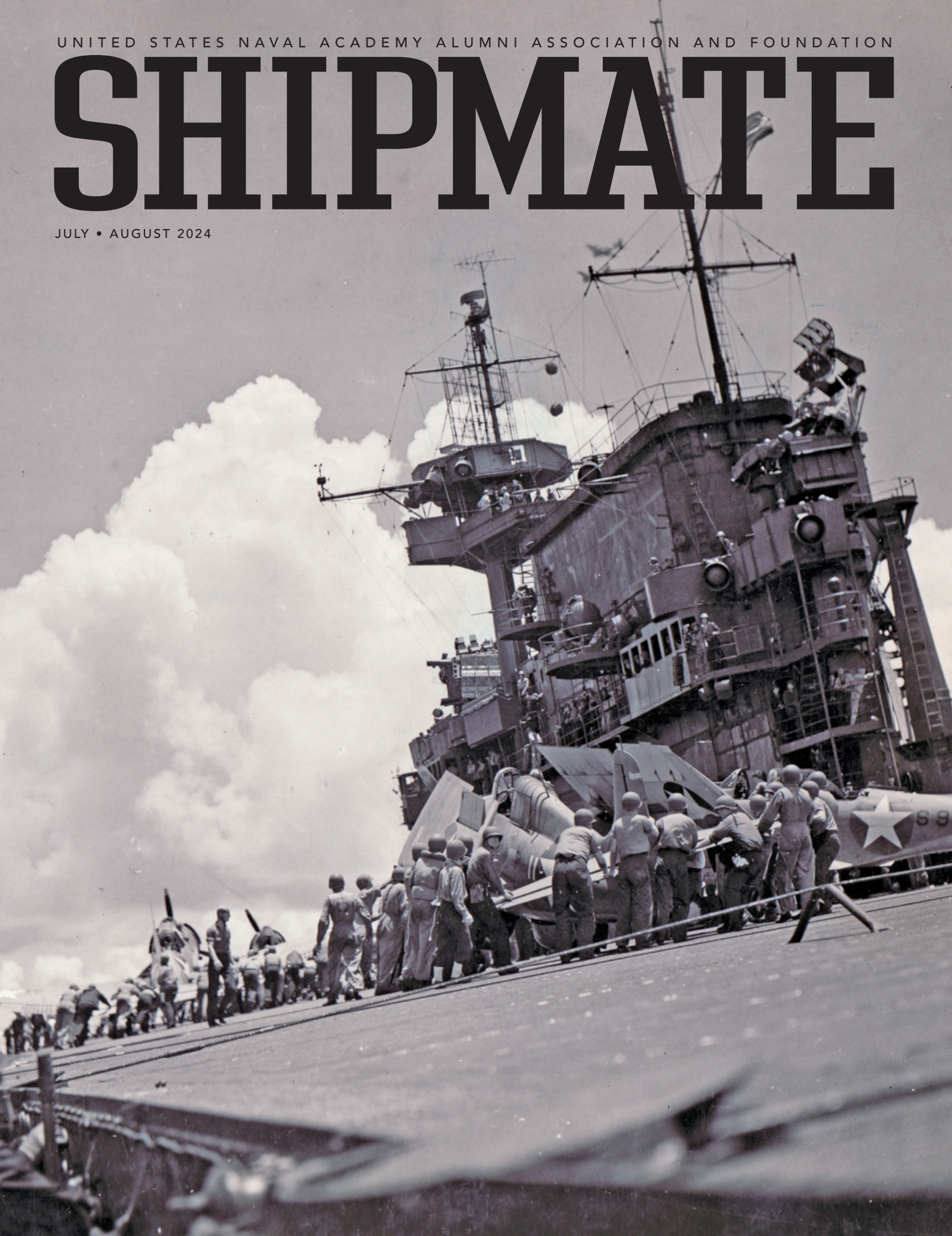


UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

JULY • AUGUST 2024





# THANK YOU

for a successful  
Great Class Challenge!



**\$3,052,019**

## TOP 5 ALUMNI DONORS

1984: 564  
1987: 443  
1978: 370  
1965: 250  
1975: 228

## TOP 5 CLASS PARTICIPATION

1984: 61.50%  
1987: 46.19%  
1965: 46.04%  
1978: 43.07%  
1975: 34.55%

Thank you for making this such an exciting year for the Great Class Challenge!

Your efforts to support the Academy, spread the word and connect with your classmates have made a tremendous difference.

Congratulations to all of the classes in the top five of each leaderboard and BZ to the Great Class of 1984 for taking both top spots again this year! The Class of 1984 had a record breaking year and surpassed 60% participation (first time ever)—truly the GOAT!

We look forward to seeing what you all can accomplish in 2025.

**6,700**

6,700 IS A RECORD BREAKING  
NUMBER OF DONORS

**11.80**

11.80% ALUMNI PARTICIPATION  
DURING THE CHALLENGE

**33**

33 CLASSES HAD MORE DONORS  
THAN LAST YEAR

**155,000**

\$155,000 IN CHALLENGE DOLLARS  
UNLOCKED FROM THE CLASSES OF:  
**1975, 1988, 1989 AND 2003**

**16**

16 CLASSES BEAT THEIR RECORD  
FOR NUMBER OF DONORS DURING  
A CHALLENGE

**60**

FIRST TIME 60% PARTICIPATION  
WAS SURPASSED

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

**GREAT CLASS  
CHALLENGE**

75 Classes. 5 Days. 1 Mission.

1,000  
WORDS

# RUN TO HONOR



CHARLOTTE

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS NICKELS

On Memorial Day weekend, Naval Academy alumni, family and friends honored fallen heroes during Run To Honor Shared Interest Group (SIG) events across the country. Several chapters shared their event photos with *Shipmate*.

**CHARLOTTE**—Members of the Charlotte Chapter ran/walked around Veterans Park for 30 minutes then had a memorial drink at Resident Culture Brewing Company.



COLUMBUS

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE GOINS '84, COLUMBUS CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**COLUMBUS**—Columbus Chapter's Run To Honor event honored CAPT Seth Michaud '98, USMC. His sister, Sam Michaud, attended and shared her memories of Seth and also elaborated on the Run To Honor SIG and the meaningful impact it makes. Matt and Melissa Palmisciano, chapter members who were classmates of Seth, were present along with Jason Hernandez '00. Hernandez served with Seth in the Marine Corps.



OAK HARBOR

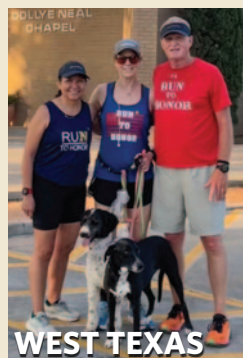
PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA POSTENRIEDER '82

**OAK HARBOR**—A small crowd of Naval Academy alumni (including a '28 appointee), neighbors and running friends participated in the Oak Harbor, WA, Run to Honor event.



SAN DIEGO

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG SMITH



WEST TEXAS

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WAYLAND

**SAN DIEGO**—Thirty attendees from the Class of 1979 to the Class of 2025 participated in the San Diego Run to Honor event.

**TAMPA BAY**—Tampa's Run to Honor Walk/Run 5K Event included Gold Star families. Diane Jones, brother of LCDR Bill Muscha '87, USN, and Carol and Luke LiCalzi, mother and brother respectively of 1stLt Michael LiCalzi '04, USMC, attended. Todd Barrett '00 donated supplies and dog tags as finisher "medals" in honor of CAPT Jennifer Harris '00, USMC, CDR Kevin Bianchi '85, USN, and Muscha. Tampa's most senior alumnus was Warren Hahn '60 and the most junior alumnus was ENS Eric Houlihan '19, USN.



TAMPA BAY

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT STEVE SWIFT '87, USNR (RET.)

**WEST TEXAS**—Tina Ortiz, Page Gates and Run to Honor board member David Wayland, father of 2ndLt Patrick Wayland '10, USMC.



# LASTING CONNECTIONS

By Jeff Webb '95

**T**ies binding U.S. Naval Academy alumni are enduring, unbreakable and often inspirational.

In May, I spent some time with the Class of 1956 during their reunion in the Fluegel Alumni Center. It was fascinating hearing from members of the class about their careers of service, their time at the Academy and their post-retirement endeavors.

I was particularly moved by their lasting tribute to fallen classmate, Lieutenant Merrill F. Collier '56, USN. For nearly 60 years, the Merrill F. Collier Award has been “presented to the brigade commander who has had the greatest impact on the brigade through exceptional aptitude and conduct, academics, professionalism and leadership.” It recognizes the midshipman who exhibits the highest leadership standards and qualities in the spirit of Collier, who gave his life in the line of duty as an officer on THRESHER.

The 2024 Merrill F. Collier Award winner is Ensign Sean O'Dowd '24, USN.

THRESHER was a nuclear submarine sunk on 10 April 1963 off Cape Cod, MA. Its entire crew of 129, including Collier, were lost. The Class of 1956 recognizes Collier as its “Class President for Life.” Their devotion to honoring the memory of their classmate, and the fondness they show for him to this day, are truly inspiring.

## Welcome Class of 2028

On 27 June, we welcomed the Class of 2028 and their parents to Annapolis for I-Day. We know this is an exciting, yet stressful, time for the entire family. We are committed to delivering support to alumni the minute they raise their hands to take the oath.

That means providing resources to the parent community throughout their midshipman's time at the Academy. On I-Day, Parent Programs Director Lori Coogan coordinated with 19 parent clubs and four shared interest groups (SIGs) to link families with their local parent groups. After dropping off their plebes, parents were invited to have lunch, courtesy of Mission BBQ, under a giant tent on Hospital Point to hydrate and escape the heat. Parents also had the opportunity to meet with their plebe's Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) 50-year counterparts.



A Class of 1956 reunion brought back members to Annapolis in May. They met with USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95. They have funded the Merrill F. Collier Award in perpetuity to honor their “Class President for Life.”

We also welcomed 71 plebes with at least one Naval Academy alumni parent, and nine of them have two Naval Academy alumni parents. Also among the plebes are 38 individuals who spent a year at “Foundation schools” from across the nation as part of our Athletic and Scholarship Programs.

The Class of 2024 is the first class of plebes to be led by Captain Walt Allman '97, USN, the 90th Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy. Allman is the first SEAL Commandant, who also happens to be the parent of a current 3/C midshipman. He took the reins from Colonel J.P. McDonough '94, USMC, who drove hard to the finish line as he completed his three-year tour as Commandant and concluded 30 years of phenomenal service as a Marine. BZ Colonel McDonough, and Hooyah Captain Allman! The Brigade, Navy and Marine Corps could not be more fortunate to have leaders such as you shaping our future warfighters.

## Coming to You

I-Day begins the pivot to the 2024-25 academic year. The Brigade of Midshipmen will reform on 16 August and almost immediately, football season will be upon us. My teammates and I will be engaging with the alumni community at every away football game.

This includes Executive Vice President of Engagement and Communications Captain TJ Grady '96, USN (Ret.), and Senior Director of Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs Nancy Murray. In January, they began what will be a four-year endeavor to visit each of our chapter and parents' clubs across the country.

We look forward to meeting you—and learning how we can better serve you—in Birmingham, AL (UAB on 28 September), in Colorado Springs, CO (Air Force on 5 October), in East Rutherford, NJ (Notre Dame on 26 October), in Houston, TX (Rice on 2 November), in Tampa, FL (USF on 9 November), in Greenville, NC (ECU on 30 November) and in Landover, MD (Army-Navy on 14 December). Of course, when in Annapolis for home games (starting 31 August against Bucknell), we encourage you to visit us at your home: the Fluegel Alumni Center. We also invite you to a Welcome Home celebration on 19 October during Homecoming Weekend.

During some of these road trips, our communications team plans to interview Korean, Cold and Vietnam War veterans for the Legacy of Valor series. We are building on the World War II series from this year to create an archive of stories of service and sacrifice of all alumni eras. We will be working with local chapter leaders to coordinate interview sessions while we're on the road. If you have a story to tell, or a classmate to recommend, please email *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com.

## Fair Winds and Following Seas MajGen Anders '55

It is with heavy heart that we learned of the passing of Major General William A. Anders '55, USAFR (Ret.), on 7 June. Anders, a 2000 Distinguished Graduate honoree, was a trailblazer in space, an ambassador and a successful private sector executive. He also gave the world an iconic photo, Earthrise.

Our deepest condolences go out to the Anders family. 🙏



# SHIPMATE

VOLUME 87 • NO. 4

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Class of '72 "adopted" Georgia teen battling cancer. **30**



### LEADERSHIP LAB

Midshipmen gain real-world experience with Project-Based Learning. **34**



### BZ '24

Commissioning Week capped with Class of '24's graduation. **38**



### Correction

The May-June 2024 issue of *Shipmate* incorrectly stated CAPT Cassin Young, Class of 1916, received his Medal of Honor posthumously. He was presented the Medal of Honor by ADM Chester Nimitz, Class of 1905, on 18 April 1942 in Pearl Harbor, HI.



## LEGACY OF VALOR

World War II veterans offer eye-witness accounts to history.

**10**

### LONG BLUE LINE

Members of the Classes of '67 and '87 discover Blue & Gold links. **42**



### Get the Goat

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

*Bill was hiding on the whale's fin on page 272 in the May-June 2024 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**  
Then-CAPT Osborne B. Hardison, USN, Class of 1916, was the commanding officer of ENTERPRISE during the Battle of Santa Cruz during World War II.

This photo, from 26 October 1942, shows the ship's crew at work with an F4F "Wildcat" fighter at the center of the ship's deck.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command



# ALL HANDS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

MajGen William A. Anders '55, USAFR (Ret.), captured the earth emerging from beyond the lunar surface in an iconic photograph titled Earthrise on 24 December 1968.

## Anders '55 Dies at Age 90

Major General William A. Anders '55, USAFR (Ret.), was lost on 7 June in a plane accident off the coast of Washington state. Anders, a 2000 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate, was among the Apollo 8 astronauts who orbited the moon and were the first to leave Earth's gravity.

On 24 December 1968, Anders photographed Earth from space. His photo, Earthrise, shows Earth in vivid color, emerging beyond the moon's surface.

Anders would later become executive director of the National Aeronautical and Space Council, and advisor and architect to future space and satellite programs. As commissioner of the Atomic Energy Commission, he was named the first chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when the agency split from the AEC.

He subsequently served as ambassador to Norway during the Ford administration. Following his career in public service, Anders was named vice president of General Electric's jet engine division and was later chosen as CEO of Textron Corp. Later, he served as General Dynamics' CEO.

Throughout his career, Anders remained in the Air Force Reserve, earning promotion to major general. He served on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation and took a leading role in developing and building the Glenn Warner Soccer Facility at the Academy. □

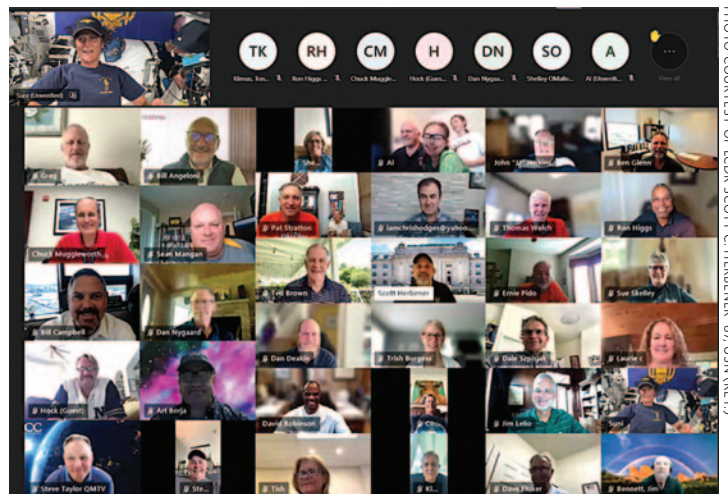
## Williams '87 Docks Starliner with ISS

NASA Astronauts Captain Sunita L. Williams '87, USN (Ret.), and Captain Butch Wilmore, USN (Ret.), safely docked The Boeing Company's Starliner capsule with the International Space Station (ISS) on 6 June 2024.

It was the Starliner's first crewed mission and Williams is the first woman to pilot and assess a new crewed spacecraft during its inaugural mission. The flight was originally scheduled to launch on 6 May but trouble with a rocket valve forced a delay. Williams and Wilmore are charged with testing Starliner's capabilities for future extended missions.

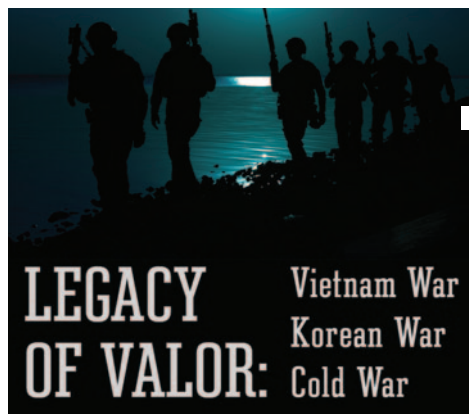
Williams was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of two space missions, Expeditions 14/15 and 32/33. She serves as the pilot of the Crew Flight Test mission aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. This is her third mission aboard the ISS.

She was designated a naval aviator in July 1989 and has logged more than 3,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft. Williams spent a total of 322 days in space over the course of her first two space missions. With 50 hours and 40 minutes, she is second on the list of total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut. □



NASA Astronaut CAPT Sunita L. Williams '87, USN (Ret.), participated in a Class of 1987 video call from the ISS in June.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR SCOTT C. HERBENER '87 USN (RET.)



## Legacy of Valor: Vietnam War, Korean War and Cold War

The USNA AA&F is continuing its Legacy of Valor project with multi-story, multi-platform content campaigns featuring Naval Academy alumni who served in the Vietnam, Korean and Cold Wars. Central to this effort are interviews with alumni to share their varied experiences among all warfare communities.

We are seeking alumni who wish to share their experiences during these eras, and taking recommendations of classmates to interview.

We plan to gather these stories beginning this summer and publish content this fall in *Shipmate* and on our digital channels.

As part of our engagement activities during football season, we hope to conduct interviews for this project in Birmingham, AL; Houston, TX; Denver, CO; and Tampa, FL. If you would like to participate or help organize interviews, please contact *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com. □



## Bueno '24 Awarded Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Bravo Zulu to Ensign Max Bueno '24, USN, on earning the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM). Through the rigors of plebe year, a pandemic, four years of 20-plus credits and countless military requirements, Bueno and his fellow Midshipman Action Group (MAG) members managed to volunteer more than 20,000 hours of community service per year.

The community service awards recognize the graduating firsties of the MAG, who accumulated enough community service hours in their four years here to earn the MOVSM.



ENS Max Bueno '24, USN, receives the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) from USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95.

MAG offers a variety of educational, environmental and social service volunteer projects in coordination with community partners. MAG prepares midshipmen for future service by encouraging peer leadership, teamwork, character development, morale, selflessness and goodwill toward others. MAG is largely supported by the Classes of 1992 and 2008. □

## Farrell '04 Relinquishes CONSTITUTION Command



CDR Crystal Schaefer relieved CDR B.J. Farrell '04, USN, becoming the 78th commanding officer of Old Ironsides.

Commander B.J. Farrell '04, USN, relieved command of CONSTITUTION to Commander Crystal Schaefer on 21 June in Charlestown, MA. Farrell was CONSTITUTION's 77th commanding officer and the first woman to hold that title in the ship's 226-year history.

Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy Vice Admiral Gene H. Black '86, USN, also participated in the change of command ceremony.

Farrell's next assignment is as 1st Battalion Officer at the Naval Academy. □



Murphy

Pauwels

Hebel

Hollister

## Four Alumni Named Olmsted Scholars

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation recently selected four Naval Academy graduates as members of the Olmsted Scholar Class of 2025. These outstanding officers will spend the next three years completing language training and pursuing graduate level studies on full scholarships at foreign universities around the world.

The newly selected scholars are: Lieutenant Commander Matthew J. Murphy '11, USN, who will study in Lyon, France; Lieutenant Nathalie E. Pauwels '14, USN, who will study in Tokyo, Japan; Captain Jonathan G. Hebel '19, USMC, who will study in Taipei, Taiwan; and 1st Lieutenant Andrew R. Hollister '20, USMC, who will study in Bogota, Colombia. These officers' experiences around the world will shape and prepare them to assume positions of senior leadership in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Notable USNA alumni who were Olmsted Scholars include Admiral Kurt W. Tidd '78, USN (Ret.), former commander of United States Southern Command; and Admiral James G. Foggo '81, USN (Ret.), former commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe-Africa, and NATO Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy. □

## Thriving As Leaders Awards



The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Thriving As Leaders Awards (TAL) program was established in June 2024 to honor Association members who have distinguished themselves and brought credit upon the community either through distinct acts of achievement or through volunteer service and leadership.

Through the example of their achievement, leadership and service, these members bring to life the Alumni Association mission to recognize and honor members who are "thriving as leaders."

TAL's mission is to recognize individuals who exemplify leadership both in and out of uniform through their outstanding achievements, volunteer efforts and dedicated service, inspiring others in our community to reach greater heights.

By expanding award opportunities beyond the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA), we aim to celebrate a broader range of excellence, ensuring that more individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership and service are acknowledged and encouraged.

For more information visit, [www.usna.com/Thriving-As-Leaders-Awards](http://www.usna.com/Thriving-As-Leaders-Awards). □



## Munsch '85 Claims "Old Goat" Title From Aquilino '84

Admiral Stuart B. Munsch '85, USN, received the Old Goat Award from Admiral John C. Aquilino '84, USN (Ret.), in a ceremony on 26 June. With Admiral Aquilino's retirement, Admiral Munsch becomes the "Old Goat." Munsch is Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Africa/Commander, Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples.

The Old Goat is the longest-serving Naval Academy graduate on active duty. Since 2014, the designation has been accompanied by an award created by a previous Old Goat, Rear Admiral Alton L. Stocks '72, USN (Ret.). The award—a crystal decanter engraved with the initials and class years of previous holders—is passed to a new Old Goat upon the current holder's retirement.

### Old Goats

- Rear Admiral Alton L. Stocks '72—First Old Goat
- Vice Admiral Michael H. Miller '74—8 March 2014-1 August 2015
- Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert '75—1 August 2015-18 September 2015
- Admiral Mark E. Ferguson III '78—8 September 2015-1 July 2016
- Admiral Cecil D. Haney '78—1 July 2016-17 January 2017
- Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr. '78—17 January 2017-11 April 2018
- Admiral Kurt W. Tidd '78—11 April 2018-8 October 2018
- Admiral William K. Lescher '80—8 October 2018-30 August 2022
- Admiral James F. Caldwell '81—30 August 2022-10 January 2024
- Admiral John C. Aquilino '84—9 January 2024-3 May 2024
- Admiral Stuart Munsch '85—Current Old Goat



ADM Stuart B. Munsch '85, USN, received the Old Goat Award from Admiral John C. Aquilino '84, USN (Ret.), in a ceremony on 26 June.

### 2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

31 Aug	Bucknell	Noon	26 Oct	vs Notre Dame	Noon
7 Sept	Temple	3:30 p.m.	2 Nov	@ Rice	TBA
21 Sept	Memphis	3:30 p.m.	9 Nov	@ South Florida	TBA
28 Sept	@ UAB	TBA	16 Nov	Tulane	Noon
5 Oct	@ Air Force	Noon ET	30 Nov	@ East Carolina	TBA
19 Oct	Charlotte	3:30 p.m.	14 Dec	vs Army	3:00 p.m.

## Navy Wins 10th Consecutive Patriots League Presidents' Cup



PHOTO BY PHIL HOFFMANN

**Sprinter MIDN Nathan Kent '26, who is also a wide receiver on the football team, was the Patriot League Athlete of the Meet in both the indoor and outdoor track and field championship as Navy swept the title in both meets.**

Navy athletics won a league-best nine conference championships during the 2023-24 academic year and captured its 10th consecutive Patriot League Presidents' Cup.

Navy's streak of 10-consecutive overall titles is the most in Patriot League Presidents' Cup history. Navy has won 11 titles overall and has finished first or second in 17-straight years. Prior to 2000-01, Navy never finished higher than fifth.

"Year after year, our midshipmen and coaches remain determined to sustain a level of Naval Academy athletic excellence that is the standard to which all others in our league aspire,"

said Director of Athletics Chet Gladchuk. "A decade of dominance in the Patriot League is a bar set by amazing individuals who wear the Blue and Gold with a time tested 'Expect to Win' mindset.

"Equally impressive are the number of Patriot League Scholar-Athletes of the Year, earned by our athletes, which also, in number, far surpass our competition. Competitive success is ingrained in the educational model we believe directly correlates with the development of leaders who we expect to be role models in the fleet and beyond."

The midshipmen compiled 154.25 points, winning league titles in men's cross country, women's golf, men's and women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, men's and women's indoor track and field and men's and women's outdoor track and field. Boston University finished second in the overall standings with 146 points, while Army was third with 133.5 points.

Since 2013-14, Navy has won 84 conference championships, the next closest schools are Boston University with 38 and Army with 25.

The Patriot League Presidents' Cup is awarded to the member institution with the highest cumulative sports point total for their Patriot League standings in sponsored men's and women's sports.

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## Shipmate Reader Survey



Ensuring members are connected with their classmates, receive critical information and are aware of the extraordinary achievements of their fellow alumni is a central mission for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation. *Shipmate* magazine is the enterprise's flagship communication device.

We are continually striving to meet alumni, family and friends of the Naval Academy where they are throughout their lives' journey. To ensure we are meeting your readership needs, we request you participate in a brief reader survey.

We appreciate any feedback on the ways we can improve our editorial offerings and adjust content to reach alumni through their preferred mediums. We know many are loyal readers of the printed copies while others prefer to access the digital edition of *Shipmate*.

To share your perspective, please use your smartphone to access the QR code. Direct any questions to *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com. 



## Allman '97 Relieves McDonough '94 as 'Dant




**CAPT Walter H. Allman III '97, USN, became the 90th Commandant of Midshipmen by relieving Col James "J.P." McDonough III '94, USMC.**

Captain Walter H. Allman III '97, USN, became the 90th Commandant of Midshipmen by relieving Colonel James "J.P." McDonough III '94, USMC, on 5 June in T-Court.

Allman previously served as the director of Targeting at the Fires and Effects Center for U.S. Pacific Fleet, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI.

McDonough departed after a three-year assignment.

"I am honored for the opportunity to lead the Brigade of Midshipmen and to mold our next generation of Navy and Marine Corps leaders," Allman said. "The enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by the Brigade, staff and faculty are inspiring. Our family looks forward to returning to the Naval Academy and joining a team committed to supporting the mission and facing the challenges of today."

A career Naval Special Warfare Officer, Allman's operational assignments include SEAL Teams 1 and 3; SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1; and Naval Special Warfare Development Group, where he has completed several combat deployments and contingency operations in support of Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. 



## 2023 Donor Report Errata

The following donors were inadvertently omitted from or listed incorrectly in the 2023 *U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Donor Report*. The Foundation sincerely regrets the errors.

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SECTION:

#### CLASS OF 1960

CAPT and Mrs. Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USN (Ret.)

#### CLASS OF 1971

Mr. James B. Waddell

#### CLASS OF 1972

Mr. Michael J. Harrington

#### CLASS OF 1978

Mr. Wayne W. Leong

#### CLASS OF 1982

CDR and Mrs. Scott F. Leftwich, USN (Ret.)

### ALUMNI GIVING SECTION:

#### 1960

##### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

##### ASSOCIATE

(\$2,500 - \$4,999)

CAPT and Mrs. Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USN (Ret.)

#### 1967

##### LUCE ASSOCIATE

(\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Diesing, Jr.

#### 1982

##### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

##### LUCE ASSOCIATE

(\$10,000 - \$24,999)

CDR and Mrs. Scott F. Leftwich, USN (Ret.)

#### 1988

##### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

##### LUCE ASSOCIATE

(\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick K. Watson

#### 2007

##### JOHN PAUL JONES CLUB

(\$500 - \$999)

Mr. David T. Jordan ★ 

★ = Matching Gift



# LEGACY OF VALOR

## ALUMNI SHARE MEMORIES OF WWII EXPERIENCES, WARTIME ACADEMY LIFE

*The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation spent the past year gathering stories of seven living Naval Academy alumni who served in World War II. We are saddened by the loss of Lieutenant Commander William S. Berkshire Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), and Lieutenant Commander Charles G. Sobel '45, USNR (Ret.), who passed away following our interviews.*

*As part of our mission, we are dedicated to preserving these stories for future generations. The stories on the following pages represent the courage, professionalism and commitment to service embodied by Naval Academy alumni of the Greatest Generation.*

*To see more content from the Legacy of Valor: WWII series visit [www.usna.com/Shipmate\\_WWII](http://www.usna.com/Shipmate_WWII).*



### CAPTAIN DALE REED '42, USN (RET.)

Aboard KIMBERLY near Okinawa

*"26 March 1945*

*Dear Barbara,*

*Today was Easter Monday... It was grim business today. At 0300 we manned our GQ stations. Our first glimpse of Japan was a lighthouse light, which for some strange reason was on. The sky was overcast. The sea fairly smooth, 'twas dark as hell... I was miserable all day long from the biting wind.*

*We picked up two Bogeys on the radar at just about dawn. At about 10,000 yards, we suspected them to be (D3A aircraft) Vals. They were. We opened fire. The flashes were blinding with rapid, continuous gun fire. The wind blew the smoke into our eyes and our sights—making it impossible to keep on. (One Val) climbed, dived, skidded, rolled, twisted and squirmed his way through salvo after salvo.*

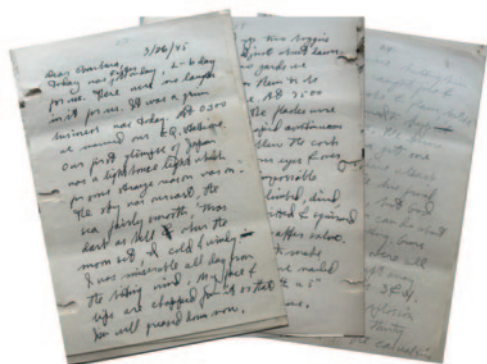
*When he turned to make his final approach, we nailed his tail assembly with a 5-inch burst. But, on he came. The 40s were hitting him square. He caught fire and began to smoke and flame, but he twisted and squirmed to keep headed for us.*

*We knew we were gonna get hit... But God, there's nothing you can do about it except keep shooting."*

Ensign Dale Reed '42, USN, began writing letters to his then-fiancé, Barbara, every day while deployed during World War II. This entry, written three years later, reveals the terror KIMBERLY's crew



The aftermath of a kamikaze attack on KIMBERLY. CAPT Dale Reed '42, USN (Ret.), survived that attack in March 1945.



**CAPT Dale Reed '42, USN (Ret.), wrote letters to his then-fiancé, Barbara, every day while deployed during World War II. This entry from 26 March 1945 recounts surviving a kamikaze attack aboard KIMBERLY near Okinawa.**

felt during the kamikaze attack. It also showcases their valor and courage:

*"With a terrific explosion, we lost men, and many were injured. Not a man budged from his station although we knew we were going to be crashed for sure when he made his final approach turn."*

KIMBERLY lost four of its crew with that attack with another 57 wounded. Reed was a gunnery officer that fateful day. He was leading his team when the kamikaze pilot hit KIMBERLY in the upper superstructure. The remainder of the day was spent transferring crew to a hospital ship, putting the fire out and repairing damages to KIMBERLY.

"We were proud that we had stood up and shot him down," said Reed during an April 2024 interview in his Virginia home. "They were determined to sink us, and we were determined to shoot them out of the sky. The sky was full of bullets.

"They kept coming no matter what we did. That was a pretty terrifying short period of time."

### Into the Fleet

Reed spent a few months at Purdue University before entering the Naval Academy with the Class of 1942. He envisioned a career as a naval officer and one day commanding his own ship. He would achieve both, retiring as a captain whose commands included KIMBERLY, RICHARD E. KRAUS and AMPHION. When he arrived in Annapolis, he said most of his fellow midshipmen knew war was imminent, "it was just a matter of when."

After the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, the Academy was locked down and his mind focused on seeing Barbara who was at a boarding house in Annapolis. He would deliver an engagement ring before his accelerated graduation on 19 December. They had to wait until 25 May 1942 to get married, following his deployment to escort supply ships on the Murmansk Run to Russia aboard the destroyer PLUNKETT.

While he had an abbreviated first year, Reed said the Academy instilled the proper leadership skills so when his class commissioned, they were ready. They were also eager to join the fight.

"We had experiences in leadership," Reed said. "That's what (the Academy) is all about. You learn by doing.

"It wasn't overwhelming at all. It was sobering. We wanted to measure up. We didn't want to let anybody down."

Graduation wasn't the only thing that progressed quickly for Reed. He was made officer of the deck the moment he reported to PLUNKETT.

"Normally it took a year to become qualified to be officer of the deck," he said. "I walked aboard the ship, and a guy takes off his belt and says, 'you're officer of the deck.' That was something you just had to take on. You just did the job you were given."

His time aboard PLUNKETT included five tension-filled deployments in convoys around Norway and Sweden. German submarines were patrolling those waters looking to sink cargo and battle vessels alike.

The weather was horrendous, and the seas weren't amenable to sleep. The constant state of alert, frequent watches and frigid temperatures meant that the men averaged three to four hours of sleep for months at a stretch.

"We were tired and scared but we knew we had a job to do and we did it," Reed said. "We didn't think we were heroes. We were just doing what was expected of us. That's kind of how the whole U.S. forces were, everybody did their job and if everybody does their job then victory would come out of it."

### Serving our Country

On 2 September 1945, KIMBERLY was part of MISSOURI's escort into Tokyo Bay. It was there the Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies.

After World War II, some of Reed's duty stations included commanding officer, Naval ROTC at the University of Texas, and chief of staff of Subic Bay Naval Base, Philippines. He is proud of his service and the friendships forged during his Navy career.

His experience aboard destroyers PLUNKETT, TAYLOR, HALL and KIMBERLY during World War II gave him a lifetime of memories.

"Of course, we had buddies on a nearby destroyer, and we knew they had similar experiences, so we had a sort of a camaraderie among ourselves about the battles we were in," he said.

Reed said he hopes current and future generations of midshipmen will read about the service and sacrifice of his generation. He said understanding their experiences could help midshipmen as they take watch in service to our nation.

"I hope they would read their history and understand the history of our nation, understand how important it is for us to be free and lead the free world," Reed said. "Become a useful citizen. All of us have goals in life and our goals should include serving our country."



**CAPT Dale Reed '42, USN (Ret.), has worn his class ring since commissioning with the Class of 1942 on 19 December 1941.**





## COMMANDER CHARLES W. BURLIN '44, USN (RET.)

It was a black dawn. Lieutenant Junior Grade Charles W. Burlin '44, USN, was a communications officer aboard SKATE. The Balao-class submarine was navigating through Tsushima Strait on 10 June 1945. Burlin commissioned into the silent service out of the Naval Academy because he craved action.

SKATE was part of a nine-submarine “wolfpack” entering the Sea of Japan. Burlin looked through the periscope and spotted a “big black mass” moving along the coast. He got the bearings on the ship and provided them to the ship’s skipper, then-Commander Richard Barr “Ozzie” Lynch ’35, USN.

Lynch confirmed an enemy craft was in sight. He ordered four torpedoes to be lined up at the bow tubes. The tension and excitement grew, Burlin recounted during a January 2024 interview in his Cape Cod home.

“Wow, here we go,” Burlin said. “This is the real stuff. This was no Christmas party or anything like that. This was shoot and kill.”

Lynch ordered the firing of the first torpedo. The crew counted the seconds until impact.

“Pretty soon there was a boom and we’d hit it just dead on, what they call middle of target,” Burlin said. “It had just gone right through. The crew cheered. Then, we fired No. 2, and it didn’t hit anything because there wasn’t anything left.”

Down went one of Japan’s three mine-laying submarines.

Burlin participated in the closing salvos of World War II, which began a 25-year Navy career that included earning lighter than air wings, wings of gold and dolphin insignia. He served during the Korean War, piloting four-engine Navy patrol planes in combat.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Burlin and his fellow midshipmen in Annapolis knew what awaited them upon graduation.

“We didn’t prepare to go to war, *we were in it*,” Burlin said. “World War II was right in front of me. Bang, just hit me in the face. I wanted to get out into the war.”

### Submariner

After commissioning in June 1943, to help turn the tide on Japan’s aerial superiority, Burlin said the entire Class of 1944 reported to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL, until August 1943. From there, he shipped to Navy Submarine School in New London, CT, for three months into January 1944.

Burlin served aboard training submarine USS S-23 in 1944 in San Diego, CA. He cherished his time aboard SKATE. Burlin said he enjoyed the closeness and camaraderie of life in a sub.

Two days after sinking the Japanese submarine, SKATE came upon a lone ship. She pursued the ship but her torpedoes failed to connect. SKATE paused to recharge its batteries before heading back to shore through rain.

That night, they entered Togi harbor and spotted four Japanese cargo ships and an oil tanker. Burlin remembers SKATE scraping the harbor bottom. Lynch ordered the crew to ready all six torpedoes in the front bank.

“He started to fire,” Burlin said. “He picked them off one at a time.”

When SKATE departed, Burlin said four vessels were sunk and the fifth was listing.

While SKATE had a string of successful strikes, Burlin recalled a harrowing moment maneuvering through mine-infested Tsushima Strait. During a late 1945 overhaul, SKATE’s crew scoured her hull to ensure there wasn’t any protruding metal.

Burlin said that attention to detail proved critical. SKATE used experimental mine detecting sonar, which had a range of 500 yards. Sensing nervousness from his crew while cruising through a minefield, Lynch announced he was going below to take a nap and instructed his team to call him when they saw the first mine.

“We started through the mine field and all of a sudden comes this signal that we located a mine,” Burlin said. “The skipper came running down to see what it looked like. The mine was on the port side and its chain scraped down the side of the submarine all the way from front to back.

“But, it didn’t go off. All the crew got over to the starboard side and became very religious.”

### Wartime at the Academy

The Academy was suspiciously quiet as Burlin returned from a church service during December 1941. Usually, the Yard buzzed with activity, but he entered a “strangely silent” Bancroft Hall.



CDR Charles W. Burlin '44, USN (Ret.), served aboard the submarine SKATE during World War II.

There were no midshipmen milling about. Then, he found a room with a dozen midshipmen huddled around a radio. Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japanese.

The United States was now at war. The Yard was locked down and midshipmen were given watch duty with new orders.

“From then on the feet were shuffling fast,” Burlin said. “You could fire now. We knew we had very severe things going on in the world and we were part of them. We were told, ‘if you see anything that’s out of line, shoot.’”

The Class of 1942 graduated early, on 19 December 1941. The Class of 1944 would graduate in June 1943.

It was during flight training that Burlin’s Naval Academy training saved lives, including his own. Burlin learned critical information during his experiences in a variety of airplanes while a midshipman. While boarding an SBD Dauntless, a young pilot asked Burlin if he had flown in a dive bomber before. The young ensign responded affirmatively. He’d been in the back seat on five or six previous flights. The pilot said this was his first meaningful flight.

The Dauntless climbed to 10,000 feet and the pilot pushed the plane over about 20 degrees to gauge the wind and anticipate its impact on his bomb. Then, he pushed to a 70 degree dive run. Burlin monitored the air speed indicator.

As the needle sped precipitously, Burlin calmly alerted the pilot to a potentially deadly oversight.

“I knew he had not pushed down his dive bomb flaps,” Burlin said. “I got on the microphone. I said one word, ‘flaps.’ He popped down one. Had he not done that, we would have gone right into the ground as happened with two of my classmates down there.”

Burlin would have the distinction to be one of the few to wear wings of gold, lighter than air wings and submarine dolphins during his quarter of a century in uniform. In 1946, he trained to be an airship pilot in Lakehurst, NJ. For a year, ending in September 1950, Burlin participated in Naval Air Basic Training in Pensacola, FL. He would fly PB4Y-2 Privateers during the Korean War.

Burlin attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, in 1954 and 1955. He was stationed in Key West, FL, from 1955 to 1958 where he flew airships in the Caribbean and Atlantic. Burlin was stationed at the Pentagon from 1958 to 1962. Burlin served Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) in Paris, France (1962-65). His family was with him during this time. He was one of two Navy members of Nuclear Targeting Section, J-3, which selected targets for nuclear strikes in Russia by NATO if Russian forces chose to become aggressive.



**CDR Charles W. Burlin '44, USN (Ret.), earned his lighter than air wings as an airship pilot after serving in World War II.**



**An airship patch on the flight jacket of CDR Charles W. Burlin '44, USN (Ret.).**

Upon retirement in 1965, with the rank of Commander, Burlin moved back to his beloved “homeport,” North Chatham, MA, where family roots date to 1897, and where he currently resides. It was his lifelong goal to return to Cape Cod.



## **LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WILLIAM S. BERKSHIRE JR. '45, USN (RET.)**

Bancroft Hall was unusually calm. The Brigade of Midshipmen was still reveling in a 14-6 victory over Army on 29 November 1941 and the spoils that came with it.

Lieutenant Commander William S. Berkshire Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), then a plebe, was enjoying a lazy Sunday in his bunk.

“We had just beat Army, so we were all at ease,” said Berkshire in a September 2023 interview at his Los Gatos, CA, home. “We could use our bunks, even during the day. This being a Sunday, we were. All of a sudden, George Peabody Steele slammed open the door to our room and said, ‘the Japanese have just attacked Pearl Harbor and my dad’s ship has been sunk.’”

### **7 December 1941**

The United States was drawn into World War II. Berkshire would see firsties graduate 12 days later (six months earlier than the Class of 1942 was originally scheduled) and life on the Yard flipped in an instant.

“I put down the funny papers, we hopped out of our bunks and went to our first classmen’s room because they had radios,” Berkshire said. “We stood there and listened to that famous radio broadcast, they still rebroadcast today, ‘the island of Oahu has been attacked by the Japanese fleet.’ We looked out the window and our civilian cops and the Academy security were herding all the guests out the gates.





**Far left: LCDR William S. Berkshire Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), served aboard Fletcher-class destroyer DAVID W. TAYLOR in the Pacific during World War II where he was the supply and disbursing officer.**

**Left: During his career, Berkshire served as a supply officer for the aircraft transport WINDHAM BAY, as logistics officer at Travis Air Force Base and helped procure resources for testing atomic bombs at the Nevada Test Site.**

“They set up 24-hour watch in the basement of Bancroft Hall. Occasionally, there would be a report of a firing because some youngster had mishandled his pistol.”

The Class of 1945 graduated in June 1944. The next day, Berkshire got married in Washington, DC. Shortly thereafter, he was shipped to Naval Supply Depot in Bayonne, NJ, to begin his career as a Supply Corps officer.

From Bayonne, he was ordered to the Fletcher-class destroyer DAVID W. TAYLOR in the Pacific where he was the supply and disbursing officer. As an ensign, he was commissioned as paymaster.

As World War II was winding down, Berkshire’s ship participated in the second

Battle of the Philippine Sea and the occupation of Japan. In August of 1945, he received word his first child was born in Washington, DC.

At the end of the war, he was supply officer of SubGroup One of the Pacific Reserve Fleet. All the supply officers on those ships reported to him. Later, Berkshire was also responsible for helping decommission destroyers in San Diego, CA.

Berkshire said homesickness was a shared condition among sailors during World War II. He said that commonality brought shipmates together as they endured time away from their families.

“Everybody was in the same boat,” said Berkshire who passed away on

7 January 2024. “I didn’t have much to say, because it wasn’t that unusual.”

After the war, Berkshire was assigned to the Navy Department in Washington, DC. Then, he was ordered to Pearl Harbor as a cargo officer. While he was underway to Pearl Harbor, the Korean War started.

After the Korean War, he served as supply officer of aircraft transport WINDHAM BAY. He went on to Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, CA, and then served as a logistics officer at Travis Air Force Base. During the Cold War he was stationed in Albuquerque, NM, and helped procure resources for testing atomic bombs at the Nevada Test Site.

Berkshire said his career might have been unconventional, but he was most interested in serving, not moving up in rank. He said his Naval Academy training helped prepare him for a variety of assignments.

“I was never a leader of anything but I had all these jobs with tremendous responsibilities for a young man,” he said. “I started a most unusual career. I never wanted to be ordered east of the Mississippi again. This is opposite of all my fellow junior officers because they all wanted to come back to Washington and keep working for a promotion.”



## CAPTAIN JOHN “JACK” GILLOOLY '45, USN (RET.)

16-inch armor-piercing shells screamed overhead.

It was a moment of adrenaline-fueled chaos mixed with a bit of terror and exhilaration for then-Ensign John Gillooly '45, USN, aboard the light cruiser COLUMBIA. The U.S. fleet was relentlessly pummeling its Japanese counterparts during the Battle of Surigao Strait in the early hours of 25 October 1944.

The Americans had a significant tactical advantage by “Crossing the T” of the Japanese formation. When the Japanese came within 15,600 yards of American ships, the firing began.

Salvos from six U.S. battleships sailed over their escorting cruisers en route to their first target, Japanese battleship Yamashiro. The Americans capitalized by aligning their ships on an east-west axis as the Japanese vessels ventured north. This allowed U.S. ships to unload all their guns while the Japanese ships were restricted to returning fire from just their forward guns.

“It was unlike anything you’d ever seen,” Gillooly said. “Most people couldn’t comprehend the intensity of battle. Shells were going over our heads like freight trains.

“You have to see a 16-inch shell go over you to realize this. It’s a tremendous explosion. We sunk all those Japanese ships. We fired until we were out of ammunition.”

The result was a decisive American victory with the Japanese losing two battleships, a cruiser and three destroyers. The Battle of Surigao Strait was the last battleship confrontation and the last time a T was crossed. Victory there helped U.S. forces defeat the Japanese during the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Gillooly, who retired as a captain following his 30 years as a Navy officer, was awarded a Purple Heart for the shrapnel wounds and burns he incurred during a kamikaze attack aboard COLUMBIA in the Lingayen Gulf during World War II. He would



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAPT JOHN GILLOOLY '45, USN (RET.)

**CAPT John "Jack" Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), second from right in the back row, with his COLUMBIA shipmates.**

later fly P-4M Mercator electronic countermeasures plane during the Cold War. He was attacked by Russian and Chinese MIG's, narrowly escaping several times. Later, in the '60s, flying his S2 anti-submarine plane, he forced a Russian submarine to surface off the Cuban coast during the Cuban Missile Crisis. That Russian sub commander contemplated firing its nuclear torpedo at Gillooly's carrier group but decided against it.

He always carried a cross in his flight suit that his mother had given him. He would reach down to touch it, saying a quiet prayer for protection during these dangerous moments.

The native West Virginian was recruited to play football at the Naval Academy. He was a lineman who made a critical tackle of "Mr. Outside" Glenn Davis in the 1943 Army-Navy game. The game, played at Michie Stadium in West Point, was won by the Midshipmen 13-0 to cap an 8-1 season. They finished ranked No. 4 in the nation with victories over two top-5 teams.

### Here Comes the Plane

COLUMBIA had nowhere to go.

The Japanese were desperate. Their fleet was whittling. They were left with few options. In early January 1945, they poured aircraft into the Lingayen Gulf.

In a last gasp attempt to inflict damage onto the American fleet, Japanese pilots purposefully crashed their planes into

U.S. ships. COLUMBIA's crew was among the first to experience kamikaze attacks.

"We'd never seen anything like this," said Gillooly during a September 2023 interview at his Tennessee home. "They were flying right into the ship. It was enough to take your breath away and scare the living daylights out of you. I'm sitting in the director and here comes a plane. At that time, he turned in front of us and banked all the way around.

"He hit us port side. His guns are blazing all the way. He got my mount captain and my mount No. 3. ... He went right by me and crashed into the main battery director. Terrible explosion. Metal on the ship gets white hot. If you touch it, you'll be burned to the bone. In the director, all of sudden, you're in a furnace."

To escape the inferno, Gillooly said he jumped down a hatch to a lower deck.

"I didn't touch a rung on the ladder—just down," he said.

His mind racing, Gillooly contemplated an escape route. He considered jumping down onto mount No. 1 then leaping into the water.

"I said this ship isn't safe," Gillooly said. "I'm getting off this baby."

Fortunately, relief crews were sent to the bridge to aid the injured. Gillooly saw a friendly face. Mike Albert, who helped coach plebes at the Naval Academy, was coming up the ladder.

Gillooly grabbed him.

"Mike, look at my face, what's left of it?" he asked his friend. "He said, 'Jack it's not so bad.' He calmed me down and I didn't jump off the ship."

COLUMBIA's wardroom was turned into an operating room. Two doctors put the injured into bunks. Gillooly said the younger doctor distributed bottles of whiskey to use as a sedative.

A second kamikaze hit COLUMBIA aft and blew a hole in the ship. Gillooly said an Academy classmate manned the aft director while he manned the forward 5-inch director. Meanwhile, a veteran petty officer led the effort to save COLUMBIA. Her crew used blankets, mattresses and lumber to patch the hole.

"He saved the ship," Gillooly said. "When you think about petty officers and their experiences, you need these people in crisis."

While the rest of the fleet departed for Leyte Gulf, a diver welded patches to cover the hole in the hull. Gillooly figured that COLUMBIA's time in combat zones was over.

"The next morning, we're in line and we're going back into Lingayen Gulf for the next three days," he said.

### Method to the Madness

Starting with training at the Naval Academy, Gillooly said he was prepared as much as possible when he entered the fleet. Still, the shock of being a target of enemy fire was unnerving the first time.

Gillooly said the repetition of training techniques prepared him to perform under duress.

"That engrains it in you so when the moment comes, you do what you were trained to do," Gillooly said. "There's a method to the madness. All my training had led to this but you still have to see it under combat. You know your life is threatened."

The gravity of the situation was evident following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Gillooly was a plebe when the Japanese attempted to cripple the U.S. fleet.

"It changes your outlook," Gillooly said. "You knew what you were training for. You knew you were going out to the thunder. You better be ready for it, and you better pay attention."

Shortly after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered. Gillooly connected with



**CAPT John "Jack" Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), far left front row, was awarded a Purple Heart for the shrapnel wounds and burns he incurred during a kamikaze attack aboard COLUMBIA in the Lingayen Gulf during World War II.**



classmate Paul Burdett '45 (a former pitcher for the Academy baseball team), who commanded another director on the cruise with him.

They concocted a plan to celebrate in mount No. 1 with their top gunner's mates with a bottle of "doctored up" denatured alcohol.

"We had a party in the upper handling room of mount No. 1," Gillooly said.

COLUMBIA wasn't part of the force that went to Tokyo Bay to witness the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender. She was sent to Truk to accept the surrender of 35,000 prisoners, where the U.S. provided food for emaciated Japanese soldiers.

He watched the surrender ceremony through the door of the wardroom.

"That was quite a happening to see," Gillooly said.

On his way back to the States, he called his fiancé, Ursula, from Panama, and they set a wedding date. They would be married for 74 years and raise five children.

Gillooly credits the wives who kept households running while their husbands were deployed across the globe. His career included commanding the aircraft carrier WASP, which was named the Navy's Ship of the Year in 1970.

"(Ursula) was a great Navy wife," Gillooly said. "We ask a lot from Navy wives. If you're going to be successful in the Navy, that's what you need."

## Gridiron Glory

Gillooly played junior college football out of high school and took an engineering

course at West Virginia University before receiving his appointment to the Naval Academy. During his final season, the Midshipmen lost just one game, to No. 1 Notre Dame in Cleveland, OH.

The coup de grace was shutting out Army on its home field.

"We beat them like a drum," said Gillooly, who played offensive and defensive tackle.

A preseason scrimmage with the Chicago Bears foreshadowed Gillooly's glorious Army-Navy moment in his final game as a midshipman. Lining up against the Bears' offensive tackle, the grisly veteran suggested they take it easy on each other since the play was called to the opposite side of the field.

Falling for the ruse, Gillooly was blindsided by that pro when the reverse going the other way came back his way. So, when Army attempted a similar play several months later, Gillooly was awaiting Mr. Outside, a future Heisman winner.

"When I didn't feel any resistance, I said, 'uh oh, they're coming,'" Gillooly said. "I was ready for it. I'm right in his face. He doesn't have any choice, he's got to retreat. I've got him. He's got to come through me. He's not going to get through there."

"He puts his head down and runs up. We have a collision. He's running as hard as he can and I'm running as hard as I can. I'm sure it hurt us both. That was the end, they punted to us. We took the ball, scored a touchdown and that was the end of the game."

Davis lost about eight yards when Gillooly brought him down with a



**CAPT John "Jack" Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), played offensive and defensive line for the Navy football team. He was part of the 1943 team that finished 8-1, beat Army and ranked No. 4 nationally.**

one-on-one tackle at the Knights' 3-yard-line. Gillooly's teammates celebrated with him. It contrasted with the treatment he received as a plebe.

During one meal inside Bancroft Hall, the upperclassmen made him stand on his chair to make a proclamation.

"I'm a big stud from West Virginia," Gillooly said. "I had to scream from the top of my lungs."

"I was a great big guy, so they picked on me. You can count on that."



## LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHARLES G. SOBEL '45, USNR (RET.)

Lieutenant Charles G. Sobel '45, USNR (Ret.), appreciated the "smallness" of submarines.

"I was a big wheel in small pond," said Sobel during an August 2023 interview in his New Jersey home. "You got responsibilities that were much higher than you would have gotten in the fleet. You were closer to your shipmates. I had a couple of short stints on a battleship plebe summer and youngster year. Some cruising on SOUTH DAKOTA—ship to ship. I didn't enjoy that as much. You got lost in the machinery."

