

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SHIPMATE

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 2024



# 1,000 WORDS

## FLAT BILL—VACATION MODE ACTIVATED!

Flat Bill had quite the summer. Naval Academy alumni shared photos with Flat Bill that included trips to Europe, Lake Michigan and even to a rival service academy. *Shipmate* thanks all those who packed Flat Bill and shared their photos. We hope to see photos of Flat Bill's travels this fall, send submissions to jimmy.debutts@usna.com.

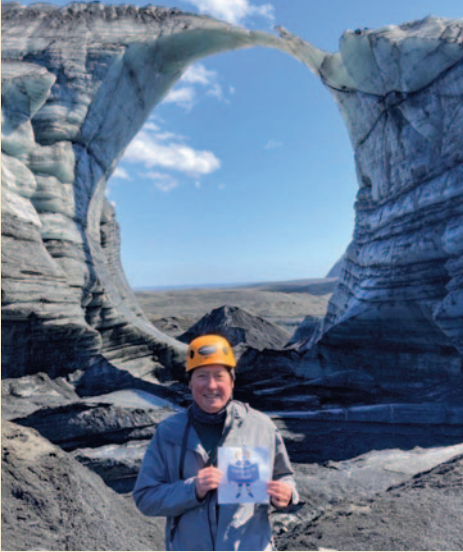


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT JAMES PHILLIPS '75, USN (RET.)

Flat Bill traveled to Iceland from 7-20 June with CAPT James Phillips '75, USN (Ret.), where he experienced 24 hours of daylight and visited the Katla Ice Cave and this ice arch.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT STEVE HARKINS '73, USNR (RET.)

CAPT Steve Harkins '73, USNR (Ret.), took Flat Bill on a three-week European jaunt with stops in Winterberg, Germany; Amsterdam, Netherlands (seen here with his wife, Kay, son, Brett, and daughter-in-law, Amber); Edinburgh, Oban and Glasgow, Scotland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA A&F

Flat Bill joined the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation's road show to local chapters with a stop in Milton, DE, on 22 July to meet members of the Delaware chapter and the Parent Club of Delaware.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH STEIN

The Stein family was on vacation in June when they visited the U.S. Air Force Academy as the cadets of the Class of 2028 arrived for their I-Day. Madison Stein holds Flat Bill as a nod to her USNA ties. Her uncle, CAPT Chip Zawislak '90, SC, USN (Ret.), and cousin MIDN Patrick Zawislak '25, have taken the oath at the Academy while her mother, Beth, was born at Hospital Point.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COL ANGELO CATALANO '93, USARNG (RET.)

COL Angelo Catalano '93, USARNG (Ret.), took Flat Bill to the pool this summer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN (BAILEY) JONES '00

Erin (Bailey) Jones '00 shared Flat Bill's visit to Autograph Rock on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in Cimarron County, OK. Jones gave a "Go Navy! Beat Army!" salutation to C. Davis, U.S. Army 2nd Artillery, who inscribed his name while traveling the trail in 1850.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA AASF



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB HARDY '72



Far left: The Naval Academy Class of 2028 enjoyed Navy Night on 2 August at the Bowie Baysox baseball game. It was the first time in whites for the Class of 2028 and the first baseball game for Flat Bill.

Left: Rob Hardy '72 took a photo with Flat Bill and his dog, Moxie, in Dayton, OH, in June.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY CLARK

Flat Bill heading back to the Naval Academy for Plebe Summer to support the Hotel Company 14 Cobras Class of 2028.

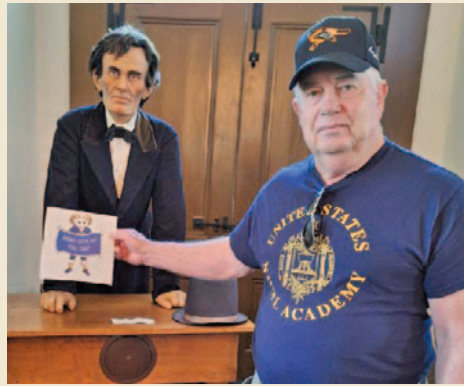


PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR PHIL PARKER '71, USNR (RET.)

LCDR Phil Parker '71, USNR (Ret.), introduces Flat Bill to Honest Abe at the old Illinois state house in Vandalia, IL.



PHOTO COURTESY CASEY JOHNSON '89

Flat Bill completed the Sleeping Bear Dune Climb with LT Kylie Johnson '19, USN, and her mom, Casey Johnson '89, in Northern Michigan on 12 July.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA HYDOCK

Flat Bill went on an eight-night Bahamas cruise and hung out at Margaritaville Resort in Nassau. Pictured is MidSib Everly Hydock (age 13). Her brother is MIDN Cooper Hydock '28.



PHOTO COURTESY CASEY JOHNSON '89

Flat Bill hit them long and straight on 6 July at Aronimink Golf Course in Newtown Square, PA, with, left to right: James Young, Kevin Johnson, CAPT Shannon Johnson '17, USMC, Eric Perry '17, Tom Gorman '17 and Casey Johnson '89.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA AASF

Authors (left to right) Susan Weisberg, Steve Wade and Annie Shyne were joined by Flat Bill at the Midshipmen Store in August 2024 during a book-signing event. They are all parents of alumni with a combined six Academy graduates.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT WATSON



Jamie Sherrard and Scott Watson in Fyffe, AL, after a 35 mile ride preparing for the BamaRama 500, which is scheduled for 5-13 October and will raise money for veterans charities.

Dear USNA Alumni and Family Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding the Naval Academy Columbarium where your beloved family member is interred.

In the last few decades, the Naval Academy has seen increased flooding from storm and high tide surges causing the frequent closure of roads, sidewalks and building entry points. Additionally, this past spring, the Navy Facilities team discovered that Ramsay Road, the road in front of the Columbarium, had eroded to a point that required partial closure to ensure the safety of motorists.

Leadership at the Naval Academy, in coordination with Navy Facilities has determined that immediate repairs to Ramsay Road and installation of a seawall are required to protect against future flooding. To allow for these necessary repairs, the Columbarium and the surrounding areas will be closed beginning 30 August 2024 for a period of time lasting approximately 18 months. During this period of construction, Ramsay Road will be closed to all foot and vehicular traffic; however, we are currently looking at options to provide a safe walking path for visitors to access the niches. For planning purposes, please bear in mind that due to the construction footprint and limited space, the walking path may not meet ADA requirements.

We understand that this may come as a disappointment, especially for those who wish to visit and pay their respects to loved ones during this time. Please know that we are committed to completing the necessary construction as swiftly as possible while maintaining the highest standards of care and respect for all individuals interred.

Committal Services will continue to occur; however, these services will take place across College Creek near Alumni Hall and the Saluting Battery. Following the service, family and friends may accompany the chaplain and Memorial Affairs representative, via the temporary walking path, to place the urn in the niche.

Flower deliveries will still occur for any special occasion. These deliveries will come to the Memorial Affairs Office and our team will personally deliver them to the niche where your loved one rests. The Naval Academy Business Services Division (NABSD) provides all approved vendors including florists and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.usnabsd.com/plan-your-event/approved-business-partners/>

If you have any questions or need further information regarding the closure or alternative arrangements for memorial services, please do not hesitate to reach out to [memorialaffairs-group@USNA.edu](mailto:memorialaffairs-group@USNA.edu) with any questions. We will also post any updates to our Memorial Affairs webpage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The Naval Academy is committed to honoring your loved ones in a respectful and safe manner. We appreciate your understanding and support during this upcoming time of required maintenance and repair to Ramsay Road.

Sincerely,

Joe Fagan '89  
U.S. Naval Academy Memorial Affairs

# FULL SPEED AHEAD!

By Jeff Webb '95

Summer break officially ended at the Naval Academy on 16 August when the Brigade of Midshipmen reformed. The new academic year is underway and the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation is on course to sustain our momentum after a productive summer.

This fall, my teammates and I will be on the road to visit with alumni during Navy football games in Birmingham, AL (28 September against UAB), Colorado Springs, CO (5 October against Air Force), East Rutherford, NJ (26 October against Notre Dame), Houston, TX (2 November against Rice), Tampa, FL (9 November against USF), and Greenville, NC (30 November against ECU).

We are eager to connect with you, share details of the many new offerings the enterprise has launched in recent months (including an online Spouse Support resource) and hear how the USNA AA&F can be more relevant to you. This fall's away football game schedule provides an opportunity for the Engagement Team to continue their Road Show, which made summer stops in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia to connect with local chapters.

We were proud to support Plebe Parents Weekend (8-11 August) and to host a Legacy Plebe Parent Legacy Reception. One of the parents mentioned that alumni with sons and daughters at USNA have a deeper connection to and a personal stake in the Naval Academy and should be considered a valuable resource. That remark sparked some ideas among my team and me. To all of you Legacy Parents, please send any ideas my way (jeff.webb@usna.com)!

Summer 2024 was also notable for a memorable first at the Fluegel Alumni Center. The inaugural Entrepreneurial Summit was held 24-25 July and drew 200 founders, investors, executives, professional advisors and active-duty members who came together to learn and network. I am excited to see the passion

around the U.S. Naval Academy entrepreneurs and commend Matt Willmann '10 for his leadership in getting the group organized.

Members of the USNA A&F Engagement Team pulled off another successful Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) in San Diego, CA, on 22-23 August. 2024 marks SACC's 30th anniversary. The program has helped countless alumni transition from the military to private sector employment. BZ to Director of Alumni Support Services Mike Lowe '88, SACC Director Tonya McGinnis and Assistant SACC Director Melissa Nelson for delivering such a powerful career and recruiting resource for our alumni and corporate partners.

As we continue to evolve as an institution, USNA AA&F builds off the foundation of these legacy programs by identifying areas to further serve alumni wherever they are along their life's journey. As an example, alumni can get help navigating the Veterans Administration's programs through our medical facilitation webpage ([www.usna.com/alumni-support-services-medical-facilitation](http://www.usna.com/alumni-support-services-medical-facilitation)). Also, to help curb the epidemic of veteran suicide and to promote available services, we hosted a Suicide Prevention and Mental Health webinar on 17 September.



## HOMECOMING

On 19 October, we will once again host a Welcome Home event at the Fluegel Alumni Center prior to the football game against Charlotte. We invite you to stop by and tailgate with us. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. and wrap up at 2:30 p.m.

Come watch the Brigade of Midshipmen march to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for the 3:30 p.m. game. The open house will feature snacks, drinks, games and music.

## NEW CFO

In August, I was pleased to announce that the USNA AA&F concluded a national search for a new executive vice president and chief financial officer by hiring John C. Coppola, CPA, MBA.

John comes to the enterprise after eight years at Loyola University Maryland where he reported to the president as the vice president of finance and administration. He oversaw the offices of budget and business planning, investment and treasury services, financial reporting, technology services, facilities and risk management, human resources and auxiliary operations.

He is a lifelong Anne Arundel County resident who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (accounting) and a Master of Business Administration (finance) from Loyola University Maryland. We are excited to have John on our team. He will play a central role as the USNA AA&F enhances its support for USNA and our alumni, navigating an increasingly complex and expanding asset base and financial environment. John couldn't arrive at a better time. Welcome aboard!

Go Navy! ⚓



PHOTO BY SARAH TRIMMER

The 2024 Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) in San Diego (22-23 August) drew about 400 job candidates with nearly 200 Naval Academy alumni registered. SACC celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2024.

# SHIPMATE

VOLUME 87 • NO. 5

## IN THIS ISSUE

### FREE TO FIGHT

Alumnae reflect on 30th anniversary of lift on ban of women in combat. **18**



### AI AT USNA

Midshipmen learning to harness the power of AI to combat real-world threats. **24**



### SEALS' KNIVES

Naval Special Warfare knife build forges multigenerational connections. **28**



### 36 COMPANIES

Return to 36 companies offers midshipmen more leadership opportunities. **12**

### UKRAINE AID

Alumni expand assistance to war-torn country with rehabilitation services. **32**

### UNIQUE LINK

'81 and '88 alumni collaboration leads to tasty milestone project. **34**

### '49 LEGACY

With independent spirit and initiative, the Class of 1949 witnessed sweeping changes during their watch. **36**



#### 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 with the Class of 2006 on page 118 in the July-August 2024 issue of Shipmate.*

### DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **Letter from the President**  
*Jeff Webb '95*
- 8 **All Hands**
- 9 **Advertisers Index**
- 38 **Parent Club Spotlight**
- 39 **5 Minutes With**
- 40 **Bravo Zulu**
- 41 **Alumni Products and Services**
- 42 **Class News**
- 112 **Chapter News**
- 130 **Shared Interest Groups**
- 132 **Last Call**
- 147 **Classified Ads**
- 152 **Staff and Assistance**

### Our Mission

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

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



**On the Cover**  
The Naval Academy Silent Drill Team performs during the first formal parade of the season on 30 August on Worden Field.

Photo by MIDN Chris Robertson '25

# ALL HANDS



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA AA&F

USNA AA&F President and CEO Jeff Webb '95, Carol Blumenthal, aunt of Maj Megan M.L. McClung '95, USMC, and David J. Albritton '88, before the DINFOS Hall of Fame induction ceremony on 7 August 2024.

## McClung '95 and Albritton '88 Inducted into DINFOS Hall of Fame

Two Naval Academy graduates were recently selected as members of the Defense Information School (DINFOS) Hall of Fame Class of 2024 for their outstanding contributions to public service and the military.

Major Megan M.L. McClung '95, USMC, served on active duty and in the Marine Reserve for 10 years after graduating from the Naval Academy. She deployed to Iraq at the height of the conflict in 2006 and was promoted to chief public affairs officer in Al Anbar Province, where her leadership and communications skills heavily influenced the reporting of the war.

On 6 December 2006, McClung was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) while escorting journalists in Ramadi, Iraq. She was the first female Naval Academy graduate to be killed in action and first female Marine to be killed in the Iraq War. Since her death, McClung has been honored with numerous awards and is fondly remembered for her dedication to our nation.

David J. Albritton '88 served the Navy for a decade, graduating from DINFOS in 1993 and assuming duties including deputy PAO at commander in chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe. Following his military career, Albritton has taken on various senior executive roles in the corporate sphere, studied leadership at Harvard, Stanford and Georgetown universities, and served on several nonprofit boards.

On 7 August 2024, McClung and Albritton were officially inducted into the DINFOS Hall of Fame. Albritton's family and three Naval Academy classmates attended the ceremony in support. McClung's aunt, Carol Blumenthal, attended the event and accepted the induction on her behalf. □

## Alumni Helping Rebuild The Tun, the Birthplace of Marine Corps

U.S. Naval Academy alumni will soon have a new place to gather, make memories and celebrate the history of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. The nonprofit Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation, which has several Academy alumni on its board and committees, is rebuilding and reestablishing The Tun in Philadelphia, PA.

Established in 1693 and standing until 1781, the Tun is the birthplace of the Marines and the historic site where John Adams and the Naval Committee met and drafted documents that outlined the structure for what became the U.S. Navy. The foundation plans to open The Tun to coincide with the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Homecoming Celebration in Philadelphia in 2025.

"The Tun and its associated Peg Mullan's Beefsteak Club are an important part of American history, and the foundation is working to preserve that military heritage," said Robert Whalen '98, a foundation board member. Other foundation volunteers with USNA connections include Major Richard "Joey" Fay '03, USMCR, and Alumni Association member Paul Garvey, father of Lieutenant Alfred Garvey '16, USN.

"The tavern was a recruiting station for two battalions of Marines, and it means a lot to me that John Adams wrote the Laws of the Navy on the second floor of the Tun," Whalen said. "Benjamin Franklin started the Pennsylvania Freemasons in the Tun. The Friendly Sons & Daughters of St. Patrick, Society of St. George and St. Andrew's Society also trace their roots to the Tun."

Land to build The Tun was acquired in April 2024, and fundraising efforts are underway. The foundation will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on 10 November 2024—the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps. The Tun will be located in the heart of Philadelphia's Old City neighborhood, just 250 yards from the original location, and near the Tun Tavern historical marker, a popular spot for visiting Marines.

The foundation will operate The Tun as a functioning mariner's tavern and restaurant reminiscent of colonial Philadelphia, with a museum for educational exhibits and historical documents. All profits from operations of The Tun will be donated in perpetuity to support veteran causes and charities of the organizations that were founded at Tun Tavern.

For more information, to make a contribution or volunteer, visit [www.thetun.org](http://www.thetun.org). □



PHOTO COURTESY OF TUN TAVERN LEGACY FOUNDATION

Leadership of a nonprofit rebuilding The Tun, a historic Philadelphia tavern, includes Naval Academy alumni. The Tun is the birthplace of the Marine Corps. Organizers are aiming to open The Tun in conjunction with the Marine Corps 250th birthday on 10 November 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIE KEMPF, ZERO-G



**MIDN Charles Stafford '26 and MIDN Bigue Kah '26 float in zero gravity onboard G-Force One as part of the U.S. Space Force Azimuth Program summer 2024 training.**

## Mids Participate in Space Education and Training Program

This summer, three midshipmen experienced the feeling of weightlessness as part of the USAFA/U.S. Space Force Azimuth program. Zero Gravity Corp, whose CEO is Kevin Sproge '98, operates the Zero G experience, which provides the parabolic flight experience.

As part of the program, participants experience the effects of zero gravity on a modified Boeing 727, which performs a series of parabolic flight patterns. At the top of the parabolic arc, power thrust is reduced, and weightlessness takes place.

During a steep and gradual climb cadets experience twice the Earth's gravity. In these moments, cadets perform designed zero-gravity experiments, demonstrating Newton's Laws of Motion, experiencing free-axis environments and seeing firsthand angular momentum properties.

Azimuth is a unique, three-week summer program for U.S. Air Force Academy cadets, Navy midshipmen, Army cadets and ROTC students considering a commission in the U.S. Space Force. The program's goal is to "inspire men and women to become officers of character, motivated to lead in the Space Force; and (consistent with the Space Training and Readiness Command—STARCOM) to help prepare our future guardians to prevail in competition and conflict through innovative education, training, doctrine and test," according to the Air Force Academy's website. □

### INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Blue Forge Alliance .....	31	USAA .....	23, IFC
Decision Lens .....	21	USNA FDN—Planned Giving .....	17
Falcons Landing.....	33	The Village at Providence Point .....	5
Gary Knight '70 (Atlantic BB).....	16	Update Your Profile.....	IBC
General Dynamics/Bath Iron Works.....	15	Weitz and Luxenberg .....	1
Navy Museum .....	13		
Navy Mutual .....	19	<b>Alumni Products and Services</b>	
Navy Safe Harbor Foundation .....	29	Alumni Travel 2025 .....	41
Scott Schuetter Realtor .....	BC	Service Academy	
Sono 1420 Distillery .....	35	Career Conference 2024 .....	41

## Spouse Support Services

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Support Services has launched a web resource page for spouses. This tool is accessible without a login from the usna.com home page.



The Spouse Support program offers four categories:

1) U.S. Department of Defense and Government resources for military and veteran spouses.

- Community resources
- Education and training
- Employment and career support
- Family support
- Financial assistance
- Health and wellness
- Moving and PCs

2) Department of Veteran Affairs resources

- VA welcome kit
- Counseling and mental health
- Education and training
- Survivors pension
- Health care
- Housing assistance
- Memorial benefits

3) Vetted non-DoD and non-VA organizations

4) Memorial affairs and services.

To learn more, visit [www.usna.com/alumni-support-services-alumni-spouse-support](http://www.usna.com/alumni-support-services-alumni-spouse-support). □



2nd Annual  
WELCOME HOME!  
OPEN HOUSE

Don't miss out on the pre-game fun and Navy spirit at  
**YOUR HOME,**  
**The FLUEGEL ALUMNI CENTER**

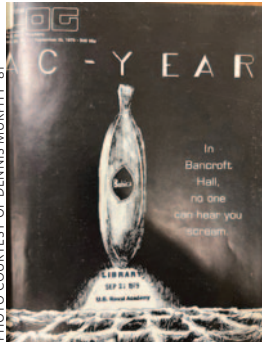
SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER  
11:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
301 KING GEORGE ST., ANNAPOLIS

There will be snacks, drinks, food trucks, games, music and more. For more information and to RSVP, visit [myusna.com/page/2024-homecoming](http://myusna.com/page/2024-homecoming).





## Murphy '81 Seeks Input for Book on *The LOG* magazine



Did you know *The LOG* magazine started in 1913 or the Salty Sam column started in 1932? Who among you have never even heard of *The LOG* due to its on-again, off-again existence following the infamous Playmid issue in 1989, which made national news? *The LOG*, which was unique among the service academies, has existed in some form for more than a century and now Dennis Murphy '81 (*LOG* managing editor 1979-1981 and Salty Sam 1981) is writing a book and seeks input from fellow former *LOG* contributors based on this narrative:

The irresistible force of youthful irreverence meets the immovable object of the senior leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy. This book intends to explore the history of how *The LOG* and its anonymous voice of the Brigade, Salty Sam, both influenced and reflected the culture of the Brigade and the consequences of crossing a forever moving line of military decorum.

There were ebbs and flows of *The LOG* from its founding in 1913 until its eventual decline, which started in 1989. The onset of the internet and social media left resourceful midshipmen to find other pressure relief outlets of youthful irreverence when the monthly printed publication started to become obsolete.

Murphy is soliciting input from alumni on stories that never made it into Salty Sam's column or stories that just need to be told to shine a spotlight on the lived experience of midshipmen at the Naval Academy. Send inputs to [Dennis.Murphy@1981.usna.com](mailto:Dennis.Murphy@1981.usna.com). □



Jim Matheson '87, a Harvard Business School professor, presents during the inaugural Naval Academy Entrepreneurs Summit on 24 July at the Fluegel Alumni Center.

## USNA AA&F Hosts Inaugural Entrepreneurs Summit

The inaugural Naval Academy Entrepreneurs Summit attracted about 200 business leaders, across a spectrum of industries, to the Fluegel Alumni Center on 24-25 July.

The summit brought together alumni and entrepreneurs for workshops, networking and expert panels. Keynote speakers included Harvard Business School professor Jim Matheson '87, Shield AI Co-Founder Brandon Tseng '08, Mission BBQ Co-Founder Bill Kraus and The Honorable Sue Gordon, former deputy director, National Intelligence.

Panel topics included venture capital, successful exits, defense technology and making an impact.

To learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy Entrepreneurs, visit [www.usnaentrepreneurs.com](http://www.usnaentrepreneurs.com). □

## Bancroft Hall Renovation Project Commences

A 15-year renovation project of Bancroft Hall was officially launched on 30 August with a "First Nail" groundbreaking ceremony in T-Court.

The Bancroft Recapitalization Program will repair the steps and interior of the center section of Bancroft Hall, as well as all eight wings of the dormitory to include HVAC, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, building exterior and interior finishes, according to a news release. The project will be completed through a series of integrated projects that will span approximately 15 years.

The Bancroft Hall renovation will affect areas normally open to the public, including the exterior steps, the Rotunda and Memorial Hall, and will be closed for a period of time as they are repaired.

The first phase of construction that was awarded to Consigli Construction Co. Inc. will focus on the center section of stairs leading up to Bancroft Hall and deteriorated paint and plaster in the Rotunda. This phase also includes increasing berthing in wings two through eight to provide flexibility and prepare to relocate midshipmen in the follow-on phases. The first phase is expected to be completed in 2026.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83 said modernizing Bancroft is critical to the Academy's mission.

"This is about taking care of our people and ensuring they have modern barracks facilities in which to learn, train and prepare for future naval service," Del Toro said.

Bancroft Hall was designed by architect Ernest Flagg and completed in 1908. The original building included the center section that still houses the Rotunda and Memorial Hall, and a single wing on either side.

It has expanded over the years to include eight wings. The last major phased renovation of Bancroft Hall was from 1995 to 2002.

Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette M. Davids '89, USN, said this project will allow Bancroft Hall to remain the heart of the Academy for years to come.

"This is the start of a series of phased renovations to ensure that Bancroft Hall can continue to welcome our future generations of midshipmen and truly accomplish our mission," Davids said. □



U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent VADM Yvette M. Davids '89, USN, and Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83 along with midshipmen participate in the "First Nail" groundbreaking ceremony in T-Court for the Bancroft Hall Recapitalization (renovation) Program on 30 August.



## 2023 Donor Report Errata

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

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SECTION:

#### CLASS OF 1960

CAPT Edwin Killinger, USN (Ret.) † and Mrs. Barbara A. Killinger

#### CLASS OF 1968

CDR and Mrs. Joseph V. Conway

### CONSECUTIVE-YEAR GIVING SECTION:

#### CLASS OF 1960

CAPT and Mrs. Robert E. Gasser

### ALUMNI GIVING SECTION:

#### 1960

##### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

##### ASSOCIATE

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

CAPT Edwin Killinger, USN (Ret.) † and Mrs. Barbara A. Killinger

#### 1968

##### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

##### ASSOCIATE

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

CDR and Mrs. Joseph V. Conway

† = Deceased

## Coppola joins USNA AA&F as CFO



The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F) has named John C. Coppola, CPA, MBA, as its new executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Coppola comes to the enterprise from Loyola University Maryland where he served for eight years and reported to the president as the vice president of finance and administration. He oversaw the offices of budget and business planning, investment and treasury services, financial reporting, technology services, facilities

and risk management, human resources and auxiliary operations.

He was selected following a nationwide search.

"We are pleased to welcome John to the Alumni Association and Foundation," said Jeff Webb '95, president and CEO of the USNA AA&F. "Among many highly qualified candidates who interviewed for this critical role, John emerged as the best fit. His successful track record as a CFO, strong accounting background, higher education experience and leadership abilities were abundantly clear throughout the interview process to me and our hiring committee."

As CFO, Coppola's responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring the integrity of financial systems, preparing and maintaining accounting records and overseeing budgeting aligned with strategic plans.
- Monitoring budget performance, conducting financial forecasting and managing cash flow and banking relationships.
- Overseeing financial reporting while managing investment strategies and risks.

"My skill set aligns remarkably well with the position profile, and as I got to know members of the leadership team and the Boards, I came to the realization that I could have a significant impact on the work ahead of us in Strategic Plan 2030 and beyond," Coppola said.

Coppola earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (accounting) and a Master of Business Administration (finance) from Loyola University Maryland.

## Classmates Help Rededicate McCarthy '77 Memorial

On Sunday, 19 May 2024, a rededication ceremony was held at the Marine Major Eugene T. McCarthy Memorial in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to McCarthy's family and a large crowd of local residents, five of his classmates made the trip to honor McCarthy's memory and service to our country.

Major Gene McCarthy '77, USMCR, passed away tragically in February 1991 while flying a MEDEVAC support mission during Operation Desert Storm. He voluntarily returned to active duty in the months leading up to the start of Desert Storm and was deployed to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of 1991, flying the AH-1 Cobra.

Fellow Marine Aviator and 18th Company mate Lieutenant Colonel Corky Gardner '77,

USMC (Ret.), spoke on behalf of the Class of 1977. He was joined by Dave Kirkman '77, Colonel Paul Croisetiere '77, USMC (Ret.), Captain George Korchowsky '77, USNR (Ret.), and Colonel Mike Canders '77, USAF (Ret.).

Prior to his death, McCarthy spent 11 years on active duty in the Marine Corps before joining the Drug Enforcement Agency where he participated in multiple drug interdiction operations including Operation Snowcap, a special DEA operation in Peru.

In 1997, the Fraser Civic Associations from McCarthy's hometown of Brooklyn, NY, along with the Brooklyn Detachment #1 of the U.S. Marine Corps League dedicated the memorial in honor of McCarthy's service and sacrifice.



Col Mike Canders '77, USAF (Ret.), CAPT George Korchowsky '77, USNR (Ret.), LtCol Corky Gardner '77, USMC (Ret.), and Dave Kirkman '77 attended the rededication ceremony of the Marine Major Eugene T. McCarthy Memorial in Brooklyn, NY.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLASS OF 1977

# RETURN TO 36 COMPANIES

## MIDSHIPMEN HAVE CHANCE TO SHAPE COMPANY CULTURE, EMBRACE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT RAND LEBOUVIER '78, PH.D., USN (RET.)

**CAPT Rand LeBouvier '78, Ph.D., USN (Ret.),** was a member of 32nd Company which participated in the 8th Wing Players, a Friday night theatrical production, which included a skit about the "Black and Blue Angels team."

Companies 31-36 have returned to the Naval Academy after a 28-year hiatus, providing more leadership and mentorship opportunities for midshipmen.

Planning to revert to 36 companies dates back more than a decade. However, it was the Secretary of Defense's Climate Transformation Task Force that generated the momentum to make it a reality. The task force's focus was ensuring each "service academy develops and sustains the right culture to best develop the future military leaders of our nation." An August 2023 report included a long-term recommendation for the Naval Academy:

*In order to provide more supervision and learning/modeling opportunities, complement the peer leadership structure with additional non-midshipman leaders, including officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who have experience leading entry level service members; where this complementary leadership model already exists, expand it to ensure greater saturation of officers and enlisted leaders amongst cadets and midshipmen.*

Starting with the 1996-97 academic year, the Naval Academy decreased the number of companies from 36 to 30 as the Cold War was winding down. While the thought was that a smaller Navy would mean a smaller Brigade of Midshipmen, the Brigade returned to around 4,400 midshipmen in just a few years. The Academy had 36 companies from 1964 until 1996.

One major implication of reverting to 36 companies is decreasing the size of each company from 150 to 120 midshipmen. Air Force has 40 squadrons while West Point has 36 companies. Deputy Commandant

of Midshipmen Captain David S. Forman '98, USN, said returning to 36 companies will help create a better culture at the company level.

“That’s easier to do when you have one company officer and a senior enlisted leader with fewer midshipmen he or she is responsible for,” said Forman, who was at the Academy when the cut to 30 companies was instituted. “The more face-to-face interactions you have, the better you get to know your midshipmen.”

With the Naval Academy’s leader-to-led ratio improving, opportunities exist for the plankholders of these reformed companies to reinstitute traditions or establish their own. It also offers a chance for their 8th Wing predecessors to provide guidance on some of those traditions.

### TRADITIONS

Forman noted that company traditions are passed down and forge multigenerational alumni bonds. These include the annual Army-Navy ball run (13th Company), croquet team (28th Company) and the Keepers of the Goat (8th Company).


“That’s part of their identity,” Forman said. “That’s great. For 31 to 36, we want them to keep their traditions too.”

Forman said alumni from those companies are welcome to return to the Yard to share the stories of their careers in and out of uniform.

---

**“That’s easier to do when you have one company officer and a senior enlisted leader with fewer midshipmen he or she is responsible for. The more face-to-face interactions you have, the better you get to know your midshipmen.”**

—Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen  
Captain David S. Forman '98, USN,  
referring to the return of 36 companies helping  
create a better culture at the company level.



# The story of our Navy is the story of our nation.

*Join the campaign to inspire  
the next generation Sailor.*

NATIONAL  
**NMDF**  
Navy Museum Development Foundation  
NEXT GENERATION SAILOR



**NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY**  
LOCATED NEXT TO THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, D.C. | [NMDF.ORG](http://NMDF.ORG)

CONNECT WITH US



## FEATURE



31-36 Company art—found in the 1994 and 1995 issues of the Lucky Bag.

“To hear them talk about the opportunity to establish culture from the ground up, that would be really great to help (current midshipmen) as they embark on these new traditions,” Forman said.

*Shipmate* solicited stories from former members of companies 31-36. The most popular recollections were about the 8th Wing Players (see below for more submissions). This theatrical exhibition brought a bit of levity to the Yard as the audience watched performances from their Bancroft Hall windows.

*The lights dim in the 8th Wing parking lot, and the sneaky tune of the “Pink Panther” theme song begins to float across the Yard. The year is 1986. Hundreds of midshipmen eyes scan the lot from their rooms, following the path of a large spotlight in its search for that night’s midshipman-turned “Pink Panther.” The show was about to begin.*

Once weekly during the fall of the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s, members of the Sixth Battalion gathered for the 8th Wing Players, a midshipmen-run production comprised of a series of satirical skits from each of the companies 31-36. The skits, said Dr. Stan Pendergrass ’86, USN, were “irreverent of the administration, the officers and whatever else was going on at the time in the Academy and the world ... they would be the talk of the Brigade for days afterwards.”

“The amount of effort and technology that went into this was remarkable,” recalls Captain Rand LeBouvier ’78, Ph.D., USN (Ret.). Though its execution changed slightly over the years, the 8th Wing Players always involved the “Pink Panther” theme song and character as a central part of the production.

Before beginning to open their shows with a spotlight search for one collective Pink Panther, each company in the Sixth Battalion would designate one lucky midshipman as their Pink Panther, who would compete against the others for most impressive entrance and exit before each skit. One particularly memorable entrance

## FAVORITE MEMORIES

*Editor’s Note: With the return of Naval Academy companies 31-36, Shipmate asked alumni who were part of those companies prior to their disbandment in 1996 to share some of their favorite memories. Here is a sample of those submissions.*

### CAPTAIN BOB LANG ’67, USN (RET.), 36TH COMPANY

As a member of the Class of 1967, I was a charter member of the brand new 36th Company in the fall of 1964. A third of each of the previous 23rd and 24th companies made up the new 36th.

At the Wednesday PM p-rades, from the time the command “Pass in Review” was heard, it was seven minutes before we moved and 11 minutes until we got off the parade field. Then we still had to march back to the 8th Wing. Guys from the First Batt were already going on liberty.

### CAPTAIN KEVIN STONE ’76, USNR (RET.), 34TH COMPANY

I am a proud four-year “alumnus” of Club 34 (1972-76) and have the guidon flag to prove it.

The moniker “Club 34” was well earned. During our Plebe Summer in 1973, 34th Platoon marched in the Yard to “King of the Road.” Yeah, you can keep a decent cadence to that.

# The future is yours to lead.

Join us in a mission that matters.

**We're hiring!**

Engineering • Naval Architecture • Combat Systems  
Production Management • Supply Chain • Skillbridge



**GENERAL DYNAMICS**

Bath Iron Works

**BIWCAREERS.COM**

Bath Built Is Best Built

## **MAJOR JIM ROWAN '77, USMC (RET.), 33RD COMPANY**

The name 33rd Herd came about when I was on the summer detail for the Class of '80. This was the first class with women, which made things colorful from the start. After teaching drill, I was frustrated in the manner that the company marched and told them that they were not marching but were more like a herd on the farm that I grew up on. I started calling them the 33rd Herd and it stuck for the Class of '80 and subsequent classes.

## **MAJOR THOMAS RYCHLIK '79, USMC (RET.), 34TH COMPANY**

As members of the Sixth Battalion, 34th Company was on the opposite side of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium when the command was given to fall out into the Brigade seating areas after the national anthem. All of the seats closest to the field were immediately taken by companies in First Battalion.

By the time we got to an empty bench, we were pretty far from the field. As a dedicated Navy football fan, I felt my efforts to cheer the team on during the game were diminished by having to be so far up in the seating area.

34th Company was billeted on the third deck of the 8th Wing. When we were plebes, it took us slightly longer to get from our fourth period morning class to the 8th Wing. The companies in Third Battalion had to get to the 7th Wing, but since most of the classrooms were on that side of the Yard, the plebes in those companies still had a shorter run/walk to get back to their rooms, prepare for noon meal formation, attend "Come Arounds" with their second and first class midshipmen and be ready for the Ten Minute Chow Call.

Noon Meal formation was at exactly the same time for all companies in the Brigade, so let's just say being a plebe in a company in the first and third wings was a little less onerous than being a plebe in Sixth Battalion.

## FEATURE

involved Lieutenant Commander Steve Kobiela '81, USN (Ret.), repelling into a circle of his company mates and their O-coats (issued overcoats) hanging from racks commandeered from the laundry—a spoof on the plebe year uniform issue routine.

After the grand entrance, a company's Pink Panther would stand against a light post and read over a newspaper for the duration of the show.

"I strolled over to the light post," Kobiela recalled. "The crowd started chanting, 'Where's his paper? Where's his paper?'"

The 31st Company went on to stage a Star Wars lightsaber fight, culminating in Luke using "the Force"—a clear line tied to his wrist—to deliver the Pink Panther his newspaper from an 8th Wing window.

When Major Thomas Rychlik '79, USMC (Ret.), was a member of 34th Company, he remembers how spotlights would illuminate the parking lot on the Dahlgren side of Bancroft Hall at 2200 each Friday night, signaling the beginning of that week's show.

"Everyone would take a break from studying and jam themselves into the room of one of your classmates in order to watch the skits play out," he said.

Though little remains of the actual skits themselves, the story of the 8th Wing Players lives on. For many years, midshipmen took great fun in producing such skits and getting a much-needed break from the rigors of Academy life. ⚓

USNA AA&F intern Ashtyn Webb contributed to this report.

### 33RD COMPANY SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM PREDECESSORS

Members of the Naval Academy's newly reformed 33rd Company are seeking input from their predecessors. Midshipman Aedan Ounsamone '25 said he and his classmates are eager to hear from former 33rd Company members as they reestablish traditions and create their own identity.

"We are hoping to connect with 33rd alumni and share with them on how we are bringing back their company," Ounsamone said. "It would be also great to hear their stories and maybe receive their support."

33rd Company alumni can reach out to Ounsamone at [m254860@usna.edu](mailto:m254860@usna.edu).

**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.**

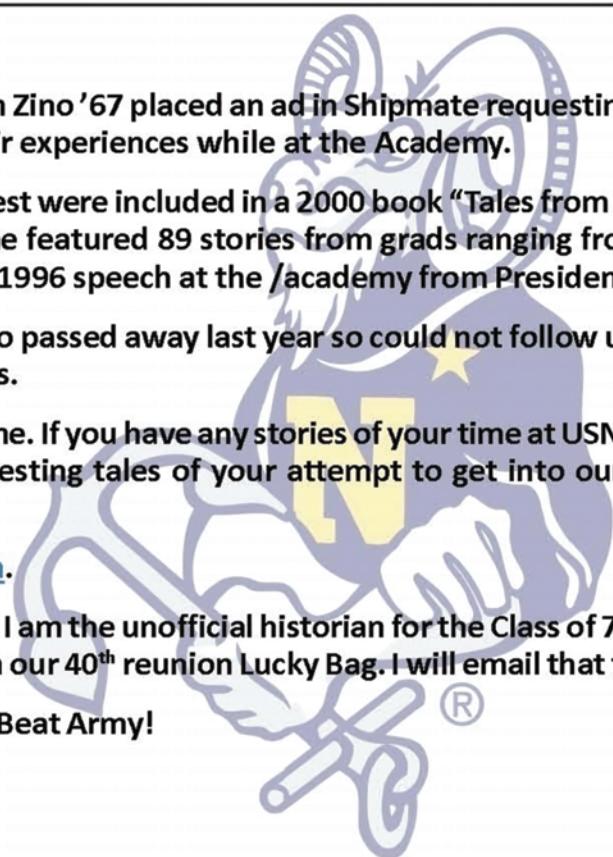
**This ad is to request same. If you have any stories of your time at USNA, including experiences on cruises or any interesting tales of your attempt to get into our fine institution, please forward them to me at**

**[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**



# WOMEN IN COMBAT: 30 YEARS OF THE RISK RULE RECISSION

By Ashtyn Webb

**L**ieutenant Colonel Amy McGrath '97, USMC (Ret.), was 12-years-old when she decided she was going to fly fighter jets off aircraft carriers.

McGrath never doubted she could do the job. She was always fearless and tough. She had been beating the boys on the basketball courts for years. Naturally, her next step was to take it to the battlefield.

Ultimately becoming a barrier-breaking pilot, she would go on to realize her dream—but young McGrath had grave concerns over the future of her career. They lay not in her intelligence, nor her physical capabilities; instead, her mind was on the lawmakers who dictated which roles were available to women in the Navy and Marine Corps. It wasn't until 1994, just months before she left for Plebe Summer at the U.S. Naval Academy, that the final legal barrier keeping her from combat was removed.

This came with the rescission of the Risk Rule—a decision that was one spark in the fight for women in combat that had been blazing for decades. It wouldn't be

until 1948, after more than 150,000 women volunteered to support the Navy during the Civil War, World War I and World War II, that the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law. This triumph for women was accompanied by a comprehensive list of caveats. Most notably, women were excluded from all combat roles.

Over the next three decades, subsequent amendments to the law gradually afforded women more rights in the military. The Vietnam War accelerated the process as women proved their competence in a plethora of essential noncombat jobs. In 1972, it was ruled women had official authority to command men. In 1975, pregnant women were allowed to remain on active duty. And later that same year, four of the five all-male service academies joined the Merchant Marine Academy in permitting the admittance of women. The Merchant Marine Academy began accepting women in 1974.

In 1986, in response to years of successive changes to the law, the Department of Defense (DoD) established the Task Force on Women in the Military to assess the status of women's roles and strategize for the future. The official purpose of their deliberations, as per a 1998 DoD report, was to "set a single standard for evaluating positions and units from which the military service could exclude women."

On 2 February 1988, the Risk Rule was enacted into law. Officially, it "excluded women from noncombat units or missions if the risks of exposure to direct combat, hostile fire or capture were equal to or greater than the risk in the combat units they supported." In practice, it allowed women to be barred from any unit or mission—combat or not—deemed too dangerous for them.

A 2010 report by the Military Leadership Diversity Commission said, "this rule effectively permitted assignments to be closed to women based on factors other than the missions of those units; women could now be excluded based on the context in which those units were likely to perform those missions." Under the Risk Rule, a woman's place in a particular unit became subjective, dependent on the level of danger declared by superior officers.

Thirty years ago this year, the Risk Rule was permanently rescinded. As we reflect on the progress made, *Shipmate* is sharing some of the stories of alumni who paved the way.

## A LEADER'S INFLUENCE

While the laws determined which military communities women could join, it was their immediate chain of command that most affected their day-to-day experiences. The ethical functioning of a unit heavily relies on the character of its commanding officers.

"Ultimately, as a leader, you're the one dictating the environment," said Rear Admiral Cindy Thebaud '85, USN

**CAPT Patricia Cole '82, USN (Ret.),** aboard **BLUE RIDGE** in Yokosuka, Japan, in 1998, with **KITTY HAWK** visible in the background. Cole said she learned to do the right thing regardless of how something might be treated higher in the command chain.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT PATRICIA COLE '82, USN (RET.)



