

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

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MOMENTUM BUILDING

By Jeff Webb '95

2023 was a transformative year for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F). A decade in the making, the Fluegel Alumni Center held its official opening on 8 September. This achievement, thanks to alumni generosity, marks the beginning of a new era for USNA AA&F.

Alumni now have a central meeting spot for reunions and special events. The Fluegel Alumni Center has a dedicated space to host conferences, board meetings and informal gatherings of the alumni community. With more than two dozen events under our belt as of this writing, we are already seeing the positive impact of bringing our alumni together in a space they can call their own.

We now have the entire 100-plus person enterprise under one roof for the first time offering greater opportunities for collaboration and more efficient operations. The Fluegel Alumni Center has been tailored to better serve and support alumni throughout their life.

In August, the USNA AA&F's travel program successfully hosted many of the 7,500 members of the alumni community who traveled to Dublin, Ireland, for the Navy-Notre Dame game. What a sight it was to see so much Blue & Gold in Ireland. That experience illustrated the strength of alumni bonds.

In the coming year, our travel program will feature several World War II centric trips. They include Victory in the Pacific, WWII in the Philippines (March), Honoring the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy (late April and early May) and a D-Day Anniversary Cruise (29 May–8 June).

In a special offering, Admiral Robert Natter '67, USN (Ret.), will serve as guest lecturer during a 22 February–6 March Vietnam by Sea tour. Admiral Natter earned a Silver Star for his service in Vietnam, which included swimming his crewman to safety during a Viet Cong ambush.

2023 also was notable for the Alumni Association Board of Trustee's passage of Strategic Plan 2030 in May. This plan will guide the organization's strategic path through the rest of this decade.

The enterprise is already making progress on several initiatives including:

- Creating a baseline of alumni support services for our 69,000 alumni. We're building programs from scratch where we respond to the needs of our alumni across their entire lifetime journey. From getting a job after military service to eventually planning memorial services, we will enhance the support we provide alumni during all phases of life.

- Communicating to our alumni community how the USNA AA&F is organized and why we exist. We're making strides in telling people what we do through multiple channels including *Shipmate*, *Wavetops*, social media and an array of new connection products like *Rhumblines* and more engaged video.

We are closing out a productive 2023 and riding a wave of positive momentum into 2024. And speaking of riding...

Memorable Ride

On 5 October, I had the privilege to join the classes of 1973 and 1983 on the final leg of their cross-country bike rides. These two classes were kind enough to welcome Captain Frank Franky, SEAL and

deputy director for ethics at the Stockdale Center, and me for their momentous final day in the saddle. They celebrated their 50th and 40th reunions, respectively, by cycling nearly 3,400 miles. The two groups traveled separate paths from the West Coast, but converged at Arlington National Cemetery to bike the final 52 miles to the Naval Academy together. It was a fitting reminder of the strength of the unbreakable bonds forged at the Academy.

The Class of 1973 memorialized fallen classmates along their journey while '83 raised more than \$663,000 for nonprofits helping veterans (including more than \$112,000 for USNA AA&F). The ride was an extraordinary example of commitment, collaboration, honoring fallen classmates and continuing a life of service. The classes of 1973 and 1983 have laid down a marker that will hopefully inspire future classes to find creative ways to celebrate milestone reunions (see story on page 6).

The New Year

As we look ahead to greater engagement with the alumni community in 2024, we are committed to traveling to meet alumni where they are. Executive Vice President of Engagement and Communications Captain TJ Grady '96, USN (Ret.), and Senior Director of Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs Nancy Murray will be on the road starting this spring to meet with local chapters to provide updates on USNA AA&F's strategies and programs.

This will be an opportunity for all members of the alumni community—chapter members, Shared Interest Group leaders and parents—to interact directly with the folks within the enterprise working to improve the programs, experiences and support network for the entire Academy family.

We will keep you updated on our engagement plans and encourage you to stay connected by utilizing the myUSNA.com platform, where you can follow the activities of your Class, Chapter, Parent Club and Shared Interest Groups.

We are excited about the opportunities awaiting us in the new year.

Go Navy! Beat Army! 🇺🇸



CAPT Frank Franky, USN, SEAL and deputy director for ethics at the Stockdale Center, and USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95, rode with the classes of 1973 and 1983 on 5 October during the final leg of their cross-country bike rides.

SHIPMATE

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Get the Goat

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

Bill was hiding among the balloons on the back cover of the October 2023 issue of Shipmate.

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Our Mission

We strengthen our MEMBERS' BONDS to the Academy and to each other, to help them THRIVE AS LEADERS in and out of uniform and reach their FULL POTENTIAL.

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



On the Cover
The Brigade of Midshipmen paid tribute to the victims and the first responders of the 11 September 2001 attacks with the annual 9/11 stair run this year, ascending 110 flights of stairs. This symbolic physical evolution mirrors the first responders who raced up the same number of stairs to aid those trapped in the towers on that day. *Photo by MIDN Max Bueno '24*

ALL HANDS

Fluegel Alumni Center Officially Opens

The 8 September ribbon cutting for the Fluegel Alumni Center was an opportunity for U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F) leaders to express gratitude for the outpouring of generosity from the alumni community. Admiral Robert J. Natter '67, USN (Ret.), thanked Donna and Rick Fluegel '61 for making the first major commitment to an alumni center that houses the entire Alumni Association and Foundation enterprise. It also includes conference rooms and spaces for special events, reunions and for alumni to reconnect when they return to Annapolis.

"It's more than just the money, it's the fact that (the Fluegels) stood up and were willing to take a chance," said Natter, who chaired the center's joint advisory panel. "That enabled us to do this. Because of



Initial support from Rick '61 and Donna Fluegel helped create momentum for funding for the Fluegel Alumni Center, which had its official opening on 8 September.



A ceremony to mark the official dedication of the Fluegel Alumni Center was held on 8 September with (left to right) Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, ADM Bill Moran '81, USN (Ret.), USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95, ADM Robert J. Natter '67, USN (Ret.), Donna and Rick Fluegel '61, ADM Mark Ferguson '78, USN (Ret.), Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83 and Naval Academy Acting Superintendent RADM Fred Kacher '90, USN, handling ribbon cutting duties.

your example, a lot of other great people stepped up. Thank you for what you've done and continue to do."

Admiral Mark E. Ferguson '78, USN (Ret.), chairman of the Alumni Association Board of Trustees, said the opening of the Fluegel Alumni Center is a testament to the devotion of Naval Academy alumni, friends and family. That was evident as nearly 1,300 plankowners, including newly commissioned ensigns and second lieutenants, joined the fundraising effort.

"Thank you for our new home," Ferguson said. "Our new home might sit on the banks of College Creek but it rests on a foundation of love, commitment and perseverance. It rests on our commitment to provide our Academy with the Margin of Excellence to remain one of the top schools in the country and provide leaders for the Navy and Marine Corps.

"That commitment is manifested in the generosity of our donors."

Ferguson said the center will be focal point of the Alumni Association, Foundation and Athletic & Scholarship Program's efforts to support alumni and the Academy.

"It reflects the power of our community's philanthropy, and it represents our commitment to our alumni and the Academy for generations to come," he said.

USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95 thanked his predecessors and the volunteer leaders who laid the foundation for the Fluegel Alumni Center to become a reality. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83, Naval Academy Acting Superintendent Rear Admiral Fred Kacher '90, USN, and Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley were among the guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Webb said the Fluegel Alumni Center is the nerve center of the alumni community, and the vehicle through which the USNA AA&F will organize critical support for the Naval Academy for generations to come. He thanked those who stepped up with gifts for the center. He noted the building is paid in full and the enterprise has a healthy sustinment fund for future care of the facility.

"From the Fluegels' lead gift, we had a cascade of support at all levels," Webb said. "Thirty-nine major donors stepped forward, who you will see recognized in the named spaces in and around the building. We had organized support from 37 classes, as well as one Shared Interest Group, USNA Women." □



USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95 (left) was joined by his two predecessors, Byron F. Marchant '78 and CAPT George P. Watt Jr. '73, USNR (Ret.), during the 8 September official opening of the Fluegel Alumni Center.

Women's SIG Dedicates Alumni in the News Digital Display



WSIG's first President CAPT Barbetta H. Lowndes '80, USN (Ret.), cuts the ribbon on the Alumni in the News digital display at the Fluegel Alumni Center. Current WSIG President Linda G. Postenrieder '82 and Dan Quattrini '81, director of Class Legacy Giving, assist Lowndes with the ribbon.

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG) dedicated the digital display it sponsored at the Fluegel Alumni Center on 9 September. The Alumni in the News digital display screen showcases the impact alumni have made in uniform, in the private sector and in their communities.

The display is designed to be updated to highlight Naval Academy alumni accomplishments. During the dedication, the display featured Commander Juliane J. Gallina '92, USNR (Ret.), the

Academy's first female Brigade Commander; the Academy's first Black Commandant Vice Admiral Bruce E. Grooms '80, USN (Ret.); Captain Sunita L. Williams '87, USN (Ret.), who is a former record holder for most spacewalks by a woman (seven) and most spacewalk time for a woman (50 hours, 40 minutes); the Academy's first Black female graduate Janie Mines '80; the first woman Commandant of Midshipmen Rear Admiral Margaret D. Klein '81, USN (Ret.); and the first Women's Shared Interest Group President Captain Barbetta H. Lowndes '80, USN (Ret.).

Current Women's Shared Interest Group President Linda G. Postenrieder '82, applauded the donors who stepped up to support the Alumni in the News display. She said 42 of 45 donors are alumnae and their classes span between 1980 and 2017. The donors stretch from Hawaii to Maryland and each warfare specialty is represented. The Class of 1994 led the way with six alumnae donors.

"I just can't thank you enough," Postenrieder said. □



Members of the Women's Shared Interest Group and Alumni Association and Foundation gather under the "Don't Give up the Ship" sign at the Fluegel Alumni Center on 9 September following the dedication of the Alumni in the News digital display.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE LATTA

Millsap '05 Directs Documentary Offering Hope Amid Opioid Crisis



Serving others continues to drive Chase Millsap '05.

Following his career in the Marine Corps and as a Green Beret, Millsap produced a 2016 documentary spotlighting the efforts to help an Iraqi officer immigrate to America.

The officer saved Millsap's life and the film, *The Captain's Story*, shows the struggle the officer faces to get his family to safety. Millsap's latest project is *Small Town Strong*, a documentary

highlighting a team of athletes struggling with opioid abuse in Portsmouth, OH, as they combat addiction with fitness.

Filmed over four years with his brother, Spencer, *Small Town Strong* focuses on a town once known as the pill mill capital of America. Since 2007, the same year Millsap deployed on a second tour to Iraq, fatal drug overdoses have been the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio, with nearly 80 percent of cases resulting from fentanyl in recent years.

Millsap documents how, Portsmouth, a small town in the heart of Appalachia, has discovered a way to break the cycle of addiction, isolation and despair through fitness and community.

"For me, this project was more than a calling, it was a mission," Millsap said. "There's an addiction battle raging in our communities, our neighborhoods and even our families. In a time when synthetic opioids, especially fentanyl, are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50, *Small Town Strong* offers a message far different from other narratives about the crisis. Like all great comeback stories, our film captures hope."

Small Town Strong was released on 3 October 2023 on Amazon and Apple TV. It was the top documentary on Apple TV when it debuted. For more information on the film, visit www.smalltownstrongdoc.com. □

Classes of '73 and '83 Conclude Cross-Country Rides Together

After cycling more than 3,200 miles over six weeks, members of the Naval Academy classes of 1973 and 1983 completed their separate cross-country rides together for the final 52 miles from Arlington National Cemetery to the Naval Academy on 5 October.

The Class of 1973 used its ride—which began on 4 August in Astoria, OR—to honor classmates they've lost. At least one of the 138 members of the class were honored each day of the journey and a link was added to a chain for each classmate lost.

Doug Leland '73 was one of five Class of 1973 riders to ride across the nation. He said honoring his fallen classmates was an emotional and meaningful endeavor.

"It was very emotional," Leland said of adding links to their chain. "Every day we were honoring one or more. We were talking about their lives, accomplishments and their families. It becomes much more personal.

"It had more of an impact on all five riders than any of us thought about before we started this ride."

The Class of 1973 did a lap around the Yard before having a moment of remembrance at the Columbarium.

"It wasn't just a joy ride around the Yard," Leland said. "We had 138 spirits we were bringing back to the Naval Academy."

The Class of '83's Ride Across America started on 23 August in Whidbey Island, WA, and concluded with a front-wheel dip into College Creek from the Hubbard Hall dock with the Class of '73. Along the way, the class raised more than \$663,000 for veterans organizations including \$112,000 for the Naval Academy Foundation. The Class of 1983 had a total of 70 riders participate at some point along the way.

Dave Saba '83 said his classmates rallied around each other during the trip and leaned on lessons learned at the Academy.

"Everybody helped everybody," Saba said. "That's how we got there. All those basic principles we learned at the Academy—teamwork, everybody working together and you don't leave anyone behind—when you do something like that, it's amazing and life-changing."

Saba said providing a helping hand to nonprofit veterans organizations was a natural choice for his classmates. He was pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of donations.

"When we started creating this epic journey, we said we had to do something positive," he said. "Raising money for organizations that help veterans where government can't was important. That is beyond what we thought we could do."

Leland said the Class of 1983 proved to be the perfect partner. He challenged other classes to create their own legacy to honor classmates or help others.

"Think big," Leland said. "One of our objectives was to do something that was bigger than ourselves and meaningful. There are a lot of other things that can be done. The classes of 1973 and 1983 set the bar. Our challenge to other classes is to raise the bar. We want you to raise the bar. We want this to be just the beginning." □



Members of the classes of 1973 and 1983, friends, family and supporters gathered at Arlington National Cemetery on 5 October to honor lost classmates. They started the final leg of their cross-country bike rides from Arlington and finished it at the Naval Academy.



Cyclists with the classes of 1973 and 1983 dip their front tires into College Creek at the conclusion of the final leg of a cross-country ride on 5 October. The Class of 1973 rode in honor of the 138 classmates they've lost while the Class of 1983 rode to raise money for several nonprofits that support veterans.



Members of the Class of 1983 take a break from the final leg of their more than 3,200-mile cross-country trip to visit Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on 5 October.

Vietnam By Sea

Admiral Robert Natter '67, USN (Ret.), will serve as guest lecturer during a 22 February–6 March Vietnam by Sea tour offered by the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation travel program. The cruise includes visits to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

Admiral Natter was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his actions during his service in Vietnam. Three months into becoming officer in charge of a SEAL boat

support detachment in the lower Mekong Delta, his small craft was caught in a Viet Cong ambush. All aboard were killed or wounded. Seriously injured, Admiral Natter swam ashore and then back with one other crewman, directing suppressing fire to bring the damaged boat through a hail of enemy fire.

The program features guest speaker Kim Phuc, who, as a child in 1972, was the subject of the famous photograph by Pulitzer-prize winning photographer Nick Ut. Jim Laurie, a TV news correspondent during the Vietnam



War, will also be on the trip. For more information on this trip and other alumni travel programs, visit www.usna.com/Travel. □

PHOTO BY CHRISTIE LINNARD



VADM Al J. Krekich '64, USN (Ret.), Roger Staubach '65, RADM Tom Lynch '64, USN (Ret.), Skip Orr '65 and CAPT Bob Wittenberg '66, USN (Ret.), reunite in Annapolis for their Navy Football 60th Reunion. Their 1963 team finished No. 2 in the country with a 9-2 record.

Team of Destiny

How the '63 Navy Football Team Keeps the Brotherhood Bonds Strong 60 Years Later

Reflecting on old times, booming laughs and a bond that has held the members of the 1963 Navy football team together since their time at the Academy were all highlights from the team's 60th reunion during the weekend of 20 October.

Known as "The President's Team," "The Team of Destiny" and considered the greatest Navy football team ever assembled, the 1963 team is many things, but most of all, it is an example of lifelong friendships.

"We had this feeling among one another that we are brothers. We never want to lose that," said '63 team captain Rear Admiral Tom Lynch '64, USN (Ret.). "We've been through plebe year here, summer training, four years at the Naval Academy, all the ups and downs of football ... we have this bond. These guys, they're my best friends in life. We are brothers for life."

The brothers don't take their time together for granted. Skip Orr '65, wide receiver for the '63 team, spoke on the team's bond beyond the sport.

"Each time we do this, the bonds just get stronger," Orr said. "We lose some people along the way, unfortunately, but we love each other. We care about each other."

The 1963 team was No. 2 in the nation, finished with an overall record of 9-2, and earned a chance to play in the Cotton Bowl against No. 1 Texas. Although they lost to Texas, the team crushed records and produced the Academy's second Heisman Trophy winner, Roger Staubach '65, who would go on to win two Super Bowls with the Dallas Cowboys and become a member of the National Football Hall of Fame.

"The '63 team was so good," Staubach said. "We beat Notre Dame, Michigan ... our season went along and that's what allowed someone on the team to win the Heisman Trophy and they picked me. It was the success of that team that really lit my life up."

Times may change, but the physical mission at the Academy stays just as important to the development of midshipmen as it did in 1963. Like the physical mission, the memories and shared stories also remain just as important to the team.

"The older you get, the better you are than when you were playing," Lynch said. "All of us are going to be All-Americans in the next five years, probably four or five more Heisman winners too!"

June '75 to receive Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences



Captain Carl H. June '75, USN (Ret.), will receive the 2024 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for the development of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell immunotherapy, a revolutionary cancer treatment approach in which each patient's T cells are modified to target and kill their cancer cells. The invention sparked a new path in cancer care, harnessing the power of patients' own immune systems, a once-elusive goal that brought fresh options for those who

could not be successfully treated with conventional approaches.

Dr. June is the Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center. He will be one of eight laureates who will be celebrated on 13 April 2024, at the 10th annual Breakthrough Prize ceremony held in Los Angeles, CA.

Founded in 2012, the Breakthrough Prize is the world's largest science award, with \$3 million awarded for each of the five main prize categories. June is the sixth Breakthrough Prize laureate from Penn, which joins Harvard and MIT among the institutions whose researchers have been honored with the most Breakthrough Prizes.

"This award is not only a testament to Dr. June's outstanding contributions to science, but also a shining example of the caliber of discoveries and research which Penn faculty set their sights upon," said University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill. "We are immensely proud to have Dr. June as a member of the Penn academic community, and we know that CAR T cell therapy is just the first chapter in an inspiring and lifesaving new era of medicine."

June is internationally recognized for his role in pioneering the CAR T cell therapy. In August 2017, his work led to the first FDA-approved personalized cellular therapy which treated children and young adults with the blood cancer known as lymphoblastic leukemia. That approval spurred five additional approvals of the technique in other blood cancers. Gene-modified T cells engineered in June's lab to retrain a patient's own immune cells to attack cancer were used in the first clinical trial of CAR T cell therapy in 2010. Some of the earliest children and adults treated have experienced long-lasting remissions of ten years or more. In addition to the FDA approvals that have made the therapy commercially available to patients across the world, thousands more have benefited from clinical trials testing these transformative treatments, including for the treatment of solid tumors and even autoimmune diseases like lupus.

June, who is also the director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at Penn, earned his medical degree from the Baylor College of Medicine. He is a 2016 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate honoree.

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50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN NAVAL AVIATION 30 YEARS UNTETHERED

By Captain Mary Louise Griffin, USN (Ret.), Captain Barbara Bell '83, USN (Ret.), E.d.D.
and Captain Allison Webster '84, USN (Ret.), E.d.D.

Two significant milestones in naval aviation were marked this year: 50 years of women aviators and 30 years since Congress repealed the combat exclusion laws. It has been a challenging, culture-changing journey. Women now fly *unrestricted* in all services.

The First Door Opens

The 1970s presented our country with challenges. Social upheaval, technology advancing with the speed of a moonshot and the potential ending of the draft, created a personnel crisis for the Navy: Recruitment was way down. Young men no longer needed an alternative to the draft.

Newly appointed Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt '43, USN (Ret.), stepped in. Perhaps stirred by the anticipated passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, he moved forward with ways to attract young people to his new Navy. He said, "Not enough men ... bring on women!" And, he meant for more than administrative help—far more.

Zumwalt unleashed a flurry of messages; surprising many with what he conveyed in his "Z-Grams." In August 1972, Z-Gram 116, "Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women in the Navy" was the beginning of women in naval aviation. In a larger sense, it was the beginning of Navy women—officers and enlisted—reaching into all aspects of naval operations.

Eight women began Navy flight training in March 1973. The eight primary selectees were reduced to six with the voluntary withdrawal of two women. The six remaining student aviators quickly completed training and received their Wings of Gold in 1974: Lieutenant Junior Grade Barbara Allen, Lieutenant Junior Grade Judy Neuffer,



Ensign Jane Skiles, Ensign Joellen Drag, Ensign Ana-Maria Scott and Ensign Rosemary Conatser.

Based on the success of the first six women, Zumwalt declared there would be a second class. Eight more women began flight training in 1975 and eight more again in 1976. Then it was 15 per year; there was no turning back. The wave of change had begun.

More Change in the Air

Initially women were limited to flying helicopters (although not off ships) and propeller aircraft. *Women were specifically prohibited from serving in combat aircraft and from entering the jet training pipeline.* However, women such as Lieutenant Junior Grade Chris Giza were given



CDR Becky Calder '98, USNR, is the first female pilot to graduate from TOPGUN. She flew the F/18 Hornet in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

the opportunity to transition to T-39 and C-9 jet transport aircraft.

With more women seeking to joint their male counterparts flying fighter jets, it became necessary to mount a legal challenge. Helicopter pilot Lieutenant Joellen Drag braved the anticipated stigma and potential career downside to join a successful class-action lawsuit challenging, among other things, restrictions on the right for women to perform the same mission as men and land on Navy ships.

Meanwhile, by 1975, the Navy's Composite and Logistics Support squadrons (VC and VRC) had a handful of women flying C-1 Carrier Onboard Delivery aircraft, from land bases only. However, the lifespan of the old, noisy, radial-engine-folding-wing warrior came

to an end. In Lieutenant Junior Grade Rosemary Conatser's VC-2 squadron, the C-1 was replaced with the A-4 Skyhawk, a single-seat tactical jet aircraft. Conatser's skipper was perhaps the bravest man in the Navy when he said, "she transitions just like the guys!"

Conatser, an exceptional aviator and dedicated officer, proved beyond doubt, "women can fly jets." With a few more women in the limited jet transport transition, Lieutenant Junior Grade Mary Louise Jorgensen, of the second class, immediately upon winging, was detailed to VC-7 at NAS Miramar. She completed the jet transition syllabus with the exception of carrier qualification. Women entered the jet pipeline.

Another Pipeline Opens— The U.S. Naval Academy

In 1975, a significant piece of legislation was passed when President Gerald Ford signed PL 94-106, opening service academies to women in 1976. With the Naval Academy graduating the first women in 1980, the Navy was pressured to accommodate the highly qualified women; more jobs opened for women in aviation, surface warfare and staff corps. The success of women Naval Academy, NROTC and Officer Candidate School graduates made the presence of women a force for change.

Chris Lewis Campbell '80 was drawn to aviation watching her Marine Corps test pilot father exchange sea stories with his fellow pilots. Her father's assignments included Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave desert.

"Even as a little kid I watched dad shoot the breeze with fellow pilots on the back porch and was mesmerized by the exciting storie—lies—they told and how happy they seemed to be in aviation," she said. "The pride and pleasure and thrill they displayed had everything to do with my lifelong desire to be a military pilot."

Her arrival at the Academy nearly coincided with the entrance of women into the naval aviation community. Campbell's Navy career included flying the A-4E Skyhawk in support of U.S. fleet training and Western Pacific foreign navy training and serving as a flight instructor, specializing in the "out of control" or Spin Recovery program.

“The thrill and fun were real,” Campbell said. “Just as in sports, if you work hard and are reasonably good you are always welcome on the team. The physicality of operating an aircraft combined with the mental demands were challenging and very rewarding ... These factors also honed one’s ability to honestly critique oneself and heavily rely on a sense of humor.

After leaving naval service, she accumulated more than 10,000 flight hours as a line pilot for Delta Air Lines.

Captain Wendy Lawrence ’81, USN (Ret.), served 11 years as a helicopter pilot, making more than 800 shipboard landings during her naval aviation service. She was one of the first two women helicopter pilots to make a long deployment to the Indian Ocean as part of a carrier battle group while stationed at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HC) 6. In 1995, she became the first Naval Academy alumna to go to space.

“I’m very grateful to the commanding officers at HC-6, my first operational squadron,” said Lawrence, who earned more than 1,500 hours of flight time in six types of helicopters. “Thanks to their efforts, I was able to go on several shipboard deployments, just like my male colleagues.”

Supporting Fellow Aviators

Naval Academy alumnae kept track of one another in their careers—especially in the early years. We watched as the women from 1980, including Rear Admiral Sandy Daniels ’80, USNR (Ret.), Marjorie Morley Bachmann ’80, Commander Kathy Karlson Ozimek ’80, USN (Ret.), and Suzanne Grubbs ’80, took to the skies. Then quickly followed Rear Admiral Peg Deluca Klein ’81, USN (Ret.), and Captain Kay Hire ’81, USN (Ret.). Women were

The first four female Navy officers to earn their wings on 22 February 1974 were, from left to right, LT(JG) Barbara A. Rainey, USN; ENS Jane M. Skiles, USN; LT(JG) Judith A. Neuffer, USN; and ENS Kathleen L. McNary, USN.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

helping women navigate careers, family and new opportunities. And many male allies helped as well.

In many ways women aviators were still “building the aircraft as we were flying it” in terms of creating career paths that did not yet exist for women. Women filled in every aviation community that allowed them, always pushing for change.

On To Capitol Hill

In post-Gulf War 1991, political debate began. What combat roles should women aviators hold? Women had flown in the Gulf War, but only in support roles; in reality, women were in combat. They flew support aircraft carrying supplies to the front lines, but their aircraft could not be armed. Essentially, women could be shot at, but could not shoot back; time for change.

As debate grew, women military aviators including Academy alumnae Captain Barbara Bell ’83, USN (Ret.), Captain Allison Webster ’84, USN (Ret.), and Commander Nancy Dykoff Fechtig ’86, USN, all of whom are Navy Test Pilot School graduates, raised a strong, professional voice in Washington, DC; they joined the network, Women Military Aviators (WMA), and began efforts to repeal the combat exclusion laws. Captain Rosemary (Conatser) Mariner spearheaded the charge. Active duty and reserve women of WMA joined forces with the Women Airforce Service Pilots

“[My predecessors] collective service and sacrifice bravely opened doors, shattered glass ceilings and made it possible for me to pursue my dream.”

—CDR Becky Calder ’98, USNR

(WASP), the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Women's Research Education Institute (WREI).

Military women traversed the halls of Congress educating everyone on the combat aviation roles women were qualified to fill. Women attended strategy meetings and hearings, met with members of Congress, were interviewed on television and wrote articles for *The Washington Post*. These advocates showed Congress that women military aviators had the skills, confidence and mettle to fly combat aircraft.

Greeting a group in his office, one senator came face to face with a young woman aviator he had appointed to the Naval Academy years before. Her passion welled up as she said, "You appointed me to the United States Naval Academy in 1979. It is now time that you give me equal opportunity in the Navy, sir." It is uncertain if the senator remembers, but Bell will remember it for the rest of her life. In the halls of Congress, the girl from a small town in Michigan, now a naval officer, speaking her truth; she had come a long way. All women aviators had come a long way.

Many senators and representatives listened. The FY92 Defense Authorization Bill repealed combat exclusions, allowing women to fly combat aircraft and to serve on combatant ships. In 1993, assignments became unlimited.

Vice Admiral Sara A. Joyner '89, USN, serves as director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J8, Joint Staff. She flew F/18 Hornets and commanded units including the Strike Fighter Squadron 105 "Gunslingers." As part of the first wave of women in combat, she served on deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

She said her time in combat provided vital experience that proved invaluable as her Navy career progressed.

"If I were a naval aviator with a Hornet background and I hadn't been into combat, then I would be incomplete," she told *Shipmate* for an October 2020 story. "I would not be somebody that could represent our community appropriately at higher levels. I would have not been fully qualified in the eyes of anybody in my community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VADM SARA A. JOYNER '89 USN

Lieutenant Commander Catherine E. Gillies '89, USN (Ret.), earned her Wings of Gold in 1991. Her initial career goal was to be a surface warfare officer. However, she returned from her first-class summer cruise seeking another community. She and a classmate were the only two women on board and they were subjugated to unwanted attention.

About a week into their tour, a call went out for volunteers to go to Helicopter Control Officer School. Gillies jumped at the opportunity.

"I knew the minute I walked through the hangar door that I had found my place," Gillies said. "They smiled. They liked each other. They loved their jobs. I decided that helos would be a good fit for me because I could still go to sea, but that I would be able to get off the ship when I had had enough.

"Helicopters worked out beautifully for me and I couldn't believe I got paid to do that every day. The flying was awesome, and I got the opportunity to open a few doors for women behind me."

VADM Sara A. Joyner '89, USN, flew F/18 Hornets as part of the first wave of women in combat. She served on deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She is currently director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J8, Joint Staff.

FEATURE

Gillies served on seven different aircraft carriers. She and a fellow women pilot in her first squadron were the first women pilots to be attached to *KITTY HAWK*.

“When the Combat Exclusion Law was lifted, I became the first woman pilot to fly in a Marine Corps squadron (as a Sailor),” she said. “I retired from the Navy after 20 years, and I loved almost every minute of my career.”

Commander Kristin Barnes '92, USN (Ret.), served in several combat zones as an F14 Radar Intercept Officer. She accumulated nearly 3,000 hours with 703 arrested carrier landings during her career.

Barnes was unable to meet the requirements to enter the Navy diving community, so she chose aviation in 1992.

“I had no idea of what was to come only one year later when the combat exclusion was repealed in '93,” she said. “That path set me up to be in a F14 Tomcat back seat until we retired the platform in 2006.

“It’s very difficult to describe that mindset shift that happened in '93—it was a huge shift in agency over my life from ‘where am I allowed to go?’ to ‘where do I want to go?’ That simple shift has made the difference in every choice I’ve made since then. I guess in a very profound way, I found my adventure after all. Finding my way to naval aviation at that time in U.S. Naval history helped me find the courage to make my own path in life instead of being told what to do.”

The Doors Are Open—CAVU (Ceiling and Visibility Unrestricted)

Today, women in the military fly everything men fly, and they are increasingly more visible. Women have risen to the ranks of captain, colonel, admiral and general. Surface warfare officer Admiral Michelle Howard '82, USN (Ret.), became the first woman four-star; she served as vice chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), and, as the commander, Naval Forces Europe. Rear Admiral Amy Bauernschmidt '94, USN, commanded *ABRAHAM LINCOLN* and now serves as deputy commander, U.S. 7th Fleet.

Commander Becky Calder '98, USNR, is grateful for the courage, resilience and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

determination of the women who came before her. In 2004, Calder was selected to attend the U.S. Navy’s Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). She became the first female pilot to graduate from the program. She flew the F/18 Hornet for 15 years, including in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Calder credits her predecessors for paving the path in naval aviation. She said it’s important that she and her contemporaries assist future generations.

“Their collective service and sacrifice bravely opened doors, shattered glass ceilings and made it possible for me to pursue my dream,” Calder said. “We all share in the responsibility to assist and mentor the next generation. As leaders in the military, one of the most important things we can do is train our replacement. We need to encourage, empower and enable everyone that comes after us to be better than we were.”

During her career in the cockpit, Calder said she focused on being the best F/18 pilot she could be and taking advantage of the opportunity to serve.

“Our country was at war, and being the ‘first’ was never part of it for me,” she said. “The jet truly does not care about gender—all that matters is credibility and capability. There was an incredible naval flight officer who went through TOPGUN before me, Commander Elizabeth Malecha '94, USNR, and she was instrumental in showing me what was possible.

“As I have gotten older, and especially since becoming a parent, I realize the importance of representation and I am honored and humbled to share in the collective legacy of opening doors for others to go through. While I may have been the first pilot to go through TOPGUN, I most certainly am not the last and that is what truly matters.”

Lieutenant Colonel Jeannette Haynie '98, USMCR, was determined to fly Marine Corps Cobras. Ignoring the naysayers,

LT Caitlin Perkowski '15, USN, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 192, and LT Suzelle Thomas '18, USN, assigned to VFA-97, are interviewed by a correspondent from ABC's Good Morning America at Luke Air Force Base, AZ, on 7 February 2023, in preparation for their flyover of Super Bowl LVII. The flyover celebrated 50 Years of Women Flying in the Navy, honoring the legacy of women in naval aviation. The all-female crew also included LT Saree C. Moreno '14, USN, and LT Naomi R. Ngalle '16, USN.

she earned her seat in the attack helicopter. She flew while pregnant with all three of her children and cherishes her time as a pilot.

“(The Cobras) looked tough and intimidating, the community was not friendly to women, and the mission was such a unique one,” Haynie said. “After repeatedly being told that women couldn’t or shouldn’t fly attack helicopters, it was a clear choice. It ended up being a hard but worthwhile choice, too.”

Thanks to the pioneering women aviators who made those hard but worthwhile choices, opportunities for women continued to unfold. Women aviators and submariners became astronauts. The U.S. Congress has a record number of women serving, several are military aviators, Navy veterans and Naval Academy graduates.

The first wave of women naval aviators and women Naval Academy graduates were not an experiment to be proven wrong; they were given the opportunity to change the world. Success was often a bumpy road traveled alone. Today, the naval aviation family is all encompassing.

Ensign Samantha Chapen '23, USN, said she was drawn to the naval aviation community by the people. She said she was lucky to have numerous inspiring aviation mentors who were eager to share their passion for their craft with the next generations.

Chapen said her summer cruise in Jacksonville, FL, with Helicopter Maritime Strike-74 sealed her decision.

“Flying with the squadron showed me firsthand the aviation community holds one of the most exciting, but imperative jobs in the Navy,” she said. “Pilots specifically exhibited qualities like courage, ambition and passion. I felt my personality and interests meshed the most with people from the aviation community ... I am very excited to enter such a thrilling career of flying, while doing it alongside amazing people with an even bigger purpose.” 🚢

Elements of this article were previously published in Wings of Gold magazine 2023. CAPT Griffin is a retired captain from American Airlines. CAPT Bell is a adjunct professor of leadership at the Naval Academy. CAPT Webster is dean of American University of Iraq-Baghdad's college of education and human development.



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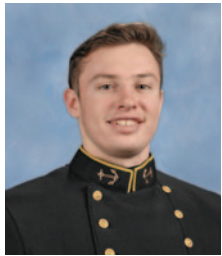
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HONORABLE LIVING

MIDSHIPMAN ETHOS CHALLENGES BRIGADE TO ASPIRE TO HIGHER VALUES



By Midshipman Cam Eldridge '24,
Brigade Honor Advisor

Character development at the Naval Academy can be traced back to the creation of the Honor Concept in 1953. The Honor Concept concisely outlines behavior that is unacceptable of a midshipman: lying, cheating or stealing. While this is certainly a baseline for morality, it is not the complete picture of honorable living. Following a major cheating scandal in 1992, a committee chaired by then-Ambassador Richard Armitage '67 noted this fact, saying:

Character development is far more than not lying, cheating or stealing. The Honor Concept is more than a simple set of rules or procedures; it is a “way of life.” Every future Navy and Marine Corps officer must weave honor into the fabric of his or her being, professional and personal. From Induction Day, midshipmen must realize that the content of their character, and the degree of attention given to it by the Academy, are central to their development as future officers. When midshipmen adopt and internalize the honor ethos, it must not be solely for fear of punishment, but because they aspire without reservation to the right course of action.

— Report of the Honor Review Committee to the Secretary of the Navy on Honor at the United States Naval Academy, 1993

The committee also concluded the Honor Concept had come to be viewed as a “punitive process” and an “obstacle to be avoided” rather than an aspirational ideal that could change the way they lived. In accordance with these observations, the committee recommended the creation of a new document to supplement the Honor Concept and set out the basis of character development in “thou shalt” language. The following year, in 1994, the Honor Treatise was created, but in the following decades it was not used to its potential.

By 2022, in the wake of another cheating incident at the Naval Academy, honorable living became a major focus of the Commandant. At the squad level we all discussed what constituted honorable living and the topic came up in “Dant’s Calls” frequently. Around the same time, I signed 2 for 7’s and attended the Second Class Commitment Dinner, where the Honor Treatise was read; this was the first time that I had ever heard the Honor Treatise. Just a few weeks later I had the unique opportunity as a member of the Brigade Honor Staff to interview the Commandant about his perception of honor at the Naval Academy. I asked him about the Honor Treatise, noting that despite the Brigade’s unfamiliarity with it, the document seemed directly tied to the concept of honorable living. To my surprise, I walked out of the Commandant’s office that day with a charge to review the Honor Treatise and use it as the basis for an updated document that is meaningful to the Brigade.

As the Honor Staff discussed the perception of honor throughout the Brigade, we noted that the issues identified by the Armitage Committee were still prevalent. The Honor Concept was a great baseline for defining behaviors that must be remediated, but it alone actually does very little to guide midshipmen toward living a virtuous life. We concluded if the Brigade had an opportunity to revise the Honor Treatise, we would be able to deliver a document that simultaneously inspires midshipmen to improve their character while speaking to the values and challenges faced by midshipmen today.

After a handful of meetings, consultation with officers and mentors, a Brigade-wide town hall and a discussion with Medal of Honor recipient Britt Slabinski, our committee of nine midshipmen had identified the ideas that we wanted to be encapsulated in our document: the four cardinal virtues of wisdom, courage, temperance and justice; the privilege of serving our nation; teamwork; dignity and respect; and upholding a standard of excellence, to name a few. Upon completion of the draft, our group realized that what we had created was not just a treatise on honor, but rather a document that describes the beliefs and aspirations of the Brigade. An ethos for midshipmen.

Since its adoption the Midshipman Ethos has been incorporated into Brigade training at various levels, most notably Plebe Summer, where the Class of 2027 memorized it as a rite. In the lifelong and often confusing journey of developing virtue, the Midshipman Ethos serves as a guide for midshipmen. We recognize that living an honorable life is about more than only abstaining from lying and that phrases often used in Bancroft Hall such as “be a good dude” provide no concrete

direction. The Midshipman Ethos does not replace the Honor Concept but builds upon it as a set of values that all midshipmen and graduates can hold close as pillars of their character during their time at Annapolis and beyond.



Midshipman Mitchell Riley '26

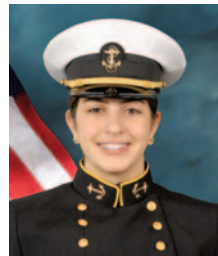
From the Commandant's task to revise USNA's Honor Treatise to the final document we uphold now, contributing to the Midshipman Ethos has been an honor and truly formative experience. The Ethos is not an entirely new document; however, our intention as a committee along with our overseeing leadership, and the Brigade

as a whole, was to revitalize and modernize a document that was passed down to us by our predecessors. In their time, the Brigade faced its own unique challenges. In ours, we are adapting as well.

Nonetheless, we recognized that the foundation of our responsibility as midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy is unchanging and should thus be articulated in a concrete ethos, while addressing our evolving environment. I found it educational and eye-opening to work with fellow

midshipmen from various backgrounds and perspectives. Individually, we each brought our own thoughts and biases to the table and together, we shared them to form a draft.

With time, our draft was molded and reshaped by countless officers and members of the wider Brigade. Ultimately, the Midshipman Ethos is a living document that deserves our attention, reflection and revision. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have shared a hand in forming the Ethos we see today and eager to see how the Brigade continues to evolve while remaining grounded in our cardinal structure.



Midshipman Theresa Milio '24

The ability to revise the Honor Treatise, now the Midshipman Ethos, was an amazing opportunity for us. The goal was to instill a sense of pride in what we do and remind everyone of the reasons we are here when they read the Ethos. We have a lot of regulations detailing the things we should not do, so creating something more

positive that describes our values and the way they manifest in our actions is very valuable for the Brigade.

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES



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Midshipman Ethos

We are united with our fellow Midshipmen by the trust placed in us by the American people, our friends, and our families. Under a **solemn oath**, I accept the honor and privilege of supporting and defending our Constitution.

I strive to develop exceptional **character** through virtuous living in all I do. I will: consistently seek wisdom to learn that which is right, practice discipline to align my daily habits with my convictions, act with courage to uphold those convictions, and exercise the justice and fairness expected of a leader.

I respect and cherish the diverse backgrounds and talents of every Midshipman. I treat others with **dignity and respect** both in person and online.

I hold myself and my fellow Midshipmen **accountable** to the high standards of the Brigade. We seek support when needed, and encourage others to do the same. We share credit for our successes and own our shortcomings; we win and lose as a team.

We recognize that our country is counting on us to remain steadfast in our **core values** of honor, courage and commitment. We embrace the inherent risk of the profession of arms and strive for the standard of excellence required to **lead our nation's Sailors and Marines**.

"This is our call as Midshipmen; it is a mission I humbly accept."



The Commandant has been constantly emphasizing the Midshipman Ethos and its applicability to both our everyday actions and our future careers as officers. It is especially unique in that it was not simply written by officers, but instead had input from both midshipmen and officers. The ability to define the virtues we live by and what is important to us as a Brigade makes it more applicable, and differentiates it from other regulations at USNA.



Midshipman Sydney Bare '25

While the Naval Academy has been producing phenomenal officers without a true Midshipman Ethos, the truth is that the Naval Academy needed a positive spin on honorable living. In addition, we needed a simple answer to the ever-present question of "What is it like to be a midshipman?"

Within the group drafting, there were many different backgrounds, inspirations and aspirations

present. That said, it was seemingly simple to agree on the key takeaways of what the Midshipman Ethos should represent. This Ethos sets us apart from counterparts by giving the midshipmen and graduates something to take pride in and something to hold near and dear to their core for as long as they will live.

Captain Jason Rimmer '95, USN

Director, Naval Academy Division of Leadership Education and Development

I am proud of the Midshipman Ethos and the midshipmen who collaborated to write it. A companion to the USNA Mission and the Honor Concept, it serves as an aspirational document that lays out the components of character we hope to build in the members of the Brigade.

We included the Midshipman Ethos in this year's *Reef Points* issued to the Class of 2027. Like the Naval Academy Mission, our intent is to ensure the Ethos is memorized, understood and frequently referred to as a guiding document. ⚓

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2024 CALENDAR

FEATURE

MEETING THE THREAT FROM SPACE

The Naval Academy has two 20-inch telescopes that can take pictures of the sky. They are used by midshipmen and the Academy's five astrophysics faculty members. Midshipmen who major in astrophysics are essentially physics majors who took their four open electives as astronomy classes. They also work with an adviser to design a syllabus to get them to the level of understanding needed for their thesis topic.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF USNA

The faculty and midshipmen of the astrophysics division help guard our planet from rogue bodies originating from within and outside our solar system. They use USNA's two 500-mm telescopes ... and plenty of advanced math.

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

Since 13 October 1775, the mission of the U.S. Navy has been defense. First, providing and maintaining the security of the original 13 states; then of the territorial U.S. And since 1945, that of our allies and partner nations as well.

But only very recently has that remit expanded to include defense of the entire planet, against the possibility of dangerous—actually, existential—threats from outer space.

PERPETUAL TRACKING

The idea of deep space threats was first seriously posited in Berkeley physicist Luis Alvarez's 1980 theory that massive extinctions eons ago were due to asteroid impacts.

The prehistoric Chicxulub impact, 66 million years ago, is believed to not only be the cause of the Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event, but accelerated the evolution of mammals, leading to their dominance and in turn, setting in place the eventual rise of humans, Alvarez theorized. The danger entered wider public consciousness with such disaster films as *Meteor*, *Without Warning*, *Armageddon*, *Deep Impact* and *Don't Look Up*.

Dr. Jeff Larsen, the head of the Naval Academy's astrophysics department, has a less

apocalyptic outlook than Hollywood. "Asteroids, they're the least likely natural disaster," Larsen said. "Compared to every (other) natural disaster. There's only been two people injured by asteroids, by strikes."

More than a thousand were injured in the Chelyabinsk Event over Russia, in 2013, but those injuries were to people who saw the flash, went to a window and had the slower shockwave blow broken glass on them.

"But if we found the Big One, yeah, it would suddenly become very important," he said. "The good news is I've been working on this for 25 years now and we're at the point where we're starting to close the problem on the risk."

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Larsen was working on asteroid detection at the University of Arizona when a colleague from the Academy, Professor Debora Katz, contacted him seeking telescope time for a Trident scholar. Larsen started working with midshipmen, setting up the 20-inch telescope on the roof of Michelson Hall for near-earth asteroid follow up. A faculty position at the Academy opened in 2004.

Physics studies are officially headquartered in Chauvenet Hall, but many of the astro faculty work and teach in Hopper Hall. Equipment includes

FEATURE



The Naval Academy features two half-meter optical reflecting telescopes. One, the primary, is permanently installed on the roof of Hopper Hall. The other, shown here, is located across the Severn, at Greenbury Point. Academy faculty and midshipmen work with the Minor Planet Center to maintain an observation chain, detect and calculate asteroid orbits.

three telescopes, as well as a good deal of associated equipment such as cameras and cosmic ray detectors. A radio telescope was scheduled to be installed by mid-October.

The main working scopes are two half-meter optical reflecting telescopes. The primary one is permanently installed on the roof of Hopper Hall. The other is located across the Severn, at Greenbury Point. Both are 20-inch (500mm) corrected Dall-Kirkhams that can do either optical imaging or spectroscopy.

The oldest telescope on the grounds—actually, one of the oldest large telescopes in the Western Hemisphere—is the 7.75-inch equatorially-mounted achromatic Clark refractor. Visitors can see it as they enter the Yard from Gate Eight. The Class of 1941 Observatory is the silvery domed building next to the aircraft exhibit.

The Clark was one of the first major (and most expensive) pieces of scientific equipment the Academy bought. Manufactured between 1855 and 1857 at Cambridgeport, MA, by Alvan Clark and sons, it was one of the items the then-Superintendent was ordered not to permit to fall into the hands of the Confederacy. These days it's used mainly for outreach, to give scouts and school groups a taste of classical astronomy and to host viewings by the Naval Academy Astronomical Club.

ON THE HUNT

The Academy has two stations, with two 20-inch telescopes, that can take pictures of the sky.

“But you have to watch an asteroid for a long period of time to work out its orbit,” Larsen said. “So, if we found an asteroid yesterday and somebody measured it today, that orbit is probably only good for 48 hours more. After that it'll diverge and become lost. So, you have to keep watching it.”

He compares the work to hunting.

“There's any number of orbits that could be behind this motion,” Larsen said. “And we're not exactly sure we have the right orbit, so you have to keep looking. So, we're part of a network and there are amateurs and professionals doing this.”

The network is the Minor Planet Center (MPC) at Cambridge, MA, the world repository for asteroid orbits. They're funded by NASA and organized under the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The Naval Academy acts as an observation station that contributes data to refine the orbits.

There are surprisingly few other stations. So few, the Academy has to fill a major gap. Hopper Hall is the first observatory on the East Coast that can pick up and track an object after the last European station in the Canary Islands loses it.

One might expect the Naval Observatory to be involved, but their mission is navigation.

“They compile what's called the Washington double star catalog,” Larsen said. “They watch stars orbit each other. Sounds boring, but it's actually pretty dark. Let's say the nukes are flying at the end of the world and GPS is down. You want your nuke to hit the right site. So, you have

a stellar navigation system. But the problem is, because many stars are double stars that orbit each other, they appear as a single object. But that single object is not quite at the center of the system. So, they maintain a list of binary star orbits so that they can correct the position of the stars in the navigation system.”

The midshipmen are intimately involved in the Naval Academy’s work of detecting incomers, maintaining the observation chain, calculating orbits and reporting the results. Larsen and Dr. Matthew Knight have trained students on the new telescope on Hopper since the fall 2021 semester. The telescope was given an official IAU designation, necessary for submitting asteroid tracking data, in January 2023. Knight, an assistant professor, focuses on comets, with asteroids as a secondary interest, both being “small bodies” in astronomical terms.

What happens if they *do* detect something that looks ominous? It’s not how it’s portrayed in the movies.

“An astronomer takes a picture,” Larsen said. “Oh, it’s gonna hit us. And he proceeds to drop his pizza, panic and drive his Jeep off a cliff. Even fast asteroids don’t work that way. So a lot of times we call them hazardous because we look at the orbits and play darts.”

“Playing darts” has nothing to do with Irish pubs. Larsen means that the Earth is a pretty tiny bullseye.

“So when we say the chance of impact is one in 200, we’re literally saying that at the moment the asteroid’s orbit intersects a perpendicular going through the Earth, the Earth’s projected area is one 200th of the area the asteroid could pass through,” he said. “This is why astronomers sometimes look dumb. There’s an asteroid that’s got a one in 10,000 chance of hitting the earth. We study it and it’s like, oh wait, it’s more like one in 200. People in the news start paying attention. And then, oh, guess what? It’s not gonna hit at all ... The odds will rise the more you study an asteroid, right up to the moment that you say, okay, it’s gonna pass. Then they drop to zero.”

FILLING THE GAP

Astrophysicists can use the Naval Academy’s computers and Gauss’s Method to determine provisional orbits. But more often, they measure the positions and brightness of asteroids very precisely relative to all the stars in the field of view, then report that information to the MPC and let them calculate an orbit. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Asteroid Watch center at CalTech forwards impact hazard assessments to the Planetary Defense Coordination Office at NASA headquarters in Washington, DC.

Knight received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, then worked at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ, before moving back to the University of Maryland as a research scientist.

Knight said astrophysicists “tend to go for recently discovered objects that are potentially hazardous, but there are not enough data yet to confirm it.”



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Astrophysics majors at the Naval academy take astronomy, two semesters of astrophysics and observational astrophysics. Midshipmen have access to several telescopes and supported NASA's DART mission, which entailed crashing a satellite into an asteroid 7 million miles away to measure how the target's orbit changed.

"Then, we can report those to the central clearinghouse for measuring orbits and calculating orbits," he said. "One of our advantages is that because of our longitude, there aren't many professional observatories here ... So, if we come in when there's an object that needs more data to be confirmed we can kind of fill in that longitude gap and okay that data and report."

The most impactful tasking the Academy has supported was NASA's recent DART mission. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test was the first planetary defense mission attempted by Earthlings.

Launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9, this mission sent a 610-kilogram impact body and an Italian camera-equipped cubesat (small satellite) 7 million miles to a two-asteroid system called Dimorphos and Didymos. Originally, the 5-billion-kilogram Dimorphos took 11 hours and

55 minutes to orbit the larger Didymos. On 26 September 2022, the impactor slammed into Dimorphos at 14,000 miles an hour.

Following the impact, ground-based observers, including those at the Naval Academy, measured how the target's orbit changed. It now takes Dimorphos 11 hours and 23 minutes to circle Didymos, meaning the DART impact changed its orbit by 32 minutes. This was at the upper end of the published range of plausible outcomes, and much larger than required by NASA for the mission to be deemed a success. It's a big step forward should the "Big One" ever be detected heading our way.

Knight was involved with DART before coming to the Academy, and both he and Larsen were instrumental in bringing the mission to the Academy.

RELEVANCE ON THE YARD

What does this all look like from the point of view of a current member of the Brigade? And to the Navy?

The starry science was taught at the Naval Academy from the very beginning in 1845, by William Chauvenet, originally in the department of mathematics and later by the department of astronomy, navigation and surveying. It's now part of the physics department.

That department currently has about 30 faculty members, with teaching and research duties split among the military and civilian professors. It comprises a number of different specialties. Physics track majors take advanced quantum mechanics and thermal physics, and choose from acoustics, condensed matter, optics or nuclear physics. Astrophysics track majors take astronomy, two semesters of astrophysics and observational astrophysics.

Astrophysics at the Naval Academy currently has five faculty members, two of whom are full professors and two tenure track. Dr. Christopher W. Morgan was ROTC at Vanderbilt. After finishing his obligated service, he went back to graduate school at Ohio State. There, he got interested in gravitational microlensing. He's also involved in extragalactic astrophysics and quasars. Morgan, a submariner, is also a Navy Reserve captain.

Other current astro faculty include Dr. Jamie Lomax, an assistant professor. Her specialty is massive stars, those 100,000 times and more the mass of our sun. Commander Brent West '94, USN, is a neutron star theorist. Although each faculty member specializes, those same astronomers also teach the core physics classes all midshipmen are required to take, along with upper-level physics courses of all sorts.

For the midshipmen, an astrophysics major is basically just a physics major who took their four open electives as astronomy classes, plus working with an adviser to design a syllabus to get them to the level of understanding needed for their thesis topic. As Larsen points out, astrophysics employs the same mathematics and physics as any other discipline.

From the Navy's viewpoint, any sensor that can look up to the stars can also be placed in space and look down. There's a lot of crossover between astronomy and in-orbit reconnaissance, as well as to celestial targeting, as discussed above.

Obviously, the new Space Force may be interested in signing up some future Naval Academy astro grads, though Air Force is

the only academy to have an accession program. Ostensibly, Naval Academy alumni are eligible to apply for transfer from the Navy to the new service. But so far, Larsen says, the USSF has not defined their requirements enough that the department can attempt to fine-tune its classes to conform.

Midshipmen seem to feel their major has a great deal of relevance already.

Second Lieutenant Taiyo Tataru '23, USMC, was born and raised in Japan until age 8, then lived in New York.

"I have had aspirations to become an astronaut since age 4 due to an old Japanese fairy tale about a rabbit making mochi on the moon," Tataru said. "I was fascinated by the idea of setting foot on the moon and experiencing the beauty of space from a vastly different perspective."

Another budding astrophysicist is Midshipman Kate Villa '24, a Trident scholar working with Knight and Larsen.

"As a child, I would look up and be spellbound by the majesty of our galaxy painted across the sky," Villa said. "Astrophotography always fascinated me ... Choosing to study astrophysics came as the most natural decision of my life.

In all honesty, astrophysics doesn't have the most direct purpose when it comes to our mission as warfighters in America's Navy. Nonetheless, as the battlefield changes, our experience with tracking and imaging celestial objects will be invaluable to military efforts."

She's planning for a career in Navy Air.

Each night, as twilight comes on, a small group gathers on the roof of Hopper Hall, or in the computer rooms beneath it, studying the universe for new threats to our fragile planet. It's the same mission alumni have always trained for, protection and defense. But with a magnificence and danger few of us ever dreamed would be one of the many missions of the United States Naval Academy.

CAPT Dave Poyer '71, USNR (Ret.)'s next novel will be *The Academy* (St. Martin's, December 2023). That and his other novels featuring fictional USNA alum Dan Lenson are available in hard-cover, paperback, e-book and audio. His stories about Naval Academy alumni are collected in the nonfiction volume *Heroes of Annapolis*. Visit his Facebook page or website at www.poyer.com.

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A SYMBOL OF COMMITMENT

THE STORY BEHIND MY “2 FOR 7” MUG

By Brian L. Keith '90

As you step into the beginning of your second-class year at the Naval Academy, a celebration known as 2 for 7 marks the onset of a pivotal phase.

Its roots lie in a profound commitment that sets the tone for the journey ahead. This Naval Academy tradition takes its name from the inherent pledge that unfurls the instant you step into your first academic class as a junior. In essence, attending this class formalizes your dedication to serve two additional years at the Academy and subsequently, five years in active fleet service. This simple arithmetic underpins the 2 for 7 equation that holds great significance in your naval career.

Taking that inaugural class in your junior year marks the activation of your “payback” commitment, ushering in a phase that demands more dedication. The stakes are raised, and the commitment intensifies.

This juncture, should you unfortunately face a setback, mandates a price to be paid. Your penalty materializes as a significant commitment to service, symbolizing the shift from

casual exploration to earnest dedication. The transformation from a lenient beginning to a more intense phase underscores the pivotal nature of the 2 for 7 moment.

Gracing my desk, a cherished relic from my Naval Academy days holds its place—the 2 for 7 mug. A token of significance, it has steadfastly adorned my desk since the day of my graduation. But beyond its physical presence, this mug carries tales that embody commitment, journeys and lasting dedication.

This mug isn't merely an ornament; it's a vessel of memories. It cradled not just any drink, but my very first beer, marking a rite of passage and camaraderie. Yet, its true treasure lies within—a humble “holdback link,” unassuming in appearance, but laden with the weight of experience. In the thrilling moment of catapulting off the aircraft carrier, the “holdback link” is designed to split into two pieces. Breaking a “holdback link” is the beginning of a new mission.

This “holdback link” holds the memory of my inaugural catapult shot off the aircraft carrier CONSTELLATION, encapsulating the essence of my naval aviation journey.

Amidst the hustle of daily life, the 2 for 7 mug stands as a steadfast reminder. It beckons me to the commitment I undertook and the dedication that accompanies it. This mug reverberates with the values I imbibed during my Academy years, values that continue to shape my path long after graduation.

This mug isn't just an inanimate object; it's a narrative etched in pewter. It reflects the transformation from a plebe to a seasoned midshipman, from flight school to someone who has taken flight—quite literally. It stands as a silent but powerful testament to the excitement that ignites the first sip of a beer and the masterful coordination that propels an aircraft off a carrier deck.

My 2 for 7 mug isn't a mere decoration; it's an embodiment of my journey, a token of commitment and a vessel of inspiration. It captures the essence of youthful enthusiasm, the solemnity of undertaking a commitment and the resilience to soar through challenges. As it graces my desk, it infuses each day with the

spirit of dedication, reminding me that every action, no matter how seemingly small, contributes to the larger tapestry of life. ⚓

Brian L. Keith '90, is the general manager of National Intelligence Specialist Sales at Microsoft Federal. He produces the BK Morning Brew biweekly LinkedIn newsletter.



Class of 1973; 16th Company - 50th Reunion: Then and Now



May 1973. Seated: Mark Costa, Jim Garrison, Mike Ellison, Jim Murphy, Bob Fishman, Bookie Boland. Standing: Bob Willard, Ed Wilkes, Jack Rush, Howard Sidman, Bob Gibson, Harvey Anderson, Dave Willmann, Fred Seebode, Ted Turnblacer (behind Hempenius), Howard Hempenius, Tom Storch, Jim Hamlin, Scott Krajnik, Dennis Grabulis, Dave Strickland, Rory Fisher, Bob Van Dine, Matt Saviello, Paul Cox, Wayne Kennard, Bob Klaus, Joe Kale, Pat Young, Bob Holmes, Maj. P. J. Jones, USMC '62, 16th Company Officer.



October 2023. Seated: Mark Costa, Mike Ellison, Bob Fishman, Bookie Boland. Standing: Ed Wilkes, Howard Sidman, Harvey Anderson, Jim Murphy, Dave Willmann, Tom Storch, Howard Hempenius, Dennis Grabulis, Dave Strickland, Jim Hamlin, Scott Krajnik, Bob Van Dine, Bob Klaus, Matt Saviello, Wayne Kennard, Ted Turnblacer, Joe Kale.



THE VADM JAMES B. STOCKDALE CENTER FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

By Lieutenant Colonel Joe Thomas, USMC (Ret.), director, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA&F

The statue of VADM James Stockdale '47, USN (Ret.), located in front of Luce Hall.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the center in 2023, there's much to look back on with pride and wonder. For perspective, I solicited the thoughts of my predecessors Dr. Al Pierce and Colonel Art Athens '78, USMCR (Ret.). They laid the groundwork and established the momentum for everything we enjoy today. Their work and the work of all those who have served in the center since 1998 have given substance to the aspirational vision that the Naval Academy could create a resource to serve as a "Beacon for the Nation" on all matters related to ethical leader development.

Of the founding of the center, Pierce writes:

"In August 1998, when I started work as the founding director of the new ethics center, VADM John Ryan '67, USN (Ret.), gave me a one-sentence vision statement—'be an ethics resource for the Naval Academy, the Navy and Marine Corps and the nation,'—four empty rooms and told me 'build an ethics center.' For the next seven and a half years, that's what I tried to do. In February 2006, when I returned to the National Defense University as professor of ethics and national security, the center had a core staff and a menu of programs touching all three levels of that vision statement. Through the Naval Academy Foundation's good work, the center had a solid financial foundation.

In 2008, at the tenth anniversary of the center, it was gratifying to see that much of what we had built was still in place and Art Athens had taken the center to a new level of engagement.

In 2023, I see how Joe Thomas has led the center to even greater heights. One of the last interviews I had in the process of being chosen as the founding director was with Dr. David Hamburg, longtime president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. One of the things he said in that interview has stuck with me all these years later, 'If you are offered this job and accept it, you will be in the institution-building business. I've built many institutions, so I know that it is important work.' For the past 25 years, many talented men and women have done just that, and the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership is the institutional fruit of that effort. Bravo Zulu!"

Of the expansion of the center, Athens writes:

"I first met Admiral James B. Stockdale '47, USN (Ret.), in 1987 through the White House Fellowship program and he became a mentor, counselor and role model for me. Shortly

after meeting Admiral Stockdale, he handed me a book entitled *A Vietnam Experience*, a compilation of his speeches and articles published after his return from captivity. On the book's first page, Admiral Stockdale wrote, 'Don't read too much of this stuff at any one sitting.' This was the only time I disobeyed an order from Admiral Stockdale! I would read that book annually and still do to this day. Little did I know when he handed me the book that 20 years later, I would have the opportunity and honor to lead a center named after this American hero.

When I reflect on my tenure as the center director, I remain very grateful for the team with whom I worked. Their talent, drive, vision and integrity inspired me daily. Though there is a lengthy list of what that team accomplished, I believe some of the most important contributions the center made included establishing an *Influence the Influencer* program to invest in the Academy's staff, faculty and coaches; creating a *Leadership Innovation Lab* to explore unique opportunities to further the study and application of ethical leadership; reestablishing the *Distinguished Chair of Leadership* and the *Distinguished Chair in Ethics*; renewing a focus on honoring the former *Prisoners of War* and their accomplishments; and expanding the center's investment in the *Department of Defense*, the *federal government* and other organizations of national and international prominence.

When the center hosted the premier showing of the *Smithsonian Channel's* documentary, *Spy in the Hanoi Hilton*, I experienced one of the most memorable moments of my time at the center. After the movie ended, former POWs *Captain Red McDaniel* and *Commander Danny Glenn* discussed their captivity and clandestine activities under the leadership of Admiral Stockdale. The evening concluded with a very personal and emotional exhortation to the midshipmen in the audience from *Dr. Jim Stockdale*, Admiral Stockdale's oldest son. As the audience left, a third class midshipman came up to me to thank the center for sponsoring the event and said, 'Sir, tonight reminded me why I came here and the responsibility I have in the future.' That statement and similar comments made by other midshipmen reminded us we were providing the resources and opportunities necessary to accomplish our aim to 'help develop the future Jim Stockdales.' ”

I feel a great debt to Al Pierce, Art Athens and all the members of *Team Stockdale* who served here in *Luce Hall*. As I personally reflect on my past 20 years at the Academy, much of it spent just down the hall in the leadership, ethics and law department or across the road in *Bancroft Hall*, I can say I've never been more optimistic about the future. When PBS televised our feature-length film *POW: Passing on Wisdom* earlier this year, millions got to experience how the lessons of the Vietnam War POWs continue to inspire and inform midshipmen today. The immersive augmented reality scenarios, podcasts



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA A&E

and presentations disseminated through www.stockdalecenter.com are accessed by thousands across the globe every week.

The *Influencer Development* program invests in Academy staff, faculty and coaches in ways no other institution of higher education in the world does—giving them skills to think of themselves first as leadership developers. The *Ethics Debate Team* recently brought home the *Ethics Bowl National Championship*. The center has positioned itself at the cutting edge of efforts to measure return-on-investment of leadership programming with the pending hire of the *Dave and Amy Dawson* Director of Leadership Research and Assessment. The recently established *Stockdale Artificial Intelligence Laboratory* is driving a conversation about how AI will shape the future of education, leadership and ethics (www.aileadershiplaboratory.com).

The annual *McCain Conference* continues to grow as “the world's premier military ethics conference.” The reach of the center has never been greater and there are plans to expand it even further. The promise of Artificial Intelligence as an aide to education, the quality of the young men and women who choose to serve and the generous support of alumni and supporters indicate a very bright future indeed. For those whose support has gotten us to this point, thank you. If visiting the *Yard*, stop by *Luce Hall*. I look forward to meeting you and sharing stories of learning and growth. We in the *Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership* are excited about the possibilities in the next 25 years. ✝



SCAN QR CODE



SCAN QR CODE

LEADERSHIP BALANCE

LEARN TO LIVE UP TO YOUR POTENTIAL

By Midshipman Julia Bell '27

In the weeks leading up to Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS), I read motivational speeches like “Make Your Bed” by Admiral William McRaven, USN (Ret.). I listened to podcasts and recordings on leadership from Jocko Willink. I had discussions with my parents and my mentors on leadership styles. I wanted to arrive feeling motivated and armed with some background knowledge in military leadership soft skills. I focused on preparing myself to be the best leader I could be. However, the concept of ‘leading myself’ never crossed my mind.

During my time at NAPS, I have grown as a person. I know who I am, and I like who I have become. The gains I have made as a person are mostly due to the opportunities NAPS presented. These opportunities brought a series of challenging times that defined what leading myself means to me.

After the indoctrination, I had the opportunity to be a squad leader. I helped others with their academics. I helped peers adjust to their new life by listening or giving advice if they asked. I got to know each of them, their stories and why they were there. I quickly gained the reputation of being a respected leader who led with kindness.

As the weeks passed and my reputation spread, more of my peers asked for various assistance. I was happy to help but quickly realized I was stretched too thin. For the first time in my life, I was struggling with academics. I struggled to balance my athletics, academics and being a helpful and kind leader. When I felt stressed, I took a step back mentally to look at what was happening. I sat down and took a self-inventory. I realized that one of my weaknesses is that I was kind and helpful to the detriment of myself.

I decided to ask myself, “What do I need?” The answer was I needed to find a balance. I decided that balance would only be achieved if I asserted myself by setting clear boundaries. Each day, I now choose to set boundaries that allow for a balance between being kind and helpful and respecting myself and my needs. I have found that balance, and as an

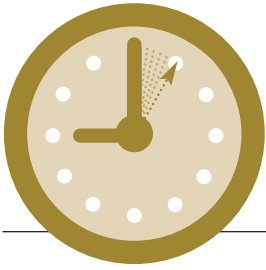
after-effect, I became a much better leader. I have learned that part of leading myself is acknowledging personal character trait weaknesses, practicing active reflection and developing a solid plan to turn my weaknesses into strengths.

The next task before me was crawling my way out of the enormous academic hole I had gotten myself into. I had meetings with my academic adviser. Many, including my academic adviser, thought it unlikely initially that I could recover as significantly as I did. However, I knew I could. I sat down and came up with a plan of action. I asserted myself respectfully and asked my coach if I could miss some invitationals to attend extra instructional sessions. If I attended gatherings while others continued the fun, I was the first to leave. This was a challenging path, but it was necessary. As a result, my grades rose dramatically. I have learned that leading oneself includes asking for what you need and exercising discipline to accomplish goals you set for yourself intentionally.

I can say that this has by far been the most valuable year of self-growth. Leading myself is a process that includes self-reflection, recognizing weaknesses, actively seeking balance, coming up with an action plan to achieve greatness, asking for what you need and exercising deliberate discipline towards achieving goals. Leading myself is the journey of living up to my potential. The journey and processes led to becoming my best self no matter what.

As I take stock of my life thus far, I recognize that NAPS has been the most valuable year of self-growth. I came in pumped up on the ideas of servant leadership and never quitting. I leave NAPS with a great sense of self, a clear vision and a path forward. I depart with the deep understanding that to be successful in my personal and professional life. I must make the deliberate choice to lead myself. ⚓

Editor’s note: Midshipman Bell submitted the winning NAPS essay contest entry in the spring of 2023.



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

MATICE WRIGHT-SPRINGER '88

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

Annapolis native Matice Wright-Springer '88 was intrigued by aviation from an early age. Wright-Springer's fascination with flight took her to the Naval Academy and, ultimately, she became the first female Black naval flight officer. During her career, she logged thousands of flight hours in the EC-130 and the E-6 aircraft.

She was presidentially appointed to serve as a White House fellow at the Department of Treasury following her service in the Navy. Her private sector experience includes work as a foreign military sales helicopter manager with Lockheed Martin, a senior strategist with L3 Harris and as a technical director with ManTech International Corporation. She is currently senior vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton's Aerospace, Global Defense Sector.

Wright-Springer serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's Board of Trustees and is a member of the Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award selection panel.

Shipmate: What/who inspired you to pursue naval aviation?

Wright-Springer: First, I've always been fascinated by aviation. Like Wilbur and Orville Wright, my inquisitive nature and fascination with things that fly led me to question the science behind things that actually fly like butterflies, birds, kites and airplanes. And I've always loved math and science, which are both critical for flying.

I'm from Annapolis and I attended Germantown Elementary School, which is really close to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. I recall Naval Academy football games and graduations where, from my school's playground, I could see and hear Navy jets and helicopters buzzing the stadium and I would get so excited to see and hear the roar of the jet engines as they sped through the air with effortless and seemingly endless power. I still get excited with every flyover that I see.

Second, the house I grew up in was only a mile from Gate One of the Naval Academy. My mom still lives there. Throughout my childhood, my family sponsored midshipmen. The midshipmen would frequently attend family gatherings or simply join us for meals and help me with my math and science homework. It was during a sponsor family gathering that I learned that midshipmen could fly after graduating from the Naval Academy. Lieutenant Charlie Thornton '80, USN, was a midshipman my family sponsored and was like a big brother to me. He selected naval aviation as his career path. At the same time women became graduates of the Naval Academy, I began thinking that maybe naval aviation could be a part of my future.

And third, in 1982 during my high school junior year I remember seeing the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*, where Richard Gere completed the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School. A seed was planted. During that same time, I had the privilege to meet Captain BJ Penn. He was stationed at the Naval Academy as a battalion officer. He was the first Black aviator I ever met. I recall seeing the wings on his

uniform and hearing him speak about how fun and challenging flying was. I was hooked. I was so impressed with him and soon I found myself desiring to follow in his footsteps to fly in the Navy. The Honorable BJ Penn later served as the acting secretary of the Navy and continues to be a role model for me to this very day.

Shipmate: How important were the trailblazing women who preceded you in naval aviation to opening doors for you?

Wright-Springer: I believe I was a student in flight school when I first heard the name Bessie Coleman. For those who don't know Bessie "Queen Bess" Coleman, she was the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license. A Black woman born in 1892 was not allowed to enter any American flight schools and certainly wasn't permitted to fly in the military, including in the Navy. During WWI she heard stories about pilots and was encouraged to travel to France to earn a pilot's license because she couldn't earn it here in the United States.

She was successful in pursuing and accomplishing her aviation dream. Queen Bess became one of America's first female barnstorming aviators several years before Amelia Earhart learned to fly. One of my favorite posters proudly hangs on my office wall and reads—Women Fly Bessie Coleman: 20th Century Hero. It shows her portrait and her quote "I refused to take no for an answer." Bessie Coleman's bravery and persistence were critically important to me as I made my way through my naval aviation career. Like Bessie Coleman, I also refused to take no for an answer.

While at the Naval Academy, in flight school, and in the fleet/Navy, I had numerous people tell me that no one that looked like me had ever done what I was trying to do and that I wouldn't be successful as a naval flight officer. I persevered anyway. Rear Admiral Peggy Klein '81, USN (Ret.), was a department head when I checked into my squadron as an ensign. She was also a naval flight officer and she was critical to my success at VQ-3.

Shipmate: As the first Black woman naval flight officer, how important was it for you to continue knocking down barriers for those who followed you?

Wright-Springer: As the nation's first Black woman naval flight officer, I stood on the shoulders of many that were not afforded the opportunities that I had. They made a way for me and I continue to make a way for others—paying it forward. I think it is super important that I continue to knock down, step over, climb around or jump through any barriers that I encounter because many more barriers need to be knocked down. Not only am I making a way for broader representation in previously exclusive yet noble professions like naval aviation, I also think it's the inclusivity of our differences that can lead to things like new solutions and greater productivity that ultimately support better outcomes and broader contributions from all of us. ☐



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATICE WRIGHT-SPRINGER '98

ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT— THE JOINT FORCE

By Lieutenant Commander B. Chris Meek '07, USN



PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR B. CHRIS MEEK '07, USN

LCDR B. Chris Meek '07, USN, and MAJ Brendan Baker '06, USMA, taking advantage of free time to experience the German culture at the Heidelberg Castle.

Go Navy, Beat Army!—the first of many chants we learned (if not previously known) during Plebe Summer. At Army-Navy games, we relentlessly heckled the Corps of Cadets, most notably through the hollering of “whoop-whoop-whoop” in unison, referring (as you know) to the resemblance of the Cadet’s uniforms to the costumes worn by the whooping flying monkeys in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. And while we, as midshipmen, poked fun at the “greylegs” (in the Navy fight songs) from USMA, we all knew that upon commissioning, we (USNA and USMA alum) became part of the best military force in existence—

the joint force affectionately known as America’s team.

