

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

JUNE 2023





**1,000  
WORDS**



**SeaPerch With Sunita**  
CAPT Sunita L. Williams '87, USN (Ret.), spoke during a SeaPerch event held in Houston, TX, jointly hosted by the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, Blue and Gold Officers and the USNA Parents Club of the Texas Gulf Coast. The aquatic robot competition attracted 45 teams with 217 students.



1,000  
WORDS



### **Bonds of Gold 1975-2025**

The annual Bonds of Gold Ceremony was held on 24 April inside Memorial Hall. MIDN Devina D. Mathur '24 compares rings with Mark J. Harper '75, professor emeritus of the Naval Academy's Mechanical Engineering department. The event binds the legacy of the Class of 1975 with the Class of 2025. This *Another Link in the Chain* tradition offers an opportunity for members of the '75 class to donate their rings or pins, which will be incorporated into new rings for the Class of 2025.



# LEADERSHIP LABORATORY

By Jeff Webb '95

## JOURNEY FOR LIFETIME LEADERS BEGINS WITH I-DAY

I-Day is an emotional time for plebes and their families. It can be a mix of trepidation, anxiety and excitement for the newly minted midshipmen who are about to embark on a life-changing journey that will transform them into the nation's next generation of leaders.

Parents often feel similar emotions. The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F) understands the profound nature of the day. That's why on June 29th, the USNA AA&F will seek to make them comfortable with lunch and an expo on Hospital Point while their sons and daughters are in-processed. We look forward to spending time with the parents and seeing them bond with one another while we all await the day's climax—the Oath of Office.

Last year was the first I-Day I have witnessed since my own. What stood out the most were the strong emotions of parents and children in a brief time they had together after the oath and before the new plebes march into Bancroft Hall, not to be seen again by family members until Parents Weekend. My non-scientific analysis suggests that far more tears are shed by parents than plebes!

We understand the rigors and stress Plebe Summer has on midshipmen and families, alike. To document the experience and provide updates on the newest midshipmen, the USNA AA&F supports the parent photo program. USNA AA&F members can access the photos of milestone events throughout the summer. High resolution photos are free and downloadable at [usna.com/photoprogram](https://usna.com/photoprogram).

Best of luck Class of 2027! We look forward to seeing you join the Brigade!



The Class of 2026 takes the Oath of Office.

## YOUNG ALUMNI BRIDGE COMMUNICATIONS ALONG CHAIN OF COMMAND

As the world's preeminent leadership development institution, the Naval Academy instills the values and demands the character traits needed to effectively lead in the Fleet and Marine Corps. Naval Academy alumni are problem solvers who put their people first.

The Navy Junior Officer Counsel (NJOC) is a shining example of this. Led by Lieutenant Commander Adam Johnson '13, SC, USN, and Lieutenant John-Rex Spivey '13, USN, NJOC has made significant progress since its charter was officially sanctioned in November 2021.

This effort, with the support of senior officers, including Admiral John B. Nowell '84, USN, is designed to bridge the gap between junior and senior officers. NJOC brings a voice and potential solutions to challenges facing junior officers and those in their command. BZ to the alumni making important contributions in the fleet. See page 10 for the complete story.

## LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP—FAREWELL TO VADM BUCK

As Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN, approaches his July 7th Change of Command, we want to thank him for his steady leadership as Superintendent during the past four years. He deftly navigated the Academy through unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Academy achieved its prime mission during the pandemic: commissioning the Classes of 2020 and 2021. Buck's leadership team quickly pivoted to online learning at the pandemic's outbreak, kept the Brigade of Midshipmen's safety priority one, and demonstrated the flexibility and fortitude required to achieve success in the face of unprecedented circumstances.

Buck has been a reliable partner of the Alumni Association and Foundation, helping close out the record-breaking \$541 million *Called to Serve, Daring to Lead* campaign. He addressed the need to fortify the Academy against sea level rise as evident by the ongoing construction of a new seawall near the Robert Crown Sailing Center. Buck has equally supported our Alumni and parent engagement efforts. At our invitation, he attends countless events and forums to share the stories of the Brigade and keep our community connected to the Naval Academy.

Fair winds and following seas to Vice Admiral Buck and Joanne Buck. See story on page 20.

On 21 April, Rear Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, was nominated to serve as the 64th Superintendent of the Naval Academy by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83. Davids is a Surface Warfare Officer, with commands including BUNKER HILL and Carrier Strike Group 11. Pending her confirmation, we will be pleased to welcome her aboard in July. See page 6 for more information on Rear Admiral Davids.

Go Navy! Beat Army!  
Jeff Webb '95 ⚓



# SHIPMATE

VOLUME 86 • NO. 4

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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 behind the SACC ad on the inside back cover of the May 2023 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**  
Springtime on the Yard.  
Photo by Emily Lucht



# ALL HANDS

## Dauids '89 Tapped as Next Naval Academy Superintendent

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 1989 LUCKY BAG



Rear Admiral Yvette M. Dauids '89, USN, was nominated to serve as the 64th Superintendent of the Naval Academy by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83, USN (Ret.), and Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Michael M. Gilday '85, USN, on 21 April.

If approved by the U.S. Senate, Dauids would become the first woman to serve as Superintendent. She would succeed Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN, who is scheduled to relinquish command on 7 July.

Dauids also received a recommended promotion to vice admiral. She has been a barrier breaker throughout her naval career. She is a career surface warfare officer and currently serves as director, Learning to Action Drive Team.

Her previous duties include commanding CURTS, BUNKER HILL and Carrier Strike Group 11. Her assignment to CURTS in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in 2007 made her the first Hispanic American woman to command a Navy warship.

In 1990, Dauids began a three-year assignment aboard SAN JOSE, a combat stores ship deployed in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She was in the thick of the combat zone, providing assets and logistics support.

During that deployment, Dauids was summoned from SAN JOSE to spend ten days on BUNKER HILL. She had to get special permission to board the ship, which was located in a combat zone.

She served as executive officer of the destroyer HIGGINS during the initial combat operations of Iraqi Freedom. Twenty years after she first stepped aboard BUNKER HILL, Dauids assumed command of the ship and served as air defense commander for the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group.

"You bet I was proud of that moment," she told *Shipmate* in an October 2020 story. "It was pretty extraordinary."

In June 2020, Dauids assumed duties as chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command. Her most recent operational assignment was as commander, Nimitz Strike Group/Carrier Strike Group 11.

Dauids graduated from the Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree in oceanography. She is a 2002 graduate of the Naval War College with a master's in national security and strategic studies and a 2012 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a master's in national resource strategy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADM YVETTE M. DAUIDS '89, USN

RADM Yvette M. Dauids '89, USN, served as executive officer of the destroyer HIGGINS during the initial combat operations of Iraqi Freedom.

Ashore, she served as aide to the deputy and chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet; as a joint exercise communications planner at the Joint Warfighting Center, Joint Forces Command (J6); deputy executive assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations for Information, Plans and Strategy (OPNAV N3/N5); director, Naval Academy Sailing, U.S. Naval Academy; executive assistant to the executive director of Commander, Naval Surface Forces Command; and assistant chief of staff for Requirements, Experimentation and Innovation (N8/N9) for the commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet. Her first flag assignment was with the U.S. Department of State as the senior military advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs prior to assuming Carrier Strike Group command.

Dauids is married to Rear Admiral Keith Dauids '90, USN, a Navy SEAL, and commander of Naval Special Warfare Command.

Vice Admiral Buck applauded the selection of Rear Admiral Dauids. He said the Dauids family will serve as a wonderful example to the Brigade of Midshipmen as a dual-military household. The Dauids have school-aged twin boys.

"That's a fine example for the Brigade to see, that you can have a very successful naval career and you can still raise a really nice family," Buck said. "I'm excited for the Naval Academy and the Dauids family. I wish her well during her journey as Superintendent of the Naval Academy." □

**NAVY FOOTBALL 2023 SCHEDULE**

<p><b>IRISH</b> DUBLIN, IRELAND VS. NOTRE DAME AUGUST 26TH</p>	<p><b>AIR FORCE</b> OCTOBER 21ST</p>
<p><b>WAGNER</b> SEPTEMBER 9TH</p>	<p><b>AT TEMPLE</b> NOVEMBER 4TH</p>
<p><b>AT MEMPHIS</b> SEPTEMBER 14TH</p>	<p><b>UAB</b> NOVEMBER 11TH</p>
<p><b>SOUTH FLORIDA</b> SEPTEMBER 30TH</p>	<p><b>EAST CAROLINA</b> NOVEMBER 18TH</p>
<p><b>NORTH TEXAS</b> OCTOBER 7TH</p>	<p><b>AT SMU</b> NOVEMBER 25TH</p>
<p><b>AT CHARLOTTE</b> OCTOBER 14TH</p>	<p><b>FOXBOROUGH, MASS.</b> VS. ARMY DECEMBER 8TH</p>

Legend:   HOME   ROAD





## Editor's Note



This issue's editor's note is dedicated to Wendi Winters; someone who didn't graduate from the Naval Academy but who represented its values and ideals.

Wendi was a dedicated Naval Academy ambassador. She was perpetually proud of her father, Commander Leigh "Early" C. Winters '40, USN (Ret.). She was the honorary president of the Class of '40, and was made an honorary member of the Class of '69 in recognition of her dedication to the Academy and the alumni

community. Wendi sponsored and mentored dozens of midshipmen over the years who instantly became part of her family.

She instilled the responsibility of living a life of service to her children. Son Lieutenant Commander Phoenix Geimer '12, USN, and daughter Lieutenant Montana Geimer '16, USN, are Academy alumni. Daughter Winters Larca, is a Navy ET1 who also served as an adjunct instructor and simulation technician at the Academy. Her youngest daughter, Summerleigh, was company commander of the NJROTC unit at Annapolis High School and now lives in Milwaukee, WI, working in disaster restoration.

Wendi was proud of her children and of her father's legacy as a member of the Class of 1940. She worked with the members of the class as they aged, and represented them in their dealings with the Alumni Association as their secretary and later as the acting president, including attending periodic Council of Class Presidents' meetings where she expanded her circle of friends.

She organized reunions for her father's class through the 75th, even as the number of attendees dwindled to just a handful. She became acquainted with other "Class of '40 Navy Juniors," and was a regular tailgater on football Saturdays at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, especially at the award-winning tent of the Class of 1969, which boasted many sons of Naval Academy graduates from the WWII era of the "Greatest Generation" of Americans, including the Class of 1940.

The Class of 1969 made her an honorary member because she adopted them and promoted their work, activities and goals, and in thanks for her dedication to the Academy and the alumni community.



Wendi Winters

It seemed all of Annapolis was part of Wendi Winters' extended family. That includes the *Capital Gazette*, where I worked alongside her for six years. She put "community" in the community newspaper. I edited her Teen of the Week and Home of the Week columns. I was amazed at her ability to squeeze so much out of every day.

Wendi Winters was also a hero.

The world lost Wendi, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Rob Hiaasen in the 28 June 2018 *Capital Gazette* shooting. Wendi saved the lives of several of her colleagues by rushing the shooter armed only with recycling and trash bins. She distracted the shooter and bought time for other reporters to hide under their desks.

Those in uniform understand that serving is hard. They might expect to lose friends or shipmates defending our nation, but they put themselves in harm's way so their loved ones are safe back home. Wendi reflected the highest ideals of the Naval Academy. Although she wasn't a graduate, her life and death both demonstrate the ways we may be called to serve our country.

Wendi's legacy will live on through her children, her connections to the Academy, the values that guided her and inspired others and the twice annual blood drive in her honor.

On 28 June 2018, Wendi charged to protect her coworkers. As we commemorate the 5th anniversary of that tragic day, we invite you to pause with us to remember Wendi.

Jimmy DeButts, Editor, *Shipmate* ☐

## Three Alumni Named Olmsted Scholars

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation recently selected three Naval Academy alumni as members of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2024.

The newly selected Olmsted Scholars are Major Jenner M. Yuhas '10, USMC, who will study in Mendoza, Argentina; Lieutenant Commander Sean B. Margot '11, USN, who will study in Paris, France; and Captain Emma A. Mickelson '18, USMC, who will study in Poznan, Poland.

These outstanding officers will spend the next three years completing language training and pursuing graduate level studies on full scholarships at foreign universities. These officers' experiences around the world will shape and prepare them to assume positions of senior leadership in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Notable Naval Academy alumni who were Olmsted Scholars include Admiral Kurt W. Tidd '78, USN (Ret.), former commander of U.S. Southern Command; and Admiral James G. Foggo '81, USN (Ret.),

former commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe-Africa, and NATO Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy. ☐



Maj Jenner Yuhas '10, USMC



LCDR Sean Margot '11, USN



Capt Emma Mickelson '18, USMC



## Academy Names New Academic Dean and Provost



Dr. Samara L. Firebaugh has been selected to succeed Dr. Andrew T. Phillips as the Naval Academy's academic dean and provost. Firebaugh, who is currently the Naval Academy's associate provost for academic affairs, will assume the position in July.

The academic dean and provost is responsible for the entire academic program for the 4,400-member Brigade of Midshipmen, oversees nearly 600 faculty members and serves as the primary source of information

and advice for the Superintendent regarding the education of midshipmen. Phillips began his tenure as academic dean and provost in 2009.

After a nationwide search and rigorous interview and selection process overseen by a search committee, Superintendent Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN, selected Firebaugh.

"Our midshipmen and our faculty will be in good hands under her leadership," Buck said.

In 1995, Firebaugh earned her bachelor's in electrical engineering from Princeton University. She earned her master's and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

Firebaugh joined the Naval Academy's faculty in 2001 as an assistant professor in the Naval Academy's Electrical and Computer Engineering department. Firebaugh said serving as the vice president of the Faculty Senate, working as the Electrical and Computer Engineering department chair and her current role as the associate provost for academic affairs have given her tools and experience to prepare for the challenges of her new position.

"Throughout my career in Annapolis I have been impressed by the quality of our faculty and staff, and their dedication to the mission to develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to become leaders to serve our nation," Firebaugh said. "I'm grateful to be part of such a terrific team." □



Maj Gen William A. Anders '55, USAFR (Ret.), an Apollo 8 astronaut, addressed 59 third-class midshipmen on 23 March at the Udvar-Hazy Museum in Dulles, VA.

## Anders '55 Meets With Midshipmen

Major General William A. Anders '55, USAFR (Ret.), addressed 59 midshipmen on 23 March at the Udvar-Hazy Museum in Dulles, VA. Anders, an Apollo 8 astronaut, was at the museum for an awards ceremony and took a few moments to interact with the midshipmen.

Anders received the Smithsonian's prestigious Michael Collins Trophy for Lifetime Achievement the night prior. During an impromptu exchange with the midshipmen, Anders highlighted the importance of his years in Annapolis and how impactful they proved to be throughout his professional and personal life.

Third-class midshipmen in Aerospace Engineering were at the museum on a field trip as a part of their Introduction to Aerospace Engineering course. The introduction course discusses fundamental concepts of air and space vehicles. It was an opportunity for the students to be able to observe real-life examples of the key concepts they learned in class through observing airplanes, rockets, satellites and engines displayed at the museum.

Anders was commissioned into the Air Force upon graduation and went on to serve an illustrious career in many military, civic and business roles. He is perhaps best known for having taken the famous photograph of "Earthrise" during the Apollo 8 mission to the moon in 1968. □

## Moran '81 Takes A&SP Reins

Admiral William F. Moran '81, USN (Ret.), was approved as the new the Athletic & Scholarship Programs (A&SP) chairman by a vote of A&SP Trustees on 14 April to succeed Rear Admiral Thomas C. Lynch '64, USN (Ret.), who retired after a 20-year tenure.

Admiral Moran began his career as a Naval Aviator and served for more than 38 years. The front-end of his career was spent in the cockpit on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) patrols above the Atlantic and Mediterranean as well as in numerous instructor pilot assignments.

After a tour in personnel management, he operated in the Pacific and Middle East theaters conducting ASW and supporting ground forces during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a flag officer, he served as director of Air Warfare and chief of

Naval Personnel prior to becoming the 39th vice chief of Naval Operations in 2016.

Admiral Moran has been an A&SP Trustee and said he is grateful for the opportunity to serve as chairman of such a critical organization. The former Naval Academy golf team captain said he wanted to play a larger role supporting the Academy's physical mission.

"Simply to give back to an institution that has provided an incredible opportunity to so many who wanted to serve their country and to continue Tom Lynch's efforts to enhance the visibility and importance of keeping the physical mission at the forefront of life on the Yard," he said. "Our team of Trustees has a passion to inspire young women and men to come to this great school and keep it the best leadership training experience anywhere. It is a noble purpose." □



RADM Thomas C. Lynch '64, USN (Ret.), passes the A&SP Chairman's gavel to ADM William F. Moran '81, USN (Ret.), on 14 April.



## USNA Midshipmen Give Back During Spring Break



**MIDN Zachary McKelvy '26** was one of 12 members of the Naval Academy's MAG who spent their spring break in Washington state volunteering with the Snohomish County Boys & Girls Clubs. They spent time with the children tutoring and mentoring, playing sports and leading educational activities like STEM-in-a-box.

Twelve midshipmen, one officer representative and one enlisted representative from the Naval Academy's Midshipman Action Group (MAG) traveled to Washington state to spend their spring break volunteering with Boys & Girls Club of Snohomish County from 13-17 March.

Six of the 12 midshipmen spent their week with the Everett Boys & Girls Club. The group, led by MAG Chief of Staff Midshipman Abigail Ball '23, volunteered with youth of all ages

and backgrounds. Through team-building exercises, sports activities and STEM tutoring and mentoring, the midshipmen experienced and interacted with the diverse cultures in the community.

"The opportunity to go to Everett and volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club was truly humbling," Ball said. "For midshipmen, this was a learning opportunity. I believe you can learn from someone of any age and working with the children and teens at the Boys & Girls Club taught me a lesson in greater compassion and gratitude that I will keep with me through my military career and beyond."

The other six midshipmen volunteered with the Lummi Nation Boys & Girls Club in Bellingham, WA. In preparation for the trip, midshipmen participated in cultural awareness training to gain insight on the unique customs and traditions of the community they were visiting. During their visit, midshipmen immersed themselves in games and activities with the children, including basketball, tag, four square and educational activities like the STEM-in-a-box kits provided by the Naval Academy's STEM Outreach program.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to spend a week with the Lummi Nation Boys & Girls Club," said MAG Public Affairs Officer Midshipman Max Bueno '24. "I will never forget the amazing mountain views, the competitive spirit of the children of the Lummi Nation, the stories from elder tribal members and the team bonding. I hope that each person can take this project and apply it to their lives to help more people and explore more cultures." □

## Men's Rugby Claims National Title in Inaugural D1 Season



The Navy men's rugby team capped a perfect season with a dramatic 28-22 victory over Cal on 6 May in the Division I-A National Championship match in Houston, TX.

The 18-0 Midshipmen went undefeated in their first season as a varsity sport. They trailed the No. 5 Golden Bears 15-0 less than 24 minutes into the contest but stormed back to pull within 15-14 at halftime.

Navy took the lead for good at the 68:28 mark on a Midshipman Landon Opp '24 try and a Midshipman Roanin Krieger '26 kick. □

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# ENABLING THE WARFIGHTER

## NAVAL JUNIOR OFFICER COUNSEL EXPANSION IS WINNING WHERE IT MATTERS.

By *QuaWanna Bannarbie '99*



PHOTO COURTESY OF NJOC  
 RADM Lorin Selby, USN, and LT Craig Veech '13, USN, collaborated to help NJOC get off the ground. Selby, chief of Naval Research, along with VADM John Nowell '84, USN, officially sanctioned NJOC's charter in November 2021.

“NJOC is a vital resource for getting groundbreaking ideas from junior officers to senior leadership, enabling all of us to work together to strengthen the Navy and Marine Corps.”

—Rear Admiral Lorin Selby, USN

The leadership development of military junior officers cannot always be measured by vertical advancement or hierarchical climbs. Growth is not always up and over.

Naval Junior Officer Counsel's (NJOC) growth has been deep and wide. Deep in that junior officers are gaining transformational perspectives regarding their individual contributions to the fleet's readiness. Wide is the result of the community's deliberate collaboration across Navy designators such that there is a collective leveraging of their shared value to make a difference in the Navy and ultimately its service to the United States.

The Navy's mission involves maintaining an elite winning team. Teams don't win on talent alone. Junior officers are already endowed with the ability and authority to act according to their designation. They are commissioned to faithfully discharge the duties of the office and titles they carry.

NJOC has made a significant impact on that commission by qualifying the voice of the newly minted ensign and second lieutenant to inform the decision-making of Navy senior leadership. Naval Junior Officer Counsel began as an idea that became an initiative designed to bridge the gap in communication channels between junior and senior officers. In November 2021, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Admiral John B. Nowell '84, USN,

and Chief of Naval Research Rear Admiral Lorin C. Selby, USN, officially sanctioned Naval Junior Officer Counsel's charter making NJOC the Navy's first Management Advisory Group (MAG). It is a “budding” enterprise making steady milestones.

Today's Navy does not just want the hands and feet of its junior officers but allows the intellectual capacity of its juniors to stand in rooms, conferences and symposiums by representing their collective voice. Our Navy is one that conveys the value of one's humanity.

The Navy's mission is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.<sup>1</sup> NJOC founder, Lieutenant Commander Adam Johnson '13, SC, USN, said NJOC's mission aligns with the Navy's mission because “the people are the naval service. NJOC helps junior officers canvas their environment and consider how to better their service as part of the winning team.”

That mindset has an exponential effect on empowering young leaders, Johnson said.

“One junior officer with an idea is just one junior officer,” he said. “Yet, when that same junior officer brings his or her ideas to a conglomerate of minds beaming with similar drive, hope, innovation and fearlessness, that one idea now gains the emboldened stature and informed



backing to move from ambitious aspiration to possible prototype.”

With NJOC, one enabled warfighter now makes a difference in the warfighting status of an entire force.

By uniting behind a shared vision, NJOC hopes to generate momentum behind projects that can benefit the entire fleet. Lieutenant Daniel Conley '07, USN, collaborated for two years with peers to develop a Unified Breathing Mask. He and his partners hit several roadblocks en route to producing a prototype for sailors, aviators and divers.

Using input from sailors in the fleet, the Unified Breathing Mask was designed to better fit different-sized personnel, has a flat front for greater underwater visibility and allows users to swap out gas mask capabilities with self-contained breathing functions. One of the potential lifesaving uses could be for sailors fighting fires on their ships.

In January 2022, Conley presented his Unified Breathing Mask design prototype to his peers at the 34th Surface Naval Association Symposium. He connected with NJOC to network that idea to the Office of Naval Research to move the development of the mask to the next level of production.

“NJOC is a vital resource for getting groundbreaking ideas from junior officers to senior leadership, enabling all of us to work together to strengthen the Navy and Marine Corps,” said Selby. “From promoting the innovative Unified Breathing Mask prototype to creating unique opportunities for collaboration and the exchange of ideas, NJOC truly sparks the flame of creativity with diverse perspectives.”

## GROWTH STARTS TO SHOW

The expansion of Naval Junior Officer Counsel may not be seen throughout the entire Navy just yet. Progress is happening and junior officers are forming what Nowell dubbed “the coalition of the willing.” These are officers willing to question how well NJOC is doing business and determine alternative ways to build strategic competition.

He is reminded of the ways new doctrines and tactics were developed during the wars of the 1930s and 1940s by the students attending the Naval War

College. He said it is “imperative that we stay on top of what is going on throughout the world in terms of warfighting advancements. Junior officers help senior leadership remain cognizant of the competition. We fight as a joint coalition team.”

Lateral communication across that community brings about an increase in junior officer readiness. As the leaders, ranked lieutenant commander and below, increase peer mentoring and extend their resourcefulness across designators, the benefit to the Navy is not just a maintained capability. It also retains the technological and innovative advantage that exists in the young minds of junior officers.

