

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

OCTOBER 2021



SHIPMATE

VOLUME 84 • NO. 7

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE LATTI

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Get the Goat

This Bill is hiding somewhere in this issue. Find him and email us at getthegoat@usna.com with the correct page number and you will be entered into a drawing for a prize from the Alumni Association. Good luck! The drawing is limited to the first 100 correct answers, so get reading.

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Our Mission

To serve and support the United States, the naval service, the Naval Academy and its alumni by furthering the highest standards at the Naval Academy; by seeking out, informing, encouraging and assisting outstanding, qualified young men and women to pursue careers as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps through the Naval Academy; and by initiating and sponsoring activities which will perpetuate the history, traditions, memories and growth of the Naval Academy and bind alumni together in support of the highest ideals of command, citizenship and government.

SHIPMATE is the official alumni magazine of the United States Naval Academy.



On the Cover
2020 U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award recipients

Photo by Mike Morgan

ALL HANDS

Editor's Note



Some things are worth waiting for...

That's my feeling about the very long-awaited celebration of the 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) recipients. We struggled over the course of the last year about whether we could, or should, wait long enough to be able to safely celebrate them in person, with the Brigade in attendance. We shouldn't have. There is simply no substitute for the caliber of event we were able to host on 2 September, the impact of the midshipmen

hearing firsthand advice—offered with a great deal of humor—by people I continue to see as role models. I'll admit it freely: I tear up every year at these events—especially when the DGs talk about their families. If you ever want to replay the speeches from our DGs, please go to www.usna.com/DGA and click on the event videos.

With the 2020 DGs appropriately celebrated, our attention turns now to the 2021 honorees, announced in this issue, who we look forward to celebrating in traditional fashion in late March 2022. Look for additional information on that event in the months to come. I'd like to thank all the class presidents who encouraged nominations and participated in a process that provided the DGA selection committee with such a robust pool of candidates to choose from. I'm also grateful to the selection committee for their dedicated attention to this important task. The 2022 DGA nominations open soon, and I'm calling on each of you to think about the individuals who best represent the principles and ideals of our Naval Academy.

Of course, some of our gatherings in recent weeks are bittersweet. We were also able to host our annual Honor Our Fallen Heroes gathering, recognizing families of alumni killed in action and operational losses, on 11 September 2001. I am grateful for all the families who return for this program and their willingness to continue to share their memories with us.

Finally, I want to thank General Carl Fulford '66, USMC (Ret.), and Admiral Bob Natter '67, USN (Ret.), among those featured in the article on Vietnam veterans on page 22, for their tireless dedication and support for the Naval Academy. These two gentlemen are personal heroes of mine, and I count myself lucky and blessed for having the opportunity to spend time working with them.

Best wishes for a wonderful fall.

Sincerely,

Commander Craig Washington '89, USN (Ret.)
Editor-in-Chief

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2021 Distinguished Graduates Announced



The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association has announced its 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients.

They are:

- **Kevin W. Sharer '70**, retired chairman and CEO of Amgen, former faculty member at Harvard Business School, commissioning engineer officer of MEMPHIS (SSN 691) and founding member, U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Board of Directors.
 - **General John R. Allen '76, USMC (Ret.)**, former Commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, the first Marine to serve as Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy and current president of the Brookings Institution.
 - **Vice Admiral Derwood "DC" Curtis '76, USN (Ret.)**, former Commander, U.S. Naval Surface Force and Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. He held six other operational commands; established and served as an advisor to numerous non-profit organizations; and is a senior mentor of the Navy Football Brotherhood, longtime committee member of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees and a founding member of the Naval Academy Minority Association.
 - **Janie L. Mines '80**, the first Black woman to graduate from the Naval Academy, former Senior Executive Service Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, currently an author and senior vice president, inclusion and innovation at Academy Securities.
 - **Lieutenant Bradley W. Snyder '06, USN (Ret.)**, an eight-time Paralympic medalist, including six golds, former U.S. Naval Academy instructor and current Princeton University Ph.D. candidate.
- They will be honored on 25 March 2022 at the Academy. □

Motherhood of the Brotherhood Honors Late Midshipman Mom Michelle Cummings



Family of the late Michelle Jordan Cummings at a 4 September dedication ceremony in her honor.

More than 40 friends and family of Midshipman Leonard "Trey" Cummings III '25, his father Leonard "Truck" Cummings Jr. and the late Michelle Jordan Cummings gathered to dedicate a tailgate trailer and pavilion tent named in her honor before Navy Football's home opener on 4 September. Houston resident Michelle Cummings was killed by a stray bullet on 29 June in Annapolis on the eve of her son's Induction Day. Her son is a member of the football team and Michelle

Cummings had already been embraced fully by the Motherhood of the Brotherhood, a close-knit group of Navy football moms. The Motherhood organized the dedication event which also featured remarks by Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas' 18th District, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation President and CEO Byron F. Marchant '78, Commander DeDe Duncan-White, USN (Ret.), Assistant Director of Navy Athletics, David Albritton '88, and others who have continued to show their support for the Cummings family. □



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADM ROBERT J. NATTER '67, USN (RET.)

