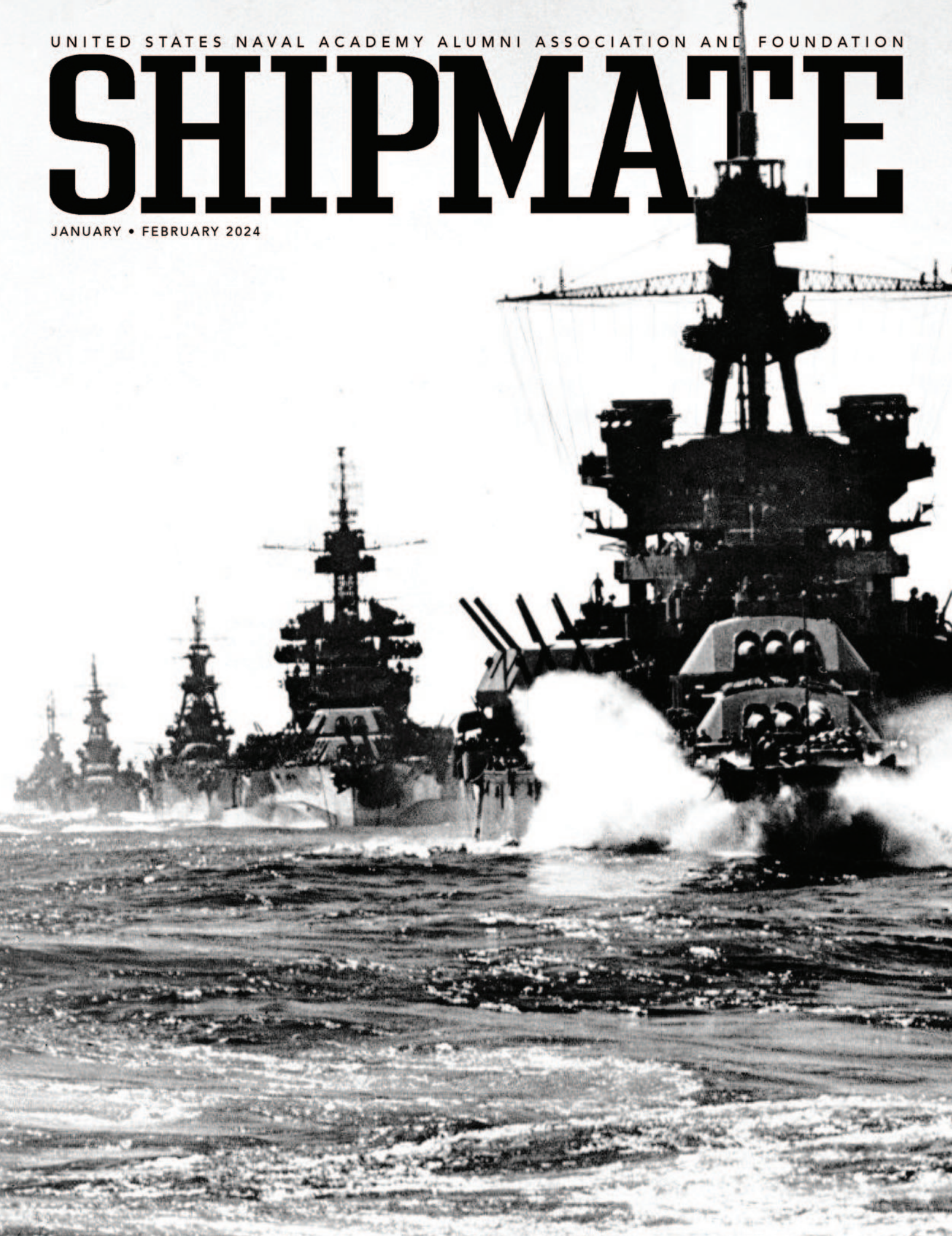


UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

JANUARY • FEBRUARY 2024



**1,000
WORDS**



Service Selection

MIDN Cecelia Rech '24 reacts to learning she will commission into the Cryptological Information Warfare community during Service Selection on 17 November 2023.

NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH MILESTONE MOMENTS

By Jeff Webb '95

I hope your 2024 is off to a wonderful start.

We wrapped our 2023 major events, and the 2023 football season, in Boston, MA, where the Army-Navy game was held for the first time. While the result was clearly not what we hoped for (I am highly confident we will settle that score next year!) the experience in New England was another special opportunity for us to connect and engage with our alumni, chapters, parent clubs and friends.

While much of my team was in Foxboro for the game, the “home team” welcomed hundreds of friends, families and alumni to the Fluegel Alumni Center (FAC) for an Army-Navy watch party. The event marked a fitting end to the FAC’s first year as our headquarters. Our staff and construction partners worked tirelessly through last spring and summer, allowing us to transition to the building in July. After a first-class dedication ceremony in September, we hosted dozens of events and engagement opportunities through the fall. Of note, we hosted a first-ever joint USNA Foundation Board of Directors and Alumni Association Board of Trustees meeting in October.

This building is a game-changer and we look forward to more alumni visiting this year whether it’s for reunions, special events or casual gatherings.

Naval Academy Leadership Transition

At the time of this writing, we are expecting Rear Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, will relieve Rear Admiral Fred Kacher '90, USN, as the Naval Academy Superintendent in early January. By now, they should have each put on Vice Admiral, with Vice Admiral Kacher having assumed command of the 7th Fleet in Japan.

With the unprecedented Senatorial delay on flag level confirmations in 2023, Admirals Kacher and Davids had their lives, careers and family plans disrupted greatly. Their commitment, patience and flexibility—and that of their families—has been a tremendous gift to the Naval



VADM Fred Kacher '90, USN VADM Yvette Davids '89, USN

Academy as well as the fleet. To the Kacher and Davids families, THANK YOU for staying the course and providing the Navy and Naval Academy the leadership it needed at a time of great uncertainty.

We bid Admiral Kacher a fond farewell as he and his wife, Pam, return to familiar territory in the Pacific, where he has spent much of his operational career. While their time in Annapolis was brief, the Kachers led and embraced the Naval Academy institution and community in every way they could. They leave with many new friends and a deeper understanding of how USNA is developing future warfighters for the Navy and Marine Corps.

We welcome Admiral Davids, a career surface warfare officer, who has the distinct honor of serving as the first female Superintendent of the Naval Academy. She is also the first Superintendent whose spouse is also serving on active duty. Her husband Rear Admiral Keith Davids '90, USN, a SEAL, currently serves as commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, CA. I know I speak for all of our volunteer leaders and my colleagues when I say that we are excited to begin working with Admiral Davids as she begins her journey as our new Superintendent.

Honoring Alumni Legacies

I want to congratulate our 2024 Distinguished Graduate selectees—Admiral Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.),

Jerrold L. Miller '77, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear '77, USN (Ret.), and John F. Young '78. A phenomenal pool of candidates was considered by the selection committee, chaired by Admiral Harry Harris '78, USN (Ret.). These four gentlemen will be honored on 22 March in Alumni Hall.

Throughout the year you will find features on World War II. I’m excited about our content plan for 2024 through all of our channels including *Shipmate*, our online *Wavetops* monthly e-newsletter and our social media platforms. We will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and other World War II remembrances with extensive coverage of the *Greatest Generation*—our WWII alumni. Starting with this issue and continuing through the summer, our communications team will deliver videos, interviews, feature-length stories and other vignettes about the impact WWII had on our nation’s history and the central role our alumni played in the war.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be working with a private company this year to help us better verify our graduates’ information and contact data as part of an effort to produce a comprehensive “Register of USNA Graduates” in late 2024 or early 2025. The last time we contracted to produce a register was in 2013. By updating your data, you will improve our ability to connect and communicate with you. If you so desire you will be able to purchase a hard copy, which would fit well next to a *Lucky Bag*, where my 2013 copy sits.

In closing, I’d like to share our sincere condolences on the passing of Rosalynn Carter, wife of President Jimmy Carter '47 for 77 years. The Carters represent pure goodness in public office and private life. They always served others before themselves—a philosophy we embrace at the USNA AA&F, and a mantra espoused in the Brigade of Midshipmen. The Carters stand as examples of what is good about humanity and the U.S. Naval Academy. 🇺🇸

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 in the lower left corner of the top image on page 6 in the November-December 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
From R to L: PENNSYLVANIA, COLORADO, LOUISVILLE, PORTLAND and COLUMBIA in a battle line entering the Lingayen Gulf preceding the landing off Luzon in the Philippines in January 1945. In 2024, *Shipmate* will share the stories of Naval Academy alumni who served in World War II including CAPT Jack Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), who was aboard COLUMBIA at the time of this photo.

Photo courtesy National Archives



Dear Shipmate reader,

Welcome to the 87th year of Shipmate magazine, the flagship publication for connection and outreach with our 69,000 living alumni.

Shipmate will publish six times in 2024, beginning with this January-February issue.

March-April issue will arrive in mailboxes around 29 March.

May-June will arrive around 31 May.

July-August will arrive around 2 August.

September-October will arrive around 4 October.

November-December will arrive around 29 November.

The delivery of these six printed issues aligns Shipmate more with industry standards. Based on extensive research by our communications team, a majority of peer institution alumni magazines are released four times per year. In fact, many have begun releasing printed issues only twice per year.

Shipmate will continue to deliver remarkable stories showcasing amazing alumni achievements in the fleet/ Marine Corps, their communities and in the private sector. These stories and inputs are the result of the dedication of our active volunteers in the classes, chapters, shared interest groups and parent clubs. We continue to be grateful for your service to the magazine and the Naval Academy.

This is more than an alumni magazine. This is our medium for maintaining connections with alumni by sharing impactful storytelling and highlights of the extraordinary things Naval Academy alumni are doing in and out of uniform and at all levels of leadership.

Shipmate will continue to be available in an online format, as well. We will also be engaging with our readership in the coming months to ensure accuracy in our distribution and to offer permanent opt-outs of the printed edition.

We value your feedback on how we can best deliver news and the stories that bind us together. Please send feedback to Shipmate Editor, Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com.

Lastly, we continue to nurture our connections in the U.S. Naval Academy alumni network.

As a crucial step to strengthening those networks and engagement channels, the USNA AA&F communications team is undertaking a data verification project and the creation of a new printed alumni directory. This product will augment the six issues of Shipmate in 2024 as the 2025 Registry of Graduates. This project was last completed in 2013, and the registry was an extremely popular product.

We have contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCI) to verify the accuracy of alumni data currently on file. PCI will begin mailing postcards and sending emails to alumni in mid-to-late January. The communication requests alumni to call a telephone number to verify or update their alumni profile. When alumni call, they will be offered the opportunity to purchase a printed or digital directory. You are under no obligation to purchase anything. Regardless of whether you purchase the directory, we thank you for updating your information.

The new alumni directory will be available in print and digital formats in early 2025. PCI is a trusted partner of the USNA AA&F and the Naval Academy and is strictly using the alumni contact information for this project only. This directory will help alumni connect with each other and the Academy, and the verification of your profile information will help strengthen our alumni network and provide important connections to career and personal networks.

We are very excited to deliver you these products in 2024, and thank you for subscribing to the best alumni magazine in the industry.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

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ALL HANDS

Dauids '89 Makes History as First Female Naval Academy Superintendent



Vice Admiral Yvette M. Dauids '89, USN, was scheduled to take the reins as the 65th Superintendent of the Naval Academy in early January. Dauids is the first woman to serve as Superintendent. She was preceded by acting Superintendent Vice Admiral Fred Kacher '90, USN. Kacher followed Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN, who relinquished command on 29 August 2023.

Dauids was nominated for the position on 21 April 2023 but a hold on military promotions by Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville prevented Senate confirmation of more than 450 officers who were selected for promotion. That hold ended on 5 December 2023.

Vice Admiral Dauids' promotion was approved on 5 December 2023. While her promotion was stalled, Dauids served as acting commander of Naval Surface Forces and Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Dauids has been a barrier breaker throughout her naval career. She is a career surface warfare officer whose previous duties include commanding CURTIS, BUNKER HILL and Carrier Strike Group 11. Her assignment to CURTIS in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in 2007 made her the first Hispanic American woman to command a Navy warship.

In 1990, Dauids began a three-year assignment aboard SAN JOSE, a combat stores ship deployed in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During that deployment, Dauids was summoned from SAN JOSE to spend 10 days on BUNKER HILL. She had to get special permission to board the ship, which was located in a combat zone.

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

In June 2020, Dauids assumed duties as chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command. She also served as commander, Nimitz Strike Group/Carrier Strike Group 11. Starting in August 2022 until August 2023, Dauids served as director of the Learning to Action Drive Team.

Dauids is a 2002 graduate of the Naval War College with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies and a 2012 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a Master of Science in national resource strategy.

Ashore, she served as aide to the deputy and chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet; as a joint exercise communications planner at the Joint Warfighting Center, Joint Forces Command (J6); deputy executive assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations for Information, Plans and Strategy (OPNAV N3/N5); director, Naval Academy Sailing, U.S. Naval Academy; executive assistant to the executive director of Commander, Naval Surface Forces Command; and assistant chief of staff for Requirements, Experimentation and Innovation (N8/N9) for the commander, U.S. Third Fleet.

Her first flag assignment was with the U.S. Department of State as the senior military advisor to the assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs prior to assuming Carrier Strike Group command.

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



Fair Winds, Following Seas to Smith '62

Admiral Leighton W. "Snuffy" Smith Jr. '62, USN (Ret.), passed away in his Pinehurst, NC, home on 28 November 2023.

Admiral Smith earned his Wings of Gold in 1964 and led a pivotal strike against the Thanh Hóa Bridge in Vietnam. He commanded air wings, major sea vessels and guided multinational forces. He primarily piloted the A-4 Skyhawk and A-7 Corsair II light attack aircraft during his operational flying career. He served on multiple deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic, Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. His wartime service during the Vietnam conflict included three lengthy deployments and more than 280 combat missions.

Smith's major commands included the replenishment ship KALAMAZOO, aircraft carrier AMERICA and commanding Carrier Group Six as a flag officer. He logged more than 4,200 flying hours and accumulated more than 1,200 carrier arrested landings while flying multiple airframes throughout his career. With two Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Legion of Merit awards, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Meritorious Service Medals and 29 air medals, his dedication and heroism were consistently recognized.

Smith was a fierce advocate for the Naval Academy. He served as chair of the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association for six years during the amalgamation of the Alumni Association and Naval Academy Foundation, and remained an active member until his passing.

He was selected as a Distinguished Graduate Award recipient in 2007. □

Aaron '88 at Center of Largest Student-run Special Olympics Event

Special Olympics of Pennsylvania's (SOPA) Fall Festival returned to Villanova University 3-5 November 2023. More than 1,000 athletes, 400 coaches and 5,000 volunteers representing the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania joined for what is the largest student-run Special Olympics event in the world.

SOPA provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities,



President and CEO of Special Olympics of Pennsylvania Matt Aaron '88 with USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95.

giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy. Matt Aaron '88 is the president and CEO of SOPA. USNA AA&F President and CEO, Jeff Webb '95, joined Aaron for the opening ceremonies on the Friday before the Navy-Temple football game. □

2024 Distinguished Graduate Recipients Announced

The 2024 United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award recipients were selected in December 2023. The following honorees will be celebrated in a ceremony at the Naval Academy on 22 March 2024.



Admiral Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.)

Admiral Blair served in the Pacific for most of his 34-year Navy career. Several of his assignments took him outside the Navy—to the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Joint Staff, a White House Fellowship and a Rhodes Scholarship. His final assignment was commander-in-chief, U.S. Pacific Command. Following retirement in 2002, he was the president of the Institute for Defense Analyses, then returned to government service as the

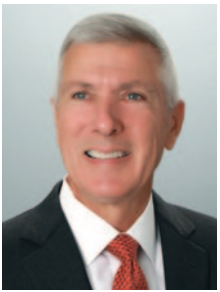
third director of National Intelligence. In recent years, he has played leadership roles in nonprofit organizations to address longstanding national security challenges—energy and manufacturing supply chain security, China’s rise, ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty and dysfunctional and polarized American politics. He has returned to the Naval Academy often since graduation, to lecture and lead advisory groups for the Superintendent. Admiral Blair resides in Durham, NC.



Mr. Jerrold L. Miller '77

Miller served seven years as a surface warfare officer. Although he left active duty in 1985, he continuously served the Navy as an entrepreneur in the maritime industries, and the Naval Academy as a philanthropist. He co-founded a ship repair company with an Academy classmate, bought that company early on and sold it 25 years later after it became a leading U.S. Navy ship repair business. He then founded Fairlead Integrated,

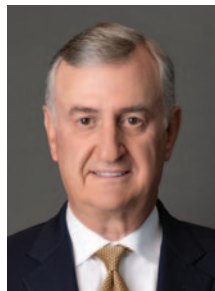
a company dedicated to the revitalization of our shipbuilding industrial base and a critical supplier for aircraft carrier and submarine construction programs. As philanthropists, he and his wife, Laura, were instrumental in the establishment, funding and construction of the Uriah P. Levy Center, and they continue to be leaders in the development and growth of the Naval Academy’s Margin of Excellence. He has been a member of the USNA Foundation Board of Directors since 2006 and currently serves as its vice chair. Mr. Miller resides in Virginia Beach, VA.



Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III '77, USN (Ret.)

Admiral Locklear served 38 years as a nuclear-qualified surface warrior. Leading at the highest levels he served as commander U.S. Pacific Command, commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, commander NATO Allied Joint Forces Command and commander Multinational Task Force Odyssey Dawn/ NATO Operation Unified Protector in Libya. He commanded the NIMITZ Strike Group during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Destroyer Squadron

Two and LEFTWICH. He has steadfastly supported and championed the Naval Academy’s mission. He served with distinction as the 1977 honor set brigade commander, the 19th Color Company officer and the 78th Commandant of Midshipmen. Following his retirement from active duty, he served as a USNA Foundation Athletic & Scholarship Programs trustee and as the chair, USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees. Admiral Locklear resides in Milton, GA.



Mr. John F. Young '78

Young began his naval career as a surface warfare officer, winning the Atlantic Fleet Shiphandler of the Year award twice, on two different ship classes. He has been a leader in the power generation and utilities industry for more than 40 years. More importantly, he has been an advocate of programs to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for underprivileged children of all ages throughout the country. His contributions have

led those students to appointments at the Naval Academy and other outstanding universities, where he has continued to support their education. He is a member of the Board of the USNA Foundation, a trustee of the USNA Foundation Athletic & Scholarship Programs, chairman of the board of Exelon Corporation and a member of the board of USAA. Mr. Young resides in Dallas, TX. □



Col Tom Manion, USMC (Ret.), the father of 1stLt Travis Manion '04, USMC, with Jeff Webb '95.

Philadelphia Chapter Honors Webb '95

The Philadelphia chapter of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation presented the 2023 Shipmate of the Year Award to USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95, during the Chapter’s Founders Day Dinner on 3 November 2023, at the Philadelphia Hilton.

The purpose of the Shipmate of the Year Award is to honor an individual or group for an outstanding contribution in support of the chapter mission—to serve and support the United States, the Naval Service and the Naval Academy. The chapter recognized Webb for his service as the AA&F

president and CEO, as well as for his efforts in co-founding Run to Honor, a nonprofit dedicated to perpetuating the memory of Naval Academy alumni lost in combat or training operations.

He was an elected trustee of the USNA Alumni Association (2011-17).

In addition to his prior service as an Alumni Association Trustee, Webb also served as a director of Students Run Philly Style, a nonprofit that trains and mentors high-risk high school youth through the completion of endurance running events. □

Sohovich Nutrition Center Dedication



The Sohovich Nutrition Center provides supplemental resources for Navy athletes. It was dedicated on 10 November 2023 in Lejeune Hall.

The Sohovich Nutrition Center was officially dedicated on 10 November 2023 in Lejeune Hall. The fueling station, named for Athletic & Scholarship Programs Trustee and USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Board member, JoAnna Sohovich '93, is a supplemental resource for student-athletes. It was made possible

thanks to contributions from Women for Navy Athletics.

The center supports student-athletes who compete in Lejeune Hall and Halsey Field House. Its staff includes a full-time nutritionist, interns and assistants. Athletes can meet one-on-one with a nutritionist and prefuel prior to practice and refuel post practice.

Sohovich said in addition to supplementing King Hall meals, the center is a way to connect teammates and ensure they have the nutritional support they need. She attributed this endeavor coming to fruition to former Navy women athletes rallying around a common cause. This could just be the beginning for more refueling centers.

"Our vision is to have refueling stations at the location or in the vicinity of where every sport operates," said Sohovich, who was a cross-country and track and field athlete at the Academy. □

Martinez '11 Honored by Chesapeake Charities



Chesapeake Charities named Wild Kid Acres, created by Gerardo Martinez '11, as Maryland's Nonprofit of the Year on 16 November 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, MD. Wild Kid Acres is a 5-acre farm in Anne Arundel County featuring rescued animals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Martinez family opened up their property to the public for community agriculture enrichment activities.

A rapid increase in demand for programming led Martinez to create Wild Kid Acres in 2021. The farm now serves as an educational venue, a refuge for animal therapy clients and a place where inner city minority teens can meet a farmer who shares a similar background.

Chesapeake Charities commended Wild Kid Acres for educating and encouraging the next generation of farmers. □

CTE: The Silent Demon in Our Ranks



The Bushaks

Loved ones remember Andy Bushak '76 as a force of nature whose humor delighted his family, friends, teammates and shipmates.

Bushak was a star linebacker for the Naval Academy, earning All-American recognition as a first classman in 1975. He retired after five years of active duty, returning to

football in 1981 for a training camp tryout with his hometown Cleveland Browns. A knee injury spelled the end of his playing days, but Bushak found success as a commodities trader and consultant.

Mary Ann Bushak noticed significant changes in her husband's behaviors when he reached his early 50s. Bushak had stopped his once-regimented exercise routine, began to lose his temper easily and drank heavily.

Andy Bushak died in 2018, at age 63, due to liver and kidney failure related to years of heavy drinking. After a decade researching her husband's symptoms as his condition worsened, Mary Ann contacted the Concussion Legacy Foundation and chose to donate Andy's brain to the UNITE Brain Bank. Boston University researchers later diagnosed him with Stage 3 (of 4) chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

CTE is a post-mortem diagnosis manifested by distinctive degenerative changes in the brain, found at autopsy. The disease has been around for a long time—especially in collision sports like boxing, hockey, rugby and football—just not properly recognized.

For the past 20 years at the Naval Academy, there has been a robust program of collecting baseline scores on all athletes, with a detailed follow-up algorithm following a concussion. This includes a "return to learn" program for all student-athletes. Recently, the Academy participated in a four-year longitudinal study sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Department of Defense.

CTE can manifest in several other clinical and psychological conditions, including addictive behaviors, ALS, depression and suicide. There is no shortage of high-profile NFL deaths with CTE later listed as the cause. Unfortunately, the Naval Academy is also accumulating its own litany of deaths related to the disease. CTE is like hypertension, or high blood pressure: silent. Unlike hypertension, however, we do not yet have a way to measure CTE before death.

Mary Ann said the man she married was quite different from the man she ultimately lost. Mary Ann honors Andy's legacy by sharing his story, hoping to raise awareness about CTE and the resources available to families and caretakers as they experience the disease with a loved one.

"What I went through was hell, because there was nowhere to go," said Mary Ann. "If people aren't stuck where I was stuck, they can be made aware of resources that can potentially help them navigate this illness and provide a better level of support for their loved ones."

These links offer information about ongoing studies of military veterans and athletes.

- <https://concussionfoundation.org/>
- <https://concussionfoundation.org/programs/project-enlist>
- <https://concussionfoundation.org/CTE-resources/living-with-CTE>
- <https://concussionfoundation.org/CTE-resources/support> □



In 2024, *Shipmate* is commemorating the service, sacrifice, professionalism and leadership of Naval Academy alumni during World War II.

This is the first in a series of stories *Shipmate* will publish this year featuring interviews with living alumni WWII veterans.

To follow this series and access digital content, visit www.usna.com/Shipmate_WWII.

Complementary coverage will be posted at: www.facebook.com/USNAAlumni, www.youtube.com/@USNAAlumni and [@usnaalumni](https://www.instagram.com/usnaalumni) on Instagram.

AGELESS ADVICE

WWII VETERAN ALUMNI SHARE WORDS OF WISDOM TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MIDSHIPMEN

Lieutenant Commander William S. Berkshire Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), absorbed many lessons through observation during his time as a newly minted ensign.

Berkshire and his classmates graduated early, on 7 June 1944, to join American forces in the battle against the Axis Powers in World War II. His first post-commissioning assignment was to a supply depot in Bayonne, NJ. He was ordered to a destroyer where he was the supply and disbursing officer. As an ensign, he was commissioned as paymaster.

During the lead up to his deployment to what would be the Battle of Leyte Gulf, also known as the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, Berkshire was committed to learning how his new shipmates conducted business. He modeled his behavior after theirs.

For future junior officers preparing to commission into the fleet or Marine Corps from the Naval Academy, Berkshire offers simple, yet sage advice.

“Watch your peers, your rank or slightly more senior, to see how they do,” said Berkshire, a Los Gatos, CA, resident whose career as a Supply Corps officer included service during the Korean War.

Berkshire and three of his fellow Naval Academy alumni shared words of wisdom for future generations of midshipmen. Their lives of service continued beyond World War II and their time in uniform.

Lieutenant Commander Charles G. Sobel '45, USNR (Ret.), has faithfully worn his ring since his Ring Dance. It is a reminder of the incomparable education he received and the opportunities it has afforded him. He attributes much of his success in uniform and in the insurance industry to the rigorous academic and military instruction he received in Annapolis.

The 100-year-old New Jersey resident served in volunteer service roles until

age 99. Sobel said the Naval Academy's structure positions junior officers on the path to success.

“The discipline and the value of following the rules followed me the rest of my life,” said Sobel, who served in the submarine community. “Learn as much as you can and follow the rules. The rules are pretty much the same (in the fleet).

“Everything I learned at the Academy put me in good stead for civilian life.”

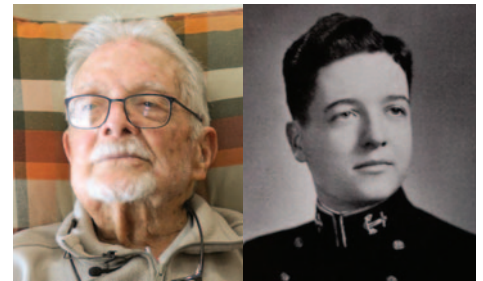
Commander Russell Dawson Taylor '46, USNR (Ret.), grew up watching ships and sailors from his hometown of Virginia Beach, VA. He was enamored by Navy service and his path was set the day an older cousin took him aboard his cruiser.

It took Taylor multiple attempts to earn his place among the Brigade of Midshipmen, including a year at the Cochran-Bryan Preparatory School in Annapolis. This came after spending his senior year in high school as a member of the Navy Reserve.

Determination and perseverance were rewarded when Taylor entered the Academy with the Class of 1946. His class graduated early, on 6 June 1945. Taylor was aboard the Essex-class aircraft carrier HANCOCK in Yokosuka Harbor on 2 September 1945. He leaned over the ship's railing to witness the surrender of the Japanese Empire, which occurred aboard MISSOURI.

Taylor said working hard to get into the Naval Academy gave him a greater appreciation for the institution. He was sure to maximize his opportunity. He said the friends he made and the leadership skills he learned while in Annapolis were the two most enduring elements of his time at the Naval Academy.

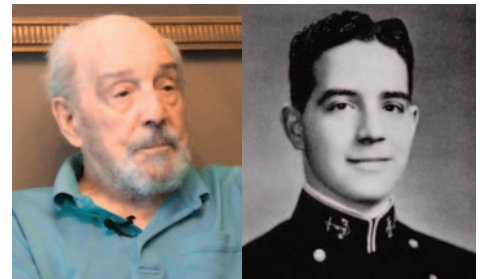
“I felt a great responsibility not to let down those who had supported me,” said Taylor who celebrated his 100th birthday in 2023. “That applied to school,



LCDR William S. Berkshire Jr. '45, USN (Ret.)

“Watch your peers, your rank or slightly more senior, to see how they do.”

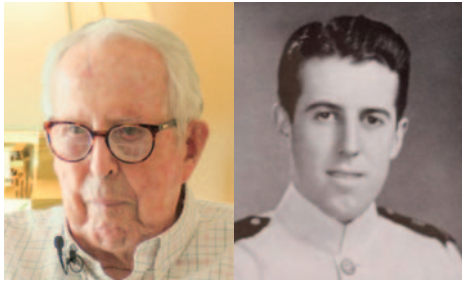
—LCDR Berkshire—



LCDR Charles G. Sobel '45, USNR (Ret.)

“Learn as much as you can and follow the rules.”

—LCDR Sobel—



CDR Russell Dawson Taylor '46, USNR (Ret.)

“I felt a great responsibility not to let down those who had supported me.”

—CDR Taylor—



CAPT Jack Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.)

“Do what you're told to do at the Academy, you're going to have to do that when you get to the fleet anyway.”

—CAPT Gillooly—

my service in the Navy and what I chose to do afterwards.”

‘STEP UP AND DO YOUR JOB’

Captain Jack Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), is the oldest living former Navy football player at 103-years-old. He credits his time at the Naval Academy for instilling in him the values and lessons needed to serve and lead others. Gillooly encourages midshipmen to soak up all the knowledge they can in Annapolis. He said the basic duty of following orders and fulfilling your job requirements goes a long way toward building trust with shipmates.

While not every moment may seem critical, being a dependable shipmate is essential to the team's success, Gillooly said.

“Learn all you can learn. It will be of use to you when you get to the fleet. Don't just push things aside. Learn what you can, it will be easier later,” said Gillooly, who served aboard COLUMBIA in the Pacific Ocean during World War II and was a naval aviator during the Cold War.

“Do what you're told to do at the Academy, you're going to have to do that when you get to the fleet anyway.”

Gillooly said the Academy experience puts midshipmen under stress for a reason. The ability to perform under duress is an invaluable skill, he said.

“That prepared us,” Gillooly said. “You're under stress when you get aboard a ship particularly if you get in battle. You better be able to control your emotions. A little bit of that at the Naval Academy will help prepare you.”

His advice for the Naval Academy's future junior officers is to follow the last

order. He said training at the Academy can't give new officers a full taste of what they will experience in the fleet but it does give them a preview of what to expect post commissioning.

“Nothing can really give you the flavor of the fleet, you have to be with the crew,” said Gillooly, a two-way tackle for Navy's 1942 and 1943 football teams. “You have to get to know the feel of the crew and people you are serving. I joined a veteran battle-hardened crew when I came aboard COLUMBIA. They had been through some of the epic sea battles and landings at Guadalcanal, in the Solomons. Your first tour aboard ship, is going to be a big learning curve.”

During the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Gillooly was an ensign manning the light cruiser COLUMBIA's forward 5-inch director. He survived one of the earliest Japanese kamikaze attacks.

Gillooly said learning to control your emotions during times of high stress and anxiety is paramount to doing your job effectively.

“You're trained to do a job, you must control your emotions,” said Gillooly, who lives in Tallassee, TN. “You can't let that get in the way of your job. Just step up and do your job. Those guys that are right with you are doing their jobs. If you don't do your job, they don't think much of you.”

“Each of you has a different part of this puzzle. You're relying on your shipmates to do their jobs. Your life is dependent on that, so you damn well better do your job.” ⚓

Shipmate's 2024 coverage and commemoration of alumni experiences in World War II will include the following content:

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

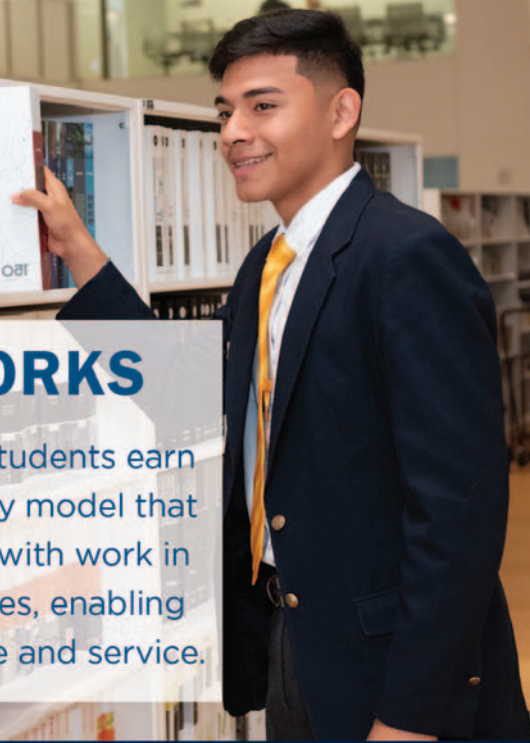
- WWII veterans offer advice to future generations of midshipmen
- A look at the National WWII Museum, the Naval Academy alumni featured in exhibits and exclusive WWII-themed travel program offerings

MAY-JUNE

- Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day by preserving the stories and legacies of WWII veterans for future generations
- Naval Academy Medal of Honor recipients from WWII

JULY-AUGUST

- Stories of service of Naval Academy alumni WWII veterans
- Naval Academy families share the stories of their WWII veterans



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OPERATION PRESERVATION

NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM FULFILLING SACRED MISSION TO HONOR, MEMORIALIZE THE GREATEST GENERATION

An SBD-3 Dauntless launches off ENTERPRISE's deck. A few seconds later, another Navy dive bomber joins the hunt for Japanese Zeroes.

