

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSO AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

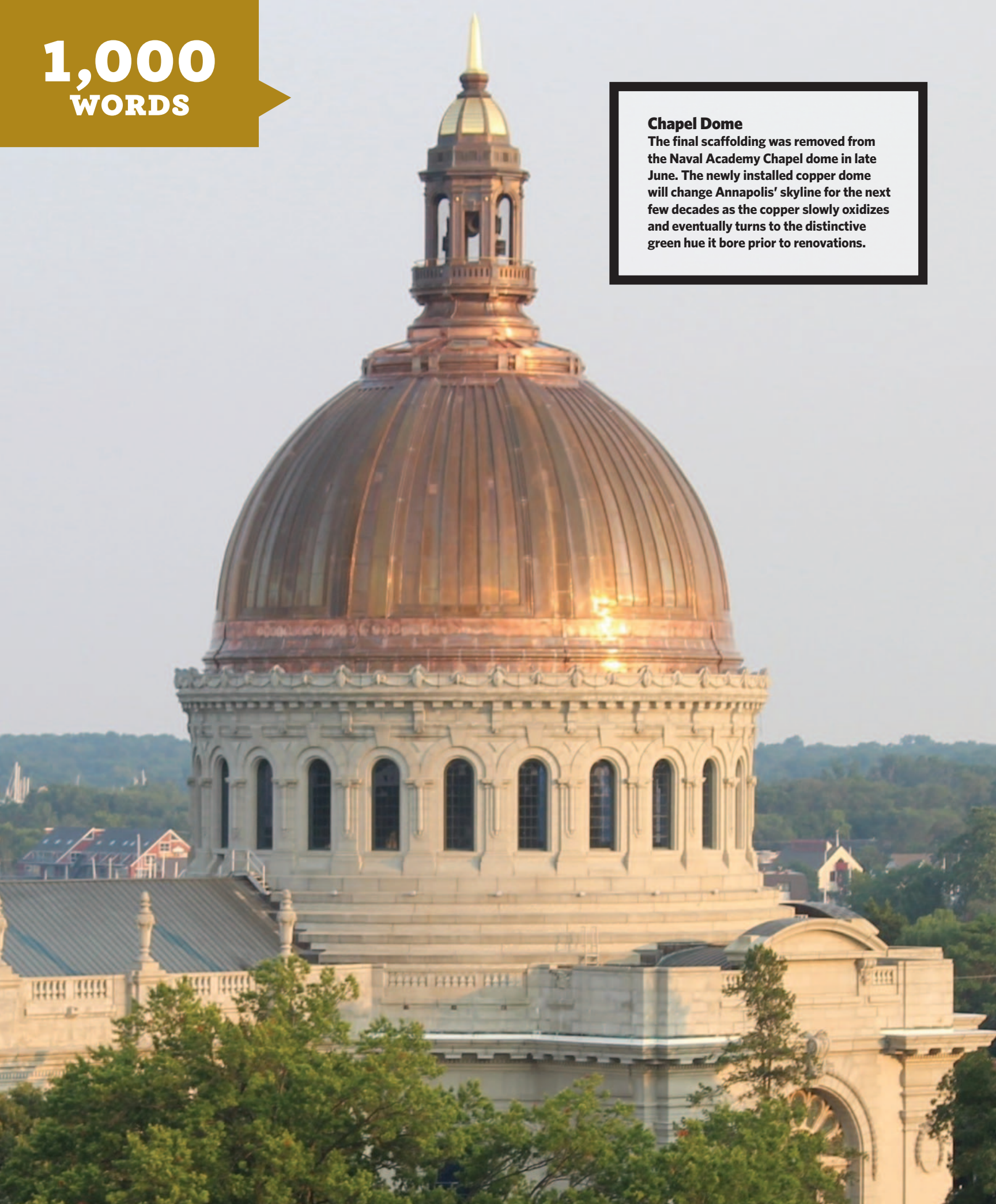
JULY • AUGUST 2021



**1,000  
WORDS**

### **Chapel Dome**

The final scaffolding was removed from the Naval Academy Chapel dome in late June. The newly installed copper dome will change Annapolis' skyline for the next few decades as the copper slowly oxidizes and eventually turns to the distinctive green hue it bore prior to renovations.