NJOC Director Lieutenant John-Rex Spivey '13, USN, said NJOC is where the future weapons systems of our Navy will develop and the tactics to deploy them.

“The technology of war is changing,” he said. “For our Navy to remain competitive, we must retain our young leaders. Cyber defense, artificial intelligence and emerging technology are in the minds of young people.”

Spivey believes that the diversity of thought in the U.S. military service creates innovation through inclusion. NJOC meetings have engaged in some tough conversations. He learned from his mentor, Janie Mines '80, that “it is important to talk in terms that everyone sees themselves.”

NJOC affirms that representation matters and formed offspring groups of various designators as more junior officers joined the coalition. The leaders intentionally built their strategy for collaborative dialogue across designators. Johnson said NJOC is a representation of all of the conversations among naval junior officers.

The formal structure of NJOC is expanding to include Type Commander (TYCOM) charters under the NJOC umbrella. Johnson saw this expansion for NJOC’s future when it began but was not eager to push for it.

“True commonality can only be leveraged if it is properly identified,” Johnson said. “We must be united at the most critical level of the Navy and do so at the unit level. The gateway to the unit level is the Type Commander.”

On 2 September 2022, Vice Admiral Kenneth R. Whitesell, USN, commander, U.S. Naval Air Forces, also known as Air Boss, signed an NJOC Sub-Charter, officially establishing NJOC-Air. Whitesell is the first TYCOM leader to officially endorse NJOC. Lieutenant Dewayne “DJ” Hooper '13, USN, a naval flight officer, serves as the NJOC-Air chairperson.

NJOC-Air developed rather seamlessly because Whitesell planned to establish the Junior Officer Leadership Council (JOLC) to help resolve the concerns raised each year at the Junior Officer Training Symposium (JOTS).

Hooper attended JOTS 2022. At the time, he was already serving as the Air Community liaison for all NJOC meetings. Hooper said NJOC “makes him proud to be a part of these important conversations about expanding the aperture of what we consider competitive in terms of leadership advancement.”



LCDR Adam Johnson '13, USN

“We have a problem if junior officers do not know what is going on in the Navy at the senior level until they become senior leaders.”

—Lieutenant Commander Adam Johnson '13, USN





PHOTO COURTESY OF NJOC

**LT Daniel Conley '07, USN, shows the Unified Breathing Mask prototype, which is designed to allow users to change survivability or emergency capabilities based on the situation. NJOC united behind the effort to get the innovative mask into production.**

NJOC aviators Spivey, NJOC Deputy Director Lieutenant Craig Veech '13, USN, and Hooper saw an opportunity to brief Whitesell about how NJOC could meet the needs of the Air Community in maintaining a communication window for aviators to share their concerns with Whitesell throughout the year. Whitesell already had a framework for his JOLC establishment.

NJOC was operating in this reverse-mentoring manner, helping senior leaders refocus on strategic leadership issues. Veech believes what is more important than just junior officers being able to share ideas with senior leaders is that “NJOC shows our leadership that we are bought in and support their mission. This trust and respect binds all levels of leadership together and provide great strength and effectiveness to our community.”

The naval air community was the first to endorse their sub-charter and will soon be followed by the information warfare (IW) community. The IW community is the largest group of NJOC members. Lieutenant Junior Grade Francesca Browne '20, USN, a cryptologic information officer, serves as the NJOC liaison for an 80-member NJOC-IW community.

“We have managed to attract incredible people who care, and they have helped me to be very optimistic about my future in the Navy,” Browne said.

She sees the value of having senior leadership explain “why things are the way that they are.” Through her connections with senior leaders, she said she is able to set up her junior sailors for success.

## COLLABORATIVE CULTURE AND CONSCIOUS

NJOC is established for, self-organized by and designed to help develop junior officers in line with the Navy’s culture and principles. Johnson has witnessed how NJOC has opened the eyes of junior officers to know what is going on above their heads.

“We have a problem if junior officers do not know what is going on in the Navy at the senior level until they become senior leaders,” Johnson said.

The lack of junior officer insight leaves a trail of unintended consequences. Spivey said too many junior officers are leaving the Navy without having a full perspective of their professional development.

“NJOC’s goal is to optimize the Navy’s talent and if we can’t retain talent, let’s make them ambassadors in citizenship and government,” Spivey said.

Lieutenant Commander Christina Danai '12, USN, serves as the NJOC liaison for the surface warfare officer community. She also manages the social media outlets for NJOC’s LinkedIn and Instagram accounts. She joined NJOC in 2020 when she was an instructor for the newly commissioned officers entering the SWO Basic Division Officer Course.

“When I began to network with my peer-to-peer relationships in NJOC, I started to value cross-designation connections that helped me meet the needs of my sailors,” Danai said.

Naval Junior Officer Counsel is a body of work representative of what matters to the junior officer. Johnson describes NJOC as more than just a collection of thoughts but also a decision of “making sure that all parties interested in a positive outcome (or avoidance of a negative one) are given the opportunity to invest in that outcome in an equitable way.”

The evolution of innovative ideas equips the Navy to remain resilient and less susceptible to defeat at a critical time in our nation’s history.

“It is a national security imperative for our leaders to evolve together,” Spivey said. “If we don’t evolve, then our adversaries will divide us.”

NJOC is modeling an inclusive environment to present different points of



view for the express purpose of maintaining elite warfighting readiness in the Navy.

### THE WAY FORWARD

NJOC has had to demonstrate grit. The junior officers leading this effort are certain there is more to do. U.S. Naval Academy alumni may support NJOC further by fulfilling the need for mentors and continued guidance from veteran and retired officers.

“NJOC would not be established if it were not for the relationships our core team formed with senior and wiser leaders, including our Naval Academy family,” Spivey said.

NJOC’s impetus exists whether the formalized charter does or does not. Junior officers have tangible counsel to give and to receive.

For active duty junior officers interested in getting on NJOC’s distribution list, email [NJOC@navy.mil](mailto:NJOC@navy.mil). 



PHOTO COURTESY OF LT CRAIG VEECH '13, USN

Members of the Naval Junior Officers Counsel met with RADM Julius Caesar '77, USNR (Ret.), and former Director, Navy Staff VADM Rick Hunt, USN (Ret.), at the 34th Surface Naval Association Symposium in 2022. RADM Caesar has provided mentorship to the group which includes LT Joel Robbins, USN; LT Daniel Conley '07, USN; LT Craig Veech '13, USN; and LT John-Rex Spivey '13, USN.

<sup>1</sup>Military Advantage. (n.d.). *U.S. Navy's Values and Missions*. Military.com. Retrieved 23 March 2023, from <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/navy-missions-values.html>

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# DADDY'S HOME

## COORDINATED EFFORT RESULTS IN FINAL REST FOR WWII NAVAL AVIATOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

By Gene H. Hughes, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Before shipping out aboard HORNET in the summer of 1944, Commander Frederick R. Schrader '35, USN, purchased teddy bears for his daughters, Judy and Barbara, knowing his deployment would prevent him from spending Christmas with his family.

The Navy officer, Naval Academy graduate, aviator, husband and father of two would not return—until nearly 80 years later. The effort received some assistance from a 2004 Academy graduate.

On 13 October 1944, Schrader, then-commander of Carrier Air Group (CVG) 11, was lost when his F6F-5 Hellcat fighter, belonging to Fighting Squadron (VF) 11, was shot down during an attack on Toko Seaplane Base on Formosa (now Taiwan). HORNET was one of 17 carriers taking part in the Battle of Formosa, 12-15 October.

According to his wingman, there was no sign of a parachute or that Schrader had been able to exit the aircraft before it crashed. Because he crashed in enemy territory, no rescue attempt was possible.

“I had just had my second birthday on September 18 and, at that point, had not seen him for several months prior because he was at sea,” Barbara said. “Our family consisted of my mother, Lucile, and my older sister, Judith, and I. We were living in Long Beach, CA, at that time. When my mother received the telegram on October 30 that his plane had been shot down and he was presumed dead, she gave us the bears.”

Born in Carbondale, IL, on 12 March 1913, Schrader grew up in Lawrenceville, IL, where he met a young

girl named Lucile. While attending the Naval Academy, the 6-foot-3-inch “Fritz” was a member of the rowing crew, played football and boxed.

According to the 1935 *Lucky Bag*, “with the fairer sex he gets along fine, although his real attraction is back in Illinois.” He would propose to Lucile, a replica of his class ring serving as the engagement ring.

Commissioned in June of 1935, he served in a variety of billets on NEW MEXICO; Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, FL; RANGER (CV 4); IDAHO; and NAS Alameda, CA. His squadrons included Fighter Squadron (VF) 4, Observation Squadron (VO) 3, commander of Scouting Squadron (VS) 2B and Fighter Squadron (VF) 3 before becoming the commander of CVG 11.

The War Diary of the HORNET contains the following entry for 13 October 1944:

“Strikes continue on the morning of the 13th against substantially the same objectives on Formosa. The same airfields were hit again and more planes destroyed. The destruction of the facilities at Heito and Reigaryo was continued ... the day was marred by the loss of the Air Group Commander Frederick Schrader by (anti-aircraft) fire. He was shot down while leading a strafing attack and his loss was a serious one since his leadership and work with the air group had been outstanding.”

The night before his final flight, Schrader spoke with one of his Helldiver fliers, Lieutenant Junior Grade Edwin “Big Ed” H. Wilson.

“Just last night he said, ‘tomorrow is my eldest daughter’s birthday and I am out to get her a good

After being listed as Missing in Action for more than 78 years, CDR Frederick R. Schrader '35, USN, was laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii on 13 April.



## FEATURE

present,” Wilson later wrote in his war journal. “Tough, as he was a pretty good gent.”

### Keeping the Memory Alive

The family moved back and forth from California to Illinois twice between 1944 and 1947, when Lucile made the move to Illinois a permanent one. Barbara said at the time of her father’s death, it was expected that Lucile would place the girls with their grandparents in Illinois and make a new life for herself.

“Instead, she chose to work and support my sister and me, and I love her so much for that,” she said. “My mother never remarried, and she wore and treasured her Naval Academy engagement ring her entire life.”

However, Schrader’s story did not end with his death. His body was recovered by Japanese forces in the area, taken to a local headquarters and inspected for possible intelligence value. He was buried as an “unknown” in Formosa. After the war, the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel. They searched Formosa for a year, but none of the remains recovered could be positively identified as Schrader.

Eventually, all the remains were repatriated to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii in 1949, and that same year, Schrader was declared non-recoverable.

Years passed. Judy and Barbara grew up, and their father’s service and love of country grew with them. Judy married a Navy officer who taught at the Naval Academy early in his career, while Barbara wed an Air Force officer.

Lucile died in 1984, never knowing that her beloved Fritz was actually buried in Hawaii in 1949. Her ashes were placed in the ocean off the coast of Hawaii, the closest the family could get to where they thought his remains still were—Formosa.

In 2009, both Judy and Barbara’s families began a search for information about Schrader, using the internet and available records. They were able to put together a timeline of his life, including duty assignments, ships he served on and his promotions.

Soon, others would also be looking into the life and location of Commander Frederick Schrader.

### Research and Discovery

In 2018, Naval Academy alumnus and naval flight officer Matt Robins ’04, USN, began conducting research into the fate of a naval relative. His father and maternal grandfather served as carrier-based naval aviators, and each had connections to Schrader—his grandfather during World War II (including Formosa, where Schrader was lost), and his father during Vietnam. Both served aboard HORNET.

As a carrier-based naval flight officer, Robins served in an E-2C Hawkeye squadron attached to Carrier Air Wing Eleven (CVW 11), which traces its lineage back to CVG 11, Schrader’s last command. Researching his own family eventually led Robins to an article about ongoing efforts to identify World War II MIAs, and the approximately 8,000 sets of unidentified remains—due to lack of forensic analysis—believed to be American service members buried in national cemeteries around the globe.

Through the Freedom of Information Act and assistance of private researchers, Robins obtained case files from AGRS documenting their recovery of fallen Americans from sites around Taiwan following World War II.

“The first of these case files that I began researching—designated Unknown X-136—documented the recovery of remains believed to be a U.S. Navy fighter pilot shot down over Taiwan in October 1944,” Robins said. “This file contained numerous intriguing details such as the date (13 October 1944), location (Toko Seaplane Base), circumstances (shot down by anti-aircraft fire) and, perhaps most importantly, the passage that the unknown aviator was ‘believed to be an Annapolis graduate.’”

The Annapolis detail greatly reduced the number of possible candidates—during World War II, only four Academy graduates were lost over Formosa. The details reminded Robins of a passage from a book he had recently read. Pulling it from the shelf, he confirmed how on 13 October 1944 while attacking a seaplane base on Formosa, an F6F Hellcat from CVG 11 was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

The pilot was listed as Commander Frederick Rutherford Schrader, Naval Academy Class of 1935.

Establishing an identity for Unknown X-136 was promising, but Robins knew that to build support for the case, he would have to create a list of American aviation casualties over and around Taiwan during the war. That had never been done, but would strengthen the circumstantial case that Unknown X-136 was indeed Schrader.

It was during the compilation that Robins encountered researchers and filmmakers George Retelas and Tim Hampton, descendants of World War II servicemen who had served in CVG 11 at the same time as Schrader. All three are also volunteers at the USS HORNET Museum in Alameda, CA.

“My wife’s great-uncle flew with Schrader while onboard HORNET,” said Hampton, CVG 11 historian. “He was shot down as well and declared missing in action. His aircraft went down over the open ocean with little chance of recovery. Helping bring Schrader home has been the opportunity to help bring closure to my family as well.”



**Barbara Canavan, daughter of CDR Frederick R. Schrader '35, USN, displays 'Teddy,' the stuffed bear her father bought her before departing aboard HORNET. Schrader was shot down over Formosa in 1944. His remains would not be identified until 2022. He was buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on 13 April, with three generations of his family, and Teddy, present.**



### A Positive Outcome

On 3 October 2022, Barbara received word from the Naval Casualty Office that DPAA had formally identified the X-136 remains as being those of her father.

"I got strong hints before I knew for sure, because I had been working and sharing information with the CVG 11 Research Group from HORNET for a couple of years," she said. "I knew we had zeroed in on a very possible match. When I attended the DPAA Family Member Update in Denver on September 10, I was told that Unknown X-136, whose remains had been buried at the Punchbowl in 1949, had been disinterred for comparison with my father's records. From the many smiles, everyone seemed fairly sure that there would be a positive outcome.

"It was a time of very high elation and yet great sadness as my sister was not getting to share this wonderful news with me."

Judy had slipped into a coma and was not expected to survive. She died on 1 October, never knowing her father had been found. As the newly designated next of kin for the family, Barbara waited for the official call from Navy Casualty, which came two days later. The family visit was scheduled for 11 January 2023.

"Chief Yeoman DeShannon Beaty and our Casualty Assistance Calls Officer Commander Jon Harbough came to our house and spent a good deal of time going through and completing all of the official paperwork and answering all of our many questions," Barbara said. "We are very thankful for all the help and friendship Chief Beaty and DPAA provided during this process."

### A Military Legacy Continues

Schrader's great grandson, Lieutenant Josh Patton '13, USN, who is Judy's oldest grandson and the son of a retired commander, is also a Naval Academy graduate and naval aviator, currently serving aboard JOHN C. STENNIS.

"I have been aware of my great-grandfather and his story since I was very young," he said. "However, I did not understand the magnitude of his service until I was in high school and began contemplating the Naval Academy. The only reason I had ever even heard of

"Helping solve this MIA case has been an unbelievable experience," Retelas said. "When I first set out to do this documentary, I never knew it could lead to something so special. Serving those who have served was my chance to give back. I know my grandfather is smiling from above."

For the next four years Robins, Retelas and Hampton examined historical records, contacted the Schrader family and provided the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) with forensic details of the case. Eventually, it was announced that the remains designated Unknown X-136 would be exhumed for formal identification.

"Research by DPAA staff in 2022 concluded that X-136 could be potentially linked to two casualties from WWII, Schrader and another pilot, Ensign Henry Ptacek," said Dr. Gregory Berg, lab case manager for DPAA's scientific analysis directorate. "The X-136 remains were exhumed from NMCP on August 11, 2022, and assigned the accession number CIL 2022-193."

According to Berg, the remains were somewhat poorly preserved, but they were in good enough condition to allow DPAA scientists to estimate sex, age, stature and note antemortem (before death) anomalies and perimortem trauma (at the time of death). So, overall, they were harder to work with than an average case, but they were not so poorly preserved that they could not affect an ID.

"The recovery and return of Commander Frederick Schrader's remains is a testament to the solemn vow our nation makes to bring all of our heroes home," said Admiral John C. Aquilino '84, USN, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. "As a fellow naval aviator, I am humbled by his sacrifice and honored to play a small role in Commander Schrader's return to the United States."

"Every identification is special to DPAA because it's the ultimate fulfillment of our nation's sacred obligation to the missing service member and his family," said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague. "In the case of Commander Schrader, research by a former naval flight officer led DPAA to pursue disinterment of a set of remains buried as a World War II Unknown. His identification is especially gratifying for his 80-year-old daughter and a 99-year-old chief petty officer for whom Commander Schrader was the air group commander."



## FEATURE

the Naval Academy was because of him. I will never forget walking into Memorial Hall on a Navy football recruiting trip and seeing his name. It was an incredible experience.

“It feels like closure and feels like his story is finally settled. I am also incredibly sad as my grandmother Judy passed away only weeks before they confirmed his remains. I know that would have been an incredible amount of closure for her that she never got. He died on her birthday when she was a little girl and that was very hard on her. She was able to carry his story to us and I am so thankful that I can be a part of his legacy.”

Patton was scheduled to separate from active duty on 1 June but will continue his service with Training Squadron (VT) 35 Squadron Augment Unit as a Reservist.

“I have always felt proud, but also very sad that I was never able to meet him,” he said.

### Final Rest

Since her father’s loss, Barbara’s bear, “Teddy,” has remained a beloved reminder of her father.

“Teddy has been a treasured part of my life—he represented my father to me, was a part of my childhood dreams of finding my father, and a comfort when I was sad or hurting,” she said. “For years he wore a bow tie of my father’s until it disintegrated from wear and old age. He made it through all of my own family’s military moves.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DAVID OWSIANKA, U.S. AIR FORCE

The family gathered in Hawaii at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on 13 April. Schrader, at long last, received his final resting place. Where once there was a number, there will forever be a name. Teddy, adorned with the gold wings of a Naval Aviator, was also there, a symbol of the undying love between a daughter and a father once lost, but now found. ⚓

*Retelas’ documentary film, “Eleven,” features 11 WWII veterans from Air Group 11 as they share stories with the grandson of one of their comrade-in-arms. It can be found at: <https://www.ElevenTheMovie.com/>.*

**Navy sailors assigned to Navy Region Hawaii move a casket during an interment ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI, on 13 April. Family members and service members attended the ceremony to pay tribute to CDR Frederick R. Schrader '35, USN, who was accounted for on 27 September 2022.**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA

# CALMING FORCE

## BUCK DEPARTS AFTER SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES AS SUPE

Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN, will conclude his Navy career at the same place it began although his perception of the Naval Academy is fundamentally changed after four years as Superintendent.

On 7 July, Buck will relinquish command as Superintendent on the Yard. Rear Admiral Yvette M. Davids '89, USN, has been nominated to succeed Buck. She was awaiting U.S. Senate confirmation at press time. Buck was sworn in as a plebe on 7 July 1979.

"I'm bookending my 44 years with four years upfront as a mid and four years at the end as the Superintendent," Buck said. "I have a very different perspective. The perspective of a midshipman is very different than the perspective of a Superintendent.

"Maybe, the joy of the Naval Academy when you are a midshipman is getting off the Yard and going to do your summer training, going on leave, spending time outside the walls because while you're a midshipman, it's tough. It's a grind. There are high





Naval Academy Superintendent VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, kisses the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy after the Midshipmen's 2019 victory over Army.

expectations on you. I can tell you as an adult, as Supe, looking back on it. This place is joyful when midshipmen are here.”

Buck's tenure as Superintendent began with the anticipated high-octane pace during the fall of 2019. Just as he was settling in for the spring semester, the Academy was rocked by two midshipmen deaths in February 2020. A few weeks later, Buck faced the uncertainty of unprecedented challenges with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By adapting and innovating, Buck's leadership team succeeded in graduating and commissioning the Classes of 2020 and 2021 on time.

Prior to returning to the Academy, the former naval flight officer served as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. Buck was commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force with U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets, Fleet Air Forward, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group; chief of staff, Strategy, Plans and Policy (J5), the Joint Staff; and director, 21st Century Sailor Office.

He spoke with *Shipmate* about his time as Superintendent, his advice for future Supes and what's next for him and his wife Joanne.

**Shipmate:** Your term as Superintendent will forever be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. What did it take to get through that challenge?

**VADM Buck:** My first six months was like a honeymoon. Joanne and I embraced (the busy schedule). We jumped into the deep end full force.

The bottom fell out in February 2020. It wasn't the onset of the pandemic, it was the loss of two midshipmen—Midshipman Duke Corrillo '22 and Midshipman David Forney '20. That was devastating. Joanne and I consider all these men and women at the Academy our sons and daughters. I feel I have a responsibility to their parents to look after them and care for them like a parent.

Just a few days after we buried David, the Brigade went on spring break. We all knew we needed a break. Joanne and I headed off the Yard to a place we enjoy for our privacy, time to think, time to heal and to grieve.

Right in the middle of our spring break, this thing called Coronavirus hit us. That changed the world. It changed our trajectory at the Naval Academy. It completely caused me to reset my strategic priorities for the Naval Academy.

I initially came in, I listened and learned. After about 100 days here, I developed my four strategic priorities that I would intend to focus on during my four-year journey here. Those were flipped on their head. I had to rewicker and rethink what my strategic priorities would be to run the Naval

Academy to keep it the premier officer accession source for the Navy and Marine Corps.

I came up with new strategic priorities. They turned out to be tactical priorities. They are the here and now. What do we need to do at this very moment to stay open, stay safe and keep all of us healthy but continue down the road of educating, graduating and commissioning? It was a huge change.

We lived with those strategic priorities for about a year and a half.

**Shipmate:** What was it like dealing with the uncertainty of the situation?

**VADM Buck:** There was no playbook. As us aviators like to say, 'we were building it as we were flying it.' I was hellbent that we were not going to close because the American public never expects its military to take a knee to any adversary.

I needed to have a little bit of decision space. I thought I needed two or three weeks to sort it out. We made a decision right away to notify every midshipman—who were spread out all over the world on their spring break—to not come back to Annapolis.

The Naval Academy had never taught a single thing online. There was no virtual environment here, no virtual processes, and I could not be more proud or impressed with the Naval Academy faculty—who on a dime, in five days—went from 0 to 60 and developed an online, virtual learning environment so as soon as the midshipmen were done with their spring break, we didn't miss a beat.



VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, with his wife, Joanne, makes remarks during a Legacy Reception at Ogle Hall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA&F



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA A&F

**VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, takes a moment to reflect on lost Academy alumni during a 2019 Honor Our Fallen Heroes event.**

You don't develop leaders online. We could not shift that to a virtual environment. They need to have a hands-on environment, a leadership laboratory. They needed to be present, so they have opportunities to lead—succeed or fail, debrief it and get back into the ring to try again.

Likewise, the faculty, staff and coaches—those of us that develop professional competence and their character—we, too, needed to be present. I'm very proud of the team to be able to make that switch as quickly as they did because the goal was still to commission and graduate the Class of 2020 on time at the end of May. That happened.

**Shipmate:** What lessons did you learn as Superintendent that might benefit your successors?

**VADM Buck:** The philosophical difference, the transformation the Naval Academy has gone through since I graduated in the 1980s. The change is from what we call an “attrition” model to a developmental model. That was lost on me. I didn't know we had changed during the 35 years I was out in the fleet.

