

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

MAY • JUNE 2024



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In our quest to be the best stewards of our resources, we're continually seeking ways to minimize costs and environmental impact. This includes efforts to reduce paper and ink expenses, which have risen dramatically in recent years.

The enterprise frequently receives requests from members to stop receiving the print version of *Shipmate*. If you prefer a digital version of *Shipmate* and would like to opt out of the print version, login to <https://www.usna.com/my-account/my-account-email-subscriptions-2> and click the box to opt out of receiving physical copies.

We understand some members might prefer to access the digital version of *Shipmate* rather than have a print copy sent to their homes. A digital version of *Shipmate* is available at [www.usna.com/shipmate/current-issue](http://www.usna.com/shipmate/current-issue). All issues back to *Shipmate*'s launch in 1938 are available online.

While we are cost conscious, *Shipmate* is committed to connecting alumni and sharing their stories of leadership, service and philanthropy. Strengthening the ties that bind the Naval Academy alumni community together is one of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation's central missions. Our aim is to deliver impactful stories of alumni doing extraordinary things in the channels our members prefer.

We value your membership and don't want you to miss any communications, particularly through our flagship publication *Shipmate* and our monthly e-newsletter *WaveTops* ([www.usna.com/wavetops](http://www.usna.com/wavetops)).



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## CLASSES AND CHAPTERS

While we are determined to be a more efficient organization, that doesn't impact the essential mission of sharing your class and chapter stories.

Please continue to submit updates to your dedicated scribe. Moving forward, beginning with the July-August issue, we'll only showcase content shared with us. If nothing is submitted from a class or chapter, we will not include your class or chapter header information in that issue of the magazine.

And as always, you can stay informed and engaged with your class and chapter on myUSNA.com. We look forward to providing members with more timely and impactful content. If you have any questions, please contact *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at [jimmy.debutts@usna.com](mailto:jimmy.debutts@usna.com).

1,000  
WORDS



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## LEGACY OF VALOR: WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE

A World War II roundtable discussion was held on 25 April in the Fluegel Alumni Center. From left to right, LtCol Peter F. Owen '86, USMC (Ret.), CAPT (Sel) Stan Fisher, USN, Ph.D., CAPT William J. Toti '79, USN (Ret.), and Seth Paridon shared the stories of lesser-known Naval Academy alumni who made extraordinary contributions to the U.S.'s victory in the Pacific Campaign.

The event was part of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation's Legacy of Valor project that includes *Shipmate* stories and digital content. Each of the speakers highlighted the heroic and courageous acts made by Naval Academy alumni.

Fisher is a naval aviator and permanent military professor in the Naval Academy's history department. He shared the stories of naval aviators LTJG Eric Allen '38, USN, and RADM Austin Wadsworth Wheelock '25, USN (Ret.).

Toti is a retired submariner who discussed CAPT Edward L. Beach Jr. '39, USN (Ret.), RADM Richard O'Kane '34, USN (Ret.), and CDR Dudley "Mush" Morton '30, USN. Paridon is deputy director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum.

He spoke about VADM Willis A. Lee Jr., USN (Ret.), Class of 1908, and RADM James D. Ramage '39, USN (Ret.). Toti and Paridon host the "Unauthorized History of the Pacific War" podcast, which has more than 5.3 million views on its YouTube channel and more than 36,000 subscribers.

Owen is a member of the adjunct faculty at Marine Corps University. He spoke about Marine aviator LtCol Harold Bauer '30, USMC, and Marines from the Class of 1939 who were Japanese POWs captured at Corregidor in May 1942. Owen closed his presentation by reciting a quote from James Michener's book about Navy pilots in the Korean War, *The Bridges at Toko-ri*, "Where do we get such men?"

"The answers for these Marines is, we got them from the Naval Academy," Owen said. "We alumni may not feel worthy to count ourselves as their equals, but I think their example of sacrifice, dedication and battlefield courage compels all of us to strive to be a more worthy inheritor of their legacy."

To see the video from the event, please visit [www.youtube.com/@USNAAlumni](http://www.youtube.com/@USNAAlumni).

# BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

By Jeff Webb '95

A seemingly constant buzz has been reverberating through the Fluegel Alumni Center this spring.

I expected the new home for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation to be a hive of activity when we moved in last summer. Still, the sheer number of events has surprised and humbled me.

A steady mix of networking, retirements, reunions, meetings, forums, weddings, dining outs and other special events has brought thousands of alumni, friends and parents to our home on the banks of College Creek in the past few months. Watching my colleagues orchestrate, manage and transition from one event to the next (often happening multiple times per day) has been inspiring.

Recent events held at the Alumni Center include, the Volunteer Leader Summit (14-15 April), Naval Academy Minority Association (NAMA) Leadership Forum (18-20 April) and the Women's Shared Interest Group Annual Meeting (20 April). Despite this hectic schedule, the USNA AA&F continues to build momentum as we close in on the first anniversary of the enterprise moving into the Fluegel Alumni Center.

This waterfront jewel hosted its first spring Foundation Board of Directors meeting in April. It was an opportunity for Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, to introduce herself to our board, officially.

Partnering with the Naval Academy and excellent leadership at the Naval Academy is critical to our mission. Admiral Davids made a positive impression with those she had not yet met and reinforced to our Board that the entire Naval Academy team is synchronized with our plans.

The Board also approved our Campaign Plan for the Foundation. Just as the Alumni Association Board of Trustees approved Strategic Plan 2030 last year, the Foundation has now approved the template for our fundraising efforts through 2030. This plan is nearly three years in the making and involved tremendous work and collaboration across our team, the Foundation Board and Naval Academy leaders.

We were fortunate three individuals agreed to serve as co-chairs of the campaign. They are Jerry Miller '77, Tim Sullivan '80 and Michael Taylor '86. I'm grateful they stepped up to lead this effort and help us carry our plan forward to the Naval Academy community.

During the Board meeting, we recognized Captain Rusty Yeiser '74, USN (Ret.), and John Rudder '78, who have a combined 36 years of service to the Alumni Association & Foundation. This was their final Board meeting as staff members. They have each left an indelible mark on the enterprise and our community during their service with us.

## Honoring the Legacy of WWII Alumni

On 25 April, we hosted the Legacy of Valor: World War II Roundtable discussion. Captain Bill Toti '79, USN (Ret.), served as moderator with Lieutenant Colonel Peter F. Owen '86, USMC (Ret.), Naval Academy History Professor Captain (Select) Stan Fisher, USN, and Seth Paridon, deputy director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum serving as panelists. They each spotlighted lesser-known Naval Academy alumni who served with distinction during WWII from various warfare communities. These alumni demonstrated the virtues and values ingrained in us at the Academy.

This event punctuated our nearly year-long effort to gather and share the stories of living WWII alumni (see page 22 for the story) as we approach the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Ensuring the stories from these heroes are preserved for future generations is vitally important. That's why we were happy to host Captain Fisher's class of midshipmen. We hope they are inspired to serve with honor just as alumni have done for nearly 180 years.

This is the type of unique programming we plan to offer at the Fluegel Alumni Center. We are committed to celebrating those who came before us and ensuring future midshipmen have the resources and support required to live up to those uncompromising standards. Our communications team will soon shift to documenting the stories of service from alumni who served in Korea and Vietnam.

## In This Issue

We honored the Distinguished Graduates Class of 2024 on 22 March. Please see the story on page 10 and visit [www.youtube.com/@USNAAlumni](http://www.youtube.com/@USNAAlumni) to see videos from the ceremony.

This *Shipmate* also includes a few special features. On the back cover, we are proud to have "Hip Hip Hooray," a painting by Kristin Cronic '11. The inside back cover includes Flat Bill. We encourage you to cut him out, bring him with you on your travels, take a photo with him and share it with *Shipmate*. We will publish some of the entrants in future issues.

Starting on page 30, we highlight some of the programs and services the Alumni Association and Foundation provides. You'll also notice a map that highlights where members of the engagement team have been in 2024 and where they plan to be in the coming months. We are always mindful that one of our key objectives is assisting alumni throughout their life's journey. We hope when we're in your area, you'll meet us and provide feedback on how we can better serve you. 🇺🇸



USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95 welcomes the panelists for the 25 April WWII Roundtable discussion at the Fluegel Alumni Center. They are CAPT Bill Toti '79, USN (Ret.), LtCol Peter F. Owen '86, USMC (Ret.), Naval Academy History Professor CAPT (Select) Stan Fisher, USN, and Seth Paridon, deputy director of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum.

PHOTO BY USNA MIDN BOBBY BALDOCK '24

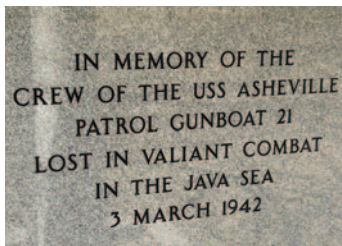
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VOLUME 87 • NO. 3

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### HOW CAN WE HELP?

The Alumni Association and Foundation offers a host of programs and services to support the alumni community throughout their life's journey. **30**



### Correction

In the feature "Historic Command" from the March-April 2024 issue of *Shipmate*, one of the ships VADM Yvette Davids '89, USN, commanded was misspelled. She commanded CURTS.

In the same story, the rank of ADM Michelle J. Howard '82, USN (Ret.), was inadvertently omitted.



Photo by Mike Morgan

## DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

The Class of 2024 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients pursued lifetimes of service.

**10**



### Get the Goat

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

*Bill was hiding behind the clock on page 25 in the March-April 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 Front Cover**  
The 2024 Class of Distinguished Graduates are John Young '78, Jerrold L. Miller '77, ADM Samuel J. Locklear '77, USN (Ret.), and ADM Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.).  
Photo by Mike Morgan



**On the Back Cover**  
Kristin Cronin '11 provided the art—Hip Hip Hooray—for this issue's back cover. Her artwork is among alumni owned products that can be found at [www.usna.com/shop](http://www.usna.com/shop).

# ALL HANDS

## Hathaway '04 Earns Astronaut Wings



Commander Jack Hathaway '04, USN, was among a group of 12 Artemis astronaut candidates to complete their two-year training program on 5 March. Hathaway was selected for the astronaut program in December 2021.

After completing astronaut training, Hathaway and his classmates will be assigned jobs to support either current operations or future developments. Hathaway expects to move into lunar spacesuit development. This year's crop of astronauts

will train to operate the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, lunar rovers and the Lunar Gateway. They are also eligible to participate in missions to the International Space Station and with commercial partners.

Hathaway said he, like many kids, dreamt of one day becoming an astronaut. He never let that dream go and his path included the Naval Academy and becoming a naval aviator. He is excited about the opportunities the future of space travel present, particularly for returning to the moon.

"Everything is going bigger and greater," Hathaway said. "We have great commercial partners. This is a time of significant technological development and change. It's a really neat opportunity to be at the beginning of that to have some effect on how to solve all these technical challenges and to have an opportunity to get out to lunar orbit or even beyond."

In 2019, Hathaway was assigned to the J-6 department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. While on staff, he was selected to command Strike Fighter Squadron Eight One. At the time of his selection as a NASA astronaut candidate, Hathaway was at sea aboard TRUMAN, serving as VFA-81's prospective executive officer. He has accumulated more than 2,500 flight hours in 30 aircraft types, more than 500 carrier arrested landings and 39 combat missions.

Hathaway credited the Naval Academy for teaching him he was a part of something bigger than himself. That forged lasting camaraderie among his classmates and companymates. That paired with leadership lessons set the foundation for his future endeavors.

"You learn you have to succeed as a team," he said. "I learned a lot about being part of a team and how to support my team." □

## Perrien '74 Leading NC Sub Museum Effort



Chris Perrien '74 envisions a site to honor submarine service, support crewmembers' families, inspire youngsters to pursue careers in STEM and help ease the shortage of skilled workers to build America's next submarine fleet.

The idea of a

North Carolina Sub Museum was sparked about two years ago. Perrien said there's nothing more technically built in this country than a Navy nuclear-powered submarine. Subs are practical examples of the power of science and engineering.

"You have to build a machine that can keep 150 people alive while the ocean is trying to kill you," Perrien said.

A severe workforce shortage in the submarine building community—with forecast shortages of 10,000 skilled workers in each of the next 10 years to build subs already funded to be built—is forcing longer deployments for the existing sub fleet. This can put strains on family members, Perrien said.

He said the museum—which is in the early stage of planning and fundraising—has two missions:

1. Support the families of the crews on NORTH CAROLINA, ASHEVILLE and CHARLOTTE.
2. Build an exhibit infrastructure using augmented virtual realities to get kids excited about the STEM that's incorporated into subs. It would offer visitors the experiences of working, living and sailing in the depths of the ocean.

The proposed museum would also feature a STEM-centered workforce development center. Perrien is joined in the museum's leadership team by fellow Naval Academy alumni Captain Steve Gillespie '87, USN (Ret.), and Lieutenant Commander Luke Wolf '08, USNR.

For more information on the North Carolina Sub Museum, visit [www.ncsubmuseum.org](http://www.ncsubmuseum.org). □

## Giannotti '69 Retires After Half Century of Service to Navy, USNA



Commander Lou Giannotti '69, USN (Ret.), dedicated his career to the Navy and Naval Academy. After nearly 55 years of service, Giannotti retired from the Academy in January.

He began his career as a surface warfare officer. He retired from the Navy after 21 years. His last post was as commanding officer of HALYBURTON. For 33 years, he served as the Naval Academy's chief information officer and director of information technology service division.

Giannotti also filled multiple leadership roles in addition to his primary CIO duties during his Naval

Academy tenure. Those include as acting dean of admissions, chief financial officer, steering committee chairperson for NCAA certification and strategic plan facilitator. He served as an assistant professor of mathematics at the Academy (1979-82), was the chairman of the computer science department (1984-86) and later served as the dean of finance.

Giannotti led Ward Hall through transformational times, delivering cellular service to Bancroft Hall in 2015 and shepherding the yard through the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of a remote learning environment. □

## Alumni Return to Annapolis with Peruvian Navy

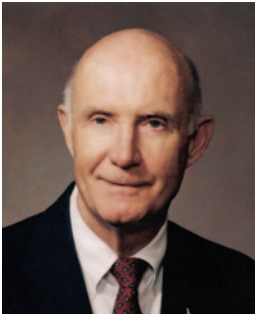


From L to R: CAPT T.J. Grady '96, USN (Ret.), CDR José Arce '96, VADM Luis Polar '87 and CAPT Wes Huey '87, USN (Ret.), Ph.D. Arce and Polar were in the area for Peruvian Tall Ship UNION's visit to Baltimore, MD.

Peruvian Navy Commander José Arce '96, USN, and Peruvian Chief of Naval Operations Vice Admiral Luis Polar '87, USN, were back in Annapolis on 4 March. They visited the Fluegel Alumni Center after sailing into Baltimore, MD, aboard the Peruvian tall ship UNION.

Arce is UNION's commanding officer. He reconnected with his Naval Academy classmate Captain T.J. Grady '96, USN (Ret.), who is the Alumni Association and Foundation's executive vice president of engagement and communication. Polar and classmate USNA AA&F's Executive Director of Strategy and Legacy Programs Captain Wes Huey '87, USN (Ret.), Ph.D., also reconnected at the Fluegel Alumni Center. ☐

## Stafford '52 Passes Away at Age 93



Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford '52, USAF (Ret.), died on 18 March in Indian Harbor, FL. The 2014 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate was 93.

Stafford commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He was assigned to the 54th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Stafford was chosen by NASA in 1962 as a member of the second group of astronauts.

In 1965, Stafford piloted Gemini 6 and completed the first rendezvous in space,

with Gemini 7. In 1966, he commanded Gemini 9, and in 1969 he commanded Apollo 10 in an exploratory mission to select a lunar landing site for Apollo 11. It was during Apollo 10's reentry that Stafford earned a Guinness World Record for the highest speed ever reached by a human—24,791 statute miles per hour.

He completed his fourth and final space flight in 1975 as commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, a cooperative endeavor between the United States and the Soviet Union. Following his flight to the moon, Stafford was selected by NASA to become chief of the astronaut office. He later served as deputy director of flight crew operations at Johnson Space Center, where he oversaw astronaut training and mission planning, along with crew selections for the final moon landings and the Skylab Program.

As head of Air Force Research & Development and Acquisition, Stafford wrote the specs and established the program that led to the development of the F-117 Stealth Fighter, and later, the B-2 Stealth Bomber. He earned the title as the Air Force's "Father of Stealth."

Fair winds and following seas, Lieutenant General Stafford. ☐



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT RICHARD M. DEMPSEY '69, USN (RET.)

Naval Academy bonds were strengthened this winter in Dallas, TX, with three alumni cheering on the W.T. White High School's girls basketball team during its playoff run. Supporting the Longhorns were: (left to right) LCDR Shanti H. McGovern '98, USN, with his daughter Annalise McGovern, CAPT Richard M. Dempsey '69, USN (Ret.), with his granddaughter Stella Suek, and Patrick T. Mowles '94 with his daughter Micah Mowles.

## Multigenerational Athletic Legacy

The W.T. White High School's girls basketball team, part of Dallas Independent School District, finished the 2023-24 season with a 31-4 overall record (16-0 in District). They were district champions and advanced to the Regional Division 5A semi-finals (State of Texas version of the Sweet 16).

Three members of the team have a connection to the Naval Academy's athletic programs. Lieutenant Commander Shanti H. McGovern '98, USN, was an All-American rugby player at Navy. His daughter, Annalise McGovern, was a senior power forward for W.T. White. Captain Richard M. Dempsey '69, USN (Ret.), rowed with Navy's crew team. His granddaughter, Stella Suek, is a junior center for the basketball team. Patrick T. Mowles '94 played baseball for Navy. His daughter, Micah Mowles, is a freshman point guard for W.T. White. ☐

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GGA CEREMONY PHOTOS COURTESY OF USNA

The Class of 2024 Distinguished Graduates were honored on 22 March during a ceremony in Alumni Hall. USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95 (from left to right), with Distinguished Graduates John Young '78, ADM Samuel Locklear III '77, USN (Ret.), Jerrold L. Miller '77, and ADM Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.), with Naval Academy Superintendent VADM Yvette Davids '89, USN, Alumni Association Board of Trustees Chairman ADM Mark Ferguson III '78, USN (Ret.), and Class of 2024 President MIDN Mack Daniels '24.

# DEDICATED TO SERVICE



A lifelong commitment to serve others is a common value among the Class of 2024 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduates.

Whether it's helping shape the future of the armed forces and their warfighting capabilities, supporting veterans or providing opportunities to current or future midshipmen, these four alumni are dedicated to uplifting others.

**ADMIRAL DENNIS C. BLAIR '68, USN (RET.)**, served 34 years as a naval officer, helped shape America's Cold War strategies, and played an integral role in crafting the Naval Academy's cyber security curriculum while serving as chairman of the Academy's advisory panel on cyber education.

**ADMIRAL SAMUEL J. LOCKLEAR III '77, USN (RET.)**, was on active duty for 43 years and capped his Navy career as commander U.S. Pacific Command. He served as chairman of the Naval

Academy Alumni Association's Board of Trustees (2018-21) and was instrumental in helping expand resources for the Academy and support services for alumni.

**JERROLD L. MILLER '77** sponsors spring break trips to Israel for midshipmen and supports JT's Camp Grom, an outdoor recreation facility for people with disabilities and Gold Star families.

**JOHN YOUNG '78** helps introduce the opportunities a Naval Academy education can provide to prospective Academy applicants from underserved communities.

Their legacy of service will continue to inspire and impact future generations of alumni. These Distinguished Graduates were honored during a 22 March ceremony in Alumni Hall. For more on the 2024 Distinguished Graduate Award medal ceremony, including video coverage and complete honoree biographies, visit [www.usna.com/dga](http://www.usna.com/dga) or scan this QR code.



# ADMIRAL DENNIS C. BLAIR '68, USN (RET.)



HEADSHOTS BY MIKE MORGAN

Tension was mounting. The clock was ticking. China was posturing.

The United States needed a rapid, strong resolution to diffuse a potentially explosive international incident. America sought the return of its EP-3 signals intelligence aircraft following a mid-air collision with a Chinese interceptor jet on 1 April 2001.

Thankfully, Admiral Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.), was part of the team charged with crafting a solution through delicate diplomacy. This

incident, about 70 miles off the People's Republic of China island province of Hainan, led to the presumed loss of the interceptor's pilot. The damaged EP-3 made an unauthorized emergency landing at Lingshui air base airport.

America's priority was bringing home the 24 crewmembers of the EP-3 and regaining possession of the aircraft. Blair led the regional military aspects of the EP-3 crisis. The crew was released after 10 days following the U.S. issuing a letter stating it was sorry for the death of the Chinese pilot and the aircraft entering China's airspace. China would not get the formal apology and acceptance of blame from the United States it sought.

Blair's calm presence and focus was commended by the 71st Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig.

"When things were difficult, as for example after the EP-3 collision with a Chinese aircraft, Denny was among the coolest and most capable of decision-makers," said Danzig, in his Distinguished Graduate nomination letter for Blair. "He always mastered details and at the same time saw the larger picture."

Blair said his primary concerns were the crew and ensuring America's reconnaissance pilots avoided similar situations in the future. He said the military part of the equation was pretty straight forward, but combating Chinese misinformation took more finesse.

"I don't recall those being difficult decisions," Blair said. "They were hard things to carry out. Once it became clear what happened, the objective clearly was to get our people back and get the plane back."

"We wanted to keep the Chinese narrative, lies about our plane running into their plane, from gaining any currency. Then, it was about getting ready to fly again. We weren't going to give up those missions."

Gordon R. England, the 72nd Secretary of the Navy, said in his nomination letter, that Blair is "a person of high integrity, always thoughtful, unassuming, open to change and committed to the Navy, our nation and all that it represents." England said Blair was highly regarded and respected by subordinates under his command, his peers and superiors.

England said those traits were illuminated during the EP-3 crisis.

"His calm and deliberate leadership style was clearly on display during the Hainan Island incident when he calmed international tensions and helped to negotiate the safe release of the Navy aircrew," England said.

For 34 years, Blair served the nation as a naval officer. He concluded his career in uniform as commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command. He served as the third director of National Intelligence, was on the staff of the National Security Council during the Cold War, was a Rhodes Scholar and directed several major studies that helped shape the future of the nation's armed forces.

His legacy stretches to future generations of midshipmen who will benefit from the unparalleled cyber security curriculum he helped craft and is now taught in Hopper Hall. Blair was chairman of the Academy's advisory panel on cyber education (2015-19). He is helping mold the next members of the intelligence community as a professor at the University of North Carolina and Duke University.

## RELENTLESS HONESTY

Blair is a sixth-generation Navy officer. He is a third-generation Naval Academy alumnus. While he embraced the notion of a Navy career at an early age, he admitted to a moment of doubt regarding the Academy.

During his senior year in high school, he said he flashed a bit of teenage rebellion. He didn't want to go into the "family business." However, a visit and interview at the University of Virginia proved a bit fortuitous when his interviewer turned out to be a former Navy pilot.

"He said, you ought to go to the Naval Academy," Blair said. "At that point, I gave up."

Blair said the lessons of persistence and teamwork of plebe year and the leadership opportunities as a firstie laid the groundwork for the responsibilities as a junior officer. After his time as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Blair joined the fleet aboard BARNEY. His Navy tenure included shore duties such as a military White House Fellowship with the secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Study Group at the War College. During the latter assignment, he was lead author of a report on the potential role of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in future conflicts between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

His sea deployments included serving as executive officer of BERKELEY, as commanding officer of COCHRANE and commander of the KITTY HAWK Battlegroup. Blair said his leadership style was influenced by the enlisted shipmates he served with along with his superiors.

"I was incredibly fortunate to have a long series of good bosses," Blair said. "You gradually build your own style, building it a piece at a time."



**ADM Dennis C. Blair '68, USN (Ret.), is helping shape future generations of national security professionals as a professor at the University of North Carolina and Duke University.**

Danzig said the Naval Academy’s mission shines through in Blair’s leadership. While ability certainly matters, moral leadership is nonnegotiable.

Blair could always be counted on to deliver honest assessments, Danzig said.

“It is in this respect that I most especially admire Denny,” Danzig said. “It’s not just that his mind is first-rate, it is that he always speaks it, without trimming his sails to account for what his listener wants to hear or in his self-interest. ... Denny is the equal of our very best in brainpower and achievement. It is his relentless honesty, though, that makes him so singularly special.”

**“MARCH OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY”**

As one of two National Security Council staffers for Western Europe, Blair was at the forefront of the Cold War history during President Ronald Reagan’s first term. He did the presidential staff work to coordinate American policy for deploying Pershing II and GLCM missiles to offset Soviet SS-20 deployments, leading eventually to the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

He wrote parts of President Reagan’s speeches on the rivalry with the Soviet Union. This includes the passage of the 1982 speech to the British Parliament in which the President proclaimed, “the march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people.”

Blair also helped plan and staff Vice President George W.H. Bush’s European trip in 1981 to build support for NATO and momentum for Reagan’s visit. Blair said he’s proud to have participated in those historic events.

That those words and principled stance still resonate more than 40 years later is a testament to timeless ideals.

“It takes out some of the cynicism we often fall prey to,” Blair said “It gets back to basic things: democracy and freedom. Principled-based optimism brings out the best in this country. That’s what I tried to do for the rest of my career.”

In recent years, Blair has instructed students eyeing careers with the State Department, in the intelligence community and nongovernment organizations. He said his time as a professor gives him a chance “to continue to think,” while sharing the knowledge gained through the course of his professional career.

Blair said ROTC cadets and midshipmen take his courses. This opportunity provides a chance to aid those needing the skills to solve complex problems through a variety of military and diplomatic measures.

“It’s very enjoyable to try to educate the next generation of national security people,” Blair said. “I help steer them to the right place, inspire them and tell them how it can be.”

He also aims to inspire future generations of Naval Academy midshipmen. Blair hopes the Academy remains a beacon for young people who want to dedicate their lives to the Navy and to make a difference in the fleet and the nation.

The Naval Academy is a special place, Blair said, because of the tradition of developing leaders of character and those who put service over self. He said from Memorial Hall to the names of the alumni on the buildings, midshipmen are surrounded by models of integrity and honor.

“It’s sort of in the atmosphere,” Blair said. “It’s not that you’re just going to go be a great ensign. You go out and try to find some way to contribute to the Navy and protect the country.

“I’d like to inspire midshipmen to have a career of service to the Navy and make the Navy better for them having been there.”

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# ADMIRAL SAMUEL J. LOCKLEAR III '77, USN (RET.)



For Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III '77, USN (Ret.), attending a service academy was an idea that did not seem like a possibility until he was already enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Growing up in the southeast United States, Locklear was motivated by family and the prospect of serving others. Drawing inspiration from his father and a desire to succeed, Locklear made the decision after high school to join the Navy.

“I think it was really to do three things. One was I’d like to serve my country. The second was I’d like to better myself, open my eyes up a little bit ... and I’d like to see the world.”

After bootcamp in Orlando, FL, Locklear was set to become an airman’s apprentice and photographer. During that time, Locklear met a chief petty officer who would ultimately encourage him to pursue an officer program. Shortly after, Locklear was nominated to go to the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Port Deposit, MD. His objective had now shifted to become an officer in the Navy.

“To be honest, I never looked back from there,” Locklear said. “For someone who had never been pushed in that direction or contemplated a naval career, I never looked back, and it never entered my mind that I would do anything other than be a naval officer. And that was true my entire career.”

From NAPS, Locklear began his four-year journey at the Naval Academy, where he would begin to expand his leadership capabilities. Serving as regimental commander and brigade commander, Locklear set the foundation for what would become a career in leadership.

“In those days as brigade commander, successes and failures in those short few months molded me into the future four-star admiral I would eventually be and all of the steps to get there,” Locklear said.

Although leadership lessons, challenges and a demanding academic curriculum were key moments during Locklear’s four years at the Academy, conversations and camaraderie behind Bancroft Hall in the Annapolis evening air were some of his fondest memories.

“After dinner, we would trade sea stories. I valued that close camaraderie, I felt comfortable there,” Locklear said. “I felt like how I would feel in later years in wardrooms on ships where we were close together.”

## “WRAPPED ITS ARMS AROUND ME”

The command that Locklear would come to build at sea as a surface warfare officer would reflect the experience, knowledge and same comradery he shared with shipmates at the Academy.

As a result, Locklear earned respect and success during each of his service assignments.

Through trials and accomplishments aboard WILLIAM V. PRATT, CARL VINSON, CALLAGHAN, TRUXTUN and command of LEFTWICH, Locklear’s love for command at sea flourished and would eventually lead to serving as a U.S. Navy flag officer.

For 15 years, Locklear’s high performing level of leadership would push the Navy forward through roles as commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group Five/Nimitz Strike Group during Operation Iraqi Freedom and commander U.S. Pacific Command, where he would lead military forces that covered more than half the globe.

“People ask, ‘What do you think your greatest accomplishment is?’ It’s command at sea, and that never would have happened if it hadn’t been for my father, for that master chief, for the Naval Academy Prep School, for the Naval Academy and for a Navy that has wrapped its arms around me in the good times and the bad times and pushed me forward,” Locklear said.

As part of his 43-year naval career, Locklear was selected to return to where much of his journey began. As the 78th Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy, Locklear brought elements from his time at the Academy through leadership lessons and the Brigade mindset that he experienced as brigade commander to his staff and to the place he gained perspective on the idea of service.

However, Locklear gained even more perspective as Commandant on 11 September 2001. He understood the road ahead for the midshipmen would present unknown challenges,



**ADM Samuel J. Locklear III '77, USN (Ret.), was serving as the 78th Commandant of Midshipmen during the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. During his 43-year naval career, he served as commander, U.S. Pacific Command, commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, and commander of NATO's Allied Joint Force Command.**

but he reinforced pride in service and duty to country while in his role.

With each perspective came further inspiration to give his time and talent back to the Academy. As chairman of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Trustees for four years, Locklear boosted the framework for funding the Fluegel Alumni Center.

As a 2024 Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Locklear understands what it means to represent his classmates, fellow alumni and leaders who have contributed to his career of service. His classmates and peers also understand that Locklear fits the bill for this year's selectee class.

"Our Class of 1977 has many members who have achieved tremendous success in their respective roles as military officers,

business leaders, governments officials and in the fields of educators," said Locklear's NAPS roommate and Naval Academy classmate Captain Richard Thayer '77, USN (Ret.). "First amongst us is Samuel J. Locklear III."

Locklear may have not known a four-decade long career in the Navy was possible back in Lincoln, GA, but now he knows the full meaning of what it means to be an Academy alum and to represent the Class of 1977 as a Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

"Now that they have nominated me and selected me, I will do my very best to represent them as long as I can until I end up on the other side of College Creek," Locklear said.

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# JERROLD L. MILLER '77



When Jerry Miller '77 was in the 8th grade in working-class upstate New York, a teacher who had just returned from Vietnam suggested that he consider the Naval Academy for college. Until that time, Miller was thinking more about a career in used auto parts.

After watching an exciting Army-Navy football game on TV, Miller was all-in. For the rest of high school, he focused on activities that led to an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy as a

member of the Class of 1977.

Now 50-plus years removed from that fateful decision, Jerrold L. Miller is a Distinguished Graduate and one of the most impactful philanthropists at his alma mater, contributing to the establishment of The Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel.

"To have a Jewish Chapel at the Naval Academy was not because we had a lot of Jewish midshipmen," Miller said. "We wanted to show that this is a Navy and a country that is enriched with many different faiths and opinions and attitudes ... and in order to be the United States, we need to work together."

Working together with people and forming effective teams has been at the core of Miller's success from his days on the Yard, where he excelled at ocean engineering and intramurals to the fleet as a successful surface warfare officer and to the civilian industry, where his ownership and operation of shipyards has played a critical role in building the future of the Navy fleet.

"Put your faith in people who have the capabilities and show them you trust them. I learned to trust people, and a lot of the success I had over the years revolved around trust ... and the trust that existed between other Naval Academy colleagues who were central to my success," Miller said during an interview in his Virginia Beach home.

After graduation from the Naval Academy, Miller reported as a surface warfare officer to MILWAUKEE for a Mediterranean cruise. Following that tour, he attended Surface Warfare School and reported for his next SWO assignment aboard BLANDY, homeported at Norfolk, VA. The ship was undergoing a major overhaul, and as repair officer and damage control assistant, Miller supervised critical elements of the overhaul work, expanding his knowledge of shipyard operations and the needs of the waterfront.

It was an experience that was to have a profound influence on the rest of Miller's professional career. He also served as BLANDY's navigator during the ship's Middle East deployment in the early 1980s.

## SHIPBUILDING SUCCESS

Back in Norfolk from deployment, Miller served as an NROTC instructor at Old Dominion University, but knew his career was meant for greatness out of uniform rather than in it.

"I enjoyed my time on active duty, but I didn't view it as something I wanted to do for a career," Miller said. "I realized the people who worked in the shipyard were very similar to the people I worked with in the used auto parts world."

Miller and his Academy classmate Frank Wagner '77 founded Earl Industries in 1984, an on-board ship repair and maintenance firm specializing in naval vessels. The company secured multi-year contracts with the Navy for work on LPD-17 class amphibious ships and later mission modules for Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) class ships.

Miller became the company's president and CEO in 1989, after buying Earl Industries. The company grew rapidly and in 2002, purchased a shipyard. In 2012, General Dynamics purchased most of the firm, which by then was employing more than 1,200 people.

With the remaining assets, Miller founded Fairlead, continuing to provide support to the U.S. Navy. He established The Miller Group, Fairwinds and made investments in energy storage, artificial intelligence and nano materials.

Through these business ventures and contributions to the Navy through his shipyard operations, Miller developed the reputation as an innovator and leader in fleet maintenance and Navy operational readiness and a community leader in economic development and creating jobs for people in low-income areas.

Known as a job creator, Miller's companies have employed hundreds of workers for more than 30 years, and his businesses have been instrumental in developing skilled tradespeople to support the repair and building of Navy ships in Hampton Roads.

These are jobs that support national security and strengthen the defense industrial base. Through his company, Fairlead, he employs 400 people and has become a leading producer of shipboard equipment and builder of ship structures to support aircraft carrier construction. Fairlead has waterfront assets in Newport News, Portsmouth and Norfolk, where it supports activities at Newport News Shipbuilding for CVN construction and Newport News Shipbuilding and General Dynamics for submarine construction.

Now recognizing the need for additional waterfront industrial space, Miller is in the process of revitalizing Lambert Point Docks (LPD) in Norfolk. This venture will spur economic growth, innovation and manufacturing in the Hampton Roads area. He signed an agreement with Norfolk Southern to develop the 130-acre waterfront site. This site will also support construction and operations for a proposed offshore wind farm, accelerating the use of renewable energy. The 130-acre area includes two 10-acre piers and deep-water pier frontage on the Elizabeth River.

*Continued on page 18*

Continued from page 15

When completed, Fairwinds Landing will be a world-class marine logistics center.

## GIVING BACK

At the same time, Miller generously supports his alma mater. He was a driving force in establishing the Friends of the Jewish Chapel, raising \$13 million to build The Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. In the Levy Center is the Esther and William Miller Chapel, named after Miller's parents.

"My parents were very humble people like so many others of their generation, whose actions inspired me and those of my generation to serve the country. I realized at the time that being involved in the establishment of the Levy Center was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we could not pass up," Miller said at the center's dedication. "Regardless of anything else we will do at the Naval Academy, I will remain most proud of being a part of making that project happen. I like to believe the Levy Center is a strong symbol for religious freedom and tolerance for midshipmen as well as the Academy and the Navy."

Going further, Miller and his wife, Laura, have established and support the Miller Scholars for STEM majors to study in Israel, and they fund a spring break trip to Israel for midshipmen. Miller Scholars experience a six-week program in the summer designed for STEM majors. These midshipmen stay in Annapolis and study first-semester Arabic all day for two weeks.

Then, they travel to the University of Haifa and spend four weeks living on campus with students from all over the world studying Middle East culture and touring Israel. This has become one of the most sought-after trips for midshipmen. The Millers have committed to fund and carry on this program for at least 10 years.

Since the Millers' involvement, 400 midshipmen from all backgrounds have traveled to Israel. They experienced at least 10 days of intensive Israeli and Middle East culture immersion during spring break.

Miller has been directly involved with the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation for nearly 20 years. He has contributed more than \$10 million to the Foundation and serves as vice chairman, where he has been instrumental in ensuring the physical mission, academic facilities and spiritual infrastructure at the Academy are the best in the nation. He was also a significant contributor to the Ron Terwilliger '63 Center for Student-Athletes, Brigade Sports Complex and Hopper Hall.

Last year, Portsmouth's city council appointed Miller a member of the Port and Industrial Commission. He is currently on the board of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation and serves as commissioner of the Virginia Beach Development Authority. He was also inducted into the Junior Achievement's Hampton Roads Business Hall of Fame and received a lifetime achievement award from Starbase Atlantic, a STEM program for elementary education in Portsmouth, VA. In addition, he was listed in the 2023 "Power 500" by *Virginia Business* magazine.

Despite the accolades, the hundreds of midshipmen he has helped and the millions of dollars he has contributed to the Naval Academy, Miller remains grounded in what he learned in his first days at his alma mater.

"The time I spent in Bancroft Hall with my classmates—to be interacting with people from everywhere and all walks of life—that is what I think the most important part of the experience in Annapolis is."

And now Jerrold Miller is a Distinguished Graduate in the Class of 2024.

"It's a very humbling feeling," he said. "To be selected is a great honor."



**Jerrold L. Miller '77 was a driving force in creating the Friends of the Jewish Chapel and the construction of The Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel.**

# JOHN F. YOUNG '78



A lifetime of service began with two formidable role models at home for John F. Young '78.

His father was a Marine aviator. His mother was tirelessly committed to ensuring her seven children were college educated. The family, inspired by matriarch Jane Ann Fitzgerald Young, founded, built and operated a school for children with Down syndrome in Milton, FL, in the 1960s.

This seminal moment had a lasting impact on Young. He would follow his father into military service. While his dream of being a naval aviator was dashed by a medical ailment, Young found satisfaction and fulfillment as a surface warfare officer.

Throughout his corporate career, Young prioritized service particularly to aid underserved communities. His efforts included supporting a Naval Academy STEM Education Outreach Program and helping fund an airline flight for inner city students and their parents to the Naval Academy.

While his commitment to serve was ingrained in him by his parents, his wife of more than 20 years, Julie, was his philanthropic partner over the past quarter century. Julie died from cancer in 2021. Her dedication to helping others is honored by the Park Cities Learning Difference Association. Through the Julie Young Teacher Appreciation awards, outstanding educators who teach children with learning differences in the Highland Park (Texas) Independent School District are recognized.

Young is grateful to have lived a life surrounded by transformative and inspirational models of empathy.

"I've had two great advocates around me my whole life," he said.

## "IT'S IN MY BONES"

The Young family of Santa Rosa County, FL, was on the lower spectrum of the economic scale. The family of nine qualified for the school district's free lunch program, although they wouldn't participate as Jane Young always found a way to scrape together enough money for her seven children to purchase lunch.

Her resilience and resourcefulness extended beyond her family. While delivering Meals on Wheels to families in the rural part of the county, the Young family came upon a horrifying sight. A child with Down syndrome was dog collared to a junk car's steering wheel in the front yard.

Jane Young took action. The child received assistance and that act set in motion a chain of events that would leave a lasting impact. She enlisted her family to be part of a solution. Young's father, James Arthur Young, had a home construction business and the family spent six months renovating a house originally scheduled to be razed. Instead, it was moved to a donated lot behind a pharmacy.

This structure was converted into a school for more than 20 special needs students. A doctor and a lawyer from town who had children with Down syndrome helped raise money for the project. Eventually, the school would grow to include 70 students and ultimately become the model for Florida's students with special needs program.

"That's the kind of mother I had," John Young said. "She was a go getter."

That effort, when he was about 10, made a lasting impact on Young. It inspired him to pursue endeavors to uplift others. These include community service relationships with Habitat for Humanity, the Children's Medical Center of Dallas, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and serving as a United Way campaign chair.

Young is a U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Trustee who has made the Academy STEM Education Outreach program a priority. The program, conducted by midshipmen, targets inner city high school students in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Roger Staubach '65, an NFL Hall of Fame quarterback and a 2000 U.S. Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate Award recipient, credited Young with engineering a campaign that raised \$400,000 to assist underserved populations.

"It is a direct result of John Young's relentless pursuit of excellent candidates, that the Dallas area has enhanced the diversity of the Brigade of Midshipmen," Staubach wrote in Young's Distinguished Graduate nomination application.

Young said his commitment to aiding others reflects his parents' values.

"It's in my bones," he said. "That's what the expectation is. That comes from my upbringing."

## "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?"

Service is a common thread spanning Young's life. He grew up in awe of the aviators in his community and watching T-28 Trojans above his home—and occasionally landing in nearby corn fields when engines failed—from Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

James Young was a flight instructor following his service during the Korean War. About 25 percent of his classmates were Navy dependents and his Little League baseball field was in a Navy housing neighborhood.

A basketball court was across the street from his friend's home. Young and Tyrone Dixon would play ball during the summer then retreat from the heat into Dixon's air-conditioned home, an amenity the Youngs did not have. Sometimes, Young would spend the night at his Little League teammate's home.

Some neighbors objected to the friendship. Dixon is Black. Young is white. Unbeknownst to Young until much later in life, his mother received letters from neighbors filled with racist comments.

Intolerance in the 1960s didn't faze the Young family. They experienced anti-Catholic sentiments in their Deep South hometown. They answered by embracing all.



Young stood with his Black classmates as their schools were among the first in Florida to integrate when he was in second grade. Black and white athletes coexisted on athletic fields. Young advocated for racial equality, a theme that would extend throughout his life.

He said his contributions of time and treasure illustrate his values. The Dallas STEM program is a prime example of highlighting opportunities that can uplift others. Spotlighting the Naval Academy produced tangible results.

“What are you going to do about it?” Young said. “The purpose of most of my contributions either of my time or financially is making people aware of the opportunities they might have.

“The goal (of the STEM program) was to get counselors at the schools and (students’) ministers to understand that option existed. Most of the people didn’t believe the option existed. Success was measured by the number of applications that occurred as a result of that. You have to participate to win. If you’re not applying, you’ll never know what you missed.”

## ANNAPOLIS BOUND

John Young dreamed of following his father’s footsteps as a pilot. He chose the Naval Academy over Air Force and Army. He turned down an academic scholarship to Stanford and an athletic scholarship to Georgia Tech.

Proximity to Annapolis and friends who were already at the Naval Academy or were headed there played a part in Young’s decision. His Marine father didn’t influence his collegiate selection. But, once Young chose Navy, James Young needled him.

“Remember this one thing: you’re just transportation (for Marines),” Young remembers his father saying.

After participating in twice-daily summer football workouts in Florida, Young wasn’t affected by the physicality of Plebe Summer. He said learning to control his emotions and handling the mental stresses associated with being a plebe were harder challenges. His biggest obstacle to remaining a midshipman plebe year was “cracking the code” of calculus.

The leadership lessons absorbed on the Yard from senior chiefs paid dividends once Young commissioned. Combined with his role as captain of most of his high school athletic teams, Young said he entered the fleet understanding that relationship building was an integral part of leading others.

“If you can’t do that as a leader you’re really messing up,” he said. “These are people you’re depending on.”

Young was a mechanical engineering major with his sights set on joining the naval aviator community. However, he suffers from eustachian tube dysfunction, which makes flying painful as pressure builds in the passageway connecting the throat and middle ear. It’s a condition that can be relatively easy to fix as a child but requires major surgery for adults.

This ailment would derail Young’s aviation dreams. He admits to experiencing a brief period of disappointment, but he quickly adapted to reality and discovered fulfillment as a junior officer



**John F. Young '78 is a lifelong advocate for extending opportunities to people from all backgrounds. His support of the Naval Academy STEM Educational Outreach Program in the Dallas area has produced more Academy applicants from underserved populations.**

in IMPERVIOUS. He was the damage control assistant on the minesweeper and found working with a team of 60-plus shipmates suited him well.