Soon, they'll engage their Axis counterparts in firefights during the Battle of Midway. Their mission is perilous but pivotal. The United State's naval warfare innovation after the attack on Pearl Harbor helped turn the tide against the Japanese. Success in naval aviation proved to be a critical component in the U.S.'s victory in the Pacific Ocean theater during World War II.

This development is spotlighted in the National World War II Museum's Road to Tokyo exhibit. The New Orleans, LA, museum's immersive displays insert visitors into the action. The Road to Tokyo exhibit includes a display replicating ENTERPRISE's flight deck. Images of planes barreling off the carrier headed for aerial combat flicker off a floor-to-ceiling video screen. Three momentous naval actions—the Doolittle Raid, Coral Sea and Midway—are highlighted in the carrier exhibit. The contributions of the submarine community are also memorialized in this area.

Naval Academy alumni are featured prominently in the museum's documentation of the Pacific campaign. The stories of less-heralded heroes such as Rear Admiral Wade McClusky, USN, Class of 1926; Rear Admiral Robert Dixon, USN, Class of 1927; and Vice Admiral Charles Lockwood, USN, Class of 1912; are intertwined within the exhibit with familiar names—Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, Class of 1905; Fleet Admiral William Halsey Jr., USN, Class of 1904; and Fleet Admiral Ernest King, USN, Class of 1901.

Jeremy Collins, the museum's director of conferences and symposia, said the exhibits, which also include the Road to Berlin, were intentionally crafted to give visitors a glimpse of the environments and conditions sailors, soldiers, aviators and Marines faced during the war.

"As you walk through our European gallery, you'll walk through the Atlas Mountains of North Africa or the forests of the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge," Collins said. "In our Road to Tokyo exhibit, you'll be on the deck of ENTERPRISE and watch actual footage from the Battle of Midway. In the Guadalcanal exhibit, you have the canopy of trees hanging over you.

"We want to give people a sense of what they were seeing and hearing during their experiences overseas."

The museum celebrates and memorializes the Greatest Generation from Medal of Honor recipients who made the ultimate sacrifice to the courageous citizen soldiers who volunteered to defend liberty. The Naval Academy Alumni Association and



Foundation is partnering with the National World War II Museum to deliver exclusive WWII-themed travel offerings this year.

The travel programs include WWII in the Philippines (16-24 March), D-Day 80th Anniversary Cruise (29 May-8 June), Easy Company (25 June-7 July), Italy 1944 (7-13 October) and the Battle of the Bulge (11-19 December). One of the museum's missions is preserving the stories from WWII to ensure future generations understand and appreciate the service, sacrifice and leadership exhibited by Americans during World War II.

"One of the best ways to really learn about it, other than coming to the museum,



is to go to these battlefields and sites,” Collins said. “We’re delighted to have the partnership with the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association to get some of you down here or overseas. When it’s alumni groups, it’s always great because they always come with a sense of mission that matches our mission at the museum.

“When you’re going through on our tours, you’ll hear from these individuals—either read their words or hear their accounts through our oral histories—but you’ll also visit those sites and pay your respects at the cemeteries and visit the memorials to these units and to the men and women who served.”

Above: The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA, features the Boeing Center’s George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery, which includes a B-17 Flying Fortress, an SBD Dauntless and a P-51 Mustang.

Right: The National World War II Museum provides visitors an immersive experience that includes interactive exhibits and more than 10,000 personal oral history accounts.





The museum's aviation gallery also features photos of American Medal of Honor recipients from World War II, of which 28 are Naval Academy alumni.

Honoring and Preserving Legacies

From King to Nimitz to the 28 alumni who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their service in World War II, the Naval Academy's impact on the war is undeniable. The museum includes an interactive exhibit on the Balao Class submarine TANG which was under the command of Lieutenant Commander Richard O'Kane '34, USN. TANG sank 33 Japanese ships during five war patrols including 13 ships in its final patrol.

Each visitor to the TANG exhibit is given the name of an actual submariner on the final patrol. They are assigned a post and through audio and video elements experience what the crew's final moments might have been like. At the end of the experience, visitors learn whether their submariner survived.

Lieutenant Colonel John Curatola, USMC (Ret.), military historian at the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at the National World War II Museum, said while it's impossible to replicate the harrowing conditions of war, the museum seeks to deliver an experience that goes beyond dates and names.

"You try to get a sense of what it must have been like," Curatola said. "We do the best we can to try to give you an understanding of these environments and how difficult they were to operate in."

The National World War II Museum features six buildings including the Liberation Pavilion which opened in November 2023. The museum was originally launched on 6 June 2000 as the D-Day Museum. New Orleans was home to Higgins Industries, which produced more than 20,000 Higgins Boats that were

used in amphibious landings during WWII. The museum has grown exponentially over the past two decades and welcomed nearly 5 million visitors in 2022.

The exhibits include restored WWII aircraft in the U.S. Freedom Pavilion and The Boeing Center's George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery. That space houses a B-17 Flying Fortress, an SBD Dauntless and a P-51 Mustang. That hall also features a Medal of Honor Wall and interactive kiosk that allows visitors to search for honorees by branch of service, home state and a particular battle. Each honoree's citation is available to read.

"One thing we want to do at the museum is bring it back to that average service member who is the one who won the war for us," Collins said.

The museum's commitment to document the contributions and sacrifices of all Americans—from the Marines who landed on Guadalcanal to the millions of women who entered the workforce for the first time—is evident in the more than 10,000 personal oral history accounts of veterans, eye witnesses to the war and Holocaust survivors.

"We recognized the responsibility to make sure these stories—from both the great leaders and commanders and the individual citizen soldiers that joined up after Pearl Harbor or were enlisted prior to that—that they don't get forgotten," Collins said.



New Orleans was home to Higgins Industries which produced more than 20,000 Higgins Boats that were used in amphibious landings during WWII.

Curatola is the son of an Air Force officer and his daughter works as a foreign service officer. He said preserving this history is important, “not just for our generation but more importantly for future generations.”


“Democracy is always under pressure, it is our job to maintain it,” Curatola said. “If not, you can have a repeat of what happened in German in 1933, Italy in the 1920s and the same with Japan.”

Alumni Influence

The backbone of naval leadership in WWII came from the Naval Academy, Collins said. Curatola attributed the Allies’ victory, specifically the U.S.’s success in the Pacific to the agility and innovation of the American Navy. Despite losing most of its battleships during the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. possessed its arsenal of aircraft carriers.

America transitioned to aviation becoming the primary striking component, Curatola said. He said several Naval Academy alumni were serving as admirals during the war and

Naval Academy alumni are prominently featured in the National World War II Museum. Leaders such as Fleet Admiral William Halsey, USN, Class of 1904, and Admiral Raymond Spruance, USN, Class of 1907, are among the alumni who were instrumental in the U.S.’s success in the Pacific campaign.




William Halsey, Jr.

An aggressive and charismatic leader, Admiral William Halsey led a series of bold hit-and-run American carrier strikes against Japanese forces during the first months of the war and oversaw the first bombing assault on Tokyo, the Doolittle Raid. In October 1942, Halsey assumed command of Allied forces in the South Pacific and launched a series of offensives that severely depleted Japan’s air and naval strength.

US Navy | Fleet Admiral
YEARS OF SERVICE: 1904–1959

Raymond A. Spruance

The quiet and modest Admiral Raymond Spruance commanded naval escorts for his old friend Admiral Halsey’s carrier task force after Pearl Harbor. When Halsey became ill, he secured Spruance’s appointment to command Halsey’s carriers at the Battle of Midway. Although Spruance lacked any background in carrier aviation, his brilliant leadership played a crucial role in the battle and secured senior commands for Spruance from 1943 to 1945.



US Navy | Admiral
YEARS OF SERVICE: 1906–1948





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Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, Class of 1905, signs Japanese surrender documents aboard Missouri on 2 September 1945.

were responsible for developing America’s ability to strike back at Japan’s navy via aviation. Previously, aviation was used to scout where the enemy fleet was or to spot for naval surface forces.

Nimitz, who served as commander-in-chief, U.S. Pacific fleet, changed that. “What (Nimitz) understands is the striking power of aviation carries a lot more lethality than it had before,” Curatola said. “Nimitz is one of the people who recognizes this. He is instrumental in developing these fast carrier task force groups that are instrumental in taking on the Japanese navy.”

Through maps and displays, the war in the Pacific is chronicled in detail through the Road to Tokyo exhibit. The actions by Fleet Admiral Halsey and Admiral Raymond Spruance, USN, Class of 1907, proved pivotal. Halsey engineered the hit-and-run raids on the Gilbert, Marshall and Wake Islands in early 1942 as the United States rebounded from the losses at Pearl Harbor.

Spruance earned accolades for leading Task Force 16 with two aircraft carriers during the Battle of Midway.

“To take the carriers he has and sink four Japanese aircraft carriers in one battle, basically shifts the entire Pacific from America being on the defensive to taking an offensive approach as early as June 1942,” Curatola said. “You see these officers stepping up and embracing change in terms of naval aviation and naval warfare.”

Curatola said Naval Academy alumni demonstrated their ability to integrate new technology and warfare tactics. They realized some strategies at play in Europe were not applicable in the Pacific.

The training and experiences at the Academy, enabled these alumni to adjust their orders to the new realities of war.

“It required different approaches and methodologies,” Curatola said. “This takes time. It isn’t just like a switch you flip. The United States and her allies learned exponentially faster than the Axis.

“The Germans, the Japanese and the Italians are constantly losing because they’re not as adaptive and not as innovative. They don’t have the equipment sets that the United States brings to the fight and the ability to coordinate all those equipment sets. It’s not just that we have more stuff, it’s how the Americans use it, coordinate it and project it over two oceans.” ⚓

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COMMUNITY DUTY

LOCAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS MAKING POSITIVE IMPACTS ON THEIR COMMUNITIES

Standing straight with squared shoulders in their crisp NJROTC uniforms, high school students—and prospective Naval Academy applicants—maintain eye contact with the men and women whose path they’d like to follow to Annapolis. Alumni are peppered with questions about their experiences at the Academy.

These high-achieving, service-oriented teenagers seek advice as they begin their own quest to join the Brigade of Midshipmen. Nearby, pensive parents nod. They’re absorbing information and first-hand accounts from experts whose links to the Naval Academy range from the Classes of 1956 to 2018.

Nearly 200 attendees gathered at Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater, FL, on 11 October 2023. The Tampa Bay chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation’s annual Founders’ Day Dinner attracted 80 prospective applicants and almost three dozen alumni.

While the event celebrated the Academy’s 178th anniversary, the chief mission of the dinner is pitching the benefits of a Naval Academy education. Members of each warfare community shared their personal experiences at the Academy and in the fleet or Marine Corps. Each table included at least one alumnus who provided instant feedback to the prospective applicants or their parents.

The Tampa Bay chapter has hosted this meaningful community outreach offering in its current form since 2007. Warren Hahn ’60 informally started the Tampa chapter in 1972 and it was formally recognized in 1977. It was Hahn who recognized greater engagement with the community via the Founders’ Day Dinner



could have a significant impact. The chapter works in partnership with the Academy’s admissions office, Blue and Gold Officers and local schools to deliver guidance to identify and aid prospective applicants.

Tampa Bay Chapter President Commander Jane Lochner ’84, USN (Ret.), said hearing from alumni about their journeys is an invaluable opportunity for students and their parents. The chance to separate fact from fiction and to get insight about life in the Brigade and from each warfare community can help alleviate anxiety during the application process.

It’s a service Lochner would have appreciated as a high schooler.

“This is not only for the students but for the parents to understand what their child is going to get into and what it means to be in the Navy and in a warfare area,” said Lochner, who is in her first year as president of the Distinguished Chapter. “I had no clue coming into the Naval

Naval Academy alumni sing “Navy Blue and Gold” during the Tampa Bay chapter’s 2023 Founders’ Day Dinner on 11 November 2023. Almost three dozen alumni attended the event and engaged with prospective Naval Academy applicants.

“It’s our premier event for reaching out, identifying candidates, helping the BGOs and getting the word out to our local students about the Naval Academy.”

—CDR Jane Lochner ’84, USN (Ret.), discussing the Tampa Bay chapter Founders’ Day Dinner.

Academy. We're here to make sure people are informed about what they're getting into.

"It's our premier event for reaching out, identifying candidates, helping the BGOs and getting the word out to our local students about the Naval Academy."

Tampa's Founders' Day Dinner is just one example of local chapters delivering impactful support to their local alumni and the Academy. Across the country, chapters are supporting the Academy's mission office, BGOs, assisting the parents of future and current members of the Brigade, honoring fallen alumni and providing business and career networking events. These efforts include STEM events for middle schoolers, hosting Run to Honor events and supporting midshipmen during summer training and Navy athletes when they are in their areas.

Marcia Daubenmire and her daughter, Elizabeth, were among the attendees at the Tampa Bay chapter's Founders' Day Dinner. They learned the importance of not only having great grades and being involved in extra-curricular activities, but to seek out leadership positions in those endeavors.

"If you're the best of the best, that's who they're looking for," Marcia Daubenmire said.

Elizabeth, a high school junior, said she got a lot of information about the variety of careers available to Naval Academy alumni. She also appreciated hearing from Lieutenant Commander Janel T. Brown '97, USNR (Ret.), that a life of service doesn't mean sacrificing a family.

Brown, an executive with Microsoft who served in the Reserve, is married to a former Navy SEAL and they were able to remain in uniform while raising children. Elizabeth Daubenmire also liked hearing from recent Academy graduates.

"Recent graduates can give you the most up-to-date information," she said.

Brian Tsai '16 said events such as the Founders' Day Dinner are designed to showcase the support Naval Academy alumni and families can expect once they take their oaths on I-Day. Partnering with BGOs and parent clubs helps strengthen these ties, he said.

The goal is to deliver "360 degrees of support," Tsai said. The Tampa Bay chapter's

offerings also include an annual Spring Picnic, which drew more than 100 high school students and their families in 2023.

"Becoming a midshipman is not like a student at any civilian school," Tsai said. "You're entering a brotherhood and sisterhood where you rely on everyone else even on the family side. You have support for the parents, support for fellow alumni and current midshipmen."

"We want to show them that we are here for them. At this chapter, we fully embrace that."

Harnessing Passion

Tampa Bay's chapter isn't alone in its impressive efforts to serve its local community as well as supporting fellow alumni. The Greater Washington, DC, chapter has experienced significant growth in recent years thanks, in part, to a commitment of providing a robust and varied schedule of events.

By harnessing the passion and energy of its members, the DC chapter has earned Distinguished Chapter status and become a model of extraordinary service. The chapter has more than 600 active members after dipping to about 60 five years ago.

Central to that membership rebound is offering events appealing to different demographics. The chapter's outreach efforts include:

- Supporting local STEM events in a partnership with the WNBA's Washington Mystics
- Midshipmen mentoring
- Summer picnic to welcome incoming plebes
- Naval Academy candidate event at George Mason University
- Joint Service Academy Business Network meetings

Chapter Vice President Captain Anthony Calandra '88, USN (Ret.), said a pandemic pivot turned Midshipman Candidate Night into a nationwide event. The program brings together Naval Academy officials, local parents club members, lawmaker representatives and Blue and Gold officers to address interested eighth to twelfth graders.

"You have to believe in the events you're going to offer. We have people take on things they're really passionate about. That has really been the key to our success."

—Ingrid Peterson '01,
DC chapter member.



L to R: Loren Morgan '01, Bethany Baker '01, Capt Edward Slavis '01, USMCR, Ingrid Peterson '01 and CDR Bill Major '01, USN, connected on 16 November 2023 at a Greater Washington, DC, chapter networking social. The event was held at Bo & Ivy Distillers, co-owned by CDR Michael Curcio '01, USN (Ret.).

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREATER WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Greater Washington, DC, chapter offered the event virtually, which drew interest from students across the country. They've retained that option in the ensuing years.

"It's really increased our contact footprint," Calandra said. "On the flip side, we are redoubling our efforts this year to answer the diversification call of the former Superintendent, Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck '83, USN (Ret.), to get better representation from our DC inner city candidates."

These outreach and engagement efforts extend to alumni transitioning to the civilian sector. Calandra said they answer this call by supporting the Service Academy Career Conference (SACC). One of SACC's four annual locations is in Washington, DC.

"We fully support the SACC events but go beyond that with networking socials and other events to connect our transitioning alumni to private industry and to transitioned alumni who are poised to lend a helping hand," Calandra said.

Calandra said helping alumni navigate the complex and confusing health care maze is also a priority for the chapter.

"I think we have finally cracked the code to get the expert VA health care rep to provide us a seminar and video on how to navigate the VA health care system and for those of us who paid a little higher price, the Veterans Disability pathway," he said.

Ingrid Peterson '01, a DC chapter member who led a running group during the pandemic, said inspired members were the impetus for ramping up a schedule that attracted more alumni to participate.

"You have to believe in the events you're going to offer," Peterson said. "We have people take on things they're really passionate about. That has really been the key to our success."

Buy-in from members is central to getting new events up and running, said Captain Shelby Mounts '92, USN (Ret.). Mounts served as the chapter's outreach and engagement officer as membership began to grow.

He said providing a variety of events is critical to engaging a wide swath of alumni.

He advises leaders of other chapters seeking to revamp their offerings to "give a little control and let the members who have an idea run with it." Mounts said consistent communication is imperative as is listening to "the voice of your area alumni, not just existing members."

"If you spend the little bit of volunteer goodwill you have going off and doing things the chapter doesn't want to support, that's a recipe for disaster," Mounts said at a 16 November 2023 event hosted by Bo & Ivy Distillery, which is co-owned by Commander Michael Curcio '01, USN (Ret.). "The board leadership has to be willing to do the work. That gets people excited that they're going to see their friends and classmates and do something fun."

Mounts said his chapter is open to sharing the blueprints for their events—along with the barriers they faced—with other alumni association chapters. That spirit of cooperation permeates the chapter community.

'Share the Gouge'

Leadership of the Hampton Roads chapter echo that sentiment. President Commander Renee Reedy '81, USN (Ret.), said her chapter is happy to "share the gouge" of a successful event to her peers across the country.

Chapter Webmaster Major Rob Aeschbach '90, USMCR (Ret.), encourages other chapters to exchange notes regarding their events and programs with their peers to help broaden their offerings. He said Hampton

The Hampton Roads chapter welcomes each incoming local midshipman and offers a chance for them to introduce themselves to the alumni community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER

"We try to offer something for everyone."

—CDR Renee Reedy '81, USN (Ret.),
Hampton Roads chapter president.

Roads is willing to provide its road maps as well as adopt new ideas from peers.

“If they’re doing something interesting that we can emulate, why not try?” Aeschbach said.

Hampton Roads, which was named a Distinguished Chapter in 2023, engages its densely populated alumni community with a mix of events and programs aimed to support, inform and assist alumni throughout their life’s journey. This includes:

- Hosting local incoming plebes, foundation scholars and family members during the 30th annual Plebe Recognition Dinner in June 2023
- An October 2022 networking breakfast featured Captain Ken Levins ’83, USN (Ret.), eastern region director for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, who provided an update on VA health care and benefits
- On 29 June and 27 July 2023, hosted groups of midshipmen in the area for Summer Training at Naval Information Forces Command
- Run to Honor (see accompanying story on page 22)
- Monthly business networking events

Captain Al Ponessa ’68, USN (Ret.), events committee chair for the Hampton Roads chapter, said the annual dinner for incoming plebes draws about 170-200 attendees. Previous guest speakers at the event include deputy commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command Vice Admiral James Kilby ’84, USN, who was nominated as the next vice chief of naval operations; approved December 2023.

Attendees can also connect with other alumni as they prepare for I-Day.

“They get a chance to hear from alumni who were once in the same position they’re in now,” Ponessa said. “It’s a great opportunity for alumni to give back and for the future plebes to understand they have the support of the local alumni community.”

Reedy said providing events and programs that serve a diverse alumni population is essential. While some more recent alumni might gravitate toward business development or networking breakfasts, retirees might seek out informational speaker series and others might be attracted to legacy events such as the Run to Honor program.

“We try to offer something for everyone,” Reedy said. ⚓

Editor’s Note: Shipmate is eager to share the stories of alumni association chapters assisting their communities with impactful programs and events. Please contact Editor Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com to submit examples of your chapter’s outreach and engagement efforts.



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HONOR BOUND

ALUMNI EMBRACE SOLEMN DUTY OF PRESERVING FALLEN CLASSMATES' LEGACIES

By Sandy Spadaro

Every name on the wall in Memorial Hall has a story, belonging to a man or woman whose purpose was serving their country.

When Naval Academy alumni fall in the line of duty, their classmates, teammates, company mates and fellow alumni have an earnest desire to share their story and ensure those who make the ultimate sacrifice are honored in perpetuity. This is etched in granite in Memorial Hall, but many alumni have stepped up to honor the legacy and sacrifice of their fallen comrades through the Run to Honor program.

Captain Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.), has five classmates in Memorial Hall. He is president of the Run to Honor Shared Interest Group, which unites alumni, friends and family around the solemn goal of memorializing and honoring fallen heroes.

Swift's personal connection fuels his Run to Honor efforts. He said Captain Brian Bourgeois '01, USN, had a "triple impact" on him. Bourgeois was a Blue and Gold Officer (BGO) in Tampa Bay (2007-2019) and was commanding officer of SEAL Team 8 when he was lost during a training accident on 7 December 2021. He was a triple loss for Swift, who worked with Bourgeois as a BGO volunteer, with the Navy Seal Foundation and with Run to Honor. Swift swims for the Navy SEAL Foundation in the Tampa Bay Frogman SEAL Swim each year.

"Run to Honor is getting the awareness out there," said Swift, who has helped organize Run to Honor events with the Naval Academy Alumni

Association and Foundation's Tampa Bay chapter. "It's personal. We memorialize their sacrifice and service. We honor them, all 2,700 on the wall in Memorial Hall."

For the Naval Academy community, the loss of a classmate or alumnus is a deeply felt blow. These individuals have dedicated their lives to the service of their country, and their sacrifice demands more than mere recognition from the federal government. It demands a deeper level of remembrance and honor, a testament to the impact they have had on their alma mater and the wider world. It requires a response from classmates.

Run to Honor brings together alumni to remember stories, heroism and families. The Run to Honor program was established by the Class of 1995. Classmates from '95 wanted to honor three classmates who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Global War on Terror.

The Marine Corps Marathon, held every year in Washington, DC, was a well-established event, and partnering seemed a logical connection. This gave families and classmates a gathering point to remember sacrifice and service. Since 2007, many Alumni Association chapters have hosted events around the country, often during Memorial Day weekend.

Connections and links to the Academy motivate Run to Honor supporters like Swift.

"I did not know them all personally, but one story that is very personal to me is Lieutenant Commander



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER

The Hampton Roads chapter hosts a sunrise Run to Honor event each year at Virginia Beach.



The Oak Ridge-Knoxville chapter supports the Naval Academy's lightweight crew team and its Row to Honor program.

Ron Vauk '87, USNR, because he was a submarine officer like I was," Swift said. "Ron switched to intelligence in the Reserve and he was on his second day of his two weeks of active duty on 9/11 at the Pentagon. So, it could have very easily been me and he just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

'Remembering the Stories of the Fallen'

Dave Paddock '77, former Run To Honor president, was asked to help spread the word to other classes while serving on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees Communications Committee. The night before the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon, families and classmates gathered for a dinner to remember and honor the fallen. After a few years the dinner became part of a separate program—Honor Our Fallen Heroes.

The Hampton Roads chapter hosts a sunrise Run to Honor at the Virginia Beach waterfront each year.

"Run to Honor is to honor USNA grads," Paddock said. "It's not about us getting a t-shirt for the run; it's about talking with the families and remembering the stories of the fallen.

"We want to honor through run, bike or swim. Honoring our fallen, that's the main thing."

Run To Honor continued to be a popular off-shoot at the Marine Corps Marathon as Naval Academy alumni honored graduates including Major Megan M. McClung '95, USMCR; Lieutenant Travis Manion '04, USMC; and Lieutenant Brandon Looney '04, USMC. Meanwhile, other Run to Honor events began to appear around the country at Alumni Association chapters, hosting their own 10Ks, marathons or walks, bringing together classmates and families to reminisce and honor fallen classmates.

When a Naval Academy graduate falls in the line of duty, their legacy is not confined to the walls of their alma mater. It extends to their families, their friends and the countless lives they have touched. It is a legacy that deserves to be honored and cherished, not just for a day or a year, but for generations to come.

Memorial Hall at the Naval Academy is a sacred and reverent place for remembering and honoring alumni who were lost in service to their country. To make the Bancroft Hall site accessible to all, Virtual Memorial Hall (www.usnamemorialhall.org) was

created by Pat McConnell '02. The website features the biography of fallen classmates, *Lucky Bag* entries and remembrances from Gold Star family members.

Run To Honor hosted a Facebook Live reading of all 2,700 names at Memorial Hall on Memorial Day 2023.

Row to Honor

In recent years, honoring fallen heroes has evolved to include Row to Honor. Commander Richard Cataldi '69, USN (Ret.), a member of the Oak Ridge-Knoxville chapter, said the Row to Honor program began with a few midshipmen on spring break. In 1999, Captain Jackson B. Richard '52, USN (Ret.), (also known as Captain Jack), arranged for the lightweight crew team to come to Oak Ridge/Knoxville, TN, during spring break for team practice.

Richard organized host families for about 20 midshipmen and coaches. Cataldi said families were thrilled to host the team and coaches. They enjoyed the interaction with the midshipmen, he said.

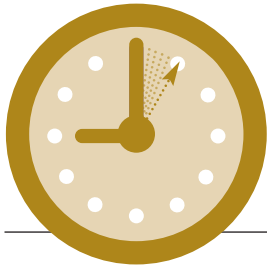
On the last day of practice, the "Broken Oar Award" is given to the winning team after the last race. The award was renamed "Captain Jack Spring Regatta Award." Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the team now arrives on two Navy buses for the spring practice.

"Two members of the chapter are former rowers," Cataldi said. "With Run to Honor being successful it seemed like Row to Honor gave another opportunity for the mids to honor fallen heroes."

In the ensuing years, the program grew, from 40 to 60 midshipman. Midshipmen made their own travel arrangements on their personal time to practice and honor Naval Academy alumni who were killed in action or in operational losses.

COVID curtailed the event in 2020, cancelling travel plans for all midshipmen. However, once restrictions were lifted the following year, Naval Academy buses were used to take the lightweight crew team to Oak Ridge-Knoxville area for practice, with host families providing lodging.

Row to Honor brought together the Naval Academy community and the community of families in the Oak Ridge-Knoxville area. The program has been a success and helped the Oak Ridge-Knoxville chapter earn the Distinguished Chapter Award. ⚓



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

STEVEN LE '98

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.

Steven Le '98 visited all 50 states—sometimes crashing on couches—cooking dinner for his fellow Americans to gather their stories. Over the course of three years, Le prepared 259 meals in 157 different towns and cities. He met and listened to more than 1,500 people's stories.

Le, a middle school humanities teacher, plans to publish a book featuring the stories. After serving in the Special Operations community following his commissioning, he has served as a high school English literature teacher, founded and directed an educational nonprofit, and directed operations for a startup manufacturing company. He recently shared details of his nationwide travels with *Shipmate*.

Shipmate: What inspired you to launch your journey?

Le: Before the Le Mobile Feast (LMF) journey, I had visited 44 states and lived in seven, so I thought I knew the heartbeat of our country. The summer of 2015 and the vitriol that I heard in the public discourse persuaded me otherwise. I wondered how we got to this degree of divisiveness, and it was apparent then that there were at least two contradicting versions of the United States. The best way to answer this large question, I realized over time, was for me to go out and listen to people and to do it where they lived. By that November, I'd devised the idea to offer to cook a dinner party for anyone who would host me in their home for a few days and invite their friends. I initially thought that I'd mostly garner interest from friends and acquaintances but quickly learned that strangers also readily took to the idea, probably because it's such an unexpected thing to hear someone say, "I'm driving through all 50 states to host dinner parties and collect stories about who we are as a nation." (I flew to Hawaii and Alaska.) I would do all the shopping and cooking, and my hosts would only need to entertain their friends.

I launched LMF in February of 2016 and had planned for an 18-month journey, both in terms of time and budget. By December, I had completed 28 states and was on schedule. But the 2016 presidential election made the country much more interesting to me, and so in 2017 I slowed down and spent much more time in the internal states. I would return to the same towns and cities where I'd established friendships with my hosts, places that informed me about who we are as a nation in this moment. People were doing the hard work to rebuild their communities in places that had recently gone through great shifts in industry and demographics, and they were finding real solutions.

Shipmate: What was it like to plan the trip?

Le: Once I had the pitch for the dinner party concept, I sent a mass email to friends all over the country, just to test it. The replies were overwhelmingly positive. Leaving from San Diego, CA, I wanted to make Blythe the first stop. It's a tiny town on the California-Arizona border that I had passed through many times but never visited. Because I didn't know a soul there, I used the traveler's website CouchSurfing to find my first host. She lived in the middle of the desert just south of the town, in



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN LE '98

an enclave of fewer than a dozen of converted mobile homes. Her name was Nancy, and she grew up in Germany and would skip school to spend hours in museums. As an adult, she worked as a yoga instructor on board cruise ships, a chef for a dude ranch and an artist. She had gone to the desert to live for one year to hone her drawing techniques. The first Le Mobile Feast "dinner party" included her neighbor, a half-Cherokee man named John, who told me stories about growing up as the son of an alfalfa farmer in the nearby fields. I knew from that baptismal experience that LMF would introduce me to people and stories I could never find without staying in their homes for days at a time. The real stories would come out when we're standing around the kitchen cooking lunch or making coffee, when I'm not "interviewing" people at the table.

I wanted to keep the itinerary flexible enough to stay longer in one place or to return to another for deeper stories, so the planning forecasted just about one to two weeks at a time. I kept a spreadsheet of contacts that people had given me for future stops, and about three weeks out I would email them with the pitch. In places where I didn't know anyone but knew that I wanted to visit, I used CouchSurfing—about 1/4 of the overall 230-something households.

Shipmate: How did the Naval Academy community support your adventure?

Le: From the start, my classmates expressed interest in hosting dinners in their homes, even those I didn't know well back in school. Social media helped a great deal. At the end of 2016, I submitted an update in the "Class News" about reuniting with dozens of classmates, and that inspired even more alumni of various years to reach out. In Nebraska, a 2001 graduate offered to host me. She was a newly arrived plebe when I was her first-set platoon commander, and I hadn't seen her since graduation. Sometime during that academic year, I had given her one of my red detailer name tags to say that she was someone who had grown substantially and to encourage her to keep developing as a leader. During my stay with her and her husband (a 2000 graduate), she showed me that name tag, which by then I had forgotten about. It was a truly special moment, one of many among the reunions I experienced throughout those three years. ▣

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: A SACRED MILITARY TRADITION

By Tom Schram '69

A centuries-old military ethos exists in a warrior's DNA, *Leave no one behind*. All of us learned that during Plebe Summer and have lived it since. This guiding principle reflects a commitment and responsibility that extends to our comrades who fought for us and helped protect us against mutual enemies. The following story illustrates one of the ways older alumni continue to follow this maxim.

CREATING COLLEAGUES

The United States trained 265 Afghan pilots with the majority selecting helicopters following Operation Enduring Freedom, which launched in October 2001. All trainees were graduates of the National Military Aviation Academy or the Afghan Air Force Academy, commissioned as a first or second lieutenant, and most have college degrees. Selection was based on aptitude and English proficiency. Basic training consisted of intensive English language study followed by ground school and then flight training (via Horizon Air in the UAE under a U.S. Air Force contract with Raytheon). Each received a certificate of completion from Rotary Wing Basic School.

Under another U.S. Air Force contract, the pilots received additional training in Slovakia and were certified as both commercial- and instrument-rated rotary wing pilots, using Night Optical Devices (NODs) in all-glass cockpits.

The pilots returned to Afghanistan and were assigned to operational squadrons. Most saw combat. Others were involved with logistics and supply. Some flew U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) missions in support of the Afghan National Air Force/Army. A few flew with U.S. forces on special operations missions. All flew with honor, courage and at tremendous personal risk. Their combat skills helped save U.S. soldiers' lives and they were greatly feared by the Taliban.

AUGUST 2021

After waging a 20-year war against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan. Our departure on 30 August 2021 left behind tens of thousands of U.S.-trained Afghan military.

Unbeknownst to the general public, hundreds of veteran-led groups sprang up to help evacuate our Afghan partners and their family members. In particular,

Afghan pilots wait on the flight line. Most of the U.S.-trained Afghan pilots saw combat action and a few flew with U.S. forces on special operations missions.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM SCHRAM '69

Rear Admiral Tim Flynn '79, USN (Ret.), created the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Group (ARRG). He recruited me for this all-veteran, all-volunteer team, which initially operated under the umbrella of a well-funded nonprofit organization.

RESCUE

In the beginning, our goal was simple: Get our allies into a friendly country as fast as possible. However, simple extraction operations are typically hard. We had to arrange for safe houses, food, medical care, security and transportation—all during the chaos of a new Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Over the next 90 days we airlifted out 763 souls who eventually arrived in the U.S. by early 2022.