From **Jim Wilson**, 05 May

✉ The photo below marks the celebration of the only award ever received by CAPT. Jim Wilson (USNR-ret.) in an otherwise dismal and lackluster career. From Left to Right: **Denny and Karen McComb** who recently moved to Orange County from Arizona to be near kids and grandkids, **Alice and Jim Wilson** who have enjoyed San Clemente CA for 30 years now, **Pete and Nancy Tamny** who live in Pasadena on the Rim of the Rose Bowl, and **Chris and Carol Manger** who both work in the very successful Manger Lasik Surgery Business. Denny McComb said the golden Navy plaque presented was 24 ct. gold!



From **Ron Bishop**, 06 May

✉ The first Lunch Bunch Zoom meeting on the newly revised 1300 meeting on the first Thursday of each month consisted of **Dave Adams** and I having a nice hour-long chat about his adventures at the Care Center in Delaware he and his wife moved into a couple of years back. He and several volunteers provide a valuable service to the Care Center that has about 200 occupants. They run a

White Elephant sale for relatives of residents who pass away there. It is a wonderful service and their sales provide extra money for activities of the entire Center population.

News from the restarted Lunch Bunch Luncheon at Egg Bistro in Chesapeake was reported by **Carl Spangler**. He had picked up **Bill Newlon** and they had joined **Bob Finley, Rick Williams** and **Neil Jenkins** at the restaurant for a nice lunch and good chat about things Navy and their careers in same as well as the usual Organ Recital.

From **Dave Miller**, 06 May

✉ My grandson Connor Adams finished number 3 in the golf state championship and qualified as all state in Texas Private Schools. He received an All State designation will be attending New Mexico as a member of the golf team. It's obvious he got no golfing genes from me. That is **Pat** beside of me and our daughters Laura and Beth on the other side of Connor.



From **Jim Minderlein**, 07 May

✉ On 12 May, **Jim Minderlein** sent out a BZ to the GREAT Class of 1965 for once again answering the call and adding to the stellar reputation of our class among all alumni. The results show that our class had the top participation percentage class for the seventh year in a row - 40.03% compared to the Class of '84 who came in second at 38.03%.

From **John O'Dwyer**, 17 May

✉ My wife, Dorothy, passed last November. She'd had Parkinson's Disease for 13 years and was on a

feeding tube for her last 2 years. Dorothy's funeral was streamed live so our daughter in England could see it. I gave the short eulogy. My 11th Company mates know about Dorothy since, thanks to **Ron Bishop**, we do a monthly Zoom call. I'm a "health nut" and I wrote a book on health and am now researching another book. I dropped WiFi and went back to Ethernet because I believe it is healthier. I turn off all power to my bedroom at night and sleep fantastic. I still weigh the same as when I entered the Naval Academy. About a year ago I took up pickleball and play many times a week with people ages 15-90. To keep my brain working well, my hobby is learning foreign languages and I daily do Duolingo in French, Spanish or German, none of which I speak fluently. Looking forward to our 56th Reunion!

From **Pete Lumianski**, 19 May

✉ For an update, I keep puttering around with the Cold War Monument project in an endless search for corporate and wealthy person support, and we keep hunkering down in front of whatever Netflix series is up next, a generally unhealthy habit. We're leaving next week for Newport Beach, CA for a couple weeks of timeshare fun in the Mudslide State, and among other things, are hoping to cross paths with classmates **Mike Dudine** and **Denny McComb**. The McCombs recently relocated from Phoenix where they had lived nearly 40 years to a Retirement Place in Rancho Mission Viejo south of Laguna Beach. The Dudines live just north of San Diego. Got the family together for Mom's Day event a couple weeks ago. Three daughters, two sons-in-law, one boyfriend, many ex-sons-in-law, eight grandkids, one great grandkid and one in the hopper - our contribution to the recent concerns about the country's negative population growth rate. -Pete

Thazzit for this time, guys!  
Aloha, Dave

## '66

**Life Membership: 65%**

**Donor Participation: 17.21%**

Pres: **Gen Carlton W. Fulford, USMC (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**

10439 Rivington Ct., Lone Tree, CO 80124  
e: mike.baird@1966.usna.com

West Coast Sec'y: **Robert G. Johnson Jr., Esq.**  
41391 Kalmia St., Ste. 210  
Murrieta, CA 92562

Website: [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org)

As we approach fall, the prospect of football games excites our expectations. Hopefully, this year, tailgating will be allowed, and the stadium will be filled. The Tailgate Group will, no doubt, be sending emails soon to provide more details. And, now to the news.

It seems that since most of us are getting vaccinated, **Wayne Lynn** has scheduled the Florida Comearound. Here's his message. As of this writing, some of the events are fully booked for people, but Wayne is maintaining a standby list.

