

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

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SHIPMATE

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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.

Bill was hiding behind the Christmas tree on page 11 of the October 2022 issue of Shipmate.

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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
The Naval Academy Color Guard enters Memorial Hall on 8 October during an event to honor Naval Academy fallen heroes.

Photo by Debbie Latta

From Jack Devine, 20 Sep

✉ Two weeks ago, my wife Peggy and I ventured to the wilds of Minnesota to celebrate my old USNA roomie Lynn Wegner's 80th birthday with Lynn and his partner Bonnie, at Lynn's waterfront home in Duluth. It was a long overdue visit, with plenty of kick-back time. Lynn has more toys than any man deserves - a 50's vintage Chris-Craft speedboat, a 1958 cherry red convertible and a 1944 WWII Jeep, all beautifully restored—and he shared them all. Weather was perfect (Lynn claims it's like that all the time, but I'm not buying it) and we explored a good-sized chunk of Minnesota. And he showed up for his birthday dinner wearing his USNA Full Dress (Blue Bravo, I think), surely making him one of the very few classmates who can still squeeze into that torture suit (mine's in the attic, and I'm afraid to try). It was a great reunion of roommates, classmates and friends for 60 years. Thanks to Lynn and Bonnie for their first-rate hospitality. Photo follows. Jack



Correction to a report in the September Shipmate. Turns out that in the report on Mike Luecke's big family gathering (twenty members from four generations and across 11 time zones) in Pensacola, FL, I included the wrong photo from their Naval Aviation Museum tour. Instead of the one of his son-in-law in front of an F/A-18, I meant to include the big fam group in front of the A6 Mike flew in Vietnam. So here is that photo.



'65:

Late report (from several classmates): Ron Bancroft is recovering nicely from successful quadruple bypass surgery performed on 15 Sep. Get better soon, Ron! Thazzit, Guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 66%
Donor Participation: 23.46%

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As I started to write this column, the 55th + 1 Reunion was a week away. As I close, it's a thing of the past, and what a great event it was. The hard work of the organizers paid off and it was a well-run series of events. BZ to **Chuck Grutzius** (contracts with vendors, buses, and hotels, directory, and Classmate and widow assistance liaison), **Steve Niss** and crew (registration and check-in), **Jim Long** (Gift Bag and hotel and tailgate liaison and football tickets), **John Scudi** (Gift Bag), **Robert Percival** (buses), Therese Long-Fish (our Web Master and tailgate and dinner banquet planner), **Don Jackson** (hotel and tailgate liaison), **Clay Spikes** (dinner and memorial service programs), **Bruce Bickel**, **Denny Rigstad**, **Pierce Johnson**, and **Scott Redd** (Memorial Service facilitators) **Tom Marfiak** (Ring cleaning rep), and of course the spouses who assisted. I also thank the Batt and Co Reps who helped get the great turnout of Classmates and widows and Linda McCook who organized the widows' gatherings. It really was a team effort.

Rufe Taylor provided the following news.



RUFE AND MIKE

✉ "Just prior to our reunion Joan and I visited with Peggy and **Mike Kelly** at their new digs in Ashburn, VA. They sold their home in Chestertown, MD a while back and moved to Waltonwood, a retirement community. They enjoy their new location and are much closer to family which all enjoy. Mike has some health issues that precluded him from joining us at our reunion. We did a lot of catching up and had a great visit. I "carried the message to Garcia" and passed along his good wishes to many of his Marine chums at the reunion. Mike and I go way, way back...60 plus years and have criss crossed over the years. We were in high school together in Honolulu. Cheers! Rufus!"

Thanks, Rufe!

One of the highlights of the 55th + 1 Reunion was the attendance of 22 widows. Linda McCook, who has organized the "Sail On Solo" group sent the following thank you to the reunion organizers and a picture from the opening + gathering hosted by Betty Eubanks.

✉ "Dear '66 reunion organizers,
On behalf of all the widows in our '66 Sail On Solo group, congratulations on the formidable job you did organizing our reunion. It was a phenomenal success! Thank you for making this memorable event possible for so many of us.

