair each day for two years before she passed away. After that I continue to walk for about an hour with a neighbor friend or alone. For my morning walks, only, I have been using a "rollator walker" for about two years to insure that I will not fall when out for my daily exercise. This nets me about 10K steps before I quit my walk each day. I average about 12K total steps per day most days since my last birthday (12 Feb). It actually rained in San Diego two days so I missed two days! I am basically in good health. I have macular degeneration symptoms in my right eye which has reduced my vision considerably in that eye. I have Carol and her thousands of endearing memories to keep me company all day, each day. I am doing well "living alone" in our 5 BR home. I still drive but mostly close to home. I try to remain relevant in life. My memory still seems to be

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excellent. Roger Rufe told me the other day that I sound as eager and enthusiastic as when you guys first met me in McAllister Hall in 1961. Thanks, Roger.

Unfortunately, the “grim reaper” has caught up with the Class this last year and we have lost some dear ones from our midst. Gigi Kushla passed away on 10 February, 2017. I admitted to Roger when we talked earlier that I really did not know his wife. We had never met. We exchanged few pieces of mail. Most of our contact was phone calls between Roger and me. Therefore, I really had no anecdotal information to share with the Class thus you saw no “Les High thoughts on Gigi.” Sorry. In contrast, the guys I knew from our Academy days together. Bill Kurtz passed away on 8 July, 2017. I was able to put down some thoughts on Bill Kurtz which were published to the Class by Bill Carr. Dave Labuda passed away 7 October, 2017. I was alerted by Cynthia Labuda in August of Dave’s dire physical ailments so was able to get the word to Bill Carr and he and Andy Horsey and the 65er system took the class action from there. I was able to generate some thoughts on Dave Labuda. The report on Dave’s Burial Service has not been published but I know the Class furnished a Plaque, flowers and Marty Dillian attended and spoke at the Service. Thanks, Marty. It is sad that the Class has these losses but this is a part of life. You are all over 70 and I am 93 and we are still here. Let us count our Blessings.

I am sorry this letter is so long but I did want those treasured 65ers who visited me in my home this last year to be acknowledged with a proper Thank You. One thing you all know is Carol and I love you all with all our hearts. May you all be Heavenly Blessed?

Dear

2018

As I venture forward on the Annual Letter from Les (and Carol) High (Yes, even though Carol has been gone over 6 years she motivates and enthralls me in all that I accomplish each day) I begin one of the most joyous two weeks of each year. During this time I get to spend some dedicated time with each member of the Class of 65 and his family. What results is a form letter with often some personal words from me. As I get older and have MD in my right eye, reading and research is more difficult so I do not know what I will be able to personally write this year. You will get the best I can do. I love this special time with all of you.

I am aiming to make this letter shorter this year but it is amazing what an old guy experiences with so many loving people in his life. My own children continue to spend time with Dad as time permits. Daughter Mary who lives a mile away constantly cares for my needs, drives me to doctor appointments, etc. The Class continues to impact my daily life. My 25 page telephone log says I had 222 phone contacts last year with the Class. I had gifts of food (cookies, soup, Middle East Pastries, etc.) and had personal visits with 11 families most in my home but a number in Jeff & Kathy's home in NC. I saw all my progeny, five children and mates, 10 grandchildren and spouses and 24 great grandchildren during the two weeks at Christmas time (2017). One other special event I attended was the 40th Reunion of my (and son-in-law, Jeff Bostwick's) Law School Class, 1978 University of San Diego. So you can see besides my daily walks I seem to stay quite busy with many loving people in my life.

As you know we lost another of our beloved wives this last year. Jeri Kruszewski passed peacefully on 7 July, 2018. Stan had relocated her to a delightful Care Home on Cape Cod so she departed this life in an area she dearly loved. This is always sad for all of us to lose one in the Class. We have a number in the Class that are experiencing health issues of a serious nature so remember them in your prayers and contact them when convenient. As your 94 year old Class Advisor I will remind you that you are not 18-20 anymore, as I first knew you, but most of you folks are in your mid-seventies where health issues often materialize. I probably should share with you the fact that Les High had a health issue recently. I experienced a TIA on 15 September, while at Mary's home celebrating her birthday. This is called a mini stroke but I just thought things were cloudy for 10 or 15 minutes. I went to the Emergency room on a 911 call and was kept overnight for observation. I have since been seen by a Primary Care doctor, a Neurology stroke specialist and a Cardiologist. I was on a Heart Monitor for 2 weeks. They are treating me with a blood thinner and have adjusted my blood pressure medication to treat my atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat which I have had for years but they think might be getting worse with my elderly age). This is a new experience for me for I have

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never been really sick before in my whole life. I have arthritis in my back and macular degeneration of my right eye but I never have a cold, flu, headaches, etc. so have been lucky in life. I still walk daily and missed only three days. I am doing 7K-10K steps a day these days. My doctors tell me to keep walking and if my walking regimen changes come see them. They do not expect a reoccurrence of the TIA which pleases me and I am allowed to continue to drive.

From last year's letter you know how wonderful visits are for me. I will dwell briefly on each Class contact to share how some may have been different. Dick and Cathy Ruhe were the first visitors on 13 Dec for 1.5 hours (on the way to a grandchild recital). Besides the tin of 30 or 40 cookies of ten different types, Cathy brought me 3 jars of her spaghetti meatball sauce and 2 jars of soup. They also appeared with Subway sandwiches for us to lunch together. Since they live in Escondido, I get to see them most and this was one of five visits this year. The next special event, on 20 December, was a package of Middle Eastern Pastries from Lloyd and Barbara George. It contained four each of five or six types of absolutely scrumptious tasting rolls. A dessert lover like me was in Pastry Heaven for several weeks. The next day, 21 December, I received a UPS package of David's Cookies (Costco) from Pete and Pat Rutski. There were 8 cookies, each six inch in size and half Peanut butter and half Triple Chocolate. Cookies and both were delightfully delicious.

My next visitor on 26 December was Don Jensen and Joe and Ginny Coleman at Jeff's home in Charlotte, SC. I had about 35 minutes with Don and then Joe and Ginny arrived. We had two more hours together in Jeff's living room. What a treat to come all the way across country and have two 65ers families drive many miles to spend time with me. It did not end there for on 29 December Rod Wilburn drove many hours from just south of Atlanta to come see me and Jeff's family. Rod and I had a couple hours together and then Rod stayed for lunch. Many of my grandchildren and great grandchildren were there to listen to Rod tell stories in his delightful Southern accent about his days at the Academy with roommates Kent Williams and Walt Viglienze. Rod charmed the daylights out of all my family. They all wanted to adopt him as a relative!! Rod spent over 3 hours with me. Isn't that super? Also, during my time in NC, I was expecting to visit with Linda Spade. She was in Charlotte visiting her daughter and we planned to get together. Unfortunately, Linda developed a very bad cold and she did not want to take a chance I would get it too so we talked extensively on the telephone. What a Sweetheart she is and I am so sorry I did not see her in person but she wanted to take care of the Class Advisor!

As the New Year got underway, I was home and Dick Manning made his traditional visit (6th) to check on Les High on 24 January. This amazing gentleman writes an Email

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to me every day and sends me jokes and humorous stories. Can you imagine investing 20 or 30 minutes or more on Les High every day? That is dedication beyond belief! This year's "one on one" visit with Dick was very special for a scheduled visit between Manning and the Trammell's got combined by Dick Ruhe into a Mini Reunion of Manning, Mike and Sandy Trammell, Gerry and Diane White, Mack Cohan and his house guests Bill Carr and friend Lu. Bob Brunette called to say that he could not make it from the Los Angeles area. Del Phillips called from the East Coast to be a part of the group by phone. Greg, my son, made a nice video of the event and it was on YouTube for the Class to see if you wanted to take the time. We had a great time and people brought food for they all know that Les wants to talk not eat. Dick and I had a wonderful four days together and he left on Saturday, 27 January.

