



SOCIETY NEWS

*Serving Graduates throughout
Southwest Florida**Welcome!*

Upcoming Events

Fall Luncheon

When: Thursday,
November 14th

Time: 11:30 AM

Place: The Landings
Yacht, Golf & Tennis
Club, Fort Myers

Speaker: Richard
Cacioppe, Class of 1962

Save the Dates!

Future Events

- Nov 2nd – Army A/F
Watch Party
- Dec 14th – Army/Navy
- Jan 23rd – Annual
Meeting and Luncheon
- March 14th – Founders
Day
- April 23rd – Spring
Luncheon

Dear Members and Friends -

We hope this message finds you safe and well after the challenges brought by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. While our fall newsletter comes to you a bit later than planned, we've gathered plenty of highlights from the season to share. More importantly, we want to extend our thoughts to everyone affected by the storms and hope that you and your loved ones are recovering and staying strong. As we move forward together, here's a look back at the sunny moments and community events that defined the summer.

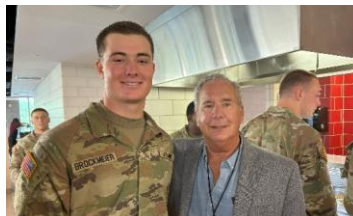
What I Did This Summer:

West Point Society of Naples Edition

As summer comes to a close, many of us can't help but reflect on the season's memorable experiences. For some members of the West Point Society of Naples (WPSN), this summer wasn't just about relaxation—it was about leadership and learning. Several of our dedicated members of the society as well as our Parents Club had the privilege of attending the WPAOG Leader Conference in August, while our field force representatives attended the Annual Field Force Forum hosted by the Admissions Department.

These events provided an opportunity to connect with fellow graduates, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on how we can continue to support West Point's mission and future leaders. Let's take a moment to recap the highlights and what these experiences mean for the future of our Society.

Tim Ford '79, USMAPS Cadet William Brockmeier '25



Russ Schott '91, Cadet Raphael Fabyanic '27, Cadet Aravind Rajeev '27



Continued on Page 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we enter a new season, it's important to reflect on our shared values and the responsibility we have in sustaining them. The West Point Society of Naples is a vibrant community, committed to upholding the legacy of West Point here in Southwest Florida through leadership, service, and dedication.



This year, our goal is to raise \$36,000 to support key initiatives, including mentoring future cadets, supporting JROTC programs, sponsoring Army sports teams, and hosting events like Founders Day and the Army-Navy watch party. These efforts rely on both our time and financial support.

We encourage you to get involved by renewing your membership, attending events, or making a donation. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps strengthen our impact and ensure the values of duty, honor, and country remain central to everything we do. Donations can be made on our website, by check, or via stock contributions. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events this season.

GO ARMY!

Chris Williams, WPSN President

How to Get Involved – and Different Ways to Donate

- Sponsor JROTC Awards
- Sponsor a Cadet Candidate to attend the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE)
- Sponsor a Cadet Boodle Run
- Sponsor a Cadet and/or Cadet Candidates/parents attending Founders Day
- Represent WPSN at an award ceremony or an event
- Visit a local High School
- Attend our events
- Bring a guest to an event
- Sponsor a guest speaker
- Donate money, stocks or bonds
- ***Become an active member!***

To join/renew active membership:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/joinrenew>

To make a tax-deductible Donation:

<https://westpointsocietyofnaples.com/make-a-donation/>



MONEY MATTERS



Funding Our Mission: Financial Updates

Your donations make a difference!

The West Point Society of Naples would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated supporters for their unwavering commitment to our mission in the past year. It is with your generous contributions and steadfast encouragement that we have been able to make a significant impact on the lives of cadets, cadet candidates, and local JROTC students. Throughout the previous year, your support allowed us to provide crucial support for both Cadets and Cadet candidates, enabling them to access quality education

and training at the United States Military Academy. Moreover, our local JROTC programs were greatly bolstered by our support, empowering aspiring young leaders to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals.

We are profoundly grateful for your dedication to our society, as it is the driving force behind our success in furthering the ideals of duty, honor, and country. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to the incredible impact we will make together in the year ahead.

Thank You!