“Working with that volume of people was much more satisfying than just the loneliness of me and a copilot or me and an instructor,” Young said. “The roles on a ship taught me how to be a leader. I was more engaged every minute of the day with units—from firemen to master chiefs to commanders and captains.”

His senior chief made him qualify as a fireman, then a third-class petty officer, including changing O-rings on a fire pump and working on the diesel engines. He said he earned the respect of the enlisted crew by doing whatever his team was asked to do.

In short order, not being able to fly didn’t matter.

“I got over my disappointment pretty quickly,” he said.

## SLOW DOWN

Young earned Atlantic Fleet Ship Handler of the Year awards in 1980 and 1982, serving aboard two different hull types. Following his service in TICONDEROGA, he left the Navy to begin a successful and unpredictable private sector career.

His first job was with Southern Company in Pensacola, FL, as a sales engineer for the marketing department. In less than 15 years, he became the firm’s executive vice president for Southern Generation/Southern Power.

His career track included stints as a chief financial officer, vice president for investor relations, chief operating officer and ultimately CEO of Energy Future Holdings, which at the time was the result of the largest privatization deal in U.S. history at \$45 billion.

Young said his inquisitive nature was essential to learning new skills for positions in which he didn't previously have any direct experience. Asking the right questions, pushing aside ego and being receptive to advice was critical.

"My inquisitiveness got me put in meetings I probably didn't deserve to be in," Young said. "It helped me learn quickly."

Another crucial component to Young's success was the ability to remain composed and clear-headed during moments of stress. That helped during a fire aboard TICONDEROGA and in the corporate boardroom.

"When things get really serious, in my head, things start to slow down," he said. "That's a gift from mom and dad. My blood pressure slows down. I say, 'let's think about this for a second.' That helps me make decisions because I feel I have plenty of time to make them. I'm hardly ever rushed.

"You can set the room calmer by behaving that way, too. If you get scared, believe me, they'll all get scared and they won't be able to do their jobs. You have to set that tone and people have to trust you."

Success in the corporate world also meant advocating for his companies to mirror their communities. Former Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Walter "Ted" Carter '81, USN (Ret.),

said Young led by example, promoting diversity in the workplace and establishing a model for corporate governance.

This effort was highlighted by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council awarding Young's company the "Top Corps" designation for 22 consecutive years.

"John's extraordinary success as a business leader is based on his core belief that "doing the right thing" is also the right way to run a successful business," Carter said in his DGA endorsement letter.

### OPPORTUNITY

Reflecting on his career, Young appreciates the opportunities afforded him by a Naval Academy education. That's how he pitches the Academy to prospective midshipmen and their parents.

Along with a world-class education, commissioned junior officers have the opportunity to grow as people and leaders. They have the opportunity to learn from enlisted personnel "who made us who we were."

"We had five years to learn how to be an adult, a leader and a shipmate," Young said. "That sounds like the greatest opportunity to me." ⚓

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# LEGACY OF VALOR

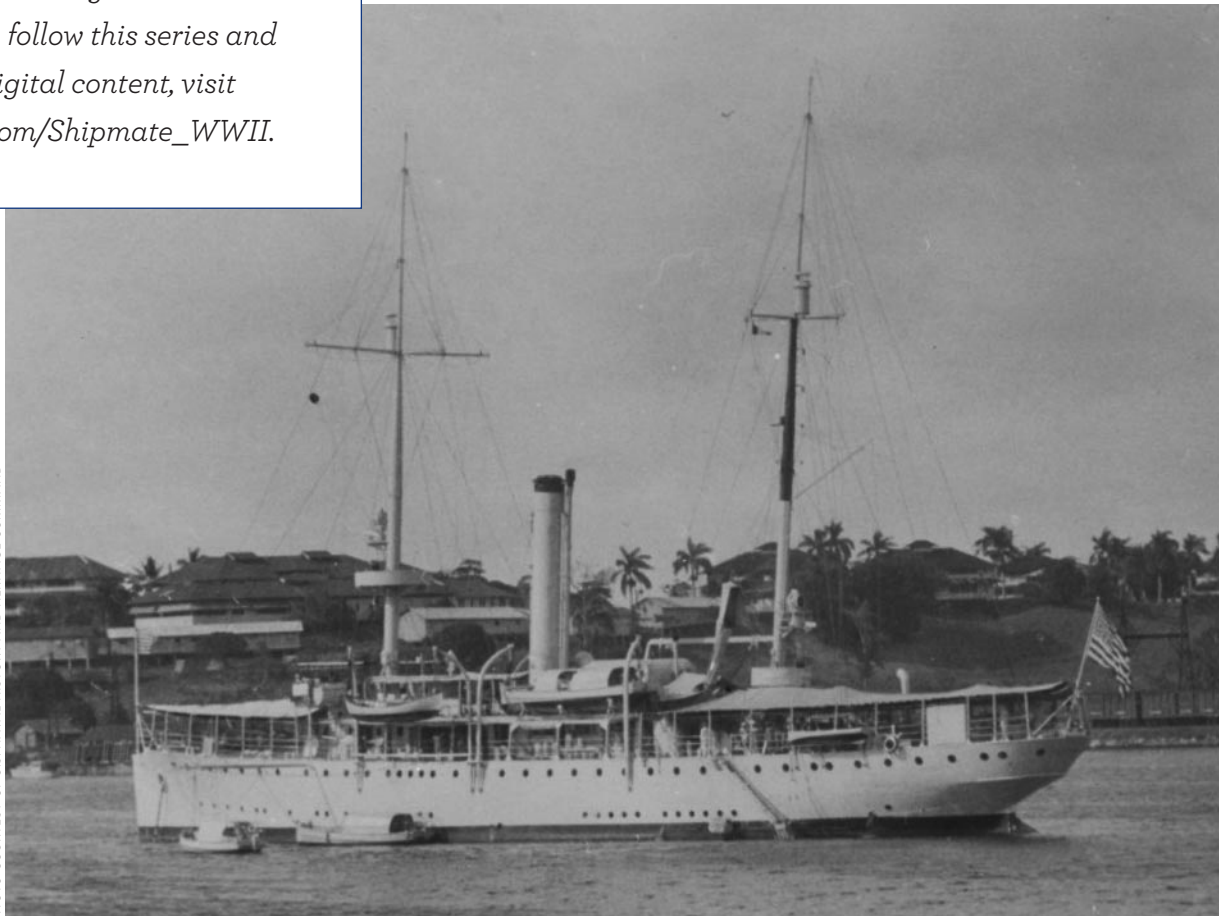
## THE SACRED DUTY OF MEMORIALIZING THE SACRIFICE AND SERVICE OF WWII VETERANS

*In 2024, Shipmate is honoring the service, sacrifice, courage and leadership of U.S. Naval Academy alumni during World War II. As the nation commemorates the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion on 6 June 2024, Shipmate continues its series featuring interviews with living alumni WWII veterans. To follow this series and access digital content, visit [www.usna.com/Shipmate\\_WWII](http://www.usna.com/Shipmate_WWII).*

Lieutenant Commander Jacob Britt '29, USN  
Lieutenant Lion Tyler Miles '31, USN  
Lieutenant Louis Joseph Gulliver Jr. '36, USN  
Lieutenant John Wythe Hayes '36, USN  
Lieutenant Kenneth Edward Pound '37, USN

**The USS ASHEVILLE (PG-21) at anchor in the Panama Canal Zone. ASHEVILLE was sunk by three Japanese warships on 3 March 1942, all but one of her 166-man crew perished.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



U.S. Naval Academy alumni spanning the Classes of 1972 to 2004 gathered on 3 March 2024 to honor the valor and sacrifice of five alumni who perished 82 years earlier 300 miles south of Java. The 166-man crew of the USS ASHEVILLE (PG-21) fought valiantly but was no match for three Japanese warships.

The 1920 American gunboat held out for 30 minutes. All but one of ASHEVILLE's crew perished that day. Their bravery was honored during a solemn moment at Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, NC, with the assembled Naval Academy alumni commemorating their fallen fellow alumni by reading their names alongside a newly unveiled monument dedicated to ASHEVILLE's crew.

Captain Kerry Ingalls '83, USN (Ret.), a former commanding officer of USS ASHEVILLE (SSN-758), told an audience of sailors, alumni, elected officials and veterans how Lieutenant Walter Ashe, SC, USN (Ret.), inspired him. Ashe served in the first ASHEVILLE in the late 1930s. He moved to Asheville, NC, based on his name, his connection with PG-21 and his desire to keep the memories of his shipmates alive.

During his tour as commanding officer, Ingalls surfaced ASHEVILLE (SSN-758) at the site of the original ship's sinking. His crew laid a wreath, performed a rifle salute and created a video of the commemoration for the city of Asheville.

"It's critically important that our sailors know upon whose shoulders they stand," Ingalls said. "It's critically important our citizens understand the sacrifices our men and women in uniform, and their families, make every day on behalf of freedom.

"It was a privilege for me to participate. To know that even though the bodies of those sailors are resting in the South Java Sea, their spirit, their memory and the



Left: CAPT Doug Guthe '76, USN (Ret.), lays a challenge coin from USS ASHEVILLE (SSN-758) alongside the USS ASHEVILLE (PG-21) monument on 3 March 2024.

Below: Prior to the USS ASHEVILLE (PG-21) commemoration ceremony, Naval Academy alumni gathered to honor the five alumni who died in the 3 March 1942 battle with Japanese warships. They read the names of those lost and laid challenge coins on the monument at Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, NC.



honor of their sacrifice is here with us today and for now on."

The dedication of the Asheville monument exemplifies the alumni community's commitment to document and ensure stories of valor are preserved to inspire future generations. Chris Perrien '74 spearheaded the effort to formally recognize ASHEVILLE's crew. Supported by his fellow alumni in North Carolina, including members of the North Carolina Triangle Chapter, Perrien partnered with Asheville city officials, local veterans and alumni, and the city's fire department to make the monument a reality.

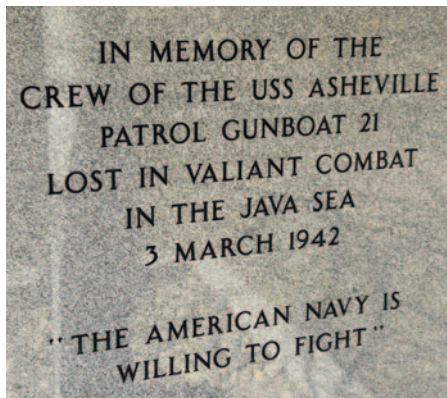
Perrien said Britt and his crew showcased incredible honor in the face of overwhelming odds. It reminded Perrien of the Naval Academy's Honor Concept. He said Britt likely knew his ship's fate when he led the crew into battle.

"We're supposed to go out there and get in the way of the enemy," Perrien said. "You have to have the confidence of conviction to do the right thing despite the circumstances."

While the city of Asheville never forgot PG-21, Perrien said the community

**"It's important for all of us to remember the sacrifices of a crew that might otherwise be forgotten. Although ASHEVILLE might be a footnote in World War II history, it was 160-plus souls who went down defending our country and our freedoms."**

—LtCol John Walls '86, USMC (Ret.)



To commemorate the loss of USS Asheville (PG-21), a monument was placed at Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, NC, on 3 March 2024. Five Naval Academy alumni were among those lost during the ship's sinking. The back of the monument honors the crew of USS Asheville for their courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

**“We weren’t worried about (our place in history), we just wanted to beat the Japanese and Germans.”**

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

rallied so the ship’s crew will remain an inspiration in perpetuity.

“We’ve ensured she’ll always be remembered,” Perrien said.

Captain Doug Guthe ’76, USN (Ret.), was among the Naval Academy contingent at the Riverside Cemetery ceremony. The second commanding officer of USS Asheville (SSN-758) was joined by Captain Fred Dohse ’72, USN (Ret.), Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox ’80, USN (Ret.), Commander Bob Byron ’85, USN (Ret.), Captain Scott Steadley ’85, USN (Ret.), Lieutenant Colonel John Walls ’86, USMC (Ret.), Captain Reece Morgan ’89, USN (Ret.), Eric Shangle ’97, and Noah White ’04.

Guthe said 166 city residents enlisted following the loss of Asheville.

“That indicates the dedication that the people of Asheville and people of the United States have for supporting our military,” Guthe said.

White said the valor of Asheville’s crew deepens his respect for the freedoms Americans enjoy. He supported the Asheville commemoration to honor those who put others before themselves and to perpetuate that legacy.

“It’s who we are,” White said. “When it was on the line, they did their duty until the very end. It’s important to remember that, and what it means to be an American, especially one with a naval background.”

The valiant actions of Asheville’s crew is just one story of courage under fire by Naval Academy alumni. World War II alumni revealed the value of ensuring these stories are preserved for future generations.

**‘VITALLY IMPORTANT’**

Captain Jack Gillooly ’45, USN (Ret.), remembers the excruciating heat. A Japanese pilot rammed his plane into the light cruiser Columbia’s port side. The kamikaze attack turned the light cruiser’s main battery director into an inferno in Lingayen Gulf.

“Heat like you wouldn’t believe,” Gillooly said.

The former Naval Academy offensive lineman was frantic. He hurled himself down a hatch into a lower deck. Gillooly was distraught. Thankfully, he ran into a friend from the Academy who calmed him down. Eventually, Gillooly regained his composure, amid a second kamikaze strike,

to man Columbia’s forward 5-inch director.

Gillooly hopes sharing his World War II experiences will benefit future generations of midshipmen.

“That’s vitally important,” Gillooly said. “They need to know there were people who were stepping up to the plate in those days. They need to know something about Guadalcanal and the sacrifices that were made. It will help them become better naval officers if they understand that.”

While the Greatest Generation might not have appreciated the significance of their actions during World War II, their courage is obvious. Bob Taylor, son of Commander Dawson Taylor ’46, USNR (Ret.), said time can chip away the magnitude of the consequences of World War II if the experiences are allowed to wither.

Then-Ensign Taylor was underway in Leyte Gulf when Nagasaki and Hiroshima were bombed. While that brought a sigh of relief, Taylor’s tour included transporting sailors and soldiers back to the United States from the Philippines.

Bob Taylor said it’s essential to preserve their stories.

“That history starts to get lost or diminished the further you get away from it,” Taylor said. “Most folks would say that is an amazing story. They knew what they were sailing into.”

Lieutenant Commander Charles G. Sobel ’45, USNR (Ret.), was a submariner during World War II. He and his classmates understood what awaited them upon commissioning a year early from the United States Naval Academy.

Sobel said the World War II generation didn’t contextualize their place in history as it was happening, they were just committed to eliminating the threats facing the nation and world.

“We didn’t think in those terms,” Sobel said in an August 2023 interview. He died 14 November 2023. “We thought of our patriotism. We were anxious to show the world we were the best Navy, and we did that.”

**SERVICE MATTERS**

Admiral Cox, director of Naval History and Heritage Command, said Americans owe the Greatest Generation an unpayable debt. The valor veterans’ demonstrated

and the steep price of victory demands their stories be remembered and shared for successive generations.

“War is hell, and we shouldn’t glorify it,” Cox said. “But, we should always honor and remember not only those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but also those who served and survived horrific battles in forsaken deserts, jungles, treacherous seas or being adrift in the ocean.”

“World War II was the bloodiest and most costly war in human history; an existential global fight between tyranny and freedom. We owe all these veterans for our freedom, because victory came at such a very high price.”

Midshipman Max Bueno ’24 finds inspiration in his grandfather’s service aboard the destroyer KEARNEY during World War II. Bueno said with the last of the surviving members of the Greatest Generation leaving us, it’s critical to appreciate their sacrifices.



The National World War II Museum in New Orleans features immersive exhibits and thousands of oral histories from war veterans. It is committed to preserving the history of the Greatest Generation.

He participated in welcoming Honor Flights veterans to the Washington, DC, area. It was a small way to give back, Bueno said.

“It was awesome to see the veterans come off the plane and salute them,” said Bueno, who served as Midshipmen Action Group president in fall 2023. “It felt very inspiring knowing we were paying back in some way by showing our appreciation for these veterans.”



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ADM Alan G. Kirk, USN (Ret.), Class of 1909

## USNA Museum

The United States Naval Academy Museum’s exhibits include an extensive artifact collection including World War II submarine battle flags, the flag PRINCETON flew during the Battle for Leyte Gulf, and the uniform Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Class of 1905, wore on board MISSOURI when he signed the Instrument of Surrender with Japan on 2 September 1945.

The museum’s World War II exhibit also highlights D-Day and Admiral Alan G. Kirk, Class of 1909, USN (Ret.), who was chief of staff to the commander of the American Naval Forces in Europe. Kirk was the senior American naval officer in planning the invasion of Normandy.

To view the museum’s exhibits virtually, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bp7mtjdy> or scan this QR code.



**“To those families and friends of other members of the greatest generation, may I suggest you now begin to ask the questions and hear the stories that have been locked in memory for too long.”**

—Dave Burlin '69 son of CDR Charles W. “Bill” Burlin '44, USN (Ret.), cited a passage from Tom Brokaw’s 1998 book *The Greatest Generation* on the importance of preserving stories of World War II veterans.

“It’s even more important for us to show up and make sure the remaining (World War II veterans) know their service matters and is appreciated by the generations now.”

Ensuring the service stories of officers and individual citizen soldiers are preserved is a passion for Jeremy Collins, director of conferences and symposia at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The museum’s archives include more than 10,000 personal accounts of veterans, eyewitnesses to the war and Holocaust survivors.

Collins said he is inspired by the museum’s veteran volunteers. He said recalling conversations with those veterans can turn a tough day into brighter one.

“It is a good reminder of why we are here,” Collins said. “To make sure somebody is telling their stories, now that they’re going and soon to be gone.”

### ‘VITAL TO OUR SURVIVAL’

Captain Bill Toti '79, USN (Ret.), served as commodore of Submarine Squadron 3 in Pearl Harbor, HI, in the early 2000s. He spent much of his active-duty career based in Hawaii where reminders of the cost of freedom are omnipresent.

Toti, a cohost of the “Unauthorized History of the Pacific War” podcast, said current and future generations can honor the Greatest Generation by living up to the ideals that inspired millions

of Americans to rally in support of the war effort.

“It’s critical that we remember our World War II veterans for two reasons: to honor them and to provide for our future,” Toti said. “Those veterans suffered the most horrific war in the history of mankind for our benefit, and we should continually ask ourselves if we are behaving in a way that, as the Tom Hanks character said in the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” ‘earns this.’

“There are so many lessons from that war that must not be forgotten, lessons that can help us avoid a future similarly tragic conflagration. Those lessons are vital to our survival.”

Over the past 20 years, Bob Abate '63 has made it his mission to document and share the stories of World War II veterans. He has conducted nearly 200 interviews including veterans of the D-Day invasion.

Abate said many of the veterans are hesitant and too humble to tell their stories. His appreciation for the Greatest Generation was sparked growing up in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, where many of his neighbors were veterans.

“I feel a certain moral obligation to tell their stories because without them we would not be where we are today,” said Abate, who separated from the Academy and graduated from Fordham University. 🇺🇸



The National D-Day Memorial, located just 16 miles north of Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford, VA, was dedicated by former President George W. Bush in 2001.

## D-Day Memorial Commemoration

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion into Normandy, France, the National D-Day Memorial will host several events from 6-8 June in Bedford, VA.

Bedford is home to the D-Day Memorial in part because it lost 20 residents on 6 June 1944, suffering the nation's highest known per capita D-Day loss. The memorial was dedicated on 6 June 2001 by President George W. Bush and is a tribute to the 4,415 men who died on 6 June 1944.

On 15 March 2015, eight members of the Naval Academy's Class of 1969 12th company toured the memorial. Their tour guide noted a blank spot on a wall where large bronze plaques dedicated to the United States Military Academy West Point, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Tech alumni who took part in the landings are on display. The eight alumni stood in front of the wall, pointing to the blank spot, for a picture. That picture was printed in *Shipmate*, and the class began a successful effort to raise \$25,000 to have a Naval Academy plaque mounted on the wall.

On 5 June 2019, they held a dedication ceremony at the memorial the day before the 75th anniversary ceremony. The plaque outlines the significant role United States Naval Academy alumni played on D-Day, especially in saving the day on Omaha Beach.

For more information on the memorial's 80th anniversary events, visit [www.dday.org/80th](http://www.dday.org/80th) or scan this QR code.



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## Naval Academy WWII Medal of Honor Recipients

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. Twenty-eight Naval Academy alumni were among the 473 Medal of Honor recipients from World War II.

World War II valor by alumni began in Pearl Harbor, starting with Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, USN, Class of 1906. Kidd was the highest-ranking casualty at Pearl Harbor. His Medal of Honor citation reads in part:

*During the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese Forces on December 7, 1941. He immediately went to the bridge and as Commander Battleship Division ONE, courageously discharged his duties as Senior Officer Present Afloat until the ARIZONA, his Flagship, blew up from magazine explosions and a direct bomb hit on the bridge, which resulted in the loss of his life.*

Captain Frank Valkenburgh, USN, Class of 1909, and Captain Mervyn S. Bennion, USN, Class of 1910, were also awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for their action during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Below are the U. S. Naval Academy's World War II Medal of Honor recipients listed by class year. The Naval Academy website lists all alumni who were awarded the Medal of Honor at [www.usna.edu/Notables/moh](http://www.usna.edu/Notables/moh). The citation for each alumnus recipient can be found by clicking on their *Lucky Bag* photo. Each is also honored in Memorial Hall with their fallen classmates. More information can be found at [www.cmohs.org/recipients](http://www.cmohs.org/recipients) and [www.nationalww2museum.org/war/topics/medal-honor-recipients-world-war-ii](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/topics/medal-honor-recipients-world-war-ii).



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

LT Richard Miles McCool '45, USN, is presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman at the White House, on 18 December 1945.

### 1906

RADM Isaac C. Kidd, USN\*

### 1909

CAPT Franklin Van Valkenburgh, USN\*

### 1910

CAPT Mervyn S. Bennion, USN\*

### 1911

RADM Daniel J. Callaghan, USN\*  
RADM Norman Scott, USN\*

### 1914

CAPT Albert H. Rooks, USN\*

### 1916

CAPT Cassin Young, USN\*

### 1923

RADM Samuel G. Fuqua, USN (Ret.)

### 1924

CAPT John P. Cromwell, USN\*

### 1925

RADM Herbert Emery Schonland, USN (Ret.)

### 1926

CDR Howard W. Gilmore, USN\*

### 1929

LCDR Bruce A. Van Voorhis, USN\*

### 1930

LtCol Harold W. Bauer, USMC\*  
CDR Samuel David Dealey, USN\*

### 1931

RADM Richard N. Antrim, USN (Ret.)  
CDR Ernest E. Evans, USN\*  
VADM Lawson P. Ramage, USN (Ret.)

### 1932

RADM Bruce McCandless, USN (Ret.)

### 1933

VADM John D. Bulkeley, USN (Ret.)  
CAPT David McCampbell, USN (Ret.)

### 1934

CDR George Fleming Davis, USN\*  
RADM Richard O'Kane, USN (Ret.)

### 1935

RADM Eugene Bennett Fluckey, USN (Ret.)  
LT John James Powers, USN\*  
LT Milton E. Ricketts, USN\*

### 1937

LCDR Edward "Buch" O'Hare, USN\*  
CAPT George L. Street III, USN (Ret.)

### 1945

CAPT Richard Miles McCool, USN (Ret.)

\*Awarded Medal of Honor posthumously

# “THROUGH OUR HEROES’ EYES”

by Rex Alexander '80, 28th Company Rep

Amanda Gillooly approached our annual 28th Company reunion, excited to share that her grandfather, the oldest living U.S. Naval Academy football player, was celebrating his 103rd birthday nearby.

Steve Chafin '80, former Navy fullback, volunteered to speak with him. “Hell with that!” we said, as the entire company rose in unison to meet World War II veteran Captain Jack Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.). Jack was in his element, surrounded by a large, loving family and a company of aging midshipmen wishing they remembered words to “The Goat is Old & Gnarly.”

Knowing his age, you are impressed by his hale appearance, broad shoulders, full head of hair and beaming smile, but I was struck by his expressive blue eyes. My grandfather and hero, who survived trench warfare in World War I, had those same eyes. Growing up, I wondered what stories they had to tell. As my shipmates offered congratulations, I stood in back wondering the same about Jack.

Turns out Jack has seen some things.



Then-MIDN Jack Gillooly '45.

He saw Heisman Trophy winner Glenn Davis fall beneath his tackle, a turning point in Army’s loss to Navy at West Point in 1943! A scant 14 months later, Jack stared at his radarman’s heart still beating through a hole in his chest after a kamikaze pilot sent shrapnel flying through their gun turret. Football was probably a distant memory when Jack received the Purple Heart.

Flying over Korea, Jack clutched a cross and watched enemy planes attack. He holds that same cross today and wonders if that is why his heart still beats. As a former P-3 ORION pilot, I envision Jack eyeballing a Soviet sub turning tail after his aircrew forced it to the surface during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

If we could just see what Jack has seen; perceive what his generation accomplished; and witness their strong belief in faith, country, family and service; I know that America and the world, would behold a much brighter future.

I smile and step forward to shake our hero’s hand. ⚓

*Editor’s Note: The 28th Company reunion was on 26 September 2023.*



Members of the Class of 1980’s 28th Company received a pleasant surprise while gathering for a reunion on 26 September 2023. Unbeknownst to them, they had chosen the same restaurant as World War II veteran Captain Jack Gillooly '45, USN (Ret.), who was celebrating his 103rd birthday.



# A LIFETIME OF ALUMNI SUPPORT AND SERVICES

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation (USNA AA&F) is committed to supporting and assisting the alumni community throughout their lifetime journey. This obligation is manifested by helping prospective midshipmen achieve their goals at preparatory schools through the Athletic and Scholarship Program (A&SP), supporting parents on I-Day, delivering the resources for midshipmen to have unparalleled academic and leadership opportunities, providing career services and through our legacy affairs programs.

USNA AA&F is here for you during all phases of life. In the following pages, we highlight the programs and services available to alumni, family and friends of the Academy. Primers on these programs and services can be found at [https://www.usna.com/news\\_rhumblines?](https://www.usna.com/news_rhumblines?) or scan this QR code.



Updates on offerings can be found at [usna.com](http://usna.com) and our social media channels. We will keep you updated on our engagement plans and encourage you to stay connected by utilizing the [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com) platform, where you can follow the activities of your Class, Chapter, Parent Club and Shared Interest Groups.



## PARENT CLUBS

Attending USNA can be an extraordinary college experience filled with excitement and rewards. However, navigating life at the Naval Academy comes with its unique set of challenges, that students and parents would not experience at a traditional four-year institution. This is where a local parent club can serve midshipmen and parents alike in this four-year journey and beyond.

There are 77 USNA parent clubs spread throughout the United States. These clubs, led by volunteer leaders and comprising current and past midshipmen families, offer a wealth of support, information and camaraderie. Whether it's sharing experiences, offering advice about Academy life, or simply fostering fellowship, these clubs are here for parents and midshipmen every step of the way.

These dedicated club members are ready to provide guidance on how best to support midshipmen through the challenges they may encounter at the Academy, offering encouragement during difficult times and celebrating their successes.

Furthermore, the USNA Alumni Association parent liaison will ensure parents receive accurate and timely information directly from Academy leadership through our parent club channels. By being part of the parent club network, parents will have access to reliable updates and resources straight from the source.

A typical parent club is run through a traditional board with committee and annual and lifetime memberships. These clubs not only do so much to support midshipmen they offer fun and camaraderie for parents with events such a club tailgates, happy hours, care packaging parties, welcome aboard events, as well as community outreach for USNA Admissions Department and much more.

To connect with a USNA parent club in your area, please visit [www.usna.com/find-a-chapter-club](http://www.usna.com/find-a-chapter-club) and click on the map for locations and points of contact for each parent club.



## CLASS PROGRAMS

Alumni Class Programs offers several areas of support including assistance with classes as they plan their REUNIONS every five years, acting as liaison with the U.S. Naval Academy to schedule memorial services, class meetings, lunches and dinners, and a briefing from the Superintendent and the Alumni Association & Foundation president/CEO.

Many classes hold class officer ELECTIONS to coincide with their reunions and Class Programs can run the election using online tools to make the process simple and honest.

COUNCIL OF CLASS PRESIDENTS (COCP) meetings occur twice each year, and are attended by current class presidents, with the goal to increase engagement with the Alumni Association & Foundation and a fuller understanding of activities on the Yard.

ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN (ALITC) is an alumni program that seeks to forge a lasting bond of mentorship and support between the incoming class at the Naval Academy and the class which graduated 50 years prior. Starting before Induction Day by attending Welcome Aboard events, the senior ALITC class attends milestone events in a midshipman's life through all four years at the Academy.

The Alumni Association & Foundation maintains a collection of CLASS RINGS displayed in the Fluegel Alumni Center, donated either by the class member themselves or their families. Rings are also donated as part of the U.S. Naval Academy Bonds of Gold ceremony. The 50-year Another Link in the Chain class collects rings from their classmates to donate to the current midshipman class, which are then smelted into the gold for the new rings, creating a physical bond of gold between the generations.



Members of the ALITC Class of 1975 cheer on their 50-year counterparts in the Class of 2025 during their Herndon Climb.



## CHAPTERS

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's chapter program was established to connect members with one another, engage with the USNA Alumni Association (USNA AA), and stay connected to the Naval Academy through leadership and volunteer opportunities, candidate outreach, local events, mentorship, social and professional networking and more. The alumni chapter program has the unique ability to engage a wide breadth of members—both geographically and demographically—while at the same time building a network that celebrates and supports the USNA AA and the Naval Academy. Chapters play an essential role in USNA AA's mission to support and serve our fellow alumni and members.

In January, USNA AA Engagement leadership kicked off a four-year roadshow where they will visit all chapters and parent clubs across the country to meet you where you are. They are excited to share what's happening at the Alumni Association and on the Yard, as well as hear directly from you on what the Alumni Association can do better to support you as individuals and as a chapter. The Alumni Association is developing programs that benefit our alumni, parents, and all members, and our conversations during the roadshow will help guide the way to creating a greater impact in your community and on the Yard. We look forward to meeting you in the future.

For more information on the roadshow and our tentative schedule, please contact Nancy Murray, senior director, Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs, at [nancy.murray@usna.com](mailto:nancy.murray@usna.com).



**USNA AA&F Executive Vice President of Engagement and Communications, CAPT TJ Grady '96, USN (Ret.), speaks with the Hawaii Chapter during the 2024 roadshow.**



## LEGACY PROGRAMS

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's mission is to "strengthen our members' bonds to the Academy and to each other, to help members thrive as leaders in and out of uniform and reach their full potential."

Alumni Legacy Programs celebrate, honor and acknowledge the enduring impact of the events, achievements, actions and lives of our alumni that unite the community in shared experience and understanding for what it means to "thrive as leaders" and "reach their full potential" as Naval Academy alumni. Through this shared meaning, we "strengthen our members' bonds to the Academy and to each other."

We do that through four flagship legacy programs: Honor Our Fallen Heroes; Distinguished Graduate Award; Thriving as Leaders Awards; and Memorial Services.

HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES honors the ultimate sacrifice of Naval Academy alumni killed in combat action or in noncombat military operations, together with their families who gather in reverence to their memory each fall.

The DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE PROGRAM honors living graduates who have distinguished themselves in their fields in and out of uniform, who demonstrate impeccable personal integrity and who actively support the missions of the Naval Academy or the Alumni Association.

The THRIVING AS LEADERS AWARDS recognize and celebrate alumni achievement in professional and athletic pursuits, and also acts of service and leadership in volunteer roles.

And finally, our MEMORIAL SERVICES program provides support to alumni in their final chapters and their families.



Honor Our Fallen Heroes



## SUPPORT SERVICES

The Alumni Support Services department is focused in six areas:

- Career Programs
- Continuing Education
- Coaching and Mentorship
- Medical Facilitation
- Memorial Services
- Alumni Spouse Support

The new landing page that houses these resources can be accessed by visiting USNA.com and choosing “Alumni Support Services” from the *Find and Connect* or *Events and Programs* drop-down menu. The Alumni Support Services department will be built over the next three years.

2024 priorities include the executive and operational management of the Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) for all five service academies. We are offering two additional transition programs (Deloitte Core Fundamentals for JOs and Blue Water Advisors for senior O5, O6, and Junior O7) as well as 1:1 career counseling.

We are actively supporting alumni business networking/entrepreneurship opportunities with onsite programs and other events. Our landing page hosts medical facilitation information that cover:

- VA Benefits
- VSOs
- TRI Care Options
- End of Life Support
- Living Will Resources
- Mental Health Services
- Parkinson’s Resources
- Integrated Health Options
- A Medical Forum on my.usna.com

In addition, we will begin to provide quarterly health webinars. We are actively developing alumni spouse support resources that will be hosted on the usna.com webpage.

### 2025 PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

*Coaching and Mentorship*—Creating a comprehensive program that builds upon and augments the Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP). Work with the Class of 1969 to modernize AMP to increase volunteer signup and usage. Bring on an executive whiteboard coaching option for our senior officers.

*Continuing Education*—Build out the opportunities available for our alumni and host them on the landing page.

*Alumni Business Directory*—Create system to update in real-time.

*Entrepreneurship*—Continue to meet alumni where they are to build business opportunities for them.

### VA BENEFITS 101 WEBINAR

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association’s first health-related virtual webinar event is scheduled for 4 June at 7 p.m. ET. The topic of the event will be VA Benefits 101. The format for the free event will be 15-20 minutes of general discussion on disability compensation, the appeals process and the veteran community/survivor benefits. This will be followed by 30 minutes of general Q and A.

The speakers for the event are former Under Secretary for Benefits at the VA Dr. Paul Lawrence and the Honorable Jim Gfrerer ’87 who is principal for Fidelis Technology LLC, which provides advisory and consulting services to commercial technology partners.

Registration for this webinar will be on myUSNA.com. We will utilize Zoom to host the event. Please send questions to [mike.lowe@usna.com](mailto:mike.lowe@usna.com).





## ATHLETIC & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The USNA Alumni Association & Foundation Athletic and Scholarship Programs (A&SP) extends support to between 40 and 50 high school students each year. These students, who did not gain admission to U.S. Naval Academy through the regular admissions cycle, are afforded the opportunity to attend a preparatory institution for a year before entering the Academy. The financial accommodations for these need-based scholarships are made possible through donations by generous Naval Academy alumni and friends of USNA.

Founded in 1944, A&SP encourages and supports athletic excellence at the Naval Academy. The program is responsible for grants and awards that recognize superiority in athletics and a comprehensive scholarship program to ensure that the Naval Academy has the best scholar-athletes in the nation.

A&SP provides leadership, need-based funding, guidance and mentoring to all Foundation Preparatory School students. It delivers needed private funding to all the Naval Academy varsity, club and intramural sports teams through The Fund for Athletic Excellence. In 2023, A&SP provided more than \$3.61 million in direct support for all types of athletic activities at the Naval Academy. This includes extensive financial support to not only the 36 varsity teams, but also the many club and intramural teams as well as to the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, RI.

There are 16 Foundation schools across the country who partner with A&SP. In the past five years, 212 scholarships were awarded. 40 Foundation students were inducted for the Class of 2027 (25 men/15 women). Out of the 40 Foundation students who were inducted, eight were recruited athletes.

For more information, visit [www.usna.com/asp](http://www.usna.com/asp).

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## LEGACY OF VALOR

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the USNA Alumni Association & Foundation is documenting the courage, service, valor, and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. We aim to preserve their first-hand accounts and share them with the alumni community. By capturing these stories, we hope they will serve as a model for future generations of midshipmen.

A roundtable discussion featuring alumni panelists, a Naval Academy history professor, and a former historian for the National WWII Museum was held at the Fluegel Alumni Center on 25 April. They shared the value of preserving the stories of WWII veterans and the critical roles Academy alumni played in securing victory in the Pacific campaign.

Content from the WWII Legacy of Valor series can be found at [www.usna.com/Shipmate\\_WWII](http://www.usna.com/Shipmate_WWII). Later this year, we will share stories of Korean War veterans. Next year, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the service of alumni during the Vietnam War.

Please email *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at [jimmy.debutts@usna.com](mailto:jimmy.debutts@usna.com) to share your story. 🇺🇸



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# WHERE'S USNA AA&F? 2024

**HONOLULU, HI**  
1/23 Hawaii Chapter  
& NAPC of Hawaii



**ALAMEDA, CA**  
1/27 SF Bay Area Chapter  
& NAPC of Northern California

**MONTEREY, CA**  
1/26 Monterey Chapter

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
8/22-8/23 SACC San Diego

**SACRAMENTO, CA**  
1/25 Sacramento Chapter  
& NAPC of Greater Sacramento

**COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**  
10/5 Navy Football at Air Force

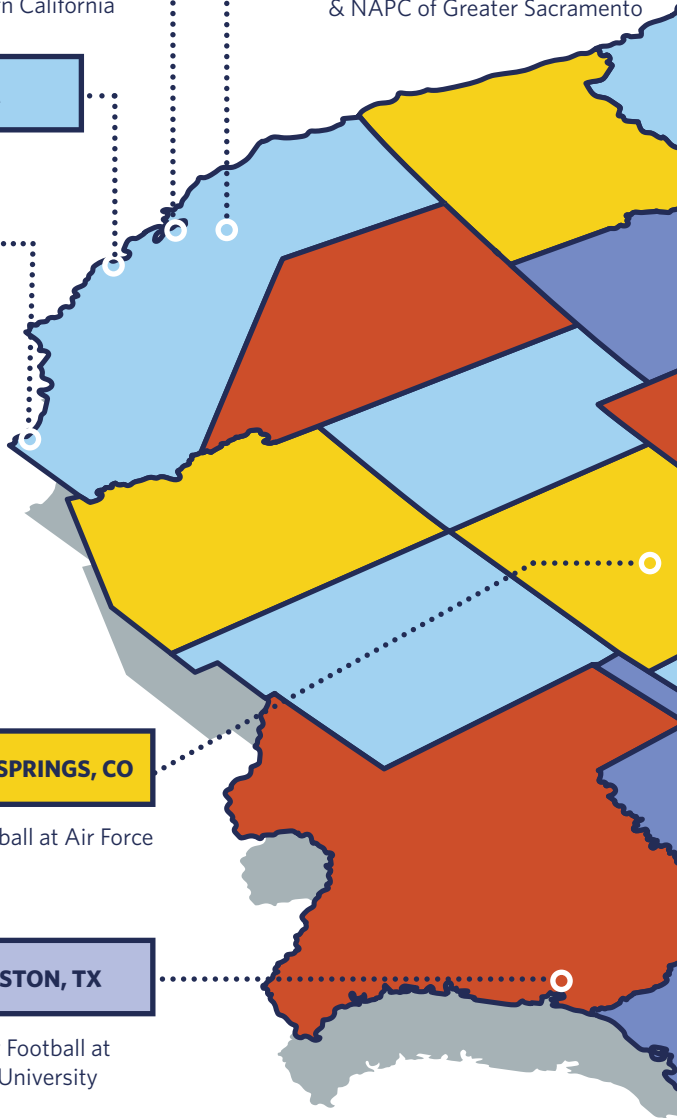
**HOUSTON, TX**  
11/2 Navy Football at  
Rice University

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**  
9/28 Navy Football at UAB

**TAMPA, FL**  
11/9 Navy Football at USF

**MIAMI, FL**  
2/24 Miami Chapter &  
NAPC of South Florida

**ORLANDO, FL**  
2/26 Orlando Chapter &  
NAPC of Central Florida



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN: CONNECTING WITH OUR ALUMNI COAST TO COAST

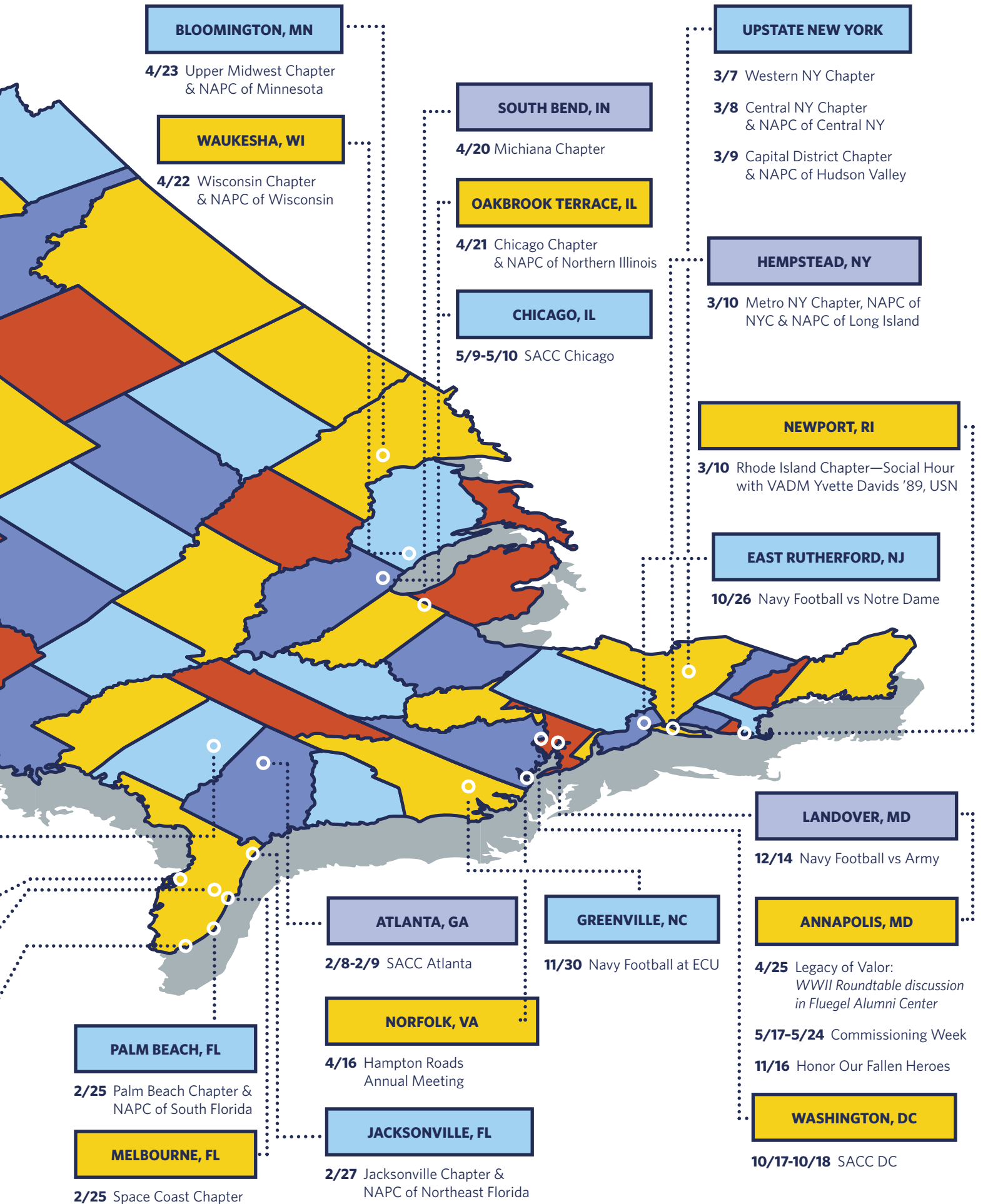
The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation is committed to connecting with the alumni community where they are. In 2024, we will be (or have been) on the road to engage face-to-face with alumni across the country.

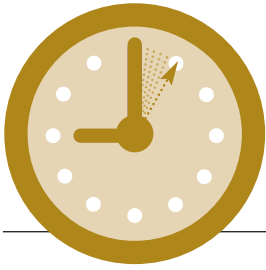
This map highlights the places we've already been in 2024 and where you can find us in the coming months. We are excited to hear how we can better serve you and the entire alumni community.