Although Sobel's submarine training in Key West, FL, and subsequent assignment to BLUEBACK took him into the Pacific just as World War II was ending, he said subs provided unique opportunities to lead and build camaraderie among his shipmates.

"It was much more compressed and we had much more responsibilities," Sobel said of submarine service. "I never had a chance to fire a torpedo at an enemy but I knew how."

BLUEBACK operated out of Guam and eventually maneuvered to China.

“We were told to keep the Russians honest as they were making noises such as taking over Japanese islands,” said Sobel, who passed away in November 2023. “We put a stop to that. We patrolled along the coast of China from Tsingtao (now known as Qindao) down to Shanghai then back to the States.”

Sobel said he learned a lot from his shipmates. He said their bravery was infectious and allowed him to remain calm in the wake of surviving a depth charging.

He attributed his time at the Naval Academy for instilling the values that carried him throughout his life. While he initially wasn’t prepared for the level of discipline required, Sobel said he rapidly learned to live up to the standards mandated by brigade leadership. He wore his class ring continuously beginning with his ring dance.

“I prize it,” he said. “I find it’s an accomplishment. I don’t think I would have had the same successes without (an Academy education). I learned very early how to obey.

“The discipline and following the rules followed me the rest of my life. You learn how to lead men. Everything I learned at the Academy put me in good stead for civilian life.”

Sobel served as the legal officer on his sub and was assigned to Naval Justice School. Following his active-duty career, Sobel earned a degree from the New York University School of Law.

He lived a life of service well beyond his time in uniform. He served as a Blue and Gold officer, as chairman of the planning board in Park Ridge, NJ, and was active in the Navy Reserve and taught law and other courses at reserve centers.

Despite earning a law degree, he went into insurance business where he spent 30 years.

### Gung Ho

Sobel entered the Academy from Bucknell University in 1941. About six months later, the war broke out after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He said except for the fact that graduation was accelerated by a year and foreign language requirements



were cut from two to one, life at the Academy was pretty routine. He and his classmates were eager to get into the war, he said.

“They were all gung-ho,” Sobel said. “They wanted to get out to the fleet. There wasn’t much different than peacetime. The atmosphere was a little different because we were very much anxious to get into the fleet.”



## COMMANDER DAWSON TAYLOR '46, USNR (RET.)

Ensign Dawson Taylor '46, USN, absorbed the momentous moment occurring in Tokyo Bay.

As a newly-commissioned Surface Warfare Officer, Taylor was aboard HANCOCK on 2 September 1945, which was anchored in Yokosuka Harbor. On MISSOURI, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN (Ret.), Class of 1905, signed the Instrument of Surrender officially ending war with Japan.

Dawson commissioned a year early from the Naval Academy and was en route to Leyte when an American B-29 bomber hit Hiroshima with the first atomic bomb.

He and his classmates entered the fleet expecting to see action in World War II. However, while in Leyte, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Japanese surrender was imminent.

Taylor, who retired as a commander in the Navy Reserve, appreciated the momentous occasion unfolding that September day.

“I said to myself, ‘I’m witnessing history today,’” said Taylor during a 2023 interview in his Virginia Beach, VA, home.

### Celebrating on the Fantail

Taylor departed San Francisco in transport HOCKING. The ship made its first stop at the Eniwetok Atoll a harbor captured from Japan in 1944. It was there, the crew was notified by the ship news bulletin, that Hiroshima had been bombed. Taylor wrote in his service memoirs that among the sailors, speculation was that the war might be over.

“There was wild celebration on the fantail that morning,” he wrote.

Several days later they were underway for Leyte in the Philippines. They arrived at Leyte about 15 August and transferred from HOCKING to attack transport PRESIDIO.

“The highlight of my memory of Leyte was the fact that they boasted of having the longest bar in the world, it was a tent easily as long as a football field,” Taylor wrote. “Of course, the very best memory I have of Leyte is the fact that the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and World War II was thankfully over. After several days we departed Leyte, and joined up with a replenishment task





**CDR Dawson Taylor '46, USNR (Ret.), served aboard the Essex-class aircraft carrier HANCOCK during World War II.**

group, and headed north to join up with the Third Fleet.

“We were ecstatic. We knew it would close the war.”

Taylor said about three days later, he woke up to an unforgettable sight.

“As far as you could see for 360 degrees, was the greatest and largest armada of fighting ships ever assembled,” he said. “We were right in the middle of the Third Fleet. All four of the task groups had closed in for replenishment. In whatever direction you looked there were destroyers, light cruisers, heavy cruisers, battleships and carriers.”

The campaign at this stage was delivering care packages to prisoners of war, rather than bombs, to Hokkaido. About this time, Taylor had finally reached HANCOCK, the ship he was ordered to upon commissioning. During one of the POW flights, Taylor was asked by a pilot if he'd like to join him in the belly of his TBM Avenger. Taylor affirmed enthusiastically. He was struck with how beautiful the Japanese countryside was from the air.

As they passed over the POW camps, they noticed “Pappy is Here” painted on a water tower referencing Pappy Boyington, the famous Marine fighter pilot.

“How great was that?” Taylor said.

From there, HANCOCK headed toward the Japanese home islands for the surrender ceremonies. The Japanese surrendered on 15 August 1945. Most of the Third Fleet proceeded into Tokyo Bay and Yokosuka harbor for the surrender ceremony on the deck of MISSOURI dockside in Tokyo.

Taylor and his shipmates made several shore visits. He said they were fascinated by what they saw.

“It was very evident that they were well prepared for our possible invasion, and that the death toll would have been immense,” Taylor said.

## Operation Magic Carpet

Following the Japanese surrender, bringing home American soldiers, Marines, sailors and aviators became a top priority. The effort, known as Operation Magic Carpet, meant reuniting families after months and years of separation.

Taylor, who had only been gone since July, understood the weight shouldered by HANCOCK's crew and other servicemen throughout the Pacific. He participated on the first trip to bring back servicemen from the Philippines.

“The large majority of the crew had been fighting the war in the Pacific for several years. They took part in many battles, on one occasion having to return to Pearl Harbor for repairs after having been hit by a Kamikaze with extensive loss of life,” Taylor wrote. “I had the watch at the Quarter Deck (one) morning (in Long Beach, CA) and I will never forget witnessing the many reunions of the crew with their families, from high-ranking officers to the lowest enlisted man, they were, of course, ecstatic.

“It was a beautiful sight to watch as they greeted each other with wild hugs, the girls all being lifted in the air.”

During a deployment to Manila to transport GIs home, Taylor was promoted to officer of the deck. He said he hoped he was ready to lead upon graduation from the Naval Academy and he realized he was when he heard, “the next watch is yours Mr. Taylor.”

“I was really pumped as this meant they had confidence in my ability to take on this task of being fully in charge of the ship and its navigation for the four hours of the watch, quite a responsibility,” Taylor wrote. “I was the first of my classmates aboard to make this, I was really proud. ... We off-loaded the troops at San Francisco and as we proceeded up the harbor we noted large ‘Welcome Home’ signs on most docks, great to see.”

## Getting to the Academy

For more than 75 years, Taylor has worn his Naval Academy ring. Earning his commission from Annapolis took perseverance and a lifelong love of the Navy. It took Taylor multiple attempts to gain entrance into the Academy, including a year at Cochran-Bryan Preparatory School in Annapolis.

His grandfather borrowed against his life insurance to pay for the prep school. Taylor said he didn't want to disappoint him.

“I really wanted to get to the Naval Academy, it was my ambition,” Taylor said. “(My grandfather) drove me up to Annapolis for my first interview and I finally made it.”

Taylor still has the slide rule he used as a midshipman. He recounted the panic he felt when a screw came out of the slide during an exam and he had to get down on all fours to retrieve it, put it back in and complete his exam.

With World War II raging, the Class of 1946 graduated a year early and Taylor said he felt he received the full Naval Academy experience packed into three years. That includes the academic and leadership stresses.

“Most of us wanted to get out (to the war),” Taylor said. “If we skipped a bunch of stuff (by graduating early), I wouldn't know it.”



**CDR Dawson Taylor '46, USNR (Ret.), still has the slide rule he used as a midshipman. When it came apart during an exam, thanks to a loose screw, Taylor said he panicked. He scoured the floor by his desk to retrieve the errant screw, reassembled the slide rule and completed his test.**



## CAPTAIN JOHN R. CRUMPTON '48, USN (RET.)

MEMPHIS' crew spent three frenzied days cleaning and prepping the light cruiser for "somebody important."

Then-Seaman First Class John R. Crumpton wasn't privy to the identify of their expected guest, he was just happy to be in the action. Crumpton's desire to enlist in the Navy following the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was summarily denied by his father.

He was forced to wait until after graduating from high school in Starkville, MS, in 1942. Only then would Crumpton's father relent and allow his 17-year-old son to head to war. Following boot camp in San Diego, CA, Crumpton was assigned to MEMPHIS where he served as a rangefinder.

A few months later, Crumpton said MEMPHIS was the flagship of five patrol ships in the South Atlantic Ocean between North Africa and Brazil. Her mission was intercepting and inspecting ships to ensure no cargo meant for Germany reached its intended destination.

In January 1943, MEMPHIS was abuzz. The mystery guest was revealed when two Pan-American Clippers landed in the water near MEMPHIS which was off the Gambian coast. Crumpton was one of the side boys who lined up to receive President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was brought aboard in his wheelchair.

"It was shocking," said Crumpton during a May 2023 interview at his Oxford, ME, home. "We had no idea who it was going to be until he showed up."

Roosevelt was stationed on MEMPHIS prior to the Casablanca Conference from 14 to 24 January. The conference's aim was honing the Allies' European strategy with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. FDR was aboard MEMPHIS for about three days, Crumpton said.

MEMPHIS was the only ship Crumpton served on during World War II. His next assignment would be returning to the U.S. to enter the Naval Academy as a plebe. Crumpton's 33-year Navy career might never have occurred had he not relentlessly pestered his father for permission.

### Service Delayed

Crumpton hadn't left Mississippi before Pearl Harbor. He rarely left Oktibbeha County. Like many of his generation, Crumpton was incensed following Pearl Harbor and lobbied his father to let him enlist immediately.

When it came to finishing high school, there was no debate with Crumpton's father.

"No, he didn't want me to (graduate)—he demanded that I finish," Crumpton said. "There is a difference: my way or the highway, son."

Crumpton and his best friend, Ray Bock, learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor after returning from a double date with a pair of sisters. They heard the news report on a radio at the girls' house. Crumpton shared the news with his family, whose house didn't have electric lights or running water.

Bock and Crumpton wanted to serve together and favored Navy over Army. Following graduation, Crumpton "fussed" at his father to sign enlistment papers allowing him to join the Navy before he turned 18 in October 1924.

"I decided to put pressure on him," Crumpton said. "He finally signed the paper to let me go."

The next step was heading to Birmingham, AL, where Crumpton took his first step outside the Magnolia State. Bock and Crumpton entered the recruiting station on a Saturday. They were told if they wanted to begin their careers at Naval Station Great Lakes, they should wait two days to be sworn in.

When they learned San Diego could be their destination, they took their oaths that day. They were sent to California by train. After boot camp, they shipped out to the east coast and then Crumpton was transferred to MEMPHIS, which was in the Brooklyn Naval Yard being overhauled.

Crumpton's time at sea began aboard MEMPHIS as it escorted a convoy of American ships toward the Azores off the coast of Northern Africa. They turned the convoy over to another escort group and returned to Norfolk. His destinations also included the Caribbean, Guantanamo Bay, Trinidad and Brazil.

His life changed thanks to a decree by the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.

### Midshipman Crumpton

Crumpton recounted the day his division officer gathered his sailors and relayed the news that the Secretary of the Navy asked for nominees from each ship in the fleet to be considered for appointment to the Naval Academy. The division officer sought—and received—five volunteers.

Crumpton didn't step forward. He didn't know anything about the Naval Academy. Plus, his only post-war aspirations were returning to his family's farm and raising Jersey cows. A couple of days later, Crumpton said the division officer revealed each of the original five volunteers were rejected.

He asked for two more volunteers. No one stepped forward.

"He says, 'you and you,' and that's how I was selected," Crumpton said. "I didn't want to volunteer. I had cows on the farm that I wanted to go back to. That was where I was headed as soon as the war was over. I had no interest in it."



The division officer hounded Crumpton for two weeks. Crumpton wouldn't budge.

Then came a decisive blow.

"He eventually said to me, 'I know why you don't want to go. You don't think



**CAPT John R. Crumpton '48, USN (Ret.), initially did not want to attend the Naval Academy. He originally wanted to finish fighting in World War II and return to Mississippi to raise Jersey cows.**

you could make it," Crumpton said. "When he said that, I got mad at him and, 'I said I'll show you and I did.' He was successful, I guess. He did some reverse psychology."

The two nominees interviewed before a board of three officers and both received recommendations. They were shipped to Norfolk where they were to take the Academy's entrance exam. However, they had missed the exam date by a week. Washington brass decreed they, along with six other late arrivals, could take the test.

Only one of those eight passed the test to enter the Academy with the Class of 1947. Crumpton was assigned to fleet laundry until he was sent to the Naval Academy Preparatory School which had moved to Bainbridge, MD, in 1943.

In the spring of 1944, Crumpton realized he really did want to go to the Academy. He boosted his chances of acceptance by reenlisting for another six years. All he had to do was pass the entrance exam and he had a guaranteed spot in Annapolis. The Academy would

accept 75 enlisted and 75 Reservists out of a pool of about 300.

When his test results came in, he stood at 153rd. The administrator said he would not be among the Class of 1948. However, Crumpton knew the administrator was missing a critical piece of information.

"I was on the reserve list, and I said, 'oh you got me on the wrong list,'" he said. "They argued, and I said, 'go and check my record.' They found out I was on the wrong list. I was a regular Navy fellow. All I had to do was pass and so I went right away."

Crumpton reported for Plebe Summer and because he was pre-enlisted, didn't find the experience overly taxing. He would go on to serve on a minesweeper during the Korean War and was on staff of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam prior to combat operations.

He met his wife, Eve, during a post-war assignment in Japan. She was teaching the children of American military personnel. They were married for 61 years.

## SOLE SUSPECT

By Captain John R. Crumpton '48, USN (Ret.)

I enjoyed plebe year. That was the best year of all of them. Easter Sunday, six or eight of us decided we were going to have an Easter egg hunt. We planned to go into the youngsters' rooms and steal all their shoes, every shoe we could find. Bedroom slippers, drill shoes, parade shoes, anything that had a sole on it from their rooms. When it came time to put the plan into action, only one other plebe showed up, a fellow southerner, from Georgia.

We got every shoe from every youngster room that we could find. While he was stealing shoes, he got caught. A fellow looked over the edge of his bunk and down at him on his hands and knees underneath the bunk. He asked, 'what are you doing down there?' He was trying to get a shoe from way back under the bunk and he said, 'well sir, I dropped my pencil as I was going to close the windows and it's under your bunk' and he got the

shoe and he left. Plebes were charged with closing windows in the morning as the room was starting to get warm.

We put the shoes in a big pile in the middle of Bancroft's main passageway. We dropped one shoe on this side of the pile and one shoe on the other side of the pile. They were all mixed up. No two shoes from any one room were anywhere near each other. We were smart. We only did the third class shoes. We didn't do the first class shoes. The third class came out with nothing. Some of them were barefooted, they didn't have even socks.

I think they would have killed us.

One fellow that was half asleep and lost his shoe remembered it was one of those southerners who lost his pencil and so the southerners were really getting interrogated. I don't know how I escaped. I did get accused, 'you took my shoe!' 'No, I did not take your shoe.' Of course, he asked the wrong (guy). I didn't lie. A better question would have been did you take any shoes? 🚢

## LEGACY OF VALOR: Korean War, Vietnam War and Cold War

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation is beginning to gather stories from alumni who served in the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold wars. To share your story, please contact *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com.



*To complement the stories of living World War II alumni, Shipmate solicited submissions from the friends and family of other Naval Academy alumni. These are the stories of service, sacrifice and valor that are emblematic of the values instilled on the banks of the Severn River. For more stories and videos from the Legacy of Valor series, visit [https://www.usna.com/Shipmate\\_WWII](https://www.usna.com/Shipmate_WWII).*

# SACRIFICE AND VALOR

## THREE ACADEMY ALUMNI PLAYED PIVOTAL ROLES DURING BATTLE OF MIDWAY

By Major Thomas Rychlik '79, USMC (Ret.), and Charles Race

**H**onor our Fallen Heroes, the Naval Academy's annual tribute to alumni who were killed in action or were operational losses, provides a solemn moment to remember the enormous sacrifices our fellow alumni made in World War II.

One individual who never came home was Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron, USN, Class of 1924. At the Battle of Midway, Waldron led his squadron of obsolete Douglas TBD torpedo bombers, armed with unreliable torpedoes, in an unsupported attack against the cream of the Imperial Japanese Navy—the formidable carrier fleet Kido Butai. Without scoring a single torpedo hit, 29 out of 30 airmen lost their lives in the attack.

All 15 aircraft were shot down.

During the early months of 1942, in Asia and over the Pacific, Japan's army and navy stood unchecked and unbeaten in China and much of the Pacific littoral. Much of the American battle fleet rested at the bottom of Pearl Harbor or damaged, victims of a Japanese sneak attack.

Onto this world stage strode South Dakotan John Waldron, age 42. Due to a youth spent supporting his family's cattle business, his formal education was wanting. Determined to attend the Naval Academy, he spent a year at a preparatory school to earn an appointment. Although he devoted himself to his studies at the Academy he still graduated near the bottom of his class. After two years of mandatory duty at sea, Waldron applied for flight training and received his wings at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

In the years leading up to 1941, Waldron spent most of his time in the cockpit developing his aviation expertise. In September 1941 Waldron was given command of a squadron of torpedo bombers—Torpedo 8—stationed on aircraft carrier HORNET. Despite being saddled with slow (maximum speed carrying a 2000-pound torpedo was 100 MPH) and poorly armed torpedo bombers, Waldron prepared his roster of newly winged pilots as best he could.



**CDR John C. Waldron, USN, Class of 1924.**



**LCDR Eugene Lindsey, USN, Class of 1927.**



**LCDR Lance E. Massey, USN, Class of 1930.**

His was the only squadron to regularly exercise on the deck of HORNET. Waldron took advantage of every opportunity to improve the skills of his pilots and the survivability of his aircraft, installing makeshift armor plating around crew seats and doubling the defensive firepower of the rear-facing machine guns. Unlike the other HORNET aircraft, Waldron's planes could not be fitted with self-sealing fuel tanks which made them highly susceptible to explode and burn when hit by Japanese tracer and explosive 20mm cannon rounds.

His men revered him, referring to him affectionately as "The Indian," a nod to his Sioux heritage.

### WALDRON'S PLEA

On the morning of 4 June, Kido Butai was sighted northwest of Midway Atoll, nearly 200 miles from the outnumbered American carriers, at the extreme range of our carrier planes. Without hesitation, Admiral Raymond Spruance, USN, Class of 1907 (commander of Task Force 16, second-in-command to Admiral Jack Fletcher, USN, Class of 1906/commander of Task Force 17/carrier YORKTOWN), ordered a full attack from the carriers ENTERPRISE and HORNET on the Japanese carriers. Prior to



launch, on the bridgewing of HORNET, a heated argument ensued between HORNET's Commander, Captain Marc Mitscher, USN, Class of 1910; HORNET's Air Group Commander, Commander Stanhope Cotton Ring IV, USN, Class of 1923; and Waldron.

In the run up to the attack, Waldron argued for close fighter escort but was rebuffed by Mitscher. Waldron tried again, eventually requesting just one fighter to escort his squadron. Mitscher again refused. Ring, not known for his navigational skills, insisted on an intercepting course of 265 degrees. Waldron, having done his own calculations, strenuously disagreed, arguing for a more southwesterly course of 240 degrees, which was also used by ENTERPRISE's aircraft.

Mitscher finally interceded and ordered Waldron to fly Ring's course in company with the SBD Dauntless dive-bomber squadrons and leaving the F4F Wildcat fighter escort at high altitude with Ring.

Shortly after departure, Waldron broke radio silence, and attempted to inform Ring he was "going in the wrong direction for the Japanese carrier force." After a heated exchange, Waldron eventually took his squadron to the southwest, away from Ring's dive-bomber and fighter squadrons.

The combination of Waldron's understanding of carrier operations and his navigational skills led him to Kido Butai at 0920. Meanwhile, Ring flew aimlessly westward over the empty Pacific, never finding the Japanese. Waldron knew the side that struck the first blow was likely to win the battle. Without hesitation, Torpedo 8 dropped to nearly sea level for a torpedo run on the four carriers, all veterans of Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese carriers turned their sterns to Waldron's aircraft and ran at top speed thereby forcing the lumbering torpedo planes into a lengthy stern chase while being attacked by 24 Japanese Zeros. Compounding the tactical problem was the slow speed and range of the torpedoes compared to the higher speeds of the Japanese carriers dictated Torpedo 8 had to work around to the front of the Japanese aircraft carriers to get bow shots in an "anvil" style attack.

Waldron, surrounded by lethal Zero fighter planes and flak, was last seen (as reported by sole survivor Ensign George Gay) climbing out of his burning cockpit shortly before it exploded. As a testament to their loyalty, not a single pilot from Torpedo 8 failed to follow their leader to near certain doom. Not one torpedo hit a Japanese carrier. At this point, American chances for victory were at a low ebb.

But Torpedo 8's doomed attack was not in vain. Waldron's actions helped convince Japanese commander Admiral Nagumo, who now realized American carriers were in striking distance, to re-arm his bombers with anti-ship ordnance. In the words of Midway historians Jonathan Parshall and Anthony Tully in *Shattered Sword*, "it [Waldron's attack] also delayed [Nagumo's] spotting (bringing up to the flight deck

of fully armed and fueled attack aircraft) by tying down the Japanese flight deck with yet more CAP [Combat Air Patrol] operations at low level."

Consequently, the Japanese were not given the 45 minutes it would take to move their attack aircraft to their flight decks and then launch a crushing attack upon the American aircraft carriers. This would have likely won the battle for the Japanese in one stroke.

### DECISIVE DECISION

Waldron's attack began a series of events that directly led to the destruction of the Japanese aircraft carrier Soryu, and similarly unopposed and devastating attacks on carriers Kaga and Akagi. The Battle of Midway doesn't end with an American victory without these events. Specifically, the smoke screen laid down by Japanese warships to screen their carriers and the massive amount of smoke generated by signaling, anti-aircraft fire and aircraft explosions attracted the attention of a second American torpedo squadron, Torpedo 6, led by Lieutenant Commander Eugene Lindsey, USN, Class of 1927, from ENTERPRISE.

Changing course to the north, this squadron also made a similar valiant unescorted, unsupported attack against Kido Butai with similar results. This attack similarly affected the re-spotting of the Japanese flight decks while they attempted to refuel and rearm their Zeros. Ten of Lindsey's 14 aircraft were shot down, including his own.

Soon after Torpedo 6's attack, a third American torpedo squadron, Torpedo 3, led by Lieutenant Commander Lance E. Massey, USN, Class of 1930, from YORKTOWN, spotted the smoke from the previous two squadron attacks and altered course to attack Kido Butai. Unlike the first two squadrons, Torpedo 3 was flying with six Wildcat fighters and directly below, the 17 dive bombers of Bombing Three.

Again, the Japanese turned their sterns to the approaching torpedo bombers and 43 Zero fighters attacked Torpedo 3 and the six fighters. Japanese CAP focused exclusively on the torpedo bombers, which allowed Bombing Three, and the ENTERPRISE's Bombing Six and Scouting Six, to make unopposed attacks on three Japanese carriers, eventually sinking all three.

Observing the destruction on these carriers, Massey modified his approach to attack the remaining carrier Hiryu. Ten of his 12 aircraft (including Massey's) were shot down making their attack, the final two ditched from combat damage and fuel exhaustion before being recovered by an American carrier.

It was the decisive moment of the battle and arguably the most important naval victory in American history. Most historians would agree Midway is the turning point of the war in the Pacific. Before Midway, President Roosevelt was under considerable pressure from Congress and the American people to avenge Pearl Harbor and devote more resources

against Japan, which would have significantly impacted the joint Allied “Germany First” strategy.

If the U.S. Navy had lost at Midway, it is very likely the resources to make landings in North Africa in 1942, Sicily and Italy in 1943, and France in 1944 would have been siphoned away to the Pacific, greatly delaying Hitler’s defeat. Additionally, losing at Midway would likely have resulted in the loss of most, if not all, of our few aircraft carriers and the Midway airbase.

Such losses would have exposed Hawaii to invasion, thus making a landing at Guadalcanal in August 1942 impossible.

Victor Davis Hanson points out in his chapter on Midway in *Carnage and Culture* that 35 of 41 Devastators were shot down attacking the Japanese carriers and most

of the pilots had never taken off armed with a torpedo from the deck of an aircraft carrier. Hanson notes this loss rate would be scarcely comprehensible under the protocols of contemporary American military practice, in which troops enjoying overwhelming technological, material and numerical superiority are sometimes not committed to battle out of fear of losing a handful of combatants.

“The American military was later aghast over the use of Japanese kamikaze planes in the last year of the war; but the orders for the Devastator attacks at Midway were themselves little more than suicidal,” Hanson wrote.

*This article was first published in the Watertown Daily Times in September 2023.*

## DARING ESCAPE

### MCCOY AMONG AMERICANS WHO SUCCESSFULLY FLED JAPANESE PRISON CAMP

On 4 April 1943, 10 American prisoners of war and two Filipino convicts escaped from the Davao Penal Colony, on the southern Philippine Island of Mindanao. Davao was one of Japan’s most notorious prison camps and this would be the only successful group escape from a Japanese POW camp. Lieutenant Commander Melvyn H. McCoy ’27, USN, was one of the American prisoners who escaped and a key figure in planning that effort.

McCoy was nicknamed the “Czar” of math. He commissioned as an ensign and assigned to WEST VIRGINIA, a Colorado-class battleship for his first three years in the Navy. After serving on two destroyers, he received his master’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley in electrical engineering with an emphasis in radio communications. By July 1940, McCoy was assigned as radio materiel officer of the Asiatic Fleet and the Sixteenth Naval District with headquarters in Cavite, Philippine Islands. His main responsibility was overseeing the radio intercept station. On 10 December 1941 the Japanese destroyed the naval base at Cavite.

When the Asiatic Fleet was ordered to move to Australia most of the high-ranking officers were moved out of the Philippines. However, McCoy was transferred to the Navy Tunnel at Corregidor where he continued his duties as a radio materiel officer. The Japanese invaded Corregidor 5-6 May 1942. When they brought tanks ashore, General Jonathan Wainwright, USA, made the decision to surrender. McCoy was still at the radio shack in the Navy Tunnel on the morning of the surrender.

At 1155, he wrote the last Navy message to be transmitted from Corregidor, “GOING OFF THE AIR NOW. GOODBYE

AND GOODLUCK. CALLAHAN AND MCCOY.” Three hours after the surrender the Japanese arrived at the tunnel. McCoy, with approximately 135 other naval officers, remained in the tunnel for the next two weeks before the Japanese marched all the prisoners to the south dock and put them onto three barges, which headed out the next morning on 23 May to Manila. Once ashore, the prisoners lined up in columns and marched down Dewey Boulevard in Manila, lined with local onlookers, to Bilibid Prison. Here he would meet other prisoners and learn about the horrors of the Death March.

On 7 July 1942, McCoy, with others, were driven by truck northward to Camp Cabanatuan, the largest POW camp in the Pacific theater. Later, thousands of prisoners would arrive from Camp O’Donnell to the west. Camp O’Donnell had to close because the death rate was so high. The conditions at Cabanatuan were not any better. Inadequate food, no medical care and the brutal treatment by Japanese soldiers led to a death rate of 30 each day within the first two months of the camp opening. McCoy calculated this based on the bodies lying outside the barracks each day awaiting burial. Several attempts were made by individuals to escape and each ended in recapture, subsequent torture and execution.

After several months at Cabanatuan, the prisoners were told that some of them would be transferred to other camps.







**RADM Melvin McCoy '27, USN (Ret.), second from left, was one of 10 American POWs to successfully escape from Japanese prisoner camp Davao. In this photo from 30 July 1945, he is joined by (left to right), Maj Ed Dyess, USA; Gen Douglas MacArthur, USA; and Maj Stephen Mellnick, USA.**

At this time, there were an estimated 200 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps prisoners and 8,000 Army prisoners. Because of the disparity in numbers, some of the Navy and Marine Corps prisoners were allowed to volunteer to go to another camp, and McCoy was one of the first to volunteer. He felt that if he stayed at Cabanatuan he would surely die from either starvation, disease or murder.

They were taken by boat to the southern Philippine Island of Mindanao and then on a 17-mile march to the former Davao Penal Colony for Filipino convicts, now being used as a Japanese prison camp. Discipline was very strict at Davao and the Japanese guards consistently beat the prisoners, but the amount of food increased and overall prison life at Davao was better than it had been at Cabanatuan.

Nevertheless, McCoy never stopped thinking about escaping. He wanted to get to Australia and not only tell the military leadership and politicians, but the American public about the atrocities that had taken place during the Bataan Death March and those continuing at the POW camps. At Davao, the prisoners were forced to work on farmland or rice paddies outside of the sentry points of the camp six days a week and sometimes on Sundays. The sentry guards would count the number of prisoners going out to the fields each day and when they returned at the end of the day to ensure the number was the same. They deterred the prisoners from escaping by threatening to kill the remaining prisoners in the unit if one escaped. In January 1943, McCoy befriended Army Major Steve Mellnik and talked to him about his desires to escape. Mellnik was onboard and the two discussed the supplies needed for an escape.

The next day they met a Filipino man named Candido Abrina who was an agriculture advisor to the Japanese. He would become an ally to them and used his influence to get them assigned to details near fruit groves and other food. He would distract the guards so the men could return to the

barracks with much needed food in their bags unnoticed. This went on for months and eventually two others also joined their cause.

McCoy decided their small group wouldn't be sufficient for a successful escape and calculated they would need 10 people to safely handle a boat to get to Australia. He knew there were others in the camp who were thinking about escaping. Then he met William Dyess, an old friend from Cabanatuan who was an Air Force ace pilot (Dyess AFB in Texas would later be named after him).

The Japanese assigned Dyess to be a carabao cart driver and this allowed him to become familiar with the layout of the entire camp. He and two other pilots were already planning an escape. This group, along with McCoy and three of his fellow Navy prisoners, would eventually meet up with a Marine group of three prisoners.

Now they had the 10 McCoy felt was required. They also brought on two Filipino convicts who would help them find a path and use bolo knives to cut through the thick growth of vines and grass. Through Abrina they also acquired a map, which showed a set of railroad tracks traversing through villages. Although risky, the group planned to leave from a work detail during the day, since this would already put them outside the fence line, then travel through the jungle and swamps to the railroad tracks and then on to a village.

The plan was set for Sunday, 4 April 1943. The prisoners typically had Sundays off, so Abrina convinced the guards to allow the group to go to the fields under the auspices of building a rain shelter for the prisoners. This eliminated the risk of other prisoners seeing and reporting their escape. That Sunday, the group made it past all the sentry points and continued to where they had hid—under banana leaves—their food, equipment and medicine the previous week using the carabao cart.

It was all still there. Elated, they pressed forward knowing the Japanese would not get wind of their escape until the end of the day. They hiked through the jungle and spent the night on wood platforms in a swamp. The next day, they found the path to the railroad tracks. Continuing along the railroad track with McCoy in the lead, they entered a village two days later where Filipino guerillas met and fed them, and gave them a place to rest. They were safe, but their journey was far from over.

Over the next three months, they would travel to the northern part of Mindanao to the headquarters of the American guerilla activity, where they learned about an American guerilla leader named William Fertig and about Commander Charles "Chick" Parsons. Parsons was a wealthy man who lived in the Philippines before the war and had an extensive knowledge of the waters around the island. This made him an invaluable resource for navy submarines coming in from Australia.

He was the liaison between General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence officer in Australia and Fertig. They also learned that Fertig had a radio and was using it to send messages to

MacArthur's headquarters. They wanted to send a message to MacArthur's HQ to arrange a submarine to pick them up. Getting to Fertig's location required a 100-mile trek back down the western side of Mindanao through the jungle narrowly avoiding Japanese patrols.

On 18 June, they received a message, "MCCOY-MELLNİK-DYESS AUTHORIZED TO BOARD SUBMARINE."

The others would be evacuated on a later submarine. They just had to make one more trek to a town called Naga Naga and then out on a boat where they would rendezvous with TROUT on 9 July 1943. Stepping on the submarine, McCoy's legs buckled.

"The thing I remember most clearly about going on that ship is the sensation of standing on armor plate—good, hard American armor plate," McCoy said. "We were saying goodbye to bamboo and rattan."

They arrived in Australia where they met with MacArthur to tell their story. Dyess would return to the U.S. and share their story in the *Chicago Tribune*, a story dubbed by the War Department in 1944 as the "greatest story of the war in the Pacific."

McCoy returned to the Pacific theater aboard CLEVELAND and participated in the recapture of the Philippines by shelling Japanese positions on the island of Corregidor. On 1 July 1957 Harry S. Truman retired McCoy from the Navy in the rank of Rear Admiral. McCoy died on 1 December 1988 at the age of 81 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

*Submitted by McCoy's granddaughter Julie Lopez.*

\*Extensive details of these events can be found in the two sources used for this article: "Escape from Davado," by John D. Lukacs and "Profiles In Survival," by John C. Shively.

## NAVAL DOMINANCE

### FYFE HAILS AMERICA'S WWII SEA POWER

Rear Admiral John Fyfe '36, USN (Ret.), spent World War II in the Silent Service. He made three war patrols on DOLPHIN as chief engineer and another on SANDLANCE as executive officer.

Fyfe then commanded BATFISH on four patrols. BATFISH sunk three Japanese submarines in 76 hours in February 1945.

On 13 February 1946, Fyfe addressed the graduating class at Admiral Farragut Academy in New Jersey. In it, he recounts some of his experiences during the war and the pivotal role America's Navy had on defeating the Japanese in the Pacific theater.

The following are excerpts from that speech.

*Admiral Mahan, an American naval officer who had more influence on the navies of the modern world than any other man of his time, pointed out that a conqueror may destroy sea power, but he cannot win the world without sea power of his own. His teachings are as true today as they were 32 years ago, and World War II is a classic example of this. The British and American navies destroyed the sea power of the Axis in the European theatre and then, and only then, because of our sea power, were we able to carry out the invasions of Africa and Europe. Only because of our sea power were we able to send the supplies the Russians sorely needed to turn the Nazis back at Stalingrad.*

*Only through sea power were we able to keep the bombers and fighter planes supplied with the wherewithal to stay in the air and carry out their mission. Without sea power, we would have been unable to transport troops across the Atlantic and*

*keep them fully supplied, supplied in a manner that enabled them to storm one of the most heavily fortified coasts in the world and accept material losses that would normally slow armies down to a walk. Sea power kept reinforcements coming with clock-like regularity. All this was possible because the Italian navy and the German navy were crushed before the invasion and were never allowed to become a serious threat.*



*I was in Pearl Harbor on that Sunday morning that is known to every American. I saw the pride of the American Navy in flames, and I saw American sea power at its lowest ebb since the period following the Revolutionary War. I watched the Japanese advance south and east until the remnants of the sea power of the United States stopped them at Guadalcanal, the Coral Sea and Midway.*

*With the thought in mind that I may be called prejudiced, I watched Japanese planes fly over 15 submarines, including the submarine base, ignore them for bigger game, to their sorrow later. A few well placed bombs on the base and the submarines moored at the piers would have wiped out the men and the ships that carried the war into the Japanese home waters at the beginning of the war in the Pacific and who provided the core*

of the 244 submarines and the key men of the 50,000 men who, during the course of the war, sank 1,750 steel merchant ships totaling 4,871,000 tons and damaged 1,010 merchant ships totaling over 2,500,000 tons; and sank 276 combatant ships, including 1 BB, 4 CV, 4 CVE, 3 CA, 9 CL, 43 DD and 23 SS. In addition, the Japanese records indicate that submarines directly caused the deaths of 276,000 Japanese. Since I served in submarines for the whole war, I hope you will bear with me if most of my talk is about those submarines.

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On 7 December I was the engineer officer of *DOLPHIN*. ...

The history books your children study will record the annihilation of the Japanese navy in cold facts and figures—out of 12 BB, 11 were sunk; of 26 carriers, 20 were sunk; of 43 cruisers, 38 were sunk; and so on down the line throughout the various types of ships which, as is well known, constituted a fleet considerably larger than ours was before the war began. The other ships remaining afloat were so heavily damaged as to be of no military value.

The first of these naval victories of ours was the Coral Sea battle on 7-8 May 1942. The next was Midway on 3-6 June of the same year. This was the carrier planes show, and no one will deny them the credit for turning the Japanese back. But I doubt if most people know, that in case they had gotten through, there were some 21 submarines dispersed on a circle of a 10 mile radius from Midway, ready to give them a taste of some 500 torpedoes.

I'll admit I am very far removed from any suicidal tendencies, but I think that day most of us hoped in a way some Japanese units would get through and within range. And I think most of us felt that if they did, this was going to be it, come what may. As a matter of fact, we were all so keyed up, that the let-down afterwards was very pronounced, even in the knowledge that the Japanese had been thoroughly whipped.

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When we arrived from *SANDLANCE*'s first patrol, I was detached and given my own command, *BATFISH*, which was a new boat barely five months old. My first patrol with her was in the waters south of the Empire, including the southern coast of Kyushu and Honshu, and I like to think that we aided the forces landing on Saipan because during the last week of May, we sunk three fully laden ships that had just left Yokohama and were heading south, presumably to Saipan. No matter what the cargo was—food, clothing, materiel or personnel—it stands to reason they would have been used in the defense of the island when the Marines stormed ashore in June about two weeks later.

This period, the summer of 1944, was notable for many reasons. Our offensive in the Pacific was gaining momentum daily because our Navy had proved so successful and our seapower so effective, the timetable for the war against Japan

was revised time and time again and we were now six months ahead of schedule. New weapons were introduced, shore bombardment from surface ships was out of the experimental stage and, after Tarawa had become an exact science. Amphibious tactics were constantly being improved. The fleet had become self sufficient, and the train transferred ammunition, fuel and supplies, while underway at sea, right under the eyes of the Japanese air force, the Japanese navy was hiding at Singapore and in the inland. ...

... our submarine tactics changed also. For the first time since the war started, we had enough boats on station to allow us to employ wolf pack tactics for increased effectiveness and mutual protection. ...

Reconnaissance prior to an amphibious landing became a common mission. Periscope photography had been so well developed that photographic patrols also became common. ...

I made four patrols with *BATFISH*, during which time we sank four freighters, two destroyers, three submarines, one destroyer escort, damaged one freighter and one patrol craft, sank three ships with gunfire, did life guard duty, recovered a couple of Japanese anti-submarine planes and ships, frequently scared the hell out of ourselves, but, generally speaking, enjoyed every minute of it. ...

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(Quoting Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Class of 1905)

Sea power is not a limited term. It includes many weapons and many techniques. Sea power means more than the combatant ships and aircraft the amphibious forces and the merchant marine. It includes also the port facilities of New York and California; the bases in Guam and in Kansas; the factories which are the capital plant of war; and the farms which are the producers of supplies. All these are elements of sea power. ... The present organization of our Navy Department has permitted decisions to be made effectively. It has allowed great flexibility. In each operation we were able to apply our force at the time and place where it would be most damaging to the enemy.

---

A push button war may be coming up, but old Mother Earth is still 4/5 ocean and until airplanes and rocket ships can circle the globe in one hop, become self-sustaining and self-sufficient, transport millions of troops and billions of tons of supplies anywhere on the globe in any kind of weather, this fair country of ours must maintain a strong Navy and must maintain a strong Navy and must continue to rely on the sea power that has kept us free from the time DeGrasse and his ships of the French fleet blockaded Cornwallis in Yorktown until the surrender document was signed on the battleship *MISSOURI* in Tokyo Bay.

Submitted by Captain John "Jay" Fyfe Jr. '65, USN (Ret.), son of Rear Admiral Fyfe.



## VALIANT MARINE

### COLONEL NORMAN STANFORD '44, USN (RET.)

Colonel Norman Stanford '44, USN (Ret.), enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1937 and was later appointed to the Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1944. His Marine Corps career spanned three wars—World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He would receive extensive combat awards for valor, along with command billets and diplomatic posts.

Commissioned a Marine infantry officer in June 1943, Stanford fought in the Pacific campaign in the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa. Wounded in each action (two Purple Hearts), he was awarded the Bronze Star at Peleliu for “directing Naval gunfire from an exposed position under heavy enemy sniper and mortar fire.”

On Okinawa Stanford was awarded the Navy Cross: “... crawling alone with a radio on his back over 200 yards forward of the front lines under sniper and machine gun fire, 1st Lieutenant Stanford fearlessly adjusted the burst of naval gunfire heavy shells less than 100 yards from himself, thereby completely destroying three Japanese emplacements.”

Stanford’s combat service extended to the Korean War; he was awarded a Bronze Star (2nd award) and 3rd Purple Heart leading his Marine rifle company in a frontal assault at the Battle of Seoul. Rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, he served as commanding officer, 2nd Battalion 8th Marines from 1961 to 1963.

Stanford earned an M.A. from Stanford University and took graduate courses in Japanese linguistics studies at Yale.

He served seven years in Japan in a variety of military and diplomatic billets, ultimately serving as senior assistant U.S. Naval Attaché to the American Embassy in Tokyo (1958–1961).

His combat and diplomatic experiences throughout Asia included serving as an HQMC staff officer for Marine Amphibious Force counterinsurgency operations in the early stages of the Vietnam War. Stanford retired in 1966.

A prolific writer on naval, military and Far Eastern subjects; Stanford published several articles in the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* and the *Marine Corps Gazette*. Notably, his 1960 *Proceedings* article titled “Top Secret Assignment” was the first article to reveal the story of Takeo Yoshikawa, former ensign, Imperial Japanese Navy and the secret spy at Pearl Harbor.

The inscriptions inside his Naval Academy ring read “Gung-Ho” and “Go for Broke.”

His two sons are Marine Corps and Navy (USNA 1980) veterans, and one grandson is currently a Navy H60 helicopter pilot.

*Submitted by the family of Colonel Norman Stanford '44, USMC (Ret.).*



## 'CLEAN SWEEP' ABOARD BURNS

### CAPTAIN JAMES P. JAMISON '41, USN (RET.)

My father, Captain James P. Jamison '41, USN (Ret.), and the Class of 1941 graduated early, in a solemn ceremony on 7 February, to get more officers out into the fleet with the war looming. He served on DECATUR in the Atlantic until December 1942. The ship served chiefly as convoy escort in the waters off Iceland and Newfoundland.

“It was wet, cold, rough and just plain miserable,” he wrote. “We had many sonar contacts and made many depth charge attacks, but it was sort of a blind man’s bluff on both sides. The battle with the submarines remained in doubt until the installation of surface search radars in escort ships became widespread.

“This ended the U-boat tactic of making torpedo runs on the surface at night. By the summer of 1943 the Battle of the Atlantic against submarines had been essentially won.”

DECATUR began a series of convoying operations shuttling between Norfolk, VA, and Key West, FL. In the summer of 1942, they were about to enter the Chesapeake Bay.

“We were just off Virginia Beach when one of our ships blew up,” he wrote.





**CAPT James P. Jamison '41, USN (Ret.), served aboard BURNS during World War II as the gunnery officer. BURNS sunk four ships on 30 January 1944 off Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands.**

“Then another one, an Esso tanker, counting on her speed to get away from the slow convoy and its danger, took off at high speed and immediately suffered a large explosion that brought her to a halt, but didn’t sink her.

“We of course figured that this was a submarine attack, and the escorts ran back and forth searching for the sub. Eventually logic prevailed and we realized that we had run through a mine field that a submarine had laid, and the submarine now was long gone. Belatedly, we sent for the minesweepers to clear the area, and thanked our lucky stars that none of the escorts had triggered any more mines as they ran back and forth.

“In the fall of 1942 we got a great new job. We were based at a pier in Staten Island, and periodically, when a large, fast troop carrier (former luxury liners, including QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH) left New York for England, we and one other destroyer would escort them 400 miles out to sea at high speed; from there they proceeded independently, counting on zig-zagging at high speed to foil U-boat attacks. They would be picked up at the other end to be escorted into England.”

My father joined the Fletcher-class destroyer BURNS in Charleston, SC, when it was commissioned on 3 April 1943. After a six-week shakedown in the Guantanamo Bay area, the new BURNS steamed westward through the Panama Canal. From the first major carrier raid on Wake Island in October 1943 to the final Japanese surrender, BURNS participated in almost every major American offensive operation in the

Pacific. But it was shortly after midnight on 30 January 1944 BURNS had its big chance, and my father, a lieutenant and the gunnery officer, was later awarded the Silver Star.

BURNS was returning from rescuing some downed carrier airmen off Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands when she encountered a four-ship enemy convoy steaming along under cover of darkness. It was a black night with heavy rain clouds and occasional showers. Visibility was limited to 1,000 yards, seas moderate, winds northeast at 15 knots. Radar contact was made on an unidentified target, range 20,800 yards.

At first it was expected to be a rain cloud, moving in the direction of the wind at about wind speed. BURNS went to general quarters. Then the target appeared to divide into two parts. BURNS got into the most advantageous position for attack. She could blanket fire from the most distant ship as well as take advantage from any “overs.”

BURNS commenced the death run, loaded the main battery and called the unknown ships on the TBS (Talk Between Ships—a radiotelephone), reporting her bearing from the target and that she was about to open fire. It was up to whomever was out there to answer. It was an impenetrably black night, the target still was not visible, but it was out there.

At 0107 the range was 9,000 yards—BURNS’ five 5-inch 38s split the night with flame and steel, and almost immediately a sheet of flame rose in the distance. A dead-on hit had been made on what turned out to be a Japanese tanker. Four minutes later, range 6,000 yards, BURNS’ gunners shifted to the second target, and set it on fire. BURNS then devastated a third and fourth target.

The score: one medium oiler, one medium cargo ship, two small cargo ships or escort ships. BURNS rejoined her group the next morning with a broom flying proudly from her mast, indicating a “clean sweep” by the Battlin’ BURNS.

*Submitted by Patricia Jamison Graboske, daughter of Captain James P. Jamison '41, USN (Ret.).* ⚓

To read more stories from friends or family of U.S. Naval Academy alumni who were in World War II, scan this QR code.



# A CLASS RESPONSE TO A MOTHER'S REQUEST

By Commander W. Britt Watwood '72, USN (Ret.)

**I**n early 1971, just before finals, I got a newsy letter from my mother, Barbara Watwood, in Georgia. She previously requested I send her some info on the Naval Academy for Greg Zaworski. Greg was a 14-year-old who was the son of a friend. She explained that her friend's son had one aim in life: attending the Naval Academy.

Greg was an all-state football player from Morrow, GA, and an all-around good kid. Unfortunately, in that February letter, she shared the tragic news that Greg was diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer. The disease was so aggressive the doctors reluctantly amputated one leg and did not hold out very much hope for his future. She also shared one of the biggest letdowns he experienced with the amputation was the way it dashed his hopes for coming to Annapolis.

She asked if my company could find any way to "adopt" him or do anything else, as he was crazy about the Academy. Joe Glover, an 8th Company mate, was our class president. Joe and I tossed around ideas with other classmates and came up with the idea of inviting Greg and his family to spend a weekend at the Academy as a guest of the Class of 1972.

Everyone in "Skate Eight" was excited about setting this in motion. We contacted then-Brigade Commander Mike Hecomovich '71 and with permission from then-Commandant Robert Coogan '44's staff, within a few weeks, an invitation was sent to Greg and his family in Georgia.

Greg wrote back happily accepting, noting "Don't worry about making special plans for me ... Since losing my leg, I have been dancing, playing basketball and chasing girls, all on crutches ... ." His father, Tom, in a separate letter,

detailed that he and Greg's younger brother, Chris, would accompany Greg for a weekend stay in mid-April 1971. Tom noted, "What you young men are doing for Greg is really wonderful. As parents, the future looks very bleak to us and this gesture by all your friends to Greg will be cherished and remembered by the entire family."

Greg, along with his father and brother, flew into Baltimore, MD, on 16 April. The two boys stayed in my room in the fifth wing of Bancroft Hall for the weekend. During a whirlwind weekend, they attended their first lacrosse game, watched Navy beat Army in rugby, ate meals with 8th Company and the football team (one of the high points to Greg) and attended a band concert and chapel services. During the evening meal, it was announced Greg had been made an



Greg Zaworski, a 14-year-old from Morrow, GA, visited the Naval Academy in April 1971 as a guest of the Class of 1972 and 8th Company. He lost his right leg to bone cancer.



UPI published this photo of Greg Zaworski in his USNA 1972 jacket silhouetted in the entrance to Bancroft Hall looking at noon meal formation.



Then-MIDN Britt Watwood '72 with Greg Zaworski, and Linda Moreland, in December 1971. Zaworski, whose dream was to attend the Naval Academy, was battling cancer.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CDR W. BRITT WATWOOD '72, USN (RET.)



honorary member of both the Class of 1972 and 8th Company.

We were all impressed with this young man and commented on how he would have been a stellar member of the Brigade. Greg noted in a letter after the visit that he “really had a blast” and that eating with the midships was a lot more fun than eating with the officers! UPI published a photo of Greg on crutches in his USNA 1972 jacket silhouetted in the entrance to Bancroft Hall looking out at noon meal formation. The story ran in hundreds of papers around the nation.

Tom Zaworski sent Commandant Robert P. Coogan '44, USN, a thank you letter later that month, noting the visit “... will probably be the most memorable experience that Greg will ever have ... I was so favorably impressed by the young men at the Academy. My faith in the young people of this great nation was

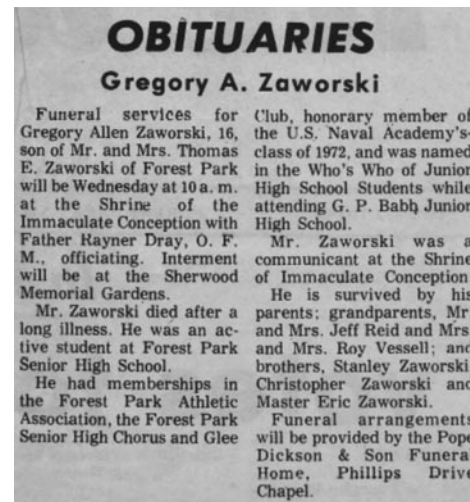
restored as I viewed the Brigade and saw the leaders of tomorrow.”

The following Christmas break, my fiancé, Linda Moreland, and I visited the Zaworskis. The three days in April were still a high point for Greg and his entire family. Unfortunately, that was the last time I saw Greg. His cancer metastasized into his lungs and bones right after Christmas, and he passed in 1973 while I was on my first deployment.

Bob Hanby, a Blue and Gold officer from the Class of 1948, attended the funeral and proudly noted the family included “honorary member of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1972” in Greg’s obituary.

Our 50th reunion has come and gone, but we should not forget a young boy from Morrow, GA, who was also a link in the chain—for one weekend—a classmate

in a place he truly loved, thanks to a request from a midshipman’s mother. ⚓



**OBITUARIES**  
**Gregory A. Zaworski**

Funeral services for Gregory Allen Zaworski, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Zaworski of Forest Park will be Wednesday at 10 a. m. at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Father Kayner Dray, O. F. M., officiating. Interment will be at the Sherwood Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Zaworski died after a long illness. He was an active student at Forest Park Senior High School.

He had memberships in the Forest Park Athletic Association, the Forest Park Senior High Chorus and Glee Club, honorary member of the U.S. Naval Academy's class of 1972, and was named in the Who's Who of Junior High School Students while attending G. P. Babç Junior High School.

Mr. Zaworski was a communicant at the Shrine of Immaculate Conception. He is survived by his parents; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Reid and Mrs. and Mrs. Roy Vessel; and brothers, Stanley Zaworski, Christopher Zaworski and Master Eric Zaworski.

Funeral arrangements will be provided by the Pope Dickson & Son Funeral Home, Phillips Drive Chapel.

Greg Zaworski's obituary lists him as an honorary member of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1972.