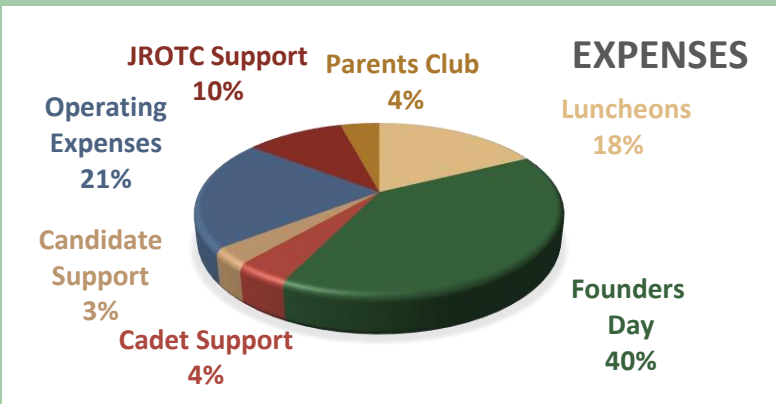
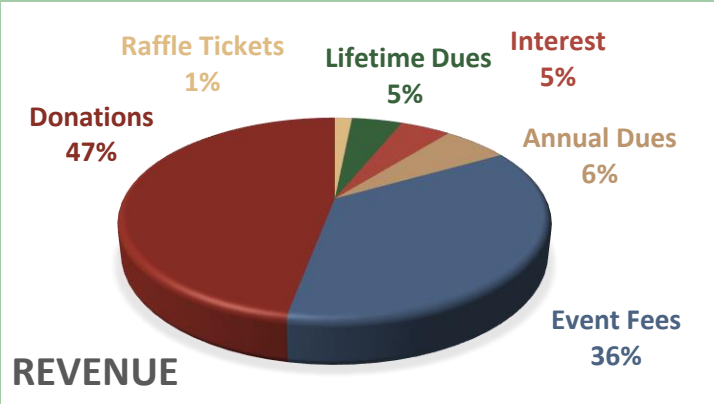
Our Long-term Financial Goal

The West Point Society of Naples is working toward the long-term goal of becoming fully self-endowed, which will create a sustainable financial foundation for supporting scholarships, leadership development, and honoring West Point values. This financial independence will ensure continued support for cadets, cadet candidates, and local JROTC programs, while also maintaining key community events.

We've set a \$500,000 goal to secure our future and are excited to share that we've now reached 30%, a 10% increase from last year, with over \$150,000 raised. This achievement reflects the generosity of our supporters. We remain committed to reaching our goal and making a lasting impact, and we are grateful for your continued support.



Where do your donations go? A snapshot of the FY 2023-2024 Annual Report



All society's operating funds come directly from donations! We could not have accomplished so much last year without your support!





UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL LUNCHEON

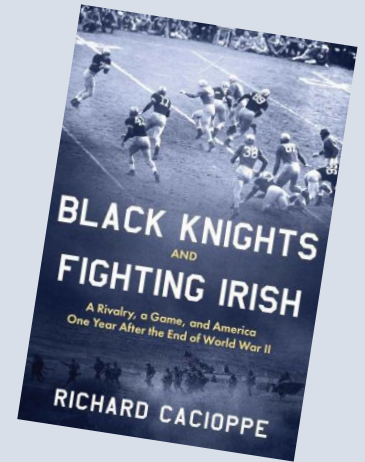
When: Thursday, November 14th @ 11:30 AM

Place: The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club,
Fort Myers

Guest Speaker: Richard Cacioppe, Class of 1962

R.s.v.p. will be through the WPSN Website:

[Fall Luncheon 2024 | West Point Society of Naples](#)



Join us in November with guest speaker Rich Cacioppe as he shares the history of the Army-Notre Dame rivalry and the “Game of the Century” in 1946 - just in time for Army vs Norte Dame match up scheduled for November 23rd at Yankee Stadium.

Please join us at our annual Army vs. Air Force Watch Party hosted by the Parents Club!

To have us save you a seat R.s.v.p: wppcswfl@gmail.com

Over 15 beers
on tap plus a
food truck on
site.

You can also
bring your
own food or
have some
delivered

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Mark your Calendar!

Save the date for our Annual Meeting & Luncheon! This year's event promises to be an extraordinary gathering, filled with camaraderie and updates on our Society's accomplishments and future endeavors. Please join us on **Thursday, January 23rd**, at **11:30 AM** at the elegant Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. Check our website for more details.