Bob Staton's annual visit was on 7 April this year and we had our usual three hours together. Bob is visiting family and doing Environmental work for several companies in Los Angeles area. He drives to see me each year and I treasure his dedication to the old man for all this effort. The next visitor was Christine and Sandy Brushfield. Christine is Dave Labuda's sister, who lives in Anaheim, CA. Christine had heard my piece on Dave and wanted to talk with the guy who wrote it. I sent her four copies for her and her brothers. She gathered them to deliver the copies so the family had a time of "tears of joy" as they savored my thoughts on Dave. Christine wanted to meet the guy who could write such nice words about her big brother so she asked if they could visit me in San Diego. They drove all the way to SD to spend over two hours with me on Sunday, 22 April. It was a heartwarming, pleasant visit and I enjoyed their company very much. It is hard to believe that they could spend so much time on an old guy like me?

The Ruhe's came back on 4 May for another short one hour visit on the way to their son's home. Of course, Cathy came with a couple jars of her famous vegetable soup. She obviously has extra jars in her refrigerator and as she goes out the door brings me some more mouthwatering soup. Can you believe the Ruhe's came again on 21 August for 1.5 hours and Cathy came bearing her 2 jars of her fabulous soup? They were on errands in my area. My final visitor on 11 October was Mack Cohan coming for coffee. Of course Mack knows I never make coffee so he brings his own. He stayed almost three hours this time and we never seem to run out of things to talk about. I heard more about his daughter and her colorful career.

The 40th Law School Reunion was great fun. Jeff Bostwick (Superior Court Judge) was honorary Chairman of the Reunion Committee asked me to go as his guest (and as a member of the Class). Many of the 60 plus years Classmates at the Reunion remembered warmly the "52 year old" Classmate in their Class. They liked the way I stood up for them in Class. When the professor would pick on one of my classmates

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too harshly in class, I would get up and say, "Why don't you pick on someone your own size?" The Class clapped for some time and loved it. I only did this a couple times and the professors stopped heckling my classmates in my classes. The Class loved my jousting with the professor in Class (Torts, Contracts, etc.). It was a fun reunion and the largest gathering of a 40 year group in SD Law School history. Jeff and I are proud of that.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your many kindnesses over the years and all that you continue to do for Les (and Carol) High. As you can see you continue to be in close contact with me and make me feel relevant in our 57+ years of togetherness. I am always so pleased and full of pride when 65ers get awards like Doug Teeson for his Academy Board efforts and Kent Williams for his Vietnam achievements. As I have explained before, I have no buttons on any of my clothes for they have been popping off regularly for the last 57+ years because of all your and your wives accomplishments. You all make me so proud. Loving Thoughts!

Dear

2019

Can you believe this is the fifty-fifth letter Carol and I have written to you since you graduated from the US Coast Guard Academy? Oh, yes, Carol, my beloved wife of sixty-six years and sixty-six days is still my main joy in life. She is with me every moment of my existence and she is constantly talking with me about my various endeavors, challenges or thoughts. We often talk and think about the young people that chose us to be a part of their lives by being their Class Advisor in 1961. What a joy this relationship has been and think of the thousands of hours we have spent together in our fifty-nine years through letters, phone calls and personal contact. This period of contact each Fall is one of my most joyful periods each year. Each one of you gets about a half hour of my time as I write you this Form Letter and often a few personal comments that come to mind. I want to share with you the joys that life has given me in the last twelve months. I get my greatest pleasure visiting with people I love so when you come to visit me in my home for an hour or so that is great. A conversation with you on the telephone or with you through letters is heavenly to me, too. BUT, the visit beyond description for any Class Advisor would be Les High's 95th Birthday / Class of 1965 Mini-Reunion in San Diego on 8-10 February, 2019. I will discuss the visits more in detail later.

My family continues to do well. Mary still caters to Dad's needs regularly by driving me to the eye doctor, cleaning my house from time to time and bringing me goodies for the freezer for me to snack on from time to time. Greg visits Dad regularly with French toast made from homemade bread as the treat for the day. Jeff and Kathy, from NC, visit me as often as they can now that they have full care of Kathy's Mom in their home. Suzy now lives in Seattle area and comes for visit when here for medical treatments funded on her CA retirement system. I talk with Steve on the phone from time to time. Our most recent conversation lasted for more than an hour and gave me great joy! I walk daily and use a rollator (Up Walker) so that I will not fall. I walk anywhere from 10K to 14K or more steps a day. I have had no reoccurrence of the TIA of a year ago. My life is busy walking, spending time with friendly folks I meet on the street and with the people I love that bless my life constantly. Carol, my beloved wife and Mother extraordinary, makes me happy all the time by the wonderful, loving memories of our time together. What a fabulous treasure Carol has always been for me!

One of the sad parts of aging is that we lose loved ones of all ages. Certainly, I have few peers alive but even the Class of 1965 lost two dear Classmates this last year. Ray Cicirell and Jim Sanial both passed away on 10 April, 2019. Ray had Alzheimer Disease for many years and Jim suffered a number of strokes from which he never fully recovered. The wives, Peg and Pat both have commented to me vociferously about the

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wonderful support they got from the Class and the care and concern that they received during their most difficult days. Thanks, 65ers and families, for all you did for the Cicirellis and Sanials. Both ladies loved the plaque the Class provided for each of these heroes in our life.

I want to share with you some of the details of the visits and contacts with some of the 65er's shown on my 18 page telephone log of over 200 calls, 7 visits, a number of gifts like candies, cookies and pastries plus the fabulous three day 95th Birthday /Mini-Reunion in February. The Rutski's started the Christmas Season by sending me a huge box of eighteen "6 inch diameter" Cookies from Costco on 11 December, 2018. I loved them and still had some to share in February. On 17 December, 2018, the Georges sent me a box of Middle Eastern Pastries that had a half dozen of six different tasty treats that melted in your mouth. I also had some of these to share in February. I have over one hundred pieces of correspondence to respond to over this last year because of Christmas contacts and Birthday Cards for my 95th Birthday. Finding things to write to you folks about is never a problem for I have known you for almost sixty years!

The visits in my home got started by Dick Manning's Annual Visit (9-12 January) to see how Les High is doing now that Carol is gone. For each of the last seven years he has visited me for four days and we have a wonderful time together each year. He usually upgrades my computer in some way so it always works better after he leaves. While here Dick, who was handling the planning and running of the Mini Reunion event, made contact with the Butcher Shop Restaurant handling the Saturday evening meal event. On the second day, Dick and Cathy Ruhe came to visit from 1220-1530. Cathy came loaded with 5 quart jars of vegetable and chicken soup and cookies for Dick to take home and cookies for Les. We had a delightful time together.