Unfortunately, we left behind eight family members of a SOCOM translator who had been forced to shelter in Kandahar, south of Kabul. It took until 22 December 2022—another harrowing 13 months—to finally get them here.

This 17-month saga was so complex that several books could be written about the experience. Our total resettlement number was 771.

We thought that was it.

Not so.

A NEW MISSION

In late February of 2023, an ARRG colleague made a desperate plea for additional assistance from the team. With the withdrawal of



U.S. forces from Afghanistan between April and 30 August of 2021, more than 90 percent of the Afghan pilots and their families were abandoned with no clear path out of peril. Almost all escaped to various locations in Pakistan. Their lives were still in danger because they were enemies of the Taliban and marked to be eliminated as soon as the Taliban took control of the country.

We needed to get the band back together to bring 18 more U.S.-trained Afghan combat helicopter pilots and their 17 family members to the United States. ARRG was back in business. Unfortunately, this time we had no nonprofit umbrella organization and no money. A coalition of flight instructors had been using personal funds to support the group, but those funds would be gone by April. Funding became the critical path.

Once we began again, we had to find a way or make one. A former ARRG colleague and fellow veteran led us to the 2430 Group. This nonprofit (also all-veteran-led) agreed to function as our financial manager. Forging this partnership was huge since it meant we could now widely publicize the plight of this group and take credit card donations. Enabling tax deductible contributions made it easier for donors to make a decision.

As we were a new startup group, we raised seed money from friends and family to support the effort until we got organized. Then we began a two-pronged

The Naval Academy alumni backed Afghan Refugee Resettlement Group airlifted 763 at risk Afghan partners and their families directly out of Afghanistan by early 2022, including the family in this photo.

Since early 2023, they have rallied to rescue stranded U.S.-trained Afghan helicopter pilots.

campaign, 1) immediately ramping up resettlement efforts with the Department of State to process all 35 refugees (now 36 with the recent birth of a baby), and 2) creation, development and broad circulation of a very compelling story to accelerate fundraising.

RESETTLEMENT VIA “HUMANITARIAN PAROLE”

The United States has a program called Humanitarian Parole (P-1) for individuals who are at risk in their home countries and wish to resettle in the U.S. It is a complex and time-consuming process for those seeking immigration here. There are many steps involved but, simply put, those requesting this permission must, 1) get recognized as a qualifying applicant; 2) undergo a background check; 3) be interviewed by the United Nations’ International Office of Migration; 4) sit for a detailed interview (to include all members of the family) with the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS); and then, 5) everyone in the family must pass a medical exam. After successful completion of all this, clearance is eventually given for travel to the U.S.

This process is even more challenging in Pakistan, where there are more than 25,000 Afghan humanitarian parole applications in place for resettlement to the United States. On a daily basis, ARRG tracks the pilots’ progress, guides them through the steps and keeps connected with senior officials in the State Department and DoD. Even all this effort does not speed up the system.

As of late November 2023, all the pilots were working through the steps and several were almost finished, but our best estimate is that it could take another six to nine months before these comrades and their loved ones can travel to the United States.

We have secured a commitment at 50 percent—the going rate from a national law firm for immigration support through permanent residency once the families reach the U.S. We are

actively working with helicopter associations representing operators who need pilots since the U.S. is short about 2,000 helo pilots. All the pilots want to fly again. They will have to recertify and build hours, but they are combat-trained and will not be starting from scratch. And they will become dedicated employees and loyal citizens.

FUNDING OPERATIONS

We estimated a total need of at least \$240,000 to meet financial goals for our Afghan friends. The word “goals” translates to achieving permanent residency in the U.S. and employment. This includes Pakistan subsistence costs (rent, utilities, food, medical care and incidentals, plus keeping the pilots and their families safe), resident country document processing fees, travel, immigration fees for resettlement to permanent residency and initial support (including help finding employment) when they reach the U.S.

For example, a new visa can cost as much as \$5,000 ... more than half needed one. It costs \$5,200 per month to support our 36 friends in exile. This includes housing, food and everything in between. These folks have now been isolated in Pakistan since August of 2021.

The U.S.-trained 265 Afghan pilots with the majority selecting helicopters. Each received a certificate of completion from Rotary Wing Basic School.



BROADLY TELLING OUR STORY— THE REACH OF YOUTUBE


Commander Ward Carroll ’82, USN (Ret.), a retired Navy F-14 radar intercept officer, provided our next breakthrough. After he retired, Carroll served as an embedded journalist with the 101st Airborne Division when he was with Military.com and was acutely aware of the humanitarian disaster caused by our abrupt departure.

Carroll is a published author (the *Punk’s War* series), worked for USNI and then became a widely respected YouTube producer. He creates video segments of interest about all things associated with flying, current events, and human interest, and then publishes these videos on his YouTube channel. He has more than 500,000 subscribers and eagerly agreed to assist us by producing a segment on these 18 Afghan helo pilots, our efforts to get them to the U.S. and the urgent need for funding.



All Afghan pilot trainees were graduates of the National Military Aviation Academy or the Afghan Air Force Academy, commissioned as a first or second lieutenant, and most have college degrees. This pilot is receiving his wings following completion of his training.

HOW TO HELP

To learn more about this effort, visit 2430group.org/humanitarian-aid. 



Tom Schram '69 matriculated into the Naval Security Group with tours in Japan, Okinawa (during Vietnam), and Alaska. He resigned in late 1976. He can be contacted at tschram@fuse.net.

During the segment, which went live on 2 August, Carroll interviewed the head flight instructor (a retired Army CW-4 helo pilot who completed one tour in Afghanistan), two of the Afghan helo pilots and Tim Flynn. When he published the video titled “Trapped—Pilots who fought terrorists are now being hunted,” Carroll created closed captions for the conversation with the two Afghan pilots since they used fake names and wore masks and sunglasses to shield their identities.

Carroll’s segment generated 91,000 views and more than \$30,000 in donations.

ACADEMY ALUMNI

Good fortune arrived again when the Class of 1969 formally endorsed ARRГ’s efforts. This led to broader awareness in the class and significant participation. News of the project continued to spread and has resulted in support from the USNA Alumni Association Colorado chapter (under the encouragement of Captain Guy Higgins ’69, USN (Ret.), a 23rd Company classmate). Bob Miller ’70 stepped up and posted the link on the Class of 1970’s Facebook page and the Alumni Association’s Cincinnati chapter circulated a message to all of our local members.

WHERE WE STAND NOW

We are almost halfway to our financial target. All funds raised are used only for the stated expenses. Interestingly, 70 percent of the funds are from veterans and of those, 80 percent Navy or Naval Academy sources.

Collectively, ARRГ team members have contributed more than 7,000 hours to bring these loyal comrades to the U.S. We take no money for our time or expenses, and we have no intention of stopping until all members of this group are safely in the U.S.

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THEIR STORY, OUR DUTY

LEGACY PROGRAMS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

By Spencer Jones

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F) is committed to serving members throughout their life's journey. A central piece of this sacred mission is honoring alumni who exemplify the values instilled in them at the Academy.

The USNA AA&F's legacy programs team is dedicated to sharing the stories of alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, made meaningful contributions during their time in or out of uniform or have had a profound impact on the Academy.

The legacy programs team recently discussed the importance of why and how we share the stories and honor the members of the U.S. Naval Academy community.

Captain Wes Huey '87, USN (Ret.), executive director of Strategy and Legacy Programs and Gwenn Dennis, director of

Legacy Programs and Memorial Services, are evaluating how to best support the Naval Academy alumni community and their families. Their team organized the largest Honor Our Fallen Heroes ceremony in November 2023 and continue to plan the 26th Distinguished Graduate Award ceremony scheduled for March.

Shipmate: What does legacy mean to you?

Dennis: Legacy to me is heritage. The legacy part of our program is meant to be the part that celebrates the lives and the actions of our alumni who have gone out and done great things, whether that's acted heroically in battle or perhaps sacrificed their lives in the service of their country. If we're looking at something like Honor Our Fallen, which is one of my passions, it's to connect those families back to the person that they lost—to keep them engaged and, hopefully, volunteering, reaching out and helping us find more of the families of our fallen in order to make our program even larger and stronger than what it already is.

Huey: Many of our alumni choose to make a philanthropic contribution to the community—to the Naval Academy—for that purpose. It's meaningful to them whether it's time, talent or treasure. But to me, it just comes back to honor, courage and commitment. You honor those values through the legacy programs. You honor those who have fallen serving their country. You honor those who have done amazing things—those who have courage to serve in the first place.

Going to the Naval Academy, signing up as a leader—that's not something that a lot of college students decide to do. The commitment to make sure that alumni are cared for throughout their lives is really an embodiment of the honor, courage and commitment that is instilled in us from day one at the Naval Academy.

Shipmate: What impact does legacy have on the Academy and its alumni as a result of sharing and recognizing these members of the alumni community?

Huey: About a year ago, we embarked on a process to write a new strategic plan for the next 10 years that we called Strategic Plan 2030. One of the elements of that strategic plan was to provide the support that our alumni have come to expect over the many years that we've been doing this, but especially over the last several years, where we've become a little bit more sophisticated in the way that we think about what alumni need.



The USNA Alumni Association & Foundation hosts an annual Honor Our Fallen Heroes event. Alumni are encouraged to serve as escorts for the families of the fallen during this event.

Our Naval Academy is founded on the principle that we accomplish the mission together. None of us do it alone. At the Alumni Association, we seek to carry that ethos into how we accomplish our mission. The legacy part of our organization is meant to be the part that celebrates the lives and the actions of our alumni in the service of their country.

We believe that when we do that, we reinforce for each other and for the rest of our alumni what it means to be a graduate of the Naval Academy. We honor those folks so that we can all take part in this sense of shared purpose and value through the lives that these individuals have lived that are worth recognizing and honoring. To some extent, that helps us all reinforce what we all believe are our shared values.

It's not very difficult for most Naval Academy alumni when they look back on what's been important in their life. For me, much of this has to do with my service and time on active duty. My best friends are the folks that I went to school with, the folks that I served with. Working here at the Alumni Association, I get to participate in the act of putting these individuals in environments in which they can share that connection and celebrate it.

Shipmate: How can alumni get involved with legacy programs?

Huey: One way alumni can get involved in this program is to serve as escorts for family members during our Honor Our Fallen Heroes event. We have about 30 families that are coming back. The alumni who were killed in action—it's their roommates and their teammates who are coming back to serve as escorts for those family members. These programs are also a great mechanism through which alumni can reconnect.

Shipmate: Where would you like to see legacy programs go in the future and what can alumni community members anticipate seeing in the next few years?

Dennis: We have a growth vision for the legacy program, just like we have for all of our other programs. We will see growth in terms of one of our strategic pillars—to be supportive of our alumni community. We'd like to see members that are at every stage of their lives being engaged with us.

Huey: Someone asked me the other day where we're trying to be 10 years from now. How do we know that we've achieved what we're trying to achieve? I think it's pretty simple. An alumnus wakes up one day and says, "I have a question about X" and the first place that they turn to ask that question is the Alumni Association.

Our strategic plan is targeted specifically to ensure that we make opportunities available to alumni across that lifespan. In 10 years, the legacy programs will reach out and touch more and more of those alumni. We are also envisioning growth in terms of the kinds of recognition that we provide to the alumni community. We're going beyond the Distinguished Graduate Award to identify volunteer leaders that are out there doing great things for parent clubs, for shared interest groups (SIGs), for chapters and for classes. ⚓

Editor's Note: This entry originally appeared as a LinkedIn post in November 2023 by Commander Philip N. Campbell '94, USN, who graciously allowed Shipmate to reprint it.



LCDR Frank Wittwer '94, USN

Dear Frank,

It has been a long time my friend, too long, but I wanted to reach out and let you know your family is doing great.

You see, I had the duty to escort them this weekend at this year's Honor Our Fallen Heroes ceremony at Canoe U. You were one of 36 veterans, killed on active duty either in action or in training, selected to be remembered.

Now before you go getting your back up about not being a hero, you need to hear me out. This wasn't some ridiculous performative display meant to draw more attention to the participants than those remembered ... neither one of us ever cared for that stuff. This was a quiet, modest ceremony in which we all had the opportunity to reflect on what it means to serve. So just shut up and listen, will ya?

I know how hard it was to walk out the door in uniform, leaving our families behind so we could do our duty to our country and mankind. The agonizing what-ifs swirled through our heads as we strapped on our gear, be it a ship, submarine, airplane, rifle or even a desk. We always did it, though, because we knew if the worst came to be, our families would be taken care of by the people we trusted with our own lives.

I gotta tell you, buddy, your family is awesome. I was a little surprised to see none of them had that flaming red hair of yours, but they all had that jokester glint in their eyes coupled with a sense of commitment and fortitude you always showed. Despite losing you at such incredibly young ages, your kids have grown up to be successful and well-adjusted. Your son is even pursuing his own application to the Naval Academy. Man, you should be so proud.

Your wife? Talk about a better half. She has resolve and dignity I don't know I've ever seen before. She soldiered on, raising three incredible kids while dealing with your loss. You chose well, my friend. She is an absolutely amazing person. Get this, after I broke down walking out of Memorial Hall she actually reached out a hand and asked ME if I was okay. And I'M supposed to be comforting HER!

Your family is resilient, but your memory is still fresh with them. They shared stories about you with me and I told them as much about you as I thought you would let me ... The weight on my shoulders that day was immense, because I know you are a good man and it was absolutely imperative to me for them to know that as well. Not to worry, my friend, they already knew.

I'll let you go, brother. I miss singing in the Glee Club with you. I miss that laugh and I miss that smile. I miss sharing stories about Louisiana with you. Your legacy, and the person you were, lives on in your family. So, whatever you are doing now, you should be proud.

Your classmate,
Phil Campbell

P.S. GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY!

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

SACC LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVES IN 2024

Since 1994, SACC has hosted nearly 40,000 alumni from the five service academies. SACC is designed to connect high-caliber job candidates, many of whom are transitioning out of military service, with businesses eager to tap into the unique skill sets of service academy alumni.

The Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) continues to incorporate innovative ways to assist job seekers as it celebrates 30 years of helping connect uniquely skilled applicants with elite employers.



In 2024, SACC will reach the 100-conference milestone while making first time appearances in Atlanta, GA (8-9 February), and in Chicago, IL (9-10 May). SACC includes the participation from five service academies, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and the Naval Academy. This year also brings new offerings and support services to job seekers. They include:

- Working with MOAA—Military Officer Association of America—on a video highlighting resumé best practices.
- Using AI generated resumé and interview tool Hiration to help candidates prepare for future events.
- A webinar series for both candidates and companies on how to get the most out of your SACC experience.

Commander Mike Lowe '98, USN (Ret.), joined the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation in August 2023 as director of alumni support services. He serves as SACC's executive director.

Lowe said one of his priorities is helping applicants navigate the SACC process and maximizing their experience during and after the conference. He said many first-time participants don't know how to best differentiate themselves from the other 400-plus candidates.

"It's a little bit overwhelming," Lowe said. "We're going to be doing all

kinds of things before the first event in Atlanta to help everyone get the most out of their experience.”

Starting in 1994, SACC has welcomed nearly 40,000 alumni from all five service academies. More than 7,000 companies have attended SACC events in the first 30 years. Lowe said SACC’s mission is to assist service academy graduates whether it’s transitioning to the civilian sector or starting a new chapter in their careers.

“We want to have career programs that start from the day an Academy alumnus graduates and goes all the way through until they retire,” Lowe said. “SACC does a really good job fulfilling the first part of that journey. It’s excellent for those lieutenants and lieutenant commanders who are getting out and looking to enter the workforce for the first time.”

SACC attracts high-quality firms, large and small, seeking prospective employees with cutting edge technology skills and leadership qualities that service academies produce. Those businesses include Bank of America, Deloitte, Lockheed Martin, Wells Fargo, Lowe’s,

2024 Dates



S A C C

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In honor of Major General James E. Livingston. He is a great mentor to all the Marines who had the privilege of serving with and for him.

Semper Fi



SACC is held four times annually. In addition to Washington, DC, and San Diego, CA, SACC will host employers and job seekers in Atlanta, GA, and Chicago, IL, this year. Over the past 30 years, more than 7,000 companies have attended SACC events such as this one in Dallas, TX, in November 2023.

BASF, IBM, CBRE, Microsoft, Meta, KPMG, Goldman Sachs, Ecolab, USAA and Tesla.

“One of the great things all the companies love about SACC is they know the talent that they’re getting,” Lowe said. “They know the quality of the candidate that’s coming there regardless of whether someone has spent three to five years in the military or they spent 15 to 20.”

FACETIME

One key benefit to SACC is a social event on Thursday evenings in which candidates and corporate representatives can connect in a relaxed atmosphere. Lowe said this forum is a great avenue for candidates to make an impression that goes well beyond a resumé.

“Share a beverage with them and talk to them in a social environment,” Lowe said. “You don’t get that at every career conference. Companies have told me they’ve interviewed and hired folks based on the conversations they’ve had with them at the social.

“If it was just a resumé, they probably would never have had a conversation with them. It really does come down to selling yourself.”

SACC can also be a valuable experience for active-duty members who expect to enter the civilian workforce in the next few years.

“I tell folks, ‘you need to go there and learn to take advantage of the networking opportunities,’” Lowe said. “Even if you’re

just starting to contemplate entering the civilian community, it’s worth your time to go to SACC. Start early because you’re going to learn a lot in the process.

“You’re going to learn about networking. You need to get on top of that immediately and start connecting with folks in the civilian sector to find out the culture of the places you might want to work.”

These face-to-face interactions coupled with formal interviews help applicants pitch strengths their resúmes might not spotlight. Lowe said it’s a myth that resúmes are the pivotal piece to landing a job.

“You need to work toward it being really good but nothing beats being able to have a solid conversation with a recruiter to explain what you can bring to the team,” Lowe said. “(Resúmes) need to get through the automated system for skills matching. There are lots of things that will do to help that, but 80 to 85 percent of all jobs right now are found through networking.

“The reason I think SACC is special is because it gives you an opportunity to talk to every one of those companies.”

Lowe encourages applicants to inventory and prioritize the values important to them.

It’s crucial to determine what is important to you whether it’s geographic location, life-work balance, a spouse’s job or schools, Lowe said.

“Really take some time to think about what you value,” Lowe said. “Make sure the companies you talk to share those values. Every service academy graduate has really strong feelings about the things they value or they wouldn’t have gone to those institutions. You need to come up with a complete package to be truthful to yourself about what fits and what doesn’t.” 📌



How to Connect

SACC—www.sacc-jobfair.com

USNA AA&F Career Programs—www.usna.com/career-programs

myUSNA.com—<https://myusna.com/page/alumni-career-services>

One on One career counseling—mike.lowe@usna.com

LinkedIn—www.linkedin.com/company/service-academy-career-conference-sacc

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USNA 1984 / STEELCRAFT PRESIDENT/CEO



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MID-ATLANTIC AND WESTERN REGION MEMBERS: VOTE FOR YOUR TRUSTEES

SPRING 2024 REGIONAL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS FOR THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By voting in the upcoming election, you are helping choose leaders for the Alumni Association who will help guide the future and strengthen our alma mater.

In accordance with the bylaws of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Board of Trustees approved the slate of nominees for the positions of Mid-Atlantic and Western Region Trustees at the October 2023 meeting. The trustees elected will join the board for the May 2024 meeting and will serve a three-year term. Trustees can serve up to two consecutive terms.

Trustees must be regular members of the Association. Write-in votes are permitted. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast will be announced at the May 2024 meeting.

Board members help manage the business and affairs of the Association, which includes reviewing the status of existing alumni programs and services, and in determining mission critical activity.

The Western Region comprises the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii.

The Mid-Atlantic Region comprises the states of Virginia and Maryland, and Washington, DC.

Find out more about the Alumni Association Board of Trustees and the election at www.usna.com/BOT-Trustees.

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MID-ATLANTIC REGION CANDIDATES

Alonzo Barber '97



For the past decade, I have been actively involved with the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, serving on various committees and councils. I have been a member of the Foundation's Council of Annual Giving. I have also been a non-trustee member of the Association's Governance Committee, which reviews and recommends policies and procedures for the Association's Board of Trustees and

its committees. Additionally, I served on the Association's Special Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Through these roles, I have contributed to the advancement and support of the Naval Academy and its mission, as well as the engagement and empowerment of our alumni.

After separating from the Navy, I pursued a career as a corporate lawyer, specializing in intellectual property and technology law, most recently for Microsoft. I have served as a volunteer board member for various nonprofit boards. Through

these roles, I have gained valuable experience and skills in governance, fundraising, advocacy and community service which makes me an ideal candidate for the Alumni Association Board of Trustees.

I believe that a diverse and inclusive Brigade of Midshipmen enhances the quality of education and leadership development at the Naval Academy and prepares future naval officers for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. My final active-duty tour was as an admissions officer for the Naval Academy, where I gained a passion and unique skill set for enhancing the diversity of the Brigade of Midshipmen by recruiting and mentoring candidates from various backgrounds and perspectives.

Since then, I have worked closely with the office of admissions to develop and implement strategies and initiatives to increase the representation and retention of underrepresented groups. If elected to the Board of Trustees, I plan to continue working closely with the office of admissions to expand outreach to underrepresented communities and to support the Naval Academy's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Lieutenant Colonel David A. Bethel '79, USMC (Ret.)



Born in Harrisburg, PA, in 1957, I was raised by parents who were professional musicians. My formative years were marked by an exceptional athletic journey, achieving All-State status and numerous accolades in basketball. Joining the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975, I pursued a management and technology major while actively participating in varsity basketball, heavyweight crew, brigade boxing and the

Semper Fi Society.

Having graduated from the Naval Academy in 1979, I cherish the diversity and camaraderie of my time there. The experiences, challenges and bonds formed with classmates from various backgrounds shaped my perspective on service and teamwork. I am driven by the ethos of "Service Before Self," a principle deeply ingrained in me during my time at the Academy as well as in my Marine Corps career.

Graduating marked the beginning of my 28-year Marine Corps career, commanding at each rank from second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, the most rewarding being battalion commander. In my career, I served in diverse roles across all four Marine divisions, to include inspector instructor duty, key staff assignments, special projects directorate for the commandant of the Marine Corps, and aide-de-camp to the commanding general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command. Additionally, I was privileged to be an instructor in the Naval Academy's

economics department, where I supported the academic excellence of our midshipmen athletes, a fulfilling role after my own challenging experience as a young student-athlete.

Transitioning from the Marine Corps in 2007, I pursued roles in business development with Lockheed Martin and later Arctic Slope Regional Corporation until 2021. Presently, I serve as a field monitor at Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation, residing in Severn, MD. I am the proud dad of three adult children and six grandchildren.

My dedication extends beyond professional roles, as I've been actively involved in mentoring and volunteering. In addition to coaching local youth sports, I support veterans' advocacy as a veterans services officer with the Baltimore American Legion. I fundraise for causes like the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and participate in various community organizations like the Travis Manion Foundation and Our Community Salutes, a nonprofit organization that celebrates high school graduates that opt to enlist in the military.

As an Athletic & Scholarship Programs Trustee since 2006, I've actively participated in various capacities, supporting the Academy and the Alumni Association. With a profound commitment to service and a deep connection to the values instilled by the Naval Academy, I am compelled to offer my experience and unwavering dedication as a Trustee for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association. I am eager to contribute, support and strengthen the institution and its alumni, fostering a legacy of leadership and service among future generations.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION CANDIDATES

Ingar Grev '89



Serving the Naval Academy and our alumni community has been Ingar Grev's passion for decades; arguably, his engagement with the community defines who he is. Grev started coordinating the Class of '89 tailgaters around the mid-90s, and a few years later—in 1999—he was elected as class president. In 2007—during his second term as class president—Grev was asked to join the USNAAA Board of Trustees as

the '80s Decade Representative, where he served for two terms.

While on the Board of Trustees, Grev served on the Communications, Joint Investment, CEO Transition and CEO Search Committees. He also was one of the Board's representatives to the Naval Academy Memorial Oversight Committee.

Grev was re-elected for a total of four terms (20 years) as class president and was excluded from running for a fifth term in 2019 due to term limits. After leaving the '89 Board in 2020, he continued to coordinate the '89 tailgaters, administer the '89 social media platforms/website, and chair/participate on three '89 Distinguished Graduate Award committees. Grev returned to the '89 Board of Directors in 2023, and he has been a member of the Navy Football Brotherhood since its founding.

The son of a German World War II POW and a German refugee, Grev entered the Naval Academy from New Jersey, earning a B.S. in systems engineering in 1989. Before serving as a submarine officer in PHILADELPHIA, he was a coach for the 10-0 1989 NAPS football team. After completing his submarine tour at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in 1994, Grev reported back to the Academy to

work in the physical education department as a staff member, instructor and lightweight football coach (now called sprint football). During that tour, he also earned an MS in systems engineering at the University of Maryland. A few years later, Grev returned to the University of Maryland to earn his MBA.

Grev left the Navy in 1996 and settled in the Annapolis area. His first job out of the Navy was with Verizon (back then called Bell Atlantic), and since then his career went in several directions, from telecommunications to defense contracting, from very large companies to small, and from corporate to entrepreneurial. After leaving Verizon, he worked for a small defense contractor supporting the National Missile Defense program. He returned to telecommunications a few years later to work with the startup Covad Communications. When the telecom market crashed in 2003, he returned to the defense industry for a company that was acquired by Raytheon, and for about eight more years he supported the Missile Defense Agency as a technology leader/systems engineer. Grev started his own company around 2011, where he provided strategic advisory services, interim executive support and business development consulting. During that time Grev was also a nationally read contributor to *The Business Journals*. From 2017-2022, Grev was the Navy business development executive for 3M, and is currently the director of Defense Business Development for Motion and Flow Control Products Inc.

Grev is married to Jean and lives in Annapolis. Their daughter, Vivian, is an AFROTC scholarship cadet at the University of Maryland, their daughter, Sarah, is a biomedical engineering student at Purdue University and their son, TJ, is a junior in high school and an aspiring midshipman.

WESTERN REGION CANDIDATES

Jim "JJ" Brennan '84



Jim "JJ" Brennan '84 has called the West Coast home for more than 84 percent of his time since graduating from the Naval Academy including living in San Diego, CA, Seattle, WA, and, since 1995, Fremont, CA. His military career kicked off with NAPS and USNA followed by surface warfare division officer and department head tours in STEIN and ACADIA respectively, with a stint as a staff officer at the Naval Academy in between.

Transitioning into a sales and marketing career upon leaving active duty, Brennan has had key leadership positions in several industries and companies: Specialty Chemical (Nalco), Commercial Solar (Jabil, D2Solar, Borrego Solar, NRG, Stion) and, primarily,

Semiconductor Capital Equipment (Applied Materials, Eugenius, UCT, Ichor Systems). Following his initial transition from active duty, he also served as a reserve staff officer on COMCARGRU THREE (INDEPENDENCE/Whidbey Island) and COMCARGRU FIVE (ABRAHAM LINCOLN/Moffett Field).

Graduating from the Academy with a B.S. in marine engineering, Brennan has also completed the Strategic Marketing Executive Education course at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

His enjoyment of serving graduates took off after moving to the Bay Area when he became involved in the Silicon Valley Business Network, an organization of 500 grads from all service academies (about half from Navy) around the greater San Francisco Bay Area founded in the early '90s by Raymond Burkley '60. Taking

over as coordinator full time in 2010, Brennan has been ably assisted by grads from all the service academies to enable business and career networking as well as semiannual social events for Bay Area grads. The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation has been a great resource for the SVBN, helping to bring speakers from USNA to the periodic meetings.

Since his initial time in Silicon Valley coincided with the rapid adaption of electronic communications, he has also served his USNA Second Company mates as an unofficial communication hub and “call to action” officer when USNA events such as reunions and the Great Class Challenge are in play. This has also resulted in working closely as a volunteer with the class Reunion Committee for the last several reunions. In addition, Brennan actively supports the USNA Foundation outreach efforts in Northern California.

All this interaction with USNA has brought Brennan to wonder how do other grads, particularly in the Western U.S., interact with their alma mater and what part does the Alumni

Association play in that? As such, it drives the core of Brennan’s potential Trustee agenda:

1. Is the Alumni Association adequately communicating how it supports alumni in the Western Region? Is it the needed support?
2. Are ideas and needs from Western Region alumni being fully understood and addressed by Alumni Association leadership?
3. Do Western Region alumni understand the three organizations (USNA AA&F, Athletic & Scholarship Programs) that support alumni and USNA and what their missions are?

These are fundamental elements and as they are unpacked, there are many more links between the Alumni Association and alumni to be understood and strengthened, which is the foundation of the Western Region Trustee’s role.

On a personal note, Brennan’s son just finished a seven-year active duty stint as a lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps and his daughter is a Cryptologic Technician Second Class in a DDG out of Yokosuka, Japan.

Go Navy!

Captain Kennon “Pat” Temple ’79, USNR (Ret.)



Captain Kennon “Pat” Temple ’79, USNR (Ret.), has enjoyed a career spanning more than five decades marked by servant leadership and grounded in service to his nation and community. More than 25 years of both active and Reserve service, Temple’s character and spirit were forged by his time in the Navy, beginning at Annapolis.

His career began as a naval aviator flying the S-3 Viking, with follow-on aviation

tours as a flight instructor in the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) for the S-3 and special projects, in both active and Reserve roles. Temple expanded his knowledge base into command and staff positions of increasing responsibility, ultimately being selected to serve as commanding officer of three reserve units, notably in support roles for major Joint Commands. Retiring as a captain from the Navy Reserve in 2004, Temple’s final command was a Navy Reserve unit tasked with supporting emergent requirements for the staffs of NATO Headquarters in both Norfolk and Brussels.

In 1987, Temple transitioned from active duty to the Navy Reserve and civilian employment as a pilot for Delta Air Lines. For the next 35 years, Temple flew all over the world, and qualified as a captain on numerous transoceanic aircraft. He was designated as a Federal Aviation Administration line check airman, responsible for the training and supervision of hundreds of new pilots. Additionally, since 2002 he volunteered significant time and effort on behalf of the Air Line Pilot Association (ALPA), both as a safety volunteer and Critical Incident Response Program (CIRP) committee member.

Temple eventually served as vice chairman and then chairman of the CIRP team until retiring from Delta. In this capacity, he chaired an extraordinary committee of volunteers, trained in stress management and support for more than 12,000 Delta

pilots in the event of a mishap or operational incident. Finally, he volunteered and was deputized as a Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration federal flight deck officer from 2004 until 2022. In recognition of extensive service to aviation security, Temple was awarded the President of the United States Volunteer Service Award from the TSA.

Temple’s military affiliations include, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association—Life Member, Colorado chapter. U.S. Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer from 1991 to the present, supporting multiple high schools, first in North Central Texas, then in Evergreen, CO, and surrounding communities. As a member of the Rocky Mountain Naval Reserve Association in the early 2000s, Temple joined a team of Flag-level and other senior officers who traveled the U.S. teaching fitness report structure, grading and promotion cycles. This rewarding and impactful project added value for many hundreds of Naval Reservists. As a member of the Navy League of the United States, Temple is an active promoter of regional events. He is a life member of the American Legion and current commander of Evergreen Post 2001.

In civilian life, Temple serves as an elected official in his fifth consecutive term as director and secretary on the board of directors of the West Jefferson County Metropolitan District. He was a former Boy Scouts of America local troop adult leader and council adult education instructor for more than ten years. He has served for more than three decades as a volunteer for Ducks Unlimited International as local committee member, chapter treasurer and most recently as Evergreen Colorado Committee Area chairman.

Temple is blessed with a loving family; Marianne, his wife of 38 years, three adult children and four grandchildren. Two of his children are naval aviators currently serving on active duty.

In his spare time, Temple is an avid outdoor enthusiast, who enjoys mountaineering, alpine skiing, hunting, 4WD exploring, shooting sports and travel.

WESTERN REGION CANDIDATES

Commander Enrique “Hank” Molina ’95, USN (Ret.)



Commander Enrique “Hank” Molina ’95, USN (Ret.), served the United States Navy for more than 27 years. As a Trustee, he will serve all USNA alumni in the concentrated Western Region as their hands-on advocate by developing relationships with current trustees, present and future Alumni Association members. His background, as both a naval aviator and certified acquisition program manager, including an MBA

from the Naval Postgraduate School, gives him the skill set to strengthen member bonds to the Academy and to each other. He is personally committed to contributing time and energy to carry out the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees duties ensuring adherence to the stated corporate purposes/mission.

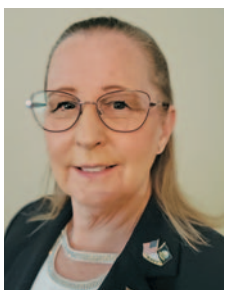
Molina was born in east Los Angeles, CA. Enlisting in the U.S. Navy directly from high school, he served as an aviation electronics technician. Shortly after enlistment, he applied for and was accepted into the BOOST Program (Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training). He matriculated and graduated from USNA in May 1995. Upon completion of flight training and designation as a naval aviator, he transferred to NAS North Island in San Diego, CA, where he reported for sea duty as a “Sea Knight” pilot. After retiring from active duty, Molina

transitioned to the Joint Program Executive Office Chemical Biological Defense and became the chief strategist for DoD Biosurveillance Portal by developing an unclassified web-based application, facilitating the timely identification and detection of biological events worldwide.