The overwhelming generosity of the Class enabled quite a few widows to attend who may not have done so otherwise. Taking care of the reunion activities, as well as travel and lodging, was such a benevolent gesture to all of us. It has made us feel so much a part of the class of '66 to know that you have included us on equal footing, even though our husbands are no longer with us.

The reunion provided us with not only the opportunity to get to know the other SOS gals we have seen on Zoom, but also the chance to reunite with old friends, as well as meet new '66 Classmates and wives. All the events really flowed with conversation and camaraderie. The Westin was a great venue. With all the people working behind the scenes, things seemed to move seamlessly from one event to another, from the opening registration to the

66/66 CLASS NEWS

farewell breakfast. Our reunion packages, with updated directories, programs and pillows, were well done and useful, as were the large name tags with the schedule of events on the back.

For the widows especially, the Memorial Service in the chapel was a significant event. Many in our group were moved by the reading of the names and the tolling of the bell. Sitting together in the first two rows, we really felt the love and support of one another, as we reflected on those we knew who have gone before.

Our Sail On Solo group has found that the unique bond you Classmates share has been passed on to us. We find so many similarities with each other because our husbands were cast from the same mold. Thank you for encouraging us to come to the reunion. It was an experience we will not forget. Bette Mandich wrote, upon her return home, what we all feel:

Good Morning, Ladies

What to say? Overwhelmed, grateful, nostalgic, lonely and most of all thankful for all the time, work and effort that went into making the last four days none other than SPECTACULAR!!! The time, treasure and effort that went into that "production" was beyond anything I can imagine. My SOS sisters are spectacular, as I knew they would be. We all had the most spectacular husbands and it stands to reason that they chose spectacular women. The only sadness I feel today is the distance that separates us. I carry you all in my heart and my memory of the very best weekend ever since Joe died.

Love you, Sisters!

Bette

So many thanks to so many people from those of us sailing on solo,
Linda"

Sadly I announce the death of Jeannie Dennis, wife of **Pat Dennis**. The following is the obituary provide by Jeannie's son Steven Lopacinski and daughter Kristen.

☒ On Saturday, 30 July 2022, Eugenia Ann Dennis passed away peacefully in her home at the age of 79. Eugenia (a.k.a. "Jeannie") was married twice and both of her husbands were

graduates of the USNA Class of 1966. Jeannie, originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, married her Pulaski High School sweetheart, **James (Jim) Michael Lopacinski**. After graduation, Jim served on active duty as a Surface Warfare Officer for over 20 years. Jeannie enjoyed the camaraderie and lifestyle of a Navy spouse as Jim progressed in his career, forming many strong friendships with other Classmates. Jim completed command of a Spruance class destroyer based in Charleston, SC, had been promoted to Captain, and was working at the Pentagon awaiting his assignment to major command when he tragically died of a heart attack in 1987. Jeannie and Jim had three children together, Tony (Professional musician, died in 2011), **Kristen ('94)** and Steven, an FBI Special Agent. Jeannie subsequently met **Patrick Dennis** while dining at a Northern Virginia restaurant. Patrick was a retired Oceanography Officer, and the timing of their meeting was perfect. Their relationship prospered and they enjoyed a blended family lifestyle with time split between Fairfax, Virginia and a lake house at Lake of the Woods, VA - along with many events and travels together - often with other '66 Classmates. In 2013, Jeannie developed a recurrence of the rare cancer Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) which resulted in years of cancer treatment, surgeries, side effects, rehabilitation facilities and lifestyle constraints. Heart complications and dementia followed, and Jeannie passed peacefully at her lake house in Lake of the Woods - exactly as she wanted. Often described by others as "Lovely," Jeannie was a poised, generous, and exceptionally beautiful woman who will be remembered and missed by many. A memorial service was conducted on 11 August 2022 at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax Station, VA. Burial is expected to be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Anyone wanting to make a memorial donation may do so to the following - The Life Raft Group, 155 US Highway 46, Suite 202, Wayne, NJ 07470, 973-837-9095 or on the web site, <https://liferaftgroup.org>.