The next house visits were a part of the Mini-Reunion. Manning arranged for six open house periods. (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1000-1200 and 1400-1700 when people could come and have a "one on one conversation with Les") There was one 65er on duty each of the six periods so that I would always have a 65er to talk with. We had anywhere from one to 10 visitors during each period. I loved it and had so much 65er personal time. We had 18 Classmates and family members attend so that the total at the dinner was 35 people. Stan and son Eric Kruszewski, Howard Newhoff, Fay Yentsch and Tom Pennington, and John Schwartz came from the East Coast. Roger Kushla from Chicago, Bill Carr and friend Lu from IA, Brenda Downing (Johnson) and Dell Phillips from Seattle, Dick Manning from Reno, NV, Jim Andrasick from Carmel, CA and Bob Brunette from Los Angeles, CA, Larry and Mary Cochrun from the Tucson, AZ. The Ruhes and family, Whites, Bill Peterman, Trammells, Mack Cohan and Les High and family covered the local San Diego area. Dick Manning did a super job in planning and

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supervising the Min-Reunion and Les High had an absolutely wonderful 95th Birthday event. Included each morning from Friday to Monday three to five persons went on Les High's thirty minute limited walk. What a treat for all my neighbors to see you guy honor me like this. They were impressed!!!

My next home visitor was Mack Cohan from 1535-1655, 13 February. During one of the open house periods when Darvy was the "duty 65er" Bill Carr asked me how I became a CGA Cadet, since I lived in IA. The long, drawn out story generated several others to share their path to becoming a Cadet so Darvy was investigating whether a collection of 65er "How I became a Cadet" stories should be a future Class project. We had a delightful time discussing this possibility.

Bob Staton has visited me annually for many years and he came this year from 0935-1205, Sunday, 5 May. We had a great visit. It was shorter than normal for he needed to be back in LA area to attend a college baseball game in which a grandson was playing. Bob is still doing Environmental work for a company in the LA area that he used to work for. Bob is always fun to talk with.

On Tuesday, 25 June, 1105-1430, Lloyd and Barbara George visited me. They were on a cross country driving trip to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They had an event in Santa Barbara, CA, and came to San Diego to see Les High on their way home to the East Coast. They brought goodies (a container of fruit and a cheesecake) as they always seem to do. This was Barbara's first visit in our San Diego home so they got the tour of my office (where all these letters are written), the shrine I have set up for Carol in the dining room with so many pictures of my Sweetheart, and all the 65er mementos like the "Gift of Leadership" book, the Tribute Book the latest Photo album from the Class (done by Ginny Coleman and Jackie Wright), etc. The time sped by and soon they were on their way to do the Midway and downtown San Diego before departing that afternoon. It was so pleasing to have these folks in my home (you will all note I usually lock the doors while you are here so you will not get away too soon!) I hope they will come again, soon.

Dick and Cathy Ruhe visited me at 1525-1620 on Wednesday, 3 July on an errand in the San Diego area. They needed to get some tickets at the Miramar Air Station so came here for an hour before. Cathy brought me 2 quart jars of the family spaghetti meatball sauce and 2 jars of vegetable and chicken soup with pasta to add. This was a short but so pleasant visit to hear a little about their attempt to slow down and retire.

Mack Cohan was my last visitor for the year and he came from 1550-1905, Thursday, 18 July. Mack had quite a story to share. He had been on a diving trip and on this trip

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Mack did his 600th dive. I did not get all the details, but while this was going on a lady was recording much of the activity so that when he arrived to visit me, he also had a book that recorded much of this super achievement. I know nothing about diving so do not appreciate the significance of so many dives but "it is a big deal to divers!" Mack is the 65er that hired me in his law office for a year or so after I graduated from Law School. That was an excellent experience for Mack is a super lawyer besides being a great guy.

As you know, Carol and I have enjoyed living the 65er's lives vicariously over the last almost sixty years. One delightful surprise was to see the very close relationships that have developed amongst some 65ers widows and 65er widowers. The most recent example was the marriage of Bill Simpson and Donna Duffy at the Holidays last December. I knew of their intentions for months. On Sunday, 29 July, during the summer of 2018, I got a telephone call from Donna. She was so excited to share with me that Bill had asked her to marry him on Friday night and that she had accepted. She was like a loving daughter, so anxious and pleased to share with me this marvelous news of this fantastic special event scheduled during the Holidays. I would love to have shared this news in last year's letter but it was not "public yet!" What an honor for me to have Donna share this fabulous news with me so early in its existence! I am so happy to report that Bill and Donna are now husband and wife and have been a loving couple for almost a year now. It is nice to know that we have several other 65er couples that have found togetherness is a great way to go.

You can see that the Class constantly adds great joy to my life in all that you do. Dick Manning writes me an E-mail message each day, sends me jokes and maintains the Les High Address List with all its many features, visits me annually for four days in January (since Carol's passing) and this last year handled most of the details for the 95th Birthday/Mini-Reunion in San Diego even though he lives in Reno, NV. That is true dedication, Dick. Bill Carr brilliantly writes the Class Column for the CGA Bulletin every other month and I thank him for that. I am proud to note that I am one of the few class advisors that are still regularly mentioned in their Class' Column. I want to thank all who sent me Christmas and Holiday greetings last year and remembered my birthday, whether in attendance, a card or an E-mail, and all the visitors who make my life golden in my old age. May our life together continue with much love and God's Blessing. It is a great honor for Carol and Les High to be your Class Advisor.

Dear

2020

As I start on our fifty-sixth Traditional Class Letter that Carol (yes, Carol is still the love of my life and is with me every second of my waking hours) and I have written the Class of 1965, I am so thankful that we have had you in our life for almost sixty years. When you recruited me to be your Class Advisor you young gentlemen were all between the ages of 18 and 21. Now 59+ loving years later, as most of you are in your late 70s, married with wonderful wives and families (which I cherish and adore), we are still sending greetings and wishing each other good health and happiness. No other Class at the CGA has the whole class still in personal contact like I do. I feel so Blessed and Honored and Carol and I will always love being your Class Advisor.

This letter is my attempt to tell you how much I have appreciated all you have done for me (and Carol) this last year. As you all know I love having visitors in my home so that we can have a chance to talk and enjoy each other's company from a few minutes to a number of hours. I will report several such visits later.

Unfortunately, as the Class matures in age some suffer health problems. Sadly, one of our dear Classmates, Carl Josephson, passed away on 6 May 2020. I was pleased that the Class presented his wife, Sara, with a Memorial Plaque and flowers and that we had 65ers in attendance at Carl's Service. Sara was so appreciative and sent me a wonderful thank you card for the Class for their care and concern. It is always so sad for us to lose a Classmate or mate, but great that we still have each other.

My family and I are doing quite well. The COVID-19 Pandemic is tough for every family and I hope it is causing as little aggravation as possible for you and yours. The "Stay at Home" orders plus masks, etc. all makes for unpleasant circumstances, but I hope all of you are handling it well. Mary does most everything Dad needs (shopping, drives to doctor's appointments, etc.) so I am well off. Greg and Irene come frequently on Sundays to make me French Toast. I talk to Steve from time to time. Jeff and Kathy's bi-monthly visits to California have ceased because of the virus, but I will report with joy they drove to the West Coast in early October and spent a week with me. Happy Day! Suzy is still in the Seattle area and talks with Dad regularly.

I want to take a few minutes to thank Bill Carr for being the Class Correspondent for the last five years. He has done a super job with the Class Column. He also has been happy to send on "The Thoughts from Les High on ..." when I write some personal thoughts on a Classmate or Mate who has passed on. Thanks, Bill. Bill has arranged for Gerry Kane to be his relief and Gerry is already on the job. Welcome, Gerry! As you all know these dedicated Class Correspondents have to put up with Les High when they

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have the job, so you should feel sorry for them. "Thank you one and all," (Fred Hamilton, Walt Viglienze, Dick Ruhe, Del Phillips, Dick Manning, Lloyd George, and Bill Carr) – all esteemed individuals, I assure you!