If you go back and look at the attrition rate of the classes in the 40s, 50, 60s, 70s and even the 80s, classes had 25-35 percent attrition.

If a midshipmen got cross threaded with academic adversity or conduct problems or honor problems, they were more likely to be separated from the Naval Academy then retained. There came to be a realization that that's not a good return on our investment. It's a leadership laboratory.

These young men and women—predominantly 18-22 years old—are going to make mistakes. There should be some sort of time to develop them into the leaders of character we expect them to be after four years.

My 'aha' moment was when I put my father hat on. As my wife and I went through our journey of raising our two young

adults through the junior high, high school and college years ... when they made mistakes, neither my wife nor I ever kicked them out of the house.

So, why is this any different? The family is just bigger. The midshipmen make some of the same types of mistakes young kids do and now we have a developmental model. We know we're in the business of developing. It doesn't happen overnight. It happens over four years for some kids.

There is more of a second chance here. It depends on the egregiousness of your conduct or honor violation. For the most part, if it's your first mistake in life and it's not criminal, you're probably going to get a second chance. You'll be remediated and given an opportunity to grow. I, for sure, need my successors to know that's how we do business here.

The Academy's attrition rate is about 10 percent. We enjoy one of the nation's highest graduation rates.

The accusation might come out that this place is easier now. No, it's not. It's probably harder. We enjoy such a high graduation rate because of the generosity and philanthropy of so many people that now allows us to give resources to the midshipmen to help them. Resources that didn't exist in decades past. If you ask for help, you will receive help. We want you to graduate, we want you to commission and we're going to give you a chance.

**Shipmate:** The opportunities available to the Brigade of Midshipmen are unparalleled in terms of experiential leadership development, cutting-edge technology such as the cyber resources in Hopper Hall and access to world-class lecturers. How important was elevating those opportunities for the Brigade?

**VADM Buck:** They are truly unparalleled. We are in a competition for talent. We still enjoy the ability to go find and encourage the finest young men and women to serve their country by coming to the Naval Academy to earn their commission and earn their degree.

We need to continue to advertise ourselves as such as an institution that will have the ability to do that. We enjoy a four-year graduation rate. That's something that hardly any school has now. Many institutions of higher education advertise a five-year or six-year graduation rate. We do it in four years. It's hard and we have the resources to help you and we need those to persist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA A&F

**VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, joins the the Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps during an event in 2019.**



**Shipmate:** The Class of 1983 is responsible for giving CENTRAL AMERICA's bell a home on the Yard alongside the Herndon Monument. What does being part of that legacy mean to you?

**VADM Buck:** I am very, very proud of my class. I'm very grateful for the support and love I've received from all of them. They rallied around me in trying times. They came and celebrated with me and Joanne during good times.

The bell was donated by Dwight Manley and part of the historic Yard. It has a wonderful plaque associated with it that tells anyone who pauses to read it who Commander Bill Herndon was and what he stood for. They now can have a better understanding of why we—midshipmen and alumni—climb Herndon.

**Shipmate:** What's next for you and Joanne?

**VADM Buck:** We have fallen in love with Annapolis. We've made many great friends. We love every single aspect of Naval Academy life.

We're excited to learn more about Historic Annapolis that we haven't necessarily had time to do so. We've bought a house in the local area. We're also looking to transition to the state of

Florida. We'll probably have a footprint in both places. We have children in both.

It's safe to say the Naval Academy family and Annapolis family will see Joanne and Sean Buck here for years to come. ⚓



VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, and then-Commandant CAPT Thomas "TR" Buchanan '92, USN, celebrate a Navy football score with pushups.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA/AAKF

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Who can forget those exciting movie scenes of shipboard swordsmanship? From Douglas Fairbanks in *Captain Blood* to Johnny Depp and Keira Knightley in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, these films, however dramatized, portrayed a historical reality. In the days of fighting sail, blade-to-blade skill was a vital necessity when boarding, repelling boarders, fighting in a landing or cutting-out party ... and of course, defending one's honor in a duel.

Other edged arms—axes, cutlasses, pikes and bayonets—were typically wielded by enlisted crews. The sword proper was regarded as an officer's weapon.<sup>1</sup> No other sport, save perhaps sailing, harks back so directly to our common past both as seafarers and officers.





**Antoine Joseph Corbesier with the Navy fencing team in 1899. Corbesier started teaching fencing at the Naval Academy in 1865.**

# SWORDS OF NAVY

## ALUMNI BENEFIT FROM LEADERSHIP LESSONS INSTILLED AS FENCING TEAM MEMBERS

By Captain David Poyer '71, USNR (Ret.)

Swordsmanship, specifically the naval saber, was taught at the Naval Academy from the very beginning, as part of naval infantry drill. Formal instruction in fencing was first provided by Edward Seager, head of the Department of Drawing and “teacher of the art of defense,” beginning in 1850.<sup>2</sup> In 1859 a “Master of the Sword” was hired specifically to oversee that discipline.<sup>3</sup> From humble beginnings, the Naval Academy’s fencing program rose to national prominence and continues to provide midshipmen invaluable lessons of leadership and strategy.

Fencing became even more firmly established during the superintendency of David Dixon Porter (1865-69). “Porter had the first floor of Fort Severn converted into a bowling alley and the second floor into a gymnasium, complete with rooms for boxing and fencing. French-born Naval Academy Fencing Instructor Justin Bonnafous had instructed midshipmen in swordsmanship in the Department of Ordnance and Gunnery since 1862. In November 1866, Bonnafous was indicted by a grand jury for selling champagne and claret to a midshipman and his Naval Academy appointment was terminated.”<sup>4</sup>

Bonnafous’s replacement was Antoine Joseph Corbesier, a name that for nearly half a century was synonymous with superb Navy swordsmanship.

Born in Belgium, Corbesier served with the army of that country before emigrating. He started teaching in the U.S. in 1862, and Porter appointed him assistant sword master in 1865. When Bonnafous was fired, Corbesier moved up.

But edged weapons were being replaced by repeating firearms, even for those still inclined to duel.<sup>5</sup> The late 19th and early 20th century marked a time of transition. Officers still carried swords as personal weapons and marks of rank, and cutlasses were stocked on ships until World War II<sup>6</sup> and not officially declared obsolete until 1949.<sup>7</sup> As fencing evolved from a martial necessity to a sport, Corbesier kept pace, publishing two seminal volumes, *Principles of Squad Instruction for the Broadsword* and *Theory of Fencing: With the Small-Sword Exercise*. The first book instructed officers throughout the fleet in how to train seamen in the use of sabers and cutlasses in combat. The second addressed the need for formal instruction in fencing with the “small sword,” the ancestor of the modern epee.<sup>8</sup>

Corbesier was commissioned in the Marine Corps by special act of Congress in 1914. He died at the Naval Hospital in Annapolis, MD, in 1915, and lies in the Naval Academy Cemetery. Two World War II-era destroyer escorts were named after him.<sup>9</sup>

Corbesier not only coached the varsity team, but also tutored every midshipman in swordsmanship and what was called singlestick. This martial art used an ashen rod or cudgel ... kind of like an unpadded version of a Marine pugil stick.<sup>10 11</sup> Which sounds like good clean fun, if you like bruises and contusions.

Today, singlestick is forgotten and both broadsword and dueling are long gone. Fencing has become a refined and regimented sport, guided by





**Clovis Deladrier was an international fencing champion in foil and epee. He coached Navy fencing from 1933 until 1947.**

the rules of the International Fencing Federation, the Rules Committee of USA Fencing and the NCAA.

### A Fencer's Tool

The three “weapons” are foil, epee and saber (sabre). All are made from flexible, low-carbon steel, and have three components: the grip, the guard and the blade.

The foil is the lightest and most flexible blade, descended from the court swords European nobility employed for threatening one another, fighting over ladies, and other points of honor. It's light, long and supple, weighing less than a pound. A vest (the lamé) of flexible, conductive metal mesh and associated electrical equipment allows for transparent scoring. The face is protected by a mesh mask.<sup>12</sup> The mask and a conductive bib on the mask are electrically connected. Foil is the most popular version of the sport, at least in the U.S.<sup>13</sup>

The epee (“ay-pay”) is the same length as the foil, but the blade is heavier and much less flexible. The lamé is not worn in epee, and the epee mask is not electrically connected.<sup>14</sup>

The saber is descended from the commonly issued cavalry arm of the nineteenth century. Both the Marine “Mameluke” and the Navy uniform sword are sabers, though no modern competitor would use them in a match.

The tactics and mindset required to wield each weapon effectively differ, though they also overlap. The foil fighter concentrates on fine hand manipulation of the point due to the severely limited scorable areas of the opponent's torso. The epee fighter takes his or her time. They can spend minutes just feeling out a defense before venturing an attack. (These are generalizations; some very athletic foil and epee fencers use powerful lunges and very fast bladework to score their touches.) The saber fighter tends to be the most aggressive, preferring fast slashing attacks.

Unlike in the movies, where swordfights can progress up and down stairs or even while swinging from a chandelier, a fencing match takes place along a narrow length of matting called a piste or strip. Stepping off it earns a penalty, either a retreat or a point ceded to the opponent.<sup>15</sup>

A modern competitive fencer generally is introduced to all three disciplines, then specializes in one. All three emphasize fitness, speed and strength, of course. But even more strongly, they develop the ability to think ahead, anticipate what an opponent will do, and persist in action and reaction until the bout director (referee) declares a victor.

Today's successor to Antoine Corbesier is Captain Emil Petruncio '85, USN (Ret.). As a midshipman, he ranked among the top 20 epee fencers in the country. He capped his naval career with 12 years as a permanent military professor in the Academy's oceanography department. He began coaching and traveling with the

team in 2005. Petruncio explains the current divisions of the sport a little differently, concentrating on the means of scoring.

“Epees derived from the old dueling sword. It's a bit heavier. And it's a point weapon, in the sense that you score with the tip. That's true for foil as well. Saber is a slashing weapon, but you can score with either the point or the side of the saber. In epee, you can score by hitting anywhere from the head to the toe of your opponent. For the foil, the valid target area is the torso and for saber, anything above the waist is fair game.”

Fencing is currently a club sport at the Academy and is at its maximum authorized roster size of 36 members. Petruncio typically starts his new recruits in foil and then moves them on to other weapons from there, as he sees what they're best suited for.

“We've got talent in all three weapons on the Navy team,” he said.

### Family Tradition

During the interwar period and after, Navy fencing racked up some very impressive win totals.

There are 57 fencers included in the Naval Academy Athletic Hall of Fame, spanning the Classes of 1917 to 1994. These fencers were either selected as members of the U.S. Olympic, Pan-American or NCAA All American teams, or qualified as U.S. National Champion, NCAA or AIAW Individual Champion, Eastern Collegiate or National Regional Champion.<sup>16</sup> Edward Donofrio '73 was elected to the USA Fencing Hall of Fame in 2022 and will be inducted in a ceremony to be held in July. He will join Navy coaches Clovis and Andre Deladrier, foilist Lieutenant George C. Calnan, USN, Class of 1920, and saberist Alfonso Morales '60 as a member of the Hall of Fame.

One family name stands out from this period: the Deladriers. From Belgium, as was Corbesier, the first Deladrier to coach at the Naval Academy was Clovis. He arrived in this country in 1926 as an international champion in foil and epee. Clovis coached Navy fencing from 1933 until his death in 1947.

His son, Andre, joined the team the following year. During his years at St. John's, he became the only U.S. fencer in history to be named All-American in all three disciplines, foil, sabre and epee, in the same season.



Andre became Navy's coach in 1958, producing two NCAA team championships, six NCAA individual titles and 19 All-Americans. At the 1960 Olympics in Rome, he coached the U.S. fencing team, which included three Navy fencers (foilist Lieutenant Commander Joe Paletta '60, USN (Ret.), and Morales, and epee fencer Roland Wommack '59).<sup>17,18</sup>

Andre's son Richard, or "Rip," a two-time All-American in epee at Notre Dame, served as head coach from 1990-1991.

### Dominance Interrupted

But fencing at the Naval Academy cannot claim an uninterrupted history. In June 1993, after an 18-month study and a survey of the Brigade, it was suddenly announced that varsity fencing at the Naval Academy was over.

Nearly 60 All-Americans and a dozen Olympians? Only two losing seasons in 146 years?

It didn't matter, \$50,000 could be saved. In addition to reduced defense budgets at the end of the Cold War, the administration also cited a lack of interest within the Brigade as reasons for cutting fencing, pistol, volleyball and women's gymnastics (though women's soccer was moved up to varsity status).<sup>19</sup> Alumni rallied to try and save fencing, but to no avail.<sup>20</sup>



Ed Donofrio '73 gives advice to foilist MIDN Hannah Kenis '24. Donofrio was elected to the USA Fencing Hall of Fame in 2022 and will be inducted in July.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY FENCING

But the arc of the Academy seems to bend toward restoration. In 1995, Midshipman 1st Class Thomas Simeon Page Jr. submitted a request to revive fencing.<sup>21</sup> Around 1999, a small group began meeting for occasional practice in the brief period between dinner and study hall. Dick Oles (of the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays) gave them some lessons, and they went to local USA Fencing tournaments.<sup>22</sup>

As interest rekindled, fencing became an extracurricular activity in 2003. This let the team accept donations and get some support for travel. It took a while to rebuild. Interested midshipmen, as well as experienced alumni and volunteer coaches, pitched in to take the place of full-time professional coaching.<sup>23</sup> They included Buzz Hurst '62; Lieutenant Colonel Rob Black '63, NYNM; La Selle Booker '77; Lieutenant Commander Dick Richards '78, USN (Ret.); and Alan Whiting '79.

Foilist MIDN Hannah Kenis '24 parries an attack from Air Force.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY FENCING



In April 2004 the midshipmen competed at the collegiate level for the first time in years, beating Army and other teams at the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs championship at New Hampshire University, officer-repped by Captain Glen Sears '82, USN (Ret.), and captained by Commander Cody Lutke '04, USN.<sup>24</sup> Fencing was elevated once more, this time to a club-level sport, in 2012.

Alumni donations have gradually increased over the past 20 years. They now underwrite about two-thirds of the team's annual budget. With funds to equip the team and travel to competitions, a former titan of the fencing world was back ... with a vengeance.

## Return to Power

The fencing team starts training in September, beginning practice when the Brigade of Midshipmen reforms. Tryouts are held for newcomers. As a club team, fencing can't recruit. Petrucio stays in touch with prospective candidates and stays alert for applicants with prior fencing experience.

"Generally, we're training folks who have never picked up a sword before," he said. "And in the next couple of years, we're able to develop them into very competitive fencers."

Club competition isn't easy sledding. Navy fencers face opponents at the varsity level. Petrucio said the toughest varsity teams they routinely face are the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Stevens Institute of Technology. The New Jersey area is a hotbed for fencing, he said. Navy regularly competes against Rutgers, Cornell and Army. One of the toughest women's teams is Temple, a perennial powerhouse which often competes

at the NIWFA championships. Michigan, Florida, Texas, Cal Berkeley and Army are regular contenders at the club-level national championships.

"We always have spirited, close matches with Army," Petrucio said. "The men's team beat them three times in 2022, by scores of 15 to 12, 16 to 11 and 14 to 13, while the women's team lost twice."

Ensign James Henderson '22, USN, was part of the 2021 national championship squad. Henderson headed for AMERICA, out of Sasebo, Japan, following commissioning. He started fencing with the Indy Sabre club in Indianapolis.

"As a 10-year-old, I was really into the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies," Henderson said. "Fencing seemed like a one-to-one parallel, but once I started, I was amazed by the combination of the physical game of it, but also the mental game and how tactical you have to be on the strip to control what's going on."

He said a competitor can have the best technique, or be the strongest person participating but that does not guarantee victory.

"It comes down to the ability to anticipate what your opponent is doing, to read their body language, the flow of the bout, take all of that information and combine it with what you can uniquely bring to the strip, what your strengths are, then also being knowledgeable about your weaknesses," he said. "And you've gotta combine all that information and come up with a really creative solution. Not just once, but many times, so you can remain adaptable and ultimately win."

"I did reach out to the team before I came to the Academy. I was able to meet with team leadership, exchange emails with the coaches. So, coming in,





Foilist then-MIDN Cameron Smith '22 lunges against an Air Force opponent as referee Malcolm Patterson '75 looks on.

I already had a good idea of what the team had to offer, what the team was doing. And then as soon as I got through Plebe Summer and I saw the email for tryouts, I leapt at the opportunity.

"I scoped out fencing clubs close to Sasebo, where I'm going to be for the next three years. If it's in some city in Japan I've never been to, that's a great excuse for me to make a weekend out of it and explore the rest of that city. I can fence around the country and get a different idea of what the country's like primarily, the different styles of fencing and have a chance to fence more as well."

Ensign Monica Fleck '22, USN, selected Navy Air and hopes to fly helicopters. Fleck is a foilist. She won the silver medal in individual women's foil at the 2022 Baltimore-Washington Conference Championships and was a member of Navy's first place foil squad. In contrast to Henderson, she'd never fenced before entering the Naval Academy.

"I had gotten a chance to talk to one of the coaches when I came for summer seminar, the year before I came," she said. "So, I decided to try out and I made the team."

"I did ballet before I came to the Academy and I knew I wasn't going to continue that here. Fencing seemed like a unique and interesting sport, because it's about mental agility. That's something I've always wanted to work on. So, I thought the sport would fit me pretty well."

"I'll probably try to keep fencing, but I need to get myself the equipment—the uniform, the blades, the electrical equipment—and do some research into clubs in Pensacola. I have enjoyed the sport a lot, so I'd enjoy continuing it."

Second Lieutenant Sebastian Keefer '22, USMC, is from Washington, DC. One summer day during his preteen days at his grandmother's house in Germany—where his mother's side of the family comes from—he was bored.

"My mom decided to drag me kicking and screaming to a fencing camp," he said. "It turns out I actually really liked it. So that's how I got into it."

Keefer is a saberist. At the 2022 USACFC National Championships, he placed third in men's individual saber and helped Navy men's saber place third in the bruising team competition.

"What was most appealing to me was the aggression and athleticism required in combination with the skill and mental finesse you need," Keefer said. "Sabre's probably the most athletic and requires a more aggressive mindset of the three weapons. I value the friendships, a lot of good people I met here, but all these years of fencing under my belt has sharpened the way I think and the way I make decisions."

Keefer started at Basic School in September.

### Alumni in Action

Keefer said he is excited to return to the Yard for the annual alumni meet. The 40-year tradition pits alumni against the current team. This gives the midshipmen the opportunity to connect with the broader Navy fencing family and demonstrates



Naval Academy Superintendent VADM Sean S. Buck '83, USN, poses with the 2022 men's and women's epee squads.

## FEATURE

to alumni the strength of the current team. In 2022, it was the day after the Army/Navy/Air Force meet in April. The crafty alumni won 18-9.

That meet isn't the only way for graduates to continue in the sport. Petruncio said there are veteran age groups for 40 to 50, 50 to 60, 60 to 70, 70 to 80-year-olds. A Navy coach is fencing in the 80-plus category.

"It's a lifelong sport," Petruncio said.

And yet, not only a sport. Admiral Harry Harris '78, USN (Ret.), former commander, USPACOM and former ambassador to South Korea, credits it with far more. A varsity saberist from 1976 to 1978, he said fencing cemented values that served him throughout his life.

"Fencing instilled in me a sense of focused aggression, not just individually, but as part of a team, something that has been valuable to me throughout my career," Harris said.<sup>25</sup> ⚓

*Captain David Poyer '71, USNR (Ret.) is a novelist whose latest book is Arctic Sea. Visit his website at [www.poyer.com](http://www.poyer.com).*

<sup>1</sup> McGrath and Barton, *British Naval Swords and Swordsmanship*. Seaforth Publishing, Barnsley, 2014. Pg. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Email communication from Emil Petruncio, 8 May 2022 ("Petruncio").

<sup>3</sup> Note by Samuel Limneos of Special Collections and Archives.

<sup>4</sup> Limneos note attached to photo of Naval Academy Girls Fencing, 1890. Special Collections and Archives Division.

<sup>5</sup> Janine Peterson, "Navy Dueling," *Military History Magazine*, 3 January 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Petruncio

<sup>7</sup> Richard Meckel, "Swords," Naval History and Heritage Command, accessed 8 May 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Petruncio

<sup>9</sup> "USNA Fencing Team," <https://m.facebook.com/groups/2267538650?view=info&sfd=1>, accessed 4 May 2022; Limneos note, cited above; "Antoine Joseph Corbesier: An Appreciation," U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, May 1915; Wikipedia, "Antoine Joseph Corbesier," accessed 4 May 2022.

<sup>10</sup> "The Athletic Development at West Point and Annapolis," *Harper's Weekly*, 21 May 1892. Pg. 497.

<sup>11</sup> Wikipedia, "Singlestick," accessed 4 May 2022.

<sup>12</sup> This discussion is condensed from USAFencing.com, "Weapons," accessed 5 May 2022.

<sup>13</sup> "Fencing 101," < [https://www.blue-gauntlet.com/Fencing-101\\_ep\\_46-1.html](https://www.blue-gauntlet.com/Fencing-101_ep_46-1.html) >, accessed 6 May 2022.

<sup>14</sup> Petruncio, 8 May.

<sup>15</sup> "Stepping out of the Fencing Strip," Academy of Fencing Masters Blog, accessed 6 May 2022.

<sup>16</sup> "USNA Fencing Team"

<sup>17</sup> Petruncio, 11 May.

<sup>18</sup> "Rigors of Fencing Foil Navy's Coach," *Washington Post*, online, undated.

<sup>19</sup> Jerry Bembry, "Navy Cuts Four Varsity Sports," *Baltimore Sun*, 19 May 1993.

<sup>20</sup> Patrick McGuire, "Navy Fencers May Be Foiled by Budget Cuts," *Baltimore Sun*, 2 June 1993.

<sup>21</sup> Email dated 23 April 1995 from Brigade MISLO, Special Collections and Archives.

<sup>22</sup> Emil Petruncio, "Navy Fencing: Full Speed Ahead," *American Fencing*, Summer 2015, pg. 10.

<sup>23</sup> *Shipmate*, Class Notes, September 2001, Pg. 124.

<sup>24</sup> "Point Made." Brigade News, Trident, 16 April 2004. Pg. 3.

<sup>25</sup> *The Trident*, "USNA Fencing Team Takes On Alumni," 2 February 2016. Accessed 5 May 2022.



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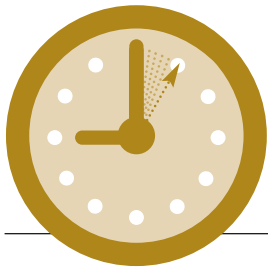
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## FIVE MINUTES WITH... THE HONORABLE JOHN H. DALTON '64

*This feature spotlights the extraordinary things being done by alumni in the Navy and Marine Corps and their unique, impactful achievements in the private sector and in their communities. Please send suggestions to [jimmy.debutts@usna.com](mailto:jimmy.debutts@usna.com)*

John H. Dalton '64 would not be denied his dream of attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

While his route to Annapolis was not direct from high school, his perseverance and assertiveness paid off. Dalton was assigned the position of first alternate after applying to join the Brigade of Midshipmen in the Class of 1963. The Shreveport, LA, resident spent a year at Louisiana State University before reapplying to the Academy.

To secure the requisite congressional appointment on his second attempt, Dalton took the bold step of requesting one from Overton Brooks. A family friend provided information on the Congressman's breakfast routine and Dalton approached Brooks at a local drugstore. His pitch impressed Brooks and resulted in the coveted appointment.

Dalton served on submarines BLUEBACK and JOHN C. CALHOUN during his time in the Navy. He entered the financial industry after his Navy service and worked in President Jimmy Carter '47's administration. He served as the 70th Secretary of the Navy under President Bill Clinton (1993-98).