**About 25 years ago Rich Zino '67 placed an ad in Shipmate requesting that USNA grads share with him stories of their experiences while at the Academy.**

**The results of this request were included in a 2000 book “Tales from Annapolis,” co-edited by Paul Laric '49. This tome featured 89 stories from grads ranging from the Class of 31 to the Class of 93, including a 1996 speech at the /academy from President Jimmy Carter '47.**

**Unfortunately, Rich Zino passed away last year so could not follow up his book with another featuring others' stories.**

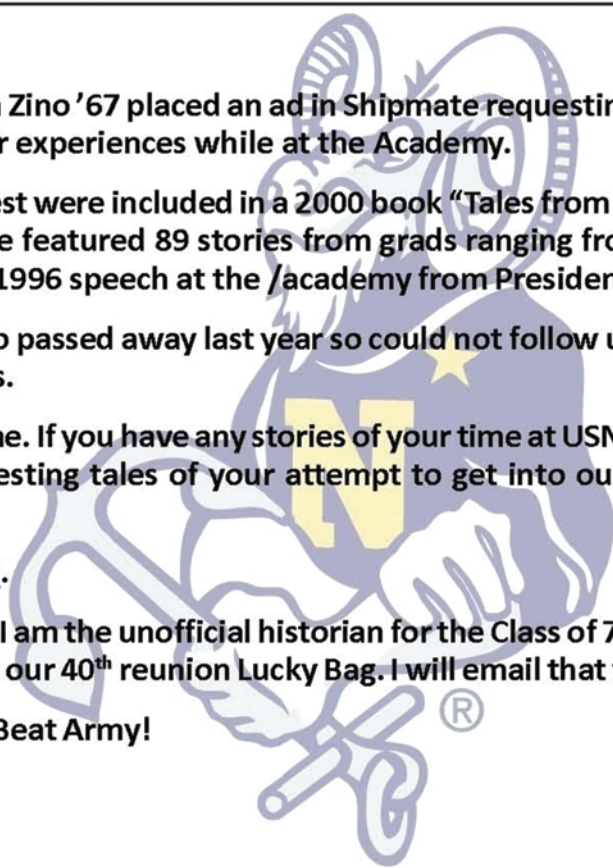
**This ad is to request same. If you have any stories of your time at USNA, including experiences on cruises or any interesting tales of your attempt to get into our fine institution, please forward them to me at**

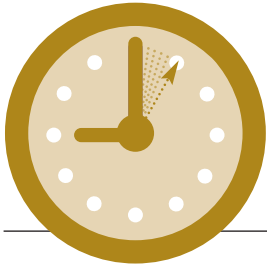
**[Cherica777@gmail.com](mailto:Cherica777@gmail.com).**

**By way of introduction, I am the unofficial historian for the Class of 70 and wrote the 29-page class history included in our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion Lucky Bag. I will email that to anyone who requests.**

**Thanks in advance and Beat Army!**

**Gary Knight '70**





## FIVE MINUTES WITH...

### WAYNE VINJE '60

*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.*

Wayne Vinje '60 was always drawn to the clouds. He loved watching airplanes, from the crop dusters at work in eastern North Dakota to the B-36s still gaining altitude as they flew north from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota to the P-51s of the North Dakota National Guard (NDANG).

His tenure at the Naval Academy was spent playing lacrosse (winning a national championship his first year) and preparing to enter the Naval Aviation community. However, his left-eye vision was deemed unfit for flying.

While his preferred occupation was not to be, Vinje cross commissioned into the Air Force where he designed tests for, and evaluated results from tracked-rocket-sleds bearing inertial guidance components and systems designed for NASA (Saturn) and Air Force ballistic missiles. His love for flying never diminished. Vinje, now 85, was grounded in 2023 by an insurance clause that requires having a qualified "minder" in the right seat. That wasn't satisfactory for Vinje, who shared his passion for flight and perseverance with *Shipmate*.

**Shipmate:** When did your passion for flying start?

**Vinje:** My first exposure to aviation was a picture of my mother in a "Jenny" piloted by her beau. Local flying nurtured that seed. Eastern North Dakota was flat, spawning amateur and professional pilots. The professionals were crop dusters creating an exciting visual for kids. One of them even had a T-6 trainer. Another, weary of me loitering, took me up.

The amateurs were farmers, and one would land his red Piper Cub near town to shop. We would bike to see him take off. Planes were also flown from a large farm at our bike-range limit. A lucky find was a Cub fuselage in an unused warehouse, so we practiced stick and rudder coordination.

We discovered the NDANG P-51s in Fargo when we got older. They were thrilling when they fired up. We were lucky there to see a P-80 takeoff and pull vertical with startling speed! The best was B-36s from Ellsworth AFB flying north and heard for miles over unmuffled tractors. Later, I was drawn to the Navy (my Uncle Jack was a battleship chief warrant officer in WWII), its airplanes and the Naval Academy.

**Shipmate:** How tough was it to be DQ'd from the flight program?

**Vinje:** After Segundo flights in the T-34, T-28 and T2V and firstie cruise on the FDR, it was a blow. But submarines were interesting, and I had drawn No. 3 service choice. Physically OK and I could choose them, but astigmatism nixed subs, so I joined the Air Force. I earned master of science and engineering (MSE) degrees in aeronautical and electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. I was assigned to Holloman Air Force Base to evaluate inertial guidance systems for missiles.

It was good work, but not a career enhancer, since the Air Force was run by fighter pilots. Back to pilot/navigator physicals and aptitude



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE VINJE '60

**Wayne Vinje '60 with his aerobatics instructor, Tom Nagorski, owner of Paragon Aviation at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.**

tests. Again, my eyesight failed, so I volunteered for the operating USAF; e.g., TAC, SAC in Vietnam. After the USAF told me they couldn't use me there, I resigned my commission.

I learned: (1) Address the obstacle directly. I didn't consider eye surgery, chancy then, but a classmate did and became a USAF pilot. (2) Develop robust career options. The MSE degrees isolated me from eye issues. (3) Satisfying your "heart's desire" may involve risks. With a young family after USAF, I left a corporate lab to join a Boston, MA, startup. It did well, so airplanes again.

**Shipmate:** When did you start your civilian flight training?

**Vinje:** In 1964, at the Holloman AFB flying club on a gravel runway with no hangars. Subsidized by the USAF, our instructors and mechanics were military. I soloed in a Cessna 150 and built hours in a Taylorcraft. The sergeants adjusted the Taylorcraft wing warp, warned me not to idle or the engine would quit, reminded me of the gas gauge "calibration" and off I flew. The ravens showed me the updrafts I needed to climb. Old school.

**Shipmate:** What do you love most about flying?

**Vinje:** I am happy at the airport and with aviators, and I felt like my big-boy pants were on when flying. Airborne with airline/military/private jet pilots and performing complex things—an instrument approach in the traffic at Palomar, CA, airport, landing at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport on instruments in a blinding snowstorm after the tower refused me four times or performing aerobatics in a sporty Extra 330LT, for example.

**Shipmate:** What advice do you have for folks who facing adversity?

**Vinje:** Never give up! Doing that defines the end of your aspirations without knowing whether you could have achieved them. If you explore all avenues and your best efforts come to naught, you can move on to something else with no regrets. You did your darndest. ☐





## ALL-STAR NAVY ATHLETICS SUPPORTER!

Stephen Leaman '69 truly represents the ideal supporter of Navy Athletics and the entire Naval Academy community. Through his extensive contributions on and off the field, his career mentoring of alumni through our Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP) and his service as a U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Athletic and Scholarship Programs Trustee (A&SP), Stephen continues to dedicate himself to our mission by way of Navy Athletics.

The U.S. Naval Academy and Navy Athletics hold a special place in the hearts of many alumni, friends and parents. But few show their love and dedication as much as Leaman, who provides crucial annual support for Navy Athletics and has provided a planned gift to ensure the long-term, sustained support by remembering the **Athletic Excellence Legacy Fund**, a new endowed fund that will provide long-term funding to Navy Athletics in support of all 36 Varsity Sports, Club Sports and the Physical Mission.

Those who give to the **Athletic Excellence Legacy Fund** at the \$100,000 level and above will receive permanent recognition on the AE Legacy Fund Wall located in the lobby of the Ron Terwilliger '63 Center for Student-Athletes in Ricketts Hall.

To learn more about legacy giving and the Robert Means Thompson Legacy Society, contact [plannedgiving@usna.com](mailto:plannedgiving@usna.com), call 410-295-4110, or scan the QR code.





# LEADERSHIP LAB

## PROJECT-BASED LEARNING PROVIDES MIDSHIPMEN WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

By CAPT Rob Niewoehner '81, USN (Ret.), Naval Academy aerospace engineering professor

The battlefields of Ukraine and the waters of Africa's Horn have witnessed the proliferation of armed drones launched by state and non-state actors. Drones' technologies and cost have enabled their acquisition and lethal employment by those whose technical skills would have once been called "hobbyist." Such actors have studied U.S. forces' employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in CENTCOM, witnessed their impact, watched the commercialization of the market and bought an air force with a credit card.

Were friendly forces blind to this emergent threat? Emphatically "no" thanks to the near simultaneous alignment of educational trends, faculty skills, a far-sighted leader at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and a "red team" of midshipmen in the bowels of Rickover Hall.

First, the pedagogical shift. From 1960 to the early 2000s, engineering education throughout the U.S. was dominated by engineering science faculty, few of whom had industry experience, and fewer still with design backgrounds. The 1960s shift to Ph.D. requirements pushed faculty deeper in their expertise

for publishing and promotion, but deprived them of the breadth required for design. "Project-Based Learning," now common place, was derided by many engineering professors. They accused such activity as pandering to "fun" at the expense of "rigor." The Naval Academy was not immune.

The aerospace engineering department started to shift at the end of the '90s. The flight test course, a favorite of the 1970s and early 1980s, was brought back to life by Professor Dave Rogers. Professor Daryl Boden, Lieutenant Colonel Billy Rae Smith, USAF (Ret.), and Commander Bob Bruninga, USN (Ret.), prepared the astronautics track for the launch of the Academy's first satellite, PCSat 1, weeks after 9/11.

Meanwhile, aeronautics track midshipmen lamented at graduation, "I studied engineering for three years and never built anything." While Rickover had a magnificent shop, staffed with talented craftsmen, midshipmen were reduced to giving them a drawing to build.

In 2001, the department tasked then-Lieutenant Commander Eric Hallberg, USN, then-Midshipman Dan Kitts '01 and then-Midshipman Paul Holst '01 to observe the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' (AIAA) Design/Build/Fly (DBF) competition in Wichita, KS. There, schools across the country competed with extracurricular teams, commonly led by grad students.

The department tasked the team to answer, "Could we field a team with the rigor of development to satisfy the curriculum design requirement?" Hallberg returned with an emphatic, "Yes."

Larry Birkelbaw worked with midshipmen in the early 2000s on unmanned aircraft in Pax River's Remote Controlled Systems test facility.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT ROB NIEWOEHNER '81, USN (RET.)

Kitts and Holst recruited a team of midshipmen to enter the following year's contest.

Midshipmen in the aerospace track in 2002 sought to build an airplane capable of flying with 100 tennis balls or 30 pounds. At NAS Webster Field in St. Mary's County, MD, one Friday, the airplane found an ignominious end—the midshipmen met aerodynamic flutter. They piled back into the van for a sprint back to Rickover, a Friday night and Saturday with a redesign and rebuild and a Sunday morning return to competition. The midshipmen's learning far outstripped their design's achievements. Multiple Test Pilot School grads emerged from that team. One midshipman's growth so impressed his father, a NAVSEA leader, that the father personally gifted the funds to sustain DBF for the next several years.

Dan Kitts, now a captain, was the first commanding officer of a fleet F-35C squadron, and recent CO of VX-23 at Patuxent River.

"My aerospace engineering experience at USNA was formative to who I've become as a naval officer and things I've accomplished through my career in naval aviation," Kitts said. "The pinnacle of my aeronautical engineering education was the Design/Build/Fly experience. Coming together as a small team, we built a flying machine that was competitive in an environment that included the most renowned engineering schools in the country.

"I look back with tremendous pride that I was able to partake in this endeavor and with gratitude for the lessons it taught me."

DBF and Project-Based Learning earned faculty acceptance. All at least appreciated the draw such learning had on recruiting midshipmen to hard academic fields. The stage was set for greater impact on midshipmen and beyond. The next piece was faculty skills.

Academic faculty, including engineers, are developed and promoted for developing deep expertise in a narrow field. Growing design leaders requires mastery of a breadth of technical skills. Worldwide, engineering faculties struggle to staff design courses because a designer's necessary broad development almost nullifies academic promotion and tenure. We needed broader skills.

In 2001, John Burks '68 alerted the department to a potential collaboration with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Larry Birkelbaw worked for Burks at NASA Ames on X-36, and was leading DARPA's X-45 and X-51 programs. Birkelbaw's DARPA term was complete and needed a partnership with a federal agency while those programs entered flight test. He provided the chance for the Naval Academy to land an airplane designer with three X-planes on his resume. Then-Academic Dean Bill Miller '62, who retired as a rear admiral,

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**A team of midshipmen were able to built and pilot an unmanned aircraft to hit a small target in the Florida Everglades in 2001. The Naval Academy's Aerospace Engineering department provides practical experience to midshipmen that prepares them for real-world challenges upon commissioning.**

saw the potential and created the role of professor of the practice to land a seasoned engineering leader on his faculty.

That same year, a visionary DIA analyst approached the department with his apprehensions over the threat posed by small, cheap, open-source drones. DIA's concern was triggered by the emerging threat to Middle East ground forces posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

"We could ask the big contractors, but their solution would be too advanced. We're more worried about what a motivated team of non-experts could do with \$10,000 and a credit card."

The shift to Project-Based Learning, Birckelbaw's appointment and a compelling problem merged. The DIA asked their first red-team of midshipmen, "Can you hit a phone booth from 5-miles away with a 5-pound payload?"

The team started in August targeting a demonstration in April or May, prior to their graduation. The effort was shielded from public view, and the midshipmen were warned that their work would be sensitive, while unclassified. In the months following 9/11, Miller cautiously guarded the program. He did not want any press coverage of midshipmen red-teaming a terrorist cell.

The DIA and other interested agencies reserved the right to classify their reports of midshipmen findings. When midshipmen hit a phone booth in an Everglades range, a federal law enforcement office exclaimed, "This is bad."

A first-class midshipman was recruited as remote control pilot for the midshipmen's 50-pound aircraft. During one range period, a U.S. Secret Service sniper put several rounds through the airplane. The fiberglass and foam construction soldiered on after

taking hits, resilient to the damage. The sniper rattled the midshipman, remarking in frustration, "Can I shoot the pilot?"

The DIA and the federal friends bundled up their sensors and data, and returned to Washington, DC, to write their classified action lists, with a promise to sustain the partnership.

In subsequent years, the tasking varied. Birckelbaw carefully kept the scope tractable for the 10 months the midshipmen could work sponsors' problems. Challenges included, "How quiet can you make a 50-pound airplane?" "Pretty quiet," the midshipmen proved.

"How small can you make the radar cross section?" The midshipmen adapted open-source electronics shielding materials intended to suppress interference. Testing at Pax River's anechoic chamber sent sponsors back to DC, in distress.

Leadership in DC recognized the looming threat the midshipmen's work revealed. By the late 2000s, commercial GPS autopilots were appearing on the market for hobby drones, with scary precision. If part-time undergraduates could conjure such results, in 2005, appropriate counter-measures required intentional development and testing. The agency established a bona fide program, "Black Dart," increasing the scope past the hobby-shop academic project at the Naval Academy. The program grew to attract other schools and agencies, with the addition of live-fire testing and electronic counter-measures.

One story from the China Lake ranges stands out. A Naval Academy unmanned aerial system (UAS) was programmed to fly a lengthy course over the desert from waypoint-to-waypoint. Hallberg watched in horror as the path of a random desert cyclone looked to intercept the midshipmen's airplane.

The team's hearts sank as the telemetry broadcast the merge plot, and a tumbling drone lofted tens of meters. Dust-devil survivability had not been in the design requirements. The midshipmen were certain they would be scouring the desert to retrieve expensive parts.

Astonished, the telemetry reported the tumbling drone spit out from the cyclone, recovering its bearings and returning



to its course. Jubilant midshipmen and sponsors watched the heroic drone land at their feet, as programmed.

Eventually, the emerging threat demanded more focused attention to counter-UAS than part-time undergraduate teams could devote. Sponsors had always been warned that academic teams may or may not produce meaningful results, on sponsors' schedules. Success in Capstone design classes has to be measured by midshipmen learning, and not by technical achievements. Concrete results were a bonus. The real looming threat grew larger than an academic project could answer.

Other sponsors emerged who were eager for midshipmen to explore unmanned technologies, but without the DIA's checkbook. For example, Captain Mark Bathrick '80, USN (Ret.), served as director of aviation for the Department of the Interior (DOI), after his Navy career as a fighter pilot and test pilot. His DOI budget provided mostly firefighting on federal lands, but the agencies he served also sought help with wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR), wildlife management, security, geologic research, among a score of fascinating public civil missions.

Lacking a research budget, midshipmen teams, funded by private and corporate foundation donors, enabled DOI to explore ideas for pushing drones into novel civil missions. Midshipmen teams developed drones for firefighter logistics, lost-hiker SAR

and wild horse population control. The high altitudes of DOI's mountainous missions challenged design teams.

Today's design teams are working problems for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Naval Research Lab, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab and others. The U.S. Naval Academy Foundation's donors provide material support for midshipmen to immerse themselves addressing real problems. Annually, midshipmen aim to see their work flying in April at Hospital Point or Webster Field, near NAS Patuxent River.

Most importantly, these midshipmen graduate taking with them skills in technical teams, innovation and creativity, human-centered design and systems engineering. For the faculty, the midshipmen are their product. Such grads now bring those skills to fleet and test squadrons, NAVAIR and NAVSEA program offices, and the industry roles to which they migrate after their service.

We are watching innovation real-time in Ukraine, and the Red Sea. Drone swarms pose daunting challenges for defenders. Drones' lethality might have surprised the Russian Army on the road to Kyiv in 2022, but Blue Forces leaders were not surprised. Enterprising midshipmen in Rickover Hall alerted them to this threat almost 20 years ago. 🚢



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# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

## LLEWELLYN TWINS TAKE FLIGHT

Joe Llewellyn's six children would swarm him when he returned from deployments.

The 1988 Air Force Academy graduate would often return home with gifts for his kids. The Air Force pilot received mixed reactions from his youngest, the twins Jamie and Jordan, when they were toddlers.

Jordan adored everything with wings. Meanwhile, Jamie was repelled by planes because they took her father away.

One Christmas, Jamie ignored her father's present.

"I got a sweatshirt that said, 'Air Force,' and I wouldn't wear it," she said.

Jordan had the opposite perspective at a similarly early age.

"That's exactly what I want to do," Jordan said. "I want to fly. It gave (my dad) purpose in life. I thought that was the coolest thing. Since I can remember, I wanted to become a pilot."

Following commissioning on 24 May, Jordan '24 and Jamie '24 are scheduled to report to Pensacola, FL, on 7 October. There, they both will begin flight training. With their graduation with the U.S.

Naval Academy's Class of 2024, the newly minted ensigns have joined siblings Captain Lauren (Air Force Academy '18), Lieutenant Leah (Coast Guard Academy '19), Lieutenant Joseph '20, USN, and 2nd Lieutenant Lindsay '23, USMC, as service academy alumni.

Jamie admits her stance toward flight softened over the years, particularly as her older siblings were attending service academies.

"I gained a better understanding about what it meant to be in the military and what it meant to go to an academy," Jamie said. "There are so many high value

people and you meet so many amazing personalities. My opinion changed."

### ENJOY PRACTICE

The Llewellyn twins started playing volleyball in the eighth grade. As it became clear college athletics was in their future, they decided to continue as teammates when they were being recruited by colleges. During their firstie season, they led Navy to an 18-9 record in 2023. Jordan led the team with 347 kills, followed by Jamie's 323. They were also among the top 5 on the team in digs, assists and service aces.

The prospect of playing closer to their Port Deposit, MD, home helped clinch their collegiate destination. The twins said they love volleyball and "enjoy practice" even if there are no games.

"We would have 100 percent fun," Jordan said. "Usually, practices are terrible. That's when we knew volleyball was the right sport for us. Coming here, playing Division I, and being highly competitive in the sport we love was a dream come true."

While they help each other as family and teammates, Jordan noted they are also striving to improve.

"We supported each other but we are super competitive, so we pushed each other to be the best on and off the court," Jordan said.

The Llewellyn twins sought to carve their own identities while at the Academy. That was aided by the COVID-19 pandemic, Plebe Summer and separation by company within the Brigade of Midshipmen.

"It's also nice to have your own identity in your own company," Jamie said. "It was nice to have a group of people who knew me for me and Jordan for Jordan. When we started to close that gap, it was cool to meet new people."



The Llewellyn siblings converge on their father, Joe, upon his return from deployment from Qatar to the 135th Airlift Group at Warfield Air National Guard, Middle River, MD, in August 2005. Surrounding Joe, a 1988 Air Force Academy alumnus, are his children who are each service academy graduates: CAPT Lauren (Air Force Academy '18); LT Joseph '20 USN; ENS Jamie '24, USN; ENS Jordan '24, USN; LT Leah (Coast Guard Academy '19); and 2ndLT Lindsay '23, USMC.

Jordan said there was study time and road volleyball games to reconnect sisterly bonds during tough times on the Yard.

"They tried to split us up," Jordan said. "We live on opposite sides of Bancroft, so it's hard to go to each others' rooms all the time. But, we chose the same major, so we definitely helped each other out on school work. We study together. When we travel for volleyball tournaments, we're always able to ask each other questions."

"It hasn't been too hard to be near each other at the Academy. We're bound to run into each other."

As they enter the fleet, Jordan advises future generations of midshipmen, "don't be afraid to fail." She said the Academy humbles everyone but there's every opportunity to better yourself and sharpen your leadership skills.

Jamie said there just aren't enough hours in the day in Annapolis.

"You learn to work on your time management because this place is designed so you're not able to finish everything," Jamie said. "You really have to pick and choose what you prioritize and what you want to accomplish here. It will be a very helpful tool."

ENS Jordan Llewellyn '24, USN, and ENS Jamie Llewellyn '24, USN, starred for Navy's volleyball team during their tenures at the Naval Academy.





The human chain of plebes linked arms, used shoulders and heads as ladder rungs and overcame hundreds of pounds of lard to cap the Class of 2027's plebe year by conquering the Herndon Monument in 2 hours, 19 minutes and 22 seconds on 15 May. MIDN Ben Leisegang '27, USN, placed the upperclassman's cap atop Herndon and the Class of 2027 were "Plebes No More."



Prior to climbing the Herndon Monument, the Class of 2027 participated in Sea Trials on 14 May. Sea Trials is a 14-hour test of physical and mental strength for plebes, modeled after the Marine Corps Crucible and the Navy's Battle Stations.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF USNA

Above: The Blue Angels performed over the Naval Academy on 22 May as part of Commissioning Week festivities. This year's team included Naval Academy alumni: No. 1 Flight Leader/Commanding Officer CDR Alexander P. Armatas '02, USN; No. 6 Opposing Solo CDR Thomas Zimmerman '09, USN; and No. 7 Narrator LT Connor O'Donnell '15, USN.

Right: The Class of 2024 graduated on 24 May with the traditional cover toss. This year's class included 760 Navy ensigns, 258 2nd lieutenants and 13 foreign national students. Ensign Robert E. Klanac '24, USN, ranked first in his class. He was an Operations Research with Honors major. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III delivered the keynote address to the graduates.







The 2024 Color Parade was held on Worden Field on 23 May.



Members of the class of 2024 take a celebratory "dip" in the Radford Terrace water fountain following the last formal parade of their Naval Academy careers during Commissioning Week.





# 1987 MAKES MULTI-DECADE ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

By Commander Robert I. Douglass '87, USN (Ret.)

During its 35th reunion in September 2022, many members of the Class of '87 were gathered in the memorial plaza area of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium prior to the Delaware game.

George Lipscomb and I had just lassoed David Robinson for a picture and we were all feeling pretty smug in our proud 87ness. I remember looking up to see one of the many Class of '67 couples I'd already seen that weekend at hotels or other events, transiting the area, and couldn't help going up to them to offer some "20-year seniority" hospitality from our '87 celebration.

I looked at his name tag and saw Roy Gale III '67 and couldn't help blurting out "Roy Gale, would you happen to know a Phil Gale who was a submarine officer and lived in Kilmarnock, VA?" He shot right back without missing a beat, "Why yes, I do, that was my dad, Phil Gale Jr., who was a submarine officer and Naval Academy Class of 1945 graduate. That's where I grew up!"

We traded phone numbers, still gobsmacked and vowed to connect later that weekend, which we did. It was great getting to know Roy Gale III and his lovely bride, Charlene.

My dad, Captain Walt Douglass '47, USN (Ret.), who met my mother, former Navy Lieutenant Betty Douglass, at the San Juan, Puerto Rico Officer's Club, would call it "rowing their boats" when the guys would start telling sea stories. Needless to say, Roy Gale III, Charlene and I did some serious "rowing of boats" when we had our sit down at Dry 85 later that weekend over some great spirits.

Commander Phil Gale Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), was my father's commanding officer on TIGRONE (SS-419) in 1956 when Walt was first his operations officer and then his executive officer. Walt later relieved Phil Gale Jr. as commanding officer. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN (Ret.), Class of 1905, CNO at the time, also was the speaker at USNA '47's graduation where Fleet Admiral William Halsey, USN (Ret.), Class of 1904, administered '47's Oath of Office. That would be plenty of good stories, right, but it doesn't stop there.

Phil Gale Jr. went on to command the then new radar picket submarine SAILFISH and completed her first deployment to the Mediterranean. Phil Gale Jr. was later XO of the submarine tender HOWARD W. GILMORE in Charleston, SC, and was then part of Vice Admiral William Raborn '28, USN's special projects team responsible for the Polaris Missile Development Program. Phil Gale Jr. was aboard GEORGE WASHINGTON for the historic first Polaris Missile launch from a submerged submarine. Following retirement, Phil Gale Jr. joined the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory where he continued to optimize the Polaris Missile System, leading to the Trident Missile System, that I had the chance to test fire from LOUISIANA when I was XO.

Many of our 1987 classmates first heard of Bancroft via our beloved "Mother" Bancroft Hall in 1983 during Plebe Summer, however, that was not the first time for me. My father, Walt Douglass, went on to command CHIVO, ABRAHAM LINCOLN and then was one of the commissioning commanding officers of GEORGE BANCROFT. Little did I know that when GEORGE BANCROFT was christened in 1963 and launched, Midshipman third class Roy Gale III was onboard, sliding down the launch ramp into the Thames River with the crew at General Dynamics, Electric Boat.

Roy Gale III was commissioned and went on to serve in the Submarine Force, just like his father Phil Gale Jr., with his JO tour onboard nuclear submarine NARWHAL. Roy Gale III also had

**Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN (Ret.), Class of 1905, with TIGRONE Commanding Officer CDR Phil Gale Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), and then-Executive Officer of TIGRONE CAPT Walt Douglass '47, USN (Ret.).**



PHOTOS COURTESY CDR ROBERT I. DOUGLASS '87, USN (RET.)



the pleasure of a Reserve active duty assignment teaching sea power at Newport, RI, Office Candidate School in 1973.

My dad kept extensive files from his 28-year naval career ending in 1974, and I hadn't done a full scrub of all those files until after Roy Gale III and I met at our 35th Reunion. Roy Gale III transitioned from the Navy in 1972 and went on to pursue a highly successful career in the business world. As I was going through my father's files, I ran across a recommendation letter he had written for Roy Gale III, where he landed his second alma mater, Harvard Business School. My son, John, was a Surface Warfare Officer who served on Nimitz. He is now at Harvard Law School.

Maybe I'm just getting old and reflective, and wanted to capture this true "no kidders" story that spans four Academy submariner graduates (Phil Gale Jr., Roy Gale III, Walt Douglass and Rob Douglass), four classes (1945, 1947, 1967 and 1987), starting with two amazing men. I am so looking forward to the next time we get to see each other and our other classmates and make some new "no kidders!" 🚢

*CDR Robert I. Douglass '87, USN (Ret.), is a retired submariner who commanded ALBUQUERQUE. He lives in Maryland.*



Roy Gale III '67 (left) with CDR Robert I. Douglass '87, USN (Ret.), during the Naval Academy's homecoming in the fall of 2022. Douglass and Gale created a connection forged through family connections. Gale's father, CDR Phil Gale Jr. '45, USN (Ret.), served as Douglass' father's, CAPT Walt Douglass '47, USN (Ret.), commanding officer on TIGRONE in 1956.

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# CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

## NC RALEIGH-TRIANGLE CHAPTER EMBRACES LOCAL ROTC PROGRAMS

The Naval Academy Alumni Association's North Carolina Raleigh-Triangle Chapter was struggling. Membership was teetering near two dozen and some of the chapter's board and officer seats were vacant.

Fortunately, the Raleigh-Triangle Park was transforming with a population boom centered around technology and three major universities. Chapter leaders recognized an opportunity and pounced.

The result is a flourishing chapter that supports active-duty service members, local alumni, parents and prospective midshipmen. Secretary Captain Bill Coleman '95, USN (Ret.), said many younger alumni were moving into the area so their spouses could attend graduate school.

Coleman said that youth infusion coupled with the Piedmont NROTC Consortium (Duke, NC State and UNC) presented a chance to expand the chapter's outreach and impact.

"The NROTC units were a logical and convenient starting point," he said.

### How and why did you decide to promote an affiliation with the NROTC units?

As Academy graduates both regularly commanded the consortium and staffed its O-3 billets, they seemed to be ideal partners in establishing a kind of "Triangle Navy." We emphasized that the chapter, although centered on the Naval Academy, welcomed all who care about our Navy and its Marine Corps by promoting the notion of joining the chapter as associate members.

We invited the consortium staff lieutenants to speak at our monthly luncheons regarding their recent experiences in the fleet, on submarines, in the Marines and with naval aviation. Such interconnection created a genuine wardroom feeling of friendly reception and varied background.

To maintain recurring and reliable contact with the NROTC consortium, our chapter established in 2009 the George Herbert '45 Leadership Award across all three universities. In the early 1960s, he became the first president of the first company (Research Triangle Institute) in the Research Triangle Park (RTP). The RTP houses more than 180 companies. In quick succession and due to the award's popularity, the chapter sponsored similar awards at Duke University, the Admiral Skip Bowman Leadership Award. Ensign Bagley, a Raleigh native, organized and played in the first Army-Navy game. Unfortunately, he was lost in the Spanish American War. At North Carolina State University, the Ensign Worth Bagley 1895 Leadership Award. Admiral Bowman, former director of Naval Reactors is a Duke graduate of 1966.

With the presentation of three leadership awards in 2024, the chapter has supported the recognition of 39 graduating NROTC midshipmen. The success of our program led to awards presented by the University of Colorado (Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN (Ret.), Class of 1923) and the University of Oklahoma (Commander Ernest E. Evans '31).

Current chapter members support these awards annually. Emory Miller '07 coordinates with the NROTC consortium to present the swords to the awardees each year, and Commander Bill Sena '95 USN (Ret.), sponsors the Ensign Worth Bagley Award.

### What are some examples of the support provided?

If one considers affiliation with the NROTC units as connection within our local Navy community, contact or support of our North Carolina's three namesake submarines (ASHEVILLE (SSN-758), CHARLOTTE (SSN-766) and NORTH CAROLINA (SSN-777)) represents connection with the Navy beyond our local community. We learned from their commanding officers that as all three are homeported beyond the mainland (two in Pearl Harbor and one in Guam) that 1,500 associated family members would likely value a connection to their namesake state.

Such relationships also add to the currency and vitality of our chapter. We began by hosting home-state visits by NORTH CAROLINA, which included two "musts" on their itineraries:



From left to right: RADM Leonard "Butch" Dollaga '90, USN; CAPT Shaun McAndrew '93 USN (Ret.); UNC recipient ENS Rory Moran; NC State recipient ENS Benjamin Teffeteller; Duke recipient ENS Clare Sobolewski; CDR Bill Sena '95 USN (Ret.); NROTC Piedmont Consortium Commanding Officer CAPT Brian Tanaka and Triangle Chapter founding member Chris Perrien '74.



1. Speak with the local and regional NROTC and JROTC units;
2. Visit the battleship NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55) on the coast in Wilmington.

Thanks to a coincidental introduction to Captain Gary Montalvo '97, USN, a Durham, NC, native and then-CO of NORTH CAROLINA, in 2016 we began with a Farewell Plaque Program for the ship where original, World War II teak-decking from the battleship NORTH CAROLINA was milled and engraved with a departing crew member's name, rate, rank, dates of time aboard and embedded with a ship's coin. This plaque was presented aboard by the CO to the departing crew member. Over the following four years, we were able to expand our engagement activities to include CHARLOTTE and ASHEVILLE.

Our consistent connections to the individual boats are with each Family Readiness Group (FRG). We established the SSN 777 Club, a separate group from the local chapter members whose role is to engage and support with the 777's FRG. The SSN 777 Club supports holiday parties, 1/2 Way Night Parties when the boats deployed and the, gratefully, rare occasion of family emergency. We've purchased quick-dry PT shirts; tickets for UNC at Hawaii basketball games and Charlotte Horner ballcaps. This past October when Navy football played East Carolina University, Commander Tony Stranges '04, USN, CO of CHARLOTTE, delivered a video greeting, in company with his entire crew, to the game audience followed by on-field presentations of U.S. ensigns flown over the 776 to the University of Charlotte, the Charlotte Fire

Department (longtime supporters of the 766) and the North Carolina state legislature.

We communicate via the FRG's Facebook groups keeping an eye open for how we may assist. The FRG's don't ask for much and we feel that they value that their namesake state is available as necessary. Once contact established reliably, the chapter's investment of money and time is surprisingly small and the benefit to the families and chapter members is a friendly, fun and satisfying one.

### What advice do you have for other chapters seeking to engage/support their communities?

Establishing a reliable, mutually fulfilling partnership is much less time and resource-consuming than one might imagine and much more satisfying than one might hope for.

Consistency of contact is critical as commands and crews and FRG leadership change faster than one might expect.

Annual visits with the sponsored boat is recommended. The Navy takes care of the submarine; a chapter can help our Navy support the families of the submarine.

Publish a simple newsletter or update the chapter's website with news of the sponsored boat.

Ultimately, we support the families who support the crews who defend our nation. Providing support is much more of a privilege than a duty. ⚓

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# BRAVO ZULU

## 1950s

**'59: CDR Walter Wynn, USN (Ret.)**, was elected chair of the board of directors for the Gainesville, FL, area Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR). The ILR is like the Lifelong Learning programs at Continuing Care Retirement Communities. The ILR is housed in his CCRC Oak Hammock at the University of Florida.

## 1970s

**'70: Jeff Lewis** was named chairman of the board of the National Wood Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) in March 2024. The NWPCA has more than 800 member companies in more than 40 countries. Lewis has been a member of the association for 27 years.

**'79: Maj Mike Pedersen, USMC (Ret.)**, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on 24 August in the "Outstanding American" category.

## 1980s

**'85: ADM Stuart Munsch, USN**, took the title of Old Goat in May



**VADM Collin Green '86, USN (Ret.)**, commanded SEAL Team 3 during his 38-year career. A retirement ceremony was held for him on 3 May.

from **ADM John C. Aquilino '84, USN (Ret.)**. The Old Goat is the longest-serving Naval Academy graduate on active duty.

## 1990s

**'92: CAPT John B. Garry, USNR (Ret.)**, has been named NAVSEA's command intelligence oversight officer.

**'93: David Cattler** has been selected to serve as director of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency. He previously served as NATO's assistant secretary general for Intelligence and Security.

**'94: Bob Hughes** has joined Deltek, a software firm, as president and CEO. He also serves on the board of Higher Logic, an online community platform provider. **CAPT Michelle (Montgomery) Pettit, USNR**, has been appointed as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

**'95: Sonja (Knight) Lemott** was selected for the Senior Executive Service with the Environmental Protection Agency. Her role will be director, Office of Records, Administrative Records and eDiscovery.

## VADM Green Retires After 38 Years of Service

A retirement ceremony for Vice Admiral Collin Green '86, USN (Ret.), was held on 3 May at Naval Special Warfare Command, Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Green served as deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command for his final assignment.

The 1988 graduate of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Class 149 served the Navy for 38 years. His career took him across the globe, including operations in Europe, Africa and Asia. His command tours include SEAL Team 3, where he deployed as commander, Naval Special Warfare Task Group-Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Naval Special Warfare Unit 3; Naval Special Warfare Group 1, U.S. Special Operations Command South; and Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. □

## 2000s

**'03: Kate (Capaldo) Arrizza**, president and CEO of the Cox Science Center and Aquarium in West Palm Beach, FL, has helped raise more than \$100 million for a new science center. The center recently broke ground on an \$122 million expansion.

**'08: CDR Bill Golden, USN**, took command of CANBERRA in May.

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We open this issue remembering **Robin Cassell**, the fifth of our ten classmates listed on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall. They are listed chronologically in the identical manner their names appear. The first section below covers the exact narrative accompanying Robin's name on The Wall (not consistent with *Shipmate* Style Guidelines) and the second is a

transcription from his entry in our 40th Reunion Yearbook submitted by a 17th Company classmate. **On The Wall:** Missing in Action 7/16/1967, LTJG Robin Bern Cassell, USNA Class of 1964, is one of those 1,587 MIAs unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam



Robin B. Cassell LTJG USN  
 Panel 23E, Line 7

War. He is one of 3 graduates from his U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis class who is still MIA.

**In the 40th Reunion Yearbook:** Robin hailed from Ft. Huachuca, AZ and arrived late during Plebe Summer as an alternate candidate. He quickly assimilated into the routine and became known for his attention to body building and martial arts. After graduation, he immediately married his sweetheart, Sandy who attended the University of Maryland. He sailed through flight training and chose to fly the A1 "Spad" at NAS Lemoore. On July 15, 1967, he led a section of aircraft in the vicinity of Than Hoa, North Vietnam searching for patrol boats. In a bombing run against a target he was hit by automatic weapons fire and was lost at sea. His status is listed as KIA. His widow, Sandy, remarried and is now living in Florida

**Regarding** future memorialization's, you asked, we provide! The following table lists the anticipated dates and comment submittal deadlines for memorializing the remaining classmates on "The Wall."

Classmate	<i>Shipmate</i> Issue	Input	Deadline
<b>Barry Hooper</b>	Sept-Oct '24		30 July '24
<b>Geoffrey Shumway</b>	Nov-Dec '24		20 Sept '24
<b>William Griffis III</b>	Jan-Feb '25		20 Nov '24
<b>Charles Parish</b>	Mar-Apr '25		20 Jan '25
<b>Michel Collins</b>	May-June '25		20 Mar '25

Anyone desiring to submit remembrances, sea stories, etc., must submit them prior to the deadline date to be included in the designated issue.

While we're on the classmate remembrance thread, your humble correspondent, along with over 50 classmates, attended the 18 April USNA service and inurement of the Honorable **Bernie Maguire**, an unquestioned stand out member of our class on so many fronts.

During a discussion with Class President **Mike Farmer** at the very well-attended Alumni Club reception Joyce and Bernie's family hosted, a decision was made to give Bernie special *Shipmate* recognition. Accordingly, the November-December issue has been designated for this honor. Classmate inputs, sea stories, special memories, photos etc. must be submitted by 20 September to meet the publishing deadline.

**Note:** The November-December issue is also currently designated to remember **Geoffrey Shumway** as part of our Wall Series. Based on the number of responses received, the Shumway piece may be moved to a subsequent issue in order to meet *Shipmate* word count limits.

The Class was well represented at **Dick Phelan's** funeral on 25 February at the Auburn Alabama United Methodist Church. Present were Barbara and **Charles Heath**, Phyllis and **Ricky Morris**, Connie and **Woodie Vaughan**, as well as Mary Jean and **Joe Navoy**. In addition, Auburn resident **Sam Nichols 76** was also present.

At the family's request, Woodie spoke of Dick's USNA experiences and their close friendship. It was a meaningful ceremony paying tribute to Dick's roles as officer, husband, father, grandfather and Auburn citizen. His obituary details a wonderful life.

**Jim Craven** forwarded the following photo taken 15 March at the reception following

**Jack Costello's** funeral in Reston, VA. Unfortunately, a number of classmates had left by the time anyone thought of a photo. Others present were **Gordy Clow**, **Dick Burns**, **Hank Chalkley**, **Gerry Dunne's** widow Sue, **Grant Fulkerson's** widow Ann, **Tom Lynch's** son Tommy and of course Jack's sister. Jack was given a good '64 sendoff. He will be buried at Arlington at a later date.



Left to right, Steve Laabs, Jim, Bob Orlosky and Hal Sisson

One of your humble correspondent's NAPS classmates, **Marty Block**, sent the following short note:

"Hey Rolando,"  
 "Always good to hear from you, even when 'news' is not 'happy'. I have to look back at yearbooks to recall faces with names. It's an age thingy."

"Anyway, Marsha and I are 'back at sea.' We're on a cruise from South Africa, up the Western Coast of Africa and then we head east, across the South Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro. It's quite a 'deployment' - reminiscent of my days at sea. Lots of 'liberty' and chow!"

"Thanks for the reminders of all the memories - Cheers - Marty"

The following great photo of the **Gordon Clow** Clan found its way into the "*Shipmate* In-Box" directly from Facebook somehow.



'62: Classmates seated on a bunch of 500lbs MK 82 bombs - Those were dangerous missions to say the least.





Gordon with his entourage

Next, we have a Pop Quiz!

**Doug Cutter's** window Cheryl graciously submitted the following photo she found among Doug's papers. It is allegedly of all LTJG classmates serving aboard KITTY HAWK during the ship's 1967-68 combat deployment in the Gulf of Tonkin flying missions over NVN against heavily defended targets. (Photo is on previous page.)

The challenge to *Shipmate* readers is to ID the classmates in the photo. Apparently, in addition to Doug, **Joe Prueher** and **Ted Triebel** are aboard. Extra credit will be given to whoever can provide an accurate "Left to Right" listing.



In the "Hard to Believe" category the USNA Class of **2028** was inducted 27 June. That's 68 years ago for us!

Fair winds and a quartering sea, classmates

## '65

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 50.28%

Pres: **CAPT Jim Minderlein, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 410-841-6644; e: jim65@verizon.net

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

Sigh! Here's this column's list of our dear classmates who have gone to their great reward since the last *Shipmate* issue: **Mike Hogenmiller, Claude Lumpkin, Paul Girard and Geoff Groves**. Check Last Call for details on their careers and lives.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 29 Mar

✉ It is again my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Robert Michael Hogenmiller** on 19 March. I just received this notification from the Alumni Association. Unfortunately, his service has already taken place. Mike is the ninth deceased of 22 graduates from the 8th Company. RIP, Jim.

... and here's just a few details from his obit. Mike was in Naval Aviation after USNA and then became an Electrical Engineer for Stone and Webster. He was a talented woodworker and part of the Civil Air Patrol in Tyler, TX. He is survived by his widow, Barbara, two sons and a daughter.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 25 Apr

✉ It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Claude Cleo Lumpkin III** on 24 April. I was notified by **Mike Epprecht** and Claude's wife, Janis, provided the obituary details shown in Last Call. Claude had a great career and we will all miss his e-mails on the class wardroom site. He graduated from the Third Company and is the 10th deceased of 22 graduates.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 28 Apr

✉ It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Paul Edward Girard** on or about 26 April. I just received this notification and obit details for Paul (which can be found in Last Call) from his brother-in-law. Paul graduated from the 4th Company and is the 7th deceased of 22 graduates. He was laid to rest in his hometown area, San Diego, on 03 May.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 20 May

✉ It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Geoffrey Jackson Groves** on 15 May. I just received the e-mail below from **Mike Epprecht** who was in the 30th Company with Geoff. He is the 6th deceased of 22 graduates. Geoff was a really likeable guy and loyal classmate. I appreciated his support over the years whenever I asked for help from the class for one of our many class projects. He will be sorely missed. Geoff is survived by his widow, Marilyn.

... and now on to some happier news!

From **Phil Ferrara**, 05 Mar

✉ Linda and I with Judy and **Sonny Harrison** visited the ship, BAP UNION, on 03 Mar, while it was on a port call in Baltimore. It was on an around the world cruise. Its mission is that of a training ship as well as a sailing ambassador for Peru. It is a beautiful tall ship, four masted, steel hull, class "A" barque, nearly 380 feet long. Many thousands visited that same day, and the line to the boarding brow was quite long. A huge national flag of Peru was displayed from the highest of the gaff rigs aft. The photo is on the pier with ship's Captain **Jose Arce, USNA 1996**.



3-3-24, visit to B.A.P. UNION, ship of Peru. Captain Jose Arce, USNA '96. Linda & Phil Ferrara '65. Judy & Sonny Harrison '65.

From **Ted Nanz**, 01 Apr

✉ Longstanding family tradition is attending annual 0630 Sunrise Service at Arlington National Cemetery. And followed by breakfast at the Hay Adams overlooking Lafayette Square and the White House; or the Willard overlooking Freedom Square and the new World War One Memorial.



From **Andy Fahy**, 04 Apr

✉ Barbara and I moved from San Diego to Williamsburg Landing in Williamsburg VA a month ago. Eight months ago we were offered a place with the floor plan we wanted. Everything sort of fit and we have lots of storage. We like Williamsburg Landing and the people here are very welcoming. Friends from SD and the UK are already signed up for our guest room. We think we did the right thing and our kids like us closer to them as both are on the east coast, Manhattan and Yorktown, and it is much easier to get together. Our classmate, **Boyd Knowles**, probably will move in next spring. Andy

From **Lee Mager** and **Mitch Henderson**, 07 Apr

✉ The Naval Academy's Nimitz Library has digitized *Lucky Bags* from 1894 to 1970 available for anyone to view online. go to <https://www.usna.edu/Library/> Lee says you can also find it on our own Wardroom site, under the Files section.

**Jim Minderlein**, on 09 Apr passed on a letter he received from the USNAAA and Foundation. These organizations are hosting Gold Star families - those families whose loved ones are memorialized on the walls of Memorial Hall as alumni killed in action or in operational loss. There are about 2,500 alumni worthy of this honor Please save the date for the Honor Our Fallen Heroes (HOFH) weekend, 15 -17 Nov, and respond if you are interested to **Wes Huey '87** (wesley.huey@usna.com) and copy **Jim Minderlein**.

From **Ted Nanz**, 18 Apr

✉ My wife and I are planning a Viking River Cruise "Romantic Danube" this summer. She has studied the Habsburg Dynasty and I've studied the Lipizzaner Stallions so we're looking forward to that part of the cruise. We've





**Udvar-Hazy Air & Space museum tour, 4-18-24, Bob Sullivan, Judie Best, Skip Orr, Conrad Best, Mary Dutrow, Peggy Sullivan, Sam Dutrow, Mike Luecke, Allan Foy**

'65:

done lots of cruises: Wedding reception on Chesapeake Bay; Honeymoon two weeks around the Hawaiian Islands. Also, the Caribbean and Bahamas. Ted

From **Phil Ferrara**, 19 Apr

✉ The Class of 1965 embarked on another adventure on 18 April to the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum. We were sixteen aviation fans who were enthused by the interesting explanations and insights of our own classmate, **Wayne Burrows**, who served as the Museum's docent. What a marvelous rendition (BZ!) received from Wayne. Present for the visit were **Skip Shealy, Bill Erickson, Phil Ferrara, Mike Luecke, Carter Refo, Skip Orr, Fred Vogel, Allan Foy, Tom Kinder, Mary and Sam Dutrow, Peggy and Bob Sullivan**, and Judie and **Conrad Best**.

From **Denny McComb**, 25 Apr

✉ Hi Dave - hope all is going well with you guys. Karen and I are very much enjoying our life here in our CCRC in San Juan Capistrano, California. Just celebrated our 4th year here at Reata Glen and recommend this kind of life experience to all! Had a nice visit with **Hugh Thompson** and his wife Sharon last week, see photos. They left their home in Alabama and now live in downtown Chicago. They flew out here to Southern California to visit friends in Palm Desert and then drove over to visit us for a couple of days. Hugh is doing well and is now an active member of the Class of 65 Parkinson's disease zoom group. Did some area exploring, a tour of our campus and ate some great meals with adult beverages. Hugh lived in an apartment complex with us in Idaho Falls for Nuclear Site training with a number of other 65'ers back in the last half of 1966. Always fun to catch up with "old" classmates. Denny



**Jim Minderlein**, on 08 May, sent out extensive minutes from the Council of Class Presidents (COCP) Spring Meeting, held on 26 Apr. Way too much to cover here. If interested in the meeting results, email Jim and he'll send you a copy of the minutes.

From **Phil Ferrara**, 11 May

✉ A large and hearty crowd assembled for the May Day lunch at McGarvey's Saloon. It totaled 24 classmates!! Attending were Jim Minderlein, Frank Peterson, Doug Norton, Steve Mladineo, John Collins, Tom Kinder, Ted Nanz, Carter Refo, Jim Stark, Mike Luecke, Paul

Reason, Chip Seymour, Phil Ferrara, Ed Linz, Bob Green, Bob Andretta, Charlie Morrison, Sonny Harrison, Larry Eggert, Carl Spangler, Dan Flanagan, Skip Shealy, Skip Orr, and Pat Philbin.

**Mike Epprecht** notified us on 12 May that our 60th reunion plans are coming together rapidly. The plans are too extensive to share here. So please email Mike at [mike.epprecht65@gmail.com](mailto:mike.epprecht65@gmail.com) and he'll send them to you. Also he would appreciate it if you'd let him know if you're planning to attend. Your best guess will do. The Reunion will be held in Annapolis from Wed, 22 Oct 22 - Sun, 26 Oct 2025. The Host Hotel is the Crowne Plaza Hotel Annapolis.

USNA and a merchandise provider have '65 gear for sale; check this out if interested:

<https://www.madeinvs.com/USNA-ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION/CLASS-OF-1965>

From **Steve McDonald**, 20 May

✉ This fearsome foursome celebrated their Happy 2nd Anniversary gathering on 20 May at Our Family Italian in Branford, FL. The foursome: **Bill Robertson, Bill Zuna, Steve McDonald** and **Fred Koberleim**.



Last but not least, Jim Minderlein again honcho'd our our class' participation in USNA's Great Class Challenge. Donations aplenty poured in from our c'mates. We placed a most respectable 3rd overall and best among the classes of the 1960s. Way to go USNA'65!

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave



**McGarvey's lunch, 5-1-24, clockwise, Pat Philbin, Larry Eggert, Mike Luecke, Steve Mladineo, Carter Refo, Doug Norton, Carl Spangler, Ed Linz, Skip Orr, Jim Minderlein**

'65:



# '66

Life Membership: 66%  
Donor Participation: 16.52%

Pres: **Jim Long**  
e: jalongiii@aol.com

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

Website: [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org)

Aah, August! At least Fall isn't far away. Several items to relate in this issue including the results of the Class-wide elections for Class President and Executive Committee (EC), and a recap of the April Florida Comearound.

**Dave McKie** checked in with a short passage and photo. Here's his news.

✉ Recently I enjoyed lunch with Betty and **Marsh Clegg** in Discovery Bay, CA; their longtime residence. Marsh and I went through most of the nuclear submarine pipeline together and then ended up on the same boat, KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642-Blue) in Hawaii. We all moved to Charleston in mid-1970 when the boat's home port changed. Their second daughter, Stacey, was born in September, just days before our son David, which events were definitely not coordinated!



MARSH AND DAVE

Thanks, Dave. Great update.

I am pleased to announce the results of the Class-wide election for Class President and EC Officers and Members. **Jim Long** was elected as our Class President. Many thanks to **Scott Redd** for his 14 years of service as Class President; 1977 to 1984, 1999 to 2004, and 2022 to 2024. Elected as Officers to the EC are **Clay Spikes**, Chairman; **Chuck Grutzius**, Treasurer; and **Mike Baird**; Secretary. Elected Members are **Phil Bozzelli**, **Tom Eubanks**, **Don Jackson**, **Pierce Johnson**, **Tom Marfiak**, **Steve Niss**, **Robert Percival**, and **John Scudi**. Congratulations to all. And, thanks to outgoing EC Member **Tom Rorick**. Also, thanks to **Tom Eubanks**, who chaired the Nominating

Committee with Members **Don Jackson**, and **Steve Niss**, and Classmates-at-Large, **Bill Leonard** and **Chuck Tebrich**. The elected Classmates assumed their duties on 1 July 2024 and will serve until 30 June 2029.

**Jon Barton** made the following announcement regarding Grandson, Graham being selected in the first round, 26th overall, of the NFL draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Graham was All ACC in 2023 as a Center for the Duke Football team "Jan and I are so proud of Graham and of Philip and Heather, who are such loving and supportive parents. Graham just graduated from Duke; he made excellent grades, despite the huge time demands of football." Congratulations to Graham.

**Tom Boyhan** provided a recap of an Honor Flight he recently experienced.

✉ There were 90 former SEALs or Frogmen on this Honor Flight from San Diego to Washington, DC. There were five men from my first SEAL platoon including Big Mike Thornton who later received the Medal of Honor on his last tour in VN. The Honor Flight program started with WWII veterans, then Korea and now VN. This flight was the first, and maybe last, SEAL flight that will happen. I had only heard about WWII Honor Flights, until 2022, there was a San Diego flight taking Navy Sea Wolf Helo Gunship pilots and crew members to DC. A doctor on that flight brought her husband who was a retired Navy SEAL. Back then SEALs had worked Sea Wolf gunships often in VN. The Sea Wolf guys invited this SEAL to their reunion in Oklahoma City in 2023. He wasn't a VN era SEAL, so he contacted my platoon mate Hal Kuykendall and four of us from Charlie platoon attended the September 2023 Sea Wolf reunion. You may be detecting a trend here; an old timer who can no longer make memorable events happen, gets together with other old timers to reminisce on those days gone by.

Finally on our return to San Diego we were met by the west coast SEAL Admiral and Honor Column. The Admiral shook every veteran's hand. I did fine as I passed through the Honor Column but when I got to the top of the escalator and saw 800-1000 people waving flags and shouting "Welcome Home," well this old warrior's heart melted, and the tears flowed. It really was a great Welcome Home. Great story, —Tom.