The following are a number of special events over the last year that you helped me celebrate! My first visitor in my home was Mack Cohan on 13 December 2019. He called while Suzy and Mary were visiting me and said he wanted to see me for just a few minutes. He arrived at my house driving a gorgeously restored red 1956 MG. It looked brand new. He bought it in Monterey, California in 1966 when he was there on a buoy tender. He had to "soup up" the engine to get it licensed on the California freeways, etc. Mack had lots of stories to share but left soon so I could have time with my girls. I talked to Roger Rufe later that day. He remembers Mack buying the MG in 1966 because he was in the Monterey area himself on a 95-Footer in those days. I love these togetherness stories!

On 18 December, a big tin of Costco Cookies came to my house from Pete and Pat Rutski of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. This was a tin of 9 huge 6-inch diameter cookies each a half inch thick in three flavors. There was a telephone number to call on the cookie tin, which I did. The Answering Machine said, "This is Joe's Bar!" which meant nothing to me, and I did not recognize Pete's voice so I "hung up on him!" Pete is always playing games! Pete called me right back and "heckled me about hanging up on him, such a generous donator of cookies." The Rutskis and I had a very fun and delightful conversation and I truly loved getting a chance to thank Pete and Pat for their generosity with the cookies. Classmate visitors enjoyed many of these cookies in the next month! Thanks Pete and Pat!

A delightful Christmas visit on Thursday, 19 December, came from Dick and Cathy Ruhe who arrived at 1055 for a couple hours visit on their way to a grandchild's Christmas program. First, I got this huge tin of Cathy's homemade cookies. At least a dozen different varieties and four or five of each cookie. These are a tradition! I get these cookies every year and they are so good that I try to make them last a couple weeks, if possible. Also, Cathy and Dick brought me 6 jars of chicken/vegetable soup along with 6 packages of cooked pasta to add to the soup when ready to serve. Much of this goes in my freezer so I get to appreciate Cathy's cooking for weeks after a visit in my home. They were great fun to talk with about their attempt to slow down and be "retired". Not easy but they are working at it! I always love some time with the Ruhes.

The Mid-Eastern Pastries are the next Tradition that I seem blessed with each year. Lloyd and Barbara George sent me this huge package of special Pastries that melt in your mouth. There are about 6 flavors and 4 to 6 pastries of each variety. They last me

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for weeks. Visiting Classmates get to share in these tasty treats as well! One thing Les High will never become frail because of all the “goodies” he gets from people like the Georges. Thanks Barbara and Lloyd!

My first visitor of 2020 was Bob Staton who came to my home at 1125 on Saturday, 18 January 2020 and stayed for three and a half hours. Bob used to live in Los Angeles near Disneyland and used to visit me every year for many years. Now, each year when he comes to LA to see his daughter and do some EPA work for a former employer, he plans a drive to San Diego to see Les on a Saturday. This particular Saturday he had to get back to Los Angeles for a special Saturday evening dinner, so he left early. We had a nice conversation about his homes in McMinnville, Oregon and Las Vegas, Nevada. They have a two-story home to sell in Oregon for they have moved to a one-story home which is more convenient for them in their old age. Bob will sell it when the market is right!

The last big visit was Dick Manning’s Annual Visit from 22-25 January 2020 to see, “how Les is doing now that Carol is gone.” He has visited me 8 years now (2013-2020). He is here over a four-day period (Wed. to Sat.) and we have a wonderful time together. The Ruhes wanted to see Dick while visiting San Diego so they planned a little mini reunion of the Ruhes, Mack Cohan, Dick Manning and Les High on Thursday the 23rd. At about 1400 the Ruhes arrived and Cathy brought a large platter of her cookies and Mack arrived about five minutes later with four large cups of coffee. We had a wonderful afternoon together discussing some of Mack’s cases and clients and the Ruhe’s retirement efforts. We devoured the platter of cookies and had over three hours together with Mack leaving at 1710 and the Ruhes leaving at 1735. The rest of Dick’s visit was time spent together just talking about the Coast Guard and our careers, the people we served with and Classmates. Dick always looks at my computer and makes some super adjustments that make it work better and faster. This particular trip he had magic to show me with a new trick each day. I love seeing his magic. Dick is good in my opinion and has me in awe all the time! Before we knew it, the time was up and it was Saturday and time to take Dick to the airport. Mary did that and I rode with her so I could talk to Dick as long as possible. What a great visit these San Diego trips have become! Dick and I exchange e-mails each day and you would think we would run out of things to say but that never happens. Thanks, Dick, for being so generous with your time!

One other event of the year was my supposedly having another “TIA” in March 2020. On Sunday I got a little weary on my walk so I stopped early. On Monday I did not show up for the walk and my walking buddy, Jim Reardon, called and left a message for Mary. Mary was away from her phone for a couple hours. She and Jim

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arrived at my home at the same time to check on me and I was acting a little sluggish. The next couple days I was treated at the hospital and watched closely at home by Mary. I do not remember much about the week except I was having trouble doing routine things and writing my emails. Bill Carr put out a little notice to the Class and I got about 30 or 40 calls in the next week asking about my health. Thank you all for your concern. I appreciate it. You will note the "old guy just keeps moving on in life!" I still walk regularly but have reduced the steps each day from 12K-14K down to 8K-10K. That is plenty for a 96-year-old guy!

As you well know, my beloved wife of 66 years and 66 days still enchants this old guy every day of his life. The memories of our life together could not be more fabulous nor delightful. Memories of her continue to make me one of the happiest guys in the world. My family and my friends make sure I never become lonely. Being Class Advisor for the Class of 1965 was and is one of the most joyful things Carol and I did in our life, so thank you all for giving us this opportunity. We love you all and feel blessed to be a part of your lives. Thank you.

Les HIGH

Dear 65er, Wife or Mate and/or Family Member,

2021

It is time for me to send you all a warm, loving Christmas and New Year's Greetings from your Class Advisors of over 60 years, Les and Carol High. Yes, Carol has been gone for over nine years now, but she will always be a part of our enchanting relationship. She loved the roll of Class Advisor Mom and you guys were always "Her Guys" almost to her last breath. At the Reunion in San Diego in February 2012, she remembered having dinner with "Her Guys" both at the Ruhe's dinner in their home and the dinner the next night at the Top Gun Restaurant at the Naval Air Station. Carol is with me every moment of my day starting with my walk. She helps me to decide when to quit, usually between eight and ten thousand steps. Every day of my existence is filled with thousands of memories of our life together and this makes me one of the happiest guys in the world.

In this letter I hope to give you some idea of the many nice things you have done for me this last year. At the Holidays and my Birthday last year I heard from 78 people, some a couple times. They included Letters, Notes, Pictures, Christmas Cards, New Year Cards and Birthday Cards. I get many emails from the Class and Dick Manning writes me an email every day and some days I get two. The Harods, Rutskis and Georges sent food gifts at the Holidays. The Ruhes called me many times and came to visit three times. Also, Steve and Carolyn Cox hosted three Zoom sessions in which I was able to participate.

Sadly, we lost three 65ers and one wife this last year. Tom Omri passed away 13 March 2021 rather unexpectedly. June Allison passed away 3 July 2021 while watching a TV program at night with Cec so that was another unexpected loss. Ed Chazal passed away 11 September 2021 after suffering with MS for almost 25 years in Susan's dedicated care. Gerry White passed away 5 October 2021 with a deadly brain tumor. It is so hard for us to lose loving members of the '65er family, but we have to realize that the guys who were 18-20 years old when we first met are now 77-79, senior citizens, and thus will have the maladies of the elderly, one of which is termination of life. Karen, Cec, Susan and Diane all know how devastated the Class was on hearing of these losses, but we understand that is all part of life! May they all rest in peace!

