



PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY D8

FALL 2016

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Commander's Corner

This fall semester will be one of the most important and consequential periods of time for the Company in some time. We have been reinstated as a Club at Fordham University and how we act now will affect our future members and the reputation of D-8 exceptionally more than usual for years to come. Failure to reform and perform honorably will not simply hurt a University Club, but may also destroy the lives of soldiers that our members will lead one day on the battlefield. It is this tremendous duty we assume and our prospects for fulfilling it that I will address in this newsletter. It is easy to become discouraged when faced with the heavy responsibility or the recent events we have encountered, but I assure you our prospects are strong.

The first reason for confidence is the quality of our members. Every organization's strength comes from the strength of its people and our people are some of the strongest individuals that the Company has had in some time. I promise you also that this is not only my opinion but that of the Fordham Army ROTC Cadre, as well. Three of our current seniors attended Army ROTC's advanced camp this past summer and all three were ranked within the top thirty-five percent of their training Companies, two of which finished in the top fifteen percent. One of our Marine-option Cadets completed Marine Corps OCS in July and he, in addition to being in the top of his Navy ROTC program, graduated in the top of his class there. He also won a highly competitive Marine aviation contract. Our other Marine Cadet recently received a highly coveted and rare Marine-option ROTC scholarship after transferring from regular Navy ROTC. In Fordham Army ROTC, two of the

four top Cadet Battalion level leadership positions to which a cadet can be assigned are held by D-8 members, despite the fact that D-8 members make up less than twenty percent of each class. This praise is not to say that we are perfect by any measure or do not require change as an organization. Our goal is to have all our Cadets finish in the top fifteen percent at the military schools they attend and to have all top leadership positions in ROTC filled by our members. This all is to say that we have a solid foundation for the road ahead and one can feel optimistic about our future.

The next reason to feel secure is our renewed and reinvigorated partnership with the Fordham Army ROTC Cadre and University Administration. Both are excited for our return and invested in our success. Among the Cadre members who have volunteered to assist us is half a century of leadership and military experience. This is not to mention the nearly limitless source of information and experience we can draw from our Alumni. These Cadre will be present at a majority of our events, assist us in our development, and advise us on our planning and procedures. With ROTC Cadre and the Alumni as our safety net for quality, we will not fail.

A barrier to optimism for our prospects is the feeling that D-8 will lose its character and difficult training as a result of University and Cadre stipulations and oversight. I could emphasize how the new PMS at Fordham is a product of the Ranger Regiment and has demanding standards for us, that the restrictions the University has imposed place no obstacles to difficult training, or that we will continue to do our most daunting events. I could also emphasize how those Cadre who observe us are in a purely advisory role and we still determine our own training and actions. However, I believe it is best to share with you

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a paragraph written by my XO, Brock Trexler, which expresses a sentiment shared by the Army ROTC Cadre and I think strongly conveys the attitudes of the Company.

“For many people, struggle and challenge are words that cause trepidation. This is not due to any fault of their own. They have simply gone their life without truly being challenged. They fear struggle simply because they have not learned just how far they can go. Company D-8 tackles this initial hesitation through pushing members outside of their comfort zone. By utilizing demanding physical training and placing members in austere conditions and situations, Pershing Rifles develops men and women into individuals who actively seek challenge. Pershing Rifleman come to understand that challenge and struggle are the catalysts for true growth.”

This quote along with our mission statement accurately defines why D-8 exists and has succeeded in the past. With our current membership, Cadre advisers, and guidance and mentoring from our alumni, we will not fail in our mission. I encourage you to feel confident and trust that the future of this Company is as strong as it ever was.

Fraternally,
Captain Zachary A. Walminski P/R

President's Message

Bravehearts: This past year was a very challenging year. As you all know, our cadets were suspended for most of the year. However, I am pleased to announce that our company's club status has been reinstated and I am extremely proud of our alumni and our cadets for all of their proactive efforts that helped make this happen. Earlier this summer, the board delivered an anti-hazing presentation to our cadets and the entire cadre staff including the new PMS, Major Sam Linn. The presentation was led by Brother Greg D'Arbonne LTC (Ret) who did a phenomenal job and charged up the cadets. We also left the cadre a copy for them to present to the rest of the ROTC cadets.

In a separate meeting with the new PMS, Phil Crotty, Greg and I had a brief review of what we do as Alumni

and pledged our support for him and ROTC as a whole. We also explained that we had a similar situation about twenty years ago when COL Ron Bernasconi (RIP) started this organization and the alumni helped save the Pershing Rifles as well as the entire ROTC program at Fordham. I asked if we could take him and his Exec out to lunch at a future date and he was amenable to that. I also invited him and his wife to the Ball on 11 November. All in all, it was a very good meeting.

Phil, Greg and I also met with Dr. Freidman, the Provost at Fordham, to pitch him on a new position, the Director of Military and Veteran Affairs. Phil did a wonderful job in his presentation and the position is supported by Father McShane and our own GEN Jack Keane. The day turned out to be a very special.

I hope to see you all at the ball!

