

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

OCTOBER 2022



# THE SEASON OF COMING HOME

By Jeff Webb '95



PHOTO BY DEBBIE LATTA

Superintendent VADM Sean Buck '83, USN, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Jeff Webb '95 attend the first formal parade of the season.

With 12 weeks in my role at the Alumni Association and Foundation behind me, I am proud to have completed my own version of Plebe Summer. Just as the Brigade is back and now fully engaged in their fall activities, our Enterprise is in full flight for our fall activities after a summer of preparation.

In August, just as we have done for the last 24 years, we honored our newest class of Naval Academy Distinguished graduates. They are Mr. Peter F. de Vos '71; Vice Admiral William D. "Doug" Crowder '74, USN (Ret.); Mr. J. Michael Yeager '76; Rear Admiral Margaret D. "Peg" Klein '81, USN (Ret.); and Vice Admiral Walter E. "Ted" Carter '81, USN (Ret.). Read their stories starting on page 12.

This high honor is reserved for alumni who have led exceptional careers, in and out of uniform, while showing uncommon commitment to the Naval Academy since their commissioning.

We were pleased to honor them publicly in Alumni Hall in a ceremony that included biographical videos as well as remarks by each of the awardees. It was a special privilege to listen to the DGAs speak directly to the Brigade in a Q&A session the day after the public event. I found their shared wisdom to be just as relevant to alumni as it is to midshipmen. Here are a few highlights:

On overcoming challenges:

- You don't have to pitch a no hitter every time. Sometimes you are going to struggle. Just stay focused on the mission.
- You are getting the skills that you need to overcome any of life's challenges right now as a midshipman. You can't feel it, but it's happening.

On being a leader who people want to follow:

- Learn to lead yourself before you lead others. Be energized. Sit in the front row. Show that you care about the mission.

- You have to have people who are inspired. YOU need to be inspired for that to happen. Enthusiasm is infectious.
- Establishing trust with subordinates is critical to effectiveness as a leader.
- Do your best to understand the hopes, fears and aspirations of your team. At the same time, understand that you won't always please everyone and that the mission always comes first.

Letting subordinates know you care about their well-being:

- Start by actually caring, rather than just trying to look like you are care. People are at the root of accomplishing any mission.

On achieving high rank in the military:

- You cannot script the next 35 years of your career. You aren't always going to get the job and orders you would like. Don't pick a community or a path based on theoretical odds of achieving high rank. Be flexible and be ready for whatever comes your way.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2023 DGA cycle—scan the QR code to hear Admiral Ferguson's call for nominations, and please nominate those classmates you feel are worthy of this honor. Nominations will close on 15 October.



Seeing the Classes of 1966, 1967, 1987 and 2017 converge on Annapolis for their reunions for our football home opener against Delaware was energizing and exciting. The Superintendent, Vice Admiral Sean Buck '83, USN, gave them all an entertaining and informative update on the Naval Academy, immediately followed by the first formal parade of the season, where he welcomed Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to the Yard. The Admiral provides us all a similar Naval Academy update in his feature starting on page 24.

'66 and '67 got a "two for one" by being able to spend time with their shipmates in adjacent classes due to COVID rescheduling. Their enthusiasm and support for the Naval Academy has not waned one bit.

1987 had a phenomenal turnout for their 35th of four hundred and EIGHT-SEVEN attendees. With most of their classmates still in uniform, 2017 made a commendable effort to get back to Annapolis for their first reunion. For many of them, this was their first visit since their commissioning. In a great display of the meaning of the *Another Link in the Chain* program, 1967 and 2017 tailgated together to celebrate their 50-year bond.

For anyone who is "on the fence" on attending their upcoming reunion, I encourage you to register now. Those relationships mean so much to so many of our alumni, forged as they were in shared experiences that matters. Come home to Annapolis this fall and celebrate those enduring bonds.

Please keep the feedback and comments coming on how we can better serve you.

Go Navy! ⚓

# 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](mailto: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 in the photo on page 17 of the September 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**  
2022 U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award recipients.

Photo by Mike Morgan

## 65/66 CLASS NEWS

you all, especially to those superusers of the Wardroom eForum. How about interspersing - maybe a couple of times a year - your reminiscences and thoughts on every topic under the Sun - with a paragraph on what you're DOING. I can't use for Shipmate columns what you're THINKING or what YOU DID in the distant past. I need current stuff: where you're living, what daily/weekly activities you're pursuing, what you recently accomplished, what's going on with your family, and what are your near-term plans (traveling, moving, taking in a special event, visits with classmates, etc.) Will warmly welcome your inputs!