Please keep Pat, Steven, Kristen and their families in your prayers.



JEANNIE AND PAT

I also reported the deaths of **Frank M. (Skip) Blanchard** (27th Company) and **Paul Cotter** (25) via email. Services were held for Skip in August with burial at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery. Service for Paul and inurnment at the USNA Columbarium will be at 1030, 13 April 2023. A reception at the Naval Academy Club will follow. Please keep Skip's wife Karen, and Paul's wife, Dina, and their families in your prayers.

Frank Day asked me to remind you of the Class weekly zoom meeting every Tuesday at 2 PM EDT. **Charlie Jones** sends out an email with how to join every week and it is a simple matter of clicking on a link in that email. There is a very diverse group of regulars and the meetings are usually quite interesting, but they would be more interesting if more showed up. If you aren't receiving the email, contact Charlie Jones, technidigm@gmail.com to get added to the list. For those who cannot make the meeting the sessions are usually recorded, and Charlie sends those links out also. There are also separate monthly sessions for the ladies called '66 Band of Sisters and Sail on Solo. For Band of Sisters contact Ginny Jones, virginia.w.jones@gmail.com. For Sail on Solo, contact Linda McCook, limccook@gmail.com.

Finally, this is the holiday season and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There was a great deal of progress made in 2022, recovering from the pandemic. My prayer is that it continues in 2023 and it's a year of good health and prosperity for us all. Until February ... All the best ... Mike!!!



'66 SOS REUNION GATHERING

LUCKY BAG OF BOOKS

To check out all the options for your reading pleasure, visit usna.com/LBB

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

Russell Herbert Helsel '44 ■
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
3 September 2022

William Richard Wakeland '44
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
29 August 2022

Rudolph Valentino Biordi '45
CDR, USN (Ret.)
19 August 2022

Bernard Andrew Heesacker '46 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
21 August 2022

John Wallace Viele '46
CDR, USN (Ret.)
2 September 2022

Donald Phillips Harvey '48 ■
RADM, USN (Ret.)
25 September 2022

Harry Lloyd Jones '48 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
11 July 2022

Mark John O'Friel '48 ■
16 January 2022

George Harold Sullivan '48
23 November 2019

M. Michael Bonner '49
Col, USAF (Ret.)
7 October 2022

Robert Emmet Finnigan '49
14 August 2022

Robert Emerson Babcock '50 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
25 September 2022

Charles Richard Clapp '50
10 September 2022

John Thaddeus Rogers '50
12 October 2022

William Herbert Wulfange '50
4 October 2022

John Bernard Brennan III '51
16 March 2022

Rudolph David Cannon '51
11 October 2018

Robert Brierley Loughhead Jr. '51
23 August 2022

John Colvin Peterson '51
29 March 2020

Arthur Paul Sundry '51 ■
3 October 2022

Thomas Arthur Hamil '52
26 July 2022

Jerome Morton Malament '52 ■
12 August 2022

Paul Wilson Bradfield Jr. '53 ■
24 September 2022

Earl Edward Hill Jr. '53
24 August 2022

Clarence Edward Moore '53 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
27 July 2022

Richard Taliaferro Wright '53
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
5 September 2022

Dale Lester Picardat '54 ■
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
12 September 2022

David Herman Monnich '55 ■
25 August 2022

Joseph Francis Perez '55
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
2 October 2022

Eric Hans Wieler '55
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
13 May 2022

Walter Gene Carlson '56
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
6 September 2022

George Graff Clark '56
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
2 October 2022

John Francis Donahue '56 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
13 September 2022

William Johnston Kemble II '56
31 August 2022

Thomas Cahoon Lynch '56
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
26 August 2022