Updates on additional visits by the engagement team will be shared on [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com).

**Go Navy! Beat Army!**







## FIVE MINUTES WITH... COLONEL HANK DONIGAN '77, USMC (RET.)

*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.*

Colonel Hank Donigan '77, USMC (Ret.), would not be deterred from achieving his goal and supporting veterans' charities.

He kept on running. In December 2023, Donigan completed his 50th marathon of the year and 450th in his lifetime despite undergoing brain surgery in July 2023. His goals never wavered even after brain cancer treatment.

His dedication and commitment resulted in donors elevating him to the No. 1 individual fundraiser for the nonprofit Semper Fi and America's Fund. Donigan recently shared his story with *Shipmate*.

**Shipmate:** What inspired you to run your first marathon?

**Donigan:** Growing up in New England, the Boston Marathon held a special place in our local culture, akin to the Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics. Hearing stories of my grandfather's participation in the 1916 Boston Marathon fueled my ambition to not only complete a marathon but to conquer the iconic Boston course.

During my time as a young Marine officer, I underwent grueling 25-mile endurance hikes with full combat gear, with a requirement to finish within eight hours. With that experience, the idea of trading heavy equipment for lightweight running gear and completing a 26.2-mile marathon at a faster pace seemed like a manageable challenge.

In 1980, I completed my first marathon. Since then, I've completed 455 marathons and ultras, including three unforgettable Boston Marathons and the Ironman World Triathlon Championship in Hawaii in 1982.

**Shipmate:** What drove you to achieve your goal?

**Donigan:** In 2023, my goal was to run a weekly marathon supporting the Semper Fi and America's Fund, aiming to raise awareness of the needs of wounded warriors and their families while becoming their top fundraiser. This ambitious goal allowed for only two weeks of flexibility in case of injury or illness.

The unexpected discovery of my brain tumor did not diminish my resolve. Remarkably, I experienced no symptoms leading up to my surgery in July 2023. In fact, I ran a marathon just three days before the operation. After surgery, I returned to running within a week, and I was able to run my first post-surgery marathon three weeks after brain surgery. To catch up on my schedule, I traveled to Monterrey, Mexico, to run three marathons in three days over the Labor Day Weekend, six weeks after undergoing surgery.

Following this feat, I faced six weeks of radiation therapy starting in December, which threatened to dash my hopes of reaching my goals. Despite this, I remained true to my promise to listen to my body and not take unnecessary risks. Remarkably, I could continue to run with full vigor, experiencing no side effects during radiation therapy, just hair loss.

I completed eight marathons during this period, including another three marathons in three days as part of the "Across the Years" Running Series in Phoenix, AZ, over New Year's Weekend. Relentless determination enabled me to complete 50 marathons in 2023 and reach a lifetime total of 450 marathons or ultras. Furthermore, my donors elevated me

to the No. 1 individual fundraiser for the Semper Fi and America's Fund.

Throughout this journey, the support of friends, family and the power of faith sustained me. Despite being rated 100 percent service-disabled, I remain committed to inspiring others by demonstrating that we can overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges with perseverance and resilience.

**Shipmate:** How did your time at the Academy set the foundation for your time in the Marine Corps?

**Donigan:** USNA gave me self-discipline, integrity, organizational skills, perseverance and the power of the team. All of these are critical traits for a Marine leader. As a midshipman, you learn how to be proactive, accept responsibility and set an example. My first class cruise was split between the Navy and the Marine Corps. This helped solidify my ambitions of becoming a soldier of the sea.

Furthermore, I was exposed to terrific Navy and Marine officers at the Academy. Their example and mentorship had a lasting impact on my Marine Corps career. Foremost was my company officer, Commander Mike Moffat, USN (11th Company). He is an incredible leader, has remained a mentor to me and my 11th Company classmates to this day, demonstrating all the virtues of an officer and a gentleman.

**Shipmate:** Why is it important for you to raise money and awareness for veterans' causes?

**Donigan:** Much of my service was in harm's way and included operations in Beirut, Grenade, the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many service personnel sacrificed life and limb to defend our country and our values during these times. I had a wonderful career, and I came home to enjoy my family and the fruits of freedom when others did not or came home broken in body and soul.

I have a debt of gratitude to all veterans who have selflessly sacrificed for our freedoms, and I'm inspired by other wounded and disabled veterans who also continue to run. If they can do it, I can do it! I hope other people can look at me and say, "if that old guy can do it, maybe I can give it a try."

I am a strong advocate for veterans who can't speak up for themselves and who are not receiving the benefits they have earned. Each year, I run the Marine Corps Marathon in honor of my USNA classmates who have fallen in the line of duty, running with the bib number "1977."

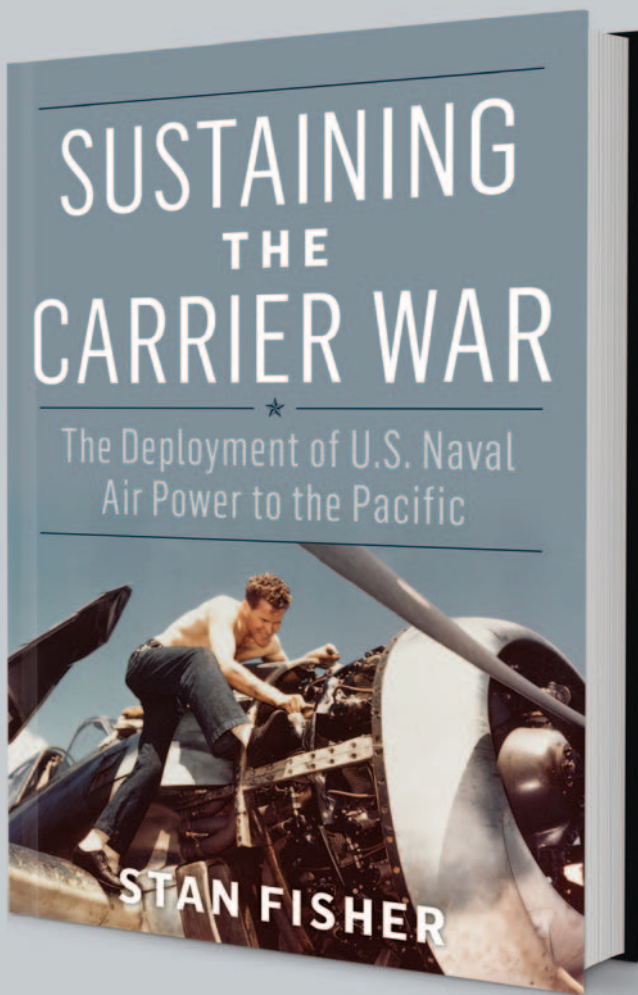
On 27 October, I will run my 25th consecutive and 29th lifetime Marine Corps Marathon in their memory, God willing. I'm a year-round fundraiser for the Semper Fi and America's Fund, which supports wounded warriors of all services and their families. Last year, I was their No. 1 fundraiser, largely due to the generous donations of my classmates. I hope to maintain my position as the top fundraiser in 2024 as I progress towards my goal of 50 marathons this year and my 500th lifetime marathon or ultra by 31 December.

To view Col Donigan's donation page, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/47358/Donate/rpy06X1vBee5NBTB>. □



**Col Hank Donigan '77, USMC (Ret.), with Britny Heinzelmann, in December 2023 after he completed his 450th marathon at the Across the Years event in Phoenix, AZ. Heinzelmann had just finished a 72-hour race and covered 173.3 miles.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF COL. HANK DONIGAN '77, USMC (RET.)



“Eye-opening reading and is of value not only for historians—professional or amateur—of the Great Pacific War, but also instructive for the modern U.S. Navy.”

—*Strategy Page*

“The types of challenges Fisher addresses have contemporary counterparts that make this book not only a candidate for the CNO’s reading list but of the Harvard Business School as well!”

—**David F. Winkler,**  
**Naval Historical Foundation**

“*Sustaining the Carrier War*, provides the missing link to our understanding of Great Power conflict at sea. Exceptionally well written, organized and presented.”

—*Midwest Book Review*

The ability of the United States Navy to fight and win a protracted war in the Pacific was not solely the result of technology, tactics, or leadership. Naval aviation maintenance played a major role in the U.S. victory over Japan in the second World War.



CAPT (sel) Stan Fisher, USN, PhD is a professor of naval history at the United States Naval Academy. Prior to joining USNA faculty, he flew SH-60B and MH-60R helicopters. Fisher is also a former Seahawk weapons and tactics instructor, maintenance officer, and operational test director. He is a past recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morison Naval History Scholarship and proud father of a USNA '26 midshipman.



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# CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

## OREGON/SW WASHINGTON VIETNAM VETS SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

*Captain Tim Myers '64, USN (Ret.)*

A few years ago, a high school social studies teacher I knew, asked me if I knew any veterans who served in Vietnam. I told her, having three tours myself, that I had many friends and classmates who had been in the conflict. She suggested that some of us share our experiences with her classes when they were studying Vietnam.

After a little research, I found a number of Vietnam veterans, from all services, that were quite interested in sharing their Vietnam experiences with the high school students. My first group of veterans consisted of officers from the Naval Academy, West Point and the Air Force Academy. When we visited the high schools, I tried to have two veterans per high school class representing two different academies, providing the students with a couple different views of Vietnam.

As the word got out among the high school teachers, I got calls from other schools wanting our group to come to their schools. We had presentations in classrooms, libraries and auditoriums. After our first year, and as the word spread, we added a dozen or so high schools and at the same time, I added more Vietnam veterans from various services, featuring officers and enlisted vets.

One thing we found during our lectures was how very little the classes knew about the military, and especially the service academies. As such, during each presentation, we began to share a short segment about our schools. The students began asking questions, not only about Vietnam, but about the Naval Academy. This led to the schools and students requesting more information about Vietnam expansion into Cold War experiences, and the service academies, in general.

The veteran's time in the classrooms, has been 100 percent positive. The more often we do it, the more inquisitive the students become, in all facets of our talks. Members of our chapter—Oregon/Southwest

Washington—found their time at the schools to be quite rewarding. In addition to dealing with individual teachers, correspondence with the principals of other schools has created openings for our veterans group.

Throughout each year, many high schools celebrate Veterans Day by putting out an invitation to all veterans for a day to visit the school. Normally, these events include a meal, an all-students auditorium presentation, and library or classroom presentations by the veterans throughout the day. During most of these days, a veteran is assigned a table in the library, where six to eight students are assigned to the veteran for periods of 30 minutes.

At 30 minutes, the students rotate tables. Every Naval Academy chapter should take advantage of these opportunities to share the Naval Academy experience with students. In some areas across the United States, the average student does not know much, if anything, about the Naval Academy. This is an excellent opportunity to make them more aware of our great institution.

Bottom line, get your chapter involved in the local high schools. Talk to the kids, share your story and make them aware of the educational opportunities our military academies offer. ⚓



**CAPT Tim Myers '64, USN (Ret.)**

*Captain Tim Myers '64, USN (Ret.), is a former naval flight officer who flew aerial reconnaissance missions around the Vietnam coast. He also served as a naval test pilot, was executive officer of FORRESTAL-class supercarrier RANGER, served in Operation Desert Storm, and was a senior instructor of the Navy Junior ROTC Unit in Zion, IL.*

# BRAVO ZULU

## 1950s

'53: In January, South Carolina Representative Gary Brewer Jr. and Senator Sandy Senn presented **Commander Robert H. "Fuzzy" Knight '53, USNR (Ret.)**, with the Order of the Palmetto on behalf of Governor Henry McMaster. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest award that the governor can give a civilian.

## 1960s

'67: The Campaign for Justice awarded the 7th Annual Peter J. DeTroy III Award to **Toby Hollander** for his pro bono work and dedication to public service as a champion for children and others in need. Early in his career, he saw an unmet need for military veterans, and with a group of lawyers, began a legal collective to assist them with matters pertaining to military discharge. After moving to Maine, he began his legal aid career at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, a position he held until going into private practice.

'68: **Major General Charles Bolden, USMC (Ret.)**, received the National Maritime Historical Society's 2024 Distinguished Service Award in April honoring his career as a U.S. Marine aviator, astronaut and NASA Administrator.

## 1970s

'71: **Captain Frank Culbertson, USN (Ret.)**, was honored with the Buzz Aldrin Award by The Explorers Club in April. He is a NASA astronaut, naval aviator and private pilot. His career spans commanding missions aboard shuttles and the International Space Station.

'74: **Captain Dave Johnson, USN (Ret.)**, was inducted with the Class



## Perry '89 takes command of Joint Force Command Norfolk and U.S. Second Fleet

Vice Admiral Douglas Perry '89, USN, took command of Joint Force Command Norfolk and U.S. Second Fleet and will serve as director of Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE) during a 12 January change of command ceremony aboard aircraft carrier HARRY S. TRUMAN.

Perry relieved Vice Admiral Daniel Dwyer. He is the third commander of Second Fleet and JFC Norfolk, which were established in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Perry previously served as director, Undersea Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, N97 in Washington, DC.

CJOS COE is the only NATO centre of excellence in the United States. It plays a vital role in shaping NATO's maritime-based joint operations and transformational goals, drawing on the expertise and capabilities of its member nations and U.S. Naval forces.

The U.S. Navy reestablished Second Fleet to defend the maritime avenues of approach between Europe and North America and provide operational flexibility to both U.S. Northern Command and U.S. European Command. U.S. Second Fleet works closely with allies and partners in the Atlantic and Arctic to protect shared interests at home and abroad while preserving the international maritime rule of law.

JFC Norfolk is the first NATO headquarters dedicated to the Atlantic since 2003, with a mission to secure the trans-Atlantic link, protect the strategic lines of communication (SLOCs) across all domains, protect sea-lanes between Europe and North America, and to enable the reinforcement of Europe. [□](#)

of 2024 into the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame at its annual awards banquet in February in the VADM William P. Lawrence N-Star Room at the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Johnson was also presented with a 2023 MSABC Service to Baseball Award.

## 1980s

'82: **Admiral Michelle J. Howard, USN (Ret.)**, was inducted into the National Portrait Gallery, along with the other first four-star women generals in the Army and Air Force. Their portraits are in the 20th Century Americans Exhibit; The National Museum of the Surface Navy, founded aboard battleship Iowa and scheduled to open in 2025, has named **Admiral Philip S. Davidson, USN (Ret.)**, as the recipient of the 2023 Freedom of the Seas Award. The award goes to an accomplished individual who embodies the core principles of

America's Surface Navy to protect and defend our oceans for the benefit of the free world.

'83: **Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck, USN (Ret.)**, joined the advisory board and Geopolitical Intelligence Group of veteran-owned Academy Securities, a registered broker-dealer.

'88: **Matic Wright-Springer** received the 38th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Career Achievement Award in February. She graduated from the Navy's flight school in 1989, earning her wings as the Navy's first Black woman flight officer. In March 2021, she became a senior vice president at Booz Allen Hamilton. **Commander John Podolak, USNR (Ret.)**, was appointed chief revenue officer for IMPRES Technology Solutions Inc. in February. He will lead IMPRES' sales, services and marketing functions

## 1990s

'95: **Brad Soper** took over as managing partner and P&L owner of Simon-Kucher's Americas Region with 11 offices across North and South America and is on the company's global executive committee.

**Commander Mike Erickson, USN (Ret.)**, was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in February.

## 2000s

'09: **Adam Teague** has been promoted to vice president/GM for IMPRES Technology Solutions Inc.'s Defense Sector sales team.


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

## ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM


Open to all Naval Academy alumni, AMP is about alumni helping alumni achieve more in their careers and lives. Register with AMP today to be a mentor, protégé or both. Visit [www.usna.com/amp](http://www.usna.com/amp)



A Service in Memory of and Thanksgiving for the Life of **Charles "Tom" Springer**  
August 21, 1940—July 10, 2023



Saturday, August 19, 2023  
2:00 pm, Sanctuary



UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Walking together on God's transformative adventure, following the path of love and justice as revealed to us by Jesus.*

Cover from Tom's memorial service



Gene McPhail

**Bob McNeal**

Bob was USMC, Artillery. He earned wings as a Naval Aviation Observer, doing gunfire support during the Viet Nam war.

A Celebration of Life was held at San Clemente for Bob McNeal on Dec 16, 2023. The Master of Ceremonies was Jim McNeal, Class of 86, RADM, SC, Ret.

Another Legacy story I didn't know about. In support of Jim McNeal's M.C. duties, our Classmate **Tom Dumont** supported him

speaking on behalf of the Classmates and wives in attendance. He specifically talked of times he spent with Bob in Hawaii. There were a LOT of "Semper Fi" remarks from the speakers.

After active duty in the USMC, he became an FBI agent and later, after retiring from the FBI, he became involved with the local security business. He was a big volunteer for many local organizations. Many of his former co-workers, provided stories of his many achievements. One of those was his Golf Club membership, a club where he could take his friends, classmates, and business associates. Bob was a big supporter of '62 events in San Diego. He and Judy attended many of our June Week dinners and other activities. Bob grew up locally in SoCal- one of his Elementary School classmates spoke. There were 120+ attendees at this ceremony, people simply liked him.

We will remember and miss Bob. He was a Classmate in the finest sense of the word.

—Bob Giles

'63

Life Membership: 62%

Donor Participation: 1.59%

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

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

27 Cambridge Dr., Brevard, NC 28712  
p: 828-506-2201; e: nstar@citcom.net

Website: [www.USNA63.org](http://www.USNA63.org)

We have learned of the recent deaths of four of our classmates and a '63 wife, as noted below. Please take time to visit the Last Call section of our website to read their obituaries and other information about their lives and careers.

**Emil Mark Schwing** passed away on 25 January. Mark's widow, Eileen, may be

contacted at 5 De Leon Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694.

**Joseph Michael Favor** died on 4 February. We do not have contact information for his next of kin.

**William Edward Bowen** passed away on 8 March. He was predeceased by his wife, Jane, in 2022. We do not have contact information for his next of kin.

**Don Richard Hidy** died on 8 March. His widow, Katrina, may be contacted at 3500 Nancy Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.

**Frank Gregory's** widow, "ML" Gregory, died on 13 February. Their daughter, Christie Peitz, may be contacted at 5650 S. Schooner Way, Boise, ID 83716

**Phillip Marsden** forwarded this remarkable story shared by **Karl Kozak**.

✉ Gerry Henwood and I became instant friends when we met at Clark-Reliance in 1989 because we were both college eight-oared oarsmen. Gerry was always amazed that I rowed for Navy in the only three-way tie in history. Over 25 years we became like brothers. He recently decided to write the story and it will be published in ROWING NEWS this month, thanks to Andy Anderson who's in the National Rowing Hall of Fame.

Karl shared this text from Henwood's account, titled "Brothers from Different Boats."

✉ I met Karl Kozak at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, where we shared the same role in sales management for a company specializing in liquid level measurement for boilers and other industrial vessels. Karl covered the Western United States I covered the Northeast. Karl was a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Class of 1963. I was a Syracuse University Class of 1980. Seventeen years separated us, but the time quickly melted away when we discovered we both were rowers.



'63: The Three-Way Tie. From top to bottom the crews are Navy, Cornell, and MIT. Karl is the third oarsman from the left in the Navy boat.





Gerry Henwood and Karl Kozak

It was early in our friendship that Karl announced that he and two other crews won the same race, the Varsity Lightweight Men's Eight in 1962, on Lake Quinsigamond at the Eastern Sprints in Worcester, Massachusetts. Karl was in the "engine room" sitting in #6 seat. Needless to say, I was amazed that a three-way tie took place and impressed that Karl was in one of the boats. As the story goes, the officials were going to do the race over to determine a winner. The athletes challenged a do-over and the rest is history. Three winners were declared.

Upon graduation, Karl qualified for nuclear submarines aboard the USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN-635), patrolling the North Atlantic. He was the first in his class to qualify as Chief Engineer. He was assigned to a Fast Attack Submarine, the USS SCULPIN (SSN-590), patrolling the Western Pacific. After finishing his seven-year commitment to the U.S. Navy, he settled in California with his wife, Marirose, to raise their family.

It's a rower thing, I suppose, but he and I call each other by our seat number. I was the bowman of the 1978 Syracuse IRA Champion Varsity Eight, so I became #1. He is #6. It's a rower thing. After 25 years it's more than friendship. We have bonded like brothers.

Our most geographically distant correspondent this month is John Peterson, who sent this email from Indonesia in early March.

✉ I'm checking in from Bali with documentation of a serendipitous meeting with Jennifer and **Bill Eerner**. They were joining the same cruise ship we were debarking. Jeannie and I had arrived from Sydney, and they were taking the next segment to Kobe. We had the same driver because I had given them his name a while back, but we didn't know we were going to be in Bali at the same time. We could have only a quick coffee and the obligatory picture, but it was a chance to catch up until the next time.

Jeannie and I have been hosting small groups on select cruises for the past 10 years. It's been an incredible gig peaking last year with a world cruise followed a couple months later by a circumnavigation of South America; 240 days onboard ship for the year but definitely not the WESTPAC deployments of yesteryear! When not at sea we still call Pebble

Beach home and, with a 40-year renovation project ongoing, we have had plenty of distractions from growing old.



A chance encounter: Earners and Petersons in Bali

**Steve Coester** spent his career working in positions supporting space flight, including the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs. Still living near the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, he sometimes conducts personal, unofficial tours there. Here's his report about a recent visit.

✉ Four of our '63 classmates and three other USNA alumni accompanied me at the Kennedy Space Center on 15 February. They learned a lot about the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs and for me it was a great opportunity to reunite with classmates and share our experiences. The visiting 63ers were **Dave Puckett, Bruce Webb, Ken Metviner, and Ralph Kimberlin. We were accompanied by Glenn Bacon '77, Chad Acey '89 and Sinthi Acey '90.** Sinthi's life is a remarkable story. She was evacuated from Vietnam in 1975 when she was only nine years old. She lived in near poverty in California but secured an appointment to USNA and had a full naval career. Very impressive!

This photo shows our group at KSC. Left to right are me, Bruce, Glenn, Ralph, Ken, Sinthi, Chad, and David.



Touring the Kennedy Space Center

With the publication of his latest book, "Every Memory a Story," **Mike Blackledge** has added to the growing number of books by '63 authors. He advocates for each of us to document our family history, and the varied accounts in the book include war stories, family stories, and stories of passion and pursuits. Several of our '63 classmates have contributed one or more chapters to the book, ranging from Plebe Year to business success and life-long enthusiasms. The full table of contents and an order form

can be viewed at BlackledgeBook.org. Members of The Class of 1963 will receive a \$10 discount.

In a previous column, I reported the publication of **Jim De Francia's** book, "Saigon Stories," which relates tales from the early 1960's in Vietnam. In March it was announced that the book was ranked by the Independent Press Award as one of the top three military nonfiction books of 2023 and designated a Distinguished Favorite. Congratulations, Jim!

While reviewing his personal records from past years, **Brev Moore** came across a photo made when he ran in the world's most famous marathon.



Brev Moore runs in the Boston Marathon

✉ In doing some clean-up around the house I came across this photo from the Boston Marathon in 1992. I had forgotten that I wore my USNA '63 shirt and cap that day. I qualified for Boston in the Twin Cities Marathon the previous year. I trained hard to qualify, realizing that age was slowly but

surely affecting my marathon times and, as you may know, there are qualifying times to enter the Boston race. I figured it was then or never. For the Twin Cities Marathon, I peaked at 75 miles in my final week of training and eased off just before the race. I can hardly believe I ran that much. Over the years of my running career, I ran 20 marathons and numerous other races.

We close this month's column with a photo **Phillip Marsden** supplied from a recent lunch with some San Diego area '63 classmates. Pictured are **Steve Hoy, Lee Cargill, Jerry Harken, Grant Telfer, Phillip, Jim Lasswell, Jay Roberts, and Vern Von Sydow.**



San Diego area Quality '63 classmates

That's all for this month. Please check in with me soon. We love seeing your news and photos!

**QUALITY - '63**

## '64

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 3.56%

Pres: CAPT Micheal Farmer, USN (Ret.)  
e: farmer.mike@comcast.netCorr Sec'y: Roland Marquis  
333 Valverde Ln., St. Augustine, FL 32086  
p: 847-970-7562; e: bigroland1@comcast.net

Website: www.usna64.org

We open this issue remembering **Jerry Hogan**, the fourth of our 10 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 Jerry's name on The Wall (not consistent with *Shipmate*



Jerry F. Hogan, LTJG USN  
Panel 14E, Line 63

Style Guidelines) and the second is a transcription from his entry in our 40th Reunion Yearbook submitted by his widow and his 24th Company classmates.

**The Wall:**

"Missing in Action 1/21/1967. LTJG Jerry Franks Hogan, USNA Class of 1964, is one

of those 1,587 MIAs unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War. Jerry was lost when his A-4C Skyhawk, flying from USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as a part of Attack Squadron 112 (VA-112), crashed on January 20, 1967 during a nighttime strike in North Vietnam. From Lt Chris Williams at the Defense POW/MIA Agency on April 19, 2018: "He was part of a two-ship strike against shipping traffic (barges) on a river south of Thanh Hoa; he and his strike leader dropped flares in order to prosecute their targets, and he dove his aircraft at the targets. The flight leader then saw another explosion near the river in a marshy area, and soon realized that was Hogan's plane when he no longer responded to radio calls."

**The 40th Reunion Yearbook:** Jerry was killed in action on 21 January 1967 when on a night flight over the Son Yen River he was lost to enemy gunfire.

His first assignment after flight training was to VF112, based in Lemoore, CA. This squadron was later attached to Carrier Air Wing 11 on board Kitty Hawk when the carrier sailed for Vietnam. He is survived by his widow Melissa "Sam", daughter of **Capt. Harold Larsen '35** and a brother.

Sam now lives in Westlake Village, CA and wrote the following: "Some thoughts to share with all of you: We all remember Hogan's passion for life and the way he filled every moment of every day. His love and pride for the Academy, the Navy, flying and duty to country are still vivid in my memories of him. He was truly one of a kind.

Thank you all for being a part of a truly special time in Hogan's life in mine as well. Such times become foundational to who we are and what we do with our lives. "With much love, Sam.

A late addition from **Steve Jareck**: Jerry and I were roommates starting youngster year and continuing through first class year and we both had the time of our lives. His sense of humor and infectious smile were two of his most remarkable traits, but he was more than a "funny guy". He was a sincere and caring individual who both respected others and displayed the highest traits of duty, honor and loyalty.

He couldn't wait to get in the cockpit and was, in my opinion, an aviator's aviator. He left our ranks far to soon and to this day he is still missed. **As I begin to enter my senior years, my hope and prayer are to get a "Green Deck" from Hogs as I approach the Pearly Gates.**

(Editor's note: Your editor remembers Jerry from our NAPS days prior to USNA)

**Regarding** upcoming Vietnam Wall memorializations, you asked, we provide! The following table lists the anticipated publishing dates and comment submittal deadlines for submitting the remaining classmates on "The Wall"

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

Anyone desiring to submit comments, recollections, sea stories, etc., must submit them prior to the deadline date to be included.

**Speaking** of classmates on The Wall, the Honorable **John Dalton** sent in the following nice note regarding **Gerry Siebe** whose memory was honored in the March-April *Shipmate*. Our former SECNAV writes "Gerald Siebe was an outstanding 17th company mate for four years and a great classmate. I thought the world of him. He, like me, went to college before he attended the US Naval Academy. Athletically, he distinguished himself as a gymnast and was superb on the side horse. He was the sports editor of the "Splinter" and an aviator on active duty. Our class is honored to salute Gerry Siebe."

In a similar manner **Tony Garia** weighed in with regard to **Tom Holden** from the January-February issue. He writes "Thanks for the great article about Tom Holden. It brought back a lot of memories. The last time I saw Tommy was in Vietnam. I had just landed my helicopter at Da Nang to refuel when I noticed a familiar looking Marine sitting at the edge of the tarmac. I walked towards him and soon saw that it was Tommy. It was unusual to run into another classmate in Nam, so it was a treat just to see each other. We talked for a while about what we were doing. As I recall he had been wounded in the leg and out of action for a while."

"He was at the airbase waiting for a ride back to his unit. I had to get back to my mission so we said our goodbyes. A few weeks later I learned that he had been killed. It was devastating news. He was the first person I personally knew who had been killed in Nam."

From the "Better-Late-Than-Never" File, **Ray Michelini** recently noted on 3 November the Tidewater Virginia's Class Chapter (TW-64) celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a special joint luncheon with wives and guests at Bubba's Seafood Restaurant in Virginia Beach, their standard meeting place. Founded by **Bill Carson** [deceased] and **George Christian** during the summer of 2008, the Chapter was officially established by the Class Board of Directors on 11 November 2008. Since then, with the exception of the COVID period, the Chapter's been meeting bi-monthly from September to May each year with an annual joint luncheon with wives and guests.



Tom and Mike pausing for a blessing while contemplating a Black Diamond run



'64: Starting at the port table and CW, Ray and Sue, Marcus and Ronnie Friedman, Eleanor and Pete Taylor, Linda and Phil Boyer, Tom McFeely, Ann and George Christian. On the other table, Joan and Butch Christie, Suzanne and Joe Prueher, Stu Johnson, Dick Robbins, Mike Kenslow, Andy Murphy, along with Bobbi and Al Krekich.

## 64/65 CLASS NEWS

We close this month with two spectacularly beautiful photos of **Tom Banett** and **Mike Gustavson** at Whitefish, MT.



Deciding whether to take that Black Diamond run or simply heading directly to the Hell Roaring Saloon



Fair winds and a *quartering* sea, classmates.

## '65

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 4.27%

Pres: **CAPT Jim Minderlein, USN (Ret.)**  
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Corr Sec'y: **CDR Dave Anderson, USN (Ret.)**  
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Class of 1965 Home Page:  
<http://www.daveand65.com/USNA65/>  
<https://daveand65.wixsite.com/usna65photos>

Alas, we lost SEVEN great classmates **Bill Farnsworth, Reeves Adair, Ken Miles, Rutkowski, John Thompson, Jim Mashburn, Don Houghton**. With so many to report on and the limited space I have to do it in this column, I will urge you all to be sure check out the Last Call section in this issue. Jim Minderlein and several other classmates (**Tom Dames, Ray Setser, Mike Epprecht, Bill Weiler, Don McPhail, and Joe Deitch**) reported on these and **Bill Zuna** and Timothy Woodbury of the USNAAA did fine work on getting the Last Call pieces written, so read them to get details on these c'mates' lives and careers.

**Bill Farnsworth, Jr.** passed away on 20 Dec '23 in Jacksonville. Bill served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, was a Vietnam War veteran and was stationed around the world including

Honolulu, HI and Naples, Italy, and finally retiring in Jacksonville, FL. Bill's second career was for 20 years as the Director of Safety and Security at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville. Bill is survived by his wife, **Pat**, two children and two grandchildren.

**Hugh Reeves Adair** passed away on 01 Feb '24. He entered into the submarine service upon his graduation in 1965, the same year he married **Joyce Dee Scherberger**, his great love for 59 years. They raised five daughters and watched many grandchildren grow up. He retired from the Navy in 1993. He then ran power plants in Northern New York before truly retiring. Reeves and Joyce Dee made their final house move to South Carolina so that they could spend those years close to their youngest grandchildren.

On 24 Jan '24, **Kenneth Kinard Miles** passed away in Albuquerque. He was father to two daughters and enjoyed watching four grandkids grow up, being known by them as "GrandDude." Ken became a Naval Aviator upon graduation, carrying out missions in Vietnam and Korea. His post-military career was that of a safety engineer at Sandia National Labs. Ken had a passion for collecting trains, over the years, amassing a vast collection and he enjoyed traveling to conventions, and entering train modeling competitions.

**Jack Rutkowski** passed away on 18 Feb '24, in his hometown of South Bend, IN from complications of a stroke. Check Last Call for more details.

**John Asher Thompson** also passed away on 19 Feb '24 in his hometown of Dallas. His long years of struggling with Parkinson's are now over. Several of our Dallas-area classmates attended a service for John on 27 Feb. In the photo are **Al Foy, Leon Chester, Dave and Pat Miller, Ted Krause, John and Leahray Wroten**, and Molly Crow, **Gordon Peterson's** significant other, who could not attend. Earlier that morning Military Honors at Dallas National Cemetery were held. Leon and Al were able to attend that.



**Jim Mashburn** joined this illustrious crew going to their great reward, surrounded by his children in New Jersey on 01 Feb '23. He left USNA prior to graduation, completed his service in the Navy, and spent many years working for the Veterans Administration in various cities in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico. He is survived by

his dear companion Rebecca Martin, and two children.

Finally, **Donald Carl Houghton** passed away on 12 Mar. Don resigned as a Lieutenant, USN and went on to become the Director and retired President of the Reeb Millwork Corporation in Bethlehem, PA. His wife of many years, **Kay**, survives him.

On to happier stuff!

Since the last *Shipmate* edition, **Phil Ferrara** reported on three monthly '65 luncheons at McGarvey's Saloon in Annapolis, in December, January, and February. These are very well attended and long-running events – the first Wednesday of each month. In attendance at one or more of these lunches were **Skip Orr, Steve Mladineo, Sted Garber, Skip Shealy, John Collins, Pat Philbin, Chip Seymour, Sonny Harrison, Carter Refo, Mike Luecke, Bob Andretta, Jon Schildknecht, Ed Linz, Phil Ferrara, Bob Sullivan, Moke DeMatta, Charlie Morrison, Bob 'Man Mountain' Green, Frank Peterson, John Bishop, Allan Foy, Jim Stark, Sam Dutrow, Ted Nanz, Tom Kinder, Fred Vogel, Larry Eggert, Jim Minderlein, Conrad Best and Dan Flanagan**.



2-7-24, First Wednesday Lunch, Annapolis, Conrad Best, Bob Green, Larry Eggert, John Collins. Conrad just became an Octogenarian.

**Ted Nanz** reported on a few ski trips he and his family made in January. One in early Jan in Pennsylvania, which included some snow-boarding. And one later in January outside of Vancouver, then back again to the Pennsylvania mountains for more skiing. Here's a photo of the Nanz clan in a lodge at the Canadian ski site.



**Pete Lumianski** checked in on 24 Jan, detailing in his incomparable way, his handling the increasing evolution to digital devices. "I'm generally viewed as a very short, largely irrelevant, hairless person who forgets to turn his phone on, or to charge it or to know where

it is. My one-fingered texting is considered to be extremely low-tech and ineffective. Actually, our family communications, passed thru various electronic devices, is far more interesting, effective and fun than it used to be, and it tends to keep the family laughing, usually at me, not with me! You gotta move with the times! And here's a photo of an Old Blind Guy tapping out a one-finger, three-line, two-hour text. Not sure if it sent or not!"



From **Denny Neutze**, 16 Feb

☒ Sunny and I had the great pleasure last evening to attend a small function in Hollywood, FL with the new Supe, VADM Davids. She spent about half an hour with us in a small group of 4 or 5 folks. Then at dinner she was just across the table from me and one person down. We also spent another 10-15 minutes talking with the Supe as we were going out the door. The Admiral said she just focused on the '65 Class Crest on my blazer. She then began telling us how wonderful the Class of '65 is. I expected she was going to praise the Class for its support of the Foundation over the years, or the Navy Legends Exhibit. Instead, she told me that she attends all the basketball games and there is a wild group of '65er who sit across from her. "Those guys are really wild at the games" She asked her Aide to take a photo of **Sunny** and me with her so she can show the guys at the game. I cannot say enough wonderful things about the lady. She was sweet, gracious, and funny at times. She is dynamite, and I cannot imagine that anyone would make a better Supe. Warm regards, Denny

From **Mitch Henderson**, 22 Feb

☒ A new '65 women's email group like our Wardroom has been up and running since Nov 2023 and has 30 members now and about 25 messages per month. It was started by our class executive committee.

From **Dave Miller**, 24 Feb

☒ Along with our wives, we celebrated **John Wroten's** 82nd birthday at our favorite Mexican restaurant in Dallas. He is one day older than **Roger Staubach**. We discussed quite a few things but the most important was Navy football as to how the make them a power again. As soon as we remember what we discussed, we'll send the information to the coaching staff!!



'65:



'65:



**Jim Roorbach and Skip McAlexander checked in on 27 Feb**, citing a lively dinner at Jim's home in the Villages with some of the '65 Village People and few others. Pictured are, from left to right: **Jim Roorbach, Sunny Neutze, Larry Eggert, Mario Schlesinger, Denny Neutze, Pat, McAlexander, Dave, Schlesinger, Niki Ploof, Skip McAlexander and Pat Eggert**. Villagers all, except for the Neutzes (from South Florida) and the Eggerts (from Delaware).

From **Ron Clausen**, 27 Feb

☒ A small group of us '65 Coloradans met for lunch today at the Castle Cafe in Castle Rock. The characters from left to right around the table are: **Arnie and Carol McKechnie, Sandy Gelt, John Owens, Jodi McConnell, Susan Case (Rand's widow), Bear McConnell, and Ron Clausen**. We try to meet every couple of months and enjoy each other's company.

**Jim Minderlein** is spear-heading an effort to get Smoke Hall redesignated as Spruance Hall, named after the superb Admiral in WWII. He's run the proposal by the Chairman of the Council of Class Presidents and a well thought out approach has been formulated to get this before the new Superintendent for her approval, hopefully. Will keep you posted. (Dave's comment: I never heard much about Admiral Smoke anyway).

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

## '66

**Life Membership: 66%**  
**Donor Participation: 2.10%**

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

Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**  
10439 Rivington Ct., Lone Tree, CO 80124  
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Website: [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org)

2024 has just started, but here comes summer already. After the winter I had in Colorado, and some of you in the Northeast, the warmth is a welcome change, especially after the 22 inches we got between 14 and 15 March.

The Nunna's Caring Heart Friends (NCHF) committee, led by **Jim Long**, and co-chaired by Courtney and **Clay Spikes**, is a charitable venue to assist surviving spouses of Classmates.

Other committee members include **Tom Marfiak**, Sandra Hale, and Nancy Long. Class President, **Scott Redd** has also provided significant assistance. As you might recall the Class Executive Committee established NCHF in memory of Nunna Spikes, who was also made an honorary Classmate. In addition, the committee has been working on the design of two memorial benches in Nunna's honor to be installed at the USNA Columbarium. The NCHF Committee proposed the memorial benches, which the '66 Class Executive Committee approved. Class President, **Scott Redd** forwarded the proposal to USNA Memorial Oversight Committee (MOC). After much coordination with the MOC, a final design has been approved. It will have an inscription on the bench back 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 will take about six months to produce after the NCHF committee sends the approved design to the manufacturer. When the installation date is known, an announcement to the Class will be made.

Sadly, three more Classmates have died. **Will Wood** (12th Co.) died on 15 January 2024. **Larry Early** (6th Co.) died 24 January 2024. **Ross Goldstein** (24th Co.) died 2 February 2024. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Many thanks to **Tom Wolsoncroft** who stepped up to take on the task of 7th Company representative. A listing of company reps is provided at the Class web site, [usna66.org](http://usna66.org).

**Chuck Grutzius** attended the Change of Command ceremony aboard GONZALEZ (DDG-66). Here is his recap.

✉ On 28 December 2023, four 66ers attended the GONZALEZ (DDG-66) Change of Command Ceremony at the Norfolk Naval Station. In attendance were **Charlie Pfeifer** (20th Co), **Bob Titcomb** (15th Co), **Charlie Votava** (17th Co) and **Chuck Grutzius** (33rd Co).

During the ceremony, **CDR Erik Reynolds**, USN, (2005) was relieved by CDR Kate Stegner, USN. CDR Stegner previously served as the XO, and then fleeted up to CO. **CDR Ashley Carline**, USN (2007) assumed the duties of XO.

During CDR Reynolds' opening remarks, when acknowledging the senior officers present, he included "members of the Naval Academy Class of 1966".

Previously, at the Leadership Awards Ceremony in October, **Chuck Grutzius** noticed that the CO's coffee table, which is covered by a glass top, contained numerous challenge coins for display. When asked, CDR Reynolds acknowledged that he did not have a Class of 1966 challenge coin in the table. Thus, at the Change of Command ceremony, Chuck presented a Class of 1966 "Another Link in The Chain" Challenge Coin to the new CO for placement in the coffee table.

After the ceremony, in the attached photo,

Chuck is presenting the "Another Link in the Chain" challenge coin to both CDR Reynolds (on the left) and CDR Stegner (on the right), with the promise that CDR Stegner would add it to the CO's coffee table display.

In conclusion, the ceremony was conducted in a most professional manner, and was well attended. The Class of 1966 will continue to play an important part in the life of GONZALEZ with the Leadership Awards while she is in commission!

Thanks, Chuck! Also, there are many photos of this event on the Class web site.

Charlie Jones hosts the weekly Zoom meetings. An important health and wellness session was held on 5 March concerning prostate cancer with a presentation provided by **John Williamson**, MD, who has been a board-certified urologist for 40 years. The session was moderately attended, possibly because some of you aren't on Charlie's email list. The Zoom sessions are a great forum for discussions on current events as well as health and wellness issues that affect us and our families. They are also recorded and put on the Class web site, [usna66.org](http://usna66.org). If you aren't on Charlie's list, contact him at [technidigm@gmail.com](mailto:technidigm@gmail.com). If you are on his list, consider tuning in occasionally, especially for health and wellness topics.

Finally, I hope everyone has a great summer. Stay safe and be well. Until August... All the best...Mike!!!

## '67

**Life Membership: 77%**

**Donor Participation: 6.70%**

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

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**  
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If you keep track of *Shipmate* issues you may have noticed that the magazine has decreased publication to six issues a year. It turns out that my word count limit has NOT changed which means I'll have to squish things up a bit more. But send it on, anyway. I can deal! However, once again we have sad news.

**Bob Bagwell** passed away on 16 January 2024 at home in Daytona Beach Shores, FL. Bob left USNA at the end of Plebe Year, but was very proud to be a member of '67. He earned a BS in EE from Virginia Tech and subsequently worked for GE and then Westinghouse where he rose to executive status. He took early retirement in 1995 and in 1996, using his entrepreneurial skills, he started his own business, Neomark, which became a leading supplier to the power generation industry. He retired again in 2017. **Rock Harmon** and **Mike Mazurczak** were his roommates and according to them, "Bob was a great guy who absolutely loved sports cars and racing motorcycles." He came back for our

50th reunion and later, **Paul Sugrue, Stan Ellinwood** and Mike drove to his home in Orlando to have dinner with him. He had an impressive collection of sports cars and every one of them had a license plate with USNA 67 on them. Bob is survived by Joyce, his wife of 30 years; two sons, Bill and Werner; and one grandson. The family asks that you consider a donation to: Aiden's Helping Hands (<https://aidenshelpinghands.com>). Bob's obituary is at <https://rb.gy/oa9c0m>.

We received a note from **Pete Leon** in early February that **Wiley Harris** had passed away on 5 February 2024 in Taylor, MI. After graduation and flight school, Wiley served in the Navy until 1978. He served three tours in Vietnam. He flew helicopters with the Sea-wolves of HA(L)-3 supporting Naval Special Warfare operations and Mobile Riverine Forces. After leaving active duty, he went to work for Ford Motor Company where he worked in the heating and cooling division of Ford Trucks for 40 years. When Pete himself was transferred to Michigan he said Wiley never missed a holiday meal at his house. Wiley served in the Navy Reserve until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by three sisters and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Wiley loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing. In accordance with his wishes, his ashes will be scattered at a favorite fishing hole near Melbourne, FL. His obituary can be found at <https://rb.gy/37g9cw> or <https://rb.gy/hqb1ff>.