Philanthropically, Molina was a diversity selection as an officer for the USNA AA San Diego chapter. He served as their chief financial officer/treasurer. He coordinated social events; monitored and tracked the chapter’s overall financial status; and worked to insure fiduciary responsibility across the chapter’s financial accounts. Administratively, he created an after-action reporting system (tracking lessons learned) and transitioned the chapter from Alumni Magnet to myUSNA.com. Molina is a native bilingual strategic critical thinker, who has directly supported the USNA Superintendent. Molina focused on recruiting future qualified midshipmen to address the institution’s historical underrepresentation in minority candidates.

Molina’s goal is to represent and reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees. He will ensure a fully open, inclusive and transparent process to develop leaders both in and out of uniform, to mentor them in order to reach their full potential, as an influential leader who is forward-looking, service-oriented and committed to furthering USNA’s purpose and mission.

Captain Barbette H. Lowndes ’80, SC, USN (Ret.)



Captain Barbette Lowndes ’80, USN, (Ret.), retired from federal employment after 35 years. She served 27 years active duty in the Navy and 8 years as a Navy civil servant. During her military career as a supply corps officer, Lowndes served at ten commands including two tours at sea in McKEE and CAPE COD. She was the commanding officer of Defense Contract Management Area Boston. As a civil

servant, Lowndes was the director of Total Force Management for Space and Naval Warfare System Command (now called Naval Information Warfare Systems Command).

Lowndes graduated from USNA in May 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in oceanography. She holds a master of arts degree in business management from Webster University and a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. She is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Lowndes has been an active member of the USNA Alumni Association since 2006 when she was first elected to the Board of

Directors for the San Diego chapter. Lowndes worked her way up from second vice president and first vice president to president of the San Diego chapter. She was elected by her chapter to become the chapter trustee for the Board of Trustees for a three-year term and then served an additional three years on the Board of Trustees as a non-trustee committee member for the Admissions, Membership and Alumni Services, and Governance Committees.

Lowndes served four years as the inaugural president of the USNA Women’s Shared Interest Group (SIG). She also served as a member of the Special Committee on Alumni Culture, Diversity and Inclusion.

Lowndes has been serving as the Western Region Trustee for the past two-plus years and has been the chair of the Membership and Alumni Services Committee. She also serves on the Executive and Nominations Committee. She is proud to have been a part of the growth of the SIGs and the expansion of engagement resulting from the establishment of the current six SIGs. She looks forward to being a part of the implementation and execution of the Alumni Association Strategic Plan 2030.

Lowndes also volunteers for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society San Diego and in various roles for her church. ⚓

BRAVO ZULU

1930s

'31: **CDR Ernest E. Evans, USN**, the first Native American in the Navy to earn the Medal of Honor and one of only two World War II destroyer captains to attain it, will be honored with a DDG 51 Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer named after him. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83 announced the naming honor on 15 November 2023.

1960s

'68: **CDR Thomas Hayes, USN (Ret.)**, has been named president of the Seawolf Association, a fraternal organization composed of personnel who served in Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three during the Vietnam War. More than 100 Naval Academy alumni served in HA(L)-3 during its five years of commissioned service, spanning classes graduating from 1949 to 1969.

1980s

'87: **Tom Maxfield** was promoted to regional director of Community Association Management Services (CAMS) in October 2023. He joined CAMS in August 2022 as a community manager. His career spans nearly three decades in property and community management.

1990s

'90: **CDR Ray Tortorelli, USN (Ret.)**, was promoted to full professor at the Naval War College in August 2023.

'91: **Joseph "Joe" T. Phillips** was appointed chief of the Judicial Services Office (JSO) at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in November 2023. He previously served as acting chief of JSO and joined the office as an attorney advisor in 2006.

'92: **CDR Douglas P. Barber Jr., JAGC, USN (Ret.)**, was hired by Roanoke County as a senior county attorney.

'95: **CAPT Christopher Bailey '95, USN (Ret.)**, was nominated by the Washington Commanders for the 2023 NFL Salute to Service Award presented by USAA.

2000s

'00: **Joel Spangenberg**, the acting director of Selective Service in President Biden's administration, was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). NAPA, a congressionally chartered organization, helps government leaders solve their most critical government challenges and provides thought leadership.

2010s

'12: **Andrew Eubanks** was selected to join the Truman National Security Project as a member of the Defense Council. The Truman Project brings together leaders to produce timely, innovative and principled solutions to complex national security challenges. Eubanks' cohort includes 70 national security professionals from diverse backgrounds with a common passion for national security.

'15: **LT Joe Cardona, USNR**, New England Patriots long snapper, was nominated by the Patriots for the 2023 NFL Salute to Service Award presented by USAA.

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'65: Berthrong family



Jim Minderlein, on 17 Oct, reported out on the Class Executive Committee meeting. He also attended the Council of Class Presidents meeting on 24 Oct. If interested in the outcome of either, contact Jim at jimm65@verizon.net
From **Skip Gunther**, 17 Oct

✉ **John Owens** and I, together with many, many of **Bob Snelling's** friends and family, including a bunch of energetic yet well-behaved great grandkids, celebrated Bob's 80th birthday tonight. John left before we thought to get a picture.



From **Mike Goodwin**, 26 Oct

✉ Some members of our Alumni Chapter attended the Reception and Book Signing event today in honor of former SECNAV John Dalton '64. In the photo are, from the left, **Ron Sandoval '81**, Capt USN (Ret) Helo Driver; **Mike Goodwin '65**, CDR USN (Ret) Surface Warfare; **John Dalton '64**, SECNAV (Ret) submariner; **John Widhelm '65**, ex-Nuc; and Dr. **Carlos Rosende '77**, Capt. USN (Ret) Ophthalmologist. The former SECNAV has announced that one of the new SSNs will be named for him.



Mitch Henderson also announced on 03 Nov that the Class of '65 has created a message board for Wives, Widows and Significant Others. This group will allow your wife to "Post" a message that will be made available to everyone on the forum. To join, go to: <https://groups.io/g/USNA1965W>. For more info, contact Mitch at dace222607@gmail.com.

From **Fred Berthrong**, 06 Nov

✉ It was wonderful to have sons, Andrew and Alex plus spouses here for a few days. My wife, **Betty**, organized a great fiesta for my 80th, complete with a mariachi band. We then toured briefly Guanajuato, the city, and San Miguel de Allende. Halloween and the day of the dead made the visits very festive.

Thazzit, Guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 66%
Donor Participation: 26.78%

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

Welcome to 2024. It's hard to believe another year has gone by. The Class Executive Committee is already planning the 60th Reunion activities and I'll have more about that event in later issues. Also remember to consult the Class

web site, usna66.org for other Class news and announcements.

Charlie Votava provided the following writeup for his visit to the Navy-Notre Dame game in Ireland.

✉ The Navy-Notre Dame football game in Dublin, Ireland broke the record for the number of "out of country" spectators attending a single sports event. Among that 58,000 spectators were '66 Classmates, wives, and widows **Ginny and Charlie Jones, Sharon and Charlie Votava, Ann and John Jackson, Dervilla and Scott Gordon, Lynne and Ace Sarich, Carol Porter, and Donna Phillips**. While the football game was a tough loss, 42-3, we celebrated the fact that Navy did score! At least Navy did crush ND, 78-0 in the Rugby match Friday afternoon on the Trinity College pitch - a great win! Street light poles were hung with banners all over Dublin (as well as other Irish cities), announcing the Notre Dame-Navy Aer Lingus College Football Classic. Although Notre Dame, as the "host team", was always mentioned first on all game announcements, Navy Alumni were recognized and graciously welcomed everywhere.

Most of our '66er's toured Donegal and Galway as part of a tour package, in addition to Dublin. The Gordons, Sarichs, and Jacksons travelled independently. The Gordons were also visiting family in Northern Ireland but joined us for most of the Dublin events. During the 2-hour, each-way bus ride between Dublin and those two cities, the tour guides narrated the history of Ireland, both ancient and recent.

Bus travels between Donegal and Galway included: tours of the Shed distillery (Gunpowder Gin), castles, ancient ruins, gorgeous gardens, cathedrals, Trinity College (with the Book of Kells), Inis Mo'r (Aran Island), the terrifyingly beautiful Cliffs of Moher, and the beautiful rural Irish countryside with grazing sheep and reclining cows on the landscape divided by the perfectly erected low stone walls or green hedgerows.

The EPIC Museum in Dublin provided graphic, audio-visual, and interactive displays giving better definition to the guides' narrations. The EPIC also hosted Navy Alumni in a huge evening "Hooley", an Irish slang word which means "party" and describes festivities where music, food and good times take place. On another evening in Dublin, The Guinness Company hosted an even larger more spectacular Irish welcome (Failte') gala for Navy Alumni on the 7 levels of its "Storehouse". There was a buffet, a bar and Irish entertainment on every level. The top floor glass domed rotunda bar provided a panoramic view of the city. This party didn't end until near midnight.

Some also enjoyed a festive pep rally at Merrion Square, attended by USNA, Navy, and Dublin Officials. The well provisioned Navy pre-game tailgate at the Lansdowne Rugby Club, immediately adjacent to Aviva Stadium, provided welcome shelter from the intermittent

66/66 CLASS NEWS

rain before the game. Aviva Stadium was filled to capacity, and is an excellent, elegant, glass covered facility. All seat areas are under the roof. Only the playing field is uncovered.

Events scheduled by the Alumni Assoc., the Athletic Assoc. and our "On Location" tour company could have been a bit better coordinated; however, admittedly, it was a huge undertaking involving thousands of eager attendees and lots of moving parts! Happily, our individual tour guides and bus drivers did their best to solve conflicts and made things work as best as possible.

Except for the football score, the trip was a great way to spend nine days in beautiful Ireland! Thanks, Charlie.



CHARLIE, CHARLIE AND SCOTT AT HOOLEY



LADIES IN IRELAND



DONNA PHIOLLIPS, CAROLE PORTER AND GINNY JONES

Bob Zvacek sent the following announcement about the 2024 Florida Comearound.

✉ I know many of you have been anxiously awaiting information on COMEAROUND!!! 2024. It will be held in Jacksonville Beach, FL from Tuesday 23 April through Thursday 25 April. It will be a paean to Jimmy Buffet as this is the "FLIP, FLOP, KICKBACK" USNA '66 FLORIDA COMEAROUND!!! OF 2024. Our host hotel is the MARGARITAVILLE on the beach. Go to the class website USNA66.org to make reservations, get details. You can always contact me at (904)-652-7216 for any questions, assistance or just to chit-chat.

Remember: "Life's a beach and then you die." The toilet paper roll is near the end and disappearing fast.

You don't want to miss this one.

Sadly, we've lost six Classmates and one spouse: **Bill Birkmaier** (17th Co.) on 16 September 2023, **Mickael Ryan** (18th Co.) on 26 September 2023, **Howie Crisp** (27th Co.) on 4 October 2023, **Doug Thompson** (36th Co.) on 4 October, **Tony Broomall** (23rd Co.) on 4 November, and **Michael Kelly** (11th Co.) on 12 October 2023. Michael Kelly was also our Class President from 1984 to 1989. **Scott Beachy** provided the following obit for his wife, Pat.

✉ It is with much sadness that I report that Pat, my wife of 53 years, died Saturday, 7 October 2023. She struggled with cancer for the past three months while receiving competent and compassionate care from a number of doctors, nurses, and technicians. Discharged from her last stay in a local hospital to hospice care in our home, Pat died peacefully the next day while being cared for by our eldest daughter, Karen; our son, Brian; a hospice nurse, and me. Pat was a proud Navy Wife, who supported me and our three children throughout 26 years of our life together during my Navy career. She is survived by our three children: Karen Michelle Beachy Sommerhauser and her partner, Dave Ihing; Brian Scott Beachy and his wife, Melanie Jane Beachy; and Sarah Elizabeth Beachy Steen and her husband, Phillip; and five grandchildren: Julia Grace Sommerhauser, Jack James Sommerhauser, Emma Lynnea Steen, Wyatt Scott Steen, and Charlotte Elizabeth Steen. Active in her church parishes, her community, and neighborhood, Pat will be missed but remain in the hearts of many who knew her. A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, 28 October at St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas where Pat also will be interred in a columbarium her father donated in memory of her mother."

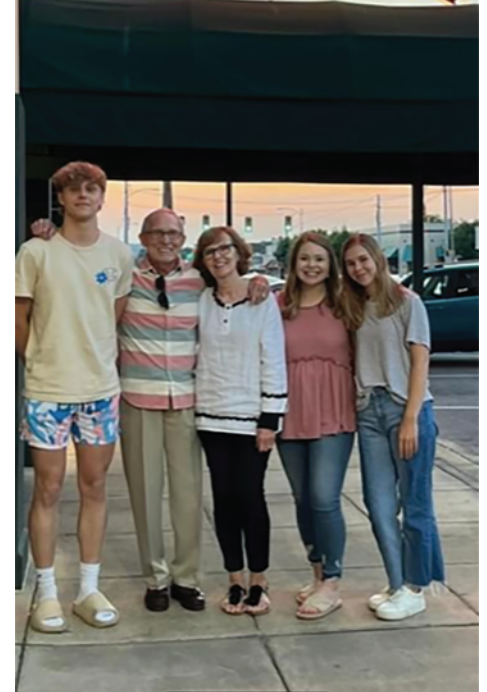
Thanks, Scott. Please remember all the families in your prayers.

Jim Angel checked in to provide his account of his and Linda's celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

✉ Hi Mike! Looking right, are two photos from Linda and my 55th wedding anniversary dinner in late June. It was a family gathering at one of our favorite restaurants outside of Birmingham. It included 10 family members with our two daughters, their husbands, grandkids and one mother-in-law plus our best friends of almost 50 years. We had dinner in the Nick Saban room at the Bright Star restaurant which was appropriate since some of our family members are diehard Alabama fans. The photos are 1. Linda and me and 2. Linda and me with three of our 4 grandkids. The oldest granddaughter is married to an Army Captain and stationed in Washington State. Thanks, Jim and congratulations to you and Linda.



JIM AND LINDA



JIM AND LINDA WITH GRANDKIDS

So that wraps up this issue. Again, welcome to 2024. I hope this year is good for everyone. Also, a reminder to keep checking the Class web site, uisna66.org. The 60th Reunion planning will begin in earnest this year, so check the web site often. Until April—All the best—Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 77%

Donor Participation: 38.92%

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

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

1603 John Worthington Way, Crownsville, MD 21032

p: 410-849-3423; e: scribe67@gmail.com

We have lost a couple of non-graduating Classmates: **Billy Haake** and **Ed Cook**.

William F. Haake of Waxhaw, NC, born on 16 January 1945, died on 20 September 2023 surrounded by his family. He left USNA Plebe year, transferring to the University of North Carolina Charlotte and majoring in English. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966 serving a tour in Vietnam. He led a colorful life, leaving behind "a treasure-filled portfolio of writing, photography, drawings, theater acting, movies, and memories of sleight-of-hand performances" as a magician. Billy is survived by his son William Dana Haake (Emily) and grandsons Noah and Elijah. His obituary may be found at <https://rb.gy/zwdi05>. **Dave Church** remembers:

✉ **Eldon Schierman** and I were Billy's Plebe year roomies after a 15th company Plebe room shuffle. Billy was always exactly as described in his obituary – sunny disposition, keen sense of humor, a loyal classmate and roommate, and genuine friend. The physical rigors of Plebe Summer and Year didn't faze him but the academics proved too much. We were all very disappointed when Billy left USNA but we knew he would succeed in his life. From the obituary it is quite obvious the Billy did so.

Ed Cook passed away in Oklahoma City on 6 September 2023. He was born 24 April 1945 in Pawnee, OK. Ed left USNA at the end of Plebe Year, returning to Oklahoma to earn a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Oklahoma State University. He married Elizabeth in 1964. He was in the Navy Reserve for years as he forged a successful career in restaurant management. He then gained a Master of Divinity degree from Phillips University in the 1980s, subsequently serving churches in communities around Oklahoma City. He retired from the ministry in 2014. He and Elizabeth had three children Steven Edward, Robert Michael, and Lannie Michele. In addition, they cared for many foster infants over the years. His obituary is at <https://rb.gy/nu44lc>. Ed was one of my Plebe Year roommates in the old 1st wing. He told us when he left that he was going back to Oklahoma, marry

his girl and go into the hospitality business. In reading his obituary, he clearly had that plan and carried it out.

In early November we learned of the death of Linnea Burns, widow of **Joe Burns**. If you recall, Joe passed away in 2012. Linnea died on 30 May 2023. She was a 1965 graduate of Miami University and began teaching in Maryland where she met Joe. From there she became a Navy Wife covering most of the United States and spending time in Italy and Japan with her family throughout Joe's 23 years of service. During this time, she was involved in a variety of fields, becoming known for her compassion and caring nature. Linnea is survived by three sons Joe, Mike (Kyle), Patrick (Leah), and daughter Kelly Knudsen (Dave). Joe and Linnea were interred together at the USNA Columbarium on 17 November 2023 at a small family service. There were five of us from '67 in attendance: **Denny Rutledge, Burlie Brunson, Jack Parry, Allan Davey**, and me. Joe's obituary may be found at <https://rb.gy/jliwrj>; Linnea's is at <https://rb.gy/wau6j0>.



Joe, Mike & Patrick Burns; Kelly Knudsen



'67 at Joe & Linnea's service

I heard from **Jack Young** in late September. Sounds like 16th Company has been active out there and keeping in touch:

✉ After a summer break, our 16th company renewed our monthly Zoom get togethers. We had a lower than usual turnout which included, **Terry Brown, Jim Gilbert, Bruce Wright, Rick Poole, Pete Burggren, Adam Llewellyn** and myself. Time on the call expired before I could get **Jim Lohse** into the "Zoom Room". Rick proudly shared the exemplary successes his granddaughter is having in her triathlon competitions. We received an interesting report on smoke from the Canadian wildfires that is seeping into the northeast corner of our country; that includes Maine, where Jim is

trying to polish off his apple picking season. Sadly, having recently learned of the passing of our 16th company mate, LCDR **Fred Cazenave, Jr.** (October 2, 2020), we collectively reminisced of our times with him. RIP Fred. (See the Nov-Dec 2023 column...jm67)

It sounds like **Jim Perley** (and others) have been involved in a little interservice duffersmanship.

✉ A bunch of us in '67 joined our brother class, West Point '67, in Nashville in September for some friendly golf competition. Attending from our side were Lisa and **Tim Cohane**, Ann and **Allan Davey**, Terri and **Jack Diesing**, Joan and **Don Geismar**, Mary Ann and **Denny Haley**, Grace and **Bob Havasy**, Lynda and **Reb Hester**, **Don Roesh**, Ann and **Lou Romano**, and my girlfriend Bonnie Luthi and me. What a great city, the Grand Ole Opry, Honky Tonk Street on Lower Broadway etc. Not surprisingly, Jack Diesing took the golf honors with one over par rounds both days. We had a great time. They have a great class also, and they have invited all of us to their event in Reno next year. Let me know if you are interested. (Jim's email: jimp@westamprop.com)



The Nashville Gallery

Rob Skrotsky says they've been busy in North Carolina, too, both '67 and our ALITC Class:

✉ On October 13 the Eastern North Carolina chapter of the Alumni Association enjoyed the Founders Day dinner at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. In attendance were four from 1967, **Tom Scheber, John Kieffer**, myself and **Rick Kunkel**, and of course our wonderful spouses. Also in attendance were two from our Another Link In The Chain class 2017, **Irma Aganovic '17** and class president **Chos Raymond '17**. It was a really good dinner and we were fortunate to have the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, MajGen **Scott Benedict '90** and USNA members of his staff participate in the event.



'67 & '17 in North Carolina

'11

Life Membership: 97%
Donor Participation: 13.19%

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: 22.41%

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

Congratulations to Andrew Eubanks ('12) for his recent selection to join the Truman National Security Project as a member of the Defence Council. The Truman Project brings together leaders to produce timely, innovative, and principled solutions to complex national security challenges. Andrew's cohort includes 70 national security professionals from diverse backgrounds and with a common passion for national security. Bravo Zulu, shipmate!

'13

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 32.29%

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

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Log into **Online Community at usna.com**
 to update your profile.

'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, USN**
 p: 772-643-4468; e: joshuaelliott2015@gmail.com
 Sec'y: **Capt Madeline Zell, USMC**
 p: 410-370-3068; e: mad.zell.15@gmail.com

'16

Life Membership: 98%
Donor Participation: 33.49%

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

'18

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 34.13%

Pres: **LT Dan Stitt, USN**
 Vice Pres: **LT Michael Pahissa, USN**
 Treas: **ENS Cord-John H. Roehrbein, USN**
 Sec'y: **Rachel LaBuda**
 Send Articles to: 2018usna@gmail.com

CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: classnews@usna.com

2024

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
March-April '24	23 Jan '24
May-June '24	21 Mar '24
July-August '24	28 May '24

'19

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 4.69%

Pres: **Mr. Isaac Phillips III**
 Vice Pres: **ENS Tate Schumacher, USN**
 Treas: **LTJG Leor Golan, USN**
 Sec'y: **LTJG 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 A. Kreipe, USN**

'21

Life Membership: 99%
Donor Participation: 2.57%

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: 29.98%

Pres: **2nd Lt Grant A. Booker, USMC**
 Vice Pres: **ENS Julius W. Aebly III, USN**
 Treas: **ENS Zion A. Armstrong, USN**
 Sec'y: **2nd Lt Jason Santiago, USMC**

SEA STORIES

Are you on active duty?
 Send your Sea Stories to
seastories@usna.com

CHAPTER NEWS

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USNA Alabama Alumni Chapter

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Treas: **Dennis Read '59**
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South Alabama Chapter

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Sec'y: **Ruth Lichtenfeld**
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Arizona

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Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Capt David M. English '86, USMCR**
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Northern Arizona Chapter

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Pres: **Thom Rossa '63**
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Sec'y: **Jim Hillenmayer '73**
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Arkansas Chapter

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Sec'y Treas: **Jason Coyle '09**
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Asia

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Guam Chapter

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Sec'y: **Capt Carl Roy Catalan '08, PMC (PN)**
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Website: www.groups.yahoo.com/communityusnaphil

Distinguished Chapter Awards and Other Chapter Board Representation

By Isaac Phillips III

In a display of dedication and excellence, several chapters of our esteemed organization have been recognized for their outstanding contributions and commitment towards our alumni community and our 2030 Strategic Mission. This year, the prestigious Distinguished Chapter Awards were presented to Columbus, Hampton Roads, Oregon/Southwest Washington, Quantico Area, San Diego, Tampa Bay, Triangle, Tulsa, and Greater Washington Chapters.

The Cape Fear, Quantico Area and the Las Vegas Chapters have also been honored with the Other Chapter Trustee designation. These chapters have demonstrated exceptional performance across various criteria essential for the advancement of our organization's goals. Their efforts in forming representative leadership teams, effective communication strategies, promoting the USNA message, coordinating with local USNA-affiliated organizations, and growing membership have set a benchmark for excellence. Each of the Distinguished Chapters, namely Columbus, Hampton Roads, Oregon/Southwest Washington, Quantico Area, San Diego, Tampa Bay, Triangle, Tulsa, and Greater Washington, have shown exemplary leadership and commitment. Their innovative approaches to leadership development, frequent and impactful communications, and dynamic event organization have significantly contributed to the USNA's vision and outreach.

Similarly, the Other Chapter awardees, Cape Fear, Quantico Area and Las Vegas Chapters, have distinguished themselves through their creative and effective strategies in community engagement, networking and membership growth. Their efforts in strengthening the bond within the alumni community and extending support to local and national initiatives have been commendable.

What makes these achievements even more noteworthy is the dedication these chapters show in preparing and submitting comprehensive packages for the selection process. Their willingness to undertake this rigorous process highlights their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

As our Other Chapter Trustees embark on their three-year term on the Board of Trustees, we are confident that their innovative strategies, enthusiastic engagement, and unwavering commitment to the USNA's mission will continue to inspire and lead our organization towards new heights. Similarly, we're confident our Distinguished Chapters will continue to stand out as pillars of connection that our Chapters can strive for within their own communities.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to all the winners. Your exemplary efforts in advancing our mission and bringing us closer to our strategic goals are truly commendable. Here's to continuing the legacy of excellence and leadership that defines our organization. Congratulations, and thank you for your outstanding service!"

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

The Alumni Association Welcomes A New Chapter

We're pleased to introduce the newest chapter: Northern Arizona, based in Prescott and serving northwest Arizona including Flagstaff and Sedona. This group has met regularly since 2016. Our membership consists of more than 40 Alumni (from '56 thru '21), five current midshipmen and many parents of midshipmen and recent graduates. Officers recently elected are:

- President: **Charlie Bomberger '74**
- Vice President: **Mike Samuels '67**
- Secretary: **Juan Segovia '88**
- Treasurer: **John Burkholder '73**

Major activities have included regular game watch at Pudge & Asti's Sports Bar, our 6th annual Army-Navy Party, and first ever Graduation Week Dining Out and 4th of July celebrations in 2023. Upcoming plans include establishing regular quarterly meetings, recruiting members from surrounding areas, and supporting Navy golf teams in Sedona in March '24.



Burkholder, Samuels, Sara, Weiler, Moyer and Segovia and Bomberger



Benson '56, Samuels '67, Sara '69, Moyer '65 and Burkholder '73



Bomberger '74, Sara '69, Nguyen '21, Benson '56, Dorman '17, Samuels '67, Burkholder '73, Gross '79, Van Oss '73, Trost '51 and Segovia '88

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

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Vice Pres: **Paris Scott '12**
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Treas: **Michael Seaver '83**
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BGO Area Coordinator (Riverside/San Bernardino):
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Monterey Bay Chapter

Pres: **Maj. Rebecca "Becky Singh" '03, USNR**
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Corr Sec'y: **Steve Tackett '87**
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Website: <http://montereybay.usnachapters.net>

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**
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Treas: **Alan Abbs '91**
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Treas: **Jack Everett '64**
e: jeverett@quicknet.com

Past President: **Dennis P. Joyce '61**
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San Diego Chapter

Pres: **Keith Kitagawa '92**
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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**
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Website: <http://usnaaasd.com>
BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Philbrook '83**
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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Pres: **Bobby Nefzger '14**
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Vice Pres: **Gordon McDonald '06**
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Sec'y: **Ray Fazio '57**
e: rayfazio57@pacbell.net
Treas: **Brian Frack '89**
e: frackbrian@gmail.com
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
BGO Area Coordinator: **Bob Garcia**
e: bob@coeususa.com

Santa Barbara Chapter

Pres: **Stephen L.A. Callahan '81**
Treas: **CAPT Stephen H. Huber '80, USN (Ret.)**
BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Greg McGiffney**
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/santabarbarachapterusna.9>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/usnaalums_santabarbara/

Colorado

Colorado Chapter

Pres: **CAPT S. Guy Higgins '69, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CAPT Matthew McLaurin '92**
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Website: <http://usnacolorado.com>
BGO Area Coordinator (Denver): **CAPT Dick Eason '84, 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

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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**
p: 860-823-0862; e: davecandler@aol.com
Meeting Chairman: **Vacant**
Website: <http://connecticut.usnachapters.net>
Naval Academy Parent Club of CT
Website: <http://ct.usnaparents.net>

Costa Rica

BGO Area Coordinator: **Wes Turbeville '01**
e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

Costa Rica Chapter

Pres: **Claudio A. Pacheco '64**
Apt. 4307-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica
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Delaware

BGO Area Coordinator: **Maj Brad Boyd '87, USMC (Ret.)**
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Delaware Chapter

Pres: **Chris Dierkes '85**
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Florida

Gainesville Chapter

Pres: **Vacant**
BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR**
e: sswift@1987.usna.com

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**
Sec'y: **Britney Brown '12**
Communication Director: **CDR Nels Frostenson '80, USN (Ret.)**
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50 Year+ Alumni Liaison: **CDR Peter Garfield '60, USN (Ret.)**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**
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Navy vs. Air Force – Jacksonville Navy Alumni joined with Alumni from the Air Force Academy for a joint watch party for the Nav –Air Force Game on 21 October 2023 at Icebreakers in Jacksonville. The interservice academy rivalry provided an opportunity for some friendly interaction among the 2 alumni associations. Despite a disappointing ending for Navy, we'll plan to do more of these events in the future. Thanks to Jim Beatty '83 and Brian DiSalvo '15 for their work with the venue.

Army-Navy Golf Challenge – Alumni from the Naval Academy and West Point got together on 10 November 2023, at Queens Harbour Yacht and Country Club for a friendly interservice academy golf match. The match had previously been an annual event that was sidelined by COVID, and the Jacksonville Chapter worked with the local West Point Society to resurrect this tradition.

Over 70 Army and Navy golfers participated in the match including Navy alumni and friends: Eric Hildebrandt '91, Jaren Woeppel '10, Pat Eliason '00, Bill Vivian '67, Bob Loyd '71, Bob Miller '81, Dave Kriete '84, Lee Geanuleas '77, Dave Armitage '77, Bob Wilde '77, Scott Neidhold '77, Jeremy Adams '00, Miguel Dieguez '97, Nate Staub '96, Michael McCain '00, Paul Bodet '16, John Elliott '90, Greg Morrow '85, Lorentez Barbour '16, Craig Honour '68 and wife Sherry, Bob Danberg '68 and wife Kathy, Fred Semko '72, John Foster '74, Chris Janke '91, Bill Natter '64, Dave Bingemann '63, Ross Parker '81 and Joe Arnett '81.

A special thanks to Kirk Hansen '70 and Jim Beatty '83 who helped with registration and organization the day of the event.

Golfers enjoyed an afternoon of golf followed by dinner and drinks at Queens Harbour Yacht Club. To top off the day, Navy took home the trophy for the event and claimed the best score for a foursome at 13 under par. We plan to continue this tradition and perhaps add the other service academies (USAFA, USCGA, and USMMA) in future matches.



Chapter President Scott Neidhold '77 (right) with Pat Eliason '00 of the top scoring Foursome



Bill Natter '64, Dave Bingemann '63, Ross Parker '81 and Joe Arnett '81

BOOK SIGNING: Local alum, **Kristen Cronic '11**, recently held a book signing for the book

CHAPTER NEWS

"A Midshipman's Journey" in Atlantic Beach, FL. Over the years she has refined her art work, which depicts the Naval Academy experience and has had exhibitions at the Naval Academy Museum.

DID YOU KNOW? The Jacksonville area currently has 38 midshipmen at the Naval Academy. The breakdown is as follows: Eight in '24, five in '25, fourteen in '26, and eleven in '27. One of the efforts the chapter makes each year, using funds from memberships and some events, is to provide partial scholarship monies to young men and women from the area, interested in the Academy, to travel to summer programs there.

HELP DESK: Going into the new year, the chapter is encouraging volunteers interested in joining the board to reach out to one of the board members on the banner for this article and find out about the process. Success of the chapter is directly related to having volunteers to keep us on course, in support of alumni, the academy, and the brigade of midshipmen.

Greater Miami Chapter

Pres: **Thor C. Gould '09**
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAMiami>

BGO Area Coordinator:

CAPT Dennis R. Neutze '65, JAGC USN (Ret.)
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Orlando Chapter

Pres: **Christopher Clark '01**
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Sec'y: **Greg Hemphill '72**
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Webmaster: **Joe Cooney '83**
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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.)**
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Palm Beach Chapter

Pres: **Ivan Rosa '84**
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BGO Area Coordinator:
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Thank you to the alumni and significant others who attended the Founder's Day and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 10 October. It was great to see everyone and we look forward to many other opportunities for fellowship and fun. Here is a quick after action report, and a look at upcoming events.

We had 17 alumni in attendance, with several significant others as well. In alphabetical order by last name, present were Tom Arenz '79, Kate Arrizza '03, Bruce and Janice Buckley '73, Stefan Fatseas '74, Jeffrey and Sabina Haggott '89 with daughter Valentina, Mitch Heaton '16, Carter Honesty '90 and Debbie Beckett, Tom and Marie Laboon '71, Bill and Linda Lewis '60, Tom and Sandy Lynch '64, Dennis Perkins '64

and Susan O'Malley, Rick Salvadore '78, Steve Thatcher '84, Scott White '74, and Davey Yu '98. Alex King, ROTC '11 and currently a Captain flying helos in the Marine Reserves, joined us as well.

The Old Goat was **Bill Lewis '60**, the Kid Goat was **Mitch Heaton '16**. We had a three way tie for class participation - 1964, 1974, and 1984 had two attendees each.

Kate Arrizza '03 was our gracious hostess and provided a look at the Cox Science Center Museum and Aquarium plans for their very impressive, brand spanking new building. She gave the group an advance look at the recently arrived Titanic exhibit as well.

Dennis Perkins '64 shared a preview of his books on Leadership at the Edge. These are very interesting tales of the Shackleton Antarctic Expedition and the 1998 Sidney to Hobart race. We're very appreciative of Dennis' contribution and its relevance to our past, present, and future endeavors.

RADM **Tom Lynch '64** gave a moving tribute to the traditions of the Naval Academy and how important they are to our alumni community, the Naval service, and the nation. We all felt privileged to be there celebrating the 178th anniversary of our alma mater, and Admiral Lynch made it very special."