In February, it was announced a new Virginia-class nuclear powered submarine would be named for Dalton. Earlier this year, he published his first book *At the Helm*. He shared with *Shipmate* how the Naval Academy influenced his life.

**Shipmate:** What first attracted you to the Naval Academy?

**Secretary Dalton:** I watched my parents sacrifice to send my brother and sister to college and decided that I didn't want to add to that. I was a good athlete and set a football scholarship as my goal. Unfortunately, in my sophomore year, I had a terrible knee injury which ended that possibility.

At about that time, an inspirational speaker came to our high school and said that he wanted his son to go to the U.S. Naval Academy because he thought that was the best overall education a young man could get. I said to myself, "That's what I'll do."

The more I knew about it, the more I wanted to go there. At home, I had instilled in me the values of honesty, perseverance and trust in God. My faith was always important to me, and I thought it was just the right fit.

**Shipmate:** How did the Naval Academy shape you?

**Secretary Dalton:** I learned the very important lessons of good leadership, rigor, work ethic, time management, prioritization and

compartmentalization. They have been helpful to me in every phase of my life.

**Shipmate:** How did the Academy shape your leadership style?

**Secretary Dalton:** I never forgot the mission of the Naval Academy, the core values of honor, courage and commitment and the always important belief in treating everyone with dignity and respect, which I had first learned at home.

**Shipmate:** What did you learn about leadership as a junior officer?

**Secretary Dalton:** I had the privilege of seeing good leadership demonstrated by the commanding officer, the executive officer and the navigator on my first submarine, BLUEBACK. Good leadership should be both strong and compassionate at the same time. We were the only ship in the Navy that had a wardroom of eight, and three made flag rank.

**Shipmate:** Navy morale was low at the outset of your tenure as Secretary of the Navy. How did you address that?

**Secretary Dalton:** That was a result of the Tailhook convention, the Naval Academy cheating scandal, Congress changing the law with respect to gays in the military and women in combat (which was a major culture shock for the Navy and the Marine Corps), the drawdown of the military as a result of the Cold War ending (which meant promotion rates were slower than normal) and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Each one had to be addressed individually, and I was very fortunate to have a superior group of civilians, Navy and Marine Corps personnel to help with that.

I stressed honesty and ethics in each decision. None was easy, but I did my best to treat each one thoroughly and fairly. When meeting with sailors and Marines, I always tried to present an upbeat outlook.

**Shipmate:** Share a bit about your role in creating the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership.

**Secretary Dalton:** After the Tailhook scandal and the cheating event at the Naval Academy, I knew we had a big ethics problem. The Class of 1964 published the book *Ethics for the Junior Officer* and gave it to every graduate from the Naval Academy for a number of years.

I gave then-Colonel Mike Hagee '68, USMC (Ret.), the assignment to create an Ethics Center at the Naval Academy. He did an outstanding job and later served as Commandant of the Marine Corps. □



# TRAINING GO-TO PILOTS FOR THE GO-TO FORCE

By Lily Hinz '11

When Lieutenant Commander Robert Newman '11, USNR, made the decision to transition from active duty to Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR), he did it for all the right reasons. "Transitioning to TAR was a fantastic career and lifestyle move for me and my family. We were able to PCS to our favorite location, NAS Whidbey Island, WA, and I was able to stay flying the aircraft the Navy trained me on back in 2013," he explained. But his motivation goes beyond basic personal and professional preferences. Despite the many misconceptions or lack of knowledge around the TAR community, they provide essential training to active-duty aviators. "With the active component relying more on Reserve aviation in recent years, it has been an important job to ensure our

selected Reservists are ready to go at a moment's notice."

On top of his transition from active duty to TAR, Newman also transitioned from the EP-3 to P-8. "Going from an older, legacy aircraft to one riddled with automation was eye-opening. The P-8 can fly faster and higher. It's quieter and can carry a larger payload. The ability to conduct air-to-air refueling has increased on-station times as well." Newman explained that it is challenging coming from an older airframe with few pilot aids to trusting an aircraft to fly automated, but the challenges are worth the adventure for him and his fellow P-3 to P-8 transition pilots.

Lieutenant John "Gil" D'Albora '16, USN, who is a fleet replacement squadron (FRS) instructor at VP-30 in Jacksonville, FL, joined the conversation right after he

and Newman finished running a simulator for P-3 to P-8 transition pilots at VP-69 in Whidbey Island. "The syllabus for P-3 to P-8 transition pilots is the same regardless of being active duty or Reserve. The logistics may be a tad different, but Reservists go through the same simulators, flights and classes that everyone else does. Reserve officers usually have unique career paths and life experiences, so it's always fun to get to know their story in and outside the Navy through training them," he said.

Both Newman and D'Albora have lots of stories to share from their deployments through the years. Newman has been to every continent besides Antarctica, and while it is hard to choose a favorite place, he is able to quickly identify a specific standout event. "Flying a patrol aircraft with a Chinese fighter jet off your wing is especially challenging and quite an experience," he mused.

For D'Albora, a standout event was when he and his crew tracked drug runners off the coast of Central America. "We flew out of El Salvador and worked with Coast Guard vessels and helicopters to locate and capture drug runners. The P-8 provided overwatch with radar and other sensors to vector Coast Guard small boats/helicopters towards smugglers. Seeing the Coast Guard helicopters and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams at work was really cool."

Newman's advice to anyone considering a TAR transition is simple, go for it. "The Reserve needs qualified, motivated people to ensure readiness for the future." ⚓

*Lily Hinz '11 works at Shield AI, a defense technology company in San Diego, CA, where she lives with her husband LCDR Brendan Hinz '11, USN, and two children.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY HINZ '11

LT John "Gil" D'Albora '16, USN, on the left with LCDR Robert Newman '11, USNR, standing in front of a P-8 at NAS Whidbey Island, WA.



# BRAVO ZULU

## 1970s

**'71: Col Robert D. Cabana, USMC (Ret.)**, was recognized by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots at its Annual Symposium last September. He was awarded the prestigious James Doolittle Award for his technical accomplishments while director of the Kennedy Space Center.

**'73: Steve M. Cohen**, who became a lawyer at 62, was named to City & State's "2023 Law Power 100: The Legal Eagles in the World of New York Politics."

**'74: The Honorable Donald P. Loren** was named Distinguished Professor of Practice by the National Defense University in Washington, DC, for his work as professor of National Security and Resource Strategy at NDU's Eisenhower School. Loren is a senior fellow at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, where he was inducted into the college's hall of fame for his 15 years of service to the joint students.



## Bass '00 Retires After Nearly 5,200 Flight Hours in T-6A

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Bass '00, USAFR (Ret.), made his final flight as a T-6A instructor pilot with the 5th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma on 24 March. His career concluded with nearly 5,200 flight hours in the T-6 Texan II.

The journey began in July 2005 when then-Navy Lieutenant Bass entered T-6 Pilot Instructor Training at Randolph Air Force Base, TX. He started his flight training as a Navy student in the T-37 Tweet at Vance. In the 2000s, a program existed where the Navy sent a few Navy students to Vance to fly the T-37, and the Air Force sent a few students to Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, for pilot training in the Beechcraft T-34.

Bass flew the E-6 Mercury, based at Tinker Air Force Base, OK. In the 2000s, Navy pilots selected to fly the E-6 were sent to Vance to train in the T-1A Jayhawk. In mid-2005, Bass was selected to be a T-6 instructor and return to Vance. His T-6A

journey began during pilot instructor training at Randolph AFB, TX, followed by three years as a Navy T-6 instructor with the Naval Air Training Unit at Vance.

He tried to switch to the Air Force Reserve after about the seven-year mark of his career. However, the Navy deployed him to the U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, FL, as an executive officer. For part of that deployment, Bass spent time at Camp As Sayliyah, Doha, Qatar.

In the summer of 2009, Bass officially joined the 5th Flying Training Squadron at Vance as a traditional Air Force reservist, working six days a month. Bass leaves a lifetime of memories as he transitions out of the Air Force.

"I'll miss the beginning rides with new students. And I'll miss the advanced rides as well," he said in a 30 March story on Vance Air Force Base's website. "I will miss the mentoring opportunities, not just in the cockpit, but in their day-to-day growth as an officer."

—Adapted from 71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs story [□](#)

## 1980s

**'86: VADM James Malloy, USN (Ret.)**, was named president and CEO of Catholic Charities in Washington, DC, in April. After a 36-year Navy career, Malloy retired in October as deputy commander of U.S. Central Command.

## 1990s

**'93: Gerald Raines** has joined the National Basketball Association as global head of event operations. Gerald was also selected to join the customer advisory board for Avis Budget Group rental car company.

**'98: John Cremins** was appointed in January as president of DTC Government Solutions, which operates under a Special Security Agreement. In this role, Cremins will be responsible for leading DTC's efforts to deliver essential mission critical equipment to end users in the government sector.

## 2000s

**'04: CDR Bradley Thompson, USN**, took command of Training Squadron SEVEN (TRARON 7) in April. Thompson served as VT-7's executive officer from January 2022 to April 2023.

**'08: CDR Arlen Connolly, USN; LCDR Katie Erwin, USN; LCDR Matt Galamison, USN; LCDR Ian Gill, USN; LCDR Mike Mullee, USN; LCDR Lauren Nelson, USN; LCDR Vic Schaefer, USN; and LCDR Chris Waddell, USN**, graduated from the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Schaefer was the class Honor Graduate.

**'09: Michael Collett** accepted a position at the personal injury law firm of Breit Biniazan, P.C. Licensed in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC. Collett will continue to serve the Mid-Atlantic community through the firm's Virginia Beach office.

## 2010s

**'15: LT Caitlin "Jenga" Perkowski (Petrofes), USN**, was a member of the first ever all-women aviation flyover team for Super Bowl LVII. She piloted her F/A-18F in the slot position of the four-aircraft diamond formation (two F/A-18Fs, an F-35 and an EA-18G). Perkowski, daughter of **Mike "Smurf" Petrofes '80**, is attached to the VFA-192 World Famous Golden Dragons in Lemoore, CA, and is currently deployed aboard CARL VINSON.

Do you know someone who deserves a Bravo Zulu? Send to [comms@usna.com](mailto:comms@usna.com).



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## 65/67 CLASS NEWS

whirled us all around central Florida!!! We spent a day visiting EPCOT and seeing the 'world'. Then it was off to Winter Park another day to tour the magnificent Tiffany exhibits at the Morse Museum. Winter Park also has eagles nesting on telephone poles downtown and they feed from nearby lakes. Amazing sight to see. Then we drove down the Florida coast to visit the UDT-SEAL museum at Fort Pierce. Fantastic visit and tour, and it was guided by a friend of Daws from his original UDT training class in 1966. Note the beautiful blue sky and sun in the photo. After two days it was back to Orlando to tour Universal City. Lots of rides and interesting exhibits. After a day of rest at the pool and playing shuffle board and ping pong, we drove north to The Villages to join 22 classmates and spouses for lunch at their country club. Following a week of healthy breakfasts with fruit and lots of Florida sunshine, we started home, and arrived safely 899 miles away!!!

From **Mich Henderson**, 25 March 2023

✉ The '65 Health Support forum is clicking right along; there are 221 signed up now. Here are a few of the topics being discussed (number of topics shown for each): VA benefits (33), Prostate/bladder (26), Parkinson's (12), Agent Orange (8), Brain (strokes, ADHD etc) (8), Care-giving (8), Long Term Care (8), Alzheimer's/Dementia (8), General (43). These and other topics are saved by topic so, for example, you can review all Prostate traffic in one place. If you want to join the forum, write me at [dace222607@gmail.com](mailto:dace222607@gmail.com) and I will send you an invite. The forum home page that you will operate from is here <https://usna1965.groups.io/g/Health>. Message volume is low so you won't get inundated, and you can deselect topics if you want. By the way, '66, '68, '72, and '73 now have their health support in place or starting up. We hope (fingers crossed) that the Alumni Association will add Health Support to their charter and Strategic Plan and hire support folks like West Point has already done. All class presidents know about our efforts. Better Health to you all!

Lotsa ink here about Phil Ferrara's exploits. That's because his reports were news I could use in our columns and way too few of you lurkers - who read *Shipmate* or subscribe to our Wardroom eForum - seem able to get off your posteriors to send me or post an update on what you've been up to, your current family situation, activities, plans, classmates visited, et al. I can only report on what I get from you guys. So, hint, hint - take 5-10 minutes and send me or post something to the Wardroom site on your status. Please. And thanks to those who do sorta regularly check in: Ted Nanz, Dave Miller, Doyle Borchers, Mitch Henderson, and a few others.

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

## '66

**Life Membership: 66%**  
**Donor Participation: 5.74%**

Pres: **VADM John "Scott" Redd, USN (Ret.)**  
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Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**  
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Website: [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org)

Summer is upon us; at last. I hope everyone's finally recovered from the epic winter we've just experienced. There isn't a great deal to report this month, but here's what I've received.

**Robin Bellas** hosted the Kaye family to commemorate **Tom Kaye**. Jan Kaye and family visited the Bellas family in Kailua from San Diego the weekend of 4-6 March, to spread Tom Kaye's ashes at Makapu'u Beach on Oahu. Thanks to **Harry Thaete** (all of us were 8th Company Plebes in 1962), an initial spreading of Tom's ashes occurred at the Herndon Monument during our Class of 1966 55th+1 reunion last year in Annapolis. We celebrated Tom Kaye's life over a luncheon at Goen restaurant in Kailua. It was a wonderful occasion to tell stories and help provide some closure for the family. Rest in Peace, Shipmate. Robin also provided the picture below of the Kaye family. The first row includes son Tom in the blue Aloha shirt, daughter Liz in the red top, and wife, Jan Kaye, in the blue shirt to the right. Liz's husband Rich is on the left of the second row with local friends to his left. Thanks, Robin. Great report.



**THE KAYE FAMILY IN MAKAPU'U BEACH, HI**

**Skip Stephenson** checked to report that he is still scuba diving. He provided a picture of himself and his 12-year-old grandson, Gavin, at Turks and Caicos in the Caribbean in February 2023. That's a terrific way to escape the winter cold. Thanks, Skip.



**SKIP AND GAVIN SCUBA DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Pete Barnett** advised me that **John Savage** (8th Co.) died on 13 March 2023 in Midland, TX. Details of services are in work. John's ashes will be interred in the USNA Columbarium at a future date. Beth Kokoruda informed me that her father, **Dave Kokoruda** died on 24 March. Details were not available. Please keep Carol Savage and family and Molly Kokoruda and family in your prayers.

In closing, a couple of reminders for you. First, the final Class luncheon for 2023 will occur on 9 August at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. Specifics will be provided in an email and on the Class web site a few weeks prior to the event. Second, don't forget to use the Class web site as a key source of information about Class events and news. That's it for this issue. Until August, All the best, Mike!!!

## '67

**Life Membership: 76%**  
**Donor Participation: 7.42%**

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

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNece, USMC (Ret.)**  
1603 John Worthington Way, Crownsville, MD 21032  
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As the Class Scribe mentioned in the last column, he needed a guest columnist for the June issue of *Shipmate*. He chose expediency over talent. He knew I have difficulty saying NO! So, here goes....

Every year in early February, the USNA Alumni Association's RV Chapter has a Comearound at Truman Annex Beach in Key West with upwards of 20 RVs showing up for a week of fun and camaraderie. '67 usually rules the attendance list. This year's '67 attendees were: Stevie and **Hank Giffin**; Patti and **Jay Williams**; Elizabeth and **Mike Currie**; 'Nita and **Jack Parry**; Barbara and **Bill McCracken**.

**Jerry Beavers** and **Paul Watkins** made the journey out to Denver to support 8th Companymate, **Ed Meintzer** for the funeral of Ed's wife Kay.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Alabama

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### South Alabama Chapter

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### Southern Arizona Chapter

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After a long, pandemic-induced hiatus, the Southern Arizona Alumni Association Chapter has started to return to more normal operations. In December, the Chapter donated \$500 to the USNA Parachute Team to support its participation in an annual competition in Eloy, AZ. Chapter Treasurer **John McCarthy '76** and past Chapter President **Herb Fauth '67** represented the Chapter at the competition in December.



Chapter Treasurer John McCarthy '76 (L) and USNA Parachute Team Alumni Rep Kirk Michael '72 at the Parachute Competition in Eloy, AZ

In February, 21 chapter members and their spouses attended our first luncheon in over three years. The guest speaker was **Kirk Michael '72**, one of the Alumni Representatives for the Naval Academy Parachute Team.

## Arkansas

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### Arkansas Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Andy Harrell**  
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Sec'y: **LTJG Nicole Uchida '12, USN**  
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### Republic of Korea Chapter

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### Tokyo Bay Chapter

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## California

### Los Angeles Chapter

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Vice President: **Paris Scott '12**  
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BGO Area Coordinator (Riverside/San Bernardino):  
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Hello Shipmates,

There is a lot going on in the chapter right now. First, we have completed our transition to the new MyUSNA.com website. We are no longer using Alumni Magnet. To stay in touch, you need to go to MyUSNA.com, activate your account, login, and join the Los Angeles/Orange County Alumni Chapter. Aside from receiving updates via email, you will also be able to see a complete list of all of our events for the year in one place. Please consider becoming a member as memberships help us help our members by putting on great events.

Congratulations to our new Vice President, Mr. **Paris Scott '12**. While at USNA, Paris was a proud member of 21st Company and the Marathon Club. After graduation, Paris was selected as a submarine officer where he served onboard the USS JOHN WARNER before separating in 2017. He now works as a Senior Engineer at Edward Lifesciences. Welcome Paris!

We had our quarterly In-Person Happy Hour and Board Meeting on 8 March at Salty Bear Brewing in Costa Mesa and were honored to have Mr. Brian O'Hare as a special guest. He read us two chapters from his award-winning book, "Surrender." We then finished with a short Q & A. If you have not picked up a copy of "Surrender," we highly recommend it. Thank you Brian for joining us!

### Upcoming Events:

**14 June:** Happy Hour/Board Meeting

**12 July:** Board Meeting (Zoom): Open to all alumni

**9 August:** Board Meeting (Zoom); Open to all alumni

**17 August:** San Diego SACC 2023

\*Make sure to check the MyUSNA website where you will find all the information you need for upcoming events.

Go Navy!!! Beat Army!!!

## SHIPMATE

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## Monterey Bay Chapter

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 Corr Sec'y: **Steve Tackett '87**  
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## Sacramento Chapter

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 Treas: **Alan Abbs '91**  
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 Treas: **Jack Everett '64**  
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 Past President: **Dennis P. Joyce '61**  
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 BGO Area Coordinator: **Lauro Aguila '81**  
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We're in our normal routine of monthly breakfast, lunch, and happy hour but always looking for other events and activities to improve participation including business networking, golf outings, community volunteering, wine tasting, and always working with our Parents' Club and the Air Force and West Point alumni groups.

In March, **Alan Abbs '91**, his wife Beverly, and **Brian Grubbs '92** attended the local West Point Society of Northern California Founders Day Event at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento.



**Brian Grubbs '92, Beverly and Alan Abbs '91**

During Spring Break, Navy Tennis traveled to 'not-so-sunny' Southern California for what was to be a five-match trip but due to weather two of the matches were canceled. California needs the rain, but we seem to be getting it all at once. **Lauro Aguila '81** made the trip to San Diego to cheer on the team and support our Sacramento area **Herrick Legaspi '26**. Herrick's parents, brother, and sister also attended and in spite of the weather, enjoyed the few days on the west coast.



**Left to right: Susie and Lauro Aguila '81, Herrick Legaspi '26, George (father) and Hermont (brother) Legaspi (missing from photo- Rose Legaspi (mother) and Herzyl (sister))**

**1st Friday:** Every 1st Friday at 7:30 AM, we've been meeting at Black Bear Diner for our monthly breakfast meeting. This is very informal, but always fun to get together, share a few stories, do some planning for the chapter, and then on our way. We welcome anyone from the area or just passing through to stop in and join us. Black Bear Diner, 7935 Madison Avenue, Citrus Heights, 7:30-9:00 am.

**2nd Wednesday:** We added a monthly lunch event on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 AM at Brookfield's, 4343 Madison Avenue, Sacramento.

**3rd Thursday:** A monthly Happy Hour was added last Fall on the 3rd Thursday; we tried different venues and agreed on Clubhouse 56, 723 56th Street, Sacramento, 5:00-7:00 PM.

Our VP, Brian Grubbs '92, is sending monthly emails for reminders and updates to our calendar. You might see the subject changed from just Navy to "All Academy" events as we are including Air Force and West Point. If you don't get those emails and would like to be included, let one of us know. We continue to work on transitioning to myusna.com for all of our communications and networking. If you're in the area and would like to join us, just show up.



**One more from San Diego trip, Hermont and Rose Legaspi and Susie and Lauro Aguila '81**

## San Diego Chapter

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 BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Philbrook '83**  
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It has been a very rainy and unusual month in San Diego since our last input just over a month ago. Not only has the rain been frequent here but it has been unusually cool. Not exactly the weather San Diego is known for throughout the country. However, we need the rain and it's helping us move to a normal status with respect to a long drought.

We were fortunate to have Mr. Alex Montoya as a guest speaker for our March lunch. Alex is a graduate of Notre Dame and is an author and motivational speaker. Alex did not come alone. We invited as many "Domers" as we could find to attend as our guests and had a terrific turnout of both USNA and ND grads.

Alex is a popular and inspiring speaker.



**Alex Montoya speaking at the March USNA San Diego Chapter Lunch**

He has written six books and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Diego Hispanic Chamber and a Medal of Honor from the Colombian government. He earned a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and a master's

degree from the University of San Francisco. He also carried the Olympic Torch in the most recent games here in the U.S. Alex has accomplished all of this despite being born without arms and one leg. He was a truly inspiring speaker.

We were also honored to have some of the USNA Track Team and coaches as our guests. Whenever the team comes west to practice and participate in meets we are standing by to assist in whatever way we can to support Navy athletics.



**Visiting members of the USNA Track Team**

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# CHAPTER NEWS

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

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Treas: **Brian Frack '89**  
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Paul Kepner '04, USN (Ret.)**  
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Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnaaasfbayarea>

Instagram: @usnaaa\_sfbaychapter

BGO Area Coordinator: **Bob Garcia**  
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## Santa Barbara Chapter

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Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/usnaalums\\_santabarbara/](https://www.instagram.com/usnaalums_santabarbara/)

## Colorado

### Colorado Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator (Denver):  
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Hello fellow Colorado Alumni,

As we leap into Summer, hope this finds you all safe and well. Hopefully many of you attended our annual Arleigh Burke Dinner on 28 April, pictures from the event will be in the next issue. We are always looking to set up more events around our state so if you have any ideas for meet ups or outings with fellow alumni please reach out to the Chapter and we can help get the word out. Short and sweet this month so go out there and enjoy all the beauty Colorado has to offer and look forward to seeing you on the trails. Go Navy!

*Matt McLaurin '92*

### Colorado Springs Chapter

Pres: **LCDR John Sledgianowski '87, USN (Ret.)**  
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## Connecticut

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Treas: **Tom Hogsten '85**

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Meeting Chairman: **Vacant**

Website: <http://connecticut.usnachapters.net>

Naval Academy Parent Club of CT  
Website: <http://ct.usnaparents.net>

Aloha Shipmates!

This issue of *Shipmate* should arrive in early June, after the Blue Angels flyover, after the climbing of Herndon, after graduation and for many Midshipmen a bit of leave before The Summer Activities (once called Summer Cruise).

But maybe not the MOST looked forward to of all events for those graduating and departing for Navy and Marine posts far away, but there were several that will be remembered fondly many years later:

\*Bestowing the first dollar bill upon that person who gave the first military salute after the donning of the Officer boards on the shoulder. For me that was my Dad, whose guidance and encouragement resulted in my acceptance to USNA.