✉ The thrice-delayed 2020 Florida Comearound is now firmly rescheduled for 27-29 October 2021 in Tampa. Much of the original agenda remains the same, although some of the venues have changed. Our Wednesday evening opening reception will be at our headquarters hotel - The Hilton Garden Inn - Ybor City. Thursday we will be treated to presentations by the Commanders or Deputy Commanders (depending what's going on at the time) of US Central Command and US Special Operations Command. Thursday evening we'll tour the Tampa History Center on the Riverwalk, followed by a cocktail reception and dinner at the Columbia Café, located within the Center. Friday morning offers organized golf or sight-seeing on your own. Friday evening will find us at Jackson's Bistro on Harbor Island for cocktails and dinner on the waterfront. If you are not on the Florida Comearound email distribution list, i.e., you have not received emails from me; and you are interested in participating in this unique event, please contact me soon. I will soon be sending out event registration forms by email.

Warm regards to all, Wayne Lynn; wrlynn66@gmail.com or 813-545-3294.

Again, the host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa, Ybor Historic District; 1700 East 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, phone 813-557-3297. A block of rooms under the Group Name USNA66 Florida Association, Group Code USNA, has been established. You can sign up by contacting Wayne by email or phone.

Since the last issue I have received notices of several Classmate deaths. This has been a very stressful time for everyone. **Dave Stensel** (8) died 30 March 2021. Dave left Navy right after Second Class year. He went on to have a distinguished career obtaining a PhD in Environmental Engineering and later becoming a Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. No information on services has been published. **Gordon R. (Rusty) McDonnell** (31) died on 14 April 2021 after a long battle with prostate cancer. Services for Rusty will occur on 23 September 2021 at 1030 in the USNA Chapel with interment in the USNA Columbarium. **Walt Donnelly** (16) died on 28 March 2021 after a 22-month battle with Mesothelioma. A funeral Mass and burial at Bay Pines National Cemetery occurred on 14 June 2021. **John Rockwell** (29) died of an unexpected heart attack on 14 April 2021. Plans for services and interment in the USNA Columbarium are in work. **William L. (Bill) Jeremiah** (24) died on 14 January 2021. A memorial service was held on 16 February 2021 at Glen Abbey Memorial Park and Mortuary in Bonita, CA. **Pierce Johnson**, 20th Company Rep, informed me of the death of **Ed McKenney** (20). Ed died on 29 April 2021 after battling blood cancer for several years. Services were held in Edgewater, MD on 19 May. **Carl McCullough** forwarded an email from **Mike Smith** that **Pete Leniart** (5) died on 10 May. No services are planned. His ashes will be interred at the St. Petersburg Veterans Cemetery. Pete was the originator of the

Florida Comearounds, assisted by Wayne Lynn. Finally, Sandra Hale informed me that **Ted Holley** (18) died on 23 February 2021. Ted's ex-wife Susan provided an obituary that was sent to the Class this March. Please keep all the affected families in your prayers.

Linda McCook sent the following photo to document the interment ceremony for **Gary Schmidt** (28). The ceremony was held 17 May 2021 at the USNA Columbarium. As you can see, several Classmates, too numerous to name, made the journey to attend. Thanks, Linda. **Pierce Johnson** forwarded a group photo, taken by Linda McCook, of Classmates, (back row) **Phil Bozzelli, Andre Simonpietri, Will Shubert, Bob Murray, Roger Burnett, and Scot Gordon;** (front row) **Jaqueline McKenney, Bev Daly, Pierce Johnson,** and Linda McCook, who attended the memorial service and reception for **Ed McKenney**. Thanks, Pierce, and Linda.

An aside note to Classmates who intend to be interred at the Naval Academy Columbarium. You will need to send the Academy a copy of your DD-214 to have on file, so please locate your copy and have it ready. Your spouse will be covered also. Contact Anthony Whalen, awhalen@usna.edu, to get details and to arrange services.

**Pete Wright** sent me a link from a **Shift Colors** article on **JJ Ryan**. The link is

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Portals/55/Reference/ShiftColors/Documents/Spring-Summer%202021.pdf>. In short, the NAS Jacksonville CO, CAPT Brian Weiss presented JJ with a certificate of recognition in December 2020 for his work with the Retired Activities Office (RAO) for the past 20 years. Though he plans to stay active with the RAO, he will spend more time with family and keeping up the house. Congratulations to JJ.