Now immersed in the joint force, we use teamwork and leadership skills—acquired prior to our arrival and enhanced during our tenure at our respective service academies—to develop camaraderie and unit cohesion necessary to carry out the military duties of our nation. A few of the many missions conducted by the joint force include executing duties while deployed on amphibious warfare ships (as Marines assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors assigned to the Amphibious Ready Group), while

assigned to a Joint Task Force in support of various domestic or international crisis or as a staffer assigned to one of the combatant commands (i.e., United States European Command). During any one of these assignments, you will find yourself engaged in planning and executing missions alongside fellow service academy brethren and other joint teammates, allies and partners.

In the Joint Staff J7’s Joint Training Directorate, I found yet another opportunity to serve alongside my brothers and sisters from U.S. Military Academy (and U.S. Air Force Academy too!), specifically in the Deployable Training Division. The DTD provides Deployable Training Teams to Joint Force Commanders to enhance readiness through training by observing staff processes and procedures and providing constructive feedback and recommendations to optimize performance, commander decision-making and mission accomplishment. JFCs request DTT support during command-level exercises or in times of crisis or conflict, and at a time of great power competition, DTTs are in high demand. In the photo, I had the opportunity to deploy with Major Brendan Baker '06, USMA, in support of AFRICAN LION 23 (USAFRICOM’s premier exercise). During our time in Germany, Brendan reaffirmed the importance of jointness and showcased the highest caliber of West Point alumni. The “so what”—we truly are one team, one fight ... but always Go Navy, Beat Army! 🇺🇸

LCDR B. Chris Meek '07, USN, currently serves his joint tour with the JS J7 DTD in Suffolk, VA, where he lives with his wife, Bridget, and their four children. He deploys with DTTs to every combatant command in support of the DTD mission.

BRAVO ZULU

1910s

'18: The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame accepted the nomination of **ADM J.J. "Jocko" Clark, USN (Ret.)**. He was jointly nominated by the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation's Tulsa Chapter with the Cherokee Nation.

1970s

'71: **CDR Jeffrey Albright, USN (Ret.)**, has been recognized by his peers in the 30th edition of *Best Lawyers in America* for exceptional work in environmental law, administrative/regulatory law and litigation-environment for 2024.

'77: **LtCol Floyd D. Houston, USMC (Ret.)**, was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame in September. Inductees were chosen for their post-military community service. Houston has commanded VFW posts in Virginia and Kentucky and volunteers as a school resource officer.

1980s

'80: Tobacco Barn Distillery of Hollywood, MD, co-owned by **ADM Scott Sanders, USN (Ret.)**, was named America's Best Farm Distillery by the American Craft Spirits Association in late August for its Single Barrel Bourbon. Tobacco Barn also earned best whiskey in Maryland honors.

'83: Class President **Steve Fischer** has been selected as the next executive director for the Naval Submarine League. Fischer relieves **CAPT Tim Oliver '69, USN (Ret.)**.

1990s

'96: **CDR Mark Kerber** assumed command of the Windjammers of VR-51 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kane'ohe Bay, HI, on 14 July 2023. The Windjammers operate Boeing C-40A Clipper transport aircraft (derivative of the 737) worldwide in support of maritime combat forces. Kerber relieved CDR Heath Leggett to become the squadron's 20th commanding officer.

'99: **CAPT Mark C. Parrella, USN**, was awarded the Vice Admiral J. Guy Reynolds Award in November for his leadership and accomplishments while serving as major program manager of the COLUMBIA Class Submarine program (PMS397). Parrella is leading the Defense Department's No. 1 acquisition priority, to develop, construct, deliver and sustain a new class of submarines to replace existing OHIO Class SSBNs.

2000s

'09: **LCDR Andrew Poulin, USN**, published his first book, *The Leader's Handbook*—a collection of quotes, excerpts and wisdom organized under ten key leadership traits.



VADM Al Konezni Jr. '66, USN (Ret.), was sworn in by Governor Brian Kemp of Georgia to the Georgia Joint Military Commission on 28 June 2023.



VADM Sullivan



ADM Giambastiani



CAPT Oosterman

Three Alumni Earn Naval Submarine League Honors

Three Naval Academy alumni were chosen as the Naval Submarine League's 2023 Distinguished Submariners(s) and Distinguished Civilian Awards recipients. This year there were two Distinguished Submariners, **VADM Paul E. Sullivan '74, USN (Ret.)**, and **ADM Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr. '70, USN (Ret.)**. The Naval Submarine League Distinguished Civilian selectee was **CAPT Carl H. Oosterman '69, USN (Ret.)**.

The NSL Distinguished Awards were presented on 8 November 2023 at the Naval Submarine League Annual Symposium and Industry Update in Arlington, VA.

The Naval Submarine League Distinguished Civilian Award recognizes the personal contributions of government and industry individuals who have been of extraordinary value to the success of United States Navy Submarine Programs.

Oosterman is recognized for his 41 years of government service, which encompassed multiple key management assignments in the submarine and nuclear surface ship fields in addition to his continued government service as a member of the senior executive service to include the formation of a field office in the United Kingdom to improve the exchange of nuclear propulsion technology.

The Naval Submarine League Distinguished Submariner Award recognizes the personal contributions of submarine qualified individuals, officer or enlisted. The award is given to the most deserving individual when considering his or her lifetime achievements. The contributions may have been during distinguished service in positions of responsibility in the fleet or, following naval service, the awardee made contributions of extraordinary value to the success of the submarine force, the Navy or the nation.

Sullivan served in the Navy with distinction for more than 34 years. He draws on his extensive naval career as the primary consultant and senior advisor on AUKUS Submarine Safety, Acquisition, Design and Submarine Research and Development.

Giambastiani served in the Navy for 37 years. His final assignment on active duty was as the seventh vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second-ranking officer in the U.S. military.

Do you know someone who deserves a Bravo Zulu? Send to communications@usna.com.

CLASS NEWS

*“But still when two or three shall meet,
and old tales be retold...”*

'38

Life Membership: 0%
Donor Participation: 0%

Sec'y: **Donald E. Brown**
Son of CAPT C. Donald Brown, USN (Ret.)
4105 Elizabeth Ln., Fairfax, VA 22032-1453
p: 703-978-4571; e: donaldbrown@earthlink.net

'39

Life Membership: 50%
Donor Participation: 0%

Vice Pres: **CAPT Chip Seymour, USN (Ret.)**
Son of Harry A. Seymour
309 Melvin Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401
c: 410-279-9195; e: seymour65@comcast.net

Sec'y: **Barbara Fidel Adams**
Also Sec'y for '39 Navy Juniors
Daughter of Jack and June Fidel
215 Ikerd Dr., Concord, NC 28025
p: 704-784-3876; e: adamsjimr@aol.com
Thirty-Nine On Line: **Barbara Fidel Adams**
e: adamsjimr@aol.com

THE ARMY-NAVY GAME.....No matter where the '39 Classmates and their families were in the world, and no matter what time of day (or night), they would never miss watching (or listening to) Navy play Army! All through their lives they would gather with friends for the big game. '39 Classmate **Herb Kriloff** kept a treasure trove, his 1935-1939 USNA scrapbook including Army-Navy game memorabilia. His daughter, **Alix Bradfield**, in Australia has compiled this column from some of the material in that scrapbook as a happy memory of our Class.

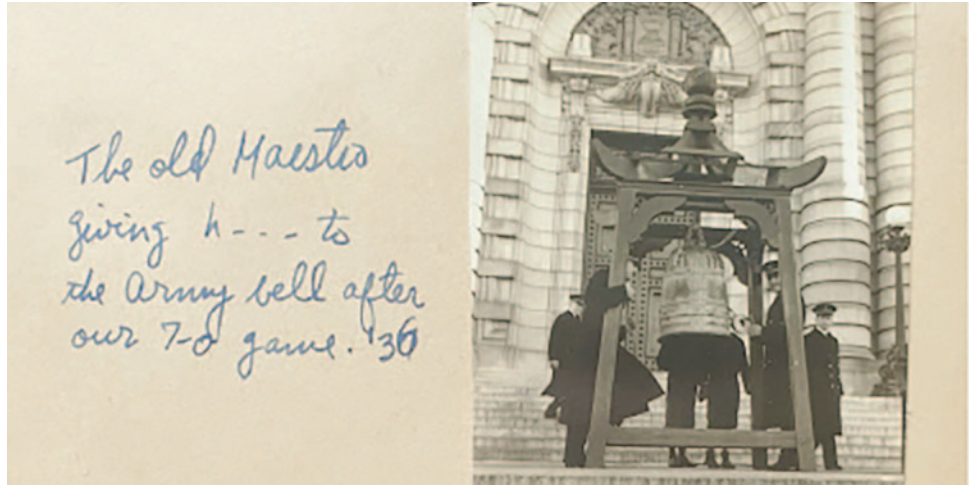
....."There is no greater, more historical sports rivalry than the Army Navy Game. The event has been one of the great traditions in our country since it began in 1890.

Navy had competed as a football team since 1879 when it challenged Army to what would become the first event in an ongoing series. Army accepted although their side had never before played an organized game. West -6 team won that first Army-Navy game 24-0.

After winning in 2021 and losing in 2022, the Army Navy Game will be played for the first time in its 124-year series in New England on December 9, 2023.

Veterans, fans from the Naval Academy and graduates will be calling out, **'Go Navy! Beat Army!'** That phrase never changes, and it seems the well-known cry goes back to the origins of the game in the 19th century, although it is not clear which team initiated the tradition.

The event is usually held in the mid-Atlantic area although the game was held in Chicago in 1926 to honour the American service members



'39: A photo of '39 Midshipmen with the Army bell after our 7-0 victory



'39: News clipping **An American Eagle's Eye-view of the Game.....'** From far and wide they came yesterday to the Municipal Stadium for the great Army-Navy grid classic. And the photographer took the above aerial view to show you how it looked just before game time. Down in the center of the bowl the Cadets can be seen drilling, their band stationed at the lower end of the great oval. Those ants which seeming line the bowl, and struggle in black dots about its entrance, turn out not to be ants after all, but really lively lady and gentlemen fans. The black rectangles at either end of the 50- yard line are the spaces reserved for the Midshipmen and Cadets. And those peculiar block formations which extend far and away about the stadium and look for all the world like markings indicating troop positions on a military map, are parked cars- thousands of them.'

who had fought in WW I and there was a game held in Pasadena in 1983. Only six Army-Navy games have been held on the campus of either academy. Two of those games were during World War II, one in 1942 (Annapolis) and the other in 1943. (West Point).

We know that there is no more famous historical sports rivalry than this event and our Class of '39 Midshipmen were excited to attend the Army-Navy game in 1936 in Philadelphia when **Navy won 7-0**. Herb Kriloff kept newspaper reports and other memorabilia from that very chilly November day. '39 Classmate,



Ken Hysong, from Lucky Bag 1939

Ken Hysong- who played on the team every year and earned a coveted N* (NSTAR) - was part of that winning team in 1936 and his name is often mentioned within the 1939 Lucky Bag football records.

The '39 *Lucky Bag* had this about their final football season... "Navy's 1938 football season was not all that had been hoped for in the way of victories, but the story told the score is not

all. Navy played hard, clean, consistent football, and gave every opponent a run for his money. The friendships formed among the fellows, the admiration and regard for the coaches, the spirit of teamwork and cooperation, striving through victory and defeat toward one goal; these things made Navy's season a great one, gave cherished memories to all those who played even a small part in making it so.'

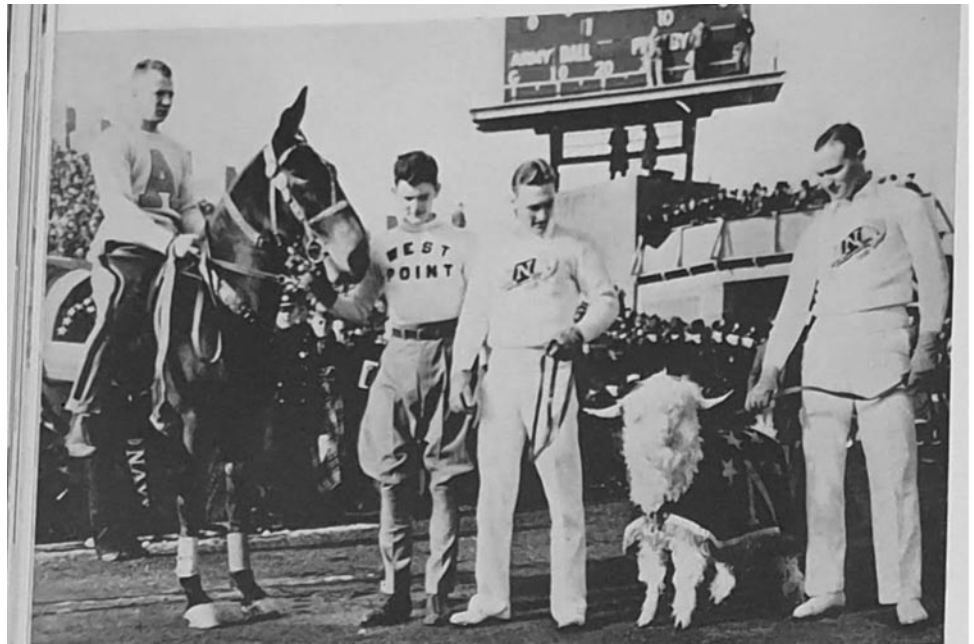
Robert Sleight, in his book 1600 MEN, United States Naval Academy 1932-36, wrote the following about the Army-Navy rivalry:

'Our rivalry in everything was deep. Competing in an Army-Navy conflict was a thrill distinct from any other. From time to time, efforts to halt the competitions between Army and Navy have been lobbied (mostly from members of Congress). The main concern about the rivalry is that the promotion of ill feelings between the service branches weakens our national defense. Fortunately the game goes on. The rivalry is so intense because we recognize a kindred clan in the Army. We certainly share the same rigorous life even though half of us wear grey and half blue.'

'The game is about the regiment, not the team. There was very little attention paid to academics the week of the Army game. Most Profs accepted that - they had been midshipmen once upon a time themselves. Chants of 'Beat Army' rang through the halls and around the Yard all week. The team left for Philadelphia on Thursday following a huge rally and bonfire on Wednesday evening. The fact that the team was no longer within ear shot in no way lessened our enthusiasm. Like some pagan ritual we were whipping ourselves in to a frenzy of zeal and anticipation.'

Game day came. The march to the trains was accompanied by cheering townspeople even at the hour of 0430 or 0500.

USNA 23 November, 1936 Special Order regarding travel to 28 November Army-Navy game in Philadelphia, PA. We arrived at a special disembarkation spot in Philadelphia hours before game time and then, around 1400 finally marched onto the field. Once in place in



'40: Army Cadets and Mule alongside Navy Goat and Midshipmen cheerleaders Navy *

the stands brought no relief or rest for the spectator. No one sat down at the Army game unless he fainted dead away. The noise was incessant from both sides of the field. The very fact that anyone was still on his feet and making noises by kick-off time was a tribute to the fitness of us all.

We arrived back at Annapolis in the vicinity of 0200 Sunday morning. We were allowed to sleep in until 0700 rather than arise at the usual 0630!

****Editor's note: A great article appeared in the 2023 September issue of *Shipmate* entitled, "Keepers of the Goat." It tells the history of Bill the Goat and the USNA Eighth Company which has been tasked with maintaining, supporting and even protecting the Navy Goat. There are two bronze statues at the Academy of a charging Bill, sporting the N*star blanket with stars representing each time Bill was present when Navy defeated Army in football. The first statue was donated by the Class of 1915. In keeping with the *Another Link in the Chain* tradition, the Class of 1965 has taken over the maintaining of that statue and has even refurbished the bronze as part of their responsibility as "Keepers of the Goat. In the Class of '65 are four sons '39 Classmates: Lloyd Abbot (**James Lloyd "Doc" Abbot**), Bob Green (**Robert R. Green**), Doug Norton (**Marvin D. Norton**), and Harry "Chip" Seymour (**Narry A. Seymour**).

Shipmate editor's note: Be sure to see photo on next page. It is the Special Order for the Regiment of Midshipmen to attend the Army-Navy game.



Goal Post

'What about '39!' What about that Navy team which beat army in 1936! What about **Ken Hysong**, who earned his N* in that game! What about **Herb Kriloff** who so carefully saved the '39 Army-Navy memorabilia! What about Herb's daughter, Alix, for putting this all together for our '39 column. And What about the Class of '65!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Fidel Adams and Alix Bradfield
'39 Class Secretary

'40

Life Membership: 0%
Donor Participation: 0%

Corr Sec'y: **Dr. Virginia Trimble**
 Widow of Dr. Joseph Weber
 p: 949-824-6948; fax: 949 824 2174; e: vtrimble@uci.edu

Jon Schildknecht, the grandson of Bob Wann submitted this wonderful photo, seen on following page for the USNA class of 1940 family and friends to enjoy. Should anyone else find any

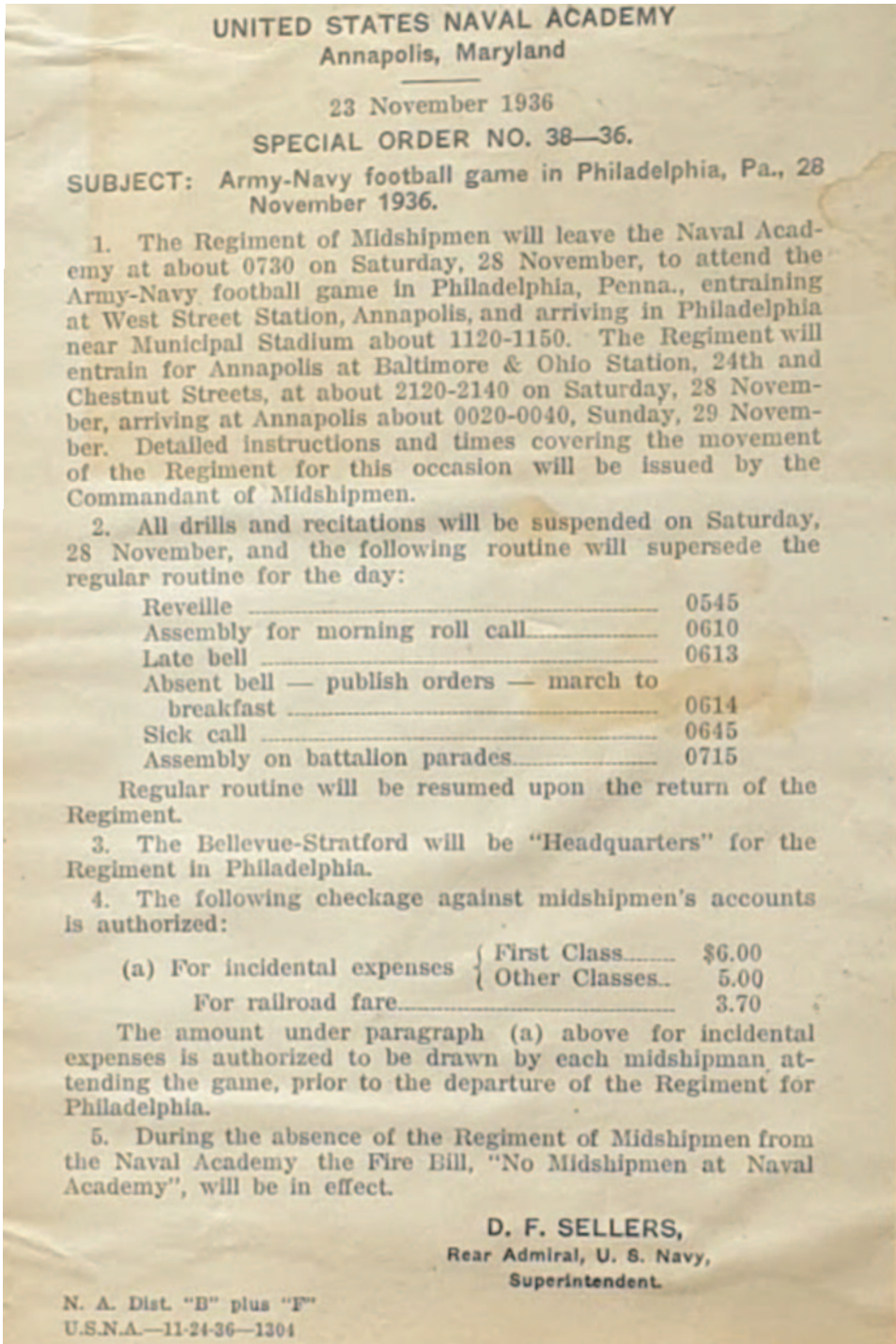
other such images, please write/submit them to Virginia Trimble, vtrimble@uci.edu

✉ Dr. Trimble,
 My name is Jon Schildknecht, grandson of Class of '40 member Col **Erwin "Bob" Wann**, USMC (Ret). For the longest time my aunt, Sharon Wann Baker (daughter of Col Wann), has had a photo on her fridge of 4 members of the Class of '40. Recently I went about having it restored using all the new-fangled Photoshop technologies. As this hangs on the fridge, I had never seen the back, which contains the names

of the 4 young men in the photo. It also has a stamp letting us know that the photo was developed at Peoples Drug on March 14, 1938 - their youngster year. I have always loved this photo and am glad to share it with you. The Mids from left to right are (as written on the back): **Bob Wann, Ace King, Bob Clark, Tom Bell** (this name is hard to read, so this is my best guess). Perhaps you could share this in *Shipmate* and some family members will enjoy being able to see this wonderful photo!

Best,
 Jon Schildknecht
 Son of Susan Wann Schildknecht & Kurt Schildknecht '65

Only '40 is 4.0!



'39: Special Order

'41

Life Membership: 0%
Donor Participation: 0%

Send News directly to Shipmate at: classnews@usna.com

'42

Life Membership: 33%
Donor Participation: 0%

Pres: **CAPT Dale C. Reed USN (Ret.)**
 Vice Pres/Sec'y: **Joan Curtis**
 Wife of the late CDR Richard E. Curtis, USN (Ret.)
 14518 Faraday Dr., Rockville, MD 20853
 p: 301-989-8885; e: joan@jfcurtis.com

'43

Life Membership: 0%
Donor Participation: 0%

Send News directly to Shipmate at: classnews@usna.com

'44

Life Membership: 45%
Donor Participation: 0%

Send News directly to Shipmate at: classnews@usna.com

'45

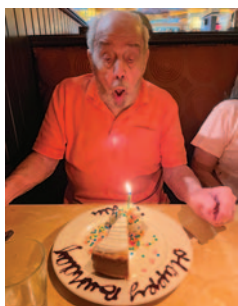
Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 0%

Acting Pres: **CAPT Edward L. "Ted" Cochrane Jr., USN (Ret.)**
 8814 Lynnhurst Dr., Fairfax, VA 22031; p: 703-280-4141
 Corr Sec'y: **Bonnie Boyd**
 Daughter of CAPT E. L. Cochrane Jr. '45
 4606 Marble Rock Ct., Chantilly, VA 20151
 p: 571-342-2266; e: bonnieboyd2266@gmail.com
 Website: www.usna.com/classes/1945

We begin with a fun picture of **Charles "Charlie" Sobel** which shows him making a wish as he celebrates his 100th birthday. A delicious cake attests that he did reach the century mark on 1 July 2023.



'40: Four members of the Class of '40



Happy Birthday, Charlie



Another Zoom session is caught on camera. Present at this meeting on 13 September 2023 were Charlie Sobel (upper left), Mike Taylor (upper right) and **Ted Cochrane**. The group of '45 classmates and their widows who regularly meet weekly truly appreciate Mike and his dedication to hosting these Zoom sessions for the class as he is continually busy with his volunteer work of coordinating and managing the sailing fleet of the Sea Scout Ship 1942 which is a part of the Boy Scouts of America. Thank you, Mike!

Sadly, there are several deaths to report this month. First, we recently learned that Eugenia S. "Jean" Moore had passed away on 9 March 2022 at 97 years. Jean was the widow of '45

classmate **Robert F. "Bob" Moore**. The couple had lived in Canandaigua, NY, where Jean enjoyed volunteering her time learning how to transcribe books into braille.



Nancy Taylor as her Washington, DC area group fondly knew her

Nancy Topper Taylor of Arlington, Virginia, who was the widow of **CAPT Thaddeus M. "Thad" Taylor** and a Navy "brat" herself, passed away on 5 August 2023 surrounded by her family. Interestingly during the 94 years that she lived, Nancy witnessed firsthand both of our country's "dates of infamy" having lived in Oahu, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, and living just a mile from the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Nancy had volunteered at the White House for two presidential administrations and was a faithful member of the '45 Zoom group until her passing.



Walt Rose in his USNA military uniform

The last death to mention is of '45 classmate Mr. **Walter Stowe "Walt" Rose** who passed away on 5 July 2023 at 101 years old. Walt was a sub vet who proudly attended submariner reunions for years. In an interview that he did with one of his grandsons in 2001, Walt de-

scribed a harrowing experience during WW II when he served on the USS Pogy (SS-266). Walt recounted one of the sub's war patrols going through the entrance to the Sea of Japan which had been heavily mined. The ship had to transit this mine field submerged where Walt and the ship's crew could hear several mine



'45: Another Class of '45 weekly Zoom session this past September



'45: Walt & Betty Rose surrounded by family at their reunion near Houston, TX in February 2023

cables scrape along the POGY's sides without thankfully snagging and detonating the mines above them. After torpedoing two merchant ships and damaging another, the POGY departed the Sea of Japan through the Northern straight on the surface at night. The next morning, the Pogy received the radio message that the war had ended and was directed to return to the states. Walt is survived by his wife of 68 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Wright. Our deepest sympathy to all the families of these departed loved ones.



Walt and Betty Rose in April of 2010

As always...

Look Alive with '45!

'46

Life Membership: 40%
Donor Participation: 28.57%

Send News directly to Shipmate at: classnews@usna.com

DEFENDI RESPUBLICAM ADOLESCENS, NON DESERAM SENEX

Sadly, our offices were notified by Marilyn Baldwin that her father Commander **Lawrence C. Baldwin, USN (Ret.)** passed on 10 October 2023.

'47

Life Membership: 75%
Donor Participation: 33.33%

Pres: **CAPT Jack M. Stevens, USN (Ret.)**
200 Ankersa Way, Hunt, TX 78204-3400
p: 830-238-4355; e: captjack47@hctc.net

Corr Sec'y: **Eileen Marousek**
Daughter of Col. L. Marousek
310 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
e: eileenUSNA47@gmail.com

Tres: **Priscilla Myerson**
Wife of Ed Myerson

'48

Life Membership: 37%
Donor Participation: 6.06%

Sec'y/Webmaster: **John Tsiknas**
16061 Avenida Venusto, Apt. E218; San Diego, CA 92128-4414
p: 858-829-7193; e: johntsiknas@att.net

Website: <http://1948.usnaclasses.com>

'49

Life Membership: 58%
Donor Participation: 21.05%

Pres: **CAPT Richard A. "Rick" Claytor, USN (Ret.)**
701 King Farm Blvd., #203, Rockville, MD 20850
e: retxnavy@aol.com

Exec Vice Pres and Treas: **CAPT Richard A. "AI" Frost, USN (Ret.)**
6516 Bellamine Ct., McLean, VA 22101-1481

Paul Laric, Honorary Secretary of the Class of 1949

Sec'y: **Ursula Vosseler**
2214 Chesapeake Harbour Dr., Annapolis, MD 21403
e: navygolfergirl@gmail.com

Webmaster: **CAPT Richard A. "Rick" Claytor, USN (Ret.)**

Website: www.usna-class49.org

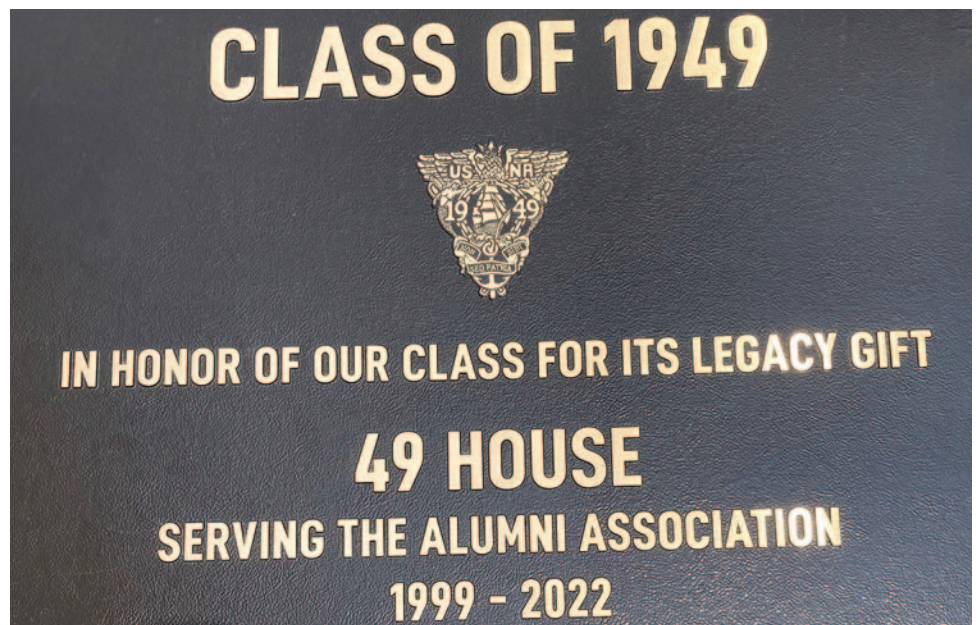
Letter from the President

The Fluegel Alumni Center was dedicated and formally opened on September 8, 2023 with the Secretary of the Navy present. I am pleased to report that the Class of 1949 received special recognition by permanent displays in the new Center in two prominent locations. This is to recognize our class gift to the Alumni Association of 49 House which was sold in conjunction with advent of the new Center.



'49 Plaque at the flagpole at the Center's entrance

The first location honoring our class is the display at the Flagpoles at the Center's entrance shown in the nearby photograph; the Flagpole display is a granite base with aluminum attached plaque.



'49: Close up of the flagpole plaque



At the Cente's Lobby

The second location honoring our class is the display in the Center's lobby adjacent to the receptionist's desk as shown in the above photograph; the lobby display is Leguna Corian with polished gold/brass letters with image of 49 House in cast bronze.



'49: Inside the main lobby of the Fluegel Alumni Center

CLASS OF 1949

**CLASS LEGACY GIFT – 49 HOUSE
SERVING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
1999 - 2022**

The 50th anniversary class gift to the Alumni Association was the renovation of a three-story, brick-and-frame Queen-Anne-style building on College Avenue which became known as 49 House. This structure served as Alumni Association and Foundation staff offices for more than two decades. This was achieved under the leadership of class president, Ace Boughton, and the expertise of civil engineer classmate, John Dobson, who directed the total renovation.

'49: Inside the main lobby of the Fluegel Alumni Center

'50

Life Membership: 67%

Donor Participation: 10.94%

Pres: **CAPT Byron A. Lee, USN (Ret.)**

p: 410-266-7248; e: byleeby@verizon.net

Vice Pres: **CAPT Ed Grundwald, USN (Ret.)**

Treas: **Col William K. Rockey, USMC (Ret.)**

p: 703-842-3153; e: wkrockey@cox.net

Statistical Manager: **Maj Gen Daryle E. Tripp, USAF (Ret.)**

p: 703-360-6988; e: darylet@aol.com

Corr Sec'y: **Mrs. Gail McNally**

e: ggmcnally@gmail.com

Widow of **CAPT John J. McNally, USN (Ret.)**

Send News directly to Shipmate at: classnews@usna.com

Gail McNally shares:

✉ Quilts of Valor (QOV) is a beautiful organization. The 10,000 quilters have produced and presented over 300,000 to service men. There's a good website and John was given this one, made by my niece, Susan Skatoff. You'll note the Navy insignia. The insignia is repeated throughout.

I hope you may use it and any information about QOV from their website.

I miss John terribly..but isn't that true for so many of us.

My very best regards to you and all..

Gail McNally

Wife of **John J McNally** - Class of 1950

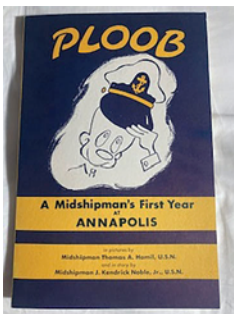
703 765 8808



Gail McNally shows the quilt given to her husband John and his portrait

From Anne Noble:

✉ In October 2024, *PLOOB* will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The character of Ploob was originated by Midshipman **Thomas A. Hamil ('52)** during his Plebe year. An artist by avocation (who would go on to have more than 30 shows of his paintings and to illustrate books), Hamil began sketching a "typical" Fourth Classman in the meshes of "the system," which he sent to *The Log*. Midshipman **J. Kendrick Noble** felt that Ploob should have a



PLOOB

more permanent place in the literature of the Academy and persuaded Hamil to collect his cartoons, which, with Noble's commentary, became *PLOOB* (the book), published in 1949. A copy is now part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian.

USS HANNA SECOND CRUISE

Submitted by *Byron Lee*

This cruise was to be a six-month tour stationed in Guam. The Navy Admiral stationed there was responsible for all the islands in the Southwest Pacific that had been occupied by the Japanese. The ship was to visit the islands to see whether or not they needed anything and whether there were any problems. Our Commanding Officer was a LCDR, who had no

hope of promotion—he intended to enjoy his command. He was an excellent ship handler and liked to do spectacular things. This didn't endear him to his seniors, but the crew worshipped him. His approaches to underway refueling and docking were exciting. He endured many Boards of Inquiry, usually about loss of the Sonar dome. He always reported that we hit a whale!

I was the Gunnery Officer, which made me the Landing Officer, so I made many, many landings on the islands. In general, we would take a motor whale boat towing an inflated raft. We would hunt for an opening in the coral reef, then take the raft ashore. I carried a .45 pistol as a symbol of my authority. There were still Japanese on the islands, but they weren't interested in being found. We would be met by the leader. He would crack a coconut for us to drink the milk, then take us to a meeting place. Often, they were schools where the children sang songs to entertain us. We checked to see whether or not they needed medical supplies or batteries for their radio. We might land on 6 to 10 islands a day. It was exhausting.

The CO took the ship in places that had never been visited by a ship of our size. We weathered two typhoons— all of us sick. We were able to visit Japan for rest. The CO always gave me the 4-8 watch while we maneuvered through hundreds of fish nets. I was aboard for four months of the 6-month cruise.

We visited the Carolines, the Marianas, the Volcanoes and the Bonins. The CO wrote a book, "A Handful of Emeralds", Meredith, published by the Naval Institute. It is full of anecdotes during visits to the islands.

'51

Life Membership: 62%

Donor Participation: 16.88%

Pres and Treas: **CAPT Thomas A. Boyce, SC, USN (Ret.)**

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Vice Pres and Museum Rep: **Temp Vacant**

Sec'y: **LtCol Wallace G. Christner, USAF (Ret.)**

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p: 703-780-8632; e: wallace.christner@aol.com

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PO Box 68, Oxford, MD 21654

p: 410-822-8623; e: davidghy@aol.com

Communications: **VADM Robert F. Dunn, USN (Ret.)**

819 Marshall Ln., Alexandria, VA 22302

p: 703-370-9589; e: robtdunn@aol.com

Other Board Members: **Captains Robert E. Adler**

and **Herbert A. Zoehrer**

As most of you know there's quite a lead time between composing our *Shipmate* column and when you actually get to read it. Thus, you won't find many revelations or much of instant use here, but you might if you check out our bi-weekly Newsletter. News therein is significantly more, timely. If you're not getting the Newsletter, please advise Bob Dunn, address above.

If you do read the Newsletters you are aware that we have lost in close succession our vice-president, Bob Small, and his lifetime partner, Ruth. That means, also, that we have lost our principal on-site liaison with the Naval Academy and with our several efforts within the Yard, especially with regard to the USNA Museum ship-model collection and the various efforts in the Chapel, including the organ. Rest assured efforts are underway to ensure those programs continue. In that regard Dr. Claude Berube of the museum and Monte Maxwell, the chapel organist, have been most helpful. In particular, Dr. Berube has taken the lead in the effort to re-name the ship-model collection as the, "**Class of 1951 Captain Robert Small Ship Gallery Collection.**" Your class leadership is also trying to establish an Annapolis-based liaison to fill in for what Bob and Ruth have done for us in the past. None of that, by the way, is meant to take away from other classmates and ladies recently lost, Bob Miller, John Redfield and others who have also contributed so much to our class, the Naval Academy and the Nation. God bless them all.

As of submission time for this column we are down to eighty-three surviving classmates of the 725 who graduated back in June of 1951. We don't have a good count of the ladies, but the losses among them are probably proportionate.

Those shrinking numbers likely explain in large measure why we don't hear much about get-togethers anymore. Our San Diego contingent leads the way with their continuing monthly luncheons at the San Diego Yacht Club, but as with the rest of us their numbers are dwindling. What was once a thriving WashDC/Annapolis group has pretty much disappeared with the exception that Tom Boyce, Chris Christener and Bob Dunn who recently joined to massage the class Navy Federal Credit Union account. (Rest assured, the account is healthy). Perhaps we should work a bit harder on staying connected. Perhaps we can each pull out our Blue Book, look it over, and give a call to a long-lost classmate, shipmate or friend. If you do make a connection you might let your correspondent know. It's certain others would like to hear.

Then, and by the way, one fourth of us went into the Air Force and fifty-one became Marines. We hardly hear from any of you. Is it something we said or wrote? Please let us know.

On the other hand, we do hear regularly about the ladies in the Pacific Northwest thanks to Barbara Crawford. We'd like to hear from other ladies and the rest of you too.



Kit Phillips, Sara Soracco, Barbara Crawford and Margee Hunt

'52

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 16.51%

Pres (Interim): **Jack Young**
9440 Newbridge Dr., #318, Potomac, MD, 20854
p: 240-477-2512; e: jcy52@verizon.net

Vice Pres: **CDR G. Phillip Case Jr., USN (Ret.)**
7452 Spring Village Dr., Apt. 107
Springfield, VA 22150-4947
p: 703-451-3937; e: casep29@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Kip Young**, daughter of Jack Young
8616 White Post Ct., Potomac, MD 20854
p: 240-205-2162; e: toughshoes52shipmate@gmail.com

Treas: **Col George W. Lester Jr., USAF (Ret.)**
5400 30th St., N., Arlington, VA 22207-1502
p: 703-241-1989; e: geova@verizon.net

Website: www.toughshoes52.org

Past Class President **Jerry Rapkin** passed away September 24, 2023. Jerry and Jan Rapkin were fundamental to Class organization and activities, and always with a smile. He supplied the "Shoes" Trophy that brightened our tailgates and passed on our message for many decades. Jerry and Jan were a "let's get it done" couple for '52 leadership. He will be missed.

Will advise on arrangements. Cards and notes can be sent to: 801 Bridgeport Way, Annapolis, MD 21401

—Kip Young



The Lovells

Marilyn Lovell, wife of classmate **Jim Lovell**, passed away in August. As astronaut Jim Lovell's wife, she was well known, yet her life was like many Class of '52 wives. She and Jim married hours after he graduated at an Annapolis church. She supported him as they moved around the country, raising their four children. Her *New York Times* obituary noted how she was portrayed in books and films about the space program:

"In those portrayals and others, Ms. Lovell helped make the astronaut's wife a heroic archetype: the American housewife accepting her husband's absences imposed by work, sacrificing peace of mind for the sake of his and their country's grand adventures, confronting the possibility of his death with dignity while the nation looked on, and wringing from all of that a life she saw as charmed."

September Class Zoom Call —'52 invited Class of '55 to join: Joint '52-'55 Presentation.

This Zoom call covered Academy Course **NE203: Ethics and Moral Reasoning for Naval Leaders** is a required course for all Third Class midshipmen, and has been taught at the Naval Academy since 1998.

The presentation was made by **CAPT Rusty Yeiser**, USN (Ret.), USNA '74, who has taught the course for the last fifteen years. He provided an excellent overview of the course including examples of the case studies used to illustrate the types of ethical challenges that midshipmen are likely to face as commissioned officers.

Rusty explained the purpose of NE203 is to prepare midshipmen to fulfill the special moral obligations inherent in their commission and oath of office. Course objectives are to develop an appreciation for the moral complexities of officer ship, an understanding of the ethical demands of combat leadership, a basic understanding of classical and contemporary thought in moral philosophy, and a roadmap for putting moral theory to work in the service of practical moral reasoning.

John Rudder '78, VP Development at the Alumni Association, has set up our outstanding Zoom speakers over the last year. This is John's last one for us. We are indebted to John for his insightful speakers and enjoyable afternoons. BZ John and enjoy what comes next!

Tom Stallman, Class of '55 Secretary, jumped right in and set up the '55 participation. We are going to continue to pursue '55 and perhaps other Classes to join our Zooms. The Zooms are really good and tell a good picture of what is going on at USNA.

Our own participation is too low. Time for you guys to jump in!! — **Jack Young**

We continue to receive word of the passing of Classmates, wives, and widows.

Received recently:

Joan Hughes, widow of **Wayne Hughes**, August 6, 2023

Mary Ann Lancaster, widow of **Robert "Bob" W. Lancaster**, July 14, 2023
Marilyn Lillie Lovell, wife of **Jim Lovell**, July 11, 2023

Still Tough Shoes to Fill!

'53

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 18.75%

Pres: **CAPT Chris Zirps, USN (Ret.)**
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Exec Vice Pres: **CAPT Alvin S. Glazier, USN (Ret.)**
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Cor Sec'y: **Mike Gilmore**
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P: 984-364-0629 E: mdgilmorevt79@gmail.com

Webmaster: **CAPT Paul Dudley, USN (Ret.)**
e: pdudley@1953.usna.com

Website: www.usna53.com

CLASS SUMMER PICNIC. We had our 1953 Summer Picnic on 24 June at Chesapeake Harbour in Annapolis, Darrell Dempster hosting. Due to rain only the following from the Class family were able to attend: Darrell and Holly Dempster, Pat Maher and Chris Zirps as well as guests from the Alumni Association, Jennifer Bolton and Janet Douglas. A good time was had by all.



Jennifer Bolton, Pat Maher and Chris Zirps



Chris Zirps & Darrell Dempster

53/54 CLASS NEWS

We lost several great men this past summer. From June to September the Alumni Association lists six men from the Class of '53: **David Allen, Daniel Rice, Joe James, Chuck Fellows, Art Bivens, and Frank Wollcott III.**

A great way to honor all of those we have lost is to consider participating in one of the Wreaths Across America (www.wreaths-acrossamerica.org) events this December. Every year thousands of fresh evergreen wreaths, each adorned with a scarlet bow, are lovingly placed on the graves of fallen heroes. Their mission is to remember, honor, and teach - keeping alive the memory of those who fought for our freedom and inspiring younger generations to appreciate the sacrifices made on their behalf.

Events take place at every National Cemetery. The Annapolis National Cemetery event is on December 1st, events at Arlington take place on 16 December.



Steve Gilmore's sons Mitch and Trent, and his wife Nancy laying a wreath at their grandfather and fathers-in-law's grave at Arlington National Cemetery last year at the Wreaths Across America event

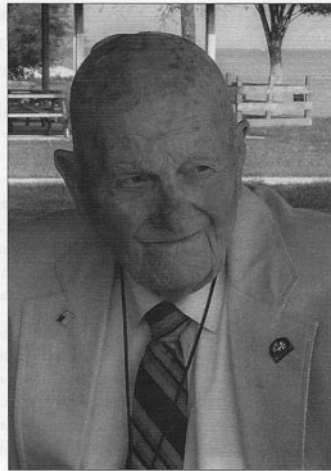
CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: classnews@usna.com

2024

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
January-February '24	20 Nov '23
March-April '24	23 Jan '24

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



PAUL A. PETZRICK

Energy Resource Administrator

Born in Menomonic, WI, Paul A. Petzrick is in his 31st year as an employee of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. After having already retired from 30 years in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of Energy, he felt like he still had more to accomplish. At 93 years young, Petzrick is currently a power plant site assessor in the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP), a team that is involved in licensing power plants in Maryland and researching all matters related to power plants. Most frequently, Petzrick is charged with researching innovations in producing electricity and the side effects of producing electricity.

His love of electricity began when he was a young boy reading books written by pioneers in the field including Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla. That love continued long after he left that one-room school to study at the Stout Institute and University of Wisconsin before entering the U.S. Naval Academy.

He received a bachelor of science degree and was commissioned as a Navy line officer upon graduation in 1954. He subsequently attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps of the Navy. He received his master of science degree in engineering science from Princeton University in 1966.

During his Naval career in the 1970s, Petzrick served with the Naval Material Command where his last assignment was Director of the Navy Energy and Natural Resources Research and Development Office at the Washington headquarters. He held numerous construction and public works positions during his naval career including an assignment in Viet Nam as Chief Staff Officer with the 32nd Construction Regiment. At Headquarters Naval Material Command, Petzrick initiated the Navy's program in Environmental Protection before becoming involved in energy research and development.

Petzrick has co-authored studies and given presentations before the mineral and energy industry and other groups, and for his work in energy and environmental protection, he received the Navy Legion of Merit and the U.S. Navy League's William S. Parsons Award for Scientific and Technical Achievement in 1975. Petzrick was also the Navy nominee for the Rockefeller Public Service Award in 1974. Paul was appointed as charter member of the Senior Executive Service of the US Department of Energy when it was created in 1977.

After retirement from federal service in 1984 he ultimately accepted a position at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1991, and at 93, Petzrick is the oldest current employee of the State of Maryland. He currently resides in Crownsville, Md.

"I reviewed my records of involvement while in the Navy and DOE, and I think the high point of my Navy time was that I represented the United States at a NATO study of the energy crisis in 1975 where I headed the Navy Fuels Group in London for two weeks. While there I briefed their Shadow Government referred to as the Bow Study Group."

'54: Paul A. Petzrick, Honorary Degree Recipient

'54

Life Membership: 56%
Donor Participation: 17.06%

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54 News

David A. Fitzwilliam '54 holding great, grandson George Fitzwilliam. He, son of RADM **Albert E. Fitzwilliam** USN (Ret.), USNA 1927 with Lorraine Naquin Tyler, daughter of RADM **Oliver Naquin** (Ret.), USNA 1925.

Our fathers were born on the same day in 1904 and both served in submarines. So, we are Navy Juniors, Companions at 93!



Navy Juniors

'54 BZ

Sharing this impressive news about **Paul A. Petzrick**. See the image at the top of the page.

'55

Life Membership: 64%
Donor Participation: 13.98%

Pres: **RADM R. R. Fountain Jr., USN (Ret.)**
 Treas: **CDR Robert P. Pirie Jr., USN (Ret.)**
 Sec'y: **CAPT Thomas F. Stallman, USN (Ret.)**
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 Website: <http://1955.usnaclass.com/>

John Philip Monahan (5) passed away on 20 July 2023 in Lexington, Virginia.

John Joseph Anderson (10) passed away in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on August 31, 2023.

Roberta Levin, wife of **Harold A. Levin (14)**, passed away on Saturday, 5 August 2023 at OSF St. Paul Medical Center in Mendota IL. Funeral services for Roberta will be held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Barto Funeral Home in Spring Valley. Pastor Jeff Green and Pastor Bill Jacobsen will officiate. Burial will follow at Valley Memorial Park Cemetery. The visitation for Roberta will start at 10:00 AM until time of services on Tuesday at 11:00 AM at the Barto Funeral home. Roberta was born on 1 April 1932 in Spring Valley to Frank and Louise (Chiado) Serafine. She married Harold A. Levin on 3 June 1955 at the Annapolis Naval Academy. Harold died on 25 April 2010. She is survived by her son, Harold P. (Kathy) Levin of Fairfax, Virginia; her daughter, Mary Levin (Erik) Nielson of Parkersburg, West Virginia; 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Roberta was preceded in death by her parents and husband Harold.

Mary Looney, **Phil Monahan's** daughter, sent this photo which she calls "A Wonderful legacy."



L to R. Phil, MGEN USMC (Ret), grand daughter Mary Grace '18, currently Capt. USMC, and son John '83 Lt Col USMC (Ret.), another grandson is a Plebe.

From Suzanne Hamilton

✉ Passing on the news of the death of Joan McCusker Hamilton, wife of **David G. Hamilton (23)** on 15 August 2023. Joan was 88.

Her obituary is at <https://www.loudonfuneral-chapel.com/m/obituaries/joan-hamilton-10/memories>

'56

Life Membership: 74%
Donor Participation: 27.60%

Class Co-Chairman: **Col George Mushalko, USAF (Ret.) (15)**
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 Class Co-Chairman: **CAPT Jim Van Metre, USN (Ret.) (4)**
 p: 410-224-3860; e: jimvanm@aol.com
 Shipmate: **CAPT Pete Fitzwilliam, USN (Ret.) (13)**
 p: 703-501-6776; e: petefitzwm@aol.com
 Sec'y: **CAPT Doug Hayman, USN (Ret.) (11)**
 p: 410-268-0740; e: dfhayman@comcast.net
 Webmaster: **Alex Morris (2)**
 p: 941-378-5598; e: alex.morris@1956.usna.com
 Website: www.usna56.org

"Deo Fidelis et Patria"

Hi All. Happy, late fall and Merry Christmas/Holiday Season! (Already!)

Recently we received a pleasant communication from a classmate. Reporting in was **Mario Sanchez Carrion (24)**. In an email To **Doug Hayman (11)** and **John Bauman (24)**:



Mario Sanchez Carrion

✉ Good morning, Doug and John,
 Glad to receive the 1956 Class Letter. Appreciate the dedication and effort of some of our classmates.

Just news of myself. I am still relatively healthy at my 88 years of age...

Widowed. Spending half the time in the USA and half in Peru.

Kept close to our Alma Mater through two leads, 1956 Class letters/communications, and a new USNA foreign graduates' chapter. Just for information there are over 45 Peruvian Navy Officers (retired and on active duty) alive that have graduated from the US Naval Academy (and still graduating). We have formed a Chapter in Lima and meet often. We are together at the Army-Navy game every year, gathering at the house of the US Naval Attache who sponsors this traditional activity. Just by mid-year one member USNA graduate became Peru's Navy CNO. Proud of him.

Just for kicks, please see an updated picture of me...

Best to all of the **24th Co!!!**
 Mario, 1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd Ste164
 Coral Gables, FL 33134
 (Msanchezca@aol.com)

[Hey Mario! Nice to hear from you!
 Nice letter. PF Ed.]

This month we received an enjoyable communication from a retired naval officer who had been researching the original owner of a Reef Points that had been found by a young man he knew. His email: (from minyard54@yahoo.com to Doug Hayman et.al.)

✉ "Gentlemen,

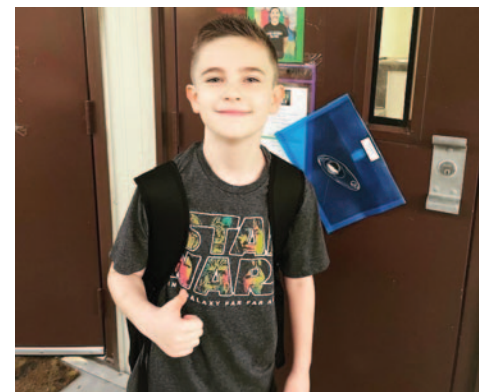
I just wanted to take a minute to update you on my efforts to return *Reef Points '52-'53* to USNA graduate **C. N. Chavarria**, at the number you provided. He sounded in good health and is currently residing in Sugarland, TX. He believes the book was inadvertently included in a batch of books donated to a thrift store. He asked that I contact his son to arrange for the book's return.

I subsequently contacted his son, Chris Chavarria, and we have arranged to meet on September 18th to return the book. Chris stated his father is very excited about this development and always kept his USNA memorabilia.

I have attached a picture of the young man who rescued the book. (see photo below) His name is Ollie, and he too is excited we were able to find the owner and return the book to him.

Thanks again for your assistance in locating Charles.

Very respectfully,
 Scott Minyard
 CDR, USN (Ret.)"



Ollie

Thank you, and Ollie, too, Commander Minyard! [PF, Ed]

We received a terrific write-up from our **15th Company** classmate **George Connolly** who made the trip in August with his two sons and a grandson for the Notre Dame game:

✉ Retired Captain **George S. Connolly '56**
 "The camaraderie, revelry, and splendid spectacle of one of sports oldest rivalries hits

close to home for me each year as my oldest son Michael Connolly went to the University of Notre Dame ('85). We have gone to the game many times, but this year was special. The Naval Academy football team was crossing the Atlantic to kick off the season on the beautiful emerald island playing the University of Notre Dame in Dublin.

"The football talk starts early with my sons and this year I found out that my high school Alma Matre, Seton Hall Prep ('50) was also playing in Dublin that weekend. They were part of "Dublin's Friday Night Lights" American high school teams that play the day before the Navy game as added guests to the American invasion happening that week.

"Along with my Irish heritage and love of travel, this was all too much to pass up and I decided to make it special and take my two sons (Michael and Richard) and a grandson (Dylan) to see both games in person. After much planning the Connolly's packed up their Navy and Notre Dame shirts, hats, and scarfs to spend a week on an adventure in Ireland.

"The Connolly crew traveled into Dublin early to enjoy the local culture and excited fanfare that was all over the city. Thursday the city was already crowded, and all the restaurants and taverns were full of fans in team colors. Rounds were bought and songs were sung. Friday, despite rain and delays due to lightning, I got to see my high school play football for the first time in over 70 years!

"Saturday started early with breakfast and some city history. Then we were off to St. Patrick's Cathedral, and a pub, before walking with the parade of fans on the closed streets of Dublin and onward to the game. It was so much fun sitting with the Navy fans and all of us had a blast despite the outcome on the field.

"The trip was far from over as the next days were full of travel to scenic sites all over the country. From Galway to the Burren, to Limerick and Castles, the island is a delight. I was able to stare out from the Cliffs of Moher into the Atlantic remembering many nights at sea. This was an incredible and memorable trip and despite that I am 91, I look forward to many more Navy games. Go Navy beat Army!
—George"

The Connollys shared a few pictures from their time in Ireland.



The 4 of us at the Navy ND football game



George Connolly at the Cliffs of Moher



The 4 of us at the Burren in Ireland

And recently, couple of amusing email exchanges between **Doug** (Class Secy) and a lady named Elizabeth Flint:

Initial email from Ms. Flint and responses:

✉ I found among my mother's things a pin from the Naval Academy with the date 1956. It has three initials engraved on the back. The last initial is W. Can you please provide me with a list of the 1956 graduates whose names begin with the letter W with their or their family's contact information?

I would like to return this piece of jewelry to his family. Thank you.

Ms. Flint,

Please go to [usna56.org>Archives>Lucky Bag](https://usna56.org/Archives/Lucky_Bag), page 410 and following pages to see the names of the graduates in the class of 1956 and send me the names of those whose three initials are of interest.

Doug

Ira Bernard Weltman. Your archives note he died in 2007. Do you have any contact information for his relatives? If you do not want to give out that information you could ask them to contact me at this email address. Would you like a photo of the pin? I also have a small pair of wings.

Ms. Flint,

Weltman had no children, as far as I know. Neither I nor our alumni association have contact information for his widow. If you would like, I will pass our emails to his Naval Academy roommate. It is likely he would know whether Weltman gave his pin to someone, and possibly remember her name.

Doug

He gave it to my mother who is no longer living. I just thought he may have children who would like to have it. Since that is not the case, I will just keep it. Thank you for the information.

The following announcements are made about the recent passing of classmates and classmate wives. For classmates, full obituaries will

be presented in the "Last Call" section of this or a future issue of *Shipmate*.



Wayne Wills Sr.

Wayne Wills Sr. (20) passed away 6 Sep 2023. He was 92.

Walter Sam Denham (10) passed away 17 May 2023. He was 89.

Patricia Cummings O'Keefe, wife of **William J. O'Keefe (10)** passed away peacefully 2 Jun 2022 at her home in her daughter's house in Chelmsford, MA, where she had lived for two months. She was 89. Bill and she had recently moved to their daughter's house that had been renovated to accommodate them. She was 89.

Patricia was born to the late Mary E. Daley and Albert F. Cummings in Boston, MA on 10 Nov 1932. She grew up in Dorchester, MA with her brother and three sisters. She graduated from Girls Latin School in Boston and received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Boston University. Bill Met her when she was a nursing supervisor at the Floating Hospital for Children. They married in 1961 and lived in Brooklyn, NY and Whippany, NJ before settling in Dedham, MA in 1966.

Patricia was very active in her children's lives as a CCD teacher, Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout den mother, PTO president, member of various Parents Council, and she was a founding member of the Dedham High School Music Association. She volunteered as a public health nurse and a substitute school nurse in Dedham. She was President of the South Shore Lupus Group and Dedham Women's Club for several years. Mostly, she loved spending time with family, creating many family traditions.

In addition to her husband Patricia is survived by her children: Maureen Totino and her husband Paul of Dedham MA, Brian O'Keefe and his companion Susan Davey of Plymouth, MA, Brenda Brady and her husband Alan of Wilmot, NH, and Ellen Desmarais and her husband Ernie of Chelmsford, MA; and her nine grandchildren Michelle Carilli of Medford, MA, Lauren Totino of Waltham, MA, Liam O'Keefe of Plymouth, MA, Clare and Matthew Brady of Wilmot, NH, Evelyn Douglas,

Eleanor and Lillian Desmarais of Chelmsford, MA; and one great grandchild, Nathan Carilli of MA.

Note: the July/August *Shipmate* '56 column incorrectly stated in her obit that Eleanor, wife of **Roy Hejhall (1)**, had played with a symphony orchestra in Jackson MS. Actually, it was in Michigan. The statement should have stated that she had played with the Symphony in Jackson, MI. [Sorry, Roy. PF]

'57

Life Membership: 72%
Donor Participation: 22.41%

Pres: **VADM Daniel L. Cooper, USN (Ret.)**
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Vice Pres: **CAPT William H. Peerenboom, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CAPT Peter B. Boyne, USN (Ret.)**
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Corr Sec'y: **Col William S. Hamel, USMCR (Ret.)**
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Treas: **COL John D. Regenhardt, USAF (Ret.)**
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Webmeister: **CDR Charles R. Hall III, USN (Ret.)**
 e: crhall@comcast.net

Website: <http://1957.usnaclass.com/>

We say goodbye to some mates:

Dale Hollabaugh (6) died unexpectedly on 3 August 2023, in Jordan, Utah.

Judith Kathleen Mylan Tucker Dundervill, wife of **Robert F. Dundervill (9)** died on 5 September 2023. She was born on 23 February 1941 in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Larry T. Ingels (18) died in his sleep 12 September 2023, in North Carolina.

Rebecca Walker Jahn, wife of **Donald R. John (11)**, died 22 July 2023, at her home in Richmond Hill, Georgia. She was born 8 December 1938, in Screven County, Georgia.

Donald R. Jahn (11) died 2 September 2023.

Walter V. Roeser (1) died on 28 August 2023.

Diane B. Wattay, of Mount Pleasant, SC, widow of **Alex Wattay (23)** died 1 August 2023. She was born 28 February 1939, in Portsmouth, VA.

Some reports from the field:

From **Bert Benjes (20)**

☒ Here's a photo of a 20th Co mini-reunion taken at Carol's Creek Restaurant in Annapolis in the summer of 2022. I traveled to Baltimore to attend my oldest grand-daughter's wedding and asked Don Regenhardt (20) to get some 20th Co '57 locals together for a luncheon. I hadn't seen these guys since June of '57, but he had. Well, the wind blew and the sea stories flew!



20th Company: L to R Parke L. Brown (20), Sheila Brown, Thad Walker (20), Don Regenhardt, Bert Benjes and Randy Brown (20).

Side Story: Randy was my room-mate 1st Class year. His father at the time was VADM Cat Brown, Commander of the 6th Fleet.

Randy got a telegram from him on his birthday - Official Navy correspondence in standard Navy parlance and format.

Fm: COM6thFLT
 To: MIDN R.R. Brown
 Via: An incredible Chain of Command from CNO down to him
 Subj: Birthday Greetings
 1. Happy Birthday

In from **Joe Koch (11):**

☒ Attached is a picture of classmates taken at a mini reunion at **Harry Gimber's** house on 14 September 2023. Seated left to right are **George Kachigian, (23) Jim Beatty (4) and Joe Koch.** Standing left to right are Harry Gimber, **Dick Porter, (14) Bill Peerenboom, and George Lanman (6).** The occasion for the gathering was the Peerenbooms and Dick Porter being in the area for a ship reunion. Also in attendance were Ann Kachigian, Carol Beatty, Nancy Jamison, Maxine Gimber, Betty Peerenboom, Anne Lanman, and Valerie Pappacio. Many stories of old were retold and a good time had by all. Harry even managed to order excellent weather for the evening. The Southern California group looks forward to getting together again for the Army/Navy Game.



Mini reunion

From VP **Bill Peerenboom (3):**

☒ On 29 June, a number of classmates gathered in McLean, VA, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of our joining the Brigade of Midshipmen! **Dave Smith (2)** made the arrangements and we were treated to Champagne in a toast to our great good fortune as classmates and to celebrate our successful completion of Plebe Summer '53. Lee Walker (9) reminded us of the verse, "whenever two or three shall meet,..." and led a toast to the Blue and Gold.

Regrettably, the configuration of our table precluded a front shot, but pictured L-R are

Larry Cohen (1), Lee Walker, Dave Smith, Gary Antonides (2), Bill Peerenboom, Jack Cook (11), and Forrest Hanvey (5). Note that every one of us has hair!



70th anniversary of completing Plebe Summer '53

A **Don Regenhardt (19)** memory:

☒ I arrived and was sworn in a few days later than most of the class due to a physical re-exam.

My plebe summer crew included **Bill Curry (14), Pete Boyne (6), Larry Bryson (4),** and others I don't recall. I was immediately in "catch-up" mode with serious stenciling - and the resulting envy of those with surnames that didn't stretch across the entire front of their whiteworks. The memorable event occurred at my first formation in Tecumseh Court. The officer of the watch chose my crew to inspect. He stopped in front of me and focused on my shoes. Not knowing to keep my eyes in the boat I followed his gaze and noticed a dramatic difference between my shoes and those of my neighbors - black mirrors versus dull black. He asked for an explanation, and not yet knowing the proper "no excuse sir" I offered my opinion. "Sir, I arrived later than most of the class and I believe they ran out of the good shoes before I got here." His comment as he walked away, "We've got a long way to go with this one!"

New topic: From **Bats Pelphrey (23).** At one of the recent class Zooms, someone mentioned that meals were now optional. That just blows my mind. As best I recall it, the meals during Plebe Year were the principal source of our hazing and getting come-arounds. Can some Annapolis resident explain what happens now with the plebes?

Peerenboom responds: About optional meals: One of Zumwalt's early Z-grams got rid of reveille aboard ships. Mids caught on to that and pressured to get it eliminated in Mother B. That got a resounding NO until the supply officer who managed the ration cost suggested lots of savings if breakfast was made optional. That was greeted as a stroke of genius, except it was feared that there would be bad press if plebes complained to their moms that they weren't being fed breakfast. So the compromise was to MAKE plebes go to breakfast with a token number of upperclassmen supervising and that was it. I was stationed at the Academy when that happened and it did generate some alumni pushback. But money and liberalization carried the day. Shortly thereafter the mids sued to get rid of mandatory chapel and won. Some say it has been downhill ever since.

57/58 CLASS NEWS

Like all such things they progress, and over the years almost all meals became optional as did most meal formations. We became aware of that in recent years when we tried to present the support check to the 22 Co. and had to schedule it on a day when a formation was set to happen.

Meanwhile, the ration cost continued to drop to match the diminished number of mids who actually ate. Then when the Supe who relieved VADM Rempt took a "round turn" and reinstated mandatory meals they found themselves in the awkward position of insufficient funding and hungry plebes. There was a bit of bad press then.

Received a note from **Jim Poole** (15) on the June publication of a family memoir by his wife, Ginger. The Walter and Eleanor Gillen Story took Ginger and her sister three years to research and write. Jim and Anne Smith, wife of **Jerry Smith** (1) assisted with editing.

✉ You will enjoy the book if you know Jim and Ginger, or if you enjoy biographies and autobiographies. The story portrays the lives of a large Midwestern family from the early 1900s to 2023. The book is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com.

That's it for now. Please send us some stuff.

'58

Life Membership: 61%

Donor Participation: 24.86%

Pres: **Lt Col Gordon M. Gerson, USAF (Ret.)**
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Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Bill Schramm, USN (Ret.)**
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Website: www.usna.com/Classes/1958

SUMMER CRUISE 1955 - Part V

(from the diary of Dave Ault, 10th Company)
LAND HO!

18 June 1955 - Oh, the wonder of seeing a new land for the first time! As Hemingway said, "the hills of Africa are Green" - a beautiful green that really tempted me to get ashore. I'd like to come back some day. It looked so rugged and peaceful at the same time. Spain looked the same upon my first glimpse of it, but for some reason Africa was the land that held my gaze - it must be the mystery and intrigue that are so often connected with that continent. The Rock of Gibraltar was one of the more interesting sights of the day - and my life as a matter of fact. After hearing and reading so much of it, it was a thrill to see it. I got some pictures; they should make interesting showing at home. I certainly hope Mom can see all of this some day. I look at it and I wish everyone could see it. There's so much to go around. Africa drifted out of sight through the afternoon, but the mountains of Spain were still on the horizon when we hit the rack - made for a

very nice sunset over the Mediterranean. I think I'll come back some day - Had a smoker tonight instead of movies - it wasn't a satisfactory substitution, I didn't think - the boxing was fun to watch, but the other talent was typically amateur. To sum it up, it's been one of the greater days of my short life - new lands, sights, etc. I hope to see so many more.

19 June 1955 - Well, when we got up this morning we were surrounded by water again - the sea is just a little bit bluer and the weather balmier and clearer. All in all, it's a great sight to wake up to - today was a hectic one - the ROTC's took over for the 2nd phase. Tom and I are staying for a couple of weeks and then will go back into the grind of a seaman's life. We'll work harder, but have more free time when it's over. I guess it won't be too bad, and we really should get a little Navy out of this cruise. Well, land, mail and women tomorrow. I'm all prepared to set out - liberty, Geneva, ID and camera cards. Also all the other little essentials. Saw "Student Prince" tonight. The music was wonderful - I really enjoy Mario Lanza's voice. Especially when mixed with Romberg. Very good show - well to bed - I probably will miss a couple of days of this, but will try to catch up - must sleep out tonight to help me think of home. Goodnight all.

20 June 1955 - Clear, hot. Up at 0530, anchored at 0803 - left the ship immediately and set foot on Espana at about 0900. After a taste of our first Spanish beer we got on the train for Madrid. We saw some beautiful Spanish country, but the 13 hour train ride was hell otherwise. We all slept most of the time. It was terrifically hot and even though we traveled first class it was poor traveling - the Spanish food I go for was not - well we arrived in Madrid at 2400 and went immediately to the Hotel Plaza. What a joint! It was really high class, expensive stuff. Great beds, etc. After cleaning up, Harlow Manahan and I went out to see the town. Our first impression was a good one - it looked great! I'll never get over these European's attitude toward women and sex. It's really quite different and exciting. We went to the York club for a show dedicated to the USA Navy and then went roaming the streets again. Got to bed at 0500.

21 June 1955 - Up at the ungodly hour of 1300. Was great to just loll around in bed instead of turning out. Went on a tour of Madrid today - the Royal Palace, Plaza de la Sol, old Madrid, parks, bull ring, etc. It wasn't very satisfactory because we didn't see much - too much time was spent in an art museum. El Greco, etc. I didn't like it too much. Well, got back and bought some film - had supper at an American restaurant - food wasn't cooked. After chow we went on our usual inspection tour of Madrid. Met a most wonderful little girl via Russ Thorn - made another date for tomorrow - to bed at 0530.

22 June 1955 - Up at 1300 again - missed the Toledo tour. Sat around sidewalk cafes, talked with Spanish Midshipmen and also had coffee with a teacher from U. of Colorado -

interesting. Did some window shopping - took mucho pictures. Harlow and I then went to see "Candleeju" (Limelight) with Charlie Chaplin. It was in Spanish, but could be understood. Charlie was pretty funny - sad story though. After the show we met a few of the guys and went and ate. Had the usual speech difficulties and had a mess-up to the tune of 100 pesetas. Afterwards we did our usual girl window shopping at the Vito and ordered beer - Chica hadn't arrived - she later walked in and got the usual stares, etc. I was surprised that she recognized me but she did and we got a table. She ordered her usual milk. Mario later came in and we just sat around and talked. Rat never showed up so we took off together (Harlow later got the dog tags). I hit the rack early tonight - 0300. Slept well too.

(To be continued)

THEN AND NOW

Back when Dave Ault was writing his diary the U.S. Navy had about 890 ships and 299 Admirals. In 2023 the Navy has 296 Flag Officers, but only about 241 operational USS ships.

COACH HIGGINS WOULD BE PROUD

Our Class President Gordon Gerson continues to compete in National age group swim meets. In the 2023 National Long Course Championships he collected 7 medals to add to his impressive collection. Bravo Zulu Gordo.

CLASS LUNCHEON

Our Washington area Classmates gathered for a luncheon in July at the Army-Navy Country Club. Captain Bill Hamblet, USN (RET), who is the Editor in Chief of the Naval Institute Proceedings, discussed the inception and history of the U. S. Naval Institute. The Naval Institute was established 150 years ago and, by act of Congress, it has been located at the Naval Academy since its inception in 1873. Capt. Hamblet discussed how articles of varying opinions are selected and presented and their effect on policy and procedures in our ever evolving Navy. He gave examples of articles written by junior officers that impacted strategy and policy and then revealed the names of the authors, many of whom reached flag rank. Attending the luncheon were Jack and Ann Adams, Dan Bellay, John Carty, Whitey and Lois Edwards, Linda Gamboa, Gordon and Jane Gerson, Harry Hurst, Eric and Barbara Mansfield, Barbara Polski, Bev Smedberg, Pete and Julie Russell and Buff Walter.



CAPTAIN BILL HAMBLET AND JACK ADAMS

CLOSING RANKS

Miles Mixon, 4th Company, 4 August 2023
 Jerry Larson, 18th Company, 8 August 2023
 George Greer, 17th Company,
 12 August 2023
 Jack Osborn, 2nd Company,
 12 August 2023
 Phil Meurer, 10th Company,
 6 September 2023
 Faye Barrett, wife of Steve Barrett,
 2nd Company, 31 January 2023
 Alison Williams, widow of George Williams,
 2nd Company, 4 March 2023
 Marilyn Osborn, wife of Jack Osborn,
 2nd Company, 12 March 2023

'59**Life Membership: 65%****Donor Participation: 18.28%**

Chairman Executive Committee: **Tom "Luke" Lukish**
 e: tluk5959@gmail.com

Executive Vice President Administration: **Tom Billings**
 e: tomsfree1959@gmail.com

Executive Vice Pres Services: **Bob Beaton**
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Corporate Treas: **Joe "Paddy" Ford**
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Dear Fellow Class of 59ers: Just a brief note to introduce your new Class Officers. This note was supposed to be in a previous copy of *Shipmate* but for some reason it was not included. So I'll try again. Your newly appointed Class Officers are shown above and we are very proud and dedicated to continue to lead our Special Class of 1959. We thank our previous Officers who have tirelessly continued our Class Legacy. A Legacy based on a lifelong friendship of Trust and Support for each other and our United States Naval Academy. Your Executive Committee is working very hard in planning and organizing our Class of 1959 65th Class Reunion. **Tom Billings** is our Class Reunion Committee Chairman and he and his hard working committee members are dedicated to make this Reunion very special. The Reunion is scheduled for 3-6 October 2024 mark these dates on your calendar and we hope to see you at our 65th Reunion. Tom will be sending more Reunion plans to your Company Representatives as they are developed by his dedicated committee members. Keep the Faith, warm regards, Luke

We have located some classmates with whom all connections had been lost. I'm sorry to report that several of them had passed away and very little information has been located on them. Following is a brief of these classmates and the information obtained:

OBITS

Matthew Kelch - The USNA Alumni Association received a call from a friend informing us that Matthew "Matt" J Kelch passed away the third week of July. His wife pre-deceased him 10 years ago and his son died two years ago. He has no living family members. He was cremated and did not have a memorial service or formal obituary, per his wishes.