(Ret.), 22 years after becoming the first woman to command a destroyer.

Thebaud hoped to enter the surface warfare community, but the lack of billets available to women on ships made gaining the sea time required for her qualifications a challenge. Fortuitously, she was selected to be one of the few women first assigned to weapons test ship NORTON SOUND in January 1986, two years before the Risk Rule was enacted. Thebaud remembers that while the Navy was amidst a cultural transition, her commanding officer took an unconventional approach to ensure men and women received the training they needed to advance their careers.

“When we weren’t underway, he would send us to ships in Long Beach so we could work on all of our underway watch qualifications,” she said. Providing such training for everyone “was probably very forward thinking of the CO and XO.”

Not all women were fortunate enough to have such leaders.

Captain Patricia Cole ’82, USN (Ret.), was a newly commissioned ensign when she pulled into work one morning at (then) Naval Air Station Miramar, where she oversaw the training of 120 enlisted maintenance personnel, when she noticed base petty officers directing the towing of cars in front of her training facility. Concerned about the situation, she approached a second-class petty officer, who proceeded to “mouth off” to her in a showing of blatant disrespect.

Expecting disciplinary action, she related the incident to her master chief, who escalated it to the naval air station executive officer. To her dismay, during the subsequent executive officer’s inquiry, the XO turned to the offending petty officer and said, “So you were just frustrated because you were trying to do your job,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT BARBETTE LOWNDES '80, USN (RET.)

**CAPT Barbette Lowndes '80, USN (Ret.), served the Navy for 27 years on active duty and eight years as a civil servant, completing 10 commands and two tours at sea. She is a member of the first class of Naval Academy graduates to include women. She said it was difficult for women to commiserate during her tenure as a midshipman because women were divided among different companies upon arrival.**



## Life insurance that travels with you.

Navy Mutual was built by servicemembers, and since 1879, we have been trusted by military families to be there during their times of great need. Our life insurance products feature no active duty service restrictions or aviation clauses, so you can rest assured, no matter where your service takes you, we have you covered.

Active Duty / Reserve / Retirees / Veterans / Military Spouses and Children



To learn more, visit [NavyMutual.org/Navy](https://www.navy-mutual.org/Navy) or speak to one of our representatives at **800-628-6011**.

Photo courtesy of the United States Department of Defense. The DOD does not endorse any company or their products or services.



## FEATURE

correct?” Cole recalls that in this moment, “that’s when I began to see the way this was going to go.”

Looking back as a now-former commanding officer of the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, Cole is “appalled” at the treatment she received over this situation.

“There was a room full of people that basically said that what he had done did not matter,” she said.

What sticks with her the most is not the injustice she faced, but the lesson imparted by her master chief afterward—that one is solely in control of their own actions.

“You always do the right thing, even if you know for a fact that the next person in the chain of command is not going to do their part,” she said. “That doesn’t absolve you from the duty of doing yours.”

### PROFESSIONAL, HARDWORKING, APPROACHABLE

As legal barriers were systematically removed, it took decades for the Navy to fully adapt to the presence of women. The changing of laws didn’t guarantee any changing of minds—a sentiment that rang true both in the fleet and at the Naval Academy.

In 1975, 13 years before the Risk Rule was enacted, the Naval Academy was congressionally mandated to admit women. Commander Elizabeth Rowe ’80, USN



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

**ADM Michelle Howard ’82, USN (Ret.), was the first Black woman to command a U.S. Navy combatant ship, RUSHMORE, in 1999 and the first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral in 2014.**

“Them figuring out who I am and what my boundaries are, and me trying to defend those boundaries so that we could all work together. That was the hard part.”

—CDR Elizabeth Rowe ’80, USN (Ret.)

(Ret.), was a high school junior when she heard the news. Coming from a middle-class family in rural Maryland, she watched countless women head off to college to get their degrees, only to return home to monotonous jobs in their small town.

Rowe had higher aspirations. It took two rounds of letters with her congressman—initially ending in rejection before the law was amended—for Rowe to receive an appointment. Spirits were high as she set off for I-Day in the summer of 1976, but a harsh reality awaited her.

“I didn’t know what I was stepping into,” she said.

Rowe was one of 81 women, constituting just over 6 percent of her class. But for women at the Academy, one of her classmates explains, this number felt far smaller. A small-town girl from a military family, Captain Barbette Lowndes ’80, USN (Ret.), applied to the Academy for reasons similar to Rowe: financial freedom, secured employment and a chance to see the world.

She said women were divided amongst different companies upon arrival, leaving no space for them to connect over a shared experience. Leaders of the Academy “never had all the women together unless it was for academics or sports, so you really couldn’t even compare notes with other women. You’re really isolated in your experiences,” Lowndes said.

Most women at the Academy were lumped into the “general unrestricted line,” a new designator consisting of onshore communications, technology and supply jobs. They were to be trained as combatants—by default, as per the mission of the Naval Academy—but were not allowed to serve on most Navy ships, let alone in any combat setting. This contradiction did not go unnoticed by their male counterparts. Rowe recalled how “the men, from the seniors to our class, did not want us there. We had taken their place, and we were ruining it.”

This sentiment carried far beyond the Yard. Aboard ships, in training schools and on shore duty alike, women in the Navy were hardly welcomed into their communities. Thirty years before becoming the first female four-star admiral, Admiral Michelle Howard ’82, USN (Ret.), attended surface warfare officer school in 1983. She remembers how the women were made to walk 40 minutes round-trip from their dormitories to the training facility, while the men were housed right next door. But while their sleeping arrangements were segregated, men and women trained together, forcing Howard’s peers to adjust to her presence.

“Some were resigned, and the ones who got over it were cordial,” she said.

Having just completed this training, Rowe deployed for the first time aboard the destroyer tender SAMUEL GOMPERS that same year. She was one of five women in a crew of approximately 1,200 personnel.

“We were a curiosity,” she said. “Looking back on it, it was very isolating.”

Though the work was heavy, Rowe found the most daunting task to be managing relationships with her male counterparts.

“Them figuring out who I am and what my boundaries are, and me trying to defend those boundaries so that we could all work together. That was the hard part,” Rowe said.

Women across the Navy learned to navigate those dynamics within their respective communities. Competing constantly with men for promotions and assignments, it was paramount they maintain a razor-sharp focus on their individual responsibilities and behave with the utmost decorum.

Retiring in 2007 as a captain in the Supply Corps, Lowndes became an expert on controlling her image.

“I didn’t want to be seen as a weak female,” she said. “I didn’t want to be seen

as a sex object. I tried to lay it out there: I’m here to be a professional.”

“Professional, hardworking, approachable,” Thebaud emphasized—values she carried with her since that first assignment aboard NORTON SOUND.

This mindset paid off for women in the military. In the early 1990s, America entered its first major military engagement since Vietnam. Nearly 700,000 U.S. troops mobilized to the Middle East, contributing to the U.S.-led efforts to end Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait. But things had changed for the Navy—women were now a major part of the force. Still serving under the Risk Rule, a woman’s place in a particular unit would be precarious. And yet, for the very first time, men and women geared up to serve in a warzone together.

Howard, now a qualified surface warfare officer, was one of those women. In 1990, she deployed to the ammunition



PHOTO COURTESY OF LTCOL AMY MCGRATH '97, USMC (RET.)

LtCol Amy McGrath '97, USMC (Ret.), with her husband CDR Erik Henderson, USN (Ret.). When McGrath was 12 years old, she wrote letters to every member of the House and Senate Armed Services Committee asking them to change the combat exclusion policy. She would ultimately become the first woman to fly a combat mission for the U.S. Marine Corps.

**The Future of**  
**PPBE**

Software delivering  
**transparent, collaborative**  
**and integrated financial**  
**management and planning** to  
ensure the US Navy **advances**  
**our warfighting advantage.**

Learn more at: [decisionlens.com](https://decisionlens.com)

 **DECISION LENS**

## FEATURE

ship MOUNT HOOD, where she served as the chief engineer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. It quickly became clear to the future vice chief of naval operations that in war, there is no such thing as a low-risk assignment.

“It doesn’t matter what your job is,” she said. “You’re in the zone and you could be a victim.”

It wasn’t long before American leaders, too, recognized this reality. Within a year of the Gulf War’s conclusion, the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces was established “to study the legal, military and societal implications of amending the exclusionary laws,” according to a 1998 DoD report.

By 1994, combat roles were made available to women in the aviation and maritime sectors for the first time, and Secretary of Defense Les Aspin created the Implementation Committee—a blend of government and military leaders tasked with evaluating “the appropriateness of the Risk Rule.” The committee highlighted the contradictory nature of the law: women were permitted to deploy to a war zone, but were banned from settings where they might encounter hostile enemies.

In response to the committee’s evaluation, Aspin signed a new memorandum into law. On 1 October 1994, the Risk Rule was officially rescinded.

The rescission of the Risk Rule was more than a legal procedure; it was a testament to society’s evolving views toward women. For decades, women in uniform had served our nation with perseverance and grace in the roles available to them. America had finally begun to recognize that, when provided the opportunity, women were an invaluable asset to the nation’s military. They just needed the chance to prove it.

### IT’S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING

“Be aggressive in embracing opportunities when they come to you,” advised now-retired Captain Cole, 30 years after that pivotal moment with her master chief.

Today, those opportunities are readily available. Women can jump 17,000 feet from an airplane directly into a combat zone or unleash tactical nuclear weapons

from submarines lurking in enemy waters. In 2013, direct ground combat roles were opened to all. There is no job in the military that women can’t do.

In 2004, Commander Becky Calder ’98, USNR (Ret.), made history as the first female pilot to graduate from the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, popularly known as TOPGUN, flying an F/A-18 Hornet. With six years as a tactical aviator already under her belt, Calder was prepared upon arrival at the elite training school to be the only woman in the room—but her mind focused solely on the job her country relied on her to perform.

“For me, going to TOPGUN was about becoming the best F-18 pilot I could be,” she said. “It was about becoming an instructor and teaching others the tactics they needed to be successful.”

After TOPGUN, Calder spent three years teaching the latest aviation techniques to pilots preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan—some of whom served in the Navy in the mid-90s, at a time when Calder wouldn’t have been allowed near the cockpit of a fighter jet. By the end of her career, Calder had dedicated 15 years to flying the F/A-18 Hornet, trained hundreds of pilots and deployed across the Middle East in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She is one of the few Navy pilots who have flown all versions of the Hornet and Super Hornet as well as the E/A-18 Growler.

Women across America shared Calder’s determination. Fifteen years after McGrath declared she would one day be a fighter pilot, she became the first woman to fly an F/A-18 in combat for the U.S. Marine Corps. Between 2002 and 2010, she amassed more than 2,000 flight hours and completed 89 combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A few years after her retirement, McGrath chatted with her 6-year-old son, Teddy, as their car inched through traffic on a late-night drive home. Her younger children, George and Ellie, slept in car seats beside him.

“Teddy, what do you want to be when you grow up?” she asked her son.

“Mom, I’m going to be a policeman,” he said.

“Well, that’s good, Ted—policeman, they protect people,” she responded. “What do you think George is going to be?”

“Well, George is going to be a fireman,” Teddy pronounced.

“Great, that’s awesome,” McGrath said. “But have you thought about a fighter pilot? I mean, I was a fighter pilot—that’s a really cool important position.”

Young Teddy didn’t hesitate for a moment.

“No, Mom. That’s what Ellie’s going to do.” 🚢

“For me, going to TOPGUN was about becoming the best F-18 pilot I could be. It was about becoming an instructor and teaching others the tactics they needed to be successful.”

—CDR Becky Calder ’98, USNR (Ret.)



# BALANCING ACT

---

MIDSHIPMEN LEARN BENEFITS,  
HAZARDS OF GENERATIVE AI

---



**G**enerative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming many aspects of modern life, bringing with it nefarious uses that future warfighters will confront from a variety of ill-intentioned actors.

Naval Academy leaders are working to harness the power of this new technology while simultaneously instituting usage guardrails for midshipmen. Provost Samara L. Firebaugh said generative AI offers opportunities to leverage this rapidly evolving technology as a learning tool. The positive aspects of AI must be balanced with strict Honor Concept adherence, she said.

Generative AI can produce text, images, videos and other mediums based on user input. Its uses have been heralded for speeding the writing process with programs such as OpenAI's Chat GPT. Google Gemini (formerly known as Bard) is a competitor of Chat GPT and can also answer user questions and generate content.

While generative AI offers positive uses including enhancing medical images, the discovery of new drugs, creating more efficient supply chains and accelerating software development, its capabilities also raise ethical questions. Those include the temptation to use this technology to help write term papers or complete other coursework.

Firebaugh said the Academy is committed to preparing future Navy and Marine Corps officers to combat heinous uses of AI by American foes before they are commissioned. She said generative AI is a potentially disruptive technology.

"It is of vital importance to our national security that our future officers should understand the capabilities and limits of this technology," Firebaugh said. "At the same time, generative AI can be used to shortcut the sorts of assignments that we have traditionally used to develop critical thinking, logical reasoning and ethical judgment.

"Our challenge at the Naval Academy is to rapidly educate the faculty on generative AI so that they can then examine our curriculum and assessments in order to determine where to integrate generative AI and where to mitigate potential abuse of generative AI tools."

The Naval Academy is teaching midshipmen to use generative AI as a tool but not a replacement for critical thinking or ethical judgement. Midshipmen have access to cutting edge technology and elite faculty who are charged with ensuring evolving technology is not misused.

### THE 'WHY'

Firebaugh said the Academy's approach to incorporating new technology starts with the "why."

"We try to communicate to the midshipmen why critical thinking, logical reasoning and ethical judgment is so important to their development as officers, and then how our academic program develops those skills," Firebaugh said. "We emphasize how taking shortcuts is ultimately a disservice to themselves and the people they will someday serve."

The Academy is working to ensure midshipmen are equipped with the proper tools and guidance for generative AI:

- *Every instructor is required to address the rules regarding the use of generative AI for their class as part of their course policy and to reiterate the rules with each assignment.*
- *Some instructors are scaffolding writing assignments differently to ensure more frequent instructor feedback and to emphasize process over product.*
- *Some instructors are incorporating more in-class writing or the use of sources that aren't available online to discourage the use of generative AI.*
- *Some instructors are allowing generative AI to be used for portions of assignments.*

The Naval Academy's Machine Learning Team used generative Artificial Intelligence to compete in the National Football League's data science challenge in 2024. Teams are provided data from the NFL and challenged to find actionable, practical and novel insights from that data. The midshipmen chose to focus on tackling. They used ChatGPT to add features to the data set provided by the NFL.

They felt their project was lacking because it focused on player height and weight and only learned following their Big Data Bowl submission they missed a critical component. They learned from LT Joseph Cardona '15, USN, the long snapper for the New England Patriots, that speed "is king" in the NFL. Including that data point would have provided more actionable data for the midshipmen's project.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA

"The rapid development of the technology, matched by its numerous uses make coordinating policy a challenge, but also a necessity," Firebaugh said. "The Naval Academy benefits from having a strong community of expert faculty invested in the development of midshipmen as officers and as ethical human beings. Keeping up with developments in generative AI is hard and requires responsive adaptation; the commitment to mission, however, remains constant.

"The Honor Congress (which is a midshipmen body) has also embraced its role in helping the Brigade understand what generative AI is and why it should not be abused. They've incorporated generative AI into the honor training they conduct with the plebes."

### SAFEGUARDING HONOR

Naval Academy faculty are adjusting procedures and using technology to thwart unauthorized use of AI by midshipmen. That might mean professors changing the structure of assignments to mitigate against AI use.

Firebaugh said Academy leadership encourages instructors to require students to make their electronic edit history available with writing assignments. That allows the instructor to check for inconsistencies that might indicate the use of generative AI.

The Academy has also made AI-detection tools available. In honor cases, it is analyzing the process to include faculty who are technical experts on generative AI to be part of the investigation and hearing.

"Ultimately, there is no 100 percent sure way to prevent abuse," Firebaugh said. "That is why convincing the students of the 'why' behind our assessments and academic requirements is important. We need to engage with our students to acknowledge the benefits of AI, while also helping our students think beyond the moment to a future when they will lead Navy and Marine personnel, when their critical thinking skills will be so ... well ... critical."

The Naval Academy's mission is to develop leaders of character. This "development of the person" includes nurturing critical thought and ethical reasoning, Firebaugh said.

Faculty emphasize that shortcuts can stunt the growth of thought, she said.

"We need our midshipmen to become thoughtful and ethical leaders," Firebaugh said. "The educational advantage of assignments of many kinds comes not from the existence of a finished, polished product, but from engagement in the mental struggle at every stage of producing it. Our midshipmen came to USNA to become better people and they aren't afraid of hard work, so if we lead with the 'why,' we won't go wrong."

### LEARNING AID

AI might be new but transformative technological advances are not. When personal calculators entered the mainstream in the 1970s there were concerns students would use them to cheat and lose basic math skills.

Michael Sears '78 remembers shifting from slide rules to calculators. He said physics professors who embraced the new technology gave midshipmen 20 problems that were more complicated and pushed the boundaries of what was possible with a slide rule and ten problems.

Professors used that technology to dig deeper and push the envelope, said Sears who is senior fellow, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the Naval Academy. Sears equated generative AI to harnessing the power of electricity.

The possibilities AI present are revolutionary, he said. While acknowledging the sinister uses for AI, Sears said failure to equip future warfighters with generative AI tools is a recipe for disaster.

“We’re not going back,” Sears said. “Even if we want to resist that’s fine, but the threats are out there and they aren’t going to say, ‘well the neighbor is not teaching this so we won’t attack.’ We are a liberal arts school that teaches our graduates to be critical thinkers.”

As an educational tool, Sears said generative AI can customize education for each individual. That doesn’t mean it will dumb down subject material, said Sears, who spent 30 years working in Silicon Valley at a variety of technology firms including serving as CEO of a technology company.

“It will customize education such that it will figure out who you are, who the next person is and teach the same subject matter in a way that’s consumable for you. It’s not cheating. It’s not making it easy for you.

“It’s giving you the same information in a way that you can consume it. It’s almost like having 30 professors for 30 students and individualizing the lesson. These are emerging trends at the forefront of technology, so why wouldn’t we want midshipmen to have a better way of absorbing the material?”

Generative AI might also be used to help brainstorm ideas. It can help a student to learn a difficult concept by allowing the student to ask clarifying questions or to seek examples of the concept that might speak to the student’s previous experience, Firebaugh said.

“It can generate code for routine functions within a larger program, allowing a student to take on a more ambitious project than might otherwise not be feasible,” she said. “A student can use generative AI to ‘red team’ their own ideas to identify weaknesses or biases in their thinking.”

Firebaugh said it’s important for students to understand the limits and biases of generative AI.

“Some instructors have cleverly designed assignments that have the midshipmen push generative AI to the point of failure,” Firebaugh said. “For example, some instructors have students

compare and evaluate writing produced by generative AI to writing produced by humans to demonstrate the characteristics, shortcomings and pitfalls of generative AI responses.”

## PREPARING FOR REAL WORLD THREATS

Evolving and emerging threats in the cyber arena will have to be met and combated by warfighters with the proper technical and critical thinking skills. Captain Amanda Borngen ’99, USN (Ret.), former director of operations, Joint Intelligence Operations Center, said the midshipmen in the current generation are tech natives who bring an important perspective to the potential vulnerabilities to our nation’s systems—including energy and military.

Borngen said the proliferation of data coupled with misinformation campaigns demands cyber warriors think critically and rapidly determine the veracity of an information source. That is essential to ensuring commanding officers have the best and most accurate information prior to making wartime decisions.

“This takes additional rigor,” said Borngen who is currently a student at the Cleveland State University College of Law. “We must make sure it evolves with the technology that’s out there. There’s a new frontier.

“You have to be intellectually curious, and you should be skeptical. We should always be testing ourselves. Be curious, be open. The younger generation brings new approaches to new problems.” 📌



“We need our midshipmen to become thoughtful and ethical leaders. The educational advantage of assignments of many kinds comes not from the existence of a finished, polished product, but from engagement in the mental struggle at every stage of producing it. Our midshipmen came to USNA to become better people and they aren’t afraid of hard work, so if we lead with the ‘why,’ we won’t go wrong.”

—Provost Samara L. Firebaugh



# FORGED BY THE BAY

## NSW LINK IN THE CHAINS BOND DURING KNIFE BUILD

By Kayle N. Watson '85

As all graduates of the Naval Academy come to know, there is something comforting in the seemingly eternal nature of our alma mater. With 43 years of distance since the Class of 1985's Plebe Summer, I can say that Bancroft Hall remains a better place to visit than stay.

At a certain point, I sought to return a kindness to an institution that left an indelible mark and a warfare community from which I gleaned life lessons that I still put into practice to this day. In April, I sponsored the inaugural Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Knife Build. By the grace of the Superintendent, the support of SEALs serving at the Naval Academy and former frogmen who continue to fight for the community at Valhalla's Forge (a Virginia Beach, VA, custom metal and woodwork company), the event surpassed even the group's elite standards. We will build a tradition that combines the best of USNA and NSW for years to come.

On 27 April 2024, the NSW Detachment at the Naval Academy hosted the first NSW Knife Build in the hallowed Rickover Hall.

Professional craftsmen from Valhalla's Forge rolled in an arsenal of equipment (to include a laser engraver).

For eight hours, midshipmen, active-duty SEALs and forever frogmen sharpened steel, constructed custom sheaths and emblazoned mantras, life philosophies and family values into the hilt of their personalized blades. All participants left with their own custom knives with the Naval Academy crest and a symbol sacred to the SEAL Teams.

I first served as a surface warfare officer and upon completion of my first tour, I lateral transferred to Naval Special Warfare, graduating as the class leader of BUD/S Class 162. What brings me even more pride is that my son, Kayle Watson IV '27, is now a midshipman.

Only at the Naval Academy would your son's literature instructor double as a Navy SEAL. Like all Severn-bred SEALs, Lieutenant Joseph Dinkel '16, USN, and I shared an instant bond. Not two minutes into our first phone-call sync, where I pitched this "novel" event, Dinkel responded: "Easy day ... we will make this happen." And just three months later, we did.

Initially, this NSW Knife Build aimed just to gift 32 first-class midshipmen selected to attend BUD/S with a custom knife. Some part of me felt compelled to give back to a place that had given me so much, and there is a kinship with those headed and those who have gone to BUD/S.

Back in the Class of 1985, only two midshipmen would be given billets to BUD/S. I know that those "lucky" 32 midshipmen's only treats for the next year will be cold water, soft sand and the unforgiving concrete of Coronado. Such a selection is a twisted honor: for outstanding performance in the SEAL teams, your reward will be more misery with more mountains to climb.

After talking to leadership at the Naval Academy and working with the tireless team at Valhalla's Forge, we welcomed all sons and daughters of SEALs who were plebes at the time also to come build some knives. With 40 midshipmen needing custom



MIDN Kayle Watson IV '27, USN, LT Joe Dinkel '16, USN, and Kayle Watson III '85 participated in a NSW Knife Build at the Naval Academy in April. The event was designed to strengthen ties among the SEALs community.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLE N. WATSON '85

knives, Valhalla's Forge rallied its own band of heroines and heroes to ensure operational success.

Led by a NSW Development Group (DEVGRU) giant, Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Hintzke—founder and CEO of Vahalla's Forge—his team of 14 volunteers supplied the equipment, knowledge and care to ensure all midshipmen left with expertly crafted blades. These volunteers were nothing short of heroic.

Among the group was a retired law enforcement officer, an Air Force veteran, a former ultra marathon runner, a pastor, a fishing boat captain, an electrician and a few wonderful spouses. Without Valhalla's Forge, this event could not have been achieved. We owe an incredible debt of gratitude to Hintzke and his team, just as this nation owes Hintzke a debt of gratitude for his selfless service.

I have known him for the better part of four decades. We did our first platoon together. From our first encounter, I knew Hintzke only as a "force of nature." Chief Warrant Officer Hintzke served our nation for 30-plus years, rising from a seaman to a warrant officer with 26 years in the teams. Of note, he spent more than 20 years at development group, deploying on 16 combat deployments, and was a troop command master chief.

The consummate professional, Hintzke has always dedicated himself to his craft. Fittingly, he is now a master craftsman.

He heads Valhalla's Forge, a company committed to helping first responders, veterans and their families.

### ETHOS ETCHED IN METAL

As part of the prep work, Hintzke asked all midshipmen who would be forging a knife to reflect on their core truths. He asked these midshipmen to think of the most foundational family belief and personal rallying calls that would steel their resolve in the toughest of times. As the final mark of these custom knives, each midshipman etched their "ethos" to the metal edge of the inner hilt. Hintzke embedded pieces of naval history into each knife—wood from either the deck of CONSTITUTION or the deck of MISSOURI buttressed each blade. The mental preparation and generosity of sharing naval artifacts heightened the solemnity of the event and the focus of the midshipmen.

Before midshipmen began honing, the DEVGRU legend addressed the objectives, tasks and mindset worthy of today's build. His no-nonsense master chief charm paralleled the importance of focus today and the midshipmen's future leadership in the fleet. He addressed the first-class midshipmen bound for BUD/S, hammering home that the SEAL teams did not need "good" SEAL Officers, but "GREAT!" ones.

The graphic features a background image of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter (numbered 752) and a small boat with crew members on the water. On the left, the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation logo is displayed, consisting of the text "NAVY SAFE HARBOR FOUNDATION" and a large anchor icon. On the right, the text "JOIN OUR MISSION" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, a dark blue ribbon contains the text "JOIN OUR MISSION BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE. NSHF WANTS YOU!". Further down, a paragraph of text describes the foundation's mission. At the bottom right, contact information is provided, including an email address and a website URL.

**NAVY SAFE HARBOR FOUNDATION**

# JOIN OUR MISSION

**JOIN OUR MISSION BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE. NSHF WANTS YOU!**

The Navy Safe Harbor Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We provide a broad range of non-medical support to wounded, ill, and injured Navy and Coast Guard Sailors and their caregivers when financial obligations cause hardship and stress. Join us in helping to ease their recovery and reintegration.

Volunteer for our events. Join our board of directors. Spread the word. Together we can build their Safe Harbor.

For more information, please forward your contact information to:  
[info@safeharborfoundation.org](mailto:info@safeharborfoundation.org)  
[www.safeharborfoundation.org](http://www.safeharborfoundation.org)



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLE N. WATSON '85

**In April 2024, Naval Special Warfare Detachment at the Naval Academy hosted the first NSW Knife Build which brought together midshipmen, active-duty SEALs and former frogmen.**

Hintzke continued his discussion by holding up a wooden box. He referenced a talk given by Admiral Eric Olson '73, USN (Ret.), while CO of the DEVGRU—the U.S. Navy’s Tier One special mission unit and the Naval Component of the Joint Special Operations Command.

During that talk, which was delivered to the Navy’s “Elite SEALs”—the Best of the Best of the Best—he explained the box represented the NavSpecWar Development Group core mission sets and the “NO FAIL” mission taskings they committed to perform for the president of the United States. They would successfully complete these mission sets no matter what—they are No Fail!

A box is constrained by size. If something new went into the box, something had to come out. The men and women of DEVGRU embraced the concept and took it as a guiding principle of who they were.

These young men—tomorrow’s leaders—sat mesmerized as they listened to this former senior enlisted leader, a SEAL with more than 250 combat missions, talk to them about their box. They were just starting out their life in the naval service. What did their box consist of; what would they put in their box? What were their “core values” and “ethos?”

In short order, these young men will graduate and receive orders to different BUD/S training classes where they will be tested beyond anything they can imagine. Other SEALs, men like Hintzke, would be sizing them up and looking to determine if they would measure up. Did they have what is required to lead others when lives were at stake? To be the leader others can trust and count on no matter what? Was their “box” strong enough and made of the right stuff?

Some of the essential attributes that would be in the box of a soon-to-be graduating midshipman headed off to SEAL training

included discipline, selflessness, leading from the front, always striving for your best and having that desire to be a part of something greater than oneself. Hintzke also discussed a topic most often ignored: taking care of yourself. After 20 years of sustained wartime fighting, the SpecWar community has learned (like all of the armed services), that soldiers and sailors need to prioritize taking care of themselves. There had to be room in your box to “take care of yourself.”

After Hintzke wrapped up his talk, the midshipmen broke into smaller groups to work on their knives. As they proceeded from station to station for the different taskings, one could hear numerous small conversations among the midshipmen regarding what they thought belonged in their boxes; what did they see in each other?

Former frogman Jeff Webb '95, president and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, took part in the opening ceremony. The Naval Academy’s 65th Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, came to show support, congratulate the selects and witness the feats of craftsmanship that the combined Naval Academy and Valhalla’s Forge team brought to bear.

Captain Andrew Ledford '95, USN, the ranking SEAL on the Yard, stood in awe of the event, the efficiency and final products. So much of the event’s success could be attributed to that relentless spirit of the SEAL teams to make the seemingly impossible happen. As we bank on in the SEAL teams, the right people in the right place will find a way to win. There was a lot of winning that day.

And if it is possible to end the day on a higher note, we did. One of the volunteers that Hintzke brought to speak to these future naval officers was Johnny Savage. Savage was 19 years old and the mate on a 56-ft fishing boat that was capsized by a rogue wave. The force of the wave broke the ship apart and sank it. Lost at sea 90 miles from shore for more than 11 hours, the crew was rescued by a fishing boat crew after about 12 hours in the water.

Savage talked about other important life lessons that will come in handy for a naval officer: fighting complacency, constant preparedness, positive pride and wrestling with desperation. One key lesson involved stowing the life raft and emergency radio below deck for the 350-mile trip to Mexico because “nothing ever happens during the day” and they did not want to have to clean them upon arrival. As Murphy’s Law would have it, when the boat sank, down went the emergency life raft and radio!

With lessons learned, knives honed and friendships forged, this inaugural NSW Knife Build will continue and could become a tradition. Like great enlisted leaders, Hintzke and Senior Chief Alex Keyser synced not even 24 hours after mission success to build a better plan for next year. With the new Naval Academy Commandant Captain Walter H. Allman III '97, USN, being a Naval SEAL, we look forward to having him participate in next year’s build, and it will be our solemn mission to make this next forge an even more memorable triumph. ⚓

*Lieutenant Joseph Dinkel '16, USN, contributed to this article.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVEUKRAINE

MoveUkraine, a nonprofit that provides aid to wartorn Ukraine, is expanding its efforts by creating a network of community-based rehabilitation centers. Its initial phase includes delivering five rehab centers for injured war veterans and civilians.

# ALUMNI CONTINUE UKRAINIAN AID WITH REHABILITATION SERVICES

By Ken Shearer '77

When we last reported in the May 2023 issue of *Shipmate*, John Shmorhun '77 and his wife, Tuscia, were one year into the operations of MoveUkraine. They had founded the organization shortly after the war started in February 2022. Their mission was to build and re-build underused municipal facilities across western Ukraine to provide homes for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who had lost everything due to the destruction caused by Russian bombs and missiles.

The stories were heartbreaking, the destruction overwhelming. A recent *New York Times* research study and article described the destruction of buildings in Ukraine as the equivalent of the destruction of all the buildings in Manhattan ... four times over.

As we reflect over the past 18 months since you saw our last article, progress has been impressive. More than 18 separate projects have been completed to house approximately 800 IDPs, mostly women, children (many of whom are orphans) and seniors. There are six projects underway which will increase to 1,350 the number of IDPs in MoveUkraine residences. Every month it seems a new project celebrates a grand opening. The looks on the faces of the new residents, especially the children, is so uplifting, and makes the work of the many volunteers have real meaning.

At the start of 2024, governors of several of the Oblasts (Ukrainian states or provinces) identified that one of the biggest needs for the country as it is being rebuilt, is to provide in-depth rehabilitation services to returning wounded veterans and civilians

who have suffered major injuries in the war. Though the war continues with its full fury, Ukraine cannot wait to start working to provide rehabilitation services. Estimates are as high as 20-25,000 soldiers returning from the front dealing with limb amputation and an equal amount with traumatic brain injury caused by bomb blasts and missile strikes.

There are reports of an increase of 300,000 people in Ukraine with physical disabilities since the war began. Facilities do not exist to treat these cases with all the support/non-medical requirements for therapy and other ongoing needs. After consultation with representatives from The Wounded Warrior Project (a special thanks to retired Lieutenant General Mike Linnington, recently retired CEO at Wounded Warrior Project) and

Brooke Army Hospital and its Center for the Intrepid, the MoveUkraine team has developed, in concert with various medical centers in Ukraine, a strategy to create a network of community-based rehabilitation centers. This strategy will enable the necessary therapeutic work to be done closer to where people live, instead of traveling great distances to major city facilities.

Work began in the first quarter to identify both building and equipment needs, and in May/June of this year, the initial three centers were identified, and memorandums of understanding were signed for facilities to be built in Burshtyn, Verkhovyna and Ternopil. We have helped create and manage a series of public/private partnerships to fund these three initial projects.

The designs are complete, and construction began this summer.

Additionally, two more sites have been initially identified in Kharkiv and Poltava. These first five rehab centers will form our first beachhead of a much larger effort over time. Detailed assessments are underway for Kharkiv and Poltava, to ensure that we optimally invest funds to have the greatest impact. On average, it costs about \$200,000-250,000 for each project, though it varies based on circumstances. We always use local companies to do the work, as the economy of Ukraine is suffering greatly, and part of our mission is to rebuild communities and therefore jobs. Gross domestic product in Ukraine dropped 29 percent in 2022, and is very slowly recovering.

As MoveUkraine moves further into 2024 and beyond, the two-pronged mission continues. Our first priority is building homes and apartments for IDPs who have lost almost everything. A key focus is to

provide a place to live where people who have lost so much can live with dignity. The second and new major thrust, as mentioned previously, is to build a series of community-based rehabilitation centers around the country to serve the flood of severely injured soldiers and civilians who are suffering the trauma of war in a personal way.

We have been so encouraged by the number of U.S. Naval Academy graduates who have gotten behind our cause. We hope that you will follow us on social media and at MoveUkraine.org. We are active on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. John and Tuscia Shmorhun are doing noble work that is making a difference for the people of Ukraine. It's another great example of the impact of Naval Academy alumni, and their commitment to building a better world. 🇺🇸

Seeing is BELIEVING



**Falcons Landing**, an award-winning, non-profit, CARF-accredited Life Plan Community, is nestled in scenic Loudoun County. The community is thrilled to announce that independent living is now available to individuals who meet specific criteria. These include:

- **Military or Government Service:** Anyone who has served at least four years in the uniformed services or the United States government.
- **Special Relationships:** Individuals with significant connections to the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, or other government agencies associated with national defense. This category also extends to spouses and surviving spouses.

Call us at **703-721-4215** to schedule your visit and SEE for yourself why we are the premier Life Plan Community in Northern Virginia.

FalconsLanding.org  
Potomac Falls, VA 20165



Our health services — including long-term care nursing, short-term rehab, assisted living and memory care — are open to those in the greater community who are looking for care for themselves or a loved one. No military or government service is required.

# CROSS-CLASS COLLABORATION LEADS TO MILESTONE REUNION PROJECT

By Laura S. Lee '88

What began as a chance business meeting between two former Navy football players has grown into an enduring friendship and a unique milestone reunion project for the Class of 1988.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA LEE '88

Connecticut distillery SoNo 1420, owned by Ted Dumbauld '81, produced a commemorative bottle for the Class of 1988's milestone 35th reunion in 2023.

Our class boasts an active entrepreneurial network, fostering collaboration and mutual support among the many businesses that '88ers have founded. In fact, we leverage the new myUSNA platform to showcase these small businesses and provide direct links to them.

However, as the planning phase for our 35th reunion began early last year, classmate Brian "Rat" Rathjen '88 suggested joining forces with his buddy, Ted Dumbauld '81, a former middle linebacker and system engineering major from the Class of 1981. With a mutual background of Navy football and serial successful finance companies, the two became friends over the years, albeit from different ends of the '80s decade.

Brian introduced Ted—and his new distillery in Connecticut—to our reunion committee. Captain Chris Bushnell '88, USN, now a class vice president, spearheaded the swag and merch decisions and helped to promote the idea to our classmates. We all liked the concept of a higher-end product from "America's Maritime Distillery" to help commemorate our milestone reunion.

Right away, our 35th reunion team began brainstorming the concept of creating this special product. Ted worked with us personally and produced high-quality, '88 crested, commemorative decanter-style bottles for us from his award-winning distillery, SoNo 1420. With his blend made from 75 percent corn and 15 percent rye, Ted's bourbon is the first in America to introduce 10 percent hemp

seed in its mash bills, which give his spirits, as he explains, a unique "nuttness" and a "rich, velvety mouthfeel."

His formula has paid off with back-to-back double-gold medals at the prestigious San Francisco World Spirit Competition, ranking his full-proof bourbon and cinnamon whiskey the finest in the world against the biggest names in the business.

Class President Jim Schwab '88 enthusiastically supported the idea of our collaboration with the award-winner from the beginning. As a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees representing the '80s decade, Jim welcomed the cross-class networking, which supports the mission goals of the Alumni Association.

"We were looking for distinctive items, beyond the traditional swag, to help celebrate our 35th," he said. "Partnering with SoNo 1420 to offer a high-quality commemorative was a no brainer.

"Not only did it meet our reunion goals, but it also allowed us the opportunity to support another alumni business and deepen connections between '81 and '88. We're big fans and look forward to our next collaboration for the 40th!"

Along with bottling the top-shelf premium spirits for our class, Ted's craft distillery donated 10 percent of the profits from each bottle to the USNA Alumni Association, adding significant appeal of the project to our reunion team. Ted himself delivered the carefully packaged, custom bottles, personally driving them all the

way to Annapolis for our reunion check-in. This thoughtful gesture further solidified our enjoyment of the entire experience.

In fact, fueled by the success of our reunion collaboration, '88 became the first group to partner with Ted's distillery for a truly unique venture: laying down an entire 53-gallon barrel of bourbon exclusively for our class. It's a 4 ½ year aging process, which will result in about 200 bottles—minus a few from the “angel's share”—to celebrate our 40th reunion in 2028.

In the meantime, as part of this cross-class experience, our classmates are welcome to drop by SoNo 1420 in Norwalk over the next few years to taste a small sample using a copper whiskey thief to check on our barrel's progress. Not all barrels remain in the aging room, however. Ted's “Finished at Sea” bourbon stays underway for at least a year aboard local fishing ships in the Long Island Sound; the constant motion and the sea air give it a distinct flavor profile that

Ted is confident customers, and alumni, will appreciate.

Ted promotes his new distillery as Academy-graduate founded and operated; it also features board members from USMA '79, USNA '81 and USNA '87. Working together and helping Ted set up new custom bottles and bespoke barrels has been not only tremendously fun for '88, but also highlights the power of our alumni networking. When we capitalize on our shared educational foundation, diverse talents and unwavering motivation toward mutual goals, it's a win for us all.

Thanks to '88's initiative, Ted perfected this alumni connection using 1988 as his inaugural trial class and now duplicates this engaging collaboration for other classes, not only from USNA, but from all the service academies. Now that's something Ted '81 and Rat '88—and all alumni—can toast to. ⚓



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED DUMBAULD '81

Ted Dumbauld '81, is the founder and owner of bourbon distillery SoNo 1420. The distillery partnered with the Class of 1988 to produce a 53-gallon barrel of bourbon exclusively for its 40th reunion. Sono 1420 is among the alumni-owned businesses that are featured at [www.usna.com/shop](http://www.usna.com/shop).

## USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Custom Engraved Whiskey Bottle Program

*World-class, Double Gold medal winning bourbons with custom engraved class crests and more for USNA Alumni. Perfect for graduations, reunions, events or your personal collection.*

From Academy Graduate Founded and Operated SoNo 1420, America's Award Winning Maritime Distillery

Choose among six offerings from our 1420 Flagship and Maritime Collections appealing to the whiskey novice or most sophisticated palate. Our decanter-like bottles provide for the highest quality engraving in the industry.

Contact Ted Dumbauld, Founder, USNA '81

Email: [ted.dumbauld@sono1420.com](mailto:ted.dumbauld@sono1420.com)

Online: [SONO1420.SQUARE.SITE/USNA-AA-F-PARTNER](http://SONO1420.SQUARE.SITE/USNA-AA-F-PARTNER)



**SONO1420**  
AMERICA'S MARITIME DISTILLERY

Distilled and aged in the maritime environment on the Long Island Sound

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL  
AWARD WINNING  
DISTILLERY



**ACADEMY GRADUATE**  
FOUNDED AND OPERATED

# NON SIBI SED PATRIA FOR 75 YEARS

By CAPT Wesley S. Huey '87, USN (Ret.)



ILLUSTRATION BY JONATHAN BARTLETT

Members of the Class of 1949, Al Levine and John Camp, orchestrated a prank that prompted the premature firing of the 19-gun salute for then-Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal in the fall of 1946.

In the fall of 1946, it was customary to mark the arrival of the Secretary of the Navy on the Yard with a salvo of 19 guns from the saluting battery overlooking the Severn River. On a Wednesday afternoon in the fall of that year, sailors assigned as post sentries prepared 19 shells of ammunition at the battery for the imminent arrival of Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, just one year removed from leading the Navy to victory in the Pacific.

Forrestal, it is worth noting, was a big deal. He signed the fitness reports of Fleet Admirals Ernest King, USN (Ret.), Class of 1901, and Chester Nimitz, USN (Ret.), Class of 1905. Later that same fall, he would become the first Secretary of Defense. Nine years later, the attack carrier FORRESTAL would be named in his honor.

On this particular afternoon, ambling past the battery in their youngster stripes, midshipmen with the Class of 1949, Al Levine and John Camp, were still teenagers. Levine and Camp noticed a phone box near the battery, which they knew carried the alert signal from the front gate sentry that the Secretary had arrived at the gate. These two young men hatched an idea.

Something else you should know about Levine, Camp, and the rest of the Class of '49. They were the first post-WWII class at the Academy—the first to return to the four-year program since the war compressed the program to three years.

They were also among the most war-seasoned class in the 180-year history of the Academy. Of the 1,111 plebes who reported in the summer of 1945, 200 came from the fleet and Fleet Marine Force that had just won the war. Eight were battle-tested E-5s or E-6s. Lee Ramsey '49 wore a Distinguished Flying Cross from duty as a tail gunner. Stan Cooper '49 enlisted at 17 on 6 May 1941. The oldest member of the class in the summer of 1945 was 22. Eleven more, including Cooper, were 21.