**John Scudi** sent me a notice on a CHINFO newsclip regarding **Al Konetzni**. Al was one of the speakers at a ceremony for the St. Mary, GA Submarine Museum. Al was squadron commander at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in 1988 when he sent letters asking sailors for old memorabilia they may have collected over the years. He started getting battle flags, pieces of decommissioned submarines and even some old Navy-issue underwear. The donations continued to come in until there wasn't the room

to display everything. The museum opened 30 March 1996. Al was at the museum to commemorate its 25th anniversary. It took 129 volunteers and 6,344 hours of work to renovate the museum and facilitate its opening. Congratulations to Al for his work and dedication.

As you might recall, our Web Master, **John Jackson** indicated last year his desire to retire from that position. Our search to find a replacement was finally successful. **Chuck Grutzis** provided the following announcement regarding the new Web Master.

✉ Fellow 66ers ...

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Web Master on board! She is Therese Long, Wife of our Classmate **Larry Fish**. Therese brings a wealth of website experience to the Class of 1966, and she is currently working on a new design for our website. We will have the new website up and running on or about 01 July 2021, on the new



'66: CLASSMATES ATTENDING Ed MCKENNEY'S SERVICES



'66: CLASSMATES, SPOUSES, AND FAMILIES AT GARY SCHMIDT'S INTERMENT CEREMONY

## 66/67 CLASS NEWS

USNA Alumni Association hosting platform. The Alumni hosting platform can be seen at ... <http://usnaclases.net/> ... where quite a few other Classes already are up and running or are in development. More information will be provided as we approach the launch date. Should anyone have any questions, please send them to me at: [ellexsys.cg@att.net](mailto:ellexsys.cg@att.net). Best Regards ... Chuck Grutzius ... Website Administrator ... Class Treasurer.

Thanks to Chuck for all the hard work has done in getting the Web Master position filled, and thanks to outgoing Web Master, **John Jackson** for his many years of exceptional service to the Class. And, thanks to Nunna Spikes, who initially recommended the Class contact Therese Long. Welcome aboard, Therese!!!

Now a couple of mentions; Kathy Prout (Jay) was named the MOAA Distinguished Service Award recipient for her work on the "Widows Tax" legislation, which became law in FY 2020. Congratulations to Kathy. Also, Nunna and **Clay Spikes** got the word recently that their daughter, Courtney, has accepted the offer to be an adjunct professor teaching World History to Naval Academy Midshipmen (in person at USNA), starting in August. Nunna and Clay could not be prouder. Congratulations to them and to Courtney.

That wraps up this issue. Everyone stay well and start looking for info on the 50+1 Reunion in the September or October issue. Until September, All the best, Mike!!!

# '67

**Life Membership: 76%**  
**Donor Participation: 23.55%**

Pres: **CDR David E. Church, USN (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**  
1603 John Worthington Way,  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
p: 410-849-3423; e: [scribe67@gmail.com](mailto:scribe67@gmail.com)

When you get this, barring another covid surge, things should be opening up. **Bob Ryan** said the Legends in SoCal were having their

April meeting "live and in person at **Paul Ward's** casa" in La Mesa, CA. Folks are starting to loosen and get out and about around Annapolis as I write in May. It feels pretty good to be moving toward whatever "normal" is going to be. However, continue to be safe...and Beat Army!

**Jack Young** sent me some notes from some of his electronic connections. I'll have to edit, but here goes:

✉ **Dick Kirtley** and I got together electronically in March/April via a PM, a text, a phone call and a couple of emails to discuss our mutual time in Go Dau Ha, RVN. I served in the Brown Water Navy and Dick served with the Naval Advisory Group. I messaged Dick in response to a post about Dick's soon to be released Vietnam book, *The US Naval Advisory Effort in Vietnam — An Inside Perspective* (link: <https://rb.gy/wh67du>). My PBR Division established the Advanced Tactical Support Base there at Go Dau Ha on pontoons in 1969. In 1970, with Vietnamization in full swing, Dick arrived as the USN advisor to the Vietnamese RID force. Together, we reconstructed a look at the ATSB over 2.5 years of our USN presence there. But our discussion got better when Dick, pointing out that our class graduated on the crest of the US personnel wave flowing into VN, posed the question about how many our classmates served in the Vietnam War theatre. Over a couple of days, I paged through our 50th Reunion book and tabulated the figures, finding 325 references to Vietnam.

As the country celebrates the 50th anniversary of the war, and we lose more and more VN Vets every day, we should take every opportunity to reach out to our Vietnam Vet classmates and thank them for their sacrifices. Many of them have incredible stories about their combat experiences. Some may not want to relive them, but Dick said that among the aviators and the Brown Water Navy guys on the '67 Class Chat there are several who are more than willing to raise your hackles with exciting tales of enemy engagement.