Subsequently the following was received from his "friend," Lt Col **J C Jones**, USAF (Ret):

Matthew "Matt" J Kelch passed away on 21 July 2023 at his home in Thousand Oaks, CA. Matt was born 19 December 1936 and he entered the Class of 1959 of US Naval Academy from Skokie, IL. He was a member of the 1st Company at USNA, graduated with his class in June 1959 and entered the U. S. Air Force. After completing pilot training, Matt was assigned to the 18th TFW, 12th TFS at Kadena AB, Okinawa. He was deeply involved with the early days of the Air War in Southeast Asia and on 10 August 1965, ejected from his F-105 over Laos after sustaining damage over North Vietnam. He was rescued by an Air America helicopter crew and was returned to his base at Korat Thailand where he continued to fly combat missions.

Upon his release from the Air Force, Matt continued his flying career with American Airlines, rising to the position of Captain on one of the AAL's wide-body aircraft.

Matt was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Margo, and their son Jim. At his request, there will be no formal funeral or memorial services.

He was held in the highest esteem by his squadron mates and fellow airline associates and will be missed by all.

John Elingwood Lovejoy Passed away in Seattle, WA February 28, 2022

He had obtained a law degree from UCLA Law School after graduation from USNA in June 1959 and had practiced Law in his own firm in Manhattan Beach, CA. No known family has been located.

A note from **Walt Wynn** (11 Co Rep) to Telmo's daughter Annie went as follows:

☒ Last night I saw a very disturbing video on Facebook showing Telmo with head on pillow non-communicative. Dolf (Adolf Lekenbusch (11)) emailed me asking what was going on with Telmo. I called him just now and here's the scoop. His podiatrist said that Telmo might have a bone infection in a toe (don't know which one) but that MD didn't operate so Telmo was sent to another Dr. - result: Telmo now has 9 toes :(. Otherwise, he sounds completely normal and is in rehab. That Facebook video might have been when he was in surgery recovery and only awake enough to post the video with no other information.

Thanks for prodding me, Dolf.

Topo

Walter P. Wynn, Jr

Annie's response was:

☒ Hi Topo and thanks for reaching out. First, my Dad is fine and will probably outlive all of us! Second, yes, he had a toe infection that ended up infecting his bone and they had to amputate the middle toe - I think in his right foot. I have not seen the fb video and have no clue other than he posted it after surgery as mentioned. He was pretty groggy for awhile after the procedure.

It was supposed to be an out-patient procedure to clean out the injury but when they decided to amputate, they kept him overnight, mostly due to possible loss of balance and falling. He was transferred to an acute physical rehabilitation facility and will be there for two weeks, in essence learning how to walk and balance without the toe, etc.

Bottom line, it was a minor procedure and he is doing very well. He is also well taken care of! ...9-toe-Telmo will be back at the apartment in about two weeks or so, hopefully walking perfectly.

Please let everyone know he is well. Thank you so much for the concern.

Rise 'n Shine with '59!

Annie

Above slightly edited by Class Column Editor **Larry Weaver** (24) (aka 9-finger Larry).....Mine was courtesy of a table saw a couple of years ago under other than "hospital conditions).

The summer of 2023 "Summer of Biblical Travel" - **Dennis Read** - 10th Co

☒ From 24 May to 4 June we were on a tour, "The Journeys of Paul" sponsored by Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). The trip took us from Athens and Corinth around the Aegean Sea to Istanbul on a full rigged 4 masted Clipper Ship. After a day in Athens and a day trip to Corinth, where Paul visited 3 times, we to Syros, a small off the beaten path resort island. Syros was not on our original schedule but the night we sailed from Athens was stormy with 45 knot winds that ripped out one sail and made about 50% of the passengers seasick. Consequently it was too rough to ferry passengers from the ship to shore at our original resort island stop in Mykonos. Syros was charming and a very relaxing stop.



Dennis & Donna Read at Theater in Ephesus

Being on the "Star Clipper" was absolutely great, I regained my sea legs. We were under

sail about 80% of the time. It was not like taking the "Freedom" out; Freedom required a 14 man crew to handle the sails but everything on this ship was automated; push a button and a sail was raised. I spent a few minutes in the Pilot House and I did not recognize one electronic instrument, lots of changes since we went to sea. The ship had two small swimming polls and a baby grand piano. Freedom had two things that Star Clipper did not have; an operating fireplace and a bathtub.

Our next stop was Ephesus. The ancient ruins of a city of 1/4 million people is about 25% uncovered. It was the third large city in the Roman Empire at the time. It must have been magnificent in its prime as the ruins were spectacular.

From Ephesus we sailed to Patmos where John had been exiled. The cave and monastery were interesting but not so spectacular.

From Patmos we sailed north to Pergamum, a Roman Health Spa, that was condemned in the book of Revelation for idolatry, sexual immorality and listening to a false teacher. The ruins were not extensive but enough to allow us to see the general outline of the city.

We then sailed north west to Philippi and had a short communion service at the stream where Paul converted Lydia. We also viewed the jail where Paul was imprisoned, that location is in some dispute. The city is built by a small hill so there is an excellent view of the city layout and the Agora where Paul preached and was tried.

The next day was spent at sea transversing the Dardanelles to Istanbul. We spent our last day seeing the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazaar.



Four masted schooner Star Clipper

Gordon Abercrombie (23) from Eastern Med, where he has spent most his life.
- More in next issue"

'60

Life Membership: 71%

Donor Participation: 17.70%

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President's Corner

The least pleasant task of the Class President these days is conveying the news of yet another classmate's departure to his eternal reward. Whenever I hear the news of a new loss, I look up that person's description in the *Lucky Bag* and then see what he had to say about his life's journey in *The Link*.

Depending upon whether or not I knew the gent in question, I have two reactions. If I knew him, gratitude for the fact that his presence enriched my life. If I didn't, regret at not having had the opportunity to know him. But, either way, like many of you, I feel an inevitable sense of diminishment, simply because the ranks of the Brotherhood have taken another hit.

A number of other classes publish the obituaries of the departed in their columns in *Shipmate*. We, on the other hand, publish them on our website. I like our approach; but if any of you happen to have shared a humorous or inspiring experience with a classmate who has passed, please consider sharing it with the rest of us by capturing it in writing and sending it to **Bill Lewis (5)** for inclusion in a future issue of *Shipmate* or to **Richard Harper (7)** if its length is a better fit with the "Sea Stories" section of our website.

I think most of us feel fortunate if we have known even half of our classmates, but I have yet to read about any one of them who hasn't lived an impressive life. Hopefully, the above suggestion will give us greater opportunity to know who they were and to honor their accomplishments. Carpe Diem, Doug

From **Tom Curtis (22):**

✉ "Excerpt from original email to Oz: *We always say that our marriage lasted so long because I was gone all of the time. But I'm sure there was more to it than that. Maybe Australian women are just more tolerant of swabbies.*

Photo at Naval Station Long Beach chapel shows newlyweds Ensign Tom Curtis, USS PROVIDENCE (CLG6) and Mrs. Margaret (Palmer) Curtis, formerly of Wollongong, NSW, Australia. Arch of Swords includes classmates Gary Chew (22), Murray Nixon (19), and Bob Byrne (22), plus three shipmates from USS PROVIDENCE. Not shown: Best Man Angelo Karampelas.

Trust that all is going well with you, Bill. We're maintaining. Thanks for all the years efforts of keeping the class informed of current events. —Tom and Margaret



Tom & Margaret Curtis

Historical side note for Oz:

✉ Bill and I were shipmates in Nathanael Greene (SSBN 636B) in mid-60's and later at Guided Missiles School, Dam Neck in late-60's.

A little more on the story, my CO on the PROVIDENCE was Capt. Russ Kefauver a Navy Cross submariner who operated out of Australia. He was really supportive for us when we prepared for the wedding in the states. Margaret's mother came over for the wedding. My parents couldn't make it for the wedding, so the Kefauver's stood in for them at the ceremony. They were also very welcoming to Margaret's mother.

When Margaret and I and her mother drove cross country to sub school it was in the Kefauver's new VW that he had picked up in Hong Kong and brought back on board the PROVIDENCE. He had just made Rear Admiral and was enroute to DC. We dropped off the car in DC, proceeded by train to New London, and then arranged Mrs. Palmer's transportation (commercial freighter out of Savannah) back to Australia.

From **Jim Baker (12):**

✉ "I attended **Walter (Walt) R. Land's (6)** funeral service August 21, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn, IL. It was very moving and well-attended. His grandchildren served as pallbearers, and his son Mike and daughter Susan spoke elegantly on Walt's life. Six fellow retired Naval Reserve officers who served with Walt also attended the service. The celebration of life luncheon which followed was lovely and very crowded with friends and family. Photographs of Walt's USNA days, his Navy career, family life and friends were shared on a large screen. Burial was private at Forest Hill cemetery in Glen Ellyn.

As a side note - I knew of Walt at USNA, but did not get to know him until 1971 after I returned from Vietnam. I met him at my first Naval Reserve meeting at the Chicago Reserve Center. We began a friendship that lasted for 52 years. I was quite shocked when I learned of his passing. My intention that week was call

and invite him to watch the Navy/Notre Dame game with me. Instead, I attended his funeral.
—Jim Baker

From **Dennis Vied (24):**

✉ "I am back from the Dublin Debacle, with a slight cold and a few extra pounds, and thought I would offer a report. Navy got a field goal in the last quarter to save us from a total rout. They played gamely but mostly scorelessly for most of the game.

I may have been the oldest alum there. I don't have conclusive proof, but at the Guinness Storehouse Official Navy meet and greet party, (which was an impressive event), there was an electronic sign "Welcoming the classes of...", which started off with 1960! Not conclusive proof, but close enough for me.

The tour company was called On Location, a name which I had not heard of till now. I had started out with Anthony Travel, and somehow it morphed into OL. They did a nice job scheduling a complete tour around the game. We started out with two days in Galway, three days in Dublin, and three days in Killarney. Various mixed groups of ND and Navy alums did variations on those themes. We had the same bus driver and tour guide throughout the tour, which was nice. They were able to fold in some events not officially scheduled, but very interesting to see. They scheduled us to fly non-stop from San Francisco to Dublin, with airport transfers. Everything went off without a hitch, except for the game.

Living out on the Left Coast has never been convenient for visiting Navy and attending ball games, but this was a loooong way to go for a ball game. Ireland was one of the places neither of us had been, so the game served as our excuse to go.

We attended a welcome event at the EPIC museum Thursday, the Guinness welcome on Friday, and the pep rally downtown on Saturday. We also registered for the tailgate, but didn't go because of time and travel constraints. Apparently, when there is an event at Aviva stadium, the police shut down all the streets around the stadium two hours before the game. How very convenient. The stadium is just under three miles from the hotel. Imagine my surprise when they said we were expected to walk to the stadium, but we took advantage of the DART train station about a block from the hotel, which went direct to the stadium.

Many fellow alums were surprised to learn they were not the oldest person there. They probably will not remember my name, but they will likely remember the old guy who had to go pee every 30 minutes. (I missed the flyover and one of ND's touchdowns.)

Aviva stadium is a fabulous venue. Couldn't have had a grander place to have a game. We had a great time, despite the fact that not everything was convenient for old folks. This trip, and my career as an airline pilot have left me with a theory that the people in that part of the world, who design and build hotel rooms and

bathrooms, never use them. Either that, or they have a mean streak.

I have stopped carrying cameras on trips, as my cell phone is just too handy, so I don't have any fancy artwork, and most of it you can get off Google anyway. I just wanted to let you know that our class was present in Dublin.
—Dennis Vied



Dennis & Karen Vied in Dublin

Lastly, from **Jim Knorr :**

✉ While in the midst of a "Wife Beth Ordered", "Tivate Your Room!" I found these pictures/mentos of a 2007 Navy Football team gathering, finding a few days to play Golf together in North Carolina, not very far from the Links where they play the MASTERS. Coach WAYNE HARDIN knew his way around when he recruited and found time to relax!

'60 Starting Guard, John Michalski, although having suffered a leg injury, and on Injured

Reserve Status, being a Wilkes Barre, PA lad, looked after his fellow Pennsylvanians and contacted me, a Plebe Navy football center, with some golf talent (from Scranton, PA) and got me signed up for the Football-Golf Expedition down south. You may note that John got miraculously well and got into the Post- Golf hob-knobbing with Heisman Guys, Joe B. '61 and Roger S. '65. I must say that I, as a two-striper in 20th Company was Joe Bellino's Platoon Commander as a Firsty and saw MIDN 3/C BELLINO in Ranks 3 Meals a Day. He was a sharp looking and squared away Midshipmen and I never had any trouble with him in Bancroft Hall. As most Mids already know from the literature written, he was a Navy baseball player, catcher for sure, and found the time to keep up with his academic studies.

As an addition to my contact with Joe BELLINO, I tell a quick story about Army-Navy Football and B-Robes. Plebe Year, 1956, we lost and my friend Tom Eynon, who was recruited by West Point and also one of our local footballers who visited USNA in earlier years with me and played halfback for Clarke Summit H.S., won my B-Robe in 56! Surprisingly, years later, Tom Eynon and Joe Bellino attended the same gym near Boston. Tom mentioned to him that he would like to would like to get rid of "Jim's scruffy B-Robe" and Joe diligently, mailed to its rightful owner...who accepted it, reluctantly.

BLUE	331	552	177	397	326	195	349	542	445	3314
WHITE	308	501	156	369	293	179	300	504	429	3339
GOLD	255	465	140	340	270	145	250	450	370	2695
HDCP	17	1	15	7	9	11	15	8	4	7
PAR	4	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	4	36

Joe Bellino #27

574	320	337	148	369	403	511	176	418	3245	6560
518	267	306	120	329	354	486	143	389	2912	5951
460	260	275	110	305	295	470	110	345	2630	5325
6	18	14	16	2	8	4	10	2		
9	4	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	36	72

Raymond

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
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NAVY HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS



BOB RIEFSNYDER
MAXWELL AWARD WINNER
'58

'60: 1955-1964 Navy Football Alumni, Coach Wayne Hardin, ERA BLUE-GOLD Golf Classic 20-21 March 2007

60/61 CLASS NEWS

In 1957 we lost to Army (me thinks that Plebes could not play football in those days, and Joe B. played Plebe Ball). (Someone will correct me, but I do believe that our 20th Company won the Field Ball Championship (Field Ball was Played only at the Naval Academy and Indiana State Penitentiary so the story goes...), but I don't believe Joe Played for us!

My contact with Roger S. Was limited over the years, but my wife reminds me that when on board USS MERRICK (AKA -97) that took me to Vietnam on two long cruises, and I just happened to be home in Long Beach, we drove to see Roger play at Cal-Berkeley (not a win). However, a large contingent of the Knorr Family will be at Navy Football Stadium when two # Twelves 12 will be painted at both ends of the Field to honor our Greatest Quarterback, ROGER STAUBACH '65.

—Jim Knorr, USNA Class 1960

'61

Life Membership: 73%

Donor Participation: 25.42%

Pres: **RADM Jerome F. Smith Jr., USN (Ret.)**

Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Bob Sherer, USN (Ret.)**

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Dear Classmates,

Mike Hoerneman checks in from cyberspace with a creative way to keep in touch.

✉ "Our *Shipmate* column frequently includes photos of company groups sitting around a table having lunch together. Our 24th Company survivors are scattered far and wide from Hawaii to Florida. We do get together every month for a Zoom call coordinated by Tom Corboy. The calls are held on the 24th of each month. (A date selected so that we all can remember it.)

"The Zoom calls are providing us with an enjoyable way to stay in touch, and they are increasingly appropriate as we are widely scattered and most of us no longer do much traveling. We all have the various health issues associated with our class's age, and have had some participants signing on from hospitals, as well as their own homes."

"The attached photo is a screenshot taken during our May session. We actually had a total of 13 this month, but Jim Rauth and Kevin Growney had signed off before this shot was taken. Shown here, from top left, are Bob Sheridan, Tom Corboy, Tony Papandrea, Bob Hanson, Al Conboy, Lon Anderson, Mike Hoernemann, Tony Passarella, Tom Knepell, Pete Kieffer, and Bill Dick. Three others, Tom Walter, Chris Nichols, Richard Sunderland have participated in previous sessions. This accounts for all but one of our known survivors



'61: Zoom 24 insert picture here caption 24th Company on ZOOM



'61: table 1 '61 at La Petite Auberge; from left: Patty Marxen, Vicki Sheahan (21), Joan Evans (21) Bob Sherer (4), Slava Sorokin, guest of Jim Connell, a colleague of Jim's in the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA, Harry Marxen (14), Bob Oakes '59 (21) and Diana O'Connor



'61: Table 2 '61 at La Petite Auberge; from left, Chris Umberger (15), Warren Hoppe (21), John O'Connor (21), Jim Connell (2), Sue Drumm ('57), Kathy Rosenberger (6) and Bill Ciesla (18).

from the 30 who graduated together." Your correspondent managed to join the mid-Virginia group for a July 26 luncheon organized by 21st company members Warren Hoppe and John O'Connor. Not in a mood for sidewalk dining in the 90's weather, we stuck to the air-conditioned interior of La Petite

Auberge in Fredericksburg. It was a good opportunity for the Maryland/DC group to get out of town and visit with the country dwellers.

Your correspondent, also the photographer, pleads guilty to missing Donna Ralston-Latham next to Bill Ciesla, in the above photo, so here she is in her own picture.



Donna Ralston-Latham

Jim Richardson reports and sends a photo.

✉ Nine San Diego Area Classmates met at the San Diego Yacht Club for our bi-monthly event. Those attending were: Jack Allen (13) at the helm. Standing: Jim Richardson (16), Ed Oleata (10), Gary Carlson (10),

Bill Kraus (12), Tom Bailey (16), Ralph Zimmerman (12), Don Coullahan (6), and Bob Sheridan (24).

Tom White (20) checks in with a Dublin dispatch from his family who made the trip to the Navy-Fighting Irish football game.

✉ "Our family met at the August 25 Navy-Notre Dame Rugby match at Trinity College, Dublin. Score: Navy 75 - Notre Dame 0. If you combine the Friday rugby and Saturday football scores, Navy won the Dublin Weekend 81-42! That's what I say when folks offer condolences for the football result."

In their first year of varsity participation, Navy Rugby won the NCAA championship as well.

The photo coverage provided by Tom White's family includes all three grandchildren of Joe Bellino. Tom cheered the team on from stateside.

In the photo below from left Patrick White (Tom's son), Evan Bellino, John Bellino '86, Eric Bellino '26 and Ian Bellino.



White and Bellino families in Dublin

Annapolis report

Our post-Labor Day gathering at McGarvey's drew a smaller crowd. Speculation about the game against Wagner and the football outlook and plans for avoiding the October boat show traffic were in the mix. In the photo below from left: Jim Connell (2), Paul Lang (19), Bob Giuffreda (2), Tim Dugan (12), Jay Bower (14), Doug Rau '74, Ike Cole (5), Bob Glover (8), Bill Hartman (2), Bob Sherer (4).

Across Spa Creek the '61 ladies lunched at Carroll's Creek. In the photo from left: Julie Erickson, Joan Evans, Gisela Cole, Barbara Bower, Donna Ralston-Latham



'61: San Diego '61 at SDYC in August



'61 at McGarvey's in September



'61 at McGarvey's in September



'61 Ladies at Carroll's Creek

On Saturday morning, September 9, plank owners of the brand new Fluegel Alumni Center descended on the building at the north end of King George Street. They were greeted with efficiently arranged office spaces and stylish social areas connected by spacious corridors all punctuated by numerous plaques bearing donor names, all encased in a

neo-Georgian brick exterior with elegant grounds. Rick Fluegel (21), the major donor, was honored the day before at the ceremonial opening. In the photo of the plaque denoting '61 as a plank-owner class from left: Warren Hoppe (21), Howie Winfree (3), Bob Sherer (4), the '61 Crest in all-weather lucite, Mike Welch (5), Jay Bower (14)



Classmates at 1961 Plank-owner plaque

61/62 CLASS NEWS

After the two-hour open house, we made our way in a 15-minute walk (or a slower drive due to traffic) to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for a stop at the '61 tailgate site opposite Gate A of the stadium. A total 90 minutes of lightning warning delays made for a final whistle well after dark. At least we beat Wagner 24-0, our first shutout since 2008. In the photo from left: Ron Carlberg (20), Ed Straw (7), Bob Sherer (4), Jim Connell (2).



'61 Wagner game tailgate

Also at the game was a deputation from Tidewater Virginia. In the photo from left: Fred Lowack (7), Ned Kuhns (7), Bill Brown (Honorary 14) and Tom McNicholas (9)

At the invitation always offered by the Tidewater '61 group, your correspondent joined in for their September luncheon at Rib City restaurant in Virginia Beach. The usual topics were on the agenda, but Cyd Driscoll's recollections about his career as a tackle on our football team stood out. Whereas the rest of us witnessed football, Cyd and the team lived it. His recollections were highlighted by this or that injury, or the particular fearsome lineman on the other side of the ball and were obviously as memorable as our near misses at sea (or elsewhere) were to the rest of us. Sure beats "organ recitals" or gripes about parking. The group also heard about the new Fluegel '61 Alumni Center grand opening and the subsequent on again-off again football game vs. Wagner. In the photo above, from left: Tom Markley (12), Kurt Rohdenburg (20), Dick Hixson (19), Mike Gambacorta (3), Mike Bradley (3), JP Decker (8), Bob Sherer (4), Charlie Stewart (6), Cyd Driscoll (22), Ned Kuhns (7), Jim Noonan (23), Bill Brown (Honorary 14).

Get it done with '61.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Best Wishes for the New Year
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.

'62

Life Membership: 75%
Donor Participation: 24.50%

Pres: **RADM William C. Miller, USN (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **Robert Giles**

1749 Baldwin Dr., Millersville, MD 21108
p: 301-395-4379; e: robert.giles@gmail.com

PABLO Lands on FARAGUT FIELD while WALT prays.

Some of us in '62 reported directly to Submarine School in July after graduation. Historically, officers reported to the school only after at least one sea tour. Since the pipeline had become so long for JOs to become nuclear trained; beginning in '60, the classes were largely filled with direct inputs from USNA & NROTC. This created a serious billeting problem: while a ton of Married Officers Quarters (MOQ) were unfilled and available, the BOQ was totally unable to house all of us single guys. So, we were offered BAQ for off-base housing. As a result, **Carl Nardone, Carmine Tortora, Pablo Zimmerman and Walt Welham** moved into a "snake ranch" on Groton Long Point. For those in the Class who did not have the pleasure of knowing **Pablo**, he truly is/was really a piece of work... but in a very good way. During the Summer, **Pablo** sold his very "cherry" white Jag 4-door sedan to classmate **Hugh Tabb** so he could purchase a '46 "Aeronca Chief", a single engine airplane like a Piper Cub. Well, as Fall & Navy's Homecoming approached, **Pablo** & I decided to fly down to Annapolis to attend the ceremonies. At the time, my Dad was the Academy's Senior Medical Officer living in quarters, on the Yard, at 10 Porter Road. All we needed to do was get there. Sub School firmly denied our request to leave early at noon on Friday. So, Thursday we filled the plane with gas, clothes, charts, and snacks (important flight rule: you can never have too much gas except when you're on fire). We were "wheels-up" around 4:30 Friday afternoon (although the plane had fixed landing gear). We were totally flying VFR, (Visual Flight Rules for some of you), using very detailed aerial flight navigation charts. Along the way, we passed over NAS Lakehurst with its huge Blimp hangars and the Delaware River Bridge connecting DE with NJ. Unfortunately, it was

right about then, the sun went down, as well as our ability to visually navigate. We had an altimeter, magnetic compass, & air speed indicator, so things were definitely NOT LOOKING GOOD!! While **Pablo** descended to see if he could identify anything on the ground, I was busy figuring out a way to "kiss my ass good-bye" in a very cramped cockpit. We quickly decided to fly on a magnetic course to Annapolis was our best (maybe only) bet. An hour or so later, we passed directly over the Bay Bridge... we knew exactly where we were!! **Pablo** had initially planned to land at Lee Airport in Edgewater, MD, but it's a "day only" airport, so we weren't totally out of the woods yet. We made a right turn & flew up the Severn. Well, what do you know? The D&B Corps was practicing for Saturday's game on Farragut Field and all the Field's lights were on!! We had found the spot to land; **Pablo** headed for Halsey Field House, did a 180 and landed. When we walked into the house on 10 Porter, my mom was preparing dinner for us. She inquired, "How did you get here, **Walter**?" I replied, "We flew." She sighed and replied, "I am so glad, it's such a long & dangerous drive". A few minutes later, my dad came in after attending Dahlgren Hall Reunion activities. He also inquired about how we got there. When I told him, "We flew", he then asked where we had landed (he was expecting DC or Baltimore). I replied "**Farragut Field**". After a short pause, he said, "Where is Farragut Field?" "At the end of the street" I replied. The phone then rang, **Dad** answered it and quickly handed it over to me: it was **Captain Julian Burke, Academy Deputy Dant**. After exchanging pleasantries about Sub School (he was a dolphin wearer as was the Supe), he asked, "Do you know anything about the plane on Farragut Field". I replied, "It's not mine, but I do know the pilot." He said, "I figured you might, we found your check book in the cockpit." I elated how we had flown down from New London and were anxiously looking for a safe place to land. The next morning, I believe every aviator assigned to the Academy was assembled on Farragut Field to observe/grade **Pablo's take-off** for the aforementioned Lee Airport. I purposely elected to drive a car there to pick him up.

On Sunday. We flew back to New London without incident.

—**Walt Welham**



'62

SITREP on Arrangements for '62 Gathering

✉ Dear planning committee members,
When Stew sent my 62nd anniversary planning letter to the Class in early September, we asked those interested in attending to let us know by the end of this month. Responses have been more enthusiastic than I expected but have started to trickle down as the month has passed. The last count I have from Stew showed 62 classmates and 110 total attendees from as far away as California, Oregon, Washington and Florida. I recognize that these numbers may change when attendees actually start looking at travel, lodging and event costs, but I am excited that we are going to have a good turnout.

Also, as I said in that September letter, our one-day anniversary event will consist of an afternoon memorial service at the Academy, followed by an informal reception and sit-down dinner served buffet style. Notionally, we discussed holding the reception/dinner at the new Alumni Center or similar waterfront location with shuttles between all events. I have learned that currently the Academy has no wedding scheduled for the 6th, so we should be able to use the main chapel for the memorial service. Because 6 June 2024 is also the 80th anniversary of D-Day, I ask Bill and Nick to please think about how we ought to weave remembrance of D-Day into our memorial service.

I have been working to nail down preliminary arrangements for the long pole in the tent, the reception/dinner, and to identify relatively affordable hotel accommodations in Annapolis at an establishment that provides free parking. In Annapolis, affordable hotels with free parking are few. We have arranged for an RFP to be sent to every hotel in town meeting this description. The list of such hotels includes the Holiday Inn Express, Double Tree by Hilton, Crowne Plaza and Marriott Courtyard, among others. We'll see what responses we get in the next several days. As you know, none of the big four (Waterfront Annapolis, Graduate, O'Callaghan, Westin) offer free parking, which would make it inconvenient to have any of those as shuttle pick up points. On the other hand, some of our classmates may want a more upscale room than available from a Marriott Courtyard or Double Tree, so we'll have to discuss how we balance these competing desires.

Regarding a venue for the dinner, I met with the Alumni Association reps managing room rental and they penciled us in for June 6th at the Natter room, a quality event space at the Alumni Center that could well accommodate our group. As an additional feature, the room has a large adjoining balcony overlooking College Creek. The price for the space, tables & chairs, A/V, etc. would be \$1,000. We would separately engage our choice of caterer who would supply table linens, food and drink. The Alumni Association provided me a list of 5 caterers they typically use, and I intend to interview 2-3 of those in the next two weeks.

I also would like to investigate alternative venues for the dinner, including the Severn Inn and even the Annapolis Yacht Club. If any of you have other ideas for venues and would like to help with reception/dinner arrangements, I would welcome the help. Otherwise, I am proceeding as described above. Nick, if Grag Chauncey can provide you any lessons learned from the last west coast reunion, I also would be pleased to hear them.

As some of these options for hotels, rooms and caterers get priced, we probably ought to have another planning committee meeting at the West End Grill to nail down as much as we can. I'll keep you informed of progress.

My focus is "Keep it simple and do it well." Have a great day.

—Bill Miler

BROOKS MANCINI REPORTS FROM DUBLIN



In Dublin

M Hope all is well with you and Colleen. Diane and I went to **Dublin** for the **Notre Dame - Navy game** a few weeks ago and I thought you might like an article for *Shipmate*. I am including a couple of photos that you can use if you want.

Diane and I looked at going to the last Notre Dame - Navy football game in Dublin several

years ago but the timing didn't work for us then. This time it presented an opportunity to visit our daughter and her family who live in England near Cambridge. In addition, we tackled on an eight-day trip down the **Rhine on Scenic Cruise Lines**. The riverboat had space for 164 passengers but only 95 were on board. So, we got lots of attention.

Leaving the cruise in Amsterdam we flew to Stansted, England where we were picked up by our daughter. After a few days at her home, we then took **Stephanie, her husband and our granddaughter to Dublin for the game**. Aer Lingus sponsored the game and most of the events surrounding it. We were told that between 40 to 50 thousand Americans came over to see the game. I certainly was convinced that was true as downtown was packed.

Guinness put on a very nice welcome dinner at their brewery the night before the game. The facility is large and must have held 10,000 of us, both Navy and Notre Dame fans. Our pep band and cheerleaders were there to get us prepared for the next day. I met lots of Navy fans, but all were younger than myself. I met no one from any of the 60's classes, only a couple from the 70's but lots from the 80's. The photo is of myself and **Tom Schrantz** from the class of '88. His wife, **Kim** took the photo. They are a great couple.

The game didn't start until 7:30 pm so that it could be broadcast to the States. There was a pep rally and tailgate before but we didn't attend. The stadium holds 52,000 and was sold out. The photo is of the march on and opening ceremony. It appeared that 1 company from each Battalion represented the Brigade.

The game itself was disappointing, because we lost, but also I thought we'd see some new formations and trick plays. Our guys just didn't look like they were up for the game. Oh well there is always next year, and we won the party.

Stay well and BEAT ARMY

All the best,

Brooks Mancini, '62



'62 at Navy - Notre Dame at Aviva Stadium

'63

Life Membership: 62%

Donor Participation: 19.15%

Pres: **CAPT W. Spencer Johnson IV, USN (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **Michael H. Shelley**

27 Cambridge Dr., Brevard, NC 28712

p: 828-506-2201; e: nstar@citcom.net

Website: www.USNA63.org

It is sobering to begin this report with news of the deaths of five members of the Class of 1963. Please take a few minutes to read their obituaries and other information in the Last Call section of our web site.

Gerald J. Stiles died on 11 June. We do not have contact information for his next of kin.

Jerud W. Ryker died on 24 July. We do not have contact information for his next of kin.

Raymond L. Pekary died on 21 August. Lee's widow, Pat, can be contacted at 433 Sylvan Avenue #22, Mountain View, CA 94041.

Robert A. Maier passed away on 31 August. Bob's widow, Cindy, can be contacted at 100 Pier Point Drive, Connelly Springs, NC 28612.

William B. Heard died on 10 September. Bill's widow, Peggy, can be contacted at 28713 Outram Street, Easton, MD 21601.

We also mourn the loss of four Class of 1963 wives.

Dan Moran's widow, Charlotte, passed away in August. We do not have contact information for her next of kin. Dan was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967.

Richard Kuntz's wife, Janice, passed away on 27 July. Richard can be contacted at 332 River Bend Road, Great Falls, VA 22066.

Jim Metcalfe's wife, Lisa, passed away on 29 July. Jim can be contacted at 820 Adrian Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

Ray Ross's wife, Carol, died on 29 July. Ray can be contacted at 2320 Stonebridge Drive, Montrose, CO 81401.

A memorial service for Bob Maier was held on 6 September in Connelly Springs, NC. This photo shows the '63 representatives who were there. Left to right are Zimm Zimmermann, Bob's 23rd Company mate; Cindy Maier; Lois Grabowski, widow of company mate Bernie Grabowski; and Mike Shelley.



Remembering Bob Maier

I invite your attention to a new video about the many services provided by The Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence. More than five minutes long, it demonstrates how the CAE is "not a center for survival; it is a center for excellence." In an average year, 74 percent of the Brigade receives direct support from the CAE. More than 98 percent of Midshipmen use the CAE at least once during their years at USNA. The video can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdBfwhDQoP8>.

The Delaware Chapter News in the September issue of *Shipmate* includes a photo of Jim Ring and a tribute to his service to Delaware alumni. Jim coordinated many luncheons, speaker appearances, and other functions over many years. Also, he created the specialty license plate for Delaware alumni. After many years in the Blue Hen State, Jim and Kate recently relocated to the Old Town section of Alexandria, VA.



Fred Kaiser in 1964

Fred Kaiser tells us about taking his son to a SEAL reunion and shares the text of "My First SEAL Team Reunion," his son's description of the experience.

✉ For years I have wanted to take our son, Fred, to the annual Navy SEAL Reunion in Coronado, CA, but never could. School

would start and he would be back, teaching classes. This year, being retired, he was able to attend. Because he had been involved in martial arts, teaching PE, running many special

programs for students, and having an interest in a variety of weapons, I hoped he would enjoy seeing some of the facilities, meeting some of my old friends, and learning more about our mission. What my son wrote about the reunion triggered my emotions and made me so happy that this was the year he joined us. We are very proud of our son Fred as we are of his brother Chris and sister Kathryn. Klara and I are very fortunate parents!"

The full text about the reunion experience is in the Pride and Tradition section of our web site. It concludes with these paragraphs:

✉ Being a part of my dad's reunion for the first time brought me perspective about what he's done and put his fellow SEALs into better focus. I have the upmost respect for anyone who's ever made it through the program and served their time to ensure we are safe. I usually don't jump into politics or people's feelings on certain topics, but I'll say this; if you can't stand behind what these men are willing to do for our country, I will gladly support you to stand in front of them! Then you would get a dose of reality about what it takes to keep this country and our freedoms safe.

I heard from several SEALs that there is one rule to upcoming SEALs, and other matters in life, "Don't give up!" It's amazing how three simple words can be so clear and to the point in your success in whatever you do. Although he and his team have all aged, move a little slower, they all have a discipline and a fire in them that sets them apart from other men. They don't give up — they are, and always will be, SEALs.

You may also enjoy reading Fred's colorful account of his SEAL training in 1964, posted in the Pride and Tradition section of our web site.



'63: USNA '63 in Coronado

Continuing what has become a tradition, Phillip Marsden sent his annual report of USNA '63 attendance at a Coronado, CA, concert.

✉ A spirited group of classmates and wives gathered in Coronado's Spreckels Park for this year's concert in the park. The photo shows Lee and Sue Cargill, Ron and Dee Wills, Phillip and Martha Marsden, Jerry and Rowena Harken, Joe Morra and Teresa Bonafonte, and Donna Kaup. Music was provided by the "Dreamboats" who played music that took us all back to our high school days. They started off with "Rock around the Clock" and worked off from there! Our Class banner always attracts a number of visitors, this time including graduates from other schools and from the classes of 2010, 2013, and proud parents and grandparents from current midshipmen. Plan to join us next year if you can.

Thanks to Dave Moore for sending this note.

✉ On 11 September, John and Jean Peterson were visiting Sandy and Bunny Stoddard in Santa Rosa, CA. I joined them for a lovely dinner and an evening of recollections.



Moore, Peterson, and Stoddard

Steve Coester sent an email to remind us of a Naval Academy documentary film from our era. Watching it again is an enjoyable return to the way things were.

✉ "Ring of Valor" about the Naval Academy is on YouTube. It is 30 minutes long, narrated by actor Robert Taylor, and is actually a pretty good time capsule of the times (cars, ships, dress, pride, etc.). You can see it by searching the title on YouTube. With our reunion approaching you will enjoy watching it again. The credits at the end say MCMLXV (1965) but it is obviously an update of the one from at least our plebe year. You may be in it, as I am for a couple of seconds playing tennis near the end.



Steve Coester, still a force on the court

Steve is still an active tennis player in matches near his home in Rockledge, FL. This photo shows him in action during a league event in early 2023.

Steve's mention of Ring of Valor

brought to mind a recent conversation about commercial television series that were influential in our decisions to seek admission to the Naval Academy. Four were mentioned, and I bet you remember at least one of them. Episodes from all can be seen on YouTube.

The best known, "Victory at Sea," was broadcast weekly from October 1952 through April 1953, perhaps a bit too early to capture our attention although most of us as Plebes knew, or would soon learn, the opening theme music.



"Men of Annapolis" was broadcast in 1957 and 1958, presenting 39 episodes in all.

The "Navy Log" series appeared from 1955 through 1958.

Also broadcast during our pre-USNA years was "The Silent Service" in 1957-1958.

We had plenty of inspiration to embark on Sea Service careers!

That's all for now. Our next *Shipmate* report will bring you news and lots of pictures from the 60th reunion.

QUALITY - '63

'64

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 22.67%

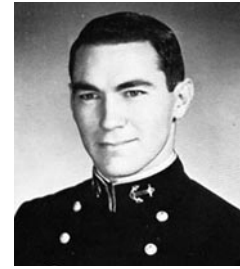
Pres: CAPT Micheal Farmer, USN (Ret.)
e: farmer.mike@comcast.net

Corr Sec'y: Roland Marquis
333 Valverde Ln., St. Augustine, FL 32086
p: 847-970-7562; e: bigroland1@comcast.net

Website: www.usna64.org

As promised in recent columns, beginning with this issue, each of the next nine *Shipmate* Columns will begin by honoring one of our ten classmates memorialized on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. It will begin by reciting his Wall narrative followed by his write-up in the 40th Reunion Yearbook. Any comments, thoughts, sea stories, etc. submitted by classmates will follow. As the accounts will be transcribed literally, readers will notice some redundancy among them. So be it!

And so, we initiate the series with classmate **King Cameron**.



Virgil K. Cameron, LTJG, USN, DoD: 29 July 66, Panel 9E, Line 85,

The Wall: LTJG Virgil K. Cameron was a U.S. Navy pilot assigned to Attack Squadron 155 (VA-155) aboard the USS CONSTELLATION. On July 29, 1966, LTJG Cameron was the wingman in a flight of 2 A-4E jets on an armed reconnaissance

mission over North Vietnam. At 9:25 AM, Cameron commenced a divebomb attack against a barge near Phu Dien Chau in Nghe Tinh Province. He made a low-angle dive with an entry altitude of 5000 feet. The flight leader was above Cameron's A-4E when it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The enemy fire was visible by flak puffs and the sound of automatic weapons audible as they fired. A stream of fuel came from Cameron's starboard wing about midway in his dive. The aircraft oscillated slightly and then began to roll left and burst immediately in a fireball. No ejection attempt or parachute was observed, nor was there a radio signal received by the flight leader. The flight leader searched the area thoroughly and saw only a burn spot on the ground where the aircraft impacted. Cameron's remains were not recovered and he was declared Missing in Action. During the time he was missing he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. In September 1990, Cameron's remains were repatriated and positively identified in August 1999. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Yearbook: When King walked onto the Academy grounds in the summer of 1960, he was not a young, raw recent high school graduate. After high school in McAllen, TX, he attended Schriener Military College for three years. The young man who strode across the Annapolis grounds that day was already trained in military ways and bearing. He walked erect; no, he marched up to Bancroft Hall.

As we plebes assigned to the 18th company, King Cameron was older and wiser than most of us. Yet in spite of having an enormous head start on those of us who were younger and greener, King used his experience and knowledge to help his peers. He tutored some in math, he showed others how to wear the uniform correctly, he taught us how to get a good spit shine on our shoes. As a roommate, King was quiet, thoughtful, and respectful and, consistent with his maturity, how to put others before ourselves.

When King was in High School, he flew for the Civil Air Patrol, having earned his pilot's license at the age of 16. Some classmate called him "Sky King." He loved flying and took to it naturally, so it was no surprise that upon graduating he received the Academy's Max Short Award in Aviation. Upon completion of flight training, he reported to VA-155, deployed

64/65 CLASS NEWS

on the CONSTELLATION cruising off of Vietnam.

On 29 July 1966, King and his wingman were launched on a road reconnaissance mission. King spotted a train below and rolled in on it, the sky opened up on a rain of tracer bullets from anti-aircraft guns. He was hit and never pulled out of his dive. There was no ejection, no parachute. The aircraft flew into the ground trailing smoke.

The government of Vietnam returned the remains of a pilot later identified through DNA testing to have been King. He was interred in Arlington National Cemetery on 13 August 1999 with full military honors.

Ed Schoenberger, one of King's USNA roommates, sent in the following thoughts: "King was best man at our 6 June 1964 wedding. It was the last time I saw him. He was killed on his first patrol. I lost a good friend and we lost a great classmate."

"King had attended three years of college before coming to the academy and had obtained his private pilot's license. We were 18th company mates for 4 years and during that time we went to many Christian Fellowship meetings."

"One of my favorite King stories occurred as he was returning to the academy from Texas and was towing his motorcycle. While driving through Oklahoma he fell asleep and ran into the back of a watermelon truck. The motorcycle became unhitched and spun up the road in front of the truck. King woke up, got out of his car, walked up to the truck and found the farmer sitting in the road among all the debris holding his head crying out 'I killed him'. It took King several minutes to convince the farmer no one was hurt."

Note: The series honoring our classmates listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall will continue with the January 2024 issue featuring Silver Star Awardee **Tom Holden**. Since the *Shipmate* column submittal deadline for the January issue is 20 November 2023, anyone desiring to submit remembrances, anecdotes, etc. must submit them **prior to that date**.

For reference purposes, **Jerry Sibe** will be the March 2024 honoree with a late January input deadline.

Your humble correspondent is committed to immediately respond to each received message. Accordingly, after 24 hours any unacknowledged one should be resent to bigroland1@comcast.net.

Last August, nine 14th Company members gathered at **Ernie Blake's** Triple Creek Ranch in Silverthorne, CO according to **Maurice Caskey**. Colorado is known for its 14,000+ foot peaks, so Blake Ranch was an appropriate venue for the 14ers to hold another mini-reunion.

The orange shirts are a salute to the 30th year of Sharon's horses, Thunder (now Thunder 4) being the mascot of the Denver Broncos. The blue shirts are a souvenir of our mini-reunion. The Ranch is at an elevation running from 8,500 to 10,000 ft above sea level, so it was also a challenge for some to adjust to the rarified air.

Ernie and Sharon provided very interesting evening menus with beef, wild turkey, elk, venison, and a roast pig. There were a variety of appetizers for pre-dinner cocktails and wine, one was even mountain lion.

Needless to say, there were plenty of things to do during the day. On-site activities included fly fishing for trout in the Ranch ponds, ATV trail rides around the property and to the top, horseback riding, and a wonderful display of rodeo calf roping by the Ranch manager's two young sons (16 and 11; the 16-year-old is the Colorado Rodeo Team Calf Roping Champion). Off-site activities, including visits to Rocky Mountain National Park, and visits to lovely mountain towns such as Georgetown, Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne and included the high mountain passes to gain access to them.

The days spent at the Triple Creek Ranch were magnificent, with kitchen staff flown in to cater to our culinary needs and other staff always there to clean, support, and help. The 14ers presented Ernie and Sharon an engraved USNA ice bowl (which they now have proudly on display) as a small token of their appreciation.

Literally seconds before this column was about to be submitted, 14th Company Rep **Chuck Wilde** sent in a link to an amazing, professionally produced video of the festivities which can be found at

<https://vimeo.com/866133523>. Chuck correctly characterizes its professional quality as matching well with the 14th Co Esprit-de-Corps.

In mid-September, **Tom Hawk, Octavio Yopez** and your humble correspondent ventured to Wilmington, NC to help our Plebe Year roommate, the Honorable **Bernie Maguire**, celebrate his 81st birthday. We believe our Fourth Deck, Fourth Wing room was the biggest in the Brigade at the time, (and probably still holds the occupancy record). Besides the four of us, the room included **John Palombi**, who was unable to attend, and **Ken Viafore** who's passed away.



Happy Birthday Mac

Joyce planned a splendid lunch in their residence's elegate restaurant attended by friends, all their grown children and some grandchildren. Judging by number of residents stopping by to extend birthday wishes, Bernie remains quite popular. While he has trouble expressing himself, our classmate nonetheless delivered a heartwarming speech replete with remanences and fellowship.



Fair winds and a quartering sea, classmates

'65

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 52.09%

Pres: **CAPT Jim Minderlein, USN (Ret.)**
e: jimm65@verizon.net

Corr Sec'y: **CDR Dave Anderson, USN (Ret.)**
1600 Ala Moana Blvd. #2208, Honolulu, HI 96815
c: 816-621-0878
e: daveand65@me.com; daveand65@earthlink.net

Class of 1965 Home Page:
<http://www.daveand65.com/USNA65/>
<https://daveand65.wixsite.com/usna65photos>

Skip Moore passed away in August and sadly his wife Caryl passed away in late July.

From **Pete Lumianski**, 14 Jul



'64: From left to right, Caskey's, Wass', Ernie (half obscured), Oppenheimer's, Carroll's, Cognati's, Pat Malone and the Wilde's (Dick Robbins had to depart early)

✉ **Classmates** - I have some good news to report: After many years of modest support and recognition, the City of Phoenix put \$3M in its FY 2024 budget to kick-start the Cold War Monument's construction, and I also agreed to become the project manager of the effort! An important, unique and aspirational part of the monument is its "museum-like" concept - i.e., its ability to tell a story/preserve history/and educate the public about the Cold War era (1946-1991) and the role submarines played in helping avoid a nuclear holocaust. The theme of the monument is "Learn, Honor, Remember" - Learn about the Cold War; Honor those military and civilian persons who served; Remember the lessons learned from our experience so they can be applied to our present day circumstances. The chief components for preserving history in our monument are the original parts of the nuclear-powered fast attack, LA class submarine named after the City of Phoenix, and the accompanying 25 "signposts" which contain information and content about both the Cold War and submarine life during that timeframe. My idea is our Class of '65's life experiences will be featured in the monument as perfect examples of military and civilian service during the Cold War Period, and our thoughts and feelings would be representative of those who lived during those tense times. I have so far received and/or collected a significant amount of raw material from many of you: custom content from **Mitch Henderson, Jack Devine, Anson Burlingame, Denny Jones, Bob Starkey and Ed Linz**; and some Wardroom email snippets from **Dave Secrest, Ron Claussen, John Flynn, Sam Stevens, John Glenn, Al Kasper, Bill Frigge, Joe Foy, Tom Kinder, CM Wood, Bill Diproffio, Skip MacMichael and Sim Pace**. Thanks to all who have provided info to date!
— Pete

(Ed. Note: Pete is looking for more input for these signposts. If you can contribute, please contact Pete at prom65@cox.net for details on what he's looking for. Major congrats to Pete for honchoing this important undertaking!)

From **Dave and Pat Miller**, 26 Jul

✉ Here's the whole dam-fam enjoying St. Thomas in late July!



From **Phil Ferrara**, 02 Aug

✉ The Class of '65 assembled for lunch at McGarvey's Saloon on 2 August with 21 in attendance.

Present were **Frank Peterson, Moke DeMatta, Phil Ferrara, Chip Seymour, Ted Nanz, Bob Sullivan, Jon and Hans Schildknecht, Sam Dutrow, Carter Refo, Mike Luecke, Tom Kinder, Sonny Harrison, Jim Minderlein, Charlie Morrison, John Collins, Doug Norton, Skip Shealy, Fred Vogel, Bob Andretta, and Frog Kristensen**. Jim explained many of the new initiatives that are coming forth from the Alumni Association to benefit alumni in need or experiencing special circumstances.



From **Jim Stark**, 13 Aug

✉ On 12 August a large group of family, friends, fellow teachers and coaches, and an enthusiastic group of USNA '65 classmates celebrated **Sam Dutrow's** 80th birthday with a surprise party at his daughter Jenny's home in Manassas, VA. There were about 40 people in all. The Class of '65 was represented by **Bob Sullivan, Bob Andretta, Ted Nanz** and yours truly, alongside Sam himself, and all our wives. In the midst of a large group of joyous grandchildren and partying adults, our little group spent three happy hours solving the world's problems and reminiscing about the adventures of our youth. A lot of joy comes along with the perspective of advancing age. We are all looking forward to our upcoming 60th reunion in two years. Go Navy! As shown in the following photo, the old geezers can still stand tall, or nearly so. All the best, Jim.



From **Skip Gunther**, 16 Aug

✉ Five years ago, with the four kids moved out and living in Boston, DC, and LA (and, not coming home nearly often enough), we sold the house and moved onto our RV. We are now 65,000 miles into crossing our country this way and that, always with our near-term objective of seeing the kids. We are currently in Alaska for six months progressing well on our goal to explore every road, with plans to be back in the Lower 48 by 01 Oct, then? Today we're in Valdez watching Orcas and spawning salmon (pinks right now). I should add that so far this year we have visited with **Mark and Katie Muhsam** in Tucson (February), and **Bob and Kris Stanfield** in Los Altos (April). All four look great!! Photo follows of the Muhsams and **Nancy** and me. Beat Army, Skip.



From **Courtland Gray**, 16 Aug

✉ Pat and I are here in Navarre Beach, FL, living our dream, as I think you are as well. We see the terrible news on tv, but we do not have to experience it living in our bubble, a barrier island, Santa Rosa. Hurricanes, yes, violence and crime, no. We are blessed.

From **Skip McAlexander**, 17 Aug

✉ Reporting from the Villages near Orlando, we have over 400 pickleball courts here now and the competition is vicious. Too many 70-year-old whippersnappers. Fortunately, I am a trophy husband so I can stay on the courts for a few minutes. We are very concerned about the direction of our country.

From **Bill and Penny Hunt** 18 Aug

✉ Bill is recovering from some major surgery at a cancer center in Augusta, GA and had a sweet therapy dog there who worked magic. We now have our own "therapy" dog at home; her name is Sugar. Here's a recent photo of Bill and me with the cancer center's therapy dog.



In August and September, **Ted Nanz** chipped in a few times - as he usually does - with some newsy updates on his and his family's activities. These updates included attending an Earth, Wind and Fire/Lionel Richie concert with his daughter, Kealani, and a nice pic of Ted and his wife celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary dockside at the Harbor Grille in Woodbridge, VA. Here's a pic of Ted and Meliza at their September celebration dinner.



From **Phil Ferrara**, 21 Aug

✉ On a trip to New England in August, **Linda** and I stopped to have lunch with **Jane and Mitch Henderson** on our way home to Maryland. We visited their 1760 era home in Warren, RI, and went just down the street to their favorite restaurant on the water, off a cove of Narragansett Bay.

Jane has built a bricked garden area at their house reminiscent of colonial era Annapolis yards!

After lunch we adjourned back to the house for ice cream cones and lots of laughs recalling the past.



Pete Lumianski, in late August, reported on Bob "Goose" Gosnell's 80th Birthday. Goose's daughters asked Pete to solicit funny/"ribald" stories of their dad to share during the B-Day celebration. Pete recalled that Goose and he shared many (mis)adventures together outside the walls of Mother B and well beyond the area referred to as "The Yard". These experiences had very little to do with burnishing our academic credentials or enhancing our naval careers if you catch my drift. Belated Happy B-Day to the Gooser!

And, OBTW, here's a photo of the **Lumianski** clan celebrating three birthdays in September. Quite a conglomeration!

From **Phil Ferrara**, 07 Sep

✉ On 6 September sixteen '65ers assembled at the monthly First Wednesday Lunch at McGarvey's Saloon. Present were **Pat Philbin, Doug Norton, Chip Seymour, Sonny Harrison, Skip Shealy, Frank Peterson, Phil Ferrara, Moke DeMatta, Charlie Morrison, Bob Andretta, Bob Sullivan, Sam Dutrow, Tom Kinder, Jeff Gaugush, Joe Clare, and John Collins**. Classmate Tom Kinder turned 80 on this very day, and we sang Happy Birthday for him and presented him with a cake to celebrate.

Finally, **Judy** and I heard from our Maui classmate, **Jon Bromberg** and his wife, **Valerie**, that they were unaffected by the terrible Maui fires in early August. Whew!

Thazzit, Guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 66%
Donor Participation: 23.77%

Pres: **VADM John "Scott" Redd, USN (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**
10439 Rivington Ct., Lone Tree, CO 80124
e: mike.baird@1966.usna.com

Website: www.usna66.org

Well, it's that time of year again, the holiday season. Wow! Where has this year gone? I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is ready to celebrate Christmas or Channukah. There are several items to present, so here goes.

The Class sponsored a Class-wide Zoom event on 17 August, where **Phil Bozzelli** led a detailed discussion of the Class effort on health and wellness, which focused on VA benefits. Our Web Master, Therese Long-Fish, has posted the recording on the Class web site, usna66.org, for those who weren't able to join the meeting. Go to the "Wellness" tab and select the video link "Recording of 17 August Class Zoom." The pass code is #Ec6h9rQ. Your comments, questions, and experiences are welcome regarding any aspect of what has been proposed as Class wellness subjects. Especially needed are comments from Classmates in the medical and legal professions who can offer up their time to assist other Classmates. If interested, please send your contact info to **Phil Bozzelli** (pbozzell1@verizon.net) with your medical or legal specialty and Phil will take it from there. There are also points of contact and information for the areas of legal, health care, lifestyle, and Veterans Administration provided. Go to usna66.org to get oriented.

Sadly, we've lost four Classmates. They are **Neil Quinn** (3rd Co), **Al Sears** (11th Co), **Jimmy DePoy** (16th Co), and **Pat McKenna** (19th Co). Neil died on 8 July 2023; Al on 7 August 2023, Pat on 26 July, and Jimmy on 14 August. I sent Class-wide emails reporting their deaths.



'65: Luminanski Clan

Please keep their families in your prayers.

Several Classmates attended the services for **Jerry Kerr**. **Ed Ohlert** provided the following account and photo.

On 31 July **Jerry Kerr** (33rd) was inurned in the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. Five members of the 33rd Company; **Stephanie and Paul Andruchow**, **Joan and Tom Huffman**, **Ed Ohlert**, **Andy Sosnicky**, **Denny Zveare**, along with **Susie and Guy Mendenhall** (2nd Company) attended the ceremony. Jerry's spouse, Claudia, her family from Nova Scotia, and other attendees noted the loyalty of Classmates who travelled to bid farewell to Jerry. If you look closely at the photo, Jerry's spirit is hovering over the group.



CLASSMATES HONORING JERRY KERR

Chuck Grutzius provided the following recap and pics of the final 2023 Class luncheon.

✉ "The Class held its third 2023 luncheon recently on 9 August at the Army Navy Country Club where 14 Classmates and spouses enjoyed very inspiring comments from Coach Gavin Hickie, Head Coach of Navy's Rugby Team. Coach Hickie and the Navy's Varsity Men's Rugby team recently finished the 2023 season with a fantastic 18-0 win-loss record and went on to win the National Championship!

After a delicious buffet lunch, **Scott Redd** said a few words about the upcoming Class Zoom meeting for our Class-wide support program.

Sam Marrone then gave a brief history on how Class of 1966 Classmates **Carl Fulford**, **Sam Marrone**, and **Jon Prusmack** played incredibly significant roles in working with the Academy to turn the Navy's Rugby program from a Club sport into a Varsity sport. This effort included raising over \$2 million dollars for the Rugby program, which includes both men and women teams.

Coach Gavin Hickie then gave a compelling talk regarding how and why he arrived at USNA, what it means to him, and then spoke primarily about the character of the team, and how he's imparting leadership and warfighter elements in ways that interface and complement the Rugby team's on-field performance, and for each game's post-game assessment, contributing to constant improvement. It's amazing what he's doing as a coach who was not in the military, nor even previously associated with it. Gavin was truly inspirational,

and I wish more of our Classmates could have seen his talk.

The final speaker was CAPT Franky, the Rugby Team Officer Rep, senior SEAL in the Yard, and Deputy Director for Ethics at the Stockdale Center, who spoke to the authenticity of what Coach Hickie is doing, and how the Rugby experience relates to developing "warfighters" that truly understand what that means - i.e., the elements of leadership and warfighting that the sport naturally imparts to its participants. As an aside, CAPT Franky flew in just for this event from San Diego and returned to San Diego immediately after the luncheon. He was the perfect capstone presenter.

Classmates who attended the luncheon included Betty and Tom Eubanks, Tom Grim, Scott Redd, Robert Percival, Sam Nicholson, Sam Marrone, Chuck Grutzius, George Moore, Karen and Chuck Tebrich, Rodger Carter, Andre Simonpietri, and Mike Castelli, Phil Bozzelli's son-in-law."



SAM MARRONE



RUGBY COACH GAVIN HICKIE



CAPT FRANK FRANKY



CLASSMATES AND SPOUSES AT THE LUNCHEON



CLASSMATES AND SPOUSES AT THE LUNCHEON



CLASSMATES AND SPOUSES AT THE LUNCHEON

On 18 August, Barbara Kiernan and **Clay Spikes**, Leah and **Mike Baird**, and Joanne and **Mike Haskins** met for lunch in downtown Littleton, CO. It was a wonderful time to catch up on family news and enjoy the beautiful weather. In the photo below, right side, back to front; Barbara, Joanne, and Leah; right side, back to front, Clay, Mike, and Mike.



AND YET WHEN TWO OR THREE SHALL MEET...

Our Class Treasurer, **Chuck Grutzius**, has submitted the Class Financial Report for CY2022. Here is a summary:

✉ The Class ended CY2022 with Total Assets of \$56,709.76. Included in the Total Assets were Nunna's Funds of \$21,719.35.

Thus, the monies included in the Total Assets above are as follows:

Class Funds:	\$34,990.41
Nunna's Funds:	\$21,719.35
Total Assets:	\$56,709.76

The Class at the end of CY2022 was in very good financial condition and continues to be in 2023. The Class of 1966 is a current and valid IRS 501.c.19 Veterans Organization in good standing, and contributions to the Class Association are tax deductible as permitted by IRS Regulations.

Should any Classmate have any questions about this Financial Statement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally Yours in Service,
 Chuck Grutzius
 Treasurer // Class of 1966

Thanks, Chuck! Well done, as usual.

So that wraps up 2023! What a year it's been. A final reminder to frequently check the Class web site for news and support. Also, a final Merry Christmas and Happy Channukah to all.

Until February 2024...All the best...Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 77%

Donor Participation: 33.73%

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

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

1603 John Worthington Way, Crownsville, MD 21032

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Unfortunately, once again I have several deaths to report.

We first heard from **Dave Tate** that **Don Downing** had passed away in his sleep in Phoenix on 1 August 2023. He had suffered from multiple health issues for some time. Dave said that when he and **Mike Sherer** had visited Don last November he still had that self-deprecating sense of humor, despite his obvious cognitive issues and severe physical limitations.

Memorial services and a celebration of Don's life were held on 2 September 2023 in Scottsdale. **Burlie Brunson** found he had a 1967 issue "G.I. Joe" Navy football player #51, Don's jersey number, among his memorabilia at home. He provided it for Dave to present as gift from '67 at Don's Celebration of Life as a reminder of a significant part of his life.

Jim Schear was able to be part of the Class representation and sent this:

✉ I had the honor of attending Don Downing's Celebration of Life on Saturday, Sep 2nd in Scottsdale. Classmates in attendance were Dave Tate, **Pledger Robertson**, **Mike Samuels**, and, of course, **Buddy Barnes**. Buddy sneaked in after the photo was taken but we already have plenty of those from all the events he attends each year.

Hawaiian shirts were Don's family's choice of dress for the occasion and there were some beauts. Lots of Helo guys from HAL-3 were in attendance and they were totally in awe of mine, festooned with the mighty P-3 Orion.

Don has a loving family and very close friends. It showed in their remarks. It was obvious that he lived as we remembered him at the Academy - bigger than life. Each story was of a generous, big man with a big heart and a big laugh. What a great remembrance!!

Bear, Pledger, and Mike, all are looking good.



At Downing Celebration: Bear, Pledger, and Mike (Poopie behind the camera, Buddy in the head)

Barry Pollara sent word that Susan Blair, wife of **Tom Blair**, passed away on 7 August 2023 of -ovarian cancer at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. She was born in

1948 into an Air Force family. She graduated from then-George Mason College in 1970 and met Tom in Annapolis in 1971. They married in 1972. In addition to Tom, she leaves behind son Michael Blair and daughter Laura Blair. Her obituary can be found at <https://rb.gy/tj6h>. Tom, please accept sincere condolences from your Classmates.

Jerry Sullivan sent the sad news that **Jack Macidull** had passed away the night of 12 August 2023 at the home he shared with his wife, Eva, in Hayes, VA. They lived there for 20 years. In addition to Eva, he is survived by stepdaughter Sierra and step-granddaughter Eliana. Jack received his wings in Pensacola as a helicopter pilot in 1968. He made two WestPac tours performing challenging combat missions with HC-1 flying H2 and H3 helicopters. After leaving the Navy, Jack worked as an aerospace engineer and as an author, penning nine books. Jack's full obituary can be found in the Last Call section of this Shipmate or on line at <https://rb.gy/ili9r>.

We received word from **John Craighill, Jr.** '03 that his father **John Craighill, Sr.** had passed away peacefully in his sleep on 20 August 2023. John, Sr. went Navy Line after graduating with us and went on to serve 30 years in the Navy on 8 different ships with 20 years of sea duty. He commanded AYLWIN (FF-1081) and SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN-37). After his retirement from the Navy in 1996 he went on to a successful civilian career. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathleen, their 3 children, Sarah Minukas (Mark), Leigh Rauseo (Mike), John Craighill Jr. (Dorothy), and 6 grandchildren. His full obituary can be found on line at <https://rb.gy/omtjh>.

LATE ENTRY:

I and many others attended John's services at the USNA Chapel today (25 September 2023). It was a wonderful service for a Classmate and fellow Chapel Choir singer. The service there was followed by inurnment in the USNA Columbarium. I didn't even try to take muster, but suffice it to say we saw him off in style at a reception following the services at the new and



'67 Farewell to John Craighill

'68

Life Membership: 62%

Donor Participation: 19.31%

Pres: CAPT Gary A. Storm, USN (Ret.)

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Corr Sec'y: CAPT Gordon I. Peterson, USN (Ret.)

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p: 703-282-3411; e: gpeters621@aol.com

Website: www.usna68.com

The Army-Navy gridiron classic is on the horizon, but the football season was only weeks old when I dispatched this column to *Shipmate*. Several classmates were in Dublin in late August for the season opener with the Fighting Irish. Soon thereafter, our '68 Tailgates were off to another great start.

Amy and **Rick Buchanan** toured the Republic of Ireland before the Notre Dame game. "While attending the Navy tailgate and Welcome Hooley in Dublin," Rick reported, "we crossed paths with **Kevin Reardon** and **Doug Little**. Besides meeting several old and new friends from the Naval Academy, I had the chance to watch and cheer on the Navy Rugby team as they vanquished Notre Dame 78 to 0 Friday afternoon. It was too bad that the rugby team's tackling did not translate over to the football team's performance. Despite Saturday's rainy evening, the tailgate at the Lansdowne Rugby Club in Dublin was a well-attended and most enjoyable event."

Hong and **Jim Webb** attended the Notre Dame game after a busy Friday that entailed three speeches. "During my 'dual-role' in Dublin I was the honored guest of the Irish-American Orthopedic Society at its annual symposium in Dublin," Jim explained. "I attended at the invitation of the society's president, **Mike Muldoon '79**." During the society's program Friday, Jim delivered a speech on U.S. national-security strategy for the future. As the guest speaker for the banquet that evening, he discussed several of the themes he developed in his 2004 book *Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*. Hours earlier, Jim participated in a joint U.S.-Irish panel discussion sponsored by Notre Dame at Dublin's Royal Irish Academy that addressed "Irish military traditions on both sides of the Atlantic." As for the Navy-Notre Dame game the next day, Jim observed, "It was a great game until it started!"

We had a good turnout at the home-game win against Wagner. "The tailgate crew under the direction of Sandy and **Bill Paine** did a fantastic job," said Linda Hopkins. "It was a warm day, and grilling in the heat was not a pleasant experience. Many thanks to Bill for his grilling expertise!" Unfortunately, stormy weather and lightning later delayed the game and shut down tailgate activities. **Dan Lear** "turned to" at halftime with family and friends to stow gear and drop our large tent before wind and heavy rain arrived.

beautiful Fleugel Alumni Center. In the photo, the faces on the left are those of John's brother, Bob, a West Point grad; John, Jr; and Kathleen.

Rich Olson notified us that his wife of 56 years died on 7 December 2022 in Baltimore. Sharon met Rich, also of Baltimore, in 1962 and married him in Towson on 10 June 1967. In addition to Rich, she is survived by daughters Tracey M. Olson and Kristen R. Olson and four grandchildren. Sharon was a loving, devoted wife and mother, whose constant concern for the well-being of her daughters was a defining characteristic of her life. Her full obituary can be found on line at <https://rb.gy/0omgf>.

Jack Young mounted an extensive search for Lost Soul **Fred Cazenave** and found a short obituary. Fred passed away on 2 October 2020 in Chesapeake, VA. He is survived by his wife Patricia; three sons, Rick, Chris, and John Cazenave; and four grandchildren. He apparently retired in 1987 from the Navy as an aviator. He was an active Mason. His obituary can be found on line at <https://rb.gy/px1jv>.

Ron Waddell sent a note and a photo after the 2023 Puget Sound Picnic:

✉ We had a smaller than usual turnout at the Puget Sound Chapter picnic but '67 still managed to hold onto first place for class attendance for the 16th year in a row. Attendees included (left to right) Ron Waddell, Dick Collins, Willie and Laura Idsinga, Lonnie and Ellie Overson, and Doug and Jeanie Naylor. Not in the picture was our ALITC rep from the Class of 2017, Mitch Pratt, who is stationed on NIMITZ (CVN-68).



'67 at 2023 Puget Sound picnic

Adrian Gordon sent some input for Shipmate after the 2023 19th Company Beerfest:

✉ In late June, a group of '67ers from 19th Company (**JC Bates**, **Terry Buettner**, **Bob Fischl** (20th Co.), **Sid Skjei**, **GK Jacobs**, **Bob Hawthorne**, **Don Priest**, **Adrian Gordon**) gathered at Don Priest's place in Heartwell Georgia for our annual gathering. Also in attendance were Patty Skjei, Deb Gordon, GK's new bride, Lynn, and our hostess, the ever patient Rosemary Priest.

The weekend was spent consuming beer, margaritas and Don's first class cooking, telling war stories and oft repeated tales from our days as Midshipmen, and reviewing reams of

documentary evidence of our presence including stacks of old LOG magazines, Hawthorne's photographs of the Miss Universe (or Miss something or other) contestants that he was assigned to escort (I think right after graduation) and a lengthy report from the Supe about all of the class graduates' first assignments and class standing. A great time was had by all!

Sunday evening all hands mustered on the dock for a remembrance service for shipmates who are no longer with us. As each friend was remembered, a roommate or someone who was close to the individual made a few remarks about them and placed a rose in a wreath created for the occasion which was floated out to sea (ok, out onto the lake) at the end of the ceremony. Brought back a lot of memories for all involved. Unfortunately, the number to be remembered grows each year.



Adrian Gordon, Rosemary Priest, JC Bates and Sid Skjei remembering lost Classmates

Now, a photo from **Dick Glasow** from Hawaii with him congratulating **Steve Olson**. This was at the 60th reunion party of Steve's graduation from the Punahou School in Honolulu held in June 2023. Four Punahou '63 members went to Navy (and graduated!): **Wes Brandt**, **Tom Knudson**, **Bob Campbell** and Steve. Dick's wife Carol was their classmate. What a record!



Steve Olson is congratulated by Dick Glasow

I think that's where it is for this time. When this hits your mailboxes we'll be staring at the Nov-Dec 2023 Holiday Season and the brand new 2024! It seems like this year has gone streaking by. I want to wish all the best to all of you. Thanks to you all for letting me hang out with you. The Plebe Summer question was: "Which Class is the best Class?" The answer hasn't changed: "'67 Sir!" And by the way: BEAT ARMY!...That's it...Goodnight!...Jim



'68: Wagner game tailgate, L-R: Ray Hopkins, Gary Storm, Dan Lear, Joe Conway, Bill Dow, Bob Arneson, Bill Paine, Kit Ruland, Bill Ober, unknown, George Breeden, Bill Boykin, Bob Hollerbach, Mike Neale, Roy Graham, Glen Gottschalk, Ted Naydan, Rick Bayer, Pete Diefendorf, Greg Horne. Also present but not in photo: Dick Virtue, John O'Neill, Bill Mulholland and Mike Lagow. (Photo by Linda Hopkins)

When students returned to the classroom at summer's end, **Mike Slattery** did as well at Campbell University, NC. This marks his 28th year teaching political science and military history there since his Navy retirement. Mike, a fleet sailor when he was appointed to the Academy, also marked another milestone in August—his 80th birthday. Congratulations! "The majority of my students are juniors and seniors in Campbell University's nationally acclaimed ROTC program," Mike said. "I'll occasionally get an e-mail from a former grad—now a lieutenant or captain—who had taken my class. This was especially true during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It makes my day."



Mike Slattery beginning his 28th year teaching U.S. military history at Campbell University.

In Chesterfield, MO, the 27th Company's **Larry Hart** continues his distinguished 46-year career in investment banking—but a well-earned retirement is on the horizon. He established his own firm, L.J. Hart & Company, in 1991. Since then, his company has provided extensive investment-banking services to more than 300 Missouri public school districts, many county governments, and other clients. "The news is," Larry reported recently, "that last June the acquisition of my company was completed by Commerce Bank—the largest bank in Missouri. I plan to remain active for two more years to assist in the transition. All my existing staff will remain with the firm."

An article in *The Bond Buyer* trade newspaper described the acquisition as a "win-win" for each firm. Said Larry, "With the support and resources of an institution like Commerce and our existing relationships with issuers we are well-positioned to accelerate our services to customers across the nation. The name of my

firm has not changed—although 'a subsidiary of Commerce Bank' appears in small print!" Larry and his wife, Jodi, have lived in Chesterfield since 1989. He served as a surface warfare officer during his eight years of active duty, describing his experience as "a real pleasure." Larry holds an MBA from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.



Larry Hart with Judi and granddaughter Sophie at her high school graduation party.

Mary and **Kevin Dwyer** escaped August's heat in Texas with a two-week trip to the Canadian Maritimes' Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. They both trace their ancestral history to the region. As Kevin reported:

✉ "This was our second visit to Prince Edward Island, and it won't be our last. We stayed on the north coast, in a small fishing village not far from the 'Anne of Green Gables' neighborhood. PEI has low, rolling hills and many farms. The different shades of green brought Ireland to mind—except that the roads are wider, cars drive on the right side, and sheep are not hampering traffic. One set of paternal grandparents (Scots-Irish, a MacDonald married a McDonald) were born on PEI, so I have a little 'coming home' feeling when we are there.

"The second week, on Cape Breton Island, we stayed at two delightful and comfortable AirBnBs near salt water—a vacation requirement for us. A set of maternal grandparents had roots there; a great-grandfather was a shipwright on the eastern side of the island. Its rockier and more heavily wooded terrain is like our New England coastline. Mary met her goals

for lobsters consumed, and I happily sampled seafood chowder as we went along!"



Mary and Kevin Dwyer outside their cabin in Grand Etang, Cape Breton.

At summer's end, the 26th Company's Debbie and **Mike Metcalf** enjoyed a 12-day hiking trip to the Swiss Alps followed by six days of recovery in Milan and Cinque Terre, Italy. They were accompanied by Mike's sister and brother-in-law. "Hiking the Swiss Alps 'From the Jungfrau to the Matterhorn' is a guided program directed by Road Scholars," Mike explained. "Local expert professionals led us around the Eiger, Monch, Jungfrau, Jungfrauoch, and Matterhorn mountains with special focus on their glaciers, local culture, and history. Though the hiking was challenging, we certainly found the vistas spellbinding and enjoyed the company of others from around the U.S. in our small hiking group. Glaciers in the Alps continue to retreat to the concern of all. The local comforts and specialties were certainly enjoyed."



Debbie and Mike Metcalf near Grindelwald with Schwarzhorn in background.

Sadly, July and August saw a heavy toll on our ranks with the deaths of five classmates: **Daniel J. O'Sullivan Sr., William Irving Donaldson Jr., Sherman E. Wright Jr., Carl Thomas Berry, Jr., and John D. Kohler.** May they rest in peace. Please see the salutes to them in the on-line version of this column and their entries in Last Call when published.

Dan O'Sullivan, 79, died 27 July at the Veteran's Palliative & Hospice Care unit in Brockton, MA. A non-graduating member of our class, Dan served in the Navy after attending the Academy. Following his honorable

discharge in 1966 he continued his service in federal employment. Funeral services were held 4 August at St. John the Evangelist church in Hingham, MA. Donations in Dan's honor may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org).