**Bill Neuman** passed away in February 2024. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sharon; his daughter Katie and sons Scott and Chip along with several grandchildren. After graduating from Navy and a tour in Vietnam, Bill attended law school at the University of Michigan, meeting Sharon on a blind date. After Michigan, he and Sharon moved to Boston where he served as a Navy JAG lawyer and judge while earning an MBA at Boston University. They then moved to the San Francisco Bay area where he started a legal career of over 40 years. **Tom Mihok** remembered: "Bill and I were roommates at the Naval Academy. We were together for four years and he was the one who helped me deal with the rigors of academic life. Bill would help me with my work, do his work, and be asleep by 10PM, while I would have to work well past midnight to understand what he tried to teach me." Bill loved to spend time with family and friends, including hosting others at Lake Tahoe for boating, biking, and skiing. His favorite place was the dinner table on the deck overlooking the lake where he hosted countless dinners. Bill's family will hold a private event to celebrate his life, and he will be laid to rest later amongst U.S. Navy service members. Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Support Community of the San Francisco Bay Area ([www.cancersupportcommunity.org/donate](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/donate)), or to a charity of meaning to you. His obituary may be found at <https://rb.gy/hhf04f>.

# '68

Life Membership: 62%

Donor Participation: 3.65%

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

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

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Website: [www.usna68.com](http://www.usna68.com)

**Denny Blair** was presented his richly deserved Distinguished Graduate Award 22 March during this year's ceremony in Alumni Hall. *Congratulations!* 18 classmates attended the event. On-scene correspondent **Joe Conway** filed this report:

✉ "We had the senior recipient! In his acceptance speech, Dennis recounted that he was a sixth-generation family service member and then continued his low-key demonstration of admirable personality and intellect by being the only recipient not to use talking notes overtly. The key take-away from his comments was that it takes hard work and personal skills to craft a professional path, but 'luck and timing' can also play a large role ... and he considered himself to be very lucky!"



'67: Come Arouns are more fun than they used to be

**David Church** received a note from **Bill Cray** that **Steve Halupa's** wife, Rose had passed away in early March. Bill said that "Steve and Rose have been closest and dearest friends since 18/27th company days and nuc/sub school and Charleston, SC days and beyond. She will be sorely missed by many!" A mass to celebrate Rose's life will be scheduled at a later time. Her obituary may be found at <https://fb.gy/f3n3ml>. Steve is at: [usna67.steve@gmail.com](mailto:usna67.steve@gmail.com); 407-488-8381; 3310 Oak Brook Dr., Waxhaw, NC 28173-7591.

The Alumni Association's RV Chapter holds meetings wherever they want to by declaring a Come Around at places of fun, great interest, or both. A favorite happens every February in Key West at the Truman Annex. I bring this up because '67 typically owns the campground.

**Jack Parry** sent a photo from the last one. In it, from left to right: 'Nita Parry, Stevie Giffin, **Hank Giffin**, Jack Parry, **Bill McCracken**, Barbara McCracken, Elizabeth Currie, **Mike Currie**, Kitty Bolier, **Mike Bolier**. Also but not shown are Bettie and **Tom Broadhurst**.

From **Ed Kerins**:

✉ We just returned (early March) from New Orleans where we had a great 31st company reunion. I have attached some pics for you. We all had a great time together, exploring New Orleans. Had some great food, listened to some great jazz, and enjoyed each other's company. In attendance were: Shirley and **Tim Anderson**, Ginger and **Ken Belisle**, **Tom Blair**, Kitty and **Mike Bolier**, **John Hickok**, Kathy and Ed Kerins, Janet and **Pete Long**, Virginia and **Mert Pellegrin**, Susy and **John Pepper**, **Emmet (Buddy) Ross**, Evleen and **Buddy Walker**.



New Orleans experience for 31st

So we're done for this time. What I'm looking for is for some of you to go off and have a great time doing something and then send me a note (just something short...not the Great American Novel) and maybe a photo so I'll have some good material for the next column. Don't make me grovel...though I will!

.....That's it...Goodnight!...Jim



'67: 31st in N.O.



'67: 31st in N.O....all of 'em



'68: Denny Blair stands front and center with our classmates following his DGA presentation.

Our annual Class of 1968 winter golf outing in Florida took place again in mid-February, at the beautiful Innisbrook golf resort north of Tampa. **Harry Buzhardt** organized the outing for 14 attendees, 10 of whom played golf. "The winner of the low-net prize for this year's event was **Joe Anderson**, who finished seven shots ahead of last year's winner, **Tom Petersen**," Harry reported. "Plans are to continue the tradition, which now is four days of golf, at Innisbrook in 2025."



Classmates attending this year's winter golf outing included, L to R: **Joe Anderson**, **Miles Staley**, **Charlie Henke**, **Tom Petersen**, **Bill Ober**, **Harry Buzhardt**, and **Mike Gaul**. Not Pictured: **Dick Borowiec**.

In other golfing news, **Craig Honour** visited **Karl Krumbholz** in early March. They played in Karl's Member Guest Golf Tournament at the Wildcat Run Country Club in Estero, FL. "We won every match in our flight and came in fourth out of 12 in the playoff," Karl said. "It was a memorable week."

Barbara and **George Breeden** visited family and classmates in Florida during their road trip from Annapolis in February. Donna and **Reid Carlock**, **Larry McConnell**, **Kathy Farmer**, and **Diana** and I joined them for an enjoyable lunch at The Hangar Restaurant at the St. Petersburg-Albert Whitted Airport. Afterwards, we stopped by the flight line to see the Cessna 182 aircraft Larry flies during his Civil Air Patrol missions. Now a lieutenant colonel, Larry has served in the CAP for more than 20 years.



On the flight line L-R: **Larry McConnell**, **George Breeden**, **Reid Carlock**, and **Gordon Peterson** with Larry's CAP Cessna 182.

Florence and "**JJ**" **Mackin**, **Martha** and **Ray Wallace**, and **Lynn** and **Gary Francis** jump-started Valentine's Day five days early with a celebration at a local winery in Boulder, CO. "We had a great time: a five-course meal, some great wine and, of course, even better sea stories," JJ reported. Florence and I still live in Boulder. Gary and Lynn live one town over in Broomfield. Ray and Martha live in Highlands Ranch on the south end of the Denver metro area. We try to get together every few months for dinner."



Valentine's Day celebration: L to R, front: **Florence Mackin**, **Lynn Francis**, **Ray Wallace**. Back: **Martha Wallace**, **Gary Francis**, and **JJ Mackin**.

In January, **Rick Buchanan** and **Ken Pyle** attended the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Florida Council Leadership Forum in Orlando, FL. "Ken is the president of the MOAA Chapter in Pensacola," Rick reported, "and I have served as a national

MOAA Board Director since 2016. MOAA is a strong and aggressive advocate and supporter in Congress of maintaining the earned benefits that military personnel have acquired by their service. We support all ranks, those who are serving, are retired, veterans and their families for personal and medical benefits."

After serving for more than five years as the president of the Florida Suncoast Chapter of our Alumni Association, **Al Burda** now serves as its vice president. "The chapter is active," Al wrote, "having recently held its annual outing to Snook Haven, an old Florida landmark. Five '68ers attended that successful event: **Jim Brengle**, **Kevin LaGriff**, **Dick D'Anna**, **Ted Webster** and myself." Of note, Al is also a board member of the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League and a board member of the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda, FL. When **Joe Conway** visited Al in February, he took him to the museum. "He had a blast flying an F-18 on a simulator," Al said.



**Jim Brengle**, **Kevin LaGriff**, **Al Burda**, and **Dick D'Anna** at Snook Haven in Venice, FL.

Over the years **Debbie** and **Mike Metcalf** have developed an entertaining tradition related to their Scottish ancestry: They attend an annual Robert Burns "Supper" on or close to his 25 January birthday. This year they chose a supper in Cary, NC. "'Bobbie' is celebrated as the national poet of Scotland," Mike explained. "The suppers are held around the globe. They are a hoot, and each is likely the same format—Robert Burns poetry reading, singing, dancing, bagpipes, etc." The next day they were off for an exceptional USNA Alumni Travel tour of Amman, Jordan, for several days and then on to Cairo, Egypt, for a "Legends of the Nile" cruise ending 3 February. "This was easily one of our best travel experiences," Mike said.

Former men's cross country and track-and-field Coach **Al Cantello's** Memorial Mass was held 1 February at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Annapolis. Every pew in the spacious church was filled. **Jim Dare**, **Jim Kiffer**, **Eric Houin**, **Leo Kuehn**, **Frank Simmons**, and I paid our respects to a coach honored as a "living legend" during his 55-year career. As Eric observed, "Al will always be missed, but never forgotten."



Al Cantello's funeral (L to R): Jim Dare, Jim Kiffer, Eric Houin, Leo Kuehn, Frank Simmons, and Gordon Peterson (Photo by Janan Kiffer)

February and March brought the sad news of the deaths of five classmates—the 11th Company's **Ed Fischer** in March and, in February, the 36th Company's **Leonard Sjostrom**, the 31st Company's **Barry Burrow**, the 30th Company's **John Mayer**, and the 9th Company's **Walker Moore**. May they rest in peace. Please see their Last Call entries.

**Ed Fischer**, 77, passed away 3 March. His career as a surface warfare officer included three wartime deployments to Vietnam. In 1973, while attending the Naval Postgraduate School, he married then-LT Margaret "Maggie" Zuger. He graduated with an MS degree in electrical engineering. Ed later taught weapons-systems engineering at the Academy and electrical-engineering at the NPGS. Shore

assignments followed at Port Hueneme and Point Mugu, CA. Retiring as a commander in 1991, Ed worked for 20 years at Defense Technology Incorporated (DTI) until retiring in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Maggie (Zuger) Fischer; sister Marie (Fischer) Straub, son LCDR Paul Fischer, USN (Ret.) and their families. A funeral Mass was held 15 March in Fredericksburg. Interment will be at a date to be determined in Arlington National Cemetery.

**Leonard Sjostrom**, 79, passed away 28 February. Len enlisted in the Navy in 1962 and attended NAPS to earn his Academy appointment. His distinguished career started on submarines and ended recruiting the next generation of naval nuclear-power engineers. Retiring as a captain (USNR) after 28 years, he excelled in managerial roles at the Department of Energy Savannah River Site. His community service in retirement included serving as a USNA Blue and Gold Officer. Len is survived by his wife of 22 years, Nancy Vaught Sjostrom, sons Leonard C. Sjostrom, Jr. (wife Erin) and Matthew W. Sjostrom (wife Arica), two stepdaughters, 12 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; his sister Doris (Sjostrom) Gilfilian (husband George), and nieces and nephews. Len's memorial service was held 2 March in North Augusta, SC. **Robert "Scotty" Scott**, Kimberly and **Bill Ruch**, and Susan and **Gary Storm** (Len's 36th Company roommate) represented our class at the funeral.

**Barry V. Burrow** passed away 25 February. His father, **James '33**; two uncles ('29 and '35), and brother, **James '62**, preceded him at the Academy. Following graduation, Barry earned an MS degree in mechanical engineering at NPGS Monterey and completed the Surface Nuclear Power Program. His numerous sea tours included command of TOWERS (DDG 9) and CALIFORNIA (CGN 36). Retiring as a captain in 1996 after serving as Commodore, Destroyer Squadron 9, Barry commenced his second career at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site in Washington state where he served as director of operations for waste stabilization. Barry is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; three sons, Brian (wife Brittany), Sean (wife Julie), and Michael; six grandchildren, and brother, James.

**John F. Mayer**, 78, passed away 18 February. John attended the University of Richmond for a year before entering the Academy. As a surface warfare officer he served on several ships, including a wartime deployment to Vietnam and a second tour in-country as a naval advisor. John was later an NROTC instructor and earned an MS degree in environmental chemistry at LSU. After marrying his first wife in Virginia Beach, VA, in 1977, he resigned his commission and moved to Montgomery County, MD, and had three daughters. In 1999, John married Diane Shanko. As an environmental consultant he supported Navy

**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**



## 68/69 CLASS NEWS

environmental-compliance efforts for under-sea-warfare systems until retirement in 2015. John is survived by his wife, Diane, his three daughters and by the mother of his children, Randy Jones Toll; five grandchildren, two step-children and four step-grandchildren; a sister, and two nephews. A celebration-of-life service was held 23 February in Yale, VA. **Dan Lear** and **Fred Muniz** represented the 30th Company. They were joined by **Bill Ruch**. "Bill and John are both from Richmond," Dan said, "and met during their USNA nomination and appointment process some 60 years ago."

**Walker D. Moore**, 77, passed away 9 February. His early life was filled with academic and extracurricular accomplishments, culminating in his graduation from Dublin High School, GA, in 1964 as a star student and band captain. His industrious nature was evident in his youth when he managed not one but three paper routes, including the *Courier Herald*. This early work ethic set the stage for a life characterized by diligence and a strong sense of responsibility. His thirst for knowledge and commitment to excellence continued at the Academy where he graduated ready to serve his country with distinction as a submarine-warfare officer. Walker graduated first in his nuclear-power training class and served a weapons officer on the DANIEL BOONE (SSBN 629). He is survived by his brother, George H. Moore (Margery) and sister, Melanie E. Moore. A memorial service was held 20 February in Dublin, GA.

Take care,  
**Gordo**

# '69

**Life Membership: 59%**

**Donor Participation: 5.82%**

Pres: **Steve Comiskey**  
e: swcomiskey@gmail.com

Exec Vice Pres: **Jim "Sandy" Sandberg**

Corr Sec'y: **Pat Stroop**  
p: 410-279-4575; e: pstroop@hotmail.com

Sec'y: **Dr. Steve Hudock**  
p: 571-419-0290; e: shudock@1969.USNA.com

Treas: **Ron Gumbert**  
4300 Summertime Ln., Helena, MT 59602  
e: rongumbert@icloud.com

Website: [www.usna69.org](http://www.usna69.org)

Good morning, '69. 2024 has graduated!! Who remembers our graduation in 1969? Who was the speaker??

To follow up on last issue's input about Honor Our Fallen Heroes of 11 November 2023, the Class of 1969 has 16 members who were either Killed in Action (KIA) or Lost in Operational Accidents and are remembered on a plaque in Memorial Hall. Your Board of Directors led by **Tom Cavanaugh** have worked hard to get in touch with the families of the remaining 13 KIA/Ops Loss gents to let them

know about the ceremony in November 2024. Tom has had great success and now has contact information on all 16 men! Tom's task was not easy. As reported here, **Mike Michaelis** escorted the sister of **David Pippen** in November 2015, and **Steve Comiskey** escorted the families of his company mates **Dave Buell** and **Jim Feeney** in November 2023. Here are the names (companies in parens) of the remaining 13 classmates who have not yet been honored: **Jerry Anderson (1)**, **Arnie Barden (20)**, **Dick Briggs (19)**, **Jerry Jenkins (23)**, **Scott Ketchie (28)**, **Nile Kraft (22)**, **Bob Ledbetter (35)**, **Dave Lumsden (3)**, **Tom Pasquale (21)**, **Bill Rogers (11)**, **Bill Sigler (29)**, **Tom Tyler (8)**, and **George Wildridge (30)**. Now that Tom has identified contact information for each of the families, the Alumni Association will invite them to a memorial service, lunch and possibly a football game depending on the team's home game schedule.

From the Alumni Association:

✉ We continue to strengthen our connections in the U.S. Naval Academy alumni network. As a crucial step to strengthening those networking connections, the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNAAAF) Communications Team is undertaking a data verification project and the creation of a new printed alumni directory. This directory will help alumni connect with each other and the Academy. We have contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCI) to verify the accuracy of alumni data currently on file. PCI will begin mailing postcards and sending e-mails to alumni in mid-to-late January. The communication requests alumni to call a telephone number to verify or update their alumni profile. When alumni are called, they will be offered the opportunity to purchase a printed or digital directory. You are under no obligation to purchase anything. Regardless of whether you purchase the directory, we thank you for updating your information. The new alumni register will be available in print and digital formats in early 2025. PCI is a trusted partner of the USNAAAF and the Naval Academy and is strictly using the alumni contact information for this project only. Verifying your profile information will help strengthen our alumni network and provide important connections to career and personal networks. If you have trashed the post card and since reconsidered and would like to update your information or even purchase a Register, please call 1-888-811-8793. I (Pat) called the number right after I received the post card (surprisingly PCI did not have my email even though USNAAAF and the local chapter had it!), updated my information, and declined the book for \$159.

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Have cried with you.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Could write a book with direct quotes from you.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Will stand by you no matter what the crowd does.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Are for life.*

VETERAN FRIENDS: *Have shared a lifetime of experiences no civilian could even dream of.*

A VETERAN - whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reserve is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America' for an amount of 'Up to and including my life'.

**Bill Laz** was laid to rest in Tidewater on 15 January. Supporting Marcia and their four daughters were classmates **Bert Bennett, Lon Scofield, Greg Overbeck, Bill Coxe, Tom Fowler, Bob Byles, Dennis Plank, Jerry O'Donnell, Stan Bryant, Dave Spriggs, Joe Greene, Gordy Green, Gary Goodmundson, Lee Duckworth, Dennis Yatras, Stephen Leaman, Tom Klocek, Jack Lahern, Dick Perkins, and Jim Higgins.**

Celebrating **Lou Giannotti '69**. Lou Giannotti retired in January as the Deputy Superintendent for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer/ITSD Director in Ward Hall, completing 32 years of loyal and dedicated service in that role. He completed nearly 60 years total in the Federal Government. Commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in June 1969, Lou advanced to the rank of Commander and served as CO, USS Halyburton (FFG-41). He also served as an assistant professor of Mathematics at USNA 1979-1982 and the Chairman of the Computer Science department 1984-1986. He later served as the Dean of Finance for USNA. After his command tour in Halyburton where he was graded 1 of 17 by his Commodore, he returned to Annapolis in 1992 to run the Department of Computer Services. Additionally, during those 30+ years, Lou acted as the Deputy for Finance and the Dean of Admissions for periods of time while holding down his full time job as Deputy Superintendent for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer/ ITSD Director. He led Ward Hall through amazing transformational times including Y2K, delivering cellular service to Bancroft Hall, and shepherding the yard through the Covid pandemic and the challenges of a remote learning environment. Lou was awarded the Navy's Civilian Service Award, the highest award given to civilians. Classmates who attended were **Glenn Whaley** who is also a company mate, **Ed and Betsy Bannat, Pat and Mary Stroop, Norm and Ruth Brown, Steve and Sally Comiskey, Todd Creekman, Dave and Carole Ehemann, Stephen Leaman** and his escort Debbie Ainslie. Attached is a picture of Lou, most of the classmates who attended, and the Supe, **VADM Yvette Davids '89**. Fair winds and following seas, Classmate!



The Supe and '69 at Lou's retirement ceremony and reception

**Carl Franzoni** also retired from Federal Service on 12 January 2024. Since May 2006, Carl has been employed by the Submarine Learning Center in Groton, Connecticut as an Instructional Systems Specialist. The job is focused on the content of curricula and how they are delivered. These two guys, Lou and Carl, just may be last men standing as far as government service employees go.

**Duke Elmore** writes:



Remy and Reese

✉ Attached is a photo of Vicki and my two youngest of 16 grandkids. They are identical twin girls named Remy and Reese, born on Valentine's Day last year. The photo was taken the morning of December's Army-Navy game. The reason for the attire

is that our youngest daughter's husband's dad is a 1973 West Point grad so we have frequent occasions to clash on Army-Navy sporting events. Reese grabbed the Midshipmen shirt.

**Jerry Saunders** writes from Barbados:

✉ '69 has staged another amphibious assault on the west coast of Barbados. **Dick Bartlett**, **Mac McClain** and I, and our wives Laura, Regenia and Sarah, are staying in a house on the beach, where it is presently 28°, just like home. The significant difference is that it's Celsius down here, and Fahrenheit in NY. Barts likes to point out that while it may be 82°F, with the wind chill, it feels like 81°. Barts and I have been coming down here for 10 years or so and Mac joined us last year, but we are virtual newbies compared to **Chris Everett** and his wife Joanne, who have been coming for decades and stay for, like, 2 or 3 months or something in a place a couple hundred yards down the beach. We ran into them at the airport car rental counter last year and, like last year, we are going to miss **Dick Long** and **Buff**, who are due to come down a week or so after we leave, staying near Chris and Joanne. We need to work on this scheduling thing. In the house next door, we've got a total of 9 of my kids, their spouses and grandkids. We've all gotten together here with Chris and Joanne for

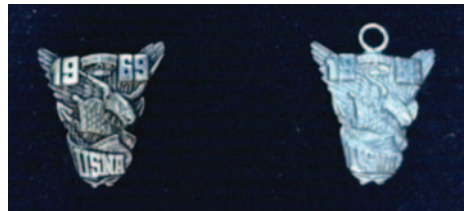
rum punch, G and Ts, wine, hors d'oeuvres and such and NFL playoff games are available on the tube - life is good. See you all at the 55th.



Jerry, Chris, Dick and Mac

'69 received an email from **Skip Lee** '72 who used to be the Mayor of Sterling, Illinois. Last year he found a memorial brick for **Mike Heidel**, our classmate from 1<sup>st</sup> company. Skip asked for any information on Mike, and **Bill Conkle**, 1st company rep and **Dwight Bohm**, Mike's roommate 2/c year were able to put up a great response about Mike's life as a mid, naval aviator, and commercial airline pilot. Bravo Zulu 1<sup>st</sup> company!

A reminder from **Todd Creekman**: As we celebrate the 55th anniversary of our Class of 1969 graduation this year, here's a near-term opportunity to purchase a sterling silver class crest as a special gift for someone!



Pin

Pendant

This unique gift is 7/8 inch tall. It is available as a pin or necklace pendant and can be ordered through the Class of 1969 official ring provider Herff Jones. Prices: Pin: \$134.00 plus tax plus \$7.50 shipping. Pendant: \$109.00 plus tax plus \$7.50 shipping.

Please note that the pendant does not come with a necklace and delivery will take approximately six weeks. To order, please contact Herff Jones representative Bob Vaz (who also worked at our 50th Reunion) at [rvmvaz@herffjones.com](mailto:rvmvaz@herffjones.com) or 401-433-7932. Pins and pendants will also be available through Herff Jones at our August 2024 55th Reunion in Annapolis.

Class elections are coming up for president, class secretary, BOD At Large #2, and BOD At Large #5. Please consider running...board meetings via Zoom once a quarter. If you are interested, let **John Ohlinger** know by emailing him at [johlinger@att.net](mailto:johlinger@att.net)

That's it for this issue. Remember: STRESSED backwards is DESSERTS. Treat yourself!

**Non sibi.**

# '70

**Life Membership: 63%**

**Donor Participation: 3.44%**

Pres: **CDR Edmund E. Moore, USN (Ret.)**  
e: [edmund.moore@gmail.com](mailto:edmund.moore@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **CDR Royal Connell, USN (Ret.)**  
7230 Meir Henry Rd., Pensacola, FL 32506  
e: [royal70@1970.usna.com](mailto:royal70@1970.usna.com)

Webmaster: **Ed Moore**  
e: [edmund.moore@gmail.com](mailto:edmund.moore@gmail.com)

Website: <http://1970.usnaclass.com>

Greetings all, and my special thank you to **Gary Knight** for spelling me while I was hospitalized. And speaking of which, I presume that I owe you all an update. I am now home although still wheelchair and housebound, but I'm getting stronger every day. I cannot walk, but I have been able to stand with assistance of the physical therapist. And **Ed Moore** tells me that the Navy is proposing to decommission USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in FY25. At least the Hopper is still going to be here.

**Sound the Last Post:**

**John Quinton DeWitt**, of Greenville SC, passed away in January. John was a talented musician, teacher, brother and a friend to everyone he met. He was an electrical engineer and retired from Nebraska Public Power District after dedicating 23 years of his career to the field.

John served his country with honor and distinction serving in the US Navy and the US Army. His military service exemplified his commitment and dedication to his country.

John attended the USNA and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln for his higher education.

In his free time, he enjoyed playing bridge, the piano, and the organ. His love for music was evident in his talent and passion for playing these instruments.

**Bill King** reports the passing of our honorary classmate Fred Elliot. The Elliots along with other families in Crofton had hosted many of our [24th] company mates between 1968 and 1970 and remained in contact with friends for the last 50+ years. Fred was made an honorary classmate by the Class of 1970 three years ago.

**News of the World:**

Diane and **Frank Reifsnyder** are currently on a Miami to Miami, 142-day, world cruise on CRYSTAL SERENITY. Frank writes:

✉ We were pleasantly surprised when Carol and **Tom Mazour** boarded the ship for the Tahiti to Auckland, New Zealand portion of the cruise. Tom was one of the guest lecturers. He gave four separate lectures during the at sea days. Two of the lectures were on the legendary British explorer, Captain James Cook. Tom's third lecture was on how a Nebraska farm boy went to the Naval Academy and became a nuclear submariner. His final lecture was on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Tom worked with the IAEA in Vienna, Austria for 20 years. He was part of

# 70/70 CLASS NEWS

IAEA when they won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. He has worked in 36 countries and collaborated with colleagues from over 90 countries. Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, he was part of both the joint US - Russian and joint US - Ukraine working groups to improve the performance and safety of nuclear power plants. After spending a short time at home after this cruise, Tom and Carol will be boarding another cruise ship in South America, with Tom providing other lectures, and ending in Barcelona, Spain. Prior to departing on this cruise, Diane and I had pleasant visits with Barbara and **Frank Wahl** in Hampton, Virginia, and with Jean and **Phil Eslinger** near their home in Palm City, Florida.



**Carl Weiscope** reports:

✉ "From 22 - 27 Jan 24 **Ben Holt, Joe Cohen, Pat Tierney, Jim Carter** and **Carl Weiscope** held a 36th Co mini-reunion in San Diego. Peggy Holt and Marie Carter also attended the event. During the event they all stayed at the Best Western Hacienda in Old Town and walked to several restaurants for dinners. They also visited the Torrey Pines beach and the San Diego Safari Park where they did a truck safari to see the animals up close. A highlight of the mini-reunion was a visit to the USS MIDWAY museum. As Pat had been a docent at the museum, he was able to take the group on a

personalized tour including viewing the memorial wall in the chapel. Listed on the wall was company mate 1st Lt **Paul V. Duncan**, USMC. Duncs was killed on 3 Nov 74 while operating off the USS MIDWAY. Dinner the last night was at the Fish Market near the USS MIDWAY museum. Joe had asked each of us to provide some information on our lives before the academy; our careers; and what we learned at the academy which assisted us in our careers or in our life's journey. We had some very interesting "sea stories" and learned more about each other. It was a very enjoyable time. As Jim stated we never know when it may be the last time we are together so we need to cherish these types of events."



L-R: Ben Holt, Joe Cohen, Pat Tierney, Jim Carter and Carl Weiscope

### Bits and Pieces:

**Mike Lowe** promoted his Son, Christopher Alexander Lowe, to Major, U. S. Marine Corps, aboard the USS COWPENS (CG 63) at Naval Base San Diego in March.

✉ He served on her as an Ensign and Lt(jg) out of Yokosuka, Japan from 2010 to 2013. He is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) Information Group and is a relatively newly minted Marine Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 1706 Maritime Space Officer. Yes, we still have infantry and artillery in the Corps!



Lowe promotion

**Tony Ford** and **Jim Seay** got together while Tony, his wife Karen, and their son Josh were in the Orlando area to catch some Major League Baseball games. Both Tony and Jim are enjoying good health and active retirements.



**Paul Hurd** sez:

✉ I'm here in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for a February week with 6th Company-mates **Hall Dillon** and **Jim Sheppard**. Here's a shot of us out deep sea fishing and whale-watching off the Pacific Coast of Baja. (Left to Right...Hall Dillon, Jim Sheppard, Susan Hurd, Cecile Sheppard, and Paul Hurd.)



...and that's the end of my tale...

**Ring-A-Ding-Ding!**

## CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

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

**2024**

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
July-August '24	28 May '24
September-October '24	30 Jul '24
November-December '24	25 Sept '24

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Alabama

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brian Campbell '94, USNR**  
p: 251-776-4000; e: Brian.Campbell@1994.usna.com

### USNA Alabama Alumni Chapter

Pres: **Greg Hess '85**  
p: 205-307-9191; e: greghess8599@charter.net

Vice Pres, Central Alabama: **Eric Riddle '94**  
p: 469-363-4295; e: ericriddle94@gmail.com

Vice Pres, Northern Alabama: **Michael McFarland '04**  
p: 713-410-2155; e: mjmcfarland7@aol.com

Treas: **Dennis Read '59**  
p: 205-879-6617; e: dsread2010@gmail.com

Exec Assist: **Carolyn Freeman, son, Reid '24**  
e: usna.ala@gmail.com

The USNA 83 Bike Ride Across America for Veterans is coming to Alabama! On Oct 4, 2024, USNA riders from across the USA will converge on Huntsville, Alabama to begin an Epic 500-mile ride across our great state - The BamaRama500!

The Alabama Chapter has several members participating in and supporting the ride.

Thanks to all riders, supporters, and sponsors! Waterway, a company owned by **Morris Hackney '53**, Alabama Chapter Trustee is a major sponsor of the ride and will be supplying all the riders' water needs.

Also riding and corporate sponsor is Alabama Chapter past President **Will Cook '88** and his company, s3Inc. Will will join the ride in Huntsville and ride for 2 days. He is working with **Jamie Sherrard '83** (full length rider and American Legion/VFW/ Veteran Coordinator) and CAPT **Bob Greenman '62** as the riders' welcome to Huntsville and send-off. Day riders are welcome!

RADM **Jack Natter '62**, Chapter Trustee is a ride sponsor and The C=C Bond Group is a ride sponsor in memory of long-time Chapter Treasurer, CAPT **Dennis Read '59** who passed away earlier this year. **Ray Herb '83**, a 2500 mile on the Navy Ride Across America is a supporter!

Alabama Chapter Trustee **Scott Watson '83** is this year's ride organizer, and God willing, will complete the entire 500 miles.

The route will include stops in Scottsboro, Gadsen, Oxford, Auburn, and culminate in Orange Beach.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce led by Anna Hovey has already started rolling out the red carpet and we are so grateful!

The Ride Across America has raised over \$750,000 for several veteran causes and the Naval Academy Foundation. The goal of this year's ride is an additional \$250,000 raised as the 83 team's total goal is \$1.983m raised.

If you are interested in riding, sponsoring or supporting, please contact **Scott Watson** at 205-999-3977 or scottwatson83@gmail.com! For public affairs and press, please contact **Dave Saba '83** at dave@teachersoftomorrow.org.

For more ride info, please see navy-cycling.com. Go Navy!

## South Alabama Chapter

Pres: **CDR Brian Campbell '94, USNR**  
p: 251-776-4000; e: Brian.Campbell@1994.usna.com

Sec'y: **Ruth Lichtenfeld**  
p: 251-343-6264; e: ruth29@bellsouth.net

## Arizona

BGO Area Coordinator: **Susan Wester**  
e: sjw456@icloud.com

### Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Capt David M. English '86, USMCR**  
e: David.English@1986.usna.com

[www.usna.com/Chapter/us/arizona](http://www.usna.com/Chapter/us/arizona)

Sec'y: **Steven W. Ranes '02**  
e: StevenWRanes@gmail.com

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

### Northern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Charlie Bomberger '74**  
p: 928-4999-9605; e: cbomberger74@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Juan Segovia '88**  
p: 949-235-4083; e: the55Segovias@gmail.com

### Southern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **John McCarthy '76**

Sec'y: **Jim Hillenmayer '73**  
e: jhillenmayer73@msn.com

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

In March, thirty members and spouses of the Southern Arizona Alumni Association Chapter got together for a luncheon at a meeting room at the Sahuarita Desert Diamond Casino. Newly installed Chapter President **John McCarthy** kicked off the gathering by providing information on funeral arrangements for **Ed Biggers '57**, who had been an active member of the Chapter for many years. Following a terrific meal, two officers from the Tucson Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol presented a fascinating update on what is really going on at the Arizona/Mexico border, including the staggering rise in the number of apprehensions of illegal border crossers during the past year.



(L-R) Outgoing Chapter President Thom Rossa '63, BP Agents Benjamin Salcido and Mike Whelan, and Incoming Chapter President John McCarthy '76

The next event for the Chapter is the annual Spring Dinner which will be held on 11 May at The Highlands at Dove Mountain resort.

## Arkansas

BGO Area Coordinator: **David Chucoski**  
e: david.chucoski@gmail.com

### Arkansas Chapter

Pres: **Steve Colley '08**  
e: stevecolley84@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Doug Waller '02**  
e: waller\_doug@yahoo.com

Sec'y Treas: **Jason Coyle '09**  
e: jason.coyle@gmail.com

## Asia

BGO Area Coordinator: **"Bo" Borromeo**  
e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

### Guam Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Noel M. Enriquez '84, USNR**  
P.O. Box 26849, GMF, Barrigada, GU 96921-6849  
h: 671-472-9629; f: 671-472-1966  
c: 671-777-9629; e: NME@1984.usna.com

### Philippines Chapter

Pres: **COMMO Alberto B. Carlos '89, AFP**  
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e: carlosabet@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Capt Carl Roy Catalan '08, PMC (PN)**  
p: +63-917-706-8042; e: Roitime23@gmail.com

Website: [www.groups.yahoo.com/communityusnaphil](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/communityusnaphil)

### Singapore Chapter

Pres: **Say Yong Tan '05**  
e: say@2005.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Andy Harrell '12**  
e: andyh125@gmail.com

Sec'y: **LTJG Nicole Uchida '12, USN**  
e: Nicole.Uchida@fe.navy.mil

Chapter Email: [USNASG@gmail.com](mailto:USNASG@gmail.com)

### Republic of Korea Chapter

Pres: **CDR Chong "John" M. Yi '85, USN**  
e: John.M.Yi@raytheon.com

### Tokyo Bay Chapter

Pres: **Mori Nixon '81**  
1-15-19-301 Minami-Aoyama  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062  
Japan: 090-9402-1291 / US: 253-656-6992  
e: mnixon@gns-inc.us

**Changes are Coming  
to July-August  
Shipmate!**  
See page 1  
"Classes & Chapters"

# CHAPTER NEWS

## 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: pscot89@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@wellsfargo.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Riverside/San Bernardino):  
**CDR Bill Lauper, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 619-840-2846; e: lauperwm@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Los Angeles)  
**Dave Eguchi**  
e: david.eguchi@1983.usna.com

### Monterey Bay Chapter

Pres: **Maj. Rebecca "Becky Singh" '03, USNR**  
e: usnaalumnimontereybay@gmail.com

Corr Sec'y: **Steve Tackett '87**  
e: stackett99@yahoo.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Frank Verducci**  
e: fverduccijr@yahoo.com

### 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

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

Past Pres: **Dennis P. Joyce '61**  
p: 916-996-1333; e: djoyce1961@hotmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator  
**Lauro Aguila**  
e: lauro.aguila@bgo.usna.com

Same monthly events update: Our group continues with monthly breakfast and happy hour get-togethers with West Point and Air Force; with only a few regulars attending each of these we continue to look for events to generate greater attendance. We are moving around the Sacramento area for the third Thursday Happy Hour hoping to entice others to a closer location.

On 25 January 2024, we and the Sacramento Parents Club, hosted a visit from USNA Alumni Association representatives **CAPT Thomas (TJ) Grady '96, USN (Ret.)**, Executive Vice President, Engagement and Communications and Nancy Murray, Senior Director, Alumni Engagement and Outreach Programs. We were honored to be one of the first chapters they visited where we had a chance to hear what is happening with the Alumni Association and for them to meet us, see what we are doing and where we need some help from them.



**Sacramento Chapter: USNA Alumni Association Happy Hour-** Left to right- Darcie Garcia (Meredith '26), Jennifer Garrett (Dylan '23), Lucie Kroettinger (Emily '27), Erin Darke and Yihwin Huang (Lilian '25), John Martin '91, Brian Grubbs '92, Terri Maginnis '82, Dave McKie '66, Nancy Murray (Alumni Association), Michael Johnson (Mariah '24), Alan Abbs '91, Mick Trainor '92, Mark and Linda Edmonston (Alex '24), Dick Bishop '66, and TJ Grady (Front) '96 (Alumni Association Executive VP)

In March, we had a chance to support the Men's Rugby team as they visited UC Berkeley to take on the number 7 ranked Cal Bears. The San Francisco chapter hosted a tailgate prior to the game and while the team did not come away with a win, it was a homecoming for two of the players from the Sacramento area **Avion Ganse '27** (Rio Americano) and **Roanin Krieger '26** (Jesusit).

**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](http://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](http://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

Pres: **Keith Kitagawa '92**  
e: president@usnaaasd.com

Vice Pres 1: **Debbie Balsley '83**

Vice Pres 2: **Michael Philbrook '83**

Treas: **Juan Rose III '04**  
e: treasurer@usnaaasd.com

Sec'y: **Mark Powers '06**  
e: secretary@usnaaasd.com

Corr Sec'y: **Charlie Carey '70**  
p: 619-589-0945; e: cdcarey@1970.USNA.com

Website: <http://usnaaasd.com>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Philbrook '83**  
e: michael.philbrook@1983.usna.com



We don't get much snow here in San Diego with the exception of the higher elevations in the mountains. This winter has been no different so a group of our alumni decided to take in the cold through other means. It turns out we have a really good hockey team here and many in the Chapter decided to take in the game and get a special tour on the ice. As you can see by the photo below it looks like it was a blast.

It's always been a tradition at our alumni meetings to recognize the most senior class representative along with the most junior at our events. As you can see from the photo on the next page, they had a great time.



**San Diego Chapter Alumni at the San Diego Gulls Game on the Ice**



John Blake '62 and Jessica Gill '17

Please check our chapter web page through the USNAAA site for events and meet ups in our area. If you're visiting you are always welcome and you might meet up with old friends or make new ones.

**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**

Prest: **Mike Fazio '85**  
e: mikefaz85@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Vacant**

Sec'y: **Ray Fazio '57**  
e: rayfaz57@pacbell.net

Treas: **Brian Frack '89**  
e: frackbrian@gmail.com

Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/19563/home>

BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Paul Kepner '04, USN (Ret)**  
e: paulmkepner@gmail.com.

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

Instagram: [@usnaaa\\_sfbychapter](https://www.instagram.com/usnaaa_sfbychapter)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Frank Verducci**  
e: fverduccjr@yahoo.com

**Alumni Support Services**

see article on pages 30 & 34

**Santa Barbara Chapter**

Pres: **Stephen L.A. Callahan '81**  
Treas: **CAPT Stephen H. Huber '80, USN (Ret.)**

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Greg McGiffney**  
e: Greg.McGiffney@bgo.usna.com

Chapter email: [usnaasantabarbarachapter@gmail.com](mailto:usnaasantabarbarachapter@gmail.com)

Web: <http://santabarbara.usnachapters.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/santabarbarachapterusna.9>

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

**Colorado**

**Colorado Chapter**

Pres: **CAPT S. Guy Higgins '69, USN (Ret.)**  
e: guyhiggins1234@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Matthew McLaurin '92**  
e: matthew.s.mclaurin@gmail.com

Website: <http://usnacolorado.com>

BGO Area Coordinator (Denver): **CAPT Dick Eason '84, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 720-747-4615; e: dick.eason@lycos.com

**Colorado Springs Chapter**

Pres: **LCDR John Sledgianowski '87, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 719-287-2187; e: sledgesix@msn.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Andrew Graziano**  
e: agraziano512@gmail.com

**Connecticut**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Evan Barnet '91**  
p: 203-249-0071; e: evan@barnetassociates.com

**Connecticut Chapter**

Pres: **Alan Weigel '79**  
p: 860-376-5775; e: aweigel@blankrome.com

Treas: **Tom Hogsten '85**

Sec'y: **Eric Irwin '86**  
p: 860-857-8748; e: irwiner@comcast.net

Comms Dir: **David Candler '67**  
p: 860-823-0862; e: davcandler@aol.com

Meeting Chairman: **Vacant**

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

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

**Costa Rica**

BGO Area Coordinator: **"Bo" Borromeo**  
e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

**Costa Rica Chapter**

Pres: **Claudio A. Pacheco '64**  
Apt. 4307-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica  
p: 506-2224-4325; w: 506-2225-4239  
c: 506-8876-1394; e: cpacheco@1964.usna.com

**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**  
p: 302-256-8949; h: 302-449-0795  
e: Christopher.F.Dierkes-1@usa.dupont.com

**Florida**

**Gainesville Chapter**

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

**Jacksonville Chapter**

Pres: **CAPT Scott Neidhold '77, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: scottneidholdsr@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Glen Hamilton '85**  
e: glenhamilton@cbvfl.com

Treas and Chapter Trustee: **Enochia Anderson '94**

Sec'y: **Britney Brown '12**

Communication Director: **CDR Nels Frostenson '80, USN (Ret.)**  
e: frostynels@aol.com

50 Year+ Alumni Liaison: **CDR Peter Garfield '60, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 904-314-9691; e: pjgarfield@comcast.net

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 407-687-6877; e: raaos@aol.com

**Vets United Come Around:** On 27 February alumni, spouses and friends, joined by Parents' Club members, hosted guests **T.J. Grady '96** and Nancy Murray, from USNAAA national staff. The event was held at the local brewery, Veterans United, owned and operated by a local navy veteran and aviator. T.J. took questions and along with Nancy, were doing a Florida swing, to meet and greet alumni, as well as provide updates to all the activity ongoing in the alumni association. Senior class present was **Dave Bingemann '63** and junior class present was **Jamel Brown '19**. Of the parents with



Jacksonville Chapter: Vets United Come Around

# CHAPTER NEWS



Jacksonville Chapter: Navy v. Jacksonville University Womens' Lacrosse

current midshipmen at the academy, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis represented the class of '27. The collective group proudly represented 64 years of classes, and a grand time was had by all.



**NAVY vs. Jacksonville University, Womens' Lacrosse:** On 9 March Navy supporters came out to support the womens' LAX team, and to cheer them on to victory. While the weather threatened a bit, the game concluded with Navy winning 17 - 9. Several past players now on active duty in the Jacksonville area, were in attendance. As well, given that it was spring break, and the team was going to stay in Jacksonville for a few additional days of warm weather training, the team brought along with them some of their parents. So that added to the local support and cheering. Some of these women will in May hang up their sticks, will graduate, and will enter the Fleet or the Marine Corps. Where they will deploy around the world, in defense of our freedoms. And those of us in Jacksonville, will continue to cheer them on and wish them every success in their endeavors.

