

My, How the Time Flies!

The Class of 2025 Senior Dining Out

BY KOREDE ALABI '25

Four years feels like a lifetime when you are a college freshman and Texas A&M Corps of Cadets fish. After countless long days, tough workouts, and attempts at staying awake in our 8 o'clock classes, my buddies and I couldn't help but balk at the prospect of three more years of the Corps at the end of our freshman year. We had gained much, but the end felt ages away.

What once seemed like a lifetime is very quickly coming to a close and has been coupled with a long list of lasts: the last time I stood in the student section in uniform at football games, participated in brass culmination, or sent my mom a "first day of school photo" in my bravos.

Even the preparation leading up to Senior Dining Out hit me with the definitive fact that things were coming to a close. Selecting photos from over the years to send in for the slideshow played at the venue, put-

ting on AAs and senior boots, reminiscing about fish year stories as we waited for dinner to be served—it was clear that the end of our Corps experience was near.

For the CCA to host a huge banquet for the senior class to reminisce and spend time with former cadets all earlier than the Class of '25 (WHOOH!) is a gesture every senior class needs. To me and my buddies, Senior Dining Out was a milestone marker for just how far we had come these past four years. We had the opportunity to sit with and converse with old Aags about their time in

The traditions of Senior Dining Out include celebratory toasts, the Fallen Comrade ceremony presented by the Ross Volunteer Company, cadet awards voted on by class members, and the recitation of "The Last Corps Trip."

the Corps and what it was like after they graduated, all while celebrating our own experiences as well as the achievements of cadets across our class who were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to their academics, Corps, and outfits.

Sometimes, it can be easy to feel like the years of work we have poured into this organization will go unnoticed, but the tradition of Senior Dining Out was the antithesis of that. To me, it says, "I see you, seniors. I will miss you, and I celebrate you, your accomplishments, and your Corps experience."

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The Class of 2025 was privileged to hear from a distinguished former cadet who was the Vice Chief of Staff of the US Air Force and CCA Board Member, Stephen Wilson '81, Gen USAF (Ret), as this year's guest speaker. Be on the lookout for his speech in the next issue of *The Ross Review*. Photo by AR Photography.



The passing of souvenir coins by CCA members is an honored tradition of Senior Dining Out. Here Paul Gardner '66 (far left) and Henry Goodwin '66 (far right) present coins to (L-R) Jake Beets and Adam Lahey, both from Squadron 1, along with Caitlin Silvester from Squadron 12. Photo by AR Photography.



Gabriel Schuricht '25 from Squadron 17, is flanked by his mother, Julie '95 and his father, Hans '95. Photo by AR Photography.

Senior cadets from Company A-2 and their dates shared a table with Joey '14 & Eric Wylie '93. Wylie currently serves on the CCA Board of Directors. Photo by Baylee Griffin '21.



The Class of 2025 Senior Dining Out was sponsored by USAA and the following members:

SILVER

Wendy '96 & Stephen Kindrick '94
W. Barney Fudge '67
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MAROON

Juanita & Bobby R. Smith '58
Judy & Tom Wisdom '61
Nancy & Bob Schneider '64
Nancy & Paul Gardner '66 and
Linda & Henry Goodwin '66
Linda & David Schlueter '68
Paul M. Machemehl '74
Mike Clark '76 & Jim Marsden '76
Mike Havel '76
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Basden '78
Donna & LTC Patrick Cannon '78
Susie & Wade F. Seidel '78
Karen & Dale A. Cope '82
Meredith & Gregory Bollich '93
Hans D. Schuricht '95
COL (Ret.) & Mrs. Patrick Seiber '93
Joey '14 & Eric Wylie '93