



Advocates for Harvard ROTC



CRIMSON CLUB MEMBER VETERANS

As a result of their military service, Crimson warriors became part of a “Band of Brothers”. The following is an illustrative but not exhaustive listing of military oriented biographies of veterans whose initial exposure to non-family “brotherhood” were as members of various social and final clubs as undergraduates at Harvard.

WORLD WAR I - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1917

1st LT Harvey L. Thomas US Army (104th Aero Squadron)

At Harvard, Harvey was a member of the *Pi Eta Club*. He entered Officer Training Camp at Plattsburg (NY) in August 1917 & 3 months later was commissioned as a 2nd LT in the Field Artillery. After his initial duty station at Camp Stanley (TX), he was detailed to Aerial Observers School in Fort Sill (OK) in May 1918 and then the School of Aerial Gunnery in Selfridge (MI) in August. In the following month, he sailed for France and reported to the 2nd Corps Artillery School at Châtillon-sur-Seine prior to joining the 104th Aero Squadron. In January 1919, George was transferred to the 3rd Army HQ in Coblenz, Germany. He returned to the US in May 1919 and was released from active duty in the following month.

1918

LT(j.g.) Merrill Potter Delano US Navy (USN Dirigible *Captaine Caussin* - CO)



Navy Cross

Merrill was a Massachusetts native who was born in 1896. At Harvard, he was a member of the *Pi Eta Club* and graduated with the class of 1919. He enlisted in the Navy as a Quartermaster 1st class petty officer and was assigned to the Naval Aviation Detachment in Akron (OH) in April 1917. He qualified as a Naval Aviator and was commissioned as an Ensign in October 1917. Two months later, Merrill was in France at the Palmboeuf US Nava Air Station where he was stationed until transferring to the Dirigible Force at Guipavas (France). He commanded 2 dirigibles used for observational intelligence operation until he returned to the US and was released from active duty in early 1919. His Navy Cross citation reads: “*Far distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of a dirigible engaged in patrol and convoying flights in the War Zone in which operations he did exceptional work and pushed his flights to the limits of physical and material endurance.*”



Captain Clifford West Henry US Army (102nd Infantry, 26th Div.) Distinguished Service Cross [*Killed in Action*]



Cliff was born in 1896 in New York City where his ancestors had settled in 1645. He prepared at the Trinity School in NYC for Harvard where he was on the football team and was the manager of the baseball team and was a member of the *Pi Eta Club* as well as the Harvard Catholic Club. As senior, he applied for a year’s absence to go into the Army. After his commissioning, he was assigned to the 46th Division and sailed for France in July 1917. After serving temporarily with the 104th Marines, Cliff was assigned to the 26th (Yankee) Division. In September in the Verdun (St. Mihiel), he was mortally wounded in the stomach by high explosive shells which also killed his commanding officer and 50 of his men. He died a month later from these wounds. At the time, he was engaged to Margaret Mitchell, author of “Gone with the Wind” His

DSC citation reads: *For extraordinary heroism on 14 September 1918. During the Saint-Mihiel offensive, although mortally wounded and suffering great pain, he gave information for the disposition of his men. He refused first aid until other wounded men had been taken care of”. Cliff was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by France.*

WORLD WAR I - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (cont.)



1918 (cont.)

Captain James Knowles Jr. US Army (95th Aero, 1st Pursuit Group) **ACE & Distinguished Service Cross**
Jim was from St. Louis, MA & a member of the *Pi Eta Club* at Harvard. He enlisted into Army Signal Corp in May 1917 & sailed for France on July 1917. After completing flight school, he was commissioned a 1st LT in November 1917. His combat engagements included: Toulon front, Chateau-Thierry; Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. Jim was an **Ace** and officially credited with the destruction of five enemy airplanes. His DSC citation reads: *“For extraordinary heroism in action near Montfaucon, France on 9 October 1918. While on a voluntary patrol over the enemy's lines LT Knowles observed three enemy Fokkers attacking one of our balloons. He unhesitatingly attacked and in a bitter combat that lasted for five minutes and he succeeded in bringing down one of the enemy planes in flames and driving off the others.”* Captain Knowles was also awarded the Croix de Guerre & released from active duty in June 1919.