## Greater Miami Chapter

Pres: **Thor C. Gould '09**  
e: thor.gould@gmail.com

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

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

BGO Area Coordinator:

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

p: 305-705-4722; e: dennis.navy65@googlemail.com

## Orlando Chapter

Pres: **Christopher Clark '01**  
e: clark15cr@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Marc Watson '77**  
e: marc@marcwatson.com

Sec: **Dave Shikada '79**  
e: davidshikada@gmail.com

Treas: **Shawn Wattles '95**  
e: shawn.wattles@gmail.com

Webmaster: **Greg Hemphill '72**  
e: usnaamembershiporlando@gmail.com

Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/9546>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1415188042037372>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Rich O'Sullivan '77**  
e: RAAOS@aol.com

## Palm Beach Chapter

Pres: **Ivan Rosa '84**  
e: irosa@1984.usna.com; p: 561-758-2358

Vice Pres: **Kate Arrizza '03**  
e: karrizza@coxsciencecenter.org; p: 561-352-8519

Sec: **Rick Salvadore '78**  
e: rick.salvadore@gmail.com; p: 312-925-7098

Treas: **Vacant**

BGO Area Coordinator:

**Capt Dennis R. Neutze '65, JAGC USN (Ret.)**  
e: dennis.navy65@googlemail.com

p: 305-705-4722

## Pensacola Chapter

Co-Pres: **Jose Perez '10**  
Co-Pres: **Joey Walker '02**  
e: usnaapensacola@gmail.com

Sec'y: **JD Kameen**  
o: 480-494-8973; c: 443-904-6160; f: 833-727-0813  
e: jkameen@loandepot.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Kilton Kingsman '06**  
e: kilton.kingsman@gmail.com

## Southwest Florida Chapter

Pres: **Hank White '68**  
e: hfwhitejr@aol.com

Sec'y: **Lukas Rebertus '12**  
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BGO Area Coordinator:

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

p: 305-705-4722; e: dennis.navy65@googlemail.com

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

## Space Coast Chapter

Pres: **Geraldine Santos '83**  
p: 626-376-6815; e: gwsantos83@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Vacant**

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 407-687-6877; e: raaos@aol.com

## Suncoast Chapter

Pres: **George Thompson '77**  
e: thompsongw77@gmail.com; p: 757-810-9532

Vice Pres: **Alois "Al" Burda '68**  
e: alburda3@verizon.net

Second Vice Pres: **George "Bo" Hamrick '79**  
e: bhamrick@financialpreservation.com

Treas: **Dick D'Anna '68**  
e: dannari68@comcast.net

Sec'y: **Vacant**

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/usnaalumflorida\\_suncoastchapter](https://www.facebook.com/usnaalumflorida_suncoastchapter)

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: sswift@1987.usna.com

## Tampa Bay Chapter

Pres: **CDR Jane Lochner '84, USN (Ret.)**  
e: jane.lochner@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Chris Heath '72, USN (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



## CANDIDATE PICNIC

Another great Candidate Picnic was held on 10 March 2024 with over 150 signed up. We had great weather and prospective candidates came from as far away as Sarasota and Orlando. Big shoutout to **Don Aiken '78** for all the food and supplies. **Bill Graham '72** ran herd over the grill team. **Steve Swift '87** and **Todd Barrett '00** spoke to the prospective candidates about the nomination and application process, giving tips on how to be successful. We had 4 midshipmen (**Sam Workman '24, Arianna Longo '26, Logan Shepard '27**) join us to talk about their experiences and fielded questions from the students and parents. Also in attendance: **Trey Alexander '90, Mark Arnold '80, Bill Breckinridge '96, Walter Cawein '61, John Goodenough '02, James Hamm '84, James Han '11, Cam Henson '17, Eric Houlihan '19, Jane Lochner '84, Chris Martinez '96, Paul Mathews '85, Dick Petrucci '61, Gary Polansky '69, Michael Rowland '73, Chris Thompson '92, Mike Umstead '90, and Liz Welch '01.**

## 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.



Tampa Bay Chapter: USNA Alumni attending the Candidate Picnic on 10 March 2024.



Tampa Bay Chapter: Steve Swift '87 provided "the gouge" to prospective candidates.

In February, the Venice contingency (**Mark Schramm '72, Tom Repeta '72 and Wayne Repeta '77**) braved I-75 and made their annual pilgrimage to our meeting, reporting that all is quiet on the Southern Front. While **Steve Swift '87**, texted us during the meeting from New Zealand, it was visiting Tulsa Chapter President and Board of Trustees (BoT) member, **Rocky Goins '84**, that gave us the BoT report. **Paul Mathews '85**, gave us the low-down on how USNA is transitioning back to 36 companies starting this summer. The new companies within each Batt are being formed by volunteers from within the companies in the Batt. The incentive: those in the new companies will not need to march next year! Also in attendance: **Don Aiken '78, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Perry Dempsey '72, John Goodenough '02, Bill Graham '72, Austin Gullett '03, Warren Hahn '60, James Hamm '84, Jim Kramer '74, Jane Lochner '84, Paul Matthews '85, Matt Packard '06, Chris Thompson '92, Mike Umstead '90** and we welcomed BACK **Bill Roberts '01**.

In March, the rain held off and we were still able to meet outdoors. We finalized plans for the Candidate Picnic and started discussing plans for the Navy-USF game on 9 November 2024 here in Tampa. This will be a big event and we will need help in organizing all the activities for the weekend. It will also be USF's salute to Veterans. If you are able to be on the committee, please contact Jane at jane.lochner@gmail.com. In attendance were: **Don Aiken '78, Janel Brown '97, Miller Detrick '63, Austin Gullett '03, Warren Hahn '60, Eric Houlihan '19, Jim Kramer '74, Jane Lochner '84, Paul Matthews '85, John Miles '93, Dan O'Shea '91, Gary Polansky '69** and we welcomed first-timer **Trent Wolfersberger '93**.

Welcome aboard, shipmates!

**Watch for information to sign up for these future events**

**Future Events**

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month (no sign-up needed)
- TBD Army/Navy Golf - Late Apr/Early May (date not yet finalized)
- 27 May 2024 - Run to Honor 5k Run/Walk
- 29 Jun 2024 - All Service Academy at the Tampa Bay Rays (vs. Washington Nationals)

Our social media links are listed in our Chapter 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!

**Georgia**

**Atlanta Chapter**

Pres: **DJ Marzetta '94**  
 p: 404-996-7019; e: djmarzetta@gmail.com  
 Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers '79, USN (Ret.)**  
 e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com  
 Website: <http://www.usnaaaa.com>

BGO Area Coordinator (Atlanta/North Georgia):  
**Deborah Catrini**  
 e: deborah.catrini@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Southern Georgia): **Ryan McDonel**  
 e: rmcdonel.usna@gmail.com

In February the Atlanta Metro Chapter held its annual "Dark Ages" party at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant in Atlanta. This has become one of our signature events and is always well attended, in spite of the dreariness of a cold Atlanta rain. After an evening enjoying great food and refreshments, chapter president **Dante "DJ" Marzetta '94** led us through the traditional recognition and toasts. This year we were honored by the attendance of not one, but two alumni in their 80s!

We did discover one "interloper" in our midst, a retired Army Colonel from that preschool up on the Hudson River. He even had the audacity to remind the group of the results of the last several Army-Navy games. However, he surprised us all - and redeemed himself - by spontaneously proposing a toast to the United States Navy.

President Marzetta did provide one surprise bit of news - after leading the chapter through the trials and tribulations of Covid, DJ announced that he would like to step down as President. The Chapter Board is currently beginning the process of canvassing for nominations - any chapter member in good standing can nominate another member. An official communication will be going out soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please shoot me an email.

The board will soon be meeting to put together a slate of events for the rest of the year, so stay tuned!



Atlanta Alumni - Dark Ages Party



Atlanta Alumni - Dark Ages Part



## CHAPTER NEWS

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

Another way to keep up is by visiting the chapter website at <https://atlanta.usnachapters.net/>. Our webmaster works tirelessly to keep the site up to date. We also post on the chapter’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/USNAAtlanta>.

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

Wiz Withers '79  
Secretary, Atlanta Metro Chapter

## Germany

### Stuttgart Germany Chapter

Pres: Thomas E. Elders  
p: 949-878-2661; e: thomaselders@earthlink.net

## Hawaii

### Hawaii Chapter

Pres: **Ted Peck '88**  
p: 808-371-7514; e: ted.peck@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Keno Knieriem '06**  
e: keno@honokea.com

Sec'y: **Eric Kimura '76**  
e: kimurayoshihiro9@gmail.com

Comms: **Brian C. Smith '05**  
e: brian.conley.smith@gmail.com

Treas: **Tom Marzec '87**  
e: tamarzec@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator:  
**CDR Jason Afong '06, USN**  
e: Jason.afong@bgo.usna.com

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

## 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



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

### Southern Idaho Chapter

Pres: **Paul Campbell '98**  
e: Paul.Campbell@1998.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Rick Schellhaas '68**  
e: rbschellhaas@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Rufus Taylor '66**  
e: tincansailor980@gmail.com

Treas: **Ted Nunamaker '96**  
e: tjnunamaker@gmail.com

Idaho Parents' Club President: **Trasi Mullins (Cormac '26)**  
e: idusnaparents@hotmail.com

Can you believe it? Graduation for USNA Class of 2024 is upon us and soon we'll add another link in the chain. Congratulations to the newly minted USN ensigns and USMC second lieutenants of the USNA Class of 2024! We salute our Idaho graduates and welcome them aboard. Here are our newest members: Ensign **Jake Beitia '24** USN, Star, Idaho, heading to nuclear power school and then on to submarine school; 2nd Lt. **Lucas Gabrieli '24**, USMC, Boise, Idaho, heading to Quantico, VA; Ensign **Luke McIntosh '24**, USN, Boise, Idaho, heading to USS CHAFFEE (DDG 90) in San Diego, CA; Ensign **Orville Nyblade '24**, USN, Burley, Idaho, heading to USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) at Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek, VA; Ensign **Cecelia Wheeler '24**, USN, Meridian, Idaho, heading to USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) in Bremerton WA.

The chapter bids a fond farewell to **Andrea Hovey '03**. Andrea is relocating to the east coast. She has been one of our stalwart members for a long time and is the immediate past president and current treasurer of the chapter. As chapter president, she guided the chapter safely through the troubled waters of the covid pandemic.

Paraphrasing John Masefield's poem "Sea Fever" the chapter wishes Andrea "a tall (fast) ship and a star to steer her by" Good luck Andrea!

**Ted Nunamaker '96** has assumed duties as chapter treasurer.



Carol Huffman '80 and Andrea Hovey '03 swapping sea stories.

The Idaho Parents Club has a new president. Trasi Mullins (**Cormac '26**) has relived Nicola McIntosh as president. Many thanks to Nicola for all her work as club president. Welcome aboard Trasi and to your team of Lisa Burtelow (**Samual Kerley '26**) and Mandi Kriete.

Bear Island Brewery, the chapter "watering hole", held a "dark ages" Feb-Brew-ary social and there was a good turnout in spite of the inclement weather. Family, friends, spouses/SO's joined alums **Bill Previty '65**, **Rufus Taylor '66**, **Rick Schellhaas '68**, **Tom Simmonds '73**, **Carol Huffman '80**, **Pete Butler '86**, **Van States '91**, **Ted Nunamaker '96**, **Paul Campbell '98** and **Andrea Hovey '03** in enjoying great camaraderie, and no, the ground hog was not invited.



Chapter attendees enjoying a good time at Bear Island Brewery.

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>.

**Chapter Engagement**  
and  
**Outreach Update**  
See page 32



Chicago Chapter: Members of the Chicago Chapter at a submarine brief in March.

## Illinois

### Chicago Chapter

Pres: **Eric Sucharski '91**  
e: eric@sucharskilaw.com

Vice Pres: **Michael Cortesio '85**  
e: mjcortesio@comcast.net

Sec'y: **John Killacky '93**  
e: j4killacky@comcast.net

Treas: **Michelle Lee '16**  
e: michelle.lee@bgo.usna.com

Past Pres: **Fred Weber '75**  
e: Fred.weber@2comm.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Northern IL)  
**LCDR Drew Thomas '04 USNR**  
e: drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com

Several members of the chapter attended a brief on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being developed and used within the Submarine Force. The presentation was delivered by **John McGunnigle '92** at the Chicago Union League Club in March. McGunnigle served as the Commanding Officer of USS NEW HAMPSHIRE (SSN-778) and as Commander, Submarine Squadron FOUR. Upon retirement from the Navy, he founded and led the applied artificial intelligence program, Project Harbinger. Project Harbinger is a series of AI projects that applies AI/ Machine Learning to acoustics in the undersea domain across several sensors and platforms. Chapter members in attendance included **Jack Mumaw '64, Mike Murray '64, Len Wass '64, George Schmolli '69, Fred Weber '75, Mike Boehle '83, Paul D 'Allesandro '88, Eric Sucharski '91, Scott Spinger '92, Larry Kane '00 and Chris Gear '12.**

## Indiana

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Drew Thomas '04, USNR**  
p: 317-682-8441; e: drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com

### Indianapolis Chapter

CDR **Lynn Thomas '83, USN**  
h: 317-329-1773; e: lynntw@aol.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. Winter snow and freezing temps are still beating down the doors out here in the Midwest cornfields of Indiana and Michigan. Hopefully Spring is not far away. Our group was able to get together a few times for our monthly luncheons. They're a hardy bunch out here! **Ron Scudder '73** arranged a great tour of the Round Barn Public House (Wine & Spirits Distillery). Ron & Laurie's son is the head distiller. What a great tour and what a great job. Nice going Ron & Laurie!



L to R: Chris Haizlip '72, Mary Miller, Joan Haizlip, Debbie Sloan, Pat Sloan '75 and David Miller '75



L to R back row: Joan Haizlip, Debbie Sloan, Pat Sloan '75, Chris Haizlip '72; L to R front row: Donna Swanson, Laurie Scudder, Ron Scudder '73, and Dick Swanson '72



L to R: Distiller Scudder, Dick Swanson '72, Ron Scudder '73, Chris Haizlip '72 and Pat Sloan '75.

## Iowa

See Minnesota

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ted Olt III '85**  
p: 563-355-1709; e: tolt@l-wlaw.com

## Kansas

### Wichita Chapter

Pres: **Don Beverlin '78**  
p: 316-721-7947; e: wuba78@att.net

Vice Pres: **Matt Treaster '88**  
p: 316-706-8594; e: matt.treaster@usdoj.gov

Sec'y: **Alson (Hunt) Parker '63**  
p: 316-634-3844; e: hunt@theaerogroup.com

Treasurer: **Angel Ortiz '98**  
p: 785-643-6698; e: ort12@hotmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Peacock**  
e: peacockfamily8@hotmail.com

## Kentucky

### Louisville/Southern Indiana Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Gregory Reinhardt '79, USNR (Ret.)**  
712 Talon Pl., Louisville, KY 40223  
p: 502-244-7707; e: greinhardt@1979.usna.com

BGO Area Coordinator:  
**CAPT Gregory Reinhardt '79, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 502-244-7707; e: greinhardt@1979.usna.com

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Louisiana

#### Louisiana Chapter

Pres: **Garrett Miller '95**  
p: 985-590-2425, e: torrens.miller@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Bob Ferrante '90**  
p: 985-237-2091; e: mbrlj5@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Wayne Morgan '98**  
e: wayne.morgan@1998.usna.com

Treas: **Drew Dodenhoff '70**  
e: drewdode@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.USNALouisiana.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Jessica Thornhill '01**  
e: jessica.mp.thornhill@gmail.com

### Maine

#### Maine Chapter

Pres: **LT Jen Bohr Tyll '01, USNR**  
e: jenbohrtyll@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Jen Bohr Tyll '01, USNR**  
p: 207-829-8159; e: jenbohrtyll@gmail.com

### Maryland

#### Annapolis Chapter

Pres: **CDR Scott J. Shepard '91, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 540-419-5564; e: scottjshepard@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Michael Rapp '91**  
e: michaelrapp999@gmail.com

Sec'y-Shipmate Contact: **Liesel (Danjczek) Schopler '99**  
e: lieseldanjczek@hotmail.com

Treas: **Chuck Dixon '79**  
e: CBDixon@firstcommand.com

Membership: **James McNeal '86**  
e: jamesm@ispards.com

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

Join the Chapter: [https://www.signupnow.events/USNAAlumniChapter\\_Annapolis/](https://www.signupnow.events/USNAAlumniChapter_Annapolis/)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Charles Mello**  
e: Charlesmello@gmail.com

#### Baltimore Chapter

Pres: **Jason Hardebeck '87**  
p: 443-269-1599; e: jhardebeck@whoglu.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **LCDR Charles Mello**  
e: Charlesmello@gmail.com

Join the Chapter: [https://www.signupnow.events/USNAAlumniChapter\\_Annapolis/](https://www.signupnow.events/USNAAlumniChapter_Annapolis/)

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

#### Greater Southern Maryland Chapter

Pres: **Michael W. Thumm '75**  
e: thummer75@md.metrocast.net

Sec'y: **Katie Ellefson '13**  
p: 661-992-9190; e: katieellefson13@gmail.com

Corr Sec'y: **Michael Dougherty '73**  
p: 240-925-7518; e: doughertymj8@aol.com

Website: <http://www.navyalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**  
e: Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com

#### Events

Our Dark Ages Dinner was held on 2 Feb at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. Guest speaker was **Jeff Webb '95** who is the USNA AA&F President and CEO.

Election results were presented by Andy Mechling '73 with all incumbents re-elected.

#### Coming Events:

**8 May 2024:** Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

**12 Jun 2024:** Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

**20 Jun 2024:** Happy Hour, Flight Deck Lounge (NAS Pax River)

**22 Jun 2024:** Welcome Picnic for 2028 and Napsters

Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website ([www.navyalumni.org](http://www.navyalumni.org))



GSMC President Mike Thumm '75 presenting plaque to Jeff Webb '95



Greater Southern Maryland Chapter: Dark Ages Dinner at Olde Breton Inn

### 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

Shipmate contact: **CAPT Pete Seibert '65**  
p: 781-235-5909; e: pkseibert@comcast.net

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

BGO Area Coordinator (Boston and SE Mass): **John Rinkacs**  
e: rinkacs@comcast.net

BGO Area Coordinator (N Shore and Central Mass):  
**CDR David Grim**  
e: david.grim@1982.usna.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Western Mass): **Ken Walton**  
e: ken.walton@bgo.usna.com

Back to the Army-Navy game. These pictures were taken in a suite at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, MA. The suite was provided by the New England Center and Home for Veterans. The NECHV is one of the nation's most prominent private community-based providers of human services to Veterans who are experiencing challenges following their military service. The President and CEO is our own CAPT Andy McCawley '80, ably assisted by Rick Doran '81, Andy's VP of Government Relations.



Qamar-ul Huda, Pete Seibert '65, Patricia and Steve Chubb '65

**myUSNA  
Onboarding**

Contact [myusnafeedback@usna.com](mailto:myusnafeedback@usna.com) for onboarding instructions to manage your group page on myUSNA!



Seibert and Ben Langis '90



Rick Doran '81 and Andy McCawley '80



Midge and Pete Seibert

Professor Qamar-ul Huda, PhD, is the **Michael E. Paul '65**, Distinguished Visiting Professor, International Affairs, at USNA, a chair established by **Steve Chubb '65**.

*Pete Seibert '65*

## Michigan

### Michigan Chapter

Pres: **Maj Joe Zane '07, USMCR**  
e: joseph.zane.2007@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Shawn Hoch '08**  
e: shawn.hoch@2008.usna.com

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

Communications Sec'y: **Chris Bernard '88**  
e: gcb117@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern):  
**CAPT Michael Johnson '79, USNR**  
e: mj007mj@hotmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):  
**Col Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR**  
e: brichmond97@earthlink.net

Since our last article, two events of note took place. First, we had a great time at a 100th Night Celebration hosted by former chapter president **Art Bryant '66**. With lots of reminiscing about academy life, a great time was had by all! Second, we had a luncheon on 12 March at Sedona Taphouse in Novi. With a combination of frequent attendees and new faces, we had a great time catching up.

By the time you read this, elections for new officers should be underway. Keep your eye out on your e-mail for details. If you are reading this and want to join but haven't seen that e-mail, feel free to reach out to me personally at joseph.zane.2007@gmail.com. As always, keep your eye out on MyUSNA and your e-mail for the latest on events and updates.

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

*Joe Zane '07*  
Chapter President

## Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**

c: 858-335-7921

e: ries.briane@gmail.com

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: **Website: myUSNA.com Chapter Group -**  
<https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brad Gawboy**  
e: bradgawboy@comcast.net

## Mississippi

BGO Area Coordinator: **David Price '78**

e: david.e.price@bgo.usna.com



Michigan Chapter: The 100th Night celebration, hosted by Art Bryant '66



March Luncheon at Sedona Taphouse in Novi

# CHAPTER NEWS

## South Mississippi Chapter

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

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

## Missouri

### Greater Kansas City Metro Chapter

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

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

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

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

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

### St. Louis Chapter

Pres: **Lowell Crow '84**  
p: 309-509-0279; lowelldcrow@gmail.com

Website: <https://stlusna.com>

Shipmate contact: **John Winkler '85**  
p: 314-497-4917; e: jkwinkler@earthlink.net

BGO Area Coordinator: **Steve Hassell**  
e: steve.hassell@1988.usna.com

## Montana

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

## Nebraska

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

### Omaha Chapter

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

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

## Nevada

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

### Las Vegas Chapter

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

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

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

## New Jersey

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

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

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

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

## New Mexico

### New Mexico Chapter

Pres: **John Scott Kraus '73**  
2304 Madre Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
h: 505-296-7409; c: 505-366-7457  
e: skraus@aquilagroup.com; or jkraus2304@aol.com

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

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

NM Parents' Club Pres: **Sheila Chapman**  
p: 505-419-2633; e: usna.nm.parents@gmail.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Charles Scott**  
e: scottcharles08@gmail.com

The news that active Chapter Member **Max Legg '74** passed away only two months after his spirited presence and full enjoyment of the 2023 Army/Navy game with his Chapter friends and family was shocking to all who heard it. Many of you will remember him as one big dude, and a friend to all. He is also remembered as playing center for the Navy basketball team and being a force for Navy Football. His memorial service was held at the First Christian Church at 10101 Montgomery in Albuquerque on March 16th. Representing the Chapter at his service were **Doug Meints '77**, Deborah and **Mark Schaefer '83**, and **Christine Hoaglund '97**. Max was very active in this church. During his memorial service, his pastor commented on all of his accomplishments while volunteering. He and Loren were in charge of the Christmas activities, and the pastor said he might rename these events as "Christmas to the Max" in his memory. Max's wife, Loren, will be taking his ashes to Annapolis this Fall for his class's 50th reunion where he will be interred. His Class ring has also been offered to the Academy's permanent collection on display at the USNA Museum in Preble Hall. Memories and photos of Max's friends, family and colleagues are recorded on the Neptune Society's website obituary.



1994 Oct. 22-Laura and Max Legg

The New Mexico Chapter's next social event is the annual family picnic to be held at 1300 on Sunday June 2nd at the Kiwanis Picnic Shelter inside the Elena Gallegos Open Space, 7100 Tramway Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122. Chicken, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Chapter. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert of your choice. A fee of \$5 per adult is asked to help cover the space rental fee. Alcohol is allowed but is "BYOCans" as all glass and jars are prohibited from being brought

into the park. A briefing will be held at the event to inform all attendees on the latest developments at USNA. Please watch the Chapter bulletin board for details as the event draws closer.

## New York

### New York Capital District Chapter

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

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

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

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

### Central New York Chapter

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

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

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

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

On Friday, 8 March, Nancy Murray (Senior Director, Alumni Engagement & Outreach Programs) and Lori Coogan (Director, Parent Programs) from the USNA Alumni Association (AA) and Foundation were in the area as part of the AA's program to have AA representatives visit each Chapter and Parent Club. The program is meant to give the Chapters and Parent Clubs the opportunity to ask questions regarding the AA and the future relationship among the AA, the Chapters and the Parent Clubs. The attendance was not as hoped but was informative for those who attended.

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

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

Future Chapter activities will be addressed via email as they are planned.

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

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

Year Groups	Life Membership Fee
1941-1950	\$0



Cape Fear Chapter

1951-1960	\$50
1961-1970	\$75
1971-1980	\$100
1981-1990	\$125
1991-2000	\$150
2001-2010	\$175
2011-2020	\$200
2021-x	\$200

If 40% of the Alumni in the Central New York area opt for Life Membership and with over \$700 currently in the Chapter's non-profit checking account with M&T, the Chapter would have more than enough to support the Chapter's financial commitments through 2030.

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

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

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

**Metro New York Chapter (NAANY)**

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

**Western New York Chapter**

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**  
 p: 585-410-1941; e: daniel.sullivan@savox.com  
 Vice Pres: **Pete Owen '86**  
 p: 949-701-2733; e: pfowen0302@gmail.com  
 Website: <http://westernny.usnachapters.net/>  
 BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**  
 e: douglaspeters@gmail.com

**North Carolina**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Col Kevin Hart '75, 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: capefearthreasurer@outlook.com  
 Website: [myUSNA.com/topics/9490](http://myUSNA.com/topics/9490)

The Cape Fear Chapter celebrated its 5th Dark Ages Dinner on 9 March in the Cape Fear Country Club ballroom. Both grads and spouses were decked out for this evening of shared Academy experiences and good cheer. After a tasty buffet of grilled beef tenderloin and sauteed chicken in a leek-capers sauce, a locally made cake adorned with the Chapter's new logo was served. In attendance: Douglass and **Alan Smith '64**, Tracy and **Bob Lasseter '65**, Celia and **Jim Strouse '66**, Debbie and **Dave Scheu '67**, Jane and **Michael Brown '70**, Muffy Boylan and **Ray Decker '72**, Sharon and **Gregg Hamelin '72**, Hugh McWilliams '72, Gail and **Paul Normand '74**, Peggy and **Steve Yandle '75**, Deborah and **Martin Brittingham '76**, Deb and **Mark Hubbard '76**, Lynn and **Gary Beaver '77**, Jennifer and **Ray Cook '77**, Meg and **Joe Leidig '78**, Wanda and **Dennis Fox '79**, Kathy and **Steve Stuck '88**, Misty and **Jim Slaight '93**, **Anne Leanos '98**, and **Alex Leanos '99**.



Bravo Zulu to **Bill Caiazza '66** and **John Casey '78** the Chapter's leads for its Summer STEM initiative. Through their superb outreach effort at high school STEM competitions hosted by the University of North Carolina (Wilmington), another local student was accepted by the Academy for its 2024 Summer STEM Program. The talented high school students engaged in SE North Carolina STEM programs are finally being noticed by the Academy!

Full steam ahead.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** The 5th Summer Cruise will be on 12 June either cruising on the Cape Fear River or mingling at the Cape Fear Country Club. Location TBD. This casual social is always fun and well attended.

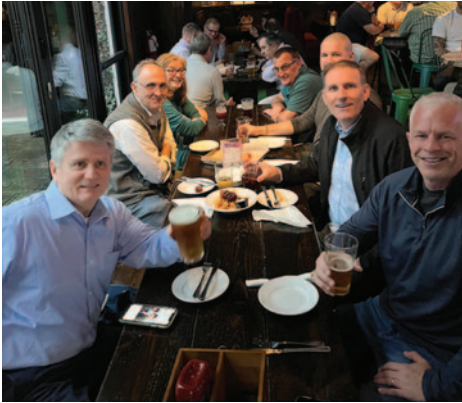
The Chapter's 2024 Calendar of Events is posted on our website: [MyUSNA.com/topics/9490](http://MyUSNA.com/topics/9490). Go Navy!

**Charlotte Chapter**

Pres: **Christopher "Nix" M. Nickels '91**  
 e: CHRISNIX@AOL.COM  
 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>

**Event recap:** Happy hour at Charlotte Beer Garden February 2024. About 20 attendees and 3 first timers - see pictures on the following page! More events coming soon!

# CHAPTER NEWS



**Upcoming Event:** Chapter will host Run/Walk to Honor on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024 at Veterans Park. Time TBD.

## Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotsky '67**  
 P.O. Box 847, New Bern, NC 28563  
 h: 252-514-0299; e: robert.skrotsky@1967.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**  
 p: 910-347-6251; e: rkunkel@ec.rr.com

Sec'y: **Tim Marvin '59**  
 P.O. Box 731, Kure Beach, NC 28449-0731  
 e: tmarvin738@charter.net

Treas: **Randy Bogle '68**  
 4308 Periwinkle Pl., New Bern, NC 28562  
 p: 252-631-3109; e: rbogle1968@gmail.com

Website: <http://myusna.com/topics/9508>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14196247/>

The Eastern NC Chapter met on 28 March for lunch at Captain Ratty's restaurant in New Bern.

**Rob Skrotsky '67** began the meeting of 14 alumni and spouses with a moment of silence respecting those in harm's way, those waiting, grieving or suffering. **Aaron Adams '95** reported on the chapter's treasury account and confirmed he will be attending the Chapter Officers meeting this year.

After a few brief admin remarks, noting that next month's lunch is at Camp Lejeune discussing recent MV 22 Osprey events, Rob introduced RADM **Jay DeLoach '78** with the day's program.

Jay delivered a slide show and great discussion of the Gaspee Affair in Rhode Island in 1772. The colonists burning HMS GASPEE in Narragansett Bay was a significant preview of the complaints and willingness to take action against the British that followed by outright revolution 4 years later. Jay did a really good job of setting the commercial and civil stage leading to the event and ramifications thereafter. It was a captivating presentation and, since we are in a countdown to the 250 celebration, we will likely have more discussions about early events culminating in the Declaration of Independence.

The luncheon concluded about 1330.

## North Carolina Triangle Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Shaun McAndrew '93**

**USN (Ret.)**

e: shaun.mcandrew.2020@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Bill Coleman '95 USN (Ret.)**

e: billcoleman95@gmail.com

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



Happy Spring from the North Carolina Triangle Chapter! At the time of writing, we are beginning to see our annual coating of pollen everywhere and are enjoying beautiful weather and temperatures, which we hope to continue well past the time of this reading.

The Chapter welcomes **Sean Rohrs '11**, **Kurt Dixon '84** and **Thomas Moore '18**, and welcomes back **Chris Gray '01**.

We aim to engage frequently with our local members and provide in-person opportunities for networking and sea stories. Happy Hours at venues at locations around the Triangle area provide opportunities to get together and visit various establishments. In February, we held our first event at Oaklyn Springs Brewery in Fuquay Varina. There were positive reviews about the new location and fellowship from the intimate group who attended. Future events will



North Carolina Triangle Chapter: Prior to the official ceremony, ten USNA graduates gathered at the Memorial to the PG-21 to commemorate the five USNA graduates lost aboard. Graduates left to right in photo: Noah White '04, Reece Morgan '89, John Walls '86, Doug Guthe '76', Scott Steadily 85, Bob Byron '85, Eric Shangle '97, Sam Cox '80, Kerry Ingalls '83 and Chris Perrien '74.



North Carolina Triangle Chapter: Local area alumni gather at Oaklyn Springs Brewery in Fuquay Varina, NC.



be posted on myUSNA and we hope to see local members join us at future events.

Led by **Warren Schultz '71**, the Chapter Golf Squad has started its 2024 season. Warren coordinates a monthly golf outing at an area course. Participation is open to anyone, and we even have a charity arm as evidenced by inviting USAFA and USMA alumni to join. If interested, contact us via the chapter contact info in our Chapter header and we'll add you to the invite list.



Front of USS ASHEVILLE, Patrol Gunboat TWENTY-ONE, Memorial at Asheville, NC Memorial Cemetery.

On 3 March 2024, members of our Chapter gathered in support of the Commemoration Ceremony for USS ASHEVILLE PG-21 lost in the Java Sea on 3 March 1942 in an encounter with three Japanese warships returning home following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Organized by our Chapter's sister entity, the North Carolina Submarine Museum Foundation, and co-sponsored by our Triangle Chapter, the event included remarks by: Asheville's Vice Mayor; Admiral **Sam Cox '80**, Curator of the Navy and Director of the Naval History & Heritage Command; two former USS ASHEVILLE SSN-758 Commanding Officers, **Doug Guthe '76** and **Kerry Ingalls '83**; and **Chris Perrien '74** (NCSMF Executive Director). An audience of 125 included representatives of the Asheville Fire Department, USS ASHEVILLE Submarine Veterans Base, Triangle Chapter members, and a broad range of Asheville citizens.

Although outmatched in firepower during twilight combat with the Japanese destroyers, Admiral Cox clarified that PG-21 went down with "both flags flying and her 4 guns firing" clearly demonstrating, contrary to the battle orders composed by the Japanese Fleet Admiral, that "the American Navy is willing to fight."

Visit the Triangle Chapter's group page in myUSNA (Group- North Carolina Triangle Chapter) for information and to register for upcoming events, which include the **Class of 2028 Welcome and Family Picnic** on 15 June and the **Annual Chapter Picnic** at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park on 26 July.

### Piedmont Triad Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cornejo '00**  
e: thomas.cornejo@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Josh Fogle '03**  
e: foglejw@gmail.com

## North Dakota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

See Minnesota

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**  
c: 858-335-7921  
e: ries.briane@gmail.com

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: **Website: myUSNA.com Chapter Group - https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home**

Facebook: **www.fb.com/USNAUpperMidwest**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brad Gawboy**  
e: bradgawboy@comcast.net

## Ohio

### Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

Pres: **Earle Babcock '74**  
p: 513-520-7776  
e: earle.babcock@1974@usna.com

Vice Pres: **Gaby Blocher '98**  
p: 513-316-5903; e: Gabrielle.Bolton@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Jennifer Yuchasz '98**  
e: jen.yuchasz@rhinestahl.com

Chapter Sec'y and Shipmate Submissions:

**Jon-Michael Pollock '10**  
e: jonmichaelpollock@gmail.com

Website: **http://www.usnacinco.org**

BGO Area Coordinator: **Bryan Grubert**  
e: bryan.grubert@gmail.com

### Cleveland Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Fred W. Bergman '75, USNR (Ret.)**  
p: 440-570-3564; e: FWWayBergman@aol.com

Sec'y: **John Blackburn '82**  
e: joblackburn@clevelandtrack.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Andrew McDonnell**  
e: andrew.mcdonnell@bgo.usna.com

### Columbus

Pres: **Dave Goins '84**  
e: dgoins84@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Kevin Johnson '83**  
e: kljohnson.johnson@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
e: bmotisola@gmail.com

Treas: **Jim Waddell '71**  
e: jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com

Shipmate Contact: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
e: bmotisola@gmail.com

Parents' Club President: **Russelle Hoslinger**  
e: napccousna@gmail.com

Chapter email: **USNAACbus@gmail.com**

Website: **https://columbus\_usnachapter.net/**

Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/groups/100549757152451/**

Twitter: **@USNAACbus**

LinkedIn: **https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12356597/**

Instagram: **USNAACbus**

Parents' Club President: **Eric Forrest**  
e: Ea4rest@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Carla Dowling-Fitzpatrick**  
e: dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcglobal.net

Greetings from Columbus!

The Chapter's annual Dark Ages Pub Night drew a big crowd with 27 members, families, and guests joining us at The Blarney Stone in Worthington. The food, drinks, and sea stories made for a fun evening. It was good to see both new and familiar faces.

We welcome **Andy '92** and **Molly Lynch** and family to Columbus. It's great to have alumni new to the area join us. If you recently moved to Columbus or are relocating soon, reach out to one of our officers and we'll get you connected with a great group of alumni.

The monthly joint service academy networking breakfast is quickly becoming a staple event. Thanks to **Justin Shineman '91** for a great effort. If you have not had a chance to join us on the first Thursday morning of each month, come out and join us. Details are emailed monthly.

Although the annual chapter membership campaign took place earlier, we encourage those who did not renew or pay initial dues to visit the Columbus Chapter group at myUSNA.com and complete your membership. Your dues help the chapter sponsor deserving local high school students at Naval Academy Summer Seminar and provide value to chapter members through events and networking opportunities.

Current news and upcoming events are listed on the Columbus Chapter group at myUSNA.com. We look forward to the Memorial Day weekend "Run to Honor", a guest speaker event and the annual Hail and Farewell picnic for graduating and incoming midshipmen in June.

Are you curious if there are any old USNA shipmates from your past in the area? Check out the "Members" tab on the myUSNA.com group page for a full listing.

### Legacy Programs

and

### Legacy of Valor World War II

see articles on  
pages 33 & 36



## CHAPTER NEWS



Isaac England '18, Elizabeth Clifton '82 and Chuck Janes '71



Linda Spangler '93 and John Leskovich '93



Tony Konecny '79, Matt Edic '92 and Tim Jewell '83

### Toledo Chapter

Pres: CDR Meghan Michael '97, USN (Ret.)  
e: meghanmichael@me.com

BGO Area Coordinator: Gregory Zerr  
e: gtzerr@gmail.com

## Oklahoma

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

### Oklahoma City Chapter

Pres: Brandon Merritt '06

### Tulsa Chapter

Pres: 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>



## 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)



The Chapter held its monthly luncheon on 13 March at the Old Spaghetti Factory in SW Portland. We were honored to have as our guest speaker Lon Getlin. Lon spoke of the Battle of Getlin Corner in Vietnam. The battle was led by his brother Capt. Mike Getlin who was killed in the battle, which involved 200 Marines and resulted in 1 Medal of Honor, 4 Navy Crosses and 6 Silver Stars being awarded. Lon spoke of the Getlin Corner foundation which provides scholarships to enlisted Marine Corps and Navy Corpsmen children. Present were **Scott Fitzpatrick '80, Mike Carmichael '69, John Adams '69, Ed Hepp '67** and his guest Capt. Joe Jedrychowski a retired Navy dentist, **Tex Harkins '67, Art Rober '63, Doug Bomarito '68** and his guests Mike Goldadre and Bill Allen both former Marines and members of the USS OREGON Detachment Marine Corps League, **Glen Weeks '65, Max Girando '27** and his parents **David and Maria Cirverelli, Tim Myers '64, Paul Kaus '79, Chris Carlson '78, Butch Bewick '62, Tony Lash '58 (VMI), Shirley Walton** (former President Parent's Club), Terry Connell '58 (USMA), **Pete Kurzenhausar '79, Mark Cooskey '71** and his wife Susan.

## Pennsylvania

### Philadelphia Chapter

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

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

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

### Pittsburgh Chapter

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

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

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

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

### Susquehanna Valley Chapter

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

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

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

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

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

### February Gathering



February Monthly Gathering at Mad Chef Craft Brewing with (L to R) Brian Montgomery '89, Carrie Montgomery, Peter Filkins '77, Tim Farrell '76, Rob Gundlach '84, Rob Ryan '84 and Dave Tepy '74



March Monthly Gathering with (L to R) Rob Ryan '84, Tracy Ryan, RW Wood '77, Rebecca Ryan, Tim Farrell '76, John Dobosh, Kathi Frost '84 and Rob Gundlach '84

Beat Army!

Tim

## Recreational Vehicle

### American Chapter

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

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

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

### "Chapter Spotlight"

See article on  
page 42

## Rhode Island

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

### Rhode Island Chapter

Pres: **Mike O'Sullivan '73**  
p: 401-742-7091; e: michael.osullivan1973@gmail.com  
Sec'y: **Col Paul Muller '88, USMC (Ret.)**  
p: 401-248-3405; e: usmctanker@cox.net

## South Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Robert Guy**  
e: robert.guy@bgo.usna.com

### Central Savannah River Area

(Aiken, SC; Augusta, GA; and surrounding areas)  
Pres: **LtCol Dave Smith '73, USMC (Ret.)**  
e: dsmith708@atlanticbb.net  
Sec'y: **Brian Goldschmidt '94**  
e: goldschmidtbp@gmail.com  
Website: <http://csra.usnachapters.com>

On 9 March 2024, the chapter held its annual "End of the Dark Ages" party at the beautiful home of **Mike & Susan Budney** in Woodside Plantation in Aiken, SC.

The following alumni & guests were in attendance: **Bob Van Buren '63** (& his wife Jan), **Jim Tisaranni '64** (& his wife Cynthia), **Chuck Munns '73** (& his wife Kristin), **Dave Smith '73**, **George Puddington '76** (& his wife Val), **Michael Moore '76**, **Dave Eyler '78** (& his wife Nancy) & **Mike Budney '80** (& his wife Susan).

All in attendance enjoyed the superb hospitality of the Budneys as well as the "Naval Gunfire Exercise" contest (see photo) which was won by the oldest attending alumnus, **Bob Van Buren**.



**Jim Tisaranni Shooting at Naval Gunfire Exercise contest**

Obviously, there was an overabundance of "sea stories" & warm fellowship.

The next chapter general meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2 May 2024.

Also, the chapter will be sponsoring a hole (& possibly a foursome) at the annual Wounded Warrior golf tournament at the Woodside Plantation course on 20 May 2024.

### Charleston Chapter

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

On Monday, 19 February, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our speaker was Brenda Richardson, Veteran Outreach Specialist, North Charleston Vet Center.

In Attendance were: Max Hill '51; Tom Mayberry '53; Jim Flatley '56; Curt Holcomb '61; Mike Epprecht '65; Ray Setser '65; Roger Paradis '67; Jim Welsch '67; Wayne Wilson '67; Chuck Mayer '68; Mike Malone '69; Jim Beltz '73; David Oyster '74; Bill Conrad '75; Joe Delpino '75; Dave Fisher '76; Dave Shimp '76; Denny Simon '77; Glenn Morris '80; Chris Cechak '82;

Rick Stein '82; Brad Murphy '83; Greg Shore '84; and David Kern '92.

On Monday, 18 March, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our speaker was Mark Fava (CAPT, USNR (Ret.)), Vice President Boing.

In Attendance were: Jim Flatley '56; Curt Holcomb '61; John Common '64; Ray Setser '65; Frank Bryant '66; Alan Burkhart '67; Bernie Magdelain '67; Roger Paradis '67; Wayne Wilson '67; Chuck Mayer '68; Mike Malone '69; Bill Konrad '75; Joe Delpino '75; Dave Fisher '76; Dave Shimp '76; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Glenn Morris '80; Rick Stein '82; Jeff Gordon '83; Brad Murphy '83; Perry Ramicone '83; Greg Shore '84; Chuck Kramer '87; Pat Hunkler '89; and John Cooke '97.

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

### Low Country Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cavanaugh '69**  
p: 516-220-9896; e: tomcusna69@gmail.com  
Vice Pres: **Dave Igyarto '74**  
e: igyartodp@icloud.com  
Sec'y: **Tim Johnson '02**  
e: tim.w.johnson@outlook.com  
Treas: **John Scanlan '83**  
e: ping1@hargray.com

### Palmetto Chapter

Pres: **Jerry Pilewski '97**  
e: palmettousna@usna.com  
Vice Pres: **Brian Treanor '89**  
e: brian\_treanor@hotmail.com

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

### South Carolina Midlands Chapter

Pres: **Craig Augenstein '87**  
4847 Furman Ave., Columbia, SC 29206  
p: 803-309-3060; e: craigaugenstein@gmail.com  
Sec'y: **Chuck Tebrich '66**  
e: chuckteb@gmail.com  
Website: [www.usnasc.org](http://www.usnasc.org)

## South Dakota

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

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

## Spain

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

### Rota Chapter

Pres: **Michael Carsley '88**  
e: michael.carsley@eu.navy.mil  
Vice Pres: **Ryan Eilerman '15**  
Treas: **Cassidy Masey '06**  
e: cassidy.a.massey@gmail.com  
Sec'y: **Dustin Cunningham '06**



Central Savannah River Area Chapter: L-R front row: Bob Van Buren, Dave Smith, Jan Van Buren, Mike Budney; back row: Michael Moore, Chuck Munns, Kristin Munns, Cynthia Tisaranni, Jim Tisaranni, Nancy Eyler, Dave Eyler, George Puddington, Val Puddington, and Susan Budney

## CHAPTER NEWS



KOR Chapter members from the Class of 1974 with Navy Lightweight Rowing team members from the Class of 2024



KOR Chapter members with Navy Lightweight Rowing team members from the Class of 2024



KOR Chapter: Captain Jack Spring Regatta Award presented to the Navy Lightweight Rowing team members from the Class of 2026

## Tennessee

### Chattanooga Chapter

Pres: **Jay Lapoint '89**  
517 Lytle Street; Chattanooga, TN 37405  
p: 423-421-3794; e: jlapoint@ymail.com

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

### Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter

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

Sec'y-Treas: **Jim Ward '85**  
e: jim.ward@1985.usna.com

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

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

The USNA Lightweight Rowing team held its 26th spring break regatta in Oak Ridge during March 9-15, 2024. The Knoxville-Oak Ridge (KOR) Chapter hosted the 1/C midshipmen and coaches for lunch on 13 March. Chapter members in attendance: Susie and Rich Cataldi '69, Tom Feaster '74, Josh Gillespie '00, Ernie Gonzales '81, Tim Hallihan '72, Laura and Pat Jacobs '76, Mark Kohring '73, Carol and Bob Milhiser '64, Ralph Schindler '74, Shawn Tallant '78, Donita and Jim Ward '85. Thanks to **Geoff deBeauclair '87** for securing the venue. Guests: Coach Shawn Bagnall, Assistant Coach Dave Herrick, **Kelly Bye '24**, **Karl Florida '24**, **Stephen Frost '24**, **Robby Klanac '24**, **Luke McIntosh '24**, **Colson Poillucci '24**, **Sam Sheridan '24**, **Chris Volpe '24**, and **Aaron Xing '24**.



