

**From:** Gutierrez, Barbara L CIV USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2009 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** Raffle winner Rando Fund

From Jack Bernazzani:

Hi all,

I'm not sure where to begin here in terms of thanking and congratulating folks. Let's start with the raffle winners. As this note is going to FamNet, GradNet, and the other groups out there - some background for the new folks on who may have a bit less familiarity with Brian Kramer and Nancy Phinney. Nancy, Brian and I are all originally FamNetters and later, GradNetters. It's important for you to know that both of these most deserving of individuals have done an incredible amount of work for and in support of the Rando Fund over the many years. It's folks like Nancy and Brian who help to secure the ongoing success of the Rando Fund.

Nancy and I have sons who are classmates (she also has another son who is a grad) and our first exposure to the Rando Fund Quilt Raffle came in 1999 at our first PW. At the FamNet Dinner that year, the second Quilt Raffle was held. That quilt raffle prize is the very large quilt bearing the insignia's of all 40 cadet squadrons that since 1999 has hung on the west wall of the Arnold Hall Ballroom. The Com at the time, now Maj Gen Mark Welsh Welsh who drew the winning ticket let it be known, that no matter who won that very unique quilt he wanted to make a deal to have it remain at the AFA. A deal wasn't necessary, the Wilkerson's of Colorado most generously donated their "prize" to the AFA. That quilt was a huge undertaking by many folks, coordinated by FamNet/GradNet founder doni Hardy. (as most of you know, doni also provides a home page for the Rando Fund as well as the memorial page dedicated to the two other cadets and AF IP's who like Dennis, lost their lives in the T-3 flight training accidents at [www.falconpride.com](http://www.falconpride.com)) A few years later, Brian Kramer came along and his support for the fund was immediate and it has been ongoing to this day. Each year he ensures that he's on the agenda of the Indiana Parents' Association's meeting and speaks on the subject of the Rando Fund. I'm very happy for you both.

How do I thank, on behalf of everyone who supports the cadets and the Rando Fund, thank my friend and fellow Massachusetts Parents' Association member, Diane Mackey. As most all know, Diane was the Rando Fund's first president. It was her drive and dedication back in 1997 that got the Rando Fund off to such a strong start that it still endures today. Your ongoing efforts & dedication to the cadets and cadet families and your quilt making skills are so very much appreciated by me and all supporters of the Rando Fund. Thank you for all you have done, do and continue to do for the cadets and their parents. No individual comes close to matching your efforts.

To grad parent Anne Kush and all those parents and cadets (Kathy Symalla & C2C Trever Symalla in particular) who assisted you in the collection of the many squadron T-shirts that became squares in the quilt - Thank you so very much for your efforts. What a remarkable piece of work! In my opinion, your quilt was one of the most unique quilts we've ever raffled - our sincere thanks for your efforts. I'm told by folks who know "quilting," that the construction of that quilt using cotton t-shirts with logos of varying sizes was not an easy thing to design and construct.

Diane and Anne, you should both know that every one and I do mean EVERYONE who saw the quilts at the Parents' Association President's meeting on Thursday of PW or at the Info Fair in Arnold Hall on Friday all said the same thing - it was unfortunate that everyone could not get to see and touch the quilts in person to fully understand the quality and craftsmanship that went into making them. Although the pictures we post are the best we can do so that all can have an idea of what the quilts look like - pictures don't come close to truly depicting the amount of detail, work and love that goes into their construction.

To Colorado Parents Club President, Kathy Symalla and CPC member Tami Holley who did all the "real" work in getting the raffle licensed in Colorado for the Rando Fund, responded to all the email and snail mail ticket requests, everyone who purchased a raffle ticket to support the Rando Fund owes you a huge "THANK YOU!" for all you've done. This was Tami's 3rd year and Kathy's 2nd year of intense involvement with the raffle. Without their assistance and the CPC's sponsorship of the Raffle, use of their PayPal site, check processing, etc., there is no Rando Fund Quilt raffle. I cannot thank you enough for the hours of time and effort that you put into this event. You all

should know that they are so dedicated to this event, that they are already talking about how they can improve on the raffle for next year.

To all the presidents of the Parents' Association who shared our information about the raffle with your members to help us maximize our exposure, your ongoing support of the raffle and the Rando Fund in general is appreciated and certainly a huge key to its ongoing success.

To every individual GradNet Member, FamNet Member, parent's association member, class web site member, Yahoo group member and any other group I may have missed, who bought tickets in support of the raffle - Thank you for doing that! Without your ongoing support of the Raffle and the Rando Fund, we cannot continue the work that was begun in 1997 on behalf of the AFA and the cadets.

Over this Parents' Weekend I got to personally speak with the Superintendent, the Commandant, and many of the chaplains who asked me to share with you all, their most sincere gratitude for all that you do that allows for the Rando Fund to assist so many cadets at a time they and their families most need it. It's so very hard to quantify and capture just how meaningful having the resources to help cadets and their families is to the senior leadership of the AFA. Each related recent stories of how the fund saved the day for a couple of cadets over the course of the summer, including a Basic Cadet who lost a parent during BCT. Many of you may have heard that at the Parents' Association Presidents' meeting that the Sup hosts in Doolittle Hall on the Thursday of PW, I presented him with a \$25,000 Rando Fund check on behalf of all Rando Fund donors during the 2008-2009 academic year. Lt. Gen. Gould was both overwhelmed and incredibly moved and grateful for the generosity you all exhibit on behalf of the Rando Fund.

Last but not least, I have to thank those at the AFA who make sure that I am in touch with, as well as get to meet and speak with all the movers and shakers at the AFA to ensure that the Rando Fund remains a vibrant and highly valued initiative. Since 1997, that has been Nancy Burns and Barbara Gutierrez. Their continued support is vital to the Fund's success. Their advice and guidance for me has been a godsend over the past years.

I'm anxiously awaiting to hear the final tally relative to the amount of money that was raised. As soon as The CPC has processed everything, we'll share that information with all.

Once again, thanks to all for what you do for the cadets and their families.

Jack B.

Jack Bernazzani

President, Dennis P. Rando Cadet Humanitarian Fund Roslindale, MA Capt. Joel, '03, A-10, Osan AFB, South Korea Sgt. Kate, Avionics Tech, Beaufort USMC Air Station, SC

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