Charles R. Tagliareni USAR CPT FMR

President

Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association
219-677-6069

68th Annual Ball

This year, we will be returning to the beautiful Morris Beach and Yacht Club on City Island in the Bronx for the 68th Annual Pershing Rifles Ball. We have reserved a block of rooms at the new Residence Inn New York "The Bronx at Metro Center Atrium" nearby. The nightly rate is \$189 and the board is offering a generous \$50 subsidy for Friday night's stay to help offset the cost to our alumni. With the subsidy, Friday's nightly rate will be \$139 and will be reflected in your bill at check out. Please note that this year the ball is being held on Friday night!

68th Annual Pershing Rifles Ball

Date: **Friday** November 11th, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm – 12:00 am

Location: Morris Yacht and Beach Club
25 City Island Ave, Bronx, NY 10464
<http://www.morrisybc.com/>

Tickets: \$50 cadets, \$75 young alumni ('11-'16)
\$90 alumni

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Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday November 12th, 2015
Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: McGinley Center
Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus
441 East Fordham Road
Bronx, NY 10458

Hotel

Location: Residence Inn New York:
The Bronx at Metro Center Atrium
1776 Eastchester Road
Bronx, NY 10461
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/nyc-bx-residence-inn-new-york-the-bronx-at-metro-center-atrium/>
Rate: \$139 (with \$50 subsidy) Friday night
\$189 Saturday night
Booking: Call 844-866-7563 and mention the
Pershing Rifles



We are very excited to have the cadets back at the ball and hope you can join us in celebrating the reinstatement of the company's club status!

Sarah Clarke

Secretary
Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association

Company and P/R News

On meeting with the University Provost

On Wednesday August 24, three alumni (Charlie Tagliareni, Greg D'Arbonne, and Phil Crotty) met with the Fordham University Provost and his Chief-of-Staff to urge Fordham to establish the office of Director of Military and University Affairs. This Director would oversee on behalf of Fordham the selection of incoming PMS's and generally coordinate Military and Veteran programs and funding. The Director would also seek to boost participation in both programs and enhance revenues to Fordham. Dr. Stephen Freedman and Dr. Ellen Fahey-Smith were both supportive of the initiative. They are working on possible implementation at this time. We even have a prime candidate for the position. In the presentation, which was arranged by two high-level P/R grads, we mentioned that the P/R Alumni Association has more than five-hundred life or dues-paying members. **That membership counts! Please keep active with regard to your alumni membership – send in dues or contributions; attend the Ball; or submit a note to the newsletter.**

- Phil Crotty (Class of 1964)



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On the resurrection of A-8

On March 12, 2016, the Pershing Rifles Company A-8 was been resurrected at CCNY/CUNY! The re-chartered company was reinstated at the 2016 Pershing Rifles NATCON (National Convention) in a ceremony that included a drill competition, formal dinner, and special remarks from A-8 alumnus Colin Powell. The following description of Colin Powell's speech has been taken from the A-8 newsletter:

"From the onset, there was great anticipation and then an audible 'buzz' from the dinner attendees when Colin Powell marched in with the honored guests. He was not listed on the formal program, but those who knew him could not imagine that he would pass up on the opportunity to be present at A-8's formal re-induction into Pershing Rifles. As always, he gave a great speech filled with humor and life's lessons recounting his upbringing in the South Bronx and the positive effects P/Rs had on his life and career. Particularly touching was when Colin called up to the stage Cadet Arthur Zych (current A-8 P/R commander) and presented him with his personal P/R memorabilia: specifically, his P/R mug, P/R ring, P/R Captain's shield he wore when he commanded A-B (with the hope that the new CO would pass it down to future A-8 commanders), and lastly his P/R cord. It was a wonderful, heartfelt gesture in bridging the 'old A-B' with the 'rising phoenix'."

All of us from D-8 wish them the best!

Elections

Triennial elections will be held for the Board of Directors in November 2017. If you are interested in sitting on the board, please let Charlie Tagliareni or Sarah Clarke know. Eight seats will be open.

Contributions

When contributing to Fordham University, remember to mark "for Pershing Rifles Club" on your check and on the Fordham form. You get full credit from Fordham and the P/Rs can make good use of the money. Remember that you may also include "Fordham University - Pershing Rifles Club" in your will.

In Memoriam

On the loss of Susan Hildner, wife of Bob Hildner (Class of 1959)

Sadly, Susan Hildner, devoted wife of COL Bob Hildner USAF (Ret.) CO of D-8 '58-'59 and mother of BG Terrence Hildner, USA passed away on Aug. 14, 2016 due to a fatal auto collision in La Plata, MD. Her oldest son, BG Terrence Hildner, died in Afghanistan in 2012 and Bob passed away a little over a year ago after back surgery. Please remember them all in your prayers. They were all outstanding people, who were devoted to their country and to our military. Her full obituary is included below.