David Lee Palmer '56
8 October 2022

Orpheus Lanphear Woodbury III '56
CDR, USN (Ret.)
11 August 2022

James Arnold Buckner '57
CDR, USN (Ret.)
3 August 2022

Ebe Chandler McCabe Jr. '57
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
22 August 2022

Albert Louis Barbero '58 ■
Col, USAF (Ret.)
24 August 2022

William George Fohrman '58
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
23 September 2022

Bruce Alden Holmberg '58 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
31 July 2022

Ronald Lloyd Johnson '58
CDR, USN (Ret.)
2 September 2022

Zachariah Taylor Pate Jr. '58 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
4 September 2022

Charles Thacher Pinkham '58
Col, USAF (Ret.)
14 September 2022

Wayne Edwin Pulling '58
26 March 2022

Wayne Emery Scott Jr. '58 ■
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
12 September 2022

Paul Edward Westphal Jr. '58
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
2 September 2022

David Anthony Wier '58
26 July 2022

John Craigmiles Hendry '59
31 July 2018

Earl Forrest Junghans '59
13 July 2022

Howard Dudley Mitchell '59
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
25 August 2022

Edward Joseph O'Neill Jr. '59
1 October 2022

Charles Vernon Collins '60
Col, USAF (Ret.)
11 September 2022

Donald George Foery '60 ■
3 September 2022

George Stephen Makovic '60
LT, USN (Ret.)
14 October 2022

Thomas Balish '61 ■
25 September 2022

Richard Watkins Holt '61
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
12 August 2022

■ *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.



LAST CALL

Francis Marion Kirk Jr. '61 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
28 September 2022

Eugene Edward Mitchell '61 ■
6 August 2022

Charles Kaufman Norton Jr. '62
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)
9 July 2022

Lindsay Jarvis Trax '62
1 October 2022

Dennis Richard Jones '63
17 September 2022

Robert Lawrence Powers '64
CDR, USN (Ret.)
10 October 2022

Thomas Murray Sweat Jr. '64
10 September 2022

Harry Merton Swyers '64
CDR, USN (Ret.)
4 September 2022

Jack Malcolm Moore '65
28 August 2022

Edmund Lee Pratt Jr. '65
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
6 September 2022

Paul Stephen Cotter '66 ■
17 September 2022

Jerry Lee Latta '66
1 October 2022

Robert Halsey Pine Sr. '67
9 October 2022

Randall Edward Wyatt '68
CDR, USN (Ret.)
16 October 2022

George Minot Gordon '69 ■
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
11 September 2022

Douglas Baker Alexander '70
LTJG, USN (Ret.)
15 April 2022

John Richard Seeley Jr. '70
CDR, USN
12 August 2022

Michael McGrath Duran Sr. '71
5 September 2022

Harold Lawrence Furrevig '71
21 August 2022

Theodore Raymond Morandi '72 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
30 August 2022

Kurt Michael Salscheider '72 ■
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
6 October 2022

John William Stevens Jr. '74
28 July 2022

Lawrence Alvin Newcomer '75
2ndLt, USMC
24 September 2022

John Brian Shaughnessy '78
27 August 2022

Terry Michael Druffel '79
CDR, USN
14 September 2022

Daniel Thomas Enloe '79 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
21 September 2022

Warren Curtis Belt '84 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
21 August 2022

James Robert Addison '86
17 September 2022

Donald Lamar Griffin II '87
15 October 2022

Paul Anthony Pensabene '88
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
20 August 2022

Joshua David Amodeo '17
26 August 2022



RUSSELL HERBERT HELSEL '44

Captain Russell Helsel, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 3 September 2022, at the age of 100. He was at home, watching the opening Navy football game against Delaware on TV when he passed.

"Russ" was born in Youngstown, OH, in 1922, the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Griffith) Helsel. He graduated from Scienceville High School in 1939, attended Stanton Preparatory School in Cornwall, NY, The Ohio State

University, and then transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy.