And they were also more educated than typical plebes. Thanks to the Navy's V-12 college training program, part of the effort to accelerate college



education and meet the wartime demand for officers, 11 of the new plebes had already graduated from college—one from Harvard, another from Cornell. Ten of those 11 forfeited commissions for the privilege of becoming plebes at Navy.

This was no ordinary class, and theirs was no ordinary watch.

By the end of their military careers, the Class of 1949 earned two Navy Crosses, four Silver Stars, 17 Purple Hearts, 32 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 77 Bronze Stars. They served in combat or in crisis in World War II, Korea, Lebanon, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Forty members of the class were killed in action or operational loss, their names etched in granite as fallen heroes in Memorial Hall. Among post-WWII classes, only the Classes of '51, '52 and '53 have more names on the wall than '49.

Thirty-eight '49ers achieved flag rank, an astounding 5 percent of the class, a standard exceeded only by their plebes—'52 has the record of 40 flag officers. '49ers served as chief of naval operations; commander in chief, Atlantic Fleet; commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; commander, Sixth Fleet; commander, Submarine Force Atlantic; commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic; Naval Academy Superintendent; Naval Postgraduate School superintendent; DCNO Logistics; DCNO Warfare; CG 2nd Marine Division; director Naval Intelligence; and chief engineer of the Navy.

Class of '49 and their peers in the fleet and Fleet Marine Force were the warfighting pioneers of the jet age, the nuclear age and the space age. They were among the first to fly jets off aircraft carriers, and among the first to drive and command nuclear submarines and ships. Their plebes, including Captain Jim Lovell '52, USN (Ret.), were among the first astronauts. They developed nuclear strategy, operations and tactics. Ashore and as civilians, they experimented with computers and information systems. They designed space systems. They were plank owners in the military-industrial complex.

And they were leaders of transformational change. Lieutenant Commander Wesley Brown '49, USN (Ret.), was the first Black midshipman

to graduate from the Naval Academy. Admiral Jim Watkins '49, USN (Ret.), was CNO when the Naval Academy graduated its third class of women and led the implementation of Secretary John Lehman's 600-ship Navy. In 1988, the last of the '49ers to retire from active service, Vice Admiral Glenwood Clark '49, USN (Ret.), piped ashore just before the Cold War was won.

### 'Independent Spirit and Initiative'

It is no stretch to say the Class of '49 served on active duty through the most sweeping era of change in the 180-year history of our Academy.

So, when Al Levine and John Camp walked past the saluting battery on that fall day in 1946, they were, in the parlance of the time and place, rately. '49ers collectively had already been there done that, and were destined to do much, much more. This pomp and ceremony for SecNav's arrival honors seemed to Levine and Camp an opportunity to have a little fun at the expense of the Exec, their vernacular for the chain of command.

Camp jotted the phone number down, the one plainly visible on the gun battery's call box, and he and Levine scurried back to Bancroft Hall.

Of all there is to admire about this remarkable cohort of American warfighters, pioneers and citizens, I admire most what they represent as the first post-World War II class in our history. They took the conn of a coal-fired, all-male and vastly white Navy from Nimitz and Fletcher and Halsey, got underway on nuclear power, steam catapults and something called information technology, and led sailors and Marines as race- and gender-integrated units for the first time in our nation's history.

This special band of brothers steeled themselves as midshipmen for the challenges to come. '49ers somehow understood what it took to become a leader in the Navy and Marine Corps without also taking themselves, and their training, too seriously, perhaps because so many of them had already experienced the horrors of war.

On that day as youngsters in 1946, Levine and Camp were playing a prank in the grand and unbroken tradition of

midshipmen acts of subversion. In a larger sense, this story is 49's version of revealed wisdom that the art of leading men and women in combat is a tension between doctrine and innovation, tradition and creativity, authority and humility, discipline and humor.

To lead well in war, it seems, you must also laugh well at yourself in peace. The serious business of killing must never be led by the humorless, for they may come to like it too much. Nor should martial authority consider itself immune from good natured ribbing, lest they forget to whom they answer for their authority—those they lead. That is why we have Hundreds Night, Foc'sle Follies, Eighth Wing Players and '49ers like Levine and Camp.

*"Al and John ran back to Bancroft office, dialed the saluting battery's phone number and stated, in a loud and authoritative voice, 'Stand by—commence firing!'" Six salvos were fired off before the main gate guards could cancel the order. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. Since only 19 rounds were available at the battery, SecNav only received 13 salvos, six short of his 19-gun salute. Our class' independent spirit and initiative having thus been shown, all '49ers stood at attention for over one hour that evening while company officers tried fruitlessly to get the guilty party to fess up."*

—A 50th year profile of the Class of 1949  
October 1999

Well played '49. Well played; not for self, but for country.

And not for self, but for community.

The Class of '49 has given \$10 million in gifts in its 75 years as alumni, highlighted by its 1999 restoration of 49 House, home to the Alumni Association staff until its relocation to the Fluegel Alumni Center in 2023.

Your shipmates salute the less than 50 living '49ers celebrating your 75th reunion this fall...

**BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.  
BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. ⚓**

# PARENT CLUBS PROVIDE INVALUABLE SUPPORT



Dr. Michele Petrucelli

Dr. Michele Petrucelli recognized the anxiety. The mother of a second-class midshipman, Petrucelli was just a couple years removed from the nervousness and uncertainty the parents of a Class of 2028 plebe were exhibiting on 21 June at a Parents Club gathering near CONSTITUTION in Boston, MA. Petrucelli, a member of the Connecticut Parent Club, was eager to share the invaluable information imparted upon her by a sympathetic mother two

years earlier.

Her son, Nicholas, does not come from a military family and none of his family members attended a service academy. They entered the Naval Academy family with minimal knowledge and lots of questions. During an event for Naval Academy rowers, Diane Pushner delivered an incredible gift to Petrucelli.

“I didn’t know anything,” Petrucelli said. “I was petrified as a new incoming parent. When we went to a meet and greet, there was a mom whose son was on the team. She just walked up to me and downloaded all of this information to me. It was a gift.

“I felt the responsibility to do for incoming parents what had been done for me.”

At that 21 June meeting, members of the New England and Connecticut Parent Clubs received an update about Yard activities from Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids ’89, USN, and a welcome from U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation President and CEO Jeff Webb ’95. Petrucelli was on hand to share the same insights and support Pushner provided her.

Petrucelli noted that service academies are “not college,” and swapping notes from parents of civilian university students isn’t overly helpful.

“I thank Diane Pushner who did that for me,” Petrucelli said. “I tell her, ‘your legacy continues because of the way you put me at ease, I want to put other people at ease.’”

The plebe parents in Boston reached out to Petrucelli for advice. They were grateful to have such a willing source of credible information.

Parents who have been through this milestone event with their own midshipmen can help alleviate that fear.

“They said, ‘my goodness this was so great. I was so nervous I didn’t know what to expect,’” Petrucelli said. “Plebe Summer sounds terrifying. They get to talk to parents and know they’re not in it alone.”

Petrucelli said parent club members can offer this same support for the families of incoming plebes across the country.

“It’s putting parents at ease,” Petrucelli said. “It’s explaining everything. This is so different and if you’re not familiar with service academies, you won’t know. You won’t understand and your friends whose children are not going to this type of institution can’t help you because it is so different.”

Support extends throughout a midshipman’s tenure in Annapolis, and beyond. That includes sending Dark Ages care packages, support of midshipmen activities when they are in their hometowns and graduation gifts.

“Parent clubs support the midshipmen,” Petrucelli said. “That’s the really great thing because not every mid is coming from a family that can provide support. So, your state parent club is helping the mids from your state.”

Petrucelli recommends all parents join their local parent clubs. She said she has made some great new friends and has even traveled with them to events. Parent clubs “are an invaluable resource in good times and in bad, a place to meet other parents that share this unique experience and an opportunity to make new and potentially lifelong friends,” she said.

To learn more about parent clubs, visit [www.usna.com/parents](http://www.usna.com/parents). 

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of Oct. 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, U.S. Code)

**Date of Filing:** September 2024

**Title of Publication:** *Shipmate*

**Frequency of Issue:** Six times per year

**Location of known office of publication and headquarters of publishers:**

301 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402

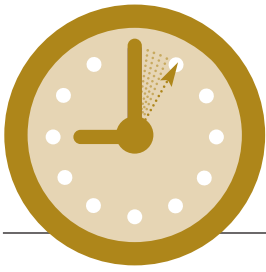
**Publisher:** Jeff Webb

**Editor:** Jimmy DeButts

**Owner:** U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Inc.

**Known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:** None

	Avg. No. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest to filing date
Total Printed	54783	54960
Sales	0	0
Mail Subscriptions	54496	54639
Total Paid Circulation	54496	54639
Free Distribution	11	11
Total Distribution	54507	54650
Office Use	271	310
Returns from agents	0	0
Total	54778	54960



## FIVE MINUTES WITH... CAPTAIN JOHN CORDLE '84, USN (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*

Captain John Cordle '84, USN (Ret.), saw firsthand the impact sleep deprivation can have on sailors. He felt the effects standing watch aboard Navy vessels and witnessed the consequences as a commanding officer.

Cordle and a small group of human systems integration professionals sounded the alarm for improved sleep cycles. He was the 2010 recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Captain John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership, and was 2019 U.S. Naval Institute and Surface Navy Association Author of the Year for his work in circadian watch rotations and crew endurance.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in ocean engineering (with merit) from the U.S. Naval Academy, a master's degree in strategic planning from the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and a doctorate of engineering management with a focus in human systems integration from Old Dominion University. His surface ship command tours including a wartime deployment in ARLEIGH BURKE-class destroyer OSCAR AUSTIN and a counter-piracy deployment in TICONDEROGA-class cruiser SAN JACINTO.

Cordle recently shared with *Shipmate* why he has dedicated so much energy on improving sleep cycles in the fleet.

**Shipmate:** When did you start focusing on sleep?

**Cordle:** I was a surface nuclear officer for 30 years, so I experienced all kinds of crazy shift rotations and watch schedules, from rotating shift work for months on end to "five and dime" watches on deployment. Throughout my career, I was just tired all the time. I guess for most of my career I was pretty much oblivious to how detrimental fatigue can be to performance. It really was not until my first command tour that I began to look at it seriously and not until my second that I really implemented measures that made a difference. I was astounded that such a simple change that cost nothing could make such a huge difference.

**Shipmate:** What do you think your biggest contribution has been?

**Cordle:** While in command of cruiser SAN JACINTO I was able to participate in a sleep study through the Naval Postgraduate School on circadian watch rotations, and we implemented them on deployment. We won the SecNav safety award and released a message that later became the basis for a formal policy—although it took several years. We also built the crew endurance handbook and website, managed by my friend, mentor and professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, Nita Shattuck, that is now implemented across the Navy. Today, I occasionally walk

aboard a warship and someone recognizes me and says "Hey, you're that 'Circadian Guy'—your work made a difference in my quality of life. Thanks!" Makes my day.

**Shipmate:** What were some of the obstacles you faced?

**Cordle:** The Navy is steeped in tradition, and one of them is not to tell the commander how to run their warship. There was a good deal of resistance to making this change at many levels to mandating a certain watch rotation, and it was not until the two fatal collisions of 2017, where fatigue was cited as a major contributor, that the surface navy decided to commit to this change. I think my biggest regret is not being even more adamant in pushing for this change earlier, maybe it would have made a difference. I do think the culture is changing and sleep deprivation is no longer the badge of honor that it once was. The obstacles are slowly being chipped away, and things are changing—finally.

**Shipmate:** What has experience taught you?

**Cordle:** As I approach our 40th class reunion the weekend of 19 October, my '84 classmates think it's hilarious that the guy who always showed up late to formation with rack burns on his face is now teaching about sleep and getting paid for it. I think the most important thing is that sleep is just part of the equation.

You have to combine it with exercise and proper nutrition to round out a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, I have sleep apnea due to a lifetime of sleep deprivation and non-circadian work schedules, an all too common condition among service members. I continue to advocate for better policies, better sleeping conditions for our sailors and a culture that encourages sleep mitigation as part of the operational planning process. It's too late for me, but we can make it better for the next generation.

**Shipmate:** What would you tell today's midshipmen and sailors about sleep?

**Cordle:** I would say: own it. Take responsibility for your own rest and fatigue mitigation. Learn about sleep and its importance, learn to value it and make it a priority early in life—it will pay off when you are my age. Oh, and while you are on active duty, get a sleep test so that if you do have sleep issues they can be documented and treated. ☐



PHOTO COURTESY CAPT JOHN CORDLE '84, USN (RET.)

# BRAVO ZULU

## 1970s

'78: LtCol Bill "If" Fell, USMC (Ret.), was honored when the Merchant Marine Academy announced they renamed the Power of Inspiration Leadership Award to the Captain William "Bill" Fell, Jr. Power of Inspiration Award. Fell served in a variety of leadership roles at the Merchant Marine Academy since joining the faculty in 2004 including assistant athletic director, Commandant of Midshipmen and deputy athletic director.

## 1980s

'86: LtCol Peter F. Owen, USMC (Ret.), was presented with the Governor General's Gold Academic Medal by the governor general of Canada, Mary Simon, for achieving the highest academic standing at the graduate level at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. Owen was conferred a degree of doctor of philosophy in war studies. Col Keil R Gentry, USMC (Ret.), has been appointed as the director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA.

'88: David Albritton was inducted to the Defense Information School (DINFOS) Hall of Fame Class of 2024. DINFOS honors alumni who have made extraordinary and lasting contributions at the highest levels in public service, industry, the military or academia for at least 20 years in public affairs, public relations, journalism and other related fields. Albritton is the only former Navy Public Affairs Officer who has served within Fortune 1000 companies as an independent board director, business unit president and chief communications

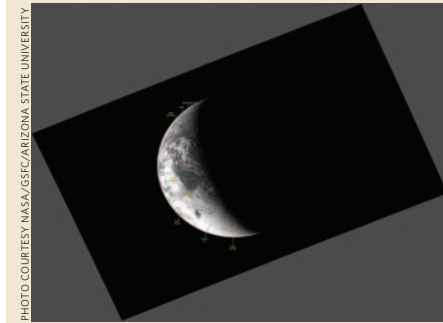


PHOTO COURTESY NASA/GSFC/ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
LCDR Timothy Musmanno '11, USN, designed a maneuver to aim NASA's LRO at the surface of the earth. This action enabled the LRO to capture this photo.

## Musmanno '11 Designs Maneuver to Capture Rare Earth Photo

In October 2023, NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) was able to capture a photo from a rare angle of the earth's surface. This action was made possible by LCDR Tim Musmanno '11, USN, who designed a maneuver to aim the LRO at the surface of the earth.

As part of his thesis, Musmanno, a December 2023 graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), worked with NASA and Dr. Mark Karpenko of NPS to improve the efficiency and maneuverability of the LRO. The finale to his project was designing this maneuver so the LRO could take this picture at the right moment in orbit.

Musmanno was selected to present his thesis to the SECNAV 2023 Space Summit at NPS. He received the Astronaut Michael J. Smith and Astronaut William C. McCool

Award for Excellence in Astronautics upon graduating with a master of astronautical engineering. □



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY  
RADM Carlos Sardiello '90, USN, relieved RADM James Aiken as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet in August.

## Sardiello '90 Takes Command of Fourth Fleet

RADM Carlos Sardiello '90, USN, relieved RADM James Aiken as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet (USNAVSOUTH/Fourth Fleet) during a change of command ceremony at the Ocean Breeze Conference Center onboard U.S. Naval Station Mayport in August.

Prior to assuming command at Fourth Fleet, Sardiello commanded MOUNT WHITNEY and later served as the 15th commanding officer of aircraft carrier THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Ashore he served as executive assistant to commander Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet and director, Joint and Fleet Operations (N3) U.S. Fleet Forces Command. He most recently served as commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE.

Sardiello has logged more than 2,800 flight hours.

In addition to RADM Sardiello, the Class of 1990 boasts multiple fleet commands, including VADM John Wade '90, USN, (Third Fleet), and VADM Fred Kacher '90, USN, (Seventh Fleet). □

officer. Harry Wingo, a former national security professor and Navy SEAL officer, has joined the Office of the National Cyber Director as a deputy.

## 1990

'93: John Miles' book, *Passion Struck*, has been awarded the Silver Medal for Best Business Book and Best E-Book at the 2024

International Business Awards (IBAs). The IBAs, known as the Stevie Awards, are the world's premier business awards program (like the Oscars for business).

## 2000s

'02: Promotions to captain include: Joe Adams, USN (air boss aboard AMERICA); Dan Hancock, USN (ZUMWALT commanding officer);

Bill Guheen, USN; Matt Wright, USN; and Eric Johnson, USN (commanding officer of HM-12). CDR Sean Stein, USN, has taken command of Theater Undersea Warfare Command-Pacific, joined by CDR Patrick Alfonso, USN, (recently retired submariner) and CDR Megan Donnelly, USN (P-8 pilot, post-CO tour).

'07: CDR Alex Sandroni, USN, has taken command of the 513th Electronic Warfare Squadron, a joint Air Force-Navy unit, at Eglin AFB, FL.



## 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)



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

## '61

**Life Membership: 73%**

**Donor Participation: 22.03%**

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

Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Bob Sherer, USN (Ret.)**  
 2301 River Crescent Dr., Annapolis MD 21401  
 p: 410-266-1334 voice and text  
 e: enavant1305@icloud.com; sherer@1961.usna.com

Webmaster: **Howard Winfree**  
 e: winfree@1961.usna.com

Website: **www.USNA61.org**

### Dear Classmates,

To ring in the summer, your correspondent was on hand at I-Day this year looking for differences between our I-Day and the present. One major change is that hundreds of family members arrive with the new plebes. In our day, all I was aware of was that some of us were sworn in by relatives. To accommodate all these visitors there was an array of tents on Hospital Point. A huge lunch tent fed the relatives. On another edge of the field was an array of tents offering services: USAA insurance, Navy Federal Credit Union, First Command financial services, The Graduate Hotel plus a travel agency. Perhaps the changes are due to the ready availability of air travel today in contrast to 1957. For our swearing-in we wore the clothes we reported in. In recent years, the summer upper class mentors (they are called "detailers" now) manage to get the entire incoming class suited up in White Works A by 1800. We never could have accomplished that - the stenciling alone took half a day. Could we say that the Bakelite name tag revolutionized I-Day? I remember I-Day 2007 when Jim Luper (11) led the class in our Another Link in the Chain mission to hold the hands of the parents (less numerous then). A touching feature in those days was the set of bleachers at the service entrance to Alumni Hall (where the plebe processing takes place). Many parents perched on the bleachers in hopes of seeing their offspring dump an oversized bag of gear into a truck for transport to Bancroft. This year the bleachers were (mercifully) absent, but a few relatives did maintain their vigil. I met one of our Link class, **Lauren Smith Moe '11 (3)** who was staffing a table at the welcome tent. Speaking of the Link, I also talked with **Fred Webster '78**, their Link coordinator. Very much unlike our day, after the plebes were in uniform, they were released for relaxation with families prior to the 1800 swearing-in. (It was going to be a long six weeks without constant contact via cell phone.) A *Lucky Bag* scene from 1957 illustrates the complete contrast with 2024's events. The '28 swearing-in photo is courtesy of the Castillo family whose son, Jerrick, entered with the class of '28 joining siblings in '25 and '27. Plebes are wearing canteens on their bayonet belts. Additional photos from I-Day are on our class website.

The San Diego Class of '61-ers met at San Diego Yacht Club for lunch on a cool, overcast



'61: Ready to walk through Gate 3 in 1957 from left Bert Hoffman, (left early), Bob Schmidt (3), Ted Langworthy (6), Bob Sherer (4) and Dick Kibbe (6).



'61: The Class of '28 swearing-in

day. After thanking **Bill Kraus** for keeping us organized in our bi-monthly lunches we pressed on to reminisce about 1960 VW Bugs, company officers who carried "swagger sticks", and how our monthly pittance of half an ensign's pay by Ed Oleta's calculations was a government device to have us pay for our own education.

We went on to name the worst firsties from the class of '58 who made life hard on those in the 10th Company. Happier was the chatter about Chuck Davis' curve ball and the 19 consecutive wins of our guys. And finally we were enlightened to learn of the value of our class rings. Pull it out of your drawer and put it on. Thank you Josten's! (Correspondent note: eBay listing for a '58 ring \$5495) In attendance: **Ed Oleata (10), Bill Kraus (12), Bob Sheridan (24), Jack Allen (13), Gary Carlson (10), Leo Willetts (5), and Jim Richardson (16).**

The Annapolis/Northern Virginia gang gathered at McGarvey's for the July luncheon. We lamented the loss of regular **Bob Giuffreda (2)**. Company-mate **Jim Connell** brought copies of a photo depicting Company Commander Giuffreda passing the reviewing stand in the Inauguration Day 1961 Parade. In news from the yard: the Commandant post has transitioned from Colonel J. P. McDonough III (no relation to MacDonough Hall) to Captain Walter Altman III, our first SEAL Commandant. (No, there is no requirement that you have to have III after your name to be 'dant.) George Worthington would be pleased. Additional SEAL influence results from the presence of RADM **Keith Davids '90**, the Supe's husband, just retired from active duty as Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. Let the record show that despite an internet outage at McGarvey's in the days preceding the luncheon, **Jay Bower**, the group organizer, called on skills

learned long ago and actually made the reservation by leaving a telephone message. In the photo from left: **Paul Lang (19), Bill Hartman (2), Ike Cole (5), Bob Fitch (6), Tim Dugan (12), Ron Carlberg (20), Bill Ciesla (18), Bob Glover (8), Jay Bower (14), Bob Sherer (4), Jack Pappas (2), Jim Connell (2).**

The ladies assembled at Carroll's Creek Restaurant in nearby Eastport. In the photo from left: Donna Ralston-Latham, Barbara Bower, Gisela Cole, Ellie Nichols, Julie Erickson, Kathy Rosenberger, Joan Evans, Judy Hartman



'61 ladies at Carroll's Creek

**Ned Kuhns (7)** reports from Tidewater Virginia:

We had a great attendance with **Bill Straight** and his son-in-law Captain **Tom Kiss '88**, USN (Ret.) joining us. Around the tables from left to right are: **Tom Kiss '88, Mike Bradley (3), Ken Craig (7), Charlie Stewart (6), Joe Kuhn (3 - Honorary), Bill Straight (16), Steve Olzinski (16), Bob Graham (18), JP Decker (8), Jim Noonan (23), Tom McNicholas (9), Jim Henderson (15), Buzz Needham (12), Ned Kuhns (7), Tom Markley (12), Fred Lowack (7), and Bill Brown (14 - Honorary).**

Our outstanding teams coverage continues with Crew. (Note: the sport's name has evolved to Rowing which, you must admit, is more descriptive.)

**Navy Heavyweight crew takes 1961 Eastern Sprint Champions and joins Team USA for the 1960 Olympics.**

The Heavyweight Crew had a championship season in 1961 as well as a major presence on the Olympic team that traveled to Rome, Italy, to compete in the 1960 Olympic Games.

They won the Goes Cup and the Adams Cup Regattas and were undefeated in head-to-head competition. Their only loss was in the final race of the season, the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta. The team victories came against every Ivy League team as well as Wisconsin, all of which were powerhouses in those days. They beat all comers in the Eastern Sprints.

The heart of the 1961 team was made of seven classmates who formed the bulk of the 1960 National Championship and US Olympic Heavyweight Crew Team that competed in Rome in 1960. That team included **Mark Moore (9), Gayle Thompson (16), Joe Baldwin (18), Howie Winfree (3), Bruce Wilson (15), Mike McMahon (16)** and Coxswain **Bill Long (9)**. Other members of the Olympic Team were **Pete Bos (Captain), Skip Sweetser** and **Lyman Perry** all from the **Class of 1960**. Also



'61 at Rib City

**Jim Hitchborn '62.** Although they were in that winning boat, it took the entire team of oarsmen to compete every day for each seat in the boat. Competition was close, with different oarsmen moving in and out of various seats in the boats throughout the season before the final line up was decided upon by Coaches Lindsey and Quinn. In the photo from left: **Mark Moore '61, Sweetser '60, Thompson '61, Baldwin '61, Bos '60, Winfree '61, Wilson '61, Perry '60 and Coach Lindsey.** **Mike McMahon '61** and Coxswain **Bill Long '61** are not shown. Other 1961 varsity letter winners were **Joe Hansen (22)** and **Jerry Rosenberger (6)**. Coach Paul Quinn and manager Ed Hux (1) were all instrumental during the 1961 season. Gayle, Joe, Mike and Howie (Captain) returned for the 1961 season, while Mark acted as an assistant coach

because of a back injury. The remaining members of the 1961 team came mostly from the outstanding group of oarsmen in the Class of 1963. That same team effort existed during the 1961 season with Navy going undefeated until the final regatta in Syracuse. Navy was the Eastern Sprint Champions at Worcester, Massachusetts. They won every race during the season in head to head competition and placed sixth in that final race.

The Navy Crew defeated Columbia and Princeton by several boat lengths in individual head to head races before beating Harvard and Penn by more than a boat length in the Adams Cup Regatta on the Charles River in Boston. Navy went on to beat all comers for the Eastern Sprint Championship which also counted as the Goes Cup Championship for beating



1960 Olympic Crew

## 61/63 CLASS NEWS

Cornell and Syracuse, who were among the competing crews. The original race between these crews on the Severn River had been canceled because of bad weather. Navy next defeated Wisconsin by three lengths on the Severn and was highly favored to win the final race of the year in the IRA regatta in Syracuse. That was not the case, but the team was recognized as one of the best in the nation for their performance during the year.

Gayle Thompson recalls, "The standout race of the season was the Eastern Championship finals. Harvard had been the top competitor during our four years at the Academy. Our coxswain, **Bill Long**, told us that Harvard would make their first move around the 250 meter mark when they took their first "Big 10". Our counter was to take a "SILENT Big 11", which we did. It resulted in us gaining a slight edge which totally freaked out their cox. He went wild, yelling "You're not moving! Give it to me NOW!" which frustrated them and encouraged us to stay calm. I think it happened a couple more times with the same results. The race ended in a photo finish with Navy pulling across the finish line as Harvard's oars were out of the water".

One reason for the success of the team was that it was constantly being pushed in practice by the number two and three boats manned by other classmates. Of note is the fact that most of Navy's oarsmen were novices in that sport, having been participants in other sports, but migrating toward Crew for various reasons. They were molded into outstanding teams under the tutelage of legendary coach Paul Quinn, who took over from Olympic coach Lou Lindsey and produced many years of championship teams.

The Olympic Team still gathers together every five years. They used to row at those reunions. Now they just reminisce. Team Captain **Howie Winfree** reminisces, "we bet our rowing jerseys against our counterparts in each race. When I graduated, I had a cruise box full of jerseys, which my kids wore as painting smocks in the ensuing years." In the photo from left: **Thompson '16**, **Fontana '63**, **Hitchborn '62**, **Winfree (3)**, **Schall '63**, **Baldwin (18)**, **Graham '63**, **Konold '63**; kneeling **Omohundro '63**.



1961 crew

**Get it done with '61**

## '63

**Life Membership: 62%**

**Donor Participation: 18.42%**

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)

I have the sad duty to report the loss of two classmates and four '63 wives, as noted below. Be sure to read their obituaries in the Last Call section of our web site. When available, obituaries for wives and widows are posted with their husbands' Last Call or Electronic *Lucky Bag* entries.

**John Francis Cook Jr.**, died on 3 June.

Frank's widow, Fran, can be contacted at 1400 Liberty Midtown Drive, Apt.132, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

**Edward A. Ruckner** passed away on 25 June. Ned's widow, Pam, can be contacted at 2988 River Reach, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

**Bob LaGassa's** widow, Zoe, passed away on 15 January. We do not have contact information for her next of kin.

**John Truesdell's** wife, Linda, died on 6 May. John can be contacted at 1331 N. Albrego Drive, Green River, AZ 85614.

**Jack McDonald's** widow, Anne, passed away on 9 June. We do not have contact information for her next of kin.

**Max Ricketts's** wife, Edith, passed away on 25 June. Max can be contacted at P.O. Box 2910, La Mesa, CA 91943.

Our classmate **Glenn Laury** died with Parkinson's Disease on 12 November 2023. Since then, his widow, Debbie, has been working diligently to help expand the VA medical care available for in-home services. This is her latest progress report.

✉ When Glenn became permanently disabled and required in-home nursing care, we discovered that neither Medicare/Tricare nor the Veterans Administration provides round the clock, in-home professional nursing care. To help correct this, I am continuing to work on the passage of S.141 The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023. The bill passed almost unanimously in the House (H.R. 542) but it is languishing in the Senate notwithstanding its co-sponsorship by 28 Senators from both sides of the aisle. This bill would allow the VA to fully fund and provide 24/7 round the clock licensed professional in-home care to any permanently disabled veteran suffering service-related catastrophic injury or debilitating exposure to toxic chemicals. I sincerely believe it would be in the self-interest of every one of your classmates to contact their respective United States Senators to advocate for passage of this bill. I believe there are at least two of your classmates who desperately need the care envisioned by this bill.

If I can do anything to prevent any other deserving veteran from suffering from the lack

of care that Glenn endured during the last six months of his life, it would be my honor to get this critically needed legislation passed and funded. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about this should you wish to do so. I can be contacted by email at [debbielaury@gmail.com](mailto:debbielaury@gmail.com) or phone at 396-503-9161.

An earlier note from Debbie is posted in the Hot News section of our web site. It includes a link to information about the bill and its sponsors that is on the U.S. Congress web site.

**Charlie Jordan** sent this picture taken at a meetup at the Atlanta airport.

✉ I thought I would send you a photo of '63 classmates **Felix DeGolian** and **Charlie Jordan** meeting recently at the Atlanta Airport to tell war stories. Felix's wife Mallory was unable to join us, and my wife Elizabeth did not accompany me as I traveled from our home in Acqui Terme, Italy, to visit my younger brother in Georgia who was just diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Isn't old age wonderful?



19th Companymates DeGolian and Jordan

You may recall seeing the news here last November that our classmate **Tim Harvey** and his wife, Tamara, were having severe health and financial difficulties. Tim's son, Ross, established a GoFundMe account to raise funds to help with health and relocation needs. Our classmates responded generously and made a major impact on Tim and Tamara's circumstances. I received this progress report from Ross Harvey in July.

✉ My dad and Tamara are mostly settled into their apartment. He is relatively stable health-wise, though he has some days/weeks that are better and others that are less so, with fatigue and cognitive struggles. He is now set up with the Hampton VA Medical Center and has a variety of specialist appointments in the coming months. We had a great visit with Dad's classmate Bob Harper, who stopped by for several hours. Bob has many amusing stories to recount! Dad was not having a great brain day, but he did remember quite a few of the things Bob asked him about.

Dad and Tamara's funds are nearly depleted, so on their behalf I again appeal to his classmates for help. The GoFundMe account can be accessed at <https://gofund.me/18bb9362>. The thoughtful generosity of the Class of 1963 has made a huge difference for them. Thank you, all!

**Dave Moore** sent this report of a summer meeting of the '63 Lake Tahoe Ski Club.

✉ On 29 June Gary Thomas, Sandy Stoddard, and I drove to Bob Tieslau's farm in Fiddletown, CA, just for the heck of it. After a tour of Bob's wine cellar, we went to a restaurant in nearby Plymouth for lunch. Left to right in this picture are Stoddard, Moore, Thomas, and Tieslau.



Tahoe Ski Club lunch

Later we returned to finish the bottle of Zinfandel and have Bob's wife Maryun take some pictures. Bob also took us to his barn to show off his latest 30-year project -- his 1947 Chevrolet truck.



Bob Tieslau and his '47 Chevy truck



The Ski Club shows Navy spirit

Dave joined the 4th Company Zoom meeting on 7 July when we mustered to toast the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Class of 1963. He said he was toasting with a glass of Bob Tieslau's Ruby Cabernet from a vineyard on Bob's property.

**Mike Blackledge** calls our attention to a web site that's useful in locating the interment locations of our classmates, family members, and others.

✉ Founded in 1995, FindAGrave.com lists cemeteries and graves worldwide, includes over 238 million entries, and adds many thousands of entries daily. Probably your parents are memorialized on the site. I have found some entries to be in error. I have corrected some memorials, created new or added photos to others, and begun to collect the memorials of our deceased classmates in a Virtual Cemetery for the Class of 1963. A link to this Virtual Cemetery can be found at the bottom of our Last Call page on the Class website.

It is free to sign up as a contributor to the site and add entries for family members and others. I encourage you to search for FindAGrave entries for our '63 classmates and to create entries for those who are not already listed. If you do this, please inform me (mike@blackledge.com) so I can add them to our Virtual Cemetery and tell our Webmaster, **Steve Coester** (scoester@cfl.rr.com), who may add the information to their Deceased Data listing on the '63 web site.

**Jim Metcalfe** told me that he had visited Miles and Linda Schmidt in May at their home in Troy, Ohio.



Miles Schmidt

✉ On my way back from my Culver Military Academy 65th reunion, I dropped by the Schmidts' and was treated to Linda's warm welcome and

Miles' delightfully sharp wit. They are well and I was served some vegetables from their well-kept garden. Also, Miles took me to the nearby WACO museum, a treasure of the history of the Weaver Aircraft Company in the early days of aviation. The next day Miles took me to the nearby USAF Museum in Dayton, where we spent six hours in just one hangar!

We'll close with this nostalgic photo from our time at USNA. You may not know that Tecumseh is no longer painted to generate fighting spirit to support Navy teams, boost Brigade morale, or for any other reason. Sadly, he is now only his plain bronze self throughout the year.



As we remember him.

That's all for now, folks. My mail bag is empty, and I need your help. Please take a minute or two to send me an email about your recent activities to share with our classmates. Summer is a busy time and I expect you'll have something to report.

QUALITY - '63

## '64

**Life Membership: 65%**

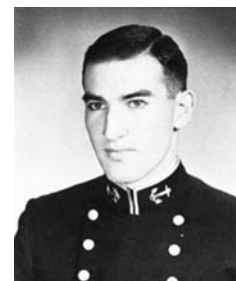
**Donor Participation: 26.96%**

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

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

Website: [www.usna64.org](http://www.usna64.org)

We open this issue remembering **Barry**



Barry Hooper

**Hooper**, the sixth of our ten classmates listed on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall. They are listed chronologically in the identical manner their names appear. The first section below covers the exact narrative accompanying Robin's name on

The Wall (not consistent with *Shipmate* Style Guidelines) and the second is a transcription from his entry in our 40th Reunion Yearbook apparently submitted by a 22nd Company classmate.

**On The Wall:** On March 5, 1968, a River Division 55 convoy composed of five amphibious transport LCUs and three LCM-8 logistical craft, two LCM-6 minesweepers, two-armed patrol craft, and two U.S. Marine

### SEA STORIES

*A Navy tradition*

*Stories of action and inspiration.  
Entertaining and educational.*

<https://www.usna.com/sea-stories>



Corps armed helicopters, departed Cua Viet bound for Dong Ha to deliver vital cargo to beleaguered allied forces as part of Task Force Clearwater. The convoy commander was LT Barry W. Hooper, USN. As the convoy approached the mouth of the Hien Giang River, it was ambushed by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces who were entrenched in heavily fortified bunkers along both banks of the river. The enemy rained a deadly hail of cross-fire from heavy automatic weapons, small arms, and recoilless rifles on the convoy. LT Hooper reacted to the ambush in a swift, bold, and decisive manner as he climbed to the conning area of the YFU-64, on which he was embarked, and from an exposed position, he effectively directed the convoy units in evading the enemy fire and returning accurate suppressive fire at the enemy positions. For 30 minutes the battle raged, and as the last unit had cleared the ambush zone, YFU-64 received a direct hit in the conning area that mortally wounded LT Hooper. As a result of his superb leadership, the convoy fought its way through to its destination with the vital supplies it carried.

**In the 40th Reunion Yearbook:** Lt. Barry W. Hooper, USN died 5 March 1968, from wounds suffered when enemy shells struck his river patrol boat. He had been serving with River Division 55 as a convoy commander for Dong Ha River Security Group on PBR patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone on the Long Tau shipping channel that ran through the RSSZ from Vung Tau to Saigon. Death occurred in a military hospital at Dong Ha.

Following graduation, he served in Bradley and Wilson arriving in Vietnam for his third tour of duty only 15 days before he was killed. According to the commanding officer of River Division 55, he had distinguished himself under intense enemy fire on prior occasions and in one action had rescued several men from drowning. At the time of his death, he had volunteered to help augment the River Sections and convoy operations out of Cua Viet.

Barry is interred in Ft. Rosencrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, CA. At the time of his death, his father, Mr. John Hooper; his mother, Mrs. Clifford Price and a brother Steven D. Price, had survived him.

The following table lists the anticipated *Shipmate* dates for memorializing the remaining four classmates on "The Wall":

Classmate	Shipmate Issue / Input Deadline
<b>Geoffrey Shumway</b>	November-December 2024 / 20 September 2024
<b>William Griffis III</b>	January-February 2025 / 20 November 2024
<b>Charles Parish</b>	March-April 2025 / 20 January 2025
<b>Michel Collins</b>	May-June 2025 / 20 March 2025

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

While we're on the classmate remembrance thread, readers might recall in the previous column your humble correspondent related a conversation with Class President **Mike Farmer** during the very well attended 18 April USNA service and inurement of the Honorable **Bernie Maguire**, an unquestioned stand out member of our class on so many fronts.

During this discussion, a decision was reached to give Bernie special Shipmate recognition and the November-December issue had been designated for this honor. However, the referent issue is also currently designated to remember **Geoffrey Shumway** as part of our Vietnam Wall Series. The Shumway response to date has been extraordinary with sufficient material submitted to possibly consume an entire column, given *Shipmate* Police space restrictions. Accordingly, we'll make a "call at the line of scrimmage" regarding the issue paying homage to the "Honorable". Nonetheless Classmates and friends are encouraged to submit Maguire inputs, sea stories, special memories, photos etc. as soon as possible.

**During Plebe Year**, your humble correspondent shared a Firstie, **Jim Flynn**, with **Brian Cassidy**. In spite of numerous entreaties over the years, contact with Brian had proved to be totally unsuccessful until 20th Company Rep **Charles Heath** recently achieved a major breakthrough resulting in a response from the reclusive Mr. Cassidy, and boy did he respond!

Brian's full message, including his USNA days and classmate interactions over the years, exceeds class column word count restrictions and must be split into two installments, the balance to be included in a *Shipmate* future column.

He writes: After USN duty in Patrol Squadron Four, I worked as a flight engineer for United and Eastern Airlines, when in 1991, the company officially went out of business and left most of us high and dry while looking for work in the USA. Fortunately, I was hired by Singapore Airlines and spent four years as a contract First Officer on their 747's. This qualification on the 747 led me all around the world with various airlines.

My last flying gig was as Chief Pilot for New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson in the early 2000's flying the Citation, among others. It is too bad Bill passed away rather suddenly last year while still working in Santa Fe as a hostage negotiator. He was not an easy man to work for, but earned people's respect, mine included.



Brian and Gov. Richardson at Grants NM in 2006 focusing on "Flat Craig" an avatar of Grandson who then talks to his class about its travels.

Upon our return to the USA from Singapore, my wife Mary and I settled in Sante Fe, NM where we have lived in two different homes since 1994. We look to the east at the Sangre de Cristo mountains and to the west at Jemez Mountains.

We have two sons and three grand kids, all with the younger son who lives in the northern Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta. The oldest granddaughter is at U of Wisconsin obtaining her master's in food science (yep, majoring in cheese). Both of us were originally from WI so it is gratifying to see Grace at the UW where my wife and most of her family received their degrees.

Brian continues, on the health side of things, I was going along fine until some dental issues needed to be solved - so I had surgery this last May at the UNM University Hospital in Albuquerque. A biopsy was taken during surgery and it was discovered that I have Squamous Cell Carcinoma in my jaw and gums.

I am now undergoing chemo and radiation at the Christus St. Vincent Cancer Center here in Santa Fe having already finished three weeks of daily radiation and chemo on Mondays and should get my diploma sometime in late August. They offered me more surgery to basically remove and replace the jaw, but we decided not to undergo such a horrific surgery - lots of downsides, without much promise of final cure.

So, we are playing the cards dealt and should have a good reading in the not-too-distant future. Good news is that the cancer has not spread to other vital organs. Also, my Oncologist says that according to a g-nome marker test they did at the Cancer Center, I am likely 99% compatible for Immunotherapy after this course of treatment.... more good news! Ha, it just never stops!

We close this month with a recognition of Veteran's Day upcoming on 11 November and call on **Ted Lyster**, the Class 64's Poet-in-Residence, to commemorate the occasion.

### BAND OF BROTHERS

By T.C. Lyster

It's 6 AM on Monday  
Time to quit the bed.

Pull on boots and get some coffee  
Then get the horses fed.

Finish up the morning chores  
And grab my coat and hat.

Start the truck and head to town  
'Cause Jake' is where it's at!

It's time for Band of Brothers,  
Best way to start the week

With men (and women) who swore to serve  
And help protect the weak.

These are my "real life" heroes,  
But you could never tell

That they have served around the world,  
And some spent time in Hell.

Each one stood and took an oath  
To rid the world of strife,

To serve and fight for country,  
Perhaps to give their life.

It is a band of brothers,  
My heroes, one and all.  
It's an honor to be one of them.  
It helps me to stand tall!



Fair winds and  
a quartering sea,  
classmates

# '65

Life Membership: 65%  
Donor Participation: 50.94%

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

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

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

Sigh! Two more of our stalwarts, **George Hurley** and **Neal Jenkins**, went to their great reward since the last column.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 07 Jul

✉ It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **George Edward Hurley, Jr.** on 04 Jul. A mass and reception was held in Bonita, CA on 27 Jul. I was notified today by **Denny** and **Karen McComb**. George was one of our really good guys and a Navy Varsity golfer who travelled all the way from California with Alice to give a eulogy for his good friend and fellow golfer **Bill Matton**. George graduated from the 31st Company and is the 8th deceased of 22 graduates. Please keep Alice in your thoughts and prayers during this trying time. Sadly, Jim

...and **Thel Hooks** added this report on 28 Jul:

✉ Went to the memorial service for **George Hurley** on 27 Jul. Fellow classmates attending were **Craig Clark (with wife Jan)**, **Bob Gosnell**, **Bill Klopfer**, and myself. Very moving service for one of the really great guys in our class.