Pensacola Chapter

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Co-Pres: **Joey Walker '02**
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Sec'y: **JD Kameen**
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Southwest Florida Chapter

Pres: **Hank White '68**
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Sec'y: **Lukas Rebertus '12**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**
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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/usnaalumflorida_suncoastchapter

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR**
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Tampa Bay Chapter

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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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CHAPTER RECOGNIZED AS DISTINGUISHED FOR A FOURTH YEAR

We are proud to have been recognized again as a Distinguished Chapter by USNA.

The award is given in recognition of the chapter's leadership in candidate development, growth, alumni environment, and relationships with other service academy organizations. Reviewed rigorously by the Board of Trustees, only a few chapters are recognized as Distinguished, and Tampa Bay's continuing run of awards marks us as among the very best chapters in the US and beyond. Thanks and congratulations to the chapter leadership and all hands!



2023 Distinguished Chapter



Palm Beach Chapter: Founder's Day and Annual Meeting

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

We held our flagship event, the Founders Day Candidate Information Dinner, on 11 October '23. Over 150 local students, families, and alumni gathered to hear USNA graduate speakers relate their Academy experience and describe their entry into the fleet and their various warfare specialties. Dinner and a cake cutting filled out the birthday evening, and we were pleased to have USNAAA staff there to capture the experience. Look for a photo and another article in front section of this issue for highlights.



LT Tyler Sayles '18 and Sherman "Bud" Alexander '56, our youngest and oldest alumni present,



This beautiful cake with ceremonial swords signified the big occasion.



Tampa Bay Chapter: Loyal fans cheered on Navy vs. Air Force in football. Included are (L-R) Doug Kirkland '72, Chris Heath '72, Jane Lochner '84, Jon Shannon '02, Dick Petrucci '61, and Terry Silva '73.

WINE TASTING AND POTLUCK DRAWS A BIG CROWD

A variety of delicious food and good wines set the stage for another great gathering of the chapter in November. Over 30 alumni and guests were graciously hosted by Connie and Miller Detrick '63 for one of our most popular social events.

NAVY FOOTBALL WRAPS UP ITS SEASON

We began the season full of optimism, as always, with regular watch parties for alumni and friends. It has been an up-and-down season, and at this writing we need the team to beat Army to be bowl-eligible. Our home for game watching is The Deck in St. Petersburg. The alumni group at The Deck welcomes all Navy alumni and fans at every Saturday game. See photo above, and see you next fall!!

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.

We were pleased to welcome several new members in October, including Travis Atkins '08, Dom Berenato '78, Christopher Palladino '18 and Mike Umstead '90.

Also on board - Jane Lochner '84, Brian Tsai '16, Jonathan Shannon '02, Paul Matthews '85, Warren Hahn '60, Chris Heath '72, Tom Draude '62, Steve Swift '87, Perry Dempsey '72, Janel Brown '97, Don Aiken '78, Chris Thompson '92, and John Goodenough '02.

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)
- Candidate Information picnic - 10 March 2024. All hands!

Our social media links are in our header. Don't forget to enroll on MyUSNA.com, our new all-service platform, and join the Tampa Bay Chapter - a Distinguished Chapter in 2020-2021-2022-2023.

Everything's great in the Sunshine State!

*Chris Heath '72
Chapter Secretary*



Tampa Bay Chapter: Chapter members and guests enjoyed the annual wine tasting and potluck dinner at the Detricks

COMING IN 2024 REGISTER OF ALUMNI 2024

PCI, our trusted partner will be contacting alumni through a mailed post card and email. They will verify that your rank, address, phone number and email are up-to-date. Check out the link for information.

Shop - Register of Alumni - www.usna.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Georgia

Atlanta Chapter

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Sec'y: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers '79, USN (Ret.)
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Deborah Catrini

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

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Atlanta is back!

Last fall, a small but enthusiastic group convened at the Hobnob Tavern near the Perimeter Mall in Dunwoody. Chapter President **Dante "DJ" Marzetti '93** treated us to a discussion of the financial markets, and where he and his team of financial professionals see things going for the next few months. Although he admits his crystal ball is a bit cloudy, there were some signs of sunlight peeking through, which prompted some lively discussion among the attendees.



October luncheon



October luncheon



Navy beats ECU: Wiz Withers '79, Al Kowadla '78, Bob Burell '79 and Mike Leigh '79.

Although not an "official" chapter event, Coco and **Bob Burell '79** hosted a small gathering at

their Milton, GA home to watch Navy eke out a narrow victory over East Carolina University. The guest list included Chris and **Al Kowadla '78**, Lori and **Mike Leigh '79**, and **Wiz Withers '79** and wife Karen Zapp. Our hosts outdid themselves with a Mexican buffet, pie, snacks, and a terrific Margarita recipe that we all enjoyed. Thanks Coco and Bob for a terrific afternoon of fun, food, and football!

The local West Point Chapter was scheduled to host this year's annual Atlanta Metro Army-Navy Watch Party on 9 December at the Mutation Brewing Company in Sandy Springs. I should have an update and some photos from that event next month.

Next up on the events list will be the Dark Ages Party. Last year's event was the chapter's return after the pandemic-induced cancellations, and it was a huge hit. The Board is currently finalizing the details to make the 2024 party even more memorable.

One question I often get is "How can I get notified of upcoming Atlanta Chapter events?" The best way is to make sure you're on our email list. First, log into your profile on USNA.com and make sure your email address is current. Our email list comes directly from the Alumni Assn. database. As a backup, you can also email me, and I can verify your profile is current and that we have your correct email address on file.

Another way to keep up is by visiting the chapter website at <https://atlanta.usnachapters.net/>. Our webmaster works tirelessly to keep the site up to date.

Atlanta chapter events are open to alumni in the Atlanta metro area. All alumni, whether they live in Atlanta or just passing through, are welcome to attend as a guest. We always encourage membership, but please don't let that deter you from participating in a future meeting. The door is always open!

Hawaii

Hawaii Chapter

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USNAAA.Honolulu>; <https://www.facebook.com/NavalAcademyHawaii/>

Idaho

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Northwest Chapter

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Southern Idaho Chapter

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Sec'y: **Rufus Taylor '66**

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Treas: **Andrea Hovey '03**

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Idaho Parents' Club President: **Nicola McIntosh (Luke '24)**

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Greetings all!

Welcome to 2024! Happy New Year to all.

A couple of events to report on. The watch-party for the Navy-Air Force game was held at Quinn's Restaurant and Lounge. Attendees included **Bill Previty '65, JV deThomas '65, Rufus Taylor '66, Dennis Hanrahan '68, Ed Brzezinski '85, Paul Campbell '98, Kyle Taylor '92 and Steven Rainy '09** along with spouses, family, friends, and alumni parents. Alas the Blue & Gold were unable to carry the day. None-the-less a good time, along with good food and drink, was had by all.



SIC members at the Navy-Air Force watch party.

What would the Boise Veterans Day Parade be without blustery weather and some rain? Yup, you guessed it, all the afore mentioned elements did not disappoint. Some intrepid SIC members together with family and friends turned out and the parade went on. Following the parade participants repaired to warmer and dryer digs to watch some football and view Army stomp all over Air Force.



The intrepid marchers; Rick Schellhaas '68, Dennis Hanrahan '68, Roy Ledesma '87, and Paul Campbell '98 along with family and friends.

The Southern Idaho Chapter (SIC) meets monthly. Alumni and spouses/SOs living in or



Chicago Chapter: Navy fans at the Air Force game watch party



Chicago Chapter: Alums at the Fall 2023 meeting: front row L to R: Kevin Wilson '14, Fred Weber '75, Michelle Lee '16, Shannon Gorman '18, Mike Dennison '16. Back row: Alan Montera '05, Mike Isabelli '83, Steve Schulte '82, Bill Frost '77, John Killacky '93, Andre Bonakdar '98, Eric Sucharski '91, Jim Driscoll '81, Charlie Jett '64, JD Modrak '07, Andy Kirkpatrick '86

visiting the Boise area are invited to join us. If you would like information about SIC activities, contact Rufus Taylor '66 at tincansailor980@gmail.com

Illinois

Chicago Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Michael Cortesio '85**
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Sec'y: **John Killacky '93**
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Treas: **Michelle Lee '16**
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Past Pres: **Fred Weber '75**
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BGO Area Coordinator (Northern IL)
LCDR Drew Thomas '04 USNR
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The chapter held its fall meeting at the Law offices of McAndrews, Held & Malloy in downtown Chicago-hosted by **Alan Montera '05**-on 17 October. Congratulations to the following alumni who were voted in as the chapter Board of Directors for the next two years: **Eric Sucharski '91** (President), **Mike Cortesio '85** (Vice President), **John Killacky '93** (Secretary),

Michelle Lee '16 (Treasurer), and **Fred Weber '75** (Past President). The chapter also heard a brief by the city of Chicago on efforts underway to reduce city violence.



The Chicago chapter newly elected Board of Directors L to R: John Killacky '93, Fred Weber '75, Michelle Lee '16, and Eric Sucharski '91. Not pictured Michael Cortesio '85

The chapter hosted a joint watch party for the Navy-Air Force game at Commonwealth Tavern on October 21. While Air Force won the game, Navy had the bigger cheering section. Alums present for the game included **Fred Weber '75**, **Joe Krebs '82**, **Mark Bergman '89**, **John Killacky '93**, **Derek Paul '97** (visiting from

Colorado), **Maureen Moroney '97** and **Bud Heavrin '07**.

Several members of the chapter joined the Union League of Chicago and the 786 Club, which supports the USS ILLINOIS (SSN-786), in October we got to hear Admiral Daryl Caudle, US Fleet Forces Command, discuss what his command is doing to provide training and equipment to the Force.



L to R: Ed Cladek '64, Len Wass '64, Eric Sucharski '91, Admiral Caudle, Mike Cortesio '85 and Fred Weber '75

Indiana

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Indianapolis Chapter

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Michiana Chapter

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Treas: **John Strauss '69**
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Greetings all,

Our South Bend/Michiana Chapter has a new president. **John Ross '94** has decided to retire from the position after many years of faithful service. And, the new guy is also a Marine, Major **Michael Rose '11**.

We're all looking forward to a good outcome from the Army-Navy game and the New Year. Happy 2024!



Monthly Chapter luncheon meeting at World Famous CJ's Pub. (L-R): Chris Haizlip '72, John Ross '94, Nate Miller '11, Michael Rose '11 and Pat Sloan '75.

CHAPTER NEWS

Iowa

See Minnesota

Send *Shipmate* input to: **Nathan CW Smith '98**
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Kansas

Whitchita Chapter

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Vice Pres: **Matt Treaster '88**
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Sec'y: **Alson (Hunt) Parker '63**
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Treasurer: **Angel Ortiz '98**
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Kentucky

Louisville/Southern Indiana Chapter

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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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Maine

Maine Chapter

Pres: **LT Jen Bohr Tyll '01, USNR**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Jen Bohr Tyll '01, USNR**
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**Not seeing news
about your Chapter?
Want to share more?**

Please contact: **Isaac Phillips III**
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Maryland

Annapolis Chapter

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

Join the Chapter: https://www.signupnow.events/USNA/AlumniChapter_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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Baltimore Chapter

Pres: **Jason Hardebeck '87**
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Join the Chapter: https://www.signupnow.events/USNA/AlumniChapter_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**
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Sec'y: **Katie Ellefson '13**
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Corr Sec'y: **Michael Dougherty '73**
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Website: <http://www.navalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**
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Events

Chapter meeting and Fall social held on 10 Oct at Brudergarten in Leonardtown. 2024 events were presented for review by board members in attendance.

Coming Events:

2 Feb 2024: Dark Ages dinner at the Olde Breton Inn

21 Mar 2024: Happy hour, Flight Deck Lounge NAS Pax River

Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website (www.navalumni.org)

Massachusetts

Boston Chapter

Pres: **James Kras '69**
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Shipmate contact: **CAPT Pete Seibert '65**
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BGO Area Coordinator (Boston and SE Mass): **John Rinkacs**
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BGO Area Coordinator (N Shore and Central Mass):
CDR David Grim
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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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Communications Sec'y: **Chris Bernard '88**
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BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern):
CAPT Michael Johnson '79, USNR
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BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):
Col. Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR
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Michigander alumni kicked off this year's football season with a Navy-Notre Dame game-viewing party hosted by the USNA Alumni Association Michigan Chapter. In attendance (in class order) were **Ted Moss '61, Garth Johnston '98, Mike Drooglever '05,**



Michigan Chapter: Navy/Notre Dame Viewing Party at Dick O'Dow's. Alumni, family and friends all came together to have a great time.



Michigan Chapter: Navy/Air Force Viewing Party hosted by Garth Johnson '98. It was a great event. Thanks to Garth for hosting!

Joe Zane '07, Shawn and Jaclyn Hoch (both '08), and Maggie Madigan '20, as well as over a dozen friends and family. Everyone met up at the popular Dick O'Dow's Pub in Birmingham, MI, where we were also delightfully surprised to share the patriotic afternoon with a few Notre Dame fans. Our Chapter's first, we added this event to our growing list of activities to satisfy the football fever we became accustomed to as Midshipmen!

The season continued with a viewing party for Navy/Air Force, hosted by **Garth Johnson '98**. In attendance (again in class order): **Art Bryant '66, Garth Johnston '98, Sean Lloyd '00, Martin Woomer '03, Mike Drooglever '05, Joe Zane '07** as well as friends and family. While the result wasn't what we had hoped, Navy kept it exciting for much of the game, and everyone had a great time.

By the time you read this, we should have had our Army-Navy party, 9 December at the Detroit Yacht Club. Hope you were there and look for details in our next issue! Keep an eye out for invites to a luncheon in January and a possible 100th night celebration as well.

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

Joe Zane '07
Chapter President

Minnesota

Upper Midwest Chapter

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Central New York Chapter

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Sec'y/Treas: **Bob Fegan Jr. '64**
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By the time you receive this issue of *Shipmate*, the 2023 Army-Navy Game will be history. The next issue of *Shipmate* will include a recount of the Chapter's annual get-together at the Brae Loch Inn in Cazenovia for the game.

Alumni, family and friends are encouraged to attend the weekly Wednesday lunch at 1200 at Clear Path for Veterans in Chittenango, NY.

CHAPTER NEWS

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 (315-655-5949) or e-mail Bob Fegan to let us know if you plan to attend a function.

Future Chapter activities will be addressed as they are planned.

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

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

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

If 40% of the Alumni in the Central New York area opt for Life Membership and with only \$743 currently in the Chapter's non-profit checking account with M&T, the Chapter would have adequate funds to support the Chapter's financial commitments through 2030.

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

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

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

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Cape Fear Chapter

Western New York Chapter

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North Carolina

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Cape Fear Chapter

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The Cape Fear Chapter held its annual officer election on 10 Oct at the Cape Fear Country Club. After a buffet of tasty sandwiches, fresh salad, and homemade chips, the gathered members affirmed their support for the current slate of officers with no new nominations. Several members voiced an interest in serving on the Board as members at large. After complete agreement by those present, **Ray Cook '77** and **Steve Stuck '88** will join the Board effective immediately. Welcome, shipmates!

On 19 Oct, the 2nd Biennial Interservice Academy Golf Tournament was held at a local golf course in Brunswick County. With multiple pairings by Navy, Army, and Air Force, the outing was collegial but hard fought. Championed by the exceptional play of **Paul Normand '74** and **Ray Cook '77**, the Navy team was victorious over the USAFA (2 strokes) and USMA (10 strokes) teams. This success follows Navy's conquest in 2021! Special kudos to **Gregg Hamelin '72** and **Hugh McWilliams '72** for their superb planning and smooth coordination of this event. **Rick Haley '72**, Chapter Treasurer, skillfully managed the financial details. Well done, Tried and True 72!



During 14 November's lunch meeting, a discussion of the planned Army Navy Game Party, 5th Annual Dark Ages Dinner, and observations about the new Alumni Center ensued. Present for muster: **Pete Friedman '58, Alan Smith '64, Dave Scheu '67, Tom McQueen '68, Michael Brown '70, Ray Decker '72, Rick Haley '72, Tom Wolfe '72, Bart Whitman '74, Craig Rankin '75, Steve Yandle '75, Ray Cook '77, John Casey '78, Mike Whiting '80, Galen Negaard '88, Steve Stuck '88, Russ Brune '92, Jim Slight '93, and Anne Leanos '98.**

On a very sad note: a longtime Chapter member and former submariner, **Bernie Maquire '64**, passed away on 29 Nov. Many Chapter members attended Bernie's celebration of life service in Wilmington. Fair winds and following seas, shipmate.

Navy's victory over Army on 9 Dec '23 will have been reported earlier. The list of Navy celebrants and party pics will be in next *Shipmate!*

The Chapter's 2024 Calendar of Events is posted on our website: capefearn.usnachapters.net. Go Navy!

CLASS and CHAPTER OFFICERS

Please check your **CLASS** and **CHAPTER** headers. Send us your updates.

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CHAPTER officers, email to:
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Charlotte Chapter

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14-Oct 2023: Navy vs. UNC Charlotte Football Tailgate. Thank you to the 500 plus attendees at our Charlotte Chapter hosted tailgate. From National Alumni, this tailgate was the 2nd largest away tailgate of the season. USNA's Supe, Dant, Athletic Director, and many others attended - photos below. Also, a huge shout-out to the NC Parent's Club for helping organize and to our Tailgate Sponsors Edwards Injury Law, Maria Tobin Allen Tate Realty, Boost Mobile and USAA.

11-Nov 2023 - Navy football vs UAB watch party at the Russell's. Many thanks to **Scott Russell '89** and his wife Christa for opening their amazing home and hosting the chapter watch party. Great time had by all - see pictures!



09- Dec 2023 - Army vs Navy football, chapter watch party at Blackfinn Ameripub in Ballantyne, NC. Stay tuned for pictures and recap of this event! Chapter also brought unwrapped toys to support the amazing Toys for Tots! Go Navy!

Eastern North Carolina Chapter

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The November meeting convened at La Rosa's Italian restaurant in New Bern on 16 November at 1200. Twenty-seven (27) members and guests attended.

Mr. **Rob Skrotsky '67**, opened the meeting with a moment of silence for our colleagues in



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to update your profile.

CHAPTER NEWS

Harm's Way, for their loved ones awaiting their return, and for those who are suffering or grieving.

Mr. **Aaron Adams '95**, Treasurer, reported on the Chapter's bank balance.

Rob recognized new member, **Jay Brenner '83**. He announced that the next meeting will be at the Marina at MCAS New River for the Army Navy Game 9 December at 1500.

As lunch progressed Rob introduced the guest speaker, **George Watt '73**, past CEO and past President of the Alumni Association who proceeded to give an oral history of the USNA, which he titled "The United States Naval Academy A Brief Oral History—from Cdr Franklin Buchanan to VAM John Ryan '67". It included many details about the traditions of the Academy. He provided a copy of a speech by RADM Edward Sampson Class of 1846 that called for the formation of the Alumni Association.

After a brief question and answer session, the meeting adjourned.

Timothy H Marvin '59
Secretary

North Carolina Triangle Chapter

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Congratulations to the Triangle Chapter! We were awarded our 7th Distinguished Chapter award in 2023. We have won this award each year it has been awarded, and we are the only USNA alumni chapter to accomplish this.

Congratulations and appreciation to our prior leadership teams who have worked diligently to earn our Chapter this noteworthy accomplishment.

Welcome new Triangle Chapter members, **Liz Castro '13, Mark Thomas, Sr. '70, Barry Melvin, '85, Frank Grecco '00 and Ginger Rice '84!**



North Carolina Triangle Chapter: USMC B-day picture Liz Hallinan '80, Kevin Kitts '88, Scott Widdifield (guest of Dave Joseforsky), Mark Nicholas (guest of Kevin Kitts), Ryan Rice '10, Larry Rice (Ginger '84), Dave Joseforsky '97, Tommy Martinez '78 and Adam Jaecks '03.



North Carolina Triangle Chapter: A group of Triangle area Captains and Colonels met for breakfast at Herons restaurant in the Umstead Hotel (Left to Right): Reece Morgan '89, Mike Patterson (NC State), Brian Tanaka (Marquette), Doug Guthe '76, Carrie Hasbrouk (Jacksonville U), Bill Coleman '95, Chris Perrien '74, Shaun McAndrew '93, Dave Joseforsky '97, Andy Hertel (U of Illinois) and Steve Gillespie '87

North Carolina Submarine Foundation Executive Director **Chris Perrien '74** catches up with a shipmate at the Navy - UNC Charlotte tailgate.

A large contingent of North Carolina Navy alumni and fans attended the Navy vs UNC Charlotte game on 14 October. Festivities included celebrating our Navy's 248th birthday; a delicious and well-attended BBQ hosted by the Charlotte Alumni Chapter and NC Parents Club (BZ to Charlotte Chapter President, **Chris Nickels '91** and Parents Club President Juliana West); the US battle-ensign hoisted high above the tail-gate grounds compliments of the Charlotte Fire Department; inspiring remarks by our Acting Superintendent, Rear Admiral **Fred Kacher '90**, USN. Special guests included North Carolina State Representatives Jason Saine and Ray Pickett and State Senator Dave Craven.

The North Carolina Submarine Foundation (Executive Director **Chris Perrien '74**) arranged for an on-field presentation of US ensigns flown over the USS CHARLOTTE SSN 766. The ensigns were presented to the Charlotte Fire Department and the University of Charlotte. Before the on-field ceremony, the Commanding Officer of SSN 766, CDR **Anthony Stranges '04**, welcomed the stadium audience of 10,000 via a Jumbotron greeting.

Grads in attendance enjoying Navy's victory: **Bill Coleman '95, Chris Perrien '74, Gray Tompson '07, Ken Clark '87**, Shari and Tal Holloway (Parents 2022), Matt & Juliana West (Parents 2020, 2021, 2024), **Bill Gautier '68, Jim Kinney '60, Stan Bashaw '81, Steve Gillespie '87 and Bill Moran '81.**

October's Golf Outing was at the River Ridge Golf Club in Knightdale. The weather was beautiful and the day was enjoyed by all. Local Alumni participating included: Sally and **Eric Benson '71, Tom Clemons '82, Steve Moran '81, Bill Coleman '95, Kevin Hamilton '94, Bryan Dearolf '03 and John Walls '86.** Special thanks to **Warren Schultz '71** who plans the outings and coordinates with courses and members to vary the locations.

On 10 November, the Triangle Chapter celebrated the 248th USMC birthday with a lunch and cake-cutting ceremony at Back Then Bar and Grill in Cary, NC. Recently retired Col **Dave Joseforsky '97** was our guest speaker, and delivered an enthusiastic and motivational birthday tribute to the Marine Corps. A good mix of USNA grads and other local area Marines, invited by chapter members, attended the celebration. Attendees included: David Joseforsky '97, George Lipscomb '87, Adam Jaecks '03, Ryan Rice '10, Norman Elliott '58, Perry Taylor '71,

Tommy Martinez '78, Warren Schultz '71, Thomas Pitman '69, Helmut Feifs '66, Kevin Kitts '88, Ginger Rice '84, David Clement '80, Eric Siebert '93, Elizabeth Hallinan '80, Jenifer Clement '81, Shaun McAndrew '93, Douglas Guthe '76, and Bill Coleman '95.



Col Dave Joseforsky USMC (Ret.) '97 cuts the cake at the Triangle Chapters 248th USMC birthday celebration.

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).

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myUSNA.com communication platform. Chapter challenge coins were presented to **Tom Gomia '70**, for the tremendous support he has shown our Chapter, and to Kim Douglas (Sea Cadet parent) for her outstanding service to the Columbus Squadron of the US Naval Sea Cadets. A special gift was presented to **Tony Konecny '79** for his dedicated work leading to the resurgence of the Columbus Chapter. Thanks to all who made the evening a success.



A new professional networking initiative, *Shipmate*/Battle Buddy/Wingman Monthly Breakfast, launched in October. These monthly breakfasts are open to all Central Ohio service academy alumni. The purpose is to capitalize on the large numbers we have in Central Ohio in order to build a more cohesive and useful network for everyone. Event details will be sent to members via all of our communication channels. Thanks to **Justin Shineman '91** for taking the lead.

This year's Army - Navy Joint Watch Party will be hosted by the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in downtown Columbus. We are grateful to NVMM for offering to host and make this event very special. Don't miss this one!

Our Chapter is honored to have a new alumni move to Columbus. VADM **Ted Carter '81** will become President of The Ohio State University in January 2024. Welcome to Ohio, VADM Carter. Go Bucks and Go Navy!

It has been a busy time for the Columbus Chapter with events, big announcements, and executing plans to continue to grow and add value to members.

For those not traveling to Dublin, Ireland for the Navy - Notre Dame football game on 26 August, the Chapter held a very well attended watch party in our own Dublin, Ohio at Fado' Pub and Grill. It was a great mix of Navy alumni and friends, USNA parents, and a few Notre Dame grads. Attendance was a solid 55 fans.

USNA Alumni at Founder's Day Dinner

The annual Founders Day dinner was held 21 September at Worthington Hills Country Club. The theme "Leveraging Your Alumni Chapter" focused on how the Chapter supports alumni, USNA, and the local Navy community. **Matt Edic '92** shared an excellent presentation on the



Columbus Chapter: Navy - Notre Dame Watch Party, Dublin, Ohio

CHAPTER NEWS



Tulsa Oklahoma Chapter

Toledo Chapter

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Oklahoma

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Oklahoma City Chapter

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Tulsa Chapter

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The Tulsa Chapter hosted a Tri-Service Wine Tasting Party at Parkhill's Wine. The sommelier took us through several selections of wine giving us some history of wine making. The event, complimented with matching appetizers was a hit! Attendees included Patrick Hamilton '87, Harry Rouse '77, Jim '99 and Allyssa Ferrell '99, and Rocky Goins '84 and Lynn Flinn.



Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame: The Tulsa Chapter with the Cherokee Nation, nominated and won the 2023 Military Hall of Fame for Admiral **Joe "Jocko" Clark '18**. Pictured with **Rocky Goins '84** is Jocko's grandson, Joe Slotnick who flew in from New York City to accept the award with his brother, Caleb, and their families. The Cherokee Nation was very pleased with the results and offered to collaborate in the future on other endeavors.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Rocky Goins
 Chair of the U.S. Oklahoma Commissioning
 President of U.S. Naval Academy Alumni,
 Tulsa Chapter
 U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1984)*



Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

Oregon

Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

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Our October meeting celebrated the Naval Academy and Navy birthdays. Our cake cutting was done by **Ted Scypinski '90**, the youngest Alumni present and **Tim Myers '64** the oldest alumni present. See picture nearby. Present were **Doug Ballard '74, Tim Myers '64, Doug Bomarito '68, Scott Fitzpatrick '80, John Adams '69, Mike Carmichael '69, Lee Hall '80, Ted Scypinski '90** and **Pete Kurzenhauser '79**.



Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

In November we celebrated the Marine Corps 248th birthday. As is our custom we had many Marine guests, the majority brought by **Doug Bomarito '68**. **Doug Ballard** supplied the cake and orchestrated the formal Marine birthday cake cutting ceremony. Cutting was performed by **Bruce Broussard**, the oldest Marine and **Chris Howery**, the youngest. Honored Marines present were **Lew Barnes**, **Bill Allen**, **Al Arguedas**, **Tom Boardman**, **Bruce Broussard**, **Steve Harmon**, **Dave Simpson**, **Chris Owens**, **Mark Shull**, **Doug Ballard '74**, **Chris Howery**, **Mark Henley**, **Kent Studebaker** (the Marines are pictured below). The senior Marine present was **Major General Chris Owens**. Alumni present were **Jim Unger '53** and his guest **Lisa Voelker**, daughter of one of Jim's classmates who has passed away, **John Adams '69**, **Mike Carmichael '69**, **Wayne Acoba '91**, **Lee Hall '80**, **Scott Fitzpatrick '80**, **George Schultz '72 NECEP**, **Jake McMichael '58**, **Brian Gilday '91**, **Butch Bewick '62**, **Mark Cooksey '71**, **Doug Ballard '74**, **Pete Kurzenhauser '79**, **Tim Myers '64** and **Tony Lash '05**

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Chapter

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Pittsburgh Chapter

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USNA Tribute Gifts

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Susquehanna Valley Chapter

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VP: **Rob Gundlach '84**
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Treas: **Jim Nolan '70**
e: jimnolan8470@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.usnasvc.com>
BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Matt Chabal '77**
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Recreational Vehicle

American Chapter

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e: tsrjw71@gmail.com
Treas: **Dale Gange '70**
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Shipmate sec'y: **Jennifer Stone**
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Website: www.rv.usnachapters.net
Facebook: **USNA RV CHAPTER**

The engines roared and the camaraderie flowed as alumni from the Navy/Charlotte Football game converged on the Charlotte Motor Speedway campground from 12-15 October 2023, for an unforgettable event - A ComeAround. Hosted by the dynamic duo, Susan and **Don Baldwin '74**, this weekend celebration brought together a stellar lineup of Navy enthusiasts for a unique blend of sportsmanship, tailgating, and memories.

As the engines of excitement revved up, Day 1 saw the traditional Happy Hour kickstart the festivities. Navy faithfuls, including **Sue and Dale Gange '70**, **Rose and Tom Wolf '70**, and **Linda and Paul Colman '77**, descended upon the campground, setting the stage for a weekend of camaraderie. Nestled just across the highway from the Speedway, the campground offered a prime location, flanked by the Dragway and a dirt track—thankfully silent during the festivities.

With Day 2 came the freedom to explore the local area. Some ventured to the Speedway, immersing themselves in its history at the museum. The RV Chapter Board convened for a meeting, followed by a general assembly. The evening's Happy Hour welcomed special guests **John Schofeld**, Executive Director of

Communications, and **Nancy Murray**, Alumni Liaison from the Alumni Association. The day concluded with a dinner at the Speedway Club, where the tantalizing food was complemented by an awe-inspiring view of the track.

Game Day brought the entire group together for a tailgate organized by the local Charlotte Alumni Chapter. After a triumphant 14-0 victory against Charlotte, the campground became a sea of jubilation. **Tom Wolfe's** famed margaritas flowed freely, and **Maddie and Peter Husta '79** wowed the crowd with Honduran delicacies. The Victory Celebration continued with the Firsties treating the group to a pizza dinner, solidifying the bonds forged over a shared love for Navy football.



ComeAround

In the shadow of the Speedway's roar and the echoes of triumphant cheers, A ComAround at Charlotte Motor Speedway was more than a weekend getaway—it was a convergence of tradition, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of Navy football. **Don and Susan Baldwin** orchestrated a gathering that transcended the boundaries of alumni reunions, creating a mosaic of memories etched in the hearts of all who proudly don the Navy blue and gold. Until next year's kickoff, the echoes of A ComeAround will linger as a testament to the unyielding bonds forged at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Additional attendees along for the fun were **Susan and Charles Lewis '70**; **Janet and Hoot Wade '76**; **Vanessa and Tim Hallihan '72**; **Jim Swoope '70**; **Tracy and Glenn Miller '86**; **Gail and David Penman '75** and **Eva and Andy Wehrle '72**.

Rhode Island

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

Rhode Island Chapter

Pres: **Mike O'Sullivan '73**
p: 401-742-7091; e: michael.osullivan1973@gmail.com
Sec'y: **Col Paul Muller '88, USMC (Ret.)**
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**Not seeing news
about your Chapter?
Want to share more?**

Please contact: **Isaac Phillips III**
at: Isaac.Phillips@usna.com

CHAPTER NEWS

South Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ryan Blacklock**
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Central Savannah River Area

(Aiken, SC; Augusta, GA; and surrounding areas)

Pres: **LtCol Dave Smith '73, USMC (Ret.)**
e: dsmith708@atlanticbb.net

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

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

Charleston Chapter

Pres: **CDR Rick Stein '82, USNR (Ret.)**
784 Preservation Pl., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
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e: USNA_AA_Charleston@Comcast.net

On Monday, 16 October, the Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was **George Watt '73**, who gave a wonderful oral history of the U. S. Naval Academy - The Legacy of Robert Means Thompson (Class of 1868).

In Attendance were: Fuzzy Knight '53; Jim Flatley '56; Ray Setser '65; Bernie Magdelain '67; Roger Paradis '67; Wayne Wilson '67; Chuck Meyer '68; Tom Gillespie '69; Mike Malone '69; Gary Marshall '69; Al Olsen '72; George Watt '73; Michael Bosse '74; Jim Lyons '74; Joe Delpino '75; Bill Konrad '75; Bob Kennedy '77; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Chris Cechak '82; Rick Stein '82; Seamus Flatley '83; Perry Ramicone '83; Greg Shore '84; Ron Allen '88; Kara (Flatley) Brophy '90; Wes Smith '90; Tony Bruce '91 and Billy Hurley '04.

The Chapter mourns the passing of **Buzz Carns '61**.

The Charleston Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12 Noon in Mount Pleasant. No reservation required.

On Monday, 19 November, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was COL Tom Gordon, USMC (Ret.); Commandant of Cadets, The Citadel. In Attendance were: Fuzzy Knight '53, Jim Flatley '56, Alan Burkhart '67, Bernie Magdelain '67, Mike Malone '69, Michael Bosse '74, Jim Lyons '74, David Oyster '74, Bill Konrad '75, Dave Shimp '76, Denny Simon '77, Dan Cloyd '79, Rick Stein '82, Jeff Gordon '83, Tony Bruce '91, David Kern '92, Brett Abbamonte '05 and Shawn Cleary '16.

The Charleston Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12 Noon in Mount Pleasant. No reservation required.