We heard from **Bob Moeller**. He and Betty are on the move!

✉ We have decided to move to a maintenance free community here in Williamsburg. We are moving to Patriots Colony in an Independent Living villa. The time was right, we got the style of unit we wanted, and the housing market is hot here in Williamsburg – received 7 offers, 3 at over list price. We close on the unit at Patriots Colony on Monday 4/12 and have 2 days to move stuff in before the movers come on Wednesday and Thursday and move everything over. Our new address is: Betty and Bob Moeller, 1706 Patriots Colony Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188-1342. The email ([bmoeller5.rm@gmail.com](mailto:bmoeller5.rm@gmail.com) and [betmoeller1@cox.net](mailto:betmoeller1@cox.net)) and phone numbers: 757-206-1276 (home) and 425-563-8008 (cell) remain the same.

**Bob Natter** sent a photo. No story with it but it shows that '67 has still got it. Well...at least some of it! If you look back under the basket you should see **Rich Armitage**, **Bob** and **John** (I think) **Ryan**.



'67ers at work on the court

If you recall, we have had some USNA Columbarium interments delayed because of the pandemic (deaths were reported in previous columns). That schedule has now gotten more firm. Here's what we have:

- Jeff Johnson - 1330, 28 September 2021
- Diana LeMaster - 1330, 29 September 2021

Watch for more detail or further changes as time approaches.

Sadly, we've lost two more Classmates: **Rick Brydges** and **Rob Sollenberger**.

Commander Richard R. Brydges USN (Ret.), passed away on 28 April 2021 at the age of 76 after a 5-year battle with head and neck cancer and complications from Parkinson's disease. Rick attended elementary schools in Grosse Pointe, MI, and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1962. He entered the United States Naval Academy in 1963 from the New Mexico Military Institute as a Navy football recruit. A gifted athlete, Rick played football and tennis and graduated in June 1967. After graduation and flight school he deployed with the VA-82 "Marauders" flying combat missions in the A-7 Corsair II aircraft in the Tonkin Gulf.

Rick then attended Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, CA, where he earned a designation in weapons system acquisitions management. Following 25 years in the Navy, Commander Brydges attended the University of San Diego, where he met his wife Carolyn Salerno and earned his doctorate in Organizational Development and Leadership. Additionally, he served as Vice-President of the Advancement of Leadership organization to support the practice of Democracy through collaborative leadership.

Rick is survived by his daughters, Kelly and Megan, his son Brooks, and six beloved grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by his wife Carolyn and her two grandchildren. Rick served as President of the Parkinson's Association and was a Board member for many years. He was highly dedicated to the Parkinson's community, constantly striving and encouraging others to promote living lives well with Parkinson's Disease. A Catholic Funeral Mass was heard at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside, CA, on 16 June 2021 followed by interment at Miramar National Cemetery on 21 June 2021.

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**Ralph Wayne Christy '59** ■  
24 April 2021