\*Saying goodbye to the last room in Bancroft Hall.

\*Having your last meal in King Hall.

\*Packing up all your belongings and having them sent off to your ...home? Next duty station? Parent's home where you may visit for a spell?

And how did you pack those items that used to be in your lockers? In my case, back in 1967, we were provided a Cruise Box. And this may still be the case (please advise). Mine was about 40"x20"x19" and made of sturdy plywood.

Handles on the sides. That robust container has followed me to each home as I traveled. It served as my living room coffee table during the first six months of marriage and currently is a storage container in the barn. For some of my peers they didn't last through the last Consolidation and Slimming Down of Stuff, but few simply fell apart.

Sad though it is, but an interesting development in the Changes with time... Out President **Alan Weigel** reports that the Class of '79 did not have Cruise Boxes but were only issued Sea Bags! '67 had Sea Bags for the Midshipman era, but graduated to the Cruise Boxes...

For the Connecticut folks, the coming summer should provide Summer Cruise sailing by the Sailing Squadron, and visits to Stamford

Yacht Club (16-19 June) Mystic Seaport (14-17 July), and Greenwich Yacht Club (17-20 Aug)- then back to the Yard for the Next Year!! Always an enjoyable event to welcome them to New England!

And although Offshore Sailing has been one of the activities at least since my days, many of the other summer events are modified significantly over the years. This is due to several factors which include significant expansion of involvement in studies in foreign countries and the reductions in the number of ships- which constrains the broad involvement of them as the core of Summer Cruise.

Think back to your USNA Summer Training adventures... for President Alan this one is Special:

\*Summer Cruise 1976, USS JULIUS A. FURER (FFG-6). Charleston to NYC for the Bicentennial Parade of Ships and Presidential Review. Largest allied naval review since WW2. Standing radar watch in CIC tracking three long lines of ships all heading for Ambrose light. Entered thru the Verrazano Narrows, past the Statute of Liberty to turn around at the George Washington Bridge. Then liberty in NYC in uniform. Couldn't walk two blocks up Broadway without being stopped to have my hand shaken. Could not pay for my own drinks. Dramatic change in post-Vietnam attitude.

For your Scribe:

\*Youngster Cruise- Learning to be a Sailor (fire brigade and landing assistance topside, lookout on the O-10 level, CIC radar, painting, boiler watch...) on aircraft carrier USS ESSEX crossing the North Atlantic (in some Really heavy weather sometimes). However, port calls allowed thorough visits to Copenhagen, London and Paris! (In uniform we could not pay for our own drinks either).

\*Second Class Summer- Opportunities to fly aircraft in Pensacola, helicopters and other aviation in Jacksonville.... Then doing Marine activities in Quantico and storming a beach from transport ship to Mike Boats to the beach with rifle near Virginia Beach.

\*First Class Cruise (Junior Officer watches) on DDG, FFG in the Med. with one busy day shooting guns at an excess French aircraft carrier, along with many Other NATO ships, subs, and planes. Despite all day of rotating duty, the only impressive damage was caused by the diesel submarine torpedoes at the end of the day that sank the vessel. (Career choice????)

Looking for information you have that I should share with Shipmates. For example, what were your most interesting or exciting Summer Activities? Send to [DavCandler@aol.com](mailto:DavCandler@aol.com).

*Dave Candler '67*

## Costa Rica

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### Costa Rica Chapter

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## Delaware

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### Delaware Chapter

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## Florida

### Gainesville Chapter

Pres: **Vacant**

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### Greater Miami Chapter

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Tampa Bay Chapter: USNAAA President & CEO Jeff Webb '95 briefs a full house at the February chapter meeting

### Palm Beach Chapter

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### Pensacola Chapter

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Co-Pres: **Joey Walker '02**

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### Space Coast Chapter

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Second Vice Pres: **George "Bo" Hamrick '79**  
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### Tampa Bay Chapter

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### VISIT FROM JEFF WEBB '95

In February we were very pleased to welcome **Jeff Webb '95**, President & CEO of USNAAA and **Sofi Loomis '99**. Jeff provided an update on the Alumni Association and in particular the new building. They also took the opportunity to present the chapter with mementos honoring our third consecutive designation as a **Distinguished Alumni Chapter**. Also, guests were Lynn and **Rocky Goins '84**, President of the Tulsa Chapter.

### COWBOY UP!

The chapter introduced a new "Sunday Social" event to ward off the dark ages. Hey, I know that it doesn't get very dark age-y in Florida, but it's worth acknowledging! Over 40 cowboys and cowgirls took a day out at the beautiful James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg. Museum Director **Laura Hine '97** graciously hosted the tour; members dispersed for dinner afterward. Saddling up were **Chris Heath '72**, Judy and **Bill Graham '72**, Bonnie and **Allen Goins '61**, Lynn Flinn and **Rocky Goins '84**, Kelly and **Jonathan Shannon '02**, Pat and **Warren Hahn '60**, Donna and **James Hamm '84**, Mike Zabel and **Jane Lochner Marti** and **Doug Berry '69**, **Bud Alexander '56**, **Steve Swift '87**, **Mike Edwards '99**, **Jose Sanchez '07**, **Fallon Arnold '18**, **Jose Fernandez XX**, **Rob Brown XX**, **Cleo Ekladyous** and **Jon Bayless XX**, Mary and **Austin Gullett '03**, Kate Mason and **Brian Tsai '16**, **Becka** and **Bill Kopp '69**, **Hank** and **Laura Hine '97**, and **Sandy** and **Ollie Donelan '63**.



## CHAPTER NEWS



L-R- Chris Heath '72, Laura Hine '97, and Jane Lochner '84 enjoy the Western spirit at the James Museum tour and Social

### SPRING PICNIC BRINGS ENTHUSIASTIC CANDIDATES AND FAMILIES

Over 100 high school candidates and their families joined our great chapter members for our annual spring information picnic. We flipped some burgers and served up brownies while proving valuable information on USNA and the Admissions process. BGO and Area Coordinator **Steve Swift '87** provided the main course of information, and the event was highlighted by a panel of current Midshipmen who shared their spring break time. Several remembered when they were part of the crowd!



High School students and families line up to check in with BGO Steve Swift '87 for our popular Candidate Information Picnic

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings provide a spirited forum for planning, networking, and socializing. Recent participants include **Jane Lochner '84**, **James Hamm '84**, **Jack Plunkett '70**, **John Miles '93**, **Duane Lafont '78**, **Gary Polansky '69**, **Brian Tsai '16**, **Jonathan Shannon '02**, **Austin Gullett '03**, **Chris Thompson '92**, **Paul Matthews '85**, **Matt Packard '06**, **Miller Detrick '63**, **Bill Graham '72**, **Warren Hahn '60**, **Perry Dempsey '72**, **Tom Repeta '72**, **Mark Schramm '72**, **Chris Heath '72**, **Mike Stocks '72**, **Sean Harper '15**, **Jon Connelly '05**, **Tom Draude '62**, **Fr. Tim Corcoran '67**, **Tom Hartline '81**, **Steve Swift '87**, **Don Aiken '78**, **Janel Brown '97**, **Joe Wendt '93**, **Jonathan DeSimone '13**, **Derrick Clark '98**, **Eric Kennington '88**, **Peter Damisch '75**, **Fallon Arnold '18**, **Clay Robinson '96**, **Doug Berry '69** and new member **Jonathan Kirsch '95**. Welcome aboard!

Watch for information to sign up for these future events -

### Future Events

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month
- 20 May Army-Navy golf match
- 24 June All-Academy Tampa Bay Rays baseball game

Our social media links are in our header. Don't forget to enroll on MyUSNA.com, our new all-service platform, and join the Tampa Bay Chapter.

Everything's great in the Sunshine State!

*Chris Heath '72*

## Georgia

### Atlanta Chapter

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**Deborah Catrini**

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BGO Area Coordinator (Southern Georgia): **Ryan McDonel**

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Atlanta is back!

The Atlanta Chapter resumed our monthly luncheon series in March. Our speaker for this inaugural meeting was CAPT **Woodrow "Woodie" Vaughan '64 (Ret.)**. Woodie regaled us with anecdotes from his two attempts to summit Mt. Everest. He outlined the arduous process that climbers must go through to acclimate to the high altitudes – a process which takes over a month. He described the harrowing experience of crossing huge chasms using an aluminum ladder. At first, he wasn't sure he had the nerve to even try to cross. Then, just as he began his first few tentative steps, he had to backtrack to avoid the oncoming yaks.

Woodie almost achieved the summit on his second attempt – he estimates he was within 600 vertical feet of the top. However, his strength was giving out, and he knew he still had to make the descent. Once he made the decision to turn back, his guide commented that he made the correct decision: "Getting to the top is optional, but getting down is not!"

Woodie closed with stories of taking his granddaughter climbing all over the world. When she was 10 years old, he took her to visit Everest base camp. Even outfitted with her own backpack, she was more than capable of keeping up with the adults around the camp. To say that Woodie was a proud grandpa would be an understatement.



March luncheon attendees



March luncheon attendees



Guest Speaker "Woodie" Vaughan '64

Plans for the next chapter luncheon are currently being drawn up, and Chapter President **Dante "DJ" Marzetta '94** will send out emails as they are finalized. There are also plans in the works for a large summer gathering at Lake Allatoona. The gouge on these and other meetings will be posted on the chapter website. All Atlanta-area alumni are welcome!

## Hawaii

### Hawaii Chapter

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# Idaho

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## Northwest Chapter

Pres: **Peter Optekar '63**  
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 Sec'y: **Travis Williams '16**  
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A high risk group of skiers from the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Alumni Assoc. celebrated a Bluebird Day at Lookout Pass Ski Resort on the Idaho / Montana border. Off the chairlift, skis pointed downhill, our alumni topped out at 50 mph plus! At noon Travis Williams (2016) took off his ski goggles and put on his chef's cap, cooking up elk burgers served with a cold beer. A Perfect Day! Pictured (left to right): **Pete Optekar '63, Brad Little '76, Travis Williams '16, Darin Perrine '90, Daniel Furbush '11, Lauren Furbush '11 and Walter Finney '91.**

## Southern Idaho Chapter

Pres: **Andrea Hovey '03**  
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 Vice Pres: **Paul Campbell '98**  
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 Sec'y: **Rufus Taylor '66**  
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 Treas: **Dennis Hanrahan '68**  
 e: dennisdannyehanrahan@gmail.com  
 Idaho Parents' Club President: **Nicola McIntosh (Luke '24)**  
 e: themacs97@hotmail.com

Greetings all. Congratulations to the newly minted USN ensigns and USMC second



Southern Idaho Chapter: Three cheers to those we leave behind. Hip Hip; Hip Hip; Hip Hip...HOORAY! (Stock photo, Public domain)

lieutenants of the USNA Class of 2023! A special salute to the graduates from Idaho. They are Ensign **Mason Rahimi '23** headed for Pensacola, Florida and Navy Air; USMC 2nd Lts. **Cole Roske '23** and **Mary Beckett '23** headed to Quantico, Virginia and Marine ground; Ensign **Justice Mermerian '23**, surface warfare, headed to the USS RAFAEL PERALTA (DDG 115), home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan. Wooo-Hoo!

The cycle continues as the USNA Parents Club of Idaho will be hosting the annual Welcome Aboard/Plebe send-off picnic in mid-June for the entering Class of 2027.

The Southern Idaho Chapter (SIC) meets monthly. Alumni and their spouses/SOs living in or visiting the Boise area are invited to join us. If you would like information about SIC activities, contact **Rufus Taylor '66** at tincansailor980@gmail.com

# Illinois

## Chicago Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator (Southern, IL): **Gene Marquez**  
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## Chicago Chapter Luncheons

The Chicago Chapter has had a couple of great lunches during the month of March and several alumni attended the first downtown luncheon with ADM Richard Correll, Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, out of Offut Air Force Base, near Omaha, NE. ADM Correll spoke about our strategic arsenal and the importance of our land, sea, and air nuclear deterrence capabilities. He provided an overview of how his Command enables Joint Force operations and is the combatant command responsible for strategic deterrence, nuclear operations, nuclear command, control and communication enterprise operations, joint electromagnetic spectrum operations, global strike, missile defense, analysis and targeting, and missile threat assessment. He spent a significant amount of time explaining how our

submarine force has been performing and its importance to our strategic deterrence. The Class of '64 was well represented with **Mike Murray, Jack Mumaw** and **Len Wass**. Additionally, **Fred Weber '75, Chris Bertucci '11** and LT **Mike Dennison '16** were present for this very informative talk.



**Fred Weber '75, Chris Bertucci '11, ADM Correll, Jack Mumaw '64, Len Wass '64 and Mike Murray '64**

The next luncheon then took place on 9 March with the release of Secretary John Dalton's '64, new book *At the Helm: My Journey with Family, Faith, and Friends to Calm the Storms of Life*. Again, the Class of '64 was well represented with Mike Murray, who was John's Naval Academy roommate and Don Gibbins, who was also a company mate of John and Mike's. Also hearing some of John's sea stories and learning about how the book came to fruition were Fred Weber '75, **Joe Wright '85, Eric Sucharski '91** and **Jamie Nero '02**.



**Jamie Nero '02, Joe Wright '85, Fred Weber '75, John Dalton '64, Mike Murray '64, Don Gibbins '64, and Eric Sucharski '91.**

Stay tuned for more exciting things happening with the Chicago Chapter, as there is an active working group dedicated to connecting the local alumni on a more active and meaningful way. Please eMail [Fred.Weber@2comm.com](mailto:Fred.Weber@2comm.com) if you would like to be active with this group of alums.



**Keefe Murtaugh ('09) and Ian De Soto ('10) at the Army-Navy watch party in Chicago.**



## CHAPTER NEWS

After several years, the joint Chicago Army - Navy watch party returned with a very large turnout at Kincade's in Lincoln Park. The crowd of over 100 were equally matched and the cheering was loud throughout the pub as each side had a good play, made a first down and scored. It was wonderful to get together with our Army brethren after several years and a good time was had by all.

## Indiana

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## Iowa

See Minnesota

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## Kentucky

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## Louisiana

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## Maine

### Maine Chapter

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## Maryland

### Annapolis Chapter

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Join the Chapter: [https://www.signupnow.events/USNA AlumniChapter\\_Annapolis/](https://www.signupnow.events/USNA_AlumniChapter_Annapolis/)

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1118214745191/> (or search for: Naval Academy Alumni Annapolis Chapter)

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### Baltimore Chapter

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Join the Chapter: [https://www.signupnow.events/USNA Alumni Chapter\\_Annapolis/](https://www.signupnow.events/USNA_AlumniChapter_Annapolis/)

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1118214745191/>

### Greater Southern Maryland Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**  
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### EVENTS

8 March: Happy Hour at The Flight Deck Lounge. Yeah, you read that correctly! The Flight Deck is OPEN once again on Wednesday and Thursday evening. We'll use it when we can! Otherwise, you know where Brudergarten, our alternative, is in Leonardtown. **Please check your email, the GSMC website [www.navalumni.org](http://www.navalumni.org), and this column for updates and specific locations for future events.**



GSMC President, Mike Thumm '75 and his Grease Girl, Patti, enjoy the company of Greg Olson '83 at the GSMC Happy Hour on March 8.



All Members are welcome. Even those that come all the way from Texas, such as Scott Bruce '79

### ALUMNI IN THE NEWS: TBD COMING EVENTS:

6/14 Chapter Meeting Flight Deck Lounge.  
6/24 Welcome Picnic for Members of 2027, NAPSters, Foundation sponsorees, and their families. Venue TBD.

Please check your email and the GSMC website [www.navalumni.org](http://www.navalumni.org) for updates on these events and all events throughout 2023!

## Massachusetts

### Boston Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator (N Shore and Central Mass):

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BGO Area Coordinator (Western Mass): **Ken Walton**  
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### 2023 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Follow Navy Football online at:  
[navysports.com](http://navysports.com)

1-800-US4-NAVY



Michigan Chapter: At the 14 March luncheon at Sedona Tap House in Novi. (Rear from left) Shawn Hoch '08, Sean Lloyd '00, Ryan Lally '04, Mike Balow '94, Joe Zane '07 (Front from left) Art Bryant '66, Michael Johnson '79, Krista McKinley '92 and Mike Droogleever '05.



Michigan Chapter: There was significant Naval Academy representation at the Marine Corps Red Coats Mess night, held 31 March 2023. Posing with retired Brig. Gen. John Slocum, former Selfridge Air National Guard Base commander on the far right, the USNA graduates attending were (from left) CAPT Scott Bunnay '91, Art Bryant '66, Garth Johnston '98, Louise Sloan '99, Graham Sloan '97, CDR Bryant Nunn '01, Maj Joe Zane, '07 and Maj Mike Droogleever '05.

## Michigan

### Michigan Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Shawn Hoch '08**  
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Communications Sec'y: **Chris Bernard '88**  
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BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern):  
**CAPT Michael Johnson '79, USNR**  
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BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):  
**Col. Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR**  
e: brichmond97@earthlink.net

Since our last article, two events of note took place. First, we had a great turnout for our 14 March luncheon at Sedona Tap House in Novi. In addition to myself, **Art Bryant '66, Michael Johnson '79, Krista McKinley '92, Mike Balow '94, Sean Lloyd '00, Ryan Lally '04, Mike Droogleever '05** and **Shawn Hoch '08** were in attendance. As always, good times were had by all.

Second, on 31 March, a local organization of retired Marine Corps officers and senior enlisted, the Marine Red Coats, hosted their 52nd annual

Mess Night. The Naval Academy had a strong showing, with eight alumni in attendance, including regulars Art, Mike and myself as well as **CAPT Scott Bunnay '91, Garth Johnston '98, Louise Sloan '99, Graham Sloan '97** and **CDR Bryant Nunn '01**.

We have a full set of events for the spring and summer. By the time you read this, we should have met up for the friendly croquet competition in April and a luncheon in May. Keep your eye out for an email with details of a boat outing hosted by Mike Droogleever in late July. If you are reading this and want to join but haven't seen and e-mails recently, feel free to reach out to me personally at joseph.zane.2007@gmail.com. Also, we're always open for suggestions as to events and locations, especially if you are willing to help plan the event. As always, keep your eye out on MyUSNA and your email for the latest on events and updates.

Thank you for reading, and until next time: Beat Army!

Joe Zane '07  
Chapter President

## Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Ashley Fischer '11, USMCR**  
p: 240-778-8116; e: aefisch36@gmail.com

Shipmate Contact: **Nathan CW Smith '98**  
e: nathancwsmith@outlook.com

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

Facebook: [www.fb.com/USNAAUpperMidwest](http://www.fb.com/USNAAUpperMidwest)

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Mark J. Salmen, USN (Ret.)**  
NAIP Area Coordinator-Minnesota  
15230 Afton Hills Drive South; Afton, MN 55001-9670  
p: 651-436-5842; c: 651-271-669  
e: mark.salmen@1973.usna.com; e: mjsalmen@aol.com

## Mississippi

BGO Area Coordinator: **David Price '78**  
e: dep-78@sbcglobal.net

### South Mississippi Chapter

Pres: **CDR E. Spencer Garrett IV '88, USNR**  
P.O. Box 1792, Gautier, MS 39553  
p: 228-497-5050; e: esgarrett44@aol.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Harry J. Rucker '73, USN (Ret.)**  
e: navynomad50@caldeone.net

## Missouri

### Greater Kansas City Metro Chapter

Pres: **Bob Culler '74**  
p: 913-488-6319; e: bculler@sbcglobal.net

Vice Pres: **Victor Hurlbert '10**  
p: 816-665-1647; e: victorh@yahoo.com

Treas: **Eric Carlson '74**  
p: 913 481-5436; e: j.eric.carlson@gmail.com

Website: <http://KansasCity.usnachapters.net>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Lee Gilgour '01**  
e: Gilgour42@gmail.com

### St. Louis Chapter

Pres: **Dave Turnbaugh '89**

Website: <https://stlusna.com>

Shipmate contact: **Raese Simpson '61**  
1138 Westmoor Pl., St. Louis, MO 63131-1320  
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BGO Area Coordinator:  
**CAPT Kent Higginbotham '76, USN (Ret.)**  
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## Montana

BGO Area Coordinator: **Andy Metroka**  
e: METROKA@MT.NET

## Nebraska

BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Taylor**  
e: etaylor@1994.usna.com

### Omaha Chapter

Pres: **Jeremiah Binkley '00**  
e: jeremiah.binkley@yahoo.com

Website: <http://omaha.usnachapters.net/>



## CHAPTER NEWS

### Nevada

BGO Area Coordinator: **Joe Holland '03**  
e: joe.holland03@gmail.com

#### Las Vegas Chapter

Pres: **Corwin Karaffa '77**  
e: cjkaraffa@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Glenn Truitt '97**  
e: glenn@idealbusinesspartners.com

Website: <http://southernnevada.usnachapters.com/>

### New Jersey

Pres: **Patrick Hurley '87**  
e: patrick.hurley@1987.usna.com

BGO Area Coordinator (North NJ): **Marcy Abbate**  
e: Abbate.Marcy.M@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (South NJ): **Martha Christinziano**  
e: Christinziano.area114@gmail.com

website: [www.usnanj.org](http://www.usnanj.org)

### New Mexico

#### New Mexico Chapter

Pres: **John Scott Kraus '73**  
2304 Madre Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
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e: skraus@aquilagroup.com; or jkraus2304@aol.com

Sec'y: **Joseph McGuire '68**  
p: 505-857-9679; e: sunnymack@msn.com

Vice Pres: **Dr. Doug Meints '77**  
p: 505-888-6800; e: dmeintschiro@gmail.com

NM Parents' Club Pres: **Ms. Karen Hanthorn-Rhodes**  
p: 505-507-5543; e: KBHant@aol.com

Website: <http://newmexico.usnachapters.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Swingle**  
e: dswingle@newmexico.com

#### B&G Officer – Annual Refresher Training (2023)

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, the Blue and Gold (B&G) Officers from throughout New Mexico attended their Annual Refresher training in Socorro, NM. Led by the NM Area Coordinator, **David Swingle '76**, the 14 B&G Officers from the state met to review 18 agenda items ranging



New Mexico Chapter: Front row, left to right: Ken Johnson, father of Kurtis Johnson ('02), Tom Gutierrez ('70), father of Patrick Gutierrez ('07), Heather Graham ('94), mother of Darby Graham ('26), Michael Spinello ('13), Karen Hawthorn-Rhodes, mother of Brittany ('22). Back row, left to right: James Holden-Rhodes, father of Brittany ('22), Mike Beno ('88), Rachael Hickox ('05), Ed "John" Johnson ('73), Chuck Scott, David Swingle ('76), Thomas Hutchinson ('77), Brian Loustaunau ('01), T.W. Jackson ('95). Missing were Terry and Sheila Chapman (parents of Zane Chapman, ('24) and Wyatt (USMA, '27). Photo taken by Rebecca Vigil, wife of Tom Gutierrez.

from the interview process, interface with the Candidate Guidance Office software, ethics, annual reporting and best practices. Mr. Swingle ended the meeting with the traditional Navy Diver's battle cry: "Easy Day!!!"

Please see the nearby photo. In the front row, left to right are: Ken Johnson, father of **Kurtis Johnson '02**, **Tom Gutierrez '70**, father of **Patrick Gutierrez '07**, **Heather Graham '94**, mother of **Darby Graham '26**, **Michael Spinello '13**, Karen Hawthorn-Rhodes, mother of **Brittany Bryant '22**. In the back row, left to right are: James Holden-Rhodes, father of **Brittany Bryant '22**, **Mike Beno '88**, **Rachael Hickox '05**, **Ed "John" Johnson '73**, **Chuck Scott**, **David Swingle '76**, **Thomas Hutchinson '77**, **Brian Loustaunau '01**, and **T.W. Jackson '95**. Missing were Terry and Sheila Chapman (parents of **Zane Chapman '24** and Wyatt Chapman (USMA, '27). The photo was taken by Rebecca Vigil, wife of Tom Gutierrez '70.