Upon their return home, Vietnam veterans often faced backlash and outright hostility from American civilians. But after September 11, the overarching view of military service began to change—and there was a greater sense of gratitude for all those who served. Four alumni who served in Vietnam share what it was like to be in their shoes then—and now.

THE SHIFT

FOLLOWING 9/11, VIETNAM VETERANS FINALLY RECEIVED THE NATION'S OVERDUE APPRECIATION

BY KIM CATLEY

Following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, General Carlton W. Fulford '66, USMC (Ret.), took the path of many of his classmates. He was commissioned into the Marines, went to the Basic School in Quantico, VA, and the Vietnamese Language School in Monterey, CA, before arriving in Vietnam in May of 1967.

"I'll never forget that very first patrol I was on," he said. "I heard a round go over my head and it dawned on me that someone was shooting at me and that this was not Annapolis."

A few months later, Fulford was on his way back to his hometown in Georgia. His mother was seriously ill and he received emergency leave to visit her.

"They bought me a ticket on a civilian airline," he said. "I flew into Los Angeles and had on a uniform. People, protestors, were spitting at me and trying to burn holes in my uniform with marijuana, calling me a baby killer."

"As quickly as I could, I got on my plane and went back to South Georgia where my mother had passed away. Within days, I knew this was not where I wanted to be, so I got back on a plane and went back to Vietnam."

Nearly 25 years later, Fulford again found himself in Los Angeles, returning from service. He was stationed at Twentynine Palms in the high desert of California. His unit was one of the first to deploy to Operation Desert Shield and participate in Operation Desert Storm. Upon return, they flew into Norton Air Force Base and loaded onto buses to drive the 80 miles back to Twentynine Palms.

"It was night and people were lining the highways with torches and flashlights and cheers,"

he said. "Our days were filled with parades in Los Angeles. I was given a key to the city in half a dozen places in California and Connecticut and everywhere in between."

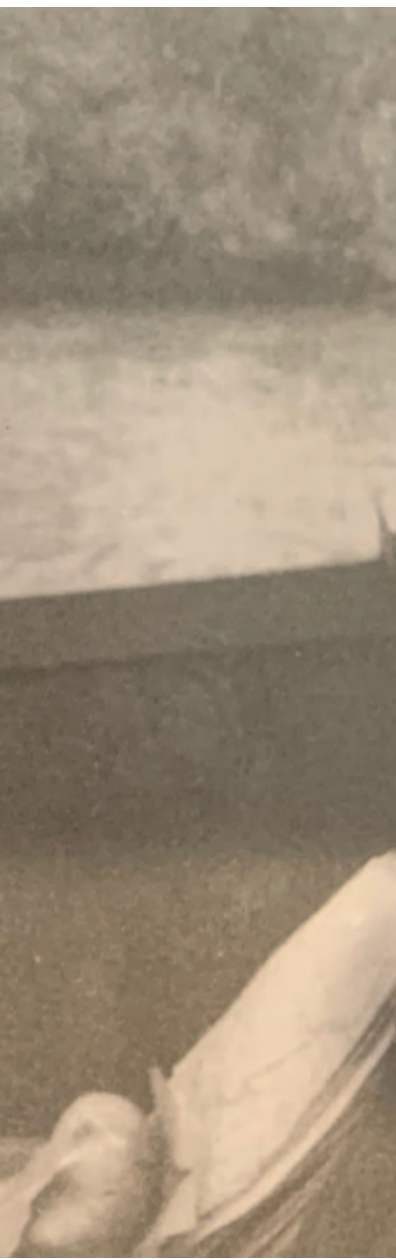
Fulford's two experiences flying into California serve as bookends to his career in the Marines—but they also mark an indelible shift in civilian attitudes toward veterans and servicemembers. While the previous generation returned from World War II to parades and fanfare, Vietnam veterans returned to a country torn apart. Many veterans were harassed, viewed with suspicion or simply ignored. Some struggled to find a path forward as employers rejected them, and friends and family declined to hear what they had experienced.

Servicemembers today see a different landscape. The September 11 terrorist attacks in particular rallied the nation and support of the military grew. But the dramatic shift raises the questions: what went wrong after Vietnam, what led to the change in attitudes and what can be done to ensure it lasts?

From isolated and ignored ...