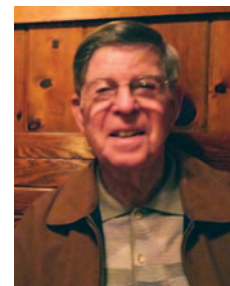
Russ graduated from USNA in June 1943, with the Class of 1944. He was commissioned as a Navy ensign and served aboard JENKINS (DD-447) for the remainder of World War II. The ship participated in battles in the south Pacific, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Philippines, in October 1944. The ship earned five Battle Stars for engagements against the enemy. Russ continued his naval service on the East Coast after the war, resigning his regular Navy commission in 1947.

He then began a long career at the General Fireproofing Company in Youngstown, and joined the organized Naval Reserve unit in Youngstown, assuming various command positions there. He was recalled for active duty in the Navy in the summer of 1950 and served as captain of LSMR-527 during the Korean conflict. After returning to Youngstown, he continued his career at General Fireproofing, as well as in the Naval Reserves. He earned the rank of captain in 1964, while serving as commander of the five Youngstown units. He retired from the active Reserves in 1982.

Russ was transferred by General Fireproofing to New Jersey in 1970 and continued with GF until retiring in 1982. He continued his career in the office furniture field by spending 25 years at Arbee Associates in Union, NJ.

Russ was a member of Springfield Presbyterian Church, where he was active in the Men's Fellowship group, as well as serving on the session and audio committee. He was a lifetime member of Youngstown Wick Lodge #481 and the Naval Academy Alumni Association, as well as a member of the Blue & Gold Society and the Military Officers Association of America.

Russ was predeceased by his wife, Sally (Gordon) Helsel; his parents; and three sisters, Alwyn Atkinson, Eleanor Helsel and Elizabeth Ferris. He is survived by his son, Thomas Helsel; daughters, Judy Lawson (Cliff) and Jane Santangelo (Steve); grandson, Steve Lawson (Shanon); great-grandsons, Luke and Nick Lawson; six nephews; and three nieces. ★



MARTIN HERBERT SNEAD '45

It is with great sadness that I am the one given the task of writing my father's obituary. Martin H. Snead passed away in his sleep on 2 April 2022, at the age of 99 years old. His last wish was that I notify *Shipmate* of his passing.

Martin graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1945, which graduated early in June 1944 due to World War II. He trained and became a submariner, serving on TREPANG (SS-412) and CHARR (SS-328). He was one of

the last survivors of World War II having served in/on a submarine in the China Sea. He was so very proud of his service in the Navy.

He and my mother, Loretta Wilson, met on his submarine after the war, while stationed in San Diego. He resigned from the Navy as a lieutenant (junior grade) the year they were married, 1948.

He received his master's degree from the University of Santa Clara.

In 1951, Martin went to work for Lockheed as a R&D contracts negotiator in Burbank, CA, and stayed with them until he retired at age 65 in 1987.



GRANT DALE FULKERSON '64

Captain Grant D. Fulkerson, USN (Ret.), 78, died of Parkinson's complications with his wife by his side on 23 January 2021.

Son of Hazel (Dickens) and Donald Fulkerson, Grant was raised in Bardstown, KY. Unbeknownst to Grant, a teacher initiated his application to USNA, resulting in a congressional appointment, where he became a member of the 23rd Company.

After graduation, Grant embarked upon a 30-year career as a Surface Warfare Officer.

He served aboard GRIDLEY (DLG-21), BEATTY (DD-756), BAINBRIDGE (CGN-25) and HULL (DD-945) and had command of BARNEY (DDG-6) and BIDDLE (CG-34).

In 1969-1970, he joined the U.S. Military Advisory Group Vietnam as an advisor aboard the Vietnamese patrol boat LSSL-29. Returning home to his wife, Ann, and son, Michael (34 months), he met his 13-month-old son, David, for the first time.

Grant earned degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, and the Naval War College, Newport, RI. Other shore duties included instructor at USNA, tours at the Naval Annex and the Pentagon. Upon his retirement in 1994, he worked at CSC.