KOR Chapter members Tom Feaster '74 and Ralph Schindler '74 present the 2024 Captain Francy Award to MIDN 1/C Kelly Bye '24

The KOR Chapter sponsors the Captain William J. Francy Memorial Award, which is presented annually during spring training. Bill Francy '46 had been a member of the Navy crew team as a midshipman and ardently supported Navy crew as an alumnus. Following his death, the Chapter began sponsoring the award in 2007 and renamed it in memory of Captain Francy. The award had previously been known as the Perseverance Award.

During the luncheon, the Chapter presented the 2024 Captain Francy Award to MIDN 1/C **Kelly Bye '24** for "exemplifying the drive, determination, and perseverance to better herself and the USNA Lightweight Crew program," as selected by the coaches. MIDN Bye is a coxswain on the team. **Ralph Schindler '74** and **Tom Feaster '74** accompanied Coach Bagnall as the Link in the Chain representatives for the presentation.

On 14 March, the team held its annual class races. The Chapter presents the winning team with the Captain Jack Spring Break Regatta Award, named in honor of Captain **Jackson B. Richard '52**, who was instrumental in bringing the team to Oak Ridge for spring training. **Jim Ward '85** represented the Chapter for the presentation of the Captain Jack Award to the Class of 2026.

The KOR Chapter looks forward to the team's return to Oak Ridge in 2025.

Please contact me by email or by mobile phone/text (214-529-6703) if you have any questions.

### Memphis Chapter

Pres: **Henry W. Papa Jr. '86**  
p: 907-244-7492; e: hankpapa@aol.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Drew Wyrick**  
e: wyrick03@gmail.com

### Nashville Chapter

Pres: **CDR John F. Ohlinger '69, USN (Ret.)**  
880 Lakemont Dr., Nashville, TN 37220-2124  
h: 615-370-1441; w: 615-594-7628  
e: john.ohlinger@usna.1969.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Thomas Forsythe '79**  
e: tom\_forsythe@kyzen.com

# Texas

## Alamo Chapter

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

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

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

Facebook: **Alamo Chapter NAAA**

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

## Austin Chapter

Pres: **Brad Holbrook '06**  
p: 410-718-8839; e: bradley.holbrook@gmail.com

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

Shipmate Contact: **CDR Don McAlister '63, USNR (Ret.)**  
p: 512-365-7068; e: don.mcalister@austin.rr.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Eric Montgomery**  
e: eric.montgomery@2004.usna.com

## North Texas Chapter

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

Pres: **Jamey Cummings '93**  
e: 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

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

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

Congrats to the Class of '24 as USNA heads into another grand Commissioning Week! This coming June we will be hosting the Welcome Lunch for the class of '28 and introducing them to the USNA family with the Link in the Chain program! Check out the myUSNA, North Texas site for details.

**CHECK IN**

Check-In is a user-friendly tool designed to connect veterans and their families with high-quality, compassionate care for mental and brain health.

**STEP 1**  
REACH OUT FOR YOURSELF OR REFER A PEER OR LOVED ONE

**STEP 2**  
A SPECIALIZED CARE COORDINATOR WILL CONTACT YOU WITHIN 72 HOURS

**STEP 3**  
GET CONNECTED TO A HIGH-QUALITY CARE PROVIDER

Check-In is powered by the Veteran Wellness Alliance - an innovative alliance that connects high-quality care providers and veteran peer networks to empower veterans to seek mental and brain healthcare when they need it.

[VeteranCheckIn.org](http://VeteranCheckIn.org)

**CHECK IN**

CONNECTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO HIGH-QUALITY MENTAL AND BRAIN HEALTH CARE

WWW.VETERANCHECKIN.ORG

In February the North Texas Alumni hosted, in conjunction with the local West Point Association of Graduates, LTC Jason Galui, USA (Ret.), West Point class of '00 and D'Juan Wilcher both of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, Bush Institute for Veterans and Military Families. Jason and D'Juan shared with those in attendance the powerful resources available to Veterans and their families. During the lunch they highlighted the Veteran Wellness Alliance (VWA). This endeavor was initiated by Bush Institute to build a team whose sole mission was to enhance the connection between military and veteran focused mental and brain health



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

care providers to veteran peer networks. In order to help VMA be most effective, they designed a simple and reliable way to link the care providers to the warriors; the result was **Check-In (veterancheckin.org)**. The program supports veterans and service members experiencing difficulty in daily life. The **Check-in** resource leverages the Veteran Wellness Alliance to provide the right care, at the right time and place. A QR code is included with our article for ease of access. With so many of our shipmates working to overcome invisible wounds, the chapter was grateful to learn about these great resources and share them with our shipmates in North Texas and elsewhere. You never walk alone, your shipmates walk with you - reach out.

We look forward to seeing you at the Class of '28 welcome lunch! Beat Army!

## Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Pres: **Dan Hanley '10**  
e: dhanley@2010.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Luke Schamel '10**  
e: luke.schamel@2010.usna.com

Treas: **Rich Bulger '69**  
e: rbulger69@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Tom Phelan '79**  
p: 301-481-0604; e: tphelan57@gmail.com

Website: <http://txgulfcoast.myusna.com/>  
Facebook: @USNAATXGC

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Link**  
e: cdr.dlink@gmail.com

## Recent Events:

**February 2 monthly lunch** at El Tiempo (**Roland Lorenzo '69**) Navigation location featuring Ronan O'Malley, Chief Programs Officer at World Affairs Council of Greater Houston.

**February 16**, at El Tiempo Cantina (Roland Lorenzo '69) Bay Area, we hosted our quarterly **Clear Lake "no-host" lunch**. Attendees (L to R in photo): **David Smith '92**, League City, FedEx 767 pilot, also flies a BAE Hawk Mk.76 jet with RAVN Aerospace. **Kevin White '92**, visiting from Easton, MD, Global Vision 2020. **Jerry Keller '95**, SE Hou/Pearland, IBM Manager - administering Salesforce CRM. **Chris Briggs '91** (BGO), League City, NASA Contractor through JACOBS. **John Augusto '02**, Clear Lake City, Logistician at ExxonMobil Baytown. **Ken Franks '99**, Central Houston, Senior Originator, Shell Oil Trading. **Kyle Schwarz '09**, Richmond TX, Consultant, Merrimac International Executive Search. **Jeff Stewart '00** (BGO), League City, Renewable Energy Specialist (Safety), Bureau of Safety & Environment Enforcement. **Ed Klein '72**, Central Houston, retired Business Development. Simultaneously, also on **February 16**, the **North Houston "no-host" lunch** occurred at Wunsche Bros. Cafe & Saloon in Old Towne Spring. Great.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Large turnout at our **March 15 monthly lunch**, at El Tiempo (Roland Lorenzo '69) Navigation location, featuring James Olson, retired Professor of the Emeritus and CIA Chief of Counterintelligence.

**Future Events:** Luncheons are tentatively set for the first Friday of each month. These luncheons are expected to be at El Tiempo Cantina, 2814 Navigation Blvd, Houston 77003. Suburb no-host lunches are typically each quarter in Clear Lake at El Tiempo Cantina - Webster, with periodic events planned in other surrounding suburbs. If you have restaurant suggestions (12 - 20+ attendees with "separate checks") or want to host a lunch in your suburb, please contact us at TxGulfCoast.usnachapters@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout... **26-27 October Wings Over Houston Airshow** (Blue Angels), Ellington Airport. **2 November 2024, NAVY vs. RICE football game with USNA (TxGC hosted) TAILGATE. Volunteers needed, contact via chapter email.**

Follow TxGC on MyUSNA, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter (Group). Please submit any questions or suggestions related to TxGC, as well as inquiries about volunteer opportunities within the Chapter to txgulfcoast.usnachapters@gmail.com.

**DO YOU LIVE IN HOUSTON?** We have over 1,000 members & growing volunteer opportunities available in different locations throughout the year! Minimal commitment required to actively participate and enjoy the camaraderie of one of the largest Alumni Association Chapters! Email: txgulfcoast.usnachapters@gmail.com or current President (DHanley@2010.usna.com) to learn about our latest events and visit with us!

## United Kingdom

BGO Area Coordinator: "**Bo**" **Borromeo**  
e: bgoarea501coordinator@gmail.com

### United Kingdom Chapter

Pres: **Tim Fox '97**  
e: timfox97@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Cody Nissen '11**  
e: cnissen.mba2018@london.edu

Sec'y: **Lisa Aszklar (Wife, Henry '81)**  
e: lisa.aszklar@gmail.com

Board of Directors: **Tony Cox '89**  
e: tony.cox@gboutdoorfires.co.uk

**Chris Robinson '98**  
e: naples98@gmail.com

Greetings from London, where that low rumble you may hear toward the end of May every year means that we've realized that yet another class of ensigns and second lieutenants has been commissioned and graduated (and we've made it through another year)! BZ, Class of 2024!

We are on the cusp of summer here in the UK, and with it comes the possibility of another LREC or two, visiting the British Isles. Faculty coordinators of groups that expect to pass through London are encouraged to contact

**Tim Fox '97** (contact info above) at their very earliest convenience.

We still have a few spots open for the 24 August "over 18" evening tour of the Tower of London. This exclusive tour includes watching the Ceremony of the Keys, the oldest military ceremony in the world, during which the Tower is locked for the night. We'll quaff our thirst in The Keys, the on-site pub normally open only to friends and family of the Yeoman Warders (AKA the Beefeaters). Tour participants must be 18 or older, and as John Warland, author of *Liquid History: An Illustrated Guide to London's Greatest Pubs*, says, don't ask the bartender for a beer with the head taken off! Participation is limited, so please contact Tim to reserve your spot for this one-of-a-kind tour.

Until next time ... Beat Army!

## Utah

### Intermountain Alumni Chapter

Pres: **Robert Allen '67**  
e: ba@robertallen.org

Vice Pres: **Ryan Merrell '00**  
e: ryanmerrell@yahoo.com

Treas: **Mike Hester '69**  
e: mikehester46@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Tabeetha Moesinger '91**  
e: tabeetha@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Darrin Briggs '03**  
e: Darrin.Briggs@gmail.com

## Virginia

### Central Virginia Chapter

Pres: **Bill Murray '83**  
e: whmurray34@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Ty Schieber '87**  
e: ty.schieber@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Ed Borger '80**  
e: ed.borger@honeywell.com

Treas: **Steve Hill '74**  
e: swhill74@cstone.net

BGO Area Coordinator: **Don Aldridge**  
e: n774pk@gmail.com

### Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Renee Reedy '81**  
e: reedy81@usnahamptonroads.com  
h: 757-312-8969; w: 757-328-0030

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

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

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

As Hampton Roads emerged from the Dark Ages, the Chapter's events and activities increased; and spearheaded by Events Chair **Al Ponessa '68**, they are scheduled to continue into the summer.

In February, Chesapeake was the site of a combined Hampton Roads/Virginia Peninsula Happy Hour hosted by Associate member Stephen Clock and the Phoenix Group of Virginia; and on 1 March we responded quickly to a short

notice visit by two USNA YPs and hosted a meet and greet in Norfolk at the Blue Moon Taphouse for about 35 Midshipmen and USNA staff. Later in March we gathered at Makers Craft Brewing for our monthly Happy Hour; and in April **Steve Butkus '71** played host for a similar event at the Gatling Point Yacht Club in Smithfield.



Abby Rouser '18 and daughter Sarah at meet and greet in Hampton Roads



Alumni at Happy Hour gathering



Feeding the Mids - Hampton Roads hosts YP Mids in Norfolk

Under new coordinator **Steve Nimitz '76**, the March Networking Breakfast featured a very informative presentation from Ryan Banas, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project Director charged with overseeing the largest highway construction project in Virginia's history. Our April speaker was Heather McKeating, the





Quantico Area Chapter: The QAC Breakfast Crew with Guest, Juan Botero



Quantico Area Chapter: Honoring Our Fallen, May 2023

Community Relations and Merchandise Director for the Norfolk Tides who are now owned by Diamond Baseball Holdings; and in May, the President of the Virginia Ship Repair Association, **Bill Crow '80**, discussed his organization's support of the state's ship repair industry.

Our Service Academy BizNetwork has continued to meet for breakfast, virtually and in person, on the first Wednesday of every month at Jason's Deli in Greenbrier. That group also has a new leader as **Dave Duffie '75** seeks to build on the success and growth achieved by his predecessor, **Rob Hanckel '78**.

The July-August issue of *Shipmate* will provide the results of our Annual Meeting as well as the April election and the resultant changes in Chapter leadership on our Board of Directors. And other events that will be covered in the next issue of *Shipmate* include our annual Memorial Day Run to Honor event at the Virginia Beach oceanfront; a 5 June meet and greet with a group of Mids here for Summer Training at NAVIFOR; one of our signature events, our annual Plebe Recognition Dinner; an evening of baseball at Norfolk's Harbor Park; and our annual Summer Picnic.

For the latest news on future Chapter initiatives and events, as well as USNA news

and updates, check out our website under the Hampton Roads Group at myUSNA.com. And don't forget our LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook pages!

Dick Enderly '71

### Quantico Area Chapter

Pres: **George Williams '87**  
e: bucketokinawa@gmail.com  
Vice Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**  
e: ryan.steenberge@gmail.com  
Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**  
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: <http://quantico.usnachapters.net>



During February, Quantico Area Chapter (QAC) continued its signature breakfast speaker series. On 2 February, 15 Chapter members gathered at The Hampton Inn, Dumfries and on Zoom to hear remarks from Juan Botero, a strategic communication specialist, journalist and counterintelligence analyst. Mr. Botero's talk, based on his experiences as an investigative journalist and counterintelligence analyst, delved into foreign influence in the government.



Hoping for a Navy Win!

About a week later, a group of QAC members and families gathered at 6 Bears and a Goat in Fredericksburg, VA to watch Navy basketball take on Army. Our crew included **Matt Small '63** and his wife Betty, **Walt Giraldi '69**, **Bob Taylor '74**, **George Williams '87** and his wife Kristina and **Nancy Springer '87**. Though the Black Knights prevailed in both games, we enjoyed the camaraderie and the chance to talk with Chapter members who cannot routinely attend the Chapter's week day events—always nice!!

QAC is now in the planning stage for the Chapter's 7th annual Run to Honor (RTH) Remembrance Run that will honor our fallen alumni. Conducted on Memorial Day, the run/walk will wind its way through the picturesque, yet solemn, Semper Fidelis Memorial Park on the grounds of The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA. See the 2023 Run To Honor Remembrance Run group photo:

Area alumni are always welcome at Chapter events. Please check our calendar and Facebook page for more information.

### Richmond Chapter

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

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

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

### Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

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

### Virginia Peninsula Chapter

(formerly the Williamsburg Chapter)

Pres: **Kathleen Jabs '88**  
e: kjabs@aol.com; vapeninsulachapterusna@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Rick Yasky '78**  
e: rickyasky@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Mark Zito**  
e: markpaulzito@gmail.com

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

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

Group: **Virginia Peninsula Chapter**

# CHAPTER NEWS



Greater Washington, DC Area Chapter: DC-area alumni gather for the March bike Ride.

## Washington

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

### Hanford/Tri-Cities Chapter

Pres: **CAPT Edward Schwier '69, USN (Ret.)**  
1196 Brentwood Ave., Richland, WA 99352-8540  
h: 509-627-7288; w: 509-372-0176  
e: Edward\_G\_Ed\_Schwier@ri.gov; eschwie@charter.net; egschwier@aol.com  
Website: <http://hanford.usnachapters.com>

### 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 (PSC) held its annual face-to-face meeting on 20 January 2024 at Buck's Tavern in Everett. Twelve officers, trustees and members of the Parent's Club attended to discuss current vacant PSC leadership positions and plans for the upcoming year as well as a hotwash of our distributed Army-Navy watch events from last December. The Chapter plans to host the Annual Plebe Welcome event for new USNA appointees in early June in Issaquah and the annual family picnic in early August. We also discussed ways the Chapter can better support Washington Midshipmen with the Parents Club, which continues to be a very successful partnership. Our distributed Army-Navy watch parties were very successful

and enabled easier attendance than previous centralized events. We plan to continue with this approach and expand it with Air Force-Navy football as well as Army-Navy in the coming year. Come join us if you're in the area! We welcome all Alumni to our membership. Beat Army!

## Washington, DC Area

### Greater Washington Chapter

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



Quick update—check out our website on MyUSNA and social media (Facebook and LinkedIn) for more information and to register for event. If you cannot register, check your membership status by navigating to your USNA profile. Please invite your classmates and other alumni, family and friends to join us. We had an awesome bike ride Saturday, 16 March with a dozen motivated riders joining on a beautiful spring day from Ashburn to Purcellville with reps from class of '70 through 2003! Our riders met up at the Old Ox Brewery and followed the W&OD Trailhead to Sweet Rose Bake Shop and back for a full 40 miles. Our riders included: All rides are "no drop" with all ability levels welcome - riders may turn back for a shorter ride as needed. Keep an eye out for future rides, if you missed the ones in the Spring, we will be back to the trails in the Fall! Riders included **Brad Taylor '70, Carl Josefson '71,**

**Dave Endicott '72, Eric Lum '81, Mark Comtois '81, Ed Wojtan '82, Mike Cantwell '87, Wayne Andrews '96, Kate Murray '00, John Bishop '02, AJ Hinders '03** and guest Tom Stanton.

Thanks to Kate and Mike for organizing. By the time this hits your mailboxes, our annual picnic May 4 at Ft. Hunt with family, friends, midshipmen and candidates will be complete! Stand by for pix in the next issue. This is our second-largest event after the Army- Navy game. Finally, keep an eye out for the Annual Service Academy Golf Tournament in July, headed by **Kwame Cook '96**. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the local chapters, so bring your friends to Beat Army and Air Force! Welcome to our new members, we can't wait to meet all of you!

## Wisconsin

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mark Germano**  
e: mark.germano@bgo.usna.com

### Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Jeff Reagan '88**  
e: j.m.reagan84@gmail.com; p: 414-803-5947  
Vice Pres: **Craig Walker '83**  
e: craigwalker@wi.rr.com; p: 262-424-2637  
Sec'y: **Rob Grasse '88**  
e: rgrasse1@wi.rr.com; p: 262-424-9029  
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  
Website: [www.myusna.com](http://www.myusna.com)  
Wisconsin Blue and Gold Officer Coordinator  
BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Mark Germano**  
e: Mark.Germano@bgo.usna.com; p: 847-624-5142

Greetings from Wisconsin! After an extended reprieve, the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Wisconsin Chapter is pleased to provide the Cheese Head Faithful with an ongoing series of "catch-up" articles chronicling our activities over the past few years.

Ensign **Isaac Jeffrey Barta** of New Berlin, Wisconsin earned the **Class of 2022's** esteemed CDR William B. Cushing award! The award is presented to the Midshipman from Wisconsin 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.

## CHAPTER SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

2024

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

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
September-October '24	6 Aug '24
November-December '24	3 Oct '24



VADM Dirk Debbink '77 awards Ensign Barta

Flag LOC highlights: Isaac maintained a 3.78 cumulative grade point average in Mechanical

Engineering as a Superintendent's and Commandant's List regular and ranked 29th out of 1121 classmates in Overall Order of Merit. He was one of only 35 classmates to qualify for a Special Operations (SEAL) Officer Service Selection. He was a four-year member of the Academy's elite 65-member Special Operations Team. He earned the prestigious "Iron Mike" Award in June of 2021 for exceptional individual performance during his 21-day summer Leatherneck Training. Elected by 25 of his peers to be the President of the Extracurricular Activity Men's Soccer Team for both his second and first-class years. He served during first class year as 30th Company's Training Officer, overseeing a staff of 7 midshipmen in charge of the training of 40 plebes; then as 30th Company's 2nd Platoon Commander, overseeing 34 midshipmen. Isaac'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.

The award ceremony was conducted on 23 June 2022 at the Nashotah, WI Headquarters of MSI General, near Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Ensign Barta's parents, Melissa and Jeff Barta,

sister Evelyn, brother Eli, grandparents Judy and Bob Peterson, and girlfriend Ensign **Catherine Treseler '22** were able to attend and participate in the ceremony. Congratulations to the entire Barta family for this joint achievement, and thank you to VADM Debbink for his sponsorship of the Cushing Prize.



Jeff and Melissa Barta, Eli Barta, Evelyn Barta, ENS Isaac Barta and ENS Catherine Treseler

Stand-by next issue for further scintillating Alumni happenings from America's Dairyland.

Damn the Torpedos; Full Speed Ahead!  
And Aloha,

Rob Grasse '88

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# SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

## 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: **LCDR Jessica Anderson '08, USN**  
e: communications@usnama.com

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

## EVENTS

### Upcoming Events:

Graduation is upon us! Congratulations to the class of 2024! We are in full swing of supporting STEM and NASS candidates. Be on the lookout for a NAMA BBQ in June and I-Day events! Reach out if you want to help with any NAMA events!

NAMA supported 30 outstanding high school students who needed financial aid to attend NASS and STEM Summer Programs. Your support is always welcome to help our 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 (NAMAF). Your donations support on-campus visits for students and Centers of Influence, scholarship funding for STEM and NASS, Gospel Choir travel, and Midshipman activities.

Visit [usna.com/give](http://usna.com/give) or follow the directions on the NAMA website, <https://www.usnama.com/donation-selection/> to donate today.

## NESA

Naval Engineers & STEM Advocates (NESA)  
Pres: **Admiral John Richardson '82, USN (Ret.)**

Vice Pres: **CDR Sarah Rice '02, USN**  
e: sarah.b.rice@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CDR Renee Reedy '81, USN (Ret.)**  
e: reedy81@usnahamptonroads.com

Treas: **LT John Rex Spivey '13, USN**  
e: johnrexspivey@gmail.com

Outreach & Engagement: **Dr. Jill Rough '96, CAPT USNR**  
e: jill.rough@comcast.net

CoS: **CAPT Dale Lumme '80, USN (Ret.)**  
e: kid.lumme@1980.usna.com

NAMA Liaison: **CAPT Timi Lindsay '92, USN (Ret.)**  
e: timi.lindsay@gmail.com

## Run to Honor

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**  
p: 813-787-6098  
e: president@runtohonor.com

Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**  
e: vp@runtohonor.com

Treas: Jan Kennedy  
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**  
e: treasurer@runtohonor.com

Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**  
e: secretary@runtohonor.com  
Website: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)



**David Wayland, Father of Patrick Wayland '10, reads names of fallen USNA alumni in Memorial Hall.**

As Memorial Day approaches, alumni across the nation have the opportunity to come together in remembrance and reflection through impactful events. These events, organized by passionate alumni committees, offer avenues for participation and commemoration, whether in person or virtually. Check out further details on the Run to Honor myUSNA.com page.

**Memorial Day RuN\* To Honor:** From May 25th to May 27th, Memorial Day RuN\* To Honor events took place in multiple locations across the country. These events provided a meaningful opportunity to pay tribute to the fallen heroes who have served our nation. Alumni are encouraged to visit the RuN\* to Honor website and MyUSNA.com for information on events near you. However, if there isn't an event in their area, we urge you to honor in their own way. Whether it's a solo run, a family walk, or a moment of reflection, every gesture counts. Alumni are also invited to share their Memorial Day stories, fostering a sense of community and remembrance.

For those interested in learning more about the events or potentially hosting one in their area in the future, you can reach out to the committee leads, **Steve Swift '87** at [president@runtohonor.com](mailto:president@runtohonor.com) and **Shannon Webb '04** at [secretary@runtohonor.com](mailto:secretary@runtohonor.com).

Memorial Day Reading of Names: Another poignant event is the Memorial Day Reading of Names, where the names listed in Memorial Hall will be read aloud. The solemn reading was streamed live on Facebook, allowing alumni from all corners of the globe to participate and pay their respects. Led by committee leads **Pat McConnell '02, Alexa Hunter '04, and Sofi Loomis '99**, this event aims to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. For those interested in joining this virtual commemoration, they can tune in to the live stream on Facebook.

This Memorial Day, let us come together as alumni to honor, remember, and reflect on the sacrifices of our brave servicemen and women. Whether through physical participation or virtual attendance, our collective tribute ensures that their legacy lives on.

\*\*\*

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/runtohonorat](http://www.facebook.com/runtohonorat)

Learn the stories behind the names in Memorial Hall at: [www.usnamemorialhall.org](http://www.usnamemorialhall.org)

Find RTH gear at:  
<http://runtohonorgear.com>  
To Honor!

**myUSNA Onboarding**

Contact [myusnafedback@usna.com](mailto:myusnafedback@usna.com) for onboarding instructions to manage your group page on myUSNA!

## USNA Finance Professionals

Pres: **Peter Martenson '92**  
 e: peter.martenson@gmail.com  
 Sec'y: **Rocky McMurray '92**  
 e: rocky McMurray92@gmail.com

## USNA Pride

Pres: **Christopher Goodale '17**  
 Vice Pres: **Isabel Krause '17**  
 Sec'y: **Ally Annick '20**  
 Treas: **Lucas Beltran '20**  
 Outreach Officer: **Adam Schuman '08**

**HAPPY PRIDE MONTH** from the USNA Pride SIG!! **Join us for Annapolis Pride on 1 June!**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States, the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day" which soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, and more, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that queer individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

Established in **2022**, the USNA Pride SIG is a community of proud LGBTQ+ and allied alumni. Together, we strive to create inclusive friendships, serve as a platform of representation, and build a network of mentorship among our members.

The USNA Pride SIG operates under a threefold purpose:

i. Create a bond of **community** among USNA LGBTQ+ alumni and allies based on shared experiences while at USNA and within the fleet, enabling the development of

inclusive friendships which span USNA classes, geographies, and services.

ii. Serve as a platform for LGBTQ+ **representation** within the broader USNA alumni network.

iii. Establish a **network of mentorship** and support for LGBTQ+ alumni who currently serve in the operating forces, and for current LGBTQ+ midshipmen as they prepare to commission.

The USNA Pride SIG embraces **inclusivity, positivity, character and community** as our core values.

USNA Pride will hold its first **elections** this year. Seats up for vote are: Vice-President, Secretary, and Outreach Officer. Email us for more info!

For alumni interested in joining the SIG, getting involved in our event planning, or running for our board, please email our leadership team at usnapride@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram at @usnapride.

## USNA Women

Pres: **Linda "Postie" Postenrieder '82**  
 p: 415-235-9413; e: post82@whidbey.com

Vice Pres: **Maegen Nix '97**  
 e: maegen.nix@vt-arc.org

Treas: **Sarah Self-Kyler '99**  
 e: sarah.selfkyler@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Cecily Walsh '01**  
 e: cesstay@yahoo.com

Outreach: **Holly Johnson '82**  
 e: Holly.Johnson@1982.usna.com

Dear WSIG members,

WSIG had a great virtual offsite in February. As a result, we have been busy working on four key areas (Leadership Pipeline, Midshipmen Engagement, Alumnae Connection, & Healing) of growth in the group. The Midshipmen Engagement Team lead by Maeg Nix has been working hard to incorporate events between alumnae and the midshipmen. WSIG has supported speed mentoring, the NAWN's Military Life Symposium in February, the Joy Bright Hancock (JBH) Dinner in March, a 1/C Capstone Event, a joint NAWN/WSIG book club, and a welcome breakfast for the female first class in April. We have more events throughout 2024 and we hope to see you participating. Events

are posted on the WSIG USNA alumni site and on the WSIG Facebook page. For those who are not local to the Annapolis area, your regional representatives will be looking to see what opportunities are available in your local areas. The JBH event was hosted at the Naval Academy Club where VADM Yvette Davids was the guest speaker. A number of the WSIG members were able to join the event as mentors for midshipmen. The Sup gave some fantastic advice from the perspective of being from the "Ladies of the Eighties". She stated that these midshipmen needed to make their first worth it by being the very best of themselves.

### Board of Director Election

We're happy to announce the results of the 2024 Board of Directors election. Please help me congratulate

**Mary Brigden '81**  
**Cassandra Taylor '88**  
**Sarah Self-Kyler '99**  
**Lucy Ford '17**

These new Directors will be installed at the WSIG Annual Gathering on Saturday, 20 April 2024. Our thanks to **Marie Burris '86** and **Elizabeth Vary '02** for their continued commitment to the WSIG.

### WSIG Annual Gathering

A comprehensive introduction to the exciting plans for the WSIG including all fundraising was presented at the WSIG Annual Gathering on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Fluegel Alumni Center. Y

Thank you and hope to see you a WSIG event soon!



Be Inspired,

Postie '82

## 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	East Rutherford, NJ
2 NOV	@ Rice	
9 NOV	@ South Florida	
16 NOV	vs Tulane	
30 NOV	@ East Carolina	Possible Friday 29 Nov
14 DEC	vs Army	Landover, MD

1-800-US4-NAVY

## CLASS and CHAPTER and SIG OFFICERS

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

**CLASS** officers, email to:

[classesnews@usna.com](mailto:classesnews@usna.com)

**CHAPTER** and **SIG** officers, email to:

[chapternews@usna.com](mailto:chapternews@usna.com)

**Changes are Coming to July-August Shipmate!**

See page 1

"Classes & Chapters"

# 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

**Tol Grant Eslick '46**

17 February 2024

**Martin M Zenni '46 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

12 February 2024

**Victor Vivian Sharpe Jr. '48**

7 February 2024

**Richard Bays Blackwell Sr. '49**

LCDR, SC, USN (Ret.)

8 February 2024

**Theodore Ellis Lide Jr. '49**

30 March 2024

**Calvin Watkins Roberts '49**

CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.)

12 March 2024

**William Wentworth '49**

Col, USMC (Ret.)

12 February 2024

**Samuel Lawall Doak '50**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

10 March 2024

**William Ward Lasley '50 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

2 February 2024

**Robert Treat Shultz '50 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

14 February 2024

**George Callaway Smith Jr. '50**

21 February 2024

**George Graham Ardell '51**

23 February 2024

**Leland Emet Bolt '51**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

19 February 2024

**Robert Ary Hildebrand '51 ■**

1 April 2024

**Richard Wood Smith '51**

Col, USMC (Ret.)

17 December 2023

**William Joseph Laux Jr. '52 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

18 February 2024

**Joseph Leslie Randolph '52**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

16 January 2024

**Thomas Patten Stafford '52**

Lt Gen, USAF (Ret.)

18 March 2024

**Hubert Ellis Strange Jr. '52**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

8 March 2024

**Robert Franklin Laufman '53**

1 March 2024

**John Robert Muhlig Jr. '53**

Lt Col, USMC (Ret.)

8 February 2024

**Merrill Doyle Stevens '53**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

23 October 2021

**Eugene William Vahlkamp '53**

CDR, USN

13 July 2023

**John Franklin Wellings '53 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

24 February 2024

**George Willam Samuel Abbey '54**

Capt, USAF (Ret.)

24 March 2024

**John Charles Balogh '54**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

14 May 2023

**Norman Herbert Bissel '54**

LT, USN (Ret.)

11 September 2022

**Robert Copeland Brown Jr. '54**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

30 October 2022

**John Joseph Carson '54**

17 November 2023

**Arnold Bailey Chapin '54**

23 January 2022

**John Peter Fahey '54**

1 May 2022

**Elbert Lee Fryberger Jr. '54**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

20 February 2023

**Albert Kent Glover Jr. '54**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

28 January 2024

**William Charles Greenlaw '54**

4 April 2024

**James Gilbert Grunwell '54**

CAPT, NOAA (Ret.)

2 March 2023

**Donald R. Halagan '54**

24 August 2020

**John Drass Loughran '54**

23 April 2022

**Raymond Rudolph Maestri '54**

28 June 2022

**Robert Charles May Jr. '54**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

5 March 2024

**William Glen McKay '54**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

28 March 2024

**Russell Clair Meteer '54**

7 July 2023

**Ralph Askel Nielsen '54**

1 February 2024

**Merlyn Eugene Nightengale '54**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

8 December 2022

**John More Seacord '54**

CDR, USNR

18 April 2020

**William Neal Shadden Jr. '54**

10 January 2022

**Jesse Douglas Steadman '54**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

16 February 2021

**Russell Owen Williams '54**

29 March 2024

**Kenneth Benjamin Wilson '54**

16 September 2022

**Edward Westcott Windle Jr. '54**

Maj, USAF (Ret.)

29 March 2023

**William Nicholas Pugliese '55**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

12 February 2024

**Frank Joseph Regan Jr. '55**

13 March 2024

**Charles Hilarian Senn '55**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

22 February 2024

**Lawrence Wilton Berger '56**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

21 March 2024

**Brooks Glenwood Bays '57**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

29 February 2024

**Edwin Leroy Biggers '57**

1 March 2024

**Richard Franklin Emmett '57 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

26 March 2024

**Fred Joseph Federici Jr. '57**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

14 February 2024

**Michael Francis McKenna '57**

1 March 2024

**Robert Emerson Swartz '57**

28 February 2024

**Donald Lee Carty '58**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

7 March 2024

**Liles Walker Creighton Jr. '58**

2 March 2024

**Richard Patrick Greene '58**

28 March 2024

**John Leslie Potter '58**

CDR, USNR (Ret.)

31 March 2024

**Louis Parkman Shane '58 ■**

13 February 2024

**Samuel Gerson Werbel '58**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

1 April 2024

**Robert Karl Harmuth '59**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

24 February 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.*



**James Benjamin Lackey '59**  
10 February 2024

**Daniel Edward Ralston '59**  
1 March 2024

**L. J. Rhodes '59**  
27 February 2024

**Clifford Allison Rose Jr. '59**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 March 2024

**Frank James Aragona '60**  
21 February 2024

**Walter James Lippold '60 ■**  
27 March 2024

**Clifford Francis Schumann '60 ■**  
Maj, USAF (Ret.)  
9 February 2024

**Edward Joseph Ettinger III '61 ■**  
11 March 2024

**Frank Alexander Visted '61 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
20 March 2024

**David Ralph Zittel '61**  
19 February 2024

**John Lee Baker '62**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
21 September 2020

**Dennis Joseph Desmond Jr. '62**  
25 May 2023

**Donald Lewis Diget '62**  
5 December 2023

**David Edward Haan '62**  
16 May 2021

**James Michael Labriola '62**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
16 March 2024

**Robert Tate McWhinney Jr. '62**  
14 December 2023

**Roy Irwin Newton '62**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
13 October 2021

**Fred Palka '62**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
4 February 2022

**William Edward Bowen '63**  
8 March 2024

**Don Richard Hidy '63**  
8 March 2024

**John Patrick Costello II '64**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
6 March 2024

**George Joseph Kelly '64**  
LT, USN (Ret.)  
9 March 2024

**Richard Harris Phelan '64 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
14 February 2024

**Hershie Hollis Hayden '65**  
6 March 2024

**Robert Michael Hogenmiller '65**  
19 March 2024

**Donald Carl Houghton '65 ■**  
12 March 2024

**James Lonelle Mashburn '65 ■**  
1 February 2024

**John Edward Rutkowski '65**  
18 February 2024

**John Asher Thompson '65 ■**  
19 February 2024

**Ross Joseph Goldstein '66**  
12 February 2024

**James Michael Swartwood '66**  
3 March 2024

**Charles Arden Young '66**  
15 March 2024

**Larry William Frawley Jr. '67**  
3 April 2024

**Kermit William Neuman '67**  
1 February 2024

**Stephen Timothy Quigley Jr. '67**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 March 2024

**Barry Vaile Burrow '68 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
25 February 2024

**Edward Francis Fischer '68**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
3 March 2024

**John Frederick Mayer Jr. '68 ■**  
18 February 2024

**Walker Dupree Moore '68**  
LT, USN  
9 February 2024

**Leonard Carl Sjostrom '68**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
28 February 2024

**Michael Edward Fedeles '70**  
30 August 2023

**Ralph Waldo Johnson III '72**  
27 February 2024

**Paul Scott Lewis '72**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
30 March 2024

**William Douglas Good '73**  
LTJG, USN  
30 January 2024

**Joseph Michael Jacobs '73**  
20 March 2024

**Kenneth Alan Jacobsen '73**  
7 April 2024

**Garner Jean Knoepfler Jr. '73**  
4 March 2024

**Ralph Carpenter Hammett Jr. '74**  
18 March 2024

**Robert Stephen Hawkins '74**  
6 March 2024

**Max Eugene Legg '74**  
9 February 2024

**David Anthony Hamel '75 ■**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
21 February 2024

**Thomas Edward Rhoads II '75**  
19 March 2024

**James Stephenson Bane III '76**  
26 February 2024

**Daniel James Jerabek '77 ■**  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
26 January 2024

**Michael Charles McCord '77**  
6 June 2020

**Joseph Nicholas Reinhart III '77**  
Maj, USMC (Ret.)  
11 March 2024

**Robert Edgar Buttrick Jr. '79**  
LT, USN (Ret.)  
1 March 2024

**Frederick Scott Griffith '79**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
7 March 2024

**Kenneth Stuart Macdonald '80**  
LCDR, USN  
23 January 2024

**Daniel Michael McElroy '81 ■**  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
27 February 2024

**Carl John Garbelotti '84**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
21 March 2024

**John David Rybarczyk '84**  
24 March 2024

**Paul Michael Schuhlein '85**  
CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
28 March 2024

**Matthew John Hickey '86**  
CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.)  
2 April 2024

**Peter Stephen Wilson '87**  
29 February 2024

**Eyo Eyo Ita '90**  
6 February 2024

**Benjamin Charles McMillan '20**  
15 February 2024

**Hayden Michael Ritchhart '23**  
13 July 2023

## OBITUARY GUIDELINES

Please note that we have a maximum word limit of 400 words.

Obituaries may be submitted electronically (preferred) to [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com), or via U.S. Mail to:  
Shipmate obituaries, 301 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402.

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)).



## MARTIN "M" ZENNI '46

Captain Martin "M" Zenni, USN (Ret.), of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, and Fall River, MA, passed away on 12 February 2024 at the age of 102.

Born on Christmas Day, 1921 in Dayton, OH, he was the son of the late Backus Martin and Anna Zenni. As a recruit at Great Lakes Naval Training Center (1940), he served on MARYLAND (BB-46) (Pearl Harbor, 1941). Following the Naval Academy Prep School, he graduated

with the wartime accelerated Naval Academy Class of 1945.

His career included the following ships/tours: MASSEY; RUSH; Naval Air Training, Corpus Christi, TX, and Pensacola, FL; PCS-1386; WHEATEAR; ROBERTS; Naval Salvage and Diving School, Bayonne, NJ; MENDER; Bureau of Naval Personnel, DC; LUISENO; Officer Candidate School, Newport, RI; DEHAVEN; commissioning CO of McMORRIS; aide to Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces; MOALE; Bureau of Naval Personnel, DC; CO, Escort Squadron Six; Distinguished Graduate of the Senior Warfare School, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI; commissioning CO of PORTLAND; officer-in-charge of the Command and Staff School; U.S. Naval War College and developed the Naval Staff Course for Foreign Officers, Director of Special Projects under Vice Admiral Turner; CO, Service Squadron Two; and retiring in 1977 as CO of the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL; thus beginning and ending his career at Great Lakes.

He commanded two squadrons, four ships (two as commissioning commanding officer) and was Commander Naval Training Center Great Lakes. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Unit Commendation and Area Campaign Medal (6).

Following the Navy, he served as special assistant to the mayor, then executive director of the Housing Authority in Fall River, MA, retiring in 1989. He chaired the Police Board, the Port Development Committee and was an officer of the Lebanese American Veterans. He was a board member of the National Girl Scouts, United Way, the Fall River Country Club, St. Anne's Hospital, a corporator at BayCoast Bank, and was secretary of the American Arabic Association, Washington, DC.

Martin was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Margaret (Simon) Zenni; and his siblings, Mabel Snell, May Heekin, Dolores Zennie, Cecilia Scovil, Richard Zenni and Joseph Zenni. He leaves two sons, Dr. Martin Zenni (wife, Dr. Elisa Zenni) and Matthew Zenni (wife, Anne-Marie Zenni); and four grandchildren, Miranda, Alexander, Madison and Michael.

Contributions in his honor may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)).

Please visit his full obituary at (<http://tinyurl.com/Martin-Zenni>). ★



## WILLIAM WARD LASLEY '50

Captain "Ward" Lasley, USN (Ret.), died on 2 February 2024, in the room in which he was born in Burlington, NC, on 13 October 1927. His father, Ralph Kerr Lasley, was born in the same house in 1887, and his mother, Jennie Howe Ward, was born only two blocks away. He was valedictorian of the Burlington High School class of 1944, as his father was in 1906. He attended Davidson College in NC for three academic

years before three days at Fort Bragg for the Army pre-induction physical convinced him that the Navy could not be worse.

Ward graduated from the Naval Academy in 1950, lettering in track. He earned an MSEE at the Navy Postgraduate School in 1960.

He commanded the minehunter BUNTING (MHC-45), Division 83 of four minesweepers and BELLE GROVE (LSD-2) in 1968-1969, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star for operations in the Mekong Delta. At the Office of Naval Research, he was an early project manager of deep submersible ALVIN.

During the Arab-Israeli Six Day War in 1967, the Navy sent his four poorly-armed minesweepers to keep a non-provocative eye on the Soviet Mediterranean Fleet in the Aegean Sea. He reported back, "Have Soviet Fleet surrounded, when do I attack?"

As advisor to the CNO for Mine Warfare, Ward and a civilian PhD performed the initial planning for the successful mining of North Vietnamese harbors in 1972, helping to end our participation in that war. Retiring as a captain in 1980, he continued to live in Alexandria, VA, enjoying class luncheons and taking his wife's seat on its Symphony Board, until returning to Burlington in 2013.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Mary Webb Graham of Oxford, NC, in 1984, and his son-in-law, Mark Johnson in 2011. Survivors include his daughter, Rebecca Graham Lasley of High Point, NC; and two sons, W.W. "Bill" Lasley Jr. (and his wife, Liz, and daughter, Mary) of Woodbury, CT, and Ralph Augustus Lasley of Burlington, NC.

*The Lasley Family* ★



## ROBERT TREAT SHULTZ '50

Commander Robert T. Shultz, USN (Ret.), age 96, passed away surrounded by his family in his home in Arlington, VA, on 14 February 2024.

"Bob" was born in Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, on 10 February 1928, to the late Rear Admiral John Henry Shultz '22, USN (Ret.) and Martha (Merwin) Shultz. He graduated from Coronado High School in 1945 and enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in July 1945. He was in boot camp at Naval Training Center,

Bainbridge, MD, when World War II ended. Bob entered the Naval Academy in Fall of 1946 and graduated in June of 1950.

He married Margaret Belle Edmiston on 29 May 1954, and started their family.

Over the course of his naval career, he was assigned to multiple sea tours, including: 1950, LEYTE (CV-32); 1952, CONY (DDE-508); 1955, commanding officer of BRAMBLING (AMS-42/MSC(O)-42); 1957-1959, commanding officer of ST. CLAIR COUNTY (LST-1096); 1962, executive officer TAYLOR (DDE/DD-468); and 1963-1965, commanding officer of the destroyer escort LANSING (DE-388). His last sea duty was as commanding officer of AGERHOLM (DD-826), from July 1968 to March 1970.

In addition to USNA, he attended the Naval War College, Newport, RI (1961); the Air War College, Montgomery, AL (1967); and earned a MS in International Affairs from The George Washington University.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnamese Navy DSO Second Class Medal in recognition of the superb performance of AGERHOLM off Vietnam. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal upon his retirement from the Navy on 31 January 1972.

He went to work immediately at Merrill Lynch, working as a stockbroker until March 1998.

He was a licensed real estate agent and owned, managed and maintained multiple investment properties in Northern Virginia. He was

vice president of the Robert L. Merwin Co., a commercial real estate company in Frederiksted, St. Croix, USVI, established by his grandfather in 1892.