In his book *A Quiet Cadence*, Mark Treanor '68, tells the fictional story of Marty McClure, an enlisted Marine who served in Vietnam. The book includes an authentic depiction of a young man in combat, as well as McClure's struggles back at home. Someone gives him the finger in the airport, he deals with occasional nightmares, he's an outlier at college and he has trouble landing a job because of his veteran status.

"That is, unfortunately, an accurate depiction of any number of guys," Treanor said. "People didn't want to hire them. The popular take on Vietnam



During his service in Vietnam, ADM Robert J. Natter '67, USN (Ret.), was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his actions in the lower Mekong Delta. The small craft he commanded was caught in a Viet Cong ambush and all aboard were killed or wounded. Seriously injured, Natter swam ashore and then back with one other crewman, directing suppressing fire to bring the damaged boat through a hail of enemy fire. He is a 2019 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate honoree.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEN CARLTON W. FULFORD '66, USMC (RET.)

Gen Carlton W. Fulford '66, USMC (Ret.), commanded Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines during the Tet Offensive in 1968. He is a 2010 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate honoree.

vets was that we all had a hair trigger, and were getting ready to go off.”

The picture Treanor paints of McClure is one drawn from personal experience.

Treanor served with the 1st Marine Division as a rifle platoon leader in Vietnam from 1969-70. Like McClure, someone gave Treanor the finger in an airport, which he describes as a bit distressing, but his continued work in the Marines meant he was largely insulated from protests and anti-war sentiments. While his family and friends didn't fully understand what he went through, they were supportive and glad he came home safely. He went on to law school and became a successful lawyer.

Then, in the 1980s, he worked with the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The Reagan administration effort paired veterans like Treanor with those who struggled upon return.

“The stories these guys tell are very different [from my own],” Treanor said. “One guy told me his father wouldn't even acknowledge that he had been in the service. He had been in heavy combat and nobody wanted to know where he'd been.

“You take a young person, have them serve in combat for an extended period of time, and you don't acknowledge what they did—and worse, you denigrate them for it—I'm convinced it played a major role in [why they had a hard time].”

The Honorable Rich Armitage '67 believes the government's approach to the Vietnam War played a role in influencing civilians' attitudes toward veterans.

Armitage served on a destroyer and completed three combat tours before volunteering as an advisor to the Vietnamese—a decision he reached after reading “every book there is about Vietnam,” and studying the country's culture and traditions. He joined the U.S. Defense Attaché Office and, just before the fall of Saigon, he organized and led the removal of Vietnamese naval assets and personnel, including 30,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Armitage returned home to San Diego, CA, which had a large military presence, and, like Treanor, he was often insulated from the country's antipathy to the war. But even though no one called him a baby killer, Armitage still felt misunderstood. Between tours, he would occasionally deliver lectures at local universities. Once, when he arrived at the University of California San Diego

dressed in full uniform and regalia, attendees expected a presentation on the war and were surprised to hear about Vietnamese history, culture and customs.

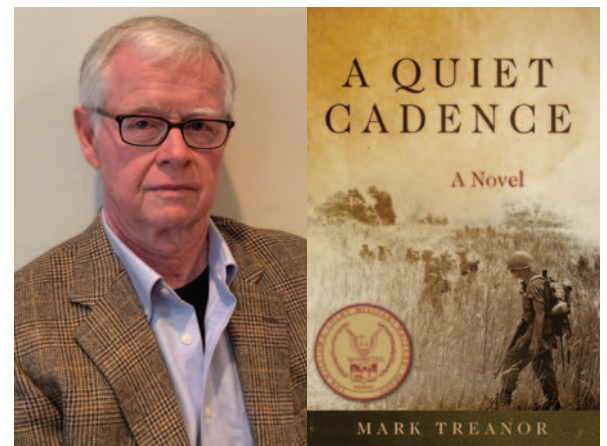
He was also aware of divisions around the country. The government's approach to Vietnam was marred by secrecy and growing distrust; civilians and soldiers alike began to question the reasons behind continued military engagement. This led many to equate servicemembers with the administrations they served. Servicemembers, on the other hand, felt called to serve their country and felt they were simply following the orders they were given.

“The country was pretty split,” Armitage said. “It was seen as a bad war. It was also seen as one that we kind of stumbled into.”

... to celebrated and revered.

On September 11, 2001, Admiral Robert J. Natter '67, USN (Ret.), had just spoken to his daughter's high school class when he learned that an aircraft hit the World Trade Center. He went back to his office and, after the second plane hit the towers, he received a call from Rudy Washington, deputy mayor of New York City. Washington was looking for air cover and Natter responded by ordering GEORGE WASHINGTON and a group of F/A-18s to the city, and sent Aegis cruisers to provide an anti-aircraft shield over Washington, DC.