TOM BOYHAN AND MIKE THORNTON

**Bob Zvacek** provided the following summary of the events of the 2024 Florida Comearound.

✉ The annual Florida Comearound took place in Jacksonville Beach, FL, Tuesday through Thursday, 23-25 April. In attendance were 45 Classmates, 29 wives, 6 widows and 8 significant others. The name and the theme for this event was "Flip, Flop, Kickback." The word relax is implied and was diligently practiced by all who attended. Jimmy Buffet would have been proud. The first evening was a no-host super; an informal gathering at Lynch's Irish Pub where we re-connected, laughed a lot, drank cold beer, and ate some great "pub grub." The second evening was a casually-elegant sit-down dinner at a 99-year-old hotel, the Casa Marina, hosted by **Bob Zvacek**. The dinner was wonderful, the conversation lively, the guitarist playing background music was excellent and the host's Manhattan infused commentary quite humorous, or so I've been told. I don't remember much of it. Our last evening was held on the fourth floor, open air terrace of our host hotel, the Margaritaville Hotel. It was a delicious buffet dinner. The table settings on the Astro-Turf were gorgeous, the ocean view spectacular and the Margaritas were delicious and flowing abundantly at the Open Bar. **Jack Drake** was our Comearound photographer and organized our group photos. **Charlie Votava** led all the guys in singing Navy Blue and Gold. The perfect wrap to an occasion that brought us all together for fellowship and fun.

Great job once again Bob!



'66: CLASSMATES AT THE FLORIDA COMEAROUND



'66: CLASSMATES, SPOUSES, WIDOWS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

**Bill Caiazza** reported his participation in the following event.

✉ The USNA Alumni Cape Fear Chapter awards scholarships to any rising 9th, 10th, or 11th grader who is accepted at the USNA Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) camp. The Chapter awarded four scholarships this year. I made one of the awards on the NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55), to a rising 11th grader, Robert Pacilli, who is also a JNROTC Midshipman.



BILL AND MID'N PACILLI

Thanks, Bill.

**Pete Hesser** sent an update on wife, Nancy Brown, VADM, USN (Ret.).

✉ On the weekend of 13-14 April, Nancy and I visited Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Nancy graduated from Stephens in 1997. We were there to celebrate the opening of the new Veteran's Center. During the ceremonies Nancy was recognized for her efforts which were instrumental in founding the center. A program is underway to recruit women veterans to attend the all-women's college founded in 1833 by offering full tuition and support. The picture shows Nancy with the school's President, Dr. Dianne Lynch. Congratulations to Nancy, —Pete.



NANCY BROWN AND DIANNE LYNCH

Thanks for the write-up.

Sadly, we have lost five more Classmates. **Al Roodhouse** (24th Co.) died on 23 March 2024. His services information was provided in a Class-wide email. **Jim Swartwood** (8th Co.) died on 3 March 2024, **Ralph McCumber** (5th Co.) died on 18 April 2024, and **Paul Petrucka** (7th Co.) died on 3 May 2024. Their obits were sent in Class-wide emails. Finally, **Pat Dennis** (17th Co.) died 5 May 2024. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**Jim Long** provided this update on the Memorial Benches for honorary Classmate, Nunna Spikes.

The Nunna's Caring Heart Friends (NCHF) committee, co-chaired by Courtney and **Clay Spikes**, and coordinated by **Jim Long**, is a charitable venue established to honor Nunna Spikes and to assist surviving spouses of Classmates. Other committee members include **Tom Marfiak**, **Sandra Hale**, and **Nancy Long** with significant help from **Scott Redd**. As a result of Nunna's untimely passing, significant donations from friends and Classmates were received which resulted in a substantial sum. Our Class greatly appreciates the generosity of all who contributed. Nunna Spikes was also made an honorary member of the Class of 1966. To provide a long-term recognition of Nunna's commitment to our Class, the committee has been working on the design of two memorial benches in Nunna's honor to be installed at the USNA Columbarium. After much coordination with the Naval Academy Memorial Oversight Committee, a final design has been approved. Each bench will have an inscription on the seat citing "NOT FOR SELF, BUT FOR COUNTRY," and feature a bronze

plaque citing "In Appreciation of Nunna Gene Spikes, Honorary Member, Class of 1966." The benches are in production and will take about six months to produce before shipping to Annapolis. When the installation date is established, an announcement to the Class will be made and a dedication ceremony scheduled.

In closing, I remind you of several important Class sources of assistance and information. They are the weekly Class Zoom meetings for Classmates. The point of contact (POC) is **Charlie Jones** (technidigm@gmail.com). Contact him to get on his email list. For the spouses, **GINNY JONES** has a Zoom meeting Band of Sisters. Her email is virginia.w.jones@gmail.com. **Linda McCook** hosts the Sail on Solo Zoom meetings. Her email is limccook@gmail.com. All are located on the Class web site usna66.org. Also on that site is the Health and Wellness section. A source of legal, health, and care giving information. A new feature is the Prayer Wall, listed under the Resources header. Information on requesting a prayer is provided. The bottom line is the Class leadership is trying to provide as much support and assistance to Classmates, spouses, and widows as possible. This is especially important as we enter the octogenarian stage of our lives. Please use these resources. Until October...All the best...Mike!!!

## '67

**Life Membership: 77%**

**Donor Participation: 33.84%**

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

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

1603 John Worthington Way, Crownsville, MD 21032  
p: 410-849-3423; e: scribe67@gmail.com

We received this from Joshua Quigley, one of **Tim Quigley's** sons:

✉ Thank you all for reaching out and sharing your memories and good wishes for my father, Tim Quigley. I'm writing to let you all know that Tim (or Quigs) passed away early this morning (15 March 2024) at the VA hospital in Palo Alto. We were grateful that he was able to go peacefully surrounded by his family, and I know that he appreciated the support that he felt from his friends from all over.





Tim Quigley

Though he had not seen Tim in several years, **Don Hefkin** sent some remembrances recalling that Tim had a good career in the P-3 community as a squadron commander and as CO of NAS Moffett. Tim also made a mark as an Aide and as an Executive Assistant to several Flag Officers. Don also recalled time as a RAG instructor with **Jim Schear**, Tim, **Paul Derocher**, **Van McCullough**, **Warren Traub**. Tim's full obituary is at <https://rb.gy/mb57ky>.

This from **Dave Gentile**:

✉ I have the sad duty to report the death of my former roommate, **Bill Frawley**, after a long fight against cancer in Moravian Falls, NC on 3 April 2024. He was in the 14th company the first two years and then 20th after the increase in companies. He is survived by his son, David Frawley. He, **Jeff Young** and I had many adventures while at the Academy, went different ways after graduation but maintained a lifelong friendship. Bill went into Navy Air mainly flying P-3's but also qualified OOD on an aircraft carrier, Jeff went into the surface Navy and I went into Nuclear Submarines. One time I joined Bill on a P-3 training flight off Hawaii that could not find the target submarine with all the fancy gear until I bilged my fellow submariner by visually sighting its periscope. After he left the Navy, he got into teaching and education. He tutored many young students in his area, motivating them towards learning and life. In his later years he had a great hobby of cleaning up and restoring old graveyards. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Bill is survived by one son, David Frawley (Justine) and four granddaughters. Memorial donations be made to Bill's favorite charity: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (<https://rb.gy/lopbbrr>). His full obituary can be found at <https://rb.gy/8r240f>.

**Bob Ryan** passed away on 20 May 2024 with his family at his side at the La Jolla (CA) VA hospital as a result of a long standing bout with pulmonary fibrosis. As I write, his services are scheduled for 5 June 2024 in Coronado with interment at the Miramar National Cemetery to follow on 6 June 2024. Other details aren't available yet. I'll post his obituary when it's available.

Bob was one of the spark plugs among the SoCal Legends. He was key to keeping things rolling out there, helping mold that group into the tightly knit '67 organization they are. He will be sorely missed. On a poignant note, according to **Mike Mazurczak**, Bob's grandson was notified last week that he has a USNA appointment. Bob learned of that before he died.

Marge and **John Chehansky** went to Florida, and John went flying:

✉ During our annual trip to Orlando in February to see our son (**Alex Chehansky '95**), his wife Grace and the grandkids, we had the opportunity to drive down to Wellington, near Miami, to visit Kathryn and **Doug Matthews**. Doug and I went through the F-4 RAG together at NAS Miramar in 1969 and ended up in the Gulf of Tonkin at the same time, him on Kitty Hawk and me on Ranger, so we have flown together, though it was 55 years ago. The Matthews have a wonderful place right on a runway and own a couple of airplanes, one of which is an Italian jet trainer, an Aermacchi. Quite a nice little jet with dual controls, highly maneuverable, efficient and a great deal of fun to fly. So there we were, a couple of 79 year olds strapping into the jet for what I called "one last loop and roll." We had a great time and you should have heard the two old guys grunting as we did a bunch of 4 "G" loops ending the flight with a high-speed, low altitude pass back at the runway, just to impress the wives. "Where do we get such men?"



Doug & Smoke: Relivin' those Glory Days!

**Dutch Heinemeyer** sent some pictures. The '67 Marines had bought a good bottle of scotch to be opened by the last two of us standing. Dutch had this wonderful presentation box built to hold it until the last two of us get to drink from it. Now we have to work out the logistics of the end game.



The '67 Marine box...



...and what it holds.

With thanks to **Frank Hewitt**: The annual fencing tournament between our Navy Alumni Fencers and the Midshipmen Fencing Team is a tradition of over 50 years. The friendly competition was a great tune-up before the Navy Team traveled to West Point for the Army-Navy-Air Force Meet on 6 April 2024, and, then to Swarthmore College on 7 April for the Baltimore-Washington Conference Championship. The final competition of the season will be the USACFC National Championships at the Virginia Beach Convention Center on 13 and 14 April. (Team results: <https://shorturl.at/XCBNE>)

From a Class of '67 perspective, the oldest Alumni Team Fencer in this year's meet was Frank Hewitt, who led the alumni team to an 8-1 epec win. He was on Team USA for the Veteran World Championships in Europe from 2015 thru 2018. **Lin Wells**, who was a Navy epee fencer with Frank when they were Mids, and **Tom Pritchett**, a Company-Mate of Frank's, were both present to cheer Navy on at this annual event.



Classmates at fencing tournament: Tom, Lin and Frank



Frank Hewitt in action

From **Jack Young**

✉ Our 16th Co. monthly Zoom gathering (late March) was short on attendance, but for the six of us who answered the link (**Rick Poole, Pete Burgren, Terry Brown, Bruce Wright, Adam Llewellyn, Jack Young**), we were honored to have **Sim Pace '65** join us. Sim, whose brother Pete is a '67 classmate, was one of our two Plebe Summer, First Set, 11th Company squad leaders. As can be imagined, we had a great time reliving together some names and events of that great summer so long ago.

**Mike Shelley '63**, their Class Secretary, helped us out and forwarded a picture:

✉ Several western North Carolina USNA alumni gather monthly to share lunch and lively conversation at the Pisgah Fish Camp in Brevard, NC. '67 was well represented yesterday, so I took the attached photo that you may want to include in your Shipmate column. L-R in the image are **Vince Putiri, Jim Aldrich, Ken Mero,** and **Mark Graham** — fine fellows all.



'67 at the Pisgah Fish Camp

Finally, '67's Annapolis contingent bids farewell to Susanna and **Ken Tuttle**. They've sold their home on Kent Island (just across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge) and will now split time only between his early family roots in John Day, Oregon where he hand built a retirement home, and St. Louis and their daughter and grandkids. If you remember Ken was a long time USNA prof in the Mechanical Engineering department (he actually understands Thermo and entropy). He was also the faculty rep for the track and field teams. We hope to see them back for the 60th!

So I've used up all my words. No space left to pontificate!...That's it...Goodnight!...Jim

## '68

**Life Membership: 62%**  
**Donor Participation: 17.57%**

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What better way to begin than Class President **Gary Storm's** salute to **Mike Mullen** following Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro's announcement 22 May that DDG 144 will be named USS MICHAEL G. MULLEN: "On behalf of our class, I extend hearty congratulations to Mike and his family for this singular recognition of his distinguished service throughout a

43-year career that culminated at the highest levels of uniformed leadership as the Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff." Mike served as CNO 2005-2007 and as CJCS 2007-2011.

Secretary Del Toro announced the naming at the Academy's Commencement Week ceremony and confirmed a DDG would also be named for former SECNAV Richard Danzig. "Secretary Danzig and Admiral Mullen were visionary leaders in the mold of the greatest naval leaders that came before," he said. Secretary Del Toro extolled Mike's extensive record of command at sea, staff and shore tours, and his leadership during the Global War on Terror, combat operations in Afghanistan and Libya, implementation of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other significant national-security initiatives.

"This is an honor of a lifetime and one I certainly never expected," Mike said. "It says so much about the Navy that I love, and it represents most of my life at sea. So, along with my wife, Deborah, and my family, this is just something that is so very, very special." We are proud of you, Mike, and grateful your career has been so distinctively recognized.

On 18 April, Mike presented **Charlie Bolden** with the National Maritime Historical Society's

Distinguished Service Award during the society's annual dinner in Washington, D.C. As reported in my last column, the Society honored Charlie's "extraordinary leadership and service to our country" as a U.S. Marine aviator, general officer, astronaut and NASA administrator. Congratulations again, Charlie!



Charlie and Mike at the NMHS Distinguished Service Award dinner. (Photo by Clarence Shelton)

National Vietnam War Veterans Day was observed 29 March. Several classmates participated in memorable remembrance events in March and April. The Honor Flight Network is a national organization that transports veterans to Washington, D.C., to honor and celebrate their service. **Jim Kiffer**, awarded the Silver Star in 1972 when he was an RA-5C Vigilante pilot, experienced an "amazing" Space Coast Honor Flight in mid-April:

✉ "For all of us who served in Vietnam and didn't have the warmest welcome home, this event provided the welcome we had hoped for. Besides visiting all the war memorials, the people who saw us applauded and shouted, 'Welcome Home.' I have to admit this old Navy pilot teared up. It was even more special having my son be my Guardian. Jim is a commander in the Navy Reserve and CO of the Reserve Unit of HT-8 while flying for United Airlines. There are many appreciative patriots out there who want to show their gratitude to us and our families for the sacrifices we made in those tough times. God bless America and God bless the men and women now serving."

### CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: [classnews@usna.com](mailto:classnews@usna.com)

2024

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
September-October '24	30 Jul '24
November-December '24	25 Sept '24





Jim Kiffer and his son, Jim, at the Vietnam War Memorial.

**Rick Blank** participated in two events in Hawaii in March honoring Vietnam War veterans. Awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses as an F-4 weapons systems officer with the Air Force's 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Rick joined other DFC recipients honored in a National Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony and parade in Waikiki on 29 March. Two weeks earlier, he attended a ceremony for Medal of Honor recipient Specialist 5 Dennis Fujii's induction into the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii's Gallery of Heroes. Rick met with SP5 Fujii after the ceremony. It was an unusual reunion owing to their wartime experiences in February 1971.

That month, Fujii, a crew chief aboard a medevac helicopter rescuing South Vietnamese Army Rangers during an engagement in Laos, was injured when his helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and crash landed. A second helicopter evacuated his fellow airmen, but Fujii was unable to board after enemy snipers directed fire at him. He waved the helo off. He was the lone U.S. soldier on the ground with the ARVN Rangers. Despite his wounds and severe fatigue, Fujii spent three grueling days and nights treating wounded Rangers, fending off enemy fighters, and directing U.S. air strikes against them until he was evacuated and returned to South Vietnam for medical treatment. SP5 Fujii was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity."

As Rick reported: "After the ceremony I had the honor to thank Dennis and express my admiration for his heroism well above and beyond the call of duty. Then I explained how I provided close-air support for him and the beleaguered ARVN Rangers. I described how, for four hours during the first three nights of the engagement, I had rolled in on enemy positions. It was a special blessing when I handed Dennis my 53-year-old, handwritten combat flight log that documented those missions during the first three days. It also recorded how I returned with a 16-ship strike from my 366th Fighter Wing on the engagement's fifth day that finally ended the NVN assault against the ARVN Ranger unit."



'68: Dick Evert (third from left) and Denny Irelan (far right) with VA-212's A-4 in the background.



SP5 Fujii and Rick Blank during their memorable reunion.

**Dick Evert** and **Denny Irelan** participated in an aircraft-naming event at the San Diego Air and Space Museum on 12 March. Two squadron commanding officers were honored for their sacrifice in 1972 during the carrier HANCOCK's (CVA 19) wartime deployment. At the time, Dick was assigned to Fighter Squadron 24 flying F-8s. Denny was assigned to Attack Squadron 212 flying the A-4.

"Denny and I were part of the airwing (CVW-21)," Dick said, "and I was on the strike when CDR Hank Strong, the CO of VA-212, was lost. His squadron mates took the opportunity to place his name on the VA-212 A-4 which now resides in the museum—adding his name to that of CDR Frank Green who was lost a few weeks later. It was a moving event—the five aviators who were on the strike spoke about their experiences and the impact of honoring a man 50 years later." As Denny said in his remarks, "In 1972 we were saddened by the loss of squadron pilots—today we celebrate the San Diego Air and Space Museum bringing a remembrance to their lives."

During Kate and **Al Burda's** April trip to Pensacola in April to see Carole and **Hank Martin**, they visited the National Naval Aviation Museum. Hank is a tour guide there. "He was incredibly entertaining and informative," Al said. He provided a photo of Hank during their tour standing before a PBY Catalina flying boat similar to one Hank's father flew in World War II. Hank later related how two PBY squadrons were deployed in 1943 to Perth, Australia, for night missions against Japan in the South Pacific. "My father was the training officer for VP-111 at Perth," he explained.

Hank described how PBYs, loaded with 500-pound bombs or torpedoes, played an important role in allied operations that prevented the Japanese from capturing their key strategic goal of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. "Surprise night attack was their advantage," he said. His father continued his service after WWII and retired as a captain in the Naval Reserve. A naval aviator like his father, Hank encourages us to contact him for a museum tour and lunch if we're in Pensacola; email: carole868hank@gmail.com.



Hank Martin with a PBY Catalina "Black Cat" like his father flew during World War II.

Sadly, we lost the 8th Company's **José Cano** and **Arthur "Art" McLaughlin** from our ranks on 2 April and 21 April, respectively. Rest in peace. Please see their entries in Last Call.

Jose, a Venezuelan exchange student and midshipman until 1966, graduated from the Central University of Venezuela in 1970 as a hydrometeorologist engineer, served as a colonel in the Venezuelan Navy and as a captain in the Merchant Marine, and earned additional advanced degrees. "His excellent interpersonal relations and special human quality always kept him in the minds and hearts of those who knew him," reflected his daughter, Maria. "He was a well-read and knowledgeable academic and a sailor of action." Jose is survived by his wife, Pilar, and 10 children.

Reflecting on Jose's loss, Company-mate **Jeff Desautels** said, "My memories of Jose always bring to mind a one-word description: raconteur. He always had a story—a few of which might be published in a family magazine! Over the years, at various reunions or whenever, his story telling skill just seemed to grow and grow. And in the process, he contributed greatly to two countries. He will be missed!"

**Dave Spooner** echoed Jeff's remembrance, adding how he had enjoyed Jose's phone calls in recent years. "Jose always seemed to have many irons in the fire," Dave said. "My company mates and I will miss his ebullient presence at our reunions." **Mike Scholtens** noted, "He was one prolific adventurer and accomplished entrepreneur!"

Art served as a surface warfare officer on the destroyer EPPERSON, Destroyer Division 12 staff, as a psychological warfare officer at Cam Ranh Bay during the Vietnam War, and on the ammunition ship PYRO prior to resigning his commission in 1974. He joined Mobil Oil as a financial analyst for 20 years before retiring in 1995 and settling in Northern California for the last three decades. He worked for a small fuel-oil equipment distributor until final retirement in 2007. Art enjoyed time with family and friends, supported Navy football, and cherished his high school and Academy classmates. The Catholic Church was central to his life. He is survived by his former wife, Elizabeth, daughter Kelly, grandchildren and an extended family.

"Art is one of the few classmates outside of my company whom I recall knowing," reflected **Jay Potter**. "We saw each other in Cam Ranh Bay in 1972. Part of Art's work as a psychological warfare officer was a civic-action assignment assisting the Vietnamese in animal husbandry," Jay said. "My primary recollection of Art is that he had an extraordinary sense of humor and made others feel comfortable around him."

All the best and take care, **Gordo**

# '69

**Life Membership: 59%**  
**Donor Participation: 19.90%**

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Good day, '69. Hope you all are doing well... only one month to go (more or less) until our World Famous USNA Class of 1969 Reunion. Those elected to Class Board positions will be announced at the class Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning at 0900. Running for office (company in parens) are **President: Steve Comiskey (32 - incumbent), Mike Michaelis (12); Secretary: Steve Hudock (6 - incumbent), Pat Stroop (36); Board of Director at Large #2 Stan Bryant (27 - incumbent), Walt Giraldi (20), Stephen Leaman (36); and Board of Director at Large #5 Guy Higgins (23 - incumbent), Mike McNeil (2), Sam Wilson (8)**. Life or Annual Members of the Class of 1969 Foundation can vote on our class website [www.usna69.org](http://www.usna69.org) by following the top menu path: Foundation > Class Elections. Non-members of the Foundation will be able to enroll and vote. The entire schedule of events for the 55th (Thursday through Sunday) is also on the class web page by following 55th Reunion > Schedule of Events.

While touring the Yard during our reunion, you are likely to see some floating cranes around Triton Light. These cranes are the first in a project to rebuild the sea wall around the Yard. The Farragut Seawall project is the first of many projects to protect the Yard from recurring flooding. The reason that wall was replaced first is because it had failed and needed complete replacement. Since USNA knows that they will be dealing with higher levels of water over the 75 year service life of that seawall, they raised it to the height that is anticipated through the year 2100. USNA can raise it again another few feet if needed later in the century. The new seawall will be complete this fall. The project also includes the replacement of the seawall along the south edge of the Santee Basin. However, it does not include the portion of seawall that runs under Robert Crown since that wall is inaccessible due to the building location. The resilience plan calls for the building to be demolished and a new Sailing Center constructed at the end of Farragut Field (the exact location is not determined yet). Additionally, USNA is close to contract award

of a new seawall along Ramsay Road to protect the Columbarium from recurring flooding. That work should start this fall and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months of construction. The height of the seawall there will match the height of the seawall at Sherman Field/Hospital Point. Also of interest, USNA is awarding a project to replace and raise the Utility Bridge that runs over College Creek, adjacent to King George Street. That project should start this fall as well.

DYK: You can access *Shipmate* magazine online and opt out of getting the hard copy magazine? Alumni Association members can opt out of receiving physical copies and then access the current issue of *Shipmate* and the entire catalog back to 1938 digitally. Not only does this option allow the Alumni Association to deliver content with sound financial practices, but it also reduces the environmental footprint by using less paper. Login to USNA.com and click the box to opt out of receiving physical copies. Then login to *Shipmate* online and have *Shipmate* always at your fingertips 24/7. Of course, you can always do both. Reducing the number of copies of *Shipmate* from 8 to 6 annually saves the Alumni Association \$250,000 a year!

From **Tom Schram**: Please meet Abdul Samim Ramzi. He landed in Dallas/Fort Worth airport in March and was met by two members of the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Group (ARRG) team at his arrival gate, American Airlines Captains Bill Sherrod and Floyd Stephens (also fellow veterans). They escorted him to baggage claim where he was met by Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, Kaitlin Cowan. Samim was then taken to his new housing in Fort Worth and served a welcoming Afghan meal. We have another three pilots and their families scheduled to fly to the USA in March. It is our strong hope that all will be in Fort Worth no later than 1 June. Thanks to all of you for your support.

From **Doug Bishop**: The 2024 Kauffman Kupp competition between '67 and '69 concluded 7 March with '69 prevailing. The competition began on 7 March with matches at Stoneybrook golf course in Estero and ended at Shell Point in Fort Meyers. '69 team included **Bob Adamson, Tom LaForce, Tom Daley, Dave Zerfoss, Bill Dow, Tom LaForce, Dick Long, Mike Haddon, Tom Burbage, Mark Warner, Doug Bishop and Bill McCauley**. Going into the final day matches '69 led 3-1-1 and iced the trophy with 5 wins the last day.

From **Pat Stroop**: '69's annual spring training trek was held in Florida 15 to 21 March. Attendees this year were **Dan and Cindy Johnson, Dennis Yatras and Debbie Scott, Stan and Judi Bryant, and Pat and Mary Stroop**. We started in Sarasota with an O's game, then to Lakeland for a Tigers game and of course the yummy strawberry shortcake, Tampa for a Yankees game, then across to West Palm Beach where we took in a couple of Nationals games. It was a fun trip and we are already looking forward to doing it again next year!



## 69/69 CLASS NEWS



'69: 2024 Kauffman Cup '69 Team



Dennis, Debbie, Pat, Mary, Dan, Cindy, Stan and Judi

Also from **Pat**: After spring training, we joined Cruising with Friends in Tampa for a trans-Atlantic voyage which began with embarkation on Celebrity Constellation on 23 March and ended with arrival in Barcelona 2 weeks later. We did have one sked change...weather in the Azores was predicted to be rainy, windy, and chilly, so the captain made the smart decision early to skip the Azores and head for Cadiz. We toured Cadiz, then went to Gibraltar for a day before debarking in Barcelona 6 April. It was a wonderful trip, and us retired Navy guys did not have any responsibilities! Here is a picture of many of us with the captain:

**Pete and Sharon Renfree** were also on the cruise, along with our good friends Gil and Diana Edwards and Joe Arcari (Air Boss on USS CORONADO (LPD 11) 50 years ago when Pat was Chief Engineer!) and Terri Edwards. After debarking in Barcelona, we went our separate ways with most folks staying in Europe. Our next "Cruising with Friends" is a 7 day trip to the Caribbean 2 to 9 March 2025. We'll leave from Fort Lauderdale with planned stops Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, St Thomas, and St Marteen, and return to Fort Lauderdale. If you are interested, please let me know and I will put you in touch with our travel agent who can provide a few perks if you go through him.

On 17 April **VADM Yvette Davids '89**, our lecturer Dr. Julio M. Ottino of Northwestern

University, 14 staff officers and academics, and 32 midshipmen got together for a wonderfully served pre-lecture dinner at The Naval Academy Club. After dinner we strolled to Mahan Hall where we were joined by approximately one hundred more midshipmen for Dr. Ottino's lecture on "Lessons in Creativity, Innovation, and Leadership through the Nexus of Science, Math, Technology and Art". Following the lecture, Class President **Steve Comiskey** presented Dr. Ottino with our class Challenge Coin and the midshipmen presented him with a USNA windbreaker in appreciation for his lecture. Light refreshments were served

afterwards in Mahan's lobby, with live chamber music. Begun in 1981, this was the 43rd USNA lecture named after **Albert A. Michelson**, USNA 1873 graduate and instructor, and the first American to receive a Nobel Prize. It was classmate **Howard J. "Tim" Halliday, Jr.'s** suggestion while he was Math and Science Division Director that our class become the sponsor for this lecture series. Our class now sponsors the lecture in perpetuity.

On 3 May **Dewey Meteer** was the guest speaker at lunch at El Tiempo Cantina in Houston. His subject was the success of Navy Rugby since becoming a varsity sport last year. In 1968 Dewey formed the first rugby team at USNA and they played in the Potomac Rugby Union, winning their division. In the years following graduation, he played for the Pensacola Royal, Old Mission Beach Club (San Diego), Hamburg Germany Rugby Club, and Washington, D.C. RFC all while pursuing a Navy career. In 1979 he returned to the Admissions Department at USNA and collaterally became head coach of the Navy Rugby Club. In the spring of 1980, he helped create the first National Collegiate Championship. After leaving USNA in 1981, he coached five different teams including the Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Maine. He was inducted into the Navy Rugby Hall of Fame as a coach in 2017, as a member of the 1980 team



'69: Tom and Jody Mitchell, Al and Aida Cipriani, Tom and Chris Johnson, Pat and Mary Stroop, Bill and Dee Coleman, Lanny and Ethel Hunt, Bob and Cindy (missing from picture) Moeller, Lon and Judy Schofield, and of course Captain Chris.



'69: Jim Sandberg, VADM Davids, Steve Comiskey, Bert Bennett, Dr. Ottino, Ed Timperlake, Dr. Firebaugh, Bob Amundson and Marty Costello



in 2018, and as a player on the 1969 team in 2022. He is the only person inducted as both a player and a coach. Dewey lives in Nobleboro, Maine. (Postscript: the mids lost to St. Mary's 26-22.)



Jim Walters, Lee Kelleher, Dewey Meteer, Rich Bulger, Rick Bush, Tom Wojchichowski, Rolly Laurenzo and Ken Koch

**Todd Creekman** has submitted an updated version of the history of the USNA Class of 1969 and it sits on both the class website [www.usna69.org](http://www.usna69.org) and on the Alumni Association website [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com). If you haven't read the history, you will find it pretty neat and it might actually make you think of something that happened at USNA or in your career. Check it out.

Finally, 2024 has graduated as of today! 1040 graduates, 760 Navy, 258 Marine Corps, 2 graduating but late commissioning, 7 NPQ, and 13 International students.

As Tom Selleck says: "Don't know where I'm goin', but there's no use bein' late".

Oh yeah, one more thing: We had the best music!

That's all for this month. Safe travels all.  
**Non sibi.**

## '70

**Life Membership: 63%**

**Donor Participation: 23.99%**

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Greetings all, and welcome to the dog days of the hot, hot summer, and let me assure you that Pensacola in July and August is hot! Some of you with outstanding memories might remember the little ditties in answer to the question: 'How cold is it in Baltimore?' Well they don't apply here. But enough of that, this is the price we pay for perfect winters.

Back in April, we got an update from Lisa Eliot, daughter of our honorary classmate **Fred Eliot**, through **Bill King**. It read in part: Fred and Millie Eliot were gracious hosts to several of our ranks in 24 from 1968 to 1970. Both were made honorary members of the

Class of 1970 for their generosity and hospitality, not only '70 but also the class ahead of us and many classes that followed. Fred had his 100th birthday last year and died a few months ago. There was no funeral or memorial service. His son, Fred, Jr. USNA '73 said the he had a full life and died peacefully. "Dad always wanted to go to medical school. He is now on his way." In June they held a time for sharing of memories. We did a sort of the infamous memory drawers and found letters, photos, birth announcements, change of command invitations and we will put it all out to jog the memories and then invite everyone to take their favorites with them.

### Bits and Pieces:

The irrepressible **Grant Thorpe** sent me a text that he, **Charlie Lewis**, and **Dan Kestly**, spent a ten-day diving trip in Taveuni, Fiji, in May. Wonderful people, sights, and diving.



**Bob Sonnenberg** reports:

✉ "Nineteen members of the 11th Co. (classmates and spouses) stormed into Savannah, GA in April to begin a fun-filled

weekend in the beautiful and historic city. Days were taken up by walks around the historic section of town or just hanging out and talking about 'the good old days' and catching up on current activities of everyone present. Each night was arranged by our hosts, Helen and **Jeff Lewis**, to be a great meal in a private room at various places. We also had a private trolley tour (very interesting) followed by a dinner cruise on a riverboat. We all had a wonderful time just being together and reminiscing, and sometimes acting like we were 25 again."

**Wayne Wolfe** sends:

✉ "On the occasion of the 54th year since graduation the 17th Company "gathered by the sea and stories were retold" at the Lido Beach Resort near Sarasota, FL. We sampled the fare at four of the best restaurants in Sarasota County. We played in the relatively warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico; enjoyed the sunset view of the Gulf from the 10th floor restaurant with views of both the Gulf of Mexico to the West and the Sarasota skyline to the East. Judy and **Tim LaFleur** survived the flight from hell out of San Diego to join us. Anne and **Jody Graul** drove a vehicle registered in Nahant, MA. From our northern border with Canada we had Kathleen and **John Dollerschell** of Minnesota. The southern border along the Gulf of Mexico yielded the Alabama residents Vickie and **Bill Moore**. The core group of Floridians consisted of Vickie and **Steve Steiro**, Patti and **Bill Saltenberger** and Carol and **Wayne Wolfe**. Bill Saltenberger hosted a nautical "Crossing the Border" ceremony in honor of our classmates who are no longer with us. He learned this ceremony from his volunteer work with the United States Coast Guard Auxillary of which he and Patti are active volunteers. Alexandria, Virginia residents attending were Kathy and **John Montgomery**. From North Carolina we had **John Chandler** and friend Kathy. Attached photos are from St. Armands Key and the Lido Beach Resort. Unfortunately, the Binnacle List yielded last minute cancellations from Sharon and **Tony Watson** and Sharon and **GB Whitten**. **Al Roy** and **Dave Pearson** had already been stymied by medical rehab restrictions. John Montgomery



'70: Tom and Jody Mitchell, Al and Aida Cipriani, Tom and Chris Johnson, Pat and Mary Stroop, Bill and Dee Coleman, Lanny and Ethel Hunt, Bob and Cindy (missing from picture) Moeller, Lon and Judy Schofield, and of course Captain Chris.



## 70/70 CLASS NEWS

ery is spearheading the 17th Company drive for a Class of 70 reunion to celebrate our 55th next year. We are hoping to have everyone in the company off of medical restrictions by then."



L-R: Montgomery, Dollerschell, Chandler, Graul, LaFleur, Moore and Saltenberger



L-R: Wolfe, Chandler, Graul, Montgomery, Saltenberger, Moore, Dollerschell and Steiro

**Carl Weiscopf** reports that at the San Diego Class of 70 Dark Ages Lunch, they had 34 classmates, 4 spouses, and **Abby Pilger Boretto** in attendance at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse facility.

**Frank Reifsnnyder** wrote that:

✉ "Diane and I are in the last 3 weeks of our 142-day world cruise on *CRYSTAL SERENITY*. Our itinerary changed significantly after our departure because of problems in the Red Sea.

Instead of traveling through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, we were re-routed around Africa, visiting many places that I never thought we would visit. I received the following message from **Phil Eslinger**, reporting on a recent trip he took with three other classmates and their wives. In the last half of April, four couples of our classmates: Charlotte and **Bob Miller**, Shauna and **Jim Bowlin**, Carol and **PJ Falten**, and Phil and Jean Eslinger flew to Bucharest, Romania to explore the countries along the lower Danube River. As they travelled up the Danube, they visited Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Hungarian Republic, and the Czech Republic."



L-R: Bob and Charlotte Miller, Jim and Shauna Bowlin, PJ and Carol Falten, and Phil and Jean Eslinger.

Update from **Dave McCampbell**  
Circumnavigation of the Globe:

✉ "Due to the problems with the Houthis in the Red Sea, we decided to delay our trip to the Med for another year. I figured my flare and pellet gun were not a good defense against the Houthi's missiles and drones. We no longer have CIWS aboard as in the past on my Navy ships. So, we decided to do a circumnavigation of Sumatra in western Indonesia with a couple other cruising boats. We started in early March at the northern end at Sabang/Banda Ache, "not far from" the source of the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami that killed at

least 225,000 people along the Sumatran coast and in the Indian Ocean. It is considered the deadliest natural disaster of the 21st century and the third most powerful earthquake ever at 9.2 on the Richter Scale. Waves up to one hundred feet imperiled the people living in low coastal areas. There is a notable museum in Banda Ache that documents all of this. While in the area we visited the northern central Sumatran highlands to see Orangutans living in the wild and Lake Toba, a UNESCO Global Geopark. It is the site of the largest known explosive eruption ever on earth, a climate changing event and had global consequences for human populations at the time. It erupted about 74,000 years ago forming a super caldera sixty by twenty miles and over 1600 feet deep with an island larger than Singapore in the middle. It has been on my bucket list since we passed by in the Straits of Malacca seeing it on a navigation chart as the Navigator on my first ship in 1972. What an impressive sight it is. On the 25th of April, my birthday, we expect to be 'not far from' Krakatoa, in the Sunda Strait at the bottom of Sumatra. This is the site of the famous huge volcanic explosions and tsunamis of August 1883. The four eruptions were one of the most destructive and deadliest natural events in recorded history, killing at least 36,500 people. They were four times as powerful as the biggest thermonuclear weapon ever detonated. All explosions produced tsunamis up to one hundred feet high, with the third being the loudest sound in history at over 180 decibels. I hope it doesn't erupt while we are there. So, it has been an interesting trip so far with lots to see and do. In the summer we hope to be off the east coast of Malaysia away from most volcanos and looking forward to scuba diving."

And finally, from our esteemed President, **Ed Moore**: "Overall the Great Class of 1970 finished 12th of the 78 classes competing in the Great Class Challenge of 2024. We had 137 total donors for 21.44% of the Class. We exceeded last year's total donors by 11 for 108.73% of last year's 126 donors. Bravo Zulu



'70 San Diego Dark Ages Lunch

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Alabama

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### Annual Spring Dinner

On Saturday, 27 April, the Alabama Chapter held its annual Spring Dinner at The Harbert Center in Birmingham. Eight Alabama Appointees joining the USNA Class of 2028 were our special guests. The Appointees and their families enjoyed mingling with parents of current Midshipmen, becoming acquainted with their future classmates and meeting alumni. Each was presented with an Alabama Chapter unit coin.



Chapter President Greg Hess presents the Leadership Award to MIDN 1/C Reid Freeman.



MIDN Freeman with the children of Leadership Honoree CAPT Dick Phelan '64.

The Chapter presented the LEADERSHIP AWARD to the graduating Midshipman from Alabama achieving the Highest Order of Merit. This year's Award was given to **MIDN 1/C Reid Freeman '25** of Birmingham. A member of Fourth Company, Reid was the 1st Regiment Honor Sergeant during both Fall and Spring semesters of his 2/C year. Afterwards Reid completed Leatherneck to select Marine Corps



Alabama Chapter: Members of the incoming Alabama Class of 2028

and completed the rest of his summer training in Chile. During the fall semester of his 1/C year, Reid studied at the Chilean Naval Academy as part of the foreign exchange program. Upon his return, he served as the Training Officer for Fourth Company in the Spring semester.

An active member of the Catholic Midshipmen Club, Reid served as the Club's Treasurer his 2/C year. He maintained a 4.0 as an Electrical Engineering major. His culminating research project included researching and analyzing Additively Manufactured Optical Components. Upon graduation, Reid will report to Quantico, VA to begin TBS Marine Corps Officer Training.

The Chapter recognized the contributions of a graduate who helped promote the Academy and its mission within the State of Alabama. This year's Leadership Award Honoree was **CAPT Richard "Dick" Phelan, USN (Ret.)**, deceased, **USNA Class of '64**.

Captain Phelan was born and raised in Davenport, IA and graduated from Davenport High School in 1960. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1964 and pursued naval flight training in Pensacola, FL and Corpus Christi, TX. One year later, he received his Wings of Gold and trained to fly P-2s with Patrol Squadron 24 in Jacksonville, FL.

Phelan served in the Vietnam War from January 1972 to January 1973. He lived in hamlets and flew into different areas throughout the country, creating reports for Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam. Phelan was awarded the Bronze Star for his service during the war. After Vietnam, Phelan served with several Navy patrol plane squadrons, including an operational test and evaluation squadron in Key West, FL, and Patuxent River, MD, that tested anti-submarine warfare weapon systems.

Phelan was the commanding officer of Navy Squadron VP-45 from 1982-1983, routinely deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. He served as Chief of Staff for Patrol Wing 11 in 1983-1984,

then attended the Naval War College. He obtained two additional Masters' Degrees. Phelan went on to serve on the Secretary of Defense's staff at the Pentagon for three years. In July 1988, he received orders to move to Auburn to become a professor of naval science and the commanding officer of the Naval ROTC program. He oversaw the program for three years before retiring from the Navy in 1991.

Phelan retired as a decorated veteran, having been awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam, the Legion of Merit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, and multiple additional medals throughout his 27-year military career.

Upon his retirement from the naval service, Phelan served the Auburn community in various civic organizations over the years. He was Chairman or President of several entities and committees. He continued to support USNA as a Blue and Gold Officer and served on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Special Olympics for 15 years. He served as a member of the Auburn City Council for 16 years; for eight of those years, he was Mayor Pro Tem.

Dick passed away on February 14, 2024. He was preceded in death by his wife Edna Moore Phelan and is survived by four children and ten grandchildren.

During the program, **RADM John T. Natter '62** led the Pledge of Allegiance; **William Cook '88** introduced the incoming Class of '28 attendees, and **Lee Yarberry '78** presented the Chapter Coins and introduced the "Another Link in the Chain" initiative. **Greg Hess '85** presented the Leadership Award. Other alumni in attendance included **Morris Hackney '53**, **Charles Heath '64**, **Roy Smith '73**, **Sam Nichols '76**, **Craig Baker '81**, **Kevin Patton '85**, **Andrew Trotta '85**, **Kristin Bakkegard '88**, **David Patton '92**, **Eric Riddle '94** and **John Vereen '00**.





Southern Arizona Chapter: Southern Arizona Chapter attendees at the annual Spring Dinner

## Arizona

BGO Area Coordinator: **Susan Wester**  
e: sjw456@icloud.com

### Southern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **John McCarthy** -  
p: 520-241-7943  
e: j.r.mccarthy2@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Jim Hillenmayer '73**  
e: jhillenmayer73@msn.com  
Website: <http://southernarizona.usnachapters.com>

In early May, the Southern Arizona Alumni Association Chapter wrapped up the 2023/2024 season with their annual Spring Dinner at a local area golf resort. Outgoing Chapter President **Thom Rossa '63** kicked off the gala and introduced the Board of Directors for the 2024/2025 season: **John McCarthy '76** is the new Chapter President, **Angela Gonzales '04** is the new Chapter Treasurer, and **Jim Hillenmayer '73** remains the Chapter Secretary

As usual, the Chapter will take the summer months off and resume activities in September.

## California

### Los Angeles Chapter

Pres: **Adrian Montecinos '14**  
p: 562-587-3690; e: admont19@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Paris Scott '12**  
p: 949-756-4286; e: pscoot89@gmail.com

Treas: **Michael Seaver '83**  
e: michaelseaver@gmail.com

National Trustee: **Brian DeJarnett**  
e: Brian@dejarnett.net

BGO Area Coordinator (LA County/Orange County):  
**CDR Steve Shatynski '83, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 714-255-6108  
e: Stephan.shatynski@wellsfargoadvisors.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Riverside/San Bernardino):  
**CDR Bill Lauper, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 619-840-2846; e: lauperwm@gmail.com

Ahoy Shipmates!

As summer begins to roll in, clearing the marine layer, the LA/OC chapter looks forward to the upcoming summer and fall. Since our last submission we have elected a few new board members: **Ron Helms '15 & George Kiernan '19**.



Sacramento Chapter: Run to Honor- Left to right- Nicole and John Martin '91, Terri (Riggs) Maginnis '82, Alan Abbs '91, and Mary and Dave McKie '66 (cycled to honor).

Welcome aboard gentlemen! We continue to plan for upcoming activities to unite local alumni. Be on the lookout for more details to follow. If you haven't, please ensure you have registered with MyUSNA.com as all of our communications are distributed via email.

If you're interested in joining the OC/LA Alumni Chapter or want to help in any way please contact our chapter leadership via MyUSNA.com. We look forward to meeting new Alumni and helping grow our local chapter!

In other news, the San Gabriel Valley luncheon group held their monthly gathering at Mimi's Café in Monrovia (typically fourth Thursday of the month). If you're in the area, I highly encourage you to attend!



L to R: Allen (Bob's Assistant), Beverlee Kelly, Jim Kelly '66, Joe Lyvers '71, Glen Shindler '64, and Bob Rogers '54

### Upcoming Events:

**July 10:** Board Meeting (Zoom); Open to all alumni

**August 10:** Board Meeting (Zoom); Open to all alumni

Go Navy!!! Beat Army!!!

### Sacramento Chapter

Pres: **Terri (Riggs) Maginnis '82**  
p: 916-203-5115; e: tmaginnis@yahoo.com

Vice Pres: **Brian Grubbs '92**  
p: 916-712-1747; e: bgrubbs1992@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Paul Deveaux '96**  
e: paul@pauldeveaux.com

Treas: **Alan Abbs '91**  
e: alanabbs@gmail.com

Area BGO Coordinator: **Lauro Aguila '81**  
p: 530-417-1082  
e: Lauro.Aguila@bgo.USNA.com

On Monday, 27 May, we hosted our Inaugural 'Run to Honor' event at Bannister Park, Fair Oaks. In attendance were **Dave McKie '66, Terri (Riggs) Maginnis '82, John Martin '91** and **Alan Abbs '91**. Alan Abbs organized a trail run that took us across the American River and loop back for a 5K run/walk, followed by some



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refreshments and a time to remember our fellow alumni and friends and family who gave their lives in active duty.

On Sunday, June 2, we hosted the Class of 2028 Appointee Luncheon at the Dante Club in Fair Oaks. As of that date, we had 12 appointees from the Greater Sacramento area; 8 of the 12 along with friends, family, alumni, and parents' club officers attended. Ray Luevano '78 represented the 'Another Link in the Chain' for the Class of 2028. Alumni in attendance included **Dave McKie '66, Lauro Aguila '81, Terri Maginnis '82, Alan Abbs '91, Brian Grubbs '92** and Lucie Korettinger (USMA '91)—daughter **Emily '27**.



Ongoing events—look for emails on Navy football watch parties as well as a possible Navy/Marine Corps birthday or USNA Founders Day event in October.

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

**3rd Thursday:** We continue to try different venues around the Sacramento area. Check emails and myusna.com for monthly updates and location.

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



San Diego Chapter: Thirty participants from the Classes of '79 to '25

### San Diego Chapter

Pres: **Keith Kitagawa '92**  
e: president@usnaasd.com

Vice Pres 1: **Debbie Balsley '93**

Vice Pres 2: **Michael Philbrook '83**

Treas: **Maurice Caskey '64**

Sec'y: **Mark Powers '06**  
e: secretary@usnaasd.com

Corr Sec'y: **Charlie Carey '70**  
p: 619-589-0945; e: cdcarey@1970.USNA.com

Website: <http://usnaasd.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Philbrook '83**  
e: michael.philbrook@1983.usna.com



The San Diego Chapter activities have picked up since my last input at the end of March. We held our chapter elections at the end of March and supported the Navy Men & Women Track Team who were in San Diego for spring training and a couple of meets in San Diego and Santa Barbara. The meet in Santa Barbara was at Vestment College and the meet in SD was the Ross & Sharon Irwin Invitational where we provided food, snacks and drinks. We also threw a pizza party for the teams while they were here. If you have been keeping up on USNA sports you know the Track Team is outstanding and has had tremendous success especially against Army. Also in March there were Middies out here for the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering.

In April we had a Chapter Luncheon with **CDR Matt Harris '06** as our guest speaker. Matt is the current XO and PCO of the USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS (LCS-10). Matt was on point as to the many changes in the use of the LCS and quite good at answering many pointed questions as to the capabilities and employment of the LCS.



Our junior and senior grad at the April lunch - Helois Leesk '18 and Chuck Smith '58



CDR Matt Harris answering questions at the April lunch

Finally in May we held the annual San Diego Plebe Welcome Dinner for all of the newly appointed Midshipman about to report to USNA. It gives the new Plebes a chance to get a great send off and also mix it up with grads in the area for a little perspective on their future adventures at Bancroft Hall. We also had great participation in the Run to Honor on Memorial Day with many of our alumni getting into the action.

The Chapter was recognized in the latest WAVETOPS with a BZ for our use of the myUSNA page to publish our events and goings on here. I say this often here because many grads pass through here or are stationed here or retire here and this is a great resource to make contacts with other grads or just join us for Happy Hours or other activities that we do throughout the year. You are always welcome and can find us at: <https://myusna.com/topics/9562/home>.

Or just go to myUSNA and look for us under GROUPS.



### MyUSNA

*MyUSNA is where your chapter can grow and where your events can get to the next level. Scan the QR code to amplify your USNA alumni experience as we strengthen bonds and form new ones.*





San Francisco Bay Chapter: Navy tailgate

**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**

Pres: **Mike Fazio '85**  
e: mikefz85@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Vacant**

Sec'y: **Ray Fazio '57**  
e: rayfz57@pacbell.net

Treas: **Brian Frack '89**  
e: frackbrian@gmail.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Paul Kepner '04, USN (Ret.)**  
e: paulmkepner@gmail.com.

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

Instagram: **@usnaaa\_sfbaychapter**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Frank Verducci**  
e: fverduccjr@yahoo.com

On 16 March, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter hosted a tailgate for over 150 Navy rugby fans; including Alumni, Players, and their families. Bravo Zulu to **Devin Cross '93, Spence Leslie '74, Brian Frack '89, John Burke '81, Mike Mahre '81 and Mike Fazio '85** for helping with the 190 burgers, 100 dogs and all the food that was served. Cal won the game, but Navy won the tailgate. Thanks to **James Gifford '79** for the BIG group photo.

USNA Alumni Association STEM Conference: AI Current and Future will explore the Naval/USMC Warfighting Institutions (USNA, Naval Post Graduate School and Naval War College) Collaboration with industry to ensure we stay at the leading edge of AI. The Reception and Conference will be held at the Computer History Museum (1401 N Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043-1311). Registration details will be published on myUSNA in the near future.

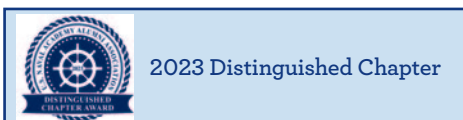
\*Friday, October 11, 2024, 1730-2000:

Networking Reception

\*Saturday, October 12, 2024, 0730-1700:

USNA Alumni Association STEM Conference

\*Sunday, October 13, 2024 time TBD: Fleet Week Blue Angels Watch Party



**Delaware**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Maj Brad Boyd '87, USMC (Ret.)**  
p: 302-377-4479; e: Brad.Boyd@bgo.usna.com

**Delaware Chapter**

Pres: **Chris Dierkes '85**  
c: 302-540-0940; e: christopherdierkes@yahoo.com

**What's Up Delaware ?**

Chapter President: Chris Dierkes' contact Info changed...

Email: christopherdierkes@yahoo.com  
Cell phone: 302-540-0940

**Delaware USNA License Plates**

If you graduated in the years 2000 - 2009, Delaware DMV states you can't go with the preceding zeros because their [DMV] system can't handle it. It ignores the zeros and defaults to the actual number that follows. For example - let's say you graduated in 2001 and wanted the license plate NAO001, NAO01 or NA01. The end result would be your license plate printed and sent to you as NA1.

This information will be reflected on myUSNA.com for Delaware Alumni

**Personal News Anyone?**

\*Shoutouts, write-ups, pictures, any milestone or celebration - all welcome to share. Please send along to **Chris Dierkes** at christopherdierkes@yahoo.com. We'll then submit to Shipmate for ya!

**William E. Taylor Banquet**



Left to right: Jeff Frye '83, Diane Durban '81, Judy Dierkes (wife of Chris Dierkes) and Chris Dierkes '85

This past February, American Legion Post 49 [Kennett Square, PA] held a local chapter banquet in honor of the Sea Cadets - "William E. Taylor". Our local United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is based out of New Castle, Delaware and recruits young men and women from Delaware, Southeast Pennsylvania, South New Jersey, and Eastern Maryland. The purpose of the Sea Cadets is to provide a service program focusing on youth development. These cadets are trained by various professional organizations that instill discipline, honor and respect.

It broadens the spectrum of military activities while focusing on team building. We were impressed to learn our local chapter taught our young men and women walk-the-talk skills, such as sailing, SCUBA diving and flying aircraft(s) just to name a few. William E. Taylor Delaware Sea Cadets offers amazing opportunities. The Cadets we spoke to were proud to be part of such a great organization. Some of these cadets go on to become USNA Midshipmen. Keep up the good work American Legion Post 49 and Go Navy! Go Sea Cadets!

**Save the Date** - 12 October 2024 - Filasky Farm Hayride and Bonfire Family Night - Middletown, DE — More to come!

**Florida**

**Southwest Florida Chapter**

Pres: **Hank White '68**  
e: hfwhitejr@aol.com

Sec'y: **Lukas Rebertus '12**  
e: lwrebertus@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Dennis R. Neutze '65, JAGC USN (Ret.)**  
p: 305-705-4722; e: dennis.navy65@googlemail.com

Website: southwestflorida.usnachapters.net

The Chapter's activities commenced with the Army-Navy game at Port 32 just west of the Naples Airport. About 20 chapter members attended with thanks to **Herb Andrews '68, Susie Sablan '81 and Doug Backes '70** for the decorations and spirit! This year, there was plenty of room in this new venue with big screen TVs viewable from any seat in the

## CHAPTER NEWS

house. Drinks and meals were available with service throughout the game.

In January, via video teleconference, we had the honor of hosting the General Counsel of the Navy, the Honorable **Sean Coffey '78**, for an in-depth view of the immediate issues facing the Navy and Naval Academy. Sean retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserve and had the pleasure of serving as Naval Aide to President/Vice President Bush while attending Georgetown Law at night.

February saw the Chapter conduct its annual Valentine's Day luncheon with Admiral **Peg Klein '81** speaking with us, also via video teleconference. Following retirement from active duty, she served as the Naval War College's Dean for Leadership and Ethics focusing on Senior Navy Leaders communications. While each of us know about post action briefings, the question remains: to what extent are they being carried out at the Senior level? Admiral Klein in her role as the Dean advised of the War College's efforts to support these activities.

We are encouraged by the use of video teleconference permitting us to hear from speakers around the country!

Regretfully, another February standard, the annual Tri-Academy golfing tournament could not be scheduled. We are hoping to include this activity next Spring to give our Navy alumni team another chance to beat Army and Air Force!