Generous with his time and talents, Grant served for many years as *Shipmate* corresponding secretary and was also on the '64 Executive Committee. He volunteered at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, was a starter at Twin Lakes Golf Club and served on the board of their Senior Men's League, plus numerous other charitable organizations.

Grant treasured the memory of hosting a reception in the Annapolis Harbor for his 25th class reunion while CO of BIDDLE. Although Grant received numerous awards/medals during his career, he often said that his family was the source of his greatest pride and joy. He will be remembered for his generosity, Catholic faith, quick smile and his love for family and friends.

Grant had a quiet acceptance of his failing health, only occasionally saying he wished that he could still golf. He looked forward to the steady stream of visits with family and friends when he moved to Renaissance of Annandale. Later, pandemic visitor restrictions imposed by the Health Department had a serious effect on Grant's quality of life, despite loving care from staff during his final month of life at Goodwin House Hospice.

Grant is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ann; sons, Michael (Joy) and David (Dasha); grandsons, John and Scott; brother, Robert; sister, Alberta Crowe; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His inurnment with full military honors took place on 31 October 2022. ★



ROBERT GEORGE McCLURE '64

Robert G. McClure died on 16 June 2022 in San Antonio, TX, after a brief fight with leukemia. Judy, his wife of 58 years, followed shortly after on 22 July 2022 due to Alzheimer's disease.

Son of a World War II sailor and a native of Youngstown, OH, "Red" attended Youngstown State University prior to his congressional appointment to the Naval Academy. He raced offshore sailing and graduated with the Class of 1964 as a member of 18th Company.

He married his high school sweetheart, Judith Maxwell, on graduation day and went to flight training. Red selected Maritime Patrol, but upon arriving in Corpus Christi, was drafted to jets and sent to Beeville. He went on to A-4 training but, in his own words, "almost became a smoking crater twice and decided I was meant to be a Surface Warfare Officer."

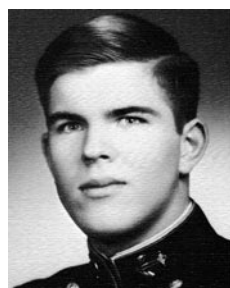
He reported to CHEVALIER (DD-805) as comms officer and DASH pilot, completing two Pacific deployments, then TATTNALL (DDG-19) as

DesDiv 62 Ops, completing a Mediterranean cruise. Red resigned his commission in 1969, but the Navy extended him for a year. In June 1969, he reported as XO of River Division 543 in Cua Viet. In December 1969, he took command of River Division 515 in Chau Duc, moving to Ha Tien and Rach Soi. Despite the duty extension, the monsoon that flattened their base, the heat and sometimes running out of fresh water, Red said his last tour was the best job he ever had and with the best people. He immensely enjoyed getting reconnected with the RivDiv 515 men and attending reunions in later years.

In 1970, he became an engineer at Pacific Bell. In 1981, he started a firm providing contract planning and engineering to telephone companies. In 1985, he took a VP position at another contractor, and they moved to Annapolis, MD, and bought a sailboat. In 2000, he semi-retired and worked as a home inspector. They both enjoyed travel during this time, including Europe and Asia.

In 2012, Red and Judy completely retired and moved to Sun City, TX, where they enjoyed excursions, family, friends, their cats and driving their golf cart to the local restaurants.

He is survived by son, Captain Scott McClure '88, USN (Ret.); daughter, Beth Currie; grandsons, AJ, Connor and Doug (a lieutenant junior grade in jet flight training); and sisters, Kate and Debbie. A nephew, Lieutenant Commander Jason Yauman '97, USN (Ret.), also graduated from USNA. ★



FRANK MEDFORD BLANCHARD JR. '66

Commander Frank M. Blanchard Jr., USN (Ret.), of Virginia Beach, VA, passed away on 9 August 2022 in the comfort of his home, with his loving family by his side. He was 78 years old.

"Skip" was born in Kingsville, TX, to Captain Frank M. Blanchard, USN, and Eleanor Meuth. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966 as a member of the 27th Company.