In comparing his experience on September 11 with his time in Vietnam—where Natter was in charge of a SEAL boat that was caught in a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK TREANOR '68

Mark Treanor '68 wrote *A Quiet Cadence*, which tells the fictional story of an enlisted Marine who served in Vietnam. The book includes a depiction of a young man in combat, and his struggles back home.

Viet Cong ambush that killed or wounded all aboard—he sees one key difference in the response from civilians.

“When we got into the whole 9/11 business, the country was attacked—not just the military,” he said. “Everybody was in the ballgame now. The only way to respond to that was military force.”

In response, Americans came together not only to bring justice to those who attacked the country, but also to support the men and women defending the nation.

That shift in attitudes isn’t just due to a feeling of camaraderie and patriotism, but administrations that purposely directed support to the military in the years following the Vietnam War. Natter remembers one simple change—President Ronald Reagan revising policies to allow and encourage servicemembers to wear their uniforms while in Washington, DC—was a boon to morale and carried over to the civilian world.

In contrast to Vietnam, Fulford recalls how President George H.W. Bush and his cabinet put a great deal of effort into getting the American public to support the Gulf War. As a result, there was a greater outpouring of appreciation and an understanding of the dangerous work servicemembers undertook on behalf of the nation.

“The leadership of the nation invested in getting the American public educated and informed on what we were doing and why we were doing it,” Fulford said. “Those stark examples, I hope, are seared in the memories of our leaders today, so that if they ever do make that decision to put men and women in harm’s way, they make sure that they get the American public behind it.”

Natter adds that people began to realize that servicemembers were following the directions of elected officials—an understanding that they also started to extend to Vietnam veterans. Americans may still be against the war and question the government’s actions, but they have come to appreciate veterans and recognize why they went.

Still, some wonder if the shift runs deep enough and whether positive attitudes are fleeting. Following the end of the draft, the number of active-duty military personnel has steadily declined, with less than 1 percent of the U.S. population currently serving. Not only do most Americans not know what it’s like to serve, many don’t even know someone who does.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HONORABLE RICH ARMITAGE '67

Treanor worries about the disconnect and hopes that citizens don’t simply thank veterans for their service and move on. Rather, he wants to see the support run deeper, for others to take the time to understand the challenges of serving in combat. That element, he says, is what was missing for the Vietnam veterans who felt ignored and isolated upon their return.

Fulford says the patriotism that followed September 11 still exists today, and that the military maintains a high reputation among Americans. But if civilians lost confidence in the military, that support would quickly wane.

“As long as we have principled men and women who do their job and support the constitution, and support our nation,” he said, “I think the American public will continue to support it.”

Natter also believes that a positive relationship between civilians and the military is crucial to our shared futures. The military, the government and society at large all have their flaws, he says, but they must work together and support one another to protect our democracy.

“Our democracy is a tenuous and very beautiful system,” Natter said. “But we’ve got to have a military that is professional and responsible to our civilian authority, and we have to have a civilian authority that is also responsible.” ⚓

The Honorable Rich Armitage '67, a Navy intelligence officer during the Vietnam War, was assigned to Vietnamese units. He is a 2013 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate honoree.

FEATURE



RADM Robert Shumaker '56, USN (Ret.), rejoins his family in 1973 after spending eight years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADM ROBERT SHUMAKER '56, USN (RET)

A LETTER FROM THE PAST

By Captain Steve "Hawk" Harkins '73, USNR (Ret.)

I recently rediscovered a 48-year-old letter in my files dated May 1973. It was from a recently returned POW who had just completed eight years of imprisonment in Vietnam. That was just one month before I graduated from the Naval Academy.

It was in response to a letter I sent to Commander Bob Shumaker '56, USN, who was recuperating at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA, from his ordeal. As a midshipman, I wore his POW bracelet for some time and wrote to welcome him home and tell him about my passion for the men who survived the incredible torture in the various "camps" in and around Hanoi.

One of the camps was named the "Hanoi Hilton" by Shumaker. His letter helped me appreciate what it means to serve a cause greater than myself.

I decided to try to recontact the now retired rear admiral who lives in Virginia. I found his entry in the Naval Academy 2008 Register of Alumni which included a description of his civilian career as an associate dean at the University of North Dakota. I soon had an email in response, and we have continued our correspondence since.

I spent my 1970 youngster cruise on CLEVELAND while it returned a group of Marines back to

San Diego from their tour of duty in Vietnam. My first-class cruise on the fast-attack submarine HAWKBILL in 1972 was also in and around Vietnam, so I was acquainted with that part of the world.

Little did I know, Lieutenant Commander Shumaker was shot down in his F-8 Crusader jet fighter on 11 February 1965, thus becoming the second Navy pilot captured in North Vietnam.

He was injured when his parachute opened just 35 feet above ground, causing him to suffer a broken back upon impact.