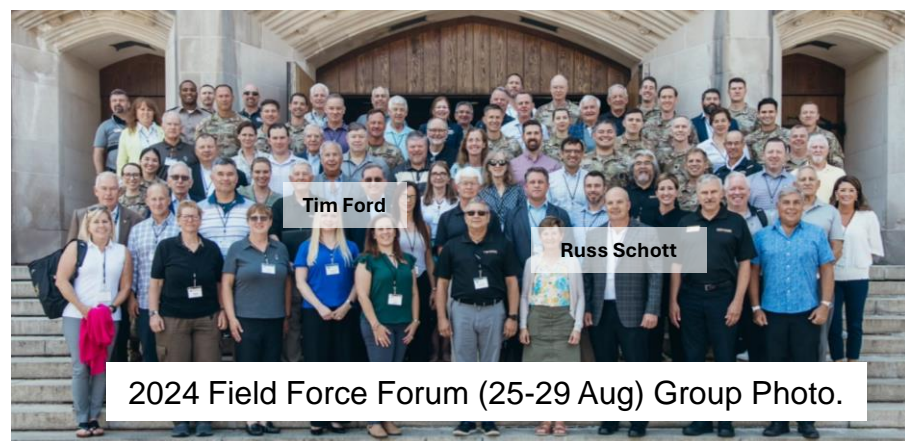
**R.s.v.p. will be through
the WPSN Website**



What I Did This Summer: WPSN Edition

This year's WPAOG Leaders Conference theme of "How We All Fit Together" certainly lived up to its name. Participants included leaders from West Point Societies, Classes, and Parents Clubs from around the country to share ideas, engage in educational discussions, and learn how we can support West Point together. Conference highlights included:

- Participating in discussions to share best practices to maintain active and successful Societies and Parent Clubs.
- Engaging in worthwhile presentations focusing on veteran support, communication and marketing, and how to successfully partner with each other.
- ***Accepting the 2024 Distinguished Awards for Society (Cathy Speer) and Parents Club (Patty Holston). CONGRATS ALL!!***
- Attending the Acceptance Day Parade and meeting with several of our Class of 2028 families.



2024 Field Force Forum (25-29 Aug) Group Photo.



Tim Ford '79,
Cadet Justin
Rodriguez '28,
Russ Schott '91



Cadet Fedrick
Harris '28,
Russ Schott '91

The West Point Admissions Department hosted approximately 70 field force volunteers from throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico at West Point for their premier training event, the Annual Field Force Forum. Members of the field force are volunteers who help to identify and recruit highly qualified high school students for the Academy. The goal of the SWFL field force, with support from the West Point Society of Naples, is to help identify SWFL's most promising students and mentor them in achieving the exceptional honor of being accepted for admission to West Point. Volunteers come from many circles to include current or former active-duty grads, retirees, family members of grads or in general, anyone who is interested in finding and mentoring the best of the best in SWFL to be future cadets at West Point.

This year Tim Ford ('79) and Russ Schott ('91'), representing Florida Congressional District 19, attended the Forum. The event included briefings from the Supe, the Com, the Dean, DMI, DPE, and USMAPS, among many other admissions related briefings. Members of the field force spend time meeting with prospective cadets and families, attend college fairs, or even host admissions briefings in the local area, but they mostly mentor and guide prospective candidates in developing a strong competitive resume. In February of their junior year students can then begin applying to West Point. This Field Force Forum training provides the expertise to appropriately guide and mentor these students through the rigorous admissions process as they pursue joining the Long Gray Line.

SUPPORTING CADETS

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



Hail and Farewell 2024

Thank you to all the families, friends, cadets, and Old Grads who were able to join us at our June Hail & Farewell Banquet! What a special evening honoring our Class of 2024 2LTs and welcoming the Class of 2028 and USMAPS Class of 2025 CCs!

2LT Ryan Logan and Cheryl Logan



CCs William Brockmeier, Wil Hamburger, Fedrick Harris, Karina Lawrence, Cael Newton, Ta Nguyen, Justin Rodriguez



Rick Harris and CC Fedrick Harris

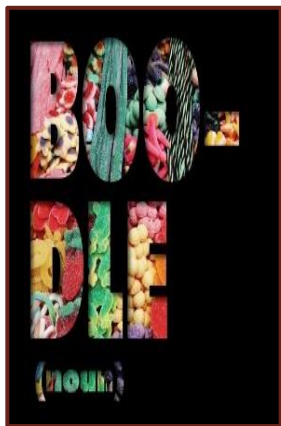


Russ Schott, John Ziegler, Rajeev Nair, Patty Holston, Ana Ziegler, Erika Kreegel



Chris, Tammy, and William Brockmeier

Cael, Shana, and Buddy Newton



Cadet Christian Kreegel (2026)

Gary Sinise and his Foundation hosted a tailgate for the West Point community the afternoon before a Lt. Dan Band concert. SWFL Cadet Christian Kreegel had the opportunity to meet Gary and chat for a bit!



