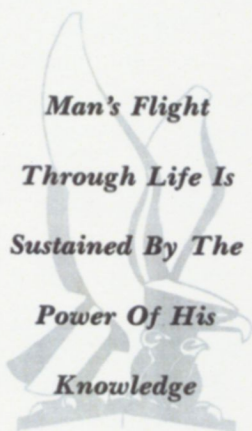


25th
Anniversary



Friends
Luncheon

Captain John M. "Mike" McGrath (USN) Ret.

Captain Mike McGrath graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1962. Following Naval flight training at Pensacola and was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1963. After serving as a flight instructor, he joined the "Blue Diamonds" of VA-146. Flying the A-4C "Skyhawk," he flew 179 combat missions from the USS Ranger and USS Constellation before being downed by enemy gunfire on June 30, 1967 over North Vietnam.

As a six-year Prisoner of War, Captain McGrath participated in communication and organization efforts to resist enemy exploitation. He was repatriated on March 4, 1973.

After rejoining his family in San Diego, he attended the Naval Postgraduate School and in September 1975 received a Master's Degree in Financial Management. He then served as executive officer and commander of VA-97 including operations during the Iranian hostage crisis.

Captain McGrath served as Chairman of the Leadership and Law Department at the U.S. Naval Academy prior to his final assignment as the naval attaché in Quito, Ecuador.

Mike retired from the Navy in January 1987 and joined United Airlines from which he recently retired.

Captain McGrath's numerous military awards include: The Silver Star, two Legion of Merit Medals with Combat "V," two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars with Combat "V," 17 Air Medals, two Purple Hearts and the Prisoner of War Medal. Civil awards include his recent election to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

His experiences have been chronicled and illustrated in his book, *Prisoner of War—Six Years in Hanoi* which is currently in its 13th printing.

MENU

Caesar Salad

Herb Roasted Pork

(Served with Apple Brandy Sauce)

Roasted New Potatoes

Asparagus

Vanilla Ice Cream w/Chocolate Sauce

&

Cookie

Freshly Baked Rolls & Butter

Coffee/Ice Tea/Water

25 Years of Service to the McDermott Library

In 1987, The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library was incorporated as a private, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization to meet the apparent and urgent needs of the Air Force Academy cadet library.

Marking the twentieth-fifth anniversary in 2012, the Friends remains strongly committed to our original mission: to enhance the quality of the Academy Library as an educational, research, scientific and cultural institution.

From the beginning, The Friends has enhanced the holdings of the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Library through acquisition and preservation of unique original historical collections of personal papers including official records, diaries, and photographs that are of special significance to the mission and history of the USAF and the Academy. The Friends have also solicited gifts of rare books and artwork, memorabilia, films, and electronic media dealing with aeronautic and airpower themes.

In this tradition, The Friends has completed several notable projects which document important milestones in the history of Academy: **“Expect Great Things”** (DVD); **50th Anniversary Oral Compendium Volume** (book); **“Falconry at the United States Air Force Academy”** (book and CD); **“The Genesis of Flight: The Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History”** (book and CD); **The Friends’ History of the Academy Exhibit**; **The Friends’ Stalag Luft III Exhibit**; **The Friends’ Eagle Squadron Exhibit and the Memorial Wall Project** (interactive database).

As the Friends moves forward, its focus remains on further enhancing the Library’s holdings by broadening the scope of contributions in order to make this great library even greater.