Of the six "camps" in and around Hanoi, the largest was the "Hanoi Hilton" which had several cell blocks within it. The POWs named these blocks after Las Vegas casinos such as the Stardust, Mint, Little Vegas, Thunderbird and other names such as Heartbreak Hotel, Unity, New Guy Village, etc.

In 1967, the Vietnamese Camp Authority identified 11 POWs whom they considered incorrigible. Shumaker was one of these 11 and it cost him two and a half years in solitary confinement in a concrete cell that measured only four by nine feet with no windows. Most of the time his ankles were restrained by leg irons. This group became known as the "Alcatraz Eleven" and were led by Commander James B. Stockdale '47, USN, who was affectionately

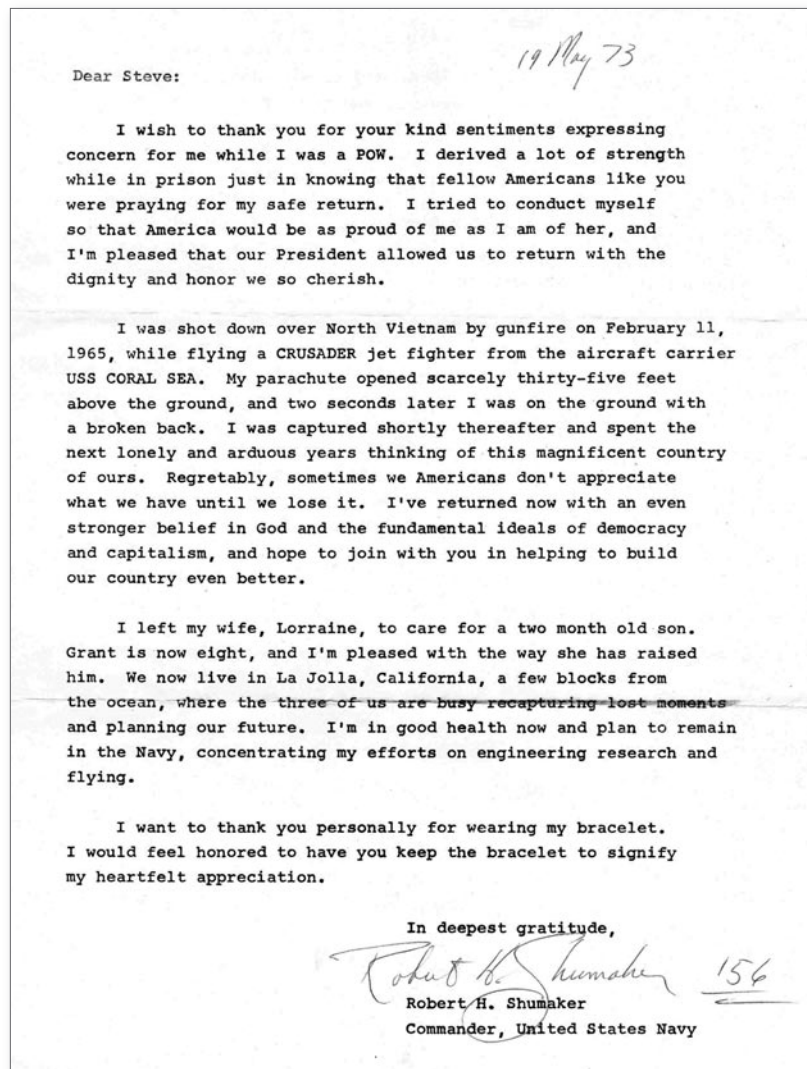


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADM ROBERT SHUMAKER '56, USN (RET.)



RADM Robert Shumaker '56, USN (Ret.), was the second Navy pilot captured in North Vietnam.

called “CAG.” Stockdale, who would retire as a vice admiral, was one of the most senior and admired POWs in North Vietnam.

His name now adorns the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the Academy.

The guards tried hard to keep POWs from communicating, but some means of communication was essential to maintain their morale, resistance, unity and sanity.

A system was created in the summer of 1965 thanks in large part to the memory of an Air Force Captain named “Smitty” Harris. Harris was living with Shumaker who suggested they develop some means of communicating should they be separated. Harris remembered from survival school a system called the “Tap Code” which consisted of a 5X5 matrix of 25 letters of the alphabet. The system spread rapidly throughout the camp and served as the POW lifeline for eight years. Here is how it works: (notice that “K” is not used, so Kingdom is spelled Cingdom).

During a day when the camp yard needed to be cleaned, Shumaker would

THE TAP CODE

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

vigorously sweep out coded messages to his fellow inmates using his broom.

The unrelenting torture of these brave and honorable men is heartbreaking to read. The Camp Authority would often put POWs into a sitting position, handcuff their wrists behind their backs, cinch their elbows together, and then run a rope over their neck to their feet, thus forcing their arms upward to a point of shoulder dislocation, forcing their head down toward their feet while guards kept their knees straight. It was excruciating pain and they would often leave them in this position even after they had submitted to their demands. I learned Shumaker still carries some of the trauma from that treatment.