The 33rd Company's **Bill Donaldson** passed away at his home in Mansfield, TX, 7 August. The son of a career naval officer and Academy alumnus, Bill was commissioned in the Marine Corps. Upon retirement as a major in 1988, he worked with multiple defense contractors and later relocated to Mansfield, TX. Bill's memorial service was held 26 August at Mansfield Bible Church in Mansfield. Donations in Bill's honor may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project (www.woundedwarriorsproject.org).

The 11th Company's **Skip Wright**, 78, died 10 August in Silverton, OR. He retired as a captain following a distinguished 27-year career as a surface warfare officer that included command of two surface combatants. In civilian life he worked for SAIC for more than 10 years. In retirement, Skip was an accomplished author of 12 books of fiction. Services were held at the Naval Academy 26 October. Donations in Skip's honor may be made to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (www.nmcrs.org).

The 22nd Company's **Carl Berry**, 77, of Morris, IL, died 16 August at Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital. After earning an MS degree in engineering at Princeton University in 1970, Carl had a distinctive career in the submarine force, including command of two submarines. Following retirement as a captain, Carl worked at Exelon Nuclear in Illinois, before retiring in 2017. A celebration of life was held 9 October at the First United Methodist Church in Morris, IL. Donations in his honor may be made at the First United Methodist Church of Morris.

The 13th Company's **John Kohler**, 77, of Medford, NJ, passed away 30 August after a long illness. A non-graduating member of our class, John attended the University of Maryland and Rutgers University. He had a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years in public service in New Jersey and for the past 20 years with the Riker Danzig law firm. A celebration of life was held 12 October in West Windsor, NJ. Donations in John's memory may be made to the Appalachian Mountain Club or the Center for Native American Youth.

In closing, as 2023 draws to a close I extend my thanks to all who contributed to the column this year and wish "all the best" to everyone in 2024. **Go Navy, Beat Army!**

Gordo

'69

Life Membership: 59%
Donor Participation: 23.13%

Pres: **Steve Comiskey**
e: swcomiskey@gmail.com

Exec Vice Pres: **Jim "Sandy" Sandberg**

Corr Sec'y: **Pat Stroop**
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Sec'y: **Dr. Steve Hudock**
p: 571-419-0290; e: shudock@1969.USNA.com

Treas: **Ron Gumbert**
4300 Summertime Ln., Helena, MT 59602
e: rongumbert@icloud.com

Website: www.usna69.org

Although it's not chilly in Annapolis today, it will be when you get this in December! Time to get ready for finals, boys and girls!!

We begin this column with some very sad news. **Lt Julian H. Brown, III**, USN and a member of our ALITC class of 2019, passed away on 15 August. Lt Brown was a member of the Engineering Department of USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796) at the time of his death. Additionally, the Class of 1969 lost **RMDL Ron "Rabbit" Christenson**, USN suddenly on 25 August. A tribute from our classmate **Pete Blackledge** is posted on our website www.usna69.org and on Pete's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/usna69>).

Now the fun stuff. The Alumni Association had an Open House for Plankowners on 9 September before the Wagner game. Here is a picture of 69ers and spouses/friends taken on the Class of 1969 "Mighty Fine" Social Patio.



Pat, Mary, Judy and Lon

Lon and Judy Scofield and **Pat and Mary Stroop** spent a wonderful two and a half weeks in Alaska and Vancouver, British Columbia in August and September earlier this year. The trip started in Fairbanks,

Alaska, went by bus and train to Seward, Alaska and then by ship to Vancouver. So many great experiences, way too many to tell all except to say that if you have not been to Alaska, you must put it on your bucket list now! Although there were 6,384 pictures taken by Mary and Judy, here is one of the four of us enjoying our trip.



Pat, Mary, and the Hubbard Glacier (taken by Judy)

Emily and Dennis Plank, and Emily's sister, Georgia Harvey completed the ladies' "bucket list" item when they took a ten-day trip to Scotland in May. On the first day, we toured Her Majesty's Royal Yacht BRITANIA, where she has been immaculately maintained, in retirement since 1997, in Edinburgh's Port of Leith. During our walk back to our hotel, we stumbled across a pub, fittingly dubbed "Mother Superior." Pub manager, Jane (an Irish lass, by the way), took a great interest in listening to our Yank accents! She said she could listen to us talk for hours! We felt the same about her Irish brogue. The remainder of our time in Edinburgh was spent touring the Old and New City, visiting Edinburgh Castle, where we were entertained by the Royal Scottish Guards Bagpipers. We attended a "Traditional Scottish Evening," enjoying highland music and dance, and of course an obligatory "Ceremony of the Haggis." Yes, we partook. We then began our bus trip with the first stop at "Royal and Ancient St. Andrews" where we were permitted to cross the golf course and pose for pics on the Swilcan Bridge at the 18th hole. Located adjacent to the golf course was the beach on which "Chariots of Fire" was filmed. Heading North



'69: Wagner game tailgate, L-R: Ray Hopkins, Gary Storm, Dan Lear, Joe Conway, Bill Dow, Bob Arneson, Bill Paine, Kit Ruland, Bill Ober, unknown, George Breeden, Bill Boykin, Bob Hollerbach, Mike Neale, Roy Graham, Glen Gottschalk, Ted Naydan, Rick Bayer, Pete Diefendorf, Greg Horne. Also present but not in photo: Dick Virtue, John O'Neill, Bill Mulholland and Mike Lagow. (Photo by Linda Hopkins)

69/70 CLASS NEWS

into the Highlands, we were treated to the golden hills of gorse and purple heather. We toured the Culloden Battlefield, visited neolithic burial cairns, monoliths, and henge sites created in ancient times. Scotland is dotted with these ancient monuments. A tour of Singleton Distillery met the requirement for Whiskey, known as Scotch to Yanks. We then toured Inverness, visited Dunrobin Castle, and were duly amazed by a falconry demonstration. On to Thurso on the northern tip of Scotland where we departed the bus for a short ferry trip to the Orkney Islands. We learned about this area's part in WWII with Churchill Barriers, Scapa Flow, and POW camps. From Thurso we continued south, visiting several villages, as well as the Inner Hebridean Isle of Skye. We enjoyed a tour of Inverary Castle and Gardens, site of some Downton Abbey episodes. A common site throughout Scotland was a long-haired cattle breed known as "coos!" After a pleasant day on Loch Lomand, we headed to Glasgow, our last stop before the trip home. Worthy of note, since we were north of 55° north latitude, we were rarely in pitch darkness and since it was May the winds off the North Sea were noticeable! A grand adventure.



Georgia, Dennis and Emily

From **Marty Costello**:

✉ A few years back, our classmates from 9th Company decided that 5 years was too long to wait between reunions. Thus, we started having "mini reunions" for our company midway between the big reunions. Unfortunately, one of our classmates, **Tag Van Winkle**, was unable to attend our 50th and our mini reunion in 2022 due to a medical constraint which makes travel extremely difficult. So, a group of us decided to take a mini reunion to him. **Bob Hartman, Mike Morrell, John Prairie, Stan Shustak** and I travelled to beautiful rural Wisconsin (between Milwaukee and Green Bay) to meet up with Tag and his family who had gathered at Lake Hustisford for the week around Father's Day. Tag's wife Val and their two daughters and son-in-law prepared a fabulous assortment of snacks and entrees as we reminisced and re-lived so many great memories of our days at USNA. Tag and Val's children enjoyed hearing the stories of our adventures (and misadventures), most of which they were hearing for the first time. Of

course, we explained the difference between a fairy tale and a sea story. Now we have even more memories to cherish. The bonds only get stronger.



Bob Hartman, John Prairie, Tag Van Winkle, Val Van Winkle, Mike Morrell, Marty Costello and Stan Shustak

Unrelated to the above, I recently attended the graduation ceremony in Memorial Hall for the 11 new USNA Company Officers. All company officers are now required to complete a master's degree in leadership prior to filling the role of company officer. Colonel Styskal, Senior Marine at USNA, gave a meaningful and inspiring commencement address aimed at the role of the company officer. It is gratifying to see how the role and responsibilities of the USNA Company Officer have progressed from what we knew. In the photo, one of the mids I sponsored, **Andie Coutoulakis '17**, is among the new company officers, assigned to 18th Company.



Marty and Captain Coutoulakis

From **Tom Smith**: 10th Company's **Tom Smith** and **Danny Bennett** after an extended "catch up" lunch on the Gulf Coast in Gulfport, Mississippi.



Tom and Danny

From **Tom Schram**: As promised, here is a photograph of **John Carrier** and me in New Orleans enjoying a terrific meal. John drove over from Bailey, Mississippi and I flew down from

Cincinnati to meet up in New Orleans. We spent two nights and a day together, enjoying the city. John and I were plebe summer roommates in 1965. John's 21st birthday party in September of 1968 was 1/2 mile inside the 7 mile limit. The Friday night party was terrific and everyone enjoyed it. Unfortunately, the OOD found out about it via the grapevine on Sunday, two days after, and the rest was history. 17 of us got class A'd with 120 demerits. 16 of the 17 graduated. John flew fighters for his entire career while I matriculated into the intelligence community for mine.



Tom Schram and John Carrier

David Black (non-graduate as of 16 March 1966) writes that he would like to hear from any of his company mates. David was adjudicated by the VA as being 100% disabled as a midshipman. Please send me an email if you know David and would like to correspond with him. I will send you his email address.



That's all for this issue...please keep those cards, letters, emails, phone calls coming! Merry Christmas everyone and look forward to seeing

you at the 55th Reunion on Labor Day Weekend 2024 at the Westin Hotel. If you have any problem making a room reservation, let your company representative or me know.

Non sibi.

'70

Life Membership: 63%

Donor Participation: 23.73%

Pres: **CDR Edmund E. Moore, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CDR Royal Connell, USN (Ret.)**
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Greetings all, another year gone and another year ahead. Don't know about you, but I look forward to 2024 with both wild anticipation and a certain amount of dread. I pray that we find mutual peace in the New Year, but fear that's a dream too far.

Sound the Last Post:

Robert (Bob) Prince died in Knoxville, in September. Most of the world knew Bob as an energetic and innovative problem solver, an engineer and entrepreneur whose leadership facilitated building a commercial industry to safely dispose of the world's nuclear waste. On a personal level, his family and friends witnessed his compassion, devotion, and commitment to those who filled his daily life. His life reflected his passion for his loved ones and his devotion to serving his country. After commissioning, he served in submarines. Then in civilian life, he focused his attention toward environmental stewardship and preservation for the nuclear industry. As President and CEO of Duratek, Bob led the research, development, and commercial deployment of new technologies that safely immobilized high-level radioactive materials. Management of such projects, he said "is often all about people," a belief he embraced throughout his career. In 1996, he was Maryland's Technology Entrepreneur of the Year and in 2004, The Catholic University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Commercial Science, *honoris causa*. After his retirement from Duratek in 2006, Bob served as CEO of Gen4, providing overall technical leadership for the commercial development of the lead-bismuth eutectic Advanced Reactor. He was well known for his undying devotion to Janet, his wife of 52 years, and his passion for sailing, kayaking, hiking, and scuba diving. Through a blending of family, business, engineering, and leadership, Bob's life embodied the spirit of making this world a better place because he passed through. May he rest in peace knowing that he achieved that goal.

Capt **Charles B. Fitchet** USN, Ret, passed away suddenly in August. Chuck spent most of his Naval career flying and later working with the Joint Chiefs. After retiring, he went on to a second career with Raytheon. Chuck was a member of the Elks and the American Legion. His loved ones will always remember his kind and selfless nature, his humor and his unending love for family and friends. He was interred in the Crownsville (MD) Veterans Cemetery.

Other classmates who have recently passed include CDR **Frank Baker Melson**, USN and **Robert Bennett Thompson**, who passed in August and June respectively. Unfortunately, we have not yet found their obituaries.

Carl Weiscopf sent me the following special tribute. I have edited it sparingly for length.

☒ "On Saturday, 5 August, my wife and life partner, Charlene, passed away peacefully in our home in San Diego after a short battle with cancer. As high school sweethearts with Charlene living in El Paso, we long-distance dated during my time at the Academy and were finally married on 6 June 1970. Charlene's greatest joy was her family and she loved volunteering in a variety of activities including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and school related events. In addition to supporting me during my

30-year Navy career which included four (4) commanding officer tours, Charlene dedicated herself to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS). She provided hundreds of volunteer hours to the Society branches in Long Beach; Pearl Harbor; and Naval Base San Diego. She received the Society's Meritorious Service Award as Chair of Volunteers in both Pearl Harbor and San Diego. In June 1998 she accepted a staff position at Naval Air Station North Island and in May 2000 moved to the NMCRS office at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, CA. During her 15 years as a NMCRS employee, Charlene assisted countless number of Sailors, Marines, and family members enabling them to meet unexpected expenses as well as improve their financial situation. Charlene is survived by our children, Chris (Shelly) and Jennifer (Shane) and the true loves of her life her grandchildren - Emily; Makena Kai; and Nicholas. She was laid to rest in August at the Miramar National Cemetery. As Charlene requested, my first-class year roommate, Jim Carter, led the services. Jim and the Weiscopf family have very special ties as Jim was in our wedding and drove Charlene and Chris (3 months old) from El Paso to San Diego when I was deployed off Vietnam. Throughout the years we have remained close and Jim and his family traveled from Fairfax. In addition, Jerry Farrell was able to attend. Charlene requested donations be made in her memory to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society or the American Cancer Society"

**Bits and Pieces:**

The Naval Submarine League has selected Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.) as one of two recipients of its Distinguished Submariners Awards. Admiral Giambastiani served in the Navy for 37 years. His final assignment on active duty was as the Seventh Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second ranking officer in the U.S. Military. The awards will be presented on 8 November at the Naval Submarine League Annual Symposium and Industry Update in Arlington, VA.

On the Road Again:

Bob Viney and his bride Shelly went to Orlando for vacation and met up with Barbara and **Russ Hauck** in Celebration, Florida. He writes:

☒ "We had a great meal at the restaurant Columbia in the center of Celebration. Was great to catch up with Russ and Barb since the Pensacola Reunion!"



Steve Reinmund and **Jim Seay** recently rafted down the middle fork of the Salmon River, courtesy of Hughes River Expeditions, a river trip company owned by **Jerry Hughes**, who joined us in the summer of 1966 but decided to leave in the fall of that year to pursue the boatman life. Jim somehow ended up with Jerry's lockbox, and as the picture shows, has now returned it 57 years later. Jerry hadn't missed it, and graciously waived all overdue and late fees. Steve is now retired from his several corporate and academic gigs and lives in Denver; Jim is now retired from a 50 year legal career and lives in Orlando; and Jerry continues to introduce his customers to the wonders of Idaho.



Skip Thaeler sends:

☒ "I've been told we should send info for possible inclusion in *SHIPMATE* to you. [Scribe Note: Yes, that is the case!] A few of us San Diego reps from 34th Company had the pleasure of getting together recently in what Debra Edmond called, "A survivors' lunch." Mimi and **Bob Halgren** and Judy and **Neil Finn** have now both nicely survived their recent medical issues and are looking great (Mimi and Judy look BETTER, of course). Debra and **Bob Edmond** survived their recent SD home sale and are "recovering" back in Arlington (closer to family). The Edmonds, Finns and Thaelers are all recuperating from ambitious world travel — Bob and Deb to Portugal, Neil and Judy to England, Portugal and France, and Skip and Kim to Croatia and the Northern Adriatic. We ALL also "survived" Hurricane Hilary, which did SOME damage in parts of SOCAL and Mexico, but proved to be nothing but a pleasant (and appreciated) "rain day" for us in "America's Finest City." Life is good."

70/70 CLASS NEWS



Frank Reifsnnyder forwarded a note from **Phil Eslinger** that read:

✉ "PJ Falten from 16th Company, **Gregg Sessler** and Phil Eslinger from 10th Company had a mini-reunion at Gregg's new vacation house on Islesboro, Maine. Aside from Lobster dinners fresh off the boat and tenderloin steaks fresh off the cow, the three of us spent our time cruising around the island in Gregg's Boston Whaler and hiking on the island's many trails. When they weren't actually on the water, they spent their time sitting in Gregg's dinghy and spinning war stories about their time in the Navy while drinking PJ's specialty drinks."



Road trip! Sherry and **Mike Charley** just returned from a 5300 mile drive back to Yellowstone and the Tetons where they honeymooned 50 years ago. They said that the trip was everything they hoped it would be—phenomenal scenery and animal sightings, bison ambling along so close to the car you could touch them if you wanted and some good hiking once Sherry relaxed a bit about her chances of not being eaten by a grizzly (not zero but good enough.) If you're up for an adventure, they highly recommend it.



In September, Carl Weiscopf, **Pat Tierney** and **Joe Cohen** (all 36th Company mates) attended the opening of the play *Cabaret* at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego. As Joe and his wife, Martha Farish, were production sponsors for the play, Joe invited Pat and Carl. The evening included a social hour; dinner; and the play. Note that without coordinating discussion or emails, Carl, Pat, and Joe were all in the same "uniform". Definitely the REAL Plebe year our class had has made a lasting impact. The fourth person in the photo is one of Joe's protégé from Joe's wealth management company.



Dave Lee writes:

✉ "Carol, James – our youngest son who lives with us – and I decided to beat the 110 degree summer heat in Katy, Texas by taking an Alaskan cruise. The daytime temperatures were cool, the scenery was breathtaking, and the shore excursions allowed us to experience the Alaskan nature and wildlife up close. I've been working for the Coast Guard for 13 years, and since 2018 I have been a remote worker; the commute to my study is much better than commuting in Washington, DC. Keeping up with the latest technologies, deploying on field exercises and working with the outstanding Coast Guard personnel is a pleasure. Our real joy and blessing is spending as much time as we can with our seven children, their spouses and our 20 grandchildren. Life is really good here in Texas!"



The Class had its first in a long time Quarterly Luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia on August 22. Classmates attending the Luncheon were: **Ed Moore, Gino Marchetti, Woody Sutton, Ernie Snowden, John Montgomery, Dick Click, Terry Dailey, Grant Thorpe, Jack Guarneri, Guy Knieriem, Jack MacNamee, Don Patterson, and Bob Sonnenberg.** Terry wrote that:

✉ "The Club provided great service and delicious food, with lunch options including sirloin steak or salmon. It was a great start to what we hope will be a continuing series of quarterly luncheons moving forward."



Charlie Lewis and Grant Thorpe in SW Ohio riding about 200 miles in 5 days in fantastic weather. Beat Army!

Ring-A-Ding-Ding!



'70

'71

Life Membership: 62%
Donor Participation: 21.84%

Pres: **CAPT Perry Martini, USN (Ret.)**
 e: pmartini71@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Mike Longworth, USN (Ret.)**
 e: duke.longworth@1971.usna.com

Website: <http://1971.usnaclasses.net/>

The Army-Navy game is almost here! The mids are preparing for the big game, and classes are almost over for the semester. The new head football coach has shown us an on-fire team. By the way, GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY! I will be there!

First up is a note from **Bob Wagoner**:

☒ "Duke, I recently came across the attached picture of six classmates (five submarine COs and one Nuclear Repair Officer) whose duties landed us in Norfolk Naval Shipyard in November 1989. From left to right: **Bruce Lemkin**, CO USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER, **Mike Feeley**, CO USS PHOENIX, **Bob Wagoner**, CO USS ATLANTA, **Mike Duncan**, CO USS FINBACK, **Dana Roberts**, CO USS SUNFISH, and **Bill Nold**, Nuclear Repair Officer. Our boats were all in various stages of repair and upkeep overseen by Bill and his Repair Department. Since moving to Annapolis two years ago, Meg and I have enjoyed living next door to another classmate, **Bob Capra**, photo below, and down the Magothy River from two more, **Cass Young** and **Brent Greene**. Bob and I frequently get out on our boat to explore the Bay. We look forward to seeing classmates at the fall tailgates where Meg and

I support **Tom Gross, Bill Butler, Bob Capra**, and their wives with setup and take down. See you in October, Bob."

Excellent photos! I'm looking forward to seeing some of our fellow nuclear power classmates and Bob Capra at the Air Force-Navy game! GO NAVY!



Bob Wagoner and Bob Capra

Here's a note from our webmaster, **Phil Williams**:

☒ "Duke, After the Navy-Notre Dame game in Dublin we moved on to London for a visit. One spot we visited was the Crypt in St. Paul's Cathedral. Unlike USNA, St. Paul's is a collection of famous English people including Wellington, Christopher Wren, and Florence



Phil Williams at St. Paul's Cathedral in London

Nightingale among others. While I did not see any monuments/memorials to American naval heroes, I did find the grave site/memorial for a British Naval hero - Admiral Horatio Nelson. A good spot for a photo. I am holding my Marine hat in honor of the Admiral. Semper Fi / Duces Virum, and GO NAVY, Phil."

Glad to hear you attended the game! This is an excellent photo of you in London!

Next is a note from **Lee Schierer**:

☒ "Hello Duke. My wife, Sue, and I recently completed an alumni trip to Switzerland, France, Germany, and Netherlands including a river boat trip on the Rhine and Mosel rivers. There were five alumnus with their wives: Teresa and **VADM Dirk Debbink '77**; classmate **RADM Christopher Weaver** and Christine; Jasmine and **LT Jacob Cohen '66**; Patricia and **LT David Sharp '74**. We started out in Zurich and were taken by bus to Interlaken where we spent 2-1/3 days. From there we were transported across Lake Brienz by boat and then by bus to Basel where we boarded the *Amadeus Imperial* for the Rhine River cruise. We had stops at Strasbourg, Mannheim, Cologne, Heidelberg, Koblenz, and Cochem. From Cochem we cruised through the Rhine Gorge, a winding stretch renowned for its castles and vineyards, and final stop in Amsterdam. It was a very enjoyable trip arranged by USNA Alumni Travel.

"The photo below was taken on the observation platform of Schilthorn summit. We had lunch in the revolving restaurant. The summit was featured in the James Bond Movie 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service.' In the photo (L-R) David Sharpe, Dirk Debbink, Jasmine Sharpe, Teresa Debbink, James Bond 007, Susan Schierer, Christopher Weaver, Lee Schierer.



River cruisers at the Schilthorn summit

"In the second cruise photo on the following page, (L-R) Dirk and Teresa Debbink, James and Susan Aluisi, Lee and Susan Schierer, Jasmine and David Sharpe, Christine and Christopher Weaver, and Patricia and Jacob Cohen.

BEAT ARMY! Lee."

Excellent photos, Lee! I am certain the sea stories were bountiful!

Bob Wagoner sent a second note:

☒ "Duke. I was able to get out recently at the Army-Navy Country Club with **Peter de Vos** and **Bruce Gallemore**. Included is a photo



James Lemkin CO USS H.G. RICKOVER *Mike Feeley CO USS PHOENIX* *Bob Wagoner CO USS ATLANTA* *Mike Duncan CO USS FINBACK* *Dana Roberts CO USS SUNFISH* *Bill Nold Nuclear Repair NNY*

*Class of '71 COs in Norfolk Naval Shipyard
 2 NOV 1989*

'71: 1989 of classmates in Norfolk

71/71 CLASS NEWS



'71: Alumni and wives aboard the ship

taken on the green of Red #9 with the Washington Monument in the background. It was a great chance to catch up with classmates. Bob."

A most fitting background for classmates having fun on the links! Thank you!



Bob, Peter, Bruce enjoying a sunny day on the golf course

Next up is a note from **Tom Laboon**:

✉ "Duke, Marie and I visited Sherri and **Bob Chimenti** in Memphis for the Navy-Memphis game. They are wonderful hosts, and we always travel there for the Navy game. Wouldn't miss it.

"On our way into the stadium we happened upon Chet Gladchuck all by himself. He stopped and gave us the lowdown for the game and graciously took a picture with us! Turns out he later stopped in our box with the new Superintendent, so we got to meet him as well! Those SUPs look sooo young!



Tom, Chet, and Bob at Navy vs Memphis

"It was a close game with the wrong score, but we were glad to be among the few Navy fans!! Go Navy!! Tom."

Excellent photos! The fourth quarter was quite a roller coaster ride.



Bob and Tom with Marie and Sherri in Memphis

"Bob and I took this picture with CJ, the USNA truck driver. We knew CJ through Bob Parsons when Bob worked at USNA." Tom, thank you for the story and the photos!"



Bob, Marie, CJ, Tom, Sherri at the USNA truck

Here's note from **Perry Martini**:

✉ "Duke, Jean and I made a quick trip over to the new Alumni Center following the inurnment memorial ceremony of our dear friend and longtime Class Secretary and Board member, **Brian Horais**. After touring the center with Peggy and JT Morris we noticed the center was flying class flags below the national ensign in honor of Brian and a member of the Class of '67 who had a funeral earlier in the



Perry and JT at the Fluegel Alumni Center after Brian's memorial

day. Nice touch! It was a wonderful send-off for Brian and Cathy, their two daughters, many friends and family members in addition to the 25 classmates present to honor the Horais family. Duces Virum, Perry."

That is a most fitting tribute!

Sadly, we lost three classmates who passed away since my last column.

Gerald "Gerry"

Pickett, Major, USMC (Ret.) passed away in his sleep Sunday, 30 July. He had been suffering from Alzheimer the past few years. Gerry, "The Wizard" as he was affectionally known in 29th Company, served in the U.S. Marine Corps flying A-4s before retiring in 1991. Gerry is survived by his wife, Kathy. When known an announcement will be made regarding final services.

Vince Zabala suddenly died of cardiac arrest on Friday morning 28 July. Vince was born 14 February 1947, to Sgt Vincent and Asuncion Zabala. His father was a WWII veteran who served in New Guinea and Philippine Liberation Campaign. Vince competed and received a Presidential appointment from Louisiana to both West Point and Annapolis. As a midshipman his hobby was photography which then became his lifetime passion. As such he helped photograph life at the Naval Academy as a member of the Lucky Bag and Trident Calendar staffs, providing Christmas gifts for classmates, friends, and relatives. For summer deployments he was on a diesel-powered WWII LST in the western Caribbean and on the USS MOANA LOA (AE8) in the Mediterranean Sea. Vince graduated from the 1st Company with a BS in Analytical Management and was stationed on the USS TRUXTUN (CGN 35) homeported in Long Beach, CA. Deploying to WESTPAC and Subic Bay he was on station during the Vietnam War during his five years of active service. After his active duty, he spent the next 15 years in the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1991 as a LCDR.

After retiring from the USN Vince was the owner of Zabala Holdings for 46 years, then worked eight years for Coldwell Banking Realtor, and was Executive Vice-President of Integrated Sports Media West Coast for 5 years.

Vince was especially proud of his two sons who attended and graduated from West Point and the Air Force Academy. He always said that he won the Commander-in-Chief trophy every year! He was also an active member of the USNA Alumni Association San Diego Chapter for several years. He is survived by his

sons LTCOL Vincent Zabala III, USAFA '98, and John Zabala, USMA '05, and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Miramar National Cemetery on Wednesday, 8 August.

Jim Bryant sent this photo with classmates **Bill Nevitt** and **Joe Anthony** at Vince's memorial.



Bill, Jim, and Joe at Vince's memorial

Rob Ferguson died in the hospital on Tuesday, 23 August from complications during abdominal surgery. Rob entered the Naval Academy with his classmates that would graduate from the 7th company. He was active as a midshipman participating in the Drum and Bugle Corps until he left during the 1st semester Youngster year. He has been very supportive of Navy sports over the years, including playing on our Alumni Hockey Team. He is survived by his widow, Janet. Memorial service details will be sent when finalized.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, safety in travels, and strength to meet every challenge. **Today** is a gift - life is precious and too short! Love passionately, give and share your time and blessings generously with others - as we are richly blessed so may we richly bless others. Our leadership at home, in our social circles, and in daily routines is vital to maintaining our nation's constitutional republic. Now is the time to shape the future of our great nation as we strive for a more perfect union. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide, and column due dates wait for no man!

—Duke Longworth

'72

Life Membership: 59%
Donor Participation: 18.82%

Pres: **CAPT Rick Rubel, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CDR Rich Robison, USN (Ret.)**
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Website: <http://1972.usnaclases.net>

Class Listserv: TheGouge-USNA72@googlegroups.com

Facebook: **USNA Class of 1972**

Happy December, everyone! The frost is on the pumpkin, everyone is getting geared-up for the Holidays, and your old Scribe has some tidbits to pass along to liven up your day a little.

I received a great note from **Mike Brennan**, who reports that he and Fran had a busy summer...

✉ "My wife Fran and I hosted a 28th Company 'mini-reunion' down at our home in Chapin, SC during the week of 20 August. Alison and **John Upton**, Barb and **Matt O'Connell** and **George Voelker** and his friend Barb Geraghty (USNA Class of '80) came down for a few days. We had an absolute fantastic time. It is truly enjoyable to spend a few unfettered days with lifelong friends. We ate a lot, drank more than our fair share and got a lot of good boat time out on Lake Murray. Of course, 50+ years of sea stories were told and retold during the entire time. Believe me when I say we had lots of laughs.

"A few photos are attached. First is a photo of 28th Company's three Company Commanders standing dockside ready to board my son, Matthew's, Tritoon 50+ years after first getting underway for their 3rd Class Midshipman cruises. John, our 1st and Honor Set CC, is a retired Marine Colonel. With Lake Murray having a large number of small islands, if we needed to conduct an amphibious landing, he was ready to take command of that force. George, our 2nd set CC, being a retired 2-star submariner, was a bit unfamiliar with surface operations, but nonetheless, being SOPA, was designated as the Task Force Commander and did an excellent job. Matt, 3rd set CC, being a retired Supply Corps Captain, was put in charge of ensuring we had an ample supply of cold beer for the cruise. Coincidentally, having been a surface warfare officer before switching over to the supply corps, Matt was OOD qualified and did an outstanding job driving the boat (i.e. he did not run into anything or run aground). Note: John, being an aviator, when asked if he would like to drive the boat, took a page out of *Top Gun Maverick* and said: "I don't drive boats, I land on boats".



The 28th Company Commanders

"One additional note of interest. I mentioned my son Matthew. He is a retired USAF Colonel. His Tritoon is a very large boat (sort of like the aircraft carrier of boats). He has a boat lift he docks the Tritoon on. When it came time to set Sea Detail and return to port, we had to ask him to come down, take the conn and dock it.

Sort of ironic that with four USNA grads, we had to enlist the assistance of an Air Force guy. "The second photo was a group photo taken on our back porch.



Front row: John Upton, Alison Upton, Barb Geraghty, Fran Brennan. Back row: Matt O'Connell, George Voelker, Mike Brennan and Barb O'Connell.

"The final photo is the four of us 28ers back at my house getting ready for dinner and enjoying our friendships with one another that have now lasted over 55 years from the day we first entered USNA.



O'Connell, Upton, Brennan and Voelker

"Finally, just a quick word of thanks. Our 50th Reunion last October was absolutely terrific. We spoke about it a lot and all wanted to say a special thanks to each of our classmates (and in many cases, their spouses) who worked so hard to organize it. Great job; BZ!"

Thanks for the note, Mike! On the subject of busy summers, **Curt Kemp** passed along the following a couple of months back...

✉ "Ann and I had the privilege of attending the commissioning of a unique young man, Brandon Evans, a former Marine, who in recent years has worked for Corporate Chaplains of America serving businesses in Northern Virginia. I got to know him through my work with C12 and he was kind to ask me to speak at his commissioning as an Ensign as he becomes a candidate for the Chaplain Corps. Always great to see individuals committed to a vision.



Commissioning Ceremony

"Next up for Ann and me is a trip to England for two weeks in September to do a 10-day hike on the Cotswold Way, a 105-mile scenic trail which we will do together with Ann's brother and wife. Should be a fun, and we hope not too rainy, adventure."



Curt and Ann Kemp

Thanks, Curt—we're waiting to see the photos!

If you have paid attention to the news coming from the Academy, you know that the 2023 Navy Rugby Team were National Champions and had an undefeated season. What you may not know is that 16 members of the Class of 1972 have been selected for induction into the Navy Rugby Association Hall of Fame.

Gary Hall passed along the following:

✉ "Our '72 Rugby Team has been selected for induction into the Navy Rugby Alumni Association Hall of Fame. Inductees from the 1972 team are: **Shay Assad** (Game Day Captain), **George Berry**, **Dean Flatt**, **Gino Giannotti** (Team Captain), **Houston Jones**, **Ron Guilliams**, **Gary Hall**, **Chris Henry**, **Max Mills**, **Bob Musselman**, **Mike Richard**, and **Lathan Waters**. Deceased team members: **John Ault**, **Rich Been**, **Scott Borderud**, **Chuck Petrusch** and **Stevie Schmidt** (Game Day Captain). **Houston Jones** (USNA '74) was the only underclassman on the A-side.

"Selected highlights achieved by our '72 Rugby Team were: A combined fall and spring season record of 43-1; National recognition as the #1 team in the East and #2 team in the US; Runner up at the 1972 National Collegiate Rugby Championships in a 16-team field with 3 wins and 1 loss; A & B side wins over Army; and a hard fought victory (with ABC Sports live coverage at USNA) over a Welsh team, undefeated in three years of international competition. The '72 Navy team, while long recognized for their athleticism and stamina, immensely benefitted from the coaching of LCDR Jake Backus, RN, and LT Gerald Purcell, RAN who brought strategic insight, tactics and intense training to our Rugby team.

"A centerpiece of the NRAA "With You" dinner following the induction ceremony (held 20 October but too late to be included in this column) will be Rich "Hondo" Been's "In Memoriam" induction into the Navy Rugby Hall of Fame. Hondo was a Classmate and teammate who distinguished himself by making the ultimate sacrifice for his country, dying in the line of duty, while serving on active duty. As soon as the 1971 USNA Football season ended, Hondo joined the Rugby team, quickly learning the game and earning a spot on the A-side playing the #8 (Lock) position in the scrum where he distinguished himself making an immediate impact with his leadership, athleticism, and determination. Hondo suffered a fatal carrier landing mishap in 1975 during flight operations off the *USS Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), when the arresting cable inexplicably failed causing his F-4 to careen off the flight deck. He was unable to eject or escape from the cockpit."

Thanks to Gary, Shay and Gino for passing along this great information. Looking forward to seeing photos from the event back in October.

Jeff Beard provided the following regarding our Class's role with the dedication of the new Alumni Center on September 8th:

✉ "My wife & I attended the dedication ceremony at the Fluegel Alumni Center, just outside the gate and across from the baseball field. Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro (Class of '83) spoke, and a number of key donors plus those who made the project a success attended. More than 3500 alumni, including 37 Naval Academy classes (and 1200 plank owners) raised more than \$36 Million to build, equip, and operate the facility. Our class had 70 of those donors, and we once again exceeded our \$750,000 goal (we raised \$782K) to fund a class conference room, and a large Class of '72 plaque.

"The facility will allow staff to serve a larger number of alumni and community partners, host more events, and provide improved engagement opportunities. Classmate **John Dillon** was there with his son (a Class of '23 grad), and we agreed the new facility will be an excellent venue to host a reception for the Class of '72's 55th reunion.



Jeff Beard with our Class of '72 plaque in the garden (illuminated at night)



'72 Conference Room in the new Alumni Center

"There's also a plank owner wall that features a number of individual plaques from the Class of '72, so we're well represented. I encourage the class to stop by & visit the Center whenever you're in town or otherwise over at the Academy."

Closing Ranks. **Mark Schickner** (10th Company) passed away on 10 August 2023 from complications after a fall at home in Marietta, GA. His wife, Barb, was by his side. **Rick Porterfield** noted that, "Schick held the record for most interceptions (four) in the Army game and played varsity basketball and LAX in addition to Navy football... Schick was my Defensive Coordinator at NAPS during the 1972 season when I was the head coach." **Rik Dilgren** recalled, "Here's an academy memory. Major Ogden, USMC... EE prof tightass hardcore gave us a test at the beginning of every single class period. Monday after the win over Army, Schickner was spaced out, unprepared for the test and half asleep in class. Major Ogden ordered him back to Bancroft Hall. After Mark left, Ogden sensed that the class was upset and then told the class that he

would give Mark a 4.0 on the test. Only time the Major ever softened." Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.hmpattersoncantonhill.com. **John Mooney** (21st Company) passed away on 21 August 2023; a funeral mass was held at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on August 31st. Also, Patricia McMican (wife of **Bill McMican**, 6th Company) passed away on 21 September 2023. The Class extends its sincerest condolences to all of the families.

Have a wonderful Holiday season, and please remember all of those on active duty who are in harm's way and may not have the opportunity to spend this season with their families and loved ones.

More to come...next year. D. O.

Tried and True with '72

'73

Life Membership: 67%
Donor Participation: 39.45%

Pres: **Paul J. Ryan**
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Sec'y: **CAPT James H. Chapman, USN (Ret.)**
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Hello all, I hope you have recovered from the 50th, It is time to get ready for the Holidays. I will keep with my long standing tradition of reminding you not to forget that extra special ex-roomie. I keep hoping it will work with JJ but so far, he has not taken the hint. Maybe this is the year since I got him a membership in the Alumni Association! I am a little sparse on news but I do have some great pictures.

My first item is from **David Hoagland** in Williamsburg,

✉ "General, I have enjoyed your photos in the recent *Shipmate* magazines. Great memories. A few of us on the Peninsula got together for lunch on 6 June to celebrate 50 years. The group included **Ben Francisco, Gary Carlisle, Bill Clair, Rob Casey** and myself. I will include a couple of favorites from June Week 1973. The benefit of being on the 1st Regimental Staff was being first to the Reflection Pool. My 1st Company mates were not too far behind. My soon to be bride, Deb, joined me in the pool. I was also joined by **Bill Decker**, my roommate for 3 years and my best man at our wedding and **Carroll White** my plebe year roommate. Deb and I will celebrate our 50th this Saturday, June 17. Hope all is well on the southside! Semper Fi! —David



USNA 1973 David Hoagland, Bill Clair and Rob Casey; 6 June 2023



Deb and David Hoagland June week 1973 at the Reflection Pool



Bill Decker, David Hoagland, Carroll White, June Week 1973 in the Reflection Pool



'73: Chapman family at 50th wedding anniversary

David and I exchanged several emails as I wrote this article. He and Deb, like Susie and me celebrated our 50th wedding anniversaries recently. I have enclosed a picture of Susie, me and the family at our 50th. (See it below!)

Brian Young sent the following-Great picture!;

✉ "Jim, Here's a picture from a local gathering of classmates. Our Anchorman, **Terry Silva**, came to his wife Sally's hometown in Pensacola to visit his in-laws, and to gather up local '73 classmates for a great lunch at Nick's Boathouse."



From left: Bob Maskell, Bob Larkin, Bob Johnson, Brian Young and Terry Silva

In case you have not heard the results of the class election; 451 of you voted. The new Class Officers are; President: **Paul Ryan**, Vice President: **Mike Kalas**, Secretary: **Jim Chapman**, Treasurer: **Bruce Hargus**, At Large **Dave Young, Tom Storch, Rich Kramlich**.

I have some belated sad news. **Clarence R. "Rick" Shrader Jr.**, 58, of Orlando, Fla., passed away Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010. He is survived by his son, Jack and wife, Michelle. Rick was a graduate of Greensburg Salem High School and the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland. He remained a constant fan of Pitt sporting events and was a member of South Greensburg United Methodist Church, where he was very active in the youth fellowship for many years. Rick did not graduate from the

73/74 CLASS NEWS



Academy and I do not know what company he was in.

Michael William Charles Viscardi, '70, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, VT. He served his country proudly in the Navy. Following his service, he graduated from Siena College with an

accounting degree. He owned and operated Michael Viscardi Accounting for many years in Ticonderoga. He is survived by his loving wife Nancy (Goman) Viscardi of Greenwich; daughters, Darcy (Eric) Peters Barbara (Martin Perkins) Bates. Michael did not graduate from the Academy and I do not know what company he was in.

Ernest R. Grogg, 30, was killed in a motorcycle accident early 26 August 1979 morning while on duty with the Honolulu Police Department. He served with the Marine Corps for three years and joined the Honolulu force 1974. Burial was in Hawaii. He was survived by his wife and son. He did not graduate from the Academy and I do not know what company he was in.

Please keep the families of our departed classmates in your thoughts and prayers.

I am caught up on all the news and stories. I appreciate your patience. It has taken a while to get them published because I received so many great stories and pictures (good thing) but unfortunately it has taken longer than I would like. Please send on your pictures and news from the 50th both reunion and wedding anniversaries.

Again, we hope you have Great Holidays. Please remember our service men and women and their families at this special time of year and remember that extra special X-roomie. As always Non Sibi, Beat Army and Semper Fi! —General

'74

Life Membership: 59%

Donor Participation: 32.10%

Pres: John Yaeger

Corr Sec'y: Roger McEvoy

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*Those friends thou hast, and their
adoption tried,*

Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel

It's December. The week before Army. And we just started 2023 a few weeks ago, or so it seems to me. $E=mc^2$. Time is relative. Funny, isn't it? Einstein taught us that as velocity

increases, time slows down. Things age at a slower rate. But Albert never told us that as we age, time seems to speed up. And our thought processes (and memories) apparently slow.

It's really September here in Florida as I begin to fill the next USNA '74 contribution to *Shipmate*. Which means we're almost within a year of our 50th. Perhaps a pinnacle of landmarks in time. Considering the number of requests I get for the specific schedule of that event, I know I'm not the only one of us who is already focused on our next reunion. Of course, that schedule will not be set until the American Athletic Conference publishes next year's football schedule, hopefully before the end of January. Rest assured, the moment we get the word from the AAC, John Yaeger will publish the reunion schedule.

This brings up my first point of focus for this issue: E-mail distribution to the class. When John sends out an e-mail, it is sent to the distribution list provided by the Alumni Association. If you are reading this column, then you must already be a member, because receipt of *Shipmate* is contingent upon that membership. So, I may be preaching to the proverbial choral ensemble, but in case a classmate complains to you that they are not receiving any communications from the class, then please encourage them to join the association. It is THE organization that works on our behalf year-round. And they do a great job for us. With our upcoming 50th (what is typically referred to as the Golden Anniversary for weddings, I think it appropriate to label this our Blue & Gold Anniversary), there will be a lot of information sent out from time to time thought the next 10 months. I would think this is the perfect time to get on board, if you are not already a member.

Now on to (recent) current events:

Ben McMillan (17th Co.) sent in a note after he, fellow 17th Co. mate **Skip Syer** and **Greg Stachelcyk** (15th Co.), each accompanied by their wives, got together at Colonial Beach (New Smyrna, Florida) for lunch in late August. Ben tells me they have another get-together planned for May at the Outer Banks that will also include **Dave Lester** (36th Co.), **Dave Lipinski** (34th Co.), and **John Higbee** (27th Co.). If anyone else wants to meet up with this group in May, please let one of them know.



Small Gathering (Skip - Ben - Greg & wives)

Got an inspiring note from **Neil Rondorf** (30th Co.) two days after this column was submitted to *Shipmate*. Fortunately, our support staff at the Alumni Association allowed me to submit a revision to get this into month's column (Thanx AGAIN Maria, for all you do for us!):

✉ *The 74 - 30th Company (bicycle) Ride was on again. The Boys of Summer decided to go to Geneva, NY on Seneca Lake in New York. Claude was our Tour Planner this year and he is becoming suspiciously good at this. The Magnificent 7 from last year was down one so we had **Anthony Giancatarino**, **Bob Miller**, **Tim Schnoor**, **Jim Trotter**, **Claude Goddard** and Neil. No worries - Mark Milligan is fine. We had to assume the title of Super Six. As Heinz Lenz said, "Go Hard you Supers"! We did not really have any mileage goals like last year and watching the '73 ride across the USA made us feel pretty much like amateurs (correct assumption by all hands). As a result, we decided to make rendezvous with the Perky Sherpas (Marie Giancatarino, Jan Miller, Cheryl Rondorf) at a winery or two and just enjoying the experience seemed a reasonable goal. The first day we went west from Geneva. It was a great ride through the woods and trails of the region. The second day we drove to the south end of the lake and rode south. It was a great path along a former railroad line. The third day turned out to be a bit of a challenge. In the morning we were at breakfast at the hotel and reading the description of the trail - "uneven, rocky, tree roots - great for a mountain bike outing". We all looked at each other and the comment was heard "none of us even has a mountain bike". Obviously, we had to recalculate a route that would allow a lunch stop and a winery rendezvous in later afternoon. We chose to ride north to Waterloo, NY which has the claim to the original Memorial Day in the US as they honored the dead in the War Between the States. We stopped for lunch there and met a couple of spiffy riders on carbon fiber bikes. Got some advice for dining but then they noticed the vintage of some of our bikes. I think I heard the term museum pieces and I got confused - was he referring to the bike or me? Then one of them stated that I needed a basket with plastic flowers in it on my handlebars. I was very gracious and laughed (thinking - I think I can take both of these pansies if they give me an excuse). It should be noted that there are no pictures of bicycles in this year's update. I do intend to ride mine for years to come!! On the return we noted a bit of garden humor with a Gnome Village in the middle of the woods. When it came down to it we had a discussion of our location as we were staying in Geneva / Biking to Waterloo with Gnome villages in the woods! Were we really in NY? The day was rounded out with a winery and great dinner together. Next year - ride for the reunion!!!*



30th Company Rides Again!



30th Company Drinks Again



30th Company Drinks yet AGAIN!

Great report, Neil. Next year I'd like to join in, at least for the stops at all the wineries.

The Naval Submarine League recently announced their award selections for 2023. It was great to see our classmate, Vice Admiral USN (ret.,) **Paul Sullivan** (23rd Co.) was chosen to receive that organization's 2023 Distinguished Submariner Award.

Originally established in 1983 as the Submarine Hero Award, the annual award recognizes the personal contributions of a submarine qualified individual over his or her lifetime. His citation reads in part:

✉ *Paul E. Sullivan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1974 and retired as a Vice Admiral in command of the Naval Sea Systems Command in 2008. Vice Admiral Sullivan's early career as a Surface Warfare Officer transitioned to Engineering Duty, where he focused on design and construction of Submarines. His waterfront assignments include project leadership in overhaul and repair at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and in new construction at Supervisor of Shipbuilding Groton, CT. At NAVSEA*

Headquarters, VADM Sullivan served in "Team Submarine", becoming SEAWOLF Class Attack Submarine Program Manager and subsequently VIRGINIA Class Attack Submarine Program Manager. VADM Sullivan was selected to Flag rank in 2001 and served at NAVSEA as the Deputy Commander for Ship Design, Integration and Engineering, and finally as the COMMANDER of NAVSEA.

VADM Sullivan returned to the Navy as a civilian following his leadership position as the Executive Director of the Applied Research Laboratory, and Senior Scientist at The Pennsylvania State University (ARL Penn State). Prior to his time at ARL Penn State, Sullivan served as Vice President for Operations, and subsequently Chief Engineer and Vice President for the American Centrifuge Project at USEC Inc., a publicly traded corporation that sustained U.S.-based uranium enrichment for the commercial nuclear power industry. While at USEC, Sullivan led the development, design, construction, and test of a prototype enrichment cascade of American Centrifuge Machine technology in a joint USEC/DOE project.

Since March 2020, Paul Sullivan has served as a senior Navy civilian advising the leadership team that designs, acquires, builds, tests, and sustains submarines for the U.S. Navy. AUKUS is the historic tri-lateral pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to produce a nuclear-powered submarine capability in Australia while ensuring the highest non-proliferation standards. Mr. Sullivan focused on the AUKUS Submarine Consultation period from 2021 to 2023 as the Navy's lead. Upon completion of the Consultation period, he became a senior advisor on AUKUS Submarine Safety, Acquisition, Design and Submarine Research and Development. He draws on his 34-year Naval career as an Engineering Duty Officer, from Project Management in the Nuclear Power industry, and from his R&D experience running a major Navy-affiliated laboratory.

VADM Sullivan will be recognized for this award on Nov. 8, 2023, at the Naval Submarine League Annual Symposium and Industry Update in Arlington, Va.

Congratulations Paul. I'm sure I speak for the class when I say that we are all proud to call you classmate.

On a sadder note, 20th Company lost their brother, **Tarry LaLonde** on August 1 from sudden cardiac arrest.

Also, we recently learned that 24th Company's **Ed Waller's** wife, Penny, recently passed. Those of you who knew Ed and Penny well also know their love story will live on through their children and grandchildren.

We also learned of the passing of **Franklin Peter DeGaetani** on September 4. Originally from Richmond, he was living in Culpepper, Virginia at the time of his passing. Frank did not graduate with us, but I'm sure there are company mates out there who would want to know.

Nothing more to report this month. I'm looking forward to a week in Annapolis in October. My 8th Co. mate **Phil Cereghino** and I are driving up for the Air Force game, the

Annual Alumni Golf Tournament (it will be the first time I've played the Navy course since it was totally renovated), as well as getting in some more golf with fellow 8th Co. mates, **Dave Humenansky** and **Mick Halbreiner**. You already know how that football game ended, but tune in here next month for some photos and a detailed recap of that week.

Go Navy beat USF. Beat North Texas. Beat Charlotte. **Beat Air Force**. Beat Temple. Beat UAB. Beat East Carolina. Beat SMU. And for "next week", **BEAT ARMY!!!**
Roger

'75

Life Membership: 61%
Donor Participation: 26.63%

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Sec'y: **CAPT Larry Warrenfeltz, USN (Ret.)**
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Dear 'mates,

Our July-August column was overflowing with good information and great photos. [Thanks to the Class column editors for allowing me to "slightly" exceed our allotted space.] Unfortunately, one important photo got buried near the end of our page. Sincere apologies to **Phil English's** widow and to his USNA family. Let's give it another shot ...

Weddings and funerals tend to serve as family reunions. 19th Company "brothers" — along with wives, family members and guests — gathered at USNA on 9 May for the sad occasion of the inurnment of our beloved classmate and companymate, **Phil English**. Phil passed away in November in Seattle with his loving wife Kitty by his side. Phil was loved and respected by all who knew him. Thirteen members of the 19th Company gathered for the inurnment to pay their respects. In the picture are **Bob Eichelberger, Jim Emery, Kevin Hart, Mark Klett, Mike Lord, Roger McFarland, Gary Powers, DC Ray, Mark Satorius, Joe Sweeney, Randy Sweeney, Dan Wheeler, and Steve Wheeler**. Phil's inurnment was a great reminder not to miss class reunions, while we still have a chance to enjoy each other's presence.

We lost another great classmate just before the September column deadline. **Erwin Wunderlich** was a multi-faceted renaissance man. Educator, scholar, author, scrimshander, historian, beekeeper, veteran bow hunter, coach, family man — EJ collapsed while playing senior softball and could not be revived. Our sympathy to Sue and his wonderful family

12th Company's **Gary Miller** achieved a goal he has been working on for many years — reaching the podium at the National Senior Games. Gary won the Florida Senior Games 800m event each of the past ten years.



'75: 19th Company gathers for Phil English's inurement



Gary Miller stars at the National Senior Games

However, the top three eluded him in each of his previous trips to the Nationals ('09, '13, '19 and '22). This year in Pittsburgh, Gary earned the Bronze! Gary wants classmates to know that even if you're not as compulsive about a sport as he is, there is a spot in the National Senior Games for you. They have nearly two dozen different individual and team

sports for ages 50 and older (in 5-year age groups). The Games ordinarily take place every other year, and typically draw about 10,000 senior athletes from all over the country with many competing simply for the fun and camaraderie. (Thanks to **Steve O'Brien** for the gouge.)

David Gray sent this great report.

✉ "After a year of planning, "Operation Whitefish" became a reality in July when Mary Lou and **Ray Wassel**, Denise and **Tom Cihlar**, and Mary and I spent a wonderful week visiting Sandi and **Craig Solem** at their beautiful home in Whitefish, Montana. Many hours were spent enjoying the views of Glacier National Park from their deck, playing games, laughing (a lot), reminiscing about old times, and catching up on new events. Craig and Sandi are living their retirement dream, enjoying golfing, hiking, camping, skiing, fishing, and—of course—Glacier National Park. They were the perfect hosts and made our week extra special. They took us to the top of Whitefish Mountain (via a ski lift) for the panoramic vistas, on a day trip through Glacier NP, golfing, on a cruise on Flathead Lake, on visits to historical places, and on a drive through the Bison preserve. We also spent a few nights sampling Craig's bourbon

collection. It was hard to determine which was the best, so we just kept tasting. It was a fantastic and memorable week renewing the camaraderie we began over 50 years ago. Nancy and **Steve Laabs** happened to be in the area at the time, so they were able to join us for dinner one evening. Ray and Mary Lou are retired near Richmond. They drove from Virginia with their Airstream trailer, camping several weeks up and back. Tom and Denise are enjoying retirement in Ponte Vedra, FL. Like us, they took the quicker route by flying into Whitefish. Mary and I are still in Clifton, VA. We keep busy traveling every chance we get.

Speaking of traveling, Mary had a conference in Austin in May, so we headed to Texas a few days early to spend a couple of days in Dallas. We visited the George W. Bush Presidential Library (our goal is to see all of them) and the Dallas Book Depository where JFK was assassinated. (That brought back a lot of memories from that tragic day). We also had a fun dinner with Liane and **Ron Nicol**. Then we headed to Austin for Mary's Clay Minerals Society

Conference. Since my only job was to carry bags, I took the opportunity to head down to Texas A&M to see **Hank Lawson**. He is the Interim Director for Texas A&M's Extension Services for Emergency Response. Hank gave me the VIP tour of their facilities—including the Fire Training Field, Disaster City® and the Emergency Operations Training Center. It was quite impressive! We also took some time to visit the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin."



Laabs, Cihlar, Wassel, Solem, and Gray in Montana



On Flathead Lake

Pete Squicciarini (our world famous Salty Sam) took a group of Hampton Roads area classmates on a River Cruise in his 47' yacht. Ann Squicciarini (fantastic hostess) provided the hospitality with an amazing spread of food. A great time was had by all on a beautiful warm night traveling through historic Norfolk on the Elizabeth River. (Almost like youngster cruise.) Participants included **Mark Klett**, **Bill McGloon** and Beth, **Rick Schwarting**, **Dave Duffie**, Ann Squicciarini, Diane Schlaefer. In the back—**Doug Schlaeffer** and the Commodore—Salty Sam. (Dave Duffie reporting.)



'75: Elizabeth River Cruise



'75: Fishing Team in Ontario

The first week in August saw the anglers of the First Company Fishing Team assemble in Naubinway, MI for their second annual trip north to fish on Lake Esnagi in the wilds of Ontario. Joining the team this year were first time anglers **Chuck Geyer** and **Randy Avers**, plus **Joe Austin**. Joe started Plebe Year with '75, but chose a different path. He played collegiate football at Central Michigan University then became a very successful HS football coach. As fate would have it, he now lives in Naubinway along with **Mike Meier**, **Dan Murphy**, and **Ron Nicol**. With a population under 500, Naubinway is located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is the northernmost community on the shores of Lake Michigan. Very small world!

Much to the team's surprise, in spite of the Canadian wildfires, the week saw clear skies and no hint of smoke. Plentiful walleye were the preferred catch, with the occasional pike to make it sporty. Lake Esnagi is only accessible by float plane or train. Thanks to Mike Meier for coordinating another great trip to a beautiful location with lifelong friends. In the photo below, the Fishing Team is assembled outside of Lodge 88 on Lake Esnagi. (L to R): **Gary Jones**, **Mike McDermott**, **Chuck Geyer**, Mike Meier, Ron Nicol, Randy Avers, **Rick Gribble**, and Joe Austin. In the back right are **Dan Murphy** and **Rob Reed** "you should've seen the giant pike that swam by my boat" **Reed**. (Gary Jones reporting.)



NFO Mike McDermott completing his walk around of the Otter float plane before boarding for his seat in business class

The class was well-represented in Dublin at the season-opening Navy—Notre Dame football

game. The Fighting Irish dominated the football game, but national-champion Navy rugby walloped Notre Dame 78-0 at Trinity College the day before. We won the weekend!!

75 Sir!

Larry

'76

Life Membership: 59%

Donor Participation: 24.15%

Pres: **Kevin Stone**

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p: 410-974-4313; e: kevin.stone@1976.usna.com

Sec'y: **Mark Hubbard**

774 Settlers Ln., Kure Beach, NC 28449-4907

p: 301-514-1645; e: Mark.Hubbard@1976.usna.com

Website: <http://usna76.wordpress.com/>

The Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen, once said, "a picture is worth a thousand words".

Well...I've got several thousand words worth of photos to share with the class. So, here we go!

Greg Vaughn (36th Co) sent a note sharing highlights of his trip to Greece:

✉ Susan and I had a wonderful vacation with classmates this summer. We spent 10 days in Greece the latter half of July with Joelle & **Wayne Jakubowski** and **Chris & Bill Ostendorff**. We had a day at either end to explore Athens and then spent the middle 8 days on a cruise to key Greek ports and Islands – as well as one day in Turkey visiting the ancient ruins at Ephesus. We sailed on a small cruise ship with only 143 guests on board and, in addition to the standard stops, were able to get to a few islands that the larger ships are unable to visit. We had a great time with our friends and classmates, enjoying the ship, the visits, and the excursions with too many sites and experiences to mention. It was generally quite warm and very dry, with fires erupting near Athens and on several Greek islands during and after our stay – fortunately no fires on those islands we visited. The ship, the **WORLD NAVIGATOR**, was an oasis in that heat and treated us to fabulous service, amenities, and food. I have included some photos that highlight the Acropolis, a visit to the monasteries and rock

formations of Meteora (a UNESCO World Heritage site – one of several visited), and some kayaking from the ship while it was at anchor off our second island (Skiathos). In addition, Wayne and Joelle distinguished themselves by winning a cooking contest in which the ship's guests were invited to compete - I have included a photo of them at the start of their furious, but successful, effort to create a gourmet meal from scratch in less than 30 minutes. I over-achieved with more than 5000 photographs (to add to everyone's iPhone photos) and as many memories. A terrific trip where everything went surprisingly smoothly! We look forward to reminiscing at tailgates and our class get togethers for some time to come.



Greg and Susan in Athens on the 'Balcony' with the Acropolis (and Parthenon) in the background



Chris and Bill Ostendorff kayaking in the Aegean Sea



Greg and Susan, Bill and Chris, and Joelle and Wayne – in Meteora, Greece to visit the monasteries high on the cliffs



Joelle and Wayne at the start of their cooking contest

Dave DeSilva checked in:

✉ Kathleen and I moved “back” to Pensacola Beach in 2019, retired in 2021 and now are enjoying life on the beach! We’ve gotten active in the local Pensacola USNAAA Chapter, participating in football watch parties at Seville Quarter and attending the summer picnic. The picnic was a great opportunity to see the new local Candidates that were Academy bound and to acknowledge the Blue & Gold Officers from the area.

With the recent 2023 graduation, we are starting to see the newly minted Ensigns reporting to the area for Flight Training. The Chapter with the coordination by **Kathy McCartan '85**, has a sponsor advisee program to assist them in finding their way around Pensacola, advise where we can on flight training and anything else they can think of. I recently met our advisees Ensigns **Zachary Shieh '23** and **Justin Chu '23**, at the Navy-Memphis watch party. Justin came with his wife, Anna and Zach came with two of his roommates. Zach is renting a house with six other grads on Perdido Key Beach, right out the back gate of NAS and a stone’s throw from Johnson Beach. When I asked about the “BOQ”, they asked what was that??? (I’m not, at all envious.)

I met up with our classmate **Rick Hamm** at the Navy-Notre Dame watch party. He is also living on Perdido Key and is training to be a chaplain at one of the local hospitals. I’m hoping to meet up with other '76ers in the local area. Would love to mimic Chuck Litz’s regular luncheon meetups in the DC area, maybe bi-monthly or quarterly. So, for any '76ers in the general Pensacola, FL, area reading this, I’ll be reaching out to you to see if there is interest.

One of my best friends and former helo squadron-mate, **Frank Saunders '73**, lives nearby and through a friend of his son, we connected with Blue Angels #2, LCDR **Chris Kapuschansky '12**. Chris invited us as “VIP” guests last fall to the Blue Angel’s Homecoming Show. What a great time we had! Chris met us at the hangar and gave us a full tour of the squadron spaces. I must tell you, being back in a hangar and the Ready Room, seemed like yesterday! After the show, we got the full VIP

CLASS OF 1976

ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN

Leading and Supporting in Many Ways

By Kevin Stone '76 and Mark Nesselrode '76

Classmates:

We, the Class of 1976, are an integral part of the 60,000 living graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy. We served our nation in the Navy and Marine Corps, some for a short time, others for a full career. Regardless of the length of time, we served. For the past couple of years, I’ve asked you to support the mission of the Naval Academy to train the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps leaders through our 50th Reunion Class Project. So far you have committed over \$2 million to our \$3 million goal. Thank you.

Fund raising, however, is but one measure of our support for the Naval Academy. There is a more direct way to support the Brigade: our mentorship of the Class of 2026 through the Another Link in the Chain program. This program ensures that the continuous chain of USNA graduates is strengthened by connecting older alumni to the class 50 years their junior, in our case the class of 2026.

I am proud to report that our class is leading the way to push the boundaries of that support. We were the first class to start our engagement with the junior class a full year ahead at NAPS. You showed up at nearly 50 “Welcome Aboard” events across the country to meet the new appointees in the spring before Plebe Summer and your presence at the Academy on I Day set the bar for other classes to follow. Thank you.

The Class of 2026 has responded to our support and have made their connection between our classes permanent: we are a part of their class crest with an older (and grayer) Poseidon holding a thunderbolt emblazoned with '76 on it.

We only have two events this year, but one is particularly significant, it is the “Bonds of Gold” ceremony next spring which provides an opportunity for members and families of our class to share part of our USNA “DNA” with 2026. We will present the Class of 2026 with class rings, miniatures, and pins donated by you and families of our deceased classmates to be melted down and incorporated into the gold used to create 2026’s class rings thereby creating a lifelong physical bond between the two classes. The donations will also include any 100-year link rings from 2026 in the Alumni Association ring bank as well as donations from children of the classes of 1926 and 1951.

In April, the class officers will accept the donations from our class in a solemn “Bonds of Gold” ceremony in Memorial Hall. I attended the 1975/2025 “Bonds of Gold” ceremony last April. It was deeply moving, with families of the donors, or in the case of living donors, the '75 grad himself, speaking about the donor’s time at USNA, their career, and what the Naval Academy meant to them.

We have already started to reach out to the families of our deceased classmates and are receiving some donations. Now comes the hard ask: Would you consider donating your ring to this? For most of us, the ring is nearly a part of our body, but for others it may be in a desk drawer having ‘shrunk’ over time. If not your ring, do you have that miniature or pin you gave your OAO or mom and now have once again? If your deceased father or uncle was a '51 grad, will you consider donating his ring? (On a personal note, my father was in the class of '52 and my family will donate his ring to the class of 77/27 “Bonds of Gold.” I’ll take dad’s stone and place it in my ring.)

Some of you have already been contacted by me to make inquiries about the families of deceased classmates. The inquiries and any requests may be a very sensitive subject, and please do not feel any pressure, but if you know of a class widow who might consider donating her husband’s class ring and/or her miniature, please feel free to contact either Mark Nesselrode or myself.

Our working deadline for making the donations is to have Mark Nesselrode receive them no later than 15 FEB 2024. Please notify Mark if you plan to donate an item.

Mark Nesselrode’s contact information: Cell Phone: (757) 635-4410; Email:

Docness2k8@gmail.com; Address: 1616 Shadblow Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 ☐



'76: Kathleen & David DeSilva '76 and Ginny & Frank Saunders '73 with Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team in October 2022

treatment with a photo of us with full flight demonstration team.

Kathleen and I are looking forward to our new roles as grandparents. Hoping that the Beach will be a "draw" for the grandchildren in the future - Camp at Grandma & Grandpa's! Can't wait!



Frank Saunders '73, LCDR Chris Kapuschansky '12 and Dave DeSilva '76



Dave DeSilva '76 in Blue Angels' Ready Room



Zachary Shieh '23, Dave DeSilva '76, Justin Chu '23, Nate Grucelski '23 and Alastair Campbell '23 at the Navy-Memphis watch party Pensacola FL



'76: Caymus Group - Katie Taplett, Gerri Jackson, Bob Jackson, Jim Taplett, Host "Zeke", Mark O'Hare, Mary Feckler, Dick Feckler and Rita O'Hare



'76: Pahlmeyer Group - Rita O'Hare, Mark O'Hare, Mary Feckler, Host "Raul", Dick Feckler, Jim Taplett, Katie Taplett, Gerri Jackson and Bob Jackson

From Bryan Dolan (17th Co):

✉ On August 5th, Joyce and I had the pleasure of a visit from **Kent Bolin** as he was passing through the area. I am always mesmerized to hear bits and pieces of Kent's storied career. On August 27th, we hosted Jackie & **Mark Bircher** and Barb & **Tom Kennedy** for dinner. It was another terrific visit as we got to hear about their global exploits. It is a real privilege to know these individuals who have given so much in service to their country, as well as the sacrifices of their spouses during their careers.



Kent Bolin and Bryan Dolan enjoying a gulf coast sunset

76/77 CLASS NEWS



Bryan & Joyce Dolan are joined by Tom & Barb Kennedy and Jackie & Mark Bircher

Jim Taplett (25th Co) writes:

✉ Mary and Dick Feckler (5th Co.) and Gerri & Bob Jackson (24th Co.) joined Rita & Mark O'Hare (15th Co.) and Katie & Jim Taplett (25th Co.) for a week in Napa Valley Wine Country to appropriately celebrate Mark and Jim's 70th birthdays. Mark and Jim brilliantly planned and executed their Joint Operations Plan to perfection. The group was graciously hosted to wine tastings and food pairings at some of Napa Valley's most esteemed wineries and vineyards; and Mark made sure that the dining experiences were top notch. A lot of fine wine was purchased but not nearly as much as was consumed by this group! It was another wonderful and memorable trip together; and the topic of wine certainly over-shadowed any Navy chat.



4 Guys - Bob Jackson, Jim Taplett, Dick Feckler and Mark O'Hare

One of our Classmates sent me a note to mention that CAPT **Richard Kadlick '68** passed away in April. He was the 9th Company Officer our 1/C year and was affectionally known as "Flash". His obituary is in the July-August *Shipmate*.

BEAT ARMY!!!

'77

Life Membership: 75%
Donor Participation: 18.27%

Pres: **David G. Paddock**
3833 Prince Andrew Ln., Virginia Beach, VA 23452-3912
p: 757-373-0977; e: dgppaddock77@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Thom McKee**
1202 Shady Creek Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104
p: 410-489-5080; f: 410-489-5071
c: 202-438-1541; e: magoo1310@verizon.net

"I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"
- John F. Kennedy

A sentiment which was certainly true in our day; But we wax nostalgic. Now, attention to brief!

First up, **Rob Mulloy (24th Co.)** reports **Steve Young (24th Co.), Fred Litty (24th Co.)** and he (shown below left to right)...



...took a break from the crowds and summer heat for a mini-company reunion in Maine. The trio worked up a quite an appetite doing some serious bass fishing, a condition Fred corrected with copious quantities of steamed clams, boiled lobster and corn. All of which helped take the sting out of their unsuccessful quest to land a state-record pumpkinseed, which at 0.6 pounds remained out of their reach.

Fred, pictured below instructing Steve in the art of boiling lobster...



...is retired and living in Northport, ME, while Steve and Rob reside in Friendswood, TX, and Duck, NC respectively.

Clams...lobster...corn...fishing; We can only assume our invitation was lost in the mail.



Next up, **Jim Gould (18th Co.)** forwarded this photo of **Joe Christopherson (4th Co.)** and **Phil Schlaepfer (4th Co.)** visiting the Trinity College Book of Kels Library while in Dublin for the Notre Dame game.

Jim wrote Schlaepfer kept exclaiming "Where are all the books? This has got to be a scam!" (Note: 200,000 of the library's collection were out being refurbished), while Christopherson continually queried, "Where's the pub?!" Breeze went on to suggest the picture provides irrefutable evidence Phil and Joe have an undying interest in the arts!

And what '77 story, particularly one involving Ireland, would be complete without some golf photos, such as the following from Ballybunion featuring, left to right below, Jim, **Joe Camacho (14th Co.), Mark Troiani (4th Co.)** and Hose...



...along with this shot of Hose, **Rob Lamb (6th Co.), Breeze and Marc** playing the Old Head Golf Links at the Old Head of Kinsale...



...famous as the site of the 7 May 1915 sinking of the RMS LUSITANIA, a somewhat obscure fact of which, somewhat shockingly, Troiani was aware. It can only be due to the influence of his Bullis Prep roomie, **Kirk "Buddy" Barker (9th Co.)**, whose breadth and depth of knowledge concerning most any subject, from astrophysics to Zoroastrianism, is exceeded by only a VERY select few.

We'll wrap up our coverage of the Dublin trip with the '77 contingent paying homage to The King:

Shown on the next page, above left to right with Arnie are, **Tug McGraw (22nd Co.)**, Phil, Hose, Marc, Rob, Joe and Jim.

And since we're on the subject, in the *Good People Still Exist* segment, the combination of a dedicated customer service agent and members of the Class of '77 helped the daughter of our recently-deceased classmate **Roger Seldon (35th Co.)**...



'77 with Arnie

...recover his missing class ring which she'd inadvertently misplaced while traveling through the Minneapolis Airport.



Roger Seldon

It all started when an honest individual found a '77 class ring and turned it into the airport's Lost and Found office. With the help of local police, a diligent customer service agent was able to identify the well-worn name engraved inside it. This rather ingenious agent then searched Facebook and found the '77 class group. Unable to send a message directly, the agent used the "request membership" function to alert moderator **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)** about the ring. That's when the true Spirit of '77 came to the fore. Lee opened his trusty *Lucky Bag* and noted that yours truly was in Roger's company. With the aid of the company contact page maintained by **Paul Croisetiere (35th Co.)**, we put Lee in touch with **Carl Fisher (35th Co.)**, Roger's 4-year roommate, and he ran with it from there.

Carl contacted Roger's widow, Yvonne, to tell her the ring had been found. Yvonne informed Carl her daughter, Ashely, had lost the ring during a recent extended layover in Minneapolis. Carl then called Roger's greatly relieved daughter and got her address. The address was relayed by Lee to the agent in Minneapolis, who overnighted the ring to a very appreciative Ashley. Thus our late classmate's ring is back with his family.

Kudos to Carl and Lee for their coordinated efforts to see Roger's ring returned to his daughter, as well as a hearty BZ to the unknown Good Samaritan who turned the highly valuable ring into the airport Lost and Found and the dedicated customer service agent who proved that good people do indeed still exist. Class President **Dave Paddock (11th Co.)** expressed '77's gratitude with a letter of appreciation and Class of 1977 coin sent to the agent's supervisor for presentation.

Chalk this up as one good deed which *did* go unpunished!

Finally, we'll close with a personal update, starting with this photo of our youngest son Travis and his lovely wife Amanda on the occasion of his first solo:



You'll notice Amanda is carrying our first grandchild, a daughter, Georgia McKee, who is due around Thanksgiving. Jenny is, needless to say, anxiously awaiting her arrival with unrestrained enthusiasm. Travis, age 33, is intent of pursuing a career in the cockpit, a position for which we initially thought him too old. But when retired Southwest and FedEx pilots **Bert Seither (16th Co.)** and Mike Buzzell (35th Co. Class of '80) said "Au contraire, mon Magoo!", we promptly joined Travis for an 8-week ground school course which not only started him on the road for his ATP, but allowed us to get our commercial single/multi-engine instrument rating.

Meanwhile, our middle son Mike is now a Howard County, MD police officer, and our eldest Jon, who married the winsome Carly on July 31st, is a Major in the Army Reserve and just made Lieutenant at his full-time job fighting fires in Frederick County, MD. The family is shown below on a recent trip to Montana:

Needless to say, we feel incredibly blessed and proud as punch of them all...except the Army part!

—Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%

Donor Participation: 42.23%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401

e: canoe78@aol.com

Website: usna1978.org

As this issue of *Shipmate* reaches your hands, it is the end (or almost the end) of another year. By now our Reunion is over, the crazy elections have been finalized, and we Marines have celebrated our 248th Birthday as the world's finest fighting force. (Belated Happy Birthday, Marines!). Our Thanksgiving turkey is long a memory and Christmas is just around the corner— as is a new year and new beginning. It's fitting that as we anticipate what's next, we consider what's past— especially those who have left us recently. So here are just a few remembrances:

At the end of July, Duane LaFont and Carl Freeberg were honored to attend a Celebration of the life of their 15th Company brother, Kevin "KC" Carmody, in Green Bay, WI. The event was hosted by KC's family—in particular—his daughter, Caitlyn Marie. It marked the 3rd



'77: Montana trip

78/78 CLASS NEWS

Anniversary of Kevin's passing. He died during height of the COVID outbreak, and it wasn't until now that an event could be pulled together. Duane reported that it was a well-attended affair with folks from all aspects of KC's life. He and Carl were able to share some memories with the group about KC in his younger days. The celebration concluded with a flag ceremony performed by the local Marine detachment as well as a three-volley gun salute by the local American Legion. There was dinner afterwards during which the more humorous stories came out.