From **Jim Minderlein** and **Bob Finley**, 14 Jun

✉ I regret to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Neal Cornell Jenkins** on 06 Jul. I just received the e-mail below from Bob Finley. As you can see from Neal's obituary (in Last Call), he had a very successful career in submarines, retiring as a Captain and going on to a second career as an educator. Neal and **Katherine** were married for 59 years and he is survived by three children and nine grandchildren. He graduated from the 25th Company and is only the 4th deceased member of 21 graduates. I also called Katherine at 757-424-4524 and offered her

our condolences. She said that it may be up to a year before Neal can be buried in Arlington and that she may also have a small ceremony locally. Katherine has our deepest sympathy at this time and the support of her loving family.

Jim

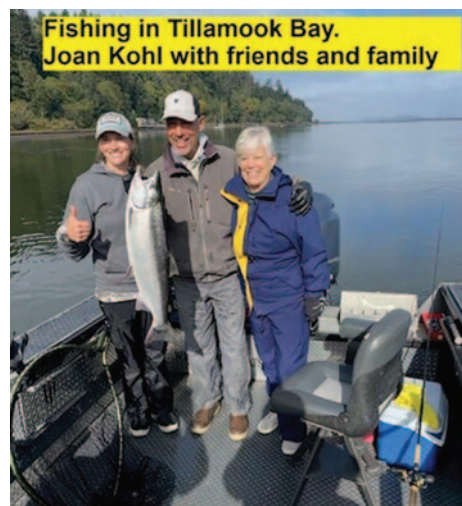
For more details on George and Neal's lives and careers, please check out their entries in the Last Call section of a future *Shipmate* edition.

**Jim Minderlein** and I received notices from the Alumni Association in May and Jun describing their new Legacy of Valor project. They've completed interviewing veteran grads about their WWII experiences and are now soliciting interested volunteer interviewees for Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam and more recent military engagements. They have planned on doing interviews at some of our away football games this Fall. They, of course, have read **Ed Linz'** awesome book, "A Filthy Way to Die" and would welcome any of our great classmates who contributed to that book to be interviewed for this USNAA project. Jim sent out an email to this effect on 25 May. I contacted the USNAAA editors about **Pete Lumianski's** project to have a Cold War/USS PHOENIX monument created in PHOENIX. Pete is the Executive Director of this and Pete also contacted the *Shipmate* folks about the Cold War stories he's got and is getting from classmates. If interested in participating in these interviews, please contact Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com, and let Jim and me know if you get interviewed.

From **Phil Ferrara**, 28 May

✉ Here is a great photo from **Jack Kohl** and his family, fishing in Tillamook Bay in western Oregon. **Jack** is pictured with his wife and a friend in the nearby photo.

They have caught a large Chinook salmon, which looks to be about 3 feet long and about 20 Pounds - that's a lot of protein in the Kohl's freezer.



But, this summer there is a great cruise of '65ers taking place on the Columbia River this August 11-19. It will include Jack and Joan Kohl, long time natives of Oregon, and many more of

us on the ACL's *American Pride*. What a ride that will be!! Not to be missed. And, what would you like to bet that this fish will have GROWN at least a foot plus maybe 25 more pounds by the time the ship reaches the first night on the river! Phil

From **Jim Minderlein**, 03 Jun

✉ I just received my latest *Shipmate* edition and the Donor report for 2023. I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who participated and gave so generously to help make our class one of the very best of all classes in the categories of both participation and the amount of money donated. Truly OUTSTANDING! To say I am proud to be your President would be a gross understatement. All the Best, Jim

And **Mike Goodwin** soon thereafter chipped in on this topic, too: "The entry pages clearly show the excellence and leadership of our class officers: 3rd in top Participation Rate (missing 2nd by .5%), 4th in top Gift Amount (smoking the #1 in Participation), 1st in 60s decade participation rate. I attribute this to tireless work done by our officers. It's not just the Dollars, but rather the overall efforts you make to keep us together and informed. I believe the others in the class feel the same way and may not let you know. You guys deserve a public 'Atta Boy!'"

Several classmates noted that **Steve Allman's** son, Captain Walter Allman, has taken over the role of Commandant of Midshipman back in June.

**Ted Nanz** sent in a photo of himself, wife **Meliza** and daughter Karina's at the latter's high school graduation. She has a scholarship for the ROTC program at Virginia Tech.



From **Gary Rezeau**, 04 Jun

✉ It was a treat for me to join the Class of '65 Villages classmates and wives last Tuesday May 28th at the Nancy Lopez Country Club. Although we were only a group of nine, we had a fun time; and enjoyed catching up on who did what while reliving some USNA memories. I have attached some smartphone photos of our attendees for your review. I regret that our intention of taking a group photo was overcome by events and did not happen. My bad. Attending, in addition to Zoo Rezeau, were **Sam and Judy Stevens**, **Roni and Tom Crowder**, **Judy and Larry McMurry**, and **Marion and Dave Schlesinger**.

# 65/66 CLASS NEWS

From **Sharon Katz**, 25 Jun

✉ **Doug and Sharon Katz** were honored to be invited to the Battleship USS NEW JERSEY for “one last ride,” as she came out of Dry Dock at the Philadelphia Navy Shipyard. It was the same berth where she was recommissioned in 1968. The Katzes rode from Philadelphia to Paulsboro, NJ on 20 June. The tugs will return her to her home in Camden, NJ soon. It was extremely emotional for Doug and Sharon, but quite the honor to be back on board. As the tugs got her underway, Doug was handed the 1MC and shouted “Shift Colors,” and “It doesn’t get any better than this.” It was as much an honor to ride her one last time as it was to have had command of her, 1987 to 1989. Sharon

Here’s a photo of Doug once again in the NEW JERSEY’s Captain’s Chair and the NJ underway – sorta.



From **Phil Ferrara**, 28 Jun

✉ I have on my computer a categorized ‘65 photo history. There are 17 separate folders by time periods. About 6900 photos and about 11 gigabytes in size. Within each folder, things are sequenced by date and events. Phil (Ed. Note: Phil is contemplating ways to share this mass of photos with the class).

From **Phil Ferrara**, 10 Jul

✉ The Class of ‘65 assembled for lunch at McGarvey’s Saloon on another hot summer day in July. And nineteen made it for the gathering. They were **Fred Vogel, Jim Stark, Bob Andretta, Frank Peterson, Phil Ferrara, Moke DeMatta, Bob Sullivan, Sam Dutrow, Tom Kinder, Jim Minderlein, Pat Philbin, Skip Orr, Charlie Morrison, Skip Shealy, Allan Foy, John Collins, Steve Mladineo, Jon Schildknecht, and Carter Refo**. We conducted a moment of silence in memory of **George Hurley**.



7-10-24, McGarvey’s Saloon, Charlie Morrison, Skip Shealy, Steve Mladineo, Skip Orr

Here’s a photo of **Chip Seymour** – taken by **Phil Ferrara** on 23 Jul, guiding a tour at USNA. Neither rain, nor snow ...



From **Mitch Henderson**, 27 Jul

✉ If you want to know who a prof was or what your class standing was, who all was in your company or ... (lots more USNA data), then **try this link**: <https://dn790007.ca.archive.org/0/items/annualregiste19651966unse/annualregiste19651966unse.pdf>

... or email Mitch or me (Dave) and we’ll send you the link.

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

## '66

**Life Membership: 66%**  
**Donor Participation: 17.44%**

Pres: **Jim Long**

e: [jalongiii@aol.com](mailto:jalongiii@aol.com)

Sec’y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**

10439 Rivington Ct., Lone Tree, CO 80124

e: [mike.baird@1966.usna.com](mailto:mike.baird@1966.usna.com)

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

By the time you read this, football season will be well underway, and I hope this season is an improvement over last season. Beat Air Force, then Beat Army!!! There’s not a great deal to report this issue. Here’s what I’ve received.

**Robert Johnson** sent the following story and photo of **Robert Verratti** passing the Flag and being saluted by his grandson, John Verratti, following his graduation from the University of Colorado on 16 May, and receiving his NROTC Commission. He’s going to select Naval Air, and he’s off to Pensacola as soon as there is an opening. Robert is excited by passing the torch. Thanks to **Robert Johnson**. Congratulations to **Robert Verratti** and to Grandson, ENS John Verratti.



ENS JOHN VERRATTI AND ROBERT VERRATTI

Sadly, several Classmates have died. Obituaries were sent to the Class via email. They are **Robert Bowenkamp** (8th Co), 11 May 20/24; **Pat Muldoon** (17th Co), 27 May 2024; **Joe Mobley** (4th Co), 15 June 2024; and **Don Storck** (5th Co), 26 May 2024. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**Chuck Grutzius**, Class Treasurer, has provided the following executive summary of our Class finances for CY2023.

✉ “The Class is in good financial shape as of 12/31/2023 and continues to be in good shape for 2024.

The Class ended CY2023 with \$48,176.27 in total assets, with no outstanding debts. Our Class account with the Alumni Association contains \$2,206.07. The primary expenses for 2023 were Classmate Memorials (\$1,900.00), web site expenses (\$5,076.80), and other administrative and miscellaneous expenses.

In summary ... 2023 income was \$2,037.06, and 2023 expenses were \$10, 610.45, for a net loss of \$8,573.39. A complete copy of the 2023 Financial Statement is posted on our website at [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org). Fraternally Yours, Chuck Grutzius, Treasurer, Class of 1966 Association.”

Excellent stewardship, Chuck.

In addition, Chuck provided the results of the pocket Class Crest sales.

✉ “The processing of the 45 orders placed by Classmates for gold embroidered Class Crests has been completed and all crests have been shipped. If any Classmate that ordered a Crest has not received their Crest, please contact Chuck at [elxsys.cg@att.net](mailto:elxsys.cg@att.net) for resolution. BTW ... there are still five more gold embroidered crests available for sale on our website at [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org). The cost is \$60 each which includes shipping.”

Thanks for doing this, Chuck.

In closing, I will remind you to keep checking the Class web site, [usna66.org](http://usna66.org), for news and information, especially on health and related issues. Support for surviving spouses is also available at the Sail on Solo tab. Finally,

Classmates, don't forget the weekly Class Zoom meetings. Contact **Charlie Jones** at [technidgm@gmail.com](mailto:technidgm@gmail.com) to get on the email list. Until December... All the best... Mike!!!

# '67

**Life Membership: 77%**

**Donor Participation: 34.61%**

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

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

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

It has not been a good period for '67 since my last column.

On 23 May 2024, **Dick Kirtley** posted this note on '67Chat as he was between surgeries:

✉ (To the) the amazing class of '67; thanks so much for your prayers and kind wishes. So far, so good. I am out of the first phase; yesterday's 10 hours to bypass Renal arteries to get blood to the kidneys. Surgical team is pleased. Now, wait until June 28th to take care of the very nasty aneurysm. They had me up walking this afternoon! God has most certainly watched over me, and the best part of my journey has been the privilege of being a member of the Class of '67!

Then on 26 May 2024, he passed away peacefully at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. He was no stranger to any of us beginning during Plebe Summer with Kirtley and Kluckhohn and their comedy act during our talent show. Dick went Navy Line after graduation and served on a destroyer off Vietnam, then as an advisor to the South Vietnamese Navy. After his Navy career he worked for Lockheed/BAE Systems. He's survived by Debbie, his wife of 41 years, five children, 14 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Gifts in Dick's memory can be made to Tunnel To Towers Foundation (<https://t2t.org/>) or <http://flagler-playhouse.org/> Dick's obituary can be found at <https://shorturl.at/hCmt7>.

**Bob Ryan**, a stalwart of the SoCal Legends (In Their Own Minds) passed away on 20 May 2024. Bob went Navy Air after graduation as an A-7 driver. He completed two tours in Vietnam on CONSTELLATION as well as another tour on ENTERPRISE. He was a long-time volunteer docent on the USS MIDWAY Museum and volunteered in a myriad of community roles in Coronado. His obituary is at <https://shorturl.at/Ot5RH> (It contains many great photos!)

Bob was interred at the Miramar National Cemetery on 6 June 2024 after a funeral mass on the 5th. **Bill Stedfield** reported:

✉ Attended mass followed by reception at nearby VFW hall yesterday (5 June), then military ceremony at Miramar National Cemetery today. Big turnout at the mass, church essentially packed. Lots of classmates, also a big group of MIDWAY docents in their official hats & shirts as well as many others from the



'67: Pete Phelps, Bill Stedfield, Bob Campbell, Shannon McCrary, Mike Samuels, Jack Feehan, John Filose, Frank Hewitt, Paul Ward, Bruce Wright, Jack Caolo and Bob Lang

community & church. Ceremony today was smaller but still good, and appropriate. About 10 of us adjourned to Ballast Point Brewery restaurant, close to Miramar, after ceremony today to hoist one for Bob.

In addition, a number of classmates, as well as a number of classmate's wives, attended the funeral service in Coronado the day before, including **Jim Gilbert, Norm Hapke, Steve Andres, Pete Burggren, Rock Harmon, Rich McNeal** and **Dan Harrington**.

**Tom Harrison** died on 2 June 2024 in Danville, VA. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Ellen and is survived three children and eight grandchildren. Tom left the Navy in 1971 and worked for Corning Glass for over 25 years. Gifts in Tim's memory may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 538 Central Blvd., Danville, VA 24541 or the Mountain View Association Legacy Fund (<https://mountainviewassn.com/>), PO Box 235, Owls Head, NY 12969.

**Bob Moeller, Lennie Passmore** and **Wayne Henry** represented 12th Company at Tom's services.



12th Co. at Tom's services

**Buddy Barnes** called with news of the passing of **Doy Heredia**. Doy died peacefully at home in Portsmouth, RI on 2 June 2024. In addition to his wife Cely, he is survived by two children, Armando (Jennifer) and Abigail. Donations in his memory may be made to Lingkod Timog Medical Mission, 28 Redwood Road, Portsmouth RI 02871. His obituary can be found at <https://shorturl.at/giUXK>. **Frank Hewitt** left this memorial:

✉ Thank you very much for ensuring that I received this very, very sad information regarding our 1967 Fencing Team Captain, Doy Heredia. **Emil Petruncio '85**, CAPT USN (Ret.) and current Head Coach for the Navy Fencing Team, just updated "Fencing at USNA: A Legacy

of Excellence" on 01 May 2024. As you probably would expect, Doy Heredia would be included. As a reminder Doy is a member of the United States Naval Academy Athletic Hall of Fame for Fencing and certainly contributed significantly to our Legacy of Fencing Excellence. I will always remember him and our time together in the Fencing Loft in McDonough Hall - a great fencer, teammate, and friend!

Terri Holcombe passed the word to **Chuck Scherck** on the 16 June 2024 death of **Rick Hudson**. Rick was an attorney in Oceanside, CA I have few details on his passing except that a Celebration of Life was held on 15 July in Vista, CA. I understand that burial with military honors will take place at a later time. His wife, Jessie will continue to use Rick's email address ([rjhudson67@yahoo.com](mailto:rjhudson67@yahoo.com)). Her street address is 540 Ribbon Beach Way Unit 294, Oceanside, CA 92058. **Warren Millard** sent this:

✉ Attended **Rick Hudson's** memorial service on Saturday in Vista, CA.

There were about 150 people here. Many family members and many friends and business associates, Four members of the class of 1967 - **Gordon Pettus, Buddy Barnes, Rufus Artmann** and me. **Terri Holcombe** was also there.

Rick was a lawyer in Escondido, CA and spent much of his time on charitable work for less fortunate folks. He was very active with Christian work as well. His son and daughter spoke as did seven of his eight grandchildren.



Warren, Buddy, Jessie, Rufus, Terri and Gordy at Rick's Life Celebration

Diane Bartz, widow of **Bill Bartz**, passed away peacefully on 11 June 2024, the day before what would have been her 57th wedding anniversary. Bill had passed away in 2001. She is survived by her children Beth Bartz Hoffman (Mark) and Will (Emily) and three grandchildren Her obituary may be found at <https://shorturl.at/VYk7k>.

## 67/68 CLASS NEWS

We got the word from **Pete Pace** via **Lin Wells** that **Dave Vetter** had passed away. He died peacefully on 27 June 2024 in Frederick, MD. He was predeceased by his wife, Royce, who had died in 2021. Dave was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Marines on graduation and served a tour in Vietnam as an artillery officer. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1997 and returned to the Naval Academy as the Dean of Admissions. Dave and Royce will be interred together in the Naval Academy Columbarium on 19 August 2024. Dave's obituary is at <https://shorturl.at/c1M9V>. Memorial contributions may be made to City Youth Matrix online at <https://www.cityyouthmatrix.com/en/mission> or checks can be marked as a memorial gift and mailed to: City Youth Matrix, Inc. P.O. Box 3295 Frederick, MD 21705

**Jack Feehan** posted on FaceBook that his wife, Ronnie passed away peacefully at age 76. She was at home with him and their three girls. Ronnie was a nurse with an M.S. in Nursing from Boston University. Her nursing career included working in hospitals and running a retirement home, but her true calling was her service as a remarkable school nurse, often for multiple schools at a time. She is survived by Jack, their three daughters and their husbands, and five grandchildren. She is to be buried at the Miramar National Cemetery. Ronnie's obituary can be seen at <https://shorturl.at/1XSrY>.

**Ron Jauch** notified us that **John Selmer** passed away peacefully at home on 24 June 2024. According to Ron further arrangements will be family only. **Tim Ferguson** was on the swim team with John for three years, describing him as a fine man and a good friend who will be missed.

And we received this from **Nick Holman**:

✉ Some bad news. Our 12th company classmate, **Colby** (you may have known him as **Gif**) **Munger**, just passed today (11 July 2024). He had been diagnosed with some serious cancer a bit over a year ago and was fighting it ever since. He eventually lost the battle. His wife, Linda, called **Bob O'Hare** and Bob called me. Bob and I roomed with Colby for a couple of years so we kept in touch and occasionally got together for a luncheon or something when I was in Florida. (Colby and Linda lived in the Tampa/St Pete area, though they also had a home out in Washington or Oregon they frequented.)

Gif is survived by his wife, Linda five children and ten grandchildren. His obituary is at <https://shorturl.at/jkfiQ>.

Now...there's a glass of bourbon in the other room that needs my attention.....That's it...Goodnight!...Jim

### LUCKY BAG OF BOOKS

To check out all the options for your reading pleasure, visit [usna.com/shop/books](https://usna.com/shop/books).

## '68

**Life Membership: 62%**

**Donor Participation: 18.31%**

Pres: **CAPT Gary A. Storm, USN (Ret.)**  
2725 Cabernet Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401  
p: 410-757-7156; c: 443-924-1130; e: [gastorm@verizon.net](mailto:gastorm@verizon.net)

Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Gordon I. Peterson, USN (Ret.)**  
5200 Brittany Dr. S., Apt. #102, St. Petersburg, FL 33715  
p: 703-282-3411; e: [gpeters621@aol.com](mailto:gpeters621@aol.com)

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

Thanks to **Mike Johnson '02** for alerting us in July to a '68 class ring that was advertised for auction on a Goodwill page based in Louisville, KY. **Bill Washer** soon confirmed the ring was his and arranged its return to him. The ring went missing after he attended a family gathering in Louisville in June.

In March, Gitte and **Clay Warren** visited Elisa and **Federico Derby** in Monterrey, Mexico—their first time as a couple in 56 years! Clay and Fred were 3rd Company roommates first-class year. A foreign national from Costa Rica, Fred had no military service upon graduation. He married Elisa in 1969 and was an industrial engineer until leaving for Mexico in 1971. Clay had this to say about their memorable reunion:

✉ "After several jobs, Fred opened a glass-fiber distribution in 1991. This entrepreneurship flowered. He currently owns three Original Equipment Manufacturing plants producing everything from building/pipe insulation, ducts/grills/registers, copper line sets, etc., for automotive, HVAC and industrial sectors. Gitte and I toured each and were impressed by his erudition and industriousness.

"Our days were filled enjoying museums, factory tours, nearby towns, appealing restaurants the general Monterrey area, and a granddaughter's birthday party. We even saw a cowboy riding his horse down nearby Santiago's main street. I sometimes felt like we were visiting my old friend in a fabulous dream. In the process, we met Fred's three children and 12 grandchildren at a grandson's wedding—a gala affair numbering 560 guests."



Fred Derby and Clay Warren at the El Obispo Museum, Monterrey, Mexico. The Saddleback Mountains provide a striking background.

As president of the Seawolf Association, **Tom Hayes** is leading a team effort to improve Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three's display in the National Naval Aviation Museum at Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. We are

raising funds to acquire a UH-1B gunship actually assigned to HA(L)-3 to replace the later-model Huey now on display. Association members are also donating memorabilia and artifacts for the display. Twenty-five members of our Class are numbered among the 96 Academy alumni who served in the squadron, including **Richard "Buzz" Buzzell**, who was killed in action in 1970.

To support this project, I visited the museum in June and donated a painting depicting a Seawolf fire team to honor all who served in our squadron—and notably the 44 Seawolves who were killed in action. The painting, which I commissioned 23 years ago, will be incorporated in the improved HA(L)-3 display. **Hank Martin** was my gracious host and extremely knowledgeable tour guide. **Ken Pyle** also volunteers as a tour guide. The Seawolf Association's initiatives support the museum's ongoing upgrade of its Vietnam War exhibit that is projected for completion in two years. The museum is a national treasure—one of the largest aviation museums in the world. Learn more at [www.navalaviationmuseum.org](http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org).

Debbie and **Mike Metcalf** observed their June wedding anniversary in fine fashion:

✉ "Together with our good friend Dr. Victoria Graf, we took a USNA AA Travel cruise from Glasgow destined for Iceland. Whenever two or three shall meet, **David Clopp '82** and his wife, Ellen Redman, along with us, showed others onboard our sea legs. They are musically talented and seasoned travelers leading Karaoke Night late into the night. David is a former Navy water polo player and retired O-6 submariner. Ellen is an accomplished flutist. They were great company amongst the many Ivy Leaguers onboard. Together we celebrated our respective wedding anniversaries. Heavy seas forced closure of many ports of call along the way, including the Faroe Islands. It was a rough ride for landlubbers. The tour company came to bat and gave us quality alternatives to fill extra days in Iceland such as a soak in the Blue Lagoon along with generous compensation."



L-R, Mike and Debbie Metcalf with Ellen Redman, David Clopp '82 and their favorite USNA flag.

Earlier this spring, **JJ Mackin** went to sea on COLORADO (SSN 788) as a member of the USS COLORADO Submarine Association, a group which helps support the crew and their families. Previously, JJ was the chairman of the submarine's Commissioning Committee in 2018. "In April the boat transferred her home

port from Groton, CT, to Pearl Harbor, HI, for a routine shipyard overhaul period," JJ said. "Nine members of our group travelled to Hawaii to welcome them to their new home port. The boat scheduled a day's underway for us and several of the crew's families. **Don Price '73**, the Association's president, took my photo. Shortly after, we were drenched by a wave splashing over the sail. Quite a fun outing! The new Virginia-Class subs are amazingly impressive. Our group also had an informative hour-long brief by COMSUBPAC, RADM **Rick Seif '92**. Overall, it was a great visit!"



JJ Mackin underway on COLORADO (SSN 788).

Classmates and 31st Company mates of the late **Barry Burrow** joined his widow, Mary Ann,



'68: Classmates and spouses attending Barry Burrow's funeral services: *Back row, L to R* - Rose Houghton, Marcy Ober, Tom Neville, Harry Buzhardt, Ned Miltko, Chuck Mayer, Larry McConnell, Tom Houghton, Reid Carlock; *Middle row* - Amanda Buzhardt, Naty Neville, Karen Miltko, Barbara Breeden; *Front row* - Bill Ober, Greer Mayer, George Breeden. Not pictured: John Doyle. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Breeden)

family members and friends at his funeral service at the Naval Academy Chapel and inurnment at the USNA Columbarium on 11 July, followed by a reception at the Fluegel Alumni Center. Barry, a distinguished 28-year surface warfare officer and nuclear-engineering leader, passed

away February 25. "One of his sons, Sean, a naval aviator, gave an eloquent eulogy during the service recalling professional and family anecdotes that were at times poignant, humorous, yet all full of familial pride," **Reid Carlock** related, "a fitting 'fair winds and following seas' farewell."

By the end of July, we lost three classmates since late May—the 18th Company's **Steve Johnson** on 17 July, the 32nd Company's **Ed Sullivan** on 12 June, and the 34th Company's **Jack Russ** on 24 May. Please see their entries in Last Call. May they rest in peace.

**Steve Johnson** died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his wife, Nancy, and sons at the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro, SC. Steve was the quarterback on our undefeated 150-lb football team that regained its title as Eastern Intercollegiate Champions during our first-class year. He served 24 years in the submarine force, highlighted by command of USS RAY (SSN 653) for 40 months. Retiring as a captain in 1992, he was employed at the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions in Aiken, SC, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA, until he retired in 1992 and moved to Mt. Pleasant, SC, with his wife and family. "Steve will always be remembered by his family as a perfect southern gentleman and an exceptionally dedicated naval officer," Nancy said. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, GA, on 2 August.

**Ed Sullivan** passed away 12 June. He reported to the Academy after attending NAPS. Following graduation, Ed earned his wings and served in the "Black Ponies" of Light Attack Squadron Four in South Vietnam, flying the OV-10 to provide close-air support to riverine forces and SEALs in the Mekong Delta. He went on to fly the P-3 Orion ASW aircraft, a shipboard duty on USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) flying the C-1, and tours at Lajes in the Azores and the Pentagon. Ed completed his 27-year career as the FAA and NATO Navy representative for the East Coast.



'68: Hank Martin (L) and Gordon Peterson flank the Seawolf painting Gordo donated to the National Naval Aviation Museum. (Photo by Hill Goodspeed)

## 68/69 CLASS NEWS

Following a 13-year civilian career, Ed moved to Delaware with his family. In retirement, he was very active as a class officer and president of the Navy League's local council in Easton, MD. A full military service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**Gary Storm** rendered this salute to Ed:

✉ "The Class of '68 suffered a major loss in the passing of Ed Sullivan. I remember Ed fondly as our devoted East Coast Vice President. But Ed was more than our VP; he was my friend, as I am sure many of our classmates can also say. Ed did many things for our class including writing our initial class history, single handedly putting together our 45th Reunion Yearbook, and directing our Link in the Chain program with the Class of 2018. Ed will be deeply missed. I speak for the entire class when I send condolences to his wife Kathleen and family."

**Jack Russ** passed away peacefully at his home in Poway, CA, 24 May. Following graduation, he served tours as a naval flight officer in F-4 Phantom fighters and aboard USS HOEL (DDG 13) during the Vietnam War. He retired from the Navy Reserve in 1990. As a mechanical engineer and economist, Jack's civilian career encompassed public and private sector positions in energy supply planning, economic analysis and technical expertise to the energy extraction, transport and consumption industry. Concurrently he served as an adjunct professor of economics and statistics at San Diego State University for more than 30 years. Jack is survived by his wife, Adell, three sons and their wives, and six grandchildren.

**Dick Evert** joined **Ned Garigues, Kent McQuarter, Bob Griffin, Ed Mulhern, Todd Hyde, John Lyons, and Pete Bishop** at Jack's funeral at Miramar National Cemetery 7 June. Joined by their wives, Dick, Ned, and **Nelson Parda** also gathered for Jack's celebration of life at Emmanuel Faith Community Church, Escondido, CA, 28 June. "His three Army officer sons in full-dress-blue uniforms each contributed one-third of the eulogy which was beautifully written and delivered," Dick said. "Jack lived an extraordinary life both professionally and in raising his family. Evident in every tribute delivered about the life of a man of which USNA '68 can be proud was his family's love and respect. We were all pleased to represent the class."

Take care, **Gordo**

### USNA CANDIDATES

*Start the youngster you know  
on the road to USNA.*

*To request info or apply online,  
visit [usna.edu/Admissions](http://usna.edu/Admissions).*

## '69

**Life Membership: 60%**  
**Donor Participation: 21.02%**

Pres: **Steve Comiskey**  
e: [swcomiskey@gmail.com](mailto:swcomiskey@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Treas: **Ron Gumbert**  
4300 Summertime Ln., Helena, MT 59602  
e: [rongumbert@icloud.com](mailto:rongumbert@icloud.com)

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

Happy Fall '69! Here's hoping everyone who came to the reunion made it home safely!

From **Jim Sandberg**: **Jim** and **Marja Sandberg** saw **Mike Hough** and **Bill Brambley** when they attended the 16 May funeral of their Plebe Year roommate **Bill Boese**, USMC (Ret), where Mike delivered a fitting eulogy for our classmate and friend. Bill and Ramona's family and friends filled their hometown church in Milford, Iowa in his honor.

From **Dennis Plank**: The 15th Annual Tidewater Area Bash was held Saturday 11 May at Donna Nash's beautiful home in Sandbridge, Virginia. A wonderful afternoon event, well attended by many '69ers, and music of our era provided by Billy Kendra and his band. A picture of '69ers singing "The Goat Is Old and Gnarly" is provided below. Attendees were: **Mary and Pat Stroop, Emily and Dennis Plank, Donna Nash, Sue and Joe Greene, Rose and Billy Coxe, Kathy and Dave Bogosian, Nancy and Gordy Green, Susan and Chuck Quandel, Stephen Leaman** and escort **Debbie Ainslee, Donna and Dale Crisp, Gary Goodmundson** and son **Ale, Judy and Lon Scofield, Kathy and Lee Duckworth, Judi and Stan Bryant, Dennis Yatras, Bob Byles, Jane and Tom Fowler, Dave Spriggs, Sharon and Pete Renfree, Cherie and Augie Beaulieu, Rita and Marv Crisp, Jerry Branum** and escort **Linda Lawrence, Cindy and Dan Johnson, and Mike Michaelis.**

From **Jim Hooper**: I have been following a young submarine officer who is part of the pre-commissioning crew of USS NEW JERSEY (SSN-796). **LCDR Andrea Howard '15** is a highly qualified submariner as well as very accomplished graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Since I served on the battleship USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) as the Weapons Officer from 1984 to 1986, I wondered if they would like a memento from the battleship to display. That got me in touch with the PCO CDR Steve Halle and he welcomed the offer and said they were looking for things to display throughout the boat. I offered the plaque I received as a farewell gift in 1986. CDR Halle received it, polished up the wood and bronze display, and even kept my name plaque on it.

The pictures were sent to me showing it on display aboard the boat in the wardroom. I am emotional about this honor, not just that a part of BB-62 is part of USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796), but especially because my name and service are on display too. No greater honor as far as I am concerned. (Jim's plaque is on the left directly above the phone).



Jim Hooper's plaque in wardroom of USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796)

From **Jim Sandberg**: On Friday 17 May, as the last scheduled event of the Academic Year, 28 midshipmen 1/C of the 9th Company met in the Naval Academy Club on the yard with six 1969 classmates, **Bob Amundson, Ed Bannat, Bert Bennett, John Clark, Dave Ehemann, and Lou Giannotti**. Classmates congratulated the midshipmen on their upcoming graduation and assignments, shared some of their own fleet experiences, and delivered our 1969 Challenge Coins to remember us by. By all accounts a good time was had by all, as indicated best by **John Clark** when he recalled "On my way home, I was walking in town when a car sped by. Through the open passenger window an arm was extended into the air and from the inside a young man yelled in a friendly voice, 'SIXTY-NINE - YES, SIR!'"

From **Dave Carter**: I never thought 55 years ago that I would be back in the same stadium pinning new Ensign shoulder boards on my grandson! Edwin is going SWO...he reports to USS MASON (DDG-87) in Mayport later this summer.



Dave Carter, Edwin Carter '24, and Amanda Carter (Edwin's mother)



Class of 1969 Tidewater Area Bash



'69 delivering class coins to firsties of 9th company

From **Jerry Saunders**: USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62), now a museum ship in Camden, NJ, recently underwent a dry dock period for maintenance in the old Philadelphia Navy Yard. **Jerry Saunders** and **Dick Bartlett** took advantage of the dry dock tours being offered and went for a look. This would have been a very familiar scene for **Bill Clifford**, given his post-Navy shipyard career. Other than a couple PTSD flashbacks to hungover Army game march-on formations, it was a great day. Big ship. Big guns.



Bullet Saunders and Dick Bartlett touring USS New Jersey (BB-62)

From **Rudy Plummer**: On April 28 it was my privilege to participate in the Court of Honor for three new Eagle Scouts, including my grandson William Smiley, in Columbus, OH. I was invited to deliver the Charge to the three new Eagle Scouts in which they committed to a lifetime of doing their best to serve their community. It had been 60 years since I had become an Eagle Scout and made the same commitment. The Charge I delivered to those three new Eagle Scouts was the following:

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant movements in the world's history and each of you has been counted worthy of the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement. Your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are marked men. As an Eagle Scout you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your Duty to God, to Country, your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourselves and to your brother and sister Scouts. Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts to your Country and your God. The United States of America, our Country, has many good things to give you and your children after you that derive from Almighty God; but the continued Blessings of God upon our Country depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens because we must give Blessings to each other. Our Country has had a great past. You are here to make the future greater. I charge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a leader but lead only towards the best. Lift every task you do and every office you hold to the highest level of service to God and to your fellow men and women. So live and serve those who know you will be inspired to their finest living. We have too many who use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good. Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship and reverence for God, and whatever others say or may do, you leave behind you a

record of which every Scout may be justly proud. By repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow members you commit to live lifelong as an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use will be like those by which you joined Scouting, today they will mean more than they could have meant at any time in the past. When you pledge yourself on your sacred honor you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the Code of the Eagle Scout with words that closed the Declaration of Independence."

I recognize that no one can tell where these three new Eagle Scouts will go or do, but watching their enthusiasm and dedication I'm certain they are headed for something great. I wish them well. A proud day for both Rudy and his grandson.



William Smiley (Rudy's grandson) and Rudy Plummer

From **Tom Halwachs**: In the May/June 69 column it is stated that "...Lou and Carl may be last men standing as far as government service employees go." I must contest that - I am currently employed by the Naval Postgraduate School and have been so since retirement from active service in August of 1992. I have been continuously employed by the Navy since I was 17! Further, since my dad (Pearl Harbor survivor) was on active duty when I was born and retired after I was commissioned, I submit that I have been born, raised, and served the Navy all me blooming life! PS: Hearty congratulations and thank you to Lou and Carl.

**A special message from Shipmate Editor Jimmy DeButts: Legacy of Valor**

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation continues its Legacy of Valor series with stories on alumni experiences from the Korean, Cold, and Vietnam wars. If you want to share your story - or one of your classmate's with *Shipmate* and on our digital channels, please contact Jimmy DeButts at jimmy.debutts@usna.com. The stories will focus on the variety of experiences from all warfare communities and how the Naval Academy prepared them to lead.

- If your plan is for 1 year, plant rice.
  - If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees.
  - If your plan is for 100 years, educate children.
- Confucius  
**Non Sibi.**



# '70

**Life Membership: 63%**

**Donor Participation: 24.22%**

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

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

Webmaster: **Ed Moore**  
e: edmund.moore@gmail.com

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

Greetings all, welcome to better weather and hopefully better times for everyone. Remember that our 55th Reunion is quickly coming upon us. This Spring!! 24-27 Apr. 2025.

**Sound the Last Post:**

**Paul L. Houde**, of Williamsburg, VA, passed away in June. Paul served for 20 years before finishing his career in high school education as a principal and administrator. He was an avid traveler, and huge sports fan. He was also a frequent patron of Oceans and Ale in Williamsburg, but most of all, a loving Pap to his granddaughter. Interment in Arlington National Cemetery will take place at a time to be determined.

**William Howard "Bill" Steussy**, passed away in New Braunfels, TX in June. He served 22 years in both Atlantic and Pacific Fleet, including USS HENRY W. TUCKER (DD-875) and USS GURKE (DD-783), USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), and USS LEXINGTON (AVT-16). Bill's assignments ashore included SWOS, Newport; the Pentagon, the Joint US Military Advisory Group, Bangkok Thailand; Joint Cruise Missile Project Office, and Navy Board of Inspection and Survey. Bill retired in 1992 and entered a career as hospital facility manager in Oregon and Texas. He retired from his last assignment at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, in 2013. Bill's many loves included his family, the Navy, Central Texas, golf, baseball, fishing, hunting, dogs, good Texas music, boiled Gulf shrimp, and woodworking. He was quick with an amusing anecdote or piece of engineering wisdom. In both the Navy and in private industry, he was happiest when he rolled up his sleeves with his team and helped them figure out complex engineering challenges. He believed Texas was the only State in our union. He would spend hours on backcountry roads with his family and best friends, searching for new barbecue joints in the quest for the best Texas smoked meats. In his last months and years, nothing pleased him more than sitting out on his back porch overlooking the Guadalupe River with Janie and swapping stories with those closest to him. Interment is planned at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego CA on a date to be determined.

**Paul Biber Jr**, of Sheffield Lake, OH died at home in July. After two years at USNA he transferred to the University of Toledo where he played tight end for the Toledo team that

would go undefeated 3 consecutive years, culminating in two Tangerine Bowl wins and a #12 national ranking.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees, Paul began a 36-year career as a social studies teacher at Admiral King. He was blessed with an incredible memory and comprehensive knowledge of world and US history that he drew upon in his classroom to educate and inspire his students. Paul also began a coaching career that would ultimately lead to his induction in the Lorain Sports Hall of Fame. After serving as a football assistant coach at Admiral King for 7 years, Paul took over the girls' basketball program at the school and led it to 8 conference and 11 sectional championships. He was named Lorain County Coach of the year nine times. Paul also coached the boys basketball team at Admiral King in 2003 and 2004, helped develop youth basketball programs in Lorain and coached AAU high school basketball from 2003 - 2009. Paul cared deeply for his students and went far beyond what was expected of a coach or teacher. After retiring from Admiral King in 2006, Paul taught history at Lorain County Community College for 18 years. Paul enjoyed reading, spending time with friends and family, playing poker, and the annual family vacation on Cape Cod.

**Mike Simmons** Notified us that **Jim Kenney** passed away in July. They first met at the Aviation Maintenance Officer Course in Memphis the summer after graduation. Had some great times in Pensacola as well. Jim went on to fly helos. They reconnected in Virginia Beach in the 80's, and kind of unconnected after that. He was a great guy. His wife is an amazing woman as well.

**Follow-up:**

**Bob Viney** sent me a review of the celebration of life for Fred Eliot. **Preston Rusch**, introduced many to Eliot hospitality. That daisy chained onto later classes. Bob and **Carl Smith** were the only classmates who were able to attend, but Suzanne (**Mike Aycocck**) Colbert was there as well. Some members of the class of 72 from 24th company were also there ... Fred Dohse, John Chalker, Bob Baczenas, and Roger Rawls. Carl and I had fun posing next to our *Lucky Bag* photos in the Eliot's basement, which still has the "Squid Row" photos of the members of each class who spent time at their home. It was a great time to see friends, former company mates again, and share memories of the times we were lucky enough to be with Mr. and Mrs. Eliot, our honorary classmates.



And just to show you that we are read among others, I heard from Bob Baczenas '72:

✉ "I was reading my *Shipmate* today and I noted **Bill King's** comments re: the passing of Fred Eliot. The 1972 Class from Hard Core 24th Company attended Mr E's life celebration in Crofton, including myself, Rodger Rawls, Fred Dohse and John Chalker and our spouses. Bill thought their support ended with the Class of 70, but Millie and Fred supported us for our four years and beyond."

**Bit and Pieces:**

**John Rogers** sent a pic of him, **Larry Baucom**, **Roc Miles**, taken in May during the VF-32 reunion in Virginia Beach. Larry hosted the event at his beautiful home. Roc came in from Savannah and John came from central Texas.



**Tom Wolfe** and **Chuck Lewis** celebrated the Dark Ages by wasting away at Chico's Cantina in Margaritaville during the RV Chapter Comearound in Key West in February. While neither was searching for any lost shakers of salt they did manage to find that frozen concoction that helps us all hang on! Chuck and Tom also represented '70 well during a pub crawl activity organized by a Chapter member during the event.

Karen and **Lou McIntyre** and Brenda and **Gary Knight** drove to Virginia's Northern Neck a couple of Sunday's ago to visit Cynthia and **Steve Mady** at their fantastic winery, The Hague. Steve broke out a couple of outstanding bottles of white wine to imbibe while we swapped sea stories.

**DONATE ONLINE**

Support the Annual Academy Fund,  
visit [usna.com/give](http://usna.com/give).

**Goat Logo:**

It started with an email from **Joe Carroll** stating that "Most of the Class has no idea that the Goat holding the anchor was drawn by our own **Emmitt (Chip) Lancaster**. "He claimed that, today you really have to look hard to find Chip's Goat. He recently visited the mid store and found only two shirts with the Logo on it in stock. **Ed Moore** responded: "We use Chip's Goat Logo in the header in at least 90% of the headers on our Class Website. This was because **Lynn Widener** loved the logo and the fact that it was a product of the Class of 1970. Thank you Chip Lancaster!!"

As Corresponding Secretary, I also responded: "I have over the years, told Chip's story at least twice in the column in *Shipmate*, plus it's been featured in several reunion class meetings. The problem getting the logo onto class merchandise has been that it is owned by the NAAA, which has been extremely reluctant to allow its use."