**Felix Jackson '59**  
16 April 2021

**Peter Thomas McCall '59**  
22 April 2021

**Walter Boyd Morrow Jr. '59**  
30 May 2021

**Robin Lee Starck '59**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
27 January 2020

**Alexander Scott Logan '60** ■  
RADM, USNR (Ret.)  
28 April 2021

**Howard Goodsell Cann Jr. '61**  
13 May 2021

**Paul Schofield Gesswein Jr. '61**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
16 June 2021

**Thomas Eugene Burch '62**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
10 June 2021

**John Hannan Cox '62**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
1 May 2021

**James Taylor Thomes '62**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
2 May 2021

**Eugene Gerard Kreinik '63** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
13 May 2021

**Walter Stephen Roberts '63**  
25 March 2021

**Donald Terry Rogers '63** ■  
22 May 2021

**Wilton Jeremain Smith Jr. '63**  
24 April 2021

**Thomas William Strahan Sr. '63**  
27 May 2021

**Arthur Ernest Walther '63** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
27 April 2021

**Jay Noel Whiting '63**  
1 June 2021

**Michael Joseph Jontry '64**  
24 April 2021

**Benjamin Franklin Thomas '64** ■  
27 April 2021

**Parker Fleming Davis '65**  
28 May 2021

**Joseph Anthony Garuba '65**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
25 April 2020

**Paul Fredrick Mickelson '65** ■  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
25 April 2021

**Thomas Michael Woods '65**  
6 February 2021

**Walter Patrick Donnelly Jr. '66**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
28 March 2021

**Peter Joseph Leniart '66**  
10 May 2021

**John Harvey Ling '66**  
20 May 2021

**Gordon Rutherford McDonnell '66** ■  
14 April 2021

**Edward Anthony McKenney '66**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
29 April 2021

**John Hobart Rockwell III '66** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
13 April 2021

**Herman David Stensel '66**  
30 March 2021

**Gordon Thompson Allen '67**  
9 June 2021

**Richard Ross Brydges '67** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
28 April 2021

**James Stanley Potts '67**  
30 May 2021

**Robert Travis Sollenberger '67**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 May 2021

**Jonathan Lee Anderson '69**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
7 May 2021

**George Roques Hancock '69**  
12 February 2021

**William James Weatherspoon '69**  
19 April 2021

**John Russell Panico '70**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
30 May 2021

**Charles William Hammond Jr. '71**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
30 April 2021

**Robert Warren Lucy '71**  
14 April 2021

**Mitchell Lee Rowland '71** ■  
18 May 2021

**Thomas Gordon Ruggles '72**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
9 December 2020

**Dwight Warner Handforth '73**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
12 June 2021

**Frederick William Sexton '73** ■  
7 May 2021

**John Edward Marckesano '74**  
22 June 2020

**Kenneth Philip Pisel Jr. '74** ■  
25 May 2021

**Steven Craig Estes '75**  
CDR, USNR  
20 April 2021

**Reginald Lawrence Howard '77**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
1 May 2021

**Brent Eugene Zwick '77**  
8 May 2021

**Stanley Davis Clark Jr. '79** ■  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 April 2021

**Michael Lynn Seaward '80**  
1 January 2021

**Philip Edward Waters '80**  
20 April 2021

**Bradley H. Rowe '82**  
27 April 2021

**Phillip Elwood Dawson III '88**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
19 April 2021

**Stacey William Yopp '94** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
17 May 2021

**Nathan Paul Shull '99**  
29 April 2021

**Karma Lynn Niemeyer '02**  
10 June 2021

**Darryl Maurice Hunter '08**  
LCDR, USN  
20 April 2021

**Hobart King Kistler '13**  
LT, SC, USN  
30 April 2021

## LAST CALL

Hunter and Colton Mickelson. He also leaves behind his sister, Ann Gallon of Bakersfield, CA.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 14 July 2021, followed by inurnment at the Naval Academy Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)) or to the Cancer Research Institute ([www.cancerresearch.org](http://www.cancerresearch.org)).

*Mrs. Holly Blankenship & Bill Zuna '65* ★



### ELDEN LOUIS PLOOF '65

Commander Elden L. Ploof, USN (Ret.), 79, of Ocala, FL, passed away on 6 April 2021, comforted and surrounded by his loving family.

Elden was born in Fargo, ND, to Rebecca and Elden Ploof on 30 December 1942. After graduating from Fargo High School, he attended Pillsbury Military Academy and graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1965.

His Navy career included: NABTC Pensacola (June 1965-August 1966); VT-28 Corpus Christi (August-December 1966); VT-2 NAS Whiting Field as a flight instructor (December 1966-June 1968); VXN-8 NAS Patuxent River (June 1968-May 1970); VT-2 NAS Whiting (May-November 1970); NASC Pensacola, where he also attended University of Pensacola and obtained his master's degree (November 1970-December 1972); V-30 NAS Patuxent River (December 1972-May 1973); VP-26 Brunswick (May 1973-June 1975); Naval War College, Newport (June 1975-July 1976); VP-31 Moffett Field (July-November 1976); NPGS, Monterey (November-December 1976); VP-17 NAS Barbers Point (December 1976-June 1979); CPW-2 NAS Barbers Point (June 1979-May 1981); and NUES DET Lualualei, HI, (June 1981-June 1987), where he retired as officer-in-charge.

His decorations include: Navy Expert Pistol Medal; Air Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Civil Actions Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation with Palm; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Navy Expeditionary Medal; and Meritorious Service Medal.

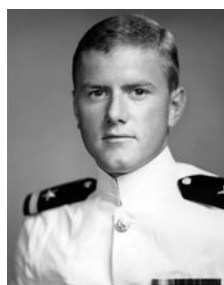
In retirement, he and Niki owned Pearl Ridge Realty in Hawaii, where he became treasurer and rental property manager. Grandparenthood spurred the sale of the company and they moved from "paradise" back to the Mainland.