In our last meeting of the year, the Honorable John McGowan, a Circuit Judge for the Twentieth District of Florida and supervisor of the Veteran's Court in Collier County, discussed the Court's operations. The program enables just about any Veteran, accused of a crime, to enter the program and by following the Court's procedures for a proscribed period of time, expunge his/her record of the violations. These courts have been established over the country and enable veterans to rejoin the workplace and society.

Easter came early this year and with the migration of the "snowbirds" to the northland, the chapter's activities drew to a close.

As we now have myUSNA.com in operation; we encourage all our members to register and invite all who are passing through Southwest Florida to attend our activities. In the future, we will reach out to the local parent's clubs and significant interest groups as we try to expand our membership.

### Tampa Bay Chapter

Pres: **CDR Jane Lochner '84, USN (Ret.)**  
e: jane.lochner@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Chris Heath '72, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: christopherheath.fl@gmail.com

MyUSNA: <https://myusna.com> Select Groups, Tampa Bay, and request to join this closed group

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/USNA-Alumni-TampaSt-Petersburg/120095454740213?sk=wall>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: sswift@1987.usna.com

"Summertime and the livin' is easy" - unless you're in the Class of 2028, of course. Those

bright young men and women are facing I-Day, Plebe Summer, and that balmy Annapolis summer. Aren't you glad that that's a memory you can just ruminate about? I recently had a chance to share a promotional video about Summer Seminar - the chance to try out this Midshipman thing for a week before "buying in". I noted that Summer Seminar hadn't been invented way back in 1967, when I was a precocious teenager. Good thing - I might have changed my mind!



The victorious Navy Alumni golf team

### FORE! THE ARMY-NAVY GOLF TROPHY COMES HOME

In May **Gary Polansky '69** led the Blue & Gold team in hosting the annual Tampa Bay Army/Navy alumni golf tournament. The champions' trophy had been in enemy hands for the past couple of years, and Navy's golfers were determined to rescue it and repatriate it back to home soil.

As final team pairings were assigned, Navy presented 20 golfers to West Point's 12, so six official matches were played; 12 Navy golfers against 12 Army golfers in a two-person team scramble format. True to form, Navy captured the last match and secured the trophy. A BBQ meal and rich storytelling rounded out the event. **Ken Carodine '82, Austin Gullett '03, Bill Graham '72**, and guest Chris Reiner clinched the winning matches. After the joint event, an elite USNA contingency conducted a non-hostile amphibious assault on American Legion Post 138 where the trophy was proudly displayed on the bar and victory drinks consumed. Navy looks forward to defending their title as West Point will host the 2025 competition.

### MEMORIAL DAY RUN TO HONOR EVENT GROWS AGAIN

The chapter was proud to host our third annual Run to Honor Walk/Run 5K Event. This was our biggest yet with roughly 60 people attending in the morning Tampa sunshine. Participants were able to choose the length of their walk/run, and a respectful ceremony of remembrance was held beforehand. We were particularly proud to include two Gold Star families (Diane Jones, brother of **Bill Muscha '87**, and Carol and Luke LiCalzi, mother and brother of **Michael LiCalzi '04**). **Steve Swift '87** provided the leadership and coordination, and **Todd Barrett '00** generously donated supplies and refreshments.

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FAMILY FUN

We switch the tone to family fun in the summer. In late June we will host our service academy friends at a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. Then in July we will skip the monthly meeting and enjoy a family picnic to socialize. Hope your summer is going well.

### 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.

Participants in May included **Jane Lochner '84, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Warren Hahn '60, Chris Heath '72, Eric Houlihan '19, Steve Swift '87, Don Aiken '78, Brian Tsai '16, John Kamen '77, Gary Polansky '69, Peter Damisch '75, James Hamm '84, Todd Barrett '00**, and Beth and **Mike Umstead '90**.

"Joining the table" were new members **Noe Lovero '18** and **Lenny Wise '00** (both active duty). Also joining us for the first time was **Bruce Wellington '72**. That made for a 50+ year reunion with company mate **Chris Heath '72**. What a nice surprise!

Welcome aboard, shipmates!

**Watch for information to sign up for these future events -**







Northwest Chapter: USS Idaho Watch Party

### Future Events

- **Monthly Meetings** on first Wednesday of each month (no sign-up needed) – except July!
- **All-Academy Tampa Bay Rays** game vs. the Washington Nationals (MLB) – 29 June
- **Pin the Tail on the Mule** family picnic – 14 July

Our social media links are on the previous page in the 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

## Idaho

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Todd Severance '92, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 208-620-9436; e: tjseverance1992@gmail.com

### Northwest Chapter

Pres: **Brad Little '76**  
p: 619-459-6352  
e: BLittle1052@outlook.com

Treas: **William Crumpler '65**  
p: 509-447-7956

VA Coord: **John Lasher '69**  
p: 208-664-6753

Activities Coord: **Peter Optekar '63**  
p: 208-762-4571

The Northwest Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association, in conjunction with the USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee, was delighted to host the USS IDAHO (SSN-799) Christening Watch Party in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The robust audience included support from the VFW, the Kootenai County Veterans Council and other Military support groups from the area. In addition, the group was honored with presentations by Marc Kilmer (State Policy/Regional Director for Senator Jim Risch) and Jake Garringer (North Idaho Field Representative for Governor Brad Little) on Veterans Affairs in Northern Idaho.

Commissioning of the Idaho is anticipated in 18 to 36 months. She is the seventh ship to carry the name. The last USS IDAHO was BB-42, a New Mexico class Battleship, commissioned in 1917 and struck in 1946. She participated in

virtually every Naval Battle in the Pacific, including The Gilberts, Makin Atoll, The Marshalls, New Hebrides, the Marianas, Guam, The Battle of Philippine Sea, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jimo, and Okinawa.

No wonder the "Gem State" is also known as "Navy Idaho." The opportunity to carry the tradition forward was enjoyed by all.



Brad Little '76, President Northwest Chapter USNA Alumni Association, & Henry Netzer '74, Northern Region Director, USS IDAHO (SSN-799) Commissioning Committee, address attendees.

-Brad

### Southern Idaho Chapter

President: **Rick Schellhaas '68**  
e: rbschellhaas@gmail.com  
Vice President: **Pete Butler '86**  
e: pete@valtrend.com  
Secretary: **Rufus Taylor '66**  
e: tincansailor980@gmail.com  
Treasurer: **Tef Nunamaker '92**  
e: tjnunamaker@gmail.com  
Idaho Parents' Club President: **Trasi Mullin (Cormac) '26**  
e: idusnaparents@gmail.com

Greetings all and welcome to summer. Bet you thought it had bypassed southern Idaho, and



Southern Idaho Chapter: SIC members gather 'round to salute Andrea Hovey '03

we'd be headed back to the colder weather. Well, not so fast! Hopefully everyone successfully dodged the "gloom and doom" portended by the Ides of March. Our March event was a joint service academy social and was held at Sockeye Brewery and USNA alumni along with friends, family, spouses enjoyed camaraderie along with a burger and a brew. Present were **Bill Preivity '65, Rufus Taylor '66, Rick Schellhaas '68, Tom Simmonds '73, Carol Hoffman '80, Pete Butler '86, Van States '91, Chris Horak '94** and **Kyle Taylor '92**.

On 18 April, chapter members gathered at Bear Island Brewery to bid **Andrea Hovey '03** farewell as she singled up all lines in preparation for her permanent change of home port to the east coast. A good crowd of spouses/So's, family and friends were on hand to wish her well. Alumni present included **Mike Coyle '65, "JV" DeThomas '65, Rufus Taylor '66, Dennis Hanrahan '68, Tom Neville '68, Jim Perkins '68, Rick Schellhaas '68, Tom Bruce '86, Pete Butler '86, Van States '91, Todd Severance '92, Ted Nunamaker '96, Chris Benson '97, Paul Campbell '98** and **Andrea Hovey '03**.

The chapter presented Andrea with a farewell gift of a set of beverage mugs embossed with the USNA logo. She will be missed.



Andrea Hovey '03 bids farewell.

New SIC officers are in place and effective June 1st. A special thanks to our outgoing president, **Paul Campbell '98**. New officers are President: **Rick Schellhaas '68**, Vice President: **Pete Butler '86**, Secretary: **Rufus Taylor '66** and Treasurer: **Ted Nunamaker '96**.

What a great turn out for our June event: the Class of 2028 Welcome Aboard Picnic! Thanks to our venue hosting family, Trasi & Brian Mullin. A super group of Idaho Parents Club members, USNA B&G officers, USNA Alumni SIC members and family and friends



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Southern Idaho Chapter: Chapter alumni have the backs of the Class of 2028.

were in attendance. BZ to Trasi Mullin, Idaho Parents Club president, for organizing and hosting the event. The chapter also extends many thanks to Eric Page, representing USAA, and to USAA for their continuing support of this event. A very special thanks to **Chris Slack '78** for his overview of USNA's "Another Link in the Chain" program (1978-2028). It was very well received, especially by the midshipmen to be.

A yummy Mexican themed catered lunch was provided by Costa Vida and appreciated by all. The prospective Midshipmen from Idaho are **Ryan Baez**, Boise; **Benton Bernard**, Nampa; **Mariah Ketchum**, Middleton; **Charles Rich**, Eagle; **Cyrus Wangeci**, Meridian and **Reisa Veldhouse**, Boise. Chapter members and their spouses/SO's in attendance were **Mike Coyle '65**, **Rufus Taylor '66**, **Jerry Fastabend '68**, **Dennis Hanrahan '68**, **Tom Neville '68**, **Rick Schellhaas '68**, **Chris Slack '78**, **Ken VanderHorst '79**, **Ed Brzezinski '85**, **Roy Ledesma '87**, **Van States '91**, **Todd Severance '92**, **Paul Campbell '98**, and **Jake Smiley '20**.

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

### SEA STORIES

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## Illinois

### Chicago Chapter

Pres: **Eric Sucharski '91**  
e: [eric@sucharskilaw.com](mailto:eric@sucharskilaw.com)

Vice Pres: **Michael Cortesio '85**  
e: [mjcortesio@comcast.net](mailto:mjcortesio@comcast.net)

Sec'y: **John Killacky '93**  
e: [j4killacky@comcast.net](mailto:j4killacky@comcast.net)

Treas: **Michelle Lee '16**  
e: [michelle.lee@bgo.usna.com](mailto:michelle.lee@bgo.usna.com)

Past Pres: **Fred Weber '75**  
e: [Fred.weber@2comm.com](mailto:Fred.weber@2comm.com)

BGO Area Coordinator (Northern IL)  
**LCDR Drew Thomas '04 USNR**  
e: [drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com](mailto:drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com)

Several members of the Chicago chapter attended a submarine brief at the Union League Club in April. Recently retired Admiral **Frank Caldwell '81** spoke about the challenges and future of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Admiral Caldwell retired in January as the seventh director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a position created 75 years ago by Admiral **Hyman G. Rickover**, USNA class

of 1922. His address included a discussion about the commitments made to Australia under the AUKUS agreement, the trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The brief was part of the 786 Club series of lectures, an organization that supports the families and crew of the USS ILLINOIS (SSN-786).



Greg Wilson '84, Alan Montera '04, Ed Cladek '64, Admiral Frank Caldwell '81, Len Wass '64, Jim Driscoll '81 at the 786 Club submarine brief.

Also in April, Nancy Murray, Senior Director of the Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs, gave a presentation to the chapter and the USNA Parents club of Northern Illinois in Oakbrook Terrace. She discussed how the USNA Alumni Association and the USNA Foundation are two independent, not for profit corporations sharing a single president and CEO and operating as a fully integrated organization in support of the USNA and its mission. The 50 year class program, "Another Link in the Chain", continues with linking the Class of 1978 to the incoming Class of 2028. **Rich Polek '78** ([richpolek@aol.com](mailto:richpolek@aol.com)) is the Chicago chapter point of contact for all Chicago based aspects of the program, which will primarily involve the USNA Parents Club of Northern Illinois.

Finally, in May, the chapter was proud to present a screening of the movie "Apollo 13", first released in 1995. About 100 chapter members and their families joined astronaut Captain **Jim Lovell '52** in the private screening. **Paul Jenkins '85** graciously offered his company's auditorium



Chicago Chapter members at the USNA Engagement and Outreach brief.



to host the event. Capt Lovell, who was portrayed in the film by Tom Hanks, signed copies of his book and answered questions from the audience. Everyone in attendance had a great time, including perhaps some future astronauts.



Sean Magee '04 and his family flanking Captain Lovell '52 at the screening of "Apollo 13".

## Indiana

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Drew Thomas '04, USNR**  
p: 317-682-8441; e: drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com

### Michiana Chapter

Pres: **Maj Michael Rose '11, USMC**  
61705 Greentree Dr., South Bend, IN 46614  
c: 574-323-3779; e: mgcrose13@gmail.com

Vice Pres/Sec'y: **CDR John "Chris" Haizlip '72, USN (Ret.)**  
15246 Longford Dr., Granger, IN 46530  
p: 574-273-2939; e: CHaizlip@aol.com

Treas: **Pat Sloan '75**  
e: pfsloanesq@aol.com

Greetings from the South Bend/Michiana Chapter. It's been an interesting transition from Winter to Spring out here in the snow belt...we have celebrated "Happy 60th day"...where the temps stay consistently above 60 degrees for at least most of the daylight hours...whew...not to sure about most days...& a sure sign of Spring are the brochure foto guys trying to get their few fotos of blue sky and sunshine...uhmmm...maybe come back in late June/July?!

And our Chapter had a nice visit and luncheon at Notre Dame's Rohr's restaurant with Ms Nancy Murray, the new USNA Alumni Assoc Sr. Director, Alumni Engagement & Outreach Officer. Our number one topic was the upcoming Navy Notre Dame tailgate in 11/08/2025.

And congrats to Dale & Cheryl Szpisjak '87, the proud parents of David who graduated this year. David was selected for submarines & is headed to Charleston for his NUC PWR training! Our congrats to David and his family!

So, how many college graduation fotos have their graduate standing next to an submarine statue breaking the surface, or a former ship-board naval cannon, or a 15 ton anchor from an 1800's frigate...gotta love that "Go Navy" yard culture! Don't see that everyday!



Chris Haizlip '72, Debby & Pt Sloan '75, Gene Kessler '83, Dale Szpisjak '87, & Nancy Murray.



Cheryl, David & Dale Szpisjak '87. Enroute to the Supe's Graduation Reception for their son David '24!



David Szpisjak '24



David Szpisjak '24



David Szpisjak '24

## Iowa

See Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries, '93**  
p: 858-335-7921; e: ries.briane@gmail.com

Iowa Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**

Shipmate Contact: Position Open

Website: myUSNA.com Chapter Group -  
<https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ted Olt III**  
p: 563-355-1709; e: tolt@l-wlaw.com

## Maryland

### Annapolis Chapter

Pres: **CDR Mike Rapp '91, USN (Ret.)**  
e: michaelrapp999@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Vacant**

SShipmate Contact: **Liesel (Danjczek) Schopler '99**  
e: lieseldanjczek@hotmail.com

Treas: **Chuck Dixon '79**  
e: CBDixon@firstcommand.com

Membership: **CDR Jonathan Dorsey, USN**  
e: dorsey2000@hotmail.com

Join the Chapter: <https://myusna.com/topics/9482/home>

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Charles Mello**  
e: Charlesmello@gmail.com

The Annapolis Chapter had its periodic social gathering on 30 May 2024, at McGarvey's Saloon - a popular and nostalgic Chapter hang-out. About 50 people assembled for an enjoyable Happy Hour with plentiful food provided by the Chapter. This event followed April's Chapter dinner with Athletic Director, Chet Gladchuk, who updated us on matters of the NCAA 'portal' and the American Athletic Conference, including the success of the



## CHAPTER NEWS

various Navy teams in winning the Patriot League's President's Cup for the 10th straight year. At our 30 May gathering the alumni ranged from the youngest, Jerry Pittman, Class of 2009, to the oldest Goat, Gordie Schaaf, Class of 1958.



**Happy Hour at McGarvey's Saloon**

Our President, **Mike Rapp '91**, outlined some upcoming events for the Annapolis Chapter such as the June Chapter picnic, and a joint July event with the Alumni Association to meet and greet the newly-commissioned Class of 2024 members who are stashed in the local area. The Chapter is also planning an Autumn boat cruise on the Chesapeake Bay and various 'watch parties' for the football season.

To join the Annapolis Chapter, see the following link: <https://myusna.com/topics/9482/home>

### Greater Southern Maryland Chapter

Pres: **Micheal W. Thumm '75**

e: [thummer75@md.metrocast.net](mailto:thummer75@md.metrocast.net)

Sec'y: **Katie Ellefson '13**

p: 661-992-9190; e: [katieellefson13@gmail.com](mailto:katieellefson13@gmail.com)

Corr Sec'y: **Tom Phelan '79**

p: 301-481-0604; e: [tphelan57@gmail.com](mailto:tphelan57@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.navyalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**

e: [Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com](mailto:Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com)

### Events

**Chapter meetings:** 13 Mar, 10 Apr, 8 May, 12 Jun

**Social/Happy hours:** 21 Mar, 10 Apr, 20 Jun

**Welcome picnic for Class of 2028 and**

**Napsters:** 22 Jun

### Coming Events:

**10 Jul 2024:** Chapter meeting and summer social, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

**14 Aug 2024:** Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

**17 Aug 2024:** Crabfest, Club 9 Solomon's Rec Center

Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website ([www.navyalumni.org](http://www.navyalumni.org))

### ALUMNI STORE

Your source for class, club and chapter logo apparel and gifts.  
[usna.com/shop](http://usna.com/shop)

## Massachusetts

### Boston Chapter

Pres: **James Kras '69**

141 Dorchester Ave., Unit 406, South Boston, MA 02127-1836

p: 617-645-1032; e: [jameskras@comcast.net](mailto:jameskras@comcast.net)

Shipmate contact: **CAPT Pete Seibert '65**

p: 781-235-5909; e: [pkseibert@comcast.net](mailto:pkseibert@comcast.net)

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

BGO Area Coordinator (Boston and SE Mass): **John Rinkacs**

e: [rinkacs@comcast.net](mailto:rinkacs@comcast.net)

BGO Area Coordinator (N Shore and Central Mass):

**CDR David Grim**

e: [david.grim@1982.usna.com](mailto:david.grim@1982.usna.com)

BGO Area Coordinator (Western Mass): **Ken Walton**

e: [ken.walton@bgo.usna.com](mailto:ken.walton@bgo.usna.com)

On 15 April several members of the Boston Chapter attended and contributed to a charitable reception on behalf of the USS MASSACHUSETTS (SSN-798) Commissioning Committee - a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to insuring the success of the commissioning ceremony for the USS MASSACHUSETTS - in Boston Harbor in the spring of 2025. The Committee consists of several non-active Navy officers, mainly submariners, volunteering to direct the weeklong ceremony. She will be the first Navy ship named after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since World War II. The reception was held at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.



**Marsh and Sullivan**



**Nawara**

The Committee hosted a panel discussion with two distinguished military leaders, General Joseph Dunford, USMC (Ret), the 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Vice Admiral Michael Conner, USN (Ret), the former Commander of the U.S. Submarine Forces and NATO's Allied Submarine Command. They discussed the subject of Peace Through Strength: National Security and the Role of the U.S. Submarine Force in the 21st Century. They also pointed out the disturbing fact that only 9% of millennials are not motivated to public service, especially the military. The discussion was followed by a question and answer session and light refreshments.

Attendees included **Matt Marsh '09**, now working in the private equity industry in the Boston area, **Terry Nawara '96**, a retired Commander who is now Director of Business Development at Marotta, Inc., an engineering and controls company and **Ted Sullivan '85**, a graduate of Harvard Business School. He then spent 27 years with Wall Street firms in Boston and New York. Ted now works with two AI companies and volunteers with the Commissioning Committee. All three were submariners as was your humble scribe. Ted was accompanied by his wife Connie as was I with my wife, Midge.

*Pete Seibert '65*



Greater Southern Maryland Chapter: May Chapter meeting: L-R: Tom Phelan '79, Ted Herring '67, Mike Thumm '75, Jim Sandberg '69, Dan Peters '04, Terry Dailey '70, Mike DeManns '73, in front Katie Benton '13. On the phone: Dennis Bostich '74





Michigan Chapter: Our inaugural croquet match, held April was a huge success!

## Michigan

### Michigan Chapter

Pres: **Mike Droogleever '05**

Treas: **Sean Lloyd '00**

Sec'y: **Peggy Menzies '85**

Vice Pres: **Shawn Hoch '08**

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

BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern):  
**CAPT Michael Johnson '79, USNR**  
e: [mj007mj@hotmail.com](mailto:mj007mj@hotmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):  
**Col Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR**  
e: [brichmond97@earthlink.net](mailto:brichmond97@earthlink.net)

Since our last article, two events of note took place. First, the USNAAA Michigan Chapter held its first croquet match on April 21st at the Hoch Yard, keeping in theme with the famous Annapolis Cup between the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen and St. John's University "Johnnies." Alumni and their families gathered to celebrate the light-hearted sport, enjoyed a barbecue prepared by the Hochs, and rode in an alumni's (Tim) classic Ford Model T. Children played on the lawn as alumni networked and shared sea stories from their Academy days and beyond.



Thanks to everyone who came out for the Docksideside Happy Hour!

The inaugural event was a tremendous success, providing a fun opportunity for the Michigan chapter to unite in the spirit of the Naval Academy's croquet rivalry. We look forward to making this an annual tradition, so watch for the date of next year's match!



Mike Droogleever '05 (left) officially takes over as chapter president from Joe Zane '07



Mike and Joe welcome the two new board members. Sean Lloyd '00 (far left) is assuming the role of Chapter Treasurer, while Peggy Menzies '85 (far right) is joining the board as Chapter Secretary.

Second, we had a great time at our welcome to summer Docksideside Happy Hour at Hook's in St. Claire Shores. With a combination of frequent attendees and new faces, we had a great time catching up. Perhaps more importantly, we



Upper Midwest Chapter: April 23 USNA and NAPC Event.

took the opportunity to officially turn over to our oncoming board. **Mike Droogleever '05** is now the Chapter President, with **Sean Lloyd '00** and **Peggy Menzies '85** joining as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. **Shawn Hoch '08** was unable to make it to the event, but is staying on as Vice President. Please join me in welcoming the new board member and doing everything we can to ensure their success. As always, keep your eye out on MyUSNA and your e-mail for the latest on events and updates.

Signing off for the last time,

*Joe Zane '07*  
Chapter Junior Past President

## Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**

c: 858-335-7921

e: [ries.briane@gmail.com](mailto:ries.briane@gmail.com)

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com) Chapter Group -  
<https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brad Gawboy '81, USN (Ret.)**  
e: [bradgawboy@comcast.net](mailto:bradgawboy@comcast.net)

### Chapter News:

On 6 April, a dinner was held in Maple Grove, MN, to honor CAPT **Mark Salmen '73, USN (Ret.)**. Mark turned over duties as MN BGO Area Coordinator to CAPT **Brad Gawboy '81, USN (Ret.)**. Mark has led the MN BGO Team for 21 years and cannot be thanked enough for his efforts and dedication. Many BGOs attended the dinner, including the longest serving BGO in MN, CAPT Don Peterson, USN (Ret.), who has been guiding young men and women to USNA appointments for 38 years.



Pictured (left to right): CAPT Don Peterson, USN(Ret); CAPT Mark Salmen, USN(Ret), '73; Brian Ries, '93, Chapter



## CHAPTER NEWS



New Mexico Chapter: 1st row L-R: M. Schaefer, C. Hoaglund, N. Sabal, B. Trammell, S. Kraus, J. McGuire. 2nd row: T. Toliver, C. Jones, D. Meints, and M. Blackledge.

**President; CAPT Brad Gawboy, USN(Ret), '81, BGO AC.**

On 23 April, the Alumni Chapter and the Parents Club of MN had a social gathering in Bloomington, MN. We were visited by Nancy Murray, Senior Director, Alumni Engagement & Outreach Programs for the Alumni Association. She shared updates on new programs and initiatives supporting our alumni and parent communities. Over 20 Alumni and Parents Club members attended and enjoyed an evening of camaraderie.

Currently, board positions for the Upper Midwest Chapter Vice Presidents (Communications, Events, and Membership) are open. If you would like to support our chapter in any of these areas pro tempore, please contact Brian at: [ries.briane@gmail.com](mailto:ries.briane@gmail.com).

## New Mexico

### New Mexico Chapter

Pres: **John Scott Kraus '73**  
2304 Madre Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
h: 505-296-7409; c: 505-366-7457  
e: [skraus@aquilagroup.com](mailto:skraus@aquilagroup.com); or [jkraus2304@aol.com](mailto:jkraus2304@aol.com)

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

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

NM Parents' Club Pres: **Sheila Chapman**  
p: 505-419-2633; e: [usna.nm.parents@gmail.com](mailto:usna.nm.parents@gmail.com)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Swingle**  
e: [dswingle@newmexico.com](mailto:dswingle@newmexico.com)

Another successful and enjoyable New Mexico Chapter Family Picnic is in the books as of Sunday, 2 June 2024. The weather cooperated again providing temps in the mid-eighties with a cooling breeze from the Northwest. The gathering location is the City of Albuquerque's

Elena Gallegos Open Space Kiwanis Shelter in the Eastern foothills. A very popular location, we must reserve its use 7 months in advance. We enjoyed the event with a total of 25 in attendance and everyone bringing their delicious side dishes and desserts to accompany the main course of fried and barbecued chicken. No calories were counted as we met new friends and reminisced with old shipmates. A special guest of the picnic was Midshipman Appointee Natalia Sabal who will become a member of the Class of 2028 at the Induction Day Ceremony in Annapolis on 27 June 2024. Her family (Dad Jovi Sabal, Mom DeAnn and sister Caitlin) drove her from their home in Gallup, NM, some 150 miles to the Elena Gallegos Open Space to visit with alumni and get a flavor of what Natalya's next four years in Bancroft Hall will be like. To begin the picnic, a moment of silence was observed in honor of two alumni who recently passed, **Herb Richter '59** and **Max Legg '74**. Those attending the Family Picnic event were: "**Brink**" **Trammell '57**; **G. J. "Hoppy" Hopkins '59**; Janice and **Keith (Casey) Jones '60**; Bonnie and **Mike Blackledge '63**; **Joe McGuire '68**; "**Tolly**" **Toliver '71**; **Ashby Albright ('71 Assoc.)** and husband William Sly; **Scott Kraus '73**; **Doug Meints '77**; Deborah and **Mark Schaefer '83**; and **Christine Hoaglund '97**. We were also accompanied by the Presidents of the New Mexico USNA Parents' Club, Matt and Roberta Fotter who brought Roberta's father, Robert Martinez.

As the result of the hard work of Chapter Parent Charles Scott and the NM Blue and Gold team, the Class of 2028 Midshipman appointments from New Mexico are:

### USNA Appointments

\* Sebastian Bills, Goddard High School, Roswell  
\* Natalia Sabal, Rehoboth Christian School

(NAF Candidate at New Mexico Military Institute, '23-'24) Rehoboth

\* Robert Scott, Organ Mountain High School, Las Cruces

### NAPS Appointments

\*Pepper Cayme, Hobbs High School, Hobbs  
\* Jason Shelton, Home Schooled, Edgewood  
\*[Emily Crossman, Organ Mountain High School, Las Cruces, [waitlisted](#)]

Joe McGuire '68  
Secretary

## New York

### Central New York Chapter

Pres: **Steve Erb '68**  
e: [steveerb@windstream.net](mailto:steveerb@windstream.net)

Sec'y/Treas: **Bob Fegan Jr. '64**  
e: [bobfegan64@gmail.com](mailto:bobfegan64@gmail.com)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Ravener**  
e: [tom.ravener@gmail.com](mailto:tom.ravener@gmail.com)

The annual Welcome Aboard Picnic, sponsored by the Central New York Parents Club and supported by the Central New York Chapter of Naval Academy Alumni and USAA, was held this year at Trapper's Pizza Pub, East Syracuse, NY on Sunday, 2 June 2024. The Welcome Aboard Picnic is just that....to welcome aboard the prospective midshipmen for the Class of 2028 and their families to the larger Navy family as well as to congratulate the Class of 2024 CNY USNA graduates and their parents. The picnic is also an opportunity for USNA alumni, and Navy family and friends to gather and swap sea stories. The picnic was organized by Tracy Callahan with her husband John, USMA '86, co-presidents of the CNY Parent Club. Their son Eric, USMA '25, and daughter Kate attended. Their other children, Claire, USMA '20, Jack, USNA '22, and Henry, USNA '27, were not able to attend.

Alumni able to attend were **Bob Fegan '64** and his wife Marilyn, **Tony Zallnick '66** and his wife Joan (daughters are **Tiffany '93** and **Deirdre '97**), and **Dick Findlay '78** who gave an outstanding presentation regarding Another Link in the Chain program. The Class of 1978 will be the mentors for the Class of 2028. No current midshipmen or members of the Class of 2024 were able to attend. Tammy McCarthy, mother of Hannah '25, was able to attend. Also attending was Karen McCoy, an USAA area representative.

Candidates for the Class of 2028 able to attend were Jack Phelan with his parents Greg and Jenifer (Cortland), Don Snyder with his parents John and Renee and girlfriend Bella (Utica), and Ian Cady with his parents Phillip and Elizabeth (Oswego). An additional candidate, Isaiah Sexton and his parents Charles and Danielle (Rome) were not able to attend.

The 2024 CNY USNA graduates and their hometowns/service selections are:



Emily Bobrek (Jamesville/Navy Air)  
Will Clark (Auburn/Navy Air)

Commemorative desk clocks for the parents of this year's CNY USNA graduates, not able to attend the Welcome Aboard Picnic, have been mailed to the parents.

Alumni, and Navy family and friends are encouraged to attend the weekly Wednesday lunch at 1200 at Clear Path for Veterans in Chittenango, NY. Call (315-687-3300) to see if they are open and to let them know if you will be attending a lunch.

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

### Western New York Chapter

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**  
p: 585-410-1941; e: dsullivan17@me.com

Vice Pres: **Pete Owen '86**  
p: 949-701-2733; e: pfowen0302@gmail.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**  
e: douglaspeters@gmail.com

The Western New York Chapter held its annual dinner recognizing local appointees to the Naval Academy on June 1, 2024, at the Rochester Yacht Club. This year four young men and women entering the USNA Class of 2028 were honored for their accomplishments and provided a warm send-off by local alumni, family, and friends.

**LtCol. Pete Owen '86, USMC (Ret.)**, delivered a keynote address on the history and importance of the midshipman's oath of office. **Frank Klepacki '78**, delivered a presentation on Another Link in the Chain. Blue and Gold Area Coordinator **Doug Peters '73**, USNA Class of



Cape Fear Chapter

1973, introduced the four appointees to the Class of 2028: Sam Chanler, Annabelle Follman, Aiden Neenan, and Adriana Visconte. The chapter presented each appointee with a copy of the Constitution of the United States.

Our chapter will partner with the Notre Dame Club of Rochester again this year for a football game viewing on Saturday, 26 October. All alumni and friends of the Naval Academy are welcome. The venue is still TBD.

We will hold a chapter board meeting and elections later this summer.

Please contact one of the chapter officers for details. Details will also be posted on [myusna.com](http://myusna.com).

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**, (585) 410-1941, dsullivan17@me.com

VP: **Pete Owen '86**, (949) 701-2733, pfowen0302@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**, douglaspeters@gmail.com

Web page: <http://westernny.usnachapters.net/> and <https://myusna.com/topics/9589/home>.

## North Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Col Kevin Hart '75, USMC (Ret.)**  
p: 847-910-4502; e: kevinhart1@gmail.com

### Cape Fear Chapter

Pres: **Ray Decker '72**  
p: 703-939-0202; e: dax24@icloud.com

Vice Pres: **Paul Normand '74**  
e: paulnormand@mac.com

Sec'y: **Steve Yandle '75**  
e: sryusna75@gmail.com

Treas: **Rick Haley '72**  
e: capefeartreasurer@outlook.com

Website: [myUSNA.com/topics/9490](http://myUSNA.com/topics/9490)

On 15 May, the Cape Fear Chapter hosted **Gray Tompson '07**, the Executive Director of the SSN777Club, and **Chris Perrien '74**, who leads the effort to create the NC Submarine Museum and Foundation in Wilmington. Both grads reside in the Triangle area and motored south to share their respective updates. The Chapter hopes to collaborate with Gray and Chris in the future! A good Chapter turnout included: **Pete Friedman '58, John Black '61, Bill Caiazza '66, Jim Strouse '66, Dave Scheu '67, Tom McQueen '69, Michael Brown '70, Ray Decker '72, Rick Haley '72, Tom Wolfe '72, Bart Whitman '74, Craig Rankin '75, Steve Yandle '75, John Casey '78, Joe Leidig '78, Anne Leanos '98, and Parker Pierson '14.**



Western New York Chapter: USNA alumni recognize appointees from Western New York: Mike Riley '65, Michele Vilani '89, Anthony Lewis '15, Sam Chanler '28, Adriana Visconte '28, Matt Byington '08, Annabelle Follman '28, Frank Klepacki '78, Aiden Neenan '28, Pete Owen '86, Rich Nguyen '16, and Doug Peters '73



Four local HS students were accepted by the Academy for the 2024 Summer STEM Program. This is a remarkable achievement since no



## CHAPTER NEWS

SE North Carolina student had been approved by the Academy for this competitive program prior to last year. The Chapter recognized each student's accomplishment with a scholarship (tuition reimbursement) and special certificate. Bravo Zulu to **Bill Caiazza '66** and **John Casey '78** the Chapter's leads for its Summer STEM initiative.

The 5th Summer Cruise was held on 12 June in the Ballroom at the Cape Fear Country Club. The Westpac - Hawaii themed summer social was well attended. A wonderful evening of camaraderie, tasty chow, and chilled beverages was enjoyed by all. Additional details and pic in next Shipmate. Another Bring Your Company Mug (BYCM) event is planned for 10 July at a local craft beer venue. Plan to join other thirsty Chapter mates!

The Chapter's 2024 Calendar of Events is posted on our website: [MyUSNA.com/topics/9490](http://MyUSNA.com/topics/9490). Go Navy!

### Charlotte Chapter

Pres: **Christopher "Nix" M. Nickels '91**  
e: [CHRISNIX@AOL.COM](mailto:CHRISNIX@AOL.COM)

Email: [UsnaaaCharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:UsnaaaCharlotte@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/usna-alumni-association-charlotte-251965968210794/>

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

LinkedIn Group: <http://linkedin.com/groups/8344487>

Chapter Event Recap: To honor those who've paid the ultimate sacrifice, members participated in a run/walk around Veterans Park followed by a Memorial drink and toast at Resident Culture in Charlotte, NC.



### Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotzky '67**  
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Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**  
p: 910-347-6251; e: [rkunkel@ec.rr.com](mailto:rkunkel@ec.rr.com)

Treas: **Randy Bogle '68**  
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Website: <http://myusna.com/topics/9508>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14196247/>

Fourteen alumni and guests met for lunch at the club on board MCB Camp Lejeune on Thursday, 25 April. As usual, we had a separate room and went through the buffet.

The MV-22 Osprey is back in the air after having been grounded for something like three months after the Air Force Osprey crash in Japan. **Rick Kunkel '67** introduced Matt Jackson who was part of the team investigating the crash and joined us for lunch. Matt, based at MCAS New River (adjacent to Camp Lejeune), is clearly one of the NavAir go-to engineers for almost anything Osprey. After spending Christmas in Japan, he was finally back and released to discuss with us what he could about the event, his participation in the investigation and the fault conclusions. Matt noted some differences in the Air Force approach to the investigation, although NavAir is the lead agency for the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy V-22's.

This was definitely an interesting luncheon.

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of our long-serving chapter secretary, **Tim Marvin '59** the very next day.

The chapter met for lunch on 23 May at La Rosa's Italian Restaurant. La Rosa is not normally open for lunch but they did for 15 members and guests and we ordered from their

very good menu. Before starting the program we discussed the chapter bank balance, number of members and were impressed that the class of 2028 includes 25 new plebes from North Carolina. We also noted that 22 May was National Maritime Day. The Founders Day event in September will feature a presentation about the New Bern Resolves of 1774 and the 250th anniversary of the Resolves and first provincial congress that will be held in New Bern 23 and 24 August.

Les Pendleton is a prolific local author among his many talents and was our guest for the luncheon this month. Les provided a little background about himself and then an entertaining discussion of his involvement with the movie production industry and how that led him to writing fiction and nonfiction books of which he has authored a dozen. He described some of the issues of writing novels, such as using real people to become fictional characters and other matters in getting yourself actually published. It was a good luncheon and discussion.

The chapter meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, alternating between the club on board MCB Camp Lejeune and a restaurant in New Bern.

### North Carolina Triangle Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Shaun McAndrew '93 USN (Ret.)**  
e: [shaun.mcandrew.2020@gmail.com](mailto:shaun.mcandrew.2020@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **CAPT Bill Coleman '95 USN (Ret.)**  
e: [billcoleman95@gmail.com](mailto:billcoleman95@gmail.com)

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



The Chapter held its annual meeting on 31 May at the Back Then Bar and Grill. **Chris Perrien '74** provided an update on the Submarine Museum and the chapter confirmed the nomination of the board. The board members are:



(L to R) **RADM Leonard "Butch" Dollago '90** (Guest Speaker), **CAPT Shaun McAndrew '93 USN (ret)**, UNC recipient: **ENS Rory Moran**, NC State recipient: **ENS Benjamin Teffeteller**, Duke recipient: **ENS Clare Sobolewski**, CDR **Bill Sena '95 USN (ret)**, **CAPT Brian Tanaka** NROTC Piedmont Consortium Commanding Officer, **Chris Perrien '74**.



President - **Shaun McAndrew '93**  
 Vice Pres. - **Brad Osmun '08**  
 Secretary - **Bill Coleman '95**  
 Treasurer - **George Lipscomb '87**  
 Director - **Steve Gillespie '87**  
 Director - **Tommy McNamara '11**, and  
 Director - **Emory Miller '07**.



On behalf of the North Carolina Submarine Museum Foundation Chapter members Gray Tompson 07, Emory Miller 07 and Chris Perrien 74 presented North Carolina State Representative Jason Saine, Appropriations Committee Chair, with an ensign flown over the USS CHARLOTTE SSN-766. 766 commanded by CDR. Anthony Stranges 04.

One of the ways the chapter supports our local university NROTC units is by sponsoring a sword at each school to a new Ensign. This year the NROTC consortium held a single ceremony on 19 May, at NC State University, which made for a great picture of all the recipients and alumni attending, including guest speaker, **RADM "Butch" Dollago '90**.



Brian Dearolf '03 and Steve Moran '81 at Jordan Lake Preserve Golf Course

The 2024 Golf Season is underway! Organized and led by **Warren Schultz '71**, the group, hosted by **Kevin Hamilton '94**, played the Neuse Country Club in April. In May, they played the Preserve at Jordan Lake. Both outings enjoyed weather one cannot complain about, challenging golf, and excellent comradery. If you would like to receive the golf emails, send us a note at [usna.triangle@gmail.com](mailto:usna.triangle@gmail.com), and we will connect you with Warren.

Keep an eye out for **Happy Hour Networking** events in your area. In April, a group met at Boxyard RTP in Research Triangle Park. We are always looking for additional venues around the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill area and coordinators. If you have a favorite local spot- reach out to schedule an event.

Check the myUSNA Group page for information on **Navy vs ECU in Greenville, NC** over Thanksgiving Day Weekend.

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/>. LinkedIn: USNA Alumni Association-Triangle Chapter (USNAAA Triangle).

## North Dakota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

See Minnesota

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**  
 p: 858-335-7921; e: [ries.briane@gmail.com](mailto:ries.briane@gmail.com)  
 North Dakota Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**  
 Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**  
 Website: [myUSNA.com Chapter Group - https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home](https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home)  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAAlumniUpperMidwest/>  
 BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Mary Plumb**  
 Email: [mary.plumb@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.plumb@yahoo.com)



Triangle Chapter: (L to R) Brad Osmun '08, Martha & Tom Clemons '82, Chris Gray '01, Shaun McAndrew '93, Steve Gillespie '87, Lizandro Castro '13, Emory Miller '07, and Bill Coleman '95 at Boxyard RTP Happy Hour.

## Ohio

### Columbus

Pres: **Dave Goins '84**  
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 Vice Pres: **Justin Shineman '91**  
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 Sec'y: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
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 Treas: **Jim Waddell '71**  
 e: [jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com)

Shipmate Contact: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
 e: [bmotisola@gmail.com](mailto:bmotisola@gmail.com)

Parents' Club President: **Russelle Hoslinger**  
 e: [napccousna@gmail.com](mailto:napccousna@gmail.com)

Chapter email: [USNAAACbus@gmail.com](mailto:USNAAACbus@gmail.com)

Website: [https://columbus\\_usnachapter.net/](https://columbus_usnachapter.net/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100549757152451/>

Twitter: [@USNAAACbus](https://twitter.com/USNAAACbus)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12356597/>

Instagram: [USNAAACbus](https://www.instagram.com/USNAAACbus)

BGO Area Coordinator:  
**Carla Dowling-Fitzpatrick**  
 e: [dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgobal.net](mailto:dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgobal.net)

Let's start with a big THANK YOU to our members for wrapping up a very successful membership campaign. The Columbus Chapter now has 70 total paid members (alumni and friends). Importantly, dues and additional targeted donations allowed the Chapter to fully fund three scholarships to Naval Academy summer programs. Two Summer Seminar students and one STEM student, identified by USNA admissions as qualified and needing financial assistance, will have an opportunity they otherwise would not have.

In April, the Chapter assisted the Columbus Navy League in presenting a leadership award to a distinguished senior midshipman at the annual Ohio State University NROTC awards. **Matt Edic '92** presented an officer sword. We look forward to carrying on this partnership with the Navy League and OSU NROTC.



Distinguished Chapter recognition in Annapolis

Also in April, Chapter President **Dave Goins '84** attended the Volunteer Leader Summit in Annapolis where the Columbus Chapter was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Chapter for the fourth consecutive year.

The second annual Run To Honor was held 25 May and paid tribute to **CAPT Seth Michaud, '98, USMC..** We were also honored to have Udo Maroscher, a Navy veteran and longtime



# CHAPTER NEWS



Columbus Chapter: Run To Honor enjoyed a large gathering

friend of the Chapter, share a very fitting remembrance of his brother who gave his life in Vietnam. The gathering was made special as Sam Michaud, sister of Seth, shared memories of her brother. Classmates of Seth and another Marine and USNA grad who served with Seth in Africa were on hand sharing their thoughts. Alumni were offered the opportunity to share their reflections on classmates and friends who were lost over the years. This emotional event closed with a moment of silence, reciting of The Midshipman's Prayer by **Isaac England '18**, and a peaceful walk through the wooded preserve. Thanks to all who attended to pay tribute to the fallen.

The annual Founder's Day Dinner will be held Wednesday, 18 September at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. We are happy to have **Jeff Webb '95**, President and CEO of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, as guest of honor and speaker. Plan on joining us for this special evening downtown.

Last year, the Chapter partnered with the local chapter of the West Point Association of Graduates to begin a monthly, joint service academy graduates breakfast gathering. The goal was to leverage the combined resources of all graduates in Central Ohio for social and professional networking. It has been more successful than imagined. Grads from West Point, Annapolis, USAFA and New London have attended, representing classes from the 1960's thru the 2020's. We welcome all grads in Ohio and those visiting family and friends to join us. Our next three meetings are 11 July (moved due to holiday), 1 Aug and 5 Sep.

### Central Ohio Joint Service Academy Networking Breakfast

0700, First Thursday monthly  
First Watch, Worthington Mall  
7227 N. High St., Worthington, OH

## Oklahoma

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Whaley**  
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### Tulsa Chapter

Pres: **Rocky Goins '84**  
e: rockygoins@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Patrick Hamilton '87**  
e: patrickhami@gmail.com

Sec'y and Treas: **Kasey (Cregge) Carradini '84**  
e: kcarradini@hotmail.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNA-Alumni-Tulsa-Chapter-2202431113307009>



**Ernest Evans Award:** Our very own **Captain Brian Berryman '86** (I.E. Doctor Berryman) stepped up to the plate and presented the Ernest Evans Award's Ceremonial Sword to Ensign Jacob Back, OU ROTC, who was elected to the top leadership award. Thank you, Doctor! Jacob's Bio reads, "MIDN Jacob Back was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Growing up, he found a keen interest in the military, specifically military aviation, and made it his goal to be a naval aviator. He graduated from La Cueva High School in 2020, where he was a multi-sport athlete in football, wrestling, track, and field. He received the Navy 4-year ROTC scholarship and decided to attend the University of Oklahoma and pursue Industrial and Systems Engineering. Throughout his time at OUNROTC, he has consistently ranked at the top of his peer group and taken on major leadership positions inside the unit, including Battalion Executive Officer. The Ernest Evans award is a reflection of his hard work and dedication to the naval service and the University of Oklahoma Naval ROTC."



Captain Brian Berryman '86 presents the Ernest Evans Award Ceremonial Sword to Ensign Jacob Back, OU ROTC

**Generosity:** Thank you everyone's generosity this year to underwrite the Commander Ernest Evans Award AND the USNA STEM/SUMMER SESSION Candidate. Out of approximately 102 chapters in the Alumni Association, no more than 10 chapters donated scholarships to candidates of financial challenges. I am very, very proud of this chapter and you. Donors were **Anonymous 'XX, Brian Berryman '86, Kasey '84 and George Carradini '84, Frederic Dorwart '59, Shea Ferrell '81, Rocky Goins '84 and Harry Rouse '77.**

USS OKLAHOMA SSN0802: Hope you have seen the new website for the Commissioning of USS OKLAHOMA: <https://www.ussoklahoma.ssn802.us/> The crew is putting together a crew cookbook if you want to offer some Oklahoma recipes. This is a fundraiser for the crew. On a side note, our Committee is working with Oklahoma's Secretary of Education, the State's Chancellor and the Department of the Navy to create college courses/programs for our sailors through our Oklahoma colleges. Did you know there are only 5 colleges in the nation that offer courses to submarine sailors? We intend to develop a robust program for our sailors!!!

<https://www.ussoklahoma-ssn802.us/>  
USS OKLAHOMA  
Commission  
Committee TCF



*Rocky Goins '84  
Chair of the U.S.S.  
OKLAHOMA Commission  
President of U.S. Naval  
Academy Alumni, Tulsa  
Chapter  
U.S. Naval Academy  
(Class of 1984)*



**STAY CONNECTED**

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



# Oregon

## Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

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

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

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

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

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



Philadelphia Chapter: Class of 2028 from the Philadelphia area at Parents' Night Dinner with representatives of their Another-Link-in-the-Chain class, Bruce Latta '78, Ron Lovelace '78, and Chris Dougherty '78

This was a very busy period for the Oregon SW Washington Chapter. First, we restarted the program started by **Tim Myers '64** of bringing veterans into local high schools. Over 50 Vets visited Sunset High School in Beaverton, OR to spend five 30-minute sessions with the high school underclass. Alumni who participated were **Tim Myers '64, Mike Carmichael '69, Doug Ballard '74, Pete Owens '67, Phong Nguyen '85, and Gil Hansen '60**. Additionally, four alumni visited Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, OR and spoke to history classes. They were **Tim Myers '64, Mike Carmichael '69, John Adams '69 and Doug Bomarito '68**.

Our next activity was the Memorial Ceremony at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Portland OR. The ceremony was led by **Doug Bomarito '68**, president of the Memorial. The ceremony, which included the reading of the names of the 600+ vets killed or MIA from the Vietnam conflict. Following the Ceremony, we had lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory. This was our first combined luncheon with the West Point Alumni Organization. USNA alumni present were **Mike Carmichael '69, Tim Myers '64, Doug Bomarito '68, Lee Hall '80, Scott Fitzpatrick '78, Ted Scypinski '90, Steve Somnitz '82, Don Haslett '66 and Butch Bewick '63**. USMA alumni present were Alice Quesenberry '94, Eric Watkins '71, Steve Capps '89, Terry Connell '58. Additionally, we had over 25 veterans and their guests. This was one of the most meaningful events we have had in years.

Our June meeting was a combined meeting with the Parents Club to welcome the incoming Class of 2028 and their families. The Parent's Club Plebe Picnic held on 2 June in Salem was also a great success. Six of the ten Oregonians going to the academy attended with their families. Additionally, there were numerous alumni present. The presentations by **Jill Richards '94** and Shelley Liscom, Parent's Club President provided valuable information to both the future midshipmen and their parents as to how to best navigate the months ahead. ALITC program was explained to the group by **Chris Carlson '78**. Class of 2028 attending were **Miles Thrane '28, Tristan Seker '28, Aadhan O'Neill '28, Tanner Block '28, and Boone Washburn '28**. Class of 2029 (NAPS) attending was **Fernando Concha '29**. Family members of all the future midshipmen were also present. Alumni present

were **Jill Richards '94, Mike Carmichael '69, Ted Scypinski '90, Tim Myers '64, Phong Nguyen '85, Chris Carlson '78, Todd Washburn '93 and Kenny Nguyen '24**.

# Pennsylvania

## Philadelphia Chapter

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

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

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

See the photo above from the Philadelphia area Parent's' Night Dinner.

Beat Army!  
Tim

## Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Pres: **Tim Farrell '76**  
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VP: **Rob Gundlach '84**  
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Sec'y: **Ryan Goldsmith '12**  
e: ryan.goldsmith.12@gmail.com

Treas: **Jim Nolan '70**  
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Website: <http://susquehanna.usnachapters.net>

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



April Monthly Gathering at Mad Chef Craft Brewing with (L or R) Rob Ryan '84, Dave Teply '74, Lee Erdman '76, Peter Filkins '77, Ryan Goldsmith '12 and Tim Farrell '76



May Monthly Gathering at Mad Chef Craft Brewing with Ryan Goldsmith '12 and Tim Farrell '76

Beat Army!

*Tim Farrell '76, Commander, USN (Ret.)*  
*President, Susquehanna Valley Chapter*

# Recreational Vehicle

## American Chapter

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

Treas: **Dale Gange '70**  
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Chapter Sec'y: **Don Baldwin '74**  
e: donb682@gmail.com

Shipmate Correspondent: **Jennifer Stone**  
(wife of Michael Weiner '87)  
p: 202-909-5676; e: jastone0330@gmail.com

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

Facebook: **USNA RV CHAPTER**

A favorite annual event of the USNA RV Chapter, the sun-drenched haven of Key West welcomed participants from 10-19 February 2024, for a 10-day odyssey filled with laughter, exploration, and unforgettable memories. Led by the seasoned guidance of President **Tom Wolfe '70** with his wife Rose, and the enthusiastic spirit of "Firsties" Ellen and **Tom Shields '70**, 23 RVs and 16 eager souls, along with 25 non-RV companions, embarked on a journey to remember.

From the moment Beachmasters Nita and **Jack Parry '67** and their dedicated team skillfully guided each RV to its designated spot, the stage was set for a week adventure. Traditional Firstie Happy Hour and Welcome Dinner provided the perfect backdrop for old friends to reunite and new bonds to be forged.



# CHAPTER NEWS



RV Chapter: Key West

Additional RV Chapter members enjoying the Key West sun and fun were Kitty and **Mike Bolier '67**, Patti and **Jay Williams '67**, Stevie and **Hank Giffin '67**, Elizabeth and **Mike Currie '67**, Bettie and **Tom Broadhurst '67**, Barbara and **Bill McCracken '67**, Val and **Gary Polansky '69**, Su and **Dale Gange '70**, "JJ" Tucker and **Marc Farris '70**, Susanne and **Charles Lewis '70** flying in on their RV-6 airplane, Eva and **Andy Wehrle '72**, **Dave Endicott '72**, Allison and **Marty McGee '72**, Cathy and **Bob Repp '74**, Wendy and **Kirk Daniels '75**, Gail and **David Penman '75**, **Bob Brown '75**, Eileen and **John Madaio '77**, Linda and **Paul Colman '77**, Madie and **Pete Husta '79**, Beth and **Robert Shafer '81**, Lorraine and **Clay Henry '82**, **Dan '82** and **Angela '83 Brady**, Peggy, son Ryan and **Nick Peterson '86**, Tracy, daughter Savannah, and **Glenn Miller '86**, Jen and **Michael Weiner '87**, Julie and **George Turner '88**, and **Jim Salamon '72**.

As the week unfolded, each day brought its own brand of excitement. From enlightening tours of the NOAA/National Weather Service Office to spirited Mardi Gras-themed grill potlucks, the Key West experience was nothing short of AMAZING! Brunches at Grumpy's Diner and tours of the Butterfly Museum, Fort Zachary Taylor, Super Bowl watch parties and, of course, a Pub Crawl, brought lots of laughter!



RV Chapter: Key West

Yet, amidst the revelry, moments of reflection



and camaraderie abounded. Su Gange led a heartfelt Spouse Meeting, offering a platform for shared insights and collective growth, while spirited games and friendly competitions brought out the inner Midshipman in all of us.

As the final day dawned and farewells were exchanged, a bittersweet sentiment lingered in the air. But with hearts full of cherished memories and spirits lifted by newfound connections, we departed, knowing that Key West 2024 had left an indelible mark on our souls.

The Chapter's next Come Around was nestled in the serene landscapes of Madison, Florida, from 1-5 March 2024, the Madison RV and Golf Resort. Led by 'Nita and **Jack Parry '67** and Gail and **David Penman '75**, attendees converged for more low-key days filled with relaxation and recreation.