And I've started a new website (bare bones, at present) to include the kind of info I requested above in paragraphs for each classmate, which I hope will be well-populated by our 60th Reunion. The site will have an alphabetical index of every classmate who responds so when you click on a name, it will take you to his write-up. Will send out the link when I have more than just a few blurbs. More on this later.

Thazzit guys! Aloha, Dave

## '66

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**Donor Participation: 21.33%**

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The 55th + 1 Reunion is now behind us and I hope it was a great event for everyone. Because of the time-late of submitting articles, I don't expect any pics or news until the Jan-Feb 2023 issue. There are a few great stories to relate, but first I must extend apologies to **Don Jackson** and his family. I mistyped the date of death for his wife Maureen. The July-August 22 issue cited 2020, and it should have been 2022. The services were held, as stated on 25 July 2022.

**Al Swinger** sent the following email and photo of his flying experience with his son Mark.



**AL AND MARK AVIATING**

✉ Had the opportunity to go flying with our son Mark (CDR, USN) on Monday, 11 June from the Charlottesville airport in a low-wing general aviation single engine prop aircraft. Since I could not fly with him (Navy Rules) in an F-18 when he was a Blue Angel, this was great fun. I was able to take the controls and fly straight and level with a few turns et al. and fly over our home - saw Sandra waving! Mark is an excellent instructor!! Check the block on the Bucket List.

Thanks, Al. Great picture!

**Frank Swientek** checked in from Portland, Oregon, the City of Roses and Bridges to provide the next vignette.



**DIANE AND FRANK CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

✉ "Diane and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on June in Monterey, CA where our life together began at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1972. We dated for two years and married the day after my graduation from NPS with a master's in electrical engineering. We returned to Monterey in 1997 to celebrate our Silver Anniversary and now this year for our 50th. We formally renewed our vows in the Saint Thomas Aquinas Chapel at NPS and then spent our third honeymoon in Monterey, Carmel, Big Sur, and lastly San Francisco. In July we will be hosting our daughter Heather and our son Adam and his family at Disneyland and Universal Studios in LA; and in late August we plan to join you all in Annapolis at "55 + 1". Later in the year we plan to resume cruising both the Pacific and Atlantic and spending our kids' inheritance."

Nice, Frank!



**CARL IN ROMANIA**

I'm sure you were all moved by the article submitted about **Carl McCullough** in Romania and his work supporting Ukraine refugees. Here is a follow photo of him with other volunteers. Keep it going Carl.

Sadly, I report the deaths of Jim McPhetridge (35) and Warren B. (Burns) Partain, Jr. (20). The following obituary for Jim was published in the *Sacramento Bee* on 17 July 2022.

James McPhetridge, 81, loving father and grandfather passed away on 23 June 2022 from a car accident. Preceded in death by his parents, three siblings, and his son, Erik McPhetridge. He is survived by his sister, Trudy Lane, three children, Mechelle McPhetridge, Elijah McPhetridge and Lisa Wheatly, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was an artist and a retired electrician. He attended Annapolis in the Navy and received his BA in Art from Chico State. He will be greatly missed. A burial service was held at the Northern California VA Cemetery in Igo, CA.

**Burns Partain** died on 22 June 2022. His obituary was published in a Class-wide email. Please keep both families in your prayers.

On 14 July 2022, Scott Redd made the final USNA Class of 1966 Enlisted Leadership Award presentation aboard HUE CITY (CG-66) at the Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. Below is a copy of his remarks to the attendees.

✉ Admiral Sigler, CDR Tasso (C.O.), Petty Officer Smith, '66 Classmates, and crew of the HUE CITY. Good morning! And thanks for allowing us to join you for this ceremony. Petty Officer Smith, congratulations on receiving the last in a long line of Class leadership awards. Well deserved.

You may not realize it, but this is an emotional day for many of us. Let me tell you why. Today signals the beginning . . . of the end . . . the end of the life of a magnificent ship with a magnificent legacy. As you know, her formal end will be decommissioning in September and some of us hope to be there. But this is a private ceremony for those of us from the Class of '66 and we are deeply honored to have this last opportunity to recognize one of your shipmates . . . and, if you will indulge us for horning in, also to make mention of and honor a number of our Classmates who made the ultimate sacrifice in Viet Nam.

Our respect and dedication to you - and to this ship - goes much deeper than just a hull number which happens to match our year of graduation. As you may know, Viet Nam was "our war." By one accounting, USNA '66 lost more Classmates in Viet Nam than any other Class. By the way, that's also true for the West Point class of '66. They had more killed than any other Class and 100 Classmates received purple hearts. All of us remember friends who didn't come back from that conflict in Southeast Asia.