His first assignment was to CONYNGHAM, where he served as missile officer. He then

transferred to JOHN R. PIERCE as weapons officer. Following that assignment, he attended Destroyer School in Newport, RI. Upon graduating, he reported to HOEL as operations officer and deployed to the Western Pacific to support combat operations off the coast of Vietnam. While in the Philippines, he was assistant surface operations officer on the staff of Carrier Strikeforce Western Pacific. He was assigned shore duty at the Naval Weapons Lab as guided projectile project officer in Dahlgren, VA. Afterwards, he was on the staff of Service Squadron (ServRon) 8 in Little Creek, VA. He reported as XO to the forward deployed LA SALLE, which was the flagship for the Commander, Middle East Force. He served as an exchange officer with the Royal New Zealand Navy. Following that, he served as operations officer in SAIPAN. He later reported to ServRon 2 in Little Creek, VA. His final duty station was on the staff of Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London, England. Among his many decorations, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon for his service during the Vietnam War.

Following his retirement in 1992, Skip earned a master's degree in Education, and he went on to teach until 2001.

He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 45 years, Karen Rainey Blanchard; their four children, Brooke L. Blanchard of Virginia Beach, VA, Laura Anne Blanchard of Charleston, SC, Frank M. "Trey" Blanchard III of Washington, DC, and Bryan P. Blanchard of Fairfax, VA; his brother, Captain Robert K. Blanchard '72, USN (Ret.) (and his wife, Deborah) of Virginia Beach, VA; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services were held on 24 August 2022 in Virginia Beach, VA. Interment will take place on 29 December 2022 at Arlington National Cemetery. ★



PAUL STEPHEN COTTER SR. '66

Paul S. Cotter Sr. left us on 17 September 2022.

Born in Palmyra, NJ, on 28 December 1942 to Joseph and Doris Cotter, Paul attended Palmyra High School and the Naval Academy Prep School (Bainbridge, MD). Paul also lived in Pittstown and Williamstown, NJ; Amherst, NH; Severna Park, MD; and Lewes, DE. A Class of 1966 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Paul served on a destroyer during the Vietnam War.

Following his naval service, Paul worked as a program manager for Lockheed Martin for 27 years.

He may be best remembered for his unwavering devotion to his alma mater, serving as a sponsor to several Midshipmen from many classes when he lived in Maryland. He loved to tell stories about his time at the Academy and spent his retirement playing golf with classmates and attending Navy football games. He took great pride in the fact that his son and three of his granddaughters have attended service academies.

With his perennially rosy cheeks and his distinctive laugh, it's easy to imagine Paul annually reprising the role of Santa for his grandchildren, or as a child "helping" in his grandmother's German bakery (while eating a fair share of the final product). He was also a handy DIYer who knew his way around a jigsaw, always happy to help others. Known as a loyal friend, he will be deeply missed by those who know and love him.

Paul is survived by his wife, Dina Cotter; son, Paul Stephen Cotter Jr. '90 (and his wife, Pallas); daughters, Judith Anne Morrison (and her husband, Robbie) and Kristin Elizabeth Cotter; grandchildren, Tristan Cade Cotter, Carson Bond Cotter, Mesa Breanne Gay, Prairie Cheyane Mendenhall, Rayelynn Brackett '20, Morgan Jane Brackett, Mary Elizabeth Brackett '23, Erica Rose Brackett (USMA '26) and Trinity Inez Brackett; his former wife (and mother of his children), Elizabeth Mendenhall; his sister, Anne Elizabeth "Betsy" Nixon (and her husband, Roger); his niece and nephew, Benjamin Roger Nixon and Carolyn Doris (Lynsay) Ladany; and several great-nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Robert Giles Cotter.

One of Paul's favorite sayings was, "*Time and tide wait for no man,*" but his time came far too quickly.