For more information about the Parents Club, follow us on Facebook or contact Patty Holston pattymholston@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/wppcswfl>

Many thanks to all our amazing families who made donations, supplied a TON of snacks, and helped to pack everything up! Shipping costs were donated by the West Point Society of Naples.

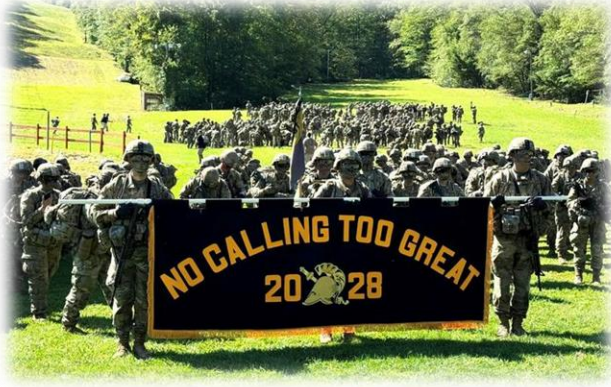


SUPPORTING CADETS

West Point Parents Club of Southwest Florida



Congrats, Class of 2028!



It was so nice seeing some of our SWFL parents at the A-Day Parade! Congrats to all your Cadets and the entire Class of 2028!



Cadet Jameson Stauffer



Cadet Justin Rodriguez



Cadet Fedrick Harris

You slayed the Beast!

SWFL CC William Brockmeier has reported to USMAPS!



OUR SWFL GRADS ARE DOING AMAZING THINGS!

Congrats to Class of '21 Grad 1st LT Bryce Corcoran for graduating from Jumpmaster at Fort Liberty (Fort Bragg)!



Cadet Robert Fritz



Cadets Robert Fritz and Jake Azizi

On the Sunday evening before the first day of class, Cows confirm their commitment to complete their next 2 years of study and serve their 5-year active duty obligation, followed by 3 years of reserve duty. Thank you for your continued dedication and service to our country, Class of 2026!



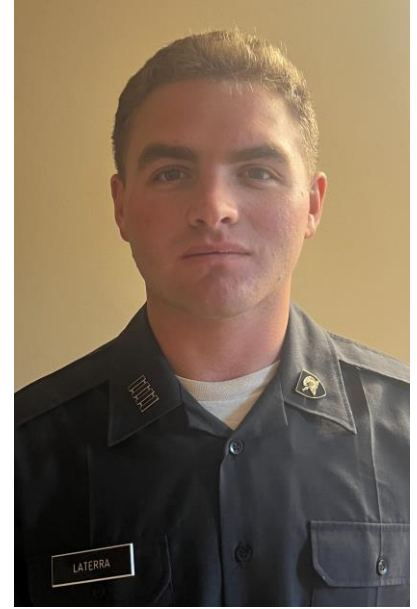
MEET A SWFL CADET

Jack Laterra

Class of 2025

Company H-2

Academic Major: Geospatial Information Science



Jack Laterra, a 2020 graduate of Barron Collier High School in Naples, has been making his mark at the United States Military Academy at West Point. After spending a year at Marion Military Institute as part of the USMA Civil Prep program, Jack earned his appointment and entered West Point in 2021 as a member of the Class of 2025.

Throughout his time at West Point, Jack has demonstrated a commitment to both academic excellence and leadership development. Between his Yearling and Cow years, he completed the Army Space Cadre Basic Course as part of his Advanced Individual Academic Development (AIAD), earning the prestigious 3Y "Space Enabler" skill identifier. This accomplishment led to a follow-on AIAD with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), where Jack's contributions were recognized with a Leadership Award for Excellence from the Director of the Office of Geography. While much of his research at the NGA remains classified, his work has further solidified his interest in human geography and intelligence.

Outside of academics, Jack's passion lies with the Skeet & Trap Club. He became the Cadet-in-Charge at the end of his Yearling year and was later promoted to captain. Jack's leadership helped propel the team to continued success, including an undefeated record against the other service academies and consistent top finishes in collegiate competitions nationwide. Last semester, he was the high overall shooter at the National Championship, where the West Point Skeet and Trap team secured a spot on the podium for the third consecutive year.

