

FLORIDA CHAPTER 62

I would like to share an experience with all my ASTP buddies who were at Providence College. The college awarded an honorary degree on behalf of our class of '44. At a most hectic, emotional and enjoyable weekend, every event was well planned and executed. I gave the college a list of our classmates, to the best of my knowledge and they will receive the citation and diploma via mail. The ASTP program was abruptly terminated in March '44 in 110 universities and colleges across the USA. Providence College was the first to recognize the fact that we could not graduate and thus awarded these diplomas. Every university should follow this example. If you were at Providence College and did not receive this diploma, call **Deirdre Driscoll**, Director of College Events 401-865-2700.

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Letter received:

"Dear George,

Well. The dust from all of the events in May has finally settled and I wanted to take a moment and send you a note to thank you again. As I told you during your last visit, I (and we as a Nation) can't thank you enough for your service and for building this great country as part of the Greatest Generation. Your influence continues to this day, as evidenced by the tremendous impact that you had on all of those who witnessed the commissioning and commencement and who saw your interviews on TV. You and your ASTP buddies were much on my mind yesterday at the Memorial Day ceremony, as well.

Since your visit, I have had countless people approach me to tell me how moved they were by your recognition and how

humbly you accepted the honors. I know, having stayed by your side throughout the weekend, how much you wanted all of your buddies to share in the experience with you. But I also know that they couldn't have chosen a better man to represent them all. You did them proud and I know that all of them, including those who have died and whose names are on the plaque in the Grotto, would thank you for representing them so well.

I have enjoyed our friendship over the past three years and I will carry the memory of your time here with me wherever I go from here. You may joke that "an officer never served as an enlisted man's driver in your day", but I would be your driver any day of the week. I wish you, Annette, and the rest of your family all the best."

Respectfully,
 Matthew R. McKinley
 Lieutenant Colonel, FA
 Professor of Military Science
 Providence College, Providence, RI

*Hello Lorraine -
 This appeared in the 26 Dec
 Magazine - Show it to Wagn Trust -
 I would like to speak to the
 cadets in Oct 2012!!!*

Best Regards -

George