The Cotter Family ★



CURTIS WAYNE BROUSSARD '67

On 29 July 2022, Curtis W. Broussard, a loving husband and father, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his beloved family, following complications from an acute illness. He was 79 years old.

"Curt" was born on 18 June 1943 in New Iberia, LA, to Luke Broussard and Barbara (Troyer) Stewart. After graduating from the Naval Academy in June 1967, he married Barbara Ann Languemi in Alameda, CA, that

October. Always sweethearts, Curt and Barbara adventured side by side for the next 55 years.

Curt served seven years of his naval career in Hawaii, where he and Barbara welcomed their two children and cemented life-long friendships.

Returning to civilian life in 1977, the family relocated to the California Bay Area. Curt earned his MS in Safety Engineering from USC in 1984, leading to his career with Lockheed Missiles and Space, where he proudly worked on one of his favorite projects, the Hubble Space Telescope.

Offered his dream job at NASA in 1989, the family relocated to League City, TX, where he was thrilled to regularly rub elbows with astronauts, witness a shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral's Launch Control Center, and once, was part of an active mission control team.

Retiring from NASA in 2008, Curt and Barbara continue traveling and exploring the world. They especially loved cruises and spending time at their cabin in South Lake Tahoe, CA, with family and friends.

Curt was a Parkinson's survivor, having been diagnosed in 2007. With the immeasurable support of his wife, he led a full, active and happy life; most recently traveling to Utah in March for his granddaughter Emma's wedding. He was an active member of his parish, quietly serving and supporting in many roles and an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus.

Curt is survived by the love of his life, Barbara; son, David; daughter, Jennifer (Cameron); grandchildren, Emma, Elizabeth, Lauren and Darcy; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and more family, all of whom he loved dearly.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Jerry.

Services were held at St. Mary of the Expectation Catholic Church in League City, TX. He was laid to rest on 11 August 2022 at Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Houston Area Parkinson Society (www.hapsonline.org/support), CarePartners of Texas (www.carepartnerstexas.org/donate), St. Mary of the Expectation Catholic Church (www.saintmcc.org/give), or the charity of your choice. ★



GEORGE MINOT GORDON '69

Captain George Gordon, USNR (Ret.), of Wesley Chapel, FL, passed away on 11 September 2022 from Multiple System Atrophy/Parkinson's disease. He was 75 years old.

Born in Norwalk, CT, George's father taught him to love the sea, and he was a boater through and through. George fulfilled his boyhood dream of attending the Naval Academy, which forever changed his life, teaching him leadership, forbearance, stamina

and team cooperation and gifting him with lifelong friends.

George served on many ships, including WESTCHESTER COUNTY, the last Navy ship out of Haiphong Harbor, VN, and the lead for minesweepers after the treaty with Vietnam. After ten years of full-time Navy life, George served in the Naval Reserves. His duties included Navy Duty Command Watch at the Pentagon, reporting to the Secretary of the Navy.

As CEO for leading-edge tech firms, George forged a path for many emerging trends, including online Supply Chain Management and efficiency protocols that are now the norm. Moving to the Tampa, FL, area in 2001, George created a legacy of caring, dedication, mentoring and a desire to help make Tampa/St. Pete one of the top tech destinations in the country. George was known as the go-to resource for networking. He derived much pleasure from helping others connect and grow. His mentorship and compassionate support changed many lives. George loved the Tampa business and tech community and was often heard to say that his only regret in life was not moving to Florida earlier in his career.

George and his wife, Donna, enjoyed boating the waters of Florida and took annual visits to their favorite retreat, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. They retired to the USVI in 2017, making the journey in their boat, ANTHEM, from Florida to St. Thomas, which was the adventure of George's life.

After his Parkinson's diagnosis in 2020, George and Donna made the difficult decision to move back to the mainland for his healthcare needs, settling in Wesley Chapel.

George is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Donna Gordon; sister, Marcia Gordon; daughter of his heart, Jennifer Thorne; his children, Jessica Meyle and Gregory Gordon; and five grandchildren, Oliver, Henry, Isabella and William.

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