As the Parrys and Penmans set up camp, a spirit of flexibility and camaraderie prevailed, allowing for impromptu rounds of golf and pickleball amidst the forecasted rain. Despite inclement weather, local attractions like the Treasures of Madison County museum provided glimpses into the area's rich heritage, while shared meals and birthday celebrations added to the sense of community.

As rain clouds threatened outdoor escapades and schedules shifted to accommodate the whims of weather, the resilient spirit of the attendees remained undaunted. Farewell breakfasts marked the end of days filled with laughter and shared memories.

As attendees dispersed to their respective corners of the world, the echoes of laughter and the warmth of friendship lingered, a testament to the enduring bonds forged amidst the shared adventures of the Annual Key West Come Around and the Madison RV and Golf Resort Come Around. Until next time, whenever two or three shall meet, the spirit of camaraderie will continue to thrive, uniting kindred spirits in the timeless pursuit of adventure and friendship.

Come join us on one of our upcoming scheduled Come Arouns:

Highlands PA ComeAround 11-17 June; 25th Anniversary ComeAround - Huntsville, AL 11-16 Sept; Mason City, IA ComeAround 26 Sept - 1 Oct; Navy/AF Game ComeAround - Colorado Springs, CO 3-8 Oct.

## 2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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

1-800-US4-NAVY



## South Carolina

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

### Charleston Chapter

Pres: **CDR Rick Stein '82, USNR (Ret.)**  
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On Friday, 12 April, The Charleston Chapter held a Joint Monthly Meeting with the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates and the West Point Association of Graduates. Our Speaker was LGEN B.J. Shwedo, USAF (Ret.) (USAFA '87), Director, USAFA Institute for Future Conflict.

In attendance were: **Fuzzy Knight '53, Jim Flatley '56, Curt Holcomb '61, Frank Bryant '66, Alan Burkhart '67, Bernie Magdelain '67, Roger Paradis '67, Gregory Wood '68, Mike Malone '69, Charlie Young '70, David Oyster '74, Bill Konrad '75, Dave Shimp '76, Bob Kennedy '77, Denny Simon '77, Dan Cloyd '79, Phil Botero '82, Chris Cechak '82, Rick Stein '82, Greg Shore '84, Pat Hunkler '89, and David Kern '92.**

On Monday May 20th, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was Larry Dandridge, who spoke on "The Helicopter War in Vietnam".

In attendance were: **Max Hill '51, John Common '64, Ray Setser '65, Frank Bryant '66, Bernie Magdelain '67, Jim Welsch '67, Chuck Meyer '68, Jim Beltz '73, George Watt '73, Ron Malec '74, Bill Konrad '75, Dave Shimp '76, Bob Kennedy '77, Denny Simon '77, Glen Morris '80, Phil Botero '82, Rick Stein '82, Brad Murphy '83, Greg Shore '84, John Wiggins '84, Tony Bruce '91 and Derek Dryden '00.**

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

## South Dakota

See Minnesota: Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**  
p: 858-335-7921; e: ries.briane@gmail.com

South Dakota Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: **myUSNA.com Chapter Group** -  
<https://mysna.com/topics/9586/home>

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

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

### UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

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

## 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 NAA**

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

First of all, I want to report on the passing of **Bill McKay '54**. Bill was a consistent supporter of our chapter, and he is missed. Per the Chapter policy we have donated \$100 in his name to the Naval Academy Foundation.

I was fortunate to attend the Leadership conference in April at USNA. I was the representative for Alamo Chapter and was joined by Rachel McCabe who represented South Texas Naval Academy Parents club (STNAPC). The meetings were organized around like-sized clubs to share best practices and problems. It was a chance for both Rachel and I to meet other representatives and share common ideas and problems. To be honest, no 'silver bullet' was in the offing for us but it was somewhat comforting to know that our problems were not unique. The main problem for both of our clubs is one of the sheer geographic sizes of our area of influence and getting people to participate in reasonable venues. STNAPC is hosting a luncheon to welcome the new class of 2028 and NAPSTERS. (both incoming and newly minted plebes and their families). By the time you read this, the event will have occurred 15 June and it will be featured in the next report.

This is the season for BGOs to present appointment letters to the incoming class. Always the most pleasant of our duties. I am including my presentation to **Mid'n Jack Osborne '24** from Boerne Champion High School. For the area 23 candidates were direct appointments and four NAPS appointments were awarded. We also have several 'wait list' applicants and as you know those can change at any time up to "I" Day.



BGO Dave Driskell '63 presents appointment letter to Jack Osborne '24

Alamo Chapter, in keeping with our past support to the Academy, has approved funding for NASS and STEM applicants that have

requested funding assistance through the Foundation. This year we committed to \$4,971 in assistance. Which by the way, hit our treasury pretty hard. I have sent out various emails requesting dues payments and donations to build up our coffers so that we can continue to support STNAPC and social functions of our Chapter.

Dave Driskell '63

### Austin Chapter

Pres: **Brad Holbrook '06**  
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Treas: **Kevin Windbigler '86**  
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Shipmate Contact: **CDR Don McAlister '63, USNR (Ret.)**  
p: 512-365-7068; e: don.mcalister@austin.rr.com

Website: **Austin.usnachapters.com**

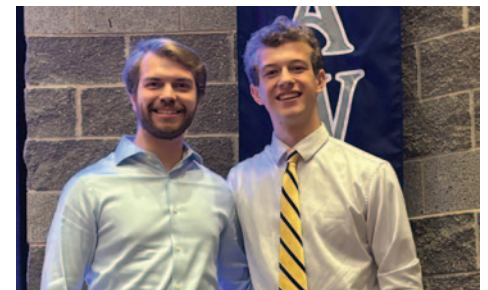
BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Montgomery '04**  
p: 410-507-2832; e: eric.montgomery@2004.usna.com

It's been another successful admissions cycle for the 50+ BGOs who cover Central and South Texas. In addition to the five area students who completed their year at NAPS and will be joining the Class of 2028 this summer, we had 19 high school applicants earn direct appointments with the Class of 2028, three who will be joining the NAPS Class of 2025, and one who received a Foundation Scholarship offer.

See below for photos from some of the recognition ceremonies in the Austin area.



BGO Eric Montgomery '04 presents a NAPS appointment to Hector Hernandez at Atkins Early College High School in Austin, TX



BGO Coleman Moody '19 presents a USNA appointment to Eli Anderson at Hendrickson High School in Pflugerville, TX

## CHAPTER NEWS



BGO Wilfred Navarro presents a USNA appointment to John Davidson of West Lake High School in Westlake Hills, TX



BGO Eric Montgomery '04 presents USNA appointments to Caroline O'Leary and Coulter Cowden at the Regents School of Austin



BGO Brad Becker '01 presents a USNA appointment to Bristol Raymond at Hays High School in Buda, TX

We're always looking for new BGOs to support our outreach and mentoring efforts, especially among alumni who've graduated within the last 10-15 years or so. If you're interested please contact me at [eric.montgomery@2004.usna.com](mailto:eric.montgomery@2004.usna.com) - the time commitment is quite low and we can be flexible with school and student assignments should you need to scale things back due to work or family obligations.

### North Texas Chapter

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

Pres: **Jamey Cummings '93**

e: [pres@usnaaa-ntx.com](mailto:pres@usnaaa-ntx.com)

Vice Pres of Programs: **Carrie Murdock '99**

Vice Pres of Membership: **Ty Rose '06**

Treasurer: **Greg Colandrea '90**

Sec'y: **Frankie Delgado '95**

e: [secy@usnaaa-ntx.com](mailto:secy@usnaaa-ntx.com)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Eschenbrenner**

p: 972 740 4060; e: [eschenbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:eschenbrenner@gmail.com)

Greetings from North Texas! We've had a busy couple of months. In April, the chapter was honored to host a Fireside Chat led by National Medal of Honor Museum President and Astronaut **Chris Cassidy '93**. Chris led an inspiring discussion with Medal of Honor Recipient Britt Slabinski. Command Master Chief Slabinski humbly recalled about his surprise nomination for the nation's highest honor and provided colorful insights into his ceremony and journey as a recipient. Attendees were treated with an opportunity to hold Command Master Chief Slabinski's Medal of Honor.



Fireside Chat - MOH Recipient Britt Slabinski, Chris Cassidy '93, Jamey Cummings '93

In early May, LT **Danny Bush '18**, a Flower Mound HS graduate, came to town on leave and graciously took time to share his Naval Academy journey with two local USNA candidates. Candidate Brandon De Vun (son of **Drew De Vun '98**) will be attending Summer Seminar this summer and Jason Jander will be joining the class of 2028!



Ron Nicol '75, Jeremy McGown '07, Cray Pack '11, Darryl Smith '88



Tom Eschenbrenner B&G Area Coordinator, Brandon De Vun, LT Danny Bush '18, Jason Jander '28

Mid-May, the Chapter hosted its first ever Mentoring Panel featuring Distinguished Graduate, **Ron Nicol '75**, Central Region

Trustee - **Daryl Smith '88**, **Jeremy McGown '07** and **Cray Pack '11** who provided valuable insights, practical advice, valuable discussion and anecdotes about their professional journeys. Attendees were afforded a chance to gain career management strategies for maximizing their professional journeys.

As we close this submission, the Chapter is excited to provide support to the North Texas Parent's Club in hosting the Welcome aboard picnic for the USNA and NAPS Class of '28!

### Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Pres: **Dan Hanley '10**

e: [dhanley@2010.usna.com](mailto:dhanley@2010.usna.com)

Vice Pres: **Luke Schamel '10**

e: [luke.schamel@2010.usna.com](mailto:luke.schamel@2010.usna.com)

Treas: **Rich Bulger '69**

e: [rlbulger69@gmail.com](mailto:rlbulger69@gmail.com)

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

e: [john.a.augusto@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.augusto@gmail.com)

Website: <http://txgulfcoast.myusna.com/>

Facebook: [@USNAATXGC](https://www.facebook.com/USNAATXGC)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Link**

e: [cdr.dlink@gmail.com](mailto:cdr.dlink@gmail.com)

### Recent Events: 5 April Annual BGO Appreciation lunch at El Tiempo (Roland Lorenzo '69)

Navigation location featuring Don Link, BGO Area Coordinator. **6 April TxGC Foundation's SeaPerch Competition**, an underwater remote operated vehicle competition promoting STEM in student education, as well as USNA awareness. This year's event was the largest SeaPerch regional held in Texas with 64 teams from 31 high schools, 26 middle schools, and 7 elementary schools from 9 SE Texas school districts.

TxGC awarded 3 USNA Summer STEM scholarships to "top rising" 9-11th graders and 2 USNA Summer Seminar scholarships to the top 2 "rising" 12th graders. Thank you to **Mike Yeager '76** for his keynote address, and support. **25 April North Houston "no-host" lunch** at Wunsche Bros. Cafe & Saloon in Old Towne Spring. **3 May Pre-Rugby [monthly] lunch** at El Tiempo (Roland Lorenzo '69) Navigation location, featuring Dewey Meteer '69, founder, former player, former coach, and 3x Navy Rugby Hall of Fame inductee. **4 May Rugby Championship Tailgate** at Houston Sabercat Stadium for Navy's Championship run. Although Navy fell to St. Mary's, a good time (and good attendance) was had by all at the TxGC tailgate. **7 June 7 Monthly Lunch** at El Tiempo (**Roland Lorenzo '69**) Navigation location, featuring Pete Olson, Chair of Lone Star Flight Museum and former TX-22 Congressional Representative. **Future Events:** Be on the lookout... **26-27 October Wings Over Houston Airshow** (Blue Angels), Ellington Airport. **2 November Navy v. Rice football official USNA/TxGC tailgate.** *Volunteers needed, contact via chapter email.*





TxGC Fdn. SeaPerch Competition with Chris Black '07, John Kendall '64, and Jeffrey White (Parent) talk about USNA to student competitors.

May the soul of our departed Shipmate **George Abbey '54**, and all of the souls of our departed shipmates rest in peace. George passed on 24 March at 91, in Nassau Bay [Houston]. An active TxGC member, he has been called the "Father of Modern Spaceflight." His achievements at NASA's Johnson Space Center included becoming its 7th Director in 1996, but his influence extended well beyond, in human spaceflight, space policy, its education, and community service. On 7 June, **Chris Briggs '91** represented the TxGC at a tribute to George that included a tree planting in his honor, at JSC's Astronaut Tree Grove.

DO YOU LIVE IN HOUSTON? We have over 1,000 members & growing volunteer opportunities available in different locations throughout the year! Minimal commitment required to actively participate and enjoy the camaraderie of one of the largest Alumni Association Chapters! Or get more involved, consider hosting a "no-host lunch" or happy-hour in your suburb, please contact us, email: txgulfcoast.usnachapters@gmail.com or current President (DHanley@2010.usna.com) to learn about volunteering, our latest events, or the chapter. Follow us on our myUSNA page, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

## United Kingdom

BGO Area Coordinator: **Wes Turbeville '01**  
e: bgosarea501coordinator@gmail.com

### United Kingdom Chapter

Pres: **Tim Fox '97**  
e: timfox97@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Cody Nissen '11**  
e: cnissen.mba2018@london.edu

Sec'y: **Lisa Aszklar (Wife, Henry '81)**  
e: lisa.aszklar@gmail.com

Board of Directors: **Tony Cox '89**  
e: tony.cox@gboutdoorfires.co.uk

**Chris Robinson '98**  
e: naples98@gmail.com

Greetings from London, center of all things USNA related in the British Isles!

Another Commissioning Week has come and gone, and that means another class of newly minted ensigns and second lieutenants can now call the United States Naval Academy their alma mater. Bravo Zulu to the Class of 2024!

The UK Chapter is excited to welcome nine graduates who will be pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees at several of the UK's most prestigious universities.

These include two studying at the University of Glasgow (**Alden Jerome** and **Lucas Gabrieli**); four studying at the University of Oxford (**Cameron Eldridge**, **Samuel Shin**, **Katelyn Villa**, and **Abigail Ward**), two bound for the University of Cambridge (**Jada Williams** and **Catherine Aitken**), and one heading to the University of Edinburgh (**Charlotte d'Halluin**). With luck, we'll see these scholars at our Chapter-sponsored alumni events here in London, as time permits.

A few quick facts about the newest USNA alumni:

The Class of 2024 is comprised of 1,040 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, as well as countries as distant and diverse as Cameroon, Fiji, Georgia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka.

There are 79 prior-enlisted students in the class, and the male-to-female ratio is about 2.3:1. The Class of '24 includes 73 sons and daughters of USNA alumni; six midshipmen have both parents who attended the Academy.

Two hundred seventy-six graduates are heading to flight school, with the goal of becoming either pilots or NFOs; 32 were accepted into the Special Warfare program as SEALs; 154 are going into the submarine service; and 265 are heading into the U.S. Marine Corps, either as infantry (168), pilots (87), or into the cyber field (10). The Surface Warfare community is 205 officers stronger as of today; and 16 graduates will be focusing on explosive ordnance disposal. Finally, 74 are going the Restricted Line and Staff Corps route.

The future is bright for these young officers, and we wish them all the best as they take on more active roles in, as Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said in his Commencement speech, "the greatest Navy and Marine Corps on Earth."



Some of '97's best: Steve Walborn and Tim Fox

Chapter President **Tim Fox '97** reports that he was very happy to welcome to London his

classmate and lacrosse teammate **Steve Walborn '97**. Steve flies for FedEx now after a career in the Fleet and in the Reserves. Steve brought along his wife Carrine (also a commercial pilot who flew F14s in the Navy) and their kids, along with his brother George (also a former Navy pilot, now with JetBlue) and his wife Amy (you guessed it: ALSO a pilot!). They had a great visit to all the awesome tourist sites in London, including the old British Naval Academy at Greenwich.

Contact Tim (timfox97@hotmail.com) for any late openings on the 24 August evening tour of the Tower of London. And if you have not received confirmation from Tim that your name has been added to the list, please contact him immediately.

Until next time, BEAT ARMY!

## Virginia

### Central Virginia Chapter

Pres: **Bill Murray '83**  
e: whmurray34@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Ed Borger '80**  
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Treas: **Patrick Hamilton '10**  
e: j.p.hamilton9@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Aldridge**  
e: n774pk@gmail.com

On Wednesday May 22th, the Central Virginia Chapter joined the West Point Society of Monticello and other veterans for the biannual Spring All-Services Golf Classic at Green Hills Golf Club in Stanardsville, VA. Four man Captain's Choice Format ensured that the participants pictured here scored well despite the challenges of Green Hills.

Navy teams took two of the top three places, although losing first place to Army by three strokes. Second place was taken by the solid score of 63 (eight under par) by **Mark Metcalf '76**, **Dale Crothers '82** and friend of the Navy (FOTN) Andy Wicks. Following with third place was the team of **Bill Murray '83**, **CB Morgan '83**, **Dan Newnam '85**, and FOTN Kirk Seay also with a score of 63. Just out of the money were the early favorites led by the class of '75 with **Gary Jones '75**, **Jeff Bust '75**, **Terry Blake '75**, and Jeff Taylor FOTN with a score of 66. Bill Murray executed the highlight reel shot of the day with a pin seeker at the 147 yard No. 6 sticking his shot within six feet garnering the closest to the pin award and the admiration of his teammates.

The golf was followed by a welcoming lunch in the Green Hills Clubhouse, accompanied by many splendid conversations of the day as well as intriguing discussions of military and political nature including effectiveness of sanctions in foreign policy. 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.



## CHAPTER NEWS



Central Virginia Chapter: Spring All-Services Golf Classic at Green Hills Golf Club in Stanardsville, VA

NAVY'S teams consisted of **Gary Jones '75**, **Jeff Bust '75**, **Terry Blake '75**, **Jeff Taylor FOTN**, **Bill Murray '83**, **CB Morgan '83**, **Dan Newnam '85**, **FOTN Kirk Seay**, **Mark Metcalf '76**, **Dale Crothers '82** and **Andy Wicks FOTN**.

### Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Bill Daniels '77**

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

Facebook:

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



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

The Hampton Roads Chapter has some new leadership! At our Annual Meeting on 16 April **Bill Daniels '77** relieved **Renee Reedy '81** as Chapter President, and Renee subsequently relieved **Mark Rupprecht '76** as Chapter Trustee. Several previous Board members will continue to serve, and Bill will be ably supported by 1st VP **Ted Digges '85**, 2nd VP **Matt Murphy '95**, Secretary **Steve Nimitz '76**, and Treasurer **Nick Nuzzo '97**. Newly elected Directors are **Paul Allgeier '97**, **Kelly Goffigan '00**, **Kailia Julia '12**, **Steve Yoder '87**; and **Jeff Weinbrenner '86** has assumed duties Webmaster. At the Annual Meeting we were pleased and honored to be joined by USNAA & F's Executive VP for Engagement and Communications, **CAPT T.J. Grady '96, USN (Ret.)**, and Nancy Murray, Senior Director Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs.



L to R: **Hank Thompson '73**, **Al Ponessa '68**, **Eric Gardner '85**, and **Art Ohanian '79** enjoy Hampton Roads Happy Hour

Events Coordinator **Al Ponessa '68** and the new hierarchy didn't skip a beat as we continued

to be all about events and interaction. In mid-May we rode bikes with folks from the Greater Washington and Virginia Peninsula Chapters; on 23 May our monthly Happy Hour took us to Roger Brown's Restaurant and Sportsbar in Portsmouth; bright and (very) early on 27 May **Dave Paddock '77** again led a solemn Run to Honor sunrise gathering on the Virginia Beach oceanfront; and on 30 May our new Director of Golf (DoG) **Vince Bowhers '85** orchestrated our annual Spring Golf Outing at Sewells Point.

On June 5th, at our 31st annual Plebe Recognition Dinner we recognized and honored local students about to head off to NAPS or embark on Plebe Summer as members of the

Class of 2028. This year we were honored to welcome **RADM Chris Engdahl '90**, Commander, Naval Safety Command as our featured speaker. The next night we conducted the first of three "meet and greets" with Midshipmen here for summer training at NAVIFOR. On 14 June, the baseball fans among us enjoyed at night at Harbor Park arranged by **Dick Enderly '71**; and we capped off June with our annual BBQ Bash at CAPT Slade Cutter Athletic Park.

At our May Networking Breakfast, President of the Virginia Ship Repair Association, **Bill Crow '80**, discussed his organization's support of the state's ship repair industry; and in June our guest speaker was Ms. Connie Drago, Vice President Hampton Roads Region, Old Dominion Honor Flight whose mission is to honor Coastal Virginia's World War II, Korea, and Vietnam war era veterans by transporting them to Washington DC to visit the memorials that stand to honor their sacrifice and service.

Finally, before we know it, it will be football season again! And once again Shorebreak Pizza will be the place to be to watch every Navy football game!

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](http://myUSNA.com). And don't forget our LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook pages!

*Dick Enderly '71*



Hampton Roads Chapter: Annual Meeting



Hampton Roads Chapter: Memorial Day Run to Honor Virginia Beach Oceanfront





Quantico Chapter: The QAC Crew with Secretary Crenshaw

**Quantico Area Chapter**

Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**  
e: ryan.steenberge@gmail.com

Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**  
e: qacusnaatreasurer@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Nancy Springer '87**  
e: nancy.a.springer.nancy@aol.com

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

Website: **Quantico Area Chapter | myUSNA.com**



Secretary Craig Crenshaw

Quantico Area Chapter (QAC) finished the Chapter year with two interesting guest speakers. In March, 18 Chapter members hosted the Commonwealth of Virginia's Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw (also MajGen, USMC (Ret.)). In his comments, Secretary Crenshaw provided several examples of how the Commonwealth is pursuing its goal of becoming the "best state for veterans (and their families)!" Using a combination of tax incentives, a digital information hub and employers motivated to hire veterans, Virginia seeks to attract transitioning servicemembers.

Then in April, 22 Chapter members gathered at The Hampton Inn and on Zoom to welcome LtCol Paul Haagenson, Executive Officer, Wounded Warrior Regiment. LtCol Haagenson acquainted the Chapter with the mission, objectives and structure of this unique Marine Corps unit established in 2007 to care for wounded Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, Wounded Warrior Regiment and its subordinate units accepts wounded, ill and injured Marines who exceed their unit's ability to care for them. In the process, Wounded Warrior "keeps the faith" with these Marines, actively assisting each individual with his/her treatment and recovery plan or providing transition assistance, if the

Marine's condition is incompatible with further active duty service.



Guest Speaker LtCol Paul Haagenson

To round out the year, QAC hosted its annual Membership meeting and elections in May. Looking forward, the Chapter will resume its monthly Breakfast Speaker Series on 7 June, followed by participating in its second Women Can Fly event at the Warrenton-Faquier Virginia airport.

Area alumni are always welcome at Chapter events. Please check our calendar and Facebook page for more information.

**Washington**

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

**Puget Sound Chapter**

Pres: **Alan Schrader '92**  
e: usnaaa.psc@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Mike Mathews '75**  
e: mjmathews7501@gmail.com

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

The Puget Sound Chapter and the Washington State Parents Club jointly hosted the annual Plebe Welcome for the Class of 2028 on 1 June in Issaquah, WA. Eighteen prospective Midshipmen and their families were greeted by Chapter and Parents Club membership to help prepare them for Induction Day on 27 June. With our Chapter President, **CAPT Alan Schrader '92**, acting as event host, a light buffet lunch was served before presentations were made. **Chris May '78** opened by



Puget Sound Chapter



## CHAPTER NEWS

presenting “Another Link in the Chain” to highlight the connection between the Classes of '78 and '28 over the next four years. Chris was followed by **Matt Hill '91**, our Membership Trustee, who recognized the role of local Blue & Gold Officers in shepherding the new appointees through the selection process. The keynote speaker was **RDM Max Clark '92**, COMCAR-GRU ELEVEN homeported in Everett, WA, who highlighted the USNA Mission and the journey that '28 would undertake over their next four years at USNA.



The group then split into breakout sessions, one for the new entrants and another for parents. We were fortunate to have recent graduates and current Midshipmen lead the session for the Class of '28. The Parents Club briefed '28 Parents on a wide range of topics and answered questions to enable support for their sons and daughters during the transition to USNA and the Navy. A broad range of topics was covered; both groups were very engaged and left with a stronger understanding of what to expect.

Our Chapter partnership with the Parents Club has been hugely successful for over 20 years and we expect to continue this collective support of Washington Midshipmen throughout their four years at the Naval Academy.

## Washington, DC Area

### Greater Washington Chapter

Pres: **Anthony Calandra '88**

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

Vice Pres: **Luis Martinez '01**

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Sec'y: **Alexis Opferman '17**

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Treas: **Chris Georgi '96**

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

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

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

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

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

Trustee: **Jill Rough '96**

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

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Jim Ripley**

e: [james.m.ripley@gmail.com](mailto:james.m.ripley@gmail.com)

Shipmates, the USNA Force was strong May 4 at Ft. Hunt in Alexandria, VA! SEVEN decades

assembled at Ft. Hunt for our annual picnic, ranging from the class of '58 to our incoming plebes of '28 (plus one headed to NAPS). Special focus on '78 who met their “link in the chain” class for the first time. Many thanks all who supported this event, as well as the Northern Virginia USNA Parents Club (Allison and Jack Wagner) for joining us and meeting with the new plebe families. A good time was had by all – check out our Facebook page for more pix and video of the band!



Chris Ognak '95 and his wife, Chris Georgi '96



Ted '65 and Brad Davis '86



Abe, Brian and Ingrid '01



Dave '9, Ted Ryan '95 and Joe Brunson '97



Gerald Brooks '08 and N\* XC and Track & Field star - Beat Army!



Another Link in the Chain: '78 and '28

## Wisconsin

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Leonard Green**

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### Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Jeff Reagan '88**

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Vice Pres: **Craig Walker '83**

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Sec'y: **Rob Grasse '88**

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At Large: **Chris Adams '75**

p: 414-553-0892

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

Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association (WISNAPA)

Presidents: **Lisa & Chad Stigler**

Vice-Presidents: **Steve & Katie Kotansky**

e: [wisnapacontact@gmail.com](mailto:wisnapacontact@gmail.com)

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

Wisconsin Blue and Gold Officer Coordinator

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Mark Germano**

p: 847-624-5142; e: [Mark.Germano@bgo.usna.com](mailto:Mark.Germano@bgo.usna.com)

The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Wisconsin Chapter is pleased to provide this Class of 2023 Cushing Award “catch-up” report for Wisconsinites’ reading pleasure:

Midshipman First Class **Joshua Benton Douberly '23** of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin earned the Class of 2023's esteemed CDR William B. Cushing award! The award is presented to the Midshipman from Wisconsin





Wisconsin Chapter: Midshipman 1/C Douberly awarded by VADM Dirk Debbink '77

who earned the highest class rank following the Fall Semester of First Class year, through disciplined study and by volunteering for the absolute toughest leadership positions available, in the tradition of heroism and coolness under fire of Wisconsin native CDR Cushing. The award carries with it a Flag Letter of Commendation (LOC) signed and personally delivered by Wisconsin's senior officer, VADM Dirk Debbink, as well as an appropriate symbol of Wisconsin's Alumni respect: an engraved uniform sword. Since MIDN Douberly's father handed-down his own personal Navy sword for Josh's career use, the Wisconsin Chapter pivoted and bestowed an engraved Ship's Clock as a memento.

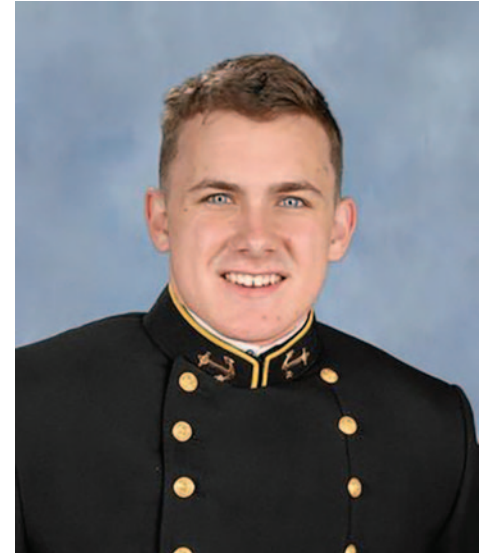
Flag LOC highlights: Josh maintained a 4.00 cumulative grade point average in Operations Research (Honors) as a Superintendent's and Commandant's List regular and ranked 10th out of 1044 classmates in an Overall Order of Merit. He consistently held the number one spot in his class for academic order of merit - an exceptional feat given that he was an active member in his company, volunteered as the men's varsity swim team manager, and held back-to-back battalion level billets; having served as both the Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander for over 700 midshipmen. Additionally, he served as both a Squad Leader and Platoon Commander during

two separate iterations of the 2022 Plebe Summer and held billets within the company during the academic year of both Training Sergeant and Drill Sergeant for over 120 midshipmen. Josh's initiative in seeking-out new and challenging duties is a testimony to his character, and is keeping with the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.



Future Naval Flight Officer, Josh Douberly '23

The award ceremony was conducted on the 22 May, 2023 at the U.S. Naval Institute's stunning new Headquarters' Roof-Top Terrace on Hospital Point aboard the Academy. MIDN Douberly's father, Company Officer, Senior Enlisted Leader, and a handful of close classmates were able to attend and participate in the ceremony. Congratulations to the entire Douberly family for this joint achievement, and thank you to VADM Debbink for his sponsorship of the Cushing Prize.



MIDN Josh Douberly receives 2023 Cushing Award Flag LOC and Ship's Clock

Stand-by next issue for an overview of the 2024 Cushing Prize Award Ceremony - congratulations to MIDN 1/C Nicholas S. Hinz and his family.

Forward for Freedom! (ala BB-64 USS WISCONSIN)

*And Aloha, Rob Grasse '88*

## CHAPTERs & SIGs COLUMN DEADLINES for SECRETARIES

Send to: [chapternews@usna.com](mailto:chapternews@usna.com)

**2024**

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
September-October '24	6 Aug '24
November-December '24	3 Oct '24

## USNA Tribute Gifts

[www.usna.com/tribute-gifts](http://www.usna.com/tribute-gifts)

## 2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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

31 AUG	vs Bucknell
7 SEPT	vs Temple
21 SEPT	vs Memphis
28 SEPT	@ UAB
5 OCT	@ Air Force
19 OCT	vs Charlotte
26 OCT	vs Notre Dame <i>East Rutherford, NJ</i>
2 NOV	@ Rice
9 NOV	@ South Florida
16 NOV	vs Tulane
30 NOV	@ East Carolina <i>Possible Friday 29 Nov</i>
14 DEC	vs Army <i>Landover, MD</i>

**1-800-US4-NAVY**

# SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



NAMA Shared Interest Group:

## NAMA

Naval Academy Minority Association

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: **Vacant**  
e: bgo@usnama.com

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

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

### EVENTS Upcoming Events:

Parent's Weekend and the new Academic Year have crept up! We look forward to supporting the Brigade! Be on the lookout for us at tailgates this season! Reach out if you want to help with any NAMA events!

If you have interest in supporting this year's Army-Navy NAMA STEM events, please contact us. We would love to collaborate with members and make memorable events for future leaders.

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:

Thank you to those that attended the 2024 USNA Alumni Leadership forum with the gala highlighting AAPI achievements in the naval service. You helped make this event a true success.

NAMA partnered with the Naval Academy Foundation to establish the Naval Academy Minority Affairs Fund (NAMAFA). Your donations support on-campus visits for students and Centers of Influence, scholarship funding for STEM and NASS, Gospel Choir travel, and Midshipman activities.

Visit [usna.com/give](https://usna.com/give) or follow the directions on the NAMA website, <https://www.usnama.com/donation-selection/> to donate today.

NAMA is partnering with the Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG), USNA Finance Professionals and the Naval Engineers & STEM Advocates SIG (NESA) SIG and USNA Alumni



Association & Foundation to present the first annual STEM conference in Silicon Valley. We invite you to register for this incredible opportunity. See the QR code for more detail.

## NESA

Naval Engineers & STEM Advocates

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.)**

The USNA 'NESA' SIG has been active in supporting the USNA STEM Center for Education & Outreach, the Black Engineer of the Year Award Expo, Sea Perch competitions, regional STEM fairs, and USNA Chapter and Parents Club events this year.





NESA Shared Interest Group

The NESA SIG provided volunteers for the USNA BioTech STEM day held at Rickover Hall, USNA. Numerous NESA SIG volunteers provided supported for the Girls only STEM day at USNA Maryland Regional Sea Perch Competition, held at USNA, local Sea Perch competitions at Maryland and Virginia schools, and local Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland STEM Fairs. Additional NESA SIG volunteers supported the week-long Black Engineer of the Year Award Expo and STEM Fair held at the Baltimore Convention Center.

SIG members have been busy on a weekly basis CONNECTING potential USNA candidates with current Midshipmen, Alumni and STEM Advocates at STEM Fairs (middle and high school regional competitions), STEM Expos (Navy League STEM Institute), Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Expo, USNA BioTech Day, USNA Girls Only STEM Day (Robotics & Coding), Sea Perch Regional Competitions, and Office of Naval Research STEM events.

NESA SIG members have COMMUNICATED the mission and opportunities of attending USNA. NESA SIG is blessed to have awesome SUPPORT from retired Navy Captain Timi Lindsay - a superb USNA Admissions Advocate, and senior Flag and SES personnel at numerous events including over 125 high school students in Philadelphia, PA.

Superb STEM Volunteers include **CAPT Jill Cesari '96**, **LCDR Jessica Wright '13**, **CAPT Sarah Rice '02**, **CDR Rosemary "Monee" Hardesty**, **CDR Amanda Lippert**, **Ashley Molinaro** and **CAPT Katie Shobe**. NESA SIG received Anchor assistance from STEM organizations, including Starbase Victory with

Dr. Alecia McClain, Chairman of the Board, and Ms. Lisa Downey-Hood, CEO & Executive Director.

Looking forward to NESA SIG volunteer support at the week-long STEM Camp held at the Portsmouth Children's Museum and at STARBASE Victory



The USNA Financial Professionals SIG is excited to be partnering with the *Women's Shared Interest Group (WSIG)*, in conjunction with the *Naval Academy Minority Association (NAMA)*, *Naval Engineering and STEM*

*Advocates (NESA) SIG* and USNA Alumni Association & Foundation to present the first annual STEM conference in Silicon Valley. We invite you to register for this incredible opportunity. See the QR code and the USNA Finance Professionals column for more detail.

**CHAPTERs & SIGs  
COLUMN DEADLINES  
for SECRETARIES**

Send to: [chapternews@usna.com](mailto:chapternews@usna.com)

**2024**

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
September-October '24	6 Aug '24
November-December '24	3 Oct '24

**Run to Honor**

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**  
p: 813-787-6098; e: [president@runtohonor.com](mailto:president@runtohonor.com)

Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**  
e: [vp@runtohonor.com](mailto:vp@runtohonor.com)

Treas: Jan Kennedy  
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**  
e: [treasurer@runtohonor.com](mailto:treasurer@runtohonor.com)

Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**  
e: [secretary@runtohonor.com](mailto:secretary@runtohonor.com)

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

RuN\* To Honor invites alumni to support upcoming events to honor our fallen Shipmates.

JP Blecksmith 5K: This year marks the 20th annual JP Blecksmith Memorial 5K in San Marino, CA. The JP Blecksmith Memorial 5K is the signature event hosted by the JP Blecksmith Leadership Foundation, established to honor the life and sacrifice of **J.P. Blecksmith '03**. He was tragically killed in Fallujah, Iraq, on November 11, 2004, while bravely leading his Marines during Operation Phantom Fury.



Jenelle Hanf '10 along with her family led a RTH team at last years JP Blecksmith Memorial 5k.

**Annapolis 10 Miler:** We are excited to announce that Run to Honor (RTH) is once again a named charity for this year's Annapolis 10 Miler. This event will take place on August 25th, beginning and ending at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. We invite all US Naval Academy alumni to participate by running or volunteering.

For those residing in the Annapolis area, we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to our RTH event lead, **Steve Swift '87** ([president@runtohonor.com](mailto:president@runtohonor.com)), to connect with the Volunteer Coordinator.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Willie McCool Half Marathon, 10K, & 5K:

Attention Alumni in the Lovelock, TX area! Join RTH supporters on September 7th for the Willie McCool Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K.

**Willie McCool '83**, was the Pilot of the Space Shuttle Columbia (January - February 2003) and had a passion for running.

Support Willie's legacy by participating in this event dedicated to his memory. Whether you run or cheer from the sidelines, your presence honors his life and achievements.

Check out our website and sign up for our email list at: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)

Follow and Share with us at: [www.facebook.com/runtohonor](http://www.facebook.com/runtohonor).

Learn the stories behind the names in Memorial Hall at: [www.usnamemorialhall.org](http://www.usnamemorialhall.org)

Find RTH gear at: <http://runtohonor.com>

To Honor!



**Date:** 11-12 October 2024 (Friday evening reception, All-Day Saturday conference)

**Location:** Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA

**Objective:** To foster dialogue and collaboration between naval warfighting institutions and industry stakeholders in leveraging AI technologies for enhancing naval operations, strategic planning, and decision-making processes.

**Audience:** AI Professionals in the US Navy/ Marine Corps/DOD, alumni working in the STEM/AI fields, industry leaders in STEM/AI, alumni and industry members who seek learning and networking opportunities.

#### Conference Highlights:

**Expert Presentations and Panels:** Renowned speakers from both the naval and industry sectors will share insights, best practices, and case studies on AI implementation and its impact on naval operations. Confirmed speakers and panelists include:

Dr Samara Firebaugh, US Naval Academy Provost

John Dillon, USNA '72, CEO of TransAct Technologies

Ken Braithwaith, USNA '84, 77th Secretary of the Navy

Beau Laskey, USNA '92, Silicon Valley Bank

Chris Campbell, USNA '02, Defense Innovation Unit

**Networking Opportunities:** Engage with key decision-makers, industry experts, government

officials, and academics during networking sessions, receptions, and breakout discussions.

conference in Silicon Valley. We invite you to register for this incredible opportunity.

**Theme:** "AI Current and Future: How our Naval Warfighting Institutions Collaborate with Industry"

## USNA Women

Pres: **Linda "Postie" Postenrieder '82**  
p: 415-235-9413; e: [post82@whidbey.com](mailto:post82@whidbey.com)

Vice Pres: **Maegen Nix '97**  
e: [maegen.nix@vt-arc.org](mailto:maegen.nix@vt-arc.org)

Treas: **Sarah Self-Kyler '99**  
e: [sarah.selfkyler@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.selfkyler@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **Cecily Walsh '01**  
e: [cesstay@yahoo.com](mailto:cesstay@yahoo.com)

Outreach: **Holly Johnson '82**  
e: [Holly.Johnson@1982.usna.com](mailto:Holly.Johnson@1982.usna.com)

Welcome to July! Dozens of alumnae and WSIG members turned up to the Annual WSIG gathering that was held at the end of the USNA Alumni Leadership Forum. WSIG sponsored one of the talks at the forum. The Sup kicked off the AG with a great update on the stats of women in the brigade. The Sup also lead the discussion on the renewed focus on a Culture of Dignity and Respect as a result of a 2022 SAGR survey. After the 2022 survey, the team at USNA has developed 10 new tools and mechanisms to improve education and create an environment that effectively supports the midshipmen. The idea that a person deserves the right to be in an environment that brings out the goodness of the individual and not survival mode was a great takeaway from the day. The weekend kept going with a happy hour at McGarvey's and a Firstie Brunch on Sunday. We will continue to have the AG with the leadership forum next year and we hope more of you can join in person.



## USNA Finance Professionals

Pres: **Peter Martenson '92**  
e: [peter.martenson@gmail.com](mailto:peter.martenson@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **Rocky McMurray '92**  
e: [rockymcmurray92@gmail.com](mailto:rockymcmurray92@gmail.com)

The USNA Financial Professionals SIG is excited to be partnering with the *Women's Shared Interest Group* (WSIG), in conjunction with the *Naval Academy Minority Association* (NAMA), *Naval Engineering and STEM Advocates* (NESA) SIG and USNA Alumni Association & Foundation to present the first annual STEM

### Tips For Submitting *Shipmate* Columns For Chapters and Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)

For the complete guidelines visit:  
<https://www.usna.com/Shipmate-Guidelines-Classes-Chapters-SIGs>

\* Only submissions from designated **Chapter** and **SIGs** *Shipmate* correspondents will be accepted.

\* **Email** your stories directly to the *Shipmate* contact for the respective Chapter and SIG.

\* **Clearly label the email "Subject" line.**

*Chapter example:* Puget Sound Chapter October submission

*SIGs example:* Run to Honor October submission

\* **Wardroom Etiquette:** Please refrain from discussing politics, religion, sex or race.

\* If you have questions or concerns, please contact the *Shipmate* editor.

\* **Photo Requirements:**

**Photo resolution:** 300 dpi

**Photo files accepted:** JPG or TIFF - Attach files to email; 10 MB per email.

**Label photo files clearly and include caption if appropriate.**

*Chapter example:* New Orleans Photo #1 John and Susie attended Army-Navy game;

*SIG example:* Run To Honor Photo #1 John and Susie at the finish line.



Postie and Superintendent VADM Davids

We are continuing the preparations for the 50 years of USNA women and we are looking for volunteers. Please send Postie an email ([post82@whidbey.com](mailto:post82@whidbey.com)) and she will add you to the committee. We look forward to the great collaboration of all of our classes. USNA

Survivor Advocacy Network continues to work to support fellow alumnae. Please check the USNA Alumni website under WSIG for the latest events



Follow us on facebook



# 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

**Sidney Rose '44**  
28 April 2024

**Stanley Platt Gary '47**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
10 June 2024

**John Calvin Dyer '48**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
9 December 2023

**Frank Edward Lally Jr. '48 ■**  
13 May 2024

**John Carver LeDoux '48**  
CDR, CEC, USN (Ret.)  
27 June 2022

**Eugene Worth Mulligan '48**  
10 June 2024

**Harold Frank Skelly '48**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
3 October 2021

**William Littell Bryan '49**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
1 May 2024

**James Vercelli Ferrero '49**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
25 January 2023

**Daryle Elwyn Tripp '50 ■**  
Maj Gen, USAF (Ret.)  
1 May 2024

**Andrian Kremm '51**  
LT, USNR (Ret.)  
30 May 2024

**Lawrence Radkowsky '51**  
12 October 2023

**Michael Stanley Shetty '51**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
19 November 2023

**William Edward Hilfrank '52**  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
27 May 2024

**George William Lester Jr. '52 ■**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
25 February 2024

**Arthur James Carpenter '53**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
9 April 2024

**Hugh Wilbert Higgins '53 ■**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
6 June 2024

**Robert Edwards Northrop '53**  
LT, USNR (Ret.)  
20 April 2024

**Augustus Wright Watkins Jr. '53**  
2 May 2024

**Christos Zirps '53 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
9 April 2024

**Jay Ray Smith Jr. '54 ■**  
CDR, SC, USN (Ret.)  
25 May 2024

**William Alison Anders '55**  
Maj Gen, USAFR (Ret.)  
7 June 2024

**William Alois Bair '55**  
CDR, CEC, USN (Ret.)  
7 May 2024

**Robert Louis Boyd '55**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
16 May 2024

**Laurence Hill Grimes Jr. '55**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
6 May 2024

**Donald James Loosley '55**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
10 May 2024

**Philip Oliver Jr. '55 ■**  
CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret.)  
1 May 2024

**Richard Arthur Ruth IV '55**  
LCDR, SC, USN (Ret.)  
8 May 2024

**Donald Lee Sturtz '55 ■**  
RADM, MC, USN (Ret.)  
15 April 2024

**Donald Leroy Dudrow Sr. '56 ■**  
4 June 2024

**Albert Lawrence Granger '56 ■**  
22 June 2024

**Charles Creighton Christopher Hackeling '56**  
24 May 2024

**Richard Anthony Mozier '56**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
27 April 2024

**Wayne Robert Osgood '56 ■**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
9 April 2024

**Harold Lawrence Smith '56**  
22 April 2024

**Hanson B. Taylor Sr. '56**  
23 April 2024

**Harold Douglas Barker '57**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
2 June 2024

**Parke Lewis Brown Jr. '57**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 March 2024

**Francis Joseph Fendler Jr. '57**  
18 April 2024

**William McEwen Mickle '57**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
10 May 2024

**John Barela Ogas '57**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
21 April 2024

**John Wallace Russell '57 ■**  
12 May 2024

**Edwin Knapton Whiting '57**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
31 May 2024

**Bruce Llewellyn Craig '58 ■**  
5 August 2023

**Victor Irvin Fredda Jr. '58 ■**  
4 June 2024

**Francis Hisaichi Keliinohoponoponi Hasegawa '58**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
4 June 2024

**John Bryant Hulme '58**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 May 2024

**Robert Henry Mason '58**  
5 April 2024

**Jason Francis Mayhew '58**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
5 December 2023

**George Robert McNulty '58 ■**  
11 April 2024

**William Dyer Pivarnik '58**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
18 May 2024

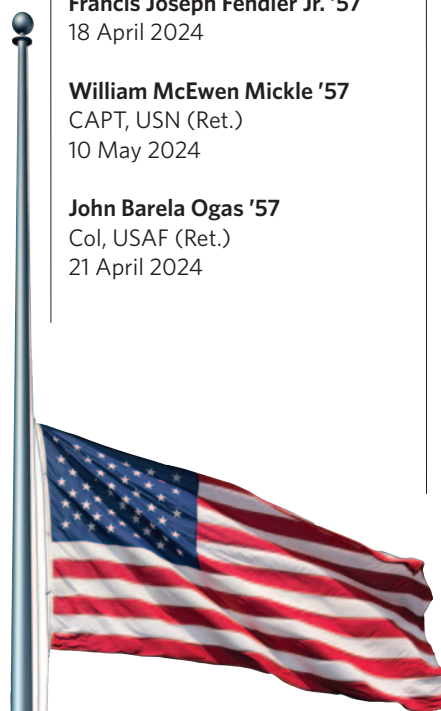
**Philip Harley Taylor '58 ■**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 May 2024

**Louis Samuel Cohen '59**  
11 June 2024

**Charles Earl Cole '59**  
25 May 2024

**William Earl Held Jr. '59 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
21 April 2024

**David Henry La Cagnina '59**  
28 April 2024



■ *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.*

**Timothy Haigh Marvin '59** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
26 April 2024

**William Bernard McAree II '59**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
16 May 2024

**Charles Gregory Nolan '59**  
6 May 2024

**James Eugene Alwood '60**  
3 May 2024

**John Edward Blum '60**  
11 May 2024

**Robert Jackson Brenton '60** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
23 May 2024

**Peter Gordon Chabot '60** ■  
RDML, USN (Ret.)  
27 May 2024

**Jon David Harden '60**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
2 January 2024

**William Mills McDonald '60**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
5 May 2024

**Lucian Bradbury Purinton II '60**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
15 May 2024

**Joseph Anthony Baldwin '61**  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
15 April 2024

**James Vernon Cavanaugh '61**  
9 March 2024

**Robert Noel Giuffreda '61** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
17 May 2024

**William Costa Jeas '61**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
2 May 2024

**David Gallimore Powell '61**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
1 June 2024

**James Dow Rattan '61**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
24 April 2024

**Randolph Brearly Totten II '61**  
23 April 2024

**Bertrand Reeves Wittmann '61**  
2 March 2024

**Charles Jackson Batts '62**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
22 April 2024

**Harry Dean Cooke III '62**  
5 April 2024

**Richard Francis Ginieccki '62**  
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)  
8 May 2024

**Martin John O'Brien '62** ■  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
29 April 2024

**Donald William Rhodes '62**  
4 June 2024

**Joseph Lewis Rossi '62**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
14 March 2024

**Millard Jefferson Searcy Jr. '62**  
23 May 2024

**John Francis Cook Jr. '63** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
3 June 2024

**Robert Woodrow Lyons '63** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
4 May 2024

**Thomas Hayes Miller '63** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
21 April 2024

**Crawford Warick Scott '63**  
11 May 2024

**Jason Kidder Sr. '64**  
21 May 2024

**William LeRoy Messmer Jr. '64**  
22 May 2024

**Michael O'Reilly Tackney '64**  
4 May 2024

**Hernan Luis Gonzalo Villalba '64**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
19 May 2024

**Paul Edward Girard '65**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
15 March 2024

**Geoffrey Jackson Groves '65**  
15 May 2024

**Claude Cleo Lumpkin III '65** ■  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
24 April 2024

**Robert Donald Bowenkamp '66**  
LCDR, USN  
11 May 2024

**Patrick Joseph Dennis '66**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
8 May 2024

**Ralph Ray McCumber Jr. '66**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 April 2024

**Patrick Michael Muldoon '66**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
27 May 2024

**Alan Michael Roodhouse '66**  
23 March 2024

**Thomas Glenn Harrison '67**  
2 June 2024

**Richard Wayne Kirtley '67**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
26 May 2024

**Robert Raphael Ryan Jr. '67** ■  
20 May 2024

**José Cano '68** ■  
2 April 2024

**Arthur Jay McLaughlin '68**  
21 April 2024

**John Ernest Russ III '68**  
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)  
24 May 2024

**Thomas James Belichick '69**  
17 May 2024

**William John Boese '69** ■  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
10 April 2024

**James Charles Higgins III '69**  
9 January 2024

**Michael Owen Jones '69**  
LCDR, USN  
8 May 2024

**Ingo Alfred Lahnemann '69**  
12 May 2024

**Kenneth Eugene Lange '69**  
26 March 2024

**Robert Francis Stoss '69**  
26 December 2023

**William Howard Steussy '70** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
12 June 2024

**Raymond Thomas Miller '71**  
3 May 2024

**Edward Joseph Reeve '71** ■  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
30 May 2024

**Richard Warner Taylor '71** ■  
5 April 2024

**Stephen Christian Miller Jr. '72**  
27 May 2024

**Donald Max Mills '72**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
31 May 2024

**John Francis Timony '72**  
28 May 2024

**Gary Lee Chetelat '73**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
28 May 2024

**Michael John Dougherty '73** ■  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
6 June 2024

**Charles William Driest '73**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
5 June 2024

**Allen Ross Hansen '73**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
13 April 2024

**Edward Joseph Novicki '73**  
23 April 2023

**Dudley Miller Outcalt '73** ■  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
29 May 2024



# LAST CALL

**Charles Hoomes Beale III '74**

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
28 April 2024

**Dee Hart Howard '74**

16 February 2024

**Ronald Earl Wagner '74**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
7 June 2024

**Dean Bradley Lahren '75**

1 June 2024

**Keith Michael Zwingelberg '75**

CDR, MC, USN (Ret.)  
25 May 2024

**Peter Martin Caulk '77**

CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
25 April 2024

**David Ingersoll Paist '77**

26 May 2024

**Michael James Crum '78 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
2 March 2024

**Clay Bradford Jackson Jr. '78**

1 April 2024

**Jeffrey Robert Neulon '78**

16 April 2024

**Charles William Gittins '79 ■**

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
17 May 2024

**Thomas Lee Stambaugh '80**

17 April 2024

**Joan Marie Farnett Brown '81**

12 April 2024

**Arthur Wilson Scrivener '81**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
17 May 2024

**Robbin Alan Russell '84**

22 April 2024

**Albert Leonard St. Pierre '84**

29 January 2024

**Adrian Anthony Sanchez '86 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 April 2024

**Dana Dale Ruge '87**

LT, USN  
20 April 2022

**Hugh Joseph Huck III '90**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
19 January 2024

**Jonathan Richard Kirsch '95**

6 April 2024

**Jason Frederick DeGroot '99**

CAPT, USNR  
28 May 2024

**Jordan Michael Lynch '06**

1 June 2024

**Jalynn Tatum '06**

5 February 2024

**Julian Holland Brown III '19**

LT, USN  
15 August 2023

**FRANK EDWARD LALLY JR. '48**

"Bud" Lally died on 13 May 2024 in Louisville, KY. He was 98 years old.

Born on 26 April 1926, Bud grew up in Louisville and attended the University of Louisville's Speed Scientific School in mechanical engineering before being appointed to the Naval Academy by Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley.

Upon graduation in 1947 with the Class of 1948, he received a Reserve commission and was put on inactive duty because of his vision. Returning to Louisville, he enrolled again in Speed School and joined an organized Naval Reserve unit. He graduated first in his class in 1948 with another degree in electrical engineering and joined the Bernheim Distilling Co., a subject close to his heart from his midshipman days.

Bud was recalled to active duty in 1951 during the Korean War. This time, the medical officer disqualified him because of a congenital back problem that, had they known, may have disqualified him from USNA. Shortly after this, Bud joined General Electric Co., which was building a huge manufacturing complex in Louisville for major appliances. He spent the next 35 years in various engineering and management assignments at Appliance Park. The most interesting of these assignments was as product manager for the development and design of the world's first automatic electric self-cleaning oven, one of the most significant innovations in appliance history.

He retired from GE in 1986 and spent his retirement years in a variety of volunteer jobs, church work, tennis and repairing the homes of his children.

Although Bud never served on active duty, he was a life member of the USNA Alumni Association, chairman and secretary of the Louisville Chapter and served as a Blue & Gold officer in the Louisville area. He resigned from the Blue & Gold program only when his poor hearing interfered with his interviews.

Bud was predeceased by his wife and best friend of 75 years, Dolores, whom he met on a blind date on his 1/C Christmas leave. He is survived by their five daughters, Kevin Stemmler, Kathleen Towsley, Brigid Blocker,

Maura Hazard and Maggie Lally; two sons, Patrick and Michael Lally; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass took place at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Louisville on 20 May 2024. He was buried in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery.

FEL '48 ★

**VICTOR VIVIAN SHARPE JR. '48**

"Vic" Sharpe, 98, died on 7 February 2024 in Grand Junction, CO, after a long illness.

