President’s Message

It has been some time since The Friends sent out a newsletter. It’s not that we haven’t been doing anything, but rather because of a very busy spring last year. Several changes in the past year have affected The Friends and you will find articles about most of them in this newsletter. Some of the changes merit special mention.

The first is the announcement by Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the McDermott Library, that he will retire this summer. Ed has been a real “friend” of The Friends during his 21-year tenure. He has consistently supported Friends projects, has been a constant champion of the organization, and has not missed an opportunity to praise our impact on the mission of the Library.

Sadly, Brig. Gen. (ret) Jesse Gatlin passed away in January. Jesse was one of the original founders of The Friends and, while he did not serve on our Board, he was an enthusiastic supporter during the past nearly 30 years. His friendship, counsel, and support will be sorely missed. With Jesse’s passing, there are no founders still living.

We have also had changes in the membership of The Friends Board. Dr. Don White, a longtime member passed away late last year. Don always brought to the group wise counsel and advice and his cheery smile will certainly be missed. Lt. Col. (ret) Steve Pomeroy resigned from the Board after a short tenure because of personal commitments. To fill those vacancies we welcome two stellar individuals, both of whom have a more detailed biography in the newsletter. Suffice it to say that Capt. Steve Maffeo, USNR (ret), is a natural for the Board. Steve served for over 30 years on the staff of the McDermott Library, many of them as its associate director, so brings a vast store of knowledge about the Library and its operation. Lt. Col. (ret) Steve Simon, Class of ’77, also brings extensive experience from his years at Air Force Headquarters and at the Academy. He is particularly knowledgeable about the Academy’s history and will be immeasurably valuable in the heritage portion of The Friends mission.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to become publicity agents for The Friends. In these days of change and challenge for both the Academy and the Library, it is easy for small organizations, such as The Friends, to get lost in the shuffle. Therefore, it is important that we “toot our own horn” at the Academy and in the community. As you will see in this newsletter, we are making huge contributions to the institution and to the Air Force. If we are to continue our critical mission, we need the support of all our Patrons as well as the community at large. If you have ideas about publicity, please take a minute to let us know via email or a phone call.

This has been a very busy year and The Friends continue to focus on the effective accomplishment of our mission. Our efforts could not succeed without your continued support . Thank you for that. We hope to see you at our annual luncheon on May 9th.