**E.J. Jewett '81**, **Linda Postenrieder**, **Julia Spinelli '85**, and **Christine Hoaglund '97**

On Saturday, March 25th, **Linda Postenrieder '82**, the new President of the USNA Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG), who is from Albuquerque, arranged to meet with local USNA alumnae to break bread, share sea stories, and connect. Pictured with her at the gathering are **E.J. Jewett '81**, **Julia Spinelli '85**, and **Christine Hoaglund '97**.

### New York

#### New York Capital District Chapter

Pres: **Frank Hughes '80**  
p: 518-432-9193; e: frankhughes2@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Gordon Lattey**  
40 First St., Troy, NY 12180  
p: 518-274-4989; e: ussslater@aol.com

Website: <http://capitaldistrictny.usnachapters.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Jessica Barr**  
e: jessiebarr.usna99bgo@yahoo.com

#### Central New York Chapter

Pres: **Steve Erb '68**  
e: steveerb@windstream.net

Sec'y/Treas: **Bob Fegan Jr. '64**  
e: bobfegan64@gmail.com

Website: [CentralNY.usnachapters.com](http://CentralNY.usnachapters.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Ravener**  
e: tom.ravener@gmail.com

Alumni, family and friends are encouraged to attend the weekly Wednesday lunch at 1200 at Clear Path for Veterans in Chittenango, NY. You can call (315-687-3300) to let them know if you will be attending lunch but calling is not necessary...just show up.

Alumni, family, friends, USNA parents, and others with an interest in the Naval Academy are welcome to join the Chapter at all Chapter functions. Call (315-663-7490) or e-mail **Bob Fegan** to let us know if you plan to attend a function.

Future Chapter activities will be addressed as they are planned. The Chapter's website is a good source of current information.

The Chapter has instituted the payment of a Life Membership Fee as an option to Annual Dues. As the information was provided through the USNA Alumni Association, there are quite a few Alumni in the CNY area who may not have received the information so it is being provided again herewith.

The Central New York Chapter leadership discussed offering Life Membership and with inputs from a few Alumni, the following table shows what we decided:

Year Groups	Life Membership Fee
1941-1950	\$0
1951-1960	\$50
1961-1970	\$75
1971-1980	\$100
1981-1990	\$125
1991-2000	\$150
2001-2010	\$175
2011-2020	\$200
2021-∞	\$200

If 40% of the Alumni in the Central New York area opt for Life Membership and with over \$2,000 currently in the Chapter's non-profit checking account with M&T, the Chapter would have over \$10,000 which is more than enough to support the Chapter's financial commitments through 2030.

For those Alumni who choose not to pay the Life Membership Fee, the annual Chapter membership fee of \$20 will be continued. Additionally, the Chapter year has been changed from "1 June to 31 May" to "1 January to 31 December".

The Chapter year of "1 June to 31 May" was established in 2005 when the CNY Chapter was recognized by the USNA Alumni Association (AA) by a letter dated 11 May 2005. Changing the Chapter year to "1 January to 31 December" aligns with the traditional calendar.

Payment of dues (Life Membership or Annual) can be made in cash or check at a Chapter function or by mailing a check payable to "CNY Chapter of USNA Alumni" to Bob Fegan, 1570 US Route 20, Cazenovia, NY 13035-9202. Please provide a note to indicate your USNA AA status (Life Member, Annual or Not a member) and your email address to ensure that the Chapter's database is complete and up-to-date. Alumni are encouraged to check the AA database periodically to ensure that their profile information is up-to-date.

## Metro New York Chapter (NAANY)

Pres: **William B Biles '08**  
e: benbiles08@gmail.com  
HotLine: 1-800-234-USNA (8732)  
Website: <http://www.NAANY.org>  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Gardner Jackson**  
e: ghjackson86@gmail.com

## Western New York Chapter

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**  
p: 585-410-1941; e: daniel.sullivan@savox.com  
Vice Pres: **Pete Owen '86**  
p: 949-702-2733; e: pfowen0302@gmail.com  
Website: <http://westernny.usnachapters.net/>  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**  
e: douglaspeters@gmail.com

## North Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Col. Kevin Hart '75 (Ret.)**  
p: 847-910-4502; e: kevinphart1@gmail.com

## Cape Fear Chapter

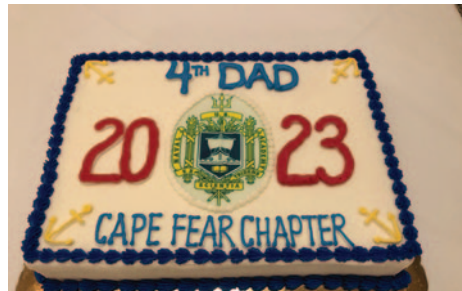
Pres: **Ray Decker '72**  
p: 703-939-0202; e: dax24@icloud.com  
Vice Pres: **Paul Normand '74**  
e: paulnormand@mac.com  
Sec'y/Treas: **Steve Yandle '75**  
e: sryusna75@gmail.com

The Cape Fear Chapter's 4th Dark Ages Dinner (DAD) was celebrated in grand style at the Cape Fear Country Club. After enjoying tasty passed hors d'oeuvres and chilled beverages during the "meet and greet" hour, the Chapter migrated to their tables. Following a few introductory remarks welcoming new members, the Chapter feasted on a wonderful buffet of tender beef filet with veal au jus; roasted chicken with



Cape Fear Chapter: Dark Ages Party

creamed leeks and capers; and a trove of grilled vegetables. The meal was topped off with hot java and a slice of the butter cream encased DAD cake! After a round of "professional" questions testing the grads on their recall of Plebe rates and Navy trivia, several bottles of wine and spirits were well received by winning ticket holders. In attendance for this annual ritual: Mary Jo and **Peter Friedman '58**, Melanie and **Alan Frelich '61**, Douglass and **Alan Smith '64**, Tracey and **Bob Lassetter '65**, Celia and **Jim Strouse '66**, Debbie and **Dave Scheu '67**, Muffy Boylan and **Ray Decker '72**, Michelle and **Rick Haley '72**, Victoria and **Hugh McWilliams '72**, Peggy and **Steve Yandle '75**, Barb and **Mark Hubbard '76**, Meg and **Joe Leidig '78**, Wanda and **Dennis Fox '79**, Kathy and **Rick Fanney '81**, Michele and **Russ Brune '92**, and Misty and **Jim Slaughter '93**.



**Bill Caiazza '66** and **John Casey '78** have ably led the Chapter's efforts to make local high school STEM students aware of the Academy's Summer STEM program. With the Chapter table cover, poster, and handouts, these two hard charging grads have been at several University of North Carolina - Wilmington sponsored events promoting our "free scholarships" for local students who may be accepted by the Academy. Well done Bill and John!

During Navy Week (10-16 April) in Wilmington, the Chapter joined several veterans' groups in hosting Admiral Caudle, USN, Commander, US Fleet Forces Command, at an informal gathering on the 12th. Captain **Anne Leanos '98**, USNR, did an outstanding job in coordinating this special event. Anne will provide the

Chapter members with the current Big Navy update at the 09 May Chapter lunch meeting. Thank you, shipmate.

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Summer Cruise Social 14 June in the Cape Fear Country Club ballroom. [Our Association-Foundation CEO/President Jeff Webb '95 and EVP Engagement and Comms TJ Grady '96 are slated to be our special guests!](#) Standby for more details.

The Chapter's 2023 Calendar of Events is posted on our website: [capefearn.usna.chapters.net](http://capefearn.usna.chapters.net)

## Charlotte Chapter

Pres: **Christopher (Nix) M. Nickels '91**  
e: CHRISNIX@AOL.COM  
Email: [UsnaaCharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:UsnaaCharlotte@gmail.com)  
Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/usna-alumni-association-charlotte-251965968210794/>  
Website: [Charlotte.usnachapters.net](http://Charlotte.usnachapters.net)  
LinkedIn Group: <http://linkedin.com/groups/8344487>

## Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotsky '67**  
P.O. Box 847, New Bern, NC 28563  
h: 252-514-0299; e: robert.skrotsky@1967.usna.com  
Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**  
p: 910-347-6251; e: rkunkel@ec.rr.com  
Sec'y: **Tim Marvin '59**  
P.O. Box 731, Kure Beach, NC 28449-0731  
e: tmarvin738@charter.net  
Treas: **Randy Bogle '68**  
4308 Periwinkle Pl., New Bern, NC 28562  
p: 252-631-3109; e: rbogle1968@gmail.com  
Website: <http://myusna.com/topics/9508>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14196247/>

The meeting convened at 1145 on 23 March at the restaurant Cypress Hall in New Bern with 28 members and their guests attending and with a lively discussion throughout the luncheon. Cypress Hall had really good service in their back room. **Rob Skrotsky '67**, Chapter president began the meeting with a moment of silence and a prayer for those service personnel who are deployed and for their loved ones awaiting their safe return.

The Treasurer reported the bank balance; no Blue and Gold report this month, however, our district congressman will have Service Academy Day at the junior college in New Bern on 29 April.



## CHAPTER NEWS

Rob provided a brief overview of the Trilateral Australia - UK - US Partnership on nuclear-powered submarines which was announced on 13 March by the signature of President Biden and his British and Australian counterparts. The partnership is to provide nuclear submarines in the Indo-Pacific area, deploying from Western Australia. The agreement will bring Australia into the operation, maintenance and eventually the building of nuclear-powered submarines. It is noteworthy that these ships will not have nuclear weapons. In the next 4 years, the emphasis will be training Australian personnel in all phases of starting up the program.

Rob provided some additional information from the Australian Defense Department report on the support provided by UK and US participation. This will be an interesting program but received no mention from "Sixty Minutes" interviewer which included a segment with CINCPAC and the rapid buildup of the CHICOM navy.

Capt Skrotzky announced that the next meeting will be at Camp LeJeune on 27 April. The Founder's Day event will be at the New Bern Golf and Country Club on 1 October.

The meeting adjourned at 1315.

*Timothy H. Marvin '59, CDR, USN (Ret.)*

### North Carolina Triangle Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Steve Gillespie '87, USN (Ret.)**  
e: smgillespie44@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Chris Perrien '74**  
e: ibmchris@mac.com

Website: [www.usnatriangle.com](http://www.usnatriangle.com)



Greetings from the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina,

Welcome Aboard to new Chapter members

**Dave Joseforsky '97** and **Brian Statesman '16**.

Our Golf Squad led by **Warren Schultz '71** is underway with its customary monthly event at a range of challenging courses across the Research Triangle Park region. The March outing hosted by **Jack Moody '71** at his Devil's Ridge Country Club and included **John Walls '86**, **Warren Schultz '71**, Jose Picart (USMA 75), **Dan Marusa '74**, Dan Williams (USAFA 80), Dave Rusk (USAFA 74), Dave Milidonis (USMA 74).



**John Walls (86)**, **Warren Schultz (71)**, **Jose Picart (USMA 75)**, **Dan Marusa (74)**, **Dan Williams (USAFA 80)**, **Dave Rusk (USAFA 74)**, and **Dave Milidonis (USMA 74)**

Thirteen Chapter members and families toured the NC EMS on the first Saturday of spring. A surprise evolution was the invitation for the



USNA Triangle Chapter Tours North Carolina's Emergency Management HQ



Triangle Chapter: Hawk Triebel 64 (center) with 91st CAB

children to join the USO sponsored Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the North Carolina National Guard HQ. Hosted by Greg Hauser of NC EMS, Navy guests included **Steve Gillespie 87**; **Chris and Tessa Perrien 74**; **Bill and Jack Sena 95**; **Girard, Annette and Natalie Lew 60**; Major USMC Gareth, Owen, Gordon, Jane and Lucy Hughes. Impressive and akin to a military operation is the amount of planning and coordination required to support North Carolina citizens in each our 100 counties no matter the nature and duration of a wide range of emergencies. (See photo).

Chapter events for the summer include the Welcome Plebe Picnic (Class of 2027) and the ever-popular Family Picnic at the Durham Bulls Ball Park.

From the Department of Community Service. Our Chapter's F-4 Aviator, "**Hawk**" **Triebel '64**, visited with the 91st Civil Affairs Battalion (Special Operations) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg earlier in the year. There he discussed the Code of Conduct with soldiers based upon his POW experience

in North Vietnam. Ted was featured in the January-February 2023 issue of *Shipmate* which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the repatriation of Vietnam Prisoners of War.



USS NORTH CAROLINA (SSN 777) Club Leadership: **Gray Tompson 07**, **Alex Dworjen 10** and **Andy Kell**

**Gray Tompson '07** and **Alex Dworjan '10** assumed the President and Secretary roles for the Chapter-supported USS NORTH CAROLINA (SSN 777) Club relieving **Chris Perrien '74** and **Luke Wolf '08**. It is a very busy time for our submarine service keeping potential foes in



balance while our nation supports the efforts of the Ukrainians.

Recognized for the 6th consecutive year as a **Distinguished Chapter** in the USNA AA network, our Triangle Chapter comprises 165+ active members from eight decades of USNA classes, their families and a growing set of supporters (parents, friends, all-Navy veterans and families). To view the schedule of future events, please visit MyUSNA.com (Group- North Carolina Triangle Chapter) or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAARTP/>. Linked-in: USNA Alumni Association-Triangle Chapter (USNAAA Triangle).

### Piedmont Triad Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cornejo '00**  
e: thomas.cornejo@yahoo.com  
Sec'y: **Josh Fogle '03**  
e: foglejw@gmail.com

## North Dakota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

See Minnesota  
Send *Shipmate* input to: **Nathan CW Smith '98**  
e: nathancwsmith@outlook.com  
Blue & Gold Area Coordinator: **Mary Plumb**  
e: Mary.plumb@yahoo.com

## Ohio

### Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

Pres: **Earle Babcock '74**  
p: 513-520-7776  
e: earle.babcock@1974@usna.com  
Vice Pres: **Gaby Blocher '98**  
p: 513-316-5903; e: Gabrielle.Bolton@gmail.com  
Vice Pres: **Jennifer Yuchasz '98**  
e: jen.yuchasz@rhinestahl.com  
Chapter Sec'y and *Shipmate* Submissions:  
**Jon-Michael Pollock '10**  
e: jonmichaelpollock@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.usnacinici.org>  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Bryan Grubert**  
e: bryan.grubert@gmail.com

Happy Hour get together of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association at the Capital Grille in Cincinnati. The first picture is me with **Gaby Blocher**. She is class of '98 and became a Marine helicopter pilot, and is also immediate past president of the chapter. Others in attendance included **Tom & Liz Schramm '70**, **George Stringer '72**, Fred and Dabney **Pottschmidt** and their daughter **Whitney '72**, **Bob Viney '70**, along with others.

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Gaby Blocher '98 and Earle Babcock '74

In other news, on Monday night I led a group that sang the National Anthem at a Reds/Cubs game at Great American Ballpark. Below is a picture of the gang, and here's a link to the performance: <https://mlbn-distro.mlb.com/20230403-REDS-SCOREBOARD-NG-NA.mp4>



Cool Earle and the Crooners

Earle Babcock '74  
President

### Cleveland Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Fred W. Bergman '75, USNR (Ret.)**  
p: 440-570-3564; e: FWayBergman@aol.com  
Sec'y: **John Blackburn '82**  
e: joblackburn@clevelandtrack.com  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Cabarle**  
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### Columbus

Pres: **CDR Tony Konecny '79, USN (Ret.)**  
e: adkonecny79@gmail.com  
Vice Pres: **Ben Sandman '10**  
e: bensandman2@gmail.com  
Sec'y: **Dave Goins '84**  
e: dgoins84@gmail.com  
Treas: **Jim Waddell '71**  
e: jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com  
*Shipmate* Contact: **CDR Tony Konecny '79, USN (Ret.)**  
e: adkonecny79@gmail.com  
Chapter email: [USNAACbus@gmail.com](mailto:USNAACbus@gmail.com)  
Website: [https://columbus\\_usnachapter.net/](https://columbus_usnachapter.net/)  
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100549757152451/>  
Twitter: @USNAACbus  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12356597/>  
Instagram: [USNAACbus](https://www.instagram.com/USNAACbus)  
Parents' Club President: **Eric Forrest**  
e: Ea4rest@gmail.com  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Carla Dowling-Fitzpatrick**  
e: dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgolbal.net



### Toledo Chapter

Pres: **CDR Meghan Michael '97, USN (Ret.)**  
e: meghanmichael@me.com  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Gregory Zerr**  
e: gtzerr@gmail.com

## Oklahoma

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Whaley**  
e: mwwhaley@ossaa.com

### Oklahoma City Chapter

Pres: **Jonathan Mason '07**  
e: jrmason03@gmail.com

### Tulsa Chapter

Pres: **Rocky Goins '84**  
e: rockygoins@hotmail.com  
Vice Pres: **Patrick Hamilton '87**  
e: patrickhami@gmail.com  
Sec'y and Treas: **Kasey (Cregge) Carradini '84**  
e: kcarradini@hotmail.com  
Website: <http://tulsa.usnachapters.net/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNA-Alumni-Tulsa-Chapter-2202431113307009>



### SEAPERCH 2023

In March, students of all ages demonstrated their underwater robots in competition SEA PERCH. This nationwide event is sponsored by the Naval Academy and was also sponsored locally by our alumni. Shout out to **Shea Ferrell '81** and **Patrick Hamilton '87** who helped out during the competition. Their picture below! (The rose in the middle of the two gnarly goats (thorns) is none other than Robin Ferrell who, in addition to supporting Seaperch, also is the proud mother of **Scott Ferrell '09!**



### University of Tulsa Hometown Hero for Military Service

Did you hear that **George Carradini '84** was honored during a TU basketball game for his service. We are proud of the George and Kasey '84 Carradini' s service to the community. BZ!



## CHAPTER NEWS

### Oregon

#### Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

Pres: **CDR John Adams '69, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: john.adams@1969.usna.com

Vice Pres: **CDR Mike Carmichael '69, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: mikec@1969.usna.com

Treas: **CDR Ted Scypinski '90, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: ted.scypinski@flir.com

National Chapter Trustee:  
**LtCol Doug Ballard '74, USMCR (Ret.)**  
e: Cassandra.alpha61@comcast.net

BGO Area Coordinator: **Gillian Richards**  
e: jill@teamrichards.net

Website: [oregon.usnachapters.net](http://oregon.usnachapters.net)

Our March luncheon was a smaller event with no formal program, just a nice social get-together. Attending were **Mike Carmichael '69, John Adams '69, Doug Ballard '74, Scott Fitzpatrick '80, Lee Hall '80, Tony Lash '58 (VMI), Ed Hepp '67, Hod Wells '59 and Tim Myers '64.** March also saw the resumption of our interactions with local high schools. Started by **Tim Myers '64** over 10 years ago, we bring Vietnam and Cold War vets to high schools to talk to them about our experiences. Our first visit was Lakeridge HS in Lake Oswego OR. **Tim Myers '65, Mike Carmichael '69, Doug Bomarito '68** and army vet Herb Hirst gave presentations to eight History classes.

Our April meeting will feature Major General Chris Owens USMC (Ret.), now an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Portland State University and Western Oregon Universities to speak on Tensions between China and Taiwan.

### Pennsylvania

#### Philadelphia Chapter

Pres: **Rob Bender '73**  
p: 267-625-3459; e: rbender@travismanion.com

Website: <http://philadelphia.usnachapters.net>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Tim Farrell '76, USN (Ret.)**  
e: tim.farrell@1976.usna.com

#### Pittsburgh Chapter

Pres: **Conor McKenzie '06**  
e: cmckenzie@janney.com

Website: [Pittsburgh.usnachapters.com](http://Pittsburgh.usnachapters.com)

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnaaa\\_pittsburgh/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnaaa_pittsburgh/)

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Gates '77, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 724-632-6621; e: LJreese357@aol.com

#### BLUE & GOLD OFFICER Area Coordinators

See a complete list at  
[www.usna.edu/Admissions/BGO.php](http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/BGO.php)

### Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Pres: **Tim Farrell '76**  
e: im.farrell@1976.usna.com

VP: **Rob Gundlach '84**  
e: rjgundlach@msn.com

Treas: **Jim Nolan '70**  
e: jimnolan8470@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.usnasvc.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Matt Chabal '77**  
e: chabal@1977.usna.com

Please join our monthly gatherings the third Thursday of every month 1630-1900 at Mad Chef Craft Brewing in East Petersburg and bring your family and friends with you. Open your own tab and pay only for what you and those you bring with you eat and drink.



March monthly gathering with (L to R) Rob Gundlach '84, Rod Messick '94, Tim Farrell '76, Brian Montgomery '89, and Ben Montgomery

Beat Army!

### Recreational Vehicle

#### American Chapter

Pres: **Tom Wolfe '70**  
e: tsrjw71@gmail.com

Treas: **Dale Gange '70**  
14518 Black Bear Rd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Shipmate sec'y: **Jennifer Stone**  
p: 202-909-5676; e: jastone0330@gmail.com

Website: [www.rv.usnachapters.net](http://www.rv.usnachapters.net)

Facebook: **USNA RV CHAPTER**

### Rhode Island

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Stuart Craig '86, USN (Ret.)**  
e: stuart.craig@bgo.usna.com

#### Rhode Island Chapter

Pres: **Mike O'Sullivan '73**  
p: 401-742-7091; e: michael.osullivan1973@gmail.com

Sec'y: **COL Paul Muller '88, USMC (Ret.)**  
p: 401-248-3405; e: usmctanker@cox.net



L-R: **Pat Roach '83, Stu Craig '86, Mark Donahue '81** (holding a tiny serpent that we voted in as an Auxiliary Chapter member), **Alex Ellermann '92** and wife **Vanessa. Not seen (good thing) photographer Conrad Donahue '73**

The RI Chapter hosted a hike at the Norman Bird Sanctuary on a foggy Saturday morning in April.

### South Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ryan Blacklock**  
e: ryan.blacklock@2004.usna.com

#### Central Savannah River Area

(Aiken, SC; Augusta, GA; and surrounding areas)  
Pres: **LtCol Dave Smith '73, USMC (Ret.)**  
e: dsmith708@atlanticbb.net

Sec'y: **Brian Goldschmidt '94**  
e: goldschmidtbp@gmail.com

Website: <http://csra.usnachapters.com>

#### Charleston Chapter

Pres: **CDR Rick Stein '82, USNR (Ret.)**  
784 Preservation Pl., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
p: 843-856-6591; w: 843-557-7021  
e: USNA\_AA\_Charleston@Comcast.net

On Monday, March 20, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was LCOL Lloyd Richardson, USAF (Ret.), who is the Chair of the Department of Aeronautics, Charleston Southern University. In Attendance were: **Max Hill '51; Fuzzy Knight '53; Curt Holcomb '61; John Common '64; John Nuernberger '64; Ray Setser '65; Frank Bryant '66; Bernie Magdelain '67; Chuck Meyer '68; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Steve Weise '72; Jim Lyons '74; Bill Conrad '75; Joe Delpino '75; Dave Shimp '76; Dennis Simon '77; Rick Stein '82; Seamus Flatley '83; Perry Ramicone '83; Greg Shore '84; Ronald Allen '88; and David Kern '92.**

#### Golf Outing

See the phot taken after a Golf Outing in Charleston, SC on April 6, 2023.



Back Row L to R **George Watt '73, Ray Setser '65, Rick Stein '82; front row: Dennis Simon '77, Charlie Young '70 and Kirk Donald '75**

#### Low Country Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cavanaugh '69**  
p: 516-220-9896

e: tomcusna69@gmail.com

VP: **Dave Igyarto '74**  
e: igyartodp@icloud.com

Sec'y: **Tim Johnson '02**  
e: tim.w.johnson@outlook.com

Treas: **John Scanlan '83**  
e: ping1@hargray.com

Greetings from the Low Country. With deadlines for submissions as they are, there should be a few events just completed when this issue

lands in folks' mailboxes in June. Our distillery tour, a chapter board meeting, and the annual luncheon with Distinguished Graduate Admiral **Robert F. Willard '73**, USN (Ret.) as speaker should all be in the books. Hopefully pictures and write ups will follow in the next issue.

