Firsts & Lasts at USMA

Class of 1802:
◊ First Jewish graduate was Simon Levy.

Class of 1806:
◊ First Native American graduate was long considered to be Moniac, Class of 1822, #324, but Louis Loramier, Class of 1806, #25 and William Wells, Class of 1814, #111 also claim Native American ancestry.

Class of 1811:
◊ First combat casualty was George Ronan, killed on 15 Aug 1812 at Ft. Chicago, IL, #69.

Class of 1820:
◊ First International Cadets. Luis Blanco of Chile was 12 years old and Mateo Blanco of Chile was 14 years old at the time of their admission in 1816; ex-members of the Class of 1820.

Class of 1821:
◊ First four-year class.

Class of 1822:
◊ David Moniac, a Creek Indian, was the first graduate from Alabama; officially considered first Native American graduate.

Class of 1835:
◊ First class to adopt a class ring.

Class of 1874:
◊ First African-American cadet—James Webster Smith—entered the Academy on 30 May 1870, ex-member of the Class of 1874, commissioned posthumously on 22 Sep 1997.

Class of 1877:
◊ First African-American graduate: Henry Ossian Flipper, #2690.

Class of 1884:
◊ First class to publish a Howitzer, but not as a yearbook.

Class of 1889:
◊ First International Graduate: Antonio Barrios, Guatemala, #3329.

Class of 1891:
◊ First class to see an Army-Navy football game (played 29 Nov 1890).

Class of 1896:
◊ First class to have the Howitzer as a yearbook but an unofficial publication.

Class of 1904:
◊ First class to publish the Howitzer as a yearbook and an official publication.

Class of 1910:
◊ First undefeated Lacrosse team.

Class of 1911:
◊ First class to be issued Bugle Notes (first published in 1907).

Class of 1915:
◊ First class with two five-star Generals: Eisenhower and Bradley.

Class of August 1917:
◊ Only first captain, John T. Knight, Jr., to succeed by a brother.

Class of June 1918:
◊ Only first captain, O’Ferrall Knight, to be preceeded by a brother.

Class of June 1919:
◊ Last class to graduate early for WWI (1 Nov 1918). Recalled to USMA for additional academics and graduated again on 11 June 1919.

Class of 1934:
◊ First class to receive bachelor of science degrees. Other living graduates awarded degrees retroactively.

Class of 1935:
◊ First class to have Jewish religious services (optional on Saturday afternoons in addition to compulsory attendance at Protestant or Catholic services on Sunday.)

Class of 1936:
◊ First and only class to hold a Badger Fight with the Supe’s dog for the Corps of Cadets.
◊ First class to have three Superintendents. (Two at USMA: William C. Westmoreland #10571, and James B. Lampert #10496, and at the third at Air Force Academy: Albert P. Clark #10566.
◊ First class to have three Chiefs of Staff, Army: William Westmoreland, Bruce Palmer, Jr. and Creighton Adams.
◊ First and only class to have seven four-star generals. Army: William C. Westmoreland #10571, Creighton W., Adams, Jr. #10644, Bruce Palmer, Jr. #10466, John H. Michaelis #10676; Air Force: Howell M. Estes, Jr. #10531, Joseph J. Nazzaro #10712 and Benjamin O. Davis #10494.

Class of 1942:
◊ First class to have four years of mandatory Jewish chapel services.

Class of January 1943:
◊ First class to graduate early for WWII.

Class of 1944:
◊ Last class to have summer camp at Camp Clinton (near Cullum Hall).
◊ First class to have summer field training at Camp Popolopen (now Camp Buckner).
◊ Last class to be issued Springfield rifles, caliber .30; the Garand rifle, Model M-1, was issued to all cadets in 1942.

Class of 1945:
◊ Last class to be issued Stetson campaign hats as plebes.
◊ Last class to graduate early for WWII.
◊ First and only class to travel to an Army-Navy game (1944-Baltimore) by sea.

Class of 1947:
◊ Last three-year class of WWII era. Class graduated 310.

Class of 1948:
◊ First class to see the completed ski slope (in 1945).
◊ First four-year class after WWII.
◊ Last class to have riding as a mandatory class.

Class of 1949:
◊ Last class to have riding as an elective class.
◊ First class to give 2LT bars to the 50-year affiliation class.

Class of 1950:
◊ Last class to receive training with horses.
◊ First astronaut, Frank Borman, #17354.

Class of 1951:
◊ First African-American, Four-Star General, Roscoe Robinson, Jr., #18309.
Class of 1952:
◊ Sesquicentennial Class.

Class of 1957:
◊ First class to have a West Point Parents Association; (first meeting in 1954).

Class of 1958:
◊ Last class to have 25% go to USAF.
◊ First NCAA champion team (Lacrosse).
◊ First athletic contest between USMA and USAFA (track).
◊ First class to participate in opening ceremonies for the USAFA in July 1959.
◊ First class to be offered three electives in Social Sciences during their second class year.

Class of 1960:
◊ Last class to be assigned to companies based strictly on height.

Class of 1961:
◊ First class to be offered a full slate of academic electives other than a choice of foreign language.
◊ Last class to be issued brown combat boots.

Class of 1963:
◊ Class that fielded the Rabble Rousers.
◊ First Class to qualify with the M-14 rifle (first unit in the Army to do so).
◊ First Class to take RECONDO training at Camp Buckner.

Class of 1965:
◊ First class to hold a 500th Nite celebration.

