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19th Annual Alumni Reunion (October 15, 2005)

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Texas Beats Colorado 42-17

We welcomed the **50th** Reunion class of 1955

We kicked off the weekend with Central Texas Navy League. General Terrence R. Dake, USMC, Retired, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, addressed the Greater Central Texas Council of the Navy League, including several UT NROTC Alumni among the crowd of 100. His message was inspirational, noting that today's Marines are carrying on the great tradition of the Corps and doing an important job that must be done. We should take pride in our Marines; they are as good as ever and doing their jobs well.

Golf at Star Ranch was great as always but there were simply too few of us. Forget the fact that only two Navy types showed up. Is it only Marines who play golf or play well enough to arrive early and join us? Come on you sandbaggers. Get your sticks out!

Friday Night Dinner was a biggie, with the festivities at the Austin Country Club going on right next door to the Fall Formal for the Battalion. General Dake was there as well as a few of our dressier folks. The group at [Scholz's Garten](#) was disgustingly well-behaved. Maybe that is because Steshko brought his whole family. We still closed the place.

In Saturday's Business Meeting we elected two new board members, Jim Brotherton and Ed Mergele and rubber stamped the new president and vice-president. Rusty was worried for a few minutes that he wouldn't get to escape. After chastising the Board of Directors for not recognizing the achievements of some of our alums, Bob Brown was summarily embarrassed when the self same Bob Brown was recognized as Alum of the Year. Bob may be more circumspect the next time, but I doubt it.

The outstanding work of Bob Brown and the Directors of the Midshipmans Foundation was manifest in the fact that the Foundation now has nearly \$450,000 in funds, depending on how you count. Whatever the number, it is far above the numbers we discussed just two years ago.

The direct impact of those increased funds was demonstrated when we were able to award six scholarships to deserving members of the battalion.

Football. The good news is that Texas beat Colorado 42 to 17. The bad news is that we bought too many tickets this year. Maybe that means some of you stayed home. We missed you and hated paying for tickets we didn't use.

We did the BBQ Dinner at Camp Mabry at the War History Museum. Security wasn't bad and they allowed us to use the conference hall. Next year we need a band or a DJ. Bob Gartner and Max Miller looked like they wanted to rock and roll.

2004 Registered Reunion attendees as of 9/4/2004: James Adkins, Kay & Rusty Allman, Lawrence Anderson, Arthur Bergstrom, Jim Brotherton, Don Brown, Barbara & Rhett Buck, Barbara & Bob Collins, Franklin J. Crow, Keys Curry, John R. Doole, Kenneth C. Fletcher, Jackie & Bob Gartner, Kevin Hugman, Mary & Rod Koenig, Nancy & Weldon Koenig, Richard Leroux, Glenn Looney, Mike Looney, Bob Looney, Thomas Mast, Jack Mayo, Ed Mergele, Fred Moon, Jean & Ed Moore, Dennis Olson, Deb & Dan O'Neil, John Pinckney, Spencer Smith, Bill Steshko, Don Tortorice, John Wildenthal, Michael Waldron, David Wells, and Jim Wilson.

By Bob Collins '68