Torture was most prevalent from 1967 to 1969, but when Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh died, the torture mostly subsided. A few POWs died in the torture sessions, and others were permanently maimed. The purpose of the torture was to “break” the spirit of an inmate, not necessarily to kill him.

All the POWs would eventually be broken at some point during their captivity as they had to reveal “some” information. The key was to keep your wits. Shumaker told them that the name of his commanding officer was “W. T. Door” and that his job on the aircraft carrier was to administer the pool tables.

It does not take a Canoe “U” guy to see the humor in that response, but as every plebe knows, it stands for “watertight door,” and of course ships do not have pool tables. The admiral credits his survival to having had a tough plebe year

and the ethical values which the Naval Academy instills into its graduates.

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the pleasure of dining with Bob’s brother, Tom, and his wife, Syd, who live an hour from our home. One funny story about Bob involved a party in Carmel, CA, after his release. People were busy introducing themselves around the room when Bob approached a man he did not recognize. In his defense, remember Bob had not lived in any type of civilization for eight years. The man introduced himself as Clint Eastwood, whom Bob then asked, “What line of work are you involved with?”

These men deserve our lifelong thanks and honor for their courage and steadfast professionalism for standing up to pain and suffering that few of us could withstand. I trust their stories will be told again and again, as they should, to remind us of their commitment to us and our freedoms we take so blindly.

Shumaker went on to earn a Ph.D., manage several weapons programs, serve as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School and became a Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate in 2011. ⚓



Then-MIDN Harkins '73

CAPT Steve Harkins '73, USNR (Ret.), was a Navy captain, commercial airline captain, an invitee to the 1972 Munich Olympic Trials, broke the Master’s World Record in the high jump and won the Master’s World Championship in Japan in 1993.

65/66 CLASS NEWS



'65 Class lunch - 7 July:

and drove it home dropping me off at East Lansing, Michigan to see an MSU girlfriend. During 1/C year he was in 18th company and I was in 16th company. From East Lansing I flew to Scarsdale, New York, met with my roommate **Skip "Superman" Lane** who had bought a new Ford Fairlane, visited a girlfriend at the College of New Rochelle, and rode back to USNA with Skip. During our reunions Ron and his wife **Phyllis** and my wife and I would enjoy meeting up again.

If any of you have lost touch with Ron and wish to contact him, his address is 3743 Beechway Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614. Ted

From Sted Garber, 21 Jul

Rand Paul who recently passed away was a long time member of the Rocky Mountain Rowing Club where he participated in a number of Masters National Championship regattas and always did very well. His crew mates at the club dedicated a shell to him at a nice ceremony this past spring. As part of the ceremony, the shell with his name on it put out to the water with seven in the crew and an empty spot in memory of Rand's position. Continuing condolences to Susan on her - and the Class of '65's loss. Blessings, Sted

MATCHING GIFTS

Call 410-295-4178 to find out how you can match your recent contribution.



From Phil Ferrara, 26 Jul

On Sunday, July 25th, three '65ers encountered each other at the USNA Chapel service. We gathered for a photo and to chat, then adjourned for some coffee and donuts. We see Linda and Phil Ferrara. Sonny and Judy Harrison and Dian and Jim Minderlein in the photo below.



Since the mailbag was particularly light this last month (July), I'll tell you a little bit about **Judy's** and my Great Northwest US Road Trip. We traveled from our second home in Independence, MO to the Omaha area in early July (for some family visits there) and then on to South Dakota for a stop by Pierre, SD to

tour the state capitol building and then to the Black Hills. Spent two overnights in Deadwood taking in some of the historical sites and doing some biking along the Mickleson Trail and hiking up to the top of Black Elk Peak. Then on to Cody, WY for a lengthy tour of the Museum of the West there. The highlight of the trip was, of course, Yellowstone. We spent a whole day hiking and viewing the sights in the northern section of the park and exited through Gardiner. From there up to Helena for another state capitol building tour then down to Salt Lake City via Idaho Falls. Leaving the state capitol building at SLC, we figure we've now notched 40 of those we've visited, along with 47 of the 50 states. Eastward on Hwy 80, with stops at Fort Bridger, the Frontier Days Museum in Cheyenne, the Sunken Gardens in Lincoln and the Lewis and Clark Center near the Nebraska-Iowa border. Just the kind of trip Judy and I really enjoy - lots of nature, lots of history, lots of scenery!



Thazzit, guys! Aloha, D

'66

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 19.01%

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

Wow! October already. It's great to be back to some semblance of normalcy in dining out, shopping and sporting events. I don't want to ever go back to that kind of

shutdown. There has been reasonable activity so let's get to it.