In addition to his leadership on the shooting range, Jack has been an active participant in intramural football each year of his cadet career. His leadership skills were further showcased during Cow summer, where he served as a Beast Squad Leader, guiding new cadets through one of the most challenging experiences at West Point. He continued his role as a squad leader in the first semester of his Cow year and currently serves as the Company H2 S2/S6, managing public affairs and IT for his unit.

This past summer, Jack completed his Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) as the executive officer (XO) for an Armor Basic Combat Training (BCT) company at Fort Moore. Looking ahead, Jack has his sights set on a career in Field Artillery, with aspirations of eventually becoming a Functional Area-40 Space Officer.



MEET A SWFL CADET

Anthony Tinerella Class of 2025 Company G-4 Academic Major: Civil Engineering

Anthony Tinerella, a 2017 graduate of Barron Collier High School, has exemplified a deep commitment to service and leadership throughout his military journey. With a strong desire to serve, Anthony enlisted in the Army immediately after high school, where he completed Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training (AIT), and Airborne School. After successfully passing the Ranger Indoctrination Program, he was assigned to the elite 75th Ranger Regiment. In 2020, Anthony deployed to Afghanistan before transitioning to the U.S. Military Academy Prep School (USMAPS) and subsequently entering West Point with the Class of 2025 in the summer of 2021.



Anthony's time at West Point has been marked by a wide range of academic, athletic, and leadership accomplishments. Following his Plebe year, he earned the Air Assault Badge. He also participated in an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) program through the Geography and Environmental Engineering Department, where he took part in a unique "storm chasing" project. From Nebraska to New Mexico, Anthony and his team observed F1-F2 tornadoes and visited the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma, as well as several Air Force bases to study how weather technology is used in military training.

Between his Yearling and Cow years, Anthony served as a Squad Leader during the challenging Beast Barracks, guiding new cadets through their initial West Point experience. He continues to take on leadership roles, including overseeing Fourth Class Development Training and serving as the Company G4 Historian. Athletically, Anthony has been a dedicated member of the Crew team throughout his cadet career, rising to the position of Crew Commodore (Team Captain). His leadership and skill led to his selection as one of five cadets to compete in the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta last year. Additionally, he has been a key member of the cannon crew during Army football games for the past four years, further showcasing his school spirit and dedication.

Academically, Anthony is involved in a Capstone Project in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Research and Development Center, where he applies his knowledge to solve real-world challenges. Building on his prior experience in flight training while enlisted at Fort Benning, Anthony received a West Point-sponsored scholarship after his Yearling year to complete his private pilot's license, adding yet another impressive achievement to his resume.

This past summer, Anthony completed his Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) as the executive officer (XO) for an Infantry One Station Unit Training (OSUT) company at Fort Moore. He also managed to join the 3rd Ranger Battalion for night training exercises, further deepening his connection to the Ranger community. His branch preference is Infantry, with the goal of returning to the 75th Ranger Regiment as a commissioned officer.



MEET A SWFL CADET

Katherine Ward

Class of 2025

Company C-1

Academic Major: Applied General Psychology



Katherine Ward, a 2021 graduate of Riverview Senior High School, has made remarkable strides since her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Entering West Point the summer following her graduation, Katie has exemplified dedication, leadership, and academic excellence throughout her cadet career. Katie's passion for cheerleading took center stage during her time at West Point. She serves as the Captain of the Rabble Rousers, the Academy's cheerleading team, during her Firstie year.

In addition to supporting Army teams on the sidelines, her team competed in intercollegiate cheer competitions, including Nationals in Daytona. She also took part in a Physical Individual Advanced Development (PIAD) program focused on cheer, honing her skills further over the summer. Beyond athletics, Katie has proven herself in other challenging endeavors. After her Plebe year, she earned the Air Assault Badge and achieved Black Heavy Combat Ready Status on the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), a rare accomplishment, especially for a female cadet. She also contributed to a research group working on improving the efficiency of lithium-ion battery packs by making them lighter and smaller. Katie also met the rigorous Indoor Obstacle Course Test (IOCT) graduation requirement early, "tabbing" it during her Cow year.