Vic was born on 7 November 1925 in Tampa, FL, to Victor V. and Evah Kennedy Sharpe. He graduated from Florida Military Academy and briefly attended Duke University. He loved the water and any and all vessels upon it, so the United States Navy seemed a natural career for him.

On 6 June 1947, he graduated from the Naval Academy, was commissioned as an ensign, and married Joan Gaudynski that same day, a common wartime custom. Following a shipboard tour, Vic was honorably discharged in August of 1949 and returned to Tampa with his bride and their baby girl, Sara. A son, Victor III, followed a few years later. Vic loved the Navy and deeply regretted that the needs of his family's business and the end of the war cut his Navy career short.

A second marriage in 1957 to Gaynell McKenzie produced another son, James "Jim" Sharpe. Sadly, Jim preceded Vic in death in 1995.

Vic married the love of his life, Faye Branham of Raleigh, NC, in 1971. They were happily married for 49 years, until her death in 2020.

Vic made a successful career with the family business, Sharpe and Company Cadillac, the second oldest automobile dealership established in Tampa. His success in business allowed him to follow his passions for most of his life. He loved anything fast, whether on land, on the sea, or in the sky, and his hobbies included auto racing, airplane building and flying, and motorcycle touring. Vic's Crosley Hot Shot won the first race at

Sebring, FL, in 1950. He and Faye built an 80x20-foot motor yacht to live on using a shrimp boat hull. Both were seasoned pilots and over the years, owned a number of airplanes. Vic was particularly proud of the two planes he built himself, one of them with his son, Jim. Vic and Faye were enthusiastic members of the USNA RV Come-Around group for many years.

Vic is survived by his daughter, Sara E. Sharpe of Grand Junction, CO; son, Dr. Victor V. Sharpe III (Sandy) of Anaheim, CA; stepchildren, Philip "Hapi" McKenzie (Patty) and Lloyd "Thumper" McKenzie (Maggie); seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Per his wishes, Vic was cremated, and his ashes will be scattered in the Gulf of Mexico, a place he deeply loved.

Please visit ([www.tinyurl.com/Vic-Sharpe-1948](http://www.tinyurl.com/Vic-Sharpe-1948)) for his full obituary. ★



**DARYLE ELWYN TRIPP '50**

Major General Daryle E. Tripp, USAF (Ret.), 96, passed away on 1 May 2024 in Fort Belvoir, VA.

Born in Hornell, NY, Daryle graduated from high school (1945) and attended Alfred University before graduating from the Naval Academy (1950).

After commissioning into the U.S. Air Force, Daryle entered navigator training, receiving his Wings in February 1951 and a follow-on assignment to navigator-bombardier training.

His first operational assignment was the 47th Bombardment Wing (B-45s) until transferring to Royal Air Force Station Sculthorpe, England. After three years with the 85th and 86th Bombardment Squadrons, he transferred to the 345th Bombardment Group, crewing B-57s and B-26s until entering basic pilot training in July 1955. Upon completion, he remained in-place as a B-25 and T-33 flight instructor.

From there, he served as flight commander and commandant of cadets, becoming aide to the commandant, Air Force Institute of Technology.

Entering Harvard Business School, Daryle earned an MBA and was elected a Baker Scholar in 1964.

Daryle was a plans officer on the YF-12 and Airborne Warning and Control System programs (1964-1968), serving in the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans (NORAD).

Upon completing A-1 Skyraider crew training, he was assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand as deputy commander for operations of Sandy-Jolly Green combat rescue forces. He flew nearly 500 combat hours, and in December 1969, directed the largest successful air rescue effort in the Southeast Asia conflict.

From 1970 to 1977, Daryle's assignments included Directorate of Plans, HQ USAF, serving as assistant for Joint and National Security Council and deputy director of Plans for Force Development; HQ Air Training Command as deputy chief of staff for technical training and deputy chief of staff for plans. From 1978 through 1983, he served as deputy director of plans, HQ USAF; deputy chief of staff for plans, HQ USAF, and vice director for plans and policy, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retiring from active duty on 1 August 1983.

As a command pilot, navigator, bombardier and radar observer with nearly 5,000 flight hours, General Tripp's military decorations/awards include the Legion of Merit (OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Air Medal (6 OLC) and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Predeceased by his wife, Audrey, and sons, Robert and Raymond, Daryle is survived by his son, Richard (Connie); grandchildren, Daryle II, David, Alexis and Brianna; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery (date/time TBD). ★



**GEORGE WILLIAM LESTER JR. '52**

Colonel George W. Lester Jr., USAF (Ret.), died peacefully on 25 February 2024 after a brief illness.

George was born in Monroe, LA, to George and Erie Lester. After graduating from high school in Monroe, he attended New Mexico Military Academy in Roswell, NM, to get necessary credits to attend the Naval Academy. A proud member of the USNA Class of 1952, he personified their motto, *Tough Shoes to Fill*.

After graduation, he was stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS, where he met the love of his life, Virginia. They were married in May 1953 and enjoyed 66 blissful years together.

George served in the Air Force as an electronics officer during the Korean War and at Strategic Air Command in Rapid City, SD, where his sons, Bill and Jim, were born. His career advanced during a posting at Stanford University and Moffett Field in Palo Alto, CA, during which time his daughter, Anne, was born. The family moved to Montgomery, AL, in 1964 for a year, then settled in Arlington, VA, where George completed his Air Force career at the Pentagon.

A graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Ft. McNair, George worked for years in the office of Defense Department Research and Engineering, where he was a member of the Association of Old Crows. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked for the CIA and Calspan.

George loved reading, running, sailing, genealogy and traveling to visit family in Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. He volunteered for many years as an officer of the USNA Class of '52, proud of their commitments and achievements. George and Virginia, along with their son, Bill, enjoyed planning and attending many class get-togethers, luncheons, tailgates and even Zoom meetings, keeping in touch after retirement. Most recently, George attended his 70th Class reunion in Annapolis.

Predeceased by Virginia in 2017, they are survived by three children, Bill Lester, Jim Lester (Margie) and Anne Stancil (Chris); his niece, Missy Frye; nephew, Jeff Thompson; and four grandchildren, Katie Perkins (Charles), Brian Lester, Scott Stancil and Tyler Stancil.

His quick wit, probing questions, loyalty, problem solving and competitive spirit will be a part of him forever with us.

He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in George's name to a charity of the donor's choice.

*The Lester Family* ★



**HUGH WILBERT HIGGINS '53**

Commander Hugh W. Higgins, USN (Ret.), died on 6 June 2024 in Panama City, FL, after a seven-year battle with dementia. Throughout his 93 years, "Pete" (as he preferred to be called), led an exemplary and admirable life. He will be missed by all who love him - an infinite example of an unselfish life for his family, friends and country.

Pete was born in the northern Buffalo suburb of Tonawanda, NY, on 23 January 1931, the second of five children born to Frank and Catherine Higgins. In 1950, Pete accepted a prestigious appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

After receiving his commission with the Class of 1953, he first served on the troop transport BAYFIELD (APA-33). Pete then attended Submarine School in New London, CT, and served as a submariner for more than ten



## LAST CALL

years on REDFISH (SS-395), RONQUIL (SS-396), POMODON (SS-486) and THEODORE ROOSEVELT (SSBN-600).

After earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1964, the Navy assigned Pete to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME, where he supervised the building and repair of all submarines. He began his last tour of duty in 1970 at the Naval Coastal Systems Laboratory in Panama City Beach, FL, which also hosted his retirement ceremony in 1975.

Pete began the second phase of his career in private industry, working as a pharmaceutical plant engineer. Later in life, Pete kept active working as an adjunct college professor and as a lector and volunteer for the various Catholic parishes to which he belonged.

Pete was preceded in death by his high school sweetheart and wife of more than 40 years, Zeta May (Lozo) Higgins, and his brother, Francis Higgins. He is survived by his brother, Richard Higgins; sisters, Diane Gilhooly and Kathleen Holbrook; six children, Patrick Higgins, John Higgins, Susan Thomas, Hugh David Higgins, Anthony Higgins and Daniel Higgins; 15 grandchildren, Colin Higgins, Patricia Lynn Prather, Hugh Higgins, Kathrine Higgins, Emily Higgins, Christine Luka, Jacquelyn Chastain, Jenna Lee, David Joseph Higgins, Andrew Higgins, Abigail Higgins, Madalyn Ely, Connor Higgins, James Michael Higgins and Emmett Higgins; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Pete's ashes will be interred with his late wife, Zeta, during a private family ceremony at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala, FL.

*The Higgins Family* ★



### JOHN ROBERT MUHLIG JR. '53

Lieutenant Colonel John R. Muhlig Jr., USMC (Ret.), an ordained minister and resident of Hoover, AL, passed away on 8 February 2024. He was 93 years old.

"Bob" was born on 12 September 1930 in Goodlettsville, TN. Upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1953, he married "the girl next door," Mary Anne Ross. Bob went on to enjoy a 20-year career in the Marine Corps, serving in supply. He served in

two overseas deployments to Japan/Okinawa in 1955-1956 and Vietnam in 1966-1967.

After 20 years in the Marines, Bob followed God's call to attend Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and enjoyed a variety of church and seminary ministries in the following 30 plus years.

One of Bob's proudest moments was when the USNA class of 1953 served as the "link in the chain" for the Class of 2003. At their graduation, he counted it an honor to hand the diplomas to his grandson, Rob Franklin, and his soon-to-be granddaughter-in-law, Katherine Groenenboom and their respective Companymates.

Predeceased by Mary Anne in 2012, they are survived by two daughters, Pat Burton (Dan) and Beth Henderson (Steve); seven grandchildren, Rob Franklin '03 (Katherine '03), Mary Beth Thomas (Andrew), Beau Fitzgerald (Mark), Kate Johnson (Ben), Michael Henderson, Susie Manco-Johnson (Mike) and Sean Henderson; and five great-grandchildren, Audra, Esther, Lisette, Anna and Owen.

Services were held in Hoover, AL, on 12 February 2024, followed by interment at Southern Heritage Cemetery in Pelham, AL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Galleria Woods Foundation attention "chapel ministry." For more information, please visit ([www.galleriawoodsseniorliving.com](http://www.galleriawoodsseniorliving.com)).

*The Muhlig Family* ★



### CHRISTOS ZIRPS '53

Captain Christos Zirps, USN (Ret.), passed away on 9 April 2024.

"Chris" was born in Nyack, NY, in December 1929, and graduated from Nyack High School in June 1947 as a member of the Honor Society. Following attending Westminster College and the New York State Maritime College for a year each, he entered the Naval Academy in July 1949, graduating with the Class of 1953.

He served as a Surface Line Officer on a variety of ships, BALTIMORE (CA-68), WAGNER (DER-539), PRAIRIE (AD-15), FORT MARION (LSD-25) and MOALE (DD-693); ComDesRon 20 staff; and as commanding officer of WARRINGTON (DD-843). Shore tours included the Naval Academy, OpNav, ComCruDesLant, MACV in Vietnam, and as commanding officer of Naval Personnel Program Support Activity at BuPers. Aside from a BS in Naval Science from the USNA, he earned an MA in International Relations from American University and was a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal and Navy Commendation Medal.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1980 after 26 years of service, Chris consulted for the Naval Sea Systems Command on mine warfare, passive sonar and foreign military sales programs with EG&G and Vreedenberg for 18 years, finally retiring fully in 1994.

Chris served as president of the USNA Class of 1953 for several terms and was instrumental in coordinating the funding for the Class of 1953 Memorial Plaza at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and the follow-on Class of 1953 Memorial Plaza Maintenance Endowment Fund. He was also involved in coordinating the enhanced display of the BALTIMORE (CA-68) bell and the BALTIMORE (CA-68) Scholarship Endowment Fund at the University of Baltimore.

Chris also served as president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Hellenic Institute for six years and president of the New York State Maritime College Class of 1952 for two years.

His caption in the 1953 *Lucky Bag* described him perfectly as: "Chris ... good humored, versatile, and an encyclopedia of jokes... King of the tin soldier industry ... Always had a big smile and good word. Whatever he did was done well."

Chris was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Christina, in 2012. He is survived by their three children, Christopher, Nora and Thomas Zirps; and five grandchildren, Melissa, Benjamin, Asa, Arlo and Zia.

*CZ '53* ★



### CARL LYMAN MASTER JR. '54

Commander Carl L. Master Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully at his home in Virginia Beach, VA, with his family by his side, on 27 January 2024. He was 92.

He was born in Franklin, PA, on 2 June 1931 to Carl L. and Elizabeth Master and raised in Oil City, PA.

Carl's great passion in his youth was airplanes. He spent summers from age 13 to high school graduation working at Splane Memorial Airport.

He progressed from mowing lawns and washing airplanes, to becoming a fully licensed pilot on his 16th birthday. He had many stories of being the kid who hung the air mail bag from the pylons to be hooked and picked up.

After graduating from Oil City High School, he attended The Hill School for a year, then entered the Naval Academy, where he graduated

with the Class of 1954. He served at sea and ashore, including a year in Saigon, and retired from the Navy in 1977.

He then started a second full career as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, retiring in 1998.

Carl married Carolyn Mandell on 30 November 1963, and they recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They settled in Virginia Beach after his last Navy tour and ultimately built their dream home on the Lynnhaven River. They were very active with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and loved annual trips to Chautauqua, NY, and Sanibel Island, FL, as well as extensive travels with friends to the Holy Land, many European cruises, river travels in China and Russia, and excursions to parts of the United States they hadn't previously experienced.

Above all, Carl cherished his family. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Carolyn; their son, Carl W. Master (Helen); daughter, Kristin Master; and three grandchildren, Kathryn Grau (Geoffrey), Mark M. Slacin and Aidan R. Master.

He was always known as a true gentleman, and he will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held on 17 February 2024 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, followed by interment in the church columbarium. ★



**JAY RAY SMITH JR. '54**

Commander Jay R. Smith Jr., SC, USN (Ret.), passed away on 25 May 2024 in Los Lunas, NM. He was 93 years old.

Born in Kenton, OH, he was the son of the late Jay Ray and Dorothy (Hayden) Smith. He attended The Ohio State University prior to being selected for the Naval Academy in 1950.

On graduation day, 4 June 1954, he married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Hatchett, in St. Andrews Chapel on the Academy grounds.

Jay and Marilyn were among 14 couples married on the Yard that day, and were featured in a special edition of the nationally published *Parade* magazine.

Jay was commissioned in the Supply Corps, retiring in 1976 with the rank of commander.

During his naval career, Jay served aboard PHILIPPINE SEA (CVA-47) and Foss (DE-59); was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, in the Naval Supply Systems Command; had a stint as an Engineering Department instructor at the Naval Academy; and had service aboard PROTEUS (AS-19) in the U.S. territory of Guam in Micronesia. His final duty station was with the Defense Nuclear Agency at Kirkland AFB in Albuquerque, NM.

His academic accomplishments included earning a master's degree in Personnel Administration from The George Washington University, a diploma for Management Data Processing from the Naval Postgraduate School and an MBA from the University of New Mexico.

In 1981, he joined the staff of the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, NM, as a mathematics instructor, leaving there in 1987 to pursue a life-long love of RV traveling. Jay and Marilyn ultimately visited every state, inviting their grandchildren, one at a time, to join them during a special summer of bonding.

When they quit RVing, they built a home in Bosque Farms, NM, next door to their son. There, they joined the Peralta Methodist Church and enjoyed activities with the Bosque Farms Community Center.

Jay is survived by his wife, Marilyn; their four children, Jacqueline Mecklenborg (Lawrence), Jennifer Holzapfel '80 (Jon '67), Tina Smith and Jay Smith (Janice Meek); 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Jay was always especially proud that his daughter, Jennifer, was selected for the first class of women admitted to the Naval Academy.

He was a life member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date, with interment at Grove Cemetery in Kenton, OH. ★



**PHILIP OLIVER JR. '55**

Captain Philip Oliver Jr., USN (Ret.) passed away peacefully on 1 May 2024, at the age of 93, after a lengthy illness.

Born in Providence, RI, on 14 March 1931 to Serafina and Philip Oliver Sr., Philip was a bright and intelligent student. He graduated from East Providence High School in 1948 with honors at the top of his class. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Philip attended Rhode Island

College in Providence for three years prior to accepting an appointment to the Naval Academy.

After his graduation in 1955, Philip furthered his formal education by attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he received a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree and later attended the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned a Master of Science in Nuclear Physics.

During his naval career, Philip served many stateside tours of duty and hardship deployments worldwide, some of which included, Antarctica, Vietnam, Cuba and Diego Garcia. The majority of his career was spent with the Seabees, where he commanded several mobile construction battalions and regiments. He worked in a variety of offices, including those of the Naval Inspector General, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, as well as several naval facilities and public works postings.

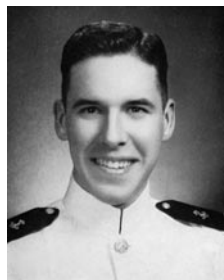
Philip retired from the Navy in 1985. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and many other commendations. Philip was particularly proud of helping to establish the Seabee Memorial at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

Philip loved his family very much and instilled in them the good qualities and virtues that he also lived by. He will be remembered for his immense sense of humor and impeccable memory. He had a keen interest in people and made friends easily. Philip was fiercely independent. While he was reluctant to ask things of others, Philip was always ready to give assistance or make a kind gesture, including the creation of a college scholarship fund for Seabee families.

Philip was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Laurie, in 2020. They are survived by their beloved children (and spouses), Stephanie Fleming (Franklin) and Paul Oliver (Diane); grandchildren, Daniel, Leah, Ryan and Emily; and great-grandson, Geoffrey.

Philip will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, at a date to be determined.

May he rest in peace for all eternity and may his memory be a blessing. ★



**DONALD LEE STURTZ '55**

Rear Admiral Donald L. Sturtz, MC, USN (Ret.), passed away 15 April 2024.

"Don" was born to Walter R. Sturtz and Helene Kubik Sturtz on 18 April 1933 in Coshocton, OH. After graduating from Coshocton High School (1951), he graduated with distinction from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1955.

He and his new bride, Alice McGuire Sturtz, headed for Honolulu, HI, as Don was assigned to RADFORD out of Pearl Harbor. Flight training at Pensacola, FL, followed



## LAST CALL

as Don earned his Wings of Gold (1957). He found it a privilege and thrill to fly the A4D with VA-44 and VA-83 aboard FORRESTAL.

Temporarily leaving active duty, Don graduated from Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania (1965) and trained as a general surgeon at Philadelphia Naval Hospital. After his residency training (1970), he was assigned as ship's surgeon aboard AMERICA. He then had tours as a staff surgeon at Naval Hospital Bethesda (1971-1980); as Chairman of Surgery at San Diego Naval Hospital (1980); XO of Naval Hospital Oakland; and as Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. Being chosen as the first CO of the hospital ship MERCY (T-AH19) for its maiden humanitarian cruise (1986), was a highlight of his career. As a flag officer, he became Commander Naval Medical Command, National Capital Region, Bethesda, MD. Admiral Sturtz's final tour was as CinCLantFlt and SacLant surgeon at NATO Headquarters, Norfolk, VA.

He was a Governor of the American College of Surgeons and served as the Navy representative on the Trauma Committee of the American College of Surgeons.

Upon retirement, he returned to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences as Harrison Shumaker Professor of Surgery, retiring in 2005.

Don and Alice moved to Lewes, DE, in 1997, fulfilling a life-long dream of living in a historic home near the water. Don counted his family as his greatest earthly blessing. Don's life was built upon his relationship with God, on the basis of salvation through belief in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of his sins. His daily desire was "to do God's will and bring Him glory." Dr. Sturtz, who helped lengthen life for many, now rejoices in life eternal.

He is survived by his brothers, Jim and Ken; daughters, Jimalee Humpton (Lyle '81) and Janel Hemmen (Rob); eight grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 65 years, Alice, and brother, David. ★



### **DONALD LEROY DUDROW SR. '56**

Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. Dudrow Sr., USAF (Ret.), of Springfield, OH, passed away on 4 June 2024. He was 90 years old.

"Don" was born on 11 July 1933 in Myanmar, Burma, to LeRoy A. and Mabel (Geiman) Dudrow. As a young boy, he had the unique experience of walking across Burma with his parents and siblings as they fled from attacking Japanese forces. After graduating high school in Xenia, OH, Donald was appointed to the U.S.

Naval Academy, where he graduated with an engineering degree.

After being commissioned as a naval officer, he attended Flight School in Pensacola, FL, where he received the coveted naval aviator Wings.

For his first duty station, he was sent to Port Lyautey, Morocco. He returned to the States in July 1958 to marry Barbara A. "Babs" Beery of Springfield. They returned to Morocco to finish out his tour.

In 1960, he joined VA-85 in Oceana, VA, flying the AD-1 Skyraider off FORRESTAL.

He left active duty in 1962 and went to work for National Cash Register (NCR) as an electronics engineer in Dayton, OH.

Don joined the Ohio Air Guard, flying the F-84 and became a full-time flight instructor. He taught the transitions from F-84 to the F-100 to the A7D. He had transferred his commission to the U.S. Air Force, where he flew attack and fighter jets for 25 years and was squadron commander for the 162 Fighter Intercept Squadron/178th Tactical Fighter Group. He retired as a lieutenant colonel. After his retirement from the Guard, Don opened an auto electric parts rebuilding shop. He did this for many years until his full retirement in 2005.

Predeceased by Babs in 2009, Donald is survived by their sons, Don Dudrow Jr. (Mary) of Cincinnati, OH, and Greg Dudrow (Joelle) of Dallas, TX; grandchildren, Ashley Hopson (Bryce), Joey Dudrow, Michaela Dudrow and Ryan Dudrow (Haley); great-grandchildren, Cooper, Hudson, McKenzie, Emma, Wilder and Bear; and his sister, Dorothy.

A private graveside service with military honors will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Barbara A. Beery-Dudrow Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of The Springfield Foundation ([www.springfieldfoundation.org](http://www.springfieldfoundation.org)).

He will be missed and cherished by all the lives he touched, and his legacy will continue to live on in the people he leaves behind.

*The Dudrow Family* ★



### **ALBERT LAWRENCE GRANGER '56**

Albert L. Granger died of complications related to cancer in Longwood, FL, on 22 June 2024. He was 91 years old.

A native Pennsylvanian, "Al" attended the Severn School in Annapolis, MD, prior to receiving his congressional appointment to the Naval Academy. He graduated with the Class of 1956, 22nd Company, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 1956 to 1950, he served as a Force

Recon platoon leader.

After completion of his military service, Al advanced in corporate management positions, primarily in glass manufacturing (1960-1978). From 1976 to 1985, Al was the owner/manager of Coachworks, an automotive repair franchise and car rental operation in Allentown, PA.

In 1985, Al and his wife, Beth, began the ambitious challenge of turning a Pennsylvania Dutch bank barn and farm buildings into a world class historic inn in Fogelsville, PA, winning recognition as one of the finest country inns in the northeast with 38 rooms, a farm to table restaurant and event space that was highly sought after for both corporate meetings and wedding events. The surrounding acreage was developed into "backhoe" rock garden landscapes with hiking trails and beautiful settings for events of all kinds. Al's wife, Beth, who was a large part of the interior design of Glasbern Inn, passed away in 2006. In 2008, Al married Lura Lenhardt, widow of Henner Lenhardt '56, 16th Company.

Al is survived by his wife, Lura; sons, Larry, Stephen and John; 13 grandchildren; and two brothers, Bill and Bob.

*The Granger Family* ★



### **WAYNE ROBERT OSGOOD '56**

Lieutenant Commander Wayne R. Osgood, USN (Ret.), died on 9 April 2024, surrounded by his beloved family at his home in Ashburn, VA. He was 92 years old.

Wayne was born in Lacrosse, WI, on 3 August 1931, the first child of Wilbur and Zina Osgood. He had one sister, Barbara and two brothers, Gerald "Jerry" and Norman. Wayne started life on his father's dairy farm between Blair and Whitehall, WI. He graduated from Blair High School in 1949, then enrolled in the mechanical engineering curriculum at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. After three semesters, he decided to enlist in the Navy. Shortly after finishing Boot Camp, he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in the Class of 1956.

In June 1956, Wayne married Joan Frederixon. The marriage was blessed with two sons, Wayne R. "Bob" Jr. and William F. "Bill," both of whom were born while he was on active duty in Japan.

After commissioning, he went to flight training in Pensacola, FL, and Hutchinson, KS, receiving his Navy Wings in 1958. He next went to his first squadron, VQ-1, in Iwakuni, Japan. This was followed by the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, where he received an MS in Aeronautical Engineering, as well as being selected to membership in Sigma Xi.

In mid-1969, Wayne began a three-year tour on the Aeronautical Engineering Department staff as an instructor at the Naval Academy. He then became the service representative at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, CT. Wayne retired from the Navy in 1976.

After his Navy retirement, Wayne worked in the private sector, supporting NavAir. In 1991, he completed sufficient course work and was awarded a Master of Science degree in computer science from Virginia Tech.

After his final retirement in 1998, Wayne enjoyed gardening and playing bridge. He and Joan were long-time members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, VA.

Wayne is survived by his wife of nearly 68 years, Joan; his brother, Jerry; son, Bill (Dawn); daughter-in-law, Mary; five grandchildren, Zachary (Melody), Shane, Madison, Ayla and Jeyda; two great-grandsons, Kai and Apollo; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister (and brother-in-law), Barbara (Wayne); brother, Norman; and his son, Bob.

A memorial service was held at Ashby Ponds Senior Living in Ashburn, VA, in early May 2024.

*The Osgood Family* ★

Predeceased by his parents and wife, Peg, Pete is survived by his wife, Robyn; children, Susan Jillice Gills (Michael) and Peter C. Peterson III; and three grandchildren, Lyra, Corporal Raymon Peterson, USMC, and Angelina. ★



**JOHN STUCKEY WILSON '56**

Captain John S. Wilson, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 1 April 2023 in Asheville, NC. He was 89 years old.

Hailing from Centralia, IL, "Jack" was youngest son of John and Madge Wilson. His love of writing and skills in language began to shine in high school with a passion for sports writing for the school paper that continued at Annapolis.

After graduating from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1956, Jack married his OAO sweetheart, Jean Harvey, and continued his education at the U.S. Naval Intelligence School in DC. Over the following 20 years, he completed a variety of assignments and commands in Naval Intelligence, moving from Maryland, to Alaska, to Virginia, and finally, to Connecticut.

After resigning his commission and joining the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program, Jack enjoyed a 25+ year career with IBM Corporation, the hallmark of which was leading a special operations program responsible for intelligence and cryptologic agencies, continuing his passion for supporting the efficacy of Intelligence activities in support of national security.

After leaving IBM, Jack cultivated a passion for mentoring young leaders and entrepreneurs and founded Career Sciences, a management consulting firm specializing in career development and transition programs. In 2001, Jack and Jean moved to Hilton Head Island, SC, where he continued his business and served on the board of many non-profit organizations. In 2018, they moved to Asheville, NC, to be closer to family.

Jack was a committed life-long supporter of the Naval Academy and many non-profit organizations committed to supporting veterans and their families, including Folds of Honor, Tunnels to Towers and the RBC Heritage Classic.

Jack had a markedly sharp mind throughout his entire 89 years. He enjoyed both a passion for and special skill with languages and linguistics. This served his many professional contributions, his love of a rich, focused conversation and his life-long ability to complete the Sunday *New York Times* crossword puzzle - in pen, on his own.

Predeceased by Jean in 2020, Jack is survived by their three children, Thomas, Anne, Linda; and several grandchildren.

*The Wilson Family* ★



**PETER CLAUSON PETERSON JR. '56**

Captain Peter C. Peterson Jr., USN (Ret.), died on 24 October 2023 at his home in Melbourne Beach, FL.

"Pete" was born in Plainfield, NJ, to Peter and Anna Peterson on 12 June 1932, and his early life was spent on a homestead farm. An Eagle Scout and altar attendant, he also excelled in track, wrestling and cross country in high school. Pete enlisted in the Navy to continue his family's sense of service, and to further his

plumbing skills, with the hope of returning to Plainfield to work with his Uncle Evan's plumbing company. However, the Navy soon realized his full potential and he was appointed to the Naval Academy. As a midshipman, he continued running on the track team and cultivating the mischievous spirit that later would endear him to the the men in his command.

After graduation, Pete married Margaret "Peg" Showalter and served as an admiral's aide and flag lieutenant before reporting as engineer aboard JOHN S. MCCAIN (DDG-56). He later commanded DEALEY (DE-1006) and KRAUS (DD-849). As CO, upon returning to port where his family waited, he would fly the #1 flag, meaning "I love you." Other than being with his family, being on a ship's bridge was his greatest love.

Following a 30-year Navy career, Pete worked as a consultant for various Navy projects—from inflatable boats for the SEALs, to naval ship maintenance. After moving to Melbourne Beach in 1993, he became active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and was named flotilla commander, where he helped support NASA and the shuttle program. He was also a safe boating instructor and Blue & Gold officer, interviewing candidates for the Naval Academy. A very active member of Rotary for 25 years, he held various leadership positions, including president, secretary and treasurer. After Peg's passing in 2009, Pete joined a breakfast club, where he met, and later married, Robyn Fisher.



**FRED JOSEPH FEDERICI JR. '57**

Colonel Fred J. Federici Jr., USAF (Ret.), passed away on 14 February 2024.

Born in 1935 in Albuquerque, NM, to Fred and Anna Federici, Fred graduated from Raton High School in 1953. At the Naval Academy, he was in the 19th Company, excelled academically, played on the tennis team and sang in the Catholic choir and glee club, performing with the latter on the Ed Sullivan Show. The *Lucky Bag* described him as having "one of the

biggest, friendliest hearts at the Academy. He was always around when one needed a friend." Outgoing and always quick to make a lifelong friend, that remained true throughout his life.



## LAST CALL

Commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, he earned his Wings in 1958. In SAC, he piloted B-47s (830th BS, 509th BW) and then B-52s (28th BS, 19th BW), flying continuous airborne alert.

He earned a MS in Applied Mathematics from NCSU in 1967, after which he taught mathematics at the Air Force Academy. Deploying to Vietnam (January 1970-April 1971), he served as a C-7A Caribou PIC and wing officer controller in the 457th TAS/483rd TAW at Cam Ranh Bay AB.

Post-Vietnam, he resumed teaching at Colorado Springs. As the department's personnel officer, he helped recruit the first female mathematics instructors after correctly anticipating that service academies would soon welcome female cadets. He ended his flying career with 4,500 hours in the B-52, B-47, C-7A, T-29 and T-33.

Serving at the Pentagon from 1974-1978, he played a key role in gaining approval for the B-1, E-3A, F-15, F-16 and A-10 aircraft.

In 1978, he was assigned to SHAPE, where he developed strategic plans and policy for NATO. In 1981, he was selected as Commandant, NATO School, in Oberammergau, Germany, where he helped establish the International Friendship Club, which still exists. His final assignment was as USEUCOM liaison officer to NATO HQ, AFCENT, Brunssum, Netherlands, where he was recognized as a "Chevalier" of International Diplomacy.

Colonel Federici retired in June 1987. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Distinguish Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and Bundeswehr Cross of Honor (Silver).

He is survived by his wife, Jinny; children, Tara (Jeff), Fred III (Karen) and Todd (Erin); and seven grandchildren.

Burial details are available at ([www.stoverfuneralhome.com](http://www.stoverfuneralhome.com)).

Memorial donations may be sent to the Air Force Aid Society ([www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)). ★



### JOHN STEPHEN MCKEAN SR. '57

Lieutenant Colonel "Steve" McKean, USAF (Ret.), passed away on 27 March 2023 in Anchorage, AK. He was 89 years old.

Born in Gallipolis, OH, he was the son of William and Della McKean. In high school, he was All State in football and basketball. He attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville prior to earning his appointment to the Naval Academy. At Annapolis, he was known for his skill on the lacrosse field and his dancing ability. For his

entire life, he credited his time at the Naval Academy as the best thing that ever happened to him.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1957, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and married his Academy OAO, Barry Elizabeth Jourlmon. Steve excelled as an Air Force civil engineer and served all over the world. In 1978, he and Barry retired in Anchorage, AK.

After the Air Force, Steve worked for the State of Alaska managing airports and eventually left to start the first home inspection service in the state. He was so well respected in the field, that when the state decided to require a professional license, he was asked to assist in writing the requirements.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed and participated in athletics. Late in life, he was still running and playing racquet sports.

When his health required him fully retire in 2004, he and Barry remained in Anchorage. Over the next several years, they traveled extensively, often to visit classmates and attend the Army/Navy game. Although he served in the Air Force, he was a Navy man from start to finish. He was known in town for 30 years by his "USNA57" license plate.

Predeceased by his parents and his wife, Steve is survived by his children (and their spouses), John "Steve" McKean Jr. (Katie Julien), Melody Stone (Michael), William "Leon" McKean (Tuesday) and Mary Sindorf (Paul); grandchildren, Amanda, Allison, Adriana, Thomas, Willow and Kathryn; and his sisters, Leah and Penny.

Steve was interred at the USNA Columbarium on 7 June 2024, joining Barry, who was interred in 2014.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)) or the Wounded Warrior Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)).

*The McKean Family* ★



### JOHN WALLACE RUSSELL '57

John W. Russell passed away on 12 May 2024 in San Rafael, CA. He was 89 years old.

John was born in Tooele, UT, the son of Florence (Briggs) and John Tyndall Russell. At age 5, his father died, and he and his mother moved to the San Francisco Bay area. He attended Piedmont High School, where he became a notable player on the school's football team. He attended Columbian Prep prior to reporting to USNA in the summer of 1953.

He made the varsity football team in his Second Class year, when Navy beat Ole Miss in the 1955 Sugar Bowl. John famously caused an electrical short in an engineering lab one year, which then cut out power to the entire Naval Academy yard—an accident that made for a great story he enjoyed telling for years to come.

John graduated from Annapolis in 1957, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Jean Coate. After attending flight school in Texas, the happy couple was stationed at Itazuke AFB, Japan, where John flew rescue helicopters and Barbara gave birth to their daughter, Carrie, in 1960.

After leaving the service, John attended Stanford Business School for his MBA. His interest in real estate and an entrepreneurial spirit led him to found The Russell Companies, a commercial and residential development firm he would oversee for 50 successful years before his retirement. Along with his love for flying, John loved the sea and spent many weekends on the San Francisco Bay in his 41' Rhodes wooden sailboat.

Moving to Tiburon, CA, John married Susan Morris in 1971 and became a father again, this time to a son, William, who would follow in his father's footsteps and graduate with the USNA Class of 2003.

Finally finding the love of his life, John married Barbara Thompson in 1993 and became a doting stepfather to Tyler and Tiffany. He lived his remaining days with Barbara in Belvedere, CA, and enjoyed frequent trips to their homes in Donner Lake and in the Sonoma wine country.

John passed away surrounded by a large and loving family. Predeceased by his parents, he survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Carrie; son, William '03; stepson, Tyler; stepdaughter, Tiffany; grandchildren, Kelly, William and John; and great-granddaughter, Nakoa.

A celebration of life was held at the San Francisco Yacht Club on 29 June 2024. ★

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**DONALD LEE CARTY '58**

Colonel Donald L. Carty, USAF (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 7 March 2024 in Seattle, WA.

“Don” was born in Clintwood, VA, on 6 August 1936. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1958 and was commissioned as an Air Force second lieutenant. He entered flight training and earned his Wings at Stead AFB, NV (1960), then spent the next five years flying helicopters at Ellsworth AFB, SD, and Malmstrom

AFB, MT, before attending Navy Test Pilot School at Patuxent NAS, MD. He then served at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, where he was the first Air Force pilot to fly the X-25 Gyrocopter.

In 1969, Don was based at Udorn AFB, Thailand, as a combat search and rescue pilot flying the HH-53 “Jolly Green Giant” to pick up downed air crewmen in Laos. He returned to Wright-Patterson as an experimental test pilot until 1971, when he assumed duties as F-16 program manager at Andrews AFB, MD, and in Iran. While in Iran, Don and some colleagues were arrested and imprisoned by the Iranians when the Shah was overthrown. After many threats, they were released to the U.S. Embassy for evacuation.

Don served as Director of Flight Safety at Andrews AFB; Director of Systems Training at Randolph AFB, TX; Chief, Military Assistance and Advisory Group, Lima, Peru; and Special Assistant to the Commander, Brooks AFB, TX. He retired in June 1988. During his career, Don attended Air Command and Staff School; Industrial College of the Armed Forces; and the Defense Language Institute; and earned a Master of Business from Auburn University.

His awards include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (2), Air Medal (3) and Peruvian Air Cross.

Don worked for BDM Corporation in Saudi Arabia (1988-1991). When he returned to the States, the family settled in Abingdon, VA. He continued working for BDM in McLean, VA, until 1993. He attended the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership in Richmond. He was a member of the Solid Waste Management Board for Virginia and of Civitan International. He did volunteer work for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. During his service and retirement, Don and his family visited over 50 countries. He relished caring for various types of berries he planted around his home in Abingdon and enjoyed the family outings to pick and eat them.

Don is survived by his wife, Patricia Lynne; three children, Jason, Cara and Samuel; four grandchildren; four great-grandsons; and two sisters. ★



**BRUCE LLEWELLYN CRAIG '58**

Bruce L. Craig passed away on 5 August 2023 after a short illness.

Born in San Diego, CA, on 11 March 1934, he graduated from Hoover High School and San Diego City College prior to entering the Naval Academy.

Upon graduating with the Class of 1958, he entered flight training at Pensacola, FL. Upon completion, he received his Wings and went to Officers Maintenance School in Millington, TN,

followed by Replacement Air Group at Moffat Field in Mountain View, CA. Upon completion of training in the F-8U Crusader, he reported to NAS Miramar, where he was assigned to VF-142. Within a short time, the Cuban Crisis arose. The squadron’s designation was changed to VF-141 and they transferred to NAS Jacksonville, FL. While there, the pilots were deployed on the aircraft carrier CONSTELLATION. The duty there was short, and the squadron was transferred back to NAS Miramar, followed by a short deployment to WestPac. The last flight Bruce flew in

the Navy was participating in a seven-aircraft formation that flew over Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1962. He resigned from the Navy in 1963.

In July 1963, Bruce joined Electro Instruments in San Diego, CA, as a digital instrument salesman. He trained in Chicago and at the end of August, was transferred to Philadelphia, PA, where he became the company’s top national salesman. When Electro Instruments was purchased, he was transferred to San Antonio, TX. He still had the yearning to fly, so he decided to apply to the airlines (of which he was accepted by five) and chose American Airlines. He advanced to captain and especially enjoyed the 757, flying many flights to Europe and South America. He retired in 1994.

For many years he played handball. He never lost his love of flying and spent much time flying light aircraft.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 65 years, Claudette; three children, Judith Garoutte (Robert), Alan Craig and Cara Tavenner (Michael); grandchildren, Brandon Craig, Amanda Thomas (Cody), Cody Tavenner, Dalton Tavenner, Torrina Tavenner and Aimee Garoutte; and step-grandson, Brian Garoutte. He was predeceased by his step-grandson, Corporal Erik Garoutte, USMC.

Per his wishes, there were no services. ★



**VICTOR IRVIN FREDDA JR. '58**

“Vic” Fredda Jr. passed away on 4 June 2024 at his home in Orlando, FL, surrounded by his family.

Born in Matawan, NJ, on 13 January 1937, he graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy (1954) and the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1958 (10th Company).

Upon graduation from Annapolis, he served aboard GEARING and ELY as gunnery and executive officer. In 1959, he married Nancy J. Frederickson

from Galveston, TX, the sister of his USNA classmate and best friend, Jimmy Frederickson '58. He studied industrial management at Johns Hopkins University and earned a master’s degree from The George Washington University.

Vic spent most of his career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation at several locations, covering Defense and Space, Construction, Transmission and Distributions, and Power Generation. After 32 years, he retired from Westinghouse in 1994. Not quite ready for retirement just yet, in 1995, he was employed as Manager, MIS for Leisurebay Industries, Inc. for four years; then as Program Director, Siemens-Westinghouse Contractor Staffing for CDI Corp for four years. He also worked at Lucas Landscaping and Nursery before “really” retiring.

Vic was a Christian and a member of the United Methodist Church. He was a past president of Aloma United Methodist Men, as well as a past president of the Orlando District United Methodist Men.

Vic loved to play golf, fish and entertain his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also played several years of competitive handball and non-competitive racquetball. Vic loved languages and studied German, Spanish and Japanese. Vic survived several Midshipman cruises; five years sea duty (including a collision); two years Reserve duty attached to an ASW ready ship (with no great consequences); then, in 1987, while accompanying Nancy on a mission trip to Mexico, their sightseeing boat sank in the Pacific Ocean and they were rescued by a fishing boat with three American sailors on board.

Vic is survived by his wife of 65 years, Nancy; son, Daniel Fredda; daughter, Amy Nolan; grandchildren, Kelly (James), Katie, Kari and Andrea; great-grandsons, Trenton and Jordan; and great-granddaughter, Mackenzie.



## LAST CALL

Funeral services were conducted on 17 June 2024 at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Winter Park, FL, followed by burial with military honors at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Orlando, FL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Florida United Methodist Children's Home Enterprise, FL 32725 ([www.residinghope.org](http://www.residinghope.org)); or to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 100 St. Andrews Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32792. ★



### GEORGE ROBERT McNULTY '58

George R. McNulty passed away on 11 April 2024, surrounded by his loving wife, Peggy, and his family. He was 87 years old.

Raised in an orphanage, foster home and boys group home, George graduated from Cleveland's St. Ignatius High School in 1954 and received a congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was a proud member of the 21st Company. While at Annapolis, he was a member of the Navy lacrosse team

and captain of the sprint football team. He graduated with the Class of 1958.

During his eight years of active naval service, he served as weapons officer aboard the destroyers KEPLER (DDE-765) and EDWARD McDONNELL (DDE-1043). He also taught ASW tactics at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Charleston, SC.

He resigned his commission in 1966 and joined the Northeast Ohio Metallurgical Company as a sales manager. He then went on to receive his master's in international business from the University of Chicago. George had many different careers in his life. He started his own company, PLS Pipeline Services, which he ran for 15+ years. After selling his company, he decided to give back to the community and went on to manage Ohio Boys Town, and later became the director of the USO branch in Northeast Ohio.

George was known for sharing amazing stories, making new friends wherever he went, his infectious laugh, and his big head of curly gray hair.

George was a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, brother-in-law and friend. His happiest moments were sailing around the Great Lakes with his family and friends. He is survived by Peggy, his wife of 42 years; and their six children, George Jr. (Dione), Kathleen (George), Tim (Nicole), Colin (Alice), Chris and Devin (Chris); five grandchildren; and his sisters-in-law, Connie and Francine. He was predeceased by his siblings, Kathleen, William and Leo.

A celebration of George's life was held on 21 April 2024 at the Cleveland Hermit Club, where George and Peggy held their wedding reception 42 years ago. The celebration featured stories, laughter and love for George. In the late summer of this year, George will be interred at the Naval Academy Columbarium. Once that date and time is confirmed, it will be shared with the Class. Friends and 1958 Classmates are invited to attend.

Cheers to you, George! ★



### JOHN LESLIE POTTER '58

Commander John L. Potter, USNR (Ret.), of Benicia, CA, died on 31 March 2024. He was 87 years old.

Born on 27 May 1936 in El Paso, TX, he received his nomination to the Naval Academy from Texas Congressman Reagan. At Annapolis, he was a member of the 19th Company.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1958, he served in LOFBERG (DD-759). After graduating from Submarine School, he served in CLAMAGORE

(SS-343), CAPITAINE (AGSS-336) and on the commissioning Blue crew of MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN-658). In the Reserves, he was commanding officer of Naval Reserve Surface Division 12-31, as well as an oceanography instructor. He retired after 25 years of service.

Following active duty, he entered graduate school at Stanford University and completed two master's degrees, Nuclear Engineering and an MBA. He worked for Pacific Gas & Electric Company, spending most of the next 25 years in the design and operation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

He served as a Blue & Gold officer, interviewing candidates for the Naval Academy for 38 years. For 15 years, he served on the Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees and was a member of the Governance Committee.

John served the City of Benicia as a member of the finance committee and as a member of the Benicia Unified School Board. He supported the Solano County Board of Supervisors as a member of the Land Use Committee. He was an active member of the Benicia/Tula Sister City Program. He was also a commissioner on the Solano County Airport Land Use Commission for 8 years. His love for aviation followed his first flight in El Paso at the age of 13, and he finally had his own aircraft at the age of 50. He participated at Buchanan Airport in the Mount Diablo Pilot's Association since 1975. As president, he established monthly safety meetings and was awarded a lifetime honorary membership by his fellow pilots.

A loyal and supportive father and husband, he was recently admitted to membership in St. Dominic's Catholic Church, having attended services there for 52 years.

John was preceded in death by his first wife, Priscilla (mother of his son, Jeffery). He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judith; children, Jeffery, Christopher, Susan, Deborah and Timothy; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held in St Dominic's Church in Benicia, CA.

*JLP '58 & Taylor Keith '58* ★



### PHILIP HARLEY TAYLOR '58

Lieutenant Commander Philip H. Taylor, USN (Ret.), 91, died on 18 May 2024.

"Phil" was born in Miami, FL, on 30 March 1933. At Sarasota High School, he lettered in basketball, baseball and football. He attended Georgia Tech on a basketball scholarship for one year before enlisting in the Marine Corps, reporting to Parris Island in 1952. Phil received a fleet appointment to the Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1958 (First Company).

The day after graduation, Phil married Sheila Ann McNamee in the Naval Academy Chapel. He completed flight training in Pensacola, FL, and received his naval aviator Wings in December 1959. After his first squadron assignment (VP-45) at NAS North Island, he received a degree in Meteorology at the Naval Postgraduate School. He was a fleet weather forecaster at NAS Kodiak, AK, before moving back to the VP community. He flew a P3B (VP-42) out of NAS Jacksonville. He believed he was the only plane commander in the VP community to photograph a Russian nuclear sub at sea during the Cold War. The photos taken in the Med in 1968-1969 were rushed back to the U.S. for analysis.

Phil returned to the West Coast as the meteorologist on TICONDEROGA (CVS-14). Next, he was attached to the Chief of Naval Air Training Command in Corpus Christi, TX, as student control officer. During his final tour as officer-in-charge of the weather detachment at NAS Meridian, he earned a master's degree with Honors in Political Science from Mississippi State. He retired from active duty on 1 September 1977.

After the Navy, Phil returned to Sarasota and managed three different lumber yards. He was a census enumerator in 2000, and a census staff trainer in 2010. After making retirement homes in Sarasota, Crossville, TN, and Spanaway, WA, Phil and Sheila moved to Havre de Grace, MD, in 2014, where they lived with their daughter and son-in-law.

Phil enjoyed following and attending Navy sports. He was thrilled to attend the Navy-Notre Dame game in Dublin last year, where he proudly displayed his '58 is Great! banner.

Phil is survived by his brother, Frank; sister, Marian; sons, Philip, Timothy (Leah) and Christopher; daughter, Kathryn (Duane); grandson, Matthew; and step-grandsons, Shaun and Brian. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years, Sheila, in 2019.

Inurnment will take place at the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date.

Condolences may be left online at ([www.zellmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.zellmanfuneralhome.com)). ★



**WILLIAM EARL HELD JR. '59**

Captain "Bill" Held, USN (Ret.), passed away on 21 April 2024.

Bill was born on 24 August 1937 in Long Beach, CA, to Margaret (Morrison) and Lieutenant Commander William E. Held Sr., USN (Ret.). The family traveled throughout the U.S. West Coast, Central America and in the Pacific Rim as they followed Bill Sr.'s career. While his father was assigned to the Panama Canal Zone (PCZ), Bill attended Balboa High School, where he met

Pamela J. Muse (daughter of an Army officer), who would eventually become his wife. Their relationship started when Pam invited Bill to the movies with a group of friends one New Years Eve. Following graduation from Balboa High School (1955), Bill earned a Presidential appointment to the Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1959.

Bill's naval career included: a Midshipman cruise to Europe aboard IOWA (BB-61); chief engineer, LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852), Yokosuka, Japan; Boston Naval Shipyard, MA; Naval Warfare instructor, Treasure Island, CA; commanding officer, Naval Support (APL-27), Da Nang, Vietnam; executive officer, KOINER (DER-331), Guam; aide to Admiral F.J. Blouin, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon; commanding officer, HAMMERBERG (DE-1015), Naples, Italy; HAMMERBERG decommissioning officer, Norfolk, VA; commanding officer, DAVIDSON (DE-1045), Pearl Harbor, HI; U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI; Joint Chiefs of Staff, Naval Plans & Policy, Pentagon; CinCPac Fleet, Director ANZUS Region, Camp Smith, HI; and Director Military Operations, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

Upon retiring from the Navy in 1989, Bill and Pam moved to Lake County, CA, where Bill designed and hand-built a home in Scotts Valley and served as a North Lakeport Water Project Manager for two years.

Bill and Pam joined United Christian Parish in 1989. Bill served on committees, including Presbyterian Session, Chair of Coordinating Counsel and Chair of Building & Grounds. Bill helped build homes (20+) with Habitat of Humanity Lake County. Bill was a member of the Lake County Veterans Funeral Honors Team and MOAA, Lake County.

Bill was predeceased by his parents; brothers, Bob and John; and his in-laws, Brad and Val Muse. He is survived by his wife of 61+ years, Pam. Bill liked to joke that he had a girl in every port—always the same girl! Bill is also survived by their children, Christine Held, Katherine Parker (Joseph) and Will Held (Cheri); and grandchildren, Valera, Lauren, Rachel and Christian.

Old Sailors never die, they just sail away. ★



**TIMOTHY HAIGH MARVIN '59**

Commander Timothy H. Marvin, USN (Ret.), passed away on 26 April 2024 at his home in Kure Beach, NC. He was 86 years old.

Born in Cincinnati, OH, on 8 March 1938, "Tim" graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School in 1955. Appointed to the United States Naval Academy, he graduated in June 1959.

Ensign Marvin began his naval career aboard ROBERTS. He earned his submarine Dolphins

serving aboard both fast attack and nuclear ballistic submarines. Reporting as executive officer of the supply ship SYLVANIA, Tim also completed qualification as a surface warfare officer.

During his military career, he was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal and National Defense Medal. During his Navy career, Tim completed his master's degree in international relations at Georgetown University. Commander Marvin's last tour of duty was as executive officer of the NROTC Unit at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Transitioning to civilian life, Tim earned a second master's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University, focusing on mathematics and physics. He taught at Romulus (MI) High School and served as NJROTC commander. After retiring to North Carolina, Tim continued to teach as a substitute teacher.

A lifelong reader, he volunteered at Cape Fear Literacy Council. Volunteer time enriched his life. He especially treasured his time with the members of the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association. Tim also enjoyed gardening, opera and literacy jokes.

A devoted husband and father, a patriot, a strong quiet good man – Tim's spirit remains within us. He was a member of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Wilmington, NC.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen Carr and Louise Scherl Marvin; brother, Stephen Dale Marvin; and sister, Frankie Marvin Peirce. Tim is survived by his loving wife of six decades, Anne Hope; and brother, Terrence Carr Marvin of Milford, OH. His children, Timothy M. (Ellen), Elizabeth Brame (Jay) and Bruce K. (Janet), will miss his guidance, support and unfailing love. Tim will also be missed greatly by his grandchildren, Scott, James, Sadee and Isla.

A memorial service was held on 11 June 2024 at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Wilmington, NC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Cape Fear Literacy Council ([www.cfliteracy.org/donate](http://www.cfliteracy.org/donate)); the Help Center of Federal Point ([www.stpaulscb.org/the-help-center](http://www.stpaulscb.org/the-help-center)); or a charity of your choice. ★



**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM PIERRE NAQUIN '59**

Captain Christopher W.P. Naquin, USNR (Ret.), of Gloucester Point, VA, passed away peacefully on 28 November 2023.

"Chris" was born on 29 June 1935 to Frances (Davis) and then-Lieutenant Oliver F. Naquin '25 in Honolulu, HI, where his father was stationed, serving in early submarines. Traumatic events during his young life included the sinking of the submarine SQUALUS in May 1939, off the coast

of New Hampshire, of which his father was the commanding officer. Chris and his family returned to Hawaii in December 1941 and were there for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the sinking of CALIFORNIA, on which his father served. With his mother and sister, Chris was evacuated



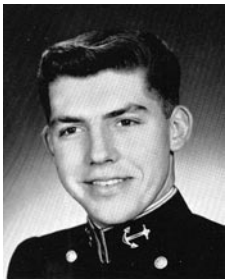
## LAST CALL

from Hawaii on Christmas Day, 1941. He attended schools on both coasts and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy for three years and graduated from American University with a bachelor's degree and a master's in business administration in 1963.

He was employed at the U.S. Department of Transportation for many decades, retiring as an executive developmental specialist, and was instrumental in the development of the three-point safety belt. He remained active in the Naval Reserve and attained the rank of captain.

For over 40 years, he lived with his family at his beloved "Annefield" on Wilson Creek, where he enjoyed landscaping, beekeeping and stewarding the land with his beloved wife, Barbara. His favorite hobby was working in his workshop, where he completed many projects. In retirement, Chris was known for the walnut crosses he made, which he shared with clergy, friends and fellow members of Abingdon Episcopal Church. Much of the wood he used came from a tree that fell in a storm and crushed a portion of the churchyard wall, and for him, the crosses represented the triumph of faith and patience over adversity. Chris was an active member and vestryman at Abingdon with his wife and son, William; it was also where his son, Robert, was married.