1919



LTJG Addison Center Burnham Jr. US Navy (Naval Aviation Dirigible Squadron) **Navy Cross**
Addison was from Newton, MA and a member of the *Pi Eta Club* at Harvard. He enlisted into the Navy in June 1917. After boot camp, he was assigned to the Naval Aviation Detachment at MIT. Three months later, he sailed to England and reported to the Royal Naval Air Station at Cranwell. He earned his wings and was commissioned as an ensign in May 1918 and the sent to a naval Air based in France. His Navy Cross citation reads: *“For distinguished service in the line of his profession exceptional work, pushing his flights to the limit of physical and material endurance.”* He sailed to the US & was released from active duty early in 1919.

WORLD WAR II - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1938

LT Joseph Kennedy US Navy- Bombing Squadron VB-110 Navy Cross & Purple Heart Killed in Action



Joe Kennedy was born in Hull, MA as the oldest son of Joseph Patrick Kennedy (H-12) and was the brother of President John F. Kennedy (H-40) and former Attorney General Bobby Kennedy (H-48). Joe was educated at Choate. After a gap year in the UK at the London School of Economics, he entered Harvard where he played football, rugby and earned his “H” on the sailing team. At Harvard, he lived in Winthrop House and was a member of *Pi Eta*, the *Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770*, the *Iroquois Club* (now part of *DU*) and the St. Paul’s Catholic Club. He graduated cum laude from Harvard and then traveled around Europe for a year prior to entering Harvard Law School. Before his final year of Law school, he was accepted at Navy OCS and then went to flight school where he earned his wings of gold as a Naval

Aviator in May 1942. LTJG Kennedy was then sent to a patrol squadron in the Caribbean before being reassigned to England with the first US Naval squadron to fly B24’s under the Coast Command of the Royal Air Force. He participated in 25 combat missions operating against German submarines which sneaked out of the Bay of Biscay to attack allied shipping in the North Atlantic.

During May 1944, he had flown enough missions to be transferred back to the US but he volunteered to remain with his squadron. Joe was promoted to LT in July 1944. He volunteered for a very dangerous mission to fly drone Liberator bomber loaded with 21,170 pounds of high explosives until 2 “mother” planes achieved complete radio control over the drone to crash it into a high value Nazi V-2 rocket launching target after he parachuted out. The plane with Lt Kennedy in the cock pit took off from the Winfarthing (Fersfield) air base on schedule Unfortunately, the plane exploded on 12 August 1944 while still over England with LT Kennedy and his flight navigator still on board. No final conclusion was ever reached on the cause of the explosion. However, experiments with these drones continued and a 2nd drone was later successfully flown against the German submarine pens at Helgoland. The distant ancestors of these original drones are now a key weapon in the current world wide war on Islamic fundamentalism.

LT Kennedy’s Navy Cross citation reads as follows: *The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Joseph P. Kennedy, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Commander of a Navy Liberator Patrol Plane in Bombing Squadron(VB-110, Special Air Unit ONE (Europe), during a special air mission directed at Mimoyecques, France, on 12 August 1944. Well knowing the extreme dangers involved and totally unconcerned for his own safety, Lieutenant Kennedy unhesitatingly volunteered to conduct an exceptionally hazardous and special operational mission. Intrepid and daring in his tactics and with unwavering confidence in the vital importance of his task, he willingly risked his life in the supreme measure of service, and, by his great personal valor and fortitude in carrying out a perilous undertaking, sustained and enhanced the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

WORLD WAR II - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)



Staff Sergeant Peter B. Saltonstall USMC (1st Marine Div) 2 Bronze Stars & Purple Heart [KIA]



Peter was born in Newton in 1921 as the son of Senator and later Massachusetts governor, Leverett Saltonstall [H-1914]. After preparing at Noble & Greenough, Peter entered Harvard where he played House football and was a member of the *Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770*, *Pi Eta Club* & the *Porcellian Club*. After his junior year, he took a leave of absence from Harvard and enlisted in the US Marine Corps. After boot camp at Paris Island, (SC), he was shipped to the South Pacific where in participated in the battle of Guadalcanal & at Cape Gloucester where he was twice cited for gallantry. He was killed on Guam in August 1944 while leading a patrol tasked with locating hidden Japanese positions



1st LT Warren Mansfield USA (43rd Field Artillery)

Silver Star & Purple Heart [KIA]



After preparing at the Kingswood School in West Hartford, Warren matriculated at Harvard where he was a Winthrop House resident. John participated in ROTC and was a member of the *Pi Eta Club*. After attending Artillery School at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, he was commissioned as an Army 2nd LT and then deployed to the Philippines in January 1945. Warren initially was the flag lieutenant to the area commanding general of Field Artillery and later was assigned as a forward observer to one of the artillery battalions. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his valor in combat.