Between her Yearling and Cow years, she served as a Squad Leader for the Summer Leadership Experience (SLE), guiding high school candidates through their West Point experience. Katie's leadership skills continued to develop through her selection to the prestigious Gettysburg Leadership Seminar in both her Cow and Firstie summers. She also held key leadership roles, including serving as Company C-1 First Sergeant in the first semester of Cow year and as the Regimental S1 NCO in the second semester. Now, as a Cadet Captain, she leads the Brigade Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), representing all team captains.

Katie has also been active in outreach efforts through the Cadet Ambassador Program (CAP), where she worked with Admissions to engage with prospective cadet candidates globally. This included conducting interviews and answering questions from interested students. Her academic achievements are equally impressive, having made the Dean's List for the past three semesters. Her upcoming Capstone Project will focus on mental health issues within the military, aiming to address and reduce the growing suicide rates among service members.

Last summer, Katie completed her Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) in Hawaii, focusing on the Adjutant General Corps, her top branch preference as she nears graduation. Katie Ward continues to embody the spirit of excellence and service, representing Riverview Senior High School and West Point with pride.





DID YOU KNOW?

Who and What is Benny Havens?

"Benny Havens" refers to Benjamin Havens, a tavern keeper who operated a popular establishment near the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he was affectionately called "Benny" by the cadets. His tavern became a frequent spot for cadets to visit, leading to a famous song "Benny Havens, Oh" still sung by West Point's Glee Club today, commemorating his legacy of providing food and drink to the cadets, even though it was considered "off-limits" due to strict academy rules.

Key points about Benny Havens and West Point:

The Tavern Keeper:

- Benjamin Havens ran a tavern located near the Hudson River below Buttermilk Falls, close to the West Point.

Cadet Patronage:

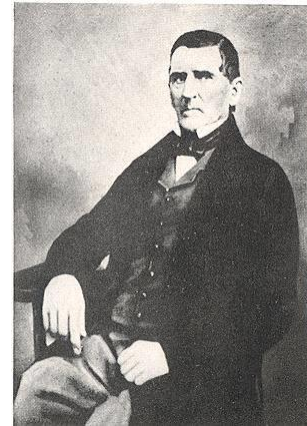
- Cadets, including notable figures like Edgar Allan Poe, George Armstrong Custer, and Jefferson Davis, would often visit Benny's tavern despite potential disciplinary action for leaving the academy grounds.

The "Benny Havens, Oh" Song:

- A famous song titled "Benny Havens, Oh" was written in honor of the tavern keeper, capturing the sentiment of cadets enjoying their time at his establishment.

Legacy:

- Today grads meet under the calling of Benny Havens to re-connect, share old memories and make new ones.



Come fill your glasses, fellows, and stand up in a row
To singing sentimentally we're going for to go;
In the Army there's sobriety, promotion's very slow.
So we'll sing our reminiscences of Benny Havens, Oh!

CHORUS:

Oh! Benny Havens, Oh! Oh! Benny Havens, Oh!
We'll sing our reminiscences of Benny Havens, Oh!

To our kind old Alma Mater, our rockbound highland home,
We'll cast back many a fond regret as o'er life's sea we roam;

Until on our last battlefield the light of heaven, shall glow.
We'll never fail to drink to her and Benny Havens, Oh!

-- CHORUS

May the Army be augmented, promotion be less slow,
May our country in the hour of need be ready for the foe;
May we find a soldier's resting place beneath a soldier's blow,

With room enough beside our graves for Benny Havens,
Oh!

-- CHORUS





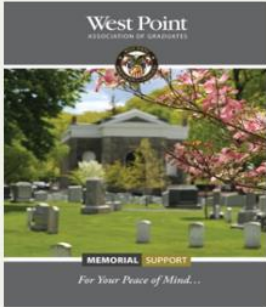
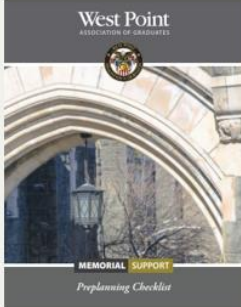

AOG is looking for local representatives to support their initiatives!

Volunteer Veterans Services Liaisons (VVSL)

The Veterans Volunteer Services Liaison (VVSL) is a newly created position within Societies and Classes, designed for individuals working in Veterans Services careers or those familiar with the Veterans Services or VA Benefits process. The VVSL's responsibilities include helping Society members or classmates navigate Veterans Services, providing information and guidance on available resources, and maintaining confidentiality and respect for privacy. The role requires attending monthly training webinars (30-60 minutes) and offering assistance on a case-by-case basis. This position is essential for leveraging the skills and passion of graduates with Veterans Services experience to support fellow grads locally or within their class. To sign up, visit the Veterans Services page in Sallyport and complete the VVSL Memorandum of Understanding.