Chip also responded: "It was a brigade wide contest sponsored by the NAAA for which the prize was \$100. A lot of green to a second classman. Years ago, maybe late 90s, I had a lawyer draft up a letter to the NAAA claiming intellectual property rights. Almost immediately I received a cease and desist or something to that effect telling me to knock it off or they were going to come after me. Figured one shot across their bow was enough and I sailed in another direction. "



**Class Progeny:**

**Lucian Acuff** writes

✉ "In the years that we have been reading *Shipmate* we have been delighted to read about all the life events of classmates. It has been a joy to see how many of us have had successful first, second, and even third careers. Many of us have received well-deserved honors and all of this is recorded for all to enjoy and share. We, Sara and I, have not contributed an article and so now that time is here. We cannot say we have traveled far and wide as retirees do, or even have other careers. In the place of many "usual" activities of retired folks, we joined the "kinship" group of grandparents

raising grandkids. We adopted a great-granddaughter! Some of you have met Skyler and watched her grow. We have appreciated all attention given to her! We have had her in our home beginning at 4 months, the adoption process took 4 years and she is now 14 and headed to high school. We are busy with teen activities, iphone challenges, social events and academics. She made Honor Roll every quarter this year with the exception of the second quarter where she missed by 0.2%. . . IN ART!!! She has always been a joy to us. We did have an opportunity to take her to Canada last summer and visited Old Town Quebec and Niagara Falls on that side. Basically, it was amazing and only once in a while was heard "Can we go now? Or . . . Where is the arcade? "We are keeping up with Carmel and **John Holewa, Gino Marchetti, Terry Huff, Ben Tucker, and Bobby Woo**...many of my 7th Company classmates...all of whom are great patriots and friends...and have been a huge support in these past years that helped us meet so many challenges. We recently found out that we are not alone in this raising and adopting of a little one. Murtie Lou and **Tom Marsilio** have followed the same path of bringing joy into the life of a little one. They have a cute, redheaded 10-year-old. Hopefully they will submit a bit of their story later on. All the best to you world travelers out there. As she gets older, we may get her on an overseas trip. . . if we are still blessed with the good health we have always had.

**Tom Marsilio** rose to the bait:

✉ "Recently, I have had the absolute pleasure, of course, corresponding with my Battalion mate, Lucian Acuff, relative to our adoption of babies while in our mid-60's. This move, considered by many to be totally unorthodox, has been the finest decision we have made in our marital lives. Our 10-year-old Mariah came to us at one month old. Her biological parents had no family to care for her, so my wife, Murtie Lou, stepped up and insisted we take her. A year plus later, she became our daughter in a courtroom filled with colleagues, family and friends. Truly a memorable day! Shortly thereafter, I semi-retired from criminal law practice (I just can't stay out of the courtroom...) in order to spend more time with this loveable child who makes my wife and me feel decades younger. What a joy it is to teach her elementary school material (she maintains mostly A's) and watch her excel at athletics. People inevitably comment how lucky she is. My response is always "No, it is my wife and I who are undoubtedly the lucky ones!" "By the way, Mariah will be USNA '36, if I have anything to do with it!"

**And Finally...**

Pete Phelps '67 writes:

✉ "At my 80th birthday party yesterday, someone presented me with a 1970 Dixie Cup, which had been making the rounds amongst some of your Firsties. It POSSIBLY was a relic from your Herndon Monument assault. Can you advertise it for me, and I'll send the rightful owner this majestic relic, post haste. "



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

**ALUMNI STORE**

Your source for class, club and chapter logo apparel and gifts.  
[usna.com/shop](http://usna.com/shop)

**2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

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

31 AUG	vs Bucknell	noon start time
7 SEPT	vs Temple	3:30 pm start time
21 SEPT	vs Memphis	3:30 pm start time
28 SEPT	@ UAB	TBA
5 OCT	@ Air Force	Noon, ET/10:00 am MT
19 OCT	vs Charlotte	3:30 pm start time
26 OCT	vs Notre Dame	Noon, East Rutherford, NJ
2 NOV	@ Rice	TBA
9 NOV	@ South Florida	TBA
16 NOV	vs Tulane	Noon start time
30 NOV	@ East Carolina	TBA
14 DEC	vs Army	3:00 pm, Landover, MD

**1-800-US4-NAVY**

# CHAPTER NEWS



Sacramento Chapter: Annual summer picnic

## California

### Sacramento Chapter

Pres: **Terri (Riggs) Maginnis '82**  
e: tmaginnis@yahoo.com

Vice Pres: **Brian Grubbs '92**  
e: bgrubbs1992@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Paul Deveaux '96**  
e: paul@pauldeveaux.com

Treas: **Alan Abbs '91**  
e: alanabbs@gmail.com

Area BGO Coordinator: **Lauro Aguila '81**  
p: 530-417-1082  
e: Lauro.Aguila@bgo.USNA.com

On Sunday, 28 July, the Sacramento Parents Club hosted the annual summer picnic and invited the alumni. This year we gathered at the home of Lucie and Olaf Kroettinger (Emily '27). This was an opportunity for the Class of '28 parents to check in and let us know how their plebes are doing. Representatives from the classes of '81, '82, '13, '14 (along with their potential class of 2046 candidate) and even two current midshipmen from the classes of '25 and '26 attended. As always, it is fun for us alumni to keep connected to the Academy and hear about what has changed (and much that has not).

We continue with our monthly breakfast and happy hour football watch parties. Check myusna.com for the latest events calendar.

### San Diego Chapter

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

Vice Pres 1: **Debbie Balsley '93**

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

Treas: **Maurice Caskey '64**

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



The summer kicked off with our annual "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" event at PETCO Park 9 June. The Padres played the Diamondbacks and despite the outcome everyone had a great time. This is the 13th time we have held this event and it's sold out every year.

20 June saw the Chapter and the Womens' Shared Interest Group (WSIG) hold a joint luncheon that featured Taylor Kiland. Taylor is a non-fiction author, specializing in military non-fiction. She has written, co-authored, ghost-written or edited eighteen books. Taylor is a former naval officer and the third generation in her family to serve in the Navy. Her father is CAPT **Ing Kiland '59**. Her latest book is "Unwavering: The Wives Who Fought to Ensure No Man is Left Behind" is about how a small group of military wives defied the government's edict to leave diplomacy to the professionals, and instead spoke up to make the fate of America's POWs and missing men a national priority.

The luncheon was followed on 2 August by another joint Chapter and WSIG event. **Linda Postenrieder '82** and three others from the leadership team from the WSIG were in San Diego for the SpecWar Change of Command Aug 2. Thanks to **Mary Brigden '81** for arranging a WSIG board meeting at the San Diego Yacht

Club later that evening. Taking advantage of having many of the WSIG leadership team in the area, **Jen McCollough '01** organized a stand up paddleboard (SUP) event on 3 August which was open to all the local alumni. Twenty-one alumni, family, friends, plus three dogs enjoyed a breezy ride in Liberty Station under the guidance of the SUP pups company. There were representatives from every decade from the 70s to the 10s. After an adventurous time on the water, the groups went to lunch at Oggi's.



WSIG: Linda Postenrieder '82, Barbette Lowndes '80, CNO VADM Franchetti, Mary Brigden '81, Maegen Nix '97, Marie Burris '86



WSIG: Maegen Nix '97, Marie Burris '86, Linda Postenrieder '82, Barbette Lowndes '80, Marie Brigden '81, Jen McCollough '01, Paige Hoffmann '86

Finally, the end of June saw the arrival of PROTRAMID midshipmen for summer cruises. The Chapter hosted over 700 middies as they made their way through the USO on arrival. The Chapter sponsored food for their arrival and Chapter members manned the grills serving burgers and interacting with the midds.



Mids at the USO about to start summer cruises.



2023 Distinguished Chapter



San Francisco Bay Area Alumni and Parents at Picnic in Petaluma, CA

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Pres: **Mike Fazio '85**  
e: mikefz85@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Vacant**

Sec'y: **Ray Fazio '57**  
e: rayfz57@pacbell.net

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

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

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

Instagram: @usnaaa\_sfbaychapter

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

Thanks to **Cherlene Griffith '72**, alumni, parents & families, joined together at Brewsters Beer Garden in Petaluma for a casual afternoon of brews, bites, and conversation and enjoyed the festive outdoor patio, live music, delicious pub grub, and plenty of local craft beers!

## Colorado

### Colorado Chapter

Pres: **Kelly Mayer '85**  
president@usnacolorado.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

Please join us in Colorado Springs on Saturday, 5 October, for the **Navy vs Air Force football game!** Our local Parents Club will be hosting a fantastic tailgate in the Falcon Stadium parking lot 2, starting at 7:00am ahead of the 10:00am kickoff. Tickets for the tailgate are \$50 each (\$40 for under 21), which includes breakfast burritos, pastries, fruit cups, coffee, two beers, and more! The program will feature USNA speakers, music, and other entertainment and we will also be feeding the Midshipmen attending the game. The Parents Club is collecting donations of \$15 for each Mid that they will be feeding.



Here are the links and QR code to purchase tickets or make a donation: <https://usna-cowy-pc.square.site> and for questions: [usnaparentsclubofcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:usnaparentsclubofcolorado@gmail.com).

It has been great to see many of our Chapter at our periodic happy hour events. We continue to host events in Denver, Arvada, Louisville, Castle Rock and in August we hosted our first happy hour in Colorado Springs. We will be organizing another round of these events in early December so keep an eye on our Chapter website ([www.usnacolorado.com](http://www.usnacolorado.com)) or watch your email inbox for information on those.

We have an open seat on our Chapter Board and will be holding elections for the Board in the Spring. Please reach out to me if you are interested in supporting our current Chapter activities or initiating new ideas as an active member of our leadership team.

As a reminder, our Colorado Chapter is registered with the King Soopers and City Market Community Rewards Program. Alumni who are registered with King Soopers/City Market/Kroger can designate the Chapter to receive cash rewards without any additional

cost to the grad. Please register your card using this link: <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

Go Navy!

Kelly Mayer '85

## Delaware

BGO Area Coordinator: **Daniel Bates**  
e: daniel.bates@bgo.usna.com

### Delaware Chapter

Pres: **Chris Dierkes '85**  
c: 302-540-0940; e: christopherdierkes@yahoo.com

### USNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION VISITS DOGFISH HEAD BREWERY IN MILTON DELAWARE

Happy Hour - A pleasant visit to meet and greet Alumni and Parents Club members was welcomed this past July at Dogfish Head Brewery in Milton, DE. Eighteen supporters (*majority being alumni - you go Delaware!!!*) attended the Milton event to provide best wishes to the USNA traveling caravan. Thanks to all who came out! Go Navy!

## Florida

### Suncoast Chapter

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

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/usnaalumifloridasuncoastchapter>

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Steve Swift '87, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: sswift@1987.usna.com

Shipmates:

Well, the year has just flown by down here on Florida's Suncoast. By the time you receive this edition of *Shipmate* in September, the Class of 2024 will have graduated (Congrats!!), summer Cruises will be over, the Brigade will have returned, and the Class of 2028 will have



Delaware Chapter: July happy hour at Dogfish Head Brewery

## CHAPTER NEWS



Suncoast Chapter

completed Plebe Summer. Mother "B" will be full of Mids ready for Academic Year. Football season will be starting in Annapolis and you will all know about our local Chapter Tailgates and the Navy-USF Game on 9 November in Tampa. Hope to see you!

Not much happens here in Florida during the Summer but we did have some good times during the Snowbird Season and into June.

In February we had our annual luncheon at Snook Haven in Venice. We had lots of fun eating Barbeque and listening to banjo music in the Florida sunshine all overlooking the majestic Myakka River. It's "Old Florida" at its best. About thirty alums and guests attended, "



Then in May about twenty-five of us had a delightful lunch at TT's Tiki Bar overlooking beautiful Charlotte Harbor. Good food. Great fellowship.

Services. Fair Winds to all!



LT Lee addresses the appointees



Sea Service Appointees attending: from left Christian Delarge '28, Jackson Ruthven (USMMA 2028) Gavin Schlosser '28, and BGO Dick Petrucci '61

In June, the Chapter teamed up with the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League at the Plantation Golf and Country Club to honor several local Sea Service Academy Appointees, including two who entered USNA on 27 June. Guest speaker for this event was **LT Campbell Lee USN, a 2020 USNA** grad now serving on the Pre-commissioning Unit of USS CLEVELAND (LCS-31). Congressional Field Representative Susannah Paige Morrison from Representative Buchanan's office was also present for the ceremony. We celebrate these selections and appointments wishing them success as they enter their journeys joining in the US Sea Watch for announcements for luncheons and mixers in the coming months...

### Tampa Bay Chapter

Pres: **CDR Jane Lochner '84, USN (Ret.)**  
e: jane.lochner@gmail.com

Sec'y: **CAPT Chris Heath '72, USNR (Ret.)**  
e: christopherheath.fl@gmail.com

MyUSNA: <https://myusna.com> Select Groups, Tampa Bay, and request to join this closed group

Website: <http://tampabay.usn chapters.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

As I write in early August, I'm waving good-bye to Hurricane Debby, who left the Tampa Bay area waterlogged but not much worse for wear. It's a good thing she left - we have an outdoor chapter meeting this week, and a tropical storm would be about as welcome as a Woop at a class reunion.

### GO RAYS!

In June the chapter hosted its annual all-academy outing to a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. Almost 50 alumni from Air Force, Army, and USNA (including guests) attended. Someone forgot to tell the Rays, who lost to the Washington Nationals, but we enjoyed the fellowship and peanuts to the full!



### PIN THE TAIL ON THE MULE PICNIC

In July we forego the monthly meeting and have a picnic instead. This year we returned to beautiful, shady Al Lopez Park in Tampa and enjoyed a catered BBQ meal together. It was a wonderful social gathering, with several relationships renewed and enjoyed. One odd addition - also at that park that day was a national Pokemon GO event, which had hundreds of people walking around looking at their cell phones. What a puzzling site!

Enjoying the chapter event were Mike Zabel and **Jane Lochner '84, Chris Heath '72, Carla and Derrick Clark '98, Lesley and Peter Damisch '75, Peggy and LaVerne Lovell '75** along with their son and grandson, Karen and **Mark Arnold '80, Brian Tsai '16, Dennis, Orion, and Trey Alexander '90, Noe Lovera '18, and Erica Ryder '83.** A special treat was having Midshipman **Eliza Long '27** with us. Eliza shared a firsthand view of life at USNA today, on summer duty and in the Hall. Did you know that "fratting" is a verb??? (You'll figure it out.)

### NAVY FOOTBALL IS COMING TO TOWN

Mark your calendar and get ready to show your Navy spirit! If you haven't heard, Navy will visit the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa on 9 November. Last year USF gave Alabama a scare, and that program is on the upswing, so Navy will have to bring their best. We will, too - with a reception on Friday and a tailgate on Saturday before the game. Game time is TBD. Watch your online sites for more information.



**CHAPTER SHIRTS ARE HERE**

After a long effort, we are excited to have chapter shirts and other merchandise available. Orders can be placed individually and shipped to your home. (See photo on previous page.)

Order here: [https://stores.inksoft.com/USNA\\_Tampa/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/USNA_Tampa/shop/home)

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Monthly chapter meetings resumed in August and provide a forum for catching up on USNA news, as well as spirited planning, networking, and socializing. If you are new to the area or have been around a while and just haven't gotten to a meeting, this is a great way to get to see new and old friends. Come on out to Tate's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria on the first WED of each month at 1800.

Participants in June included **Jim Kramer '74, Duane Lafont '78, Peter W. Damisch '75, Warren Hahn '60, Perry Dempsey '72, Derrick Clark '98, Brian Tsai '16, Chris Thompson '92, Paul Matthews '85, Tom Draude '62, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Joe Pignelli '06, Jane Lochner '84, and Chris Heath '72.**

**Watch for information to sign up for these future events:**

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month (no sign-up needed)
- Navy football watch parties - all Saturday games in the fall - The Deck, St, Petersburg
- Founder's Day Candidate Information Dinner- 9 October 24, Feather Sound Country Club
- Navy at USF football - 9 November 24, Tampa (time TBD). Includes previous evening reception event, tailgate, and game

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

Go Navy! Beat USF!

*Chris Heath '72  
Chapter Secretary*

**Georgia**

**Atlanta Chapter**

Pres: **DJ Marzetta '94**  
p: 404-996-7019; e: [djmarzetta@gmail.com](mailto:djmarzetta@gmail.com)  
Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers '79, USN (Ret.)**  
e: [JDWithers@1979.usna.com](mailto:JDWithers@1979.usna.com)  
Website: <http://www.usnaaaa.com>

BGO Area Coordinator (Atlanta/North Georgia): **Deborah Catrini**  
e: [deborah.catrini@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.catrini@gmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator (Southern Georgia): **Ryan McDonel**  
e: [rmcdonel.usna@gmail.com](mailto:rmcdonel.usna@gmail.com)

Come join us as the USNA Atlanta Alumni celebrate Oktoberfest on Friday, 25 October at the 57th Fighter Group restaurant at Peachtree Dekalb Airport at 1830. Come out for an evening of fun and fellowship with your USNA shipmates as we enjoy a selection of German beers, wine and a delicious traditional menu:

**Oktoberfest Themed Buffet to Include:**

- Warm Pretzels with Beer Cheese Dip
- Garden Salad with Ranch Dressing & Balsamic Vinaigrette
- German Potato Salad
- Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage
- Chicken Schnitzel
- Bratwurst with Sauerkraut
- Bown Mustard
- Rolls & Butter
- Apple Strudel with Whipped Cream

Register online by Monday, October 21. <https://atlanta.usnachapters.net/> Price is \$45 per person for chapter members, \$50/person non-members. 57th Fighter Group, 3829 Clairmont Rd, Atlanta, GA 30341

Looking to be added to our email list? 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*

**Idaho**

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Todd Severance '92, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 208-620-9436; e: [tjseverance1992@gmail.com](mailto:tjseverance1992@gmail.com)

**Southern Idaho Chapter**

President: **Rick Schellhaas '68**  
e: [rbschellhaas@gmail.com](mailto:rbschellhaas@gmail.com)  
Vice President: **Pete Butler '86**  
e: [pete@valtrend.com](mailto:pete@valtrend.com)

Secretary: **Rufus Taylor '66**  
e: [tincansailor980@gmail.com](mailto:tincansailor980@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: **Tef Nunamaker '92**  
e: [tjnunamaker@gmail.com](mailto:tjnunamaker@gmail.com)

Idaho Parents' Club President: **Trasi Mullin (Cormac '26)**  
e: [idusnaparents@gmail.com](mailto:idusnaparents@gmail.com)

Greetings All! Wedding Bells! Count'em folks, 50 all tolled. Congratulations to Naty and **Tom Neville '68** on their 50th wedding anniversary. Tom and Naty hosted an evening reception on 22 June with family, many friends, shipmates, and colleagues in attendance. A grand occasion celebrated by all.



**Naty and Tom Neville '68**

The joint academies June social, hosted by the USMA Association of Graduates (AOG), was held at the Lucky 13 Pub in downtown Boise.



**Class of '68 greets the Class of '28 at the SIC Welcome Aboard Picnic. L-R: Dennis Hanrahan, Tom Neville, Jerry Fastabend, and Rick Schellhaas.**

Are you ready for some (Navy) football? Be sure and checkout the Navy Football TV broadcast schedule for the latest up-to-date information as the published schedule could be subject to change.

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

2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE		
Follow Navy Football at: <a href="http://navysports.com">navysports.com</a>		
31 AUG vs Bucknell		noon start time
7 SEPT vs Temple		3:30 pm start time
21 SEPT vs Memphis		3:30 pm start time
28 SEPT @ UAB		TBA
5 OCT @ Air Force		Noon, ET/10:00 am MT
19 OCT vs Charlotte		3:30 pm start time
26 OCT vs Notre Dame		Noon, East Rutherford, NJ
2 NOV @ Rice		TBA
9 NOV @ South Florida		TBA
16 NOV vs Tulane		Noon start time
30 NOV @ East Carolina		TBA
14 DEC vs Army		3:00 pm, Landover, MD
<b>1-800-US4-NAVY</b>		

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Iowa

See Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**  
p: 858-335-7921; e: ries.briane@gmail.com  
Iowa Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**  
Shipmate Contact: Position Open

Website: myUSNA.com Chapter Group -  
<https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAAlumniUpperMidwest/>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ted Olt III**  
p: 563-355-1709; e: tolt@l-wlaw.com

## 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

### "Celebrating Camaraderie and Tradition: The Alumni Meeting at Ten20 Brewery"

**Delving Deeper into the Navy Spirit:** In a recent feature for the Shipmate Alumni Magazine, we take you behind the scenes of an extraordinary gathering—the Alumni Meeting held at the Ten20 Brewery in Louisville. But this was not your typical meetup; it was a celebration of the enduring spirit that binds Navy alumni together.

**Hosts and Attendees:** A Reunion of Legends: Our gracious hosts were none other than **John Flodder '00** and **Luke Scoggins '00**, the visionary founders of Ten20 Brewery. As alumni themselves, they welcomed their fellow graduates with open arms, creating an atmosphere where memories flowed freely, and connections were forged anew.

### Lively Discussions and Nostalgic Reminiscences:

Alumni from various classes converged, sharing stories that spanned decades. Conversations echoed with tales of Academy life, camaraderie, and the indelible bonds formed during their time by the Severn River. Whether recounting sea trials, late-night study sessions,

or unforgettable football games, the spirit of the Naval Academy permeated the room.

**The Overtime Loss and Unwavering Resolve:** Despite the unfortunate overtime defeat to the Black Knights, our alumni stood resilient. In attendance were **Sam Willett '79** and **Kathi, Cody Stueve '14** and family, **Greg Reinhardt '79** and **Luly, Greg Treitz '73** and **Harriet, Eric Gordon '74, Patrick Kanewske '81, Doug Vaughan '91** and **Ruth**, and many others. We are gearing up for a Victory in 24! and others rallied together, embodying the Navy's fighting spirit. The game may have ended, but the camaraderie endured.

**Navigating the Dark Ages: A Seasonal Twist:** In February, TEN20 Brewery hosted us once more, this time at their Douglass Loop Location. The "Dark Ages" - not the historical epoch after the fall of Rome, but the dreary winter days at the Naval Academy - came to life. Gray skies, fading tans, and chilly weather set the stage. Yet, amidst the gloom, special care packages brightened our midshipmen's days. From favorite snacks to uplifting cards, these thoughtful gestures warmed hearts during the cold season.

**Welcoming New Midshipmen: A Proud Tradition:** On 15 June, the Commonwealth of Kentucky bid "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to 11 midshipmen from the Class of 2024. Simultaneously, they welcomed 7 new Midshipmen of the Class of 2028 during the June "Hail & Farewell" picnic. These young men and women chose to wear the Navy Blue & Gold, embracing a path of honor and sacrifice. It was a banner year for Kentucky with 14 Midshipmen attending the Academy on I-Day in June.

**Strength and Resilience: A Legacy Continues:** As parents, we swell with pride. Our sons and daughters embark on a challenging journey, knowing that their strength - forged at the Academy - will sustain them through the Severn's trials and beyond.

**Mark Your Calendars:** Army-Navy Anticipation: Finally, let us look ahead! On **14 December, join us at Ten20 Brewery** in Louisville, KY, as we cheer on the Midshipmen to victory over Army. Let the spirit of rivalry ignite once more!

## Maryland

### Greater Southern Maryland Chapter

Pres: **Micheal W. Thumm '75**  
e: thummer75@md.metrocast.net

Sec'y: **Katie Ellefson '13**  
p: 661-992-9190; e: katieellefson13@gmail.com

Corr Sec'y: **Tom Phelan '79**  
p: 301-481-0604; e: tphelan57@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.navyalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**  
e: Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com

Regret to report that our long serving Corresponding Secretary, **Mike Dougherty '73**, passed away. Services and Celebration of Life details are pending.

On 27 Jun, **CDR Travis Hartman '05** relieved LtCol Aaron Kia U.S. Army as the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Pax River.

On 11 Jul, **CAPT (Sel.) Tyler Hurst '04** relieved **CDR Mike Mabrey '05** as the Commanding Officer of UX-24 (UAS Test Squadron at Pax River)

### Events

10 Jul 2024: Chapter meeting and summer social, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)  
Happy hour: 20 Jun (Flight Deck Lounge)  
Welcome picnic for Class of 2028 and Napsters: 22 Jun

### Coming Events:

11 Sep: Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)  
19 Sep: Happy Hour (Flight Deck Lounge)  
9 Oct: Chapter meeting and Fall social, Brudergarten  
Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website ([www.navyalumni.org](http://www.navyalumni.org))



Louisville/Southern Indiana Chapter



Mike Thumm '75 congratulates Lindsey Magpuri, incoming Class of 2028.



Happy Hour, Flight Deck Lounge



Michigan Chapter Annual Boat Outing

## Michigan

### Michigan Chapter

Pres: **Mike Droogleever '05**

Treas: **Sean Lloyd '00**

Sec'y: **Peggy Menzies '85**

Vice Pres: **Shawn Hoch '08**

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

BGO Area Coordinator (Eastern): **Mike Toribio '97**  
e: [miketoribio@gmail.com](mailto:miketoribio@gmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator (West & Upper):  
**Col Benjamin Richmond '93, USMCR**  
e: [brichmond97@earthlink.net](mailto:brichmond97@earthlink.net)

### 4th Annual Boat Outing

Our annual boat outing has become a much-anticipated event for our Chapter as it provides a unique blend of leisure and opportunity for alumni to refresh their seamanship skills amidst the camaraderie of fellow graduates. Captained by **Mike Droogleever '05**, our recently elected chapter president, this year's float plan cruised us along the Grosse Pointe shoreline on Lake St. Clair and down the Detroit River, offering us views of historic landmarks on the riverbanks. Though the backdrop was distinctly different than Annapolis, the journey's spirit nicely reminisced our days along the Severn.

## Minnesota

### Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**

c: 858-335-7921

e: [ries.briane@gmail.com](mailto:ries.briane@gmail.com)

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com) Chapter Group -  
<https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/USNAUpperMidwest](https://www.facebook.com/USNAUpperMidwest)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Brad Gawboy '81, USN (Ret.)**  
e: [bradgawboy@comcast.net](mailto:bradgawboy@comcast.net)

The Fargo AirSho was held on July 27 & 28, 2024, with performances by U.S. Navy Blue Angels. BGOs **Dan Lambert '77**, and Norm Dutot represented at the show.



Trygve Hammer '90, Norm Dutot, BGO.

## Missouri

### St. Louis Chapter

Pres: **Lowell Crow '84**

p: 309-509-0279; e: [lowelldcrow@gmail.com](mailto:lowelldcrow@gmail.com)

Website: <https://stlusna.com>

Shipmate contact: **John Winkler '85**

p: 314-497-4917; e: [jkwinkler@earthlink.net](mailto:jkwinkler@earthlink.net)

BGO Area Coordinator:

**CAPT Kent Higginbotham '76, USN (Ret.)**

e: [kenth@hbistl.com](mailto:kenth@hbistl.com)

This summer has been busy for the Greater St Louis Chapter. The first of June we co-hosted with the Greater St Louis Parents club the welcome luncheon for the incoming plebes with the class of 2028. 1978 Class members **John Hueseman '78** and **Robert L. Schwaneke '78** welcomed the plebes to the USNA family.



Naval Academy table at the Navy Booth.

**Trygve Hammer '90**, who is currently running for Congress ([www.hammerfornd.com](http://www.hammerfornd.com)), stopped by during the show.



St Louis Chapter: Prospective Candidate Forum



St Louis Chapter



## CHAPTER NEWS



In July the chapter held its annual picnic. Nineteen members from both the Missouri and Illinois side attended the picnic along with their families. During the Picnic we elected new officers with Lowell Crow remaining as President and Alexa Maranhao coming on as Vice President. Our old Vice President Josh Rich has agreed to stay on the board.

The 10th of August members of the chapter assisted the Admissions Department with a prospective candidate forum in St Louis. Overall, we had 202 attendees with 77 students from five states attending.

Thanks to new Vice President Alexa we have Facebook page up and running. Please like it and join the group. We still have our website. Our next event will be the Air Force game at Sybergs in St Louis come on out and join us.

## Nevada

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

### Las Vegas Chapter

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

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

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

### August 2024 Las Vegas Chapter Presidents Letter Football Watch Parties:

It's August and the football season is upon us. With a second year coach and a new offensive coordinator, we are hoping for a better season than last year. Like last year we will hold monthly watch parties. Games that start at noon or later will be at the Crust and Roux located at 6825 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Morning games will be at TPC Las Vegas located at 9851 Canyon Run Drive. Current planned watch parties are:

9/7 vs. Temple at Crust and Roux 10/5 vs. Air Force at TPC Las Vegas

10/26 vs. Notre Dame at Crust and Roux

12/14 Army/ Navy watch party at MacKenzie River Pizza City National Arena in Summerlin.

### Dining Out:

Our third annual Dining Out will be Thursday, October 10th at the Honey Salt Restaurant from 6-9pm. Dress is casual and ticket prices are \$85 per person. Link to purchase tickets is [HTTPS://myusna.com/topics/9573/events/83258](https://myusna.com/topics/9573/events/83258)

Our Guest of Honor will be Vice Admiral Rick Williamson '85 (Ret.) from the class of 1985. Rick played quarterback for Navy with our last year's GOH Napoleon McCallum. We expect this event to be bigger than the last one. See Ricks biography below.

Vice Adm. Rick Williamson is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1990 and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia.

His early sea assignments include tours onboard USS DEWEY (DDG 45), USS BRISCOE (DD 977), USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) and executive officer of USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60). He commanded USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) during NATO's Standing Naval Forces Atlantic 2004 deployment to the United States, the first such visit by NATO to the United States after 9/11. Under his command, Simpson won two Battle "E" awards.

Ashore, his assignments include tours in the Washington, District of Columbia, area as executive assistant to Commander, Navy Installations Command, and deputy director of Plans and Policy. Additionally, he served as a lead examiner of both the steam and gas turbine branches at the Propulsion Examination Board at Commander in Chief,

U.S. Atlantic Fleet. In May 2006, he served as executive officer of the Command Leadership School at Newport, Rhode Island. From 2008 to 2011, he served as commanding officer of Naval Base San Diego. During this tour, Naval Base San Diego was selected as the 2010 Presidential Installation Excellence Award and the 2011 Presidential Green Government Award. From March 2016 to June 2019, he served as commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia / Maritime Air Forces, Naples. Williamson assumed duties as deputy chief of naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics June 27, 2019.

Williamson's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various other unit and campaign awards.

His wife is Robin Williamson

### Other News:

In May, Bobby Brown began his three year tenure on the Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Directors, representing the Las Vegas Chapter, which was selected last October as an "other chapter". We are very honored to have been selected for this position and look forward to representing Las Vegas on the BOD. He will meet in person two times a year and twice remotely in this position. Bobby will be on at least one committee and will discuss that in more detail in coming updates.

In the July-August issue of Shipmate our own **Greer Puckett '75** was acknowledged for his 40 years of service to Westinghouse/ Northrup Grumman. Over his career Greer worked on about every submarine that was put into service by the US Navy and a couple of UK submarines. His write up is in the class of '75 class news on page 86. Check it out and congratulate Greer at one of our watch parties, as he is a regular there. BZ Greer on a great career dedicated to our submarine silent service.

The Navy League is planning a formal Navy ball on Sunday, 13 October. If you are interested in attending let me know and I will forward the details to you.

That's all the information I have to share this month. Sign up for the Dining Out and see you at one of our watch parties. If you would like to attend one of our board meetings or get involved with the team, let me know and I will get you to one of our meetings.

Go Navy, Beat Bucknell

Cor Karaffa '77  
Chapter President

## 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>

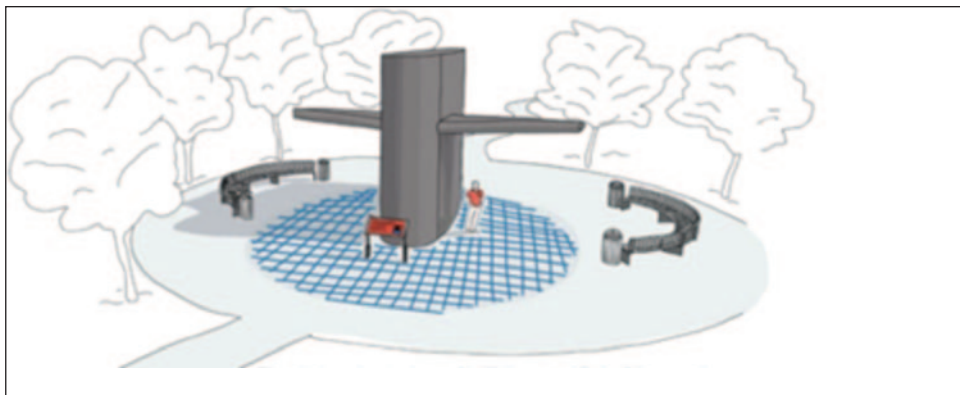
BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT David Swingle**  
e: dswingle@newmexico.com

The following article was contributed by **Mark Schaefer '83**, an officer of the Navy League: The Navy League of the United States (NLUS), New Mexico Council recently provided an update on their project to establish an exhibit of the sail from the USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN-706) nuclear submarine:



USS Albuquerque

✉ We are keeping busy on a USS ALBUQUERQUE sail memorial exhibit. The City of Albuquerque has hired a metal fabricator to clean up and re-assemble the 52-ton sail. The sail currently is located at Kirtland Air Force Base. The City



**New Mexico Chapter:** This graphic shows a dimensioned concept of the USS ALBUQUERQUE sail memorial. The City of Albuquerque will receive the sail and is looking for a suitable site for it. Courtesy of [www.ussalbuquerque.org](http://www.ussalbuquerque.org)

also has hired an exhibit designer and our NLUS Council is serving in an advisory role. Current project site plan calls for the sail and simulated bow surfacing in a city park pond within 200 feet of the Rio Grande, likely at Tingley Beach.

Then, this article gave some info a while back in the Navy League's NM "Nautical News", which I am editor for. The "Albuquerque Journal" wrote parts of it, and they have given us free reign to re-purpose the content.

### USS ALBUQUERQUE 'Sails' into Duke City

When the nuclear-powered submarine USS ALBUQUERQUE was commissioned in 1983, then Mayor Harry Kinney jokingly offered the keys to a Rolls Royce to the first captain who could maneuver the sub up the Rio Grande for a port call in Albuquerque. The keys were subsequently passed on to the skipper at each of 13 change-of-command ceremonies, according to history of the ship posted to a city website. The keys eventually made their way back to the Mayor's Office in 2017, after it was decommissioned, and the submarine - or at least a large chunk of it - is expected to arrive in Albuquerque before the end of this year.

The 362-foot-long Los Angeles class submarine sail came from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington state, where the submarine was dismantled. The U.S. Navy is making the 52-ton sail from the submarine available to Albuquerque, said Thomas Tozier, the city's liaison for military and veterans affairs. To be clear, the sail is nothing like the large, wind-swelled sheet of fabric mounted to a tall mast that propels a schooner through the water; rather it is the conning tower that's mounted on the topside of a submarine, and includes the wing-like structures, or fairwater planes, which project sideways from the tower and aid in underwater stability and steering, Tozier explained.

The New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States had been following the final journey of the USS ALBUQUERQUE. Knowing that the Navy occasionally allows pieces of decommissioned ships to go to locales that have a tie to those vessels, the league



brought it to the attention of Tozier, who brought it to the attention of Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. The city bought into the idea with an initial commitment of about \$800,000 allocated

in the fiscal year 2023 budget, said Dave Simon, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, which is leading the effort for site selection, planning and design of a monument to house the submarine sail.

*Joe McGuire '68*  
Secretary, New Mexico Chapter

## New York

### Central New York Chapter

Pres: **Steve Erb '68**

e: [steveerb@windstream.net](mailto:steveerb@windstream.net)

Sec'y/Treas: **Bob Fegan Jr. '64**

e: [bobfegan64@gmail.com](mailto:bobfegan64@gmail.com)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Ravener**

e: [tom.ravener@gmail.com](mailto:tom.ravener@gmail.com)

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

Future Chapter activities will be addressed as they are planned.

The Chapter 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 (AA), there a quite a few Alumni in the CNY area who may

not have received the information so it is being provided again herewith.

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

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

If 40% of the Alumni in the Central New York area opt for Life Membership and with over \$440 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 who may not know, our financial commitments are support to the Parents Club for the annual Welcome Aboard Picnic and the desk clocks given to the parents of each year's CNY USNA graduates.

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.

### Western New York Chapter

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**

p: 585-410-1941; e: [daniel.sullivan@savox.com](mailto:daniel.sullivan@savox.com)

Vice Pres: **Pete Owen '86**

p: 949-701-2733; e: [pfowen0302@gmail.com](mailto:pfowen0302@gmail.com)

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**

e: [douglastpeters@gmail.com](mailto:douglastpeters@gmail.com)

The Western New York Chapter will host two Navy football game watch events this fall. Our chapter will partner with the Notre Dame Club of Rochester again this year for Navy-Notre Dame on Saturday, 26 October. We will also hold an Army-Navy game viewing on Saturday, 14 December.

All Navy football fans are welcome. The venues are still TBD. Please contact one of the chapter officers for details. Details will also be posted on [myusna.com](http://myusna.com).

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**, 585-410-1941; [dsullivan17@me.com](mailto:dsullivan17@me.com)

VP: **Pete Owen '86**, 949-701-2733; [pfowen0302@gmail.com](mailto:pfowen0302@gmail.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**; [douglastpeters@gmail.com](mailto:douglastpeters@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER NEWS



Cape Fear Chapter: 5th Annual Summer Cruise



Cape Fear Chapter: Bring Your Company Mug Social - July

## North Carolina

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

### Cape Fear Chapter

Pres: **Ray Decker '72**  
p: 703-939-0202; e: dax24@icloud.com

Vice Pres: **Paul Normand '74**  
e: paulnormand@mac.com

Sec'y: **Steve Yandle '75**  
e: sryusna75@gmail.com

Treas: **Rick Haley '72**  
e: capefeartreasurer@outlook.com

Website: [myUSNA.com/topics/9490](http://myUSNA.com/topics/9490)

After a great 5th Annual Summer Cruise, the Cape Fear Chapter enjoyed a more relaxed "Bring Your Company Mug" (BYCM) social at the Hi Wire Brewing Company in Wilmington on 10 July. In attendance: **Pete Friedman '58, Alan Smith '64, Muffy Boylan and Ray Decker '72, Hugh McWilliams '72, Julie and Tom Wolfe '72, Armando Gonzalez '79, Geoff Losee '85, Misty**

and **Jim Slaughter '93, Anne Leanos '98 and Alex Leanos '99**. To resurrect the lost tradition of Academy mugs with inspired company logos, the Cape Fear Chapter has engaged A&J Mugs - ajmugs.com - in Pensacola - to produce beer steins with our Chapter logo and USNA crest. With personalized mugs, Chapter members will be able to toast our shared experiences and links with Academy history.

During the Chapter's 13 August lunch meeting, the Chapter received an excellent

update by Jeff Bourk, the Director of the Wilmington International Airport (ILM). Jeff shared information about ILM's current impressive operation and planned expansion. Fly ILM.

**Col. Bob Adams '73, (Ret.) USA**, will be our guest speaker on 10 Sept at the St. James Country Club in Southport, NC. He'll discuss his amazing journey from Navy SEAL to Delta Force Command Surgeon. Details on this event and Chapter 2024 calendar on our webpage: [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>

On 20 June, Chapter members gathered to socialize at OMB in Charlotte. Great time had by all - see pictures.

October 26: Navy football vs Notre Dame. Once again, our chapter is invited to a joint watch party hosted by the Notre Dame Club, Charlotte. It will be at Grace O'Malley's 12pm! Keep an eye out for more details.

*Adam Kimball '08,  
Secretary*

### Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotzky '67**  
P.O. Box 847, New Bern, NC 28563  
h: 252-514-0299; e: robert.skrotzky@1967.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**  
p: 910-347-6251; e: rkunkel@ec.rr.com

Treas: **Aaron Adams '95**  
329 Clam Digger Court, Swansboro, NC 28584  
p: 703-232-6416; e: aaron.adams@1995.usna.com

Website: <http://myusna.com/topics/9508>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14196247/>

The chapter met at the Beartown Bistro in New Bern for lunch on Wednesday, the 24th of July. Nine members and three spouses all sat around a high top table in the new bar and sports viewing area of the restaurant with a good menu and good service. There was general



Charlotte Chapter: June picnic

discussion of topics of the day, summer plans and thoughts about this year's football schedule. In August we will be back at Camp Lejeune and September 28 is the Founders Day event. Lunch concluded about 1315.

The chapter met at the club aboard MCB Camp Lejeune on Thursday, 27 June for the always a popular buffet at the club, nine members and a guest were in attendance. Our treasurer, **Aaron Adams '95**, reviewed the Alumni Association Volunteer Leaders Summit (VLS) that he attended for the chapter at the Naval Academy and at the new alumni center in April. Aaron put together a presentation that was a compilation of the briefings from the Supe and Commandant in addition to USNAAA leadership, chapter and Parents Club networking and association initiatives. We discussed the chapter handbook presented at the VLS, the Founders Day event in September and working with the NC Parents for football games in North Carolina.

The chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, alternating for lunch between Camp Lejeune and a restaurant in New Bern. The July meeting is in New Bern and August back at Camp Lejeune.

## 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)



Congratulations to the families and crew of the USS CHARLOTTE, who returned home in early August following a 220-day deployment! Through the North Carolina Submarine Foundation, our chapter helps to support our three state submarines ASHEVILLE 758, CHARLOTTE 766 and NORTH CAROLINA 777. CHARLOTTE rlotte is commanded by **CDR Anthony Stranges '04**.

The Chapter welcomed **Chaya Manchikalapati '28** during a new midshipman welcome picnic in June. **John Gardiner '78** was on hand to welcoe Chaya as the Another Link in the Chain (ALINC) representative from the class of 1978.

The July golf outing was at River Ridge Golf course. Despite the heat and humidity, the course was dry and played well. If you are interested in playing, send us a note at [usna.triangle@gmail.com](mailto:usna.triangle@gmail.com).