Elden played guitar, sang and in high school, was a member of the Teenbeat dance band. He carried his love of music through his life. He had a gift with words and a quick wit! He also loved hunting, swimming, water skiing and most of all, enjoyed playing golf with friends. He enjoyed life to the fullest, with a great love for his country, the military and his family.

Some of his greatest joys in life were competing in golf tournaments with friends, following his grandson's junior golf tournaments and traveling the U.S. watching his granddaughter compete in taekwondo tournaments.

Elden is survived by his wife of 49 years, Niki L. Weidman Rogers Ploof; two daughters (and their life partners), Cari Ann Carley (Richard Jaeger) and Deirdre Ploof (Carlos Carrasquillo); and two grandchildren, Nicklaus (fiancée, Hannah) and Darby, all of whom were the apple of his eye.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. ★



### GORDON RUTHERFORD McDONNELL '66

"Rusty" McDonnell of Pasadena, CA, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on 14 April 2021 after a long and courageous battle against prostate cancer. He was 77 years old.

Rusty was born in Mineola, NY, on 18 February 1944. He attended schools in New York City and New Rochelle, NY, graduating from high school in 1962. He was a member of the Naval Reserve and entered the Naval Academy with

the Class of 1966. Rusty spent his four years at USNA as a member of the 21st/31st Company. He was a large presence among his classmates and always provided enthusiasm, a positive outlook and a friendly smile.

After graduation, Rusty spent the summer of 1966 training Plebes and serving on the Supe's staff. Leaving Annapolis, he attended flight school before transferring to the surface fleet. His first ship was a minesweeper off the coast of Vietnam, which was followed by an assignment as Rear Admiral Draper Kauffman's flag lieutenant at ComNavPhil in Subic Bay. After completing his Philippines tour, he was assigned to a guided missile cruiser based in Long Beach, where he spent his remaining time in the Navy before resigning in 1970.

While in the Navy, Rusty had developed a strong interest in the stock market. Pursuing this, he began a long and very successful career as an institutional stockbroker with Jefferies Group, a global investment banking firm. He worked with clients throughout the country while also serving as manager of the Los Angeles office.

Rusty was an avid boater. He enjoyed both sail and power boating and was a long-time member of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club in Newport Beach, CA, where he was a club photographer and editor of the club magazine. He owned a 48-foot power boat, aptly named CHESAPEAKE, which he used to cruise for many years with family and friends off southern California.

Rusty was a loyal supporter of the Naval Academy. He was a member of the Alumni Association's President's Circle and was a life member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; daughters, Claudia, Mandy and Whitney; their spouses; and six grandchildren.

Rusty will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. He was a great classmate, friend and gentleman.

He will be interred at the Naval Academy Columbarium. ★



### JOHN HOBART ROCKWELL III '66

Commander John H. Rockwell III, USN (Ret.), passed away suddenly on 14 April 2021 from a heart attack. He was 77 years old.

"Rocky" was a third generation USNA alumnus, graduating with the 29th Company in 1966.

His grandfather (J.H. Rockwell USNA 1915), was the first graduate selected for Naval Air, and his father (J.H. Rockwell Jr. '40) followed, earning a Navy Cross with Gold Star in World War II. Rocky

also became a fighter pilot, flying the F-8 Crusader on two ORISKANY cruises. He earned his master's degree at the University of Munich as an Olmsted Scholar, and then returned to the Navy's first F-14 squadron for service aboard ENTERPRISE. He was selected for U.S. Naval Test Pilot and ultimately became a test pilot instructor.

He completed his military service at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, PA, and retired from the military in 1986.

In 1989, he was thrilled to land a job in San Francisco, CA, as a test pilot for United Airlines, where he remained until his retirement in 2018.

He was an avid motorcyclist and snow and water skier, and shared his hobbies with his children and anyone, of any age, who was willing to learn and join him...until he took up hang gliding. The family then drew the line and decided they preferred it as a spectator sport.

Rocky was devoted to animals and was involved with numerous animal rehabilitation organizations, but he is probably best known as "The Cat Whisperer." He trapped feral cats throughout the San Francisco Bay Area so they could be neutered and released, nursing stray kittens back to health and socializing them for adoption, and basically turning his home into a feline four-star hotel. Every cat and kitten got a name. He even snuck two kittens onto a cross country flight to deliver them to their new home. Yes, he was always a little mischievous.