Carmody Family

There was also another Celebration of Life held on September 23rd in Oak Ridge, TN for **Kevin Hannan** (13th Co). Kevin died on June 30th after a short but fierce battle with pancreatic cancer. **Mike McCrabb** (8th Co) reported there were probably 20 classmates who joined



Kevin Hannan

Kevin's wife, Stephanie, his family, and tens of others to give testimony to Kevin's great life. "Crabber" noted seeing, **Rudy Escher** (12th Co), **Rich Holznecht** (13th Co), **Tim Benson** (13th Co) and a 16th Company gang of **Shawn Tallant, Mark Nault, Jock Maloney,** and **Rudy Costanzo**. There were several others that Crabber couldn't recall. Kevin had a great life. After graduation, he served five years on active duty as a submariner; then continued to serve in the Reserve until he retired in 1999. Kevin and his high school sweetheart bride, Stephanie, were married for 44 years and raised two wonderful children, Cailin and Kevin. He was an amazing and involved dad — always there to help with homework, watch a cheer routine, cheer at baseball games, or just watch a show as a family. To be with these two was to be in the presence of true love. Kevin had recently retired and spent the last few years bowling with his Stephanie, rowing, mastering darts, and drinking with friends at his favorite local spot. He and Steph traveled to Georgia frequently to visit their children and grandchildren, never missing an event. As his family wrote, "He was easy to love. He will be

remembered for his silly sense of humor, how he happily fixed everything for anyone, and just how fun it was spending time with him. He was the ultimate family man to his wife, kids, grandkids, siblings, nieces, and nephews. If Kevin was in your life, he played an important role. That was just the kind of man he was. He was brilliant and kind, handy and helpful, and the hilarious life of every party."

Stephen A. Sterner (15th Co) passed away on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from a massive cerebral hemorrhage. It was sudden and without pain and he is now in the comfort of our Lord. Steve loved family, the military, flying, swimming, dancing, football, lacrosse and



Stephen Sterner

dressing up for holidays. He hailed from Severna Park, MD and was a graduate of the Severn School. Steve left the Academy during younger year and went on to graduate from Auburn University in 1978. At 29 years, Steve was stricken with a brain tumor but soldiered on. He moved to Longwood, FL and spent countless hours volunteering with the Knights of Columbus and Annunciation Catholic Church. He was a father and soon to be grandfather. Steve was a life member of the VFW Post 10147 in Apopka, FL and the American Legion Post 0297 in Baltimore, MD; 4th Degree with the Knights of Columbus at Annunciation Catholic Academy, Altamonte Springs, FL; Sigma Chi lifetime member at Auburn University and official volunteer at the VA Hospital in Orlando, FL. Steve maintained contact with a few classmates and attended our Reunion. I remember seeing him at our 40th Reunion. He is missed.

Here are some, "stray rounds": **James Bland** (19th Co) dropped a quick note before Labor Day that he was getting ready for the Finn [dinghy] North American Championships over Labor Day in Newport Harbor Yacht Club. His

workout includes some "dry land weight training in the gym, swimming and Tai Chi." He included a photo where he looks "buff", as he put it, "someone [made] this image the other day. I'm getting bigger, but this picture makes me look like a beast, ha ha. [Camera physics at work]. [I'm picture right with the non-conforming T-shirt :-)]. Heinz Lenz would be proud." By the way, Jim ranks 442nd out of 1324 in the world for the Finn [dinghy] single sailor category. Not bad.

In mid-August we got a quick update from **Greg Baur** (33rd) on companymate **Dennis Otoshi** in Kyiv. As you may recall, Dennis has been serving with the International Red Cross providing much needed medical services. "Dennis had mentioned that he was not getting much sleep. It was good to hear that he is taking a short break from the action and is currently in Poland. I did another wellness check on Dennis after an attack on Kyiv that had a second round that seemed timed to kill rescue workers. He said, "The Russians are always shooting at us, but it has become just indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population." Please keep Dennis in your prayers.

Tailhook 2023 attendees: **Jeff Dickman** (18th Co), **Norm Hansen** (26th Co), **Charlie Hautau** (15th Co), **Roger Welch** (11th Co), **Deke Philman, Bob Novak** (34th Co), and **Dave Mercer** (4th Co). **Mark Fox** (18th Co) was around someplace but they couldn't get him to "trap" and make the photo.



Well, that's all the space for news this month. Apologies for some of the stuff still in the



'78: **James Bland**

queue. It will get in next month — whoever that author may be. I say that because as this goes to print, the elections are not yet complete. Regardless of the outcome, it has been my honor and privilege to be your Class Scribe. I am proud to be your classmate and friend. Semper Fi!

Launchin' Spot Four

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 17.39%

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, USN (Ret.)**
 e: djackson@usna.edu

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
 1886 Woodpoint Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30043
 p: 240-298-1006; e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

Social Network Links:
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**
 Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings '79ers!

I had a full "virtual" mailbag this month! All of the summer events are starting to trickle across my electronic desk, and it's great to see.

First up is **Craig Majkowski**, who sent an update after 3rd Company's well-attended annual get-together:

✉ The annual 3rd Company USNA '79 Annual mini reunion picture at Kathy and **Abe Ellis's** Salmon River Lighthouse and Marina, August 3-6, 2023. This was the 9th year that we have gotten together. We had another great week-end catching up and telling stories. We had 22 of the 34 from our company attend. The weather was great, the food was excellent (thanks to Mert the Head Chef and Coordinator), and Abe and Kathy were awesome hosts.

In the photo are: Front Row: (L-R) Mert Price, Abe Ellis, John Selden; Middle Row: (L-R) Shane Tippett, Andy Adamshick, Peter Levoci, Mike Coss, Craig Majkowski, John Quigley, Jim Grabe, Peter Lloyd; Back Row: (L-R) Joe Miller, Nick Mygas, Jim O'Connell, Denny Olsen, Bob Wiesenberg, Jeff Jerome, Gary Glover, Pat Garcia, Jeff Sherman, Dave Valente and Bill Williamson.

A few years ago, my wife Karen and I stayed at Abe's place over the July 4 weekend and were treated to Kathy and Abe's hospitality, and we had a terrific time. Thanks, Craig, for the update.

Al Kuong escaped his busy life as a doctor to go on a little vacation over the summer. He dropped a quick note:

✉ Hi Wiz! Sending you a photo of **Mike Weiss** and I in his lovely backyard in Brunswick, ME last week. It was great to catch up with him. Mike and Kathy are enjoying the retired life. I am still working doing urgent care telemedicine. Take care, Al

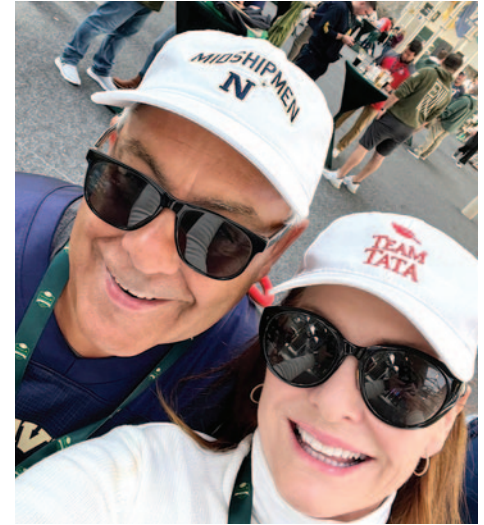


Al Kuong and Mike Weiss

As many of you remember, Navy football began the season playing Notre Dame in Dublin, Ireland. Although the score wasn't what we all hoped for, those who made the trip reported having a fantastic time. One classmate who made the journey was **Bob Tata**, who checked in with this update:

✉ Cheers! Bob Tata here reporting from Dublin, Ireland. Other than the game, lots of fun was had! The welcome "Hooley" at the Irish Immigration Museum, a Navy Football Brotherhood meet-up at the Temple Bar, and pre-game tailgaters were all great fun.

But an additional highlight was attending the Ireland-Navy CEO Luncheon with '79 luminaries **Dave Rich** (USNA Foundation Board), **Jeff Johnson** (two-sport All-American at Navy and now a Lax coach for the prestigious IMG Academy) — and my wife, Virginia Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata. Pints were drunk, fun was had!



Bob and Anne Ferrell Tata in Dublin



Bob Tata with Navy Cheerleaders



Bob Tata and Dave Rich

As I said, everything was great except the final score. Thanks, Bob, for the update.

Finally, I received a note from **Craig Grabowsky** who wanted to alert all of '79. **Charlie Gittins** is not doing well - he needs a new liver and is on the liver transplant list. His doctors have advised him to let everyone he knows of his condition in the hope of finding a



'79: Third Company at Abe Ellis's place (see article for names)

79/80 CLASS NEWS

suitable donor. Craig reports that Charlie is in good spirits, and is remaining positive through this ordeal.



Craig Grabowsky, Dan Streich, Mark Clemente and Charlie Gittens

Dave Jackson sent out a class email a few weeks ago, encouraging all '79ers to reach out if they have any possible info that might help Charlie. Even if you have no connection to a possible donor, Charlie would love to hear from classmates. Contact Charlie or Melissa at 540-450-6070.

Well, classmates, that's all for now. As the holidays approach, please consider taking time to enjoy the warmth and closeness of the important people in our lives. Karen and I wish all of you a very happy and blessed holiday season. Let's all look forward to a fantastic 2024. See you then!

Wiz...

'80

Life Membership: 96%

Donor Participation: 21.44%

Pres: **LtCol Tony Verducci USMC (Ret.)**
e: ajverducci80@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USN (Ret.)**
15 Allard Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70119
p: 504-915-6711; e: joe.grace@1980.usna.com

Website: <http://1980.usnaclass.com>

Greetings Classmates,

It's fall, football is in full swing, preparing for the holidays to start rolling in and summer is gone! Kids getting married, grandchildren in

school and bring on Medicare! What a shift! All these old people showing up in photographs claiming they are our Classmates ... On to the mail bag.

Speaking of Medicare, this month, to celebrate turning 65, the Ladies of '80 gathered once again at the home of **Peggy Feldman** near Richmond, VA. This has become a regular event where they celebrated their 50th and 60th Birthday years. And was once again well attended. Here are a few updates and some photos from the weekend. This note came from **Jill Hawkins Votaw**, jvotaw@san.rr.com and **Stef Goebel**, Stefanie.goebel@gmail.com:



Beth, Sharon, Sandy, Robin and Kathy



Cheryl, Robin and Carol



Kathy, Marjorie, Cheryl, Stef, Peggy, Jill, Robin, Paula and Barrette

✉ Greetings Joe!

Eighteen of the Ladies of '80 recently got together at **Peggy Feldman's** family "River

Barn" on the south fork of the Shenandoah River to celebrate that most of us had turned 65 this year. We ate, talked, laughed, went exploring, played games, cooked great meals, did jigsaw puzzles, drank lots of wine Just had a great time.

We had planned to do a couple of hikes in Shenandoah National Park, but the remnants of a hurricane with heavy rains and high winds kept us inside for a couple of days.

Once the weather cleared, smaller groups of us took a few trips around the area, including visiting Monticello (Becky, Robin, Cheryl, Stef and Jill) and the Shenandoah Caverns

What a great chance to get together and "old tales be retold..." to sing the Blue and Gold!

Speaking of getting together, this month, **Curt Coughlin**, cogs11@cs.com sent in a great note of a gathering of Thirsty 3rd:

✉ Joe,

Chris and **Reuben Padilla** hosted Third Company in Las Vegas during the Presidents Day weekend. **Donna Guadagnini** was our special guest. Jane and Scott Sanders provided copious quantities of libations from their Tobacco Barn Distillery. **Susan Presto Chiaravalle** & Kevin joined us from Northern Virginia. Trish and **Tim Dunlevy** hosted our previous reunion at Amelia Island, FL which was great fun prior to Covid! Kathy and **Dan Law**, JoAnne and **John Aguero**, Mark & Debby Whittle spent a few extra days in Vegas. Brenda and **Rick Episcopo** provided tons of laughs all weekend. **Gary Siems** & **Vince Herda** joined us from New Jersey and Minnesota respectively. Vince was glad to get out of the snow and Gary won the 1980 trivia game and offered to host the 2024 Thirsty Third reunion in Cape May— can't wait!

Our Class President, **Tony Verducci**, ajverducci80@gmail.com, shared some observations of the grand opening dedication of Fluegel Center. Many of our Classmates are Plank-owners for this building! Well done!

✉ Joe:

Peggy and I were privileged to attend the grand opening and dedication of the Fluegel Center, the new home of our Naval Academy Alumni Association, Foundation, and Athletic & Scholarship Program. It would be an understatement to say we were impressed!

Following remarks from a bevy of VIPs, including SECNAV Carlos Del Toro and USNA AA CEO Jeff Webb, we were welcomed into the new building. The experience was memorable, so I'll limit myself to 8 first impressions:

1. The Plankowner Wall reflects the significant contribution made by so many members of '80!

2. The Bill Bastian ('80) Conference Room on the second deck has FANTASTIC views of College Creek!

3. The main entrance staircase and "Don't Give Up The Ship" display pay homage to Bancroft Hall and our USNA heritage.



'80: Standing: Kathy Shanebrook, Peggy Feldman, Stefanie Goebel, Barb Webb Miller (non-grad), Cheryl Spohnholtz, Barbetta Henry Lowndes, Becky Olds Craig, Linda Bartlo Botek. Seated: Jill Hawkins Votaw, Melissa Harrington Hoelt, Sandy Daniels, Paula Smith Magee, Robin Druce Meyer, Janie Mines, Marjorie Morley Bachman, Carol Desmaris Hoffman and (on floor) Beth Ledbetter Gordon and Sharon Hanley Disher.

4. The Blue and Gold Bar and adjacent outdoor deck will be "Must See" places for visits with Classmates and families!

5. The site is more beautiful than you expect! Outdoor decks off the two large banquet rooms are spectacular.

6. We will all be well-served to have the Alumni Association, Foundation, and A&SP located in the same building!

7. Parking will always be an issue at the Fluegel Center, aboard USNA, and in Annapolis.

8. I cannot wait to use this Center for our 45th Reunion, check-in and other events!

I hope that the Class will take the time to visit this great addition adjacent to the Yard. It's impressive. Thanks Tony.

Mike "Gator" Reed gatoreed@yahoo.com sent in a quick update from 31st Company, and also shared with the Class the sad news that Tracy Sharpe, wife of **Jon Sharpe**, rejonws@gmail.com had passed away. Please keep Jon and the family in your prayers and send him a note. Here is Gator's note:



Jennifer and Dave Clement and Mike "Gator" Reed



Mike Reed and Jon Sharpe

✉ Joe,
Greetings from the Big Easy. I was on my way back from Tennessee (cooking for my nephews and their friends - 15 young men) and passing through the Durham, NC area, had lunch with Jennifer and **Dave Clement**.

I am just back from Levelland, TX visiting **Jon Sharpe** and attending the memorial service for his wife Tracy. The Sharpe family and congregation put on a tribute to Tracy. The church was filled to overflowing, a show of how much Tracy and the Sharpe family mean to the community there. I have attached a picture of Jon and me in addition to the memorial service program. Over the next few weeks reach out to Jon, I am sure that he would enjoy hearing from y'all.

All else well. I have been traveling a bit this summer, Thailand, Mongolia, Sicily, Italy and



'80: Bruce and I drove into Maryland to visit Bob Berkebile (6th) in August 2022; Andy Barton (6th) flew in from California to visit Bruce this past April 2023; Dinner with Bruce and Meg, Kevin Brady (6th) and his wife Tina, August 2023; Bret, Bruce, and Kevin

the UK. Heading to Canada in October to visit my kids (35 and 33 now - where has the time gone), the Amazon in November and South Pacific Islands December and January.

If y'all get this way give a shout and should I find myself in your neck of the USA don't be surprised to get a call. Reeder.

This month, as has become a far too common experience, we lost another great friend and Classmate. **Bruce Ross**, of 6th Company. **Bret Gordon**, bret.gordon80@outlook.com sent in a great series of photos of the last few encounters with Bruce and Classmates. It is our charge - to keep their memory alive with Sea Stories, tales that only get better with time and to hoist a toast in their honor on a regular basis. Here is his note:

✉ Joe,
I was fortunate to have visited **Bruce Ross** several times over the past year accompanied often with other 6th Company mates. Perhaps my favorite recent memory of Bruce is the trip he and I made to the Academy about five weeks before his passing. We walked the yard, reminisced, told tales of 6th Company and departed, but not before we lunched at Chick & Ruth's Delly. I will miss my friend.



At Chick and Ruth's

Thank you, Bret, for sharing these great memories!

In Closing, it's so wonderful to see the gatherings of Classmates and so sorrowful to learn of the passing of others. It is a stark reminder to make every moment count. I hope that this note finds each of you healthy, happy and wiser today than yesterday. Please take a few moments to renew a friendship, call / teams / zoom / text / visit a Classmate. You never know what a difference you can make - or if you'll get another chance....

As always, BEAT ARMY,
Joe

'81

Life Membership: 95%
Donor Participation: 21.91%

Pres: **Kevin Haney**
e: kjhaney2@me.com

Vice Pres: **George Basil**
e: gbasil99@yahoo.com

Treas: **Gene Juba**
e: genejuba@yahoo.com

Co-Sec'y's: **Frank Moreman** and **Bubba Turman**
e: Classof81Secretary@gmail.com

Webmaster: **Patty Crandlemire Whitney**

Website: www.usna1981.org

Classwide messages: usna1981@yahoogroups.com

To kick things off, it's Wreaths Across America time of year. Our Class has been the sponsor of this heartwarming event since the initial ceremony in 2012. The ceremony will be held at the USNA Cemetery on 1 Dec. To support this effort, go to www.wreathsassamerica.org/md0011.

End of Public Service Announcement. Now on to the Class news.

Jeff Castleton (35) allowed me (Frank) to be a fly on the wall at the annual Huckleback

81/81 CLASS NEWS



'81: Huckleback 2023 - David "Fuzz" Harrison (25), Steve Hampton (05), Willy Taylor (25), Jim Ahlgrimm (34), Dennis Murphy (01), Mike Mahre (02), Jeff Castleton (35) and Chuck French (21)

golf outing by including me in the group text of the group. It is nice to have some constants in this life and the 81 Huckleback golf tradition is one that has passed the test of time. This year's version was held in Milwaukee at the end of June. Unfortunately, the actual shenanigans and inside jokes that these guys got up to are classified as top secret and even the President can't declassify them. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

In doing research on the 27th company for the September *Shipmate* article, I discovered an unfortunate omission from the 40th Reunion Book. **Kevin Taylor (27)** had submitted a bio and picture, but it was inadvertently overwritten in the bio database and was left out of the book. I sincerely apologize to Kevin for the mistake and we are including his bio and picture here to bring the class up to date on his life and career.

Kevin Taylor's reunion bio:

✉ After graduation I spent ten years as a SWO and sixteen years as a "shipyard guy" EDO. In 1984, I met Peggy in San Diego and we were married in 1986. In 1989, we adopted Amy Yukiko during our first Japan tour - she's now married and living nearby with her husband and son.

Bill Peacock hired me when I retired in 2007, and I started a new career in healthcare design and construction for Cleveland Clinic managing their international projects - Bill and I were stationed in Yokosuka together during our command tours. We eventually landed in Abu Dhabi for two years working at Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi. We moved back to Virginia in 2011 so I could look after my mom in the late years of her life, and I went back to work for Navy maintenance both as a contractor and USCS, primarily setting up/supporting maintenance activities in Rota, Naples, and Bahrain.

In 2016, after my mom passed away, a former Abu Dhabi colleague enticed me back into healthcare construction where I continue to work for City of Hope, east of LA, leading their facilities design and construction program. We are a specialized cancer and diabetes research and treatment network in Southern California.

Peggy and I live in Glendora, about 18 miles east of Pasadena. We are very involved with

the golfing community at Glendora Country Club and enjoy traveling on golf getaways with friends. We also spend much time with Amy and family, with Peggy helping to watch the baby when they are working. Life is great, and we feel so blessed every day. I have no idea when I will "retire" because I truly love my work. Whenever and wherever that will be, it will surely involve golf, fishing, travel, and Navy Football.

Kevin has not retired yet and is still thriving in his career. He recently led the successful Joint Commission Survey (think ORSE or INSURV) at the City of Hope hospital near Los Angeles.



Kevin and family- Joey(S-I-L), JoJo(Grandson), Amy (Daughter), Peg and Tex (2020)

During a trip to Hawaii in August, I was invited to hang out with former '81 Scribe, **Steve Colon (26)** and several classmates that live on Oahu at Steve's beautiful house in Lahaina. Below is a picture of the classmates and another one where Frank's and Pete's family members in attendance joined in.



'81: The whole crowd at Steve's house



Frank Moreman(04), Susan Cowan (02), Russ Grocki (32), Pete Gumataotao (30), Steve Colon (26)

One of the most interesting things I learned in Hawaii is that the USS MISSOURI (BB-63) Battleship Memorial and Museum, docked in Honolulu is very lovingly looked after by several '81ers. Steve Colon is the Chairman of the MISSOURI Battleship Association, and Pete Gumataotao and **Alma Grocki (Lau) (32)** are also on the board as Executive Committee members. This national treasure is in good hands.

I bumped into Cheri and **Tim Gavin (06)** in the Midstore and Tim told me his family was getting together for his retirement from Delta Airlines after flying for 30 some years. Congratulations Tim and Cher! I got to thinking about all of our classmates who are flying for the various airlines and are at that golden age of forced retirement. Tim was one of those fortunate few who were selected to go to NAPS so he turned 65 one year earlier than the classmates who didn't make the grades to get into NAPS. This year is the year the Class of '81 will most likely no longer be flying good people



Tim and Cheri Gavin

all around the world. It would be a cool thing for all of you airline pilots to check in on the Class Secretary email site and let us know your status.

Congratulations to Tim and Cheri.

Dan "Doc" Smith (36) was in Annapolis for a friend's retire-

ment ceremony, so he took the opportunity to do a little golfing with **Corky Vazquez (36)**. Later that night there was a 36th Company and NAPS Platoon 2-3 mini-reunion at the Fleet Reserve Club. The NAPS members were Doc, Corky, and myself (Bubba Turman). The 36th

Company classmates were John Christenson, Corky, and Doc. So how did Dan Smith get the nickname, Doc? Doc's real name is Daniel R. Smith. If all of you NAPSters remember Peter Walsh of NAPS 2-3 he saw the initials D.R. and immediately started calling Dan Smith, Doc Smith...and now you know the rest of the story.



Doc Smith, John Christenson, and Corky Vazquez (all 36)

The Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence Ethics Award Dinner was held the evening of 7 September and as you know, our Class foots the bill for this amazing event. There were well over 100 people there dining and drinking on our dime. For those who don't live in the immediate Annapolis area, it is well worth the effort to attend this dinner if you are able. You won't be disappointed so watch for the call for attendees next August. Our Class was well represented and here's a picture of everyone that was there except for **Mark Washington (09)** and **Kenny Leach (16)**. I don't know where those two ran off to, probably McGarvey's. The folks who stuck around for the group shot were left to right, **Mike "Nasty" Manazir (15)**, **Steve Metz (04)**, **Peg (DeLuca) Klein (31)** (and husband, Frank), **Mike Carucci (32)**, **Mary (Andrews) Gunther (02)** (and husband Gary), **Bob (Bubba) Turman (30)** (and his lovely and brilliant wife Carol (I'm not an idiot, I know she reads Shipmate)), **Dan Quattrini (01)**, **Dave (Fuzzy) Harrison (25)** (and wife Nancy), **Tom Jacob (17)**, and last but not least **Junior Ortiz (22)** who flew in from McKinney, Texas. It was a great evening and it was amazing how young and vibrant we looked compared to everyone else there.

We got the following email from **Brooks Berg (35)**:

☒ 35th Company had a nice get together this summer. So great to see these guys and their gals, it was as if no time had passed at all (like always).

Diana and **Bob Garlinghouse** hosted the First Annual 35th Company Minnesota Low Country Boil in their new home in Minnetonka, MN, in July. The G's moved to Minnesota to live next to their daughters and G is keeping busy with competitive sailing on Lake Minnetonka. They brought the local 35'ers Kris and **Dave McDonald** and Brooks and Linda Berg all together. Joan and **Chris Willy** were driving through as they were camping their way west across America and were the guests of honor for the event. Chris and Joan live in Pennsylvania where Chris was teaching NFO school as a TAR and Joan is involved in leading fitness classes. We had lots of catching up to do and the evening was too short. Macko and Kris live in Mankato and Macko is in the high end RV business. Brooks and Linda are retired in Woodbury and Brooks is busy sailing, volunteering and putting miles on his bicycle. Linda is a retired nurse and enjoys sailing and cycling with Brooks. We missed Tami and **Doug Johnson** who are in Blooming Prairie and in charge of town operations, a business, and doing some accounting. Doug enjoys the local golf scene and said he recently shot 9 holes-in-one in a row. It was cool that G, Chris and Brooks were all systems engineering boys but only Chris could still spell Fourier Transforms.



First row Brooks Berg, Bob Garlinghouse, Dave McDonald and Second row, Kris McDonald, Diana Garlinghouse, Joan Willy, Chris Willy and Lindy Berg



Brooksie, G, Willyman and Macko

I reckon that's a wrap for this edition. It will be November when you are reading this and that means Thanksgiving is upon us and the "Holidays" are right behind. We hope you have a relaxing, family-filled, and joyous November and December and we'll catch you again in the year of the Hard Core '24.

'82

Life Membership: 97%

Donor Participation: 22.27%

Pres: **CDR Janeann Treadway Conley, USN (Ret.)**

p: 410-251-7893; e: Jtcnaples@yahoo.com

Vice Pres: **CAPT Matt Moury, USN (Ret.)**

p: 410-263-7640; e: vicepresident@usna82.org

Treas: **VADM Terry Benedict, USN (Ret.)**

p: 703-913-7183; e: treasurer@usna82.org

Corr Sec'y: **CDR Mark Shields, USN (Ret.)**

3 High Meadow Ln., Newark, DE 19711

p: 302-234-0835; c: 302-229-1085; e: m.shields75@yahoo.com

Website: <http://1982.usnaclassess.net>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/USNA82

Greetings to the great class of '82!

You should be receiving the issue of *Shipmate* at some point in late November or early December. Maybe you are trying to work off some of those Thanksgiving meal calories, or maybe you are gearing up for the annual gridiron class with the Black Knights. Hopefully we will have some revenge this year! I am writing this column in mid- September. My 3 grandkids recently returned to school, the days are getting shorter, and there is even the occasional chill in the air here in the Mid-Atlantic. I distinctly remember the same feeling from our 4 years on the Severn after the brigade returned from summer training and leave. Who remembers those walks across the bridge to Hospital Point after classes? Maybe for an invigorating game of field ball? Or was that in the Spring? And then returning to Bancroft as the sun was setting, hungry for whatever was being served in King Hall, or maybe a late Steerage run? So many memories. Thank you to those who submitted for this column. Here's what I have:

Heard from **Tom Van Petten (7)** back at the end of July regarding his previously reported epic Appalachian trail experience:

☒ Hi Mark, little update on my Appalachian trail adventure. I left the trail and headed to my son's house (Timothy) in Ohio early July to meet my new grandson, Riley Thomas. He was



'81: Mike, Steve, Peggy, Mike, Mary, Bubba, Dan, Fuzzy, Tom, and Junior

82/82 CLASS NEWS

born 16 May. During that visit, I decided that over 1100 miles in 75 days and seven states was enough frontier living for me. Jennifer and I drove my youngest son (David) back to the trail in Pennsylvania and we returned to our home in Norfolk, Virginia. I highly recommend the trail. It was a wonderful experience!

Received the following from **Bobby Sturgell (3)**:

✉ Mark -Passing along a picture from the Old Goats (60+) lacrosse team participating in this year's lacrosse shootout in Vail (June 2023). Syd and Sean Logan are taking over organizing the annual event for Navy. Had a great time. Looking forward to it again next year. Bobby.



Old Goat Lax stars from left to right: Michael Gottlieb ('70), Bobby ('82), Ross Baker ('84), Pace Kessenich ('82), David Guill ('81), Syd Abernethy ('81).

Looks like a potent lineup there! **Scott Negus (24)** had a classmate encounter while traveling:

✉ Mark, I ran into **Mark Converse (31)** in Sodus Point, NY while visiting with my parents. We posed in front of Mark's cottage, which turns 100 this year.



Mark and Scott in the Empire State

And speaking of classmate encounters, **Keith Boring (25)** sent the following:

✉ **Bobby Rountree (25)** and I are on the REGAL PRINCESS with our wives and while on a tour of the Normandy invasion beaches we met up with **Dobie McArthur (13)** and his wife.



"I'll see you on the beach"-Keith, Bobby, and Dobie tour Normandy

Keith seems to really get around, as he also sent this in:

✉ Five classmates along with their wives traveled to Ireland for the Navy vs Notre Dame football game in a tour group organized by Dan Morio '91. A good time was had by all.



'82 invades the Emerald Isle! Left to right: Keith Boring, Bobby Rountree, Phil Salinas (35), Dave Galiyas (35), and Craig Smith (21).

The ULTIMATE classmate encounter, however, belongs to **Don Clements (4)**:

✉ Hi Mark, Here's a post for inclusion in *Shipmate* that involves a few '82'ers. I retired in 2021 after 31 years of flying for American Airlines and fulfilled a dream of getting a sailboat for coastal cruising. We have since traveled nearly 6000 miles on "ClemenTime" and plan to continue seeing the country from a vantage point on the water. This past summer I decided to take the boat to Maine and reached out to several '82 sailors for help in the transit from Beaufort, NC. **Tom "Boots" Buterbaugh (16)** took me up on the offer. Tam Bennett, a friend of **John Vargo (4)** came along as well. We set sail on May 29th and after some adverse weather stops, we arrived in Portland, Maine on June 8th. My wife Shelley flew there to meet me, and we sailed Maine for the month of June. We spent time visiting Boots and his wife Karen, culminating in a foggy sail to Acadia National Park. Leaving Maine, we made our way down the East Coast and stopped to take in sights along the way. While in New Haven, CT I reached out to MMA alumni and company mate **Jim Garman (4)**. We met Jim and his wife Suzanne for pizza at the famous Pepe's Pizza in New Haven. The pizza was outstanding

as was the company, spending the evening catching up and telling sea stories. As the summer was winding down, we stopped in Norwalk, CT to visit **Mike "Faceman" Case (15)** and his wife Anne. Faceman joined us to transit the East River in NY, passing the Statue of Liberty, sailing down the NJ coast and arriving in Annapolis for a Friends of Navy Sailing (FONS) weekend event on August 25. FONS was a fantastic weekend of sailing related events organized and executed by **Mark "Stick" Converse (31)** with help from other Alums, namely VADM (Ret.) **Dee Mewbourne (31)** and his wife Kari. Class of '82 sailors made a great showing at the event! The weekend brought back memories of the heat and humidity that we all came to expect of Crab Town. Leaving Annapolis, we were accompanied by **Andy "Orca" Wilson (15)** and his wife Andrea for the day trip to Solomons, MD where they reside. We had a fantastic summer and are grateful that we were able to connect with many fellow classmates. As of this writing, Shelley and I are making our way back to NC for some much-needed family and grandchildren time!"



Shelley and Clem sail past Lady Liberty



Boots and Clem at the helm



Karen and Boots Buterbaugh



Jim, Suzanne, Shelley, and Don sample some famous pizza



Old salts Clem and Faceman



Mike, Anne, Shelley, and Don



Andy, Andrea, Don and Shelley

BZ again to the contributors to this robust column! As always, please consider sending me some pics and an email. On that note, I would like to toss out the amazing opportunity to take a turn as our class corresponding secretary! I took over from **Rett Rasmussen (21)**



'82: The FONS crew

3 years ago. At the time, I told Rett that I would not come close to his 12 year tenure. My wife and I are trying to fit in as much travel as we can, and this is sometimes problematic with writing this column. If you are interested, or even if you just have questions, please contact me at m.shields75@yahoo.com Training will be provided and no rush on the turnover. I wish everyone a victory over Army and a happy and healthy holiday season.

As always, looking good '82!
Mark

'83

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 23.33%

Pres: **Steve Fischer**
Fredericksburg, VA
p: 540-840-7051; e: slf83usna@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Ms. Geraldine W. Santos**

Treas: **Frank Vernet**
e: fgvernet@gmail.com

Sec'y and *Shipmate* Contact: **CAPT Chris Pietras, USN (Ret.)**
9404 Jackson St., Burke, VA 22015
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Facebook: **USNA 1983**

LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/83>

Website: <http://1983.usnaclasses.net>

September 20, 2023 - 5 days ahead of the column submission deadline for the November /December 2023 issue of *Shipmate*. It's my last column to write, so I figured I should be early/on-time (for once that is).

The past 15 years I've spent writing our column about all of you, your careers, your families, your heartache; based on input from many of you have brought me much joy and gave me the opportunity to give back. Give back to the place and people that created me,

guided me, helped me, and stood by me. Roommates, Companymates, Classmates, those I knew from day 1, those I stood watch with, and those I met years after we graduated. I couldn't be prouder or more thankful than to be a part of the great class of 1983. We are and always will be A Class Act!

Speaking of Class Secretaries, I went back to the archives:

- Our first column to appear in *Shipmate* was September 1983. Ensign **Lisa Yustak** (now Vickers) was the acting Secretary. Her first column contained newz of our graduation; weddings (first up at USNA for the class as listed in *Shipmate* was **George Garcia** at 1800); and reports of summer TDY to France, West Germany, Spain, and China.

- By December 1983, 2nd LT **Gary Schmidt** was listed as Secretary and Lisa was the Southern Secretary.

- By April 1984, Lisa changed to Seagoing Secretary and by December to the East Coast Secretary, and in that April column the first '83 pictures were included: wedding pictures of Joy & **Jim Woolley** and Mary Beth & **Walt Molano**, plus a picture of the wedding party for Alice & the late **Tom Spriesterbach**.

- In 1988, **Bob Moran** arrived on the stage as the Corresponding Secretary.

- LT **John Hughes** arrived on scene in 1993 as the Corresponding Secretary.

- 1998 brought LCDR **Rich Woodford** as the Secretary.

- The January-February 2004 *Shipmate* brought **Angie Roth** (nee Smith) to the role as Secretary. Her column opened with a quote from space by our late Classmate **Willie McCool**.

- 2008 brought yours truly.

And now it is time to pass the baton to **Jeff Currer**. Jeff will pick up the column and the duties and responsibilities as your Class Secretary in a few weeks starting at the end of our 40th reunion. His first column will be in



'83: West Coast Dip

January 2024 (probably due around Thanksgiving). His first column should be an easy one because there will be lots of reunion newz, introducing himself and the new class officers, and plenty of reunion pics. Please contribute your newz to Jeff at the same email address 83Shipmate@gmail.com

And now, my last newz:

The reunion is barely 2 weeks away and will long be over by the time you read this column. Navy will have won the football game; we will have backslapped, hugged, and told tall tales, as we renewed friendships, talked to those we haven't seen in a long time, ate, drank, and yes cried. No matter how it all goes - the highs and the lows - It will have been worth it. As I write at the end of every column, we gather whenever we can because "we can never count on the opportunity to do so tomorrow". I hope you saw and chatted with everyone you wanted to, but if not - pick up that phone today!

In concert with the reunion, the '83 cycle team will have completed their cross-country jaunt (jaunt? trek, journey, expedition, trial by fire, or at least trial by wind, rain, road spray, truckers, ...). this was certainly not a boondoggle! I hope you have followed their adventure. They are simply amazing. I have been in awe of the journey and all the eyeballs that have seen them as they traversed the country. Well done Classmates - you define A Class Act!

I want to thank the many volunteers that helped with the reunion planning. For me personally it was heartwarming to see the great number of Classmates stepping forward to be part of the Memorial Service.

Congratulations to **Mark Powell** who was selected to enter the Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame. Mark is a seasoned, serial entrepreneur with over three decades of experience establishing and overseeing successful companies that surpassed industry averages in the service, technology, and construction/engineering sectors. Congrats to Turk!



Hall of Fame



'82: The FONS crew

In the last column, I wrote that **Sean Buck** had his retirement ceremony but then had to continue his Superintendent duties for several more weeks. Well Sean is retired now, following the NCAA football opener in Dublin. With Sean's retirement that left our last man standing.

Bill Galinis retired on 1 September. Bill's final assignment was as Commander Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEA). His ceremony was attended by many Classmates (see below for some who managed to get a picture with the LMS - ask your kids to photo-shop you in so you too can be part of the final active-duty retirement ceremony). As with Sean's retirement OUR SECNAV **Carlos Del Toro** was the guest speaker.

The last thing about Bill's retirement is a thank you. Bill writes:

✉ A short note to thank all our classmates who had an opportunity to attend NAVSEAs Assumption of Command with my retirement ceremony on 1 September at the Washington Navy Yard. It was heartwarming and very humbling to have so many classmates in attendance. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to celebrate this special event with Diana and me, and our family. A special thanks to our classmate, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro for being the principal speaker. His remarks were very kind and spoke to the terrific work being done by your NAVSEA team. Thanks also, to those who reached out separately; your thoughts were very much appreciated.

Our thanks to all! Look forward to seeing you at the reunion!

Best regards & v/r, Bill

If you recall from an earlier column our first reported Classmate on Active Duty was **Jim Duran**. Jim entered active duty on 2 August 1976, serving from 760802-790705, until starting with all of us as a Plebe on 6 July. So, our bookend dates for active-duty service as a class stretched 47 years and 1 month (17,196 days). All I can say is wow.

Steve Fischer writes:

✉ Janean and me outside Lough Eske Castle, near Donegal town in NW Ireland. This was the day before the football game. We bumped into many Classmates at the game including **Carlos Del Toro, Sean Buck, Brian Antonio, Perry Ramicone, Mike Parra, Brian Hinkley, and Al Silver**.



Steve & Janean

We have new Class Officers – yes you will have heard already at the Class Meeting, and surely something will have been posted on FB or a class wide email has been sent, and Congratulations to all the new officers (Prez, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director). I hope you voted and made your voice heard. But now it is time for filling out the remainder of the Class Organization – I hope you consider running for the Class Board of Directors, that help the officers run the class for the next 5 years (that means they do the heavy lifting, so the officers take the credit, hmmm). Please consider running.

Give if you can and give what you can.

The reunion may be over, and we most certainly have surpassed our financial goal for our 40th Reunion Class Gift. But we can still increase our gift. Contribute on the Association/Foundation website under Class Project: www.usna.com/give/1983 If you have questions please reach out to **Neal Davidson** or **Turk Powell**.

I will end with a personal note. I want to emphasize getting your medical stuff done. We aren't invincible. Prostate exams, colonoscopies, and annual mammograms, skin cancer checks by the dermatologists. All these and more are important. Catching things early improves the opportunity for a successful outcome. Preventative medicine works but only if you get checked.

That's it for the mailbag this month. My tenure as your scribe is over and the Currer regime takes over. The **83Shipmate@gmail.com** email address will remain the same for the new scribe. I look forward to seeing a new and improved column as penned by Jeff.

With our reunion now over, think about who you missed and who you haven't heard from – possibly since graduation. Please try to find our missing Companymates, those we graduated with and those that left before graduation – if they were there on 6 July, they are Classmates. So find your roommates from Plebe Summer and re-connect them to the Class: have them update the usna.com alumni contact info (<https://www.usna.com/login?bm=1517605031>) so they receive *Shipmate* and receive all classmate emails; connect with **Steve Fischer** (slf83usna@gmail.com) and get on his monthly e-mail list; activate their <https://myusna.com/> profile; and join the class Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/191501360861460>

Please reach out and touch your loved ones, reconnect with an old friend or roommate, whether in person or on the phone or just email or knock on a door – Life is fragile. **Just do it today, as we can never count on the opportunity to do so tomorrow.**

Got Newz? send to:

83shipmate@gmail.com

Once a classmate, always a classmate.

1983 - A Class Act!

'84

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 52.88%

Pres: **Mr. Brian D. Goodrow**
e: goodrow2@comcast.net

Vice Pres: **Karen M. Halverson**
e: dkhalvy@earthlink.net

Treas: **Mr. Stephen J. Shepherd**
e: stephenjameshepherd@gmail.com

Sec'y/Shipmate Contact: **Kevin Monahan**
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Website: www.usna84.org

Hey now! As we get closer to the 40th reunion (17-20 October 2024) please ensure your email address is up to date with the Alumni Association so you will not miss important announcements. Email from Brian Goodrow will be sent to the email address you have on file with the Alumni House. For the 35th reunion, we found our class Facebook group was very useful for the passing of information, especially late breaking news. If you would like to join, please request to join U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1984. To keep with group rules, please ensure that the classmate name is reflected in the Facebook profile name. Any questions, please contact **Karen Halverson**. Her contact info is in the column header.

Also, please reach out to your Company Mates and start scheming. We have established group Company Representatives again to enable more personal contact with each classmate. The 35th Reunion was a blowout with more classmate participation than usual for a '5th' Reunion because of the great ideas and work of **Rocky Goins** and the Company Reps.

Lowell Crow retired from City Management last year and moved to O'Fallon, Illinois. Lowell is serving as Assistant Director for Southern Illinois for the Veterans Golf Association, a 501C3 set up for veterans looking to play golf with other vets. 16,000 members nationwide play 650 tournaments throughout the U.S. culminating in both an Open National Championship and a Senior National Championship. Also, I was recently elected as the President of the St. Louis Chapter of the alumni association. Lowell and **Laura (Pearson) Sims '90** qualified for and played in the 4th Annual Veterans Golf Association Senior Nationals at Forest Creek Country Club in Pinehurst at the end of July. Lowell says that, while they didn't win, they represented USNA, '84 and '90 quite respectably. *(It's not about wins and losses. It's about how you develop as a person that counts. #RichmondAFC)*

Tom Cuff visited Academy roommate **Chuck Frederick** in the Polish Alps in September. Decades old tales spun strolling the beautiful countryside and Chuck's adopted Podunk

(it's actually the same word in Polish. That I did not know.) added new words and phrases to the local dialect as the roommates caught up after 39 years. Chuck has an open invitation to any and all Classmates to visit the south of Poland.



Tom Cuff with President of USNAA South Poland Chapter Chuck Frederick

The CDR Pete Oswald Memorial Golf

Tournament was held on September 8. Pete's brothers have been hosts and organizers of the event in Bellingham WA for 21 years...Chuck Lynch, UA Steve Young, Sean Sullivan, Big Steve Peters, Tommy Dietz, Jim Scanlon, Bill O'Connell, and Greg Brand attended and made a big weekend out of it. Greg Brand grew up next door to Pete and has attended the event every year. Thanks to all who supported from afar.

The tournament benefits The Navy SEAL Foundation, The Special Operations Warrior Foundation providing educational opportunities for Gold Star children of fallen special operators, and a scholarship established by The Oswald Family in Commander Pete Oswald's name through the Whatcom Dollars for Scholars program awarding scholarships to Bellingham high school students who exhibit leadership skills and intend to pursue career in service to our country.



Pete Oswald and his daughters

Steve Peters once again drove activities for the non golfers. What a gorgeous day on the shore of Bellingham Bay! **Steve and Helene Peters, Hope Scannell** and very trim looking **Sean Sullivan** and **Bill O'Connell** *(There are a lot of stories coming out of 8-4 and the all begin with "Sully..." - 33rd Company motto)*

84/85 CLASS NEWS



Andy Ponseigo and John Johnson, alumni of VP-5, attended Maritime Patrol Association Symposium at NAS Jacksonville.



Andy Ponsiego and John Johnson in JAX

The San Diego Chapter of USNA Alumni Association teamed up with San Diego USO to prepare and serve a lunch of burgers and sides to Midshipmen arriving in San Diego this Summer for 2023 PROTRAMID. Four stalwarts from THE Class of '84, **Tim Pence, Max Becker, Bryan Caraveo, and John Daniel**, reported for burger flipping duty, easily outnumbering alumni from any other Class and just generally being loud and obvious about it.



Nearly 300 Midshipmen were expected in one rush. Our Lads had it all figured out and were calm in their preparedness, but airline flight delays (*neither mine nor Stan Rasbury's fault*) spread out arrivals, so work was at a pace sufficiently chill to catch up on stories and life changes. (*I could fill an entire issue of SHIPMATE with PROTRAMID stories...*)

Max and Tim are both fully retired enjoying the mild southern California weather.

John just recently relocated to Point Loma with his 14-year-old daughter, a Class of '31 aspirant.

Bryan retired from the Navy in 2009 and currently works for Booz Allen Hamilton supporting the THIRD Fleet Headquarters for Maritime Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (emergency management response). (*I recall Bryan and me flying back to school from California during Plebe Year and almost missing our connecting flight in Pittsburg because we were being Plebes, which is a polite way of saying we were being stupid.*)

Navy Football Tailgate Season was another success. So much effort and coordination, fuggedaboutit! Planning, scheduling, purchasing, coordination with several entities, accounting, transporting food/drinks/big screen TV's, tents, set up 5 hours before Kickoff, Take down 2 hours after last note of **Navy Blue and Gold**, 4 different brands of whiskey, and not to mention attitude issues, then ON TOP OF ALL THAT, **Mel Hamner** had to go to the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles to re-register the trailer all that gets hauled around in and then got a pleasant note from The TEAMSTERS.

So many Classmates, plus their understanding wives and 1 WOOP Husband, make the '69/'84 Tailgate a great day out. The Wagner/Navy game in early September was delayed by Plebe Summer 1980 level thunderstorms twice for nearly an hour each and only one person had the common sense to recommend just folding up for the day. Unfortunately, common sense was an uncommon virtue so the party continued despite near-hurricane weather, Pensacola Style, until 2 hours after that song and our hearty classmates packed it all up in a storm which didn't seem too bad only because it was so dark they couldn't see the rain.

Oh! Did everyone make it back from Dublin OK? I was on the string of texts from the Homeland during the Notre Dame Weekend and of course somehow took nunchuks to most of them. **Jeff Johnson** and **Ross Baker** sent a selfie with half of the Trinity College student body as a tour of *The Book of Kells* took a back seat to **Navy Rugby Beating Notre Dame** on Trinity's Rugby pitch. **'Na Toir Seachad an Soitheach'** (*translation below)

I also got a great picture of Rosser and **Tom Owen** from game day at the stadium. Ross attended Tom's daughter's wedding at The Hague, toured Paris a bit then Dublin and Western Ireland from Limerick to Knock.

CLASS and CHAPTER OFFICERS

Please check your **CLASS** and **CHAPTER** headers. **Send us your updates.**

CLASS officers, email to:

classnews@usna.com

CHAPTER officers, email to:

chapternews@usna.com



Baker and Owens - Mic Bancroft agus Eirinn

One year out.

Thanks for cheering me up, '84.

***Don't Give Up The Ship.**

'85

Life Membership: 95%

Donor Participation: 17.60%

Pres: **Bob Smith**

1009 Caiman Ct., Sellersburg, IN 47172

p: 502-432-6185; e: robertsmith5@att.net

Vice Pres: **Stephen J. Pimpo**

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Corr Sec'y: **Vic Otero**

Enjoying a Happy Hour Meet & Greet with a pint or two - Grain on the Rocks - Lewes, Delaware



Class of 1985 - Kevin Worsh and Chris Dierkes (photo submitted by Chris and Judy Dierkes)

Did you ever wonder where the phrase "Mind your P's & Q's" comes from?

One of those theories supposedly originated from British Pubs as either two main measurements of liquor- Pints or Quarts... <or> when things got rowdy, the pub owners would shout "Mind your P's & Q's" (or Pints or Quarts) - who knew? Dr@ink up! :)

'86

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 14.92%

Pres: **Michael Cadwell**
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Vice Pres: **RADM Jim McNeal, USN SC (Ret.)**
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Treas: **CDR J.T. Young, USNR (Ret.)**
 e: jty2664@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Todd Wagner, MC, USN (Ret.)**
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Corr Sec'y: **Mike Althouse**
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'87

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 38.05%

Pres: **Scott Herbener**
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Vice Pres: **Tim Wolf**
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CFO: **Chris Dunphy**
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CFO: **Steve Rowe**
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CTO: **Jason Hardebeck**
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Shipmate columnist: **Robert Pinataro**
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Hello Classmates,
**Have a fantastic holiday season;
 and Beat Army!!!**

"Here's a picture of **Keith Holden** and me, **Rob Calhoun**, on the Gulfstream G450 we fly together here at Flexjet. Our team of five includes **Eric Baltazar**, but I have not been able to schedule all three of us in one shot. **Eric** has

been here for a couple of decades. I joined Flexjet after retiring in 2018; and Keith joined in 2020. Our team was formed last fall at the reunion of all places. That's why we all still get together, I reckon. - **Rob Calhoun**



Keith Holden and Rob Calhoun living the dream... still flying!

Please send your news to rpinataro87@gmail.com with "Shipmate" in the subject line.

'88

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 14.04%

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 c: 714-787-6920; e: jschwab@crimstonepartners.com

Vice Pres: **Henry Stoever**
 w: 301-787-9700; e: henry.stoever@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Sara Salas Wickard**
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Website: www.usna.com "find my class"

88 "Onward with Valor", USS BENFOLD (DDG 65), I started with destroyer mottos as a nod to my daughter who is a SWO aboard USS DECATUR (DDG 73) and as a way to greet you all every issue. I have found them to be on point and inspirational. I hope you have enjoyed them. **Laura (Stroman) Lee** is taking

over as class secretary. She is an excellent communicator.

r/ Sara

Congratulations to **Sparky Renforth** on his retirement and 41-year military career. Well done, Sparky. May God bless you and Susan and grant you many years of health and peace. There is a very nice article in Sparky's hometown paper, "*The Intelligencer, Wheeling News-Register*", if you wish to read more.

'89

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 23.11%

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Listserv: usna89@yahogroups.org

Listserv Subscription: send a blank email to usna89-subscribe@yahogroups.com from the address you wish listserv traffic to be sent

To Post a Message: write your message and send it to usna89@yahogroups.com

Unsubscribe: send a blank message to usna89-unsubscribe@yahogroups.com

Webmaster: **Ingar Grev**
 e: igrev@1989.usna.com

My fellow '89ers, this issue's column has a bit of a somber tone to it.

First, from our class president,
Denise (Shorey) Willert:

✉ Dear friends,

I'm so sorry to report that since the last column was written in July, we've lost three more classmates to health-related issues - **Jaime Borrego, David Brandeen** and



'88: Sparky Renforth's retirement celebration

89/89 CLASS NEWS

Heather Purvis. The words I can offer here about these three amazing friends are meager at best:

Jaime retired after 20 years in the service, starting out at NAPS. Following USNA, his career began at Flight School, with a subsequent transfer into the Cryptology community. Husband to Jill and father of two, Jaime was an avid Sailor and Chef, with an engaging smile and a warm personality. Many fond memories have been shared of days with Jaime on the run and obstacle course! His memorial service was in October at USNA.

David, twin brother to our dear classmate **Doug Brandeen**, served for six years in the Navy, after which he went on to serve in finance alongside Doug at their wealth management firm in Baltimore. Always with a quick wit, a joke and smile, David was great fun to be around! He loved his three children dearly, taking time to coach their and his nephews' sports teams. David's Celebration of Life was held in September at USNA.

Heather was most recently the Vice President of our great class and felt immense pride to serve her beloved classmates in this capacity. Sharing her life with her partner Stacey in Texas, she was kind and loving, the perfect caretaker to her many horses, dogs and other ranch animals. Heather was my company mate in 8th Company and very close to many of the women in our class who are devastated at her passing. A celebration of Heather's life is being discussed to take place in Annapolis later this fall.

If you'll allow me, on to lighter news - it was a fine Navy weekend in Dublin, Ireland in late August, with many of us joining together to cheer on Navy football against Notre Dame! For fear of missing classmates in a list of incomplete names, I'll just say that I hope many of them have written in this month with updates and photos. I've included a group photo, along with another with **Jim Ronka** at Trinity College and my children at the Molly Malone statue in central Dublin. Navy (sadly) was crushed by Notre Dame, but it was still a phenomenal weekend.

Biking and bike gear were in full swing this fall, with **Ingar Grev** being so kind to arrange for the design and purchase of personalized Class of 89 bike clothing. Good looking gear and reasonably priced, thanks Ingar! **Mark Autry** also put out a call on Facebook to see who's interested in a fun class ride to Key West in January or February of 2025. While 2025 seems to be a long way off, it will be here before you know it, so if you think you might like to participate, please give Mark a shout.

While we all anxiously await Rear Admiral **Yvette Davids'** confirmation to Vice Admiral and arrival at USNA, she most recently assumed the duties of Acting Commander, Naval Surface Forces and Acting Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. We will be absolutely thrilled to have her as Superintendent during our next reunion.



'89



Speaking of our 35th reunion, your committee is taking the results of the survey that went out this fall to finalize planning details — thanks so much to all who participated. To reiterate, we can't select a date until the football schedule

comes out in January/February 2024, but we anticipate it will be a game weekend at the end of September or early October. Your reunion team, led by **Karen Somsel Quilty**, has been hard at work for months in preparation, ready to release all information about pricing and events as soon as that date is selected. Thanks for your patience, it will be worth the wait for sure!

Reflecting on these very sad losses of classmates, please know that we, the class of 1989, are family. Reach out to a friend to say hello when you can, write a text, make that phone call. It's the best way to let your dear classmates know that you're here for them.

And on that note, love to you all and see you in the next issue.

Warmly, Denise



From **Michael Ballou**:

✉ I attended a moving and uplifting celebration of life today for **Jerry Boster**. Jerry was taken from us too soon, but it was inspiring to hear all of the people whose lives he impacted. It was a beautiful ceremony with family and many friends in attendance including folks from his active duty SWO days, USINDOPACOM, Hawaii Parkinson's Association, UH Athletics boosters and Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (all groups he gave his boundless energy and talents to supporting).

Nice to catch up with classmate **Rob Morrison** who knew Jerry going back to their NAPS days and RDM (Ret.) **Alma Grocki** (USNA '81 who knew Jerry from his help with a huge Navy vs UH tailgater a few years back).

I had a chance to say a few words and passed on condolences, love and support to Janice from the class and 13th Company shipmates.



Rob Morrison, Mike Ballou, Janice Boster and Sherry Ballou.



Stephen Cook also travelled to Ireland for the Notre Dame game and sends this in:

✉ My wife, Shannon, and I traveled to Dublin for the game. We went in with a bunch of other



Navy grads from other classes and rented a castle. The first night we hosted an event which the USNA Alumni Association helped us to organize. The SecNav, CEO/PRES of the USNA Alumni Association, **Chris Carlson ('89)**, **Jim Bell ('89)** and many other alumni and significant others attended. We also attended the USNA vs. ND rugby match (if you average the scores of the two games over the weekend Navy won!). On a separate note, our 1st grandchild was born September 9th. His

name is Walker Carson Cook. He and his mom are both doing great.

Classmates,

I visited Huntsville, Alabama for the first time while my youngest son attended NASA Space Camp. Through our USNA Class of 1989 Facebook page, I connected with a few classmates. **Kathy Coviello** lives in the area and is a

Special Advisor to the US Army. She organized a class BBQ dinner. Also in attendance: **Julia Meade**, **John Woodson**, my sister, Colleen (89+4) and myself.

Julia has a consulting company and drove from nearby Tennessee to meet us. John is a Defense Contractor and is building a new FBI facility at Redstone Arsenal. My sister and I are both defense contractors. It's been a while, but I remember Kathy from Plebe Summer. I had several classes with Julia at USNA, and I've seen Woody on Facebook and at Navy tailgaters. Woody provided my son a window tour of Redstone Arsenal. The highlights of the tour were Rocket Park and the Redstone historic test site from 1961.

Britt McNeill provided information for a couple of Marine classmates living in the area. I met **Fred Fagan** for the first time. Fred is a retired Marine and President of Whitespace Innovations. Fred educated me on the recent growth of the Huntsville area. I spent the following day with **Dave McCord**. Dave is a retired Marine and works for the federal government (Missile Defense Agency (MDA)). I spent an entire day with Dave and even visited MDA, until security noticed me walking around without MDA badge. It was great catching up all our classmates!



'81: Julia, Kathy, Woody, Cliff at the BBQ dinner



Fred and Cliff at the NASA Space Center

That's all for now. Until next time!
Beat Army!
Scott

'90

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 9.83%

Pres: **Frank Bendik**
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Vice Pres: **Joe Gugliuzza**
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Treas: **Lawrence "Kai" Yeh**
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Sec'y: **Trey Alexander**
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Website: www.usna90.com

Facebook: **USNA Class of 1990**

As most everyone knows by now, '90 is in the House – Farragut House, that is. Our own **RADM Fred Kacher** assumed duties as the Acting Superintendent in August, and we look forward to seeing the impressive impacts he will bring to the Academy, for however long his tenure may be. See the picture on the following page.

Our Facebook page has been quite active over the past few months, with tailgaters, service updates, **Kurt Beyer's** tequila, and numerous "90" sightings in the wild. I'll spotlight a few, before sharing a bit of my own



'89 in Dublin

90/90 CLASS NEWS



'90: RADM Fred Kacher and classmates

personal news. Congrats to Plebe year company-mate **CAPT Pam Krahl** on her retirement in July. **John Byington** shared the news of **RADM Bill Chase's** retirement the following month. In August, **Vince Schiavone** had the honor of promoting his son, Michael, to LCDR. **Randy Wootton** caught up with **Jonathan Salkoff** while visiting Reno, while **Rita Moss** took a ride in a super-duty truck with **Shawn Cash** while in Houston, and **Michelle Van Exel Fielder** connected with **Marc Johnson** in Portland, OR.



CAPT Pam Krahl retirement



RADM Bill Chase retirement



Schiavone family promotion



Salkoff-Wootton



Moss and Cash



Fielder and Johnson

John Fischbach placed 3rd in this year's Boston Light Swim: 8-mile open water swim (since 1907) from the Boston Light to South Boston in



Fischbach

low 60s water, 13 mph headwind and no wetsuits allowed. Wonder if he wore his Plebe-issue speedo? **John Lunger** and **Mike Maier** (and their spouses) were just a few of the many classmates

who made the trek to Dublin for this year's opening game against Notre Dame. **Laura Sims** also caught up with **Eric** and **Sabrina Zerphy** at the game.



Lungers and Maiers in Dublin



Sims and Zerphys in Dublin

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

Mary Kay Wegner also shared some well-deserved praise for '90 leaders who are making an impact on current and future leaders at the Naval War College. Congrats to **Ray Tortorelli**, who has been promoted to full professor at the Naval War College. BZ, roomie! Also, a shout-out to **Glen Leverette** and **Wes Bannister** who are also teaching at NWC! Now, for my personal news: On August 8, I flew out to Arizona to meet our new son, Orion! Dennis and I have talked for years about the idea of adopting, but it wasn't until this July that we decided we were ready to take the plunge. We just had no idea that it would happen so fast! While many of you are at the empty nest or grandparent stage, we are just now beginning the parenting journey, so you can imagine the dramatic life changes we are experiencing, but we are loving every minute of it.



Orion, Dennis and Trey Alexander

Once again, a reminder to "save the date" for our 35th reunion, less than two years from now: October 2-5, 2025, as we watch Navy Football roast the chickens from Air Force! We will be posting and emailing registration information in the coming months, so pay attention to your inbox, the Facebook page, and this column. Note that our tailgater will take place INSIDE the stadium, so football tickets will be required for all attendees - no exceptions. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again, so make your plans now! And don't forget to send your personal updates, memories, and photos to SHIPMATE1990@gmail.com for future editions of this column!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
 Best Wishes for the New Year
 from your
 Alumni Association and Foundation.

'91

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 10.30%

Pres: **Gibson Armstrong**
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 Website: www.usna91.info

As we near the end of another calendar year, I find myself reflecting on the past, living in the moment, and looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I have enjoyed serving as our Class Secretary, but my time is coming to a close. I am stepping down at the end of the year so I can focus my energies on my profession. I have really enjoyed supporting our class, **THE BEST** that USNA has to offer, and look forward to socializing and meeting up with our group in the future! Alas, this is my final update on class happenings. And by the time this *Shipmate* article is published, the Army-Navy game should be a couple of weeks away. Go Navy! Beat Army! **Sue**

Merrymaking in Manitou Springs

This past July 13 (lucky) ladies from '91 gathered in the quaint mountain of Manitou Springs, CO for a mini reunion. It was a fantastic weekend filled with sharing fond - and not so fond - USNA memories (including a surprising number of skinny-dipping stories!), reviving old friendships and making new ones. The ladies enjoyed hiking beautiful Garden of the Gods, playing classic boardwalk-style arcade games (Jan Schulte was the champion) and savoring fine dining. The laughter and sisterhood nourished our souls! The reunion consisted of **Suzie Barber, Tina Cox, Hai Eastman, Angela Hart, Michelle Hillmeyer, Earnestine Johnson-Turnipseed, Ana Kreiensieck, Darla Lamper, Jennifer Lednicki, Tabetha Moesinger, Samantha Rousos, Jan Schulte and Julie Shank.**

A HUGE thanks to **Michelle** for organizing the event, **Tabetha** for cooking and **Suzie** for photography. Plans are already in the works for the next ladies reunion. Stay tuned! **Tina Cox**



Enjoying the great outdoors!



'91: Ladies of '91 in Manitou Springs, CO in July.



'91: Ladies of '91 - Go Navy!

91/91 CLASS NEWS



'91: At the arcade (L to R): Tina, Julie, Samantha, Jan (champion, LOL), Suzie, Hai, Ernestine, Ana, Darla, and Michelle.



From L to R: Ana, Jen, Julie, Hai, Tabeetha, Michelle and Ernestine.

'91 Socializing in San Diego

Our next note is from **Kelly Davis** who provided an update from weekend in San Diego in September and shared some great photos! **Kelly** was able to meet up with **John McVay**, **Morgan Miller**, **"Dice" Drake** and **Jim Davis** in La Jolla. He also rubbed elbows with **Mike Borgshulte** and **Randy Peck** at the Miramar Air Show! 1991 represents!



Enjoying great company in California: Morgan, "Dice," Kelly, Jim and John.



Borgs and Kelly at Miramar.



John and Borgs



Kelly and Randy

Final Thoughts – From Ana, Our Class Admin VP!

Hello 91! Can you believe it? Another year is winding down. In November, I look forward to Veterans Day when lots of classmates change their Facebook profile pictures to when they were active duty. It's great to see what we service-selected back in the day and catch a glimpse of our younger selves. For Thanksgiving, we have a tradition at our house where each person says what they are thankful for. I'm thankful for the new Alumni Building that will host future reunions and events! I'm also thankful for the new trailer complete with 1991 sticker for football tailgates which provides more chances for us to get together! I'm especially thankful for catching up with classmates throughout the year including in Colorado at the '91 Women's Retreat and then in Dublin for the Navy-Notre Dame football and rugby games. As we get into December, there's the excitement of the Army-Navy football game which will be in Massachusetts this year. Finally, as the year ends, there's the opportunity for reflection of the past and goal setting for the future. I resolve to make the time to nurture relationships and meet more classmates. Here's to filling up Facebook, LinkedIn, and Shipmate with lots of pictures whenever two or three shall meet. Go Navy! Beat Army! **Ana Kreiensieck**



Mike Rapp and Gib Armstrong with our new Class of 1991 trailer!



'91 Ladies at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado.



Ana in Dublin with Erik, and plebe company mate Jon Ciccone and his lovely wife Sarah.

'92

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 15.57%

Pres: Donnie Kennedy

Vice Pres: Glenn Viado

Treasurer: Joe Zurzolo

Corr Sec'ys: David Ornstein and Jerry Deren
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Website: www.usna92.com

'92,

Delighted to be back in your hands for the last time in 2023, and just days before Navy finishes off the year in style by beating Army up in the land of America's revolutionary birth!

We'd like to start off this month with a couple of hearty BZs:

- To our own class President **Donnie Kennedy**, for delivering the commissioning of the new Fluegel Alumni Center. Your scribe in this space was unable to make the trip, but classmates who did report that the building and the opening ceremony both achieved the usual standard of '92-surpassingly-awesomeness we'd expect
- To **Shawn Callahan** for leading the ever-better '92 tailgate at NMCMS and providing that outstanding opportunity for class fellowship.



RDML Cal Foster flanked by the Viado brothers at home opener tailgate



RDMLs Foster and Velez, with their respective COs

Leading our "ordinary business" this month is an extraordinary story from **Jerry Deren** in tribute to a man who has provided the soundtrack for many '92 adventures:

✉ I've seen so many great posts and tributes to the late, great Jimmy Buffett...but for the benefit of our class, I wanted to clear something up.

First, a bit of background: **David Varner** and I were on the Blues together in 2004...we had just landed in Nantucket and shortly after we climbed out of the jets, we watched a beautiful Cessna Caravan on floats land and its tail number was JB1954 or something like that. One of the other pilots asked, "Hey, doesn't Jimmy Buffet fly a Caravan and spend a lot of time in Nantucket?" We decided to wait by the jets for a few minutes to find out. Within a matter of moments, we saw a courtesy van swing by the Caravan to pick up its crew...it then came screeching to a halt in front of our jets, the door slid open, and out hopped Jimmy! "Hey, fellas, what's goin' on?!" He couldn't have been nicer and I'm not sure who was more excited—Jimmy or the rest of the Blue Angel officers and crew! Without hesitation, we asked him if he wanted to meet us in Key West later that year and we'd get him a flight in the #7 jet. He didn't hesitate: "I'll be there!"

Fast forward a few weeks to Key West. Jimmy got his flight and had a blast! From what the #7 pilot told us in the debrief, JB didn't want to pull G's or do loops and rolls...he just wanted to fly really low and fast! After his flight, he asked if it would be OK for him to bring his teenage son to the next day's pre-show Blue Angel brief. This is something that's normally closed to anyone but current and former Blues...but we made an exception for Jimmy. The next day he pulled up in his Prius—no security or fanfare—and spent an hour or so with us in the ready room. He couldn't have been more appreciative, polite, or friendly.

So, we finished the brief and Jimmy and his son thanked us all and left for the show. A minute or so after he had left, I realized I had forgotten to ask him a VERY important question! So, I ran out of the briefing room, down the hall and out into the parking lot, flagging Jimmy down as he was starting to pull away.

He stopped and rolled down his window and I asked him the question: "Mr. Buffett, we've heard rumors for years that you attended the Naval Academy for a year or two before dropping out to pursue your singing career...is there any truth to that legend?" He laughed and shook his head, "Nope! I've heard of that story many times, but there isn't an ounce of truth to it! There's no way they'd ever let me into Annapolis!"

So now you know a little more about Jimmy Buffett. He was exactly the kind of guy you thought he was...but he was NEVER a Midshipman! See you in Margaritaville, Jimmy!

Thanks to **Larry Kistler**, who stepped up with an update:

✉ "Larry Kistler and his family checked in from North Carolina - well actually from Annapolis for this post - as they proudly attended their daughter's start of I-Day with the Class of '27. MariaCeleste (MC) Kistler started with USNA '27 on Jun 29th, along with her 1175 classmates, and managed to still have a smile after the T-Court Swearing-In and just before the doors of Bancroft Hall slammed shut. Larry, Rossana, and brother Lance are all excited for MariaCeleste, and can't wait to share in her USNA and follow-on Navy journey ahead as the family's fourth generation of US Navy! The Kistlers will be making lots of trips from the Cary/Apex, NC area up to Annapolis for football and other big events over the next four years, and we look forward to reuniting with '92 classmates during those trips. "

BZ to MC and the Kistler family!



4/C Kistler's last smile until Parents Weekend? - with Lance, Larry '92, and Rossana



'92: David Varner, Jerry Deren, and other Blues with a very special guest rider

92/94 CLASS NEWS

And a big thanks to **Krista McKinley**, who sends word of the latest adventure she undertook with **Paula Lair**:

✉ Paula Lair (23rd Co) and I met in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to backpack the Pictured Rocks section of the North Country Trail. What an amazing hike! It was almost 55 miles of pure beauty: waterfalls, cliffs, sandy beaches, lots of rock hunting, and views galore of Lake Superior. It has been on my bucket list for a long time, and I can't think of a better person to hike it with me. Two years ago, Paula and I kayaked for 5 days in the Sea of Cortez. Who knows what we'll plan next? LOL

In other family news, I'm still in Plymouth, MI (between Detroit and Ann Arbor) with my husband Eric and son Ben. We're heavily involved in Boy Scouts and even went to Philmont Scout Ranch this summer where we met Hal Perdew's son Brent who was working there for the summer. You can find Academy connections in the most unique places. :)

In my retirement time I'm making t-shirt quilts and started a small business called "Semper Fi Quilts". It keeps me out of trouble and is a great way to preserve all those shirts that we can't get rid of but we're never going to wear again either.

That's it for now. I'll send another update after mine and Paula's next adventure! Semper Fi, Krista (27th Co)



Temporary Yoopers Krista and Paula getting underway



A great day and place to be '92!

Shelby Mounts shared word of a good mini-'92 reunion in DC at the Greta Van Fleet concert, which he took in with **Jamie Arrison** and **Creighton Armstrong**.



Shelby, Jamie, and Creighton in the box - extra props to Jamie for the N-Star polo!

You know what to do, '92 - Bang out an update to usna1992classupdate@gmail.com!

See out the year in style, '92!

'93

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 12.06%

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'94

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 9.26%

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And we're back. Let's roll straight into an update submitted by **Juliana (Rosati) Vida**.

Juliana writes:

✉ Over the past several months I've been so lucky to meet up with classmates in both planned and unexpected ways. Let me start with randomly running into newly selected Rear Admiral **Julie Treanor** and her bestie **Nikki Tonnessen** on a layover in Dulles airport! They were on their way to the Dominican Republic to celebrate Julie's selection with a week of fun, relaxation and pampering at the beach. Julie and I caught each other's eye as she walked by, and then both said "...Julie??!!" at the same time. So funny! I know they had a blast.



Juliana Rosati Vida, RADM Julie Treanor, Nikki Tonnessen during a chance encounter at Dulles

The next weekend was a big one for my family - my husband Joe ran his 25th consecutive Boston Marathon! We had almost 30 family and friends in town from all up and down the east coast to join in celebrating this huge achievement. One day my sister **Marie (Rosati) France '94+1** and I met up with US Naval Academy Alumni Association President and CEO, **Jeff Webb**, also '94+1, in the famed Boylston Street finish line area. I know Boston marathon veteran **Catherine Hern** is very familiar with this view. If you missed it, her son was recently highlighted in the news for history as a victim of the finish line bombings in 2013. He will commission this month! It's quite a story of resilience and overcoming adversity.



Marie (Rosati) France '94+1, Jeff Webb (94+1) and Juliana (Rosati) Vida at the Boston Marathon Finish Line

In May, **Enochia (Herring) Anderson** and I participated in the spring meetings of the USNAA/F Board of Trustees. In addition to the many volunteer hours, she puts into her work on two standing committees, Enochia, was also a key member of the 2030 Strategic Planning Committee, joined by the one and only **MJ Pallotta**. That committee worked tirelessly for the past several months crafting the baseline strategy that will guide the AA/F through

94/95 CLASS NEWS

2030. They received special recognition at the Board of Trustees meeting. Of course, we blew off some steam in the evenings after our days of board work, including a super fun outing to Cantler's. Strategic Plan Committee Chairman Jim Schwab '88 was generous enough to treat the group to round trip transportation on his gorgeous boat, with shiphandler MJ at the helm. It was a perfect evening of food and fellowship on the Severn.



Juliana Rosati Vida and Enochia (Herring) Anderson

After classes wrapped up, MJ traveled to New York City to spend a few days enjoying the city and hanging out with **Col Ali Thompson** who is finishing up her fellowship year with CFR. Here they are dining al fresco near her apartment by Central Park. Sounds like arduous duty, Ali.



Col Ali Thompson and MJ Pallotta in NYC

And finally, I'm very sad to pass on the news of another 33rd Company mate who lost his earthly life far too soon. **Father Terrence "Tippy" Gordon** passed April 28, 2023 after suffering a heart attack. In a stroke of divine providence, his brother James, also an ordained Catholic Priest, was present to administer last rites. After commissioning, Tippy served in the Marine Corps and then entered seminary in 1999 and was ordained on June 3, 2006. Some former underclassmen remember him as a fun-loving guy who *"never seemed to be in a bad mood and didn't seem too interested in giving us plebes a hard time."* Another shared, *"Tippy hated intramurals with a passion. We were on the volleyball team together, and our matches were best-out-of-3. If we lost the first game - which was frequent - Tippy would tackle - and I mean, tackle anyone on our side that even moved towards going for the ball with the idea that we could lose faster and get on with the rest of our days. It was joyful and very, very funny."* He was a good man, and now we pray that his soul is resting peacefully with the angels in Heaven.

