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Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!

And Happy Earth Day!

It's a little late, but as geodetic veterans of measuring planet Earth, determining its size and shape, fixing it with coordinates and determining its geophysical properties, Earth Day a good day to contemplate our precarious condition as inhabitants on what the late astronomer, Carl Sagan, called our "pale blue dot." Earth itself has been a great survivor over its 4.5 billion years of existence, but the geologic record shows no fewer than five major extinction events over that period, all of them long before anything remotely human walked on the planet. The question is---will WE survive? Are we fouling our own nest? Will Earth continue to be a habitable place for humanity?

Sagan's beautiful essay provides a reality check on our petty squabbles and pretenses. It puts things back into humbling perspective. Sagan's essay is based on an image taken by Voyager 1 in 1990 from nearly 4 billion miles away, as it sailed into the outer reaches of our solar system. It shows Earth as a barely perceptible speck of blue only 0.12 pixel in size against the black vastness of the cosmos. (See the image here: <http://www.businessinsider.com/pale-blue-dot-carl-sagan-2016-1>)

As Sagan wisely notes:

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

-- Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*, 1994

Reunion News:

Nothing new to add about the reunion this month. The arrangements are in place and our reunion hotel has made a block of rooms available. We have a contract for the proposed three-day events. **Jack Studley** (Gravity, FEW, 1971-75) is our point man in Cheyenne, and will coordinate any updates with the hotel and me. We remain locked in for the weekend of August 3, 4 & 5, 2018, with the Radisson Hotel (the former Holiday Inn) and we expect to have the same events as the previous several reunions at that location. The special room rate will be \$91 per night, only \$3 more than the rate in 2015.

To make reservations call:

Radisson Hotel Cheyenne

204 West Fox Farm Rd

Cheyenne WY 82007

Hotel phone: 307-638-4466

When making reservations, be sure to refer to: GEODETIC, or Event #1006, to obtain the special conference rate!

I will share the details and the planned main events, as they become firm, and will provide directions on how to order and pay for the events that you plan to attend.

Recent Gains and Losses:

No new gains this month, but we were saddened to learn from several veterans, including her husband, MSgt **Frank "Gus" Guliuzza**, that Mary, his beloved wife of 62 years passed away in February from kidney cancer and complications from related infections. Gus served both as a uniformed USAF veteran of GSS/GSG and as a civilian with NGA. He and Mary were well known to many of you, and they attended all our reunions together since 2002. You may read her obituary here:

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https://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/obituaries/mary-guliuzza/article_24bfc3b8-1eab-11e8-88e4-5f58dbbaf14e.html

LeRoy Clark (Survey, Det 1, 1963-67) also reported the death of **Keith Rayhorn**. Like LeRoy, Keith was another Det 1 veteran, and he passed way last July. Regrettably, Keith was off our radar and not on our newsletter distribution list or our website roster, however, LeRoy says this about him:

“Keith, like so many of the fellows at Det 1, was an excellent and very talented person. It is not at all surprising that he received such moving tributes on his memorial site. I remember him well. RIP, Keith.”

You may read Keith's obituary at <http://www.sturtevantfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Keith-Wilson-Rayhorn?obid=2316058#/obituaryInfo>

May they both rest in peace...

Dick Winslow, our GSS/GSG Webmaster, will add Keith's name to our online roster of deceased veterans.

Proposed Off-Year Reunion in Orlando in 2019:

A number of you have responded favorably to **Werner Koslowski's** idea for an off-schedule reunion in Orlando, FL, in 2019. Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the original 1381st GSS (Missile) on 1 July 1959 at the now deactivated Orlando AFB, FL. Werner has proposed some ambitious plans:

“Hello, I thought we may consider the 2019 event be held in Orlando, since it would be 60 years since GSS was established in 1959 at Orlando AFB, please kick this around with our many folks,,warm regards

Hello again: I'm thinking of contacting my US Congressman, Bill Posey, for a possible political angle to the 60th reunion here in FL, to see what he thinks of the idea AND a potential event having President Trump as a speaker at the 60th. Just a thought, that may, could, spark some interest among our vets! The pres would certainly be interested in 2019 since FL is critical in elections. Let's talk later,, Werner K

Please be aware that among those who have responded positively to this Orlando reunion, at least half strongly disagreed with turning that reunion into a political event by inviting politicians from either party.