Chris was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, the former Barbara Jean Lee; and his parents, Rear Admiral Oliver F. Naquin, USN (Ret.) and Frances D. Naquin. He is survived by his sons, William E. Naquin and Robert J. Naquin (Jennifer Smith Naquin); sister, Lorraine Naquin Tyler of Washington, DC; and grandchildren, Jennings Power Naquin, Olivia Garner Naquin and Ava Grace McLean Naquin. ★



### ROBERT JACKSON BRENTON '60

Captain Robert J. Brenton, USN (Ret.), died of natural causes at his home in Virginia Beach, VA, on 23 May 2024. He was 86 years old.

A native of Western Colorado, "Bob" received his appointment to the Naval Academy from his congressman, Wayne Aspinall. He graduated with his class in June 1960, a member of the 12th Company.

Upon graduation, he began his seagoing career homeported in San Diego, CA, on a

series of destroyers serving in the Pacific. He served on PERKINS (DD-877), HALSEY POWELL (DD-686), Destroyer Division 172 staff and SUTHERLAND (DD-743) as executive officer. These last two destroyer assignments were in support of the Vietnam War, where assignments included shore bombardment, Operation Market Time and off-shore interdiction.

After earning his Master of Science in Electronics Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, CA, and attending the Naval War College in Newport, RI, he served as commanding officer of CALCATERRA (DE-390) in Key West, FL. His next assignment took him to Wilhelmshaven, Germany, as an exchange officer with the Federal German Navy. This was a wonderful assignment for the whole family. He returned from Germany for his last seagoing assignment as commanding officer of AINSWORTH (FF-1090) in Norfolk, VA. His final shore assignments were at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, VA. He served as commanding officer of the Naval Amphibious School and retired in 1985 as Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group.

Bob retired in Virginia Beach and began a small business investing in and renovating residential properties. This segued into a second career as a licensed contractor in residential remodeling. During his retirement years, Bob was active in his church, Bayside Presbyterian. He coordinated

and participated in multiple foreign mission trips, which took him to Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Using his residential construction experience, Bob participated in Habitat for Humanity, and his favorite charity, Faith Works Coalition, doing home repairs for low-income families.

Bob is survived by his wonderful wife of 63 years, Bobbie Y. Wade. They were married in Bobbie's home church in Hagerstown, MD, on 3 December 1960. He is also survived by their beloved children, Rebecca Rawls, Elizabeth Taft and Brian Brenton; eight grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Bob will be cremated and interred in the Brenton family plot in Rifle, CO.

*The Brenton Family* ★



### PETER GORDON CHABOT '60

Rear Admiral Peter G. Chabot, USN (Ret.), passed away on 27 May 2024. He was 86 years old.

"Pete" was born in Putnam, CT, on 20 May 1938 to Allyn Day and Edith (Lucchini) Chabot. He graduated from Meriden High School in Meriden, CT, and graduated with distinction from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960.

Following graduation, Pete served on active duty for 30 years, principally in, and in support of, nuclear submarines. His career included commands at sea and staff tours: SEA DEVIL (SSN-664); Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, ID; Submarine Squadron Ten; manager of NavSea's MK-48 ADCAP Torpedo Program; and Inspector General for CinCLant/CinCLantFlt.

Admiral Chabot was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medal (3). He retired in 1990.

Following his Navy retirement, Pete was employed by BG&E at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Exelon Corporation at Dresden Nuclear Station and the Exelon Regional Operating Group.

In later years, he was an active volunteer at the Naval Academy and within his civilian community. He was a skipper, coach and instructor for midshipmen in the Offshore Sail Training Squadron. He served on the Fales Committee, advising the Superintendent on sailing programs. He maintained close ties with Naval Academy classmates and served as class president for several years.

While residing in Annapolis, Pete sponsored several Naval Academy midshipmen. He was a volunteer EMT, firefighter and officer of the Solomons, MD, Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department for ten years.

Pete was elected to the 1990 Meriden Hall of Fame and was an invited member of the Brotherhood of the Coast (BOC), an international sea-going and social fraternity.

Pete is survived by his wife, Jan; three children, Dr. Jennifer Matteson (Johnny), The Honorable Kimberly Chabot (George Brown) and Charles Chabot; five grandchildren, Ethan and Siena Matteson, Elizabeth Neal, Michelle Chabot (Tabryn) and Kyle Brown; sisters, Deborah Szok (George), Cindy Tencza (Robert) and Sally Varanka (Michael); and sister-in-law, Valerie Chabot. His parents and brother, Allyn Chabot, predeceased him. His former spouse, Susan F. Chabot, resides at Asbury in Solomons, MD.

Inurnment will take place at the Naval Academy at a later date to be announced.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)).

*PGC '60* ★



**ROBERT NOEL GIUFFREDA '61**

Captain Robert N. Giuffreda, USN (Ret.) of McLean, VA, and Charleston, SC, passed away peacefully on 17 May 2024.

“Bob” was born in Brooklyn, NY, one of four sons to the late G. Anthony and Elizabeth Giuffreda. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy on 7 June 1961 as member of the Second Company, he married Jeannette Elizabeth St. Denis the following day at the USNA Chapel.

He received a Master of Science degree in Financial Management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1967. He served in Vietnam as commanding officer of SUTTER COUNTY (LST-1150). He also served as CO of MOOSBRUGGER (DD-980) and WILLIAM H. STANLEY (CG-32), and as Commander, Destroyer Squadron Six. He served the Navy and his Country honorably and with distinction for more than 27 years.

As a civilian, Bob served as executive vice president of Seabrook Island, a resort property in Charleston, SC, until retiring in 2005.

Upon retirement, Bob enjoyed travel, sports, reading and exploring his Italian and Irish heritage. He cherished spending time with his family and his many friends, but most especially his adored grandchildren. He was loved by many and will be missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeannette, and their son, Michael. Bob is survived by his brothers, Joseph Giuffreda (Carolyn) and Richard Giuffreda (Lois); his daughter, Kristen Giuffreda McConnell (David); three grandsons, Nicholas Giuffreda, Robert Giuffreda and William Chapman; and a granddaughter, Jeannette McConnell.

Donations in Bob’s memory may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)); or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society ([nmcrs.org](http://nmcrs.org)).

A memorial service was held at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 11 July 2024.

*The Giuffreda Family* ★



**RONALD ARTHUR BOSS '62**

Captain Ronald A. Boss, USN (Ret.), of Fredonia, NY, passed away on 11 October 2023.

“Ron” graduated from Fredonia High School and received a congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering on 6 June 1962, his first duty assignment was AULT (DD-698), a SUMNER-class destroyer. He later transferred to Newport, RI, to attend SWO School. He was

aboard GLOVER (AGDE-1) during her construction and first year of operation.

At the Naval Postgraduate School, he met his future wife, Sally Webster.

Upon completing his master’s degree, the Navy transferred the young couple to Toledo, OH, where Ron oversaw the building of a ship for the Thai Navy. While there, they started their family with the adoption of two boys, Kevin (4) and David (3), followed shortly after by the birth of James in September 1971. After transferring to the Washington, DC, area, the oldest of his four sons, Eric (7), was adopted in August 1972.

By 1978, Ron had advanced to the rank of commander. He was transferred to Groton, CT, as the supervisor of ship building at Electric Boat, overseeing the building of LOS ANGELES and OHIO-class submarines.

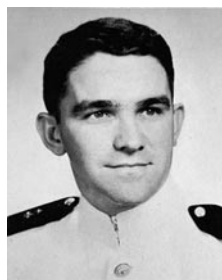
In 1980, he was transferred back to DC with the Naval Sea Systems Command. While working on satellite navigation systems and missile systems, he was promoted to captain. In 1985, he transferred to California as commanding officer of the Naval Plant Representative Office in

Sunnyvale. His last transfer was back to DC, close to his youngest son, who was following in his footsteps at the Naval Academy.

After almost 30 years in the Navy, Ron retired in 1991. He and Sally spent their retirement traveling to Alaska, Australia, Israel and all over the U.S. Twenty-five years after moving to Annapolis, Ron and Sally decided to move to Hudson, FL, and continued to enjoy travelling.

Ron started having trouble with memory issues and was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in May 2023. After a difficult battle against the disease, he went home to be with the Lord on 11 October 2023.

Ron is survived by Sally, his wife of 56 years; sons, Eric, Kevin (Michelle) and Jim '93 (Theresa); brother, Daniel; sister, Debbie Slakes; and five grandchildren, Travis William (Kate), Rebecca Lemmon (Spencer), Travis Arthur, Elizabeth and Christopher; and his great-grandson, Aidan. He was predeceased by his son, David, in 2000. ★



**MARTIN JOHN O'BRIEN '62**

Captain Martin J. O'Brien, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 29 April 2024 in Huntington Beach, CA. He was 84 years old.

A native of Phoenix, AZ, “Jack” graduated from the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad, CA, in 1957. After a year at the University of Arizona, he received an appointment to the Naval Academy by Rep. John Rhodes. He graduated in 1962, as a member of the Class of 1962’s Eighth Company.

He became a naval aviator, reporting aboard VAW-11 Early Warning Squadron at NAS North Island, Coronado, CA. Jack became one of the first pilots from the training command to become a plane commander of the E2A Hawkeye. He spent six years in test and evaluation of the Hawkeye, making one of its first deployments to WestPac and Vietnam aboard RANGER (CVA-61).

Departing active duty in September 1968, Jack became a commercial pilot with Western Airlines. He spent over 30 years flying Boeing aircraft, retiring from Delta Airlines in 1999.

Jack remained in the Navy Reserve, flying S2E anti-submarine aircraft and SP-2H and P3A long range patrol aircraft. He retired from the Reserves in 1989 with the rank of captain, having served in three command billets. Jack accumulated nearly 25,000 accident-free flight hours during his flight career.

Jack is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughter, Alexis; three sons, Marc, Jack Jr. and Jeff; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial services were held by the family in Huntington Beach, CA.

*The O'Brien Family* ★



**JOHN FRANCIS COOK JR. '63**

Commander “Frank” Cook Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 3 June 2024 in Charleston, SC. He was 85 years old.

Frank was born on 16 July 1938 in Thomasville, GA, to Gladys Mayo Cook and John Francis Cook Sr. and was raised in Apalachicola, FL. He was a graduate of Chapman High School, class of 1956, and of the United States Naval Academy, class of 1963.

He was a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy and commanding officer of HENRY CLAY (SSBN-625) before his retirement in 1983.

Frank and Frances returned to Apalachicola, where he served on the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church and on the Apalachicola City Commission.



## LAST CALL

Frank was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Frances Louis Cook; sisters, Frances Cook Porter and Mary Cook Brannon; a son, John Francis Cook III; a daughter, Anne Cook Price (Julian); and two grandchildren, Rowe Price (Madeline) and Eleanor Price.

Funeral services were held on 6 June 2024 at Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, SC.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, Apalachicola, FL ([www.trinityapalachicola.org](http://www.trinityapalachicola.org)) or the Apalachicola Area Historical Society (<https://aahs.wildapricot.org>). ★



### ROBERT WOODROW LYONS '63

Commander Robert W. Lyons, USN (Ret.), died at the age of 84 on 4 May 2024 in Norfolk, VA.

"Bob" was born in Orangeburg, SC, the son of Woodrow W. and Louise Davis Lyons. When just a young lad, Bob would stand by U.S. Route 301 each morning as he prepared the *Times* and *Democrat* newspapers for his delivery route and vow that he would one day go north or south, but he was going to leave. First, he only went a couple hundred miles up the road, where he

spent one year at what at the time was Clemson College. In the spring of 1959, he competed for and won one of Representative L. Mendel Rivers' appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was privileged to attend and graduate with the Class of 1963.

Following his graduation from Annapolis, Bob served at a variety of duty stations. He spent most of his "at-sea" time in destroyers, except for a one-year tour of duty (1965-1966) in-country in Vietnam as officer-in-charge of PCF-94 stationed at An Thoi, Phu Quoc. Following graduation from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, with a Master of Science Degree in Meteorology in October 1972, he became a specialist in meteorology. His final tour was as a member of the faculty and staff at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. He retired from the Navy in June 1985.

After taking six months off, Bob became a senior management engineer for E.L. Hamm & Associates, Inc., in Virginia Beach, VA, from January 1986 until August 1991. After leaving that position, Bob became executive director of the Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., in Norfolk, VA, from September 1991 until April 2009. This was his dream job.

Bob and his wife, Sharon, were married in July 1977. They were blessed to experience deep love and affection for one another and two sons. Bob was a true gentleman who treated everyone with love, respect and kindness, even though his ready wit and dry sense of humor may have caused some to doubt his true intentions.

Along with his wife, Sharon, Bob is survived by his brother, Jimmy Lyons of Aiken, SC; son, Michael Lyons of Alexandria, VA; and aunt, Frances Davis of Bolentown, SC. He was preceded in death by his son, Jonathan Lyons. Quality - '63! ★



### THOMAS HAYES MILLER '63

Captain Thomas H. Miller, USN (Ret.), 83, world traveler, teacher, lifelong scholar, husband and father, died 21 April 2024 in Atlantic Beach, FL.

"Tom" was born on 8 August 1940, in Louisville, KY, to U.S. Marshall Harry Miller and Ann (Keith). He completed a year at Virginia Military Institute, where his "Brother Rats," the rigor, honor and patriotism were great memories. He graduated from the Naval Academy (1963).

He served in the Vietnam War as the lone American advisor onboard a vessel of the Republic of Vietnam Navy.

He married Rosamond Hoyt Heroy on 12 September 1970 in Huntington, NY, while he was a White House aide to President Richard Nixon. Serving in BuPers, Tom was senior action officer on the project to bring women onboard Navy combat ships, during President Jimmy Carter's tenure.

He later commanded ELMER MONTGOMERY (FF-1082) and was awarded an extra year of command. He deployed to the Persian Gulf and commanded the flagship of Commander, Middle East Force. As flag lieutenant to Commander, U.S. Pacific Seventh Fleet, he participated in the evacuation of Saigon (1975) and was one of the last Americans out of Vietnam as the war ended. He served as CNO Admiral Thomas Hayward's personal representative to the Secretary of State, and on the strategic planning staff (Asia) of the CNO, Pentagon and Joint Staff. He was executive assistant to the Assistant CNO, Surface Warfare, in the Pentagon, and later executive assistant to ComUSCinCPac Admiral Ronald Hays, with his flagship homeported in Japan.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal w/Combat V, Navy Marine Corps Medal w/Combat V, Defense Distinguished Service Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

Tom and Ros enjoyed many worldwide travel excursions. They settled in Aiea, HI (1985), where Tom was director of The Pacific Forum, a foreign policy research institute focused on the Indo-Pacific. He then spent 22 years at 'Iolani School in Honolulu, teaching history and later, serving as headmaster.

Upon retiring from 'Iolani (2012), he devoted time studying antiquities and Southeast Asian and tribal art. Recently, he had made donations from his prehistoric and historic art collection to the school.

Predeceased by Ros (2015), survivors include their children, Rosamond Miller Helms (Eric) and William Ward Miller (Dawn Camner); and grandchildren, Sofie and Mukan.

Memorial donations may be made to Kapi'olani Medical Center's playroom ([www.hawaiiapacifichealth.org/kapiolani](http://www.hawaiiapacifichealth.org/kapiolani)).

Services were held on 19 May 2024 at 'Iolani's Saint Alban's Chapel with interment at Punchbowl Cemetery with Ros. ★

### LAST CALL GUIDELINES

*There is no cost and no timeline, however we have a 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](mailto:obits@usna.com) (preferred) or USPS mailed to:*

*Shipmate Obituaries  
301 King George St.,  
Annapolis, MD 21402*

*Questions regarding obituaries, please contact:  
Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury  
410-295-4064 or [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)*



**CLAUDE CLEO LUMPKIN III '65**

Captain Claude C. Lumpkin III, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 24 April 2024 after a valiant 10-week battle against pancreatic cancer.

Claude's father, Lieutenant Colonel Claude C. Lumpkin Jr., USA, was a distinguished 1942 West Point graduate. The family lived in Japan for 6 years and Germany for 3 years. Claude and his mother were on the first ship of dependents to Japan after World War II. Although he wanted

to go to West Point, he received a presidential appointment to the Naval Academy and thus began his naval career. This made for interesting Army/Navy game days. While at the Academy, Claude was in the Third Company during First Class Year.

Following graduation, Claude served in SEDGWICK COUNTY (LST-1123), HULL (DD-945) and HARRY E. YARNELL (DLG/CG-17). After leaving active duty in 1969, he continued in the Naval Reserve and was assigned to units in Norfolk and Jacksonville. Claude also proudly served as a Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer for many years, and he was an active member in the Triad and Triangle chapters of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, as well as an invited attendee of the local West Point Society chapter — but always wearing Blue and Gold.

Claude received his MBA from the University of Louisville and had several jobs that took him to Africa and all over Europe. He retired as a project manager with Lucent Technologies after working in Federal Systems with General Dynamics.

Claude was a man of kindness, integrity and above all, love. He shared his life with his wife, Janis, whom he loved dearly. In addition to Janis, he is survived by son, Rick Lumpkin (Cristina); daughters, Katie Cole (Peter) and Jennifer King (Chris); granddaughter, Emma Clegg (Joe); great-grandson, Elliott Clegg; and brother, Donald Lumpkin (Hazel).

Claude was buried with full military honors at Salisbury National Cemetery in North Carolina. ★



**STEPHEN TIMOTHY QUIGLEY JR. '67**

Captain "Tim" Quigley, USN (Ret.), died on 15 March 2024 in San Jose, CA, after a long illness. He was 78 years old.

Tim was born on 22 September 1945 in Wabasha, MN, to Stephen T. Quigley Sr. and Catherine Langdon Foley. He earned his Eagle Scout and later completed the junior ROTC program at Cretin High in St. Paul. He reported to the Naval Academy in 1963, where he was initially a member of the Eighth Company before spending the majority of his tenure in the 12th Company.

After graduating with the Class of 1967, Tim was certified as a P-3 pilot and spent time with several patrol squadrons, including VP-1, VP-50 and VP-47. With VP-1, he served three combat tours during the Vietnam War. His senior military leadership roles included squadron commander for VP-47; executive assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of NATO Forces Southern Europe and Naval Forces Europe; commanding officer at Moffett Field Naval Air Station; and Director of Strategic Planning and Policy for the Department of the Navy. Tim completed an executive management certification course from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and served as course president for the NATO Defense College in Rome.

After retiring in 1994, Tim returned to San Jose, where he served as a corporate and non-profit executive. Later, he joined the board of Sister Cities International and worked to establish political, economic and

cultural connections between nations. He was particularly active with the San Jose/Dublin Sister Cities Program and helped to establish a master's level scholarship program between the two cities.

Tim is survived by his partner of more than 20 years, Tsuyoshi Hashimoto of Kumamoto, Japan; daughter, Ashley Jardine of Oakland, CA; sons, Aaron Quigley (Jenny) of San Jose, CA, Nathan Quigley (Corinne) of San Francisco, CA, and Joshua Quigley (Tracy Gondo) of Oakland, CA; siblings, Cathy Wicks (Ray) of Woodbury, MN, Mary Stevens (John) of Marshalltown, IA, Eileen Quigley of Silver Spring, MD, Kevin Quigley (Camie) of South St. Paul, MN, and John Quigley of Eagle Rock, CA; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; and his former wife, Mary Lynn Ashburn of Sonora, CA.

A Funeral Mass was held at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in San Jose on 10 April 2024. Interment will follow at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are appreciated to the San Jose/Dublin Sister Cities Program ([sanjosedublin.org](http://sanjosedublin.org)) or Sister Cities International Foundation ([sistercities.org](http://sistercities.org)).

*The Quigley Family* ★



**ROBERT RAPHAEL RYAN JR. '67**

"Bob" Ryan Jr. of Coronado, CA, passed away on 20 May 2024. He was 79 years old.

Born in Dubuque, IA, on 28 April 1945, he was the son of Margaret (Ahrendt) and Commander Robert R. Ryan Sr.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy Class of 1967, he served ten years in the U.S. Navy as an A-7E Corsair II pilot. He completed two tours in Vietnam, both on CONSTELLATION with VA-147 (Argonauts), fol-

lowed by a tour with VX-5 (Vampires) in China Lake, CA, and VA-27 (Royal Maces) on ENTERPRISE.

After his military career, Bob returned to Coronado, CA, with his wife, Margie, and together they raised three children. He ran his own plumbing construction company, followed by a career as a field engineer/inspector with a local engineering firm.

Bob was extremely proud of his years as a Navy pilot and spent the past 13 years volunteering more than 5,000 hours as a docent on the MIDWAY (CV-41) Museum in San Diego, CA. He most enjoyed working on the flight deck, giving the "landings and traps" presentation. With a microphone in hand, he relished sharing (most likely exaggerated) stories of his flying days. He promoted the ship with anyone who would listen and loved handing tickets out to friends and family, never hesitating to give a private tour.

Bob lived life to the fullest and always was the life of the party. He always had a joke to tell, often told on repeat. He was involved in many local social clubs and relished his monthly gatherings with the USNA Class of '67 San Diego Chapter, "Legends in our own Minds." His Annapolis legacy continues with his oldest grandchild, James Cranmer, who was recently inducted into the Naval Academy Class of 2028.

Bob is survived by his wife, Margie; their children, Katie DeMaria (Tyrone), Brigid Cranmer (Tom) and Robbie Ryan (Lindsey); eight grandchildren, James, Alexis and Liam Cranmer, Lauren, Alyssa and Colin DeMaria, and Emma and William Ryan; his sister, Janet Falletta (Tony); brother, Tom Ryan (Kem); and many nieces and nephews. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and younger brother, Dave Ryan.

A Funeral Mass was held on 5 June 2024 followed by interment at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. ★





## JOSÉ CANO '68

With immense regret, we must report the "setting sail to eternity" of a man of the sea, Doctor of Engineering, José Angel Cano De Los Ríos on 2 April 2024.

Starting as a midshipman, he was ultimately promoted to colonel in the Venezuelan Navy. Subsequently, his performance in the Merchant Marines led him to obtain the rank of high captain.

In memory of his brilliant performance, we honor his excellence as a representative of our nation as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, from 1963 until 1966. He went on to graduate from the Central University of Venezuela in 1970 as a hydrometeorologist engineer, then to France from 1981 to 1984 to obtain the degree of doctor in applied geology and hydrogeology. In Japan in 1986, he completed an additional postgraduate degree in river engineering. He obtained one final postgraduate degree in hydrography in Brazil.

Our dear José Cano was a man dearly loved by everyone. His excellent interpersonal relations and special human quality always kept him in the minds and hearts of those who knew him. He was a well-read and knowledgeable academic and a sailor of action. With his examples, he gave so much to so many people around him.

In Venezuela on 4 April 2024, we gathered from all parts of the world to remember the life he lived, as well as the impact he had on those along the way, and to lay him to rest. His deceased and beloved Ángela, his first wife, was present in the thoughts of his current wife, Pilar. He was joined by his children, who accompanied him so often on his worldwide navigations: Joaquín, Andreina, Claudell, Romain, Josnan, Graziella, María, Jhoseany, Gittsel and Anginnet.

José was a man who lived many lives. He faced adversity with the strength of a marine, never wavering from the thought: "I am the master of my fate, the captain of my soul." We will be contemplating the things that incessantly ask us to continue in this world, following that vibrant wake full of teachings that he left. We wish you fair winds and following seas as you transition to all that you deserve. Rest in peace dear brother, father, grandfather, husband and friend.

*María Cano* ★



## EDWARD FRANCIS FISCHER '68

Commander Edward F. Fischer, USN (Ret.), 77, died on 3 March 2024 in Fredericksburg, VA.

Born in New Jersey and raised in Norfolk, VA, Ed joined the Naval Reserve as a high school senior and received a presidential appointment to the Naval Academy.

Upon graduation in June of 1968, a member of the 11th Company, he reported to CORRY (DD-817) in Norfolk, and shortly thereafter, departed on an eight-month deployment to the

Gulf of Tonkin. He next served onboard BRADLEY (DE-1041) and made two further deployments to Yankee Station.

Following these tours, Ed spent three years at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA, pursuing a master's degree in physics, focusing on electro-optics and laser technology. While in Monterey, he married Lieutenant Margaret "Maggie" Zuger, USN, NPS Assistant Administration/Personnel Officer at the time.

Ed next served onboard PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29), and then returned to Annapolis in 1978 as an instructor, teaching a First Class weapons course and spending summers with the YPs. Next, Ed served his final sea

tour onboard SCHENECTADY (LST-1185) as XO, making a WestPac/Indian Ocean deployment.

In 1982, Ed returned to NPS Monterey as an instructor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. In 1986, he moved to Oxnard, CA, and served as Test-and-Analysis Department Head at the Naval Ship Weapons Systems Engineering Station at Port Hueneme, CA. A year into this tour, Ed was transferred a few miles down the road to Pacific Missile Test Center (PMTTC) at NAS Point Mugu, where he served as Surface Weapons Program Manager. He retired from active duty at PMTC in the summer of 1991.

In civilian life, he joined Defense Technologies, Inc (DTI) in 1991, supporting test and development of many of the same Navy systems he had worked with in uniform. After one year in DTI's Ventura office, Ed moved to their Dahlgren, VA, office and his family settled in Fredericksburg, VA. Ed continued with DTI until 2011.

Ed had a lifelong interest in trains and built an extensive model railroad set at home. He was active at various Navy Catholic chapels and as an adult Boy Scout leader.

Ed is survived by his wife of nearly 49 years, Maggie; sister, Marie Straub; son, LCDR Paul Fischer, USN (Ret.); daughter-in-law, Kimberly; and grandsons, Liam and Elias.

A funeral service was conducted on 15 March at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. ★



## WILLIAM JOHN BOESE '69

Lieutenant Colonel William J. Boese, USMC (Ret.), 79, passed away peacefully on 10 April 2024, surrounded by his family at his home in Milford, IA.

"Bill" was born on 3 August 1944 to Burdette "Buzz" William and Helen Mary (Trainer) Boese in El Paso, TX, where his father was stationed with the Army. After Buzz's service, the family returned home to Webb, IA, where Bill grew up helping his grandpa on the county road grader

and his dad at the local gas station. Bill loved baseball and played catcher through high school, graduating in 1962 with a baseball scholarship to South Dakota State University (SDSU). During his freshman year there, Bill decided he'd rather be a Marine and was soon stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, CA.

There, Bill was recognized as a leader and was chosen to attend the Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS) at Bainbridge, MD, from which he received an appointment to USNA in 1965. Graduating in 1969 and commissioned in the Corps, he proceeded to The Basic School (TBS) at Quantico, VA, to begin a 26-year Marine career with his wife, Ramona Finch Boese of Spencer, IA.

Bill's accomplishments at TBS qualified him for flight training, first at Reese AFB, TX, to earn USAF Wings, then at MCAS Cherry Pt, NC, to earn his Navy Wings of Gold. Throughout his career, Bill flew the A-4 Skyhawk and the AV-8B Harrier. He retired in 1989 and began a cow/calf operation on his farm near Milford, IA.

Bill was active with his church and American Legion Post #384. He also served as a Dickinson County supervisor.

Left to remember and honor him are his wife, Ramona; daughter, Sarah Boese Crowder (and her husband, Josh, and their children, Hanah, Jakob and Elaina); son, John (and his son, Max); and sister, Marilyn Boese Douglas (and her husband, Greg).

A memorial Mass was held on 16 May 2024 at the family's St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford. During the service, Bill's USNA roommate,

Lieutenant General Mike Hough '69, USMC, eulogized "Spike" as only he could. That evening, family, friends and neighbors gathered at the farm to share memories of Bill's storytelling, golfing, farming and leadership skills.

Memorial donations may be made in his honor to the Semper Fi & America's Fund ([www.thefund.org](http://www.thefund.org)).

*He has slipped the surly bonds of Earth and touched the face of God...*  
-High Flight, by John Gillespie Magee Jr. ★



**WILLIAM HOWARD STEUSSY '70**

Commander William H. Steussy, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully at his home in New Braunfels, TX, on 12 June 2024.

"Bill" was born on 10 June 1948 in Austin, TX, to Lieutenant Commander James G. Steussy, USNR (Ret.) and Dorothy L. (Swenson) Steussy. He lived his youngest years in Texas. At New Braunfels High School, he played a variety of sports, excelling in tennis and swimming and graduated in 1966. He was appointed to the

Naval Academy and later graduated in the Class of 1970, First Company.

During his distinguished 22-year Navy career, he served in both Atlantic and Pacific Fleet warships, including the destroyers HENRY W. TUCKER (DD-875) and GURKE (DD-783); amphibious transport THOMASTON (LSD-28); and aircraft carrier LEXINGTON (AVT-16).

Bill's Navy assignments ashore included Surface Warfare Officer School, Newport RI; Navy Command Center in the Pentagon; the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, Bangkok Thailand; Joint Cruise Missile Project Office, Arlington, VA; and the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey, Washington, DC.

Bill retired from active duty in 1992 and entered the public sector, finding a career as hospital facility manager in Oregon and Texas. He retired from his last assignment at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX, in 2013.

Bill's many loves included his family, the Navy, Central Texas barbecue, golf, baseball, fishing, hunting, dogs, Texas music, boiled Gulf shrimp and Hill Country back roads. In his last months and years, nothing pleased him more than sitting out on his breezeway overlooking the Guadalupe River and swapping stories with those closest to him.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Janie Steussy of New Braunfels, TX; brothers, Mike '68 of Vienna, VA, and Dan of Poway, CA; his sons, Mathew and Scott of Portland, OR; and their mother, Sharon Olsen of Portland, OR. Bill was preceded in death by his second wife, Annita Steussy.

Interment will take place at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA, on a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, Janie and the family request that in recognition of their tremendous service to those in need, memorial contributions be made in Bill's name to Hope Hospice in New Braunfels, TX ([www.hopehospice.net](http://www.hopehospice.net)). ★



**EDWARD JOSEPH REEVE '71**

Commander Edward J. Reeve, USN (Ret.), 74, of Jacksonville, FL, passed away on 30 May 2024.

"Ed" was born in Key West, FL, to John and Jennie Reeve, and grew up in Miami, FL. He graduated with honors from North Miami High School (1967) and was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. He enjoyed music and was in the school band. His charm and pleasant ways made him popular with his peers. He often laughed that he was so charming, he was elected as "Sub

Deb Sorority Sweetheart." Ed earned an appointment to the Naval Academy and graduated with the 35th Company in 1971.

Ed dreamed of becoming a pilot and earned his Wings in Pensacola, FL. He was a flight instructor at Whiting Field in Milton, FL, flying the North American Aviation T-28 Trojan. He attended the Naval Justice School in Newport, RI, and served as legal officer for VT-3.

Ed continued his flying career with the HS-11 "Dragon Slayers" in Jacksonville, FL, flying the Sikorsky SH3 attached to JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Ed served as navigator on GUADALCANAL (LPH-7), homeported in Norfolk, VA, and earned his MBA.

With the HS-1 "Seahorses" at NAS Jacksonville, FL, he helped train maintenance personnel and replacement pilots, providing the fleet with updated combat strike rescue techniques. The squadron flew over 8,000 hours per year, qualifying 75 pilots, 80 air crewmen and 300 search and rescue swimmers annually.

Ed was comptroller at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, and was financially involved with overseeing the disaster recovery and repair of the base following Hurricane Hugo. He also served as president of the base flying club. He earned his multi-engine rating and enjoyed flying the twin engine Aztec. He often said this was one of the best tours he had during his military career.

Ed was an outstanding military officer who loved his country, family and flying. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Ed retired in 1989, as executive officer of the Orlando Florida Recruit Training Command. He ended his working career as a tax preparer and math professor.

He enjoyed flying RC model planes, NASCAR races and fishing on his second love, his Grady White, TAKES TWO.

Ed is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jan; sister, Debbie, sister-in-law, Donna; brother-in-law, George (Kathy); and several nieces and nephews he loved and doted on.

Commander Reeve will be inurned at the Naval Academy Columbarium. ★



**RICHARD WARNER TAYLOR '71**

Richard W. Taylor died in Spring, TX, on 5 April 2024 after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 75 years old.

"Rich" / "Dick" was born on 25 January 1949 in Camp Lejeune, NC, to the late Colonel Richard Morgan Taylor, USMC (Ret.), and Elva Warner Taylor.

Arriving in Annapolis in 1967 from Oceanside, CA, Rich graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering as a member of the 36th Company. He served in the United States Navy from 1971 until his honorable discharge in 1978, having received a Vietnam Service Medal.

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## LAST CALL

After the Navy, Rich was a pilot for Braniff Airlines before moving to Saudi Arabia in 1980, where he worked as a flight instructor supervisor for Saudi Airlines from 1980 until 1999. In 1982, while in Saudi Arabia, he met his Canadian wife, Ingrid, who was working as a travel nurse. Rich and Ingrid had three children, Coreena, Sean and Erik. In 1999, Rich moved with his family to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he worked as a pilot and ground school instructor for 15 years at Emirates Airlines in Dubai, and later, at Etihad airlines in Abu Dhabi until retiring in 2019.

Dick won many trophies playing competitively in racquetball tournaments. He also enjoyed scuba diving, spear fishing and sailing, and even learned to become a good square dancer. Some of the best family memories were camping trips in Saudi Arabia and snorkeling off Red Sea beaches.

He loved traveling and went on exotic trips to Egypt, Thailand, Bali, Vietnam and China. His three children all became great skiers at Val Thorens ski resort in France. He especially enjoyed climbing the Great Wall of China, seeing the Terracotta Army in Xi'An and loved the Halong Bay cruise in Vietnam. In the summer of 2023, he had an amazing four-day rafting trip in the Grand Canyon with his sons, brothers and friends.

Rich was predeceased by his parents, Elva and Richard; and his sister, Kimberly. He is survived by his wife, Ingrid; their three children, Coreena, Sean and Erik; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Allison and Marcella; and two brothers, Jock and Robert.

He will be laid to rest at East Lawn Palms Cemetery in Tucson, AZ, in a family plot next to his sister and parents. A Celebration of Life was held in Tucson on 5 May 2024. ★



### RALPH WALDO JOHNSON III '72

Ralph W. Johnson III passed away on 27 February 2024.

Born on 18 March 1949, in Spartanburg, SC, Ralph was a son of the late Ralph Waldo Johnson Jr. and Katherine Greer Johnson. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy and served his active duty prior to returning to Greer, SC. Ralph joined his father and brother in Utility Sales, Inc. and was a member of many electrical contractor organizations. He was a

lifetime member of Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served in various leadership positions such as lay leader and adult Sunday School teacher. He loved his church and especially enjoyed sharing children's sermons.

Ralph was honored to serve on the board of CBL State Savings Bank since 1994, giving him an opportunity to support the growth of his hometown and community. He was passionate about overseeing CBL Foundation's investments and selecting, then awarding, many grants and scholarships.

He loved watching golf (with the sound off), reading history (especially military history) and riding his tractor.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Harriet Cloninger Johnson; two brothers, Tom Johnson and Chip Johnson; a sister, Adair Johnson; brother-in-law, Patrick Cloninger (Holly); sister-in-law, Lesli Cloninger; nieces and nephews, Jessica Dumm (HP), Courtney Johnson, Jud Johnson (Tawny), Liza Price (Tyler), Will Edwards (Olivia) and Lyndsey Cloninger; and eight great-nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on 3 March 2024, at Memorial United Methodist Church conducted by Rev. George Riser, Rev. George Strait and Rev. Joe Cate. A recording is available at (<https://tinyurl.com/Ralph-Johnson-III>).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Memorial United Methodist Church, attn. Scholarship Fund, 201 N. Main Street, Greer, SC 29650 ([www.memorialgreer.com](http://www.memorialgreer.com)).

Condolences may be left at ([www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com)). ★



### MICHAEL JOHN DOUGHERTY '73

Captain "Mike" Dougherty, USN (Ret.), died peacefully surrounded by family after a long battle with Parkinson's disease, on 6 June 2024, the 51st anniversary of his graduation from the Naval Academy. He was 72 years old.

Mike was born to Leo and Marie (Marke) Dougherty on 20 October 1951 in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from LaSalle College High School in 1969 and promptly began his time at the Naval Academy.

He graduated in 1973 with a degree in Naval Architecture and received his commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He earned his Naval Flight Officer Wings of Gold in September 1974 and chose to be a part of the P-3C Orion community. Over the next 30 years, he served our country with unmatched professionalism, dedication and absolute joy.

After retiring as a captain in 2002, Mike continued to serve as a government servant for the next 12 years.

During his retirement, he enjoyed traveling, grilling, conquering every crossword puzzle and Jeopardy! question, and working to protect Maryland's oyster population by "raising" 500 young oysters every summer. For many years, he was on the board of commissioners for Historic St. Mary's City, promoting and educating others about Maryland history.

Mike met the love of his life, Alice (Scherer), at a Christmas party in December 1969. They were married in Norristown, PA, on 20 July 1974. Hand in hand, Mike and Alice navigated their busy lives as a naval officer and a proud Navy wife and nurse, moved around the world and created a family of four children with unconditional love, compassion, integrity and laughter.

Throughout his life, he has impacted more people than we can ever know. He is remembered as a most loving family man, a great friend, and a proud gentleman and military officer. His amazing smile and big bear hugs will never be forgotten.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Alice; their children, Maureen Privatera (Patrick), Jill Tamminga (Pete), Claire Darcy (James) and Kevin (Anne Marie); and 11 grandchildren, David, Megan, Allison and Samantha Privatera, Max, Tess and Josephine Tamminga, Benjamin and Juliet Kovacs, and Hawthorne and Whitman Dougherty.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to organizations that meant a lot to Mike: the Naval Academy Alumni Association ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)); Historic St. Mary's City's Chapel ([www.hsmcdigshistory.org](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org)); or the Bob Woodruff Foundation ([www.bobwoodrufffoundation.org](http://www.bobwoodrufffoundation.org)).

A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. ★

### USNA TRIBUTE GIFTS

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**DUDLEY MILLER OUTCALT '73**

Captain Dudley M. Outcalt, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 29 May 2024.

His life exemplified dedication to service and the pursuit of knowledge. Born in Cincinnati, OH, he graduated from Western Hills High School in 1969. A congressional appointment led him to the Naval Academy, where he excelled, graduating in 1973 with a degree in physics.

Upon graduation, Dudley attended a year of nuclear power training and Submarine

School. He served as auxiliary division officer and reactor control division officer on TECUMSEH (SSBN-628). He then became a plankowner and communications officer on MEMPHIS (SSN-691). He left active duty in 1978, continuing his career in the Naval Reserve until retiring in 2003 with 30 years of service.

In his civilian life, Dudley pursued advanced degrees, earning a Master of Science in electrical engineering; a Master of Business Administration; and a Doctor of Philosophy in renewable energy. His expertise led him to successful careers in the nuclear power and commercial electrical generation industries.

As a natural teacher with decades of engineering experience, Dudley capped his impressive career with 11 years as a professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, inspiring students with his knowledge and passion.

Dudley's family will hold him close in their hearts. Nancy, his wife of over 50 years, was a constant source of support. Her unwavering presence shone brightly even through times of adversity. His children (and their spouses), Mark (Robyn) and Emily (Abhijit "Jeet"), hold his memory close, keeping his spirit alive in their hearts, and his grandsons, Liam and Benjamin, are a cherished part of their grandfather's legacy.

Captain Dudley Outcalt will be remembered for his service, intelligence and dedication to his family. ★

Funeral services were held on 8 June 2024 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN, followed by interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on 11 June.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)), in memory of Dean Lahren. ★



**MICHAEL JAMES CRUM '78**

Commander Michael J. Crum, USN (Ret.), passed away on 2 March 2024, after a short illness. He was 69 years old.

"Mike" was born on 26 March 1954, in Mount Union, PA, and graduated from high school in 1972. In 1973, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended the Naval Academy Prep School at Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, MD. He entered the Naval Academy in May 1974 and graduated in June 1978.

Mike and Barbara Lundin were married shortly after graduation and received orders to NAS Pensacola, FL, where Mike completed aviation training and was designated a naval aviator in 1980. Following Fleet Replacement Pilot Training in HS-1 at NAS Jacksonville in the SH-3H helicopter, Mike reported to HS-5 in the Indian Ocean during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. He made three deployments aboard DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69).

In 1983, Mike reported to NAS North Island in Coronado, CA, and began pilot training in the Fleet's newest helicopter, the SH-60B and became a plankowner in the first Seahawk squadron, HSL-41, as an instructor pilot.

In 1986, after three years of instructor pilot duty, he reported to HSL-45 and became a plankowner in the second operational SH-60B squadron. He made one deployment to the Persian Gulf conducting Earnest Will tanker escort missions. In 1989, he reported to HSL-43 and made one deployment as the detachment officer in charge (OIC).

In 1990, Mike reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC, for two years of detailee duty. He subsequently returned to San Diego for three more tours, safety officer on KITTY HAWK, chief staff officer of Commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Wing (Light), U.S. Pacific Fleet and finally, as an instructor at Tactical Training Group, Pacific.

After his retirement from the Navy, Mike began his second career as a civilian instructor at Tactical Training Group, Pacific, providing pre-deployment training to Carrier Air Wing staffs.

Mike was a loving husband to his wife of 45 years, Barb; and a devoted father to their three sons, Michael Jr., Nicholas and Matthew. Sadly, Barb passed away in December 2023, just a few months prior to Mike.

"The Oak" will be remembered for his dedication to our country, his family and two successful careers. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service was held for both Mike and Barb on 25 March 2024 at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. ★



**DEAN BRADLEY LAHREN '75**

Captain Dean B. Lahren, USN (Ret.), of Brooklyn Center, MN, passed away on 1 June 2024 after a four-year battle with colon cancer. He was 71 years old.

Dean was born on 18 April 1953 in Fargo, ND, to Larry and Dorothy (Wumkes) Lahren. After graduating from Fargo North High School in 1971, he went on to study mechanical engineering at the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1975. He continued to serve in the

Navy until his retirement as captain in 2005.

Anyone who knew Dean knew he was an avid fan of the Minnesota Twins. After retiring from his career as a salesman in the fuel systems industry, Dean proudly worked as an usher at Target Field for 3 baseball seasons.

Dean was a devoted member of his church and humble servant of Christ. In the face of his cancer diagnosis, he always considered himself blessed (despite a lifetime without a Vikings Super Bowl win).

Dean was predeceased by his parents; brother-in-law, Joseph Schmit; sisters, LaVonne Braunberger and Janice Moe; and granddaughters, Alma and Aleece Lahren. He is survived by his former spouse, Heather Lahren; their four children, Matthew, Brett, Alexandra and Mackenzie; six grandsons, Well, Vincent, Theo, Mils, Magnus and Arlo; and his siblings, Cheryl Schmit, Jack Lahren '69 and Dr. Kris Lahren.

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[www.usna.com/memorial-services](http://www.usna.com/memorial-services)





## CHARLES WILLIAM GITTINS '79

Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Gittins, USMCR (Ret.), passed away on 17 May 2024. He was 67 years old.

"Charlie" was raised in Mt. Laurel, NJ. He attended NAPS and then the U.S. Naval Academy (31st Company), taking his commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. After The Basic School at Quantico, he was assigned to flight school in Pensacola, where he was designated a Naval

Flight Officer. Thereafter, he served as a RIO in the Marine Corps' F-4S Phantom in tours of duty with VMFAs 251 and 312 at MCAS Beaufort, SC.

His military career then took a different turn when he applied for and was accepted to the Marine Corps' Funded Law Program. Graduating first in his class at Catholic University of America's Law School, he became a Marine Corps Judge Advocate, in which billet he ably served his military clients until leaving active duty in 1992.

He worked for two years with the noted law firm of Williams & Connolly in Washington, DC, after which he opened a solo practice of his own, concentrating on criminal defense in military justice matters. He successfully defended military clients in several high-profile cases. Officers of the Judge Advocate Corps in all services of the United States military knew of and respected him as a skilled practitioner of military law.

In his personal life, Charlie was an accomplished private pilot of single and twin-engine private aircraft, holding all relevant FAA licenses and certifications, including an instructor certification. At age 50, he also became an avid skydiver, earned a D License and USPA certifications including AFF Instructor, Tandem Instructor, Safety & Training Advisor and Senior Rigger and made over 2,500 jumps. He was the founder, owner and operator of a weekend sky-diving business based at the New Market airport in the Shenandoah Valley.

Buoyantly self-confident, unceasingly can-do in attitude, tenaciously dedicated to his clients and unfailingly loyal to his friends, Charlie grabbed life and lived it to its fullest. His sense of humor and joie de vivre will be sorely missed by those who knew, admired and loved him.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife, Melissa; stepdaughter, Kellen Strosnider; and brother, William Gittins and his family.

Prior to his passing, Charlie requested that any contributions in memoriam be directed to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation ([www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org)), which he deemed to be a particularly worthy charitable cause. ★



## MATTHEW JOHN HICKEY '86

Captain Matthew J. Hickey, MC, USN (Ret.), passed away on 2 April 2024, following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 59.

Raised in Bay Shore, NY, Matt was the son of Edward and Eileen Hickey. He graduated from Bay Shore High School (1982), reported to the Naval Academy that same year and was assigned to the 36th Company, serving as a company commander his First Class year.

He graduated in 1986 with a BS in Ocean Engineering, was commissioned an ensign, and received orders to BUD/S (SEAL) training (Coronado). Following BUD/S graduation (Class 141), Matt spent eight years as a Naval Special Warfare Officer, serving tours at SEAL Team One (Coronado), SEAL Team Eight (Virginia Beach) and the Naval Academy. He deployed in support of Operations Earnest Will (1988), Sharp Edge (1990) and Desert Shield (1990). In 1991, while stationed at USNA, Matt assisted 17 midshipmen in successfully executing Operation

Missing Mascot, the only known "mule-napping" of all four Army mules prior to the Army-Navy football game.

He met Cynthia L. "Cindy" Armistead of Virginia Beach in 1989 and they were married in November 1992.

In 1995, Matt transitioned to the Medical Corps. He graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (1999), completed an internship at Cook County Hospital (2000) and residency at University of Illinois at Chicago (2003). He received board certification in Occupational and Environmental Medicine (2004) and Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (2005). As a Navy physician, he served tours at Naval Special Warfare Group Four (Norfolk), the US-UK Personnel Exchange Program (Alverstoke, England), the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Naval Special Warfare Development Group (Virginia Beach) and Commander Submarine Force Atlantic (Norfolk).

Upon his Navy retirement in 2017, Matt served as an occupational medicine specialist at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Concurrently, he became a co-owner of a medical practice, NEUCOA, to help veterans with TBI and PTSD. He volunteered his time at Sacred Heart Catholic Church; as an Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine exam developer for the American Board of Preventive Medicine; and on the board of directors for the Navy SEAL Foundation. His greatest joy was spending time with his family.

Matt is survived by his parents; his wife, Cindy; their daughters, Kate, Anne, Claire and Emma; his siblings, Edward Jr. "Ed," William "Bill" (Margaret) and Susan Masto (Chris); and 16 nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel and Columbarium on 20 June 2024. ★



## ADRIAN ANTHONY SANCHEZ '86

Captain Adrian A. Sanchez, USN (Ret.), passed away on 15 April 2024 after a courageous 20-month battle with cancer.

Born on 27 April 1964 in Glendale, CA, Adrian was a man of many talents and passions. This quote by Mark Twain perfectly encapsulates Adrian's life: "The secret of success is making your vocation your vacation." A smart and successful electrical engineer by trade, he put his skills to good use as a patent attorney and in everyday

life, poised with unfaltering optimism and a clever argument.

After graduating from the Naval Academy (Second Company) in 1986, he served in the Navy for 30 years, mostly as an intelligence officer, including: Nuclear Power School; MISSOURI; ROTC at Georgia Tech, where he earned MS; and working as a medical device electrical engineer for 3M, then Boston Scientific. After his second tour in Afghanistan, he earned his JD in patent law. Adrian last served as CO of Joint Intelligence Command Pacific, Minneapolis. As Deputy Director of Intelligence in Afghanistan, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Adrian was never concerned with pomp and circumstance and relished being with his family. Adrian's love for life was infectious. He had a knack for finding joy in every moment and could often be found drumming on his leg and singing. For 34 years, he was a loving husband to Lorlee Nicodemo, his high school crush, and a devoted father to Keyona (USAFA '13) and Giovanni (USMA '19/National Guard). He is survived by his parents, Tony and Diana. Adrian loved playing with his grandchildren, Conrad, Caden and Octavia.

Adrian's hobbies were as diverse as his interests. He fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. He was a skilled soccer player, an adept musician and a gifted artist. He had a penchant for fixing things, always tinkering around the house, making everything work just a little better. His yard was his canvas; he loved spending his free time making it

more beautiful. Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is intelligence having fun." Adrian was a self-declared genius who had fun being creative, whether he was playing a tune on his guitar, crafting a recipe, or devising his next construction project.

Adrian's life was a testament to his love, humility, intelligence and wit. His spirit will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those who knew him.

Burial with full military honors took place on the family farm in Nebraska on 23 April 2024. ★

Donations in his name may be made to the Johns Hopkins Heart and Vascular Institute: ([www.hopkinsmedicine.org/heart-vascular-institute/about-us/charitable-giving](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/heart-vascular-institute/about-us/charitable-giving)). ★



**JAIME BORREGO '89**

Commander Jaime Borrego, USN (Ret.), passed away on 23 August 2023, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD, surrounded by his loving family. He was 57 years old.

Jaime graduated in 1984 from Roosevelt High School in Seattle, WA. He then went on to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1989.

After Annapolis, Jaime went to flight school in Pensacola, FL. He transferred into the Cryptology Warfare Community and married Jill Daugherty on 13 July 1991. Jaime and Jill were stationed in Misawa, Japan, and Monterey, CA, where they had their first child, Mitchell. Jaime attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, where he earned a master's degree in computer science. Jaime and Jill were transferred to Ft. Meade, MD, where they had their second child, Gabriella. As a naval officer, Jaime was tasked to work at the Executive Office of the President (EOP), serving at The White House.

Jaime retired from the Navy after serving 20 years and went to work for @stake, and then returned to the White House as Director of Information Assurance, working under both the Clinton and G.W. Bush administrations. Most recently, Jaime worked for In-Q-Tel as Vice President of Technology Implementation.

In his free time, Jaime enjoyed spending time with his family and his dogs, Boba and Brownie, and sailing on his boat, SEA-3PO. Jaime enjoyed flying drones with his daughter and could discuss computer security for hours with his son. Jaime enjoyed many family trips to the beach (dogs included, of course) and many trips to Washington State to visit family. Jaime was quite the chef and loved making homemade tortillas and salsa for his family. He loved his kids dearly and was so proud of them and their accomplishments.

Jaime was the devoted husband of Jill Borrego (nee Daugherty); beloved father of Mitchell Borrego and Gabriella Borrego; son to Carmen Minaker and the late Oscar Borrego; stepson to Rosa Borrego; loving brother of Arturo Blenman (Stacy), Michael Borrego, Magdalena Borrego and Gabriel Borrego; brother-in-law to Dawn Snider (Charlie); and uncle to Mathew Snider, Jude Blenman and Lola Blenman.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 16 October 2023, followed by inurnment at the Naval Academy Columbarium.



**BRIAN LLEWELLYN DAVIES '91**

Rear Admiral Brian L. Davies, USN, passed away on 30 December 2023.

Brian was born on 5 November 1969 in Wilmington, DE. A graduate of Christiana High School, he reported to USNA in 1987, where he was a member of the 35th Company and a four-year crew team coxswain. A Trident Scholar, he was commissioned on 29 May 1991 with a BS in Ocean Engineering. He attended graduate school at Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a MS in Acoustics.

Brian's naval career spanned over 32 years. With assignments on fast attack and ballistic missile submarines, he completed six strategic deterrent patrols and deployments to the Arctic, Western Pacific, North Atlantic and Indian Ocean. He served as commanding officer of JIMMY CARTER (SSN-23) and Commodore, Submarine Squadron 11. As a flag officer, Brian served as Commander, Submarine Group Two, with additional duties as Deputy Commander, Second Fleet. He distinguished himself as a true visionary through inspirational mentorship and exceptional tenacity. His bold leadership and mastery of undersea warfare set a high standard of excellence.

Known for integrity and kindness, Brian demonstrated a quiet competence, steadfastness and devotion that drew others to him. He accepted any challenge and was regarded as a true professional. Empathetic and caring, he helped those around him and looked out for their well-being.

Brian's numerous awards reflect his extensive service to the nation, including the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (6) and Presidential Unit Citation.

An avid runner, Brian shared his joy in running with family and friends over many miles. A lifelong baseball enthusiast, he was a Baltimore Orioles fan, a love begun while a Midshipman.

Brian had a warm smile, contagious laughter and relished quality time with his loved ones. He saw the good in others, and leaned into his faith, family and fun. Brian was gracious, exuded positivity and was a shining light who made a profound difference in the lives of many.

Brian is survived by his wife of 16 years, Kacey Hickey Davies; daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth Davies; parents, Sandy and Harry Davies; brother, Keith Davies; in-laws, nieces and nephews; aunts, uncles and cousins. Brian was loved by many who will forever miss his earthly presence.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 18 January 2024, followed by interment at the USNA Cemetery.

Donations may be directed to ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)) attn. Navy Crew Excellence Fund in memory of RADM Brian Davies '91. ★

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*Please note that we have a maximum word limit of 400 words.*

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



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### FLUEGEL ALUMNI CENTER CONTINUED

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Staff Accountant

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Gift Administrator II

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