For your information, my family and I are doing well. We are pleased that the COVID-19 pandemic is somewhat reduced, and families can get together again. I so disliked the "Stay at Home" orders plus masks, etc. Mary is busy taking care of her live-in mother-in-law at the present. Mary still does most everything Dad needs (shopping, doctor's appointments, etc.) Greg and Irene come with homemade bread and make French Toast occasionally on Sundays. Steve and I talk now and then. Jeff and Kathy

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hope to visit more often now that planes are flying again. Suzy and Dave moved from the Seattle area to Branson, Missouri late last year and like it there very much. She makes regular visits from wherever she is living!

As I expound on the things that have given me so much pleasure this year, hopefully you will realize how joyful you have made my year even though the country was basically shut down with the virus much of the time.

The first Food Gift came from Randy and Georgia Harod in GA and arrived at 1630, 2 December. It was a package of Danish pastries from the Kringle Pastry Factory in Racine, Wisconsin. It seems Georgia was born and raised in Racine and she worked at the pastry factory in her early years. I tried one of the pastries and it was absolutely delicious. At 1714-1730 I called the Harods to thank them and we had a wonderful chat. They gave me a hint to warm the pastry in the microwave for 10 seconds. They had gotten my Christmas letter and liked it very much which is always nice to hear.

The second Food Gift was from Pete and Pat Rutski in FL and arrived about 1840 (San Diego) so instead of opening it, I felt I needed to call FL and thank the Rutskis before it got too late. We talked from 1714-1730. They explained they wanted to send something different than cookies this year so they sent a package of Fruits and Nuts. I told them I would open it when Mary comes to tell me how to pack and save this food treasure. It was half a dozen kinds of dried fruits and half a dozen kinds of nuts. Much of the fruits I did not recognize but all of it was delicious. If you have never tried Fruits and Nuts as a snack, you should try some one of these days. You will love it! It was an excellent choice of flavors and I liked them all.

The third Food Gift was from Lloyd and Barbara George in NJ and I discovered it at the front door at 1115 on 21 December. I called the George's home answering machine at 1126-1129 to thank them for a package of Meats and Cheeses. Then I called Lloyd's cell phone and we talked from 1130-1141. Lloyd said they wanted to send something other than Mid-Eastern Pastries this year so they asked Mary if I like meat and cheese. She said I loved both so that is what they sent. The package had two kinds of salami and 5 or 6 kinds of cheese. Every morsel was absolutely to die for, and I loved it all. I liked the pastries they sent in earlier years, but this was a fine replacement. They had gotten my Christmas letter and said they loved it as usual. They said they enjoyed seeing me on the Zoom Session on 16 December.

Another fun thing we did this year was to have three Zoom sessions developed by Steve and Carolyn Cox for the Class. The first Zoom was on 9 December 2020, from 1150-1235. The people who attended were the Coxes, Somers, Phillips, Georges,

Les HIGH

Anderson, Jeff High, Omris, Fay Yentsch, Pennington, Williams, Newhoff, Carr, Rufe and Les High. Steve said it was a practice session, but it was really fun getting together and seeing each other for my first Zoom session, ever. Steve and Carolyn talked to me on the phone to help get me up to speed. They did an excellent job with this old guy!

The second Zoom, on 16 December 2020 was the first Class Zoom that we have ever had, other than the practice on 9 December. This one, run again by Steve and Carolyn Cox had many attendees. My daughter Mary said we had 30 windows open at one time and many 65ers were joined by their wives. I will list those I remember as being present: Allison, Amos, Anderson, Arecchi, Becker, Bowen, Carr, Cox, Finizio, George, Jeff High, Jensen, Gene Johnson, Kane, Koloski, Manning, McGill, Morgan, Newhoff, Norris, Omri, Pennington, Phillips, Rufe, Schwartz, Scobie, Sigler, Simpson, Staton, Teeson, Williams and Fay Yentsch. I was present from 1130 to 1320. Steve allowed me to have an open microphone and to comment when I had something to add. I talked quite a bit about the Cadet Aviation Training Unit (CATU) I ran each summer in Elizabeth City, NC, to acquaint Cadets with Aviation in the Coast Guard and to inspire some Cadets to choose to later become CG aviators. As you may have recalled I told you guys how much Carol and I loved you and how important you have been in our life. This Zoom was a great 65er event and it gave all of us a chance to see so many in the Class on the Computer screen. Thanks for doing that, whoever thought we needed this as another form of togetherness we have not had before!

The third Zoom was on my 97th Birthday, 12 February 2021. I was present from 1125-1320. It was scheduled to start at 1200 but people started to arrive at 1130 so we started early. It was a wonderful celebration for me and I got a chance to greet almost everyone as they joined the group. When they appeared on the screen, I would acknowledge their arrival and then they normally responded with a Happy Birthday greeting and other social pleasantries. Here is my list of who I remember being present: Anderson, Ralph; Andrasick, Jim and Ginger; Arecchi, Angelo; Becker, Wayne; Blanchard, Bill; Blayney, Paul; Bowen, Gene; Brady, Terry; Cohan, Mack; Cox, Steve and Carolyn; Chazal, Ed and Susan; Duffy's Donna Simpson; Fuller, Phil; George, Lloyd and Barbara; Helman, Carl and Paulette; High, Jeff; High, Les; Horsey, Andy; Jensen, Don; Johnson, Gene and Lynne; Kane, Gerry; Koloski, Mike; Luckritz, Bob; Manning, Dick; McGill, Gerry and Maureen; Newhoff, Howard and Valerie; Offutt, Bob; Onstad, Skip; Pearce, Carl and Beth; Omri, Tom; Pennington, Tom; Phillips, Del and Cordelia; Pettit, Tony; Rogers, Joe; Rufe, Roger; Ruhe, Dick; Schwartz, John and Penny; Scobie, Bob and Ditsie; Serotsky, Glenn; Simpson, Bill and Donna; Somers, Laurie and Carol; Staton, Bob; Teeson, Doug; Williams, Kent and Jerry; Wright, Jim and Jackie; Yentsch, Fay (43?). I may have missed some folks and I'm sorry about that. It was a tremendous showing of the Class to honor their Class Advisor on his 97th Birthday and I really appreciate your

Les HIGH

time and devotion. It is no wonder I love you all so much! Roger took about 5 minutes to talk about the idea of having a Board of Directors for the Class to handle Class business when the Class cannot gather. So, now the Class has established another togetherness vehicle to help us remain even closer than we are now. Carol and I love seeing this in you wonderful people!

My only visitors last year were Dick and Cathy Ruhe. They live in Escondido, about 30 to 35 miles away. They call me regularly and besides their 22 telephone calls they have visited me three times. Two of their children live in San Diego so when they are in the area I have been blessed by their stopping to see me. The first visit was 1310-1500 on 15 April 2021. They were taking Richard Jr., their oldest son (53) to an appointment and they stopped to see me. Richard enjoyed seeing all the CG related mementoes in our home. He enjoyed hearing some of my CG stories for they reminded him of the stories his Dad had been telling him all his life. I shared some jokes with them, and we had a great visit. The second visit was very short (1130-1220) on 24 June. Jeff and Kathy were visiting me from NC for a few days and the Ruhes wanted to see them to say hello, so they stopped while on an errand near our home. The third visit was 1140-1455 on 27 September. They had returned from the Class Reunion at the Academy about 10 days before and they wanted to brief me about that event. They arrived with Subway sandwiches and potato salad, so we had a delightful lunch while we talked. Richard had gone to the reunion with them, so they enjoyed sharing with him all the typical Class and Academy events. In addition, they enjoyed visiting schools Richard, Jr. attended when Dick was stationed at the Academy in his younger days. They thought the Reunion went very well and they were very pleased they attended this year since they had missed several Reunions in the recent past due to Dick's busy schedule with Blanchard and Company. The Ruhes are always fun to spend time with, so I am so pleased that they live so close and continue to stay in touch so devotedly!