We have a tour of the Mighty Eighth Air Force museum in Savannah scheduled for 22 June, 1000-1200, with lunch to follow at Sophie's. Cost for the tour is \$22.00 per person. Signup should be available via myUSNA.

Check myUSNA for details and registration on our other upcoming events, including: a viewing party for the Air Force-Navy game; flag placements at the graves of Academy graduates in Beaufort National Cemetery on Veteran's Day; and a viewing party for the Army-Navy game.

We encourage all members to stay up to date on our events by checking myUSNA regularly. We also welcome suggestions for future events and activities, so don't hesitate to get in touch with us with your ideas (contact our current President **Tom Cavanaugh**: tomcusna69@gmail.com).

More detailed information will be provided as we get closer to each event. If you are headed to the Low Country for vacation this summer or thinking of moving to the area, don't hesitate to reach out to us so we can include you in events.

(Check out our website <http://sclowcountry.usnachapters.net> and our [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com) SC Low Country Chapter group area for updates and additional information as it becomes available)

## Palmetto Chapter

Pres: **Jerry Pilewski '97**  
e: palmettousna@usna.com

Vice Pres: **Brian Treanor '89**  
e: brian\_treanor@hotmail.com

Sec'y: **Suzanne Hopper**  
(husband, **John Hopper '95** and son, **Selik Hopper '23**)  
e: hoppermomx6@gmail.com

## South Carolina Midlands Chapter

Pres: **Craig Augenstein '87**  
4847 Furman Ave., Columbia, SC 29206  
p: 803-309-3060; e: craigaugenstein@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Chuck Tebrich '66**  
e: chuckteb@gmail.com

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

## South Dakota

Send *Shipmate* input to: **Nathan CW Smith '98**  
e: nathancwsmith@outlook.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Sharon Holt '00**  
p: 605-390-3430; e: holtsharonl@aol.com



Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter: Front row: Jack Moroney '23, Connor Rex '23, JJ McCarthy '23, Stephen Scholl '23, Alex Romano '23, Blake Carter '23; Back Row: Jonathan Greenberg '23, Matthew Ross '23, Lucas Schatz '23, Colby Magill '23, Skip Weitz '73, Harry Rucker '73, Mark Kohring '73, Buddy Holt '73, Jackson Fuller '23, Oliver Hasler '23 and Riley Guerrero '23



Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter

## Spain

BGO Area Coordinator: **Wes Trubeville**  
e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

## Rota Chapter

Pres: **Michael Carsley '88**  
e: michael.carsley@eu.navy.mil

Vice Pres: **Ryan Eilerman '15**

Treas: **Cassidy Masey '06**  
e: cassidy.a.massey@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Dustin Cunningham '06**

## Tennessee

### Chattanooga Chapter

Pres: **Casey Turner '01**  
6408 Forest Park Drive, Signal Mountain, TN, 37377  
p: 423.355.7771; e: lcaseyturner@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard Cataldi '69, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 865-966-4677; e: cdrctaldi@tds.net

### Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter

Pres: **Kristen Daniel '02**  
e: kristenandwesley@gmail.com.

Sec'y-Treas: **Jim Ward '85**  
e: jwardjr@gmail.com

Website: <http://k-or.usnachapters.net/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard Cataldi '69, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 865-966-4677; e: cdrctaldi@tds.net

The USNA Lightweight Crew team held their 25th spring break regatta in Oak Ridge the week of 11-17 March 2023. What began as a trip for twelve midshipmen in the late 1990's has grown over the years to around 60. The Knoxville-Oak Ridge (K-OR) chapter hosted the firsties and coaches for lunch on Wednesday, 15 March at Calhoun's in Oak Ridge. Outgoing chapter secretary **Mark Kohring** was accompanied by his '73 classmates **Buddy Holt**, **Harry Rucker** and **Skip Weitz** as he presented the 2023 Captain William J. Francy Award to MIDN 1/c **Lucas Schatz '23**. This award is given to the midshipman selected by the coaches who exemplifies the drive, determination and perseverance to better himself and the USNA

**STAY CONNECTED**

Find a Chapter.  
[usna.com/FindAChapter](http://usna.com/FindAChapter)



# CHAPTER NEWS

Lightweight Crew program. The K-OR chapter has sponsored this award since 2007. It is named in honor of the late Captain **Bill Francy '46** who was an ardent supporter of Navy crew and himself an oarsman on the Severn. Following the presentation of the award, the remainder of the crew team Class of '23 joined in for an Another Link In The Chain (ALITC) photo op.



The next day, the firsties were the victors of the "class race" and are the recipients of the Cap'n Jack Award named to honor the late Captain **Jack Richard Class of 1952**. Jack was instrumental in arranging the hosting of the lightweight crew team in the late 1990s. Except for 2012 and 2021, this has been an annual event ever since and became the "signature event" which helped the K-OR Chapter earn one of the USNA AA's Distinguished Chapter Awards in 2020. These class races honored those Naval Academy alumni lost in combat or military operations in service to our Nation. In the spirit of camaraderie and through participation in athletic and memorial events, these races were rowed in t-shirts marked with the words "Row to Honor" to perpetuate the memory of our fallen brothers and sisters and to express support for the families they left behind.

## Memphis Chapter

Pres: **Henry W. Papa Jr. '86**  
p: 907-244-7492; e: hankpapa@aol.com  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Drew Wyrick**  
e: wyrick03@gmail.com

## Nashville Chapter

Pres: **CDR John F. Ohlinger '69, USN (Ret.)**  
880 Lakemont Dr., Nashville, TN 37220-2124  
h: 615-370-1441; w: 615-594-7628  
e: john.ohlinger@usna.1969.com  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Thomas Forsythe '79**  
e: tom\_forsythe@kyzen.com



Alamo Chapter: Mid'n 3/c Cleveland briefs MINIOPINFO group.

## Texas

### Alamo Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Ron A. Sandoval '81, USN**  
18010 Keystone Bldg., San Antonio, TX 78258-3436

Please send *Shipmate* Submissions and all correspondences to:  
Sec'y: **Dave Driskell '63**  
P.O. Box 461564, San Antonio, TX 78246-1564  
e: info@alamogoats.org

Website: <http://www.alamo.usnachapters.com>

Facebook: **Alamo Chapter NAAA**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Dave Driskell '63**  
p: 210-275-4011; e: daved@frand.com

This report is going to focus on BGO activities since we are nearing the end of this cycle (class of 2027). You will be reading this in June so the current numbers will obviously change. First, some current numbers regarding the class of 2027 in our area of Central and South Texas. As of this writing (30 March) we have 9 direct entries, one NAPS acceptance with four offers outstanding, 3 Letters of Assurance, 3 fully qualified offers still outstanding and 65 applications still to be reviewed by Admissions. For some perspective we had a total of about 400 applicants in the area. The deadline for notification was/is April 15.



USNA table at Cong Castro's Academy Day 25 March. BGOs are the well-dressed individuals.



Northeast ISD counselors preparing for Admissions brief.

To follow on to a comment in the last report: BGOs, have participated in briefing two groups of counselors representing two of the largest

ISDs in the San Antonio area representing over 20 high schools. These were single purpose briefs meaning that we were not competing with other service academies. Counselors are essential in identifying potential applicants and when considered along with Congressional Academy Days (CAD) and Admissions Forums are probably the highest return on investment of a BGO's time. Thanks to BGOs Roman Sanchez, Greg Chapman (03), Melissa Guerra (01) and Dennis Speck (05) who participated in the presentations.

*Dave Driskell '63*

### Austin Chapter

Pres: **Brian Fitzpatrick**  
e: bsfitz96@gmail.com.

Pres: **Chris Swindull '94**  
Vice-President - Cswindull@yahoo.com

Treas: **Kevin Windbigler '86**  
p: 512-923-5010; e: hans2886@austin.rr.com

Website: [www.austin.usnachapters.com](http://www.austin.usnachapters.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Dave Driskell '63**  
p: 210-275-4011; e: daved@frand.com

### North Texas Chapter

Director at Large: **Daryl Smith '88**

Pres: **Jamey Cummings '93**  
e: pres@usnaaa-ntx.com

VP of Programs: **Carrie Murdock '99**,

VP of Membership: **Ty Rose '06**,

Treasurer: **Greg Colandrea '90**

Sec'y: **Frankie Delgado '95**  
e: secy@usnaaa-ntx.com

Website: [www.usnaaa-ntx.com](http://www.usnaaa-ntx.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Eschenbrenner**  
p: 972 740 4060 ; e: eschenbrenner@gmail.com



Greetings North Texas!

On behalf of my fellow Chapter Officers and our Board Directors, I wanted to provide you a preview of 2023, which figures to be an exciting year for the North Texas Chapter.

We are excited by the prospects of a robust 2023 event schedule and look forward to an even higher level of participation from all of you in the North Texas Naval Academy Alumni Community! We always **welcome all of your input and recommendations** on how to drive continuous improvement within the chapter in support of our mission. We also **welcome and encourage volunteers** who have interest in being more involved in the chapter, including

## READ SEA STORIES

Visit [usna.com](http://usna.com)'s History and Tradition page.  
Have a story to share?  
Email to [seastories@usna.com](mailto:seastories@usna.com).

with some of our biggest events such as the Navy/SMU tailgate. Please reach out to any of the chapter officers anytime!

## Upcoming Events

Here is a quick snapshot of what is in store for the remainder of 2023:

\*Chapter transition to the new **myUSNA platform**. This will help you connect with your classes and other Alumni, align us with Annapolis, streamline database consistency, and facilitate more effective and efficient communications to the chapter going forward. Our transition is now underway – look for important emails!

\*Monthly chapter meetings with a variety of interesting guest speakers

\*Class of 2027 welcome aboard and send off **THIS MONTH!**

\***Navy/SMU football game** and tailgate – 25 November

\*Service Academy Alumni Flag Football game in November – Navy will be defending its crown!

\*Army/Navy Football watch party in December

\*And of course, our 52nd Annual Blue Chip Dinner in December

A special welcome to the North Texas Plebes and their families joining the class of 2027 and the NAPsters joining the class of 2028!

We hope to see you all at one of our upcoming events! Check the website for the most current information!

*Jamey Cummings '93*

## Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Pres: **Bill Pritchett '01**

Vice Pres: **Jordan Mack '08**

Sec'y: **John Augusto '02**

e: m020234@2002.usna.com

Treas: **Rich Bulger '69**

e: rbulger69@gmail.com

Website: [txgulfoast.usnachapters.net](http://txgulfoast.usnachapters.net)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAATxGC/>

Email: [txgulfoast.usnachapters@gmail.com](mailto:txgulfoast.usnachapters@gmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Link**

e: cdr.dlink@gmail.com

## United Kingdom

BGO Area Coordinator: **Wes Turbeville '01**

e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

## United Kingdom Chapter

Pres: **Tim Fox '97**

e: timfox97@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Cody Nissen '11**

e: cnissen.mba2018@london.edu

Sec'y: **Lisa Aszklar (Wife, Henry '81)**

e: lisa.aszklar@gmail.com

Board of Directors: **Tony Cox '89**

e: tony.cox@gboutdoorfires.co.uk

**Chris Robinson '98**

email: naples98@gmail.com

Another Commissioning Week has come and gone (how many since yours?), and a newly

minted crop of ensigns and second lieutenants has been released!

From London, home of the UK Chapter of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, we send our congratulations and best wishes to those who were recently commissioned after four years of what is undoubtedly one of the best educational opportunities available anywhere in the world. BZ, Class of '23!

Beat Army!

## Utah

### Intermountain Alumni Chapter

Pres: **Robert Allen '67**

e: ba@robertallen.org

Vice Pres: **Ryam Merrell '00**

e: ryanmerrell@yahoo.com

Treas: **Mike Hester '69**

e: mikehester46@gmail.com

Sec'y **Tabeetha Moesinger '91**

e: tabeetha@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Darrin Briggs '03**

e: Darrin.Briggs@gmail.com

## Virginia

### Central Virginia Chapter

Pre: **Bill Murray '83**

e: whmurray34@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Ty Schieber '87**

e: ty.schieber@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Ed Borger '80**

e: ed.borger@honeywell.com

Treas: **Steve Hill '74**

e: swhill74@cstone.net

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Aldridge**

e: n774pk@gmail.com

### Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Renee Reedy '81**

e: reedy81@usnahamptonroads.com

h: 757-312-8969; w: 757-328-0030

Website: [www.usnahamptonroads.com](http://www.usnahamptonroads.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAHamptonRoads>

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81, USN (Ret.)**

p: 757-423-8602; e: dlannetti81@gmail.com

After a quick start to the New Year, March came in and departed in "lamb-like" fashion for the Hampton Roads Chapter. However, we are gearing up for several events this summer that are always fun and sure to attract plenty of attendees.

On 29 March we took our monthly Happy Hour to Chesapeake; where Big Ugly Brewing provided the venue and some gut-busting chicken and steak burritos to go with a varied assortment of liquid libations. Our April Happy Hour found us gathering at the Wasserhund Brewing Company in Virginia Beach; and in May we let Suffolk have its turn.



**BUB Happy Hour: Classmates from '74 at Hampton Roads Happy Hour – (L to R) John Harrison, Dick Corrigan, John Wiles and Bill Lee**

At our 17 May Networking Breakfast **Charlie Pfeifer '66** discussed the effect of water evaporation on climate change and global warming. On 19 May many of our baseball fans enjoyed our annual Chapter Night at Harbor Park organized by **Dick Enderly '71**; and a couple of weeks later as the orange orb appeared on the horizon on Memorial Day, **Dave Paddock '77** again put a moving heartfelt effort into what has become a very successful sunrise Run to Honor event at the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

On 8 June we will host and proudly recognize the incoming local Plebes, NAPsters, and many of the family members at our 30th annual Plebe Recognition Dinner at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. The Guest Speaker at this always popular signature event will be **LtGen Brian Cavanaugh '90**, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; Commander, Marine Forces Command; and Commander, Marine Forces Northern Command. And wrapping up the month is our annual Summer Beach Bash/Picnic on 24 June at Norfolk's Captain Slade Cutter Park!

To get all the latest news on future Chapter initiatives and events, as well as USNA news and updates, be sure to check out our website under the Hampton Roads Group at myUSNA.com. And don't forget our LinkedIn and Facebook pages!

*Dick Enderly '71*

## Quantico Area Chapter

Pres: **Robin Dreeke '92**

e: rdreeke@gmail.com

Vice-President: **George Williams '87**

e: bucketokinawa@gmail.com

Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**

QACUSNAATreasurer@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Nancy Springer '87**

e: nancy.a.springer.nancy@aol.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley '74**

e: james.m.ripley@gmail.com

Website: <http://quantico.usnachapters.net>

On 3 March, 15 Quantico Area Chapter (QAC) members gathered at The Hampton Inn and on Zoom to host Maj J. **Kevin White '92**, USMC (Ret.), Founder, Global Vision 2020. This non-profit and its partners manufacture and dispense affordable prescription eyeglasses in the





## CHAPTER NEWS



Quantico Area Chapter: The March Breakfast Crew and Guest Speaker

developing world. These locales frequently lack the trained personnel and infrastructure to administer vision exams and to fabricate and distribute affordable corrective eyewear. Residents frequently have no choice but to endure a lifetime of impaired eyesight. Kevin informed the Chapter that poor vision caused by correctable refractive error is the largest unmet disability in the world, affecting more than one billion people and costing the global economy more than two hundred twenty-seven billion dollars annually in lost productivity. A humanitarian assistance deployment to rural Morocco in 2005 piqued Kevin's interest in solving this problem for emerging countries. His patented invention, the USee Vision Kit™, is the answer; an affordable and simple vision correction system well-suited for quickly and easily producing inexpensive glasses nearly anywhere. Using the "dial-snapwear" method, the patient "dials in" the USee Vision Kit™ using binocular-type knobs until he or she can read a standard eye chart. A trained refractionist then matches the color and number on the USee Vision Kit™ lens bar with corresponding lenses in the lens kit and snaps them into a pair of color-coded frames. The new owner wears the finished product, a pair of inexpensive, quickly-produced prescription glasses and sees clearly, maybe for the first time! The whole process takes minutes and costs less than five dollars per pair. The color-coded matching system keeps everything coordinated. Enhancing his presentation, Kevin brought along a USee Vision Kit™ so the audience members could try it out themselves.

Positive testimonials abound about the USee Vision Kit™ and the glasses it produces. More information, including a picture of the kit, is on Global Vision 2020's website, <https://gv2020.org/>



QAC's March Guest Speaker, Maj. J. Kevin White, USMC (Ret.), Founder, Global Vision 2020

The Chapter is eagerly anticipating traveling vicariously to outer space with our last guest speaker of the year, NASA astronaut CAPT **Kenneth Reightler '73**, USN (Ret.), who piloted STS-48 and STS-60.

All area (and visiting) alumni are welcome at Chapter events! Please check the webpage and Facebook site for more information. Also, QAC is actively recruiting members from the 202x decade. Come join us and add your unique perspective to the Chapter! For more information, please contact President **Robin Dreeke '92** at [rdreeke@gmail.com](mailto:rdreeke@gmail.com).

### Richmond Chapter

Pres: **Michael Metzger '89**  
e: [michael.metzger@1989.usna.com](mailto:michael.metzger@1989.usna.com)

Sec'y: **Matt Laser '97**  
e: [lasermatthew@gmail.com](mailto:lasermatthew@gmail.com)

Website: <http://richmond.usnachapters.net>

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81**, USN (Ret.)  
p: 757-423-8602; e: [dlannetti81@gmail.com](mailto:dlannetti81@gmail.com)

### Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Pres: **David McLellan '73**  
p: 540-722-2060; e: [dcmclmd@earthlink.net](mailto:dcmclmd@earthlink.net)

Sec'y: **LCDR Grayson Redford '63**, USN (Ret.)  
p: 540-662-6142

BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley '74**  
e: [james.m.ripley@gmail.com](mailto:james.m.ripley@gmail.com)

### Virginia Peninsula Chapter

(formerly the Williamsburg Chapter)

Pres: **Kathleen Jabs '88**  
e: [kjabs@aol.com](mailto:kjabs@aol.com); e: [vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com](mailto:vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com)

Vice Pres: **Rick Yasky '78**  
e: [rickyasky@gmail.com](mailto:rickyasky@gmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81**, USN (Ret.)  
p: 757-423-8602; e: [dlannetti81@gmail.com](mailto:dlannetti81@gmail.com)

Website: [vapeninsula.usnachapters.net](http://vapeninsula.usnachapters.net)

Chapter dues are \$20 a year and nametags (optional) are \$12.

**NEW:** Pay your DUES online at [www.myusna.com](http://www.myusna.com) Under: Group Virginia Peninsula Chapter  
Or send your DUES and Contributions to our treasurer:

USNAAA VA Peninsula  
c/o Gary Carlile  
3724 Mesa River  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Chapter Dues are primarily in support of Chapter events and support for USNA STEM and Summer Seminar participation by VA Peninsula high school and middle school students.

### June Activities

Our annual Alumni Picnic will be at The Beaches at Capital Landing on 10 June from 1PM -5PM, at the Spence Witten family estate. All Navy alumni, family, and significant others are welcome at all our events. If you aren't on our email list, please send us a note at [vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com](mailto:vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com) and we will notify you about upcoming luncheons and other events.

### Joint Service Academy

#### Small Business Development

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, the Joint Service Academy Small Business - Business Development Forum meetings are held locally. **Mike Ohlhaber '75** is the host of these meetings. Contact **Ben Francisco** <[roger.benton.francisco@gmail.com](mailto:roger.benton.francisco@gmail.com)> if you are interested in learning about this group or desire to attend meetings.

If you live on the Virginia Peninsula and are interested in joining our chapter, please contact Kathleen Jabs, our chapter president, to be welcomed and put on our email list. If you know of other USNA grads in the area who might be interested in joining us, please let us know and pass along their contact information. The hospitality committee will contact them and add them to our email list.

## Washington

BGO Area Coordinator: **Darin Perrine**  
e: [dperrine@mailbox.org](mailto:dperrine@mailbox.org)

### Hanford/Tri-Cities Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Edward Schwier '69**, USN (Ret.)  
1196 Brentwood Ave., Richland, WA 99352-8540  
h: 509-627-7288; w: 509-372-0176  
e: [Edward\\_G\\_Ed\\_Schwier@rl.gov](mailto:Edward_G_Ed_Schwier@rl.gov); [eschwier@charter.net](mailto:eschwier@charter.net); [egschwier@aol.com](mailto:egschwier@aol.com)

Website: <http://hanford.usnachapters.com>

### Puget Sound Chapter

Pres: **Alan Schrader '92**  
e: [usnaaa.psc@gmail.com](mailto:usnaaa.psc@gmail.com)  
Corr Sec'y: **George Windsor '75**  
e: [gbwindsor@icloud.com](mailto:gbwindsor@icloud.com)

Website: <https://pugetsound.usna.chapters.net>

**Completed Speaker Series** - 8 March, Bob Fishman, Part 1: Pearl Harbor to the Battle of the Coral Sea, December 1941 - May 1942

**Upcoming Speaker Series** - 13 May, Bob Fishman, Part 2: The Battle of Midway, June 1942

**Plebe Welcome Luncheon** - Class of 1927, 3 June, 1100-1300, Blakely Hall, Issaquah, WA.

**Annual Picnic Information** - Camp Mckean, 1100, Kitsap County, 29 July



Greater Washington, DC Area: March event



Greater Washington, DC Area: Networking at Valor Brew Pub

## Washington, DC Area

### Greater Washington Chapter

Pres: **Luis Martinez '01**

e: [president@usnagwc.org](mailto:president@usnagwc.org)

Vice Pres: **Anthony Calandra '88**

e: [vicepresident@usnagwc.org](mailto:vicepresident@usnagwc.org)

Sec'y: **Crysta Gonzalez '18**

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Treas: **Jennifer Shaar '92**

e: [treasurer@usnagwc.org](mailto:treasurer@usnagwc.org)

Outreach and Engagement: **Heidi Lenzini '95**

e: [outreach@usnagwc.org](mailto:outreach@usnagwc.org)

Diversity and Inclusion: **Alberto Ramos '10**

e: [diversity@usnagwc.org](mailto:diversity@usnagwc.org)

Trustee: **Fred Latrash '87**

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Pat Seals**

e: [pseals@ymail.com](mailto:pseals@ymail.com)

### Shipmates,

As this update hits your mailboxes, we will have completed the chapter picnic to include our members, as well as our incoming area midshipmen (Class of '27) and families—thanks to our VP **Anthony Calandra '88** for planning this popular event! Check out your emails for more information. Also, if you haven't renewed your membership yet, check out our website

(migrated onto HiveBrite!) and ensure your profile is also updated on MyUSNA. You should be getting emails from USNAAA that shares information across our extensive alumni network.

Our first event was 7 March, generously hosted by AWS (Amazon Web Services) in Crystal City, and featured Navy astronaut **Robert D. Cabana '71**, NASA's associate administrator, its third highest-ranking executive and highest-ranking civil servant. Cabana was previously the director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. More than 60 alumni learned about Mr. Cabana's exciting experiences in the Navy and the space program. Grads and spanned SEVEN decades from the 60's to 2017. Next, more than 30 alumni gathered at Valor Brew Pub (our favorite place to gather in DC!) March 16 for our second event to network, with nearly 40 years represented. Many thanks to board members Gerry Brooks '08 (with AWS) and Alexis Opferman '17 for their dedicated support for both events! We are always open to guest speaker suggestions as well as venues owned by military-affiliated individuals.