He is survived by his brothers, Pete, Steve and Tim Rockwell; his children, Irene, Amy, Vincent and Natalie; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and Linda Garrett, his beautiful partner for over 25 years.

Rocky will be sorely missed. He was a kind, intelligent man with a beautiful, generous heart. We were all lucky to have had him in our lives.

Services will be held at the Naval Academy and in San Francisco at a time to be announced later.

*I. Rockwell & C. McCullough* ★



**RICHARD ROSS BRYDGES '67**

Commander Richard R. Brydges, USN (Ret.), passed away on 28 April 2021, at the age of 76, after a 5-year battle with head and neck cancer and complications from Parkinson's disease.

A native of Grosse Pointe, MI, "Rick" entered the Naval Academy from the New Mexico Military Institute as a Navy football recruit. A gifted athlete, Rick played football and tennis and graduated with the Class in June 1967 as a member of the 17th Company.

Upon graduation, Rick entered naval aviation. After earning his Wings, he deployed with VA-82, flying combat missions in the A-7 aircraft in Vietnam. Rick then attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, where he earned the designation in weapons system acquisitions management (WASAM). After serving on active duty for 25 years, Rick earned his doctorate in Organizational Development and Leadership at the University of San Diego. While at the University of San Diego, Rick met his wife, Carolyn Salerno.

Following his studies at USD, Rick served as vice-president of the Advancement of Leadership organization.

Rick served as president of the Parkinson's Association and was a board member for many years. He was highly dedicated to the Parkinson's community, constantly striving and encouraging others to do more to promote living lives well with Parkinson's disease.

Rick always shared his memory of landing his A-7 Corsair on the aircraft carrier with the help of his support team, which led to building his legacy into the lives of his family, friends and colleagues, his gratitude of love, encouragement and respect. He shared what he learned over his years of friendship with Classmates and through his journey with his health challenges: *First, commit yourself to others so the tree of life will grow and produce fruit.*

*Second, turn struggles and challenges into strengths while building endurance and character. Third, enjoy life's journey and process, realizing that life is an endless journey in self-discovery and personal fulfillment. Fourth, ride more merry-go-rounds, take more chances, eat more ice cream and enjoy more Army/Navy games together. Finally, enjoy the enduring friendship of each other and God Bless You.*

Rick is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Kelly, Megan, Brooks, Luke and Rachelle; and his beloved grandchildren, Summer Lynn, Chelsea, Emery, Gavin, Jordan, Brooklin, Jake and Weston.

A Catholic Funeral Mass took place at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Oceanside, CA, on 16 June 2021, followed by interment at Miramar National Cemetery on 21 June. ★



**JOHN HARTY III '68**

Lieutenant Commander John Harty III, USNR (Ret.), died on 27 December 2020 in Houston, TX. He was 75 years old.

Born in Memphis, TN, the son of Lorraine Gardner and John Harty Jr., John attended Tupelo High School in Tupelo, MS. He attended Mississippi State University for one year before receiving a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy from Mississippi. He graduated with the Class of 1968, as a member of the 22nd Company,

Upon graduation, he served in COCHRANE (DDG-21) and JOSEPHUS DANIELS (DLG-27). He was then assigned shore duty at the U.S. Atlantic Fleet's Missile Training Unit, Dam Neck, VA, until resigning his commission in 1973.

John obtained his master's degree in English from the University of Richmond in 1976 and his PhD in English from the University of Maryland in 1985. At the request of President Carter, John returned to active duty in August 1977 to teach English at the Naval Academy from 1977 to 1982.

After leaving active duty a second time, John served in the Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander before retiring. In addition to teaching at USNA, he taught at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA; East Carolina University, Greenville, NC; Montgomery College, Rockville, MD; University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI; Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, KY; and Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

John was the editor of James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake: A Casebook* and *Tom Stoppard: A Casebook*. A Joyce scholar, he attended Joyce conventions world-wide. He enjoyed baseball, tennis and movies. He had recently completed a novel, *Foul Weather Parade*, which he had worked on for many years.

John is survived by his brother, Mark Joseph Harty of Taipei, Taiwan; and his nieces and nephews, Patricia Abrams, Lillian Harty, Mark I. Harty Jr., Colleen Peters, Kate Bowers and Tess Harty Smith. He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha "Marty" Kay Merrill; his parents, Lorraine and John Jr.; sister, Anna Rosalynne Gillespy; brothers, James Patrick Harty and Timothy Clancy Harty; and his nephew, James Patrick Harty Jr.

John will be buried next to his wife Marty in a private ceremony in Houston National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)). ★