On Thursday, 15 July 2021, a group of local Tidewater '66ers welcomed **Pierce Johnson** and **Chuck Grutzius** to Norfolk for the annual awarding of the HUÉ CITY (CG-66) Outstanding Leadership Award for a Petty Officer. There was no Junior Officer (JO) award presented since there are only two officers assigned, the CO and XO. HUÉ CITY is out of commission with a crew numbering in the mid-30s. HUÉ CITY is on the CNO's list of ships to be decommissioned on 31 March 2022. Seven CGs are on the list for decom in 2022. There is also the possibility that Congress will not accept the CNO's list to decom seven CGs, and HUÉ CITY may get a new lease on life and continue her modernization upgrade. The crew is tasked with maintaining the ship's material condition until a final decision is made.

On Wednesday evening, Peggy and **Charlie Pfeifer**, **Jim Powell**, Joyce and **Rob Ploeger**, Kate and **Pat Muldoon**, Hank Strickland, and Fay and **Tom Martin** hosted Pierce at Rancho Grande for some great Mexican food and fantastic margaritas.

At 0930 on 16 July 2021, Pierce led the delegation of **Chuck Grutzius**, **Rob Ploeger**, **Hank Strickland**, and **Charlie Pfeifer** to the foot of pier 2 where each of us had a reserved parking spot with a van standing by to transport us from our parking spaces to the brow. Five Star service for sure! Pierce was welcomed aboard with proper honors by the CO, CDR Ethan Reber and the XO, LT Brian Skirvin. We were escorted to the flight deck for the presentation where we had an opportunity to interface with the crew. The Leadership Award for Superior Leadership by a Petty Officer was presented to GM2 (SW) Johnny J. Hoyos, USN. His outstanding accomplishments are listed in the letter he received from the Class, along with a framed certificate and a check for \$200.00.

Since the ship is uninhabitable during its 3-year modernization overhaul, the crew has spaces ashore. After a tour of the ship,

'67

Life Membership: 76%
Donor Participation: 26.56%

Pres: **CDR David E. Church, USN (Ret.)**
 Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**
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It's a hot July day as I write. Here's hoping it's cooler when this hits your mailbox. We heard from **Bill Gibson** that 15th Company had an early I-Day event on 25 June. He said:

✉ We started having a Zoom get together on the last Friday of the month in October 2020. **Dick Collins** and I started because emailing seems so impersonal to me. We have about 15-16 each month. It is a great way to help each other because we each talk about what we are up to. Last month we got into 3D printing, is Bitcoin good or bad, national park visit issues, etc. You got a question...someone knows something about it! So we were a bit early this year celebrating I Day!

On a personal note I think I have really reconnected with everyone like I would not have been able to do with emails. The stories of USNA and what folks did for the last 50 years have been so great. We are going to see if we can get **Helen Robinson '17**, the mid that I donated my sword to, to join us sometime in the future.

What great participation! The Annapolis area I-Day "picnic" get together was toned down a bit. We did it at the Severn Inn across the river from USNA. It was our first chance to break out a bit as the pandemic slackened. Since it was indoors instead of a picnic out in the heat we got to see several who've had (or have) medical issues. Good morale boost for all of us, I think!

Dale Heely checked in from out in Montana. He and Joy had had visitors:

✉ My wife Joy and I had a delightful visit from Megan and Sarah Leonard from LA. They are the daughters of our classmate and



'66: PRE-AWARD CEREMONY DINNER

we were transported to the ship's ashore offices where we were treated to a fantastic buffet lunch with the entire crew and some of their families, providing plenty of time to interface with the crew in a more comfortable setting.

The hospitality and friendliness of the crew were outstanding. HUE CITY is a ship truly worthy of the hull number "66". Pierce - Thanks for officiating. Chuck - Thanks for the great writeup and pics.



AWARD CEREMONY CLASSMATES

Jim Persels provided the following picture of George Phillip, his father, and **Rey Bald**. The picture was taken at Rey's house in April 2015. The significance is that Rey's father and George's father served together in WWII aboard ELLET (DD-398). ELLET was a Benham-class destroyer named for five members of the Ellet family who served during the American Civil War. Aboard ELLET, Rey's father was the Senior Petty Officer, and George's father was the ship's Gunnery Officer. Great story. Thanks to Jim.



GEORGE AND REY WITH GEORGE'S DAD

In keeping with the story on Rey, **Clay Spikes** reported the following on Rey's memorial service and interment.