Our first bike ride of the season was 8 April and included **Mike Leidinger '88**, **Carl Josefson '71**, **Mike Cantwell '87**, **Heidi (Huerter) Lenzini '95** and **Kate Murray '00**. Heidi's hubby Charlie

and high school son also joined in the ride (about 25 miles), which started at Reston and headed west. Keep an eye on your email for future rides, and many thanks to Kate — one of our board members — for organizing!



We will continue to hold networking events, support local STEM efforts to assist students (including our partnership with the Washington Mystics), as well as post job fairs. The Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) is held in DC in May - stand by for coverage on a reception for current and future members — and the Joint Service Academy Business Network meets every month in a variety of locations around the DMV (DC, MD, and VA) - find out more on our social media!

The **Annual Service Academy Golf Tournament** will be 13 July, with a percentage of the proceeds



## CHAPTER NEWS

benefitting the local chapters. Registration may still be open - bring your friends to Beat Army and Air Force! Many thanks to **Kwame Cook '96** for "taking the conn." We are also planning to host a hot yoga session at an alumni-owned (**Mike Curcio '01**) distillery in DC in July - grateful for the support board member **Ingrid Peterson '01** - a certified yoga instructor - for supporting her classmate and leading this event!

If you haven't already, please join our Facebook and LinkedIn pages for info about the chapter, USNA, and the Navy!

Go Navy! Beat Army!  
Semper Fidelis,

*Luis Martinez '01*  
President, USNA GWC

## Wisconsin

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**  
e: leonard.green.a@gmail.com

### Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Timothy Mahoney '10**  
e: mahoney@2010.usna.com

At Large: **Chris Adams '75**  
p: 414-553-0982

Website: <http://wisconsin.usnachapters.net/>

WISNAPA Co Presidents: **Andy and Laura Kittleson**  
e: kittleson5@yahoo.com

Website: <http://wisconsin.usnaparents.net/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**  
e: leonard.green.a@gmail.com

## CHAPTER SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: [chapternews@usna.com](mailto:chapternews@usna.com)

**2023**

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
September '23	29 June '23
October '23	27 July '23
November-December '23	28 Sept '23

# SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



NAMA Shared Interest Group

## NAMA

Pres: **RADM Julius S. Caesar '77, USN (Ret.)**  
e: executive-director@usnama.com

Vice Pres: **LCDR Valerie Mansfield '92, USN (Ret.)**  
e: deputy-director@usnama.com

CoS: **CDR Calvin Bumphus '97, USN (Ret.)**  
e: chief-of-staff@usnama.com

Treas: **C.J. Willis '75**  
e: treasurer@usnama.com

BGO Coordinator: **Nikki Betz '05**  
e: bgo@usnama.com

Shipmate Contact: **LCDR Jessica Anderson '08, USN**  
e: communications@usnama.com

Website: [www.usnama.com](http://www.usnama.com)

### EVENTS

#### Upcoming Events:

I-Day is upon us! Welcome Class of 2027! We look forward to meeting the family and friends of Midshipmen and answering questions on

how NAMA supports the Brigade. NAMA will continue to offer online sessions to help answer career and life questions about finance, career progression, home buying, and more. NAMA offers a multitude of resources and is an excellent way to GIVE BACK to the institution that shaped us into the leaders we are today and in the future. Join NAMA today and get involved! We look forward to seeing what great work we can do together!

#### Past Events:

Thank you for making our second USNA Alumni Leadership Symposium and Gala a success! We look forward to next year's event! Congratulations to NAMA's Executive Director, **RADM Julius Caesar '77 (Ret.)** on receiving his Distinguished Graduate Award and a Bravo Zulu to all the 2023 recipients! NAMA members participated in Online events on finance, FITREPS, and real estate. Also, **Dr. Alisha Malloy '90**,

NAPS Academic Dean, led a STEM event in Brooklyn for middle school students in April.

NAMA partnered with the Naval Academy Foundation to establish the Naval Academy Minority Affairs Fund (NAMAF). Your donations support: on-campus visits for students and Centers of Influence, scholarship funding for STEM and NASS, Gospel Choir travel, and Midshipman activities.

Follow these steps to contribute today:

1. Visit [usna.com/give](http://usna.com/give) or follow direction on the NAMA web site.

2. Select the dollar amount you would like to contribute.

3. In the "I would like my money to go to" box, select "Other".

4. Type in Naval Academy Minority Affairs Fund.

5. Enter your donor information and click "Next"

Directions are on our website <https://www.usnama.com/donation-selection/>

## NESA

Naval Engineers & STEM Advocates (NESA)

Pres: **ADM John Richardson USN (Ret.)**

Vice Pres: **CAPT Sarah Rice '97, USN [Sel.]**

Sec'y: **CDR Renee Reedy '81 USN (Ret.)**

Treas: **LT John Rex Spivey '13, USN**

Outreach & Engagement: **CAPT Jill Rough '96, USNR**

CoS: **CAPT Dale Lumme '80, USN (Ret.)**

NAMA Liaison: **CAPT Timi Lindsay '92, USN (Ret.)**

# Run to Honor

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**  
p: 813-787-6098  
e: president@runtohonor.com  
Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**  
e: vp@runtohonor.com  
Treas: Jan Kennedy  
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**  
e: treasurer@runtohonor.com  
Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**  
e: secretary@runtohonor.com  
Website: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)



Alexa Hunter '04 (L), Jeff Webb '95 (M), and Shannon Webb '04 (R) run to honor at Annapolis Running Festival.

## Annapolis Running Festival 2023

RTH supporters have been active honoring our fallen alumni this past spring. A RTH team participated in the inaugural Annapolis RunFest held on 11 March. Braving the cold and wind, **Alexa Hunter '04 and Jeff Webb '95** ran the ½ marathon and **Shannon Webb '04 and Cecily Walsh '01** ran the 10K.

In honor of Memorial Day RTH coordinated events across the U.S. for alumni, family, and friends to connect virtually and in-person. These events were organized in multiple locations across the U.S. by volunteer USNA Chapters and local leads. The names listed in Memorial Hall were read live on location and several memorial run/walks were held. RTH would once again like to thank all that helped put events together this year continuing our mission to honor Naval Academy Alumni lost in combat or military operations in service to our Nation.

## Upcoming 2023 events:

48th MCM, MCM10K, & MCM50K in Washington D.C. Oct 27-29 (Shindig, run, cheer)

Committee Lead: **Steve Swift '87**, president@runtohonor.com

Honor Our Fallen Heroes in Annapolis, MD Fall 2023 11 November (Memorial Hall service, other activities around a home football game)

Committee Leads: **Shannon Webb '04**, secretary@runtohonor.com and **Alexa Hunter '04**, gear@runtohonor.com

More information about these events will be posted on our website and social network pages listed below.

Follow and share with us at: [www.facebook.com/runtohonor](http://www.facebook.com/runtohonor).

Sign up for our email list at: [www.runtohonor.com/mailling-list/](http://www.runtohonor.com/mailling-list/)



Get the stories behind the names in memorial hall at: [www.usnamemorialhall.org](http://www.usnamemorialhall.org)

Find RTH gear at: <http://runtohonor.bigcartel.com/> To Honor!

# USNA Pride

Pres: **Christopher Goodale '17**  
Vice Pres: **Isabel Krause '17**  
Sec'y: **Ally Annick '20**  
Treas: **Lucas Beltran '20**  
Outreach Officer: **Adam Schuman '08**

# USNA Women

Pres: **RADM Alma Grocki '81, USN (Ret)**  
p: 808-343-1523; e: [alma.grocki@gmail.com](mailto:alma.grocki@gmail.com)  
Vice Pres: **Col Maria Pallotta '94, USMC**  
p: 410-440-7552; e: [pallotta@usna.edu](mailto:pallotta@usna.edu)  
Sec'y: **Dr. Rhonda Scott '97**  
p: 240-462-0707; e: [rhondabscott@gmail.com](mailto:rhondabscott@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://women.usnagroups.net>

# RADM Simpson Summit — A Shared Vision

Jeff Webb '95, president of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation welcomed Chapters, Parents and Shared Interest Groups in April as they gathered together at the first inaugural RADM Simpson Summit. Many attendees gathered the evening before for networking and collaborating at the Naval Academy Club to get acquainted and kick off the event.

The day of the Summit brought together leadership from Chapters, Parent and Shared Interest Groups to collaborate and share their

resources on supporting midshipmen, alumni, parents of midshipmen and shared interest groups as well as the Naval Academy. The attendees heard from Academy leadership including Superintendent RADM Sean Buck '83 and special keynote speaker Kim Mitchell '96 who told her inspiring journey starting as an orphaned baby on the side of the road in Vietnam, to being rescued by a South Vietnamese soldier and then adopted by an American family and graduating from the Naval Academy, and serving her country.





# 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

**Alvin Douglas Huff '43**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
20 March 2023

**Mark M. Camp '46**  
2020

**Emiel Ralph Meisel '47**  
6 March 2023

**Harvey James Johnson '48**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
23 March 2023

**Reuben William Peterson Jr. '48**  
2 April 2023

**Theodore Albert Curtin '49** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
19 March 2023

**Joel Rabinowitz '49**  
11 February 2023

**James Hernandez Scott '49**  
RADM, USN (Ret.)  
23 February 2023

**David Jackson Woodard '49**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
20 August 2019

**James Henry Wynn III '49**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 April 2022

**Lawrence Penfield Treadwell Jr. '51**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
29 March 2023

**Edward St. Clair Stolle Jr. '52**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
20 March 2023

**James Edgar Wilson Jr. '52**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
12 March 2023

**Malcolm Randolph Corbin Jr. '53**  
12 March 2023

**Willis Ashford Lent Jr. '53**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
28 February 2023

**William Allen Lynch III '53**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
8 March 2023

**Lawrence Benedict Molnar '53**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
31 March 2023

**William Dulany Monroe III '53**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
14 February 2023

**Scott Raymond Foster '54**  
LT, USN (Ret.)  
9 April 2023

**Chris Krahn '54**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
6 March 2023

**Benjamin David McCubbins II '54**  
21 March 2023

**Thomas Lester State '55**  
14 March 2023

**Roger Held Lyle '56**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
17 March 2023

**Robert Allen Shinn '56**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
20 March 2023

**John Moore Boyd Jr. '57**  
16 January 2019

**Carlton Earl Haviland '57**  
4 April 2023

**Richard Lee Madouse '57**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
28 March 2023

**Hugo Edward Marxer '57** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
2 April 2023

**Frank Eugene Bassett '58** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
21 March 2023

**Francis Xavier Coyle '58**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
28 March 2023

**Richard Eugene Hanson '58**  
9 April 2023

**Martin Fleming Kuhneman '58**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
7 April 2023

**William Claude Barksdale '59**  
28 March 2023

**Duane Clarence Beck '60**  
Maj, USMC (Ret.)  
21 March 2023

**Joel William Febel '60**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
3 April 2023

**James Craig Reynolds '60**  
27 March 2023

**Malcolm Withington Chase '61**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
22 March 2023

**Benjamin Mabry Gregg '61**  
5 April 2023

**Luis Alberto Nazario Jr. '61**  
2021

**Jerry Lloyd Bankhead '62**  
7 February 2023

**George Warthen Wise Doss '62**  
26 March 2023

**Thomas Francis Doyle Jr. '62**  
CDR, USNR  
20 March 2023

**Norman Richard Green Jr. '62**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
1 April 2023

**Terrence Stephen Todd '62**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
25 March 2023

**Clyde Roger Vinson '62** ■  
1 April 2023

**John Frederick Morgan '63** ■  
Lt Col, USAFR (Ret.)  
3 April 2023

**Eric Allan Turner '63** ■  
20 June 2022

**John Lowell Kipp '64**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
30 March 2023

**Roger Frederick Fasting '65** ■  
22 March 2023

**Robert Dion Hennessy '65**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
27 January 2022

**David Joseph Kokoruda '66** ■  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
24 March 2023

**Lowell David Boaz '67**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
21 March 2023

**Joseph Clarence Bowyer '67**  
29 March 2023

**George William Garrett Sr. '67**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
6 March 2023

**James Allan Goebel '67**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
15 April 2023

**Joel Edward Tobiason '68** ■  
CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.)  
2 March 2023

**Richard Michael Watkins '69**  
8 April 2023

**Robert Stanley Weber '69**  
11 April 2023

**Stuart James Miller '70**  
28 February 2023

**Lynn Harbour Widener '70**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
20 March 2023

**Keith W. McIntyre '71**  
6 February 2023

**William Pickett Maloney '72**  
27 March 2023

**Martin Stevenson Brown '74**  
28 March 2023

**Albert Melrose Calland III '74** ■  
VADM, USN (Ret.)  
31 March 2023

**Martin Paul Kurdys '75** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
2 April 2023

**Daniel Lee Chellis '77**  
10 April 2023

**Larry Dewayne Plunk '80**  
27 March 2023

**Andrew Gordon Hurst '96**  
7 April 2023

**Jack William Keller '15**  
LT, USN  
22 February 2023

■ *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

Roger is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elizabeth Ann (Smith) Fasting; his brother, Paul Fasting (Sandra); and nephews, Roger and Mark Fasting.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation ([www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org)).

Condolences may be left for the family at ([www.andrewsmortuary.com](http://www.andrewsmortuary.com)). ★



### ROBERT JAMES NORMAN JR. '65

Captain Robert J. Norman Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 12 March 2023 at Cedarfield Retirement Community in Henrico, VA.

"Bob" was born on 7 March 1944 in New York City. At the Naval Academy, was in the 32nd Company during First Class Year and graduated with the Class of 1965. He later earned a MS in Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

During his 28-year career, Bob served aboard seven ships and was commanding officer of ENGAGE (MSO-443), GLOVER (FF-1098) and YELLOWSTONE (AD-41). While serving as executive officer aboard KIRK (FF-1087), he participated in the evacuation of Saigon, and was credited with saving the lives of many Vietnamese civilians. He is a recipient of The Legion of Merit. Bob retired in 1993.

In retirement, Bob and his wife, Julie, settled on the banks of Tipers Creek, off the Great Wicomico River, VA, just off the Chesapeake Bay. Avid sailors, they sailed thousands of miles onboard their 34-ft Cal sloop, QUEST, visiting and anchoring in almost every creek and harbor on the Chesapeake Bay, cruising down the U.S. coast, and spending five winters exploring the islands of the Bahamas.

Bob and Julie loved to travel (by land, canal boat and bareboat charter), visiting France multiple times, Canada, the Caribbean and South America (via a cruise ship rounding Cape Horn).

Since 1994, they were actively involved in ham radio (KE4OIL/KE4OIM), especially with the Waterway Radio and Cruising Club, where Bob served as commodore and frequently as net control with Julie as fleet captain.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Captain Robert James Norman Sr., USN (Ret.), and Agnes Stum; and his brother, Colonel Kurt D. Norman, USA (Ret.). He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Julie Malone Willman Norman of Henrico, VA; and two brothers, Gary D. Norman (Linda) of Ocala, FL, and Kim D. Norman (Tammy) of Galveston, TX.

Bob's memorial service will take place at Fort Myer, followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery, at a date to be announced.

*Mrs. Julie Norman & Bill Zuna '65 ★*



### GLENN ERNEST WELCH JR. '65

Captain "Ace" Welch, USN (Ret.), passed away on 22 February 2023 at his home in Coronado, CA, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on 15 February 1942 in Minneapolis, MN, to Jean Crail and Glenn Welch Sr. Through his father, Glenn was a member of The Sons of the American Revolution. After high school, Glenn joined the Navy before attending the Naval Academy. During First Class Year, he was in the Seventh Company and enjoyed sailing and participating in the annual USNA Knockabout regatta. Glenn and Susan Lape of Columbus, OH, were married in 1965.

Glenn served in Vietnam, followed by assignments at Little Creek NAB, Norfolk and at the Pentagon. In 1972, he received a master's degree in finance from the University of Baltimore.

Glenn assumed command of HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196) in 1982 and participated in the peace-keeping force off Lebanon during Middle East tensions. Afterwards, he became executive officer of a squadron in Virginia, then served as comptroller of the Philadelphia Naval Base and became Commanding Officer, Naval Amphibious Base Coronado in 1988.

After retirement, Glenn participated in many organizations, including the Coronado and Navy yacht clubs, Navy League and the Coronado Chamber of Commerce. He also served as a member of the Coronado Civil Service Commission and as president of the Coronado Navy League for many years.

Glenn was recognized by the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs as Yachtsman of the Year in 2022. He won the Coronado Yacht Club's Kempff High Point Trophy twice and the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) San Diego Championship Trophy four times. He also made numerous bareboat charter vacations to Tortola, VI, and to Greece. Glenn served as Coronado Yacht Club's PHRF San Diego representative, chair of the Coronado Yacht Club Race Committee for 12 years and served as Principal Race Officer for the Coronado Yacht Club and South Bay combined regattas. In 2015, the Coronado Yacht Club presented him with the Erly Eager Beaver Award in recognition of his contributions to the club.

Glenn is survived by his wife of more than 57 years, Sue; brother, Thomas Welch; sisters, Sally Welch and Cassie Laub; sons, John Welch and Mike Welch (Luci); and grandsons, Michael and Zachary Welch.

A memorial service took place at Miramar National Cemetery on 8 March 2023, followed by a gathering at the Coronado Yacht Club.

*Mrs. Susan Welch & Bill Zuna '65 ★*



### DAVID JOSEPH KOKORUDA '66

Captain David J. Kokoruda, USNR (Ret.), of Old Greenwich, CT, passed away suddenly at his home on 24 March 2023. He was 78 years old.

"Dave" was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on 11 January 1945 to Pearl and Joseph Kokoruda. He graduated from Shaler High School in 1962. "Duke" graduated with the Naval Academy Class of 1966.

In his 30-year career, consisting of three active duty tours in Vietnam on BOSTON (CAG-1) and TAPPAHANNOCK (AO-43), and his years in the United States Naval Reserve, he achieved the rank of captain. He earned the following awards: Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), Vietnam Service Medal with One Silver and One Bronze Star, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (60-) and Expert Rifleman Medal.

### USNA TRIBUTE GIFTS

[www.usna.com/tribute-gifts](http://www.usna.com/tribute-gifts)



Following active duty, he earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Professionally, he worked in the manufacturing industry and retired from Leviton Manufacturing after 30 years of dedicated service.

He served his community and his church faithfully. He left everyone with a smile on their face and left this world better than he found it. Everyone that knew Dave loved him.

Duke/Dad/PapPap was a loving husband, a doting father and a proud grandfather. He loved his family beyond measure and cared for them deeply; just as they did him. His sudden passing left a hole that can never be filled. He is remembered with tears over his loss, smiles for all the wonderful moments spent together and a love that will never fade.

His granddaughter, Regan, was his pride and joy. He loved her infinitely until the moment of his passing. He always took the opportunity to share pictures and stories of her personal, academic and athletic accomplishments. She was his favorite and him, hers.

He enjoyed his morning coffee, feeding the local wildlife, attending Bible study, volunteering at his church and sharing the word of God, which he held so dear.

He was predeceased by his parents, Pearl and Joseph; and his sister, Diane. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Molly Kokoruda; daughter, Beth Kokoruda; and granddaughter, Regan Kokoruda.

Dave was buried with military honors at Putnam Cemetery in Greenwich, CT, on 29 March 2023.

Memorial donations may be direct to Travellers Rest Farm Sanctuary ([travellersrestfarmsanctuary.org](http://travellersrestfarmsanctuary.org)).

*The Kokoruda Family* ★



**ARTHUR LEE EDWARDS '68**

Captain "Lee" Edwards, USN (Ret.), passed away on 8 March 2023 in Charleston, SC, at the age of 76. His loving wife, Judie, was at his side.

Born on 16 July 1946 in Hammond, IN, to Arthur and Nina Edwards, Lee was the oldest of four siblings. After graduating from high school in Chicago, Lee entered the Naval Academy in the summer of 1964, joining the Class of 1968. While at USNA, Lee distinguished himself academically, was a member of the Drum &

Bugle Corps and played 150 lb. football. Although initially wanting to fly Marine air, Admiral Rickover convinced Lee to join the Submarine Force after a long day of interviews at Naval Reactors.

Following graduation and completion of Nuclear Power Training and Submarine School, Lee served on several submarines, including SAND LANCE (SSN-660), SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN-641) and then nearly a decade in command of three different submarines, NATHAN HALE (SSBN-623), TREPANG (SSN-674) and PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN-735). Lee completed his distinguished 30-year career working in the Pentagon in the OP-02 SSBN program.

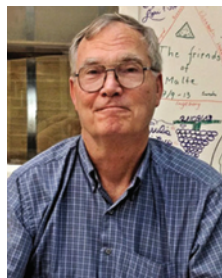
Following his retirement from the Navy, Lee's experiences in industry included being a program manager with Lockheed Martin, nuclear weapons production site remediation for the Department of Energy, eight years on the professional staff at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, as well as a senior consultant in the office of the chief engineer, NASA Headquarters. After earning a second master's degree, he taught Algebra at Springfield High School. Very active in the Pawleys Island community, Lee served on the boards for the South Carolina Maritime Museum and the Boys and Girls Club in Georgetown, SC.

Lee was an accomplished pilot and avid fisherman who had a deep love of the outdoors. He loved to go hiking and snow skiing and his many fishing trips took him to Alaska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Idaho and his

beloved Waccamaw River near his home in Pawleys Island, SC. Lee and Judie traveled extensively in Europe, Mexico and the Caribbean. A diehard Bears and Cubs fan, Lee loved both football and baseball and attended the Little League World Series.

Lee is survived by his wonderful wife of 37 years, Judie Chestnut Edwards; his sister, Julie Holms; and brother, Brian Edwards.

A memorial service was held on 16 April 2023 at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, SC. ★



**JOEL EDWARD TOBIASON '68**

"One of a kind" is the only way to describe the naval career and personal life of Captain Joel E. Tobiason, MC, USN (Ret.). Joel died at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, CA, on 2 March 2023 in the company of his wife and son.

Joel reported to the Naval Academy on 29 June 1964 with the Class of 1968, graduating four eventful years later with the 23rd Company, as a Navy ensign. Born an Air Force brat, he'd

lived in 12 different homes during his early life through high school, spending his last three years in Greenbrae, CA, across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. At the Academy, he was a brilliant student, rarely seen cracking a textbook, but achieving a Guggenheim Fellowship in Aeronautical Engineering at Columbia University.

Thereafter, Joel reported to Pensacola, FL, and earned his Wings as a helicopter pilot. His path led to Vietnam, where he was a pilot with the illustrious Seawolves of HA(L)-3. Upon his return to the mainland, Joel served in HSL-31 at NAS Imperial Beach, CA, and then in Pensacola, FL, as an instructor pilot at Saufley Field. While remaining in the Navy, he attended the University of Miami Medical School at the University of Miami, graduating in 1982.

Joel served as a flight surgeon at NAS North Island in Coronado, CA, (1984-1987), sought training as an anesthesiologist and served at the naval hospital on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, as a staff anesthesiologist (1990-1998), as chairman of the hospital's anesthesia department (1990-1991 and 1993-1995), and as director of surgical services (1996-1998).

Upon his retirement from the Navy in September 1998, Joel continued his work as a physician at San Diego County's Edgemoor Hospital (2001-2009).

His personal life was equally unique. He met the love of his life, the beautiful Margaret "Maggie" Price at a tea dance during Plebe Year. They parted ways at the Academy, only to rekindle their relationship in the 1980s, marrying in San Diego in 1984. They had one son, Nathan, whom he adored, and one grandchild, born on 29 January 2023.

Joel leaves behind a bevy of close Classmates, all of whom admire his great good fortune with his choice of a life partner. During Joel's final years, he and Maggie divided their time between Coronado and an idyllic farm in northern Virginia near Shenandoah National Park.

A Celebration of Life is planned for October 2023 in San Diego. ★

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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 2023 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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