Low Country Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cavanaugh '69**
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VP: **Dave Igyarto '74**
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Sec'y: **Tim Johnson '02**
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Treas: **John Scanlan '83**
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Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter: Reception with Shipmate staff at Calhoun's on the River in Knoxville on 25 September 2023

Palmetto Chapter

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

Vice Pres: **Brian Treanor '89**
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Sec'y: **Suzanne Hopper**
(husband, John Hopper '95 and son, Selik Hopper '23)
e: hoppermomx6@gmail.com

South Carolina Midlands Chapter

Pres: **Craig Augenstein '87**
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Sec'y: **Chuck Tebrich '66**
e: chuckteb@gmail.com

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Spain

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

Pres: **Michael Carsley '88**
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Vice Pres: **Ryan Eilerman '15**

Treas: **Cassidy Masey '06**
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Sec'y: **Dustin Cunningham '06**

Tennessee

Chattanooga Chapter

Pres: **Casey Turner '01**
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Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter

Pres: **Kristen Daniel '02**
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Sec'y-Treas: **Jim Ward '85**
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Website: <http://k-or.usnachapters.net/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard Cataldi '69, USN (Ret.)**
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The Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter observed the USNA Founders Day in October by gathering at Orange Hat Brewing Company in Knoxville. Everyone had a good time recalling their four years on the Severn and how that experience has impacted their lives. Unfortunately, no one took a photo. Shipmates and family in attendance: **Geoff deBeauclair '87**, Debbie and **Tom Feaster '74**, Kelly and **Gary Null '91**, Donna and **Mark Prybell '90**, **Ralph Schindler '74**, **Fred Stuvek '74**, Joanne and **Shawn Tallant '78**, **Jim Ward '85**.

Several members of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Digital Communications team visited Knoxville in late September to meet with Chapter members and to interview CAPT **Jack Gillooly '45** of Tallassee, the oldest naval aviator in the country. They also wanted to learn more about our Chapter's support of the Men's Lightweight Rowing team and other Chapter activities. Several members of the East Tennessee USNA community met at Calhoun's on the River in Knoxville. Chapter members Susie and **Rich Cataldi '69** and Kelly and **Ernie Gonzales '81** and several Parents Club members including Kedra Reczek attended the event.

If any alumni relocate to or visit East Tennessee, please join our monthly luncheon at Famous Dave's BBQ in Knoxville on the first Wednesday of each month at 1200

Memphis Chapter

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Nashville Chapter

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Texas

Alamo Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Ron A. Sandoval '81, USN**
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Please send *Shipmate* Submissions and all correspondences to:
Sec'y: **Dave Driskell '63**
P.O. Box 461564, San Antonio, TX 78246-1564
e: info@alamogoats.org

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

Facebook: **Alamo Chapter NAAA**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Montgomery '04**
p: 410-507-2832; e: eric.montgomery@2004.usna.com

You will be reading this report in the January/February time frame so I will continue with BGO related events except for our Tri-Service golf tournament. We held it on 7 Oct at Ft Sam golf course. However due to a combination of miscommunication and a change in management at the Ft Sam golf course the tournament was played but was met with a closed facility at completion. Therefore, no results were possible. I have enclosed a picture of the blank results sheet to illustrate the irony of the situation. **Jim Kiehle '62** was the director this year and he ended up returning all money not used in the administration of the event.



Tri-Service participants, no results possible.



(L to R) Regional Director James Callicot, BGOs Greg Chapman, Laura Koerner, Dave Driskell, Field Admissions Counselor LT Matt Farrar and BGO Roman Sanchez at Admissions Forum.

On the BGO side, things are more positive. Several members of the Admissions staff sponsored an Academy Day at Thomas Edison high school on 7 Oct. The turnout was somewhat sparse but those in attendance were keenly interested and engaged earnestly with admissions staff and BGOs present.

On 13 October, I was invited to give a presentation to Navy and Marine Corps residents at the Army Residence Center (ARC). ARC is an assisted living complex located in eastern

San Antonio area. Due to my advanced age, we shared several common experiences and discussed the different approaches in the admission process currently in use. I was warmly received and hosted by Col Mo Chevalier, USMC (Ret.). BGO Glen Woods '78 Austin/Round Rock area participated in a national signing day for candidate Andre Wood (baseball recruit). At this writing (20 Nov.) all of our candidates are participating in interviews with their congressmen and/or/senator's process for nominations.



BGO Dave Driskell and Col (Ret) Mo Chevalier at ARC presentation.



Candidate Andre Wood w/parents signing Letter of Intent.

Dave Driskell '63
Secretary

Austin Chapter

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Treas: **Kevin Windbigler '86**
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Dave Driskell '63**
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Don't forget to vote for your
Mid Atlantic and Western Regions.

See article on page 36 for more information.

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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With the dark ages upon us, we find motivation by reflecting on the great chapter activities back during a busy October and November. We started our busy Fall in North Texas with a luncheon showcasing Admiral **Bill Moran '81**, Chairman, Athletics & Scholarship Programs (A&SP) with the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation. He spoke to the chapter about the A&SP's role in supporting Navy Athletics and other endeavors. Then, in November several alumni took part in the annual Service Academy Flag Football tournament. Nine USNA grads spanning from '85 to '10 (see photo below) fought valiantly in defense of the mini-Commander and Chief's trophy, but fell in close games to both Army & Air Force. While we did not win, new friendships were made, great sea stories were told and the team drowned their sorrows in the swo-donuts provided by Marine, **PJ Picache '10** and his lovely family. The team was also treated to watching **Jason Nunez '96**, fulfill the "highest ideals of a referee" for the Army-AF game. The Chapter closed out November with a tremendous tailgate for the last Navy-SMU matchup. Over 300 folks came out to support the Navy football on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The tailgaters were treated to some motivating words from the Superintendent, Commandant of Midshipmen and President of the Alumni Association. In the end, although we did not beat SMU, we once again enjoyed tremendous camaraderie at an outstanding tailgate. We are extremely thankful to all the Mid parents, family, friends and alumni who worked to make the tailgate a success! We look forward to the promise of 2024, join our myUSNA group - North Texas Chapter - to ensure you are tracking upcoming events.



Admiral Moran '81 speaking at NTX Luncheon

CHAPTER NEWS



North Texas Chapter: olks enjoying the camaraderie at the Navy-SMU tailgate



USNA alumni flag football team (knelling) L to R, Jon Dorn '85, Matthew Graham '10, Jason Nunez '96, PJ Pichache '10, (standing) R to L, Matthew Bova '10, Mike Hill '10, JT Thorpe '93, Frankie Delgado '95 and Doug Moberg '88



Acting Superintendent, Rear Admiral Fred Kacher '90 and Commandant of Midshipmen, Colonel J.P. McDonough '94 lead the tailgaters in a "Go Navy" cheer!

Semper Fidelis-LIVE IT!

Colonel Frankie P. Delgado, USMCR

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

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United Kingdom

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

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United Kingdom Chapter

Pres: **Tim Fox '97**

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Vice Pres: **Cody Nissen '11**

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

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

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Chris Robinson '98

email: naples98@gmail.com

In September 1777, the distinguished poet and playwright Samuel Johnson wrote, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life, for there is in London all that life can afford."

And to think that Johnson wrote those words with absolutely no knowledge of the UK Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association!

In early December, the UK Chapter sponsored its annual Army-Navy Game Watch, again held at the Leake Street location of Passyunk Avenue, home of all things USNA related and the best cheesesteak on this side of The Pond. Alumni from both West Point and Navy attended, and it was another "win" for the organizers, who planned so well. Look for photos in the next column!

Only a few short weeks later, the holiday season and the New Year were upon us, both

offering innumerable opportunities to take in the sites, sounds, and spirit of London.

Chapter President **Tim Fox '97** is now working on organizing a group tour of the Tower of London for a yet-to-be determined date in 2024, including a visit to one of the most exclusive pubs in the city: The Raven, where the Beefeaters meet to quaff a pint and swap stories. Samuel Johnson would surely be proud!

As 2023 draws to a close, the UK Chapter would like to wish our members — and all alumni who are reading this — our very best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, filled with only the highest levels of Navy spirit. 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: **Tabetha Moesinger '91**

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

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Virginia

Central Virginia Chapter

Pre: **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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On Wednesday, 11 October, the Central Virginia Chapter joined the West Point Society of Monticello, Air Force Academy Alumni and other veterans for the semi-annual All-Services Golf Classic at Green Hills Club in Stanardsville, VA. Four-man Captain's Choice Format ensured that the 28 participants pictured here scored well despite the challenges of Green Hills.



Central Virginia Ball Strike Force



Central Virginia Chapter: USMC Birthday start



Central Virginia Chapter: USMC Birthday summit

Navy fielded an all USNA team as well and the typically competitive UVA ROTC foursome. Despite beautiful fall weather and excellent leadership from the class of '75, both Navy teams finished just out of the top three with each team scoring 68, three under par.

The golf was followed by a welcoming lunch in the Green Hills Clubhouse. The beauty of the course with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains along with the camaraderie and splendid course conditions made for a memorable day.

NAVY'S teams consisted of **Gary Jones '75**, **Dale Crothers '82**, **CB Morgan '83**, **Bill Murray '83**, ROTC team Pat Funk USN(R), Michael Downing USMC, Justin Ryan USN and Vern DiTaranto USMC.

The spring outing is scheduled 8 May 2024 at Green Hills. Mark your calendars. GO NAVY!

CB Morgan '83

The Central VA Chapter celebrated the 248th Birthday of the US Marine Corps with our 6th hike to the summit of Humpback Rocks on Saturday, November 11th - as shown in the attached photos.

Participants included Alex "Rattler" Rucker VT '65, **Bob McMasters '78**, Dennis Moler UMD '79, Steve Trotta FU '80, **Bill Murray '83**, Garrett Smith UVA '84 and his dog Augustus, **Craig Monroe '94** and sons Peter and Zach, and Will Murray ND '15 — eleven hikers in all.

The weather was ideal - sunny and 45 degrees at the 0900 start as we began the steep 700-foot ascent.

After 40 minutes we reached the Rocks and were treated to a magnificent view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah and Rockfish Valleys.

Upon summiting, Monroe '94 rendered the pronouncement of the Birthday Message (Marine Corps Order Number 47, issued in 1921 by Commandant, Major General John Lejeune) and hikers toasted The Corps with a tincture of Speyside 10-year single malt.

Following this and reflecting the more somber spirit of Veteran's Day (and Flander's Fields), Moler '71 spontaneously shared the chorus from CSNY's "Find The Cost of Freedom."

The descent required sure-footed care and teamwork as we managed to avoid injuries for the 6th year in a row.

On our return to the parking lot the team enjoyed hot coffee, OJ and KRINGLE (Danish almond pastries from TJs), and mused of assaulting Old Rag Mountain to mark the 250th birthday in 2025.

SEMPER FI and BEAT ARMY!

Bill Murray '83

Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Renee Reedy '81**

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

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

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Attention world! Attention world! The Hampton Roads Chapter is extremely proud and honored to have been named one of USNAAA's Distinguished Chapters for 2023! The award is our fourth in the last six years and is a true testament to some very hard work and dedication by the Chapter leadership team and the continued participation and support of our membership!

As fall turns to winter the activity and events in Hampton Roads have been largely centered around Navy football watching. It has certainly not been the best of seasons on the gridiron, but as I typed this column the Mids were getting ready for what, on paper at least, should be a fairly even matchup with the Black Knights. And in this area, we were gearing up for another huge Army-Navy party at Shorebreak Pizza and Taphouse in Virginia Beach. Since this issue of *Shipmate* went to print prior to the game, a complete report on that always-popular event will be provided in the March-April issue.



Dan Bowden '15 with family and friends watching Navy football in Hampton Roads



L to R Mary Fran, Annie, and Brett O'Donovan '00 enjoying Navy football and milkshakes

CHAPTER NEWS



Caroline and Tom deGavre '61 are all about Navy spirit

Our Business Development Group, spearheaded by **Rob Hanckel '78**, has continued to meet on the first Wednesday of each month; and your attention is invited to the profile about that group elsewhere in this issue. Some of their ideas and efforts are indeed unique and forward-leaning.

The October speaker or our monthly Networking Breakfast was J. Michael Cobb, curator emeritus of the Hampton History Museum, whose presentation on "The Civil War at Fort Wool" opened our eyes to some unique local history. And in November, Laura Baxter, Executive Director of the Armed Services YMCA of Hampton Roads, provided an excellent and enlightening presentation on the terrific services provided by that organization to the enlisted military personnel in our area. To finish out the year, the December speaker was author David Poyer '71 who introduced his latest novel, *The Academy*, which is the capstone of the 22-book Dan Lenson series.

In January 2024 we expect to kick off the new year with our annual Dark Ages Happy Hour which will be followed by our monthly Happy Hour program that will run into the summer. And in the March/April timeframe we will hold our Annual Meeting and the election and seating of the 2024-2026 Board of Directors.

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**

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

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

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On 6 October, 15 Chapter members and families gathered at The Hampton Inn, Dumfries and on Zoom for our October breakfast and the U. S. Navy's 248th birthday celebration.

SES **Neil Hogg '81** Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources was our Guest of Honor. Mr. Hogg gave a very interesting talk about the nexus between Navy and Marine Corps capabilities and the budget in support of the national defense strategy, guided by the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. His message coincided perfectly with this year's birthday theme: "**248 Years of Power, Presence and Protection!**" The oldest Sailor in attendance was **Tom Taylor '63** and the youngest was **Dan Derbes '85**. The Chapter enjoyed this opportunity to celebrate our great Navy's past successes as we look to a bright future!

HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER

A Successful Business Networking Model in Hampton Roads

By Dick Enderly '71 and Rob Hanckel '78

Originating about 25 years ago as a group narrowly focused on communications and interaction among local alumni-owned businesses, the Hampton Roads Chapter Business Development Group has evolved into something considerably more forward-leaning that today engages alumni from all service academies and encourages participation from like-minded alumni and groups outside the Hampton Roads area.

Since 2021 this group, guided by Meeting Facilitator **Rob Hanckel '78**, has hosted combined virtual and in-person breakfast meetings on the first Wednesday of each month for those already in business, contemplating starting a new business endeavor, or looking for employment. Alumni can participate from any location; and meeting details are found at: <https://myusna.com/topics/9519/events>.

This networking forum actively fosters insightful dialogue and informative conversations; and at each meeting the participants can state business needs, offer mutual assistance, and share job opportunities in a collegial, round-table format. The hybrid format allows participants to join remotely or meet in person at a local venue to enjoy sponsored coffee and breakfast.

In 2023 the meetings began including an educational "BizNetwork Tips" component. These 10- to 20-minute Q & A sessions cover topics of interest to businesspersons and entrepreneurs. The presentations facilitate business productivity, improvement, and growth, leveraging the experience of alumni as well as the local academic community (e.g., representatives from Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University and William & Mary). Initial university-led topics included "Working Smarter Not Harder" and "Negotiating from a Weak Position." Last November, drawing upon his 42-year entrepreneurial journey, **Mike Zeiders '75** shared his "Know Yourself, Trust Your People" perspectives which generated considerable dialogue and follow-on networking opportunities.

Promulgating regular meeting documentation definitely contributes to the ongoing success of this program. The participants, along with their stated requests and offers, are captured and posted each month in the MyUSNA Forum. Group scribe **Frank Hunt '78** diligently records and posts that information at: <https://myusna.com/topics/9519/forum>.

For those who are not early risers, and to further promote growth and development, the program includes occasional business networking Happy Hours and periodically focuses on alumni-supported non-profit and philanthropic organizations.

The BizDev Group believes that in today's world of virtual work and remote meetings geographic constraints can be minimized to promote nationwide participation and advancement of alumni entrepreneurs and businesspersons eager to identify new opportunities and drive them toward success.

Looking to the future, alumni and chapters outside Hampton Roads are encouraged to join these monthly "Service Academy BizNetwork" (new moniker) meetings and consider adopting this successful concept. For questions and additional information contact Meeting Facilitator Rob Hanckel '78 at: robhanckel@gmail.com.



In July, USNAAA notified Chapter President **George Williams '87** that they selected QAC for an Other Chapter seat on the USNAAA Board of Trustees, for the second time in the past eight years. The Chapter elected current Membership Chair and Past Chapter President **Bob Taylor '74** as the Chapter's Trustee. Both Bob and the Chapter are looking forward to participating in alumni affairs from this perspective.

Our prolific marathoner, **Clayton Hill '76**, continued to build his racing resume. He ran his first Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in 1984. Since then he's completed 46 marathons overall and ranks first for most MCM finishes, 37, by a federal service academy graduate! Great job, Clayton!

On 2 November, 13 QAC members gathered at The Clubs at Quantico and on Zoom to celebrate the birth of our Marine Corps and to host Guest of Honor LtGen **James Glynn '89**, Deputy Commandant, Manpower & Reserve Affairs. Senior Marine present was **Bob Sonnenberg '70** and junior Marine was the General's aide, Capt. Guillermo Bocanegra, commissioned in 2015.

The General's remarks centered on force design experimentation and encouraging Marines to cultivate an innovative environment that will ultimately foster the development of appropriate equipment capabilities. To fight in a distributed operations environment, talent management is paramount, commensurate with the need for decentralized decision making and initiative. The Marine Corps has not even imagined the military occupational specialties, such as robotics, necessary to support the new force design! In conclusion, the General acknowledged the difficult recruiting environment, though he noted the Marine Corps was the only service to make its goal this past year. With that in mind, he presented a challenge to the audience, "...speak about our service to your people and those who influence them."



Chapter President, Guest of Honor and Oldest and Youngest Marines

To close out the year, the Chapter will host its December installment of the Chapter Breakfast Speaker Series followed by the 7th Annual Army Navy Football Watch Party at The Basic School in Quantico. Come join us, along with about 100 of the Marine Corps' newest officers, and watch Navy prevail over the Black Knights!

Details are in the Chapter calendar.

Area alumni are always welcome at Chapter events. Also, the Chapter is actively recruiting alumni from the 2000s decade and beyond. Please contact Chapter President, George Williams '87 for more information.

Richmond Chapter

Pres: **Michael Metzger '89**
e: michael.metzger@1989.usna.com
Sec'y: **Matt Laser '97**
e: lasermatthew@gmail.com

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

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

Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Pres: **David McLellan '73**
p: 540-722-2060; e: dcmclmd@earthlink.net
Sec'y: **LCDR Grayson Redford '63, USN (Ret.)**
p: 540-662-6142

BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley '74**
e: james.m.ripley@gmail.com

Virginia Peninsula Chapter

(formerly the Williamsburg Chapter)

Pres: **Kathleen Jabs '88**
e: kjabs@aol.com; vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com
Vice Pres: **Rick Yasky '78**
e: rickyasky@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Mark Zito**
e: markpaulzito@gmail.com
BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR David Lannetti '81, USN (Ret.)**
p: 757-423-8602; e: dlannetti81@gmail.com

Website: www.myusna.com

Group: **Virginia Peninsula Chapter**

Washington

BGO Area Coordinator: **Darin Perrine**
e: dperrine@mailbox.org

Hanford/Tri-Cities Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Edward Schwier '69, USN (Ret.)**
1196 Brentwood Ave., Richland, WA 99352-8540
h: 509-627-7288; w: 509-372-0176
e: Edward_G_Ed_Schwier@rl.gov; eschwie@charter.net; egschwie@aol.com

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

Puget Sound Chapter

Pres: **Linda Postenrieder '82**
e: usnaaa.psc@gmail.com
Corr Sec'y: **George Windsor '75**
e: gbwindsor@icloud.com

Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/9554>

Washington, DC Area

Greater Washington Chapter

Pres: **Anthony Calandra '88**
e: president@usnagwc.org
Vice Pres: **Luis Martinez '01**
e: vicepresident@usnagwc.org
Sec'y: **Alexis Opferman '17**
e: secretary@usnagwc.org
Treas: **Chris Georgi '96**
e: treasurer@usnagwc.org
Outreach and Engagement: **Heidi Lenzini '95**
e: outreach@usnagwc.org
Diversity and Inclusion: **Alberto Ramos '10**
e: diversity@usnagwc.org
Trustee: **Jill Rough '96**
e: trustee@usnagwc.org
Website: www.usnagwc.org
BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley**
e: james.m.ripley@gmail.com



Shipmates, 2023 was an eventful year for our chapter – check out our website on MyUSNA and social media (Facebook and LinkedIn) for more information. If you cannot register for an event, check your membership status by navigating to your USNAAA profile. Please invite your classmates and other alumni, family and friends to join us. The chapter hosted a combo in-person/virtual **USNA candidate event** Oct. 18 with over 300 combined registrants at the George Mason University Arlington Campus. Many thanks to **Kate Murray '00** and **Jill Rough '96** for all the logistics plus additional support from **Chris Georgi '96**, **Heidi Lenzini '95**, and many others! Veteran-owned Bo & Ivy Distillery (**Mike Curcio '01**, plus a GW alum and Marine) was our second time supporting alumni businesses – we'd love more! Thanks to **Ingrid Peterson '01** for organizing! More than 300 attendees at **networking events this year** – thanks to **Alexis Opferman '17** -- including Navy-ND and Army-Navy at Valor Brew Pub in DC, representing SEVEN decades! We'll share more about the picnic and golf tournament... stay connected in 2024!

Wisconsin

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**
e: leonard.green.a@gmail.com

Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Timothy Mahoney '10**
e: mahoney@2010.usna.com

At Large: **Chris Adams '75**
p: 414-553-0982

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

WISNAPA Co Presidents: **Andy and Laura Kittleson**
e: kittleson5@yahoo.com

Website: <http://wisconsin.usnaparents.net/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**
e: leonard.green.a@gmail.com

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

NAMA

Pres: **RADM Julius S. Caesar '77, USN (Ret.)**
e: executive-director@usnama.com

Vice Pres: **LCDR Valerie Mansfield '92, USN (Ret.)**
e: deputy-director@usnama.com

CoS: **CDR Calvin Bumphus '97, USN (Ret.)**
e: chief-of-staff@usnama.com

Treas: **C.J. Willis '75**
e: treasurer@usnama.com

BGO Coordinator: **Nikki Betz '05**
e: bgo@usnama.com

Shipmate Contact: **CDR Jessica Anderson '08, USN**
e: communications@usnama.com

Website: www.usnama.com



EVENTS

Upcoming Events:

Happy New Year! We are so excited to get our 2024 events started! Stay tuned via social and in your email to see how you can engage with NAMA. 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**. Planning is in full swing; 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 wrapped up 2023 with so many great events! A great networking happy hour to kick off Army-Navy week festivities and a STEM event in Brockton, MA where **LT Joe Cardona '15, USNR**, New England Patriots Longsnapper and the New England Patriots Foundation, will help NAMA lead STEM activities for 60 students at Ashfield Middle School. Our deputy director, **LCDR Valerie Mansfield '92 (Ret.)** was selected by March of Dimes as a Heroine in Technology. BZ! Lastly, THANK YOU to everyone that donated to NAMA's mission on Giving Tuesday. You help us do the work we do.

NAMA partnered with the Naval Academy Foundation to establish the Naval Academy Minority Affairs Fund (NAMAF). Your donations support on-campus visits for students and

Centers of Influence, scholarship funding for STEM and NASS, Gospel Choir travel, and Midshipman activities.

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: **Admiral 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.)**
e: reedy81@usnahamptonroads.com

Treas: **LT John Rex Spivey '13, USN**
e: johnrexspivey@gmail.com

Outreach & Engagement: **Dr. Jill Rough '96, CAPT USNR**
e: jill.rough@comcast.net

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

Run to Honor

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**
p: 813-787-6098
e: president@runtohonor.com

Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**
e: vp@runtohonor.com

Treas: **Jan Kennedy**
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**
e: treasurer@runtohonor.com

Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**
e: secretary@runtohonor.com

Website: www.runtohonor.com

Run* To Honor invites you to join us in supporting, remembering, and honoring our fallen alumni. Whether you're keen on organizing or participating, there are various ways to get involved. We're actively seeking volunteers to help organize and support existing events and to contribute to the development of new memorial initiatives. RTH believes that preserving the legacy of those in Memorial Hall is a mission that extends beyond running.

If you're interested in becoming part of an RTH committee, connect with any of the officers listed above.

In addition to organizing events, RTH is on a mission to identify "lost" families of our fallen shipmates. These families have played a crucial role in the Naval Academy's history, yet we only have contact information for a small fraction of them. Your assistance in getting in touch with these "lost" families is invaluable. To support this initiative, please contact **Steve Swift '87** at president@runtohonor.com. Your efforts will contribute to a more inclusive and comprehensive network of support for the families who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

As Memorial Day approaches, RTH is mobilizing its efforts to support events nationwide. If you're on the lookout for an RTH Memorial Day Event in your area, simply visit our website for a comprehensive list of events. However, if there isn't an event nearby and you're interested in taking the lead, don't hesitate to reach out to us! We're here to assist in spreading the word.

Upcoming 2024 events:

Memorial Day Run* To Honor May 25-27

Committee Leads: **Steve Swift '87**, president @runtohonor.com, & **Danielle Beier '10**, commms@runtohonor.com, for more information or to host an event in your area

Memorial Day Reading of Names (Live reading of names listed in Memorial Hall)

Committee Leads: **Pat McConnell '02**, vp@runtohonor.com, & **Jan Kennedy**, treasurer @runtohonor.com

Honor Our Fallen Heroes in Annapolis, MD Fall 2024 (date TBD) (Memorial Hall service, other activities around a home football game)

Committee Leads: **Shannon Webb '04**, secretary@runtohonor.com, & **Alexa Hunter '04**, abest99@hotmail.com

48th MCM, MCM10K, & MCM50K in Washington D.C. Oct 25-27 (Shindig, run, cheer)

Committee Lead: **Steve Swift '87**, president @runtohonor.com

More information about these events will be posted on our website and social network pages listed below.

Follow and share with us at: www.facebook.com/runtohonor

Sign up for our email list at: www.runtohonor.com/mailling-list/

Learn the stories behind the names in Memorial Hall at: www.usnamemorialhall.org

Find RTH gear at: <http://runtohonor.bigcartel.com/>

Donate at: <http://www.runtohonor.com/get-involved>

To Honor!

Create a Shared Interest Group

Be recognized as a USNA AA&F Group in our Alumni community, including no cost Volunteer management tools on **myUSNA**, post your news in *Shipmate*, and receive one on one Alumni Staff support. Please reach out to Isaac Phillips '19, at: Isaac.Phillips@usna.com

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



USNA Pride Shared Interest group

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.

In **2023**, USNA Pride:
...Featured ten alumni over four virtual **Our Story** events – open-mic style events that allow members to connect across distances to learn about the rich stories within our ranks.

...Continued the cherished tradition of recognizing 18 members of the Class of 2023 by awarding them their first Ensign shoulder boards or Second Lieutenant Bars at the **Firstie Recognition Luncheon** in April.

...Featured three distinguished alumni—**Greer Puckett '75**, **Wendy Lawrence '81**, and **Paula Neira '85**—on the Alumni Association instagram page for **Pride Month**.

...Partnered with the midshipmen of Navy Spectrum to host an **Officer Discussion Panel** featuring ten USNA Pride members.

...Attended the first **Maryland Governor's Pride Event**.

...Held a **Bay Area gathering**—our first West Coast event—bringing together seven members at the beautiful residence of Lou Feuchtbaum '85.

...Partnered with ARC-ND (Notre Dame's LGBTQ+ group) to host a **Joint Navy-ND Tailgate in Dublin, Ireland**—our first international event.

Upcoming events:

- 14 April, 2024: Graduating Firstie Luncheon
o If you're interested in sponsoring a MIDN for shoulder boards or 2nd Lieutenant bars, please reach out to usnapride@gmail.com
- 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**

e: kendrachappell94@gmail.com

Outreach: **Gillian Richards '94**

e: jillusnawsig@gmail.com

Happy New Year! In 2024, the Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG) will be hosting bi-monthly virtual events including:



Womens Shared Interest Group: Women of '88 Reunion

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



Womens Shared Interest Group:

STEM Fireside Chats

Survivor Advocacy Network Healing Webinars (Survivors of trauma including, but not limited to sexual assault survivors)

Town Hall meetings about key aspects of the WSIG (think Sisterhood of Mother B, Annual Gathering, Women for Navy Athletics)

Mark your calendars for the Second WSIG Annual Gathering on Saturday, 20 April 2024 at the Fluegel Alumni Center. We've timed our Annual Gathering to be aligned with the Alumni Association Leadership Forum April 18 - 20 so that alumnae and WSIG members who want to go to both are able to do so. The Leadership

Forum is in its 3rd year and provides a series of presentations, speakers and panel discussions around leadership. The WSIG is developing the breakout session on Advancing leadership by building inclusive teams for high performance. If you are interested in participating in or helping with this effort, please contact info@usnawsig.org for more information.

We have been collaborating with the Naval Academy Women's Network (NAWN) on mentor events. Announcements will be coming for mentors. Look for an event in the spring to help welcome alumnae from the class of 2024 into the WSIG and the Alumni Association.

Details for this event and all others will be on the [WSIG.myUSNA.com](https://www.wsig.myUSNA.com).

We encourage folks to submit fellow female alumni in the news on the following link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4b81882aad074025b999e78a6fdcd553>

The reunion season last fall was successful and saw many women gathering for their various 5 year reunions. 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. We've included pictures of the Women's event from '88 and '98. BZ gals!



SACC

SERVICE ACADEMY CAREER CONFERENCE

Looking for a new career opportunity?

Join us for the Service Academy Career Conference in Atlanta, GA.

SACC@usna.com • sacc-jobfair.com

HIRING? REGISTER NOW TO CONNECT WITH OUTSTANDING TALENT.

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

Charles Gilbert Sobel '45
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)
14 November 2023

Lawrence Cloyd Baldwin '46 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
20 October 2023

Hugh Cullman '46
4 November 2023

Joseph Patrick Flanagan Jr. '47
18 November 2023

Jack Marion Stevens '47
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
23 November 2023

William George Hall '49
6 December 2022

Howard Isaac Laniado '50
14 November 2023

Robert Irvine Coleman Jr. '51 ■
26 October 2023

Ralph James Gilbert '51
1 December 2023

George Huntington Dimon Jr. '52
Col, USAF (Ret.)
11 October 2023

Daniel Harper Garland '52 ■
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
18 October 2023

James Berton Vogler '52
14 October 2023

Robert George Donnelly '53 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
24 November 2023

Thomas Logan Malone Jr. '53
RADM, USN (Ret.)
25 November 2023

Thomas William Schaaf '53
CDR, USN (Ret.)
4 November 2023

Robert Leroy Brewin '54
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
17 October 2023

Richard Cushing Myers '54
CDR, USN (Ret.)
20 September 2023

Don Walsh '54
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
12 November 2023

Donald Bernard Zelten '54
23 September 2023

George William Greene Jr. '55
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
12 November 2023

John Richard Lisowski '55
1 December 2023

Charles Anthony Nelson '55
14 October 2023

Marshall Thomas Slayton '55
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
27 May 2023

Harold Allbee Cleveland Jr. '56
10 November 2023

Walter Sam Denham '56
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
17 May 2023

Robert Michael Forster '56 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
27 September 2023

Harold Rex Honeyfield '56
24 November 2023

Peter Clauson Peterson Jr. '56
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
24 October 2023

Alan Burton Brown Jr. '57
Maj, USAF (Ret.)
13 October 2023

LeRoy Boyd Letcher Jr. '57
20 November 2023

Robert Andre Luke '57
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
17 October 2023

Donald Lee Miller '57
9 November 2023

James Harry Murphy '57
CDR, USN (Ret.)
15 November 2023

John William O'Grady '57
24 November 2023

William Newberry Palmer II '57 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
27 September 2023

James Ronald Fisher '58 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
31 October 2023

Dennis Robert Huff '58
27 July 2023

Harold Culp Hunter II '58
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
9 November 2023

Arthur Leslie Immerman '58
CDR, USN (Ret.)
6 May 2023

Robert Joseph Lamoureux '58
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
23 November 2023

Robert Earl Lane '58
25 September 2023

James Edward McNulla III '58
7 November 2023

Ivan Van Abner Nance Jr. '58
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
30 September 2023

William Bernard Smith '58
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
25 November 2023

Charles Joseph Bradley '59
25 November 2023

MacLellan Edgar King Jr. '59
2 November 2023

Robert Houston McLeod '59
5 November 2023

Christopher William Pierre Naquin '59
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
28 November 2023

Joe Baker Wright '59
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
17 October 2023

David Gary Chew '60
14 November 2023

Lowell Elliott Webb '60 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
30 November 2023

Hal Phillips Cockerham '61 ■
1 November 2023

James Duncan Gruber '61
12 October 2023

William Edward Newman '61
RADM, USN (Ret.)
4 December 2023

Jerry Morgan Blesch '62 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
27 November 2023

Ronald Arthur Boss '62
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
11 October 2023

Leighton Warren Smith Jr. '62
ADM, USN (Ret.)
28 November 2023

■ *Obituary appears in this issue*

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



LAST CALL

Robert Nial Tidball '62 ■
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)
24 November 2023

Glenn Paul Laury '63
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
12 November 2023

John Edward McDonald '63
5 November 2023

William Joseph Opitz '63
21 November 2023

Kenneth Raymond Ramsey '63
7 October 2023

Michael Vernon Williams '63
CDR, USN
15 October 2023

Robert Henry Buttram '64
CDR, USN (Ret.)
23 October 2023

Bernard Gerald Donohue Jr. '64
28 October 2023

Leroy Frank Field Jr. '64
16 October 2023

Bernard Augustine Maguire Jr. '64
30 November 2023

Judd Freeman Osten '64
27 November 2023

Robert Miller Silvert Jr. '64
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
15 November 2023

Gordon Russell Willson '64
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
23 September 2023

George Alan Kent '65 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
16 November 2023

Robert Francis Sermier '65
4 December 2023

Anthony Wayne Broomall '66
4 November 2023

John Robert Hoddy '66
23 November 2023

John Michael Kelly '66
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
12 October 2023

Charles Hyatt King III '67
29 November 2023

Craig Langford LaGrone Sr. '67
11 November 2023

Eddie Gene Distel '68
13 October 2023

William Irving Donaldson Jr. '68
7 August 2023

Francis Kevin Holian '68
RDML, USN (Ret.)
17 November 2023

William Augustine Nurthen II '70
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
31 October 2023

Richard Robert Powers '70
14 November 2023

Robert Stephen Ayers '71 ■
21 October 2023

Francis Mitchell Wnek '71 ■
11 November 2023

Stephen Edward Behringer '72
CDR, USN (Ret.)
17 November 2023

Richard Pitkin Gilbert '72
5 December 2023

Gene Michael Kohler '72
26 November 2023

Thomas Francis Gorman Jr. '73 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
4 October 2023

John Bradley Gregor '73
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
29 October 2023

Lawrence K. Doong '76
CDR, USN (Ret.)
4 December 2023

Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili '76
CDR, USN
20 November 2023

Leonard Merriman III '77
19 October 2023

James Rathbone Buckley III '78
Capt, USMCR (Ret.)
10 November 2023

Kevin Christopher Rawson '78
13 October 2023

Jack Lynn Rickman '79 ■
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
14 November 2023

Henry George Raum '80
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
30 September 2023

Reginald Eugene Trass '80 ■
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
5 November 2023

George Michael McNamara '82 ■
19 October 2022

Sabrina Susan Bell Zerphy '90
21 October 2023

Ivan Charles Bullard '93
25 October 2023

Catherine Santos Kelsey '93
LCDR, USN
20 October 2023

Thomas David Martin '17
31 October 2023



LAWRENCE CLOYD BALDWIN '46
Commander "Larry" Baldwin, USN (Ret.), 98, passed away peacefully at home on 20 October 2023.