'66: CLASSMATES WITH GM2 HOYOS

✉ Rey Bald's Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) ceremony and inurnment occurred on 22 July 2021; two years after his passing, due to the pandemic. Representing the Class of 1966 were: Dominique and **Andre Simonpietri**; Nunna and **Clay Spikes**; Linda McCook (Kevin); and Kathy Madaleno (Rich). After the impressive ANC ceremony, members of the party adjourned to the Army-Navy Country Club for a celebration of Rey's life. In attendance were Marcia Bald; son Michael; son Andre, and his family from Singapore; and daughter Rene and her family from Bonn, Germany. Rey's sisters Aurely, Adrian, and Doreen, brother Frank, and their families also attended."

Thanks for the report, Clay.

Charlie Cronan forwarded me an email from Irma Geib that **Bill Geib** (32) passed away at noon on 23 July 2021 after a long battle with brain cancer. His life was celebrated at The First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan NJ, Saturday, 31 July. In keeping with his wishes there will be an interment at the Naval Academy Columbarium in the future.

As I presented in the Class-wide message regarding the new Class web site, it is hoped that the site will become the source of information for the Class. Hopefully, everyone will use it to keep up with Class announcements and other news. This will become especially important as we near the 55th + 1 Reunion, slated for 1-4 September 2022, in Annapolis.

And that's it for October. Let's hope the Navy football team is having a much better year than last. Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Until December...All the best... Mike!!!

HONOR CHAIRS

Remember or Honor a loved one in Alumni Hall. Call 410-295-4100 for more information.

LAST CALL

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

—Laurence Binyon, 1914

Howard Morgan McKinley '43

2 August 2021

James Richard Wiggins '45

CDR, USN (Ret.)

30 July 2021

Richard Andrew Dunning '46

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

17 July 2020

John Allan Hughes '46

5 January 2020

Franklin Theodore King '46

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

8 August 2021

Jack Bert Perkins '46

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

27 May 2021

Bernard Peters '46

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

12 August 2021

Andrew Jackson Valentine '46 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

4 August 2021

Richard Steven Gardiner '47

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

24 June 2021

Howard Garfield Heininger Jr. '47

CDR, USN (Ret.)

26 July 2021

Cabell Seal Davis Jr. '48 ■

RADM, USN (Ret.)

9 August 2021

Tyler Freeland Dedman '48 ■

RADM, USN (Ret.)

26 July 2021

Robert Eugene Wilson '48 ■

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

2 August 2021

Francis McKee Adams Jr. '49

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

23 July 2021

John Joseph Ekelund '49 ■

RADM, USN (Ret.)

28 July 2021

William Paul Gorski '51

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)

9 January 2019

William Alexander Weaver '51

28 July 2021

John William Kuncas '52 ■

CDR, USN (Ret.)

5 August 2021

Jack Stanley McKinley '52

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

31 March 2021

Melvin Sage Bassett '53

CDR, USN (Ret.)

16 August 2021

John Scott Olson '53

CDR, USNR (Ret.)

17 August 2021

Falvie Burnace Anderson Jr. '54

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16 August 2021

James Gordon Kohoutek '54

17 August 2021

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6 August 2021

Dennis Joseph Sullivan Jr. '55

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Bobby Harold Freeman '55 ■

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8 July 2021

Norman Marshall Smith '56

15 July 2021

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28 June 2021

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15 August 2021

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26 July 2021

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31 December 2020

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9 August 2021

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17 July 2021

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CAPT, USN (Ret.)

30 June 2021

Robert Smith Blackwood II '60

Maj, USAF (Ret.)

7 August 2021

Milton Wallace Weaver '60

CDR, USN (Ret.)

3 August 2021

David Paul West '61

22 July 2021

George Byron Davis '62

CDR, USNR (Ret.)

18 August 2021

Emil Charles Di Motta Jr. '62

1 August 2021

Mark Francis Crane '63 ■

CDR, USN (Ret.)

1 August 2021

John Francis Iaconis Jr. '64

LT, USN

6 August 2021

Ronald Roy Henderson '65

28 July 2021

Herbert Bateman Williams '65

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

27 July 2021

Michael Joseph Magaletti Jr. '70

7 August 2021

Ross Alan Springer '73

5 August 2021

Anthony Robert Kyvelos '90

4 August 2021

Luke Pakosta James '94 ■

CDR, USN (Ret.)

23 July 2021



■ Obituary appears in this issue

This list consists of alumni deaths we have learned of since our last issue. Full obituaries will appear in Last Call if/when families send them in.

SHIPMATE

VOLUME 84 • NO. 7

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Shipmate (ISSN 0488-6720) is published monthly except for combined issues (January-February, March-April, May, June, July-August, September, October and November-December). Copyrighted 2021 by the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, Inc., 247 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402-1306. Membership dues (including Shipmate) are \$70 per year. Subscription rate is \$70; Canadian and foreign subscriptions are \$75. Single copies are \$7 each. Periodicals Postage Paid at Annapolis, MD, and at additional mailing offices.

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