And that's a wrap until next time.
Thank you, Peggy and be well, classmates.

No, thank you Juliana. Your intrepid reporting and updates are a large part of the fabric of our class! Notification of a Classmates passing is honestly one of the hardest things about writing this column. May Father Terrence "Tippy" Gordon rest well on the eternal ocean in heaven. I'm reminded, as ever, we are brothers and sisters, we are the living memories of our time together.

So, let's make some more memories??? You may have heard by now that we are rolling into our 30th Reunion 17-20 Oct 2024. By the time this article hits your mailboxes, planning will be well under way with hotel, schedule and merch! We have some GREAT surprises and some fan favorites planned. Snaps for the Executive Committee (Harry Fulton, Jack Downes, Yolanda Ray, Maria Pallotta, Brian Bruggeman, Jim Keck, and the chaos factor, me) for their (our) efforts. Check FB, LinkedIn and your email boxes for continued updates. Please book your hotel early, we don't want any young whipper snapper classes grabbing up our rooms! In my opinion, better to have a room booked even if you're undecided. Annapolis only has so many beds available.

Another shout out to our formidable Tailgate Committee! I'm 100% certain this football season has been rockin' with '94 representing, providing fellowship and food during the contests on the gridiron. I'm hoping for updates and photos from all you Party People.

Comments? Concerns? You can text (nine eight five three seven seven two zero three five), email (Margaret.Aden@gmail.com), message me on FB, Instagram, Signal or WhatsApp (same digits as above). Quick, short updates are better than none. Last but never least— BEAT ARMY!!

'95

Life Membership: 99%

Donor Participation: 19.67%

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Classmates,

Took a bit of a break over the summer (finally an empty nester!) and realized in the June issue that the pix were published, but not the comments that went along with it (except for **Jon Rembold**, whose son Sam joined '27 - more in the next issue!) There's lots in the (e)mail bag, so let's dive right in! Our first update is from **Kate Dooley**:

✉ Great night at the annual Navy Crew banquet! Had fun catching up with

Rachel (Medrano) Odem and **CAPT Jim Bates** (USNA Chief of Staff) and got to hear distinguished graduate **Wendy Lawrence '81** speak.

Here's a note from **Carl Hoye**:

✉ Very proud to have been selected as Officer of the Year for US Navy League's Central Jersey Council and honored to have Rear Admiral (Ret.) Sinclair Harris, Navy League National Vice President, as the Keynote Speaker for our Annual Awards Dinner. [Carl was presented with the **Council Leadership Award in 2019**, and is currently supporting the submarine PCU New Jersey, which will be commissioned April 6, 2024.] Also, **Anton Orr** and I were among the reps for Sea-Air-Space April 3-5 at National Harbor, MD. [Owned and produced by the Navy League, SAS is the largest maritime expo in the USA.] Anton was assisting with his new company, Leidos, and I had great time there representing the New Jersey Navy League.

Next update is from **John O'Leary**:

✉ We were excited to produce the 10th annual **Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade and Festival** on 5. I founded the parade with the intention of filling the void for the city not having a parade and increase business for the city and neighboring businesses. The event has grown to include a fundraising dinner (The Hooley) a two-day Festival on the City Dock, and the largest parade in the city. I've had help from a number of local alumni who participate as marshals (including classmate **Shane Halloran, Kevin Havens '94, Greg Futch '93, Greg Wise '93, Tony Nave '93, and Dan Murphy '90**)! Many other alumni take part with their kids' schools or their businesses. USNA Mids Irish Dancers and Pipers also take part - they were fantastic this year - if the date doesn't coincide with Spring Break. Mark your calendars... **next year's parade date is March 10th!** We do it early to not compete with other parades up and down the East coast. I'm keeping busy with my day job working with the Navy and Naptown Events and putting on events with Fed/DoD/State plus Local and Higher Ed. Thanks, John!

And speaking of **CAPT Shane Halloran**, another update:

✉ In February, I finished my tour as CO of a Navy Reserve unit supporting EUCOM J2. It was a great turnout for the change of command, and a good time to commemorate the success of this stellar group of citizen-sailors. I took command in Spring 2021, when masks and distancing were all the rage. We had to organize drill weekends with physical distance /limited manning in the secure production spaces, but my team worked diligently through it all. For our contributions to contingency planning when the crisis erupted in Eastern Europe, we **won the Commander, Naval Information Force Reserve, "George O'Connell Navy Reserve Intelligence Unit of the Year"** for 2022. We also contributed greatly to our Joint Reserve Intelligence Center

(DeKalb at Ft. Meade) winning DIA's **JRIC of the Year Award**. Couldn't be prouder of leading this small, but mighty band of EUCOM warriors. I was blessed to have family, friends, comrades in arms, and schoolmates join for the ceremony. We may have enjoyed a few National Bohemians during the reception.

In May, I had the great honor of swearing in my oldest son, Tristan, as an Air Force 2Lt. He graduated from AFROTC at University of South Carolina, and selected pilot. He started training in July in Columbus, Mississippi. As many of you have already done, I'm planning on helping him drive his HHG across country for a DITY move. I remember my dad driving a UHaul trailer with me to Intelligence Basic Course in VA almost 30 years ago. We are now the Old Goats! If you need a Navy Football tailgate connection this season or want to try sailing on the Severn this summer, look me up. Non Sibi, Shane



CAPT Shane Halloran, Ryder Halloran, 2Lt. Tristan Halloran (USAF), MIDN 3/c Cade Halloran (USMMA)

Finally, our fearless USNAAA CEO **Jeff Webb** finished the Boston Marathon (3rd time!), with a time of 3:08:29. Here's what he had to say about it, quoting a legendary marathoner: Eliud Kipchoge [who finished 6th in this race, is an Olympic gold medalist, and has won 4 out of 6 World Marathon Majors] said, "I live for the moments where I get to challenge the limits. It's never guaranteed, it's never easy. Today was a tough day for me. I pushed myself as hard as I could but sometimes, we must accept that today wasn't the day to push the barrier to a greater height. I want to congratulate my competitors and thank everyone in Boston and

from home for the incredible support I am so humbled to receive. In sports, you win and you lose, and there is always tomorrow to set a new challenge. Excited for what's ahead." Me - Same! Results aside, a perfect day in Boston running with friends and on the same course with the greatest of all time. He only beat me by 59 minutes! Thank you to Shannon who is kind enough to indulge me doing this sport that I never had any intention of doing but can't seem to stop. Thanks for being such an inspiration, Jeff!

We want to hear from ALL of you — retirements, book authors, your mids/cadets (especially the plebe class of '27), whatever your current mission, "inquiring minds want to know." If you haven't joined your local alumni chapter yet (or the Navy League, VFW, American Legion, etc.), please connect! We have a number of classmates whose mids graduated with '23 (**Ed Kinsella** has both '23 and '27!), so sharing those updates in an upcoming issue. Check out our Facebook page (USNA Class of 1995) for more on what's happening with our classmates! Non Sibi!

—Heidi

'96

Life Membership: 99%

Donor Participation: 14.14%

Pres: **Bill Pennington**

Vice Pres: **Ghislaine (Williams) Stonaker**

Sec'y: **Cara Albright**
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Treas: **Nikki Battaglia**

Howdy '96!

Fall is finally in the air, at least it is in the mid-Atlantic. I also have a full mailbox, which is a good problem to have, so I'll take a stab at cobbling it all together for you. These writeups and photos cover events throughout the entire year, which is fitting for the column which will print in the last Shipmate of 2023. First up is an update from **Ben Stone**. He writes:

✉ To paraphrase the talk shows, "Long time [reader], first time [writer]." I'm sorry that it took me until I had sad news to report before I actually got around to writing an update.

It was with heavy heart that Dirty Thirty got together in January of this year to celebrate the life, and mourn the untimely passing, of our shipmate **Dave Wallace**. "The Walrus" had been bravely battling a brain tumor. As of our 25th reunion in the fall of 2021 he was in remission and able to attend. Alas, the tumor came back and Dave passed the day after Christmas 2022.

As our company mate **Monty Williams** so eloquently put it, it is "tough to be in a season where our conversations in life have transitioned from new beginnings (marriages, births, promotions, graduations) to setbacks in life and fallen shipmates." Dave was, truly, a shipmate; whereas many of us went to Annapolis hoping to select for aviation, Marines, etc. Dave was a born destroyer man and went through four years "where the Severn meets the tide" hoping for (and ultimately earning) a posting to the bridge of a series of tin cans. At the time of his death he was a permanent military professor, teaching leadership in Luce Hall. Some may not know the deal with the PMP positions (I didn't), but while on active duty teaching, one is barred further promotion in exchange for a promotion of one last pay-grade upon retirement. Dave had consequently been a Commander during his PMP duty and was posthumously promoted Captain.

A number of us made it back for the funeral. We got together for grog and sea stories at Harry Browne's the night prior; pictured are **Pat Hansen** (recently retired from a posting at Ft. Meade and unable to talk about it), Pat's wife Melanie (sister of **Michele Casey**, 29th Company), **Christine (Speedling) Perry**, **Mel (Pratt) Kelley**, **Harry Knight** (a reservist and CO NR LCSRON TWO), me, **Matt Collins** (CO Cruise Missile Support Activity Atlantic and likewise not permitted to say much about it), and **Mike Anderson**. (Not pictured: **John Galdieri** and his wife, Tina.) The day of the funeral dawned appropriately overcast, drizzly, and sad; there was a beautiful ceremony in the Chapel followed by a service graveside as Dave was laid to rest on the Yard. There were once times (like Plebe Summer?) when singing Blue & Gold seemed more of a chore than a privilege, but that was not the case in the cemetery on 17 January. There was not a dry eye in the house.

Dave's widow, Valerie, hosted a reception at the O-Club afterwards, attended by many '96ers in addition to those of us from Dirty Thirty. Pictured on the following page, are just the company mates: (front row) **Matt Collins**, **Dennis Santare**, Val Wallace; (middle row) **John Galdieri**, **Pat Hansen**, **Dawn (Corcoran) Ellis**, **Harry Knight**; (back row) me, **J.P. Brandt**, **Mel (Pratt) Kelley**, **Jim Bahr** (CO NAPS), and **Mike Hanson** (I forget his exact title; he does SELRES budget stuff in DC). The day concluded



'95: L to R: CDR (Ret.) Kurt Janke '95, CAPT Nate Bailey '98, CAPT Jill Rough '96, LTJG Kyle Wagner '21, CAPT Mike Jefferson '95, 2Lt Luke Cosselman '23, CAPT Shane Halloran, MIDN 2/c Weston Reese, CAPT Mo Efimba '97, RADM Paul Becker '83 and LCDR James Sauls

96/96 CLASS NEWS

with an evening meal formation at the Chart House. Pictured are **Rob Suh, Mel (Pratt) Kelley, Cara Albright, Dawn (Corcoran) Ellis, Christine (Speedling) Perry, me, Melanie Hansen, Pat Hansen, Harry Knight, and Jim Bahr.**



Thank you, **Ben**. Laying our classmates to rest (and writing about it) is one of the toughest things I can think of. **Dave** – you fought bravely and valiantly. We have the watch.

On a brighter note, I've had notes from all over the world as '96ers met by chance or by plan, in groups of two or three or in crowds. The first is from **Tom Heck**, who sent me a photo with **Matt Cutter**. Tom and Matt were roommates from I-Day through graduation, and now crossed paths because they work for the same small company. Another comes from **Rhoan Boucher**, who shared a flight from IAD to ORD with **Matt Duffy**. Matt was on his way to Great Lakes for a boot camp graduation. But still when two or three shall meet... old tales are certainly retold whenever '96 is around!



Next up is a big Aloha to you all from **Matt Kerber**, who writes to us from Hawaii:

✉ Taking the longest in the great Class of 1996 to reach O-5 command, I became the 20th commander of the VR-51 Windjammers in July. I think that I can safely claim "most junior status" in our class due to a six-year break in service that reset my date of rank/year-group by eleven years.

Due to unique and fortunate circumstances, CAPT (Ret) Jon Hurst ('96-1) came out of retirement (again) to officiate and serve as guest speaker for my Change of Command ceremonies. **Luke Hofacker** made it out to represent our class, a fellow Windjammer alumni. Other USNA alumni Windjammers present for the festivities included Rob Trauger ('96-2), Matt Abbot ('96+4), Steve Hacker ('96+6), Josh Lostetter ('96+7), Doug Marsh & Eric McBee ('96+11), Emily (Cordle) Barralle ('96+13), Kyle Millerd & Jeremy Tijerina ('96+14) and David Emert ('96+16).



Families of XO CDR Hudson, CO CDR Kerber ('96) and outgoing CO CDR Leggett



PXO CDR Doug Marsh (USNA '96+11); XO, CDR Jhnta Hudson; CO, CDR Mark Kerber (USNA '96), Outgoing CO, CDR Heath Leggett; Former CO and Commodore, CAPT Jon Hurst (Ret.) (USNA '96-1)



VR-51 Change of Command among beautiful Hawaiian blue skies and trade wind breezes



Kerber 'ohana: Anela, Mark, Ayelish & Kailoa

Quite a number of '96ers traveled to Dublin in August for – fittingly the 96th Navy-Notre Dame game. **Rhoan** sent over a collection of photos, including two attempted class pictures from the stadium. Apparently the stadium bouncers prevented a number of classmates from making it to one or the other rendezvous point... the Jimmy Legs are alive and well in Ireland! Those of us who remained behind were not treated to very much by TV broadcast, so it's nice to see the smiling faces of those who traveled and made it a great trip despite the score.



Ed Pidgeon, Rhoan, Kiko, Nick Russo at the Guinness St. James



Kiko Eaton and Rhoan Boucher outside Jameson Distillery Bow Street



Rhoan, Kiko, and Jamie Achee with at least 96 bottles behind them on the bar



One of the Class of '96 group photos during the Navy-Notre Dame game



A second group of '96ers at the game... plus one '96 offspring (Midn 3/c Heck, '96+30)

Finally, shout out to all of the '96ers who are parents of midshipmen. We've been feeding a hefty crowd of '96 offspring after the football games this season, primarily plebes and youngsters, and it's been a joy to have them in the class tent. We appreciate their appetites, but even more we appreciate their stories and

the chance to connect with another generation following behind us. For those of you travelling to Boston for Army-Navy this year, please send photos! It's always good to punctuate the Dark Ages with news from around the class.

Until next time, BEAT ARMY!!
—Cara

'97

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 5.95%

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It's very hard to believe we're in the final couple months of 2023. Times sure are busy at this phase in our lives. Here are a few updates from late summer/early fall to share with you. CAPT **Jason "Stuf" Denney, USN** sends:

✉ On 3 August, I gave up command of the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) in Pax River, MD to CAPT **Mike "Sniff" Burks '98**. It was a challenging and rewarding four-year tour, but now it's time for the next challenge. And some leave.



Speaking of leave, I was doing some scuba diving training at Lake Phoenix, VA, this week and as soon as I surfaced from my first dive I heard "Jace Denney?" I looked up on the dock and there was Dave Perine staring down at me. He was there to get re-certified for scuba. Love the random encounters with classmates and company mates! Dave is currently working for the FBI in the Washington, D.C. area.

—Jason



Dave and Jason

CAPT **Tony Then, USN** has had an eventful year with plenty of news to share:

✉ It's been a while since I have sent an update. To start with, my wife Paola and I are now empty nesters. Our daughter Sofia is a Junior at Washington University, St. Louis and our son Tony is a plebe at USNA, Class of 2027!!! I'm back in D.C. as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Navy Staff after a great tour as the Commodore, Destroyer Squadron 22, the best assignment I've had in the Navy. One of the best experiences I had while in command was to deploy to Europe last year and be able to work closely with CAPT **Kyle Gantt**, Commodore DESRON 50, and CAPT **Todd Zenner**, Commodore DESRON 28. The Surface force from the North Atlantic to the Eastern Mediterranean was led by USNA '97. It was an interesting time in Europe, and '97 was part of it. I finished my tour back in March and was glad that **Corey Plocher** and **James (Clarence) VanMilder** were able to attend.



This summer was very interesting. I was home after over two years as a geographic bachelor in Norfolk. I started my new job, my son Tony graduated from high school and went through Plebe Summer at USNA, and Paola and I took a road trip to visit Sofia in St. Louis to help her settle in off campus at WashU. Here are some pictures:



Father and son after administering the Oath of Office in Memorial Hall

97/99 CLASS NEWS



USNA '27 Plebe Parents Weekend, Paola, Tony, Tony and Sofia



L to R: Jaja Marshall, Speros Koutsapetras, Sad Carino, Gary Montalvo, Brannon Bickel, Tony Then, John Evans, Ryan Perry and Kyle Gantt.

Duty here at the Pentagon is interesting and very different from the challenges I experienced out in the Fleet. We have quite a few classmates here in the building. We often get together for lunch. For this past 9/11 commemoration, some of us were able to pay respect and remember **Jonas Panik** at his memorial bench at the Pentagon Memorial.

—Tony

Finally, I wanted to highlight a navy.mil announcement from 7 August in which CAPT **Matt Thomas** relieved CAPT Scott Miller as Commanding Officer of USS CARL VINSON (CVN70). Matt had previously commanded USS PORTLAND (LPD 27) and served as Executive Officer of USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). A huge congratulations, Matt, and wishing you a successful tour!



CAPT Miller and CAPT Thomas

US Naval Academy Class of 1997
Steven Djunaedi · 4h · 🌐
Congrats Matt Thomas... 97!!!!



'97: COC

<https://www.navair.navy.mil/news/FA-18-and-EA-18G-Program-Office-holds-change-command/Thu-08032023-1701>

These are some outstanding updates. Lots of gratitude to all of you who continue to stand the watch. Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season as we close out the year.

Beat Army!
—Aaron

'98

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 7.36%

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'99

Life Membership: 93%
Donor Participation: 8.62%

Pres: **CDR Jason Birch**
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Fall is officially here, Academic year has started and football season is in full swing. This Ac-year is especially exciting as several '99 legacies started their Academy journey this summer as member of the Class of 99+28!!!! Thanks to Debbie (Quattrone) Gomez for sharing these photos with us.



Ben Selph ('99) and family welcome Noah to the Class of 2027.



Matthew ('27) with Michael Marinello ('99) and Jessica at Plebe Parents' weekend.



Matthew with siblings Matilda, Maximilien, and Madeleine



Plebe Parents' Weekend for Avery Charles ('27) and parents, Heidi and Ben Charles ('99)!



Debra (Quattrone) ('99) and Carlos Gomez ('00) cheer Navy with daughter Bella ('27) and son, CJ

Congrats to the 1999 Legacies and your very proud parents!

Jason (JB) Birch updates us from the Yard:

✉ Classmates, Hooyah from Annapolis! I've recently taken the position of 3rd Battalion Officer; I guess all roads lead back to the Yard. It is humbling to give back to our school in this new role, and to watch the legacy live on through several classmates that have children in the Brigade. By no means is this an exhaustive list, there are a few moments that I want to share:



Ben Selph and his son Noah on I-Day



(Chaplain) LT Jason Everson ('99), his lovely wife and beautiful daughters



Jason preached for the first time at the Chapel in September - I think we will be seeing more of him in Annapolis!



There must always be a stop at the Mid Store—you never know who you will find! IAN FLETCHER '99 and his daughter were on the Yard.

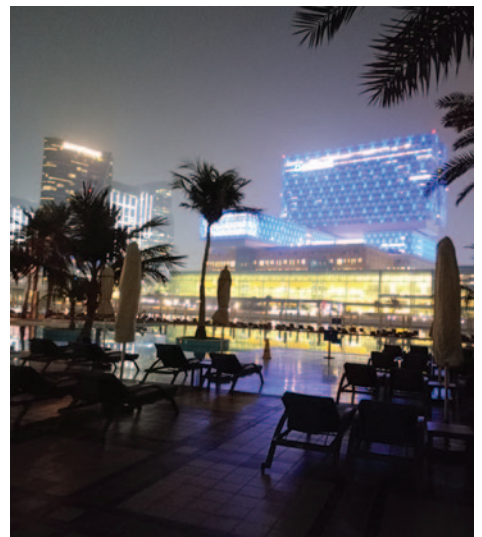


Meghan Latcovich '99 was in town to begrudgingly attend '99-125th reunion!

Thanks JB for the updates! I'm sure we'll catch you around the Yard during your tour!

Football season opened with a spectacular venue for Navy vs. Notre Dame in Dublin, Ireland. Jason Moore provided this update:

✉ Hanging out with awesome Irv Dingle '99 at the Brazen Head, the oldest bar in Dublin for Navy - Notre Dame... Irv gave an awkward greeting to Joe Montana. Thank you to Josh Hill '01 Navy basketball for the last minute invite. And the Guinness brewery tour was a blast. Even though Guinness denies it, their beer is so much smoother in Ireland. Irv caught up with other classmates, but I missed out. I did run into Navy Alumni Association staff at the Temple Dublin but I think it was too late for Sofia Loomis!



99/02 CLASS NEWS

Kenyon Kellogg and several '99-ers were able to attend Chris Perry's retirement ceremony! Congrats Chris on a successful career. Pictured are Kenyon Kellogg, Eric Bernsen, Rob Almeida, Shane Crockett, Chris Perry and Chris Turl ('00).



Last but not least, we got this very exciting update from Bobbie Danzie and his growing family!

✉ On July 10, our Blue got a little bigger! Matthew is now my oldest son and Grayson is my youngest son. We adopted them official on July 10, 2023!



Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures and updates to this month's SHIPMATE.

Our 25th Reunion planning is going to be kicking off soon! Please be on the lookout for opportunities to support the planning effort. If you would like to

volunteer, please contact any of the Executive Committee members.

Navigamus Honore-Darlene

'00

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 6.05%

Pres: **J.V. "Murph" McCarthy**

Vice Pres: **Art Terry**

Treas: **Nick Lalota**

Sec'y: **Tim O'Connor**

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'01

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 12.28%

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Treas: **Adam Borcz**

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Sec'y: **Jen McCullough**

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'02

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 6.47%

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Vice Pres: **Elizabeth (Kreft) Brienza**

Treas: **Danielle Thomasson**

Sec'y: **Mike Johnson**

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Send Submissions to: johnson.michael.a@gmail.com

Website: www.usna2002.org

LinkedIn: **USNA Class of 2002**

LinkedIn Class Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3900492>

Facebook: To join the **USNA '02** group, please reach out to Mike or Kate.

myUSNA: Visit "myUSNA" in the Apple App Store (also accessible at myusna.com). To access the '02 Group, go to Groups and then Class of 2022.

Greetings Classmates!

An exciting column beckons, so read on! I have my quill and inkwell ready, and my tweed coat with a corncob pipe that is only for bubbles. This issue, our classmates **Ben Heineike, Nick Rotunda**, and my former SWOS housemate, **Sarah (Bartek) Davy** grace our column.

First - Ben! I remember Ben from the 10-meter dive (accurately or not) - please someone correct me if you remember differently, but I think Ben was the person in front of me when I did my 10-meter dive. I also remember initially feeling totally fine about the dive, BEFORE I approached the ladder - however, walking toward the ladder, I think it was a metal ladder, and colder back there, all of the sudden I felt A LOT LESS EXCITED about the whole thing. I think Ben was in good spirits like normal, though, and he jumped off probably while solving some previously unsolvable differential equation. ("Oh it was so simple in retrospect!" SPLASH)

Fast forward, and from Ben's LinkedIn page, since 2020 he has been a Postdoctoral Researcher at The Francis Crick Institute: "Joint Postdoc position in Markus Ralser's lab at the Crick Institute and Sam Marguerat's lab at Imperial College's LMS. Aim to study metabolic cooperation in yeast using single cell gene expression." There is a lot more on Ben's LinkedIn page, and also searching online for "Benjamin Heineike" will show a lot of the incredible work that Ben has been up to. Ben, if you're reading this - BZ, Shipmate!

Next, we have **Nick Rotunda** - Nick and I reconnected (or rather, maybe we connected for the first time?) at our 20-year reunion, I think in King Hall on the last day/brunch. After that, we have exchanged a few emails, and I have wanted to share my thoughts on Nick's last name for a while - which Nick approved! (Thank you, Nick!) As a mid, I remember

seeing Nick and his ROTUNDA nametag around the Yard, and I thought, What?! Is that his real name? My name of JOHNSON I have always thought of as on the plain side, but ROTUNDA — wow. I think I went through all the stages of grief whenever I saw Nick and his ROTUNDA nametag: Denial: "That can't be his real name!" Anger: "Why can't my name be that cool?!" Bargaining: "I could change my name! Maybe to... SEAWALL - or, T-COURT - or even, SIMPLE-GREEN. Depression: "It's pointless. Even if I changed my name, I might end up being known as the Midshipman formerly known as JOHNSON." Acceptance: "ROTUNDA. BZ, Shipmate!"

Nick, I hope we can hang out soon!
 Finally, one of my favorite people - Sarah (Bartek) Davey. I think the first time I talked with Sarah was from our Youngster Lu'au - I remember Sarah walking with a classmate to Hospital Point (please someone correct me or add to this if you remember it either the same or differently) - and Sarah had on a hoodie, which I thought was so cool ("That's NOT USNA ISSUE! Woah.") AND she had a MISFITS band button on her hoodie. Sarah, if you are reading this, am I close?? I remember a small MISFITS button, and the lu'au was fun - but a lu'au? Did '02 - 1 or another class close to us start that? Let's not talk about all of the FOOD TRUCKS on the Yard now (OMG - I heard they have to water down the water now, everything is so WEAK)

Fast forward, Sarah and I were both going SWO - let's hear it from the SWOS! - and I just have to say, Sarah is one of the kindest, smartest, funniest people I have ever met. So hilarious - so smart - and, they don't make them like Sarah anymore! Truly someone I trust and respect and am so glad to have gotten to know that day at the Younger Lu'au.

Feel free to send in memory snippets for Shipmate! It doesn't have to be a fancy blurb with a picture. I would love to hear from anyone who wants to share. I get it, though - life is busy! So as 2023 comes to a close and we head into 2024, I'll do my best to keep the '02 spirit ALIVE in our column!

For all the NFL fans out there, GO CHIEFS! :) And of course, GO NAVY!

Until next time,
 Mike Johnson
 28th — > 2nd Company, "Club Deuce"
 johnson.michael.a@gmail.com
 '02 Detachment Arlington, Virginia

'03

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 4.55%

Pres: **LtCol Lisa (Steinmetz) Cordonnier, USMC**
 e: lisacords03@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **CDR Fernando R. Reyes, USN**
 e: delux1981@gmail.com

Treas: **CDR Megan Barnett, USN**
 e: mmbarnett03@msn.com

Sec'y: **Heather M. (Garland) Selig**
 e: heather.selig@2003.usna.com

Class Website: <http://2003.usnaclass.net/>

Webmaster: **CDR Kevin Hagan, USN**
 e: kevin.r.hagan@gmail.com

Shipmate Submissions: **Kenneth Michel**
 e: kennethmichel03@gmail.com

'04

Life Membership: 95%
Donor Participation: 5.17%

Pres: **Jeff McLean**
 e: jeffreyjmclean@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Shannon Webb**

Treas: **Jarrett Berke**

Sec'y: **Deni Baykan**

Comms Officer: **Leigh Ross**

Philanthropic and Inclusion Officer: **Kristen Murdock**

Operations Officer: **Alexa Hunter**

Send Submissions to: classof2004usna@gmail.com

Classmates,

We've got a couple of great updates from classmates below. If you have an update you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Send an email and a photo to: Classof2004USNA@gmail.com

From class Treasurer **Jarett Berke**:

✉ Shipmates,

Big congrats to **Ricky Buria** for being relieved of command (with a band) of VMM-362 Ugly Angels. Ricky had a very successful command tour of both the VMM and the VMM (REIN) as the ACE for the 13th MEU, eclipsed only by the incredible class of Aught Four attendees at the change-of-command ceremony.

Last year, **Wade Barnes, Steph (Fick) Barnes**, my wife Cailin, me and our families' collective seven kids were able to catch up for a week in Turks and Caicos. We fished, snorkeled, kayaked, and sat on the beach while escaping the cold winter in New Hampshire (for the Berkes) and Colorado (for the Barneses). It was certainly tough to say goodbye, but awesome to see two groups of kids who have only hung out a few times get along like close cousins. Getting to spend time with Wade and Steph is truly a treat. Really looking forward to catching up with so many of you at the reunion next year!

And we got a note from **Kurtis Wong** in Korea:

✉ Been running into classmates all over, saw **Kenji Igawa** last week and **Lee Fike** when he



'04: From left to right in the picture (minus the kids): Jarett Berke, Maurin and Zach Scheetz, Lex and Dave Vogelgesang, Jill and Ricky Buria, Steve and Gianene Piacente and James Myung



'04: The Berke and Barnes Families

04/07 CLASS NEWS

pulled into Korea. I'm still stationed in Korea until I retire next year.

Below is a pic of when the KENTUCKY was in Busan a few months ago with me and Fike.



Kurt Wong and USS KENTUCKY CO Lee Fike

I hope everyone is doing well out there. Looking forward to seeing you all in the fall.

—Jeff

'05

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 3.36%

Pres: **LtCol Thomas A. Kulisz, USMC**
hometown: Oceanside, CA
e: kulisz@2005.usna.com

Vice Pres: **CDR Matthew J. Bernhardt, USN**
hometown: Annapolis, MD
p: 619-889-1968; e: mjbernhardt@gmail.com

Treas: **Allen J. Murphy**
hometown: Severna Park, MD
p: 410-212-1082; e: allen.murphy.2005@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CDR Reed A. Kitchen, USN**
hometown: Arlington, VA
p: 619-208-0770; e: reedkitchen@gmail.com

Website: 2005.usnaclasses.net

2005,

Lots of updates this month - keep 'em coming!

First and foremost, check the All Hands section of this issue for a write up of **Chase Millsap's** new documentary, *Small Town Strong*. Filmed over four years with his brother Spencer, their film follows a team of athletes struggling with opioid abuse in Portsmouth Ohio, once claimed to be the pill mill capital of America, as they fight back against addiction with fitness.

The feature film releases on 3 October on Amazon and Apple TV. For more information visit www.smalltownstrongdoc.com. You can also contact Chase at ChaseMillsap05@gmail.com

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <https://smalltownstrongdoc.com/>

INSTAGRAM:
<https://www.instagram.com/smalltownstrongdoc/>

Well done, Chase!

In other news, **Joey Pasko**, flying for United, caught up with neighbors **Joey Snelgrove** and **Matt Degree** in Coronado during a layover.



Joey, Matt and Joey

I was in Seattle over the summer and grabbed breakfast with **Ryan Ashley** who, when he's not crushing it at Amazon, is bowhunting elk. Ryan had just returned from the Northwest Mountain Challenge and got me super stoked to blow the dust off Ole Painless.



Ryan Ashley

Also in Seattle, I caught up with my previous CO and outstanding mentor, **Darin Evenson ('94)** at the Airbnb HQ. Don't pay any attention to my beard - I tore my pec and was coming off a lengthy convalescent leave...



Darin Evenson '94

Finally, correction from our last post: **Greg Valdez** assumed command of VFA-11 Red Rippers. Congrats!

Feel free to text me a photo and a caption at 619-208-0770.

Best wishes,
—Reed

'06

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 6.88%

Pres: **LCDR Adrienne A. Maeser, USN**

Vice Pres: **CDR Joshua M. Angichiodo, USN**

Treas: **CDR Joshua J. Larson, USNR**

Sec'y: **Ashley (Pelzek) Ferguson**
e: usnaclasseof2006@gmail.com

'07

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 4.62%

Pres: **Brady Beauchamp**

Vice Pres: **LtCol Benjamin Tuck, USMC**
e: Benjamin.Tuck07@gmail.com

Treas: **LCDR Patrick Sullivan, USN**
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Sec'y: **CDR Dan Bellomo, USNR**
e: dbellomo@umich.edu

Send Articles to: classofficersUSNA2007@gmail.com

Go Navy! Beat Army! This should make it to your house right before the big game. Anyone down for a wager? 2007 chow calls says Navy beats Army!!

We still want your submissions! Send in your articles on babies, weddings, change of commands, business openings, graduations, jail time, etc. We will pretty much submit anything. Please send your updates to Dan at dbellomo@umich.edu.

Two notes this month from two of our Classmates. The first note this month comes from **Dom Lopez**:

✉ Dom sends his greetings from sunny Los Angeles, California where he currently works as an artist! During Don's active time he received his MBA at the Naval Postgraduate School and used his knowledge to further dive into the world of finance. As he grew in the financial sector, he leaned into the full exploration of his artistic interests in the forms of painting and writing, he also studied at the Art Institute where he received a BA in film. As Lopez continues to marry passions for both business and the arts, he has since made a successful career as a film producer and director. Dom recently had multiple pieces of his art on exhibit at Winn Slavin Fine Art in Beverly Hills. For those interested in seeing more of Dom's art you can connect with him at www.dominiclopez.com and on Instagram @Dlogotu.



Our next note comes from **Sean Blackman**.

CALL TO ACTION!

Though it has been many years since we all first raised our hand for that first oath of office, our service to country stays with us through the many years. I'm writing this article as a call to action. In 2021, I co-founded a defense related startup called nooks (www.nooks.works) to bring a true Classified-Spaces-as-a-Service (CSaaS) offering to market. Think subscription membership to a network of flexible access classified facilities (NISPOM, SCIF, SAPF) around the US for use by both industry and government customers. Whole bunch of reasons why we are doing this, but the bottom line is we (as a nation) need to be moving much faster to bring emerging technologies

into classified programs if we want to win the Great Power Competition we are currently engaged in. Access to classified infrastructure is a huge barrier-to-entry/scale to the classified marketplace for non-traditionals/small businesses /academia, and the lack of it is making us bleed talent from defense work on both the government and industry sides. Nooks is looking to dramatically reshape this infrastructure to make it affordable, available, and resilient (sounds like cloud... right? ;-)).

We have an opportunity here to solve a real National Security problem, but I need your help to do so. If this problem set resonates with you, please reach out to me (sean@nooks.works). Most of our investors are Academy grads, we have an almost entirely veteran team, and we are about to scale like crazy. I want this opportunity open to my classmates in multiple ways, and I need the power of our collective experiences and networks to make this work. Reach out any time for more information, and thanks for being the best class to ever graduate from good ol' USNA!

Background on why we started this crazy company:

For me personally, after having the absolute privilege of flying F/A-18s during my active duty time, my last role before leaving the service in 2019 was standing up an analytics and innovation group called FRAG on the Air

Boss's staff (Naval Air Forces) on North Island along with **Jarrod "Jrod" Groves (USNA '01)**. Basically, we were trying to find out how Naval Aviation (and other TYCOMs) can use AI/ML technologies to increase readiness and lethality through data driven decision making. Huge shoutout to **RADM Jeffery "Caesar" Czerewko (USNA '90)** and **VADM (Ret) Dewolfe "Bullet" Miller '81** for the passion and forethought to start and support this initiative!

This role is what brought me into wider contact with the DoD innovation ecosystem, and it's where I met my two other co-founders: David "Mudd" Willard was an F-15 WSO + Pentagon Program Manager + early days at Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) in Silicon Valley, and Hunter Price was a White House civilian that helped stand up Defense Digital Services (DDS) and Kessel Run. Basically, all three of us were trying to get Tech companies into contracts, and the simple fact was that unless that company had a SCIF, they were simply not competitive for the classified marketplace (money/time/expertise barrier). We started nooks as a direct result of these experiences, so we bring a pretty unique lens to the problem (i.e. we aren't building SCIFs so we can build a widget, we are doing it to remove a barrier for small businesses / non-traditionals/academia + give the USG a resilient infrastructure that can scale based on market forces instead of the annual Congressional budget).

As of August '22, we are under contract with DoD to offer CSaaS to both industry and government customers. Our first three locations are Arlington, El Segundo, and Colorado Springs, but the vision is we have 100+ of these facilities around the US. At scale, this becomes the classified equivalent of remote work (we can't get you Top Secret internet at your house, but maybe we can get as close as your local Starbucks)! We are on the verge of our next round of DoD contracts, already have multiple non-traditional/dual-use technology companies signed up (before we've even opened our doors), and we are about to be operational at our first site in Arlington. It's been an absolute whirlwind of an experience, and we got this company off the ground based largely on the support from Service Academy graduates (feels like coming full circle).

If you or anyone in your network has experience in early-stage investing, commercial real estate, defense contracting, classified networks, Capital Hill, or security policy (something about Command, Citizenship, and Government comes to mind), this is a pretty cool opportunity to be involved in disrupting the status quo in the Defense/Intelligence marketplace!

If you want to get involved, please email me at sean@nooks.works!

To our Classmates currently deployed and/or away from home - be safe and come back soon. We miss you! Your friends, Classmates, and loved ones wish you the best.



'07: Sean's hair progressively migrated south over the years, eventually proving the warmth for his face he had been unknowingly searching for his whole life. He still has recurring stress-dreams about putting on a uniform without having shaved.

'08

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 26.72%

Pres: **Donald H. Horner III**
Vice Pres: **LCDR Gerald Brooks, USN**
Treas: **LCDR Daniel E. Foose, USN**
Sec'y: **LCDR Dianna Dietrich Bunt, USN**
e: dianna.dietrich@gmail.com

'09

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 27.33%

Pres: **LCDR Andrew Poulin, USN**
e: andrew.poulin09@gmail.com
Vice Pres: **LCDR Art Griffin, USN**
Treas: **LCDR Cody Forsythe, USN**
Sec'y: **Micky Matus, USN**
e: michaelmatus09@gmail.com
Shipmate Submissions: e: Shipmate09@gmail.com

'09,

Can you believe how quickly this year flew by?? We hope everyone is enjoying their holidays with family and loved ones.

Every year, on a crisp December morning, the United States Naval Academy Cemetery comes alive with the spirit of remembrance. It's a day when thousands of fresh evergreen wreaths, each adorned with a scarlet bow, are lovingly placed on the graves of fallen heroes. Please consider donating or volunteering your time with the Wreath Across America program this winter. All are welcome to the wreath laying on **Friday, December 1, 2023** (Time to be determined usually 08:30 or 09:00 am).

You may sign up to volunteer for this event on the below link, by doing so you will get the latest information as to the time and parking. <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/>

Also, as we close out 2023 and ring in the new year, here's another friendly reminder for our 15th Reunion:

Homecoming Weekend, October 18-20, 2024!

Please check our "U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2009" Facebook group for a listing of our Reunion Committee members and any updates they may have.

A big part of the reunion effort is also ensuring the Alumni Association has your best contact information, so you receive our updates. If you need to update your information, including your e-mail address, please do so at usna.com. If you have any issues, you can e-mail: membership@usna.com or call 410-295-4000.

Until next time, please keep the stories, life updates, and pictures coming our way via our USNA '09 Facebook page or our Class Slack channel: usna09.slack.com

GO NAVY!

'09 Class Officers



'09: Reunion!

'10

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 21.41%

Pres: **LT Robert Battle, USN**
e: rhbattle@2010.usna.com
Vice Pres: **LT Garth Thomas, USN**
Sec'y: **LT Margaret Boyle, USN**
e: mcboyle@2010.usna.com
Send Articles to: Shipmate2010@gmail.com

'11

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 13.30%

Pres: **Michael E. Orzetti, CIV**
Vice Pres: **LT Ricky Dobbs, USN**
Treas: **LT Matthew Pierson, USN**
Sec'y: **LT Natalie Woodward, USN**
e: NNWoodward@2011.usna.com

'12

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 22.71%

Pres: **Capt Ian Cameron, USMC**
Vice Pres: **LT Nicholas DeMasters, USN**
Treas: **LT Nicolas Woods, USN**
Sec'y: **LT Jane M. Baird, USN**
Send Articles to: shipmate2012@gmail.com

'13

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 31.71%

Pres: **LT John-Rex Spivey, USN**
e: johnrexspivey@gmail.com
Vice Pres: **LT Daniel Murphy, USN**
Treas: **1stLt Ted Baumgardner, USMC**
Sec'y: **LT Hannah Yun, USN**

'14

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 32.75%

Pres: **1stLt William R. Roberts, USMC**
Vice Pres: **1stLt Conor J. Kearney, USMC**
Treas: **LTJG Emily L. Kreyenhagen, USN**
Sec'y: **LTJG Elizabeth J. Powers, USN**
Send Articles to: shipmate2014@gmail.com

'15

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 32.39%

Pres: **CAPT Ward "Bubba" Scott III, USMC**
p: 603-236-1011; e: wardscottiii@gmail.com
Vice Pres: **LT Dylan Cawdery, USN**
p: 801-638-0724; e: dcawdery@gmail.com
Treas: **LT Joshua David Elliott**
p: 772-643-4468; e: joshuaelliott2015@gmail.com
Sec'y: **CAPT Madeline Zell, USMC**
p: 410-370-3068; e: mad.zell15@gmail.com

'16

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 32.21%
Pres: **Capt Eric B. Kellogg, USMC**
Vice Pres: **Capt Matthew L. Chavez, USMC**
Treas: **LT Renata M. Kolinko, USN**
Sec'y: **Capt Zachary L. Coffman, USMC**
Send Articles to: Shipmate2016@gmail.com

'17

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 25.89%
Pres: **Capt Chosnel Raymond, USMC**
e: chosnel.ra@gmail.com
Vice Pres: **LT Robert Winning, USN**
e: robertwinning34@gmail.com
Treas: **LT Theodore "Jelly Belly" Schopf, USN**
e: tedschopfiii@gmail.com
Sec'y: **LT Molly McGuckin, USN**
e: mollykmcguckin@gmail.com

CLASS and CHAPTER OFFICERS

Please check your **CLASS** and **CHAPTER** headers. Send us your updates.

CLASS officers, email to:
classnews@usna.com

CHAPTER officers, email to:
chapternews@usna.com

'18

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 34.13%
Pres: **LTJG Dan Stitt, USN**
Vice Pres: **LTJG Michael Pahissa, USN**
Treas: **LTJG Gio Hernandez, USN**
Sec'y: **LTJG Rachel LaBuda, USN**
Send Articles to: 2018usna@gmail.com

'19

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 5.10%
Pres: **2ndLt Isaac Phillips III, USMC**
Vice Pres: **ENS Tate Schumacher, USN**
Treas: **ENS Leor Golan, USN**
Sec'y: **ENS Gil Wright, USN**

'20

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 4.02%
Pres: **2ndLt Mike Smith, USMC**
Vice Pres: **2ndLt John Finnegan, USMC**
Treas: **ENS Grayson Gossett, USN**
Sec'y: **ENS Nolan Kreipe, USN**

'21

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 1.91%
Pres: **ENS Cameron R. Kinley, USN**
Vice Pres: **N/A**
Treas: **ENS Lakayla D. Deshields, USN**
Sec'y: **Ann M. Jackson**

'22

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 8.47%
Pres: **ENS Andre C. Rascoe, USN**
Vice Pres: **ENS Jonathan D. Miranda, USN**
Treas: **ENS Hampton B. Boyd, USN**
Sec'y: **ENS Rory S. Cox, USN**

'23

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 29.88%
Pres: **MIDN Grant A. Booker, USN**
Vice Pres: **MIDN Julius W. Aebly III, USN**
Treas: **MIDN Zion A. Armstrong, USN**
Sec'y: **MIDN Jason Santiago, USN**



CHAPTER NEWS

Alabama

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brian Campbell '94, USNR**
p: 251-776-4000; e: Brian.Campbell@1994.usna.com

USNA Alabama Alumni Chapter

Pres: **Greg Hess '85**
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Vice Pres, Central Alabama: **Eric Riddle '94**
p: 469-363-4295; e: ericriddle94@gmail.com

Vice Pres, Northern Alabama: **Michael McFarland '04**
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Treas: **Dennis Read '59**
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Exec. Assist: **Carolyn Freeman, son, Reid '24**
e: usna.ala@gmail.com

South Alabama Chapter

Pres: **Brian Campbell '94, USNR**
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Sec'y: **Ruth Lichtenfeld**
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The South Alabama Chapter ramped up our Fall 2023 chapter activities with two recent events. The first event was onboard the USS ALABAMA (BB-60) where our affiliate chapter members/BGOs supported AL Senators as they held their service academy night.

Chapter members/BGOs in support: **Rob du Mont '89, Greg Dorriety, Father of Will '13, Robert Kennedy '92, Marta Young '08, Brian Campbell '94, ENS Adam Weissenfels '22, USN.**

Our second event was a Navy football kick-off social where Alumni, Family and Friends gathered



South Alabama Chapter: Senator Service Academy Night - USS ALABAMA



South Alabama Chapter: Navy v ND Watch Party 26 Aug23

at McSharry's Irish Pub in Fairhope, AL. A big thanks to **John '99** and **Amy '98 Bleidorn** for picking the venue and helping host. We hoped for a better outcome on the football scoreboard, but the social scoreboard was a victory! Go Navy! Beat Army!!

Arizona

BGO Area Coordinator: **Capt. Chris Palmenberg**
e: palmenberg@yahoo.com

Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Capt David M. English '86, USMCR**
e: David.English@1986.usna.com

www.usna.com/Chapter/us/arizona

Sec'y: **Steven W. Ranes '02**
e: StevenWRanes@gmail.com

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

Southern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Thom Rossa '63**
e: TRossa@hayes-soloway.com

Sec'y: **Jim Hillenmayer '73**
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Website: <http://southernarizona.usnachapters.com>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Best Wishes for the New Year
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.*

Arkansas

BGO Area Coordinator: **David Chucoski**
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Arkansas Chapter

Pres: **Steve Colley '08**
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Vice Pres: **Doug Waller '02**
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Sec'y Treas: **Jason Coyle '09**
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Asia

BGO Area Coordinator: **Wes Trubeville**
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Guam Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Noel M. Enriquez '84, USNR**
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Philippines Chapter

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Website: www.groups.yahoo.com/communityusnaphil

Singapore Chapter

Pres: **Say Yong Tan '05**
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Vice Pres: **Andy Harrell '12**
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Sec'y: **LTJG Nicole Uchida '12, USN**
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Chapter Email: USNASG@gmail.com

Republic of Korea Chapter

Pres: **CDR Chong (John) M. Yi '85, USN**
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Tokyo Bay Chapter

Pres: **Mori Nixon '81**
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California

Los Angeles Chapter

Pres: **Adrian Montecinos '14**
p: 562-587-3690; e: admont19@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Paris Scott '12**
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Treas: **Michael Seaver '83**
e: michaelseaver@gmail.com

National Trustee: **Brian DeJarnett**
e: Brian@dejarnett.net

BGO Area Coordinator (LA County/Orange County):
CDR Steve Shatynski '83, USN (Ret.)
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BGO Area Coordinator (Riverside/San Bernardino):
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Monterey Bay Chapter

Pres: **Maj. Rebecca "Becky Singh" '03, ANG**
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 e: usnaaluminimontereybay@gmail.com

Corr Sec'y: **Steve Tackett '87**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Bob Garcia**
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Sacramento Chapter

Pres: **Terri (Riggs) Maginnis '82**
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Vice Pres: **Brian Grubbs '92**
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Sec'y: **Paul Deveaux '96**
 e: paul@pauldeveaux.com

Treas: **Alan Abbs '91**
 e: alanabbs@gmail.com

Treas: **Jack Everett '64**
 e: jeverett@quicknet.com

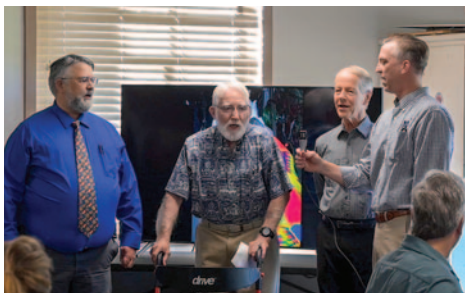
Past President: **Dennis P. Joyce '61**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Lauro Aguila '81**
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Our group continues with monthly breakfast, lunch, and happy hour get-togethers with West Point and Air Force; with only a few regulars attending each of these we continue to look for events to generate greater attendance. We are moving around the Sacramento area for the third Thursday Happy Hour hoping to entice others to a closer location.

On September 17, the chapter came together at the VFW Hall in Auburn, CA for **George Simmons '61** Celebration of Life. George's wife Pat let us know that George always loved the alma mater, asked any Alumni who showed to sing "Navy Blue and Gold" one last time for George.

Singing "Navy Blue and Gold" in George's honor - **Dave Atkinson '92, Jack Everett '64, Dave McKie '66 and Brian Grubbs '92**



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: Lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 AM at Brookfield's, 4343 Madison Avenue, Sacramento.



San Diego Chapter: Many grads having a great Happy Hour in San Diego

3rd Thursday: We continue to try different venues around the Sacramento area. Check emails and mysna.com for monthly updates and location.

By this time, the Navy football season will be well underway. Last year we had good attendance for the Air Force and Army games and hoping for a few more 'Wins' this season.

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 mysna.com for all of our communications and networking. If you're in the area and would like to join us, just show up.

San Diego Chapter

Pres: **Keith Kitagawa '92**
 e: president@usnaaasd.com

Vice Pres 1: **Debbie Balsley '93**
 Vice Pres 2: **Michael Philbrook '83**

Treas: **Juan Rose III '04**
 e: treasurer@usnaaasd.com

Sec'y: **Mark Powers '06**
 e: secretary@usnaaasd.com

Corr Sec'y: **Charlie Carey '70**
 p: 619-589-0945; e: cdccarey@1970.USNA.com

Website: <http://usnaaasd.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Philbrook '83**
 e: michael.philbrook@1983.usna.com

The Navy Women's Volleyball Team was here 6-10 September for the Univ California San Diego (UCSD) Invitational Tournament and played Denver, UCSD, and San Diego State Univ (SDSU). They swept all three for a very successful trip. The SD Chapter delivered meals to the volleyball party thanks to Alison Park, a member of the USNA Parents Club SD.

We also had the USNA Waterpolo Team visit the Triton Invitational where they took on Cal State Fullerton (W), Biola Univ (W), Long Beach State Univ (W), UCSD (L), and CAL (L). I should mention that Long Beach

State was ranked #11 and CAL #1 at the time of the meet.

We had our annual Day at the Del Mar Races Aug 6 and sold out the allotted tickets we had. We were well represented by classes as the two pictures below show.



Left to right: Kasra Butler '17, Aiden Lang '17, Mitch Lathrop '59, & Jessica McGill '17



Our youngest and oldest grads at the races. Andrew Smith '23 & Mitch Lathrop '59



Cardiff celebrators Tom Heji '77 & Justin Adams '16

Finally, I have mentioned many times in this column about the many regular activities we

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engage in here in San Diego. We are fortunate to be in an area where the climate is favorable and there are many opportunities and places to get together. The picture on the previous page is a gathering at Tower 13 in Cardiff and it looks like all are having a great time. Come join us - we welcome all grads, parents and, of course, Middies.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Gordon McDonald '06**
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Sec'y: **Ray Fazio '57**
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Treas: **Brian Frack '89**
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Website: <http://sfbayarea.usnachapters.net>

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

Instagram: [@usnaaa_sfbaychapter](https://www.instagram.com/usnaaa_sfbaychapter)

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

Pres: **Stephen L.A. Callahan '81**

Treas: **CAPT Stephen H. Huber '80, USN (Ret.)**

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Greg McGiffney, USN**
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/santabarbarachapterusna.9>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/usnaalums_santabarbara/

Colorado

Colorado Chapter

Pres: **Pres Kelly Mayer '85**
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Sec'y: **CAPT Matthew McLaurin '92, USN (Ret.)**
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Colorado Springs Chapter

Pres: **LCDR John Sledgianowski '87, USN (Ret.)**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Andrew Graziano**
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Connecticut

BGO Area Coordinator: **Evan Barnet '91**
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Connecticut Chapter

Pres: **Alan Weigel '79**
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Treas: **Tom Hogsten '85**

Sec'y: **Eric Irwin '86**
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Comms Dir: **David Candler '67**
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Meeting Chairman: **Vacant**

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

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

Ahoy Shipmates,

Thought we would get back to USNA and what it meant to US, and some of the most vivid of our individual experiences. These are memories that were a Great Deal different than the lives that we had lived prior to USNA, which often could have been somewhat isolated, and except for team sports may have lacked significant Teamwork on a large scale. So let us hear an initial set of memories:

First from **Mike McLane** of the Great Class of '58

✉ First some background. I had a cousin, **Jim Casse '54**, whose graduation I attended. His parents lived near Harness Creek, Annapolis area. My most vivid memory was THEIR final parade when the entire brigade marched off the parade ground and LEFT THEIR SHOES! It was all there in perfect company formation with company officer shoes in the correct spot - what a sight!

I figured that any group that could put together such a stunt with full participation must be something special. And they were.

Several years later when I was applying for an ROTC scholarship to U. of Wisconsin, I found out the USNA appointment tests were given a week or so ahead of the ROTC ones. How different could they be? I took both.

I came on 3rd. for USNA but aced the similar test and GOT the ROTC slot in Wisconsin. While working at a summer camp after high school graduation I received a telegram saying the guy who came in 1st was too short and the 2nd place was color blind. I should report in 3 days to accept the appointment. WHICH I DID.

Every time I marched on Warden field, I remembered the class of '54 prank and smiled.

My other memory about Plebe summer was when my mother received a box with ALL of my belongings in it. She took it quite hard, saying it was like I had died which, in a way, I had. I was the younger son and the last one to leave the nest. She got over it and, years later, enjoyed the graduation hosted by President Eisenhower. That man had the largest hands I've ever shaken!

I imagine that most all mothers would have had a similar shock when the Everything box or suitcase was received back home.

For other memories you may have of Your USNA experience, please email to DavCandler@aol.com
Dave Candler '67

Costa Rica

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Costa Rica Chapter

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Delaware

BGO Area Coordinator: **Maj Brad Boyd '87**
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Delaware Chapter

Pres: **Chris Dierkes '85**
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Happy Hour Anyone?

Ever wonder where the phrase Happy Hour originated from? We did! Researching the Internet tells of many origins. Per the Web, it began as a marketing ploy for restaurants and bars *and/or* the idea of just making people happier for a few hours through food, drink and reunion. We even found one happy hour origin that related to the Navy! - "It's the weekly deals for sailors that started around 1914 to relieve boredom" Humm...who knew?

Like today, drinks and food deals were discounted, however the old navy ways of entertainment during happy hour like dancing, wrestling, boxing matches and movies have gone by the wayside. We may not have all of those entertainment options today, but we can be rest assured, most drinking holes have what everyone wants after a long day - a cold one! With that said, we kicked off our 2023 Delaware Chapter meet and greet(s) with two Happy Hour events in the month of August. New faces and old made for two pleasurable Delaware Alumni gatherings. Thanks to all of you who attended and for sharing a drink or two along with your amusing sea stories while providing us with some good ideas for future events!

Delaware Chapter North - Bear, Delaware - Summit Bridge Marina Bar and Grill-Grain H2O



Left to Right: Natalie Beronio (daughter of Chris Beronio '95), Valerie Adams with husband David Adams '65, Chris Beronio '95, Chris Dierkes '85, Kevin Worsh '85 and Michael Matson '92. Not shown Tim Bello '70. (photo: Chris and Judy Dierkes)

Delaware Chapter North - Bear, Delaware - Summit Bridge Marina Bar and Grill-Grain H2O



Left to right: Lenny Aguilar '86 with daughter Sydney and wife Lisa. (Photo: Chris and Judy Dierkes)

Delaware Chapter South - Cape May Lewes Ferry, Lewes, Delaware - Grain on the Rocks Bar and Grill.



Left to Right: Chris Dierkes '85 with wife Judy, Bill Manthorpe '55, Dennis Hicks with wife Marjorie Rawhauser '84, Greg Pearsall '74 with wife Barb, Don Sturtz '55 and Nick Carter '70, not shown Kevin Worth '85. (Photo: Chris and Judy Dierkes)

'History Revival' Old New Castle Court House Museum with Bill Manthorpe '55



Bill Manthorpe '55

Bill Manthorpe '55 captivated a room of history buffs on August 31st with maritime events focused on the Revolutionary War hero Thomas Reed. When in Delaware, be sure to follow Bill with

topics regarding maritime history sponsored by Delaware Historical & Cultural Affairs.

Support Alumni and Delaware History!



Chris Dierkes '85 with wife Judy, Bill Manthorpe and Chris Beronio '95

We are so lucky to live in the Blue Hen State! What a great place to commit to sharing and learning Delaware's Naval history...all from our own alumni expert historian Bill Manthorpe - Go Bill!

Come join us this Holiday Season at Hagley Hagley Museum - Brandywine Group Tour - Sunday, 3 December 2023 at 10:00AM

Log on to mysna.com for sign-up details -

Come join us to meet new and old alumni at Christmas time! Go back in time to enjoy festive decorations and holiday traditions that took place at the first original DuPont family home in America. This tour will show guests what makes Hagley so unique—the black powder yards! See demonstrations of the nineteenth-century machine shop, watch a water turbine bring the eight-ton iron roll mills to life, and witness a black powder explosion. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone - see ya next year!!!

Bill the Goat says - Be sure to sign into mysna.com for upcoming events - Go Navy! Beat Army!

Florida

Gainesville Chapter

Pres: Vacant

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR**
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Jacksonville Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Scott Neidhold '77, USNR (Ret.)**
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Vice Pres: **Glen Hamilton '85**
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Treas and Chapter Trustee: **Enochia Anderson '94**

50 Year+ Alumni Liaison: **CDR Peter Garfield '60, USN (Ret.)**
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Website: jacksonville.usnachapters.net

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**
p: 407-687-6877; e: raaos@aol.com

The Jacksonville Chapter hosted US Naval Academy Alumni Association President: President and CEO, **Jeff Webb '95**, Executive Vice President **TJ Grady '96**, and

Regional Development Director Dean Castaldo at a luncheon at Atlantic Beach Country Club on 4 May 2023. Over 50 local alumni attended the event. Jeff and TJ discussed their thoughts on the new Alumni Center (Fluegel Hall), the work in progress on Strategic Plan 2030, and the reorganization of the Alumni Association staff to focus on the Association's most important priorities and opportunities.

We appreciate these Alumni Association leaders taking some time to visit Jacksonville and hope to have them back again soon.



Jeff Webb and TJ Grady

NAVY-NOTRE DAME GAME WATCH

Boat Schoolers, along with family and friends, showed up to cheer on the Navy Blue and Gold at Culhanes in Atlantic Beach, taking over half the place. Classes from '60 to '20 were represented. Randy (last name shielded to protect the innocent), WP '76, even showed up, to support the team. Leading the pack was Pete Garfield '60 (event organizer), John Junczak '89, John Furness (USN Ret.), Chris Plummer (AOCS '86), Carl Bush, Richard Thomas '16, Evan Staresinic '17, Kent Sayer '15, Tim Ray '15, Ryan Warner '14, Lisa Arato '88, Ed McDonald '73, Lew Wolfram '78, Ken Koteles '80, A.J. Femmer '20, Robert White '20, Grayson Gossett '20, Molly Cox '20, Nick Andrie, Bill Zirxow (AOCS '86), Rand LeBouvier '78, Dayton Warfke '75, Jim Beatty '83, Mike Borns '70. Notably, ND has not returned to Jax since their loss here in '16, which is demonstrative of what this group can pull off, when cheering on the team. GO NAVY!

NAVY-WAGNER GAME

New faces joining the game watches at Culhanes include: **Rick Carter '76**, **Mark Harmon '90**, **Brian DeSalvo '15**. And our friend from WP was back.



Jacksonville Chapter: Navy-Notre Dame Game Watch

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ARMY/NAVY GOLF TOURNAMENT

After several years on not playing due pandemic, the annual tournament is back on for 10 November. If you are reading this and it is not 10 November, and are interested, go to the JAX Group muusna.com for more info. Somehow, during the lull, the winner's trophy has been lost. If you know where it is, contact any of the folks on the banner at the head of this article. There is a reward, consisting of a highly prized, JAX CHAP BEER KOOZIE. Given press deadlines, an update will be provided in next SHIPMATE.

TIME AT THE TILLER AND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The chapter is making a call for anyone interested in serving on the board. Here's your chance to get your hands on the tiller, bring forward your ideas, and help keep the chapter headed fair in the coming years. All you need do is to reach out to anyone listed in the leadership banner at the head of the article, for further information, to include next steps.

MEMBERSHIP: All it takes is signing up and you can be part of the fun. Going to the JAX Group on myusna.com and then following instructions, gets you across the brow, and aboard. The chapter tries to encourage association between local alumni, through events and social gatherings. The chapter further financially is able to provide some support to Academy summer programs for youth, to the Parent's Club, and some Veterans group. Who else is going to listen to your sea stories? The chapter can also be a source of information, by simply reaching out to the names on the banner at the head of the article, on pretty much anything related to Blue and Gold. If they can't answer your questions, they will find someone who can.

Greater Miami Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator:

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Orlando Chapter

Pres: **Christopher Clark '01**
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Sec: **David Shikada '79**

Web Master: **Greg Hemphill '72**
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Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/9546>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1415188042037372>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**
e: RAAOS@aol.com

The Crooked Can Brewery provided a great spot for a mid-summer join-up of Orlando alumni. Cold drinks, decent food, and primo sea stories made the event well worth enduring the Central Florida traffic and humidity!
insert photo here: file



Dave Shikada ('79), Jung Pak ('93), Dennis Viera ('77), Greg Hemphill ('72), Chris Clark ('01)

Check us out at myUSNA to connect with some old friends and make some new ones! We look forward to seeing you at the Navy-Air Force watch party Oct 21 and of course, the Army-Navy game watch party 9 December!

Palm Beach Chapter

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Pensacola Chapter

Co-Pres: **Jose Perez '10**
Co-Pres: **Joey Walker '02**
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Sec'y: **JD Kameen**

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Southwest Florida Chapter

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Space Coast Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Pete Peterson '56, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **Vacant**

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**
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Suncoast Chapter

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Vice Pres: **George Thompson '77**
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Second Vice Pres: **George "Bo" Hamrick '79**
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Treas: **Dick D'Anna '68**
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Sec'y: **Vacant**

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR**
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NAVY Football is underway! Here's a shot of some loyal NAVY fans at our NAVY/USF Game Tailgate at our usual gathering place at Gecko's. Disappointing game after our boys in blue were leading in the first quarter. GO NAVY! Attendees included **Alex Morris '56**, Nancy Bushnell (widow of **Vic Reiling '62**), **Dick D'Anna '68, Al** and **Kate Burda '68, Jocko Jastrab '71, Steve Bartek '74, George** and **Elaine Thompson '77, Ray** and **Annette Kempisty '78, Joe** and **Neesh Hayden '80**, and newcomer **Campbell Lee '20** and his mother Robin.

Tampa Bay Chapter

Pres: **CDR Jane Lochner '84, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CAPT Chris Heath '72, USN (Ret.)**
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Communication Director: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.)**
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Website: <http://tampabay.usnachapters.net/>

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BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.)**
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NAVY FOOTBALL IN THE BAY AREA

We began the season as always, full of optimism, with joint watch parties including Notre Dame alumni in August.

The Irish faithful had lots to cheer about on 26 August, but they were great hosts to us at a pub on Davis Islands in Tampa (see picture on previous page). Meanwhile, Navy alumni turned out well at The Deck, our football home in St. Petersburg. We really mean HOME - given the years of loyal following, USNA alumni



Suncoast Chapter: Navy v USF game tailgate at Gecko's

chipped in and bought a 65" TV for the bar! Now Navy football is shown in style! The alumni group at The Deck welcomes all Navy alumni and fans at every Saturday home game. We were also happy to see a number of chapter members travel to Dublin for a memorable experience.



NOT wearin' the green while partying with the Golden Domers at (fittingly) Molly Malone's Irish Pub

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

We held our flagship event, the Founders Day Candidate Information Dinner, on 11 October. This is one of our biggest events of the year, hosting over 100 local students and families to hear about the Naval Academy as a part of their future. Alumni and Blue & Gold officers turn out to support the graduate speakers after a fine dinner and a cake cutting. The speakers in turn relate their Academy experience and describe their entry into the fleet and their various warfare specialties. Watch for follow-up pictures in the next issue of SHIPMATE.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings provide a forum for catching up on USNA news, as well as spirited planning, networking, and socializing. If you are new to the area or have been around a while and just haven't gotten to a meeting, this is a great way to get to see new and old friends. Come on out to Tate's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria on the first WED of each month at 1800.

In August we were pleased to welcome several new members to the Chapter table, including **Lane Askew '99**, **James Han '11**, **Cam Henson '17**, **Eric Houlihan '19** and **Chris Rivera '92**. Also on board - **Jane Lochner '84**, **James Hamm '84**, **John Miles '93**, **Brian Tsai '16**, **Jonathan Shannon '02**, **Austin Gullett '03**, **Paul Matthews '85**, **Midn Ryan Matthews '26**, **Matt Packard '06**, **Miller Detrick '63**, **Warren Hahn '60**, **Chris Heath '72**, **Tom Draude '62**, **Fr. Tim Corcoran '67**, **Steve Swift '87**, **Gary Polansky '69**, **Greg Mercado '04**, **Janel Brown '97**, **Peter Damisch '75**, **Todd Barrett '00**, **Derrick Clark '99**, and **Tom Mercer '87**.

The September meeting featured our annual envelope stuffing working party, preparing 160 mailings to go out to local schools and candidates across a good part of central Florida as invitations to Founders Day. Rolling up their sleeves were **Jonathan Shannon '02**, **Eric Theil '95**, **Gary Polansky '69**, **Lane Askew '99**, **Chris Thompson '92**, **Brian Tsai '16**, **Eric Houlihan '19**, **Dan O'Shea '91**, **Paul Matthews '85**, **Tom Draude**

'62, Jonathan DeSimone '13, Tom Hartline '81, Warren Hahn '60, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Austin Gullett '03, Chris Heath '72, and newcomers Peggy and Laverne Lovell '75.

Welcome aboard, shipmates!

Watch for information to sign up for these future events -

Future Events

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month (no sign-up needed)
- Navy football watch parties at The Deck, St. Petersburg
- Army-Navy football watch party, 9 December. Navy hosts - location TBD

Our social media links are above. Don't forget to enroll on MyUSNA.com, our new all-service platform, and join the Tampa Bay Chapter - a Distinguished Chapter in 2020-2021-2022.

Everything's great in the Sunshine State!

*Chris Heath '72
Chapter Secretary*

Georgia

Atlanta Chapter

Pres: **DJ Marzetta '94**

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Deborah Catrini

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

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Although we didn't have any "official" events during the summer months, the Atlanta chapter did still find ways to get together and have fun. In June Chris and **Al Kowadla '78** opened their home on Lake Lanier for a lazy afternoon of boating, eating and general camaraderie. Many thanks to Al and Chris for being such outstanding hosts.

Now that fall is here, we're looking forward to resuming our tradition of monthly luncheons and other gatherings. The board is planning to have these at various locations around the Atlanta metro area. More events are in the works, and the best place to see what's happening is the chapter website. We welcome input from all Atlanta-area alumni - if you have an idea, please let us know!



Host Al Kowadla '78 fires the grill

Hawaii

Hawaii Chapter

Pres: **Ted Peck '88**

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Vice Pres: **Keno Knieriem '06**

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Sec'y: **Eric Kimura '76**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USNA.AA.Honolulu>; <https://www.facebook.com/NavalAcademyHawaii/>



Atlanta Chapter Gathering on Lake Lanier

CHAPTER NEWS

Idaho

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Todd Severance '92, USN (Ret.)**
p: 208-620-9436; e: tjseverance1992@gmail.com

Northwest Chapter

Pres: **Peter Optekar '63**
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Vice Pres: **Brad Little '72**
p: 619-459-6352
Se'y: **Travis Williams '16**
p: 775-815-1104
Treas: **William Crumpler '65**
p: 509-447-7956
VA Coord: **John Lasher '69**
p: 208-664-6753
BGO **Henry Netzer '72**

Southern Idaho Chapter

Pres: **Paul Campbell '98**
e: Paul.Campbell@1998.usna.com
Vice Pres: **Rick Schellhaas '68**
e: rbschellhaas@gmail.com
Sec'y: **Rufus Taylor '66**
e: tincansailor980@gmail.com
Treas: **Andrea Hovey '03**
e: andrea.hovey@gmail.com
Idaho Parents' Club President: **Nicola McIntosh (Luke '24)**
e: idusnaparents@hotmail.com

Greetings all.....We wish all of you, your families, and friends a happy holiday season!

Chapter members gathered at the Payette Brewery on 15 August to welcome the Class of 1973 "Ride-to-Remember" (R-2-R) bicycle riders. The ride is a 3,200 mile cross-country event that began in Astoria, OR August 4, 2023 and will end in Annapolis, MD on October 5, 2023. The team consists of six riders and two support members. The purpose of the ride as related by one of the riders, **Doug Leland '73**, is "to honor our fallen classmates by symbolically gathering each to Annapolis for our 50th reunion this October." Individual tributes to fallen classmates will be made daily and at various stops along their route. Chapter members welcoming the riders included **Mike Coyle '65, Bill Previty '65, Rufus Taylor '66, Rick Schellhaas '68,**



Michiana Chapter: Class '83 VET Bike Trip Fundraiser passing through South Bend. It was hosted at Note Dame by Missy & Bill Conboy '83

Dennis Hanrahan '68, Tom Simmonds '73, Johnny Green '76, Ken VanderHorst '79, Carol Huffman '80 and Pete Butler '86 along with spouses/ SO's. BZ to **Tom Simmonds '73** for organizing the event.



Class of 1973 R-2-R riders (L to R) Bill Montgomery, Dave Haefner, Ron Bowman, Doug Leland, and Tom Tesoriero.

The Navy football season kicked off in Dublin, Ireland. Unfortunately, the game did not have the best outcome for Navy fans. None-the-less the watch party at the Payette Brewery was a great success. Both Navy and Notre Dame alumni along with Idaho Parents Club members

gathered to cheer on the Blue and Gold. SIC members present were **Rick Schellhaas '68, Rich Waddell '80, Chris Horak '94, Paul Campbell '98, Ben Charles '99 (Avery '27)** spouses/SOs and other family members.



The whole gang of Navy and Notre Dame fans pause for photo

Upcoming chapter activities include the Boise, Idaho, Veterans Day Parade on 11 November, Army-Navy game watch party, and the All Service Academies Holiday Ball in late December.

So, you have been wondering about "not getting the word" about chapter activities and all things USNA? Have you signed on to **myUSNA?** More changes are coming to the website so now is a good time to register and be in the know. Check out the September 2023 edition of Shipmate, page 4, and get the skinny.

The Southern Idaho Chapter (SIC) meets monthly. Alumni and 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



Southern Idaho Chapter members and R-2-R riders enjoying the festivities

Illinois

Chicago Chapter

CDR **Fredrick W. Weber '75, USNR (Ret.)**
2134 Evert Ct., Northbrook, IL 60062-6612
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e: Fred.Weber@2comm.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator (Southern, IL): **Gene Marquez**
e: gds_m Marquez@charter.net



Michiana Chapter: Dale Szpisjak '87 & family visiting their son, David '24 for Parents Weekend at USNA. Pictured with Bruce Shuttleworth '87 & family & midshipman son

Indiana

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Drew Thomas '04, USNR**
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Indianapolis Chapter

Pres: **CDR Lynn Thomas '83, USN (Ret.)**
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Michiana Chapter

Pres: **John Ross '94**
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Vice Pres./Sec'y: **CDR John (Chris) Haizlip '72, USN (Ret.)**
15246 Longford Dr., Granger, IN 46530
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Treas: **Pat Sloan '75**
e: pfsloanesq@aol.com

Greetings all. Our South Bend Chapter is alive and well...to quote someone..."the reports of our demise have been greatly exaggerated!" Anyone guess who said that?...you must have passed you high school English class! A few of us have been meeting for lunch at random intervals at various bars & restaurants in the area. Our next big event will be the Army/Naval gathering...details to be provided by separate correspondence!

Some fotos from the past few months.



Deb & Pat Sloan '75, Avila stadium, Dublin, Navy Game Aug 2023



Missy & Bill Conboy '83, telling the Fundraisers. "It's time, get going, don't let the door hit you on the way out!"