POST WORLD WAR II - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS

1963



Captain James R. Beery USMC (2nd Tractor Battalion, 2nd Div.) Navy & Marine Combat Action Ribbon



Jim was born in 1941 and grew up in up in Columbus, Ohio where he graduated from Grandview High School. At Harvard, he played varsity football and rugby and was on the JV basketball team and rowed freshman crew. Jim served on the Levertt House committee and was member of the *Pi Eta Club* as well as the NROTC unit at Harvard. After he was commissioned as a Marine 2nd Lt, Jim served as forward air controller and artillery officer in Vietnam as well as in Hawaii and San Diego.

After his active duty, Jim graduated from the Stanford Law School and then spent several years as corporate lawyer in a New York City law firm before being seconded to Tokyo with a Japanese Law Firm for 2 years. After later spending several years in London, UK as a partner in a California law firm, Jim became the Senior Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel for the pharmaceutical firm of SmithKline Beecham PLC which is based in England.

POST WORLD WAR II - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1963 (continued)



Captain Paul E. Mawn USN (Ret.) (*USS Spiegel Grove*, *USS Harris* & *USS Parker*) Navy Commendation Medal



Paul E. Mawn was born in Woburn (MA) in 1941 as the oldest of 7 children. His father was a 1st generation American and a truck driver before and after the World War II when he served as a Navy 2nd class petty officer in the Pacific. Paul grew up in West Lynn (MA) and was educated at St. John's Prep and then Malden Catholic prior to entering Harvard, where he played House hockey, trumpet in the Harvard Band, served on the House Committee and as a midshipman in NROTC and was a member of the **Pi Eta Club**, the **Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770** and the Harvard Catholic Club. For most of his time at Harvard, Paul was a member of Dudley House but after a few weeks found it impossible to commute. In his junior year, Harvard granted him a long term loan for tuition, room and board, which allowed him during his senior year to become an official resident of Winthrop House from where Paul graduated cum laude in Geology. After being commissioned as a Navy line officer, he reported to Norfolk (VA) for training

in intelligence, communications & amphibious operations prior to reporting onboard the *USS Spiegel Grove* (LSD 32) where he qualified as an Officer of the Deck in formation steaming. Paul later served in the wardroom of the *USS Thaddeus Parker* (DE 369) and the *USS Albert T. Harris* (DE 447). His afloat assignments involved extensive overseas deployments to the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Middle East during both the Cold War with the Soviet Union and the Vietnam War. He was the CIC officer and EMO aboard the *USS Parker* which became adrift without power and lost in the Sargasso Sea for several days before a harrowing rescue.

During the 1970's, he was also involved in various petroleum related activities, including an extended time in Moscow (USSR). Upon release from active duty, Paul served in the active Navy Reserve for 2 decades in a variety of surface warfare billets as well as: an industrial security officer, a petroleum logistics expert in DFSC and on the direct staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-OOK) coordinating Navy Petroleum strategy and other assigned tasks from the CNO. After briefly serving on active duty during Desert Storm, Captain Mawn was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal by the Secretary of the Navy and retired from the Navy on the main deck of the *USS Constitution* in Boston harbor at the end of 1991.

Paul received his MBA from Rutgers University and his subsequent civilian career has been in various aspects of the oil industry. He has served in senior line management positions with both Exxon and Hess Oil as well as managing petroleum consulting projects with Arthur D. Little Inc. and as a partner with Mercer Management Consulting. Paul is currently the president of Concord Consulting Group and Chairman of the Advocates for Harvard ROTC. He was awarded the Patrick Henry Silver Medallion for patriotic service from the Military Order of the World Wars and continues to be a long term member of the East India Club in London (UK) as well as the Harvard Clubs in both Boston and New York City.

