

John L. Freiberg, a lifelong aviation buff, passed away on Jan. 17. A Navy pilot during WWII, who survived a Pacific Ocean crash, John piloted his own plane after the war. He later founded an airline, established a business-jet distributorship and was an aviation consultant. John earned a BA in mechanical engineering from the Univ. of Cincinnati. For nine years he was treasurer of Freiberg Mahogany Co., which produced mahogany lumber and veneer, using wood from Central America. John was a member of the National Business Aircraft Association, the Univ. Club of Cincinnati, the survivors organization of the *USS Casablanca*, a carrier he served on in WWII, the New Orleans tennis club, and the Plimsoll Club. He is survived by his wife, Norma, four sons, including Peter '82, a brother Harry '35, nephew Harry '62, and eight grandchildren.

It's easy, once again, to reflect on how come life gets by so quickly. What a great waste that over the years early friendships and ties can, rather like fireflies, get away from us under the pressure of life's complexities. These early morning rhetorical rumblings, with all their unoriginality, don't really require a reply. But isn't it a pity? **Carl Stevens** writes, "Still at golf and tennis and traveling around the country with my beautiful wife Elinor. We've managed to bring up five wonderful kids, now spread around the northeast with families. Wrote to a few class members with little response but will keep trying! Vote Democratic for heaven's sake. Haven't we had enough Bush league?" **Bob Pickard** is part of the "Great Decisions" in Providence. At this point he is about to give a talk on the economy in China so that should keep him busy for a while. As reported in this space the last few years, our membership has surely sustained heavy losses. **Jack Broome** from Oxnard, CA, writes that he has three grandsons at Thatcher School in Ojai, CA, the "western edition of Taft." He is still interested in flying and especially boating, kindly offering tours of the LA harbor and Catalina Island to any Taft friends who might be in the area. "I'm still engaged in farming. The lemon crop has been good, avocados great, and the vegetables just an experience." From Columbus, NC, **Joe Knowlton** reports that the retirement home, where he and Betty are now situated, is referred to as "Wrinkle City." Ouch! **John Giffin** says he and Margaret have been in Tennessee for the first time. Their daughter-in-law is studying at the Univ. of the South in Sevannee. Nearby is Chattanooga, "the cleanest city I've ever seen." **Al Sikes** still likes his new

hometown of Brevard, NC, where he helps Meals on Wheels and Med Drive. **John Vanderpoel** and Joan are moving from Concord, MA, to Acton, about six miles away, to a house which will be easier to cope with in New England's difficult winters. **David Kaplan** spent the harshest part of Vermont's winter in New York City. **Roger Hinds** and Marie are signed up for a Bermuda cruise in June. The cruise brochure suggests a tuxedo. "No way," says Roger. **Curt Bittenheim** and Pat announce their 50th year of holy matrimony. The class agent can hear a solid chorus of "That must be some woman!" And of course she is.

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Class Secretary: James I. Armstrong, 80 Lyme Road, #1017, Hanover, NH 03755, james.i.armstrong@valley.net

We send our condolences to **John Orb** on the loss of his wife Phyllis on Dec. 4, who passed away of cancer.

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65th Reunion

Class Agents: Matthew J. Mitchell, 24 Dockside Ln., #70, Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, FL 33037, potopog@msn.com; Patrick M. Westfeldt, Suite 3200, 555 Seventeenth St., Denver, CO 80202, Pwestfeldt@holliandhart.com; *Class Secretary:* Matthew J. Mitchell; *Assistant Class Agents:* Louis F. Laun Jr., Robert C. Wheeler; *Reunion Chair:* Robert C. Wheeler

Our reunion chairman, **Bob Wheeler**, reports positive news about our 65th. To date the following classmates are planning to attend: **Bigelow, Deane, Goodspeed, Laun, McGowan, Mitchell, Westfeldt** and **Wheeler**. The sad news is the death of **Lou Frank** last Nov. from a stroke. He had a great war record and as a fighter pilot was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Our sympathy goes to his family.

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Class Agent/Secretary: Gordon R. Brown, 698 Heritage Village, #B, Southbury, CT 06488

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Class Agent: John P. Renwick Jr., P.O. Box 42, Bedford, NY 10506; *Class Secretary:* Seth Taft, 6 Pepper Ridge Rd., Cleveland, OH 44124-4904, sethtaft@aol.com

James B. Taylor III, who pioneered the way corporate aircraft are marketed internationally, died Jan. 17 at Bridgeport Hospital. Born in New York City, Jim literally grew up in aviation. Son of a pioneer naval aviator, he became the first high school graduate without any college to be accepted by the US Navy for naval cadet flight training in WWII. In 1946, after a brief stint flying a DC-3 for a non-scheduled airline, Jim became VP of sales for Mallard Air Service, the northeast distributor of the new all-metal single engine Navion built by North American Aviation. In 1963 he joined Pan American World Airways as VP of its new Business Jets Division, and in 1969 became VP and general manager of Cessna Aircraft's Commercial Jet Marketing Division. Jim leaves his wife of 55 years, Margaret, three sons, including **James '67**, one daughter, four grandchildren, two sisters, and nephew **Donald '76**. He was predeceased by his brother **David '43**.

Jim Hudson reports, "My wife Liz died in July 2000 after 52 years of happy marriage behind us; but now I have married again, to a widow, Pip, with a mere 46 years of marriage to her credit, and whom I have known for 35 years. Our combined ages total 150! It is wonderful for us both. I have moved into her house, 250 yards away from mine, so we are staying in the village of Ash, where we have so many old friends. Life is great." **Barney Conrad** writes, "gearing up for our June 20-27 31st writer's conference here in Santa Barbara. Have a good lineup for this year, featuring speakers Ray Bradbury, Clive Cussler, Fannie Flagg, Tom Brokaw, Elizabeth Berg, Joseph Wambaugh, and Shelley Berman. My *Snoopy's Guide to the Writing Life* is going great guns, and I'm looking forward to the Oct. publication of my 32nd book, a novel called, *Last Boat to Cadiz*, a fictional story based on some of my adventures and misadventures in Spain during the war. Nazis and beautiful women and so forth. Travels last year took us to Montana, Hawaii, and a great train trip to Canada." **Johnny Renwick** says class giving is running behind, so send in some bucks! He's about to have his third great-grandchild! From **Henry Pollack**, "Health news can be quite dull, but you may find this quite incredible. Toward the end of Oct. I had a pacemaker installed [Seth Taft has one too] by a specialist, Dr. Streisand. He advised me that for a 10 percent surcharge, not reimbursed by Medicare, he could simultaneously install a male Streisand voicebox. After having the assurance that this would not cause me to spout Barbra S's political views, I agreed. After the procedure, I pressed the appropriate button and out came, 'Oh, dear, what can the matter be? Seven old ladies locked in a lavatory. They were there from Monday till Saturday. Nobody knew they were there.' You never heard such