We held our Annual Family Picnic held at the Durham Bulls Athletic park on July 26th. More than seventy chapter members, families, and friends, enjoyed a BBQ buffet dinner, Durham Bulls baseball, and fireworks following the game. Despite a rain delay before the game, the buffet was open, and baseball was eventually played. Attendees included: **Alexander Dworjan '10, Thomas Clemons '82, George Lipscomb '87, Tommy McNamara '11, John Gardiner '78, Perry Taylor '71, Grant Smith '06, Andrew Faulkner '10, David Clement '80, Kenneth Smith '66, Stephen Gillespie '87, Warren Schultz '71, Helmut Feifs '66,**



NC Triangle Chapter: MClass of 2028 Welcome and Family Picnic at the Apex Community Park



Triangle Chapter Annual Picnic at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park

**Bill Coleman '95, Bryan Dearolf '03, Dave Joseforsky '97, Matt Minor '07, Graham Tompson '07, Martin Carpenter '70, Bill Sena '95, and Shaun McAndrew '93.**



Chaya Manchikalapati '28 and her 1978 ALINC mentor, John Gardiner '78

To view the schedule of future events, please visit [MyUSNA.com](http://MyUSNA.com) (Group- North Carolina Triangle Chapter) or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAAARTP/>. Linked-in: USNA Alumni Association-Triangle Chapter (USNAAA Triangle). Please reach out if you are local to the NC Triangle and are interested in joining the group!

## Piedmont Triad Chapter

Pres: **Tom Cornejo '00**  
e: thomas.cornejo@yahoo.com

Sec'y: **Josh Fogle '03**  
e: foglejw@gmail.com

## MERCHANDISE

To order your class, chapter or parent club specific merchandise, visit [usna.com/shop](http://usna.com/shop)

## CHAPTER NEWS

### North Dakota

#### Upper Midwest Chapter

See Minnesota

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**

p: 858-335-7921; e: ries.briane@gmail.com

North Dakota Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**

Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**

Website: [myUSNA.com](https://myusna.com) Chapter Group - <https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Mary Plumb**  
Email: mary.plumb@yahoo.com

### Ohio

#### Columbus

Pres: **Dave Goins '84**

e: dgoins84@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Justin Shineman '91**

e: justin.shineman@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](mailto:USNAACbus@gmail.com)

Website: [https://columbus\\_usnachapter.net/](https://columbus_usnachapter.net/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100549757152451/>

Twitter: @USNAACbus

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12356597/>

Instagram: USNAACbus

BGO Area Coordinator: **Carla Dowling-Fitzpatrick**  
e: dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgolbal.net



As Chapter membership and outreach continues to grow, our Board recently approved the Columbus Chapter becoming a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. This means that contributions to our Chapter from individuals, businesses, and other entities can receive favorable tax treatment depending on their tax situation. Our vision is that the charity designation and donations from additional sources will enhance our ability to support our members, USNA, and the Central Ohio Navy community.

The annual Parents Club Midshipman Hail and Farewell was held in June. **Dave Guza '78** represented his class well with comments to incoming plebes to cement the bond for the Link in the Chain program.

Pub Night at The Wine Bistro in June was a very fun evening. Our group was 27 strong and it was good to see both new and familiar faces.

Joint Service Academy Networking breakfasts are held the first Thursday of each month at First Watch in Worthington Square. Start time is 7:00am. Join us and make new personal and professional connections. Thanks to **Justin Shineman '91** for spearheading the effort.

Family Fun at Orchard View Farm will be Saturday, 5 October, at 2:00pm. Bring the kids



Columbus Chapter: Joint Service Academy Networking Breakfast

to Dave and Teresa Goins' Marysville farm to enjoy the farm animals (think awesome petting zoo), pick their own pumpkins, and enjoy the country life. Food and drink will be provided.

The National Veteran Memorial and Museum will again host the Joint Army - Navy Football Watch Party on 14 December. This year's event will feature an enhanced menu, additional screens to view the game, and be a lower cost to attendees than last year thanks to corporate sponsorships. A Navy victory over Army will make the day complete! **Wayne Hallenbeck '71** has promised to pound out the pushups again.

There are many opportunities to connect and enjoy the benefits of belonging to such an awesome Columbus alumni community. Check out the Columbus Chapter group at myUSNA.com to see the activity schedule and to look up local shipmates. If you are new to the Central Ohio area and want to learn more about your Chapter, simply reach out to any of our officers. We'd love to hear from you.

### Oklahoma

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

#### 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-220243113307009>

The Tulsa Chapter held their second Run To Honor thanks to the leadership of **Bob Sise '08**.

Drillers will be hosting Service Academy Night on Sep 8 at 6 pm.



Bob Sise (08), Rocky Goins (29), Lynn Flinn, Matt Norris (Navy League) and his daughter

### 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)



July saw our first joint luncheon with the USMA Alumni Association of Oregon. Our first meeting was a great success. Our speaker was **Dwight Mears, USMA Class of 2001**, author of "The Medal of Honor: The Evolution of America's Highest Military Decoration" who spoke on the Medal of Honor winners from Wounded Knee where many women and children were massacred. Present for the USNA Alumni were **Mike Carmichael '69, Doug Ballard '74, Tex Harkins '67, Jack Johl '65 and his wife Joan, Ky Nguyen Parent, Frank Blake '68 Pete Young '67, Jim Kratochvil '71, George Schultz '72, Tim Myers '64, Butch Bewick '62, Pete Kursenhauser '79, Doug Bomarito '68** and Shelley Liscom Parent Club president. Representing the USMA Alumni Association were Alice Quesenberry '94, Alex Rodgers '91, Stephan Capps '89, Doug Lund '85, Seth Kretser '01, Terry Connell '58 and his wife Harriett, Lee Cooper '24, and Rick Goodell '68.



Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter



Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

Our July luncheon was followed in August by our annual picnic at Parker's Landing in Camas Washington sponsored by the local USNA and USMA Alumni associations. The picnic was by far the best to date. There were 39 USNA alumni, parents, family and friends, 32 USMA alumni parents, family and friends and one cadet, 3 USMMA alumni and family, and 7 USAFA alumni, parents and family. USNA alumni present included **Ted Scypinski '90, KY and Jenny Nguyen parents, Doug Ballard '74, George Schultz '72, Mike Carmichael '69 wife Suzie and daughter Kym, Jill Richards '94, Lee Hall '80, Peter and Jeneane Douglas parents, Butch Bewick '62 and Wife Penny, Jack Kohl' 65 and wife Joan, Alyssa Sanders '06 and husband Blake, Joe Broz '62 and wife Nancy, Doug Bomarito '68 and daughter Amy and grandson Christian, Todd Washburn '93, Scott Fitzpatrick '80, Phong Nguyen '85 and wife Quyen, Ray Kutch '63 and wife Judy, Ralph Lobdell '65 and wife Diane, Mark Cooskey '71 and wife Susan, Butch Bewick** ran the traditional silent auction and **Lee Hall** provided burger cooking duties. Pictured below are the total group and the USNA attendees.

## Pennsylvania

### 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

Shipmates,

Come join us for one of our monthly Happy Hours and stay tuned to myUSNA for our football watch party schedules!



### Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Pres: **Rob Gundlach '84**  
e: rgundlach@msn.com

Sec'y: **Ryan Goldsmith '12**  
e: ryan.goldsmith.12@gmail.com

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

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

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



June Monthly Gathering at Mad Chef Craft Brewing with (L to R) Ryan Goldsmith '12, Rod Messick '94, Rob Gundlach '84, Rob Ryan '84, Dave Lawrence '76, and Peter Filkins '77



July Monthly Gathering at Mad Chef Craft Brewing with (L to R) Jim Nolan '70, Rob Ryan '84, Tim Farrell '76, and Peter Filkins '12



Tony Yanero '96, Jim Strauss '96, Dave Carnal '96 and Toni Kasprzak Chase '84.

At a Change of Command Ceremony on August 2 Captain Dave Carnal '96 was relieved of command of Naval Supply Systems Command Business Systems Center. Dave's next assignment is Naval Supply Systems Command as Director of Operations. Other chapter members joined his post-ceremony celebration at Evergrain Brewery: **Tony Yanero '96, Jim Strauss '96, Dave Carnal '96 and Toni Kasprzak Chase '84.**

Beat Army!

Tim



### MyUSNA

*MyUSNA is where your chapter can grow and where your events can get to the next level. Scan the QR code to amplify your USNA alumni experience.*

## CHAPTER NEWS



RV Chapter: Civil War Come Around. Most of the crew including our guests from Honduras (Paola Wiese and Abigail Garcia). David '75 and Gail Penman, Glenn '86 and Tracey Miller, Dan '82 and Angela '83 Brady, "Woody" of course, Tom '70 and Ellen Shields, Pete '79 and Maddie Husta, and Tom '70 and Rose Wolfe.



RV Chapter: A meal shared is always a good meal!



RV Chapter: We all learned a lot from the National Parks Ranger at the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

## 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

### Civil War Come Around - 2024

"We came - we saw - we... had a great time!"

Several members of our USNA AA RV Chapter, and distant family members from as far away as Honduras, recently gathered at the Fredericksburg/Washington D. C. South KOA Holiday for an extended weekend of fun and civil war battlefield exploration. In addition to sharing multiple "sea stories" and "RV-ing stories" over the five day period, we enjoyed shared meals at the campground and "out in town."

Some of the highlights of the points we visited included: a Trolley Tour of downtown Fredericksburg, a National Park Service Ranger briefing at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center, a docent guided tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and to wrap it all up, a tour of the Bowman Distillery in downtown Fredericksburg.

Here are a few pictures that are worth more than a thousand of my words for sure! (See additional photo on the next page.)

## South Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: Ryan Blacklock  
e: [ryan.blacklock@2004.usna.com](mailto:ryan.blacklock@2004.usna.com)

### Charleston Chapter

Pres: CDR Rick Stein '82, USNR (Ret.)

784 Preservation Pl., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

p: 843-856-6591; w: 843-557-7021

e: [USNA\\_AA\\_Charleston@Comcast.net](mailto:USNA_AA_Charleston@Comcast.net)

On Monday, 17 June, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was Rick Stein '82, Charleston Chapter President, who recounted his recent trip to Annapolis for the 2024 Volunteer Leaders Summit.

In Attendance were: Fuzzy Knight '53; Frank Bryant '66; Bernie Magdelain '67; Jim Welsch '67; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Alan Ptak '71; Robert Stuart '71; George Watt '73; Jim Lyons '74; David Oyster '74; Bill Konrad '75; Dave Fischer '76; Dave Shimp '76; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Glen Morris '80; Phil Botero '82; Rick Stein '82; Brad Murphy '83; Perry Ramicone '83; Greg Shore '84; John Wiggins '84; and Grey Pfarr '01;

On Monday, 15 July, the Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our speaker was George Greene IV, President and Chief Executive Officer of Water Mission. In Attendance were: Fuzzy Knight '53; Curt Holcomb '61; Frank Bryant '66; Bernie Magdelain '67; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Al Olsen '72; Steve Weise '72; Joe Delpino '75; Bill Konrad '75; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Glen Morris '80; Rick Stein '82; Tom Hodgson '83; Jeff Gordon '83; Brad Murphy '83; Greg Shore '84; John Wiggins '84; Tom Malick '85; Tony Bruce '91; and Charles Olsen '25.

On Monday August 19, The Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was CDR Ryan Grundt; Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Training Command.

In Attendance were: Max Hill '51; Fuzzy Knight '53; Curt Holcomb '61; John Common '64; Ray Setser '65; Bernie Magdelain '67; Jim Welsch '67; Roger Paradis '67; Chuck Meyer '68; Charlie Young '70; Alan Ptak '71; Robert Stuart '71; Al Olsen '72; Jim Lyons '74; Ron Malec '74; Dave Schimp '76; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Glen Morris '80; Phillip Botero '82; Chris Cechak '82; Rick Stein '82; Jeff Gordon '83; Tom Hodgson '83; OP Honors '83; Brad Murphy '83; Perry Ramicone '83; Greg Shore '84; Wes Smith '90; Tony Bruce '91; and Scott McGinnis '97.



RV Chapter: The tour of the National Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, VA was a Come Around highlight

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

**Low Country Chapter**

Pres: **Dave Igyarto '74**  
 e: igyartodp@icloud.com.  
 Vice Pres: **Harry Gardner '95**  
 e: combatadj@hotmail.com  
 Sec'y: **Tim Johnson '02**  
 e: tim.w.johnson@outlook.com  
 Treas: **Tom Cavanaugh '69**  
 e: tomcusna69@gmail.com

Greetings from the Low Country and happy fall from all of us here in southeastern South Carolina and northern Georgia. A plug to check myUSNA.com and sign up for the SC Lowcountry Chapter group. That will get you the most updated information on our events.

We have the following in the works for the chapter at the end of 2024. Some of these have not been fully confirmed yet with the venues, thus all start times are still TBD as of the chapter news deadline. Visit our group page on myUSNA.com for final details and RSVPs.

**October 5** - Navy vs Airforce watch party, R Bar Bluffton, SC

**November 8** - Paris Island Golf Scramble

**November 9** - Veterans Day Flag Placement, Beaufort National Cemetery (typically followed by lunch, location TBD)

**December 14** - Army Navy watch party, R Bar Bluffton, SC

**South Dakota**

See Minnesota: Upper Midwest Chapter

Pres: **Brian E. Ries '93**  
 p: 858-335-7921; e: ries.briane@gmail.com  
 South Dakota Alumni Coordinator: **Position Open**  
 Shipmate Contact: **Position Open**  
 Website: **myUSNA.com Chapter Group** - <https://myusna.com/topics/9586/home>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNAAlumniUpperMidwest/>  
 BGO Area Coordinator: **Sharon Holt '00**  
 p: 605-390-3430; e: holtsharonl@aol.com

**Tennessee**

**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 Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter congratulates the Class of 2024 graduates from East Tennessee. This includes Michael Aaron Lancaster (Signal Mountain TN), Anna Pham Hoang (Knoxville TN), and Joseph Hayes Martin (Cleveland TN).

The Chapter held its annual Welcome Aboard Picnic for the East Tennessee appointees to the Class of 2028 and NAPS and their families on 1 June 2024 at Founders Park in Farragut. Note that Farragut, a suburb of Knoxville, is named after Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, who was born in the area. The event had a good turnout with 38 attendees total, including alumni, appointees, Parents Club members, and guests.

BGO Area Coordinator **Rich Cataldi '69** introduced the appointees present: Angela Davis, NAPS and Cleveland HS; Sasha Umansky (NAPS and Oak Ridge HS), Jai Hundley (NAPS and Oak Ridge HS), Melody Wichelns (Cherokee HS), and Quinn Jones (McCallie School).

**Isaac Katz '27** represented the current Brigade of Midshipmen and provided a fresh perspective of the Plebe Year experience for the incoming midshipmen.

**Shawn Tallant '78** and **Rudy Escher '78** delivered the Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) presentation to the Class of 2027.

In May, the Chapter presented the 2024 RADM Samuel P. Carter Award to **Michael Aaron Lancaster '24**. The Chapter presents



Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter: East Tennessee Class of 2028 candidates with Class of 1978 Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) representatives Rudy Escher and Shawn Tallant from the Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter.



Knoxville Chapter: East Tennessee Class of 2028 candidates with Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter Members



# CHAPTER NEWS



Alamo Chapter: South and Central class of 2028 w/ BGO Laura Koerner '97



Alamo Chapter: New plebes from South and Central TX

this award to the graduating midshipman with the highest ranking from East Tennessee. Entering USNA from Singal Mountain, Tennessee, Mr. Lancaster ended his Plebe Year by capping Herndon in May 2021. Following graduation from USNA, he traveled with the USNA Glee Club to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Allied forces D-Day landing in Normandy, France.

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

Please contact me by email or by mobile phone/text (214-529-6703) if you have any questions.

Thanks

*Jim Ward '85  
Secretary-Treasurer*

## 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

Our big event for this submission is the Plebe/NAPS Welcome luncheon sponsored by South Texas Naval Academy Parents Club (STNAPC). RADM **Philman '78** presented "A Link In The Chain" briefing and guest speaker **Mike Tatsch '92** featured a talk on life at the academy and what the class of 2028 should expect on arrival. (BTW, Mike is the incoming director of the Nimitz Museum of WW II in Fredericksburg.)

For the rest of this report, I will let the pictures tell the rest of the story.



RADM Philman '78 addresses ALIC to STNAPC welcome lunch.



L to R: Mike Tatsch '92, BGO Glen Woods '78, RADM Philman '78, and BGO Laura Koerner '97 at STNAPC welcome lunch.

### 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

Corr 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

We have a busy fall, packed full of events, especially surrounding Navy football. Check out our website for event specifics, RSVPs, and game tickets to local attractions.

We continue to have our monthly lunches with featured keynote speakers, every first Friday this fall. And now we will add-in Navy football viewings, most all games at our featured bar, Wakefield Crowbar.

Join us for Navy v Rice game and tailgate here in Houston, featuring the traveling Brigade of Midshipmen. TxGC will be hosting a tailgate and we have discounted tickets (cheaper than NAAA). Nov 2 at Rice Stadium. Buy tickets to both events on our website.

We'll close out the year with our annual Army Navy party, this year hosted by NextOp at Community Field House. Check out our website for the details and how to sign up.

Beat Army.

# United Kingdom

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

## United Kingdom Chapter

Pres: **Tim Fox '97**

e: timfox97@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Cody Nissen '11**

e: cnissen.mba2018@london.edu

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

e: lisa.aszklar@gmail.com

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

e: tony.cox@gboutdoorfires.co.uk

**Chris Robinson '98**

e: naples98@gmail.com

Greetings from London, the Crossroads of the World, where summer has waned, schools are back in session, and planning for the UK Chapter's Army-Navy Game Watch has begun. If you're in the UK this year on 14 December, join us! Please contact UK Chapter President **Tim Fox '97** to RSVP for this blowout gathering of mids, former mids, friends, family members, and yes, there may even be a few former WOOPS in the mix. Once again, we'll gather at the Waterloo Station location of Passyunk Avenue (Navy's "home away from home" on this side of The Pond) to cheer on the mids and relive our own experiences at Navy. Army-Navy is the highlight of the year for our chapter, so please join us!

Summer always seems to bring an uptick in travel to Old Blighty, and this year was no exception. **Bert Prosser '97**, his wife Carley, and their two kids spent some time in London this summer, and Tim Fox had a chance to introduce his old company mate to the oh-so-British sport of cricket at Lords Cricket Ground, the iconic home of cricket. Bert saw Surrey beat Middlesex in a Twenty20 game, which is a shortened version of cricket lasting only about two-and-a-half hours.



Tim Fox and Bert Prosser at Lords Cricket Ground



Bert Prosser channels John, Paul, Ringo, and George in the Beatles' famous crosswalk

Afterward, Tim and Bert walked the short distance to Abbey Road Studios, where Bert avoided oncoming traffic while recreating the Beatles' iconic album cover!

Bert was a LAMPS pilot after graduation but resigned his commission to attend medical school and now works and lives in the greater Atlanta area.

A belated welcome to **Gibson Armstrong '91**, who recently relocated with wife, Mandy Birch (USAFA '92) and family to South Oxfordshire. Gib and Mandy are working to set up their quantum computing company, TreQ, here in the UK and hope to join UK Chapter activities as their busy schedules permit.

Until next time ... BEAT ARMY!

# Virginia

## Hampton Roads Chapter

Pres: **Bill Daniels '77**

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

Facebook:

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

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

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



Suffice it to say the oppressive heat and humidity in Hampton Roads has not slowed down Chapter activities!

In carrying out one of our most important missions, on 27 June and 24 July we completed the second and third of three "meet and greet" events with Midshipmen here for Information Warfare-related Summer Training at NAVIFOR - terrific opportunities to meet and interact with some of our Navy's future best and brightest!

On a temperate 29 June, a large group of alumni and several visiting Midshipmen gathered at CAPT Slade Cutter Park for games, a trivia contest, and great chow at our annual Summer Picnic/BBQ Bash catered by Mission BBQ. And

on 14 August we held our final summertime Happy Hour at Warriors Taphouse in Virginia Beach. This event included a special tribute to naval aviation, as **Tom Paulk '80**, former naval aviator and now a talented artist, displayed a variety of his aviation artwork.



VADM Kelly Aeschbach, USN (Ret.) (center) chats with Mids in Hampton Roads



Hampton Roads Picnic/Beach Bash 2024



Chapter President Bill Daniels '77 greets picnic attendees

On 24 August, several Chapter members motored north to Barhamsville, VA (near Williamsburg) to join fellow alumni from the Virginia Peninsula Chapter and enjoy wine-tasting and camaraderie in a bucolic setting at the Gauthier Winery.

When the 2024 Navy football season got underway on 31 August, as we have done for over a decade, local alumni and other USNA supporters have once again gathered for every game at Shorebreak Pizza and Taphouse on Shore Drive in Virginia Beach to enjoy great food, drinks, service and spirited football-watching!

On 3 September at the Sewell's Point Golf Course Chapter Director of Golf **Vince Bowhers '85** and his volunteers teamed with staff members from the Armed Services YMCA of Hampton Roads to orchestrate the third annual "Be Somebody's Hero" Golf Tournament. This event helped raise needed funds for the

## STAY CONNECTED

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

# CHAPTER NEWS



Quantico Chapter: QAC's guest Donna Onwona (center), with the breakfast attendees. Support ASBP and give blood today. ASBP and give blood today.

AFYMCA's outstanding programs and services for junior enlisted service members and their families stationed in the area.

Additional indoor events have included the long-standing monthly Networking Breakfast led by **Steve Nimitz '76**, and its offshoot headed by **Dave Duffie '75**, the Virtual & In-person Service Academy BizNetwork Breakfast meeting - a roundtable-formatted networking event at which business-minded participants share their details, areas of needed assistance, and how they might help other attendees.

For the latest news on future Chapter initiatives and events, as well as USNA news and updates, check out our website under the Hampton Roads Group at [myUSNA.com](http://myUSNA.com). And don't forget our LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook pages!

*Dick Enderly '71*

## Quantico Area Chapter

Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**  
e: [ryan.steenberge@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.steenberge@gmail.com)

Vice Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**  
e: [ryan.steenberge@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.steenberge@gmail.com)

Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**  
e: [qacusnaatreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:qacusnaatreasurer@yahoo.com)

Sec'y: **Nancy Springer '87**  
e: [nancy.a.springer.nancy@aol.com](mailto:nancy.a.springer.nancy@aol.com)

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

Website: [Quantico Area Chapter | myUSNA.com](http://QuanticoAreaChapter|myUSNA.com)



Quantico Area Chapter (QAC) wrapped up its signature breakfast speaker series for the year in June. On 7 June, 14 chapter members gathered at the Hampton Inn, Dumfries and on Zoom to hear remarks from Donna Onwona, Public Affairs Specialist/Donor Recruiter, Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) National Capital Region, Health Care Operations. Ms. Onwona educated the group on the history and importance of the ASBP. Her remarks inspired the chapter to host a local blood drive, currently in the planning phase.



Bob Taylor '74 takes up a hopeful future aviator during the annual Women Can Fly event at Warrenton-Fauquier Airport.

The chapter supported the annual Women Can Fly event on 8 June. Chapter members managed a booth to educate young women about naval aviation, volunteered as pilots to provide free

flights, and participated in the opportunity with their children. The chapter coordinated with HMX-1 for support and are appreciative of Major Erin Wright '11 and SSgt Camargo for coming out.



John Broadbent, our guide. Laura Lee Curran, Rob Curran '88 & their son Ian Curran before their tour of The Library of Congress. Missing from photo but attending Nancy Springer '87 and Walt Girdali '69.

The chapter usually takes July off, but this year we had the opportunity to conduct a Library of Congress tour, attended by 3 chapter members and family.

QAC is ready to start another year of the breakfast speaker series and has a lineup of other events planned for throughout the year. If you are traveling through the area, Crossroads of the Corps, reach out to see what we have going on.

The chapter is excited to welcome the Class of 2024 Marine graduates who are coming to the area to attend The Basic School as well as the many alumni reporting to Marine Corps University. Area alumni are always welcome at Chapter events. Please check our calendar for more information.

## Washington

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

## Puget Sound Chapter

Pres: **Alan Schrader '92**  
e: [usnaaa.psc@gmail.com](mailto:usnaaa.psc@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **Mike Mathews '75**  
e: [mjmathews7501@gmail.com](mailto:mjmathews7501@gmail.com)

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



Puget Sound annual picnic and Camp McKean

The Puget Sound Chapter held its annual picnic at Camp McKean in Kitsap County on 3 August. Seventeen alumni and their guests attended along with **MIDN 1/c Amelia Steinbacher '25**. Two resident Flower Children from the Class of '1975, **Doug Moran** and **Mike Mathews**, enthusiastically welcomed her as members of the 50-year counterpart class. The Fleet will be getting a real infusion of new talent when the Class of '25 joins next Spring. Chapter President, **Alan Schrader '92**, provided a quick summary of recent events and an overview of upcoming activities that include distributed socials during the Fall football season, including Navy-Air Force and Navy-Army viewing events. Details will be advertised in the coming weeks. We encourage all Puget Sound alumni to join us. BEAT ARMY!!

## Wisconsin

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

### Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Jeff Reagan '88**  
p: 414-803-5947; e: j.m.reagan84@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Craig Walker '83**  
p: 262-424-2637; e: craigwalker@wi.rr.com

Sec'y: **Rob Grasse '88**  
p: 262-424-9029; e: rgrasse1@wi.rr.com

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**  
p: 847-624-5142; e: Mark.Germano@bgo.usna.com

The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Wisconsin Chapter is pleased to provide this Class of 2024 Cushing Award report for Wisconsinites' reading pleasure:

Midshipman First Class **Nicholas Sawyer Hinz '25** of Cross Plains, Wisconsin earned the Class of 2024'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 '77**, as well as an appropriate symbol of Wisconsin's Alumni respect: an engraved uniform sword. Since MIDN Hinz already procured his own personal Navy sword, the Wisconsin Chapter pivoted and bestowed an engraved Ship's Chronometer as a memento.

Flag LOC highlights: Midshipman Hinz continuously improved to a 3.91 QPR in Physics as a Supe's, Dean's and 'Dant's List regular, and ranked 91st of 1070 classmates in Overall Order of Merit. Nick was one of only 13 Mids by-name selected in the 4500 Midshipman Brigade for the Language Studies Abroad Program (Japanese) in 2023. He dual-hatted 1/C year as both Company and Battalion Academics Officer - responsible for the professional, ethical, and physical development of over 950 Mids. Remarkably, Nick navigated four years at the Academy accruing zero honor or conduct offenses, and maintained an average 98/100 points on his Physical Readiness Tests. One of only 27 Mids selected in his 2/C year to seek an early initial assignment in the Nuclear Navy by the Director, Naval Reactors as a Bowman Scholar; he successfully completed a special research internship and project titled "Wave Propagation in Nonlinear Periodic Media" during his 1/C Year. Nick'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 the 23 May 2024 at the U.S. Naval Institute's stunning new Headquarters' Roof-Top Terrace

on Hospital Point aboard the Academy. MIDN Hinz's parents, sister, and close relatives were able to attend and participate in the ceremony. Congratulations to the entire Hinz family for this joint achievement and thank you to VADM Debbink for his sponsorship of the Cushing Prize.



Emma Hinz, Greg & Melissa Hinz look on as MIDN Nick Hinz receives 2024 Cushing Award Flag LOC and Ship's Chronometer from VADM Debbink

Shifting gears, in an incredible feat of mission focus and teamwork, Wisconsin alumni (**LCDR Ted Chaney '58, CDR Craig Walker '83, COL Kurk Anderson '83, Harry Dorman '83, CDR Rob Grasse '88, and LCDR Scott Walker '13**) banded together to provide five Navy Swords and one Marine Mameluke to support **ENS Cade Gelhar's '22** wedding on 25 MAY 2024 in Wausau, WI:

Forward for Freedom! (ala BB-64  
USS WISCONSIN)

*Aloha, Rob Grasse '88*



Wisconsin Chapter: Cade's 27th Company-mate Sword-bearers (fighting for use of Ted Chaney's '58 sword) included 1Lt Christian Schwien, LTJG Corbin Deviney, LTJG Joshua Murrell, LTJG Ryan Fitzgerald, LTJG Jeremy Friedel, and LTJG Sean Doherty. We love it when a plan comes together...

# SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



Run to Honor Shared Interest Group: Columbus Memorial Day Walk/Run to Honor

## Run to Honor

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**  
p: 813-787-6098; e: president@runtohonor.com  
Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**  
e: vp@runtohonor.com  
Treas: Jan Kennedy  
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**  
e: treasurer@runtohonor.com  
Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**  
e: secretary@runtohonor.com  
Website: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)

### Run to Honor Shared Interest Group:

The Columbus Chapter held a Walk/Run on Memorial Day in honor of CAPT Seth Michaud '98. His sister, Sam Michaud, attended and shared fond memories of her brother.

### Memorial Day RuN\* to Honor Events:

We'd like to say 'Thank you' to everyone who organized and participated in the Memorial Day RuN\* to Honor events nationwide. This year featured over 10 events, involving USNA alumni, Gold Star families, friends, and community supporters. The support and dedication were moving, and RuN\* to Honor looks forward to continuing this event. For involvement in next year's events, please contact the RuN\* to Honor board members.

### Annapolis 10 Miler:

RuN\* to Honor participated in the 48th Annual Annapolis 10-Miler on August 25th. The event saw a tremendous turnout, with RuN\* to Honor making an impact. A team of runners and volunteers honored fallen Shipmates, promoted awareness, and supported families of the fallen.

Post-race, participants and supporters had the opportunity to engage with RuN\* To Honor at their booth, where they shared stories and provided information about their mission. The heartfelt connections made during the event underscored the profound impact RuN\* to Honor has on the community.

### Marine Corps Marathon:

Looking ahead, RuN\* to Honor is gearing up for another Marine Corps Marathon. Scheduled for the last weekend of October, this marathon has been a staple for RuN\* to Honor, offering another platform to honor our fallen Shipmates. While RuN\* to Honor will have a presence at the marathon, it is important to note that we will not be hosting a shindig this year. Instead, we will be focusing efforts on the race itself and continuing our mission to support and remember our heroes through participation and advocacy.

Check out our website and sign up for our email list at: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)

Follow and Share with us at:  
[www.facebook.com/runtohonor](http://www.facebook.com/runtohonor).



Learn the stories behind the names in Memorial Hall at:  
[www.usnamemorialhall.org](http://www.usnamemorialhall.org)  
Find RTH gear at:  
<http://runtohonor.com/gear.com>  
To Honor!

## USNA Pride

Pres: **Christopher Goodale '17**  
Vice Pres: **Isabel Krause '17**  
Sec'y: **Ally Annick '20**  
Treas: **Lucas Beltran '20**  
Outreach Officer: **Adam Schuman '08**

This month marks the second anniversary of the founding of USNA Pride!

Since 29 September 2022, our Shared Interest Group has strived to fulfill our threefold purpose: To create a bond of community among LGBTQ+ alumni and allies, to serve as a platform of LGBTQ+ representation within the broader USNA alumni network, and to establish a network of mentorship and support for currently serving LGBTQ+ alumni and midshipmen. We are driven by our four core values of Inclusivity, Positivity, Character, and Community. Our membership includes over 200 active duty, reserve, and veteran members located across the globe, representing the Class of 1960, through the Class of 2024.



Pride Shared Interest Group: Annapolis Pride Parade

USNA Pride's highlight of 2024 thus far was hosting our 15th annual Firstie Recognition Luncheon, which took place on 14 April 2024 at the Naval Academy Club. Carrying on an annual tradition started by USNA Out in 2007, USNA Pride members gather in Annapolis each April to celebrate and recognize LGBTQ+ and allied Firsties of the Brigade. This year, 25 Firsties chose to be recognized, receiving their first set of Ensign shoulder boards or Second Lieutenant bars at the event, symbolic of being welcomed into the Fleet and into USNA Pride. Moreover, USNA Pride was honored by the attendance of Vice Admiral **Yvette Davids '89**, the first Naval Academy Superintendent to attend such a function. She shared the following words of wisdom with the midshipmen and alumni attendees: "...You absolutely have a safe place at the Naval Academy. This is *your* home... This is exactly the community we want, share that with the future!" Other distinguished guests include Mr. **Jeff Webb '95**, President And CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, and Captain **David Forman '98**, Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen.

USNA Pride also broke new ground by participating in the Annapolis Pride Parade for the first time, on 1 June 2024. **Ally Annick '20**, **Will Paris '19**, **Sarah Pezzat '02**, **Nicholas Clark '24**, **Brent Bohanan '16**, **Chris Goodale '17**, **Frank McNeil '83** and **Richard Schoenweisner '90** represented the SIG during this celebratory event. Many Annapolitan spectators expressed their excitement at seeing Naval Academy alumni officially represented at this year's parade. We will continue marching regularly in the Annapolis Pride Parade and will seek to expand our representation in other cities' Pride celebrations in the future!



(San Diego) WSIG SUP Summer SUP event had a great turnout

## 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

In June our midshipmen engagement team partnered with the Women for Navy Athletics (WFNA) to greet the parents of the class of '28. Our Alumnae Liaison for DC/DE/MD/VA, **Lauren Moe '11**, was joined by **Cynthia Olavarria '93** (who has a daughter in '28), Kala Giddish of WFNA, and **Lou Anne DeMattei '84**. It was a great day to welcome future alumnae and their families to the yard. See MyUSNA, Facebook, and Instagram for more events like this one.

WSIG had a great weekend in San Diego. Over 20 alumnae, alumni, family and friends joined the SUP pup event on 8/3/24. We had all 5 decades of alumnae represented! Thank you to **Jen McCollough '01** for organizing the WSIG event.

**Barbette Lowndes '80**, **Mary Brigden '81**, **Marie Burris '86**, **Maeg Nix '97** and **Postie '82** joined **VADM Yvette Davids '89** at **RADM Keith Davids '90**, Change of Command for Naval Special Warfare in California. It was a great day to honor the success of fellow USNA alumni while celebrating with WSIG members. Speaking of the 80s, **Barbara Bell '83** is rocking LinkedIn with some great articles to read. She is teaching in Leadership and Ethics at USNA.

As the school year kicks into gear, we will be looking to have volunteers to participate in midshipman engagement activities. Even if you can only join us for one activity, we appreciate your help. We will again be partnering with NAMA on a conference in the spring and we would love

to see you there. We also have opportunities on the WSIG board so please reach out. The 50 years of female graduates is around the corner and we will be looking for help with events. The following events are coming: WSTEM Monday, 4 Nov, NAFAC (April), Lean In Circles, NAWN fall/spring book club, Speed Mentoring, & Ladies of the 80s Panel. Before the holidays get busy, we encourage area coordinators to host a local happy hour. Look for a happy hour in the Annapolis area in November.

Stronger Together!

### CHAPTER SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

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

#### 2024-2025

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
November-December '24	3 Oct '24
January-February '25	2 Dec '24
March-April '25	29 Jan '25
May-June '25	31 Mar '25
July-August '25	4 Jun '25
September-October '25	6 Aug '25
November-December '25	30 Sep '25

## Create your own Shared Interest Group

*Be recognized as a USNA AA&F Group in our Alumni community, including no cost Volunteer management tools on myUSNA, post your news in Shipmate, and receive one on one Alumni Staff support.*

*Please reach out to Isaac Phillips '19, at: [Isaac.Phillips@usna.com](mailto:Isaac.Phillips@usna.com)*

# LAST CALL

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."* —Laurence Binyon, 1914

**Charles William Burlin Jr. '44**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
25 July 2024

**Emil Saroch Jr. '45**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
23 June 2024

**Girard Wellington Moore Jr. '48**  
22 July 2024

**Robert Rawson Monroe '50**  
VADM, USN (Ret.)  
1 July 2024

**Edwin John Piasecki '50**  
21 March 2023

**Donald Homer Jarvis '51**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
29 June 2024

**Herbert Alfred Zoehrer '51 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
19 June 2024

**Raymond Cipriano Amor '52**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
17 April 2024

**James Brittain Crowell Jr. '52**  
14 June 2024

**William Washington Larsen III '52**  
27 June 2024

**Jean Maurice Marchand '52**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
11 August 2024

**Lawrence Jefferson Pacl '52**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
6 June 2023

**George Robert Slayton '52**  
14 January 2024

**William Claudius Wyatt III '52**  
RADM, USN (Ret.)  
29 December 2022

**Richard H Barrett '53**  
28 July 2024

**Alvin Steuer Glazier '53**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
17 July 2024

**Richard Buckley Luthin '53**  
27 June 2024

**Samuel Powell Massie '53 ■**  
9 July 2024

**Elbridge Frederick Murphy Jr. '53**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
13 August 2024

**Ricky William Diehl '54**  
2 April 2024

**Richard Lytle Feeney '54**  
LTC, USA (Ret.)  
21 May 2024

**John Freeman Harvell '54**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
15 July 2024

**James Nelson Jim Hicks Jr. '54**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
25 July 2024

**George Franklin Knotts '54**  
6 August 2024

**Richard Brooks Lewis '54**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
25 June 2024

**Paul Arthur Petzrick '54**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
2 July 2024

**Thomas Francis Martin '55**  
28 July 2023

**Earnest Hugh Seborg '55 ■**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
23 July 2024

**Jesse Walter Buckelew '56**  
Col, USAF (Ret.)  
2 July 2024

**James Rogers Copeland '56 ■**  
LTJG, USN (Ret.)  
11 July 2024

**Albert Lawrence Granger '56**  
22 June 2024

**Paul Jackson Greene '56**  
21 April 2023

**Serapheim Demetrios Koutas '56**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
21 December 2023

**James Leon Owen '56**  
29 May 2024

**Thomas Mathew Ryan '56 ■**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
18 June 2024

**Barrick Frank Tibbitts '56 ■**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
1 May 2024

**Harman Brown Bell III '57**  
2 March 2023

**Raymond Louis Vieira '57**  
15 July 2024

**John Edward Brophy '58**  
19 June 2024

**Philip James Granum '58**  
30 June 2024

**Michael Gallighan O'Connor II '58**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
24 May 2024

**Carl John Albrecht '59**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
15 July 2024

**John Clayton Buchanan '59**  
11 July 2024

**Keith Lawrence Christensen '59**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
31 July 2024

**Thomas Alvin Cliff '59**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
11 March 2024

**Gaylen Bruce Doane '59**  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
6 July 2024

**Charles Leo Hughes Jr. '59**  
14 July 2024

**Charles Curtis Pease '59**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
12 June 2024

**Albert Maxwell Ames '60**  
LT, USN (Ret.)  
20 June 2024

**James Wakefield Bower '60**  
Maj, USMC (Ret.)  
11 July 2024

**Glenn William Coleman '60**  
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
13 May 2024

**Harry Colson Lewis '60**  
LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
15 June 2024

**Sibley Logan Ward III '60**  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
23 July 2024

**Hugh Thomas Williams '60**  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
4 August 2024

**John Michael Willsey '60**  
28 April 2024

**Michael Lee Bradley '61**  
LT, USN  
9 July 2024

**William Thomas Brooks '61**  
11 August 2024

**James Andrew Hart '61 ■**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
30 June 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.*

**George Edward Morrow '61**

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
6 July 2024

**Fenn Coffin Beasley '62**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
16 June 2024

**Richard Brian Brodehl '62**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
8 May 2024

**John Raphael Corrigan '62**

31 October 2023

**Curtis Williams Kirchoff '62**

24 August 2022

**John Robinson Reilly '62**

20 September 2022

**William Elliott Stanley '62**

22 July 2024

**Joel David Millen '63**

12 March 2024

**Edward Aberle Ruckner Jr. '63**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
15 June 2024

**Frederick Moore Wielandt '63**

7 August 2024

**Raymond Lee Witter '63**

5 September 2022

**Malcolm James Bellafronto Jr. '64**

15 July 2024

**Vincent Timothy Canale '64**

CDR, SC, USN (Ret.)  
21 September 2022

**Jeffrey Clark Hogan '64 ■**

8 August 2024

**Daniel Crim Lavery '64**

10 August 2024

**Paul La Verne Walker '64**

5 June 2024

**John Leo Grady '65**

CDR, USN  
13 August 2024

**George Edward Hurley Jr. '65**

4 July 2024

**Neal Cornell Jenkins '65 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
6 July 2024

**Joseph Scott Mobley '66**

VADM, USN (Ret.)  
15 June 2024

**Donald George Storck Jr. '66**

26 May 2024

**Robert Wayne Cassell Jr. '67**

30 July 2024

**Armando Barleta Heredia '67**

CAPT, PN (Ret.)  
2 June 2024

**Edmund Colby Munger '67**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
11 July 2024

**John Richard Selmer '67 ■**

24 June 2024

**David Andrew Vetter '67**

Col, USMC (Ret.)  
27 June 2024

**Ronald Bruce Bauman '68**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
31 July 2024

**Stephen Alger Johnson '68 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
17 July 2024

**Edward Joseph Sullivan '68**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
12 June 2024

**Richard Carroll Christ '69**

24 December 2020

**John Kent Covey '69**

28 June 2024

**William David Kuntz '69**

11 July 2020

**David Carl Lord '69**

16 July 2024

**Paul Joseph Biber '70**

6 July 2024

**James Francis Kenney '70**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
10 July 2024

**William Howard Steussy '70**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
12 June 2024

**Richard Berlin Lane Sr. '71**

4 July 2024

**George Edward Steel '71**

11 June 2024

**Richard Freeman Travis '71**

LtCol, USMCR (Ret.)  
4 July 2024

**Donald John Carlson '72**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
3 July 2024

**James Joseph LaBelle '72 ■**

16 July 2024

**Michael Joseph Gouge '73 ■**

11 July 2024

**Roger Westlund Murch '73**

9 July 2024

**John William O'Neill Jr. '74**

13 June 2024

**Arthur Louis Rothschild III '74**

12 January 2021

**Christopher Frederick Virtue '74 ■**

13 June 2024

**Thomas Michael Smith '76**

LT, USN (Ret.)  
13 July 2024

**David Gregory Klimek '77**

7 July 2024

**John William Lyver IV '78**

LCDR, USNR (Ret.)  
16 June 2024

**Samuel Thomas Hicks '79 ■**

15 June 2024

**Peter Joseph Krug '79**

CAPT, USN  
8 July 2024

**Jeffrey Alan Briggs '80**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
12 August 2024

**Thomas Roland Jacob '81**

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)  
29 July 2024

**Scott George Lever '83**

10 August 2024

**Ronald Scott Hollenbeck '84 ■**

20 June 2024

**Scott Owen Vogel '84**

CDR, USNR (Ret.)  
16 June 2024

**Patrick Thomas Morrissey '86**

15 August 2024

**James Michael Lee Morgan '87**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
7 July 2024

**Robert Joseph Sutton '98**

16 June 2024

**Daniel Jason Fettig '00**

Capt, USMC  
3 July 2024

**Randy Paul Craft '02**

10 July 2024

**Matthew Scott Eggar '03**

10 August 2024

**Justin James Bardin '08**

11 June 2024

**Christopher Joseph Miles '16 ■**

LT, USN  
4 August 2023





## LAWRENCE RADKOWSKY '51

"Larry" Radkowsky passed away on 12 October 2023. He was 98 years old.