In closing, I would like you all to know what an unquestionable honor and privilege it has been for Carol and me to be your Class Advisors for over 60 years. Our relationship with you has given Carol and me well over 200 loving, young people in our lives that most people never have. In our effort to set a proper example for the Class and their families you have influenced us to be better, loving individuals. My Angel, Carol, was near perfect as a Wife, Mother and partner and did not need to change much but you helped Carol shape this old military guy, Les, into a kinder, more feeling individual. Carol and I thank you for the positive influence you have had on our lives. Thanks for making us feel special every time you spend time with us. We have so enjoyed, relished, appreciated, and loved being a part of your life and especially having you all as a part of our life. You are treasures to us so take good care of yourselves. May God Bless you all. Warm, Loving, Thoughts,

Les and Carol High Class Advisors

Les HIGH

LES HIGH SENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear 65er, Wife or Mate and Family,

15 November, **2022**

The Annual Letter (58th) from Les and Carol High, (Class Advisors) is now in your hands, as I attempt to thank you for many of the loving things you have done for us in the last year. The list is so long and impressive that no words that I can utter or articulate can possibly describe the loving nature of the things you did this year to Honor Carol and me. Although Carol has been gone over 10 years (10 August 2012) she is with me every moment of my life here on earth. As I thank you in this letter, Carol will be a part of everything I say. She is beaming her joyful smile of delight, gratitude and approval for making your awards to Les and Carol High as a Team. As I have said so many times, my beloved wife was instrumental in any success I ever had since I met her, and she makes me love her more every day! We want to wish you all a warm, loving Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Class Advisors of 61+ years, Les and Carol High.

Since last year's Annual Letter, four of our favorite Classmates have passed away. Paul Samek on 11 December 2021, Gerry McGill on 2 February 2022, Jim Wright on 2 June 2022 and Tom Lucey on 8 August 2022. This is always heart breaking for all of us. For the very reasons that made them each unique and special to the Class, they will be missed by their friends and especially their loving families! May the Good Lord Bless them all! I might note that to Carol and me all you 65ers and your charming and enchanting wives are our "favorites"!

I will try and expound on a few of the following 65ers loving kindnesses for Carol and me in the last year.

First: The two Major Gifts at Christmas time of the \$65,000 to the CG Mutual Assistance Association over 10 years and the donation of \$500,000 for the CG Academy Marine Center of Excellence (MCOE) building on the waterfront in Honor of Les and Carol High's 60+ years as Class Advisors.

Second: I received 78 wonderful contacts of Holiday Cards, Letters, Notes, Pictures, special occasions Emails, Birthday Cards all brimming with deep, sincere loving words for Carol and me.

Third: I had five visits to my home by local 65ers.

Fourth: Gifts of a computer keyboard and tasty food treats at Holiday time for Les to feast on.

Fifth: The number of 114 65ers reached by telephone on my two sets of Class Calls resulting in over 450+ calls with sincere, heartwarming exchanges with 57 65ers the first set of calls and 83 65ers the second set of Calls.

Sixth: The 65ers getting me the Alumni Association's Distinguished Mentorship Award.

Les HIGH

Seventh: The committee of 20+ 65ers working on touting Les and Carol High in the two alcoves of the MCOE building with emphasis on "Leadership" and "Mentorship." Also, a few of the dedicated promoters of "Togetherness in the Class" who do masterful jobs are:

Gerry Kane who is the Class Correspondent, does the CGA Bulletin, keeps us in touch and maintains the Email Address List

Dick Manning who maintains and publishes the Les High Class Address List each year, sends Email Birthday cards to each 65er on his birthday, writes an Email to Les High every day (365+) which is a very time-consuming task

Roger Rufe as "President for Life" of the Class of 1965

Andy Horsey with his September annual golf event, Chairing the "Golden Journeys" 50 yearbook and chairs the group that assists widows who lose 65er husbands, etc.

Del Phillips who generates the Memorial Plaques given to each widow on a 65er passing, serves on the MCOE committee, etc.

Bill Carr who Chairs the MCOE Committee and who recently drove from Iowa to the CGA to promote 65er efforts to tout Leadership in the MCOE building at the MCOE Dedication and Home Coming

and the List of loving, dedicated people doing things for Carol and me could list just about all of you wonderful Guys and Gals of 1965!

The two Major Gifts for Carol and me were almost beyond belief for anyone you tell: ten years of \$6,500 donations to the CG Mutual Assistance program on 5 June each year (our Wedding Anniversary) in Honor of Les and Carol High. That is a marvelous Gift but the #2 Gift is stunning and beyond belief! \$500,000 donated by the Class of 1965 to the USCG Academy Alumni Association to help fund the (MCOE) Building on the waterfront with the two entry alcoves dedicated to Les and Carol High for over 60 years as the 1965 Class Advisors. The Award Zoom Session where these were presented was super. We need to thank Steve and Carolyn Cox for training and developing the Class into Zoom people. On 16 December 2021 the Class was scheduled to have a Class Zoom event to wish Les and Carol a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. But that is not what happened! It is not the Style of the Class of 1965. To my awe and delight they presented Carol and me these two spectacular and superb gifts. Roger Rufe made the CGMA award and Kent Williams the MCOE award. Roger asked if I wanted to comment, and he and the Class almost caught Les High for a loss of words. I was momentarily awe struck by the magnitude of these gifts! I was enchanted that you considered Carol and me as "One" and anything that goes to one has to go to both. What a warm and caring thing it was for Les to see Carol get such deserving credit for being my loving wife and helpmate in all that I did in my CG career and later life! Mary, my daughter, and Roger and the Class arranged this Zoom event beautifully and we have it all recorded for history and posterity. The Class had been planning these gifts

Les HIGH

for a year and Les High did not have a clue any of this was happening. Son, Jeff, had masterfully kept this secret during his whole year of arrangements with the Class. This is just another example of why Carol and I have always admired our Guys and Gals for you continue to do unbelievable things for us all the time!

The 78 wonderful contacts from the Class during the past year are all so typical of the adoring nature of the Class toward Carol and me over the years. I have 5 boxes of such correspondence that proves no other group, that I know of, has continued to show such high esteem and respect for their Advisors (proxy Dad and Mom) for over 61+ years. Each item is a treasure to read and take into my heart and my admiration for all of you just grows every day it seems! My intent this year is to make Christmas calls like last year and I hope to talk personally with most of you. I love hearing your voices and can feel the closeness we share in our time together! I have 114 people to reach but I know I can do it for I did it twice last year. Please answer the phone if you see my number 858-453-4651 and try and have the answering machine with space for my message if you are not available! It would be a super Christmas gift to be able to talk to each of you.

I love visitors to my home so the five I got over the year were very much appreciated. Bob Staton came for a three hour visit on 8 December bearing a 2-pound box of 100 Belgian cookies with twelve different kinds of cookies. We had a wonderful visit and during the last 30 minutes of his visit Mack Cohan arrived so the two 65ers got to chat and compare notes before Bob had to head back to the LA area. Mack's visit was 3 hours, also, so I got to hear about his diving trips and his story writing. Great visit. The other three visits were with Dick and Cathy Ruhe. The Ruhes were present at the 16 December Zoom Award event, but I had very little chance to talk with them. Their oldest son, Richard, was with them and he also got to see the Award Ceremony being recorded. The second Ruhe visit was three hours long on 3 January when they were delivering to me Cathy's big tin of 25+ cookies. She has 7 different cookies, and they all are delicious. I love them! The third Ruhe visit was only 21 minutes on 13 May for they were on the way to see their son who lives about 2 or 3 miles from our home. It was a nice visit sharing their summer travel plans. Dick was going to Ketchikan, Alaska, salmon fishing with his sons for a week. I loved all the visits!!