Nancy Strauss, caught a big fish at Shelter Island, S. Diego (CVN-71). Husband John Strauss '69, said he was busy at MCRD O'Club



Chapter President John Ross '94 & wife Celeste having an undisturbed chapter meeting of their own

Iowa

See Minnesota

Send *Shipmate* input to: **Nathan CW Smith '98**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Ted Olt III '85**
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Kentucky

Louisville/Southern Indiana Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator:
CAPT Gregory Reinhardt '79, USN (Ret.)
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Louisiana

Louisiana Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Bob Ferrante '90**
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Sec'y: **Wayne Morgan '98**
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Treas: **Drew Dodenhoff '70**
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Website: <http://www.USNALouisiana.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Jessica Thornhill '01, USNR**
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Maine

Maine Chapter

Pres: **Jen Bohr Tyll '01**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Jen Bohr Tyll '01, USNR**
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Maryland

Annapolis Chapter

Pres: **CDR Scott J. Shepard '91, USN (Ret.)**
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Vice Pres: **Michael Rapp '91**
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Sec'y-*Shipmate* Contact: **Liesel (Danjczek) Schopler '99**
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Treas: **Chuck Dixon '79**
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Membership: **James McNeal '86**
e: jamesm@ispards.com

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

Join the Chapter: https://www.signupnow.events/USNAAlumniChapter_Annapolis/

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Charles Mello**
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CHAPTER NEWS

Baltimore Chapter

Pres: **Jason Hardebeck '87**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Charles Mello**
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Join the Chapter: [https://www.signupnow.events/USNA Alumni Chapter_Annapolis/](https://www.signupnow.events/USNA_Alumni_Chapter_Annapolis/)

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

Greater Southern Maryland Chapter

Pres: **Micheal W. Thumm '75**
e: thummer75@md.metrocast.net

Sec'y: **Katie Ellefson '13**
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Corr Sec'y: **Thom Phelan '79**
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Website: <http://www.navyalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**
e: Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com

Events

Annual Crab Feast on Sunday, 24 Aug at the Solomon's Rec Center NAS Patuxent River, MD. Crabs were plentiful and full, thanks to the crab cookers (**Scott Bruce '79** and **Bob Buttrick '79**) and **Dan Peters '04** for organizing the event. Cake cutting honors went to **Brian Warren '09** and **Ken Ptack '67**.

21 Sep: Happy Hour at the Flight Deck Lounge – Pax River

Alumni in the News: Sad to report that **Stu Fitrell '62**, Capt (Ret.) passed away on 24 September. He was an active member of the GSMC Board of Directors and supporter from Day 1.

Coming Events:

8 Dec: Eggs & Legs breakfast
Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website (www.navyalumni.org)



Crab Feast cake cutting, Dan Peters '04 oversees the senior and junior attendees Ken Ptack '67 and Brian Warren '09

STAY CONNECTED

Find a Chapter.
usna.com/FindAChapter

Massachusetts

Boston Chapter

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Shipmate contact: **CAPT Pete Seibert '65, USN (Ret.)**
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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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Michigan

Michigan Chapter

Pres: **Maj Joe Zane '07, USMCR**
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Vice Pres: **Shawn Hoch '08**
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Website: <http://detroit.usnachapters.net>

Communications Sec'y: **Chris Bernard '88**
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BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern):
CAPT Michael Johnson '79, USNR
e: mj007mj@hotmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):
Col. Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR
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Minnesota

Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Ashley Fischer '11, USMCR**
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Shipmate Contact: **Nathan CW Smith '98**
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Website: www.USNAUpperMidwest.org

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BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Mark J. Salmen, USN (Ret.)**
NAIP Area Coordinator-Minnesota
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Mississippi

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South Mississippi Chapter

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Sec'y: **CAPT Harry J. Rucker '73, USN (Ret.)**
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Missouri

Greater Kansas City Metro Chapter

Pres: **Bob Culler '74**
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Vice Pres: **Victor Hurlbert '10**
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Treas: **Eric Carlson '74**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Lee Gilgour '01**
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St. Louis Chapter

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Montana

BGO Area Coordinator: **Andy Metroka**
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Nebraska

BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Taylor**
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Omaha Chapter

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Nevada

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Las Vegas Chapter

Pres: **Corwin Karaffa '77**
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Sec'y: **Glenn Truitt '97**
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As the Vegas Golden Knights life our city's FIRST championship banner to the rafters, the **Las Vegas** Chapter is in the middle of our football watch parties and gearing up for another EPIC Army-Navy party and there's never been a better time to come out and join us!

The LV Chapter is hosting monthly football watch parties, through December, culminating in a reprise of our hosting efforts for Army-Navy from last year at the MacKenzie River Pizza, Grill & Pub at City National Arena in Henderson on 9 December. The details for all of our watch parties are on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/851758039084714>.



We enjoyed seeing our current membership, after a busy summer, at local pizza hotspot, **Crust & Roux**, and got to meet some NEW members at their very first outing! The pizza was better than the football - and a good time was had by all, as we were joined by USMA and USAFA alumni, along with a few gold-domers from ND!



We're excited to be sending **Bobby Brown '97** to represent our up-and-coming chapter (along with all aspiring small chapters) at the Alumni Association Board of Trustees as a member of the "Other Chapter Trustees" and we love finding "long, lost" shipmates, including those who are (for now) "just visiting"!

New Jersey

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BGO Area Coordinator (North NJ): **Marcy Abbate**
e: Abbate.Marcy.M@gmail.com
BGO Area Coordinator (South NJ): **Martha Christinziano**
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website: www.usnanj.org

New Mexico

New Mexico Chapter
Pres: **John Scott Kraus '73**
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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: **Sheila Chapman**
p: 505-419-2633; e: usna.nm.parents@gmail.com
Website: <http://newmexico.usnachapters.com>
BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Swingle**
e: dswingle@newmexico.com

New York

New York Capital District Chapter
Pres: **Frank Hughes '80**
p: 518-432-9193; e: frankhughes2@yahoo.com
Sec'y: **Gordon Lattey**
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p: 518-274-4989; e: ussslater@aol.com
Website: <http://capitaldistrictny.usnachapters.com>
BGO Area Coordinator: **Jessica Barr**
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Best Wishes for the New Year
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.

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
BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Ravener**
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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 a 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. Next up is the Army-Navy Game Get-together at the Brae Loch Inn in Cazenovia on Saturday, 9 December; more about that later.

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**
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Western New York Chapter

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**
p: 585-410-1941; e: daniel.sullivan@savox.com
Vice Pres: **Pete Owen '86**
p: 949-701-2733; e: pfowen0302@gmail.com
Website: <http://westernny.usnachapters.net/>
BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**
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North Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Col Kevin Hart '75, USMC (Ret.)**
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Cape Fear Chapter

Pres: **Ray Decker '72**
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Vice Pres: **Paul Normand '74**
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Sec'y/Treas: **Steve Yandle '75**
e: sryusna75@gmail.com

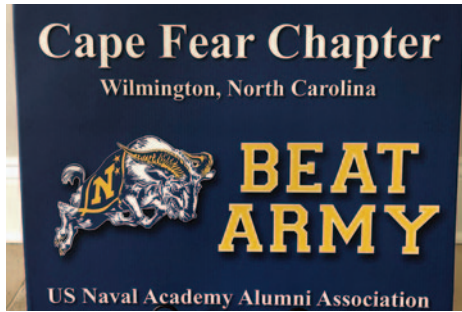
Autumn is here but the Cape Fear Chapter is enjoying an Indian summer with warm temps and mild weather. With the Chapter President MIA in Espana, **Rick Haley '72**, coordinated and led the Chapter's Southport monthly meeting. **Paul Normand '74**, our Chapter VP and retired sub skipper, provided a timely update of the newest US submarine programs. In attendance: **Tim Marvin '59**, Douglass and **Alan Smith '64**, **Cary Van Haaren '65**, Celia and **Jim Strouse '66**, Debbie and **Dave Scheu '67**, **David Parsons '69**,

CHAPTER NEWS

Peter Renfree '69, David Miller '70, Michelle and Rick Haley '72, Tom Wolfe '72, Paul Normand '74, Bart Whitman '74, Steve Rogness '75, Peggy and Steve Yandle '75, Gary Beaver '77, Ray Cook '77, Ken Shearer '77, Mike Whiting '80, Kathy and Rich Fanney '81, Jay Atkinson '92, Anne Leanos '98, and Pat Grecco, BGO Area Coordinator and mom of son Frank Grecco '00. BZ Rick and Paul!

Since this column will be read after the Chapter's October annual business meeting and officer elections, the wavetops will be in the next *Shipmate*.

Also, the 2d Biennial Interservice Academy Golf Tournament will have been played on 19 October with a projected Navy victory. **Gregg Hamelin '72 and Hugh McWilliams '72**, are the Chapter POCs and have done a great job again coordinating this event with their Service Academy counterparts. Besides herding a bunch of Whoops and Zoomies, Gregg and Hugh managed everything from rules of play to the buffet menu afterwards. Well done, classmates. The **Class of 1972** rocks!



The Chapter's 2023 Calendar of Events is posted on our website: capefearnc.usnachapters.net. Go Navy!

Charlotte Chapter

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Email: UsnaaaCharlotte@gmail.com

Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/usna-alumni-association-charlotte-251965968210794/>

Website: Charlotte.usnachapters.net

LinkedIn Group: <http://linkedin.com/groups/8344487>

We wish everyone a safe, happy, and prosperous holidays!!!

26 Aug 2023: Navy Football vs. Notre Dame. Chapter held a joint watch party with

the local ND Alumni Club at the Daily. This is second joint Navy/ND watch party held between the two chapters – great time had by all !

26 Aug 2023: After great Navy/ND watch party, the chapter had a Charlotte Knights baseball game! Fun filled day packed with great times, conversation and laughter – see pictures.

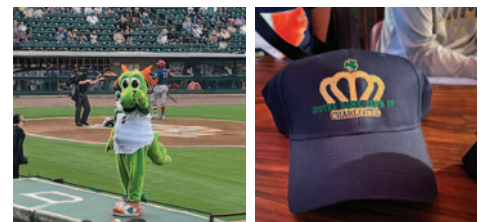
14 Oct 2023: Standby for pictures in next Shipmate from the best tailgate– Navy v UNCC



Charlotte Chapter: Navy watch party



Charlotte Chapter



Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotsky '67**
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Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**
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Sec'y: **Tim Marvin '59**
P.O. Box 731, Kure Beach, NC 28449-0731
e: tmarvin738@charter.net

Treas: **Aaron Adams '95**
329 Clam Digger Court, Swansboro, NC 28584
p: 703-232-6416; e: aaron.adams@1995.usna.com

Website: <http://myusna.com/topics/9508>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14196247/>

The meeting convened at 1145 24 August at the Officers Club MCB Camp Lejeune. Thirteen (13) members and guests attended **Rob Skrotsky '67**, chapter president began the meeting with a moment of silence for those service personnel who are deployed, for their loved ones awaiting their safe return, and those suffering and grieving.

The Treasurer **Aaron Adams '95**, reported the bank balance. He mentioned that he is receiving payments for the Founders day celebration scheduled for 13 October at the New Bern Country Club.

Mr. Skrotsky announced that there will not be a September meeting. Instead the next meeting will be the Founders Day event combining September and October. The November meeting will be in New Bern as well on the 16th, location to be determined.

Mr. **Rick Kunkel '67**, vice-president, then introduced the guest and speaker, Tracie Kline, who is the Director of the non-profit True Justice International. Details about this organization with offices in New Bern and Jacksonville are available on the internet. True Justice International (soon to lose the "International" part of its title) deals with human trafficking and the recovery of girls and boys who are drawn into this situation. Safe houses are used to retrain their clients. A complication is when a patient is addicted to drugs which must be dealt with first. She said she has to work with police as well. A recent movie on the topic "Sound of freedom" deals with the international extent of the problem. Rob thanked the speaker and encouraged

members to be aware of the huge problem of human trafficking. The meeting adjourned at 1315.

North Carolina Triangle Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Shaun McAndrew '93 USN (Ret.)**
e: shaun.mcandrew.2020@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Bill Coleman '95 USN (Ret.)**
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Website: www.usnatriangle.com

Ahoy from the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina!

Welcome back to **Tom Pitman '69**, who rejoined the chapter after relocating back to the Triangle area!

We ended the summer with the Chapter's Annual Family Picnic held at the Durham Bulls Athletic park.

More than sixty chapter members, and their families and friends, enjoyed outstanding, temperate weather, a BBQ buffet dinner, Durham Bulls baseball, and a spectacular fireworks display following the game. Of course, there was comradery and fellowship among alumni with a few sea stories exchanged.

Alumni attendees included: Jeffrey Edgar '81, Tommy McNamara '11, Lawrence Kistler '92, Bryan Dearolf '03, Girard Lew '60, Warren Schultz '71, Emory Miller '07, Perry Taylor '71, James Kinney '60, Shaun McAndrew '93, Michael Flentje '76, Bill Coleman '95, Tommy Martinez '78, Robert Adams '73, Hayden Edwards '15, David Clement '80, Christopher Perrien '74, Kenneth Clark '87, Matt Minor '07, Helmut Feifs '66, Brad Osmun '08, Aaron Roberts '97, and Jenifer Clement '81.

The Golf Squad met in August and September to test their skills on the links at different courses in the area. In August, the group overcame hot and humid weather at The Preserve at Jordan Lake in Chapel Hill, NC. September brought much better weather at Pine Hollow Golf Course in Clayton, NC.

August Participants were **Tom Clemons '82, Kevin Hamilton '94, Bryan Dearolf '03, Dan Marusa '74, John Walls '86, Steve Moran '81 and Warren Schultz '71**. September included Warren and Steve, and **Eric Benson '71**,

Bill Sena '95, and Jack Moody '70. Both events brought out other friends and family of chapter members, and brothers-in-arms from USMA and USAFA.



August Golf Squad: Kevin Hamilton '94, Bryan Dearolf '03, Guy Guidry, Andy Hertel



August Golf Squad: Dan Marusa '74, John Walls '86, Steve Moran '81, Warren Schultz '71



September Golf Squad: Guy Guidry, Warren Schultz '71, Bill Sena '95, Jack Moody '70, Steve Moran '81, Dave Rusk USAFA '74

We are looking forward to our Army-Navy Watch Party at Compass Rose Brewery in North Raleigh. Last year over 100 members and their families came together to cheer Navy. Check the Triangle's myUSNA Events page if you are interested in joining us or send us an email with questions.

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/USNAAARTP/>. Linked-in: USNA Alumni Association-Triangle Chapter (USNAAA Triangle).



Triangle Chapter: Triangle's Annual Picnic at the Durham Bulls Game

CHAPTER NEWS

Piedmont Triad Chapter

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Sec'y: **Josh Fogle '03**
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North Dakota

Upper Midwest Chapter

See *Minnesota*
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Blue & Gold Area Coordinator: **Mary Plumb**
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Ohio

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Gaby Blocher '98**
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Vice Pres: **Jennifer Yuchasz '98**
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Cleveland Chapter

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Columbus

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Sec'y: **Motisola Bowman '95**
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Website: https://columbus_usnachapter.net/
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100549757152451/>
Twitter: @USNAACbus
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BGO Area Coordinator:
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Tulsa Chapter: All-Service Academy Driller Baseball night

Toledo Chapter

Pres: **CDR Meghan Michael '97, USN (Ret.)**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Gregory Zerr**
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Oklahoma

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Whaley**
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Oklahoma City Chapter

Pres: **Jonathan Mason '07**
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Tulsa Chapter

Pres: **Rocky Goins '84**
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Vice Pres: **Patrick Hamilton '87**
e: patrickhami@gmail.com
Sec'y and Treas: **Kasey (Cregge) Carradini '84**
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The Tulsa Chapter hosted the All-Service Academy Driller Baseball night. To be gracious by taking turns, we honored Brigadier General Ron Buckley (USNAFA '89) to receive the Hometown Hero bat this year. **Patrick Hamilton '87** and **Gavin McCrary '80** led the USNA contingency.

CLASS and CHAPTER OFFICERS

Please check your **CLASS** and **CHAPTER** headers. Send us your updates.

CLASS officers, email to:
classnews@usna.com

CHAPTER officers, email to:
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Oregon

Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

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Vice Pres: **CDR Mike Carmichael '69, USNR (Ret.)**
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Treas: **CDR Ted Scypinski '90, USNR (Ret.)**
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National Chapter Trustee:
LtCol Doug Ballard '74, USMCR (Ret.)
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Gillian Richards**
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Our annual all academy picnic in August in Camas, WA on the banks of the Columbia river was, for the first time, a true all academy affair with participation from all academy alumni. The silent auction had memorabilia from **Butch Bewick '63**. All items were purchased. Representing the USNA were: **Mike Carmichael '69** his wife Suzie and daughter Kym, **Doug Ballard '74** and his grandson Chase Odell, **Todd Washburn '93**, **Scott Fitzgerald '80**, **Ted Scypinski '90** and his wife Jenifer, Jan Della-Mura, wife of recently deceased **Bart DelaMura '54**, **Chris Carlson '78**, **Butch Bewick '62**, **Jill Richards '94**, **Lee Hall '80**, **Jim Unger '53**, **Wes Bochner '11** and his wife **Liz Bochner '13**, **Alyssa Sanders '06**, **Arlen Aspeason '93**, **Jack Kohl '65** and his wife Joan, **Mark Cooksey '71** and his wife Susan, **Doug Bomarito '68** and **Kerry Nguyen '24**.

Present from the USMA were **Dick Malin '56** and his guest **Frankie Rodela**, **Casey Sutton '80** and family, **Michael Menical '78** and his family of 5 and **Terry Connell '58**. Representing the USAFA were **Lex Page '67**, **Henry Johnson '75** and his wife Barbara, **Tom Neal '72** and his wife Carly, **Mike Thomas '76**, **Adam Satler '96**, **Mike Van Hoomissen '79** and his wife **Jan Van Hoomissen '80**, **Jack Christensen '73**. Present for the USMMA were **Casey Powell '66** and his family of 4, **Dave Jones '95** and his son Cowen,

Pat McAllister and his wife, Representing the parent clubs were Jenny and Ky Nguyen and their children Kaden, Kyra, and Midshipman Kerry (USNA), Bart McCool (USNA) and Jeneane and Peter Douglass (USMA, USAFA, USNA-that is right, a son at West Point, a graduate from USAFA, and one from USNA).

A special event at the picnic was the recognition by **Capt. Jill Richards '94**, area BGO Coordinator, of the incredible contribution made by **Butch Bewick '62** as our BGO area coordinator for over 25 years. **Way to go Butch.**

We had enough food left over to donate to Lifeworks, a local school for special needs children. These kids were able to enjoy their own special picnic.



Our September luncheon featured chapter member **Capt. Jill Richards** as guest speaker. Jill is also the area BGO Coordinator. She spoke about the issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and unwanted sexual contact. In general, she spoke to those issues DOD-wide, including update statistics involving all three classes of sexual misbehavior. Within those statistics, there

were a surprising number of males reporting incidents - although the predominant per capita reports are by female complainants. In addition to the general DOD overview, she detailed what actions and programs the Naval Academy has instituted. She also reported about programs that the USNA Women's SIG has instituted for sexual assault survivors, including the first in person survivors retreat to be conducted in Bend, Oregon in 2024. Finally, she concluded with some suggestions on how to respond should someone confide in you about being sexually assaulted: 1) listen to them; 2) believe them; 3) make sure they are safe; 4) ask what help they need; and 5) connect them with a professional resource. CAPT Richards' presentation generated a lively discussion, and we look forward to having her return. Present were **Doug Ballard '74, Tex Harkins '67, Chuck Penque '67, Hod Wells '59** and his wife Peg, **Butch Bewick '62, Glen Weeks '65, Don Haslett '66, Tim Myers '64, Tony Lash '58 (VMI), Tom Fischer '79, Steve Somnitz '82** and his wife Kathy, **Greg Swanson '66 (USAFA), Todd Washman '93, Doug Bomarito '68, and George Schultz '72 (NESEP).**

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Tim Farrell '76, USN (Ret.)**
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Pittsburgh Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Gates '77, USN (Ret.)**
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Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Pres: **Tim Farrell '76**

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VP: **Rob Gundlach '84**

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Treas: **Jim Nolan '70**

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BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Matt Chabal '77, USN (Ret.)**
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Our chapter gathers the third Thursday of every month at 1630 at Mad Chef Craft Brewing in



Susquehanna Valley Chapter: August Monthly Gathering with (L to R) Ryan Goldsmith '12, John Dobosh, Kathi Frost '84, Rob Gundlach '84, (Daughter '34? of Mark Horodowicz '08 and Patricia Groleau), Patricia Groleau, Dave Lawrence '76, Mark Horodowicz '08, Tim Farrell '76, and Laura Dill '06



Susquehanna Valley Chapter: Navy v Notre Dame watch party with Central PA USNA Parents' Club at Boomerang Bar & Grill

CHAPTER NEWS

East Petersburg. Please join us 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. If East Petersburg is too far to drive, but you'd like to get together with other USNA alumni who live nearer to you, please send one of our chapter officers a date, time, and place. We'll communicate it by all means available to us.



Susquehanna Valley Chapter: September Monthly Gathering with (L to R) Dave Teply '74, Dave Lawrence '76, Peter Filkins '77, Karen Filkins, and Tim Farrell '76

Recreational Vehicle

American Chapter

Pres: **Tom Wolfe '70**
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Treas: **Dale Gange '70**
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Shipmate sec'y: **Jennifer Stone**
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As we turn the corner from warmer, sunnier weather, to the crisp, cooler days of Fall, this correspondent (currently residing in Michigan) is nostalgic for the memories of Key West, FL. Every year, the USNA Alumni RV Chapter's members and guests gather for a memorable event known as the "Key West ComeAround." This annual tradition takes us to the sun-soaked paradise of Key West, Florida. Held from 5-13 February, the event provided a unique opportunity for 52 attendees, including 22 RVs, to bask in the beauty of Key West and create lasting memories. Under the theme of "Fun, Fellowship, and Memories," this gathering was a testament to the enduring camaraderie forged at the United States Naval Academy.



RV Chapter: Key West ComeAround



Rose and **Tom Wolfe '70**, took the helm as the Firsties for the 2023 Key West ComeAround. Their leadership set the tone for a week filled with exciting activities, friendship, and nostalgia.

One standout feature of this year's event was the involvement of numerous volunteers who played vital roles in ensuring the event's success. Their efforts epitomized the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that defines the Naval Academy Alumni Chapter. **Jay Williams '67**, **Dave Finley '77**, and **Nick Peterson '86** comprised the Advanced Shore Party Team, making sure everything was in place before participants arrived. They inspected the campsite, coordinated with MWR personnel, and even conducted on-site route reconnaissance.

Our Beachmaster Team, led by **Jack Parry '67** and assisted by **Jim Swoope '70** and **Tim Hallihan '72**, this team ensured that the campsite layout met all safety and regulatory requirements.

Mike Currie '67, generously offered fishing opportunities aboard his boat, the "Tailhooker." Despite challenging weather conditions, Captain Mike and **Hank Giffin '67**, ensured an abundance of fish for the much-anticipated fish fry featuring the day's catch. Thanks to Hank and his wife, Stevie, the event was a culinary delight. **Dave Endicott '72** kept us hoppin' with the perfect musical backdrop for the fish fry and Margarita night, showcasing a playlist filled with Jimmy Buffet tunes and nostalgic favorites.

This group is never left for wanting food as we enjoyed a Hearty Campsite Breakfast hosted by Vanessa and **Tim Hallihan '72**, who recruited volunteers like **Tom Keane '87**, who fearlessly taste-tested bacon for the group's safety. Thanks to **Marty McGee's '72** coordi-

nation efforts we didn't starve, and enjoyed lunch at Latitudes, a local favorite on Tank Island.

Another highlight of this trip was coordinated by **Jay Williams '67** who arranged a fascinating tour of the Fighter Squadron Composite (VFC-111) SunDowners facility on Boca Chica, followed by a well-deserved lunch.

Marty McGee '72 and **Jim Salaman '72** led bicycle tours of historic Key West, offering a unique perspective of the city's rich history. Not to be out done, **Dale Gange '70** led a leisurely bicycle ride to Baby's Café and Coffee Shop, providing a refreshing mid-ride break for participants.

Being the competitive group we tend to be, we held a series of games and opportunity to display our competitive spirit. This year's Jeopardy Night was hosted by Vanessa and **Tim Hallihan '70**, basing this crowd favorite on the popular TV quiz show centered around U.S. Naval service allowing us to brandish our competitive spirit. Adding the fun and games of this Come Around, **Kirk Daniels '75**, with assistance from **Fred Weber '75**, organized a thrilling golf cart obstacle course, where pilots navigated blindfolded with verbal instructions. The winning team was Kevin and **Eve Krauss '06**. The ultimate competition, hosted by Vanessa and **Tim Hallihan '72**, with technical support from **Dale Gange '70**, ensured everyone had a blast watching the Super Bowl.

The event also featured a traditional white elephant auction, expertly led by **Jack Parry '67**. This Key West favorite was not only a chance for fun and camaraderie but also a way to raise funds for the Chapter. Special thanks went to JJ Tucker (**Mark Farris '70**), who generously donated skillfully knitted items to the auction, and Vanessa **Hallihan (Tim '72)** and Lorraine Henry (**Clay '82**), who modeled them.



Key West sunset as seen from our campsite

While we were definitely given the opportunity to participate in the many activities scheduled for this Come Around, we had ample free time to explore the enchanting island of Key West, with its recreational and entertainment opportunities, as well as its cultural and historic landmarks. This included an unexpected treat—two Jimmy Buffet concerts at the Coffee Butler Amphitheater. While ticket prices initially deterred some, resourceful attendees discovered that they could enjoy the concerts from a grassy area on the Truman Annex side, right across from the venue, at no cost.



Evie '06 and Kevin Krauss with daughter Laynie '44(?)

In summary, the 2023 Key West ComeAround was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and teamwork of its participants. As attendees left Key West, they took with them not only cherished memories of this beautiful paradise but also a deeper connection to their Naval Academy family. The bonds forged during this event will undoubtedly last a lifetime, reminding everyone that the spirit of the Academy lives on, no matter where life takes them.

Rhode Island

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Rhode Island Chapter

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Paul Muller '88 received an update from proud parents Keith and Staci Muzzioli.

<24> Hello Rhode Island alumni! As a super proud Mom of a new Marine aviator, I want to congratulate all of the young alumni who earned their wings this year. This would include my own Ocean State bambino, 1stLt **Alex Muzzioli '20 USMC!** Twenty-six "kids" received their soft-patch wings for their flight suits in an informal ceremony on 24 August this year/2023, while each took a good ribbing from their IPs. This was held at Ace's Pub on NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. Free beer and pizza was a nice touch! The formal winging was 25 August, also at Whiting (but not in the bar!), followed that evening with more free beer on the water at Calvert's restaurant in Pensacola. I am so honored to have been a part of these ceremonies and celebrations - ooh and I got to pin on his

wings! Alex will soon be heading out to Cali to train on the UH-1Y (his first choice!), and then will be stationed at MCAS New River, NC. His Dad and I are REAL helicopter parents now!
Keith and Staci Muzzioli



South Carolina

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Central Savannah River Area

(Aiken, SC; Augusta, GA; and surrounding areas.)
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Sec'y: **Brian Goldschmidt '94**
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Charleston Chapter

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On Monday, 18 September, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. In Attendance were: Max Hill '51; Fuzzy Knight '53; Jim Flatley '56; Bernie Magdelain '67; Roger Paradis '67;



Charleston Chapter: Golf, August 2023, L to R: Rick Stein '82; Jim Flatley '56; Dennis Simon '77; Charlie Young '70; Seamus Flatley '83; George Watt '73 and Curt Holcomb '61

Chuck Meyer '68; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Jim Lyons '74; Dave Shimp '76; Denny Simon '77; Rick Stein '82; Greg Shore '84; Wes Smith '90; and Tony Bruce '91.

The Chapter mourns the passing of **John Nuernberger '64.**

The Charleston Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12 Noon in Mount Pleasant. No reservation required.

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Palmetto Chapter

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Sec'y: **Suzanne Hopper**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Sharon Holt '00**
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Spain

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Rota Chapter

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Tennessee

Chattanooga Chapter

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Texas

Alamo Chapter

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BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Montgomery '04**
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I want to start this report with a success story relating to the Chapter's support of NASS applicants. Several years ago, the chapter happened to support a student (among others) from San Antonio for NASS. He subsequently was accepted into the academy, went on to graduate and become a pilot. We as a chapter do not normally follow the candidates that we support. However, in this case his BGO (Roman

Sanchez) shared with us a reunion of sorts with a picture (attached) with the now LT Alvarez who is stationed at the academy serving in the Navigation/seamanship department. Perhaps more unique is that his wife (LT Taylor Alvarez) is the BGO Liaison Officer who oversees the candidate selection process and guides all BGOs through the process. Chapter members, your donations and dues are doing good beyond our knowledge. Keep up the good work.



Overall view of the Navy/ND viewing group



L to R: Eric Challain '69, Ron Sandoval '81, Tom Colbourn '68, Ray Saenz '78 in attendance at the Navy ND viewing party



Special Cookie and monogrammed glass with N*

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Jimmie Tadlock '87 and family at ND viewing party



L to R: BGO Roman Sanchez, Lt(s) Joe and Taylor Alvarez '17

Another pleasant (albeit bittersweet) report is our joining with the Notre Dame alumni for a game watching party. ND alumni traditionally gather at the Anchor Bar and graciously invite us to join them. (and we are grossly outnumbered) I am including several pictures including a photo of party favors that they had purchased for Navy attendees! The tradition surrounding Navy/ND is strong in San Antonio!

Dave Driskell '63
Secretary, Alamo Chapter NAAA

Austin Chapter

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North Texas Chapter

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Pres: **Jamey Cummings '93**
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VP of Programs: **Carrie Murdock '99**
VP of Membership: **Ty Rose '06**
Treasurer: **Greg Colandrea '90**
Sec'y: **Frankie Delgado '95**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Eschenbrenner**
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Holiday Greetings from North Texas! We are gearing up for the Navy-SMU tailgate and game on November 25th. We hope to see you there to help us give SMU a proper sendoff to the ACC!



Bob addressing the NTX Alumni



Class of '90 represented by: Greg Colandrea, Bob Pragada, Steve Ohmstede and Michael Stanzel



Parents Club & Alumni watching Navy-ND at the Rock & Brews

This Fall the chapter has been busy. First, we joined the Parents Club for some fun watching the Navy-ND game in Ireland at Rock & Brews. In September we were honored to have **Bob Pragada '90**, CEO of Jacobs, speak at our monthly chapter luncheon where he shared how his journey as a Midshipman and Naval Officer helped to develop him as a leader. Bob's presentation provided some funny anecdotes and amazing insights on how his service years provided foundational lessons in discipline, adaptability and teamwork that he carries with him to this day. Attendees left with some inspiration they too could carry with them.

Lastly, just a reminder, the annual Blue Chip Dinner is scheduled for the end of December, please see our website to reserve your seat! As we move towards the end of 2023, your Shipmates in North Texas wish you Happy Holidays and a safe New Year! Blessings to you and your families from the NTX Chapter! Of course, BEAT ARMY!

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Pres: **Evan Williams '11**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Link**
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August 26 Houston Navy v Notre Dame watch party was hosted at Hugh O'Connor's by the Houston Notre Dame alumni chapter. **Rick Bush '69** won the football pool for halftime!



Although, Navy lost, the tradition and camaraderie was strong. Notre Dame alumni and former Marine wanted a picture with **Rich Bulger '69**, **Dan Hanley '10** and **Luke Schamel '10**.

September 1 monthly meeting held at El Tiempo with guest speaker, Curt Schaefer, USMA '96, Managing Partner of Outfitter Energy Capital to discuss *Significant Changes in the Energy Industry and the Role of Private Equity*. His remarks were very well received and acknowledged as one of the most informative guest speakers we have had in the past.

September 9 TxGC got together at a West Point owned bar in Houston, Upside Pub for the Navy Football Viewing party against Wagner and again on **September 14** for the Thursday night

game against Memphis and **30 September** against USF.

Upside Pub will be the location for the Navy viewing parties this season, except Army-Navy, which will be at Karbach Brewery. Any changes to this will be communicated on MyUSNA.com.

September 22 north Houston no-host lunch was at Wunsche Bros. Cafe and Saloon, Spring, TX. In attendance was **Dan Hanley '10**, **Dave Yee '05**, **Erin Losie '01**, **Aaron Kline '99**, **Brian Weaver '98**, **Royce Engler '73**, **Rich Bulger '69**, **Rick Bush '69**, and a very special guest of **Paul Riley '48A**.

September 29 south Houston no-host lunch was held at El Tiempo in Webster TX. In attendance pictured above was **Michael Smith '11**, **Evan Williams '11**, **Jonathan Powell '04**, **John Augusto '02**, **Jeff Stewart '00**, **Jerry Keller '95**, **David Smith '92**, **Chris Briggs '91**, **Ed Klein '72**, **Rich Bulger '69**, **Hugh Ronalds '66**, and **Brendan Fullem (Parent '26)**.

TxGC will continue to host suburb suburb lunches or happy hours. If you have restaurant suggestions (12 - 20+ attendees with "separate checks") please contact north side Co-Chairs: **Brian Weaver '98** (bweaver@focalpointcoaching.com) & **Royce Engler '73** (raengler73@gmail.com) or south side Chair: **John Augusto '02** (TxGulfCoast.usnachapters@gmail.com).

Member News:

Allen Cowherd '12 accepted a job as a Health, Safety, and Environmental Engineer at White Fleet Abandonment.

Luke Schamel '10 has recently gotten involved with the chapter and is working as a Commercial Litigation Associate at Yetter Coleman LLP.

Bret Leach '08 is recently engaged! Congratulations, Shipmate!

Jordan Mack '08 started as an Associate Attorney, Clifford Chance, focusing on M&A translations.

Knox Nunnally '01 co-founded Allen & Nunnally LLP, earlier this year, focusing on personal injury and business disputes.

Byron Ogden '92 recently moved to Houston and is the VP of Personnel and Culture at Plastic Express.

Future Events

Luncheons are tentatively set for Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. These luncheons are expected to be



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

CHAPTER NEWS

at El Tiempo Cantina, 2814 Navigation Blvd, Houston 77003.

Army-Navy viewing party is scheduled to take place at Karbach Brewery in Houston co-hosted with the Houston West Point Society and benefitting the NextOp, <https://nextopsvets.org>, an organization that recruits, develops, and places E-3 to E-7 military members and veterans for industry careers. Our January meeting will be our annual Smith-McCool Sword Presentation, presenting a sword to the highest ranked first class from the Houston area, with family still residing in Houston, by a USNA astronaut.

Follow TxGC on myUSNA, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter (Group). Please submit any questions or suggestions related to TxGC, as well as inquiries about volunteer opportunities within the Chapter to txgulfoast.usnachapters@gmail.com.

DO YOU LIVE IN HOUSTON? We have over 1,000 members & growing volunteer opportunities available in different locations throughout the year! Minimal commitment required to actively participate and enjoy the camaraderie of one of the largest Alumni Association Chapters! Email: txgulfoast.usnachapters@gmail.com or current Vice President (DHanley@2010.usna.com) to learn about our latest events and visit with us!

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

Navy may not have had the "luck of the Irish" when it played Notre Dame in Dublin on 26 August, but UK Chapter President **Tim Fox '97** and Board of Directors member **Tony Cox '89** each struck gold when they were able to acquire last minute tickets for the game: Tim from a Navy Lacrosse contact, **Billy Looney '07** (special thanks to **Matt Russell '06** and Joe



'89 Classmates **Jim Bell** and **Tony Cox**

Another '89 classmate! **Jim Ronka** and **Tony Cox**

Amplo), and Tony from **Jim Bell '89**, a flight school housemate. In the end, it was a tough day for Navy Football, but the fellowship and camaraderie were first class!

Tony stayed with '89 classmates **Cathy Masar, Gerry Schaefer** (and wife Renée), **Ed McGovern, Chris VanWart** (and girlfriend Jess), and **Mike Monaco '90**. "Great craic with Ed's cousins, who live in the suburbs south of Dublin," Tony said, before heading to the Dalkey Lobster Festival the day following the game.



Liz Cross and **Tim Fox '97**, ready to party!

Tim and his girlfriend, Liz Cross, enjoyed the sights and meeting up with shipmates. Tim and Liz crossed paths in Dublin's Temple Bar district with several members of the National Championship-winning Navy Men's Rugby team that had defeated Notre Dame 78-0 earlier in the day. Among the players were **Roanin Kreiger '26** and **Max Smith '26**, who were coached as high school juniors in San Diego by **Tom Wagner**, President of the Spectacular Class of 1997!



Tim Fox '97, Roanin Kreiger '26, and Max Smith '26 celebrate Navy Rugby's 78-0 win over Notre Dame

A month later, Tom was in London when he and his daughter flew in to visit several universities in the UK. After an exhausting trip from San Diego, followed by a "four-hour drive" from Heathrow to central London on a pilgrimage to Ted Lasso's neighborhood in Richmond, Wags met Tim for wings and cheesesteaks at Passyunk Avenue, the UK Chapter's home away from home. The two swapped memories of '97's Ring Dance (sorry, Matt Pfeffer!) and made plans for Navy Rugby's future dominance of the Royal Navy's first XV.



Tom Wagner, Class of '97 President, and Tim Fox

Next up for the UK Chapter is the annual Army - Navy Game Watch! Once again, alumni, family, and friends will meet at Passyunk Avenue's Leake Street location (postal code SE1 7NN), right near the Waterloo Station, to cheer on the mids. Kick-off is at 2000, but the UK Chapter has the space at Passyunk from 1800 onward. Kids and family are welcome! Contact Tim Fox (timfox97@hotmail.com) and please copy Gaz Hayden (Gaz@passyunkavenue.com) in on your RSVP.

And as always, Go Navy Beat Army!

Utah

Intermountain Alumni Chapter

Pres: **Robert Allen '67**
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Vice Pres: **Ryan Merrell '00**
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Treas: **Mike Hester '69**
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Sec'y: **Tabeetha Moesinger '91**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Darrin Briggs '03**
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Virginia

Central Virginia Chapter

Pres: **Bill Murray '83**
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Vice Pres: **Ty Schieber '87**
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Sec'y: **Ed Borger '80**
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Treas: **Steve Hill '74**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Aldridge**
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Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Renee Reedy '81**
e: reedy81@usnahamptonroads.com
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Website: www.usnahamptonroads.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81, USN (Ret.)**
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When the Mids kicked off the 2023 Navy football season in Dublin during "week zero" Hampton Roads Chapter football watch parties did



Hampton Roads Chapter: Watch Party at Shorebreak: Navy v Dublin game in Dublin

likewise with a turnout of 100+ at Shorebreak Pizza in Virginia Beach. Although the game's outcome was certainly disappointing, "hope springs eternal" and local alumni and fans have continued to come out to cheer on the Blue & Gold for all Navy games. And of course, no matter how the rest of the year turns out, the regular season will culminate on 9 December when we expect to pack the house again for our annual Army-Navy Party at Shorebreak.

On 14 September we again partnered with the Armed Services YMCA for the third annual Be Somebody's Hero Golf Tournament. Established in 1861, the ASYMCA is one of the oldest organizations in the country supporting our military members; and through avid participation and sponsorship this highly successful event again raised thousands of dollars in support of several critical programs, including the very popular Operation Little Learners. **Bob Perry '72** and **Vince Bowhens '85** orchestrated the planning, setup, and execution of this event along with a team of volunteers that included **Bill Daniels '77**, **Steve Nimitz '76**, **Bill Magnan '70**, **Tom Paulk '80**, Eric Davis, **Ken Berger '73**, **Todd Wagner '86**, and **Renee Reedy '81**. Among the over 100 golfers were about 60 alumni and friends; and the top alumni finishers were a "veteran" foursome anchored by **Phil Olson '62**, **Paul Hurst '62**, and **Butch Meier '68**. Second place in the 2nd Flight went to the Class of 1979 - **Dan Chang '79**, **Tim Moon '79**, **Judd Knecht '79**, and **Doug Mitchell '79**; while second place in the 3rd flight was earned by **Jim Smith '72**, **Chuck Neihart '72**, and Renee Reedy '81.



Our September Networking Breakfast speaker was Gary Merryman, Director, Hampton Roads Norfolk Sail Committee. Gary discussed his project which seeks to bring the actual sail and other items from the decommissioned USS NORFOLK (SSN 714) back to Hampton Roads and to build a memorial park at which it will be featured. The October speaker was J. Michael Cobb, curator emeritus of the Hampton History Museum, whose presentation on "The Civil War at Fort Monroe" clued us in on some local history. To finish out the year, the December speaker will be author **David Poyer '71** who will discuss his latest novel, "The Academy", which is the capstone of the 22-book Dan Lenson series.

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

Dick Enderly '71

Quantico Area Chapter

Pres: **George Williams '87**
 e: bucketokinawa@gmail.com
 Vice Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**
 e: ryan.steenberge@gmail.com
 Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**
 QACUSNAAAtreasurer@yahoo.com
 Sec'y: **Nancy Springer '87**
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 BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley '74**
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 Website: <http://quantico.usnachapters.net>

Back in August, 23 QAC members gathered on the 3rd to hear a unique speaker, **Midshipman 3/C Alex Dachos '26**. Just returned from his summer training, Alex will transition from his plebe company (7th) to 10th when the Brigade reforms and start classes in the Robotics and Control Engineering major. Audience members were eager to compare their experiences with his and asked several questions about both mundane and unique topics, such as Youngster cruise. Alex's summer training this year was PROTAMID which the audience members experienced as rising 2/C. He told us today's midshipmen all participate in a "youngster" cruise but during 2/C summer. Overall, we learned that while some things have changed, such as new opportunities for overseas training, internships and experiential learning, the essence of the Academy remains the same: to produce Navy and Marine Corps officers for our great nation. The Chapter enjoyed hosting Midshipman Dachos and getting a first-hand perspective on the life of today's plebes.



Midn 3/C Alex Dachos '26, USN



Quantico Area Chapter: Navy-Notre Dame Watch Party

CHAPTER NEWS

The Navy football season is now underway and so are the Chapter's sports watch parties! On Saturday 26 August, 21 Chapter members met at 6 Bears and A Goat Brewing Company in Fredericksburg to watch Navy battle Notre Dame. Our larger than average crowd (we needed multiple tables!), representing class years from 1969 to 2010, had a great time together despite the disappointing result! Better luck next time!

Then, 17 Chapter members met on 1 September for the latest installment in our Breakfast Speaker Series. Our own CAPT **Jim Ripley '74**, USN (Ret.), Blue Gold Officer Area Coordinator gave us a very informative talk about the BGO program along with useful talking points for Academy discussions with area youth. Northern Virginia is a very competitive region for academy admission. Regularly, our area will fill approximately two thirds of the available Virginia vacancies. Jim also gave us a rare, in-depth look at how to successfully compete (e.g. the significance of congressional versus other source nominations, compliance with deadlines, the alternate pool, etc.). The BGOs' work contacting, assessing and shepherding applicants through the process is phenomenal. Last, he provided a very valuable perspective on successful applicants' academic credentials. The bottom line is prospective Midshipman need to start early to academically prepare themselves. Talking about the Academy to older elementary and middle school students is NOT too early at all! The Chapter was grateful for Jim's very informative session and actionable tips.

All area and visiting alumni are welcome at QAC events. Please consult our website calendar for the schedule and other details. Additional information is on the Chapter Facebook page. The Chapter is actively recruiting alumni from the 2010 and 2020 eras. Please contact President **George Williams '87** for more information.

Richmond Chapter

Pres: **Michael Metzger '89**
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Sec'y: **Matt Laser '97**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81, USN (Ret.)**
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Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Pres: **David McLellan '73**
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Sec'y: **LCDR Grayson Redford '63, USN (Ret.)**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley '74**
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Puget Sound Chapter: Family Picnic

Virginia Peninsula Chapter

(formerly the Williamsburg Chapter)

Pres: **Kathleen Jabs '88**
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Vice Pres: **Rick Yasky '78**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81, USN (Ret.)**
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Website: www.myusna.com
Group: **Virginia Peninsula Chapter**

Washington

BGO Area Coordinator: **Darin Perrine**
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Hanford/Tri-Cities Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Edward Schwier '69, USN (Ret.)**
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Website: <http://hanford.usnachapters.com>

Puget Sound Chapter

Pres: **Alan Schrader '92**
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Corr Sec'y: **George Windsor '75**
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Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/9554>

The PSC hosted the annual Family Picnic at Camp McKean in Kitsap County on Saturday 29 July. Over 50 individuals attended the gathering, including alumni from classes ranging from 1960 to a prospective 2004 grad. RDML **Kristen Fabry '91** (Ret.) was the guest speaker, encouraging all of us to support Navy recruiting and retention by being visible and positive influences in our community. The daughter of **Steve Fabry '65**, she recently returned to Western Washington after departing active duty and we look forward to her continued presence.



RDML Kristen Fabry (Ret.)



Listening to RDML Fabry

On 6 September - Our speaker series continued with Bob Fishman who presented Part 4 of 5: Across the Pacific and the Battle of the Philippine Sea (May 1943 - June 1944)

Upcoming events at a glance:

- (a) 8 November - Speaker Series - Bob Fishman - WWII Part 5 of 5
- (b) 9 December - Army-Navy Game Event (Family Fun Center - Renton)
- (c) 22 December - All Academies Ball (Tacoma, WA)

Washington, DC Area

Greater Washington Chapter

Pres: **Luis Martinez '01**
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Vice Pres: **Anthony Calandra '88**
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Sec'y: **Crysta Gonzalez '18**
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Treas: **Jennifer Shaar '92**
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Diversity and Inclusion: **Alberto Ramos '10**
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Trustee: **Fred Latrash '87**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Pat Seals**
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Shipmates,

The Greater DC Chapter of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association serves our community by providing support to prospective applicants to the U.S. Naval Academy. The chapter:

Hosts information sessions to help prospective applicants decide if the U.S. Naval Academy is the right school for them. These sessions are typically held in the Fall.

Hosts candidate acceptance events to celebrate those that have been awarded admission to the Naval Academy. These sessions are typically held in the late Spring.

Support candidates wishing to attend Summer Seminar.

Applying to USNA from this area is highly competitive due to the proximity to Annapolis as well as the top-notch school systems and presents a unique set of challenges to candidates. The acceptance rate is a little less than 10%. We strive to provide applicants, as well as parents and counselors, with the information they need to be successful.

USNA has steadily increased the number of women candidates to nearly 30%, and all

careers — including submarines since 2010— are open to women. Nearly a third of the class has post-high school experience, including college, NAPS and enlistment.

Check out the 2024 class portrait: https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/_files/documents/ClassPortrait.pdf

We ask that our fellow alumni and members please provide this information to anyone in the GWC area (MD, DC, northern VA) interested in learning more about our school. This includes:

- Prospective candidates
- Teachers
- Guidance counselors
- Coaches
- School administrators
- Community leaders

Please help the chapter spread the word about this event.

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**
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Website: <http://wisconsin.usnachapters.net/>

WISNAPA Co Presidents: **Andy and Laura Kittleson**
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Website: <http://wisconsin.usnaparents.net/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**
e: leonard.green.a@gmail.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Best Wishes for the New Year
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.*

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

NAMA

Pres: **RADM Julius S. Caesar '77, USN (Ret.)**
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Vice Pres: **LCDR Valerie Mansfield '92, USN (Ret.)**
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CoS: **CDR Calvin Bumphus '97, USN (Ret.)**
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Treas: **C.J. Willis '75**
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BGO Coordinator: **Vacant**
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Shipmate Contact: **LCDR Jessica Anderson '08, USN**
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Website: www.usnama.com

EVENTS

Upcoming Events:

It's crazy to think the year is wrapping up! We have a NAMA recognition dinner, Giving Tuesday and of course some Beat Army events to round out 2023. **SAVE-THE-DATE!** The **2024 USNA Alumni Leadership Forum** with the Gala highlighting AAPI achievements in the naval service will be held **18-20 April 2024 in Annapolis, MD at the Fluegel Alumni Center**. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out!

NAMA offers many 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:

We've had so many recent great events! Our homecoming tailgate, Beat Air Force brewery event, and members got the opportunity to attend the ship naming ceremony of USNS HARRIET TUBMAN (TAO-213). Members also had the opportunity to attend and support USNA's Diversity Conference and network at an up-mixer. We held a member meeting and a town hall too, helping keep NAMA informed and engaged. Thanks to those that joined us and helped make all of our events a success!

NAMA partnered with the Naval Academy Foundation to establish the Naval Academy Minority Affairs Fund (NAMAFA). Your donations support on-campus visits for students and Centers of Influence, scholarship funding for STEM and NASS, Gospel Choir travel, and Midshipman activities.

Visit usna.com/give or follow the directions on the NAMA website, <https://www.usnama.com/donation-selection/> to donate today.

NESA

Naval Engineers & STEM Advocates (NESA)
Pres: **ADM John Richardson '82, USN (Ret.)**

Vice Pres: **CDR Sarah Rice '02, USN**
e: sarah.b.rice@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CDR Renee Reedy '81, USN (Ret.)**
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Treas: **LT John Rex Spivey '13, USN**
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Outreach & Engagement: **Dr. Jill Rough '96, CAPT USNR**
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CoS: **CAPT Dale Lumme '80, USN (Ret.)**
e: kid.lumme@1980.usna.com

NAMA Liaison: **CAPT Timi Lindsay '92, USN (Ret.)**
e: timi.lindsay@gmail.com



SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



Run To Honor: USNA Alumni, Faculty and friend's of CAPT Dave Wallace '96 run in his honor

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**
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Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**
e: secretary@runtohonor.com
Website: www.runtohonor.com

Join us in honoring our fallen heroes at events like Memorial Day, Reading of Names, Annapolis 10K, Marine Corps Marathon, and more. Be part of something meaningful. Contact **Steve Swift '87** at president@runtohonor.com to volunteer and make a difference.

On 17 September 2023, the Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) organized a poignant run in Annapolis, Maryland, allowing participants to run not just for the memory of 9/11 but also in tribute to loved ones.

The event brought together a dedicated group of individuals to honor the memory of Captain **Dave Wallace '96**, a respected US Naval Academy alumnus, and faculty member. Dave Wallace had tragically passed away in December while serving as a Permanent Military Professor in the Leadership & Law Department at the US Naval Academy.

There were several other displays of honoring USNA alum. **Shannon Webb '04**, ran to honor her classmate, **Michael Licalzi '04**, celebrating the spirit of camaraderie that binds the USNA community. In a remarkable display of dedication,

Tracie Severson '95, clinched the top spot among women participants, showcasing the unwavering spirit of the academy's alumni. Additionally, the event featured a special kids' 1-mile run, where the youngest participants ran with hearts full of enthusiasm. Notably, two kids ran for RTH, adding a heartwarming touch to the event as they symbolically ran in honor of heroes they hold dear.

The TMF run brought together not only faculty members and friends but also spirited midshipmen who joined the race alongside their respective sports teams. The event transcended mere athleticism; it was a tribute to heroes and a testament to unity.

The Travis Manion Foundation's run in Annapolis celebrated not only the memory of 9/11 but also the profound bonds that connect the USNA community. It showcased how a simple run can become a powerful symbol of remembrance and unity, where individuals run not just for themselves but also for the cherished memories of their comrades and heroes.

Follow and share with us at: www.facebook.com/runtohonor.

Sign up for our email list at: www.runtohonor.com/mailling-list/.

Get the stories behind the names in memorial hall at www.usnamemorialhall.org



Get involved or Donate:
<http://www.runtohonor.com/get-involved>

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**

Established in 2022, the USNA Pride SIG is a community of proud LGBTQ+ and allied alumni. Together, we strive to create inclusive friendships, serve as a platform of representation, and build a network of mentorship among our members.

The USNA Pride SIG operates under a threefold purpose:

i. Create a bond of community among USNA LGBTQ+ alumni and allies based on shared experiences while at USNA and within the fleet, enabling the development of inclusive friendships which span USNA classes, geographies, and services.

ii. Serve as a platform for LGBTQ+ representation within the broader USNA alumni network, through which the contributions that LGBTQ+ alumni have made to the Naval Academy, the military service, their communities, and their nation may be recognized.

iii. Establish a network of mentorship and support for LGBTQ+ alumni who currently serve in the operating forces, and for current LGBTQ+ midshipmen as they prepare to commission.

Our core values demonstrate our organization's priorities and objectives. The USNA Pride SIG embraces the following core values and definitions within our membership:

1. Inclusivity - Members of the USNA Pride SIG are committed to providing support, recognition, and acceptance to all, regardless of their personal identity.

2. Positivity - The USNA Pride SIG will strive to create a positive atmosphere of camaraderie, in which participating members will feel uplifted and inspired to connect with others and share their stories.

3. Character - Members of the USNA Pride SIG are role models. We will represent the LGBTQ+ and Allies community in a positive manner and will set the standard for behavior through our words, actions, and relationships. We are professional, respectful, and honest.

4. Community - Members of the USNA Pride SIG possess a wealth of experiences and diverse points of view in all aspects of life. Our main commonality is USNA, however we all bring individual strengths that contribute to the group. Our community is inclusive of all members, positive in nature, and strong in character.

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

Join us at our Army-Navy Game - Knights Out Tailgate on December 9!

USNA Pride will hold its first elections this year. Seats up for vote are: Vice-President, Secretary, and Outreach Officer. Email us for more info!

For alumni interested in joining the SIG, getting involved in our event planning, or running for our board, please email our leadership team at usnapride@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram at @usnapride.

USNA Women

Pres: **Linda "Postie" Postenrieder '82**
p: 415-235-9413; e: post82@whidbey.com
Vice Pres: **Kendra Chappell '94**
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Outreach: **Gillian Richards '94**
e: jillusnawsig@gmail.com

The Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG) joined the Alumni Association and Foundation (AA&F) in the dedication of the new Fluegel Alumni Center (FAC). WSIG had a special ceremony to dedicate our **Alumni in the News** screen in the spectacular entry way of the FAC. We thank **Jeff Webb '95**, **Mark Ferguson '78**, the alumnae and alumni donors, and so many other staff from the AA&F for their support and participation in this meaningful event. We would love to add your news or the news of your alumni best friend who would never think to submit what they are doing. Send those

news articles or stories to Cecily Walsh (cesstay@yahoo.com) so we can update the screen regularly.



We're thrilled that the **Sisterhood of Mother B (SOMB) Waypoint podcasts** have returned. Alumnae from the class of '98 (the founders of the SOMB), have published 2 new podcasts. The latest one features Distinguished Graduate Awardee, Janie Mines '80. You can find the podcasts at <https://myusna.com/topics/9176/page/somb>. Great job gals!

In October, WSIG **Survivor Advocacy Network (SAN)** held its Second Annual Survivor

Retreat. The SAN is hosting its **final webinar on Tuesday, November 28, 2023**, title "Trauma Healing Modalities: Nutrition and Sex Therapy". Alumnae can register for this event by going to the WSIG event page at <https://myusna.com/networks/events/47946>.

Our kickoff 501c3 fundraiser, featuring a new t-shirt design celebrating our journey to the stars (flag and general officer alumnae), was a success. Look for an auction fundraiser next, along with other apparel opportunities to build your WSIG wardrobe. **If you have design ideas or desired products, please send them to info@usnawsig.org**. Thank you to all who participated!

We want YOU! The WSIG is looking for volunteers to help with a few initiatives. Please contact us at info@usnawig.org if you are interested in helping with any of the following:

- * Ad-hoc committee for the 50 years of Women Celebration, just 3 years away in 2026.

- * Ad-hoc committee to plan and process a Call for Art for the 50 years of Women Celebration

- * STEM conference committee (CA in fall of 2024)

- * Writers to keep us current on social media

- * Video/audio editors

The WSIG wishes all a joyful and safe holiday season!

Go Navy!



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

James William Kelley '45
27 July 2023

Jackson Edwin Scott '46
18 February 2020

Elmer Stanley Weissburg '46
29 July 2023

Carlton Angus Klump McDonald '48
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
27 September 2023

Ward Parmalee Riggins Jr. '48
22 August 2023

Mark Perrin Frudden '50
RADM, USN (Ret.)
9 January 2023

Robert Lantz Miller '51 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
16 September 2023

Alexander William Todd Jr. '51
LCDR, SC, USN (Ret.)
8 October 2023

Jerome Rapkin '52
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
24 September 2023

Robert Gaylord Reed '52 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
5 October 2023

Charles Dwight Fellows '53 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
24 August 2023

Delvin Wellington Smith Jr. '53
CDR, USN (Ret.)
13 September 2023

Frank Bliss Wolcott III '53
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
23 August 2023

Richard Frederick Murphy '54
8 August 2023

George Valentine Zeberlein Jr. '54
CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.)
29 August 2023

John Joseph Anderson '55
Maj, USAF (Ret.)
31 August 2023

John Waller Gallagher '55
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
20 April 2023

Wayne Middleton Wills Sr. '56
Maj, USMC (Ret.)
6 September 2023

Stuart Joseph Yuill '56
LTC, USA (Ret.)
17 October 2023

George Robert Frank Jr. '57 ■
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
19 September 2023

Larry Tyson Ingels '57
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
11 September 2023

Donald Richard Jahn '57
CDR, SC, USN (Ret.)
2 September 2023

Arthur William Kelly '57
27 September 2023

Walter Valentine Roeser '57 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
28 August 2023

Samuel Matthew Trippe '57
7 October 2023

Stuart Edward Craig '58
28 September 2023

Victor Raymond Gardy '58
6 October 2023

Jack Lawrence Giddens Jr. '58 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
27 September 2023

Philip Andrew Meurer '58 ■
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
6 September 2023

Matthew James Kelch '59
21 July 2023

Marvin Roy Osburn '59
16 August 2023

Stephen Van Hekle Snyder '59 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
26 September 2023

John Caldwell Vance '59
17 August 2023

Jay Christian Metzler '60 ■
10 October 2023

Christian Herndon Poindexter '60
16 October 2023

Neil Sherman Carns '61
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
9 October 2023

Harold Pierce Martin '61
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
25 January 2023

Stuart James Fitrell '62
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
22 September 2023

Robert James McNeal '62 ■
18 September 2023

Peter William Sushka Jr. '62
CDR, USN (Ret.)
6 September 2023

Donald Edward Watkins '62
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
23 September 2023

Peter John Chaney '63
4 October 2023

William Bailey Heard '63 ■
10 September 2023

Robert Alex Maier '63 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
31 August 2023

David Charles Reif '63
1 October 2023

David George Stephan '63
2 October 2023

Robert Joseph Cepek '64
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
14 September 2023

John Allan Nuernberger '64
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
12 September 2023

Gary George Zech '64
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
31 August 2023

Kenneth Edward Luther '65
28 September 2023

William Bradford Birkmaier Jr. '66
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
16 September 2023

Howard Leon Crisp '66
15 August 2023

Harold Vincent Maixner Jr. '66 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
28 September 2023

Michael Robert Ryan '66 ■
26 September 2023

Jay Allen Sears '66 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
7 August 2023

Frederick Frank Cazenave Jr. '67
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
2 October 2020

Duane Edward Cook '67
6 September 2023

William Francis Haake II '67
20 September 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.

Carl Thomas Berry Jr. '68

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
16 August 2023

John David Kohler '68

30 August 2023

Ronald Lee Christenson '69 ■

RDML, USN (Ret.)
25 August 2023

James Edward Code '69

4 October 2023

Jonathan Edward Paff '70

26 September 2023

Robert Erskine Prince '70 ■

1 September 2023

Bradley Thomas White '70

CDR, USN (Ret.)
14 September 2023

Robert John Ferguson '71

23 August 2023

John Thomas Mooney '72

21 August 2023

David Wayne Lucas '73

LCDR, USN (Ret.)
3 October 2023

David Lee Morrison '73

23 September 2023

Thomas Roger Roe '73

10 May 2020

Michael William Charles Viscardi '73

6 September 2022

Franklin Peter DeGaetani '74

4 September 2023

Howard Alan Levin '74

21 September 2023

David Alan Smith '75

19 January 2021

Kenneth Bryant Sykes '75

5 October 2023

Erwin John Wunderlich '75

CDR, USNR
20 September 2023

Elmer Kenneth Grey Jr. '76 ■

LCDR, USN (Ret.)
20 January 2023

Bruce Allan Ross '80

CDR, USN (Ret.)
23 September 2023

Craig Owen Hardin '82

CDR, USNR (Ret.)
10 August 2023

Jaime Borrego '89

CDR, USN (Ret.)
23 August 2023

Joseph Kirk Flanagan '89

4 October 2023

Heather Leigh Ann Purvis '89 ■

LT, USN
11 September 2023

Jason Christopher Davis '91 ■

1 September 2023

David Gilbert Jasso '92

CDR, USN (Ret.)
13 October 2023

Paul Wilson Miller '93

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
7 October 2023

Jacob John Rosales '00

CAPT, USN
30 June 2023

Eli Benjamin Michel '11

ENS, USN
5 May 2023

Leonard John Pick III '21 ■

LTJG, USN
9 September 2023



ROBERT RUSSELL DICKEY III '48

Colonel R.R. Dickey III, USMC (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 10 August 2023, surrounded by loved ones at his ancestral home, Wakefield Manor, in Huntly, VA.

“Robin” was born in Pau, France, to Robert Russell Dickey Jr. and Lelia Sinclair Gordon. He grew up in France, England and the United States, also spending summers during his youth in Canada, where he once rescued and raised two orphaned baby bears. The bears were later

donated to the National Zoo, and he reported visiting them years later and the bears recognizing him! He attended schools in England and the U.S., including St. George’s School in Rhode Island, prior to USNA.

He joined the Naval Academy Class of 1948 in June of 1944 and was a member of the Third Company. Among other, more enduring accomplishments, he was known throughout Bancroft Hall for his ability to roll Bull Durham fixings into a perfect smoke using one hand.

Upon graduation, Robin attended the U.S. Marine Corps Basic School. As an infantry officer, he served in several combat zones in Korea (where he remained in the field despite a leg wound), and twice in Vietnam as a battalion commander.

It was while serving as 12th Company officer at USNA that he met his bride, Catharine “Kitty” Doolin (daughter of E.H. Doolin Sr. '20 and great-granddaughter of William Henry Willcox, USNA 1847, graduate #60). Following Annapolis, he was at MCB Quantico and then deployed to Paris, France, as the U.S. Marine attaché to NATO. Upon his return, he was based in Camp Pendleton, CA, followed by his first tour in Vietnam. He was next assigned to Headquarters USMC in Washington, DC, with another tour in Vietnam and back to Headquarters USMC. He ended his military career as Chief of Staff, MCB Quantico, VA.

Robin never stopped learning and served his “retirement” years (1974-2023) as a farmer, teacher, horseman, philosopher, poet and generous host at Wakefield Manor. There, he enriched the lives of family and friends, and was grateful as well for visits from fellow Marines for many years after his retirement.

Colonel Dickey was predeceased by his wife, Catharine Doolin Dickey in 2007. He is survived by their children, Catharine, Virginia and Rob; and grandchildren, Eliza and Caroline.

A family memorial service was held at on 14 October 2023 at the Wakefield Manor chapel, with burial immediately following at the Wakefield Manor cemetery. ★



FREDERICK REID LAFFERTY JR. '48

Commander Frederick R. Lafferty Jr., USN (Ret.), died on 7 July 2023, surrounded by his three loving daughters at his ranch north of Santa Rita, NM.

“Fred” was born on 31 March 1926, on the Presidio of San Francisco, CA, into a fourth-generation military family. After his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944 and graduation in 1949, he married Elizabeth Louise Vissering in the chapel at the

Naval Communications Station, Washington, DC, on 20 August 1949.

The couple then proceeded to Corpus Christi, TX, for Fred’s flight training in F4U fighters. He returned to Pensacola, FL, Naval Air Station for carrier qualifications and received his cherished Wings of Gold on 31 March 1950.

Reporting to Commander Naval Air Pacific, Fred completed two cruises to Korean waters, flying TBMs and AFs aboard SICILY and BAIROKO. That was followed by an assignment with Air Transport

LAST CALL

Squadron 5, where he assisted in the establishment of ComNavAirPac's first carrier-on-board delivery school, and three years of flight instructor duty at NAAS Kingsville, TX.

In 1957, Fred began training as a nuclear weapons supervisor at the Armed Forces Special Weapons School, Albuquerque, NM. That was followed by two shipboard tours in the Pacific and a temporary assignment with headquarters 13th Air Force, Clark Air Force Base, Philippine Islands.

Upon his return to the United States, he served a tour with VAW-11; a tour as special weapons officer at NAS Whidbey Island, WA; and as staff logistics officer for ComNav Marianas, Guam.

His final orders were to the Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) in Washington, DC, as head of the Nuclear Weapons Safety Division, from which he retired in 1969.

After a 12-year stay in El Paso, TX, the family's final move was to southwestern New Mexico, where Fred and Betty established a wildlife sanctuary on La Querencia Ranch.

Fred was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Betty; his parents, Colonel F.R. Lafferty, USA (Ret.), and Lucile G. Lafferty; and his sisters, Lucile Spurrier and Dorothy Ann Lee. He is survived by his daughters, Nancy Elisha of Aspen, CO, Linda L. Lafferty of El Jebel, CO, and Carey A. Lafferty of Santa Fe, NM; as well as seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

There were no services at his request. His remains were cremated and scattered with those of his wife on the mountains of La Querencia Ranch.

Nancy, Linda & Carey Lafferty ★



ROBERT LANTZ MILLER '51

Commander Robert L. Miller, USN (Ret.), 95, passed away 16 September 2023 in Newville, PA, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on 10 May 1928 to Dr. Roy and Florence (Lantz) Miller in Reynoldsville, PA, "Bob" graduated from Shamokin (PA) Area High School. He entered the Naval Academy by congressional appointment in 1947. He was on the 1949 national championship lacrosse team and graduated with the Class of 1951 as a member of the 11th Company.

Bob served on WILTSIE (DD-716) during the Korean War. After Submarine School, he had duty on TRUMPETFISH (SS-425), followed by the commissioning of DARTER (SS-576). While in Washington with Special Projects developing the Polaris submarine and missile, he met his future wife, Marilyn Kramersmeier. He was on the commissioning crew of JOHN MARSHALL (SSBN-611), followed by command of BANG (SS-385). After that, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and earned a master's degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University. His next duty was as XO of Submarine Base, New London, CT. After attending the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, he was assigned as a naval advisor in Argentina. Commander Miller's final tour was on the staff of the CNO, from which he retired in 1973.

Subsequently, Bob was with Merrill Lynch for 15 years, retiring as an assistant vice president. He capped his endeavors with 12 years as trustee and chairman of the board of Presbyterian Homes, Inc., serving the elderly in five states. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, a member of Lions Cubs International and a lifetime member of both the American Legion and the USNA Alumni Association.

His final 15 years were spent in Newville, PA, at Green Ridge Village in independent living, where he enjoyed many activities.

Bob will be remembered for his love of family and his deep Christian faith, with its joys from serving the people and communities around them. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, summering in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada and wintering in Tavares, FL.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn; daughter, Jeanne (Eric); sons, Robert Jr., Jeffrey and Christopher; granddaughters, Erika David and Alicia Settle (Richard); and great-granddaughters, Brennan and Miller May Settle. He was predeceased by his brother, Roy; and daughter-in-law, Judy.

Memorial services with full military honors were conducted at the First United Presbyterian Church, Newville, PA, with inurnment planned in the family cemetery in Jacksonburg, WV. ★



ROBERT HOLDERMANN SMALL '51

Captain Robert H. Small, USN (Ret.), passed away on 23 August 2023. He was 94 years old.

"Bob" was born on 20 February 1929 in Madison, IN, to George and Delight Small.

A 1951 graduate of the Naval Academy, Bob's first assignment was aboard K.D. BAILEY (DD-713) in Newport, RI, where he met his wife, Ensign Ruth Klein, USN. They were married in March 1953. Bob served aboard NORFOLK (DL-1), PILOT (AM-104) and attended

the Naval Postgraduate School. At MIT, he received a Master of Science degree in 1958. A staff tour with CruLant was next; followed by duty as navigator aboard OBSERVATION ISLAND (EAG-154); and then XO aboard ABBOT (DD-629).

After attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and serving in the CNO's office, Bob took command of DUPONT (DD-941) from 1966 thru 1969; firing over 30,000 rounds of 5-inch ammunition supporting U.S. Marines and Army units during two Vietnam tours. This was followed by a NATO tour with Standing Naval Force Atlantic; attendance at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; and nuclear power training. Bob took command of TRUXTUN (CGN-35) in 1973 and headed back to Southeast Asia for PIRAZ duty in the Tonkin Gulf, followed by a nuclear refueling in Bremerton.

Heading back East in 1976, he soon became director of the Surface Warfare Systems Group at NavSea, until he retired from the Navy in 1981. Bob then began working in the defense industry. In 1988, he and Ruth moved to Annapolis and Bob returned to the Naval Academy to teach weapons and sailing to midshipmen. In 2007, Bob retired from USNA.

A very active classmate, Bob was extremely involved with his class board, including serving as class president from 2000-2003. He and Ruth organized reunions, sit down dinners and other class functions. Bob was very instrumental in obtaining the Class of 1951's support for the USNA Chapel's organ restoration and upgrade and supporting the USNA Museum's Gallery of Ships.

Bob's great enjoyment was spending time with family and friends, as well as traveling all over the world with Ruth on Cunard cruises, walking tours and sailing adventures.

Predeceased by Ruth in July 2023, Bob is survived by their sons (and wives), Richard '78 (Margaret) and Andrew '83 (Karen); and two grandchildren, Jacob and Rhianon.

A memorial service for Bob and Ruth will be held at the Naval Academy Chapel at a later date. ★



JAMES KENNETH NUNNELEY '52

Rear Admiral James K. Nunneley, USN (Ret.), died peacefully on 23 May 2023, one day before his 94th birthday.

"Jim" grew up in Tulsa, OK, the first son of Ola Grace and Virgil Nunneley and devoted brother to Dick and Jerry. After graduating at the top of his class at Will Rogers High School, he prepped for the Naval Academy exam and secured his legislative appointment while working as a surveyor in Rawlins, WY.

Jim was sworn in on 16 June 1948. He graduated with distinction and received his commission on 6 June 1952. The next day, he married Kathryn Milliken "Muffie" Kilpatrick at the Naval Academy Chapel.

As a young ensign, Jim reported to the Norfolk, VA-based amphibious command ship TACONIC as damage control assistant and repair division officer. He went on to serve as ship superintendent and docking officer; chief engineer for NORTHAMPTON (CC1); staff duty officer and hulls/trials officer, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force; and design manager for VIRGINIA (CGN-38). He later served as repair/planning officer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA; and as shipyard commander at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, WA, where he was promoted to rear admiral. From 1980-1984, he served as Director, Ships Maintenance and Modernization Division for the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

During his career, Jim earned a master's degree in Naval Architecture and Engineering from MIT, attended the Naval War College, and earned a master's degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University.

Jim retired from the Navy in 1984. He then served as president of ROH for ten years. In 1994, he and Muffie returned to Annapolis. They enjoyed Class of 1952 tailgates and attending the Naval Academy Chapel each Sunday, where Jim also ushered. In 2007, he and Muffie moved to Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA, to join ten USNA classmates for their final tour.

Muffie predeceased him in November 2022. They are survived by three daughters, Kathy Bagden (Alan), Ann Hogge (David) and Stacey Paul (Corky); seven grandchildren, Kate, Andrew, Will, Ashely, Carson, Abby and Jacob; and 13 great-grandchildren, Gracen, Lawsyn, James, Jack, Chapman, Millie, Rowe, Maddie, Spencer, Tripp, Sam, Josie and Max.

A Celebration of Life with military honors was held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 3 November 2023, followed by committal at the Naval Academy Cemetery.

Condolences to the family may be sent to (<https://tinyurl.com/55tk4ass>). "Tough Shoes to Fill" ★



ROBERT GAYLORD REED '52

Lieutenant Commander "Bob" G. Reed, USN (Ret.), passed away on 5 October 2023 in Lakeland, FL. He was 94 years old.

In his later years, Bob often said his life was blessed, but truly we who knew him were the blessed. As a dedicated husband, father, brother, grandfather, naval officer, teacher, coach, friend, mentor and volunteer in his churches and communities, he made a difference in many lives.

Born in Joplin, MO, he was the son of Floyd and Ilah. He graduated from Joplin High School and after a year at Joplin Junior College, reported to the Naval Academy in 1948.

Upon graduation from USNA with the Class of 1952, he was commissioned as Navy ensign and reported for amphibious training in Coronado, CA. After training, he deployed to BAYFIELD (APA-33) in Japan.

In 1953, he married Barbara Young in their hometown of Joplin, MO. He was proud to be a naval officer or a "Jack of All Trades." During his 20-year career, he served on a number of ships and seven years at the Pentagon. He served as navigator on LONG BEACH (CGN-9). He was grateful it was one of the first ships with a satellite navigation system. One role at the Pentagon was as oceanographic programs officer.

Upon retirement in 1972, Bob and Barbara settled in Alexandria, VA. His second career was teaching math in Prince Georges County, MD. He served as math department coordinator at Potomac High School and was an NEA union representative. He was also very active at church, serving as an elder, a deacon on the congregational care committee, and volunteering time for Koinonia and at Miriam's Kitchen in DC.