Bob loved his career in the Navy and with Merrill Lynch, but his true joy in life was his family. He was content with simple things when it came to himself, but there was no limit when thinking of others.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Margaret Edmiston Shultz; daughters, Holly Yummit (Mike), Lisa Hargrave (Rusty) and Malia Garman (Art); son, Bobby Shultz (Julia); brother, John M. Shultz; 13 grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Burial will be at Alington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. ★



**GULMER AUGUSTUS HINES JR. '51**

Captain G.A. Hines Jr., USN (Ret.), went to the Lord on 31 January 2024.

"Bud" was born on 20 February 1928 in Rutherfordton, NC, to Bonnie and Gulmer Hines. He attended Duke University, at the age of 16, for two years. During that time, he decided he wanted to be a naval officer and pursued an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He graduated from USNA in 1951. It was during

June Week at Annapolis, 1951, he met the love of his life, Sue Crafton, at the admiral's garden party. They married the following March.

Bud was a submariner and could tell wonderful, fantastic stories of life under the sea. He was the commissioning commanding officer of GUARDFISH, a fast attack submarine, during the Cold War in the 1960s. It was then he earned the Legion of Merit. He commanded the submarine squadron at Mare Island, CA, for over two years and finished his 24 years of active duty as executive aide to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London, UK.

Bud retired from the U.S. Navy in July 1975 and joined Stone & Webster Engineering Corp, in Boston, MA, as a project manager. He was assigned as manager of projects at Stone & Webster International Engineering Ltd, returning to London, a city he and Sue loved, for an 18-month to three-year assignment. He was promoted to managing director after four years, and he and Sue remained in the London UK area for 13 years, until his retirement.

Bud and Sue then moved to Conway, AR, to be close to their children and grandchildren. There, Bud was active in the community as a member of the planning commission and First United Methodist Church in Conway. Bud was an Eagle Scout and Master Gardener.

Bud was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 70 years, Sue Hines; and five sisters, Katherine Williams, Margaret Dorsey, Louise Kane, Mary Geer Booth and Geraldine Poltrone. He is survived by his daughter, Libba Tierney; son, Trey Hines (Kate); five grandchildren, Beth Tierney, Scott Tierney, Ashton Tierney, Alex Hines and Angelina Hines; as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Bud is greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

*The Hines Family* ★



**ROBERT ARY HILDEBRAND '51**

Robert A. Hildebrand, 97, died on 1 April 2024, in Denver, CO.

"Dutch" was born in 1926 in Dallas, TX, son of Ary Hildebrand of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and Claire Rickli of Geneva, Switzerland, during his parents' temporary business stay in the U.S. Upon his return to Europe, he attended and graduated from the Lyceum Bilderstraat (1945) in The Hague,

Holland, with the hope of going to sea.

During the World War II German occupation of the Netherlands, he served as a teenage courier in the Dutch Resistance. After the war, the Dutch Navy offered little chance for sea duty, so he took advantage of his fortuitous place of birth to become an American citizen. He sailed to New York in 1945 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was selected to attend NAPS, where he met Lee Kollmorgen '51 and Larry Treadwell '51, his future roommate. He obtained a fleet appointment from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal to the USNA Class of 1951. During his stay with the 11th Company/Third Battalion, he became a member of Tom Boyce '51's varsity soccer team. Youngster Year he suffered a service-connected disability, diagnosed as tuberculosis. He spent 1948/1949 in St. Albans Navy Hospital, NY, and to his great disappointment, was discharged. He married LTJG Dorothy Martin, Navy Nurse Corps, and they had two daughters, Renée and Shelley.

Dutch graduated from the Colorado School of Mines as a Geological Engineer (1954) and started his mining career as a contract miner in the Silverton mining district of Colorado. From 1959-1963, he worked for Union Carbide Corporation as a research engineer and general superintendent of uranium mines.

For the next 35 years, Dutch pursued his mining career as a principal of several junior public mining companies operating in Central and South America and Africa. In South Africa, he played a leading role in mining offshore diamonds and in developing a vanadium deposit. In Ghana, he realized the building of a gold mine.

Concurrent with his mining activities, he was the Honorary Consul of The Netherlands for 11 years, assisting Dutch nationals during their stay in the U.S. In 1991, he was honored by her Majesty Queen Beatrix, who appointed him a Knight in her Order of Oranje-Nassau.

In retirement, he skied, played tennis and trained/spoiled his favored canine companions.

Predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Shelley, Dutch is survived by his daughter, Renée; two granddaughters; and two great-grandsons. ★



**WILLIAM JOSEPH LAUX JR. '52**

Commander William J. Laux Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 18 February 2024 in Great Falls, MT. He was 93 years old.

Bill was born on 30 March 1930 in Omaha, NE, but eventually graduated from DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, MN, in 1948.

Bill graduated from the Naval Academy and was commissioned in 1952. He served on ships for a short time before reporting to flight school and eventually earning his Wings of Gold as a naval aviator in 1954. Bill was assigned to fly maritime patrol aircraft and logged most of his flight time in the PBM-5 Mariner, P5M Marlin, P2V Neptune and C-47/ R4D models. He also served tours as a ship's navigator, a professor at the Naval Academy and attained master's degrees in Spanish and business administration while on active duty. During the Vietnam War, he served both aboard ship and in flying roles. Bill retired from the Navy in 1978 after 26 years on active duty.

## LAST CALL

Following the Navy, Bill settled in northern Virginia and worked various jobs before becoming a high school Spanish teacher. There, he met Patricia. They were married in 1988 and had one son together. Bill transitioned back to the defense sector in 1987 as a contractor for Naval Air Systems Command and retired for good in 1997.

In retirement, Bill volunteered for many years as a docent at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. He was also active in his church and was an ample donor to many charities and professional organizations. Bill was proud of his USNA background and participated in as many Class of 1952 activities as he could, including a long stint as editor of the Class of '52 *Shipmate* column. He loved to travel with Patricia, and they visited much of Europe and the United States together, ultimately leading to a relocation in 2017 from Virginia to Great Falls. Bill loved their new Montana community and life.

Bill is survived by his wife, Patricia; son, Scott '12 (and his wife, Lisa '12); grandchildren, Maria and George; brother, John (and his wife, Sue); and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Patricia and Margaret.

He leaves an enduring legacy, and as the Class of '52 motto says, *Tough Shoes to Fill*.

A Catholic Funeral Mass and interment occurred on 23 February 2024 in Great Falls. ★



### BILLIE DON OTT '52

Billie D. Ott passed away on 26 January 2024 of natural causes at his home in Springfield, VA. He was 94 years old.

"Bill" was born in 1929 in Comanche, OK, and grew up in that state, graduating from the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in 1946, prior to his naval service. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1952, Bill was a naval aviator. He married the love of his life, Joann Helen Nielsen, in 1956.

He resigned his commission in 1958 to work in the Defense and Aerospace industries. In 1974, Bill, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, joined the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, retiring in 1994 as the director of the Eastern Region.

He was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Joann, in 2004. Survivors include their children, Captain David Ott '81, USN (Ret.), Ms. Judith Lee, Esq., and Mr. Stuart Ott; and seven grandchildren.

Interment took place at Fairfax Memorial Park in Fairfax, VA. ★



### NORMAN FLOYD STEIN '52

Captain "Red" Stein, USN (Ret.), died on 4 February 2024 in Willow Street, PA. He was 95 years old.

Born in New Kensington, PA, to Harry and Ruth Stein, he attended school there until entering Valley Forge Military Academy in 1944. There, he lettered for three years in football and track and was a three-time boxing champ. After Valley Forge, he attended North

Carolina State College prior to entering the Naval Academy in 1948. At USNA, he was Brigade boxing champ and a member of the 1950 varsity football team. He was president of his Naval Academy class from 1969-1974.

Upon graduation, Red was assigned to CALVERT (APA-32) until 1954, when he entered Submarine School. He served on QUILLBACK (SS-424)

and CHIVO (SS-341) before returning to New London as a Sub School instructor. In 1960, he was assigned to MEDREGAL (SS-480) at Pearl Harbor, followed by executive officer of BLACKFIN (SS-322). After Pearl Harbor, he served in the CNO's Submarine Division prior to taking command of SEA FOX (SS-401). This was followed by duty in the Underseas Warfare Division of the Office of Naval Intelligence, where he was awarded his first Legion of Merit. Red earned a master's degree in international relations from American University and attended the Army War College in Carlisle, PA. He then took command of Submarine Division 31 in San Diego until 1973, when he returned to duty in Washington as aide and executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Logistics, where he was awarded his second Legion of Merit. Captain Stein took command of SACRAMENTO (AOE-1) in Bremerton, WA, for his final tour of active duty, retiring in October 1978.

Upon retirement, Red and his wife, Lonnie, moved to New Kensington, where he joined the family business. He was president of the Rotary Club, president of the Advisory Board of Penn State University New Kensington campus and was honored as their Renaissance Man of the Year in 2004. In 1997, he received Valley Forge's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and in 2017, their highest honor, The Order of Anthony Wayne.

Captain Stein is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, the former Lonnie Sharp of Birmingham, AL.

A memorial service will take place at the Naval Academy Jewish Chapel followed by inurnment at USNA Columbarium, at a later date. ★



### JOHN FRANKLIN WELLINGS '53

Captain John F. "Jeff" Wellings, USN (Ret.), passed away on 24 February 2024 at his home in Tomball, TX, after a short illness. He was 93 years old.

Born in Bellevue, PA, Jeff was a graduate of Bellevue High School, where he lettered in basketball and football. Also, it was there that he met the love of his life, Joan Forsythe. After graduation, Jack spent one year at the Penn State Forestry School in Mont Alto, PA, as a freshman NROTC student. Offered a chance to take a competitive test for the Naval Academy, he finished in the top ten in the country and received an appointment.

He graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1953. He returned to Bellevue to marry Joan and begin years of marriage. Returning to the Academy, the happy couple helped to indoctrinate the incoming Class of 1957. There followed tours of duty at the training command where Jeff received his Wings, VF-62, postgraduate school, VA-12, NADC, Johnsville and XO/CO of VA-55 during the Vietnam conflict. The Wellings family then moved to England, where Jeff attended the British Joint Services Staff College, followed by tours as comptroller for ComNav AirLant, program manager for support aircraft at NavAir and Plans and Programs Officer at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Combat V, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Gold Star, Strike Flight Air Medal (17), Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star and Combat V and various other "I've been there" awards.

After retiring, Jeff and Joan moved to Jacksonville, FL, where Jeff worked for H&R Block, as naval science instructor at Ed White High School and for several defense contractors.

Predeceased by Joan in 2018, Jeff is survived by their wonderful sons, Jeffrey (and his wife, Teri) and James; grandchildren, Jessica and Danny; and great-grandson, Iszac.

JFW '53 ★



**JERRY LEE GIBSON '56**

Jerry Lee Gibson, of Fuquay-Varina, NC, passed away on 27 January 2024—his 90th birthday.

Jerry was born on 27 January 1934 in Mt. Vernon, IL, to the late Everett and Ruth Gibson. He spent his childhood there and graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1952. He planned to become a professional musician, however, his strong academic record along with his sports and leadership activities led to an

appointment at the Naval Academy, which changed his life.

After graduating from Annapolis in 1956, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. He completed his pilot training near Tucson, AZ, then Big Spring, TX. He logged over 19,500 hours within a 13-year flying career.

He was sent to Malmstrom AFB in Montana for a customized graduate school in aerospace engineering and was the MCCC who stood the first watch for a Minuteman Missile on strategic alert ready to fire during the peak of the Cuban Missile Crisis. As an Apollo astronaut candidate, he made it through to the final cut when 16 of the last 30 were selected. He then participated in a back to the cockpit effort by the Air Force and became a T-38 flight instructor at Reese AFB, Texas.

In 1965, he joined United Airlines as a captain and flight instructor in their Denver training center. After leaving United, he went into the motivational speaking and sales training business. He later joined the telecommunications industry and was the founding Director of Government Systems for MCI, which brought him to the Washington, DC, area in 1980.

He retired in 1994 and spent most of his retired years in Fuquay-Varina, NC. There, he served several years as an ordained minister in his church. Recently, he said that his most important career was being a professional grandpa.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by Pat (Gratz) Gibson, mother to his first four children, they divorced in 1966; Arlene (Greisch) Gibson, mother of his last five children; his two oldest children, Michael Allen Gibson and Christopher Lee Gibson; and his sister, Karen Chesebro.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Carol (Ohrn) Gibson; his children, Steve Gibson, Linda Peabody (Bruce), Robin Moseley (Carroll), Tammy Edgemond (James), Jamie Gibson (Michelle), Keith Gibson (Tracy) and Susan Gibson; stepchildren, Cynthia Thompson (John), Deborah Bardeen (Chris) and Don Chesworth (Brittney); 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. ★



**JAMES PATTERSON RANSOM II '56**

Captain James P. Ransom II, USN (Ret.), died on 19 January 2024 in Jacksonville, FL, surrounded by his loving wife, Dale, and his family. He was 89 years old.

“Jay” was born in Camden, NJ, in May 1934, son of James Wallace Ransom '26 and Dorothy Mae (House) Ransom. He grew up in Collingswood, NJ (which he always described as the center of the universe), and graduated

from high school there in 1952. A proud member of the 21st Company, he graduated from USNA in June 1956. He married Dale Simmler in her hometown of Philadelphia in 1957.

His first tour was aboard TARAWA (CVS-40). Following Submarine School, he served aboard BASHAW (SSK-241), SEADRAGON (SSN-584), HALIBUT (SSN-587), and as XO of GUARDFISH (SSN-612). He commanded

PARGO (SSN-650) (1973-1976), which received the Navy Unit Commendation (2), and Jay was awarded the Legion of Merit (2) for highly successful special operations. Jay was submarine operations officer on the staff of CinC U.S. Naval Forces Europe (1976-1978).

He was Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Intelligence at ComSubPac (1978-1981), and then commanded Submarine Development Group One (1981-1983).

Shore duty included instructor at the Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, MD, command of Nuclear Power School Mare Island, CA, and command of Submarine Base New London, CT, after which he retired, receiving his fifth Legion of Merit.

He worked as a program manager at Westinghouse Oceanic Division in Annapolis for five years. He and Dale then settled in San Diego, and Jay continued self-employed work as an ocean engineering project manager for Westinghouse Oceanic, Perry Technologies and Lockheed Martin. He was instrumental in developing underwater vehicles and systems. In 2017, he and Dale moved to Atlantic Beach, FL, to be near family.

Jay’s passions were model railroading, woodworking, reading, golf and his family. He and Dale raised three sons, Jim '80 (Anne), Scott (USCGA '82) (Cindy) and Tom '84 (Kim). They have six grandchildren, Kristin (Patrick), Jeffrey '05 (Erin), Matthew, Michelle (Brennan), Nicholas (Lee Adamowicz '15) and Eric, as well as four great-grandchildren. He was a towering presence of calmness and common sense amidst the tempests of life to his family, friends and shipmates. He was loved and respected and is greatly missed.

Jay was interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society ([www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)) or to the MCAS Miramar Chapel in San Diego ([www.miramar.marines.mil/Departments/Chapel](http://www.miramar.marines.mil/Departments/Chapel)).

JPR2 '56 & The Ransom Family ★



**PARKE LEWIS BROWN JR. '57**

On 18 March 2024, Lieutenant Commander Parke L. Brown Jr., USN (Ret.), loving husband and father of nine, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family in his home in Potomac, MD. He was 91 years old.

Parke was born on 10 November 1932 in Knoxville, TN, to Parke L. Brown Sr. and Lula Pauline (Hartman) Brown. After attending the University of Tennessee for three years, he was

appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree.

Upon graduation in June 1957, he was commissioned as a Navy ensign. He met his first wife, Shiela Lloyd, when she and her brother, Richard, traveled from England to Knoxville during World War II. They stayed in touch and eventually married on 21 December 1957. Shiela passed away from breast cancer on 14 October 1965, making him a widower with three young girls.

He served on POCONO, CROAKER, TENCH and TUSK. He taught at the Submarine School in Groton, CT, and retired as a lieutenant commander.

He met his second wife, Karen, who was a widow with four young children (three boys and a girl), at church while leading the children's service. Parke and Karen Snow of New London, CT, were married on 24 February 1968. Combined, they had seven children in their wedding, and then had two more together.



## LAST CALL

After retiring from the Navy in 1977, he was a financial planner at Johnston & Lemon, and then at Legg Mason until retiring.

When their daughters, Sarah and Laurie, were sick, Parke and Karen were involved in the care of their grandchildren, Robin, Skye and Michael. While at St. James Episcopal Church, he held various vestry positions over the many years. He was a children's service leader and lay reader, as well as a Boy Scout troop leader. He often helped members of his community with their finances and their wills.

A First Family of Tennessee descendant, Parke is survived by his wife of 56 years, Karen; seven of their nine children, David Brown, Linda Brown, Richard Brown, Chris Brown, Rachel Brown Frank (Karl), Andrew Brown (Janelle) and Julie Brown Allanach (Sean); five grandchildren, Alexandra Brown-Flannery, Michael Oliver, Robin Steuteville, Skye Steuteville and Zachary Allanach; and sons-in-law, Robert Steuteville and Patrick Oliver (Gail). He was preceded in death by his daughters, Sarah Brown Steuteville and Laurie Brown Oliver.

Fair winds and following seas! We have the watch. ★



### BRUCE DeMARS '57

Admiral Bruce DeMars, USN (Ret.), passed away on 3 February 2024, in Falls Church, VA, at the age of 88.

Bruce was born in Chicago, IL, on 3 June 1935, and graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1957. On graduation night, he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Ann Milburn, in the Naval Academy Chapel.

Following commissioning, he served in the attack transports TELFAIR (APA-210) and OKANOGAN (APA-220) and, after Submarine School, the diesel-electric submarine CAPITAINE (SS-336). Following nuclear power training, he served in the nuclear-powered submarines GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN-598), SNOOK (SSN-592) and STURGEON (SSN-637) before reporting for duty as commanding officer of CAVALLA (SSN-684).



Distinguished Graduate  
Award Recipient  
2009

Shore duty tours included instructor duty at Nuclear Power School and Submarine School and attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College. Following staff duty with Squadron Ten, Bruce served as senior member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He commanded Submarine Development Squadron Twelve in New London, CT, and then served as Deputy Director, Attack Submarine Division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, until selected for promotion to rear admiral in 1981.

Bruce served as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Commander, U.S. Naval Base Guam and Commander in Chief, Pacific Representative for Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and as Deputy Assistant Chief and then Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare. He was promoted to vice admiral on 5 December 1985.

On 30 September 1988, he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for promotion to four-star rank. On 22 October 1988, he relieved Admiral Kinnaird McKee '51 as Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion.

Bruce retired on 1 October 1996, after 44 years of service to his country. Upon his retirement, both houses of Congress honored him with resolutions recognizing his distinguished service.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (2), Legion of Merit (4), Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation

Medal (2), Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal (3), Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation.

After retiring from active duty, he served on the boards of Exelon Corporation, McDermott International Inc., Duratek Corporation, Yellow Ribbon Fund and OceanWorks International Inc. Bruce was a member of the corporation of Draper Laboratory and served as an advisor to industry and government. He was chairman of the Naval Submarine League and the Naval Historical Foundation. Bruce was presented the 2009 U.S. Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate Award, the 2011 Ellis Island Medal, the 2012 National Maritime Historical Society Distinguished Service Award and the 2016 Naval Submarine League Distinguished Submariner Award. An active alumnus, Bruce fundraised to support his USNA 50th class reunion gift, the endowment of a chair in naval heritage in the history department.

Bruce was a member of Burning Tree Golf Club, the Army & Navy Club, the Military Order of the Carabao and the Alibi Club.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Margaret; brother, Lee (Joanne); son, Bruce Fitzhugh DeMars (Patty); daughter, Margaret Troup (Jamie); three grandchildren, Rebecca Gills (Matthew), Bruce (Brinn) and Catherine Troup; and three great-grandchildren, Grace Gills, Everly Gills and Hattie DeMars. He was predeceased by his brother, Charles E. DeMars (Pat).

A private service was held at the Naval Academy Chapel, followed by interment at the Naval Academy Cemetery. ★



### RICHARD FRANKLIN EMMETT '57

Commander Richard F. Emmett, USN (Ret.) died on 26 March 2024 in Annapolis, MD. He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2018.

"Dick" or "Rich," was born on 4 June 1934 to Elmer Roscoe Emmett and Marion Fullerton Emmett. He had an older brother, Donald Fullerton Emmett, and the family lived in Saugus, MA.

At age six, while viewing Midshipmen on parade, Dick decided he would attend the Naval Academy when it came time for college. He never deviated from that dream, though the Academy did not accept him on his first attempt. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1952 and attended Middlebury College for a year. He received his appointment to the Naval Academy in 1953 and was a member of the Class of 1957, 14th Company. He married his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth "Liz" Adelhelm Emmett in July of 1957 and they had two daughters. The family enjoyed accompanying Dick to duty stations, appreciating the opportunities to travel and make friends in 11 states and in Spain and Belgium.

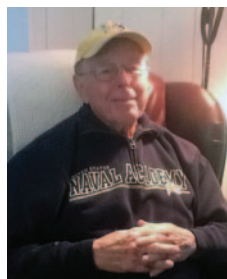
Dick served on TANG (SS-563), GUDGEON (SS-567), GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (SSBN-656) and QUILLBACK (SS-424); and attended the Naval War College, the Naval Postgraduate School and Guided Missile School. He was a member of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, Staff SubRon Sixteen and the Strategic Systems Project Office. One of his last duties was with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

Dick retired in 1982 and he and Liz returned to Annapolis, where Dick took up a second career as a tax preparer. Dick and Liz divorced in 1993, though the family stayed connected.

Dick sailed dinghies as a child at Camp O-AT-KA in Maine and found ways to sail in almost every place he lived. His favorite sailing was racing a Navy yawl or his Tartan 30 tall rig on the Chesapeake Bay. Dick was a volunteer coach with the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron for over 20 years, accompanying Midshipmen on multiple ocean races. He also served as a volunteer and treasurer with multiple sailing associations in the Annapolis area.

Dick met Phyllis Doriot sailing and they married in 1994. They enjoyed 30 years together: sailing, making boat deliveries, traveling, sponsoring Midshipmen and being part of the Eastport community.

Dick is survived by his wife, Phyllis Emmett; daughters, Meredith Emmett (Galia Goodman) and Sarah Emmett Ozols (Richard); and granddaughter, Danielle Paige Ozols. ★



**ARTHUR WILLIAM KELLY '57**

“Bill” Kelly of Greensburg, PA, passed away on 27 September 2023 in the Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital. He was 90 years old.

Bill was born on 3 February 1933 in Arona, PA, to John Patrick and Naomi Alcorn Kelly. Following graduation from high school and two years at Indiana State Teachers College, PA. Bill entered the Naval Academy as a member of the Class of 1957.

Upon graduation with the Fourth Company, Bill was commissioned as a Navy ensign in the Supply Corps. A very significant life event occurred towards the end of his Supply Corps training when he married Helena Hardek. Bill’s first assignment was a supply officer of SAUFLEY (EDDE-465), followed by a tour at SPCC Mechanicsburg. He then decided to leave the Navy.

He embarked upon a new career with West Penn Power Company. His 35 years there started as an electrical engineer in the Bridgeville area south of Pittsburgh, then on to the main office in Greensburg as an assistant to the Manager of Engineering. Next, he became Supervisor of Engineering in New Kensington, north of Pittsburgh, another move. He returned to Greensburg as the administrative assistant to the Vice President of Division Operations. From there, he became the division manager in the Ridgway area in the northwestern part of the state. He then served as division manager in Monongahela, south of Pittsburgh, for 13 years. Bill concluded his career with West Penn Power as division manager of the Lincoln and Latrobe divisions. Upon retirement, he and Helena settled into the Greensburg-Latrobe area.

The things that meant the most to Bill were his family, his Catholic faith and his love for the game of golf. He is quoted as saying, “The Golf Gods can be cruel, but I still find it challenging and relaxing.”

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 wonderful years, Helena; daughter, Dana Calhoun (Timothy) of Upper St. Clair, PA; sons, Michael Kelly (Lisa) of Abingdon, VA, and John Kelly of Winchester, VA; three grandchildren who became his whole world, Catherine, Samantha and Nicholas; and several nieces and nephews.

Bill was interred in Greensburg Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Grace Church, 1011 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. ★



**JOHN ANDREW CRESKO '58**

“Jack” Cresko passed away in the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte, FL, on 10 January 2024.

He was born on 17 August 1934 in Edwardsville, PA, to the late Ana Seman and John S. Cresko.

After he graduated from Kingston High School (Wilkes Barre area of Pennsylvania), he served briefly in the U.S. Army before entering the Naval Academy, where he graduated with a BS degree in engineering.

He subsequently obtained his MS in aerospace/astronautical engineering from the University of Arizona.

Selecting a commission in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Annapolis, he served in various officer assignments, including chief, Strategic Missile Flight Analysis Division, Vandenberg AFB, CA, and program support manager for range operations at Patrick AFB, FL, managing Air Force eastern test range support for USAF and NASA satellite programs, and the U.S. Army Pershing Missile Operational Test Program.

As a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy, he was chief of the Anti-Radiation Weapons Branch, Fallbrook CA. His assignment to Voice of America (VOA) was at the Naval Sea Systems Command, serving as Reliability, Maintainability, Quality (RMQ) manager for the Gas Turbine Surface Combatant Ships (Acquisition and Life Cycle Programs).

At the United States Information Agency (VOA) in Washington, DC, he served as Chief, Configuration Control Division, from which he retired.

Jack loved playing golf and tennis. He also enjoyed jogging, traveling and listening to music.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Dorothy Lee.

Burial with military honors took place at Sarasota National Cemetery on 9 February 2024. ★



**LOUIS PARKMAN SHANE '58**

Louis P. Shane passed away on 13 February 2024 due to illness, just short of his 89th birthday.

“Lou” was born to Marjorie Sophia Rowell and Lieutenant Commander Louis Shane Jr. '26 in Annapolis, MD, on 25 February 1935. He was the third Louis Shane to graduate from the Naval Academy, following his father and grandfather, Captain Louis Shane, USNA 1898.

His father was killed in action in 1943 and Lou and his siblings, Janet and John, were raised by their mother in her hometown of Winthrop, ME. He attended one year at Maine University before entering the Naval Academy.

Upon graduating on 4 June 1958, Lou married Virginia Adams on 19 July 1958. They were blessed with two daughters, Elizabeth Lee (1961) and Cheryl Ann (1963). Lou served in several different assignments including AMMEN (DD-527), BOYD (DD-544), Submarine School, CAPITAINE (AGSS-336) and as assistant officer in charge at the U.S. Naval Preparatory School at Naval Training Center Bainbridge, MD. During that last tour, he resigned his commission and was released from active duty in February 1967.

In June 1967, he was hired as a civilian electronics engineer at the Naval Electronics System Command in Washington, DC. He served in many different capacities in his career at NAVALEX and found time to take night classes at The George Washington University, earning a MS degree in Communications Systems Management in 1976. His last position was as JINTACCS program manager at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command. He retired in April 1990.

During Lou’s years working in Washington, DC, he lived with his family in Kensington, MD. Every summer, the family traveled to visit his mother in Maine and his siblings’ families in Massachusetts. Lou and Virginia divorced in 1981. Family remained important to Lou and as his daughters married, had children and moved away, he visited both families for holidays, up until his death. Lou moved home to Maine in 1998 to care for his mother until her passing in 2001. He continued his long-term hobbies of coin and stamp collecting. He moved to New Jersey to live with his daughter, Cheryl and her husband in October 2022.

## LAST CALL

Predeceased by his parents and siblings, Lou is survived by his daughters (and their spouses), Beth Shane Rose (Ian Rose) and Cheryl Shane Mercado (Fernando Mercado); eight grandchildren, Eliza (Jesse), Shane, Lucy, Dylan, Sara, Fernando, Jessie and Lydia; and four great-grandsons, Parker, Brody, Ethan and Beckham. ★



### JERRY PATRICK McDANIEL '59

Lieutenant Commander Jerry P. McDaniel, USN (Ret.), died on 21 January 2024 in Oakland, CA. He was 87 years old.

Jerry was born in 1936 in Los Angeles, CA, the son of John McDaniel and Mary Cady. He joined the Sea Scouts at a young age, inspired by an uncle who was a sailor and became a naval aviator during World War II. Jerry reported to the Naval Academy in 1955.

After graduating in 1959 with the 11th Company, Jerry was commissioned as a Navy ensign, serving on ERNEST G. SMALL (DDR-838) until attending Submarine School in 1961. He then served on RASHER (AGSS-269) and VOLADOR (SS-490), before attending the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Electronics in 1967. After his final submarine duty on QUILLBACK (SS-424), Jerry was assigned to overseeing ship repairs at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, and later, Subic Bay Ship Repair Facility. While there, Jerry received his Master of Science in Administration from Pepperdine University extension. His last Navy duty was with the Pacific division of the InSurv Board, where he was the electronics inspector.

After retiring from the Navy in 1979, Jerry moved to San Francisco, CA, with his family (first wife, Carroll, and two daughters), and for the next 20 years, worked for private companies that managed or built shipyards or naval bases. During that time, he bought a 29-foot sailboat and was active in the marina's yacht club, serving as project manager for the design and construction of a member-built club house.

Jerry retired from his civilian job in 2000, after Carroll died. He remarried, moved to Benicia, CA, and he and his second wife, Arlene, spent the next 15 summers traveling, first by canal boat in Europe (where their many destinations included Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Germany, Italy, Sicily, Malta and Croatia) and later, by Nordic tug and RV in the United States and Canada.

In 2023, after Arlene died, Jerry moved to a retirement community in Oakland, CA, to be closer to family. His years in the Navy and his Naval Academy-themed attire were conversation starters with his new neighbors.

Jerry is survived by his daughter, Patricia McDaniel (Brian); and two grandchildren, Francesca and Aedan.

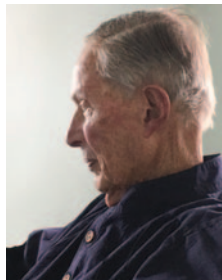
Jerry's ashes will be scattered at sea in May 2024 at a small family ceremony.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)).

*The McDaniel Family* ★

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### RAGAN THOMAS PHILLIPS '59

Ragan T. Phillips, 83, completed his life on 26 March 2020. He died peacefully surrounded by his family, at his home in Ashland, VA.

Ragan was born on 31 May 1936 in the small rural town of Lawrenceburg, KY. The only child of Paul and Lillyan Gortney Phillips, he dreamed of being a Navy pilot like his older cousin, Bill. After graduating from Kentucky Military Institute, he received a coveted appointment to the

Naval Academy.

He graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree and served in the Air Force for eight years, followed by a 50-year career in the business world.

Ragan's keen analytical mind and natural ability to inspire people to work together, led to a long life of project management in the power generation industry. The apogee of his career was working in Houston, TX, for the legendary Robert McNair, from whom Ragan learned how to cultivate leadership in others. In the final third of his life, he would become that leader to others.

Always an avid reader of history and biographies, Ragan went from being a reflective thinker to an active participant in community life when he moved to Ashland. He put up his own funds to convert a firehouse into a non-profit theatre. When the local newspaper folded, he started his own. Passionately against inequality, he saw education as the solution and was publicly scornful of the hand-appointed school board which refused to remove the names of Confederate generals from two Hanover County high schools.

On the night of his death, members of his men's book mounted ladders beneath the Ashland Theatre and put this quote from Kentucky poet, Wendell Berry, on the marquee: "He learned what he had to, and he changed, and so he made himself exceptional." That change began at the Naval Academy, which Ragan said was the lucky break that shaped his life. His ashes now rest where those changes began.

Ragan is survived by his adored wife, Phyllis Theroux; his beloved daughters, Margaret Pienkowski (David) and Kellady Bledsoe (Michael); grandchildren, Matthew, Lucas, Bennett and Brittany (Issac); and great-granddaughters, Ragan, Adeline, Brooklyn and Abigail. His former wife, Starr Bullis Phillips, with whom he had two sons, Michael Ragan and Patrick Ragan (both deceased), remained a dear friend. Through his marriage to Phyllis, he was provided the privilege and love of her children, Justin, Eliza and Christian; and grandchildren, Tobias, Rhys, Christian II and Gabriella. ★



### FRED AUSTIN BEE '60

Fred Bee sadly left us on 13 January 2024 in Leipers Fork, TN, after a short illness.

Fred was born on 25 November 1937 in Sebring, FL, to Gerald and Ellen Bee. A member of the Naval Academy Class of 1960, he is remembered by his Fourth Company classmates as an avid soccer player and the designer of the 1960 class crest.

After his graduation from USNA, Fred married Theo Sammis. He went on to Flight School and became a photo reconnaissance pilot, flying F-8s.

After leaving the Navy, Fred went to law school at Stetson University in St. Petersburg, FL. Upon graduation, Fred and his family moved to Marathon in the Florida Keys, where Fred practiced law.

After a successful career, the family moved to Harrodsburg, KY, where Fred became a sheep and cattle farmer and he and Theo had a bed and breakfast for 15 years on a farm they called Canaan Land.

In retirement, Fred and Theo moved to Mexico Beach, FL, where they enjoyed ten years of beach life before moving in 2022 to Leipers Fork, TN, just outside of Franklin, to be close to family.

Fred is survived by his wife, Theo; their five children, Ellen Bee Morlote (Florentino), Sarah Bee Yann (Todd), Austin Bee Jr. (Jennifer), Molly Bee Britto (Jair) and Amanda Bee Underwood (Brad); 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life, which will be called "Fred's Flyover," on 15 June 2024.

Fred had a wonderful and adventurous life with no regrets. Fred's ashes will be buried on their farm in Leipers Fork, with a bronze memorial marker honoring him.

*The Bee Family* ★



**WALTER JAMES LIPPOLD '60**

"Jim" Lippold passed away on 27 March 2024 in Port Republic, MD. He was 85 years old.

Jim was born in Annapolis, MD, on 2 August 1938 to Walter and Marian Lippold. Soon after his birth, his father, a Navy dentist, was transferred to the Far East. They lived in China and the Philippines, until the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Jim returned to the States with his mother, while his father stayed and fought the war. After the

war, his family lived in many places, ending up in Norfolk, VA, where Jim was able to complete his high school education. Upon graduation, he reported to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1960. In 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Joan Gibson.

For the next several years, Jim served in the Navy as a nuclear submariner. Upon leaving the Navy in 1967, he attended NC State University to earn his master's degree in nuclear engineering, then went to work for Baltimore Gas & Electric at their Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Lusby, MD, for the next 30 years. He retired in 1998.

Jim and Joan spent the next 20 years traveling the world. They visited countries from China to Russia and many in between. Their favorite trips were river cruises through Europe, winters in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and three times a year to Disney World. When not traveling, they enjoyed their home in Scientists Cliffs, overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, where Jim enjoyed gardening, completing his honey-do list, and spending time with family and friends.

Jim was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Port Republic, MD, and a charter member of the American Chestnut Land Trust. He was also a professional engineer.

Jim leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Joan; their two daughters, Karen Lippold Myrick and Jan Lippold Huether (David); and grandchildren, Benjamin and Hannah Huether, and James Myrick. ★



**CLIFFORD FRANCIS SCHUMANN '60**

Major Clifford F. Schumann, USAF (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 9 February 2024 at his home in Pittstown, NJ. He was 88 years old.

"Cliff" was born on 17 May 1935, in Jersey City, NJ, to Charles and Mary Schumann. A 1953 graduate of Snyder High School, he went on to serve his country, attending the U.S. Naval Academy. During his time at Annapolis, Cliff

was a member of the Drum and Bugle Corps. In 1959, Cliff was crowned the Brigade Welterweight Boxing Champion.

Graduating in 1960 with his bachelor's degree in engineering, Cliff went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years. His intelligence and love for learning led him to further his education, receiving his master's degree in electrical engineering from Baylor University, and then his master's degree in mathematics from Monmouth College.

Following his career in the U.S. Air Force, he worked for Bellcore/Telcordia Technologies in Piscataway, NJ, for approximately 22 years.

Cliff was an active member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America from 1965 to present. He enjoyed singing in his barbershop quartets and choruses, an a cappella group, as well as volunteering as a soloist and choir member at his church, St. Catherine of Siena. He stayed fit by working out, becoming the world record holder for his age group, (70-75 years of age) benching 205 pounds in the naked bench press.

Cliff's family was the most important thing in his life. He was a true family man. Cliff married his one true love, Lorraine Hunchak, on 11 June 1960. They spent 70 loving years together, more than 63 of them as husband and wife. Lorraine predeceased Cliff by five months, on 9 September 2023. They raised five children, Ilene, Becky, Amy, Jon '91 and Mark '97; 12 grandchildren, Zachary (Erin), Carolyn (Danny), Joseph (Nancy), Staci, Tyler, Jordan, Spencer, Jeremy, Jake, Bronson, Natalie and Benjamin; and five great-grandchildren, Finnegan, Jameson, Audrey, Saige and Ashton. As a point of interest, Cliff and his son, Jon, were both members of the Second Company at USNA.

Services were held at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Pittsburg, NJ, on 26 February 2024, followed by interment next to his wife, Lorraine, at the Immaculate Conception Mausoleum in Annandale, NJ. ★



**EDWARD JOSEPH ETTINGER III '61**

Ed Ettinger passed away on 11 March 2024. He was 84 years old.

Ed grew up in Northport, Long Island, NY, where he accrued several honors in high school, including being voted student president and elected to the school's athletic hall of fame. Most importantly, it was where he met his future wife, Gail Cronin.

Ed was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1957, where he became a Company commander and pitched and lettered for three years on one of Navy's most successful baseball teams. Following graduation with the Class of 1961, he and Gail married in 1962, and Ed served on two destroyers, qualifying for command. He also served on two submarines.

Ed "weighed anchor" in 1970 and began working for the Coca-Cola Company in technical and sales management, as well as managing factory building projects in Ireland and Swaziland.

**USNA TRIBUTE GIFTS**  
[www.usna.com/tribute-gifts](http://www.usna.com/tribute-gifts)

## LAST CALL

Starting in New York, he dragged his family to Atlanta, London, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Austria and Turkey, finally retiring in Atlanta. From there, they returned home to Mystic, CT.

In addition to his wife, Gail, Ed is survived by his sons, Ed IV of Roswell, GA, and Mark of Racine, WI; his daughter, Mary of Stonington, CT; and four grandchildren.

A private celebration of Ed's life will be held at a later date.

Donations in his memory would be gratefully received by the Westerly Hospital Foundation ([www.westerlyhospital.org/donors](http://www.westerlyhospital.org/donors)) or the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, 875 N. Randolph St, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203; ([www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)).

*The Ettinger Family* ★



### FRANK ALEXANDER VISTED '61

Captain Frank A. Visted, USN (Ret.), died peacefully in his home in Springfield, VA, on 20 March 2024.

Frank was born in Smithtown, NY, in 1939, where he earned the distinction of being selected as an All-State and All-Long Island athlete in several sports. While at the Naval Academy, he was selected to the 1960/1961 All-American football team and played for Navy in the 1961 Orange Bowl.

Upon graduation from USNA, Frank remained at the Academy as a graduate assistant football coach. During this time, he played in the Coach's All-American Bowl and was the starting linebacker for the College All-Star team against the NFC Philadelphia Eagles in the 1961 College All-Star Game.

Frank's naval service included a tour of duty on *SELLERS* (DDG-11), followed by a tour at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT. Qualified as a submarine officer and awarded his Dolphins, Frank continued his service as ship's crew on attack and ballistic missile submarines and as tactical weapons officer on the staff of Commander Submarine Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Frank was then designated as an Engineering Duty Officer with tours at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and Naval Sea Systems Command. Designated as a Secretary of the Navy Material Professional, he served as a program manager for the development and deployment of multiple submarine combat systems, missile systems and sonar systems. He completed his naval career as a program manager for the submarine-launched Tomahawk cruise missile.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in engineering from Annapolis, Frank also earned a master's degree in business administration from The George Washington University and a master's degree in physics from the Naval Postgraduate School.

His service awards include the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Legion of Merit w/Gold Star.

Upon his retirement from the Navy, Frank embarked on a second career as an executive with a major industrial company providing management, engineering and logistic support to Department of Defense activities. After his second career retirement, Captain Visted was called back to industry for a third career as a Leadership and Ethics training leader.

Predeceased by his beloved wife, Eleanor, Frank is survived by their children, Karen Priftis, Stefanie Visted, Colonel William Visted, USMC (Ret.), Michael Visted '96 and David Visted; his sister, Josephine Terrel; special friend, Madeleine Powers; seven grandchildren (including Nicholas Priftis '17); and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. ★



### JOSEPH MICHAEL FAVOR '63

Colonel Joseph M. Favor, USMCR (Ret.), passed away on 4 February 2024 in Cincinnati, OH. He was 84 years old.

Born in Montgomery, AL, "Mick" was the son of Joe and Margaret Favor. He attended Lanier High School, where he was a member of the ROTC drill team, Officers' Club and Civil Air Patrol cadets. He attended the University of Alabama for a year before entering the

United States Naval Academy, where he excelled in foreign languages, specializing in German and French. Mick was a member of the crew team, putting his boat through its paces as the coxswain each spring and played football for the Company 150# football team every winter.

After graduating from USNA with the Class of 1963, he spent six months at Quantico, VA, before attending the Naval Justice School in Camp Pendleton, CA. Mick served as a Marine Corps officer in the Vietnam War and was recognized with a National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Expert Rifle Badge and Sharpshooters Pistol Badge.

After active duty, he joined the Reserves and earned his law degree from the University of San Diego.

After his retirement in 2016, Mick pursued his passions of traveling abroad, visiting National Parks, art museums and historical monuments. Mick was an avid reader, a connoisseur of single malt scotches and military history. He loved the Tour de France, was a loyal fan of University of Alabama football and the San Francisco 49ers. Mick traveled the world, experiencing life to the fullest. He was admired and loved by everyone who knew him.

Predeceased by his parents and his brother, David Favor (Marion), Mick is survived by his children, Bernadette Martin, Robert Favor and Bridgette Mecklenburg (Erik); grandchildren, Kelsey Martin, Dakota Flemmer, Ashley Martin, Hunter Martin and Ethan Martin; and four sisters, Joy Favor Hein (Dave), Linda Favor Liggett (Roy), Debbie Favor Barranco (Bill) and JoAnn Favor Dodson (Al).

Services were held on 12 February 2024 at Leak Memorial Chapel in Montgomery, AL. ★



### EMIL MARK SCHWING '63

Commander "Mark" Schwing, USN (Ret.), passed away on 25 January 2024 in Mission Viejo, CA, of Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Johnstown, PA, in 1940, Mark was the youngest child of Emil Carl and Mary Jane Schwing. Upon his Naval Academy graduation, Mark followed the typical nuclear submarine training path with six months at Nuclear Power School at Mare Island, CA, six months at the

S3G reactor prototype at West Milton, NY, and then six months at Submarine School, New London, CT.

Mark reported to the precommissioning crew of *JAMES K. POLK* (SSBN-645) at Electric Boat Co., in Groton, CT. After a three-year tour in electrical officer, communications officer and sonar officer billets, Mark headed to the FBM Submarine Training Center in Charleston, SC, as operations department head.

After 18 months in Charleston, Mark was ordered to *POLK* via the Navigation Officer Training School in Dam Neck, VA. A three-year tour aboard *POLK* as the ship's navigation officer included a yard period at Newport News, where *POLK* was converted from *Polaris* to *Poseidon*

missiles. After only one Poseidon patrol, Mark was ordered to SSPO as Assistant for Navigation Operations. Mark spent four years in that billet before heading to Anaheim, CA, as OIC SSPO Detachment A at Rockwell, where the SSBN inertial navigation systems were manufactured.

The last six months were spent advising Magnavox on an integrated navigation system for the new class of mine countermeasure ships.