Class of 1966:
◊ Last class to have two regiments.

Class of 1967:
◊ Last class to spend Plebe Christmas at West Point.

Class of 1968:
◊ First class granted Christmas leave as plebes.
◊ Last class to know West Point as it was before the major construction that began in 1965.
◊ Last class to be instructed in Cadet Drill (FM 22-5A).

Class of 1972:
◊ Last class to participate in “June Encampment” at the start of Cow year.
◊ Last class to “brace” throughout beast.
◊ Last class to see The Silence as an officially sanctioned punishment by the Honor Committee.
◊ First class to attend Airborne School en masse.

Class of 1973:
◊ Last class to travel on “First Class Trip.”
◊ First class to use cadet zip code, 10997.
◊ First class to attend Flight School at USPHS at Ft. Wolters, TX, and receive FAA ratings as helicopter pilots as cows.

Class of 1976:
◊ Last class to have three details/terms during academic year.
◊ Last class to have mandatory chapel attendance on Sundays.
◊ First Hispanic first captain: Richard Morales, Jr., #33714.
◊ Last class to see football games on grass in Michie Stadium.

Class of 1977:
◊ Last class to have an official class “Goat” (last person in the published ranking of the class upon graduation).
◊ Last class to receive 60 days of leave following graduation (following classes received 30 days).
◊ Last class to graduate by General Order of Merit. Hereafter, the honor graduates receive their diplomas first, followed by the remainder of the class in alphabetical order.
◊ Last class to see football games on grass in Michie Stadium.

Class of 1978:
◊ First class to graduate over 1000 people.
◊ First class to graduate on astroturf at Michie Stadium.
◊ Last class to buy two full dress coats.
◊ Last class to be awarded the National Defense Service Ribbon.
◊ Last class to fire M-14s during field training.

Class of 1979:
◊ First class to be assigned as Fourth Class Systems Officers.
◊ First class to be assigned as Security Officers.
◊ Last all-male class.
◊ Last class to “sit up” in the Mess Hall past Christmas.
◊ Last class to have daily grade input to the computer.

Class of 1980:
◊ First class to have tactical NCOs at Camp Buckner.
◊ First class to be issued the Army ALICE pack.

Class of 1981:
◊ First female officer to achieve general officer rank: BG Rebecca S. Halstead #38426.
◊ Last class to carry sheets/linen for weekly exchanges (linen now goes out as laundry).
◊ First class allowed weekend leave as Fourth Classmen.
◊ First class issued running shoes.
◊ First class to use Keller Army Community Hospital.
◊ First class to have a female, COL Heidi V. Brown, #38174, command a Patriot air defense battalion and an air defense brigade.

Class of 1982:
◊ Last class to have mandatory breakfast during class mornings.
◊ First class to have female tactical officers.
◊ First class offered electives as Fourth Classmen.
◊ Last class to take the old “Run-Dodge-Jump” PT test.
◊ First class to elect a woman class president, Ellen Houlihan (Groschelle), #39332.

Class of 1983:
◊ First graduating class with female members. Previously the positions were held by Second Classmen). Previously the positions were held by Second Classmen.
◊ First class allowed the Army Black Overcoat.

Class of 1984:
◊ First class to serve as assistant squad leaders during the school year (as Third Classmen). Previously the positions were held by Second Classmen.
◊ First class to be issued the Army Black Overcoat.
◊ First class with graduation week.
◊ First graduating class with female members.

Class of 1985:
◊ Last class to have “call to quarters” at 2030 hours (as fourth class cadets).

Class of 1986:
◊ First class to have an Affirmation Ceremonial at the beginning of second class year academics.

Class of 1990:
◊ First class to be issued personal computers.
◊ Last class to do role reversal with the First Class for 100th Nite Weekend.
◊ First class to have a female first captain: Kristin M. Baker, #47014.

Class of 1993:
◊ Last class to be recognized (able to address upperclassmen by their first name and be addressed by first name) after Graduation Parade.

Class of 1994:
◊ First class to receive “early recognition” before graduation.

Class of 1998:
◊ Last class to see I companies in the Corps.
◊ First Iraqi-born graduate: Fred F. Odisho #57535.

Class of 2000:
◊ First class to have a “Class Notes” column published in ASSEMBLY magazine before graduation (May 2000 issue).
◊ First class to receive MREs (Meals Ready-To-Eat).

Class of 2002:
◊ First class to get personal telephones and television cards (for use via computer systems).
◊ First class to have Plebe-Parent Weekend in the fall.
◊ First class to go on Spring Break as plebes.
◊ First class to have palm pilots.

Class of 2003:
◊ Last class to have gold from the Class Ring Memorial Program included in their class rings.

Class of 2004:
◊ First class to receive a Class Flag from the WPAOG.

Class of 2005:
◊ First class to have advanced land navigation at Camp Buckner.
◊ First class to run the indoor obstacle course all four years.
◊ First class to receive palm pilots.
◊ First class in which a male cadet's parents are both graduates: Michael Linnington, Jr. (parents: Michael Linnington '80 and Brenda Zachary '81), and Robert Fix, Jr. (parents: Robert Fix '81 and Debra Lopez '81).

Class of 2006:
◊ First class in which a female cadet’s parents are both graduates: Megan Kulungowski (parents: Mark Kulungowski ’80 and Margaret Knox ’81).
◊ First class to enter during time of war since Vietnam era.
◊ Last class to get promoted before Spring Break.