

# Legacy Saber Program

This is what I envision the Legacy Saber Tradition to become. I would like to be a part of making this into a true Air Force Academy tradition. Nothing is cast in stone and each class puts its stamp on the actual final process, the GIVING of an engraved saber to a member of their Legacy (50 Years) class.

## Background

I gave my parents a saber at graduation. At their death it came back to me. My son for various reasons really did not want it. So I decided I would give it to the oldest cadet (my criteria) in the class of 2018. In researching to identify this cadet, the cadet OIC of 100 Night festivities challenged me by asking "How many of your classmates want to do the same?" I contacted my class officers and they did not want any part of the idea. Through the AOG I asked my classmates and I received responses from 14 classmates including one who had a saber and one who only had a complete scabbard. The Cadet OIC wanted to do the giving at 100 Night but neither I nor the powers that be thought this was feasible. Instead because it would induce some of the donors to attend 100Night also we set it up in Doolittle Hall before 100 Night. I called it a Flying Fickle Finger of Fate Event. (*Flying is for the Air Force. Fickle Finger of Fate is because each donor set his own criteria and only one asked for a "Top" cadet, the rest were varied. Event is because it was a completely unsanctioned meeting where we gave the selected cadet his or her engraved saber.*) The sabers are engraved with the name of the donor and below that his rank and 1968. This worked out relatively well except 4 more of my class decided to "me to" and offered their sabers. Thus members of my class GAVE 18 Legacy Sabers to the Class of 2018 and hoped to start a tradition.

## Process

I thought I had contacted the officers of the class of 69 with no response. So I decided to start the process myself. This was the sequence of actions. They can be done by anyone interested or a small group.

1. Send blast emails to the class through the AOG. I did this early and followed up every couple of months to get the word out.
2. As people responded I sent them a detailed email saying in essence I need:
  - a. A Saber
  - b. An approximately 450 word bio
  - c. Their ribbons or civilian badges of achievement including wings, rank and such. DD-214
  - d. The type of cadet they would like the saber given to, i.e. selection criteria.
  - e. If they wanted, a donation to cover some of my costs.
3. AFTER I received their saber (and after January classes started) I contacted the OIC of the group, example the Tennis coach and the Chorale director, and described the program and the criteria and asked for their nomination. I asked them not to discuss it with the cadet.

4. I then called the cadet's AOC and again described the program and asked if the nominated cadet was suitable. By suitable I mean a good cadet who would be a good officer not necessarily a "top" cadet. I did not want a real trouble maker or someone with a bad attitude. Again I asked them not to say anything to the cadet. If the AOC had not approved I would have gone back to the nominee and asked for a second choice. I also made sure I had the exact spelling and initials of the cadet. In some cases they went by an initial and their middle name. This was important so I could correctly engrave the saber.
5. After I had filled the group member criteria I contacted the AOC's of the requested squadron criteria. Again, I explained the program and told them I wanted their nomination based on the criteria. In some cases the donor had wanted a hand in the selection and I asked the AOC if I could give their number to the donor and let the two decide who to nominate. I asked the AOC to call me with their nomination.
6. For some donors who did not have any real criteria I called AOC's in squadrons that did not have a nominee and went through the process. I gave preference to the Cadet Squadrons that were not there when we were. (31 to 40)
7. I limited the nominations to one per squadron.
8. After I had all the nominations I engraved the sabers. As a back-up I have a local Trophy shop that will do the engraving if I can't. They will do the engraving for about \$25 a saber with the artwork I supply. Easily replicated by anyone with the right tools.
9. When I get the bio's I convert them into presentation format with their wings and rank on the left and ribbons/decorations on the right. I have an excel spreadsheet that is under constant revision and is essentially pick and place to put together a complete ribbon bar. The rest is pick and place between word, excel and powerpoint. I'll share them with anyone. I wrap the Parchment paper bio around the saber and it is ready to give
10. For the actual giving I enticed several classmates to attend 100 Night and give away sabers. I learned that you must give each presenter a Specific Time Limit.

## **Presentation**

As stated, for the class of 2018 we did the main presentation in Doolittle Hall at 5 PM on 100 Night. I sent each cadet an invitation from the donor to a Flying Fickle Finger of Fate Event. I did this through the AOC and asked the AOC to entice the cadet to attend. We achieved complete surprise on the cadets and 100 % attendance. For the supplementary event in Arnold Hall we again achieved complete surprise.

For future GIVING Events the sponsoring class has to make their own decisions. My tentative plans for this year were to contact the manager of the First Class Lounge in Arnold Hall and work a deal with him to open the lounge about 4:30 and invite the cadets the same way to attend. I had planned on contacting MJ Kellerance who manages events at Doolittle Hall and see if we could arrange for the members of the

Class of 69 attending 100 Night to meet in the same lounge and then walk over to Mitchell Hall. I contacted the AOG Checkpoints editor about the project for my class and he was interested in it and offered to do the photography of the presentations. Otherwise I would have requested one of my classmates to take pictures. It is important to make sure photos are taken.

All this was tentative because I had not received any indication despite blast emails that included all the officers of any preference. This whole process can be done by anyone who has an interest and desire to see this become a tradition.

## **Aftermath**

For the Class of 2018 I set up a dropbox and loaded everything into it. Try this [link](#). Now I have developed this Legacysabers.com website you are looking at. It will be updated by each class as they participate.

I have included a Class of 2019 and was planning on doing so for future classes. I thought it would be useful to have it open to everyone to add to. However, I now think I will set up a website and make someone in each class an administrator. That way it can be updated but somewhat frozen. I am really open to suggestions and advise. As a website it could also be hosted by the AOG if we ask.

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