I got three gifts of food for Les to eat and share with guests. On the 8 December visit with Les, Bob Staton brought me 100 cookies which I talked about before. On 15 December Pete and Pat Rutski sent a 14-inch platter of dried fruit and nuts. There was also some salami and cheese. It tasted super! On 18 December Lloyd and Barbara George sent a package of 27 items of fruit, nuts, salami, cheese, candy and cookies. After trying several items, I was able to call the Georges and tell them how much I enjoyed their special food gift. As an act of kindness, on 24 April, Dick Manning sent me a new keyboard after hearing me talk in my email about a keyboard that had a faulty

Les HIGH

space bar. I plugged it in immediately and it has been working fine ever since. These are just a few examples of the sort of things 65ers do all the time for Carol and me.

I want to share with you how rewarding my two sets of calls to the Class were for me. I admit I miss writing the personal handwritten notes that I have done at the end of previous Annual Letters but the actual talking with you all and hearing the love and enthusiasm in your voices has been a God sent Blessing which may make me live another ten years! In just minutes we can exchange so much warm, loving, caring information that we could never do by handwritten notes. It is such a joy filled project for me, so I hope you do not object to the new contact system! When we talk you will hear how happy I am to be able to spend this time with you. These calls are another great thing the Class does for Les and Carol.

The Class nominating me and getting me the CGA Alumni "Distinguished Mentorship Award" was a surprise and very much appreciated by yours truly. It took a lot of effort by many people to bring this about but now I am a member of this awesome group of people who gets the prestigious Annual Awards the Alumni grants each year. I did not attend the ceremony for I am 98 years old and 3000+ miles away in San Diego, CA but my grandson, Ken Bostwick, LT, USN JAG Corps accepted the award for me. Ralph and Martha Anderson, Gene and Fran Bowen, Donna White and Bill Carr and his sister were the 65ers at the dinner and Awards Ceremony to honor me, their Class Advisor. As you can see the Class continues to honor Carol and me regularly and, in this case, it was 3000 miles away on the East Coast. I admit it is marvelous to receive all these accolades but the real fun and joy for us is being with you as much as we can and trying to set an example for life that will make you proud of your Class Advisors.

I want the Class to realize how much I appreciate the enormous amount of money you donated to honor Les and Carol this year. I heard Roger tell me that these gifts came from the whole Class and therefore I want to thank you all. Some in the Class may have overextended their budget and for that I am sorry but feel warm in my heart for your sacrifice. Also, I am well aware you do not have donations of this magnitude (\$65K and \$500K) without having a number of "heavy hitters" who gave thousands and thousands of dollars and for this you have my most sincere admiration and respect for being so generous. "Thank You" to you all seems so inadequate but the best I can do!

I would like to share something really special with you. My son, Greg High, has created a website on YouTube for me. He has been interviewing me on many Sundays this year about my CG life with Carol. He has then edited some of the stories to extract Leadership and Mentorship ideas/practices and posted them on my site. If you want to hear and learn about Carol's and my life together and what we lived by and stood for, go to your internet browser to: YouTube.com, enter "Les High USCG", click on my picture, select "98-Year-Old Speaks", select Playlist and you will see 123+ video clips of Les speaking. Hint: Bookmark the site once you get there for then one click gets you back next time. If you want "close caption (CC)" you have to click on CC on each new

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video! If these instructions do not work, call me. I am adding this to our letter in case you want to know more about your Class Advisors. There is a lot of info in these clips and Greg is adding clips regularly. Some or all the videos may end up in the Alcoves in the MCOE building.

My family is doing well and keeps putting up with Dad in his old age. Steve calls regularly but not often. Jeff (and Kathy) live in North Carolina and they come and visit 2, 3 or more times a year. Greg, I see often as he works diligently on capturing Mom and Dad's life together in interviews and developed clips I talked about above. Suzette lives in Branson Missouri and visits Dad four or five times a year. Mary, my guardian angel, lives a mile away and does take care of most of my needs. She shops for me, she drives me places, she keeps me and my computer on the same page, she brings me food from her home, she touches up my house when visitors are coming, etc.! Yes, Mary continues to make Dad happy!

As you will note, my letters get very long when we have a year like 2022, where the Class of 1965 never seemed to stop giving and doing things for Les and Carol High. As I have said so many times before I do not have the words to properly and adequately thank and show our sincere, loving gratitude for all that you do. You are such treasures for Carol and me. Stay healthy and enjoy life to the fullest. May you all have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Warm, Loving Thoughts,
Les and Carol High
Class Advisors

Les HIGH

LES HIGH SENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear 65er, Wife or Mate and Family,

15 November 2023

Once again, we meet for the Annual Letter (59th) from Les and Carol High in their attempt to express "Thanks" for the many things you have done over the last year to honor Carol and me. It took us four pages last year to itemize the many impressive gifts and marvelous loving acts the Class continues to do to make our life full. The many Letters, Cards and telephone calls have been like gold to us. Although your generosity and kindness never seem to diminish in the slightest, I will try and make this epistle shorter so more of you might find time to read it this year.

As you know Carol has been gone for over 11 years now (10 August 2012) but she is not really gone for that sweet Angel is with me every second of my day making each day Heaven on Earth. From now on in this letter when I say "Les" I mean "Carol and Les" and when I say "me" I mean "us". Carol was responsible for almost any success I had either in or out of the Coast Guard, so to talk about anything I did without her being a part of it would be wrong!

Since the Annual Letter of last year (58th) the Class has lost four more of our beloved Soul mates. Jean Becker passed away on 28 April 2023, Bill Schorr passed away 17 July 2023, Tess Gray passed away on 27 August 2023 and Steve Brundage passed away on 3 September 2023. This is always so sad for all of us but especially the close family. We will miss them all for the very reasons that made them so dear and loving in our lives together. May the good Lord Bless and Keep them and give them Peace. I send condolences from the Class to all the families with lost mates.

As you know certain people in the Class are prone to send gifts to me and some are prone to visit me also. The Staton's started the gifts with a big tin of over 4 dozen pecan cookies on 10 December 2022. They were so delicious and since I have fewer visitors these days they lasted for some time. The Pete and Pat Rutski gift arrived the same day and was very tasty fruits and nuts. Too numerous to describe but wonderful to snack on from time to time. On 16 December Lloyd and Barbara George sent a huge package of Salami and Cheese. The various flavors made my cheese/salami snacks super. Mercedes Peterson sent me a big box (she constructed the box herself) with Chocolate chip cookies, Cheeses and Salmon on 9 February 2023. The gift was so varied it was hard to pick what to eat first. When I got to the salmon it really brought back memories of our days in Kodiak, Alaska, where you could have salmon every meal if you wanted it for it was so plentiful.