Grads helping Grads Programs

Memorial Support Programs

Funeral Support at West Point	Preplanning Checklist	Survivor Community on Sallyport
		
Memorial.Support@wpaog.org * 845-446-1620		

Building a Survivors Community on Sallyport

The purpose of Survivors Community Outreach is to **connect** the community of Surviving Spouses and Next of Kin who are intrinsically linked through the loss of a loved one and their love of West Point. To present opportunities through **programming, communication and support resources** to connect with each other and to remain connected to West Point and the Long Gray Line.



JOIN OUR TEAM



Looking to be more involved in local activities?

Join the West Point Society of Naples Board of Directors!

The West Point Society of Naples is calling on motivated and passionate members to consider joining our Board of Directors. Serving on the board is a rewarding opportunity to directly contribute to the success of our mission while strengthening the bonds within our West Point community. WPSN Board of Directors has 15 members with five elected to serve a three-year term annually.

What does it entail?

As a board member, you will have the chance to help guide the future of our Society. The primary requirement is a commitment to attend our board meetings, which take place once a month on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, September to May. Additionally, the board member is expected to attend society events and support WPSN financially as well. It's a voluntary position, but your time and effort will have a meaningful impact on everything we do—from organizing events to supporting cadet programs and engaging the broader community.

Who are we looking for?

We are seeking dedicated individuals who share our commitment to upholding the values of Duty, Honor, Country, and are willing to lend their expertise and energy toward the various aspects of our mission. Whether you have experience in event planning, fundraising, or simply a desire to contribute, we welcome all who are interested in making a difference.

If you're ready to take a more active role in our Society and help shape our future, we encourage you to apply! Please contact Chris Williams at admin@westpointsocietyofnaples.com for more information

Benny Havens anyone?

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help organize and host local "Benny Havens" events in your area! These informal gatherings offer a great opportunity for alumni and friends to connect, share stories, and build lasting relationships. If you're interested in bringing the spirit of Benny Havens to your community, please reach out and let us know.



Serving Graduates throughout Southwest Florida

Meet your WPSN Board of Directors

President –

Chris Williams '87

Vice President/Events –

Evan Blanco '80

Secretary –

Cathy Speer '72 Spouse

Treasurer –

Matt Shanahan '99

Arnie Haake '69

Jodie Glore '69

Pete Lilly '70

Mike Zolidis '70

Gary Speer '72

Garrett Dietz '73

Mike Kostoff '79

Doug Whitehead '85

Russ Schott '91

Libby Schott '91

Derek DeVecchis '13

Membership Info

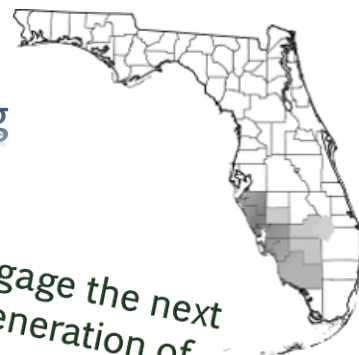
Your dues and donations help support the many activities sponsored by the WPSN. The rates for active membership:

- Annual \$35
- Three-year \$100
- Lifetime \$400

Celebrate lifelong
friendships

Support cadets
from SWFL

Engage the next
generation of
officers in the US
Army



The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the West Point Society of Naples, an exclusively non-profit organization, is to:

- (1) further the principles and welfare of the United States Military Academy;
- (2) provide an organization with activities for its members to associate in order to foster the aims, ideals, standards and achievements of the United States Military Academy;
- (3) promote a better understanding of the Military Academy by the public throughout Southwest Florida; and
- (4) inform, encourage and assist talented young men and women of the admissions process of the Military Academy.



**We are based in Naples, but
our membership area covers
all of Collier, Lee, Charlotte,
Glades, Hendry, Manatee, and
Sarasota Counties.**

West Point Society of Naples is a
501 (c)(3) / tax exempt
organization

[West Point Society of Naples](http://www.westpointsocietyofnaples.com)



LINKS

[United States Military Academy](#)

[West Point AOG](#)

[SallyPort](#)

[USMA Alumni Info](#)

[GoArmy Sports](#)