Mark retired from the Navy in January 1984. He then became the program manager at Eagle Computer, followed by consulting at Magnavox, then on to Interstate Electronics as a senior program manager running a number of key programs, including a new GPS receiver for SSBNs and a NASA receiving system for their tracking and data relay satellites until his retirement from Interstate in 1994.

In 1988, Mark was elected to the Yorba Linda (CA) City Council and served on and off until 2016, including four terms as mayor. Mark was mayor in 2008 when the disastrous Freeway Complex fires of November 2008 destroyed 115 Yorba Linda homes.

From 1969 through 2017, Mark owned a part-time company called Electronic Model Systems, which manufactured and supplied various electronic products to the radio control hobby market.

Mark is survived by his wife, Eileen; three shared children; and four grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Naval Academy Columbarium.

*The Schwing Family* ★



**RICHARD HARRIS PHELAN '64**

Captain Richard H. Phelan, USN (Ret.), 81, of Auburn, AL, died on 14 February 2024.

Born on 20 September 1942 in Davenport, IA, to Martin and MaryKay Phelan, "Dick" graduated from Davenport High School.

Awarded an appointment to the Naval Academy, he graduated in 1964 and went on to pursue naval flight training in Pensacola, FL, and Corpus Christi, TX.

Following his marriage to Edna Moore, he moved to Norfolk, VA, and deployed to the Mediterranean. He transitioned to flying P-3s and had further deployments to Iceland and Lajes AFB in the Atlantic in 1968.

He pursued a master's program in operations analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and upon graduation in 1971, was stationed in Coronado, CA, where he attended Vietnamese language school and survival training in preparation for deployment to Vietnam.

Dick served in Vietnam from January 1972-January 1973, living in hamlets while flying into different areas throughout the country.

He was CO of VP-45 (1982-1983) and served as chief of staff for Patrol Wing 11 (1983-1984). He continued his education at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, obtaining two additional master's degrees.

Following a three-year posting at the Pentagon serving on the Secretary of Defense's staff, he received orders to move to Auburn, AL, in 1988 to become a professor of naval science and CO of the Naval ROTC program at Auburn University. He retired from the Navy in 1991.

His awards include the Bronze Star (for his Vietnam service), the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal w/Gold Star.

Dick started a second career in financial planning with Auburn's Wilson Investment Group, retiring in 2021. He was chairman of the Auburn Veterans Committee; past president of the Rotary Club; past president of The Retired Officers Association; and past chairman of the Naval Academy Blue and Gold. For 15 years, he was on the board of directors for the State of Alabama Special Olympics and was selected as Lee County's 2013 Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America. In 2023, Dick was named Distinguished Veteran of the Year.

One of his most lasting impacts in community service were the roles that he served as a member of the Auburn City Council for 16 years, eight of which he served as mayor pro tem.

Predeceased by Edna, he is survived by their children, Kelly, Lindsay, Scott and Todd; ten grandchildren; and his brother, Jerry. ★



**HUGH REEVES ADAIR '65**

Captain H.R. Adair, USN (Ret.), died at his home in Anderson, SC, on 1 February 2024.

"Reeves" was born on 14 October 1943, in Panama City, FL, to Sidney and Frances (Morris) Adair. He excelled in mathematics and science, graduating from high school first in his class. At the Naval Academy, he was in the Ninth Company during First Class Year. Reeves lettered on the fencing team and maintained continuous eligibility for the Superintendent's List.

After graduation, Reeves entered the submarine service the same year he married Joyce Dee Scherberger. After a full Navy career, his last sea tour was command of BOSTON (SSN-703), prior to retiring in 1993.

Reeves's retirement was in name only; he spent more than two decades putting his electrical engineering degree to good use, running power plants in Northern New York before truly retiring. Reeves and Joyce Dee made their final move to South Carolina so they could spend those years close to their grandchildren.

He had a passion and inherent talent for music that he shared with all of his communities throughout his life, including his childhood traveling choir, his service in church, local music groups and the community theater. He shared his guitar-playing and his voice with everyone, but he reserved his piano-playing for his home and family.

Reeves was predeceased by his parents, Sidney and Frances; his in-laws, Richard and Virginia Scherberger; and his brothers-in-law, Richard Scherberger and Larry Respass.

He leaves behind his wife, Joyce Dee; their five daughters (and their husbands), Christine Milling (Boyd), Kimberly Veilleux (Cory), Kathryn Sabaka (Jason), Sarah Christiansen (Samuel) and Lindsey Fossum (Garrin); as well as 13 grandchildren, Luke, Bailey, Devin, Kris, Savannah, Rebecca, Kenzie, Connor, Emily, Ethan, Lincoln, Wyatt and Maisie; his great-grandson, CJ; sister, Gwen Respass; nephews, Don (Althea) and Bill (Jane); and his great-nieces, Jasmine, Camille, Sydney and Sheridan.

A Celebration of Life for Reeves was held on 4 February 2024 in Anderson, SC. He will be laid to final rest at the Naval Academy at a later date. ★

## LAST CALL



### DONALD CARL HOUGHTON '65

Donald C. Houghton, 80, of Lancaster, PA, passed away peacefully on 12 March 2024.

"Don" was born in Clarksburg, WV, the son of the late Carl and Meredith (Davis) Houghton. The family moved to Pittsburgh, where he graduated from North Allegheny High School. Nicknamed "Hoots," it was there that Don continued to pursue Kay Smith, who he had had his eye on since third grade. She later

became Kay "Hoots" on 23 December 1965.

During First Class Year at the Naval Academy, Don was a member of the Fifth Company. After graduation, he served in surface warfare until 1970, including Vietnam service on BROWNSON (DD-868) and as executive officer aboard NIMBLE (MSO-469). As he traveled the world, Don awoke to "reveille, reveille, all hands heave out and trice up..." Later in life, he continued this tradition as the wake-up call for his daughters, much to their dismay.

Don's civilian career included engineering, consulting, production/plant management, sales and marketing, primarily in the millwork fabrication and distribution industry. Don and Kay's final work move to Lancaster, PA, required a commute to Bethlehem, PA, which he embraced so he could raise his family in Lancaster, the community he loved.

Don served as president of the National Association of Millwork Distributors, and after retiring from Reeb Millwork Corporation as its president and COO in 2013, he remained on their board of directors for many years. Don also enjoyed volunteering at SCORE, Make a Wish, Power Packs Project and Highland Presbyterian Church.

Don loved spending time with his family, hosting camps for his grandchildren, coordinating family outings to Navy football games and attending many grandchildren's activities. He loved traveling with Kay and enjoyed golf and racquet sports at the Lancaster County Club, Monday morning breakfasts, Wednesday book club, winter weeks in California, fun in Dewey Beach, DE, and attending Steeler football games.

In addition to his wife, Kay, Don is survived by their children, Debra Kay Lechner (Darren) of Cary, NC, Kimberly Ann Levinson (Marc) of Falls Church, VA, and Kelly Beth Kurtz (David) of Lancaster, PA; six grandchildren, Katherine and Donald Esbenshade, Emily and Kyle Levinson, and Tyler and Kayla Kurtz; and his sister, Janet Loughran of Houston, TX.

A Celebration of Life was held on 21 March 2024 at Highland Presbyterian Church, with interment to occur later at Highland.

Contributions in Don's memory may be made to Highland Presbyterian Church, 500 East Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, ([www.highlandpc.org/give](http://www.highlandpc.org/give)). ★

### JAMES LONELLE MASHBURN '65

"Jim" Mashburn was a proud member of the Class of 1965. He was a memorable individual, with many friends among our class. He died peacefully with his children in New Jersey on 1 February 2024 after a lengthy illness.

"Mash" came to the Naval Academy from the U.S. Marine Corps, having graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City, CA, and attended Menlo College for two years. He excelled in sports at both schools. Mash arrived at Navy with a competitive spirit and cheerful nature and was a starting guard on the plebe football team, with friends Skip Orr, Roger Staubach and Don McPhail among his quarterbacks.

He left the Academy and joined the enlisted Navy in multiple administrative assignments in Europe and North America.

His civilian career included many years with the Veterans Administration in Newark, Chicago, Manhattan, Puerto Rico and San Francisco.

In recent years, he resumed contact with his Academy friends, attending the Greater Washington Chapter events.

He is survived by his dear companion, Rebecca Martin; his sister, Lynne Fletcher; his children, Sandra Andermanis (and her husband, Mark) and David Mashburn; and three grandchildren, Nicole, Casey and Logan Andermanis.

*Don McPhail '65* ★



### KENNETH KINARD MILES '65

Lieutenant Commander Kenneth K. Miles, USN (Ret.), passed away on 24 January 2024, in Albuquerque, NM. He was 80 years old.

"Ken" was born on 4 March 1943 in West Point, NY, and led a life marked by dedication to his country, love for his family and a passion for his hobbies.

Ken's exemplary service to his country was demonstrated by his graduation from the Naval

Academy and his subsequent service in the Navy. At Annapolis during his First-Class year, Ken was in the 13th Company. As a naval aviator, he carried out missions in Vietnam. His post-military career as a safety engineer at Sandia National Labs was characterized by the same level of commitment until his retirement in 2005. Known for his expertise in pressure and vacuum safety as well as explosives, he was highly respected by his colleagues at the Labs, the U.S. Department of Energy and the entire Safety Engineering Department.

A figure of strength and guidance, Ken cherished his role as a father to his daughters (and sons-in-law), Stephanie Hix (Jeff) and Jennifer Likar (Jarrod). He reveled in the growth and achievements of his cherished grandchildren, Jackson, Brayden, Makena and Madisyn. His unwavering support extended to every aspect of their lives, earning him the affectionate title of "Grandude." He will forever be an honorary New Mexico Bear, as he spent countless days in his favorite chair cheering on his beloved Bears. Family and friends will treasure the memory of hearing Grandude yell, "Bears in the Forest!" as one of his grandsons went up to bat.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Ken had a passion for collecting trains. Over the years, he amassed a vast collection of trains, enjoyed traveling to conventions and entering train modeling competitions.

He leaves behind a loving extended family that includes his brother, Ed Miles; sister, Karen Wells; and many nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Elizabeth Miles; his former wife and dear friend, Mary Teresa Miles; sister, Monte Beth Rasmussen; and brother, Ricky Miles.

A Celebration of Life for Ken was held on 12 February 2024 in Albuquerque, NM, followed by interment with full military honors at Santa Fe National Cemetery. ★

## MEMORIAL AFFAIRS RESOURCES

[usna.com/memorial-affairs](http://usna.com/memorial-affairs)



**JOHN ASHER THOMPSON '65**

John A. Thompson died on 19 February 2024. He was 81.

John was born on 6 December 1942 in New Orleans, where his naval officer father was preparing to embark for the Pacific. After his father's deployment, John and his mother returned to their hometown of Lubbock, TX. Graduating from Lubbock High in 1961, John received a congressional appointment to the

Naval Academy, and during First Class Year, he was in the 17th Company.

After graduation, John became a naval aviator. During the Vietnam conflict, he served aboard TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) and ORISKANY (CVA-34), completing 220 combat missions and 280 carrier landings in the A-4 Skyhawk.

In June 1967, John married Nina Stinson Still. In 1970, he left active duty, but continued to fly with the Naval Reserve for two more years. The family then moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, when he joined Delta Air Lines.

In Florida, the family became active members of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and John became an elder. They moved to Dallas, TX, in 1978 and became members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church. In 1992, they helped found Park Cities Presbyterian Church, where John taught theology classes, youth Sunday School and home Bible studies. John was also a friend and student of Doctor RC Sproul and served on the board of Ligonier Ministries for 20 years.

John and Nina moved to Austin, TX, in 1999 to be near their children and grandchildren, and after 32 years of flying, he retired from Delta as a Boeing 777 captain.

In 2009, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but John and Nina continued to travel and spend time with their family. In 2018, they moved back to Dallas to be near medical providers, his Naval Academy Alumni group and many life-long friends.

John is survived by his wife, Nina; son, John Asher Thompson Jr. (Sheridan); daughter, Amanda Thompson Wier (Keith); and six grandsons, John Campbell Wyse, Henry Read Wyse, Wynn Hasson Wyse, John Asher Thompson III, Boone Gilkerson Thompson and Charles Hollingsworth Thompson.

A memorial service was held on 27 February, followed by a graveside service with full military honors at Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be sent to Ligonier Ministries, P.O. Box 947595, Atlanta, GA 30394 or to Parkinson's Voice Project, 646 N Coit Road #2250, Richardson, TX 75080.

Nina gladly offers caregiver advice for Parkinson's disease to alumni and their families. She can be contacted at (512) 233-9023 or (nthompson6@icloud.com). ★

corporate ladder to positions of greater responsibilities and achieved executive status. In 1993, Bob and his wife, Joyce, were transferred to Westinghouse Power Generation in Orlando, FL. He received early retirement in 1995. Bob then used his entrepreneurial skills to start his own business, Neomark, in 1997. He retired a second time as president and CEO of Neomark in 2017.

Bob strongly believed that learning is a lifelong journey. He extensively studied the areas of history, religion and the English language. His interests included reading, crossword puzzles, word games, biking, cooking and fine wines. Bob had a passion for helping others and he touched many lives, especially young people interested in professional positions or starting businesses.

Everyone who knew Bob was keenly aware of his passion for sports cars and motorcycles. He made many friends over his years of racing, restoring and collecting cars, motorcycles and bicycles (his toys). He found tremendous joy and happiness working in his multiple garages.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Joyce Bagwell; sons, William "Bill" (and his significant other, Julie) and Werner "Wright" (and his significant other, Ami); grandson, Oliver; brother, Dr. Charles Bagwell (and his wife, Louise); sister, Harriet Coffin; stepbrother, Luther "Bill" Dixon (and his wife, Debbie); two sisters-in-law, Joan Triglia and Donna Nemeth; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Catholic Funeral Mass was held on 19 March 2024. ★



**DAVID CHARLES BEARD '68**

Major David C. Beard, USMC (Ret.), passed away on 20 January 2024 in Pensacola, FL, of Parkinson's disease. He was 77 years old.

David was the son of Emily and Robert Beard and grew up in Mansfield, OH. He was an Eagle Scout, president of his class and a standout tennis player.

As a member of the Class of 1968 at the Naval Academy, David excelled in academics,

was the 28th Company commander, lettered in tennis and was captain of the squash team.

Upon graduation in 1968, he was commissioned as a Marine second lieutenant, and after The Basic School, went through flight training and earned his Navy Wings. In the fleet, he first flew the F-4J Phantom fighter with Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 212 in Hawaii and made a Vietnam combat deployment in 1972. Dave next was ordered to transition into the Marines' then-new AV-8A Harrier vertical takeoff and landing jet.

After his tour in Harriers, Dave was accepted into the Navy Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, MD. Upon graduation, he was assigned to fly the initial Harrier ship "ski jump" takeoff tests.

A year later, he was selected to instruct at the Test Pilot School. While at the school during a student spin demonstration flight, he was forced to eject from a disabled aircraft at high speed. He suffered extremely serious injuries in the ejection from the wind blast and parachute opening. A near miraculous sequence of recovery events, followed by Navy doctors' heroic efforts, enabled him to live. Bedridden for the next ten months in Portsmouth Naval Hospital, he was discharged with a medical retirement.

After an additional convalescence, David was hired as part of the Northrop Grumman Corporation team competing for the next generation Navy flight training aircraft. Once source selection was complete, he was next assigned as a personal assistant to a senior VP in management of the B-2 Stealth Bomber program. He subsequently was



**ROBERT WERNER BAGWELL '67**

"Bob" Bagwell of Daytona Beach Shores, FL, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and dearest friends at his home on 16 January 2024. He was 78 years old.

Bob was born on 16 December 1945, in Halifax, VA. His excellence as a high school student earned him admission to the Naval Academy in the Class of 1963. He left after the first year and earned his BS in Electrical

Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Upon graduation, Bob accepted a position with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA. Bob steadily rose up the



## LAST CALL

asked to develop and manage an ethics program for the company's entire airplane development sector.

In 2006, after 25 years with NG, he retired and established his own ethics consulting company, "Magnolia Associates."

David is survived by his older brother, Rear Admiral Tim Beard '66, USN (Ret.); daughters, Katherine and Margaret; son, Lieutenant Colonel Ben Beard, USMC (Ret.), a former Harrier pilot; and nine grandchildren.

Interment was at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL, on 30 January 2024.

Semper Fi, David. ★



### **BARRY VAILE BURROW '68**

Captain Barry V. Burrow, USN (Ret.), a distinguished 28-year surface warfare officer and respected nuclear engineering leader, passed away peacefully on 25 February 2024.

Born in Seattle (1946), Barry was raised in a Navy family, fostering a lifelong love of the sea and service. His father, James B. Burrow '33, brother, James B. Burrow '62, and two uncles preceded him at the Naval Academy.

Immediately after graduation, Barry attended the Naval Postgraduate School, earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Following nuclear propulsion training, Barry embarked on a "super" naval career with tours on GRAY (DE-1054), ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), VIRGINIA (CGN-38) and HALSEY (CG-23). He commanded TOWERS (DDG-9) and CALIFORNIA (CGN-36), retiring as Commodore, Destroyer Squadron 9. His dedication earned him the Legion of Merit (3), Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medal (3).

Barry's crews remember his leadership with a deep fondness: a blend of empathy, fun-loving spirit and a personal touch, alongside high expectations achieved through training and team building. Shipmates recall his positive impact on morale and productivity. Barry was legendary for listening and laughing one-on-one with his sailors, impromptu volleyball overboard drills, notorious antics, democratically asking for a "show of hands" and motivating his crew with his signature enthusiastic "super!"

Barry parlayed his Navy expertise for a successful career at the Department of Energy's Hanford site (WA), managing up to 13 facilities. He led teams in hazardous waste repackaging, processing, treatment and storage. Safety remained paramount, but protocols weren't boring on Barry's watch. He brought the same spirit of camaraderie he fostered at sea, tackling complex projects with infectious enthusiasm.

Barry's greatest love was his cherished wife, Mary Ann. They were pinned, engaged and married at the Naval Academy Chapel and built a beautiful life together. Barry is survived by Mary Ann; their three sons, Brian (USN, Ret.) (Brittany), Sean (USNR, Ret.) (Julie) and Michael; grandchildren, Madison, Caroline, Reagan, Olivia, Jackson and Parker; and his brother, James.

Though eternally devoted to his family and crew, Barry's favorite companions walked on four legs and wagged their tails in lieu of salutes and hugs. May Nikkie, Kali, Brandy, Sam and Scooby be joyfully awaiting belly rubs at Barry's next port call.

Barry leaves behind a legacy of exceptional leadership, infectious enthusiasm, and a deep love for his family, country and crew. Fair winds and following seas, Captain.

*The Burrow Family* ★



### **JOHN FREDERICK MAYER JR. '68**

John F. Mayer Jr. of Yale, VA, passed away on 18 February 2024 after successfully battling cancer, but unexpectedly succumbing to COVID-19. He was 78 years old.

John was born on 31 May 1945, to John and Mary (née Kersey) Mayer in Richmond, VA. After graduating from high school, he went on to study chemistry at the University of Richmond. A year later, John was accepted into the United

States Naval Academy, where he graduated with a degree in general engineering and a minor in chemistry.

After graduating from USNA, John served nine more years in the U.S. Navy on several ships and served in the Vietnam War. He then taught a ROTC unit in Baton Rouge, LA, while completing his MS in environmental chemistry at Louisiana State University. John completed his final tour of duty on the last Mediterranean deployment of the aircraft carrier, ROOSEVELT, which docked and was decommissioned at the Little Creek base in Virginia Beach, VA, in 1977. After meeting and marrying his first wife there, they moved to Montgomery County, MD, and had three daughters.

In 1999, John married Diane Shanko, the love of his life. He and Diane later moved to her family farm in Yale, VA. In 2015, John retired from a career as an environmental consultant, where he helped the Navy reduce the impact of noise from military vessels on whales and other marine mammals.

Over the years, his favorite hobbies were skydiving (1,100+ jumps), sailing and skiing. He could fix just about anything and loved working on the farm. He also loved being a grandpa and having his grandkids join him on the John Deere tractor.

John is survived by his wife, Diane Mayer; his three daughters, Samantha Mayer of New York City, and Renée Thomson and Dana Mayer (Tripp Walker) of McLean, VA; their mother and his former wife, Randy Jones Toll; his grandchildren, Ilea, Douglas and MacKenzie Thomson and Willie and Owen Walker; stepchildren, Laura Faehner Reed and Bryan Faehner (Susan Hamsher); step-grandchildren, Heather and Heath Reed, and Parker and Max Faehner; his sister, Frances Arehart (John); and his nephews, Mark and Steve Arehart.

Services were held at the Yale Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 23 February 2024.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Puppies Behind Bars ([www.puppiesbehindbars.com](http://www.puppiesbehindbars.com)), which provides service dogs for veterans, first responders and police. ★



### **STUART JAMES MILLER '70**

Stuart J. Miller of Falmouth, ME, passed away on 28 February 2023 after a decade-long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 75 years old.

"Stu" was born in Willard, OH, on 10 February 1948 to Leila M. and Robert E. Miller. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1970.

During his military service, he served as a search and rescue pilot in Vietnam and continued to serve in the Naval Reserves for 20 years.

He put his master's degree from the Kellogg School of Management to good use in his civilian career. He held high level positions with many

companies, including Hammermill Paper in Erie, PA; Procter & Gamble and Gates Formed Fiber in Auburn, ME; and Vic Firth in Newport, ME.

Stu would meet and marry the love of his life, Cheryl Baldwin Roth, in 1986 in Erie, PA, and the two would go on to share an amazing 37 years together. Stu and Cheryl have homes in Falmouth, ME, and Ormond Beach, FL, where Stu spent his final days, surrounded by the love of his family.

His greatest passion was rowing, sparked by his experience at the Naval Academy. He rowed in Lincoln Park in Chicago, helped found the Misery Bay Rowing Club in Erie, PA, rowed the Androscoggin River, rowed in sweep boats with the Yarmouth Rowing Club, and spent his last 27 years rowing on Highland Lake in Falmouth. He enjoyed rowing on the Halifax River in Ormond Beach and managed to inspire his sister, Samara, and nephew, Bret, to follow him in the sport. Sami is now a rowing coach, and Bret rowed at Cornell. While in Falmouth, Stu started SMORC/SMIRC (Stu Miller's Outdoor Rowing Club/Stu Miller's Indoor Rowing Club). He was ranked third in the world on his ergometer time. He was honored to row at The Henley in England with Naval Academy alumni. He was very engaged with the Maine Rowing Association and rowed in all the races every year. He was president of his neighborhood HOA for ten years, beloved by all. Stu was a big guy, with a big laugh and an equally big heart.

Stu is survived by his soulmate, Cheryl; daughters, Lyssa Mercier and Britt Miller; sisters, Sandy Prescott and Sami Bay; Cheryl's children, Samantha Balbier, Paul Roth and David Roth; and his grandchildren, Alden Roth, Nathan Balbier, Conor Roth, Zara Mercier, Maddie Roth, Anna Balbier, Bohden Roth and Cyrus Roth. ★



**DAVID ANTHONY HAMEL '75**

Commander David A. Hamel, USN (Ret.) of Saint Augustine, FL, departed this world on 21 February 2024 at 72 years of age.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany, he was the son of Paulette and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hamel, USAF (Ret.) He attended NAPS and reported to the Naval Academy in 1971. As a member of the 5th, 15th, 20th and 34th companies, David spent his free time playing

intramural sports. The highlight of his time at USNA, however, was starring in a production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" during his Firstie Year. He graduated with the Class of 1975.

David reported to Pensacola in 1971 for flight training. He found he liked the water better than the air however and became a Surface Warfare Officer. David's first warship was COOK (FFG-1083), in San Diego. For his next tour, he was a basic engineering instructor at the Surface Warfare Officer School in Coronado, CA. He then became chief engineer for the pre-commissioning and initial deployment of RENTZ (FFG-46) in 1983. In 1986, he participated in a historic visit to Qingdao, China, the first U.S. Navy visit to China since 1949. Dave spent 1987-1988 at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, completing a master's degree in national security affairs. In 1988, David was XO and chief engineer of CURTS (FFG-38). His crew participated in Operation Earnest Will, where they protected Kuwaiti tankers during the Iran-Iraq War. Under his leadership, CURTS earned the Arleigh Burke Award as the most improved ship in the Pacific Fleet. After a tour with the Joint Staff from 1990-1993, he completed the State Department's School of Language Studies. He moved on to be the Navy chief for the Office of Military Attaché in Jakarta. He retired in 1995.

Following retirement, Dave moved to Florida and would live and work on his next love, his 40 ft. schooner, WINDRAGON. He worked for FDOT as bridgetender district manager until 2012. He was proud to attend the commissioning of his nephew, Matt Hobert '03. He would spend time with Matt during his time in P-3C training in Jacksonville over several tours. Dave had many hobbies, including golfing, travelling, hanging out at the beach, cooking, playing guitar and reading.

Predeceased by his parents, he is survived by his sisters, Paulette and Terry; brother, Richard; nieces, Tracey and Jessica, and nephews Drew, Colin and Matt. ★



**DANIEL KEOLAMAULOA KALILI '76**

Commander Daniel K. Kalili, USN (Ret.), passed from this life on 20 November 2023.

Daniel was born on 22 August 1954, to John and Peggy Kalili. His early childhood followed his father's ministry and theological training, and he grew up in Hale'iwa and Kalihi, HI, and Princeton, NJ. Daniel was a proud (1972) graduate of Kamehameha School and a lifelong son of the 50th state.

At Annapolis, Dan was a friend to all. Of particular note were his unique "care" packages from Hawaii, including dried seaweed, poi, dried fish and a few other things, of which he was willing to share, but most declined! When not studying, Dan was eager to be adept at beating his roommate at squash. His one notable failure was his attempt to become the "Anchor Man" for the class. He was so close, but too good to win.

Daniel's naval service spanned 27 years and included tours on several ships, and over eight years of duty in the Middle East, including an assignment to the U.S. military training mission to Saudi Arabia, where he served as an advisor to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

Daniel met RoseLee Lopes at Camp Smith, HI, where they celebrated the USNA graduation of her brother, Alex Lopes '77. They were married in 1980. The Navy sent them to Newport, San Diego, Portland, Riyadh, and they traveled extensively across the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe.

Dan retired from naval service in 2003 and embarked on a second career working for the Hawai'i State Legislature. Daniel worked for several members of the House of Representatives and was best known for his efficiency and organizational skills.

In retirement, Daniel served as president and a deacon of the 'Auwaiolimu Congregational Church, ran the kitchen for Walk to Emmaus Hawai'i and supported church and mission work across Hawai'i and the world. He also was a member of the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club and the Elizabeth Kahanu Hawaiian Civic Club.

Daniel is survived by his wife, RoseLee; daughter, DreanaLee; mother, Peggy; sisters, Joy and Ruth; father-in-law, Alexander Lopes Sr.; brother-in-law, Alex Lopes; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, shipmates, fellow Warriors, Capitol colleagues and friends. He will be missed by many; especially his USNA 30th Companymates.

His family, friends and loved ones celebrated his life on 25 January 2024 at Mililani Memorial Park Mauka Chapel. Daniel was interred at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery. ★



## HAROLD HICKS CASEY '77

"Hal" Casey passed away on 17 December 2023 in Chesapeake, VA. He was 68 years old.

Born in Jacksonville, FL, he was the son of Commander Edward Joseph Casey Jr., USN (Ret.), and Elizabeth Hicks Casey. Named after his grandfather, Edward Harold Hicks (USNA 1911), Hal was known amongst his classmates and roomies in Bancroft Hall as a man with a ready wit and keen intellect.

He could engage you with a serious philosophical discussion at one moment and put you on the deck in fits of laughter with his awful Irish-accented jokes or puns the very next.

Although his service in the Navy was cut short, Hal served his country well working in the defense industry helping to develop such programs as JOTS (Jerry O. Tuttle System), Brilliant Pebbles (1986 version), STARWARS, TEXAS (Tomahawk Exercise Analysis System) and TOPAS. He assisted the Navy with NATO exercises, and coordinated the Navy's Y2K audit so that the system would not crash when 1 January 2000 arrived. He ended his career in the Federal Civil Service and served with the U.S. Navy's Ordinance Logistics Division for many years. He is remembered for his time in OIS during his DoD career and his contributions to innovative projects like the NADACS program or the OUSD 5G Smart Warehouse project - tagging with RFIDs so that no more forklifts will go missing!

Hal was very active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he was a renowned "Cootie," serving as DJ for many of their functions and fining fellow Cooties (monies all went to a good cause) for infractions with the wit he was so well known for.

While in DoD he worked with all the branches of the military, but it was always, *Go Navy, Beat Army!*

Predeceased by his parents, Hal is survived by his wife, Chris; their children (and spouses), Nick (Paige), Patricia (Sam), Bridget and Christianna; four grandchildren, Nathan, Samuel, James and Richard; his sister, Margaret (wife of Captain Duane '77); and brothers, Ed '75 and Bill '76. He was predeceased by his sister, Caroline.

Services were held at Quantico National Cemetery on 2 January 2024, followed by interment there. May he rest in peace. ★



## DANIEL JAMES JERABEK '77

Commander Daniel J. Jerabek, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 26 January 2024, after a courageous two-year journey with a glioblastoma brain tumor. His wife, Barbara, their children, Nicholas and Kathryn, and longtime friend and classmate, Skip McKenzie '77, were by his side.

Daniel was born on 27 March 1955 in Camp Lejeune, NC. With a career Marine father, moves were frequent for Dan growing up. He

graduated from high school in Muncie, IN, in 1973, entering the Naval Academy that summer. At Annapolis, Dan was the consummate overachiever, earning Superintendent's List stars throughout his four years, graduating With Distinction in 1977. He truly enjoyed his time in the Ninth Company and his easygoing personality fostered lifelong bonds with his Classmates.

Upon graduation, Dan reported directly for flight training. Earning his Wings of Gold, he reported to VP-19 at Moffett Field, CA, earning Pilot-in-Command and Mission Commander qualifications in the P3C

Orion. His final tour was as an instructor pilot at VP-30, also at Moffett. While in California, Dan met his future bride, Barbara Kay Felt, and they were married in 1985.

Dan transitioned to the Navy Reserves in 1985 and enrolled in the prestigious MBA program with the University of Chicago, earning his degree in 1987. Dan then moved back to the SF Bay Area, accepting a management position with GATX Corporation in the aircraft leasing division. In 1999, Dan moved to Pacer Cartage, Inc. for 11 years. Feeling the call to give back to the community, Dan moved to a senior position in the Aspire Charter school system, managing all budgeting and financial reporting within the Northern California region.

Life in the Bay Area for Dan and Barbara was never dull. Outdoor activities dominated their free time. Dan coached two generations of soccer teams for Nicholas and Kathryn. Starting to cycle later in life, it became his passion, one that he shared with Nicholas. Cycling branched into triathlons, most notably completing the arduous Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. He and Barbara would often compete alongside each other in team events.

Ever the optimist, no matter what kind of day it was, Dan would answer the question: "How are you today?" with "Never been better!" He had a thirst for knowledge and an open mind to others' opinions. Challenges in life were just puzzles to solve. He loved and valued his family, and always led by example. ★



## BRUCE ALLAN ROSS '80

Commander Bruce A. Ross, USN (Ret.), of Burke, VA, passed away on 23 September 2023, following a swift battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was surrounded by his beloved wife, Meg, and their four children and their spouses/partners. He was 65 years old.

Bruce was born in Carmel, CA, on 14 February 1958 to Lieutenant Commander Terry Allan Ross '48, USN (Ret.), and Hallie

Ruth (Kibler) Ross. After several Navy moves, Bruce's family settled in Saratoga, CA. He was a graduate of Lynbrook High School, where he competed on their debate team. Bruce was also a proud member of the Sixth Company and the USNA debate team.

Upon graduation with a political science degree, Bruce reported to Flight School to become a P-3 pilot. Throughout his 21-year career, he was assigned to several VP squadrons, the Naval War College, NIMITZ (CVN-68), Commander Task Force-72, the Defense Language Institute, the National Institute for Defense Studies and the Mutual Defense Assistance Office in Tokyo, Japan. While on active duty, Bruce earned his Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He retired on 1 September 2001.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Bruce entered the University of Washington School of Law. Upon graduation, Bruce and his family moved to Burke, VA, so he could begin his work with the Department of Justice, Aviation, Space, and Admiralty Litigation Civil Division. Bruce loved working as an attorney for the United States and drawing upon his experiences as a naval aviator and his time at sea. He retired from federal service on 1 September 2022.

Bruce and his family are long time members of Burke Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder and usher.

Predeceased by his parents and his son, Andrew Allan Ross, Bruce is survived by his wife of 38 years, Margaret Louise "Meg" Jackman Ross; their four children, William Andrew Ross (fiancée, Antonia Tempesta), Michael Bret Ross (partner, Angela Leon), Michelle Elizabeth DeJonge

(Aaron) and Kaitlyn Hana LaJoice (Austin); brothers, Wallace (Julie) and Robert (Svetlana); sisters, Hallie Kirk (Joel) and Mairi Wohlgemuth (Daniel); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) or the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)).

A Celebration of Life was held at Burke Presbyterian Church on 16 October 2023 and inurnment took place at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 26 April 2024. ★



**DANIEL MICHAEL McELROY '81**

Commander Daniel M. McElroy, USNR (Ret.), died following a short battle with brain cancer in Dallas, TX, on 27 February 2024.

Born in Ft. Sill, OK, "Dan" was the second son of SFC William and Margaret McElroy. As a member of the USNA Class of 1981 (21st Company), Daniel earned his Navy Parachutist Wings, and also completed the Navy Basic Underwater Demolition/Seal (BUDS) course.

He participated in Brigade boxing and was a wide receiver on the Navy "150s" lightweight football team.

Upon graduation from Annapolis in May 1981, Daniel selected naval flight officer training in Pensacola, FL. He earned his NFO Wings in July 1983. He reported for duty with the Aces of VF-171, flying the F-4S Phantom II fighter jet at the Fleet Replacement Squadron and then was assigned to the Chargers of VF-161 at NAS Atsugi, Japan, and completed WestPac cruises aboard MIDWAY (CV-41). He then reported for duty in candidate guidance at USNA. In July 1989, Daniel returned to flying, reporting to duty with the Fighting Aardvarks of VF-114, based at NAS Miramar, and embarked aboard LINCOLN (CVN-72) for a WestPac cruise and combat tour in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm through September 1991. Daniel volunteered for an immediate-fill mission commander RIO vacancy and joined the Bounty Hunters of VF-2 at sea embarked on RANGER (CV-61) for the remaining five months of their WestPac/Indian Ocean cruise. In September 1992, Daniel rejoined VF-114 based at NAS Miramar and embarked aboard LINCOLN (CVN-72) for his fifth WestPac sea tour, and operations in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Daniel returned to shore duty in February 1993, and was assigned as officer in charge of Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) in San Diego CA, before transitioning to the Naval Reserve.

He then continued his passion for aviation as a first officer for Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA) and AirTran Airways. During his time at Southwest Airlines, he was promoted to captain, where he embodied the spirit of LUV.

Dan is survived by his daughter, Opal McElroy; his parents, William Lavonne McElroy and Margaret Jo Weaver McElroy; and his siblings, Erwin McElroy, Wonda Jacobs and Terry McElroy '86 (Mary '87).

Daniel will be inurned in the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date.

Steve Metz '81 ★



**MICHAEL JOHN KEATING '83**

Commander Michael J. Keating, USN (Ret.) of La Jolla, CA, departed this world on 26 January 2024 at 63 years of age. He passed while hiking in Zion National Park with his wife, Stacey, by his side.

Born on 10 May 1960, "Keats" grew up in several cities as the family followed their father, John D. "Jack" Keating '54 across the nation.

Accepted to the Naval Academy and assigned

to the 29th Company (then subsequently to the Ninth Company), he played 150-lb. football.

Upon graduation, he entered flight school and earned his NFO Wings. His first operational orders brought him to NAS Barbers Point, HI, with VP-4. He returned to Annapolis for duty as an instructor of naval leadership. Subsequent assignments included VPU-2, VP-9, Naval Air Systems Command and ENTERPRISE. His final tour was with ComOpTevFor in Norfolk, VA.

Keats entered the private sector joining Capstone Corporation. In recent years, he advised companies seeking investment in R&D and science and technology opportunities and was most recently employed by Booz Allen Hamilton.

In 2019, he received a diagnosis of multiple myeloma, an uncommon blood cancer. He faced this with grace, calm and a precise, non-negotiable plan and as a true warrior, eventually beat his cancer.

Above all, he held a trinity of priorities paramount in his life: Family and Friends, Nation and God. He held his wife, children, grandson, parents, brothers, sister and extended family in highest regard and limitless love. He cultivated and cherished a vast network of true friends. Throughout his life, he found joy in sharing his astute knowledge and love of music with family and friends. He deftly balanced these priorities between various annual events including Thanksgiving, Christmas, All Sports Day and an annual hike up Old Rag Mountain in Sperryville, VA. A devout Christian who diligently studied the Bible and led by example, his stories, his vernacular, his integrity and his essence will live on for generations to come.

Keats is survived by his wife of 38 years, Stacey; daughters, Kelsey, Susanna and Caroline; son, Liam; and a grandson, Julian. He also leaves behind his mother, Joan Keating; brothers, John Keating (Judith) and Geoffrey Keating (Katharine); and sister, Leslie Keating Nalewaik (David). He was predeceased by his father, Jack Keating '54, and his soul pug, Sammy.

Services took place on 9 May 2024 at the Naval Academy Chapel, followed by interment at the USNA Columbarium. ★



**DAVID EDWARD BRANDEEN '89**

On 14 August 2023, David Brandeen, loving and devoted father to three kids, beloved twin brother to Doug Brandeen '89, and so much more to so many, passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 58.

David was born to Phillip and Jeanne Brandeen from New Brighton, MN. From that day on, he and Doug shared lots of laughs, antics, pithy nicknames, acronyms and dad jokes.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Naval Academy and his M.B.A. in finance from the Pamplin School of Business at Virginia Tech.

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## LAST CALL

Commissioned as a Navy ensign upon graduating from USNA in 1989, David attended Flight School in Pensacola, FL, and Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. David served in the Navy for six years before being honorably discharged.

Most recently, David served along with his brother, Doug, as senior partner and portfolio manager of Investments at their investment firm, Quillion Wealth Management, at Wells Fargo Advisors in Baltimore, MD.

David was a loving and devoted father who proudly coached several of his children's and nephew's sports teams. On any given day you could find him happily toting his children to and from their schools, jobs and after school activities. David's greatest role was being a father; and he loved every single second of it making sure to impart the best of life's lessons such as, "Never take a wooden nickel" or "Carve your own path."

Though surely a wry and quick-witted man always at the ready with a joke or stirring the pot, overall, David was a kind and gentle soul. Once a friend of David's, always a friend! As a member of the world's largest alumni fraternity/sorority aka the U.S. Naval Academy, David built a long list of friends who he treasured and cherished each day. We are all devastated at this sudden great loss and are trying hard to make sense of it or find the reason why. However, we can rest assured knowing that heaven gained an angel and beautiful soul.

David is survived by his three beautiful children, Chase, Ava and Olivia; mother, Jeanne; older brothers, Steve, Craig and Jeff; twin brother, Doug; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service, followed by full military honors inurnment, was held at the Naval Academy Chapel and Columbarium respectively on 21 September 2023, followed by a Celebration of Life event at the USNA Fluegel Alumni Center.

We will miss you, David! ★



### DONALD JERRY LANE '92

Colonel Donald J. Lane, USAF (Ret.), passed away on 23 December 2023 after a courageous four-year battle with cancer. He was 54 years old.

"Don" was born in Charlotte, NC, on 11 February 1969, the middle child and first son to Donna and Gerald Lane. Don graduated from Harding High School in Charlotte in 1987, and after a year in the NROTC unit at North Carolina State University, he earned an

appointment to the Naval Academy in 1988, graduating with the 18th Company in 1992. At USNA, Don was known as a loyal shipmate and a friend to all, with a unique ability to offer wise counsel and perspective in a stressful environment. He considered both the Marine Corps and Navy Surface, but ultimately chose Navy Medicine, completing medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in 1996.

It was at USUHS that Don met his beloved wife, Darii (USAFA '92), an aspiring Air Force physician. Don and Darii were together for the next 31 years, marrying in 1995 and having three wonderful children together. While serving his country in the Navy was one of Don's greatest honors, being a husband and father was his priority, so he transferred to the U.S. Air Force so he and Darii could keep their family together.

Completing his pediatric residency in 1999, Don was from then on entrusted with the care of military children, a career he held very sacred to his heart. He was most of all a gifted clinician, but also held many leadership positions at duty stations all over the U.S. His aim was to leave the world a little better than he found it, doing so humbly and

never motivated by accolades. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2016 and continued caring for military children as a civilian pediatrician until 2022.

Having watched his son, Aidan, succumb to cancer in 2010, Don went into his own battle with a strong will, and despite his pain and suffering, never stopped believing that God is good all the time. God granted him patience and hope during his struggles. His father, Gerald, and son, Aidan, preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife, Darii; sons, Benrey and Seth; his mother, Donna; sisters, Lori and Sue; and brothers, Todd and Alex.

*The Lane Family* ★



### JOHN JAMES SKELLY '93

"J.J." Skelly passed away on 16 January 2024. He was a husband, father, son, brother and friend.

Born in Honolulu, HI, in 1971, J.J. spent seven sunny years there with his family while his father, Brian, managed the rock-n-roll radio station, KIKI Radio. The family moved to Eugene, OR, in 1977. There, he attended the world-renowned National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics and his prodigious talent as a gymnast took flight. He was a state, regional and national gymnastics champion, and was selected to the 1984 Junior National Olympic Team. After graduating from Churchill High School in Eugene (1989), he attended the Naval Academy. He was elected as team captain of Navy gymnastics in 1993. J.J. would amaze audiences as he performed technically extreme maneuvers on the high bar, in spite of being unconventionally tall for the sport. J.J. was not without a streak of nonconformity and mischief. At his USNA graduation ceremony, upon receiving his diploma, he performed an unsanctioned backflip onstage in front of various decorated admirals and Senator John McCain '58 — to the cheers of his classmates.

After Annapolis, John served as communications officer aboard ARKANSAS (CGN-41) until he was honorably discharged from the Navy.

John married his beloved Kate in 2003, and they made their home in Portland, OR. They raised their children while John became a serial entrepreneur, starting many businesses. John loved the energy and possibilities in starting new projects and was involved in the startup community in Portland.

For much of his life, John had relentless energy and vast interests. He did not suffer fools or those who crossed him, and he had an edge that only his closest friends understood. On his best days, he loved the earth and the sky — gardening, especially his prized bamboo and his bonsai trees, and the universe — finding great joy in any bird, kite, plane or rocket that flew. He also loved the Columbia River Gorge, windsurfing in his younger years, and exploring the forests and waterfalls with his family in later years. Those who knew him best knew he always hoped to soar and play in the wind shears above the Gorge, leaving the ground, and aviating like a falcon.

John, we know your spirit soars there now.

John is survived by his wife, Kate; their children, Lauren, Julian, Evening, Shannon "Hank" and Eleanora "Birdy"; his mother, Judith Moorehouse Skelly; and sister, Dianna Skelly. He was predeceased by his father, Brian M. Skelly. ★

# SHIPMATE

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# DON'T FORGET TO PACK FLAT BILL

**FLAT BILL** loves Beating Army. He also enjoys traveling with Naval Academy alumni.

So when you're preparing for the beach, international travel, or a mountain hike, take along **FLAT BILL**.

Once you've reached your destination, take a picture with **FLAT BILL** and send it to *Shipmate* Editor Jimmy DeButts at [jimmy.debutts@usna.com](mailto:jimmy.debutts@usna.com). We will share some of Bill's travels in future issues. Selected entrants will receive a prize.