HUE CITY remains the only ship named for a battle in Viet Nam. And as you know, the other '66 hull number belongs to the GONZALES (DDG-66), named for Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez USMC, who gave his life in the battle at Hue City and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His mother was present for the commissioning of Gonzales. She

received a long, heartfelt and tearful standing ovation when the Chief of Naval Operations, Mike Boorda, introduced her at the commissioning ceremony in 1992.

More personally, the commissioning CO of HUE CITY was our Classmate, Captain **Tom Eubanks**. I happened to be the responsible Cruiser Destroyer Group Commander at the time, and - as part of the commissioning ceremony - Tom formally reported to me for duty. Others here have attended previous award ceremonies on the ship. So, you can see this is personal.

It's important to you - and to us - that your legacy will live on. The American flag which was first raised over the Hue provincial capital - and was also raised at the commissioning ceremony of the ship - has been maintained onboard, bullet holes and all. It will be sent to the Naval History Command with a view toward its ultimate display at an appropriate location such as the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, VA. By the way, Quantico has already requested it. There it will serve as a permanent reminder of one of the more memorable and significant battles in Marine Corps history.

As you can see, we have a long, loving, and emotional bond with this ship and the sailors and officers who have manned her over the years. You all stand here as the final crew of this magnificent ship. That's no small thing!!!

Let me tell you a little bit about us. The Naval Academy Class of 1966.

In 1962 - almost sixty years ago to the day - thirteen hundred and two of us raised our hands and were sworn in as Midshipmen on a hot June day in Annapolis. . . Four years later, one third of that number - 432 - had left the Academy and eight hundred and sixty-eight of us passed out of the crucible and were commissioned as officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

We came of age at the peak of the Viet Nam war. We fought on the land, the rivers, the offshore waters, and in the skies over that divided country and paid the price. As I noted earlier, our Class was one of the hardest hit of all Naval Academy Classes. One of our Classmates spent five years as a prisoner of war.

More generally, our generation was raised in the shadow of the Cold War, and we saw it through to its end in victory. We manned the ships, the planes, and the submarines that hunted for Red October and parried the Red Fleet in the icebox - the cold and barren northern waters of the planet. In fact, HUE CITY'S AEGIS system was designed to parry the long-range missiles of Soviet Naval Aviation aircraft.

When the Cold War ended the world changed and America pivoted to the hot sandbox of the Middle East. We fought in the first Gulf War - Operation Desert Storm - leading Marines, dropping bombs, firing missiles and guns, and protecting the fleet in the then unfamiliar waters of the Persian Gulf. In fact, our Class President, General

**Carl Fulford**, USMC (Ret.) - who signed Petty Officer Smith's award - led Marines in Kuwait in that battle just as he had at Hue City.

As our time in uniform ran its course several of us were re-bridled for service in the new war of the twenty first century, the global war on terror. That battle continues and a new Cold War threatens. That will be your responsibility.

As for us, our tribe is thinning. We are old now - those who remain - past our biblically allotted three score and ten. Our heads are gray. Our steps are slower. We are fading away. Our Class rings are worn smooth with time, but we have not forgotten the motto engraved on them almost six decades past:

"Non Sibi Sed Patriae"

Not for self, but for country.

We kept the faith with those who went before. Thank you for allowing us to share this day and these memories with you. May God bless you . . . and may God bless the United States of America. For the Class, I say "Amen to it all, Scott. Well done."

As a final input **Charlie Votava** sent the following email about the decommissioning ceremony for WHIBEY ISLAND (LSD 41).

✉ Sharon and I just returned from the WHIBEY ISLAND decommissioning ceremony.

Our Classmate Captain (Commodore PHIBRON 10) **Patrick Michael Muldoon** (USN, Ret.) was the First and Commissioning Commanding Officer, of LPD 41, 38 years ago. WHIBEY ISLAND was the flagship of the new class of LPDs. As the Plank Owning CO he was invited to be the guest speaker.

You all missed a very interesting, enjoyable and entertaining, as only Doon's could do, speech, which addressed the construction, commissioning year, and the follow-on system certifications, inspections, qualifications, assist visits, and dignitary visits during the first deployment. The historical detail narrated in Muldoon's frank and very humorous style would have received a A+++ at our 2nd or 1st Class year After Dinner speaking sessions.

The audience was filled with plank owners and shipmates from Commander (Commanding Officer) Muldoon's era. Upon introduction he was given a rousing standing ovation. Upon completion of his memorable, humorous, and unapologetic remarks, in the presence of the RAdm Expeditionary Force Commander, he was given an even louder longer lasting standing ovation. A very memorable presentation by our Classmate. I wish I had recorded it.