Another reunion in 2019 will follow less than a year after our August 2018 reunion, but Orlando should “scratch the itch” of those who have long complained about the reunions always being in Cheyenne. Orlando has much to offer and it has the historic angle of being the place where it all began for our unique unit. Orlando Air Force Base is long gone, but there's the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Disney, Universal---and the NGA Geodetic Support Team at Patrick AFB, the former GSS Detachment 4, whose staff might be persuaded to give us a tour or brief us on their current activities. I will continue to poll our newsletter audience for interest in this idea for a few more newsletters and then turn over the numbers to Werner. We will bring it up again early next year to see if there is any added interest.

ACTION ITEM: Let me know about your interest in having an off-year reunion in 2019 in Orlando to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Squadron. Exact date and events remain to be determined.

And speaking of additional reunions...

Proposed Reunion for 100th Anniversary of Defense Mapping School:

In the February newsletter I asked for responses on the proposed May 11th reunion of the Defense Mapping School and its Army Engineer School predecessor from those of you who have also served as staff or faculty at the Defense Mapping School (DMS). The Army Engineers arrived on Ft. Belvoir, VA, with the Army Engineer School in 1918 and called it home until their move to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, in 1985.

The reunion will take place at the Ft Belvoir Officers Club on Friday, May 11th for an extended period between 0930 and 1430. **Jack Batt**, long-time Army and civilian veteran of DMS, says that 70 veterans have committed so far. Jack promises a sumptuous buffet lunch in the midst of those reunion hours and has this important update:

“...for those of you that have sent me your checks [\$32.50 per attendee], I say thanks---for those of you that haven't, I say *please do*---it's not too late to commit to coming.”

Be sure to bring your ID card (if retired) or give Jack your name as it appears on your driver's license, date of birth, state in which licensed, or passport number and country of issuance. This will help smooth things out to get you through the gate.

At this late date, it's best to reply directly to Jack, if you plan to attend and send your payment ASAP.

ACTION ITEM: DMS veterans receiving this newsletter, please let Jack Batt know if you plan to attend the 11 May 2018 DMS weekend reunion at Ft Belvoir no later than 7 May! Please identify yourself as staff, faculty or former student and whether you plan to attend accompanied (how many others) and send him your payment (\$32.50 each).

Jack's Address: 7201 Wild Turkey Dr, Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Jack's cell phone: (540) 846-5413

Jack's e-mail: jackbatt@comcast.net

Ft. Belvoir now has two hotels on post—Staybridge Suites and Holiday Inn. You may make reservations at either hotel by calling 703-844-0303. The hotels also provide shuttle service on post.

Final Notes:

That's all for this newsletter

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Bonnie and I have just returned from visiting our kids and grandkids in California, after previously spending several glorious weeks in Australia, visiting son Tim, his wife Jane and her family. Our trip included some camping in the Great Outback, Australia's continent-sized desert---a great adventure!

Just prior to traveling, I consulted with Brenda Johnson, my point of contact for the minting of the next four GSS/GSG commemorative coins. Based on our discussion, she sent me the initial draft of the technical drawings for the four coins. These required some substantial edits while I was out of the country. I was successful in transmitting those changes to her from Australia and expect to meet with her again next week to review the revised technical drawings. In the May newsletter I plan to reveal the images of the four variations on our GSS/GSG commemorative coins and how soon they will be available for purchase.

Despite several requests to include GSS/GSG mugs, hats and other memorabilia, these coins will be the only items available before the upcoming reunion. However, I will consider hats, mugs, other memorabilia and additional coin orders (in case we sell out our initial order of coins) as options for purchase in between reunions. I hope you can appreciate that the reunions keep me busy enough, and I prefer not to use our brief time together to deal with transporting and selling memorabilia during the reunion.

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to be my Facebook friend. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009342009837>

There is also a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron/>

Garrett

Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch

GSS/Cheyenne

April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes. — Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor and Philosopher