Larry and his twin brother, James Lloyd, were born to Ressa and Dr. Clifford Baldwin of Sumner, IL, on 15 November 1924. Larry's deep roots in rural southern Illinois remained strong his entire life. His father, a dentist, and his mother, a teacher and State Committeewoman

active in local politics, instilled strong values of service, compassion and loyalty. In 1942, at age 17, Larry's scholastic accomplishments earned him an appointment to the Naval Academy.

His wartime-accelerated class graduated in three years, after which Larry and most classmates deployed to the Pacific as World War II was ending. Post war, Larry went on to earn graduate degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and CalTech. He had a distinguished 20-year career

as a naval aviator, logging thousands of hours in the cockpits of many different aircraft, flying most from aircraft carriers in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Larry was part of the successful naval action that kept Soviet nuclear missiles out of Cuba. He was a test pilot at Patuxent River NATC when his naval career came to a close, having transitioned from iconic World War II propellor-driven planes, to cold-war era jets, to supersonic aircraft.

Retiring from the Navy in 1965, Larry continued flying as a test pilot for Martin Marietta. Following that, he consulted for years with the Navy and other DOD agencies.

Larry left the workforce at last, but never really stopped working. An interest in geology led him to volunteer many years with the U.S. Geologic Survey. He spent countless hours active in local politics and at age 87 was awarded Member of the Year by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. He'd previously served a term as a Fairfax County Planning Commissioner and was instrumental in creating the Centreville (VA) Historic District. His desire to leave the world a better

place inspired him at 93 to write a book explaining climate change. It also sparked an interest in hydrogen fuel cells as an alternative to carbon. He started a company to explore markets for this technology.

Larry is survived by his children, Marilyn (Tom), Robert (Margaret) and Steven (Beth); nephew, James; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 66 years, Mary, and his brother, Lloyd.

Larry was interred at St. John's Episcopal Church in Centreville, VA. ★



PETER SCOTT SWANSON '49

Captain Peter S. Swanson, USN (Ret.), passed away on 10 March 2023.

"Pete" was born in Pocatello, ID, in 1926. It should be said that from an early age, Pete loved a good joke and his sense of humor stayed intact for 96 years. Here is the rest of his story:

After graduating from Pocatello High School (1944), he joined the Navy V-12 program. He was assigned to the unit at ISU and during the year there, he received an appointment from Senator Henry Dworshak to the Naval Academy.

After graduating with the Class of 1949, he went into flight training, earning his Wings in 1950 as an attack pilot. Pete served two combat tours aboard PHILIPPINE SEA and KEARSARGE. While flying combat missions as a bomber pilot in the Korean Conflict, he was shot down twice by enemy fire.

Upon his return Stateside, fortunate circumstances brought Pete together with his childhood schoolmate, DeEtte Bryan. They fell in love and married in 1953. As Navy life unfolded, they had three wonderful children.

Pete's orders took him to several posts, subsequent duty stations included: teaching math at USNA; serving in the Joint Search and Rescue Center in Pearl Harbor, HI; officer-in-charge of the Atlantic Fleet's Nuclear Warfare School in Oceana, VA; strike warfare officer, then navigator of ENTERPRISE (CVN-65); graduated with distinction at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, earning a master's degree in Computer Systems Management; head of the Aviation Statistics Branch on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; and CO, Naval Command Systems Support, Washington, DC.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Air Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (3) and the Vietnam Meritorious Unit Gallantry Cross Award.

After retirement from the Navy in 1976, Pete worked with various national security defense corporations, retiring from Computer Sciences Corporation in March 1993.

In his golden years, he and DeEtte traveled far and wide to Europe, the Caribbean and enjoyed family time at the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Seattle WA, and Shenandoah National Park along with duties as USNA Class of 1949 treasurer.

Predeceased by his beloved DeEtte in 2015, Pete is survived by their three children (and spouses), Kathleen Smith (Bert) of Silverdale, WA, Carrie Edwards (Steve) of Midlothian, VA, and Peter JB Swanson of Centreville VA; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Naval Academy Foundation, attn. USNA Class of 1949 (www.usna.com/give). ★



MARK PERRIN FRUDDEN '50

Rear Admiral Mark P. Frudden, USN (Ret.), died of natural causes at his home in San Diego, CA, on 9 January 2023. He was 95 years old.

Mark was born in Greene, IA. He attended Western Military Academy and Iowa State College before entering the Naval Academy as a member of the Ninth Company.

Following graduation with the Class of 1950, he was assigned to the destroyer GEORGE K.

MACKENZIE and immediately deployed to Korea. He subsequently served in LST-1080, LSMR-527, the heavy cruiser TOLEDO, destroyer WILKINSON and the guided missile cruiser LITTLE ROCK. He served as commanding officer of the fleet tug QUAPAW, destroyer escort CHARLES BERRY, guided missile destroyer LAWRENCE and the guided missile cruiser GRIDLEY.

Assignments ashore included aide to Commander Puget Sound Naval Shipyard; Bureau of Naval Personnel; aide and flag secretary to Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet; and during the Vietnam War, Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans to Commander Naval Forces Vietnam.

Promoted to rear admiral in 1975, his first flag assignment was as Commander Naval Forces Korea with additional duty as Senior Member, Military Armistice Commission for the United Nations Command. Following a crisis precipitated by North Korea by their brutal murder of two U.S. Army officers at Panmunjom, in a series of meetings, Mark delivered the protest to Kim Il Sung, articulated the position and demands of the U.S. government and participated in the negotiation of new security arrangements for the area.

From 1977-1979, he served in Plans Directorate of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC. His last assignment prior to retirement in 1980, was as Commander Naval Surface Group, Western Pacific and Commander Task Force 73, Subic Bay, Philippines.

Admiral Frudden attended the Naval War College Command and Staff Course, the National War College, received an MS in International Affairs from The George Washington University and an MBA from the University of Iowa.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star (in lieu of the second award), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit and the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal.

Mark was married to the former Judy Coolidge for 52 years until her death in 2002. He is survived by their sons, Scott (Tracey) and Brian (Yollie); grandchildren, Joel, Jenifer, Julia and Micaela; and his sister, Jane Templeman.

Admiral Frudden's ashes will be inurned at the Naval Academy Columbarium. ★



ROBERT IRVINE COLEMAN JR. '51

Robert I. Coleman Jr., 95, of Orlando, FL, died on 26 October 2023.

"Bob" was born in Waterbury, CT, on 26 September 1928 to Robert Irvine Coleman '25 and Kathryn (Stoker). He attended The Bullis School and received a congressional appointment from Connecticut to the Naval Academy.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1951, Bob was assigned to ABBOT (DD-629) based in Newport RI, with tours to the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Following flight training at Pensacola, FL, he was operations officer of DIACHENKO (APD-123) based

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in San Diego, CA. He served in Korea and throughout the Far East, including being on the last Navy ship to leave Haiphong, Vietnam.

Bob resigned from the Navy in 1955 and was employed in the engineering department of the Southern New England Telephone Co., New Haven, CT, until 1963 and with Southern Bell Telephone Co. (Bell South) in Orlando. From 1966, until he retired in 1990, he was a financial consultant with Shearson and succeeding firms in Orlando and Winter Park, FL, becoming a vice president.

Bob was a co-founder of the Central Florida chapter of the USNA Alumni Association (1966), its second president, and was active for many years. He was also a member of the Winter Park Racquet Club, the University Club of Winter Park, president of the Whispering Waters Association, board member of the Sky Valley (GA) Association, where he had a summer home for many years, chairman of the residents council of Village on the Green and chairman of the Brede-Wilkins Scholarship Fund.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Diana Gould Penney Coleman; his children with his first wife, Patsy Gilbert: Robin Stout (Richard), Jennifer Herod (Raymond), Robert III (Deborah) and David II (Katherine); nine grandchildren (including Robert IV '18); and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial/celebration service was held on 11 November 2023 in Longwood, FL. Inurnment will take place at a later date in the memorial garden of The First Congregational Church of Winter Park, FL, next to his parents.

Please direct memorials to: Brede-Wilkins Scholarship Fund, 500 Village Place, Village on the Green, Longwood, FL 32779.

"Life has been good to me. I lived in America. I had a long life. I did most everything I wanted to do, and a few things I didn't want to do. I had jobs I liked and a woman I loved. And four great children. Couldn't ask for more than that."

RIC Jr. '51 ★



ALEXANDER WILLIAM TODD JR. '51

Lieutenant Commander Alexander W. Todd Jr., USN (Ret.), died peacefully on 8 October 2023 in Lisle, IL. He was 95 years old.

"Alex" was born to Alec and Elsa Todd in 1928 in Vandalia, IL, and raised in Belleville, IL, near St. Louis. He was Navy bound after seeing the 1937 film, "Navy Blue and Gold," as a child. Alex earned an engineering scholarship to Cornell University and joined the Navy after his first semester. After completing Boot Camp,

Electronics School and NAPS, he gained admittance to Annapolis. As a Midshipman, Alex wrote scripts for the Public Relations Committee and directed their sports show. He also managed the lacrosse team.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1951, Alex was commissioned as a Navy ensign in the Supply Corps. During his 20-year career, he held numerous overseas postings and served on several ships, his favorite being the destroyer MOALE. Alex married Claire Garland in 1955 and together they had five daughters and a son.

Upon his retirement in 1971, Alex earned a Master of Library Science from Drexel University. He was director of the Pitman Public Library in New Jersey before moving his family to Bolingbrook, IL, to become director of the Fountaindale Public Library District in 1974. In 1986, Alex was named Illinois Librarian of the Year. After retiring (again) in 1997, Alex started a third career as a library consultant, where he continued to leave an indelible mark on Illinois libraries professionally, structurally and personally. Alex was also an active member of the Bolingbrook Rotary for over 40 years.

Alex was predeceased by his parents, Alec and Elsa; wife, Claire; and daughter, Ellen (RH) Coates. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Carol (née Chepulis); children (and spouses), Susan Georges (Basil), Nancy Todd, Diane Seef (Larry), Elaine Todd and Alexander C. Todd; grandchildren, Nicholas, Alexander (Marissa), Marnie, Matthew, Bryan, Claire, Jack (Hannah) and Benjamin; great-granddaughters, Eleanor, Gwen and Karsyn; his sister, Nancy McIntyre (Donald); and his niece, nephews and their families.

Services were held in Woodridge, IL, on 11 November 2023, followed by a private interment.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Illinois Library Association Library Luminary program (www.ila.org/donate/submit).

The Todd Family ★



DANIEL HARPER GARLAND '52

Captain Daniel H. Garland, USNR (Ret.), died on 18 October 2023 at 93 years of age.

"Dan" was born in Baton Rouge, LA, and graduated from Baton Rouge High School, Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, and the U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1952).

His working career combined 37 years as an active and reserve naval officer and 26 years with the Lubrizol Corporation. His active naval service included a combat tour as chief engineer on the destroyer JAMES E. KYES in Korea. A later assignment brought him to Ohio as commanding officer of the fleet oiler, PAWCATUCK, which underwent modernization and overhaul at American Ship Building in Lorain. PAWCATUCK was one of the largest naval ships to transit the St. Lawrence Seaway. Garland retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of captain.

At Lubrizol, he spent his career in product development and marketing involving extensive travel in the U.S. and abroad. As a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, he had a leadership role in managing standards for automotive lubricants.

Garland provided volunteer service as a tutor in Cleveland inner-city schools and later in starting and managing the volunteer tutor program in Euclid City middle schools. He also served as a volunteer at the Wade Park Veteran Medical Center, the library of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and as webmaster for the Church of the Covenant. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, belonging for many years to the Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Euclid, where he served as elder and clerk of session and later at the Church of the Covenant in Cleveland. He maintained physical fitness through active participation in running events well into his retirement years. He finished the Revco/CVS 10K race six times.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Karin Popp Garland; sons, Gregory (Colleen) of Columbus, OH, and Marcus of Mentor on the Lake, OH; and two grandchildren, Greta and Ethan.

A military funeral honors service was held on 17 November 2023 at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Seville, OH, followed by a memorial service at the Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, OH, on 18 November.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Church of the Covenant (www.covenantweb.org) or the Western Reserve Historical Society (www.wrhs.org). ★



ROBERT GEORGE DONNELLY '53

Captain Robert G. Donnelly, USN (Ret.), passed away on 24 November 2023.

Born on 16 April 1929 in San Diego, CA, "Bob" graduated from St. Augustine High School, San Diego (1947), enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Platoon Leaders Program (1948) and graduated from the Naval Academy (1949). In his Youngster Year, he was a member of Navy's undefeated 150-pound football team.

His first ship after graduation was SHIELDS (DD-596), followed by TOLEDO (CA-133), both as an engineer. In 1958, he was ordered to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, for graduate studies in physics. Bob returned to sea on TULARE (LKA-112), followed by duty in MIDWAY (CVA-41), again as engineer. In 1963, Bob chose Engineering Duty as his career specialty, then had tours in Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and postgraduate school for another advanced degree (management). He also held a JD degree from The George Washington University's National Law Center.

In 1969, Bob was ordered to U.S. Naval School, Deep Sea Divers, becoming a diving and salvage officer. On the staff of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, Bob's most challenging operation involved the salvage and repair of a destroyer damaged during operations in a Norwegian fjord above the Arctic Circle. He was USN liaison with the French and German navies for diving and salvage matters and was the USN representative with the French during their experimental dive to 2,000 feet.

Bob's last duty assignment was with the U.S. Naval Inspector General, Washington, DC.

He retired from the Navy in 1978 and joined the Enterprise Engine Division of Transamerica Corporation (San Francisco), retiring in 1992 and returning permanently to San Diego in 1995.

As a child on the San Diego beaches, Bob was introduced to the surf by his older brother. Thereafter, Bob always managed to find a way to go surfing. He surfed in Hawaii, Australia, France and England, and continued to surf regularly after retirement, well into his eighties.

Bob was also an avid pilot and skier, owning a classic V-tail Beech Bonanza, which he flew to favorite ski areas in California, Colorado and New Mexico. He crossed the United States coast-to-coast in the Bonanza upwards of 20 times.

In accordance with his wishes, Bob was cremated, and his ashes scattered over "his" beautiful Pacific, where he had spent so many pleasure-filled hours, both as surfer and naval officer.

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Elaine. He is survived by three stepchildren and six grandchildren. ★

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (with 13 Strikes), Bronze Star and Navy Achievement Medal, among numerous military recognitions.

Upon retirement, "Michael" worked for George G. Sharp, a shipbuilding firm, and later had his own general aviation operation, Bay Bridge Aviation, on Kent Island, MD. where he trained hundreds of flight students.

Michael leaves behind his second wife of 41 years, Shela Turpin-Forster of Arlington, VA; and four children from his first marriage, Mike of Adelaide, Australia (and his children, Becky, Christopher and Matthew; and grandchild, Nye), Nancy Mantzikos of Greenwich, CT (and her children, Theo and Michael), Jim of Palm Beach Gardens, FL (and his wife, Kristine; and stepsons, Alex Camp and Parker Camp) and Robert D. of Woodbridge, VA (and his wife, Shirley; and son, Robert M.). He is also survived by his younger sister, Nancy Allmers of Surf City, NJ. He was predeceased by his older sister, Grace Knapp of New Jersey and a granddaughter, Victoria Ann of Virginia.

An inurnment will take place at the Naval Academy Columbarium in 2024 with a celebration of life at a nearby location.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org). ★



WILLIAM NEWBERRY PALMER II '57

Lieutenant Commander William N. Palmer, USN (Ret.), died of complications relating to Alzheimer's disease in Melbourne, FL, on 27 September 2023. He was 89 years old.

A native of Connecticut, "Bill" graduated from Branford High in 1952. Upon completing Hilder Prep School program in Washington, DC, he received his appointment to the Naval Academy from Senator Prescott Bush.

He graduated with the Class of 1957 as a member of the Seventh Company. During June Week, Bill married Patricia Kendra Estler. They traveled to Long Beach, CA, where Bill commenced his first assignment on board ROANOKE. Bill was accepted to flight school in Pensacola, FL, where he earned his Wings.

In 1960, Bill went to NAS Norfolk as part of VP-56. During his time there, he participated in operations from Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Blockade; traveled to South America as part of the air detachment accompanying the ships of UNITAS IV; and deployed to Rota, Spain. While in Norfolk, he spent time at Dam Neck as part of the Fleet Computer Programming Center.

In 1967, Bill transferred to Barbers Point, HI, where he flew P-2s and P-3s, taking part in operational deployments during the Vietnam War. In 1970, he was assigned to Pentagon duty as Assistant Head of the Navy Information Center, supporting SecNav and CNO budget programs and the Worldwide Military Command and Control System. From 1972, until his retirement in 1977, he was stationed at NAS Patuxent River with the Naval Oceanographic Squadron and then as the Naval Air Test Center military personnel officer.

Bill worked in the private sector until 1997 as a systems analyst, supporting Naval Electronic and Defense Systems.

After his second retirement, Bill and Kendra spent years traveling the intercoastal waterway of the East Coast on their sailboat ALOHA, and later their trawler of the same name. Bill was an avid researcher of genealogy and proud of his Palmer family history. Throughout his life, Bill enjoyed playing golf.



ROBERT MICHAEL FORSTER '56

Commander Robert Michael Forster, USN (Ret.), died on 27 September 2023 at age 92.

A 1956 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, "Bob" had four tours of duty during the Vietnam War flying RA-5C Vigilante photo reconnaissance jets off aircraft carriers. He completed his naval career as commanding officer of Reconnaissance Attack Squadron One and as air boss of AMERICA (CVA-66) from 1975 to 1976. Commander

Forster completed postgraduate studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and earned a master's degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University.

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Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Kendra, in 2019. He is survived by their three children, Kendra Anne, William Robert and John Stanton (and their spouses). He lived his final five years in Melbourne, FL, with his son and daughter-in-law, "Bob" and Sharon.

His ashes were spread in Stonington, CT, at the Palmer family plot.

The Palmer Family ★



JAMES RONALD FISHER '58

Captain "Ron" Fisher, USN (Ret.) of Arlington, VA, passed away peacefully on 31 October 2023 after a courageous battle with cardiac and pulmonary disease.

Born in Bemis, TN, on 25 August 1935, he was the ninth of 13 children. After graduating from JB Young High School in 1953, he attended the University of Tennessee before entering the Naval Academy.

Following graduation near the top of his class with the 17th Company (Class of 1958), he travelled throughout Europe with four classmates before reporting to HENLEY (DD-762) for service that included a trip up the Saint Lawrence Seaway through the Great Lakes to Chicago. He entered the submarine force at the outset of the nuclear Navy in the early 1960s, with Nuclear Power Propulsion Training; S1C propulsion prototype in Windsor Locks, CT; and Submarine School (earning Honor Man). He served on SEADRAGON (SSN-584); STIMSON (SSBN-655), navigator; XO BARB (SSN-596); XO TECUMSEH (SSBN-628); and as training officer, S3G nuclear propulsion prototype in West Milton, NY.

He switched to Engineering Duty Officer at Naval Shipyard Charleston, SC; NavSeaSysCom headquarters in Arlington, VA; then as assistant inspector general before retiring in 1984. He graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (serving as a research fellow) and obtained a master's degree in business management.

After "retiring" Ron continued to develop his extensive experience in engineering, management, logistics, education and training, as well as the judicial system. He launched the Defense Fire Protection Association (DFPA), a scientific research and educational foundation dedicated to improving the safety and survivability of our military forces. He served as a volunteer at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (VA), with youth sports organizations, and he ran for political office at both the state and federal levels. He spent his later decades as an advocate for the people, committed to fairness, justice, peace and the rapid implementation of the U.N. Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). This also included a paramount shift in thinking to seek to permanently end all wars, occupations, and threats of force, and resolve disputes by pacific means.

He frequently proclaimed that he enjoyed a "charmed life" and was grateful for his upbringing in a small town and the camaraderie of his Navy experiences.

Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Lenyr Vallejo; sons, Benton (Joan), Wes (Funn), Fred (Carol) and Martin (Lauren); and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by his first wife, Margaret Corletti.

The family is planning a private service. ★



RICHARD CLARE LAWE '58

Major Richard C. Lawe, USMC (Ret.), died on 15 March 2023 in Vista, CA, after a stroke. He was 87 years old.

"Dick" was born on 20 September 1935 in San Diego, CA, and grew up on the West Coast. He graduated from Sir Francis Drake High School in San Anselmo, CA, in 1954.

Receiving a presidential appointment, he entered the Naval Academy with the Class of

1958 and was assigned to the 22nd Company. One of the highlights of that time occurred during Youngster Cruise, when he was assigned to the ship named after his father, WILLIAM C. LAWE (DD-763). His father had been a member of the ill-fated Torpedo Squadron 8 and died courageously during the Battle of Midway in World War II.

Dick was commissioned in the Marine Corps and after completing the Basic School in Quantico, VA, entered flight training in Pensacola, FL. He received his Wings in 1960 and was assigned to VMA-211 at MCAS El Toro, CA, flying the A-4 Skyhawk. The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, where he carrier qualified aboard MIDWAY. From 1963-1965, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA.

Dick twice served as a flight instructor: with Training Squadron 25 in Beeville, TX, flying the F-9F Cougar (1965-1967) and VMT-203 at MCAS Cherry Point, NC, flying the TA-4 Skyhawk (1970-1971). He was proud of having trained several future Blue Angels pilots.

Dick served two tours in Vietnam where he flew the A-4D and the OV-10 Bronco. During his second tour, he contracted Bell's Palsy on the right side of his face and returned early for medical treatment. From there, he went to Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Air Facility until his retirement in 1978.

In retirement, Dick worked for State Farm Insurance in Murrieta, CA, for many years as an agency manager. He earned his teaching credentials and taught high school math and political science. He was a member and president of the Murrieta Rotary. Dick was an avid sportsman. He loved hunting, fishing and raising Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

Dick was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Margaret Price Lawe in 2012. He is survived by their children, Valerie Lawe, Leslie Marie Shaw, Kathleen Margaret Lawe and William Clare Lawe II; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

His ashes will be scattered on Midway Island. ★



CHRISTIAN HERNDON POINDEXTER '60

"Chris" Poindexter passed away peacefully on 16 October 2023 in Severna Park, MD.

Born in Evansville, IN, to Ellen and Marlan Poindexter, he graduated from the Naval Academy with distinction with "Super '60." Five days later, he married the love of his life, Marilyn Ann Mills.

Chris served as an A-4 pilot aboard FORRESTAL (CVA-59). In 1963, he received orders from Admiral H.G. Rickover to report to Nuclear Power School and graduated first in his class. He served aboard JOHN KING (DDG-3), CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) and SELLERS (DDG-11).

Entering the private sector as a senior engineer at Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), he spearheaded the planning and licensing of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. He became treasurer of BGE after earning an

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MBA from Loyola University and served as CEO/chairman of the board until his retirement in 2003.

Chris served on 38 boards, including the USNA Foundation, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Greater Baltimore Committee, Historic Annapolis Foundation and many nuclear industry boards.

In 2000, he was named Engineer of the Year at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) College of Engineering.

Chris was active at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church in Severna Park, where he was senior warden on the church vestry and chairman of the Stewardship and Search committees.

Chris was very proud that both his sons and grandsons are Eagle Scouts. He served on the BSA National Board of Directors and was chairman of the board of the Baltimore Area Council. He was awarded the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, God and Country, the Henry Rosenberg Sr. Distinguished Citizen and the Whitney M. Young Jr. service awards.

An avid golfer, expert woodworker and award-winning photographer, Chris enjoyed taking pictures throughout his travels to 70 different countries.

Chris and Marilyn funded a professorship in Cardiology at Johns Hopkins and generously supported many institutions, including the Boy Scouts of America and the Naval Academy.

Chris is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 63 years; sons, Scott (Mary Claire) and Todd (Kristy); grandchildren, Jacob, Christian, Emily and Matthew; brother, John (Linda); and sisters, Candace Treibic (Donald) and Julia Gunn (Malcom). Chris was predeceased by his granddaughter, Catherine, and nephew, Alan.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Johns Hopkins University and Medicine Dr. Hugh Calkins Gift Fund at the Johns Hopkins Heart and Vascular Institute (<https://secure.jhu.edu/form/heart>); or the Boy Scouts of America (<https://www.baltimorebsa.org/poindexter>). ★

complete academic requirements for a PhD with Penn State U. From his family genealogy, he was a MAYFLOWER descendant and a descendant of both officers and men who served in the American Revolution.

After retiring from active duty, Lowell taught chemistry and physics at Picayune Memorial High School. He returned to the Naval Oceanographic Office as a civil service oceanographer, until retiring in 2018. His combined military and civilian service to the Navy totaled 60 years. His oceanographic work contributed to the safety and security of the Navy's nuclear submarine forces. A lifelong proponent of USNA, he served as a Naval Academy Blue and Gold officer for Southern Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

Lowell carried his love of the outdoors from his Wisconsin upbringing. He treasured sharing outdoors activities with his family.

Predeceased by his parents, Lowell is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Sandra; their children (and spouses), Christopher, Michelle (Paul) and Andrea (Brian); seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his brothers, Layne Dix and Commander Bruce C. Webb '63.

Services were held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Picayune, MS. Memorials may be made online at (www.mcdonaldfh.com). ★



HAL PHILLIPS COCKERHAM '61

Dr. Hal P. Cockerham entered The Church Triumphant on 1 November 2023.

Hal was born in Winston-Salem, NC, on 22 April 1939 to Mollye (Phillips) and Clyde Henry Cockerham. He received an appointment to the Naval Academy from Representative Thurmond Chatham.

Upon graduation with the USNA Class of 1961, he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard the destroyer CORRY (DDR-817) and the staff of the Commandant of the Fifth Naval District. During the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, he served as communication officer on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Following his naval service, Hal enrolled at UNC, Chapel Hill and graduated from the School of Dentistry in 1969. While at UNC, he was a member of Psi Omega Dental Fraternity, joined the Chapel Hill Flying Club and earned his private pilot's license. He served as club president during his senior year.

Dr. Cockerham retired from dentistry in 2015. As he looked back at his years of practice and the thousands of patients he'd treated, he was most proud that those he came to know best had truly become friends. The best part of working on teeth was to get to know the people attached to them.

Hal loved deer hunting, building and fixing things, and motorcycle riding. He rode thousands of miles with a group of dear friends known as "The Bad Apple Riders." In 2005, he and some of the group rode to Alaska. He and two others rode as far north as the Arctic Circle. The following year, he went to New Zealand and toured with a motorcycle group. In 2007, he and five other "Bad Apples" rode in the Austrian and Italian Alps.

Hal grew up in the Baptist faith but found fulfillment when he joined New Philadelphia Moravian Church in 1996 and transferred membership to Friedberg Moravian in 2019. He believed that to be happy in a church was to be involved. During his years as a member of New Philadelphia, he was a Sunday school teacher, a class president, a member of the building committee, an elder, a trustee and a member of the chancel choir.

LOWELL ELLIOT WEBB '60

Lieutenant Commander Lowell E. Webb, USN (Ret.), 86, of Picayune, MS, passed away on 30 November 2023, after a short illness.

Lowell was born in Bloomer, WI, on 16 December 1936, to Charles Willard and Norma (Lane) Webb. After graduation from Bloomer High School in 1954, he attended Northwest Preparatory School in Minneapolis, MN. He received a congressional appointment



to Annapolis, where he rowed crew his Plebe and Youngster years. After an injury, he competed in intramural sports. He was in the Third Company and was affectionately called "Shags" for his receding hairline. He had a sharp wit and fine sense of humor.

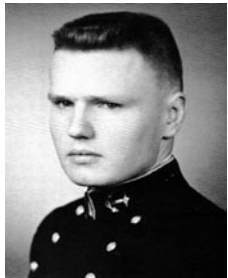
Commissioned as an ensign, he became a Surface Warfare Officer. He married Sandra DiStefano on 29 April 1962 after she graduated from Baltimore's St. Agnes Nursing School.

Over Lowell's 20-year career he served aboard JOHN W. WEEKS (chief engineer), and BOXER and JOHN F. KENNEDY (chief meteorologist). He earned a master's degree in physics from the Naval Postgraduate School, specializing in Air Ocean Environment. He served a combat tour in Vietnam as OIC of a patrol boat river (PBR) unit in the Mekong Delta. He changed his specialty to Oceanography/Meteorology and his subsequent assignments in that field were mostly with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. During shore assignments, he managed to

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He is survived by his wife, Sterling Johnson Cockerham; son, Hal P. Cockerham Jr. (Nicole); and grandsons, Jacob Owen and Joshua Luke Cockerham.

Memorials may be made to Friedberg Moravian Church, 2178 Friedberg Church Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27127 (www.friedberg.church); or Trellis Supportive Care (www.trellissupport.org). ★



WALTER FREDERICK STROBACH '61

Lieutenant Commander "Walt" Strobach, USN (Ret.), passed away on 7 June 2023 in Mechanicsville, VA. He was 84 years old.

Born in Jamaica, NY, on 8 March 1939, he was the son of Walter and Catherine Strobach. A tri-sport athlete at Brooklyn Tech, he excelled particularly in football as running back his senior year, leading his team to an undefeated season and a NYC Championship as the

league's highest scorer. Walt's gridiron exploits earned him a coveted appointment to USNA and a spot on a Navy football team that was a perennial top-10 NCAA Division I squad. His First Class year, they finished ranked No. 4 in the country, including an appearance in the Orange Bowl. While at Annapolis, he was also a starter on the Navy baseball team. He maintained ties with both teams via alumni events throughout his life.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1961, Walt married his sweetheart, Cookie Shea (daughter of John Shea '32) and served 20 years as a nuclear submariner aboard ASPRO, ETHAN ALLEN, SIMON BOLIVAR and HENRY STIMSON, and at duty stations in Groton, Charleston, Honolulu, Pascagoula and Norfolk.

After the Navy, Walt worked in real estate, mortgage lending and education. He earned a master's degree in information systems technology from The George Washington University in 1977.

Most importantly to Walt, he spent the largest portion of his last years on his deep Catholic faith. As well as being a daily Mass attendee, he was extensively involved with the Richmond Diocese Prison Ministry, served on the parish council and as a religious education instructor, and participated in the Knights of Columbus.

Walt is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Sharon "Cookie" Strobach; their children, Walter F. "Rick" Strobach Jr., Sharon "Sweetie" Hooios, Susan Fisher, Stasia Strobach and Commander Michael Strobach, USNR. He was predeceased by his son, Michael "Michael the First" Strobach. His 17 grandchildren include Eric Strobach (an 8-year Navy veteran), Virginia Strobach, Lieutenant Samuel Strobach '19, USN, David Strobach, Kate Hooios, Meg Hooios, Jake Hooios, Matt Hooios, Alex Fisher, Catherine Fisher, Molly Fisher, Midshipman 2/C Luke Strobach (UVA NROTC '25), Elizabeth Strobach, Charles Strobach, Mae Caroline Strobach, Danielle Strobach and Victoria Strobach.

Walt's ashes will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined.

The Strobach Family ★



JERRY MORGAN BLESCH '62

Captain Jerry M. Blesch, USN (Ret.), "crossed the ship's brow" for the final time when he passed away on 27 November 2023 in Lexington, KY. He was 85 years old.

