

ROUNDAWAY FARM

2575 FIVE POINTS ROAD

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November 3, 2012

Dr. Terry C. Ryan '65
40171 Braddock Road
Aldie, VA 20105-2715

RE: Honor Sing for COL Robert W. Newton '55
Trinity Church
Upperville, VA

Dear Terry,

My family and I send our most hearty thanks for the honor sing you conducted with 14 other members of the Alumnae West Point Glee Club and presented for my husband's funeral. It was the "Piece de Resistance" for the service. Your contribution brought the entire Military Honors part of the Ceremony into one piece with the religious service inside and outside of the church. It brought a wholeness to the conclusion of my husband's presence on earth and was of heart rending solace to all members of our family and to our friends. I know you chose to sing for us instead of another event that day, and I want you to know that we will always remember it. Some said they had never heard "The Corps" sung so beautifully and I heartily concur with that. "Mansions of the Lord" was also beautifully sung. Afterwards I came home and got out the movie on DVD in order to hear it again. The invitation to other grads (I am told there were 85) to sing "Alma Mater" was a fitting conclusion to our remembrance of Bob, his career and our lives together.

I must tell you that, as we followed the casket to the grave site, and I saw you all lined up on the adjacent path in salute, I was really touched with this addition to your service, an additional honor I was not expecting.

And I also must tell you, that of all the civilians present, many had never seen a Military funeral, and they were also impressed and continually tell me so and write me notes about it.

I don't wholly know the tradition of how you all came together, but in looking at my dvds I discovered one of a sing you performed at Michie Stadium one year. A disc sent to me by Jim Ryan '55. So I have enjoyed listening to that again also.

I am enclosing an honorarium. I know it is not something you have expected, but I believe what you all are doing is so valuable I wanted to make a contribution to your treasury for whatever use you would want to put it. I hope this tradition you have all created will continue forever.....and I hope to hear you somewhere else again. Please pass on to your fellow members, the gratitude of my family.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Robert W. Newton