I also had some wonderful visits with the Class. Dick and Cathy Ruhe came with their oldest son, Richard, on 15 December 2022 with Cathy's large tin of her homemade cookies. It may have had 7-10 different types of cookies and 4 or 5 of each cookie so it was an impressive sample of Cathy's cooking skill. Do not ask me to pick a

Les HIGH

favorite for I loved them all. She also brought me several jars of vegetable soup which I was sampling before her car even turned on to Governor Drive several blocks away. It was a delightful visit of an hour and twenty minutes. Wonderful to catch up after so many months of separation during the COVID days. Bob and Michele Staton came on 4 March for about 2 hours and 20 minutes. The two drove to San Diego from the Long Beach area so a visit with me is a long two way trip. Bob has been doing this every Spring for 10 or 15 years. Bob, the rascal, brought me another box of cookies. He knows the old man is a cookie lover!

Bill Carr visited Mack Cohan from 27 September to 4 October and during that time Bill came to visit me four times and Mack came two times. Each visit with Bill was about three hours. He was able to see my office where all the Annual Letters were written in the last 48 years. He got to see my five boxes of records of letters from the Class, the phone Logs, etc. One day he came, and I gave him a copy of the Log I kept as Project Officer when we built the Mobile Air Station (178 pages). I had a box of Awards in my closet I received in the CG and I had never looked at them since I retired. Bill and I looked at the Awards together for a couple hours. Bill is interested in preserving the records of our (Les and Carol and Class '65) contacts in the "Special Collections" at the CG Academy Library. Our relationship is significantly unique and it should be preserved for posterity. Mack Cohan came to visit on a couple of the days and they each got to see their Folder in my records. Bill got to see the Thank You note he wrote to Carol for having Bill at our home for a Sunday dinner when he was a Cadet. Bill claimed Judy Sinton, the Social Director, helped him write it! On the Sunday visit, Mack, Bill and I made some videos with Greg taking the pictures and recording the clips.

Dick Manning visited me from 18 October to 21 October. Dick did this type of visit each January after Carol passed for 8 years and then COVID came along. This was a super time of just walking and talking. Dick did invite Mack Cohan to come for a visit that lasted 3 hours. Great for me to hear Classmates talk about their CG days together and other things. Dick did a dozen magic tricks for me while here. He always helps me with my computer on these visits. It was just a super time!

The Class held two wonderful Zoom Sessions with me this year. The first was on my 99th birthday (12 February) and we had over 50 people present at various times that day. Roger Rufe started the Zoom with a toast to me which was delightful. The remainder of the Zoom was individuals with 99th Birthday Greetings and many loving comments. My biggest problem was finding out who was talking and locating them on the screen to see who I was talking with. (The Class solved that on the second Zoom where each greeter identified himself and when I acknowledged I saw them we started our conversation. That worked perfectly.) The first Zoom was a marvelous celebration of my 99th Birthday with the Class. I believe I was able to talk with all who wanted to exchange loving words with me. I could not have had a better birthday present than seeing and talking with almost half the Class. Thank you so much!

Les HIGH

The second Zoom Session held on Carol's and my Wedding Anniversary, 5 June 2023, was a fun time for me. At this Session the Class presented the second annual \$6,500 Check to the CG Mutual Assistance Director. There was a slight hitch getting started but within a few minutes we were off and running. Roger, thanks for not giving up too soon for the rest of the Zoom was Great. I like the Zooms for now the speaker is on the full screen but there are often small pictures of the attendees, so I get to see the class on the video later. I can look at it over and over again and I like seeing the Class do their thing.

Of course, the MCOE committee has been meeting regularly almost all year to develop and plan the alcoves and what will be available on the TV Screen in each. The MCOE building is now complete, and the final details of the outfitting may be done by now. I know little about the alcoves but know that of the 180 clips Greg has put up on my site on YouTube, many, if not most, are going to be in the alcoves for the Cadets and others to see if they want to call them up on the screen. I cannot thank the committee enough for all the work they are doing and continue to do to make the Les and Carol High spaces in the MCOE Building special and noteworthy!

I want to thank Gerry Kane for his 2.5+ years as the Class Correspondent. He did an excellent job and so if you contact him thank him for all his fine work. Also, welcome Bob Luckritz for accepting the challenge as the new Class Correspondent.

I want to thank the 51 members of the Class that sent me Christmas Greetings this last year and sent me Birthday cards for my 99th Birthday. Since I have been unable to write personal notes on the Annual Christmas Letter Emails for two years now, our paper trail of correspondence has been reduced. I am sorry about that, but special telephone calls to the entire Class have been a wonderful substitute.

I have made three special calls to the entire Class (114) now. #1 Class Call (114) was a follow-up to the 2021 Christmas Email Annual Letter that was the first time I was not able to include personal handwritten remarks. The two Gifts presented to Carol and me at the "Christmas Greeting Zoom" (2021) of the CGMA 10-year donations and the MCOE building half-million donation warranted a special thank you, so I decided to call all the Class members again just two weeks later, which was my #2 Class Call (114). I waited until after the 2021 Christmas Holidays (until January and February) in hopes of catching more people at home. I actually reached 83 people in the Class on the #2 call. #3 Class Call (114) Nov-Dec 2022 was again my annual follow-up call to replace the handwritten notes I am no longer able to do. I called all the reachable numbers and talked to about 50-60 people on this call. It was the Holiday season so many folks were not home. There are about 10 people in the Class that have phones that are not reachable for various reasons (no answering machine, answering machine full, number no longer reachable, etc.) Until these Classmates fix their telephone, I will never reach them I am sorry to say. I will admit I do so enjoy talking with you loving 65ers and mates. Just hearing your fond, devoted, adoring voices just warms my heart. It is so

Les HIGH

amazing that you all have stuck with Carol and me for these 62+ years and having you in our lives has given us great happiness and delight over all these years. As of right now I have had 265 calls with the Class since last year's Annual Letter! Amazing!

My family truly loved the fine letter the Class of 1965 gave them at the last Zoom session about sharing their Mom and Dad. Steve calls a little more often and regularly. Jeff and Kathy visit less often for they care for Alice (100), Kathy's Mom, much of the time in their home. Suzy and Dave are enjoying Missouri and Suzy visits me almost every two months often bearing honey from their own bees. Greg and Irene come and make me French Toast almost every Sunday. Greg, amazingly enough, has published over 180 video clips for my Les High Site on YouTube I told you about last year. Mary and Jeff are fine, and Jeff is now a retired Superior Court Judge. Mary, sweetheart that she is, takes me to all my appointments, shops for all my food and spends time taking care of Dad and his house from time to time. I would like to do more for myself, but I do not "see well" and am less agile as I get older. I am only walking about 6K steps a day since I had a bout with a Cold Virus last summer. Not sure I will ever get back to 10K steps a day!

As a final note about the Class, I want to acknowledge all the time Dick Manning invests in Les High each day. Dick writes me an Email every day of the year and also sends me jokes to make me laugh. I sometimes almost fall off my chair in the office. Dick has to invest at least 25-30 minutes a day on Les High which is an amazing dedication of time to the Class Advisor. My intent is to write an Email back to him each day which I usually do. Do you realize how good this is for my brain and daily mental capacity? Thanks, Dick, for being such a devoted, committed, 65er and treating Les High in such a loving, caring way!

The Class has again done so much for Carol and me this year that I am sure I have missed something and for that I am sorry. The Class just continues to Bless Carol and me with one kind gift or loving act after another. You notice it took over 3 pages to list the numerous, almost unbelievable generous acts over the year. I hope all is going well for the Class and their families. As time passes and the Class grows older you will find that physical agility wains and symptoms of aging appear. That is normal so do not fret. Continue to live a happy life and enjoy every minute, especially some time with your beloved Classmates! Carol and I love you all and have from the day you selected us to the Honor of being your Class Advisors. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. May the good Lord Bless you in all that you do!

Warm, Loving Thoughts,
Les (and Carol) High
Class Advisors