Thanks, Charlie. Pat was a company mate as well, and my best man.



**CHARLIE AND PAT**

And that wraps up October. Thanks to all who provided their stories. Until December... All the best, Mike!!!

# '67

**Life Membership: 76%**

**Donor Participation: 33.04%**

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

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**

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In the last column, I reported the death of **Dave Spisso**. **Doug Ogden** attended Dave's services and sent the following:

✉ On 21 June 2022, Classmate and friend Dave Spisso crossed the Bar and went to his Eternal Rest. He had not been feeling well for a few weeks, but the situation suddenly deteriorated, and he passed away in Bluffton, SC. Visitation and Memorial/Remembrance Services were held at a local Funeral Home in Bluffton on 30 June 2022. The line to attend stretched down the sidewalk and into the parking lot, and the Class provided a beautiful flower arrangement. As an aside, the Funeral Director told me that this was the largest gathering of people at one of these proceedings that he had ever seen in his career. Funeral services were held the next day at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Bluffton, and again, the turnout was very large and a fitting tribute to Dave. Following the service, a reception was held in the Parish Social Hall, and Dave will be interred in the Naval Academy Columbarium on 1 September 2022 during our 55th Reunion. Classmates and spouses attending one or both of the functions included Shirley and Walt Wilkening, Al Wynn, Shirley and Tim Anderson, Sakuko and Clint Wright (Sakuko is missing from the photo), Nancy and Steve Woodall, Veronica and Jack Feehan, Denise and Doug Ogden, and Ken Belisle.

Doug noted that the man in uniform standing near the right side of the nearby photo is Col. D.J. Spisso, USAF, Dave's oldest son.

# 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

**Robert Beresford Williams '45**  
17 August 2022

**Philip Miller Pahl '51**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
14 July 2022

**Clarence Earl Chinn '52**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
14 July 2022

**Robert Harold Schulze '52**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
15 August 2022

**William Anthony Studabaker '52**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
8 August 2022

**Reeves Ramsey Taylor '53**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
7 August 2022

**Eugene Garove '54**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
18 August 2022

**Richard Glenn Murphy '54**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
3 August 2022

**Peter Yadlowsky '54**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
9 August 2022

**Walton James Grinke '55**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
1 August 2022

**Ernest Joseph Toupin Jr. '55**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
9 August 2022

**Stanley Lewis Booth '56**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
8 May 2022

**John Lewis Bossert '56**  
1 November 2019

**Edmund Burke III '56**  
23 February 2022

**William Henry Stiles V '56 ■**  
19 July 2022

**Thomas Francis Drumm Jr. '57**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
4 August 2022

**Paul Dominic Gober '57**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
10 August 2022

**James Percival Googe Jr. '57**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
3 August 2022

**Frederic Northey Howe Jr. '57**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
6 August 2022

**John Milton Heiges '59**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
6 August 2022

**Joseph Francis King '59 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
8 August 2022

**Lennis Larry Lammers '60**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
31 May 2022

**Francis Xavier Munger '60**  
31 July 2022

**Joseph Lawrence Sestric '60**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
31 July 2022

**Kenneth Edward Junkins '62**  
1 August 2022

**Lawrence Michael Rank '62**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
30 June 2022

**Anthony Phillips Dittaux '63 ■**  
31 July 2022

**Roger Joseph Milos Sr. '63 ■**  
2 August 2022

**Edward Arthur Monaco Jr. '64**  
CAPT, DC, USN (Ret.)  
7 August 2022

**Robert Allen Newkirk '64**  
6 August 2022

**John Christopher Babka '65**  
10 August 2022

**Frank Medford Blanchard Jr. '66**  
9 August 2022

**Curtis Wayne Broussard '67**  
29 July 2022

**Thomas Reilly Mewhinney '68 ■**  
4 August 2022

**Ronald Walter Lukat '70**  
12 August 2022

**Rory Hilton Fisher '73**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
2 August 2022

**Daniel Louis Simpson '73 ■**  
30 July 2022

**Mark Allan Clark '77**  
19 August 2022

**David Todd Walters '77**  
Capt, USMC  
1 December 2020

**Timothy Francis Casey '83**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
31 July 2022

**Rodolfo Casals '97**  
2 August 2022

## OBITUARY GUIDELINES

Please note that we have a maximum word limit of 400 words. Obituaries may be submitted electronically (preferred) to [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com), or via U.S. Mail to: Shipmate obituaries, 247 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402-5068.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of obituaries to Shipmate, please contact Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury (410-295-4064 or [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)).

■ 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.



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*Staff Accountant*

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