Fraternally,
Ed Collins (Class of 1959)

HILDNER SUSAN MARIE HILDNER (Age 75) Susan Marie (Green) Hildner, of Port Tobacco, MD, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, died on August 14, 2016, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Susan was born and raised in Queens, NY where she met her future husband, Robert Hildner, a graduate of Fordham University. Susan dedicated the first 20 years of her marriage to raising her family as a supportive Air Force spouse, living in postings around the world and the US, most recently in Northern VA. Susan obtained her undergraduate and Master's degrees in Public Administration at Auburn University in 1980 and subsequently began work in the Department of Defense as a Contract Specialist intern at the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, VA where she progressed to become the Lead Contracting Officer. She then moved to the Pentagon where she ultimately earned a senior position in Program Acquisition and International Contracting. Susan was selected as a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2007 as Deputy Director, Contract Policy and International Contracting. Susan was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and two Navy Special Act Awards. When she retired in May 2014, Susan had been in Federal Service for 34 years. Susan loved to

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paint, sew, and garden. She was beloved by many because of her generous heart and loving personality. Susan is survived by one son, Steven Hildner of Fairfax, a daughter Elizabeth Edwards of Port Tobacco, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Colonel Robert E. Hildner, USAF, and son Brigadier General Terence John Hildner, US Army. Friends received on Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 5-8PM with a Prayer Service at 7PM at Raymond Funeral Service (La Plata, MD). Mass of Christian Burial will be held on August 26, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, La Plata, MD. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Brigadier General Terence John Hildner Memorial Scholarship fund at Notre Dame. To make donations, please go to: www.bgterencehildnerfund.org

Or call Jamie Barry at 574-631-6785. See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=181137468#sthash.fgOIMfCr.dpuf>

On the funeral mass for Terry Keane, wife of General Retired Jack Keane (Class of 1966)

On July 12, 2016, several alumni attended the funeral of Terry Keane, wife of General Retired Jack Keane (Class of 1966). The following account is from Charlie Tagliareni:

Several brothers attended the wake and/or the funeral mass for Terry. Joe Collins, Bill Daly, Paul Decker, Robert Rodriguez, Gerry Grosso, Phil Crotty, Lee DeLorme, Jim O'Beirne, Mike Hoblin, and me (Charlie Tagliareni). The flowers we sent were beautiful and Jack's Manager came over to me to let me know that he took Jack over personally to show him the flowers and Jack was very appreciative. The mass was performed by Father Mc Shane the President of Fordham and was assisted on the altar by two 3 Star Generals. The Army Choir gave of their own time to sing because of their admiration for Mrs. Keane. It was a beautiful ceremony.

Alumni News

John Bivona (Class of 1989) presents awards on behalf of the Director of the FBI to six directors involved in

the successful cooperation and contribution to international actions aimed to prevent cybercrime.

You can read the full article, here:

<http://www.balkaneu.com/fbi-satisfied-cooperation-rs-police/>



Notes from Our Alumni!

From Jim Whelan, Class of 1957

Jim Whelan wishes everyone good health and happiness!

From Bob Gmelin, Class of 1958

As of September 1st - just two weeks ago - I have been fully retired and enjoying the beautiful California Sonoma Wine Country. Did you know I had a unilateral Mastectomy in July last year? I understand the statistics of its occurrence is one man in a thousand. Advice - never let a lump of any kind in your breast go unexamined.

All the best to the current and old boys.

From David Kelly, Class of 1962

The P/Rs at Fordham have provided this Nation with a "conveyor belt" of Airborne Rangers and other Military Officers, many of whom, went overseas to defend this country and "generations not yet born".

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All gave some – Some gave all!! Welcome home Brothers!!! I have never regretted joining the Pershing Rifles!!

From Dennis Logue, Class of 1964

Dennis catches his dinner in West Hampton, NY!



From Bill Burke, Class of 1965

We remember and pray for 1965 P/Rs Dave McAteer, Roger Young, Joe Mangan, and Bob MacDonnell.

From Paul Decker, Class of 1965

Paul Decker (Class of 1965) and Mary Kiely traveled to Rockport, MA in late August to visit Phil (Class of 1964) and Laurie Crotty. And to engage in some traditional PR-quality drinking (and, at their ages) eating.



From Jim Cameron, Class of 1968

We are pleased to report that our oldest grandson, Aidan Alnwick is a freshman at Iona College and an MS1 at Fordham ROTC. He plays in the Iona Pipe Band and eagerly awaits the opportunity to pledge with D-8 if the ban on non-Fordham students is lifted. Jim (and Robin) Cameron COL, USAR Ret (FCO 68).

From Joe Duggan, Class of 1990

This year the NYC Veterans Parade is honoring 9/11 first responders who are also veterans. Consequently, I have been selected as one of three co-grand marshals for the parade. I will be joined by a PA officer and an NYPD detective. All the best!

Joe Duggan
Battalion Commander
Batt. 48 – FNDY

From Rick Chersicla, Class of 2007

If any young grads (2LT-CPT) have any questions on the ACS process, they're welcome to contact Rick Chersicla at rc1300@georgetown.edu about the application process/programs/timeline, etc. Rick is currently on active duty, pursuing an MA at Georgetown University

From Joe Izzo, Class of 2011

LT Joseph Izzo recently received his FAC/JTAC certification and is currently working on his FAC(A) qualification. LT Izzo is an F-18F aviator and mission commander with the United States Navy VFA-41 Black Aces.