In 2002, Bob and Barbara relocated to Lakeland, FL. There, he continued volunteer work at church, distributing and maintaining hearing aids and organizing game days. They still play by "Bob's Rules." In the Carillon Lakes community, he was well known for founding the Carillon Lakes pancake breakfasts.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Sharon. Bob is survived by his wife of 70 years, Barbara; their children, Robert (Marie), Karen and James; grandchildren, Jon and Rebecca; sister, Jane (Don); and many loving nephews, nieces and extended family.

Services were held at First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL, with interment in their Memorial Garden.

Please direct memorial donations to the charity of your choice.

The Reed Family ★



CHARLES DWIGHT FELLOWS '53

Captain Charles D. Fellows, USN (Ret.), passed away on 24 August 2023 with his loving wife, Alix, by his side.

"Chuck" was born in Strahan, IA, on 20 January 1930, the eldest son of Dwight Daniel Fellows and Margaret Richter. An Iowa farm-boy, he attended Walnut Public High School and the University of Iowa for two years awaiting appointment to a military academy.

Chuck enrolled in the Naval Academy class of 1953 with visions of flying airplanes. After completing academy flight training and qualifying for flight school, he had a decision to make. Having never seen the ocean before leaving Iowa, Chuck fell in love with the sea and enrolled in Submarine School, choosing the submarine force over aviation. His first tour after graduation would lead him to circumnavigate the globe on JOHN W. "LEAKY" WEEKS (1953-1954). A decorated naval career that culminated with the rank of captain, included command of the submarines MARLIN (1962-1963) and ENTEMEDOR (1967-1969); personnel officer for the U.S. Submarine Force's Atlantic fleet; Director of Enlisted Recruiting for the U.S. Navy; and equal opportunity officer for the US Navy. He earned the National Defense Service Medal w/1 Star, the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1981, Chuck earned his MA in History from American University. He then became an associate professor at NOVA Community College. Chuck and Alix spent many summers in their bayside cottage in Milbridge, ME. The red cottage has been a Fellows family summer tradition for more than 50 years.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 68 years, Alix; sister, Ruth; brother, Dan; five sons (and their wives), James Dwight (Gail), Daniel Mackie (Katie), David Alexander (Celeste), Peter Charles (Helena) and Andrew Stanford (Gabriela); along with 14 grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Bob (on 23 August 2015) and grandson, Daniel Hunt (on 10 June 1988).

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Chuck will be remembered by his loved ones as a resolute man; a caring and generous person, quick to exude gratefulness and encouragement to all of those around him.

A memorial service was held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria, VA, on 18 November 2023. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined in early 2025. ★



ROBERT COURTNEY MARTIN '53

Captain Robert "Bob" C. Martin, USN (Ret.), passed away on 3 July 2023 in Mission Viejo, CA. He was 91 years old.

Born in Ponca City, OK, "Bob" was the son of Beverly and Ruby Martin. He graduated from Ponca City High School in 1949. Fulfilling his childhood ambition, he was appointed to the Naval Academy and received his Bachelor of Science degree with the Class of 1953.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign and was assigned to GYATT (DD-712). He returned to Ponca City in 1954 to marry Dolores Barnett. They went on to New London, CT, where he attended Submarine School. Bob subsequently was redesignated a Special Duty Officer, Cryptology, and pursued the intelligence related specialty for the remainder of his career. He attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI; earned a master's degree in International Affairs at The George Washington University; and studied Financial Management at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. His distinguished career included duty stations in Washington, DC, Kami Seya, Japan, Adak, AK, Winter Harbor, ME, Newport, RI, Arlington, VA, Monterey, CA, and finally Ft. Meade, MD. He served tours at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, the Pentagon and Naval Security Group HQ. His final assignment was Director of Military Personnel at NSA. Retiring in 1978, Bob was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal.

Following the Navy, Bob spent 15 years at Alex Brown and Sons, a Baltimore investment banking firm, where he specialized in fixed income.

Bob and Dolly enjoyed their retirement in Maryland, Florida and California and celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on 19 June 2023. Bob had a lifelong interest in photography and woodworking. Over the years, he handcrafted many beautiful pieces of furniture and artifacts. Together with Dolly, they enjoyed numerous trips around the country and abroad with a focus on photographing nature, and the results are enjoyed by many to this day.

Bob is survived by his wife, Dolly; their daughters (and spouses), Jill (Ed), Valerie (Wayne '76), Valinda (Steve) and Alyson (Ron); and eight grandchildren, Courtney, Kellyn, Lexi, Riley, Bethany, Tess, Brooke and Summer.

Services and inurnment were held at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 31 August 2023 ★

MEMORIAL AFFAIRS RESOURCES

www.usna.com/memorial-affairs



JAMES ROBERT BLANDFORD '55

Commander James R. Blandford, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully at his home in Charleston, SC, on 13 August 2023. He was 91 years old.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, on 25 December 1931, "Jim" was the son of Robert and Margaret Blandford. He played varsity football, All-City basketball and was a marksman at Carrick High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve until receiving his appointment

to the Naval Academy with the Class of 1955. While at Annapolis, he earned a degree in Naval Science, and lettered with the crew team. He regaled us all with stories of the "Great Eight" for the rest of his life.

Upon being commissioned as an ensign, Jim became a Surface Warfare Officer, serving at sea on cruisers, amphibs and his beloved FLETCHER-class destroyers. His shore tours included teaching navigation at USNA and at HMS Dryad while on exchange with the British Royal Navy. He was also on the staff of the Taiwan Defense Command when President Nixon normalized relations with China. He was both chief of staff and commodore of MineFlot 1 during Operation End Sweep in Haiphong Harbor, and the flotilla's return from Guam to San Diego.

Jim retired from active duty in 1981 as the port services officer at Charleston Naval Base. Jim joined the staff at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Mt. Pleasant, SC, in 1982 as chief engineer, until his retirement in 1997.

Jim was an active member of the Charleston Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association. He remained an avid student of naval and maritime history all his life. He enjoyed relaxing at his home on Folly Beach and cruising the oceans as a passenger.

In July of 1955, Jim married Kathleen "Kaethe" Madigan, who moved with him from port to port around the world until her death in 1996. Jim remarried in 1998.

Jim is survived by his wife, Noel; son, Captain Robley Blandford '78, USN (Ret.) (Joanne); and daughters, Allison Ross (Steven '79) and Alicia Parker (Gregory '79). Jim was blessed with seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed sharing his time with Noel's four adult children and three granddaughters.

Jim will be inurned at the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date. ★



THOMAS CAHOON LYNCH '56

Lieutenant Colonel "Tom" Lynch, USAF (Ret.), passed away on 26 August 2022 in Roanoke, VA. He was 89 years old.

Born in Racine, WI, he was the son of Herman and Louise Lynch. After a year at Indiana University, Tom reported to USNA, where he excelled in racquet sports as captain of the squash team and held down the number one singles slot on the tennis team.

Commissioned in the Air Force upon graduation in 1956, Tom married Mariann Buck.

He served his country with distinction as a pilot. He was an Air Force Academy instructor and tennis coach, as well as an ROTC instructor.

In his dedication to serving his country, Tom earned the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service medals.

After his retirement in 1976, Tom worked for R.E. Lee and Sons, Inc. in Charlottesville, VA, in commercial construction as marketing VP for 20 years. In 2015, Tom and Mariann moved to Roanoke, VA, to be close to their family.

Tom's friends knew and respected his natural gifts in athletic pursuits, which were marked by many championships in tennis, squash and golf. When Tom wasn't on a court or course, he could be found volunteering at Christ Episcopal Church, in his wood workshop, or with friends and family, often at their vacation home at Smith Mountain Lake.

Tom ("Grantom" to his grandchildren) was a courteous gentleman, fierce competitor, devoted family man, hospitable friend and self-taught handyman. He was a past-president and avid member of Farmington Country Club, as well as a diehard fan of UVA sports, family gatherings, time with friends and dancing with his wife.

Tom was predeceased by his wife, Mariann, in 2020. He is loved by a large family, including his children (and their spouses), Suzy Wilson (Doug), Sherry Nedzbala (Mike), Annie Lichtenstein (John) and Tommy Lynch Jr. (Rebecca); his grandchildren, Laura Vahlberg (Ben), Bo Waldo (Kathryn), John Waldo, Zach Nedzbala (Dasher Pasco), Hannah Nedzbala, Jake Lichtenstein, Elias Lynch, Andy Waldo, Noah Lichtenstein, Ethan Lynch and Joe Lichtenstein; great-grandchildren, May, Declan and Edison; and many friends.

A funeral service with full military honors was held at Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA, on 24 September 2022. Tom was buried next to his wife at Radford Baptist Church in Moneta, VA, near their wonderful lake home. ★



GEORGE ROBERT FRANK JR. '57

Lieutenant Colonel George R. Frank Jr., USMC (Ret.), died peacefully as a result of Parkinson's disease on 19 September 2023.

Born in Washington, DC, in 1935, he graduated from Gonzaga High School in 1952. He won a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy, spent four years with the Seventh Company and graduated in 1957.

Upon graduation, he followed his father's 37 years of service and joined the Marine Corps as an infantry officer. During a tour at Camp Lejeune, NC, in 1963, he met Virginia Rakow, daughter of William "Willie" Rakow '33, and they were married in February 1964. His 23 years of active duty included tours in Vietnam in 1966 and 1970/71; several tours in Washington, including a year as the Marine Corps aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and a year at the Army War College.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, Combat Action Ribbon and several unit commendations and Republic of Vietnam awards.

George earned a Master of Science degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1967. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1980.

While living in the Washington suburb of Woodbridge, VA, he worked with defense contracting in the field of electromagnetic technology. After several moves in the Woodbridge area, he and Ginny finally settled in a house they loved on the Occoquan River in Lake Ridge. He worked into his seventies and enjoyed jogging, reading, bridge, and most of all, being with "Ginny," his beloved wife of 60 years; his sons, Tom and Michael; and his four grandchildren, David, Adam, William and Edward.

Funeral services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in early 2024. ★



LEO GREGORY HYATT '57

Captain Leo G. Hyatt, USN (Ret.), passed away on 12 June 2023 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was 89 years old.

Leo was born on 29 April 1934 in Salem, NH. He graduated from high school in 1952 as valedictorian of his class and played all three major sports (basketball, football and baseball). He continued to play football during his year at the University of New Hampshire and at the

U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering. He went immediately to flight training and was designated a naval aviator in November 1958.

Until 1962, he was attached to VF-11, the Red Rippers, flying F-8 Crusaders at NAS Cecil Field and aboard ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). A two-year tour at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, resulted in a second Bachelor of Science degree, this time in Aeronautical Engineering. Following a two-year tour at the Naval Academy, where he instructed in engineering and coached football, he started flying the RA-5C Vigilante with RVAH-12 stationed at NAS Sanford, FL, and aboard CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) for a combat deployment to Vietnam.

After Vietnam, he served as commanding officer of VA-45, then as air operations officer for Cruiser Destroyer Group 12. After attending the Naval War College in 1978, he assumed command of Mine Warfare Inspection Group, Charleston, SC, and then was Chief of Staff, Naval Training Equipment Center, Orlando, FL.

Captain Hyatt was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit (with Combat V), Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star (2), Single Action Air Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (with two Gold Stars and Combat V), Purple Heart (2), Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), Vietnam Service Medal (with 11 Stars), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Action Medal) and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal for flights over North Vietnam and his conduct as a Prisoner of War from 13 August 1967 to 14 March 1973.

Captain Hyatt leaves behind his loving wife of 48 years, Barbara; his children, Lori, Greg, Ashlen and Robert. He is also survived by his brother, Matt Hyatt; many loving grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A committal service with military honors was held on 22 June 2023 at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy for the Hyatt family may be shared at (www.kayspongerpc.com). ★



WALTER VALENTINE ROESER '57

Captain "Walt" Roeser, USN (Ret.), passed away on 28 August 2023 in Melbourne, FL. He was 91 years old.

Born in Queens, NY, his early years were spent being a proud Boy Scout and delivering many different papers on his paper route. In high school, he got a summer job at Ten Mile River Scout Camp and ended up running the dining hall.

After graduating from high school in 1950, he attended Queens College and signed up for the Navy Reserve. He was in a submarine reserve unit and attended Submarine School in New London, CT. Right after, he was accepted into the Naval Academy Class of 1957.

At the Academy, Walt loved telling submarine stories; and enjoyed tennis and sailing, which would be a passion his whole life.

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LAST CALL

After graduating, his first ship was the battleship WISCONSIN (BB-64). He applied for flight school and was accepted, going to preflight in Pensacola, FL. Flying was Walt's love and he always said that he would have done it for free! He loved being a pilot so much, flying T-34s, STF Trackers, VT-8s, A4s and A3s. His final aviation assignment was as air boss on the carrier MIDWAY (CV-41). Captain Roeser retired in August 1981 with 30 years of service.

After retirement, Walt traveled the world with his wife, Betty, enjoying tennis and sailing and visiting their grandchildren. They never missed a single high school or college graduation of their grandchildren.

Walt is survived by his wife, Betty; their six children, Eric Anderson, Lauren McDaniel, Bruce Roeser, Libby Roeser, Lisa Talbott and Amy Tidd; and 11 grandchildren.

Services took place at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on 10 November 2023. ★



JACK LAWRENCE GIDDENS JR. '58

Lieutenant Commander Jack L. Giddens Jr., USN (Ret.), 87, died at his home in Estill Springs, TN, on 27 September 2023, of natural causes.

A native of Troy, AL, Jack entered USNA following high school at Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL. Jack was assigned to RANDOLPH (CV-15) upon graduation with subsequent tours as department head in STRONG (DD-758) and PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29). Mediterranean cruises

included a week aboard a Spanish destroyer and an evening of camaraderie with Spanish shipmates and Prince Juan Carlos in Port Mahon, Minorca. Later, his ship was involved in filming of "The Longest Day" off of Sardinia.

Jack was chosen for the first Defense Intelligence School and served as assistant naval attaché in Lisbon, followed by Naval Intelligence assignments in Istanbul, Washington, DC, and London. These tours engendered a lifelong love of learning, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures.

Jack left government service in 1977 and earned his JD from the Nashville School of Law. After several years in private practice, Jack found his calling with Legal Services (now Legal Aid) in their Tullahoma, TN, office. There, he married his love of people with his sense of fairness and humanity, helping community members who might otherwise go without legal representation. He remained in active practice there until fully retiring in 2001.

Post-retirement, Jack served in a number of community volunteer roles with Meals on Wheels, AARP, his church and most recently, enjoyed sharing his love of books (and storytelling) at the nonprofit Bookshelf store. He and his wife of 49 years, Mavis Vaughn Giddens, traveled throughout retirement, both domestically and abroad. His love of Navy and Alabama football was only surpassed by his love of family, friends and country.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Jack Lawrence and Mary Margaret Smith Giddens, and sister, Josephine Giddens Landrum, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephew. In addition to Mavis, he is survived by their children, Richard Giddens (Nelia), Patricia Giddens Wright (Louis), Anne Giddens Clement, Marcus Giddens and Margaret Giddens; grandchildren, River Elliot (Lauren), Summer Elliot, Richard Giddens Jr. (Rosie), Ronald Giddens and Laylah Giddens; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at First Christian Church in Tullahoma, TN, on 14 October 2023.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to First Christian Church (www.firstchristiantullahoma.org) or the Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org). ★



GEORGE BURGESS GREER JR. '58

Lieutenant Commander George B. Greer Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 12 August 2023 in his St. Augustine, FL, home.

George was born on 18 March 1935 in San Pedro, CA, to George B. Greer and Frances (Stevenson). He graduated from Dwight Episcopal High School in Manhattan, NY, and was appointed to the Naval Academy by Congressman Pelly from Seattle, WA.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, Class of 1958, George was commissioned as an ensign and served two years in the engineering department of LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729); followed by MERRICK (AKA-97) as communications officer; first lieutenant on MOUNTRAIL (APA-213); operations officer, U.S. Southern Command, Panama Canal Zone; and chief engineer on CANBERRA (CLG-8). He had duty on several Joint and Navy staffs involved in the Vietnam Conflict. He was awarded the Vietnamese Honor Medal and the Vietnamese Service Medal (13).

Upon retirement from the Navy in 1978, he joined COMSAT General Corporation, where he was involved in the sales and deployment of the first maritime satellite communications systems. This was followed by employment at the American Satellite Corp., building and inter-connecting satellite earth stations for military commands.

Final retirement found George mentoring troubled youth in elementary schools; as a member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews, building ramps for handicapped people; working one evening a week at a homeless shelter; and volunteering at the local hospital.

In their spare time, he and his beloved wife, Betsy, traveled extensively, visiting most of the European countries, southern Africa, almost all of South America and the Caribbean, along with numerous road trips up US 95 to spend treasured time with their grandchildren and daughters in Virginia and Maryland.

In addition to a lifetime of service to God, his country and family, George's greatest gift was his ability to make people smile and laugh. One couldn't help but feel his immense joy of life when near him. George never knew a stranger, only a friend he hadn't met. When greeted with, "It's good to see you, George," his heartfelt reply was always, "It's good to be seen."

George is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elizabeth (Africano) Greer; their daughters, "Cindy" Cowne and "Lisa" Forrest; five grandchildren, Jake, Luke, Cameron, Kate and Justin; and a great-grandson, Jaiden.

A memorial service was held on 17 August 2023 at Trinity Parish Episcopal Church in Saint Augustine, FL. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery, TBA. ★



PHILIP ANDREW MEURER '58

Lieutenant Colonel Philip A. Meurer, USAF (Ret.), passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early morning of 6 September 2023 in Gainesville, FL.

"Phil" was born in Philadelphia, PA, on 14 October 1935 and grew up in Baltimore, MD. After studying Mine Engineering for one year, he was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1958. While a midshipman, he met Helen Weisner, a nursing student at John Hopkins

University, whom he later married. Together they had two children, David and Debbie.

After graduation, he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force. His early career specialized in air traffic control. Phil later became a

communications electronics officer. His first assignment with the 5th Tactical Control Group at Clark AFB, with frequent TDYs to Vietnam, and an extended TDY to South Korea to establish communications after the taking of PUEBLO. He earned his master's degree in Systems Analysis at the University of Rochester in 1970 before being assigned as Chief of Systems Analysis at the USAF Communications Command HQ. During that tour, he served as the official USAF representative at the funeral of President Harry Truman.

His next assignment was as director of operations of the 1961 Communications Group, returning to Clark AFB. Highlights of this tour included Operation Homecoming, Operation Baby Lift and the evacuation of Saigon. Returning stateside, Phil became the deputy commander of the 1923 Communications Group at Kelly AFB in San Antonio, TX, then he retired.

Post retirement, Phil took up teaching mathematics. He taught at Palo Alto College Collage in San Antonio for eight years, where he received an award for being the adjunct instructor of the year. He also taught at Texas Military Institute, where he became chairman of the math department.

Phil and Helen enjoyed traveling in their RV to U.S. National Parks. In 2010, they moved in with their son, David, in Gainesville, FL, where Phil took loving care of his wife. She passed in 2014, and Phil stayed in Gainesville, where he was actively involved with his local church, and a supporter of their high school sports teams. He was well known at his favorite breakfast place, where he served as greeter, welcoming both regulars and first-time customers. After some medical issues, he entered home hospice in July 2023, and passed in his sleep.

He is missed by family and friends.★

he returned to the USAFA as a full physics professor. His final assignment in 1980 was with the Tactical Air Command Headquarters in Langley, VA.

Charlie retired from the Air Force after 22 years of service and entered the private sector as Director of Training Systems with Fairchild Republic. Charlie finally landed at Eaton/AIL, managing various projects involving electronic warfare systems, satellites and mobile radar innovations for the final ten years of his working life.

In 2006, Charlie and Claudette retired from the skies and returned to the seas, intermittently traveling the world over the next ten years on various cruise lines as onboard lecturers and duplicate bridge directors. In 2021, Charlie and Claudette moved to Alpharetta, GA, to be closer to family.

Plans are pending for Charlie to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. ★



STEPHEN VAN HECKLE SNYDER '59

Captain Stephen V. Snyder, USN (Ret.), 87, died on 26 September 2023 in Richmond, VA.

Born to Garrett and Elizabeth Snyder in York, PA, "Steve" grew up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania with his twin brother, Phil, and sister, Betsy. He met his lifelong love, Nancy Leader, at William Penn Senior High School in York. After a year at Cornell University, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy. Graduating in 1959, he was a member of the Fourth Company. Steve and Nancy were

married on 13 June 1959 in York.

Steve served as engineering officer on GYATT (DDG-1) and as executive officer on BOLD (MSO-424) and HAROLD J. ELLISON (DD-864). He earned an MS in Systems Analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Steve served with the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-06C) and completed two tours in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. In the early 1970s, as commanding officer of VREELAND (FF-1068), while homeported in Athens, Greece, it was Steve's great honor to take VREELAND to Kieler Woche, the annual Kiel Week invitational sailing festival. A tour at the National War College followed before serving as executive assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Engineering and Systems. Retiring from the Navy in 1982, Steve then worked in the private sector as a human resources manager and consultant.

Active in his church communities, Steve also volunteered for the Red Cross, rang the bell for the Salvation Army and supported The Seeing Eye, which provides guide dogs for the blind. He enjoyed playing golf and worked as a starter/ranger at the Golden Horseshoe in Williamsburg. Honored in 2006 by the American Red Cross for donating over 23 gallons of blood, Steve ultimately donated almost 30 gallons over his lifetime.

Steve is survived by his wife of 64 years and devoted sweetheart of almost 70 years, Nancy; daughter, Mary Beth Tombes (Rob) of Richmond, VA; son, Stephen V. Snyder Jr. (Tracy) of York; grandchildren, Emily Figley (Matthew), Rial Carver (Elliott), and Kennedy and Nickolas Snyder; great-grandchildren, Owen, Maysie and Laurel; and beloved extended family, cousins, nieces, nephews, shipmates, classmates and co-workers.

A memorial service took place on 21 November 2023 at the Naval Academy Chapel, followed by inurnment with military honors at the USNA Columbarium.

Memorials may be directed to The Seeing Eye, P.O. Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963-0375 (www.seeingeye.org) or the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839 (www.redcross.org/donate). ★

CHARLES RAYMOND FRAIME '59

Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Fraime, USAF (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 20 August 2023 surrounded by his wife and family.

"Charlie" hailed from Cranston, RI, and upon graduating from the Naval Academy, he cross-commissioned into the Air Force. Charlie married his sweetheart Claudette, directly after basic pilot training and remained happily wed for 63 years. Together they had two children, Michelle (deceased) and Steven; and eventually,

two grandchildren, Michael and Samantha.

Charlie loved flying, becoming a flight instructor in the T-33 Shooting Star. He was transferred to air training command in San Antonio, TX, and after a couple of years, to the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson, where he earned his MS in Nuclear Engineering in 1967. During the Vietnam Conflict, the Air Force needed pilots more than it needed engineers and Charlie was back in the sky flying the F-4 Phantom and later the O-1 Bird Dog. Charlie served in Vietnam as a forward air controller with the 21st TASS attached Army's 1st Brigade of the 25th Infantry near Tay Ninh. During his combat tour, Charlie was awarded the DFC, Bronze Star (2) and Air Medal (11), among many other decorations. After his time overseas, he received his dream posting, assigned to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs as an associate professor in the physics department. He also maintained a role as an instructor pilot, taking cadets on orientation flights and as a faculty advisor for the USAFA 35th Cadet Squadron.

Charlie found that his love of flying was matched by his love of teaching, and after completing his PhD in Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University,





JOHN VIRGIL DIRKSEN '60

Captain John V. Dirksen, USNR (Ret.), 85, died 13 August 2023 after a long struggle with COPD.

John was born in Salem, OR, on 26 October 1937, to Virgil C. and R. Irene (Higginbotham) Dirksen. Following a vagabond childhood, the family settled on a farm in Springdale, OR, where he attended Gresham Union High School, graduating in 1955. He completed a year of prep school and received a Congressional appointment to the Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1960. The

13th Company was the Color Company that year and as commander, John chose his fiancée, Marilyn June Moen, as Color Girl. (Their granddaughter, Kaitlyn, wore the Color Girl gown in her 2011 wedding and wears Marilyn's USNA miniature.)

After graduation, John served aboard RADFORD (DDE-446), homeported in Pearl Harbor until 1963. His sons, David Martin (Martin B-26 Marauder) and Douglas Mitchell (B-25 Mitchell), were born in Honolulu, HI.

He served as XO aboard INFLECT (MSO-456) until 1964, and moved to Sasebo, Japan, in 1965 as CO of WARBLER (MSC-206), engaging in Market Time patrols in the South China Sea. The family moved to Malta in 1966, then to London, where he was aide to CinCUSNavEur, Rear Admiral Joe Tibbetts.

John resigned from active duty in 1970, returning to Portland. He served in the Navy Ready Reserve in various assignments for the next 20 years, including Reserve XO and Reserve CO of ROGERS (DD-876), homeported at Swan Island. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1991.

He held executive positions with First Interstate Bank of Oregon, N.A. to coincide with his Reserve duty. John enjoyed volunteering with the Portland Rose Festival Association, holding several leadership positions.

John married Martha in 1985. He retired from Wells Fargo Bank in 1997 when they acquired First Interstate; he enjoyed golf, fishing, antiques, vintage airplanes and reading about military history. They traveled the U.S. and Europe (New York and Paris were favorites). He carried a compass whenever they were abroad, and his sense of direction was impeccable (except for that one time in Venice). In recent years, their travel was limited to Central and Coastal Oregon.

John is survived by Martha, his wife of 37 years; brother, Dave; two sons; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, the youngest of whom he met for the first time the day before he "slipped the surly bonds of earth..."

Services with military honors were held 31 August 2023 at Willamette National Cemetery (Portland, OR). ★



JAY CHRISTIAN METZLER '60

Jay C. Metzler passed away on 10 October 2023 in Canandaigua, NY, following a lengthy illness.

Jay was born in Mount Joy, PA, to Elizabeth Ober and Christian B. Metzler on 18 March 1937. He attended school in Mount Joy, and as a talented high school athlete, competed at the state level in both tennis and basketball, becoming a highly sought-after college prospect.

Jay entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956, and his athletic skills in lacrosse and basketball

led Navy to outstanding success. As a lacrosse midfielder, he helped his team to earn the national title in 1960. As center for the basketball team, Jay racked up 848 points and 548 rebounds during his career and was inducted into the Navy Athletics Hall of Fame.

Upon graduation in 1960, Jay was selected for advanced education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Civil Engineering Corps Officers' School. He served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 and earned the Bronze Star.

Following multiple assignments, Jay left the service and settled in Upstate New York. He worked for Corning Glass for several years before moving to Rochester, NY, where he took a job with Schlegel Corporation. In 1978, he received an Executive MBA from Harvard University. He worked at Schlegel for over 20 years as the VP of Worldwide Operations until its successful sale in 1988. Jay then joined Hauser Corporation and Fluoro Film Incorporated, where he served as their president and CEO for the remainder of his career.

Jay met his wife, Gail, in Annapolis while she was visiting the Naval Academy with a friend. He asked her to go to church, and the rest was history. They were married a year after graduation, on 10 June 1961. Over the next seven years, the Metzler family grew with the arrivals of their children, Darce, Danielle and Jay. Unlike many of his classmates, the Metzlers stayed in Upstate New York. In his free time, Jay enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing with his family and friends.

Jay is survived by his wife, Gail; daughters, Darce and Danielle; son, Jay; and six grandchildren, Abigail, Matthew, Meredith, Bryce, Kirsten and Matilda.

Services took place on 13 November 2023 in Lebanon, PA, with interment at Mount Lebanon Cemetery. ★



HORACE HOBSON MILLER JR. '61

"Hob" Miller passed away on 13 May 2023 in Medina, OH. He was 85 years old.

Born in Wilmington, DE, he was the son of Horace Sr. and Edith Miller. He enlisted in the Navy in 1955 and then reported to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1957. He loved his time and experiences at Annapolis. In 1966, he left the Navy as a lieutenant, junior grade.

In 1965, Hob married Alberta "Birdie" Brayerton at the Valley Forge Chapel in

Pennsylvania. He was stationed in Norfolk, VA, at that time. After the Navy, he began working for Westinghouse in Bremerton, WA. The family then moved to Euclid, OH, in 1971 and has lived there ever since.

Hob worked as an electrical engineer for many companies, including Westinghouse, Gould, White Motors, Technicare and retired at age 70 from EGC (Environmental Growth Chambers). Many of his colleagues at EGC were Navy men. They loved to travel to colleges and universities sharing their tales from their military days.

Hob was involved in the Masonic fraternity throughout his life, being a member of Penns Grove Lodge in Penns Grove, NJ, Collinwood Lodge in Euclid, OH, Scottish Rite Valley of Cleveland and a strong supporter of DeMolay and the Rainbow for Girls. He was also involved at their church, East Shore United Methodist Church, singing and playing in a variety of choirs, leading Bible studies and participating in many groups. Hob also shared his love of music as he participated in many productions in community theater and at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Hob is survived by his wife of 57 years, Birdie; daughters, Gwen Miller, Pam Babuca (Robert), Debbie Woodworth (Martin) and Kim Phillips (Brent); grandchildren, Joey Babuca (Bel), Alyssa Babuca, Brady and Brock Woodworth, and Andrew and Courtney Phillips; two great-grandchildren, Ainalani and Roman Babuca; and his sister, Helen McGilloway (Tom.) He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dorothy.

A Celebration of Life service was held on 15 July 2023 in Euclid, OH, along with Masonic and military honors. As he wished, Hob will be buried at sea by the U.S. Navy.

Memorial donations may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation (www.usna.com/give), please specify "midshipman activities fund"; or the Ohio Masonic Communities Foundation (OMCfoundation.org).

The Miller Family ★



ROBERT JAMES McNEAL '62

Robert J. McNeal passed away on 18 September 2023 in Mission Viejo, CA. He was 84 years old.

"Bob" grew up in Vista, CA, the son of Bob and Dorothy McNeal, and attended Vista High School in Vista, CA. After a brief matriculation at (then) San Diego State College, he was accepted into the Naval Academy as a proud member of the Class of 1962.

After graduation, he was commissioned as a Marine officer, but before he attended The Basic

School, he married the love of his life, Judy Harvey, his childhood sweetheart. He was assigned as an artillery officer and after attending Artillery School in Fort Sill, OK, was stationed at MCAC Kaneohe Bay, HI, where he deployed twice to Vietnam as a forward observer (FO), flying combat missions in the Cessna O-1 Bird Dog.

After leaving active duty in 1967, he was hired by the Gillette Corporation and was assigned to their Papermate subsidiary. Two years later, he was hired by the FBI as a special agent and after the FBI Academy, was assigned to the Dallas, TX, field office. His 20-year career also took him to Phoenix, Tucson, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and in 1989, he retired from the Santa Ana, CA, office.

He then became a successful entrepreneur, forming McNeal Private Investigations with his wife and two sons. Their client list included the NFL, NHL and many Fortune 500 corporations.

Bob retired for good in 2007 and he and Judy began to travel extensively, amazing their children and grandchildren with their energy and daring. Among their many trips were four African safaris, multiple European hiking trips and their favorite destination, London, England. However, California was always home, where they were amazing grandparents to their seven grandchildren and eventually, three great-grandchildren. He also found time to volunteer over 2,500 hours at Providence Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, CA, where he became a day manager, continuing to lead well into his 80s.

It is hard to believe someone as large as life as Bob is gone, but his lasting legacy is his wonderful and very successful family. Bob is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judy; sister, Patti Oonk; three sons (and their spouses), Rear Admiral Jim McNeal '86, SC, USN (Ret.) (Peggy (Mansfield) '86), Dan McNeal (Julia Pilsen) and Scott McNeal (Michelle); seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, all who miss him very much.

RIP Dad and thank you.

Jim McNeal '86 ★



CHARLES HENRY THOMAS SPRINGER '62

"Tom" Springer passed away on 10 July 2023. He was 82 years old.

He was born in Fuyang, China, to Charles Oliver Springer and Marion Tucker Springer, who were serving with the China Inland Mission. It was a time of famine, war (Japan) and deprivation - with the family having to leave China in a harrowing trip back to the U.S. in 1944. They returned to China in 1947 and Tom entered the Chefoo (British-style) boarding

school at Kuling on Lushan Mountain. He spent the next four years rarely seeing his parents. The family again had to leave in 1951 at the demands of the Communist government. They eventually settled in Seattle, where his father became pastor of Mt. View Presbyterian Church. Tom graduated from Highline High School; then proceeded to the Naval Academy (1962). He served eight patrols on the Second Fleet ballistic missile submarines, JOHN C. CALHOUN (Charleston) and ULYSSES S. GRANT (Hawaii/Guam).

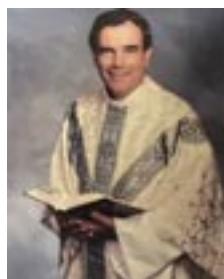
Tom resigned from the Navy to attend Stanford Law School. He felt that the submarine service had provided enough of a deterrent to keep the peace during his active-duty time. After getting his JD degree, he became a civilian lawyer for the Navy in California, then Washington. With his nuclear power background, he became an active speaker in California in opposing expansion of nuclear power plants due to the problems of plutonium waste.

The family moved to Seattle, where Tom worked at Sand Point and where their children grew up. Tom supported Scouts and watched many soccer games and swim meets. He became involved in several conservation efforts, particularly salmon restoration on Hood Canal. He became actively involved as an educator and judge in the "We The People" program, encouraging civic education to high school students. He was an active member of University Congregational UCC.

Tom is survived by his wife of almost 60 companionable and affectionate years, Jenny; sons, Christopher (Kristine), Thomas and Matthew (Shareen); grandchildren, McKendree, Lily and Ben; brother, Joseph (Elaine); and sisters, Harriet and Ruth. His oldest sister, Molly, predeceased him.

Tom endured Parkinson's disease for 23 years with courage. He took advantage of this time to write his unique story. He will be remembered for his keen intellect, his wrestle with philosophical issues, interest in the world, gentle humor and delight in his family and friends.

A celebration of Tom's life was held on 19 August 2023 at University Congregational Church UCC. ★



HAROLD DAVID WILSON '62

Reverend "Dave" Wilson went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on 15 July 2023 in Franklin, TN.

David's father matriculated in the British Naval Academy at age 12, serving in the British Navy during World War I and as liaison to the U.S. Navy during World War II. Dave was born in Raton, NM, in October 1939 and grew up on a ranch in Colorado. At age eight, Dave matriculated at an eastern boarding school, where he

met his lifelong love and future wife of 61 years, Katrina Cakste.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy, Dave earned his Wings and during a second seven-month Vietnam deployment, rescued two downed pilots under fire off the coast of North Vietnam, for which he received the Navy's Distinguished Flying Cross.

LAST CALL GUIDELINES

There is no cost and no timeline, however we have a maximum limit of 400 words. Submissions will be edited for style and a draft will be returned for family approval prior to publication—please be sure to include contact information.

Obituaries may emailed to: obits@usna.com (preferred) or mailed to: Shipmate Obituaries, 301 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402.

Questions regarding obituaries, contact:

*Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury
410-295-4064 or obits@usna.com*

LAST CALL

After six years of active duty, God called Dave to be an Episcopal priest. He went on to serve for a total of 47 years at Christ Church in Denver, CO, All Saints Church in Orlando, FL, and Saint Bartholomew's Church in Nashville, TN. During those years, Dave, Katrina and their family's ministry touched many lives in profound and eternally lasting ways. The story of Dave's Christian journey and testimony is available in *USNA Twelve*, a book edited by Jim Wilson '50, available on Amazon.

Katrina and her mother immigrated to America, through Ellis Island, from Latvia after World War II. Her father, Konstantin Cakste, had been arrested by the Gestapo, charged with treason for communicating with the allies, and died as a prisoner of a concentration camp. Katrina's inspiring story is told in her book, *War, Love and Redemption*, available from The Parish Press. Funds from the book's sale will support a Latvian translation of the book in honor of Katrina's father and the many other American and Europeans who risked, and ultimately lost, their lives fighting for freedom against Marxism. Katrina can be reached at (katrinacwilson@comcast.net).

Dave and Katrina's lives were greatly blessed by two daughters, Kristina and Anastasia; two granddaughters, Tatianna (Will) and Natasha; a grandson, Wilson; and three great-grandsons, Townes, Barrett and Palmer.

Dave is already greatly missed because of his life of loving kindness, patriotism, honor, courage and commitment lived out consistently in every aspect of a life dedicated to family, faith and country.

We salute this warrior, humanitarian and servant leader classmate. ★



WILLIAM BAILEY HEARD '63

William B. Heard passed away on 10 September 2023 in Easton, MD, surrounded by the love of his family. He was a man of extraordinary accomplishments and a devoted family man, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and wisdom.

Born on 21 October 1941 in Montrose, CO, William's journey through life was marked by academic excellence and a profound commitment to knowledge. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Naval Academy,

where he was a proud member of the Class of 1963's Tenth Company, "the Terrible 10."

His passion for learning led him to further academic achievements. He earned his Master of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Colorado, followed by a PhD in Astronomy and an MPhil from Yale University. His academic pursuits reflected his insatiable curiosity and dedication to the sciences.

Dr. Heard's career was marked by distinction and innovation. From 1973 to 1975, he served as an assistant professor of mathematics at the Naval Academy, shaping the minds of future leaders. In 1975, he accepted a prestigious position as a scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory, where he made groundbreaking contributions by developing theoretical and computational techniques for space systems and internal ocean waves.

From 1978 to 2003, Dr. Heard's expertise was further demonstrated as a scientist for Exxon/Exxon Mobil Research and Engineering. His passion for education extended beyond the laboratory, as he held adjunct teaching positions at esteemed institutions like Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology and Fairleigh Dickinson University. His teachings encompassed numerical methods, computational fluid dynamics and continuum mechanics, inspiring countless students.

In 2003, after a storied career, Dr. Heard embraced retirement while continuing to share his knowledge and insights as an independent writer. His words continued to inspire and educate, reflecting his lifelong commitment to the pursuit of knowledge.

William Bailey Heard is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Margaret Mary Shea; their children, Cara Ellicott (Ross), Robert Shea Heard and Daniel Bailey Heard (Jessica); sister, Bonnie Giles (Gary); and his cherished grandchildren, Bailey, Clark, Jonathan, William and Paige.

A private interment ceremony, honoring William's remarkable life, will be held at the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date.

William Bailey Heard's impact on the worlds of mathematics, astronomy and education is immeasurable. His unwavering love for his family, coupled with his dedication to scholarship, will forever be remembered. His legacy will continue to inspire us all. He is profoundly missed. ★



ROBERT ALEX MAIER '63

Captain "Bob" Maier, USN (Ret.), of Connelly Springs, NC, peacefully passed away on 31 August 2023, surrounded by his wife and children. He leaves behind a legacy of unwavering honor, courage and commitment to his duty and family. He was 82 years old.

Born on 12 November 1940, Bob grew up in Rochester, NY. He was a proud graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1963, and remained an active alumnus until his death.

Bob served with distinction and honor throughout his 30-year naval career. He spent a total of six years, seven months at sea, including two combat deployments to Vietnam. He first reported to VA-144 in 1964 and completed his duty at the Naval War College, Newport, RI, in 1993.

Captain Maier's major decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2), Distinguished Flying Cross (2), Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air Medal (22) and Navy Commendation Medal (3).

Though he retired from the Navy 30 years ago, Bob remained close to his 23rd Company brothers throughout his lifetime.

After his retirement, Bob had a successful career in the information technology field. It was through this work that he met the love of his life, the former Cynthia "Cindy" McKenzie of Falls Church, VA, whom he married in 2010. He was a proud father to four children and two stepchildren, instilling in them the values of integrity, hard work and perseverance.

Bob is survived by his wife, Cynthia; his children, Suzanne Maier, Commander Steven Maier '93, USN (Ret.) (Michelle), Laura Hall (Gary) and Commander Michael Maier '02, USNR (Molly); stepchildren, Valerie Kopshina (Max) and Zachery Cole (Erin); brothers, Richard Maier (Barbi) and George Maier (Pat); and eight grandchildren.

Bob will be remembered for his loyal devotion to the Navy, and his dedicated principles of honor and service. Moreso, he will be remembered for the love he provided to his family. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by friends, family and the nation he served with honor.

A memorial service was held at Abernethy Memorial United Methodist in Connelly Springs, NC, on 6 September 2023. Bob's inurnment was held at the Naval Academy on 23 October 2023. ★



HAROLD VINCENT MAIXNER JR. '66

Captain Harold V. Maixner, USN (Ret.), passed away in Virginia Beach, VA, on 28 September 2023 following a brief illness, one day after his 79th birthday.

The son of a career Army officer, "Harry" traveled the world, eventually following his father into the military. After entering the Naval Academy with a presidential appointment, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966. During his First Class Year, Admiral

Rickover convinced Harry that his future lay in destroyers. Harry did, indeed, excel as a surface warfare officer, with a total of seven assignments in destroyers, culminating in two destroyer commands. His initial assignment was as gunnery officer in BENNER (DD-807), where he participated in the first naval bombardment of North Vietnam; his first command was as commissioning CO of SCOTT (DDG-995). Harry was an acknowledged ship handler and patiently imbued his warfighting skills in his men and officers, earning their enduring respect.

Harry received a Master of Science in oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School and was a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in national security. Shore duty included assignments in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-098), Naval Sea Systems Command (Sea Sparrow program manager and NATO AAW System missile design), and as flag secretary for Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (2) and numerous personal awards and campaign medals and ribbons.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1995, Harry worked with Systems Planning and Analysis in Alexandria, VA, and with Northrup Grumman Aerospace Systems in Goleta, CA, retiring in 2010.

Harry was predeceased by his wife of 30 years, Judith Carole (Carrico) in 2000; he is survived by their daughter, Kristen Judith, and her husband Tom Fairfax, a police master deputy sheriff and their four children in Culpeper, VA. His last three years were spent happily married to Bonne Brown in Virginia Beach, VA.

A celebration of life was conducted at Old Donation Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, VA, on 10 October 2023. Interment will take place at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery with his first love, Judith Carole.

Bonne, Kristen, their families and his many friends may rejoice in the extraordinary life he was privileged to live. ★



NEAL ALBERT QUINN JR. '66

Captain Neal A. Quinn Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 8 July 2023 in Virginia Beach, VA. He was 79 years old.

Born in Lynn, MA, he was the son of Neal A. and Alice C. Quinn. As a Navy brat, he moved with his family frequently, and graduated from Radford High in Honolulu, HI, in 1961. He attended UCLA for one year and received a presidential appointment to the Naval Academy in 1962, entering with the Second Company.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1966 (Third Company), Neal was commissioned as a Navy ensign, remaining at the Academy as a YP instructor until November 1966, at which time he entered flight training. Upon receiving his Wings in VT-21, NAS Kingsville, TX, he went to VA-44, NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL, flying A-4s.

In July 1969, Neal chose the Restricted Line, Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer (1520). After completing AMDO School in Memphis, TN,

he served in Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Departments (AIMDs) both ashore and afloat. Sea tours included SARATOGA (CVA-60), NIMITZ (CVN-68) and CARL VINSON (CVN-70). Shore tours included earning a master's degree in Logistics Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He was AIMD Department Head at Barbers Point NAS, HI. His final tour of duty was as CO of the Navy Management System Support Office (NAVMASSO) in Chesapeake, VA, from which he retired in September 1990.

During his civilian employment, Neal wrote computer programs for Multi-One in Chesapeake, VA, and for Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.

Captain Quinn's devotion to family and church came to full bloom after he retired from his civilian career. At Haygood United Methodist Church, he became known as the "computer guy." Being quite skilled with intricate repair work, he beautifully restored the 100-year-old organ in Haygood's Oliver Chapel.

Neal was predeceased by his parents and his brother, John. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; daughters, Erin and Eileen (Scott); sons, Neal III (Margo) and Patrick; and ten grandchildren, Christopher, Amanda, Brandon, Michael, Katelyn, Sean, Lydia, Saul, Levi and Kevin.

Services were held at Haygood UMC on 26 July 2023, followed by interment at Rosewood-Kellum Memorial Park.

Memories and expressions of sympathy for the Quinn family may be shared at (www.kellumfuneralhome.com).

Memorial donations may be directed to the Naval Academy Foundation (www.usna.com/give), or to Haygood's Oliver Chapel (www.haygoodumcva.org).

The Quinn Family & Will Gabber '66 ★



MICHAEL ROBERT RYAN '66

Michael R. Ryan passed away on 26 September 2023 at Baptist Medical Center-Attala in Kosciusko, MS. He was 79 years old.

"Mike" was born to Jerry and Mary Mackey Ryan on 1 February 1944 in Tampa, FL. He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1966.

After his naval service, Mike graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with an MBA. He also earned a Professional Engineering license in Florida and worked for Fortune 500

companies throughout the Southeastern U.S. He eventually went on to become the president and chairman of the board of HA Phillips, a manufacturer of pressure vessels used in industrial refrigeration located in Dekalb, IL.

Mike remained an active USNA alumnus serving as a Blue & Gold officer, forming the first alumni chapter in Sarasota, FL, and was an avid Navy football fan. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Kosciusko.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judy (Collins) Ryan of Kosciusko, MS; three daughters, Michelle Lee Polly (and her husband, Gary) of Bradenton, FL, Mary Lee Perry of Las Vegas, NV, and Marcie Lee Anderson (and her husband, Michael) of Shepherd, MT; his sister, Sandra Perry of Pace, FL; eight grandchildren, Theresa Polly, Nicolette Polly, Trey Morris, Taylor Pfaff, Devon Iddings, Will Wright, Annabel Anderson and Alayna Anderson; and two great-grandchildren, Jacob Pfaff and Skylar Pfaff.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jerry Ryan; and sister, Patricia Mills.

Memorial services took place on 30 September 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church of Kosciusko, with Rev. Phillip Palmertree officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mike's name to the Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org) or Samaritan's Purse (www.samaritanspurse.org).

The Ryan Family ★



JAY ALLEN SEARS '66

Commander J. Allen Sears, USN (Ret.), passed away on 7 August 2023 in Redwood City, CA, of cancer. He was 78 years old.

"Allen" hailed from Davenport, IA. His parents were Jay and Ruby Sears, and he was the second of six children. At the Naval Academy, Allen found a way to stay on training tables all of his Plebe Year by playing on the lightweight football, lacrosse, squash and cross-country teams.

Allen stayed with the 150lb football, earning the role of team captain as a Firstie. He graduated with the 11th Company.

Allen wore the Wings of Gold as a carrier-based naval aviator, flying A-4s and A-7s, with three Vietnam tours on SHANGRI-LA and ORISKANY. One "claim to fame" occurred in the Tonkin Gulf during a night refueling accident. With one more takeoff than landing, he was then traded for a slug of ice cream, post-rescue. He earned two master's degrees and a PhD in Management Information Systems while on active duty and was awarded "Instructor of the Year" during his tour as a computer science professor at the Naval Academy.

Post-Navy, Allen joined DARPA, a government research organization, working in the seminal development of speech recognition and language understanding. His early contributions in AI and speech recognition helped to shape how we communicate with computers today - leading to SIRI, Apple's voice interaction system.

In retirement, Allen and Joan enjoyed many years living near their families, all of whom reside in the San Francisco Bay Area. Al lived his motto, "Show up and be kind." He left his footprint on us as a husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, teacher, coach and friend.

Allen's family includes his wife of 57 years, Joan R. Sears; three children, Todd, Heather and Kelly; seven beautiful grandchildren; and his siblings, Greg, Wendy and Tory. He was predeceased by his parents and siblings, Lyn and Tom.

Services will be held at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 5 February 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to: Mission Hospice & Home Care, 66 Bovet Rd, Ste 100, San Mateo, CA 94402, (www.missionhospice.org).

The Sears Family ★



JOHN ST. CLAIR CRAIGHILL '67

Captain John S.C. Craighill, USN (Ret.), passed peacefully in his sleep on 20 August 2023. He was 79 years old.

John was born in Washington, DC. He graduated from St. Andrews School in Middletown, DE, in June 1962, and received his Bachelor of Science degree and commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967.

He also earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate

School in Monterey, CA.

John proudly served his country for 30 years as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. He served on eight different ships for 20 years on sea duty. John served at sea on LAWRENCE (DDG-4), GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20), ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) and NIMITZ (CVN-68). He commanded AYLWIN (FF-1081) from 1984 to 1987. He also served as assistant chief of staff for Operations and Plans, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve, and as operations officer for the EISENHOWER battle group in support of Operation Desert Shield. John held major command of SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN-37) from 1991 to 1994.

Ashore, John served as executive officer of the Nuclear Power Training Unit and executive assistant to the Superintendent at the Naval Academy.

John earned the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle "E" Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal and Sea Service Ribbon (7).

John retired from the Navy in September 1996 with the rank of captain. He went on to have a successful civilian career, becoming the president/CEO of CAE USA. He finished his career supporting the Navy as a senior systems engineer until 2019. For many years, he also led the Naval Academy Chapel as the Brigade Away head usher.

John was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandpa and shipmate. He exemplified leadership and fatherhood, equal parts faithful, nurturing and hard working. He attended every game, recital and performance with pride. John enjoyed sailing, travel, music and a good book on the beach.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathleen; their three children, Sarah Minukas (Mark), Leigh Rauseo (Mike) and John Craighill Jr. '03 (Dorothy); and six grandchildren, Audra, Sirene, Lulu, Margaret, Kevin and John.

A memorial service was held on 25 September 2023 at the Naval Academy Chapel, followed by interment at the USNA Columbarium. Fair Winds and Following Seas. ★



JOHN CHARLES MACIDULL '67

Commander John C. Macidull, USNR (Ret.), 79, passed away peacefully on 12 August 2023 at his home in Hayes, VA.

"Jack" was born on 17 February 1944 in Philadelphia, PA, to Mary and Colonel Joseph Macidull, USA.

At Annapolis, Jack excelled as an aero engineering scholar, taking many elective courses. He was also a second tenor in the Catholic Choir and USNA Glee Club.

He graduated with the Class of 1967.

After completing flight training in Pensacola, Jack was designated a naval aviator and a helicopter pilot (1968). His first tour was with HC-1 during Vietnam, flying utility and SAR missions in H-2 and H-3 aircraft. With HC-1, Jack made two WestPac deployments on carriers in 1969 and 1971, performing combat rescues under challenging conditions. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat V (4) and the Air Medal w/Bronze Star for a night rescue in the Tonkin Gulf in poor weather, with an inoperative doppler system. From HC-1, he served at Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, CA (1971-1974) as a weapons test pilot. He also performed a number of challenging rescues, including one high altitude rescue of an injured hiker on Mount Whitney at 13,000 feet altitude, for which he received an Air Medal.

In civilian life, Jack worked as an aerospace engineer, beginning in 1974 with Teledyne-Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego, CA, where he helped develop/design drones and other aircraft types. In 1979, he began work as an accident investigator with the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board. He became a senior aircraft engineer/investigator, perhaps most notably working on the team that analyzed the Space Shuttle Challenger accident. One of nine books he published was entitled, *Challenger's Shadow*.

In 1990, Jack retired from the Naval Reserve with 20 years of service. After leaving Civil Service in 1994 as a GS-15, Jack's main pursuits were travel, music, Annapolis reunions and authoring books on a variety of subjects (six of which are available on Kindle). He also created the political website (www.motpoll.com).

Jack and his wife, Eva Marie, eventually retired to Hayes, VA, where they have enjoyed the past 14 years in their home on the Chesapeake Bay.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, and his brother, Boyd. He is survived by Eva Marie; his sisters, Joan and Madeline Leigh; stepdaughter, Sierra; and step-granddaughter, Eliana.

Services and interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, 4 January 2024, at 1:00 p.m. ★



WILLIAM IRVING DONALDSON JR. '68

Major William I. Donaldson Jr., USMC (Ret.), passed away peacefully at his home in Mansfield, TX, on 7 August 2023.

Born on 6 September 1946, in Banana River, FL, "Bill" was the son of a career naval officer. His father, Lieutenant Commander W.I. Donaldson Sr. '47, inspired him to pursue and successfully attain an appointment to the Naval Academy.

Following his graduation and commissioning into the United States Marine Corps in June

1968, Bill was deployed to Vietnam, where he was honored with the Bronze Star with Combat V. After returning from Vietnam, he attended flight school and, upon successful completion, earned the designation of naval aviator, embarking on a career flying the F4 Phantom. Throughout his distinguished career, Bill was assigned to various squadrons and achieved the honor of attending the Naval Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun).

Stationed with Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 312 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC, Bill took immense pride in serving alongside his fellow comrades, often stating that his time with the "Checkerboards" was the pinnacle of his illustrious career. Following his tenure with Squadron 312, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Upon his retirement in 1988, he transitioned to work with multiple defense contractors, ultimately leading him to relocate to Mansfield, TX. He concluded his professional journey in the private sector in 2012.

In his second phase of retirement, Bill cherished moments spent with his wife, children and grandchildren. He delighted in family game nights, leisurely moments in his backyard pool sipping margaritas and engaging poker nights with friends. Additionally, Bill had a passion for photography, supported his wife's numerous hobbies and embarked on memorable journeys, with an Alaskan cruise and an African safari standing out as some of his most cherished travels alongside his beloved wife, Pat.

A beloved husband and father, he is survived by his wife, Patricia O. Donaldson; two children, Mrs. Toni Schwarz (and her husband, Dave) and Mr. William I. Donaldson III (and his wife, Alyssia); his sister, Marsha Robbins (and her husband, Jim); brothers, Scott Donaldson (and his wife, Penny) and Kent Donaldson (and his wife, Kaori); six grandchildren, Stewart Simpson '13 (and his wife, Jessica), Amber Oberlin (and her husband, Josh), Samuel Simpson, Cassandra Donaldson, Elijah Donaldson and Ethan Donaldson; and two great-grandchildren.

The Donaldson Family ★



SHERMAN E. WRIGHT JR. '68

Captain Sherman E. Wright Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 10 August 2023 in Silverton, OR. He was 78 years old.

Born in San Mateo, CA, "Skip" was the son of Ann and Captain Sherman E. Wright '36, USN. He attended high school in Hawaii, where his father was stationed. There, Skip excelled in sports and all things water related. He attended Bullis Prep prior to reporting to the Naval Academy in 1964. At Annapolis, he was a great

contributor to Company and Battalion sports teams. Always ready with a joke, Skip was the life of the party and a great resource for all knowledge about Chevrolet Corvettes.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1968, he was commissioned as a Navy ensign. Skip completed a distinguished career as a Surface Warfare Officer, commanding two ships, JOHN YOUNG (DD-214) and SAN JACINTO (CG-56).

After retirement, he worked for SAIC in the field of precision munitions for over 10 years.

Skip and Shannon were married in Honolulu, HI, in 1973. In retirement, they lived in Annapolis, Florida and Oregon and enjoyed many years on the Chesapeake Bay aboard their beloved 53-foot 1981 Hatteras motor yacht. Skip was an accomplished author of fiction, and his 12 books can be found on Amazon. He never missed a Navy football game in person or on TV.

Skip was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shannon; daughter, Jennifer McNeill (Terry); son, Christopher Wright (Dovina); and three grandchildren, Emily McNeill, Christopher Wright Jr. and Elizabeth Wright.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 26 October 2023.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (www.nmcrs.org).

The Wright Family ★



RONALD LEE CHRISTENSON '69

When the orders for immediate transfer came early, Rear Admiral "Rabbit" Christenson, USN (Ret.), departed the pattern for his permanent duty station on the Lord's staff on 25 August 2023, entering travel status, suddenly at his home in Leesburg, VA, where he had been executing his retirement with his accustomed and well-documented aplomb.

Designated Ronald Lee Christenson at birth on 11 November 1947, he garnered significant academic and athletic recognition, including leading Mt. Morris High to a football state championship. He chose Navy over Dartmouth in 1965.

Though the actual date and circumstance are shrouded in the mists of time, he soon became known as "Rabbit," an enduring moniker. Rabbit was a Navy footballer, wore Stars and was a true leader.

With a BS in aerospace and Guggenheim Fellowship in hand, he obtained his master's degree from Cal Tech. Affirming his renaissance man status, he and Mackie were finalists on The Newlywed Game.

Next was flight school, receiving his Wings in 1971, with stops at H-3 Readiness Training and HS-15 aboard GUAM.

In 1975, he reported to VX-1, Pax River, followed by service with the UK Royal Navy, as a Sea King pilot, RNAS, Culdrose, England. Next stop was A&M officer, HS-5 on DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. After a tour with Sea Base ASW Wings Atlantic, he became XO, then CO, HS-7 on JOHN F. KENNEDY. In 1986, he reported to NavPers as aviation enlisted assignment officer. He entered the Nuclear Power Program in 1988, prepping for assignment as XO, THEODORE ROOSEVELT in 1990. After commanding DUBUQUE, he returned to ROOSEVELT as CO from 1994-1996. His final duty was as Head, Carrier Programs and Aviation Manpower and Training, Washington, DC.

After retirement, Rabbit joined Lockheed Martin in several influential posts, notably as Group MD, UKIS, in Chichester, England. Rabbit departed the LM warren in 2011, but he exited formal employment only, pursuing sporting activities, investments, golf, art and travel with the same zeal that made him an exemplary officer and executive. In 2013, he was baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. He was a trustee

LAST CALL

of the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Association, the SAP Board of the USNA Foundation and the National Helicopter Association. Constantly a man in motion, Rabbit never "let the old man in."

He is survived by his spouse, the love of his life, Mackie; and two sons, Scot and Marty. ★



ROBERT ERSKINE PRINCE '70

"Bob" Prince passed away peacefully on 1 September 2023 in Knoxville, TN, after several years heroically battling Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia. He was 76 years old.

Born in Okmulgee, OK, into a Navy family, he was the son of Cynthia and Captain Mortimer J. Prince, USN. Bob reported to the Naval Academy in June 1966. He quickly earned a reputation as one who could get things done quickly and competently. He was the coxswain of the

heavyweight varsity crew for three years, leading them to second place in the World Military Olympics during his First Class Year.

After commissioning, Bob married Janet Saitta and attended Nuclear Power School. He served on NARWHAL (SSN-671) and GEORGE C. MARSHALL (SSBN-654). Bob developed a passion for the nuclear power industry.

After resigning his commission in 1976, Bob attended the Wharton School and earned an Executive MBA. He then joined General Physics Corporation and founded General Technical Services, Inc. (later named Duratek). As president and CEO, Bob led the research, development and commercial deployment of new technologies that safely immobilized high-level radioactive materials.

He served as a member of the board of the Nuclear Energy Institute, Aqua-Chem, Thermafiber and MHF Services. In 1996, Bob was named Maryland's Technology Entrepreneur of the Year.

Always at the forefront of innovation, Bob partnered Duratek with Catholic University, advancing the Vitreous State Laboratory to bring a safe form of nuclear waste disposal for global use. In 2004, Catholic University awarded Bob an honorary degree of Doctor of Commercial Science.

After his retirement from Duratek in 2006, Bob served as CEO of GEN4, providing leadership for the commercial development of the GEN4 lead-bismuth eutectic Advanced Nuclear Reactor.

Bob was truly an adventurous soul. He loved hiking and kayaking. Always on the go, he and Janet had a magical marriage. They travelled extensively and lived abroad in several countries (United Kingdom, Mexico, Costa Rica and Japan) during his career.

Predeceased by his parents, Bob is survived by Janet, his wife of 52 years; his brothers, David and Alan; sister, Patricia; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service took place in Knoxville, TN, on 22 October 2022.

Memorial donations may be made in Bob's name to the Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans Home, attn. Activities Department, 1 Veteran's Way, Knoxville, TN 37931; (www.tsvh.org/donate). ★

COLUMBARIUM

For more information, visit www.usna.edu/cemetery



AARON BRUCE JOHNSON '75

Captain "Bruce" Johnson, USN (Ret.), left on Eternal Patrol in the early hours of the mid-watch on 12 May 2023. Saying goodbye at his side were his devoted wife, children and grandchildren.

Bruce graduated from Winfield (Kansas) High School in 1971 and headed to Annapolis, MD, where he entered the United States Naval Academy.

After graduating from USNA with the Class of 1975, he reported to Mare Island for Nuclear Power School, where he met Air Force nurse,

Lieutenant Debie Campbell. They were married in August 1976. After completion of nuclear reactor training in Idaho and Sub School in Connecticut, he proceeded to San Diego, where he served aboard PLUNGER (SSN-595), GUITARRO (SSN-665), JOHN MARSHALL (SSN-611) and had command of STONEWALL JACKSON (SSBN-634B).

Captain Johnson retired from the Navy in 2000 in Virginia Beach, VA. He then went to work for Airbus Defense and Space in Arlington, VA, and retired from there in 2018. In retirement, he and Debie traveled the United States in their RV.

Predeceased by his parents, Aaron Burr Johnson and Marilyn Thornton Johnson, and brother, Raymond Clyde Johnson, Bruce is survived by his wife of 46 years, Deborah Campbell Johnson; their children, Melissa Zacharias (Alex), Burr Johnson and Amelia Stevens (Matt); granddaughters, Ramona Zacharias (8) and Maribelle Stevens (9 months); his sister, Sarah Langenwalter (Peter); brother, Daniel Johnson (Kathy); and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Bruce's ashes will be spread at sea and on the family farm at a later date. ★



ELMER KENNETH GREY JR. '76

Lieutenant Commander "Ken" Grey Jr., USN (Ret.), of Gadsden, AL, passed away on 20 January 2023, surrounded by his loving family.

Ken was born at the Patuxent River (MD) Naval Hospital on 5 September 1954, to the late Ken Sr. and Ferra Grey. He spent his youth in Maryland and Florida, following his father's Navy career. He was a 1972 graduate of Great Mills High School (MD), where he was a standout athlete and student. Ken won a presidential

appointment to the Naval Academy and entered in the summer of 1972 as a member of the 33rd Company.

Following graduation in June 1976, Ken was temporarily assigned to the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department at NAS Patuxent River, MD, prior to entering flight training (January 1977). Ken received his Wings of Gold (May 1979) and was assigned to HS-3, homeported at NAS Jacksonville, FL. The squadron completed deployments to the Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic and Indian Ocean during his tour. His assignments included duties as aircraft division officer, quality assurance officer and quality assurance test pilot.

He served as a flight instructor with HT-8 at NAS Whiting Field, FL, prior to returning to sea duty as antisubmarine officer aboard FORRESTAL (CV-59) and subsequent duty with HS-15 as maintenance officer. Ken worked at the Naval Air Systems Command, developing helicopter flight simulators prior to his last tour as a flight instructor with HS-1 at NAS Jacksonville. He retired from the Navy in 1995. During his career, he was awarded numerous citations for helicopter lifesaving missions and accident-free flight hours.

Ken discovered another passion in teaching after Navy retirement. He began instructing math and science in Florida and won an award for teaching and mentoring teenagers at risk of failing. A tough taskmaster, the kids took to his style and responded well in the classroom.

Ken lost his wife Maureen in 1996 and became a single father to their two daughters, Katie and Kelly. He settled in Gadsden, AL, to be near family, who helped him raise his daughters. Ken believed his daughters to be the crowning achievement of his life.

The last couple of years, Ken struggled with illness but never lost his spirit or sense of humor. Kenny's three most favorite things were food, flying and telling "sea stories" to family and friends.

He is survived by his sister, Beth Grey James (Tony); brother, Shane; daughters, Katie Holland (Corbin) and Kelly Allen (Cody); and four grandchildren. ★



DANIEL LYNN HAMMILL '79

Daniel L. Hammill passed away after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer on 28 June 2023 in San Diego, CA. He was 65.

Born in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA, on 25 August 1957, "Dan" was the son of David and Julienne Hammill. He began playing the trumpet in 5th grade and by high school, was an accomplished jazz musician, earning several awards and honors at the local, district and state level.

In addition to his musical talents, he excelled academically, graduating with honors from South Terrebonne High School.

Dan reported to USNA on 7 July 1975 and after enduring the rigors of Plebe Summer, became a proud member of the 29th Company. Dan continued his love of music, playing both the trumpet and flugelhorn for all four years as a key member of both the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Trident Brass. Known for his refined musical taste, he could often be found relaxing to such jazz greats as Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson or Dave Brubeck. He was also an amateur radio enthusiast and at some point, operated a station out of his room in Bancroft.

Upon graduation and commissioning, Dan selected Surface Warfare, serving on INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) as part of the Multi-National Force, Beirut, and later as a communications officer in the Philippines.

His decorations include the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one Star and the National Defense Service Medal. He resigned his commission in 1986.

In civilian life, Dan settled in the San Diego area working in the semiconductor electronics industry, where he was a recognized expert and mentor. He also continued his love of amateur radio, operating his station KB5MY. Dan retired in February 2022.

Dan is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Cecilia; his stepsons, Alejandro and Ricardo; his mother, Julienne; his sister, Wendy; and his brother, Andy. He was predeceased by his father, David.

Services and burial with full military honors were held at Miramar National Cemetery on 17 July 2023.

The Cisneros & Hammill Families ★



JERRY RAY BOSTER '89

Commander Jerry Boster, USN (Ret.), 56, passed away at home in Kaneohe, HI on 12 July 2023.

Jerry was born on 10 August 1966 in Fallbrook, CA. He graduated from the Naval Academy with a BS degree in Mathematics (1989) and received a diploma in National Security Studies from the Naval War College (2001).

During his 24-year naval career, operational tours include serving as deck and electrical division officer, MIDWAY (CV-41) during Operations

Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Fiery Vigil; main propulsion assistant, HORNE (CG-30) during United Nations operations in Somalia I (UNISOM I); chief engineer, THACH (FFG-43); staff materiel officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron One; and damage control assistant, RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76) during her maiden deployment.

Ashore, he served as assistant operation/training advisor to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces while assigned to the Navy International Programs Office Detachment Riyadh, under the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia; warfare readiness officer on the staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Surface Forces Pacific Fleet; Deputy Chief, Military Liaison Office at the U.S. Embassy to Jamaica; and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) director on the staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

Jerry's final assignment was to the staff of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Policy and Plans Directorate. He had previously served that staff as special projects officer and Russia/Korea desk officer.

After retiring from active duty in 2013, Jerry continued his service to the Department of the Navy as a civil servant at USIndoPaCom as a maritime security/maritime domain awareness specialist, campaign planner/assessor, and as a requirements/resources analyst.

He was a 2018 recipient of the DOD Award for Workplace Excellence for People with Disabilities.

Having been diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease in 2013, Jerry volunteered several thousand hours yearly both locally and nationally. He served as president, and later board chairman, of the Hawaii Parkinson's Association. He was an ambassador for the Parkinson's Foundation, the Davis Phinney Foundation, UPAC and advocate for the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Jerry was a life member of the USNA Alumni Association and the Surface Warfare Association. He was a member of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Na Koa Football Booster, Ahahui Koa Anuenue and the UH Foundation.

He is survived by his wife, Janice of Kaneohe, HI; sister, Gina of Corona, CA; and family in California and Oregon.

A Celebration of Life was held on 17 September 2023 in Honolulu, HI, with his ashes spread at sea off Waikiki. ★



HEATHER LEIGH ANN PURVIS '89

Heather Purvis, 56, passed away on 11 September 2023 at her home in Georgetown, TX.

Born in 1966, she was the daughter of Lieutenant Commander Ronald Scott Purvis '53, USN (Ret.), and Lynne (Willis). At JEP Stuart High School in Falls Church, VA, she was a standout swimmer. A true Naval Academy legacy, Heather was inspired by her father and uncle, "Pete" Purvis '57, and decided to pursue an appointment to USNA after attending the

graduation/commissioning of her cousin, Joseph Purvis '83. Accompanied by their paternal grandfather, he was also an influence, having joined the

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LAST CALL

Navy as an officer at age 38 following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She attended NAPS for a year and reported to USNA in 1985.

At Annapolis, she thrived – starting her journey in the Second Company “Form Two,” Heather was a rock star Plebe. She was a member of the varsity swim team during Plebe Year, but valuing liberty, she wisely moved on to various intramural/Company sports. Scrambled into the Eighth Company as a Youngster, Heather continued to excel both academically and professionally. As a Firstie, she was recognized for her exceptional leadership ability by being named Eighth Company Commander. Heather was the first woman to hold this position.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1989, Heather was commissioned as a Navy ensign in the general unrestricted line. She served as training officer for VFC-12, at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA, followed by a tour as legal officer at the POLARIS Missile Facility, Atlantic, in Charleston, SC.

After the Navy, Heather had a highly successful career in medical sales. She settled on a ranch in Georgetown, TX, surrounded by her cherished horses and too many dogs to count.

Heather was admired and beloved by her classmates. She was serving as vice president of the Class of '89 at the time of her death. Known for her open heart, quick wit and especially those USNA “onesie” pajamas, she will be deeply missed.

Predeceased by her father, Heather is survived by her mother, Lynne; sister, Blair Purvis; brothers, Ward Scott Purvis and Edward Knight; and her nephews and niece, Scott, George, Brady and Elizabeth. She is also survived by her partner, Stacey Sample.

Heather's ashes were scattered near her family home in Accomac, VA. A celebration of her life is being planned.

Memorial donations may be directed to Team Red, White and Blue (<https://teamrwb.org/>) or the Naval Academy Foundation (www.usna.com/give). ★



JASON CHRISTOPHER DAVIS '91

After valiantly fighting for over two years, on 1 September 2023, Jason C. Davis lost his battle with cancer at the age of 54, surrounded by his loving family.

Jason was born on 18 January 1969 in Champaign-Urbana, IL. He graduated from Champaign Central High School in 1987 and went on to attend the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree with merit in marine engineering.

Following his graduation from the Academy and having completed numerous additional schools and qualifications, he proudly served as a nuclear submarine officer onboard PARCHE (SSN-683). He finished his naval career through a shore-duty assignment in Washington, DC, where he was able to earn a master's degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America.

After leaving the Navy, Jason went on to lead a successful corporate career, resulting in executive leadership positions in companies such as GE, Covance, Tyco, Johnson Controls and AIG.

Anyone who was lucky enough to meet Jason would soon learn that he had a warm and generous personality and a great sense of humor. His smile would light up the room and laughter punctuated every conversation. He was an avid sports fan and loved rooting for his alma mater, Navy, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini, the Chicago Bears and his beloved

Chicago Cubs. He had a wonderful singing voice and enjoyed music in many forms. He especially appreciated live music and going to concerts or outdoor shows. As one might imagine of a Navy veteran, Jason loved being on the water. When his family relocated to Florida in 2014, this gave him the opportunity to indulge his passion for boating. Many hours were spent partying out on the ocean or on the Intracoastal with friends and family. Jason loved nothing more than spending time with his family. He and his wife, Katie, were together since high school and Jason was an utterly devoted husband and father. Jason was always happiest when surrounded by family. His booming voice, larger-than-life personality, dry and hilarious sense of humor, loyalty and love are simply irreplaceable.

Jason is survived by his wife of 29 years, Katie (Madix) Davis; his two children, Ryan (age 23 of Tallahassee, FL) and Matthew (age 21 of Orlando, FL); his father, Ronald Davis; and his sister, Jennifer (Davis) Billhyer. He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Carol (Hahn) Davis, in 1997. ★



LEONARD JOHN PICK III '21

Lieutenant Junior Grade Leonard J. Pick III, USN, passed away suddenly on 9 September 2023, in a tragic car accident while traveling near Roanoke, VA.

“Len” experienced and enjoyed so much in his short 25 years of life.

Born in Norfolk, VA, he attended the William School and moved to Europe with his family in 2006. He attended the American School of Paris, took in and savored French culture and

began travelling the world. He graduated from the International School of Brussels in 2016 and returned to the U.S. for his university studies. After one year at Purdue University, he pursued his goal of attending the U.S. Naval Academy, became a naval officer, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Operations Research in 2021. He subsequently earned a master's degree in Engineering, Applied Mathematics and Statistics from John Hopkins University in 2022. He most recently completed nuclear engineering training and was serving on his first submarine tour.

Len loved to travel, explore, experience other cultures, and enjoyed basketball and golf. He enjoyed any pick-up sport you would offer to play with him and was somehow always the most athletic person on the court/field. He cherished time with his family and friends and loved to cook and enjoy meals together. He was always kind and thoughtful and touched the lives of so many. His ability to keep his friends accountable for their actions through utilization of a great moral compass made him a reliable person to vet decisions through. He had no shortage of fun times, always looking for a reason to make the most of his time by spending it with others. He travelled every chance he got, finding the best deals and foods any city had to offer. Len's life was full of love, and he will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his mother, Anne-Marie '85; father, Leonard; sister, Nicole '17; and grandmother, Kay. He passed away weeks before marrying his fiancée, Calsy.

A memorial service was held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 27 September 2023, followed by interment at the USNA Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Sugarplum Bakery in Virginia Beach, VA, to support the employment, education and training of disabled persons (www.sugarplumbakery.org); or to your favorite charity in remembrance of Len. ★

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