A native of Elizabeth, NJ, he was appointed to the Naval Academy after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. At Annapolis, "Spider" (AKA "Rad") was a member of the cross country team and active in the Jewish Midshipmen's Club (then known as the "Jewish Church Party"). Known for his love of

antique automobiles, he had a 1923 Dodge he drove to and from the Garden State.

Larry received his Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering with Distinction, and upon graduation, was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, serving as an atomic weapons officer from 1951 to 1954.

After obtaining a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University in 1955, he joined the U.S. Department of the Navy in Washington, DC, under the leadership of Admiral Hyman Rickover. His career with the Navy Department spanned 35 years. He started in the Bureau of Ships, Nuclear Propulsion Division; and then moved to the Naval Sea Systems Command, Nuclear Propulsion Directorate.

Larry was dedicated to his family and is survived by his wife of 68 years, Florence Radkowsky of Silver Spring, MD; their children, Karen, Allen and Michael (and his husband, Steve); and grandson, Joshua, all of whom greatly miss his warmth, humor and wisdom.

*The Radkowsky Family* ★



## HERBERT ALFRED ZOEHRER '51

Captain Herbert A. Zoehrer, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 19 June 2024, at nearly 96 years of age.

"Herb" was born in Brooklyn, NY, to Alfred and Anna (Goegelein) Zoehrer on 22 August 1928. Reared in Yonkers, NY, he enlisted in the Navy following graduation from Roosevelt High School in 1946. While at Great Lakes Training Center, he was tested for the opportunity to attend the Naval Academy.

Following his graduation from Annapolis in 1951, he was trained as an aviator and served on active duty for 30 years. During his career, he flew anti-submarine aircraft from a variety of aircraft carriers. On one flight, he had a "cold cat" shot in which he settled into the water and immediately flipped upside down directly in front of the carrier. Rescued by helicopter unharmed, he tried to convince his chain of command that it was not a crash, but a water landing. His seagoing commands included Anti-Submarine Squadron 25; Carrier Air Group 53 aboard TICONDEROGA (CVS-14); CLEVELAND (LPD-7); and NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11). He was Chief of Staff, Commander ASW Wing, Pacific, when he retired from the Navy in 1981.

Following retirement, he filled his days working part time as a sailing instructor for the Annapolis Sailing School in Coronado; master of various Hornblower yachts in San Diego; part-time master of S/V CALIFORNIAN for the Maritime Museum of San Diego; instructor at Marine Safety International, teaching ship handling to junior naval officers; docent and trainer for the Maritime Museum of San Diego; and docent at the MIDWAY Museum.

Most of his play revolved around sailboats, including JAMEZ, a boat he sailed with his wife and children in the 1960s and 1970s; and Z-FORCE, a J35 he sailed until he was nearly 90. He won the Coronado Yacht Club High Point Trophy for sailing many times. He was also a squash and tennis player well into his 80s.

Herb was married to Jean Thursby Zoehrer for 37 years, until her death in 1989. He is survived by their four children, Eric (Suzanne), Melinda (Rick Darke), Andrew and Jonathan (Alice); four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. He also leaves his sister, Linda Edie (Dick); and his wife of 19 years, Margaret Eske Zoehrer.

There was a memorial Celebration of Life at the Coronado Yacht Club on 16 July 2024 and his ashes will be scattered at sea. ★



## WILLIAM EDWARD HILFRANK '52

Commander William E. Hilfrank, USNR (Ret.), passed away on 27 May 2024 in Falmouth, ME, at the age of 96.

"Bill" was born on 20 June 1927 in Boston, MA, to William and Marjorie Hilfrank of Freedom, NH. He graduated from Melrose (MA) High School, enlisted in the U.S. Navy and went by train to Great Lakes boot camp on 20 June, his 18th birthday. He was attached to the aerology unit at NAS Corpus Christi, TX. Discharged in 1946,

he was accepted into the School of Forestry at Syracuse University. During his sophomore year, he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Bill graduated from Annapolis in 1952. He was commissioned as an ensign with his first sea duty on the destroyer FORREST ROYAL, taking him to the North Sea and around the world. Subsequently, he was assigned to the new ice breaker, GLACIER, and departed for Antarctica on a scientific exploration. Bill's Navy career allowed him two world cruises and the ability to place his feet on every continent.

Bill left the Navy in 1956 to raise a family. He and his wife, Nan, built a home in Falmouth, ME, and raised five children. He spent 34 years in executive management at the S.D. Warren Company and continued his civic activities as a member of Falmouth's Planning and Zoning boards, and as a trustee of both the Falmouth Memorial Library and Maine Audubon Society. He retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of commander.

While he very much enjoyed "working" in the woods, building trails, bridges and stone walls on his 55 acres on Mast Road, his true joys were his wife and five children.

Predeceased by his beloved Priscilla "Nan" in 2010, Bill is survived by their children, Brenda Lavalette (Robert), Becki Ramsey (Sherman), Betsey Hilfrank, Bruce Hilfrank (Peggy) and Brian Hilfrank (Tracy); seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sister, Marcia Forrest.

A private graveside service was held on 14 June 2024 at Blanchard Cemetery in Falmouth, ME.

Those who wish to remember Bill in a special way may make a gift in his memory to the following organizations: Hospice Angels Foundation, 3193 Boardwalk Drive, P.O. Box 5197, Saginaw MI 48603-2363 ([www.compassus.com/hospice-angels](http://www.compassus.com/hospice-angels)); or the American Tree Farm System ([www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org)).

Condolences may be left for the family at ([www.jonesrichandbarnes.com](http://www.jonesrichandbarnes.com)). ★



**SAMUEL POWELL MASSIE '53**

On 9 July 2024, Dr. Samuel P. Massie of Lowesville, VA, passed on to his eternal home. He was 93 years old.

Born on 6 March 1931, he was the son of the late Samuel Preston and Netra Pearl Carter Massie. "Powell" graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1953 and served in the Navy until 1958.

He attended medical school at the University of Virginia, graduating in May 1964. He served as a family doctor in Stuart, VA, for 32 years and delivered more than 2,000 babies during that time.

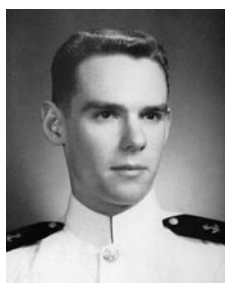
After retirement, he and his wife returned to their home county of Amherst and enjoyed serving and attending church at Clifford Baptist Church.

Powell is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Bethel Bradley Massie; four daughters, Lynn Sawyer, Elaine Mitchell (Mike), Alicia Massie-Legg (Bob) and Tara Smith (Chad); ten grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held on 20 July 2024 at Clifford Baptist Church in Amherst, VA.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Clifford Baptist Church, attn. Local, State and International Missions Outreach Fund, 635 Fletchers Level Road, Amherst, VA 24521, to help support Powell's passion for missions.

*The Massie Family* ★



**DONALD JAMES LOOSLEY '55**

Lieutenant Colonel Donald J. Loosley, USAF (Ret.), passed away peacefully in Salisbury, NC, on 10 May 2024. He was 92 years old.

"Don" was born on 30 August 1931 in Oakland, CA, to Louis and Hazel Loosley. He grew up in Ukiah, CA, and graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with an AA degree in civil engineering prior to receiving a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy in 1951.

He was in the Seventh Company at USNA.

Don and Fred Wilhelm were roommates all four years and lifelong friends. Upon graduating with the Class of 1955, Don was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. He completed flight training and was then assigned to the Air Defense Command, where he flew the F-86D at Sioux City, IA, the F-102 at Keflavik, Iceland, and the F-106 at Panama City, FL. Between the Sioux City and Iceland assignments, Don attended the Air Force Institute of Technology and graduated with an MS degree in aeronautical engineering. Next came the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM, where he served as a nuclear safety analyst for the Minuteman Weapon System. He returned to flying duties and flew the F-102 in Iceland, intercepting Soviet reconnaissance aircraft; followed by five years in Panama City, flying the F-106 on test missions with the 4750th Test Squadron.

Don then checked out in the A-37 and was sent to Bien Hoa, RVN, where he became commander of the Eighth Special Operations Squadron and later to DaNang AB as advisor to the Vietnamese wing commander. After the cease-fire, Don completed his 22-year Air Force career at the Pentagon on the R&D staff for aeronautical systems.

His many awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross (2), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (8), Air Force Commendation Medal (2) and three Vietnamese awards: the Gallantry Cross, Armed Forces Honor Medal and Air Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Don worked at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission HQ in Washington, DC, as a program analyst for the nuclear waste management program before retiring for the second time.

He then moved to Southport, NC, where he enjoyed the ocean breezes, was elected commissioner of the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District on three occasions and played trumpet in the Brunswick Concert Band and the Brunswick Big Band.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Donna. ★



**WILLIAM NICHOLAS PUGLIESE '55**

Commander William N. Pugliese, USN (Ret.), passed away on 12 February 2024, at the age of 91.

"Bill" was born into a loving family on 17 November 1932, that consisted of his mother, Mary, his father, Sal, his sister, Anna, and a plethora of uncles, aunts and cousins in Brooklyn, NY. He used to say that there was never a lack of someone to play with you or feed you. The family in which he was raised was

part of a larger immigrant community that was hard-working and fiercely patriotic. Bill attended Brooklyn Technical High School, graduating in 1949, where he was an outstanding student and athlete. He excelled at football as starting fullback on city championship teams and played basketball and baseball. Somehow, he also found time to join the Sea Scouts and pursue his love of boats and sailing. He was an avid reader and occasional writer of short stories and articles for Navy periodicals. Bill attended Columbia University. After a year, he decided to pursue a naval career and applied for and received an appointment to the Naval Academy.

He graduated from Annapolis with the Class of 1955. His first assignment was to Naval Station Norfolk and the destroyer CHARLES P. CECIL, followed by study at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. He also attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He was assigned to the Submarine Service in 1958 and was appointed captain of BAVA in 1969. His final naval assignment was as weapons system director of SubDevGruTwo until December 1975, when he retired after 25 years of service. His career continued as plankowner at Sonalysts Corp.

Bill was predeceased by his son, John. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 52 years; his children, Mary King, Amy Stoddard, William J. Pugliese and Lawrence Pugliese; his younger brother, Joseph; ten grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services and burial with military honors took place on 15 April 2024 at Elm Grove Cemetery in Mystic, CT. ★



**EARNEST HUGH SEBORG '55**

Colonel E.H. Seborg, USAF (Ret.), 90, passed away peacefully on 23 July 2024 in Annapolis, MD, after a lengthy illness with pneumonia.

"Hugh" was born on 28 July 1933, in Kankakee, IL to Dorella Mercier and Earnest Young Seborg. At the Naval Academy, Hugh drew fourth choice in the class for service assignment and chose the U.S. Air Force.

His first assignment was to Guidance Systems Officer School at Lowry AFB, then to 17th Tactical Missile Squadron, Orlando (TM61C, Matador) followed by the TITAN I and Advanced Guidance Programs, Guidance Directorate, Ballistic Missile Division at Los Angeles and San Bernardino, CA. In 1969, Hugh was fortunate to participate in Education With Industry at North

## LAST CALL

American Rockwell Space Division, Apollo/Saturn Program. Later, he was assigned to Los Angeles AFS and Vandenberg AFB Directorate of Special Projects space launch programs. After the Air War College, came Strategic Systems Planning at HQ; Air Force Systems Command; and OASD/C31 and OJCS/C3S in the Pentagon, with duties related to space, warning of nuclear attack and intelligence-related activities.

He retired from the Air Force in 1983 and became a research engineer at Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute, working on electromagnetic interference studies for the Air Force Joint Tactical Information Distribution System and MK XV Identification Friend or Foe Programs. In 1991, he joined the Defense Contract Management Agency (formerly part of Defense Logistics Agency) as an electrical engineer, becoming a program analyst for programs like the Army's Reserve Component Automation System and Health Care Financing Administration's Medicare Transaction System Component Automation System and subsequently became team leader for Contract Operations Area Management Teams, performing contract administration at contractor facilities located near Baltimore. He retired in October 2002.

His education also included an MBA from the University of Connecticut; MSEE Air Force Institute of Technology; and the Defense Systems Management College (Advanced Program Management).

A professional engineer, Ohio, he belonged to the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (Lifetime Certified Engineer); Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society; and the Defense Acquisition Corps.

He was a scoutmaster, a member of Gideons International and active in his church in a variety of roles/responsibilities. His hobbies included: travel (cruises, bed & breakfasts), reading (history-related), fishing, his personal computer and Navy football.

Hugh is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lucile; their children, Brian (Kim), Kevin (Yvette), Dorrie and Sherri (Chris); nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Interment will take place at the USNA Columbarium. ★



### JAMES ROGERS COPELAND '56

James R. Copeland, a resident of Harrisonburg, VA, went to be with his Lord on 11 July 2024. He was 90 years old.

"Jim" was born on 5 February 1934 in Philadelphia, PA, to George Rogers Copeland and Ruth Foljambe Copeland, MD. During his Plebe year at the Naval Academy, he was coaxed by his 19th Company squad leader to wander down to the small rotunda chapel for an evening service and was led to Christian faith by

Father Sam Shoemaker. Jim later became active with the Officers Christian Union/Fellowship and demonstrated a strong faith for the remainder of this life; many of his family members became involved in Christian ministry.

Jim married Lucinda Susan "Sue" Holstein on graduation day, and they remained happily married for 57 years until her passing on 16 June 2013. After flight training, Jim flew the H-60 ASW helicopter. He especially enjoyed fleet ASW exercises utilizing his dipping sonar. Unfortunately, Jim faced health problems that disqualified him from flying. He was medically retired in 1959.

After the Navy, Jim took on various civilian career opportunities including engineering work, teaching positions and computer network establishments.

He and Sue took up residence in Crozet, VA, remaining there for some 40 years. He worked as an engineer for Centel/Sprint until his full retirement in 1999. For medical reasons, Jim was unable to activate his pilot's license but continued to work for the Civil Air Patrol as a radio communicator and observer in search and rescue operations.

True to his Christian faith, Jim was active in several churches, teaching Sunday School, leading small groups and serving wherever needed. His life touched many.

In addition to his wife and parents, Jim was preceded in death by his brother, Edmund Copeland, and a grandson, Micah Copeland. Surviving are his seven children (and their spouses), Rebecca Copeland Hess, Ruth Ann Copeland Irwin (Stewart), Timothy Copeland (Renee), David Copeland (Maria), John Copeland (Lucy), James Copeland (Susie) and Barbara Perry (Roy); 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Jim's interment was conducted with full military honors on 22 July 2024 at Culpepper National Cemetery, followed by a memorial service led by family members, on 28 July at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, VA.

Jim would often say, "This life is a boot camp for eternity." He now enjoying that eternity. ★



### CHARLES CREIGHTON CHRISTOPHER HACKELING '56

"Charlie" Hackeling died on 24 May 2024 from an accident incurred during hospitalization.

The eldest son of Edna and Carl Hackeling of Bronx, NY, he became the first of the 17th generation of his family, which originated from Dutch roots, including service in Queen Wilhelmina's court. Charlie graduated in 1948 from LaSalle Academy in Manhattan and enlisted in the Navy in 1949. From recruit

training, he entered radio school, from which he was assigned to a cargo ship enroute to a Mediterranean deployment. Following his return stateside, he met and later married Mae Corry.

He was assigned to the aircraft carrier ANTIETAM at the outbreak of the Korean War. His commanding officer took note of his performance as a radioman, and later discussed with him the possibility of attending the Naval Academy. A subsequent letter of recommendation was submitted to Charlie's congressman, resulting in him reporting to Annapolis in June 1952. Charlie's classmates recognized his personal integrity and sense of honor. He also received academic recognition for his scholarly thesis concerning a significant event in military history.

Upon graduation in June 1956, Charlie accepted a commission in the U.S. Air Force, and proceeded to Arizona for flight training, accompanied by his recent bride, Mae. Eight children followed over the next 14 years, along with assignments to bases in Colorado, Florida and New York.

Charlie left the service in 1961, and the family settled in Centerport, NY. His career then evolved to positions in engineering, financial planning and business management. These all contributed to his later employment with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Charlie was instrumental in training corporate clients in retirement planning. Together, Charlie and Mae developed a program to help children be motivated to read, which also helped their own large family to attend college and graduate school and initiate their own careers with several in various medical professions.

Upon his retirement, Charlie and Mae moved to Sarasota, FL. During his long, productive and fascinating career, Charlie also authored a book, *Love and Lollipops*, with chapters dedicated to family members.

Charlie was a multifaceted and greatly beneficial member of our society. He migrated from sailor, to aviator, to leading a large family, to business, financial, engineering, author and other fields. He touched the world with his example, kindness and generosity.

Predeceased by Mae four months earlier, they are survived by eight children; 25 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. ★



**RICHARD ANTHONY MOZIER '56**

Captain Richard A. Mozier, USN (Ret.), of Indian Trail, NC, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 27 April 2024.

"Dick" grew up in Fairfield, CT. He attended Fairfield Preparatory School and spent a year at the University of Notre Dame before receiving his appointment to the Naval Academy.

Upon graduating from USNA, he took his commission as a surface line officer. Dick spent most of his career involved with shipboard weapon systems. He first served in the missile department on BOSTON (CAG-1), which had been newly recommissioned as the world's first guided missile ship. That was followed by subsequent tours as fire control officer on WILLIAM V. PRATT (DLG-13) and as weapons officer on both FARRAGUT (DLG-6) and BELKNAP (DLG-26). Later, he served as flag lieutenant to Commander Cruiser Division 2 and assistant plans and operations officer for Carrier Division 4. Dick then served as executive officer on VOGELGESANG (DD-862) and commanding officer of RICH (DD-820). While in command of RICH, the ship patrolled the coast and conducted bombardment missions in Vietnam. Shore duty assignments included program manager for the MK-46 torpedo in NavSea and as Director, Surface ASW Systems (OP-98) in the Pentagon.

Dick retired in late 1980, after achieving the rank of captain. He worked briefly for Lockheed Martin, Arther D. Little and Fairchild Space Company. He then was a project manager in the AEGIS program at Lockheed Martin, where he remained until 2000 and retired for the second time. He continued working on the AEGIS project for Northrup Grumman until retiring for the third and final time in 2003.

Dick enjoyed golfing, traveling, watching the New York Yankees, catching up with his Class of 1956 buddies and spending time with family.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Margaret; their baby, Richard Mozier Jr. (22 months); and his parents, Anthony and Genevieve Mozier of Fairfield, CT. He is survived by his daughters, Linda Mozier and Jean Mozier Watson (Marshall) of Indian Trail, NC; son, Thomas Mozier of Medford, NJ; and seven grandchildren, Christopher Hart (Sothey), Joshua Hart, Elizabeth Watson, Richard Watson (fiancée, Hailey Bean), Matthew Watson, Amanda Mozier and John Mozier, all of whom he loved and touched deeply.

A memorial service for both Dick and Margaret was celebrated at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 1 August 2024.

He was loved deeply and will forever be missed. ★



**THOMAS MATHEW RYAN '56**

Lieutenant Commander "Matt" Ryan, USN (Ret.), died peacefully on 18 June 2024 at his Bremerton, WA, home from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 89 years old.

Born in Greeley, CO, on 21 December 1934 to Thomas Ryan and Lillian V. "Billie" (Hallen) Ryan, he was influenced as a young child by his grandfather and by a World War I veteran to go to the Naval Academy, saying, "Life is better on the quarterdeck than on the gun deck." In

preparation, Matt graduated from Colorado Military Academy, then Admiral Farragut Academy in New Jersey.

A member of the 17th Company, he graduated with the USNA Class of 1956. During Matt's 20 years of active duty, he served on BREMERTON (CA-130), SABLEFISH (SS-303), MERO (SS-378), BARBERO (SS-317), TORSK (SS-423) and OKINAWA (LPH-3). While aboard TORSK, he qualified for command of submarines. As navigator aboard OKINAWA, he was awarded

a Navy Commendation Medal. Ashore, he served as material officer ComSubGru 7, head of quality assurance departments at Polaris Missile Facility, Bangor, WA, and NAD Earle, Colts Neck, NJ. He also served as training officer ComSubGru San Francisco and as director of Fire Control Technician School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. He earned an MBA at Rutgers while on shore duty in New Jersey.

While serving at SubGruSFran, he met and married Patricia Bogel.

On retirement in 1976, Matt became a life insurance agent, continued his education, became a Chartered Financial Planner, owner of The Matt Ryan Company and served several years as an advisor to the State Insurance Commissioner.

He was active in Republican politics, serving 30 years as a precinct committee officer. He was elected chairman of the Kitsap Republican Party (1988-1990) and was elected as Kitsap County Commissioner (1993-1996), the first Republican elected to the Board of Commissioners in 20 years. He was a founding member and chairman of Kitsap Mainstream Republicans.

For recreation, Matt sailed his Hobie Cat, from 1970 until 2000. He wrote and published three novels. Additional works remain in the queue.

He is survived by Pat, his wife of 60 years; sons, Eric, Scott, Carl and David (Sarah Kleehammer); grandchildren, Atticus, Dante, Zoe "Lem" and Naomi. He was predeceased by his daughter, Lydia.

His ashes were committed to the waters fronting his home.

A Celebration of Life was held on 3 August 2024 at Silverdale Lutheran Church.

Memorials may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)). ★



**HAROLD LAWRENCE SMITH '56**

"Larry" Smith, a husband, father, gentleman officer and accomplished patent attorney, peacefully passed away on 22 April 2024, at the age of 91.

Born in Chicago, IL, on 27 June 1932, Larry's life was characterized by a profound dedication to service, intellectual curiosity and a passion for World History. Larry's journey began with his marriage to Madonna Koehl in June of 1956, with whom he raised three children: Lawrence, Sandra and Madonna. The same year marked a

significant milestone in his career as he graduated and was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy.

During his service aboard DES MOINES, he distinguished himself during the 1958 political crisis in Lebanon, serving as part of the Sixth Fleet's presence in Beirut. Overseas, Larry was stationed in Villefranche-sur-Mer, France, where he continued to excel in his naval duties. Upon returning to the United States, he transitioned to teaching naval navigation at Notre Dame University, imparting his knowledge and expertise to future naval officers until his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1961.

Larry's intellectual pursuits led him to pursue a career in law. After graduating from John Marshall Law School, Larry specialized in patent law. Over the years, he practiced in various cities including Chicago, IL, Stamford, CT, Grand Rapids, MI, and Detroit, MI.

After retiring from the practice of law, Larry continued to share his knowledge and experience as a teacher at Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI, until the culmination of his career.

Predeceased by his son, Lawrence, in 2017, Larry is survived by his daughters, Sandra and Madonna; son-in-law, Gordon; his younger brother, James; and two grandchildren, Michael Ann and Lorna, who will continue his legacy.

A memorial service and interment will be held at the Naval Academy Columbarium.

The Smith Family ★



## BARRICK FRANK TIBBITTS '56

Captain "Barry" Tibbitts, USN (Ret.), 89, died on 1 May 2024 in Annandale, VA.

The son of Frank Tibbitts '25 and Kathryn Barrick, he often moved as a child, but considered Annapolis, MD, as home. He was a 1952 graduate of St. Mary's High School and had scholarships to Princeton and Johns Hopkins, but took a presidential appointment to the Naval Academy, where he was a member of the Third Company.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1956, he spent five years at sea on three ships earning Surface and Submarine Warfare qualifications. After earning two graduate degrees at MIT, he became an Engineering Duty Officer, serving first at SRF Yokosuka, which he said spoiled him for all future assignments. He had duty at CinCPacFlt staff in Hawaii, then was Deputy for Submarines at SupShip Pascagoula, MS, for five years before being assigned to the DC area. He was director of the NavSea ship design group, overseeing designs of CG-47, DDG-51, SSN-21 and CVN(X). He was commander of the David Taylor Research Center with a staff of 2,700 and major facilities in Carderock, MD, and Annapolis, MD. In 1987, he retired statutorily, but was immediately recalled to active duty to serve as a professor of naval construction and engineering at MIT. During his first year, students voted him "best teacher in the department."

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit (2) and the Vietnam Service Medal (with 4 Stars). He was also decorated by the CNO of the South Vietnam Navy for his work in the Mekong Delta.

When he left active duty, he provided support to the Navy and industry for ten years.

After he retired-retired, he became active in professional societies, writing and teaching. He was an adjunct professor at both Virginia Tech and Stevens Institute of Technology, and he co-taught a summer course in combat systems design integration at MIT for 25 years. He published more than 30 professional papers and chapters in four books. The American Society of Naval Engineers awarded him their Captain Harold Saunders Medal for "lifetime achievements in naval engineering" and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers awarded him their David Taylor Medal (it's highest award) for "notable achievement in naval architecture and marine engineering."

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Marcia Coughlin Tibbitts; daughters, Tamara and Felisa; son, Christopher (with his late wife, Lynn Livoti Tibbitts); and granddaughter, Flora.

BFT '56 ★



## EUGENE ANTHONY WROBEL '56

Lieutenant Commander Eugene A. Wrobel, USN (Ret.), died of congestive heart failure on 9 July 2021. He was 90 years old.

A native of St. Paul, MN, "Geno" attended the University of Minnesota and NAPS in Bainbridge, MD, prior to receiving his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from the Secretary of Navy.

He graduated with the Class of 1956 in June of 1956, a member of the 23rd Company. He then returned to Saint Paul and married the love of

his life, Rose Opal Marks, on 23 June 1956.

He attended Supply Corps School and served on HELENA (CA-75), before reporting to the commissioning crew of the converted and redesignated RAMSDEN (DER-382). Next came the Bremerton Shipyard,

with the commissioning crew of IWO JIMA (LPH-2), followed by the Northern Virginia Naval Supply Depot. After a tour at the Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu, HI, he was on the decommissioning team at Boston Naval Shipyard. Geno retired from the Navy in 1975 while at Great Lakes Supply Depot.

In 1975, Geno began his material management career with the State of Minnesota, where he was to spend 11 years in various assignments. He served as Director of Inventory Management, Director of Agency Relations and Project Director for PALS (Purchase Automated Logistics System). Geno retired in 1986 and moved to Pensacola, FL, where he resided for 28 years before moving back home to Minnesota in 2014.

Geno is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Rose; daughter, Laura; son, Gregory; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His son, William, predeceased him in 2012.

Geno's passing leaves a huge void in our hearts, but his fun-loving spirit will always be with us. He will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all.

A memorial service and inurnment will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery later this year. ★



## HAROLD DOUGLAS BARKER '57

Commander "Doug" Barker, USN (Ret.), went to be with Jesus his Lord and Savior on 2 June 2024 in Houston, TX. He was 90 years old.

Born in Williston, ND, on 14 August 1933, Doug followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career in the Armed Forces. He graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1957, as a member of the 19th Company.

During his naval career, he served on CAVALIER (APA-37) in Long Beach, CA, which transported

Marines around the Pacific; attended and graduated from Submarine School; earned his Dolphins aboard SARDA; served aboard SEA ROBIN as assistant operations officer in command of Submarine Squadron 2; was attached to NATO, Naples, Italy; attended and graduated from Nuclear Submarine School; served on ENTEMEDOR (SS-340) in New London, CT, as executive officer; was attached to Electric Boat during the construction of FRANCIS SCOTT KEY; then served as the first Blue crew navigator on FRANCIS SCOTT KEY (SSBN-657) in New London, CT; attended and graduated the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, with a degree in management; was posted to the Naval Personnel Office in Washington, DC; served as officer in charge at Holy Loch Submarine Tender Base, NavActSUKDet in Holy Loch, Scotland; and finally as commanding officer of the NROTC unit at Iowa State University in Ames, IA, where he retired in 1980.

In 1981, he entered into ministry. He was a pastor at Ames Evangelical Free Church (EFC), Ames, IA, from 1981 to 1986; planted a church, Olympic EFC in Poulsbo, WA, from 1986 to 1995; and served as interim pastor at Heritage EFC in Castle Rock, CO, from 1995 to 1996, where he fully and finally retired.

Doug loved his wife of 64 years, the former Donna Jean Green, who preceded him in death on 25 December 2021. He is survived by his son, Paul; daughters, Linda and Carolyn; six grandchildren, Alex Barker, Lisa Barker, Ross Pospisil '10, Sarah Brewer, Travis Pospisil '19 and Rachel Shepherd; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted on 18 June 2024 at Brookdale Champions Facility in Houston, TX.

The Barker Family ★



**MACLELLAN EDGAR KING JR. '59**

MacLellan King of Atherton, CA, died peacefully with his family around him on 3 November 2023 following a long illness. He was 86 years old.

“Mickey” led a full and satisfying life dedicated to his career, community service and especially to his family. He was devoted to his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth, his three children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren. He kept in close touch with his sister, Prudence, of Boston.

Mickey graduated with the Naval Academy Class of 1959. Considered “one of the good guys,” he spent a lot of his USNA time behind an oar and trying to raise his GPA. He later served on the destroyer, McCaffery, and then ATULE, a submarine based in Key West, FL. The officers of ATULE were commended for their cooperation and leadership during Mickey’s years of service.

With a growing family, Mickey applied these skills to a successful civilian career. He joined AT&T, ultimately becoming senior vice president of Pacific Telesis and then president and CEO of Nevada Bell. Along the way, he completed an MBA from the University of Chicago and served on numerous boards.

Mickey never failed to keep in touch with his Academy friends and never missed watching a Navy football game. He raised a Navy family, paying close attention to the details of his children’s and grandchildren’s lives as they developed into adults, displaying leadership, kindness and sensitivity. Along with the values of the Naval Academy, they were all taught to sing “Anchors Away” as they learned to talk. When his family speaks of him, tales of his military service are often the first things that are proudly conveyed, along with lessons of living taught and fish on the line that grew anew with each telling.

Mickey is survived by his beloved wife, Liz; sister, Prudence King; children, Elizabeth Johnson (Richard), Blair King (Lizbeth) and Stephanie Discher (David); and his “superb” grandchildren, Edward, Blair and Thomas Johnson, Avery, Taylor and William King, and Pete and Jason Discher.

In Mac’s words, “The good ride continues.” ★



**JAMES BENJAMIN LACKEY '59**

James B. Lackey passed away on 10 February 2024, in Naples, FL.

“Jim” was born on 1 February 1935 in Carlisle, PA. He married the love of his life, Sara “Sally” Brown in 1960 after she graduated from Washington College, MD.

Upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1959, Jim was assigned to serve on a destroyer in San Diego with Far East deployments. Later, he served as communication officer for Destroyer

Squadron 26 in Norfolk during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Jim was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1963.

Following his Navy service, Jim was a project manager on various construction projects in the Washington Metro area. Some of the more notable projects include: an underground Presidential Command Center; 2.1 million square-foot James Madison Memorial Library; restoration of the 1904 historic Washington, DC, Union Station for the United States Bicentennial; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

office building, including establishment of the first two DC metro stations. Of special note, he was also project manager for construction of the Soviet Union embassy compound in Washington, DC.

Jim then joined the U.S. Department of State to serve as a senior foreign service officer with rank of Counselor. He was appointed director of the Office of Construction Management, which had oversight of overseas diplomatic facilities and embassies around the world.

Following his Washington service, he was reassigned as First Secretary and General Services Officer at the American Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Three years later, he returned to State as Director of the Office of Supply, Transportation and Procurement. He retired from the Department of State in 1989. During Jim’s tenure, he was awarded the Department of State Superior Honor Award and two Meritorious Honor Awards.

Jim was especially proud of his children and grandchildren and was known for his artistic abilities, especially using charcoal and sketching pencil mediums. He had a financial acuity especially in the interests of global economics and loved to tell stories to his children and grandchildren of his unusual global travels, always ending with humorous and/or ironic twists.

Sally and Jim spent part of their retirement in Annapolis, MD, before moving full time to Naples, FL, in 2001, living in The Arlington in Naples.

Jim is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sally; their children, Katherine Charlotte Lackey and James Benjamin Lackey; four grandchildren, Sara Ebner, Brian Lackey, Megan Ebner and Brogan Lackey; and a great-granddaughter, Amelia Smiles. ★



**JAMES ANDREW HART '61**

Lieutenant Colonel James A. Hart, USMC (Ret.), passed away on 30 June 2024.

“Jim” was the only son of Andrew Ernest Slagerman Jr. and Patricia Anne Mooney and stepson to Dr. Charles Joseph Hart. Born in San Francisco, he moved to Walnut Creek in 1944. After graduating from Acalanes High School in 1954, he attended Stanford University, ultimately graduating from the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1961, with a Bachelor of

Science in Engineering.

After decades of service in the United States Marine Corps, he went on to have second career as a systems engineer with Pacific Bell.

He was a champion at the shotput and discus from his years in high school through his late 60s. In 1981, at age 45, he was ranked No. 4 in the world at the World Masters Track and Field Championship. He won numerous gold medals at the Senior Olympics in shotput, discus and hammer throw throughout his 40s, 50s and 60s.

Jim is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn (Wylie); their son, Tim Hart (Leanne) of San Ramon, CA; daughter, Therese Hart-Pignotti (Robert) of Concord, CA; granddaughters, Emma and Taylor Hart (and their mother, Elizabeth); grandson, Seaman Kai Pignotti, USCG; sister, Kathy Hart Schmidt (Paul); and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass took place on 12 July 2024 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Walnut Creek, CA.

Donations may be made in his name to the Knights of Columbus, Council 8207, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek CA 94598.

The Hart Family ★



## BERTRAND REEVES WITTMANN '61

Bertrand R. Wittmann passed away on 2 March 2024 at the San Francisco, CA, VA facility after a bout with dementia.

"Corky" was born on 9 November 1937 and grew up in Pass Christian, MS, with his three brothers. They enjoyed playing sports together and often worked construction with their father, who was a contractor. He attended St. Stanislaus high school and then went to Perkinston Junior

College, where he played football. Being a standout in both sports and academics, he was recruited by the Naval Academy into the Class of 1961.

He served on the carrier *TICONDEROGA* during Vietnam for three tours, mostly flying the C-130 Hercules. After leaving active duty in 1967, he stayed in the Reserves and was a member of VR-7, based out of Alameda, CA.

He went on to fly for Continental, and then TWA Airlines, where he developed a love for the San Francisco Bay area, eventually moving there. After a near fatal car accident in 1977, he was no longer allowed to fly commercially due to the injuries incurred. He eventually became a shrimper in San Pablo Bay (northern extension of the San Francisco Bay). He enjoyed working for himself as captain of his own vessel, doing the work of several men.

He was married to Maureen McCormack for 18 years and was a loving and gentle father to his two children, Monika and Bret.

Corky is survived by his son, Bret, daughter-in-law, Julie, and grandson, Luke, who all cared for him during his battle with dementia; as well as his brother, Mickey. He was predeceased by his daughter, Monika, and brother, Kenny. His brother, Frank II "Winky" has also since passed away.

He was known for his dry sense of humor and laid back positive mental attitude, which endeared him to friends and family.

He is greatly missed. ★



## THOMAS FRANCIS DOYLE JR. '62

Thomas F. Doyle Jr. passed away on 20 March 2023 after a long illness in Palm City, FL.

"Tom" was born on 3 November 1939 in Saint Joseph, MO, to Thomas F. Doyle and Madonna Doyle. He graduated from Chaplain Kapaun High School in Wichita, KS, in June of 1957, and the Naval Preparatory School at Bainbridge, MD, in June 1958. He went on to get his BS in Naval Science from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1962, and his BS in

aeronautical engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, in December of 1971. Tom married Patricia Ann Doyle on 25 April 1963 in Pensacola, FL, where they had first met at the Beachcombers Ball.

A naval aviator, Tom served in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot in HAL3 and finished his service as a commander in the Naval Reserve.

In 1975, he became a test pilot for Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, CT. He currently holds a helicopter world speed record that he attained while flying for Sikorsky.

Tom loved flying gliders, sailing and rowing. He especially enjoyed sharing and teaching his flying and sailing skills to his grandchildren.

Tom is survived by his wife, Patricia Doyle; sons, Scott Doyle (and his wife, Mary) and Brian Doyle (and his former wife, Colleen); grandchildren, Silas Doyle, Jonathan Doyle, Elizabeth Doyle, Connor Doyle and Aline Doyle; great-granddaughter, Amaya Doyle; brother, James Doyle; and sister, Martha Ann Suter.

Funeral services were held at Palm City Presbyterian Church on 23 March 2023. ★



## JAMES ALLEN MARSHALL '62

Captain James A. Marshall, USN (Ret.), passed away on 7 February 2024 in Aiken, SC. He was 83 years old.

Born in Annapolis, MD, "Al" was the son of the late Commander James Gilbert Marshall '32 and Mary Emma Allen Marshall. He attended the Severn School in Severna Park, MD, and the Hill School in Pottstown, PA, and entered the Naval Academy in 1958. During his four years

there, he was a member of the Drum and Bugle Corps and sailed and raced yawls.

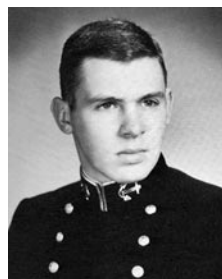
Upon graduation with the Class of 1962, he entered the Submarine Force, serving on six nuclear submarines, two of which he commanded—SHARK (SSN-591) and was commissioning CO of SAN FRANCISCO (SSN-711).

He returned to the Naval Academy from 1982-1984 as a battalion officer the first year and Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen the second. He then had orders to the Seventh Fleet staff in Yokosuka, Japan, followed by a tour of duty as CO of Submarine Base Pearl Harbor, HI. He completed his 30-year career as chief of staff at ComOpTevFor in Norfolk, VA. While there, he received a master's degree in education from Old Dominion University.

After retirement, Al worked at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina for several years and other companies following that, including commuting to Canada for a year and a half. He was a tennis official and was a past president of USTA-SC. He was also past president of The Military Officers Association of America (Aiken Chapter).

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Phoebe; son, James Marshall (Andrea); daughter, Lee Heath (Gregory); sister, Mary Lee Sprague (Herb '62); three grandsons; two granddaughters; and three step-grandsons.

*The Marshall Family* ★



## JEFFREY CLARK HOGAN '64

"Jeff" Hogan, a dedicated Marine veteran, loving family man and all-around gentleman, died on 8 August 2024 of natural causes. He was 82 years old.

Born on 27 February 1942 to John and Kathryn Hogan, Jeff was the oldest of six children. He grew up in Kirkwood, MO, and Fairfax, VA, particularly enjoying athletics and graduating from Fairfax High School in 1960. A prestigious appointment to the United States Naval Academy

took him to Annapolis, MD, and he was ultimately commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in May 1964.

During his final year at Annapolis, he met his lifelong love and partner, Dorothy "Dottie" Hogan, née Brown. Their bond grew during Jeff's basic training that summer and the young couple wed on 20 December 1964. Shortly after, Jeff and Dottie moved to Cherry Point, NC, where Jeff began flight training.

Eventually Jeff's military career took the couple to Tustin, CA, before he deployed to Vietnam in 1966. During his 13 months in Vietnam, Jeff flew over 300 missions and rose to the rank of captain. He returned to the U.S. in 1967 to meet his new son, Tom. Another son, Brian, followed a year and a half later. Jeff was honorably discharged from the Marines in 1970.

After the Marines, Jeff pursued a career with several large equipment manufacturing companies specializing in air compressors and turbo machinery. Due to Jeff's work, the Hogan family moved to several towns in the U.S. before settling in Katy, TX, in 1999. In 2012, Jeff established his own company focusing on turbo machinery, the Nautilus Group.

Through his working years and to present-day, Jeff was a devoted husband and father, raising his sons with Dottie and later enjoying his

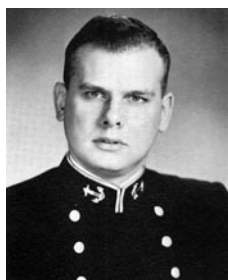
grandchildren. Jeff's love of physical activity included running and golf: he completed the Marine Corps marathon in the 1980s and he spent many hours on the golf course perfecting his game. Jeff truly embraced the bonds of brotherhood he first experienced at the Naval Academy, maintaining strong ties to other alumni over the decades via regular events and outings.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Dottie; sons, Tom and Brian; five grandchildren; and three brothers.

A Celebration of Life was held in Katy, TX, on 24 August 2024.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)).

*The Hogan Family* ★



**JASON KIDDER '64**

Jason Kidder Sr. of Skillman, NJ, passed away on 21 May 2024.

"Jay" was born in Franklin, NH, in 1943 to the late Richard Davis and Marjory (Goss) Kidder. He attended Tilton School prior to attending the United States Naval Academy.

Upon graduating from Annapolis (Second Company) in 1964, Jay from New Hampshire married another "Jay," Jessie McLeod from South Carolina. Their first child, Catherine,

was born in the naval hospital in Beaufort, SC. Their second child, Jason Jr., was born at the Naval Hospital in Newport, RI. Jay's final Navy assignment was at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

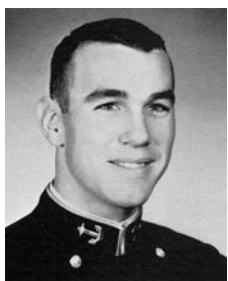
After Philadelphia, Jay entered civilian life and his naval training was used through the lifespan of his career. Their son, Jason Jr., played football for Oklahoma State as an offensive lineman during the Barry Sanders years. Jessie succumbed to cancer shortly after Jason Jr.'s final season.

Jay and his second wife, Beverly, met during a tornado in Green Bay, WI, where they took shelter in the same building. Beverly had a degree in radio, television and film from the University of Wisconsin. They moved to New Jersey in the late 1980s due to a job transfer. Later, Jason and Beverly opened The Decorator's Consignment Gallery, where Beverly used her background to promote the business with radio and television advertising. They successfully ran this business until their retirement. Living in New Jersey, they were able to attend many Army/Navy games and the march on was his favorite part...and when Navy beat Army, of course!