Jerry was born on 9 May 1938, to Albert and Anne Blesch and raised in Fort Thomas, KY. He lived with integrity and operated at 100% in everything he did. He treated everyone with respect, and he knew no strangers – after

meeting him you became an instant "friend."

He attended Centre College in Danville, KY, where he was active in Beta Theta Pi fraternity. After a year at Centre, he was accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a naval officer. At Annapolis, he was a member of the 10th and 16th companies.

Jerry went on to serve a distinguished 30-year Navy career, including four command tours: RICHARD L. PAGE (FFG-5), recognized as the Atlantic Fleet's outstanding ship while under Jerry's command; PUGET SOUND (AD-38), the U.S. Sixth Fleet's flagship; and Destroyer Squadron 25 in Pearl Harbor, HI, during which time Jerry served as the on-scene commander during the United States' response to the Soviet downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 in 1983. The highlight of Jerry's career was being named commanding officer of WISCONSIN (BB-64), during its recommissioning and service in the Persian Gulf War.

Jerry never slowed down after retiring from the Navy in 1991. He served on the USNA Alumni Association's Board of Directors in the Admission Matching Program and the national chief executive officer of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was active on the board for his local Salvation Army (and rang that bell!), Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers of America, as well as The Presbyterian Church of Danville, KY, and Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Northern Kentucky. He played golf and tennis into his 80s, still gardening, networking and mentoring.

Jerry is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Karen Kibler Blesch; their three children, David Blesch (Linda) of Dallas, TX, Commander Patrick Blesch, USN (Ret.) (Deanna) of Columbus, OH, and Stephanie Blesch Burke (Kendra) of Fort Mitchell, KY; two grandsons, Samuel Burke and William Burke; and his sister, JoAnne Blesch Bootes of Danville, KY.

He was last seen Sunday night before his passing, walking Karen to their room, hand in hand. ★



WILLIAM FERGUSON STORY '62

Captain William F. Story, USN (Ret.), died on 8 May 2023, one day before his 83rd birthday.

"Will" was born in Philadelphia and grew up in rural northern New Jersey. He was a direct descendant of Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story. He attended Harrow School in England and graduated in the Naval Academy Class of 1962. While at the Naval Academy, he sailed 44' Luders yawls, captaining SWIFT in the 1962

Bermuda Race.

Upon graduation, Will reported to BOSTON (CAG-1). He next attended Naval Destroyer School, then joined BARRY (DD-933) as weapons officer when the ship deployed to Vietnam from the U.S. East Coast. Will attended the Naval Postgraduate School, graduating in 1968 with a degree in Operations Research. His subsequent assignment was at the Center for Naval Analyses.

MEMORIAL AFFAIRS RESOURCES

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In 1970, Will took command of MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST-1032), his second tour in Vietnam. He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College and next served as commissioning executive officer of AYLWIN (DE-1081). Between 1973 and 1977, he had Pentagon assignments in the offices of the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Navy.

In 1977, Will took command of BOWEN (FF-1079). Under his leadership, BOWEN earned the Battle Efficiency "E." After two further Pentagon tours and attending National War College, in 1984 Will took command of Destroyer Squadron 36. He then became Chief of Staff of Aircraft Carrier Group 2. Subsequently, he was assigned as commanding officer of Tactical Training Group, Atlantic. In 1992, he completed his 30-year career serving as chief of staff of the Atlantic Fleet Training Command.

Upon retirement, Will and Martha moved to beautiful Holly Cove in wonderful Mathews County, Virginia. Will began retirement by crossing the Atlantic three times in sailboats shorter than 60'. He also sailed on both the East and West coasts of North America. His favorite of all was cruising the Chesapeake with Martha aboard their beloved FABULA.

Will is survived by his wife of 59 years, Martha van Beuren Story; their daughters, Jessica Story and Alexandra Story Scarlett; and grandchildren, William Story Scarlett and Sarah Jane Scarlett.

The Story Family ★

He married Barbara Ann Jun on 21 September 1963, in San Diego. They loved travelling and retired in beautiful Ellison Bay, WI (Door County).

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, and his parents, Nial and Elaine. He is survived two daughters, Ann Gaeta (Tom) and Susan Noble (Patrick), both of Whitefish Bay, WI; six grandchildren; a brother, Tom Tidball (Kaye); and cousin, Jan Stephens (Anna), among other cousins.

A memorial service is being planned for the spring.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org) or Objective Veterans' Smile (www.objectiveveterans-smile.org). ★



DAVID GEORGE STEPHAN '63

David G. Stephan of Winter Springs, FL, passed away peacefully on 2 October 2023, with his family beside him.

Born to Hazel and Kenneth Stephan in Minneapolis, MN, in 1941, he grew up in Southern Minnesota. During high school in Rushford, MN, he decided to enlist in the Navy. While in Boot Camp, he was approached about a possible appointment to the Naval Academy.

He returned to high school, graduated in 1959, and reported to Annapolis. Having come from such a small school, he developed determination and perseverance in tackling the academics. He graduated with an engineering degree in 1963, and that spring, married Judy Peterson.

David and Mary Stephan were married in 1982 and recently celebrated 41 years as a blended stepfamily. David pursued a career in government contracts in the computer industry, which took him all over Western Europe involved in business development for Control Data Corporation. Thus began his lifelong love of travel. Working also in Florida, then moving to the Washington, DC, area, opened up another 15 years of blessings, and their personal travel began in earnest!

David and Mary built a new home in Herndon, VA, before they simplified life and moved to a houseboat in downtown Washington, DC, for two years. They later moved into a motorhome, until his retirement in 1998. After a six-month trip in the motorhome, they settled in Florida, living most of that time in Hacienda Village, Winter Springs. Together, David and Mary established a travel business, specializing in riverboat cruising in Europe, enjoying many trips with family, friends and customers.

A major highlight for David was his USNA 50th class reunion in 2013. He supported the Academy through the Class of 1963 Foundation and the Class of '63 Center for Academic Excellence. David appreciated any assistance midshipmen could be given to compete and thrive in such an environment.

David loved music, playing accordion at church for 11 years and re-discovered a love for painting. Recent years had been quieter, at home, enjoying memories of a lifetime and his family.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; his sons, Kevin (Deb), Michael and Patrick (Jennifer); his grandchildren, Corey (Olivia), Jeremy, Ian and Jacqueline; and great-grandchildren, Auggie and Lucy.

His greatest joy with Mary had been letting their life and faith unfold in Jesus Christ. His family appreciates your prayers as they bid him "fair winds and following seas."

The Stephan Family ★



ROBERT NIAL TIDBALL '62

Lieutenant Commander Robert N. Tidball, USNR (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 24 November 2023 in Grafton, WI. He was 84 years old.

Born on 15 January 1939, in Brookings, SD, to Nial Edward and Elaine Caroline (Linguist) Tidball, "Bob" grew up in Aberdeen. Attending South Dakota State University (one year) prior to USNA, Bob graduated in 1962 (23rd Company).

He served on WILKINSON (DL-5); the Brown Water Navy Riverine Force, patrolling Vietnam's Mekong Delta; and ended instructing at U.S. Naval Training Center in San Diego, CA. He left active duty as a lieutenant in 1969 and later retired from the Reserves.

Bob was awarded the Bronze Star Medal w/Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat V, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Vietnam Service Ribbon, Vietnamese Citations with Award of Cross of Gallantry (Brigade Level) w/Bronze Star (2) and a Combat Action Ribbon.

He received an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1971 and then held various management/executive positions: Gould, Inc. Lease Operations (president—Tiger Financial Services; VP/GM—North America Car Corporation); EVP—Hunter Keith and President—Packer River subsidiary; CEO and chairman of the board—PLM International, Inc. in San Francisco, CA. He also served on several rail industry association boards.

Active personally and in his community, he enjoyed: Chicago Bears season tickets for 40+ years; Navy football games; a love of horses instilled by his father; good books; board games with grandchildren and watching their sporting events. He was post commander of VFW Post #8337 in Liberty Grove; Liberty Grove Town Board, Finance Committee and Fire Board; Sister Bay Lions Club; oversaw the bike program for Door County seasonal workers; Stella Maris parish choir in Sister Bay; and for seven years, hosted the Cowboy Church in his barn with a preacher, musicians and singers, with 70 or more attendees during the tourist season.



GEORGE ALAN KENT '65

Captain George A. Kent, USN (Ret.), of Cambridge, MA, died on 16 November 2023 from dementia. He was 80 years old.

Born in Ames, IA, the son of George C. and Ruth Olson Kent, he moved with his family to Ithaca, NY, as a small child. He graduated from Ithaca High School in 1961 and reported to the Naval Academy. During First Class Year, George was in the 14th Company. Because of

his scholarly accomplishments, George, was known to all of his classmates and appreciated by many for his generous help with academics. George graduated first in his class in 1965. A Burke Scholar, he received his PhD in applied math from Brown University in 1971.

George served 30 years in the Navy, first on five submarines, then in research and development of submarine systems.

He retired in 1995 and moved to Cambridge, MA. He worked at Towers Perrin in Boston and became a pension actuary. George tutored math and science at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and played tuba in the Cambridge Community Band. An ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church, George sang in church choirs almost his entire life.

George is survived by his loving wife, Mary Louise "Loulie" Hoffman Kent; son, George Peter Kent (Velida); daughter, Elizabeth Louise Kent; grandchildren, Elina, Georgiy and Jana Kent; as well as his sister, Ann Witztum; and brother, Thomas Kent.

According to his wishes, George was cremated and a graveside service for the family took place in Ithaca. ★



DOUGLAS EDWIN THOMPSON '66

Douglas E. Thompson died in Alamogordo, NM, on 4 October 2023.

Always a lover of music, particularly blues and jazz, Doug greatly enjoyed his time as disc jockey for the Naval Academy radio station, where he billed himself on air as, "The Mad Monk of the Marble Monastery."

Following graduation in 1966, Doug trained as a Navy pilot. Piloting the A-4 was probably

the highlight of his life and he flew numerous missions over Vietnam in the late 1960s. He often told the story of taking off from the carrier while the ship was headed downward in heavy swells as he was attempting to become airborne. The plane performed superbly (and so did he) and he survived by a hair's breadth.

Doug was an innovator and chance taker and never seemed daunted by would-be setbacks.

He met his future wife, Virginia, while at the Naval Postgraduate school in Monterey, CA, in 1970, introduced by a fellow student due to their mutual interest in the game of bridge.

His last military posting was at the Naval Air Test Facility in Lakehurst, NJ, and he left the Navy in May 1972.

That year, Doug and Virginia set out in a pop top VW camper, intending on driving all the way from southern California to the southern tip of South America. It was a wonderful journey, particularly exploring Mayan sites throughout central America that were largely undeveloped at that time. In Panama, they altered their plan and boarded a freighter crossing to Europe at Christmastime.

Doug piloted small planes for a number of years. His interest in all things aviation never waned. He became an international service representative for Cessna in Wichita, KS, and eventually was an engineer at Boeing in Wichita. Doug also started a recording studio (Brickbarn) north of Wichita. After retiring to Alto, NM, in 2000, he started a business refinishing log homes with a specialized product (Wood Iron) and eventually got into the business of selling and erecting steel buildings.

He had been a Ham radio operator since the age of 13 and was very active in White Mountain Search and Rescue during his early years in Alto, and later in the Sierra Blanca Amateur Radio Club. He was a whiz at all things computers and technical.

Doug is survived by his wife, Virginia; their son, Adam; and two grandsons, Brody and Hayden.

His presence, calm and talents are sorely missed. ★



FRANK BAKER MELSON JR. '70

"Baker" Melson passed away on 6 August 2023 in St. Louis, MO, at age 76 after trying very hard to give cancer a swift kick in the ass. He was surrounded by his wife of 52 years, Wanda; children, Rita and Don and their spouses, and his six grandchildren.

Baker was born on 29 August 1946 in Arlington, VA, to the late Josephine and Frank Melson. He grew up in Virginia and enlisted in

the Navy after graduating from Washington and Lee High School. Baker attended the Naval Preparatory School, then progressed to the Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1970. One of his favorite sports at Annapolis was crew.

Baker met Wanda Gray in Pensacola, FL, during flight school training. They married on 26 June 1971 and together they traveled the world. He was a part of many squadrons, including the Hoot Owls in Key West, FL, and VA-93 in Yokosuka, Japan. He flew five different jets, his favorite being the A-5. Career highlights include serving as CAG LSO and as commanding officer of an amphibious squadron. Baker retired in 1990 out of Coronado, CA, after a successful 21-year career.

One memorable Navy moment was doing a Tiger Cruise with his son from Hawaii to San Diego. Rough seas caused sea sickness and speakers to fall off walls onto Don's head; that sure was an event that would never be forgotten by either of them.

After retiring from the Navy, Baker continued serving (commanding) young people and teaching the concept of having pride in your work. Many employees have fond memories of him as their boss from Baker's time owning a Chick-fil-A and working in facilities management at Northwest Missouri State University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Auburn University and the University of West Florida.

Baker fully retired to Pensacola, FL, where he loved creating stained glass, boating and volunteering at the National Naval Aviation Museum. The museum was a particular joy. He enjoyed being able to introduce visitors and his grandchildren to the fun of being a fighter pilot and serving your country.

Baker is survived by his wife, Wanda; daughter, Rita Kipp (John); son, Don Melson (April); grandchildren, Peyton, Josie, Isaac, Xander, Ethan and Erik; his sister, Kitsie Ballard; and brother, John Melson.

Baker's memorial took place at Ft. Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL, on 12 January 2024 with full military honors.

The Melson Family ★



ROBERT BENNETT THOMPSON JR. '70

Robert B. Thompson Jr. passed away on 1 June 2023 in Richmond, VA, after a six-month battle with cancer.

“Bob” was born in Miller Beach, IN, on 5 February 1948 to Robert Sr. and Vivian Thompson, the middle child of three. Upon graduation from Wirt High School in Gary, IN, where he was a stand-out tailback on the football team and accomplished swimmer,

Bob received a congressional appointment to the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1970. He played football his Plebe Year but sustained a career-ending injury against Syracuse. After recovering, Bob rediscovered his true love: sailing. He joined the Naval Academy sailing and offshore team, avidly sailing for the next three years and completing one trans-Atlantic race.

In August 1970, Bob married Stephanie Jo Michalec of Tampa, FL. They made homes in Annapolis and Centreville, MD, and had one son, Nathaniel, in 1979.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, Bob service-selected Surface Warfare and was assigned to BELKNAP (CG-26) as main propulsion assistant. He completed cruises to the Mediterranean, North Atlantic and Caribbean. After leaving BELKNAP, Bob returned to the Naval Academy, where he taught Seamanship and Navigation for two years. While there, he coached the offshore sailing team, completing voyages to Newport, Bermuda and ports beyond.

In 1978, Bob separated from the Navy and began work at Annapolis-based ARINC, focusing on satellite data and voice communications. In 1993, he was offered an opportunity to work for INMARSAT, based out of London, England, so Bob moved his family to greater London for five years. After returning to the United States in 1998, he resumed working for ARINC, where he eventually retired to continue part time satellite communications consulting work.

Bob was passionate about restoring old houses, having taken on two 18th century restorations in Centreville, MD, and bringing them back to life with Stephanie. He was happiest on the water, though, and could always be found sailing or boating on the inlets and rivers of Maryland and Virginia whenever he could. In his final years, he joined the Old Bay Club in Richmond, VA, sailing Caledonia yawls up and down the East Coast.

Bob is survived by his wife, Stephanie; his older sister, Nora; younger sister, Martha; son, Nathaniel '02; daughter-in-law, Darcy; and granddaughter, Molly.

A memorial was held for Bob in Richmond, VA, on 4 November 2023. ★



BRADLEY THOMAS WHITE '70

Commander Bradley T. White, USN (Ret.), of Springfield, IL, passed away peacefully on 14 September 2023 in Manassas, VA.

“Brad” was born on 1 July 1947 in Springfield, IL, to Geraldine Bradley White and John Barrett White. In a high school report, he once wrote “whatever path I take in life, I wish to be a success.” Bradley White would become the living personification of that statement. His many

successes in life included becoming a United States Navy commander, SH-2G helicopter engineer and naval liaison, helicopter pilot, general practice attorney, award winning vineyard owner and operator, accomplished musician, and a husband and father of four. Brad accomplished all of this before the age of 54.

Brad was a 1970 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and proudly served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, where he worked as a test pilot and was involved in the design of the Kaman SH-2 Seasprite helicopter. During his military career, Brad also attended law school at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

After his retirement from the Navy, he worked as a general practice attorney for many years in Manassas, VA, and became known as one of the top defense lawyers in the state of Virginia.

Brad was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a parishioner at All Saints Church in Manassas, VA. During the later part of his life, Brad was cared for by the dedicated and compassionate staff of the Caton Merchant House and by his dear friends, Jack and Anne Southard.

In his spare time, Brad enjoyed hobbies such as traveling, winemaking, music, photography, being involved with his church and other philanthropic programs and spending time with his family and friends.

Brad is survived by his sister, Marilyn White Vaughan; four children, Kathleen White Kowalski, Bradley White, Brendan White and Allison White; and five grandchildren, Susan White, Gunner White, River White, Brodie Kowalski and Dylan Kowalski.

Memorial services were conducted on 23 October 2023 at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA, followed by interment at Quantico National Cemetery.

The White Family ★



ROBERT STEPHEN AYERS '71

“Steve” Ayers, age 73, passed away on Saturday, 21 October 2023, at his home in New York City. He had been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and succumbed quickly. His wife, Elizabeth, was by his side.

Steve was born on 2 May 1950 in Coronado, CA, to Fran (Walulik) and Commander Bill Ayers '48. His father was a navy pilot, so Steve grew up in “naval aviation” and lived in Coronado,

Annapolis, MD, Oceana VA, suburban Washington, DC, and Anchorage, AK. He attended high school in Anchorage and was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1967. Steve was the second youngest member of his class. He thrived as a Midshipman in the 16th Company, majored in Economics and graduated in 1971.

Steve was commissioned into the Navy Supply Corps, attended Submarine School and was assigned to NARWHAL (SSN-671). He made numerous patrols, deployed to the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and was most proud of earning his Dolphins. He later served at the Naval Sea Systems Command and simultaneously earned an MBA from The George Washington University. He completed his active duty service in 1976.

Steve spent most of his professional career with SAIC in Washington and San Diego. He became Senior Vice President of Contracts and Purchasing and contributed significantly to SAIC's growth and success. He was widely respected by co-workers, customers and competitors and also served as president of the National Contracts Management Association.

In retirement, Steve divided his time between New York and San Diego. He especially enjoyed living across from Central Park, where he walked with Elizabeth and a steady stream of visitors. In San Diego, he was an avid sailor and golfer, and pursued his lifelong love of music as guitarist for “The Great Jones Band.” He once remarked, “We're pretty good, not great, but who cares?” He remained active in Rotary and was a member on the USNA Class of 1971 Board of Trustees.

LAST CALL

Steve is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; daughters, Samantha Ayers and Caitlin Dupre (Nick); grandson, Declan "Dex" Dupre; his sisters, Johnna Goulding (Bill '73) and Shelly Jones; three nephews; and a niece. He also leaves behind a world of friends in the United States and Europe who will greatly miss him, but have had a better life for having known him. ★



FRANCIS MITCHELL WNEK '71

Francis M. Wnek, 74, died following a short battle with melanoma in Harpswell, ME, on 11 November 2023.

A native of Middletown, CT, "Frank" graduated from Cumberland (RI) High School and entered the Academy following a congressional appointment. A member of the 30th and 12th companies, Frank was a member of the Catholic choir and the lightweight crew

team and graduated in 1971 with a degree in aeronautical engineering.

His dream was to fly but Frank failed his initial eye exam and, following graduation, was commissioned and served on DETROIT (AOE-4) until he passed a second eye exam and earned his Navy Wings in May 1975. His first assignment flying P-3s was VP-8 in NAS Brunswick, ME, where he and his new wife, Meredith, discovered Maine and their strong relationship with that state.

After assignments in Hawaii, earning a master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Navy Department OpNav in the Pentagon, Frank resigned his commission as a commander.

He then began a 26-year career with American Airlines, where in his ninth year, he was promoted to captain and flew MD-80, 737, 757 and later, 767 aircraft, flying primarily to Europe out of Boston.

Concurrent to joining American Airlines, Frank and family relocated to Harpswell, ME, where they built their dream house overlooking Harpswell Sound. His sons settled into their early years there and both graduated from Colby College, while Meredith started a career with LL Bean.

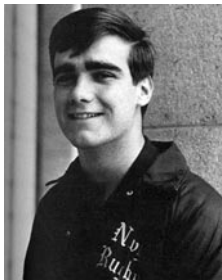
Frank found his leisure passions drew him to become an owner of a classic Morgan British motor car, and he became an avid saltwater fly fisherman for striped bass in the nearby coves surrounding his home (always catch and release).

In retirement, Frank served six years on the board of directors of OASIS, a local medical and dental non-profit. An active member of St. John the Baptist, he chaired the Social Justice and Peace Commission and was a member of the Finance Committee. He also volunteered at Owls Head Transportation Museum as one of the "Hangar Boys," working on the museum's fleet of WWI-era aircraft. An accomplished piano and guitar player, he also produced and recorded numerous CD tributes, both solo and with several old Academy buddies.

Predeceased by Meredith in February 2023, Frank is survived by their sons, Chris (Cate) and Andrew (Christina); and grandchildren, Tucker, Finn, Amelia and Audrey.

Services took place at St. John the Baptist on 28 November 2023. ★

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THOMAS FRANCIS GORMAN JR. '73

Commander Thomas F. Gorman, USN (Ret.), died unexpectedly on 4 October 2023 in Knoxville, TN. He was 72 years old.

"Tom" was born in Newark, NJ, on 21 September 1951. He was the son of Thomas Sr. and Joan Daley Gorman. Although originally from New Jersey, the Gorman family moved to Parkersburg, WV, and Tom received his appointment to the Naval Academy from

West Virginia.

In high school, Tom was an outstanding student and a natural leader. He participated in Up with People. He aced the SAT - a perfect 1600. He could have gone anywhere, and we are fortunate that he chose USNA.

Tom was sworn into the Navy with the Class of 1973 in June of 1969. He was a physics major. As you would expect, Tom was a slash and wore stars. Course work was easy for Tom. He would cruise through the subjects that the rest of us would sweat blood over. He was musically talented and played a 12-string beautifully. Tom was also an avid skier and the starting prop on Navy's rugby team.

Upon graduation, Tom selected the submarine service. He served on BARB and ETHAN ALLEN (Blue). He was then chief engineer of SWORDFISH, XO of CHICAGO and CO of INDIANAPOLIS. Tom retired in 1995.

After retirement, he first worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Y-12, then left to work as a consultant for Ontario Power Generation at Pickering Plant B in Toronto. He later returned to Oak Ridge and opened his own consulting company, Trident Technologies.

Tom is survived by Shannon, his wife of 48 years; daughters, Jillian, Kelly and Tara; son, Thomas III; and 12 grandchildren, Brad, Reece, Kathryn, Ella Grace, Jacob, Christopher, Andrew, William, Theodore, Laurel, Noah and Emma. He is also survived by his loving sisters, Ellen and Joanne; and the large extended Gorman clan.

He enjoyed hosting kids, grandkids and their friends for the weekends at his lake house. He became a soccer enthusiast and loved watching his son and grandchildren play the beautiful game.

Tom was a good man with many talents and a generous heart. He will be missed by those who knew him, but most especially by the '73 Seventh Company Seadogs. We will see you on the other side, Brother.

A celebration of life was held in Knoxville on 21 October 2023. Seadogs were in attendance.

John M. Kenny '73 ★



JACK LYNN RICKMAN '79

Lieutenant Colonel Jackie Lynn Rickman, USMC (Ret.), died on 14 November 2023 of pancreatic cancer at home in Escondido, CA, with his wife, Pat, by his side. He was 67 years young.

Jack was born in Morristown, TN. He graduated with the last all male Naval Academy class, 1979, and was a member of 23rd Company. He played briefly for the baseball team and was a history major.

He graduated TBS and served as an admin officer for Cherry Point Air Station, NC; 3rd Marine FSG Okinawa; Headquarters Marine Corps (twice); Quantico OCS; 1st Marine Div Camp Pendleton, CA (twice); and the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey CA. He retired after 22 years of service.

Seeking to delve deeper in his faith, Jack graduated from Gateway Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2007. He became pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, a position he held for 24 years until his passing. His ministry bloomed far beyond the pulpit, extending to a prison ministry, community projects, close relationships with his congregation and even sharing the bounty from his backyard garden of fresh vegetables to community food pantries. If he could do anything to help a person in need, Jack did everything in his power to make it happen. He read the Bible, knew the Bible, and most importantly, lived the Bible.

"Family first, God above all, and country forever," exemplifies what Jack stood for. He was devoted to Pat, Beth, Scott and his extended families. Being a pastor was his passion and calling. He served his Lord and Savior. He loved his country and served her well.

Jack is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years, Pat; daughter, Elizabeth Rickman of Point Reyes, CA; son, Scott Rickman of Boise, ID; his extended family in Tennessee and Maryland, with whom they visited often; his beloved church family, who visited and prayed for their pastor and friend; and a host of life-long friends, many of whom traveled to fellowship, reminisce and lend a hand with Jack and Pat during his last few weeks.

A celebration of life was held at Bethel Baptist Church in Escondido, CA, on 9 December 2023 with interment at Miramar National Cemetery with full military honors on 15 December.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Bart Sparks '79 & Jean Henderson ★



REGINALD EUGENE TRASS '80

Commander Reginald E. Trass, USNR (Ret.), passed away in Grand Blanc, MI, on 5 November 2023, at the age of 65.

Known to his family as "Reg" and to his friends as "Reggie," he was born to the late Joshua and Ethel Trass on 28 March 1958 in Gary, IN, the seventh of eight children.

Reginald graduated in 1976 from Roosevelt High School as an honor student and two-sport athlete. He received a nomination from his congressional representative to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. As a member of the Class of 1980, he made lifelong friends at Annapolis.

Reginald earned an engineering degree and selected surface warfare as his naval profession. He served eight years on two cruiser type ships and was an instructor of naval science at Old Dominion and Hampton universities. He earned an MBA while he was at Hampton University.

Reginald served in the U.S. Navy on active duty for eight years and Reserves for 15 years, retiring from the military after 23 years of service and achieving the rank of commander. After separating, Reginald embarked upon a successful management career working in manufacturing and as an efficiency expert (Six Sigma certified). Some of the corporations he worked for included, Corning, Ford Motor Company, Navistar International, Liebherr, Ingersoll Rand, Meridian Yachts, Merck Pharmaceutical, and finally, as plant manager for Delta Faucets in Lapeer, MI.

Reginald was united in marriage to Maritha Riley in November 1987. This union was blessed with their only child, Alyssa Regina Trass, born on

30 December 1993. All who knew Reginald knew that Alyssa was his pride and joy and they often traveled together.

Reginald took up golf and it quickly became his favorite pastime, with many early morning tees spanning over the past 35 years. He was a high school sports referee for both football and basketball. He took up motorcycling to save money; he could be frugal at times.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Maritha; daughter, Alyssa; brothers, Kenneth (Deidra) and Karl; sister, Toni Lynn; sisters-in-law, Dorothy "Dot" and Gloria; mother-in-law, Margaret Riley; a host of nieces and nephews; and finally, his best friends, Harry Coker, Janie Mines, Lawrence Bell and Stanley Cooper.

Reginald was a larger-than-life character, and he lived his life to the fullest. May he rest in peace.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 14 December 2023, followed by inurnment at the USNA Columbarium. ★



CRAIG OWEN HARDIN '82

Commander Craig O. Hardin, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 10 August 2023 in San Diego, CA. He was 63 years old.

Craig was born in 1960 in Seattle, WA, to David and Kathleen Hardin. Growing up, he was a sailor, lifeguard, swim coach, water polo player and competitive swimmer, setting many state records. With his deep love for water and travel, it was no surprise to find that he was destined to

attend the United States Naval Academy.

Craig was commissioned as an ensign upon graduating from USNA in 1982, and would go on to become a naval aviator, flying the P-3 Orion.

After serving 12 years of active duty, Craig transitioned to reserve status and joined the intelligence community, serving his country for over 28 years. Working in Intelligence, he contributed immensely to a multitude of leadership positions that positively impacted the readiness of our nation's security. In 2001, Craig earned a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, which would help drive his career as a DoD contractor for almost 20 years.

Family meant everything to Craig. He was a compassionate brother, supporting his younger sibling, Neil, in all that he did. His love of family grew through the births of his two children, with whom he ensured to instill his same passions for the water and traveling. In 2012, Craig met his life partner, Lori, and together they shared an aspiration for adventure, travel and wine. As a couple, Craig and Lori also enjoyed volunteering to support local businesses and schools. He never missed an opportunity to support those who he loved.

Predeceased by his parents, Craig is survived by his daughter, Kirstin Porter (and her spouse, Drew); son, Alec Hardin (and his wife, Jennifer); his life partner, Lori Adour; brother, Neil Hardin; and two grandchildren, Grayson and Kensington.

Services were held at Tahoma National Cemetery on 6 October 2023. A Celebration of Life will be held in the near future in San Diego, CA, to celebrate the remarkable life of our partner, father, friend and hero, Craig. He will be dearly missed each day but will be remembered as a dedicated man; dedicated to his family, to his work and to his country.

In Craig's eternal memory, we will forever hear him cheer, "Go Navy, Beat Army!" ★

LAST CALL



GEORGE MICHAEL McNAMARA '82

George M. McNamara passed away on 19 October 2022.

He was a loving and faithful son, brother, husband, Dad, Pop Pop, nephew, cousin, uncle, shipmate, career law enforcement officer, public defender and so much more — a genuine friend to all who knew him. Most importantly, George was a faith-filled son of God.

"Mac" strove for excellence in all areas of his life, selflessly giving his best for family, community and country— always for the benefit and goodwill of others. Following his graduation from Old Mill High School (near his hometown of Annapolis, MD) in 1977, George was selected to attend the USNA Preparatory School at Newport, RI. Completing this rigorous 10-month course of instruction that encompassed demanding academic, military and physical standards of excellence, George received a highly competitive appointment to the prestigious United States Naval Academy, entering with the Class of 1982 alongside of 1,200+ shipmates. He loved being a Naval Academy midshipman, serving with great pride and distinction, alongside his life-long buddies, his fellow shipmates. Completing his second year at the Naval Academy, George prayerfully decided to embark upon a new career path, to pursue his lifetime dream to become a law enforcement officer, serving in the Tampa, FL, community. Although his time at USNA was short, Mac's love of life, fun, mischief, and caring spirit left a lasting legacy for all, especially with his Fourth Company shipmates.

Throughout his 29+ years of distinguished service, George was recognized for his caring and selfless service, receiving numerous civic and departmental awards and successive promotions to positions of greater responsibility. As a direct result of his superior performance, George was selected for promotion to serve as a major (one of only three) leading and serving Tampa Police Department's 1,500+ law enforcement officer force.

Following his retirement from the Tampa Police Department, he served several years, with distinction, within the Hillsborough County Public Defender's Office.

George especially enjoyed sharing priceless time with his loving family and many friends. He loved hosting and cooking for his family and friends, as well as enjoying watching just about every sport, with a delicious bowl of ice cream or popcorn.

George's larger-than-life legacy is lovingly carried forward by his wife, Michelle; son, Michael (Bridget); daughters, Mary (Bryan) and Erin (Chris); his five beautiful grand babies; and numerous loving family members and countless friends around the world.

The McNamara Family ★



BLAKE JAMES ROPER '14

Captain Blake J. Roper, Jamaica Defence Force, passed away tragically on 10 June 2023 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Born on 28 February 1992, Blake attended Liberty Preparatory and St. Hugh's Preparatory schools for his early education, moving on to Campion College and The Wolmer's Boys' School, where he completed high school.

He was an avid sportsman - participating in tennis, soccer, track, field hockey, swimming and chess for his schools, while also earning awards for his art pieces in various competitions. He was an adept musician and entertained others at many public concerts and Christmas sing-alongs with his guitar.

He was accepted at the United States Naval Academy as an international Midshipman in the Class of 2014. Annapolis stole his heart!

As a member of the 25th Company (Bearsharks), he was a weapons instructor and EOD screener, and was involved in boxing, field hockey, sailing, and of course, any spirit mission that was going down! Upon graduation, he returned home to serve his country in the First Battalion of the Jamaica Regiment and the special forces unit of the Jamaica Defence Force, where he was still on active duty at the time of his death.

He leaves behind his parents, Geoffrey and Janice Roper; brother, Robert Roper '17; fiancée, Deirdre "Dee" Gomes; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, his sponsor mom and family, along with his extended family, friends and brothers in arms.

A funeral service was held in Jamaica, with full military honours, on 23 June 2023, followed by interment at Briggs Park Cemetery on the grounds of the Jamaica Defence Force.

Memorial donations would be appreciated for the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

Never above us, never below us, always beside us...

Fair winds, and following seas, dear Blake.

The Roper Family ★

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 be emailed to: obits@usna.com (preferred) or


USPS mailed to:

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301 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402

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	\$545.00	8"	\$485.00	



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Call me with your questions: **410-295-4074**

Please contact Maria O'Shea via email or phone for space availability — even if the due date has passed, I will try to be as flexible as possible.

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