POST WORLD WAR II - HARVARD COLLEGE BY CLASS (continued)

1967 (1970)



Corporal Patrick A. Conway USMC (3rd Battalion/ 26th Marines) Navy & Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon



Pat was born in 1944 in Haverhill, MA when his father was working as a welder in the Boston Naval Shipyard. He was an accomplished athlete and scholar at Haverhill High & Exeter Academy prior to entering Harvard where he played varsity football and lacrosse and was also on the track team. Pat was a resident of Quincy House & also a member of the **Pi Eta Club**. However after his junior year, Pat felt a need to re-focus his life & took a leave of absence from Harvard to enlist in the US Marine Corps. After boot camp and infantry training, Pat was sent to Vietnam and found himself as a squad leader in the middle of the 77 days **Siege of Khe Sanh** where he was wounded but never put in for a Purple Heart.

Khe Sanh was the longest and deadliest battle of the Vietnam War when 6,000 Marines and soldiers were surrounded by about 35,000 enemy soldiers of the North Vietnam Army (NVA) and will live in the annals of Marine Corps history along with Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Pusan and Fallujah. Despite supplies being cut by land, the Marines held Khe Sanh until their base until relieved almost 3 months later with a price of over 700 Marines & US soldiers killed in action with almost 30,000 NVA casualties. During this fight, Corporal Conway saw many friends killed in action and he was wounded twice but he did not process the proper paperwork that should have resulted in his being awarded 2 Purple Heart Medals.

After his release from active duty, Pat returned to Harvard to complete his senior year. Despite the lack of playing time for over 3 years, Pat again made the roster of the Harvard football team as a starting defensive safety and was named to the 1st Team All-Ivy, All-New England and All-East. As a result of his perseverance, Pat then played a prominent role in the most famous football game in Harvard history which was The **“Harvard Beats Yale 29-29”** Game resulting in Harvard’s sharing the 1968 Ivy League Championship title with Yale by scoring 16 points in the final 42 seconds of the game. After graduating in History from Harvard College with the class of 1970, Pat entered Harvard Business School where he received his MBA in 1972. For the next 4 years, he was an importer of foreign automobile parts until he founded Fairfield Capital Inc., which is a financial planning and money management company in Westport, CT. Pat has also qualified as a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The following quote below captures the essence of the sacrifice of the above Harvard warriors:

“So nigh is grandeur to our dust

So near to God is man

When duty whispers low, thou must.

The youth replies I can”

Ralph Waldo Emerson – Harvard College (1821)

Fair winds and following seas,

Paul E. Mawn (H-63)

Captain USN (Ret.)

Chairman – Advocates for Harvard ROTC

Sources: “*Harvard Military Record in the World War*” by Fredrick Sumner Mead by Harvard University Press – 28 June 1921; “*Memoirs of the Harvard Dead in the War against Germany*” by M.A. DeWolfe Howe – Harvard University Press 1924; Harvard Alumni Magazine and various Harvard reunion reports plus information from various veterans and their families. Harvard Graduate Magazine, volume XX, 1911-1912, pages 423 to 432 by Henry N. Blake (Harvard Law School -1858);

Note: Military officer rank abbreviations and pay grades used above: 2nd LT – Second Lieutenant (Army & USMC O-1), Ensign (USN O-1), 1st LT – First Lieutenant (Army & USMC O-2), LT JG – Lieutenant Junior Grade (USN O-2), Captain (Army & USMC O-3), LT – Lieutenant (USN O-3), Major (Army & USMC O-4), LCDR – Lieutenant Commander (USN O-4), LT Colonel (Army & USMC O-5), Commander (USN O-5), Colonel (Army & USMC O-6), Captain (USN O-6), Brg. Gen. –Brigadier General (Army & USMC O-7), Rear Admiral Lower Half (USN O-7), Major General (Army & USMC O-8), Rear Admiral Upper Half (USN O-8), LT. Gen. – Lieutenant General (Army & USMC O-9), Vice Admiral (USN O-9).

The purpose of developing the subject is not for egotistic self-promotion but to reinforce the general awareness that freedom is not free. Harvard undergraduates in particular as well as others should be aware and appreciate that many Harvard alumni before them paid a price in time, blood and restricted earning for our national security and liberty. Such military veterans at one point of their life wrote a blank check made payable to the USA for an amount up to and including their own life, **Sources:** Harvard Alumni Magazine and various Harvard reunion reports plus information from various veterans and their families.

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