Surviving are his wife, Beverly; daughter, Catherine Cheek (Dale) of North Carolina; son, Jason Kidder Jr. (Melissa) of Arkansas; grandchildren, Kimber Cheek, Collin Cheek and Mac Kidder (Dana); great-grandchildren, Kodi and Maeve; and his sister, Marilyn Perkins (John) of New Hampshire.

Jay was predeceased by his first wife, Jessie; and his brother, Alan.

He will be interred at the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date. ★



**GEOFFREY JACKSON GROVES '65**

"Geoff" Groves passed away on 15 May 2024 at his Balboa Island, CA, home with his devoted wife of 14 years, Marilyn, and his treasured King Charles Cavaliers, Charlie and Maggie, by his side.

Geoff was born in San Mateo, CA, on 31 August 1943, and grew up on Balboa Island and in Altadena, CA. An exceptional student and athlete at John Muir High School in Pasadena, Geoff was the quarterback leading his high school football team to the California Inter-scholastic

Football Championship during his senior year. At the Naval Academy, he was a member of the 30th Company during First Class Year.

After graduation, he served in MANSFIELD (DD-728), KEMPER COUNTY (LST-854) and finally in POLK COUNTY (LST-1084) as executive officer and then commanding officer. Geoff was very proud to have been the first in his class to achieve command at sea. He was decorated for bravery in Vietnam aboard MANSFIELD, and for exceptional navigation aboard POLK COUNTY.

Geoff left the Navy in 1970 and joined IBM, where he had a 15-year career in sales and management. He became the #1 salesperson in the country in his division in 1975. He then spent the remainder of his career in sales and senior executive positions in the medical software arena and retired in 2007.

But it wasn't just about the "career" for Geoff. He enjoyed reading, cooking and entertaining friends. Geoff was athletically active during his life and was proud of his three sons and of having coached them in football before high school. Geoff played tennis and golf, and after heart surgery in 1993, he took up single-scul rowing and fencing. Because of emphysema and COPD, he gave up rowing and fencing in 2013, but continued to enjoy golf trips to the coast of Oregon with his sons and golf outings with former shipmates.

Geoff is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn; his sister Linda; three sons, Rodger (Christina), Scott and Damon (Miesha). He was especially proud of his four grandchildren, Emerald, Taylor, Keegan and Mia. He was preceded in death by his father, Clifford L. Groves; mother, Norna D. Groves; his first wife of 37 years, Mimi P. Groves; and his brother, Rodger Groves.

Funeral services were held on 11 June 2024 at Saint Matthew's Anglican Catholic Church in Newport Beach, CA.

Donations in Geoff's memory may be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)). ★



**NEAL CORNELL JENKINS '65**

Captain Neal C. Jenkins, USN (Ret.), passed away on 6 July 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was 81 years old.

Neal was born to Elizabeth and Myron "Mike" Jenkins and grew up in Austin, TX, where he was an Eagle Scout, cross country runner and graduate of Travis High School. Neal had an older brother, Myron; a twin brother, Norman; twin sisters, Marilyn and Carolyn; and a younger brother, Robert. His mother passed away when he was six years old, and his father eventually married Lillian Ray, who brought with her three new siblings, Robert "Bob," Tinka and Frank. Growing up as one of nine children, Neal learned independence and tenacity early in life.

A 1965 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Neal became a nuclear engineer on submarines, leaving his beloved Texas with his wife, Katherine, for East Coast submarine ports. He served his country with distinction until his retirement in 1994, receiving numerous awards and recognitions, including the Legion of Merit (2), Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle "E" Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (2) and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

He was "Dad" to three children and "Pops" to nine grandchildren, and while he would have loved them all to attend the Naval Academy, he was a proud father and grandfather. He showed his affection by teasing, and his grandchildren were often on the receiving end.

After retiring from the Navy, he shared his love of physics by teaching at Norview High School. He held study sessions in his home, feeding his students pizza and dreams.

Neal was predeceased by his mother, Elizabeth; his father, Myron; brothers, Myron, Norman and Robert; stepmother, Lillian; and stepsister, Tinka.



## LAST CALL

He is survived by his devoted wife of 59 years, Katherine; their children, Elizabeth (Andy), Jonathan (Claire) and Matthew (Michelle); and his grandchildren, Colin, Ellie, Jack, Nate, Ruth, Grace, Lucy, Emma and Maddie. He is also survived by his loving sisters, Carolyn and Marilyn; and stepbrothers, Frank and Bob.

Funeral services with full military honors will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a yet to be determined date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)) or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society ([www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org)). ★



### **PATRICK MICHAEL MULDOON '66**

Captain "Pat" Muldoon, USN (Ret.), 79, passed away on 27 May 2024 in Portsmouth, VA, of prostate cancer.

Born in Sioux Falls, SD, he was the son of John and Claire Muldoon. He attended Suitland High School (Maryland) and entered the Naval Academy in 1962.

Following graduation in 1966, Pat joined HANSON (DD-832) in San Diego as ASW officer, which included a WestPac/Vietnam deployment.

Next came Destroyer School, then back to San Diego as weapons officer aboard HULL (DD-945) and another WestPac/Vietnam deployment.

In August 1970, Pat transitioned to the Gator Navy, joining the crew of TUSCALOOSA (LST-1187) in Norfolk. In Guam, he was CO of GALLUP (PG-85) (1972-1974).

In 1977, he graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School with a master's in operations systems technology. Back in Norfolk, he was plans assistant at ComNavSurflant until February 1979, followed by duty as XO on SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32), developing operating procedures to support the new revolutionary air cushion landing draft (LCAC). He was then plans officer for Commander, Amphibious Group One in Okinawa. Stateside, Pat attended the Naval War College. He was commissioning CO of WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41), the first of its class. Pat's follow-on assignment was as OinC/Director of OCS in Newport, RI, until August 1988.

Returning to sea duty, Pat took command of NASHVILLE (LPD-13) in Norfolk, until November 1990, followed by command of Amphibious Squadron Ten until February 1992. He was Chief of Staff, Amphibious Group Two until January 1993 and finished his career as Director of Training at Tactical Training Group, Atlantic, retiring in August 1995.

Captain Muldoon's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and numerous campaign and service awards.

After retiring, Pat earned a master's degree in education from Old Dominion University. He taught high school mathematics for 20 years at Nansemond Suffolk Academy in Suffolk, VA. He coached the girls' softball, JV football and golf teams, chaired the Discipline Committee and was advisor to the Honor Council. He also taught adult mathematics at Tidewater Community College.

Pat is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kate; their children, Jeff, Ryan and Jennifer; grandchildren, Noah, Sawyer and Sylvia; and his siblings, Judy, Paul, Mary and Deborah.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on 7 June 2024 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Portsmouth.

Inurnment will occur at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. ★



### **JOHN RICHARD SELMER '67**

John R. Selmer passed away on 24 June 2024 of heart complications. He was 79 years old.

John was born on 10 April 1945, in Detroit, MI, the son of Robert Jack Selmer '43 and Margaret Meadows Selmer. He attended Berkeley High School and Mercersburg Academy and then reported to the Naval Academy in 1963. John cherished his time at USNA. It played a crucial role in shaping his life and identity.

After graduating near the top of the Class of 1967, John received his commission in the Navy. Ensign Selmer then began preparing for future service in the submarine force. Once he had completed Nuclear Power training and Submarine School, John was assigned duty aboard ASPRO, an attack submarine homeported in Pearl Harbor, HI. Three years later, after qualifying as engineer officer, he reported to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Unit at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR.

After leaving the Navy as a lieutenant commander, John earned a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Operations Research, both at Stanford University. He built his post-naval career at International Business Machines, American President Lines and eventually with Visa International.

John married his much-loved wife, Kristin Salsig, in 1980 and raised their family in Palo Alto, CA. Upon retirement in 2007, John and Kristin moved to Nevada City, CA. Retirement allowed John the time to continue his hobbies of stamp collecting, reading, photography, model boat building and wood carving.

John was an avid lifelong swimmer. He started swimming in high school and was on the USNA varsity swim team. While living in the Bay Area, he swam for the Palo Alto Masters and joined the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club as an open water swimmer. John enjoyed completing open water distance events across the country and swam the English Channel in 1995. He continued to swim well into retirement.

Predeceased by his parents, John is survived by his wife, Kristin; their children (and spouses), Lisa (Paul), Sarah (Ben) and Molly; nine grandchildren; and his sisters, Susan and Chris. He was predeceased by his son, Douglas, who was killed in a vehicular accident in 1994.

John was bigger than life, exceptionally smart, true to his word and a strong, supportive husband, father and grandfather. His legacy and impact will live on in all of us. ★



### **STEPHEN ALGER JOHNSON '68**

Captain "Steve" Johnson, USN (Ret.), died peacefully in his sleep on 17 July 2024 surrounded by his wife and sons at the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro, SC. He was 78 years old.

Born on 15 March 1946 in Ringgold, GA, he was the son of Donna May (Alger) Johnson and George Hill Johnson. Steve's family made their home in Marietta, GA, for many years. He was a star football player at Marietta High, which paved his way to be a starting quarterback on

Navy's 150-pound football team that in his First Class Year went on to be undefeated, highlighted by a win over Army. It was at USNA that Steve met his future wife, Nancy, and they were married the day after graduation. His strong academic credentials allowed him to continue studies at the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, CA.

Steve then was accepted into the Navy nuclear power program, spending 24 years on active duty. Steve felt that the highlight of his career was as commanding officer of the nuclear submarine RAY.

A particularly memorable event was when RAY participated in ICEX-86 and when it surfaced, he was photographed at the North Pole. Steve will always be remembered by his family and friends as a perfect southern gentleman and exceptionally dedicated naval officer.

After Navy, Steve worked 15 years at the Department of Energy's Westinghouse Savannah River Company, which at that time was a major weapons site in the DOE complex. Almost retiring, but not quite, he accepted an offer he couldn't refuse working for two years at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

He then settled down with Nancy at their dream house on a serene saltwater marsh, complete with dock and deep-water access, at Mt. Pleasant, SC. He was an avid golfer and lifelong fan of Atlanta's Braves and Falcons.

Predeceased by his parents and sister, Karen, Steve is survived by his wife, Nancy; their sons, Michael and Jeffrey; his sister, Sandra; granddaughters, Elizabeth, Jenna Grace and Elle; and great-granddaughter, Adeline.

Services were held on 2 August 2024 at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, GA.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (<https://alzfdn.org>). ★



**JAMES JOSEPH LaBELLE '72**

James J. LaBelle, a man of strong faith and loyalty to church, family and community, passed away on 16 July 2024 in Southern Pines, NC. He was 76 years old.

"Jim" was born in Milwaukee, WI, on 6 November 1947 to Donald J. LaBelle and M. Rita Rivard LaBelle, and the family relocated to Melbourne, FL, in 1948. Graduating with the first class of Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School, he felt a call to the priesthood, attending

St. Mary's Seminary High School in Maryland. Following the loss of his father in 1963, he returned to Melbourne to continue his studies and assist the family. He attended Florida Institute of Technology before receiving a nomination to the Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1969 (34th Company) with a BS in Mechanical Engineering.

After attending Naval Nuclear Power School, he was assigned aboard LONG BEACH (CGN-9) until 1977, when he transferred to the Naval Reserves. He left the Reserves in December 1981 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Jim held several positions in government and defense companies, contributing to the Titan IV Launch Control System, DON ballistic missile simulator, nuclear power plant security design, Space Shuttle propulsion system and communications systems security for a government agency. He obtained his MS in Operational Research at George Mason University.

Jim met the love of his life, Margaret "Peggy" Duffey in Richardson, TX, and they were married in 1983. Together, their journey took them from Littleton, CO, to Centerville, VA, and finally at St. Joseph of the Pines, Belle Mead community in Southern Pines, NC. They travelled the U.S. and Canada and in 2005, they did an ancestry tour in France and Belgium. They were devoutly active in their Catholic community, including at Belle Mead, where Jim tutored students at Saint John Paul II Catholic School.

Jim was predeceased by his grandparents, Jack and Eleanor LaBelle, and Joseph and Melina Rivard; parents, Donald LaBelle and Rita LaBelle Trulson; as well as six aunts and uncles. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; nine siblings, Mary Patricia LaBelle, John LaBelle (Charlton), Captain Therese White, USN (Ben), Colonel Michael LaBelle, ARNG (Renee), Commander Timothy LaBelle, USN (Tammy), Margaret Fifield (David), Joseph LaBelle, Stephen LaBelle (Kellie) and Peter LaBelle; his aunt, Leah Fleming (102); 37 nieces and nephews; 15 great-nieces and nephews; and his adopted Duffey clan siblings, Michael, Dan, Terry, Dick, Kati and Karen. ★



**MICHAEL JOSEPH GOUGE '73**

Captain Michael "Doc" Gouge, USNR (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 11 July 2024 in Knoxville, TN.

Born on 17 September 1951, at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA, "Mike" was the oldest child of the late Floyd W. and Violet C. Gouge. He graduated from USNA with a BS in physics (1973). A Trident and Burke scholar, Mike taught an undergrad physics class at the Academy the fall semester following graduation.

After Nuclear Power and Prototype schools, Mike was stationed in Charleston, SC, assigned as an engineering division officer on GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN-643).

In 1978, Mike began his civilian career in Atlanta, GA, where he worked as a senior reactor inspector for the NRC and began his graduate studies in physics at Georgia State University. In 1980, he pursued an opportunity to conduct research in Oak Ridge, TN, and continued his graduate studies by pursuing a PhD in plasma physics at the University of Tennessee, graduating in 1984. He was commissioned in the Navy Reserve, in which he served proudly until retiring in 2004 as a captain.

Mike served as a program manager and project physicist for the Department of Energy (1980-1986) and as a senior research scientist and leader of the Applied Superconductivity Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1986-2011).

Following his retirement, Mike discerned a new call in his life for service in the Catholic church. He began studies for the permanent diaconate in 2003 and was ordained a deacon in 2007. He earned a master's degree in theology from the University of Dallas in 2014. The title of his thesis was, "Time, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, and Paul's Letter to the Romans."

Mike was a member of Sigma Pi Sigma, American Physical Society and the Cryogenics Society of America. Awards included the best student in physics and electrical engineering in the USNA Class of 1973; DOE Engineer of the Year award (2000); and the ORNL Science and Technology Group award (2006). He received the Navy Meritorious Service and Navy Commendation Medal (2) for command of two naval reserve units.

Mike is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Anita; their children (and spouses), Kevin, Lenore (John Pacitti), Daniel (Christina) and Tim (Chelsea); grandchildren, Dominic, Rosemary, Cecilia, Claire, Nicholas and Lucy; his siblings, Susan (Bill Carter), Sandy White, Sharon and David (Lynn).

Services were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church on 23 July 2024 followed by interment at Pleasant Forest Cemetery. ★



**CHRISTOPHER FREDERICK VIRTUE '74**

Christopher F. Virtue of Southern Pines, NC, passed away peacefully on 13 June 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and faithful servant of the Lord.

Born on 15 December 1950, Chris was a proud graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He faithfully served his country with honor and dedication. His time at Annapolis and his subsequent service instilled in him a profound sense of duty, loyalty and commitment that he carried throughout his life. Chris loved playing lacrosse for Navy, and the friendships he forged there were cherished throughout his entire life. He will be honored in the coming months when they dedicate the new Chris Virtue Conference Room as part of the USNA Lacrosse Center.

## LAST CALL

Chris' greatest love, however, was for his family. He cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. His love for his family was unconditional and unwavering, and he took great pride in the achievements and happiness of his wife, children and grandchildren.

In his later years, Chris's faith in Jesus Christ became the cornerstone of his life. His relationship with the Lord deepened, guiding him through life's challenges and joys. He found strength in his faith. Chris loved his church, Christ Community Church, and cherished the dear friends he made in his small group.

Chris is survived by his beloved wife, Kathy Forsigh Virtue; and their cherished children (and their spouses), William Virtue (Brianna) of Virginia Beach, VA, Leigh Virtue Stallings (Graham) of Raleigh, NC, Colby Virtue of Nashville, TN, Kate Virtue of Virginia Beach, VA, and Ashford Virtue of Southern Pines, NC. He is also survived by his four beautiful grandchildren, Sloane Virtue, Charlotte Stallings, Emma Virtue and Gray Stallings, who brought immense joy to his life; as well as his brother, Richard Virtue (Karliss) of Charlotte, NC. Chris was preceded in death by his first wife, Charlotte Parish Virtue; his parents, A. William and Claire Virtue; Charlotte's parents, George and Jeanne Parish; his brother, Peter Virtue; and sister, Kathleen Gavurnik.

Chris' life was a testament to his faith, love, loyalty and dedication. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and faith that will continue to inspire and guide his family and friends. While we mourn his passing, we take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ★



### RONALD EARL WAGNER '74

Captain Ronald E. Wagner, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully in Key West, FL, on 7 June 2024. He and his wife, Mimi, had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 6 June.

"Ron" was born on the Ides of March 1952 in Arizona. He spent his youth with his parents, Bob and Edna, and twin sisters, Sherri and Terri, in Roswell, NM. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science and was commissioned with the Class

of 1974. Ron married Mary Lee "Mimi" Audesirk the day after graduation at the Naval Academy Chapel.

Upon graduation, he attended Aviation Maintenance School in Memphis, TN. He then served with the VA-105 "Gunslingers" in Jacksonville, FL, where he was awarded Sailor of the Year. He went on to attend the Naval Postgraduate School, earning a Master of Science in Management in 1979.

Ron was then selected to be aide to Admiral Fred Baughman in Point Mugu, CA, followed by duty aboard ENTERPRISE. Throughout his career, Ron served on JOHN F. KENNEDY, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT and SARATOGA. Most notably, Ron served as aviation maintenance officer aboard SARATOGA during Operation Desert Storm/Shield. He was the program manager for the T-45 Goshawk jet trainer, which is still used to train Navy and Marine Corps pilots today. Captain Wagner retired as Director of Industrial Operations, Naval Air Systems Command in 1996.

Ron was the first recipient of the distinguished Captain Virgil Lemon Award for Naval Aviation Maintenance Excellence.

Ron was a storyteller who often crafted the most entertaining tales of his fantastic naval exploits, which could neither be "confirmed nor denied." He loved sharing sea stories, playing pool with his family and listening to the music of his youth.

He is survived by his wife, Mimi; three daughters (and their husbands), Brienne (Bill), Jillian (Lee) and Megan (Manak); as well as four beloved grandchildren, Noelle, Greyson, Willa and Diana.

A memorial service will be held for Captain Wagner at the Naval Academy Chapel, followed by inurnment at USNA Columbarium on 4 November 2024. ★



### KEITH MICHAEL ZWINGELBERG '75

Commander Keith M. Zwingelberg, MC, USN (Ret.), passed unexpectedly on 25 May 2024 in Panama City, FL.

Keith was born on 28 September 1953 in Mora, MN, moving later to Phoenix, AZ. Keith met Gwenn Fenwick during his senior year at Maryvale High School there.

A few weeks after his graduation from USNA, Keith and Gwenn were married and moved to Tucson, where Keith graduated from the University of Arizona College of Medicine (1978). He began a residency in family practice at the naval hospital at Camp Pendleton, CA.

The family moved to Washington, DC, in 1979 for Keith to pursue training at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute, then to Panama City, FL, and the brand-new Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center.

In 1981, the family returned to Camp Pendleton. In 1985, Keith returned to the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center until 1986, and then the Navy Experimental Diving Unit until 1989.

Keith completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Florida in 1992, as well as a fellowship in pain management.

Keith completed his naval career at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, and he retired from active duty in 1995.

He subsequently practiced at the North Florida Anesthesia Group; the Panama City Surgery Center, Panhandle Anesthesia; and Whitesands Anesthesia & Pain Management. He retired from clinical practice in 2022.

During high school and at Annapolis, Keith was a competitive pole vaulter. He inspired three of his grandchildren to compete in the sport.

The family shared a love of cycling, running and competing. Together, they completed several triathlons and events throughout the South.

Under the pseudonym Rory Church, Keith's second novel, *Hold Me Again*, won the 2017 Royal Dragonfly Award (Romance category).

Keith and Gwenn loved to travel and visited all seven continents, culminating in a trip to Antarctica in 2023.

Keith is survived by his wife of 49 years, Gwenn; brothers, Mark and Dale; sister, Sheri; sons, Robbie and Austin; son-in-law, Joshua Scribner; and grandchildren, Zayne, Zeva, Alexis, Aiden, Addison, Gavin, Olivia and Kalani. Keith was predeceased by his daughter, Cassy Scribner; father, Dwayne Zwingelberg; mother, Inez Wynne; and stepfather, Sydney Wynne.

Services were held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, followed by military honors. Eight 1975 USNA classmates attended.

Donations may be made to the Cassy Z. Scribner Memorial Nursing Scholarship through the Gulf Coast State College Foundation ([www.gcsfoundation.org](http://www.gcsfoundation.org)) or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation ([www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org)).

*The Zwingelberg Family* ★

### LAST CALL GUIDELINES

call: 410-295-6064

email: [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)

online: <https://tinyurl.com/Last-Call-guidelines>



**PETER MARTIN CAULK '77**

With solemn yet thankful hearts, we say goodbye to Commander Peter M. Caulk, USNR (Ret.), an extraordinary individual whose essence brightened the lives of those around him. He passed away on 25 April 2024, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and achievement.

“Pete” was born on 18 October 1955. At the Naval Academy, he played four years of varsity football. In addition to graduating magna cum

laude, he also won the Operations Research Society of America award as the Outstanding Graduate in Operations Research across all military academies.

Pete spent more than 30 years in the skies with civilian and military aviation, including 18 years in the Navy as a fleet F-14 and instructor pilot. He was selected to be an instructor at the Navy’s elite Fighter Weapons School, TOPGUN, and was the top ranked department head while heading the Tactics Development and Evaluation Department. While at TOPGUN, he was a MIG pilot in the Paramount movie (the guy who gets the bird).

A passionate hunter and kayaker, Pete reveled in the beauty of nature and was never still. He took this energy to the medical profession later in his career, starting with Life Wings and then continued as a consultant bringing the “debrief mentality” to solve problems in medicine. He did—decreasing medical accidents by 600 percent at one hospital.

Pete maintained a strong sense of service through his constant mentoring of children within the community wherever he would call home. He was a father figure to many people and helped many kids earn scholarships and get into academies and universities.

What he was really best at was being a husband, father and grandfather. Pete cherished nothing more than his role as a devoted husband to Peg, his beloved wife of nearly five decades.

Pete’s greatest source of pride and joy was his family: his children, Ryan (Amy), Erin (Chris) and Kelly (Andrew); and his eight adoring grandchildren, Leann, Liam, Luke, Nico, Finn, Asher, Ella and Beau.

As we bid farewell to Pete, we carry with us the memories of his laughter, his warmth and his unconditional love. Though he may have taken his final flight, his spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Wounded Warrior Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)) or Tunnel to Towers (<https://t2t.org>), in honor of Pete. ★

continued to work on cavitation engineering. In 2007, he suffered a head injury while at work, which lead to short-term memory issues and his early retirement in 2012 in Newport News, VA. Sam survived five stokes, and for the last two years of his life, he was in a nursing facility because of dementia.

Sam is survived by his wife, Carol; their five children, Kimberly, Sean, Kristin, Kelsey and Kathryn; 11 grandchildren (with a 12th due in November); as well as his brothers, James and Ross. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Phyllis; and his siblings, Marcia and Charles. His son, Sean, is continuing the family legacy in the naval service as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot.

Sam’s remains will be scattered at sea at a later date.

Remembrances may be sent to Carol and the family c/o Dick Tobey, 13941 Joyce Drive, Largo, FL 33774. ★



**KENNETH STUART MacDONALD '80**

Kenneth S. MacDonald passed away on 23 January 2024 from complications related to ALS.

Arriving in Annapolis from Pleasant Hill, CA, it did not take long for Ken to establish himself as the quick-witted prankster leading the charge on many of the 33rd Herd’s wonderful adventures. As an electrical engineering major, he somehow found the time to also participate in the Drum and Bugle Corps, become both the Brigade and

U.S. National Collegiate heavyweight boxing champion, enjoy many marvelous camping trips (via his beloved Datsun 280Z), spar with his brother, Scott, at any opportunity to maintain his second-degree black-belt skills and successfully tutor the many classmates who needed help passing their “wires” classes.

Following the Naval Academy, Ken became an SH-3 pilot with the “Dusty Dogs” of HS-7 and met his future wife, Marilyn, while stationed at NAS Jacksonville. After obtaining an electrical engineering master’s degree at the Naval Postgraduate School, Ken was assigned to FORRESTAL (CV-59). Ken was a gifted teacher and taught EE at both USNA and NPS before departing Navy service to start his own “Mac’s Advantage” Apple computer repair business, which he ran successfully for many years.

Ken combined his electrical engineering expertise, out-of-the-box creative thinking and teaching skills to have a distinguished career at Space Systems Loral. He was the lead electrical systems engineer on several \$150M+ satellites. He created and implemented significant process improvements that propelled the company to become the world’s leading provider of high-power, geosynchronous orbit, commercial communication satellites.

While he faced unimaginable hardships as his illness progressed over 20 years, he showed strength, grace and courage through each difficult phase. As a husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, classmate and friend...he excelled in each of these roles, and he was a wonderful human being.

Ken is survived by his wife, Marilyn; stepson, Sean; stepdaughter, Lee Ann (and her husband, Dave); his brother, Scott; and many friends who were graced with the privilege of knowing him. ★



**SAMUEL THOMAS HICKS '79**

Samuel T. Hicks passed away on 15 June 2024. He was 70 years old.

“Sam” was a member of the Naval Academy Class of 1979, 24th Company. He hailed from Indianapolis, IN, and during his midshipman years, was known as being studious, friendly and quiet.

Upon his commissioning, he went into Surface Warfare, serving on two FARRAGUT-class destroyers, COONTZ (DDG-40) and KING (DDG-41).

After his five-year service obligation, he served an additional year in the Naval Reserve.

Sam returned to Indianapolis to serve as an engineer at the Naval Avionics Warfare Center. He then moved to Memphis, TN, and served as an engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division’s Large Cavitation Channel (LCC), one of the world’s largest and most technically advanced water tunnel facilities. After which he relocated to Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock, Bethesda, MD, where he

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR DD-214?**  
[www.usna.com/DD-214](http://www.usna.com/DD-214)



## RONALD SCOTT HOLLENBECK '84

Ronald S. Hollenbeck passed away on 20 June 2024 in Bastrop, TX, after a long and courageous battle with kidney cancer. He was 62 years old.

"Ron" was born in Lewiston, ID, as one of five children to Don and Bonnie Hollenbeck. In time, they moved to Spokane, WA, where Ron graduated as salutatorian of his Central Valley High School Class of 1980. He was nominated to the Naval Academy by Congressman Thomas Foley and

upon reporting in July 1980, was assigned to the 19th Company, which achieved the distinction of Color Company during Ron's First Class Year.

Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1984, Ron reported to NAS Pensacola for NFO Flight School. Upon earning his Wings of Gold, he trained as an electronic countermeasures officer, flying the EA-6B Prowler off RANGER on a number of deployments to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. After eight active and two reserve years of duty, during which he earned an MBA from the University of West Florida, Ron transitioned to his civilian career.

He was primarily a management consultant, first with KPMG, then an internet startup company, followed by running his own company, then AMD, and eventually with General Motors.

He settled in Bastrop, where he loved living the Texas lifestyle. Throughout both his military and civilian careers, Ron was well respected as a servant leader who exemplified compassion and selflessness in all aspects of his life. He dedicated himself to supporting others and was known as a consummate utility player, excelling in every role he undertook. His integrity, humility and ability to bring out the best in those around him made him a beloved figure in his community and workplace. Outside of work and spending time with his large family, Ron's interests included gardening, fixing cars (and other things) and remodeling projects.

Ron is survived by his wife, Kelley; his mother, Bonnie Hollenbeck; brothers, Gary, Kip and Kerry '90; children, Kimberly, Christopher, Jessica, Courtney, Brittany, Zachary and Vanessa; and 12 grandchildren. Ron was preceded in death by his father, Don Hollenbeck (2023), and his sister, Christina Hollenbeck (1982).

A Celebration of Life was held on 29 June 2024 in Bastrop, TX, with 19th Companymates, Bill Elliott, Mel Hamner, Stu McArthur, Tony Onorati, Mike Purcell, John Quint and Mark Stolarski, in attendance. ★



## ROBBIN ALAN RUSSELL '84

Robbin A. Russell passed away on 22 April 2024 in Austin, TX. He was 62 years old.

Born in Monticello, MS, he was the son of Lynn Russell and Patsy Hathorn. In high school, he was captain of the football team and president of the student council. As the first Naval Academy select from Huntingdon, TN, he reported to Annapolis in 1980.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1984, he was commissioned as a Navy ensign and married

his high school sweetheart, Donna Strickland. After a brief assignment in Annapolis as assistant to the officer in charge of Plebe Summer, Robbin attended Nuclear Power School in Orlando, FL, and subsequently served as a Surface Warfare Officer, using his enthusiasm to inspire his sailors. He served onboard CALIFORNIA and CARL VINSON.

After the Navy, Robbin used the skills he learned to thrive as a leader in both the nuclear power and renewable industries in the United States and in Australia.

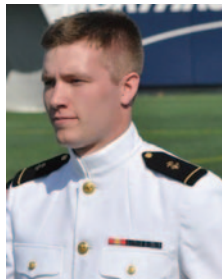
Robbin also thrived as a mentor to others. With his faith as a forever constant in his life, he found joy in coaching others and watching them succeed. He found that his work was his discipleship, and he spoke often at events and in private about the importance of his Christian faith. When he wasn't working, Robbin enjoyed travelling, riding his road bike, hiking, scuba diving, flying and spending time with his wife and family.

Robbin is survived by his wife, Donna; their children (and spouses), Logan, Wesley (Grace) and Leah (Matthew); grandchildren, Natalie and Josephine; mother, Patsy; and sister, Judy.

A memorial service was held at the Restoration Southside Church in Chattanooga, TN, on 27 April 2024. A memorial headstone for Robbin is at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. His family plans to spread his ashes along the Appalachian Trail, a favorite place of Robbin's throughout his life.

Memorial donations may be directed to one of Robbin's favorite charities: Physicians for Peace (<https://physiciansforpeace.org>) or The Chalmers Center (<https://chalmers.org>).

*The Russell Family* ★



## CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH MILES '16

Lieutenant Christopher J. Miles, USN, passed away on 4 August 2023 in Laie, HI, after a long battle with Glioblastoma.

Born in Rochester, NY, on 29 November 1993, "Chris" was the son of Bruce and Michele Miles. At Lambert High School in Suwanee, GA, he was a letter winning member of Lambert's 2011 State Championship lacrosse team. He graduated in 2012 and received dual service academy appointments to the United States Naval Academy and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

At Annapolis, Chris was a member of the 15th Company and a Political Science/International Relations major.

Upon graduation with the Class of 2016, Chris was commissioned as a Navy ensign assigned to Pearl Harbor, HI. He excelled as a Surface Warfare Officer, using his optimistic attitude and intellectual mind. Chris served faithfully on the destroyers PREBLE (DDG-88) and WILLIAM P.

LAWRENCE (DDG-110), deploying on several missions within the Pacific and Atlantic areas of operation.

Chris met his wife, Mariah, while stationed in Hawaii and they were married in 2021.

He enjoyed listening to and composing music in his spare time and was an avid movie enthusiast.

Chris is survived by his wife, Mariah; son, Summit; daughter, Ahdia; parents, Michele and Bruce Miles; and his brother, Ben.

Services were held in Laie, HI, and Cumming, GA, with full military honors. His ashes will be inurned at the Naval Academy Columbarium, as well as scattered in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Glioblastoma Foundation for research advancement and targeted treatment therapies ([glioblastomafoundation.org](http://glioblastomafoundation.org)).

*The Miles Family* ★

**Publisher**  
Jeff Webb '95; jeff.webb@usna.com

**Editor**  
Jimmy DeButts; jimmy.debutts@usna.com

**Editorial Assistant Editor**  
Anne Sharpe; anne.sharpe@usna.com

**Design and Production Art Director/Production Manager**  
Jackie Furton; jackie.furton@usna.com

**Assistant Production Manager/Classes Editor**  
Maria O'Shea; maria.oshea@usna.com

**Chapter, SIGs and Classes Editor**  
Sandra Stansbury-Spadaro  
sandy.spadaro@usna.com

**Obituaries Editor**  
Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury  
timothy.woodbury@usna.com

**Copyeditors**  
Captain Andrew Wilson '77, USNR (Ret.)  
Kat Braz

**Contributing Editor**  
Captain David Poyer '71, USNR (Ret.)

**Contributing Photographers**  
Captain Laura Hatcher '92, USN (Ret.)  
Debbie Latta and Kelly Eskelsen

**Contact Shipmate**  
410-295-4000 Main  
410-295-4074 Classified Advertising  
404-634-2351 Display Advertising  
410-295-4000 Address Updates/Corrections

**Submissions**  
Editorial [shipmate@usna.com](mailto:shipmate@usna.com)  
Address Change/Delivery [alumni@usna.com](mailto:alumni@usna.com)  
Bravo Zulu [shipmate@usna.com](mailto:shipmate@usna.com)  
Class Payments [checkrequest@usna.com](mailto:checkrequest@usna.com)  
Chapter Columns★ [chapternews@usna.com](mailto:chapternews@usna.com)  
Class Columns★ [classnews@usna.com](mailto:classnews@usna.com)  
Obituaries [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)  
SACC Program [sacc@usna.com](mailto:sacc@usna.com)  
Register of Alumni [registerofalumni@usna.com](mailto:registerofalumni@usna.com)  
★ For Secretary use only, please

## CONTACT US

**U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation**  
301 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402  
Main Phone 410-295-4000  
Foundation Development 410-295-4100  
Athletic & Scholarship Dev. 410-295-4095

Address emails to individual staff as follows:  
**first name . last name @ usna.com**

Opinions expressed in Shipmate are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions, policy or attitude of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, its officers or editorial staff. All pictures are official Department of Defense photographs unless otherwise credited. Member, Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Shipmate (ISSN 0488-6720) is published six times a year (January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October and November-December). Copyrighted 2024 by the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, Inc., 301 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402-1306. Membership dues (including Shipmate) are \$70 per year. Subscription rate is \$70; Canadian and foreign subscriptions are \$75. Single copies are \$10 each. Periodicals Postage Paid at Annapolis, MD, and at additional mailing offices.

All editorial matter should be addressed to Jimmy DeButts, p: 410-295-4085, jimmy.debutts@usna.com. Inquiries concerning membership or subscriptions and notification of change of address of members and subscribers should be addressed to U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, 301 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402-1306; p: 410-295-4062; alumni@usna.com.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Jeff Webb '95 *President/CEO* 410-295-4090  
Kara Fagley *Executive Administrator for the President* 410-295-4092

## ENGAGEMENT

TJ Grady '96 410-295-4041  
*Executive Vice President, Engagement and Communications*

Nancy Murray 410-295-4049  
*Sr. Director, Alumni Engagement and Outreach*

Isaac Phillips '19 410-295-4036  
*Director, Online Engagement and SIGs*

Wendy Owen 410-295-4017  
*Director, Class Programs*

Lori Coogan 410-295-4038  
*Director, Parent Programs*

Carrie Carroll 410-295-4062  
*Membership/Records Assistant*

Debbie O'Donnell 410-295-4052  
*Member Services Coordinator*

Kathleen Rohrs 410-295-4044  
*Member Services Coordinator*

Amy Garwood 410-295-4015  
*Director, Alumni Travel*

Wes Huey '87 410-295-4023  
*Executive Dir., Strategy and Legacy Programs*

Gwenn Dennis 410-295-4091  
*Director, Memorial Affairs*

Mike Lowe '98 410-295-4106  
*Director, Alumni Career Programs*

**Service Academy Career Conference**  
Tonya McGinnis 410-295-4022  
*Director, SACC*

Melissa Nelson 410-295-4021  
*Manager, SACC*

## COMMUNICATIONS

John Schofield 410-295-4080  
*Executive Director of Communications*

Emily Lucht 410-295-4047  
*Director, Digital Communications*

Jackie Furton 410-295-4073  
*Art Director*

Heather Payne 410-295-4033  
*Creative Director of Communications*

Grace Doerfler 410-295-4018  
*Graphic Designer*

Jimmy DeButts 410-295-4085  
*Editor*

Anne Sharpe 410-295-4078  
*Assistant Director, Communications*

Maria O'Shea 410-295-4074  
*Assistant Production Manager*

Sandra Stansbury-Spadaro 410-295-4076  
*Communications Specialist*

Sarah Trimmer 410-295-4077  
*Digital Communications Coordinator*

Hannah Munnely 410-295-4053  
*Comms & Digital Engagement Strategy Lead*

Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury 410-295-4064  
*Memorial Affairs Manager*

## FLUEGEL ALUMNI CENTER

Don Kennedy '92 410-295-4063  
*Senior Director, Events and Facilities*

Scott Gaiser '05 410-295-4068  
*Dir., Real Estate and Facilities Maintenance*

Elizabeth Beedenbender 410-295-4166  
*Dir., Enterprise Operations, Fluegel Alumni Center*

John Cooper 410-295-4031  
*Facilities Manager*

John Taylor 410-295-4029  
*Facilities Assistant*

Cyndi Morgan '93 410-295-4024  
*Facilities Worker*

Alexandra Dooley 410-295-4012  
*Director, Enterprise Events and Marketing*

Bridgette Lundfelt 410-295-4030  
*Associate Director, Event Sales and Marketing*

Laura Cylc 410-295-4014  
*Events Coordinator*

Kylie Freeburger 410-295-4081  
*Events Coordinator*

Danielle Milanelle 410-295-4054  
*Events Coordinator*

## FLUEGEL ALUMNI CENTER CONTINUED

Judy Buddensick 443-994-2511  
*Partnership Marketing Liaison*

**TREASURY AND OPERATIONS**

John Coppola 410-295-4040  
*Executive Vice President/CFO*

Lisa Strobel 410-295-4051  
*Sr. Director, Finance and Treasury Operations*

Tim Smith 410-295-4059  
*Director, Financial Reporting*

Mikayla Owens 410-295-4129  
*Director, Investment Reporting & Special Projects*

Linda Reyes 410-295-4056  
*Director, Revenue Specialist*

Janet Douglas 410-295-4057  
*Staff Accountant*

Patricia "Patty" Ratigan 410-295-4028  
*Staff Accountant*

Andrea Wabo 410-295-4155  
*Staff Accountant*

Dawn Beach 410-295-4177  
*Payroll Manager*

Gladys Sanchez 410-295-4112  
*Accounts Payable Specialist*

**Gift Administration Team**  
Darlene Jackson 410-295-4131  
*Director, Gift Administration*

Elvira Reyes 410-295-4116  
*Senior Gift Manager*

Erica Miller 410-295-4125  
*Gift Administrator II*

Jodi Reilly 410-295-4114  
*Gift Administrator II*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Garrett Keating 410-295-4087  
*Director, Information Technology*

Jordan Bailey 410-295-4060  
*Sr. Assoc. Dir., Enterprise Network and Security*

Denise Clark 410-295-4079  
*Associate Director, Data Services*

Derrick Planz 410-295-4067  
*Associate Director, Software Developer*

Rick Clark 410-295-4088  
*Associate Director, Information Technology*

Sean Henson 410-295-4083  
*AV Technician*

Dustin Tripp 410-295-4086  
*Security Specialist*

Ryan Haddaway 410-295-4089  
*Help Desk Technician*

Ashley Norfolk 410-295-4084  
*SQL Application Developer*

Umar Gbadamosi 410-295-4082  
*SQL Database Engineer*

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Joy Jones 410-295-4048  
*Executive Director, Human Resources*

Tom Cloutier 410-295-4050  
*Senior Manager, Human Resources*

Nan Hooe 410-295-4045  
*Benefits Specialist*

## DEVELOPMENT

Bill O'Connor 410-295-4101  
*Executive Vice President*

Abby Repko 410-295-4103  
*Exec. Administrator/Principal Gift Administrator*

Tonya Grant 410-295-4108  
*Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations*

**Major Gifts**  
Michael Hoffman 410-295-4184  
*Vice President, Development*

Ashley "AJ" Bauer 410-295-4160  
*Managing Regional Director of Development*

Mariah Sakellaris 410-295-4187  
*Assistant Director of Regional Development*

John Maconi 410-295-4185  
*Regional Director of Development*

Dean Castaldo 410-295-4052  
*Managing Regional Director, Development*

## STAFF AND ASSISTANCE

### DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Chelsea Clute 410-295-4123  
*Regional Director of Development*

Ted Ahrens 410-295-4183  
*Regional Director of Development*

Lexxie Monahan 410-295-4128  
*Regional Director of Development*

Anissa Kossakowski 410-295-4182  
*Regional Director of Development*

Misie King 410-295-4178  
*Admin. Manager of Development*

Ashley Register 410-295-4178  
*Admin. Coordinator, Regional Development*

**Prospect Development and Research**  
Annie Ferry 410-295-4120  
*Analyst, Research & Portfolio Management*

Mary Barto 410-295-4190  
*Analyst, Research & Portfolio Management*

Paula Whisted 410-295-4189  
*Director, Research & Portfolio Management*

**Planned Giving**  
Carol Rogrud 410-295-4110  
*Director, Planned Giving*

Jennifer Macris 410-295-4105  
*Assistant Director, Planned Giving*

Mikala Ragin 410-295-4117  
*Administrative Coordinator, Planned Giving*

**Annual Programs**  
Gabrielle Kulcsar 410-295-4147  
*Executive Director, Annual Giving Programs*

Dan Quattrini '81 410-295-4167  
*Director, Class Legacy Gift Programs*

Megan Farmer 410-295-4188  
*Director, President's Circle*

Sara Brown 410-295-4130  
*Coordinator, Class Giving Programs*

Karen Hicks 410-295-4119  
*Coordinator, Class Giving Programs*

**Donor Relations and Stewardship**  
Natalie Brianas 410-295-4102  
*Exec. Dir., Donor Relations and Stewardship*

Travis Galaska 410-295-4111  
*Sr. Assoc Dir., Donor Relations and Stewardship*

Hannah Geib 410-295-4127  
*Assoc. Dir., Campaign Operations*

Nicolle Teixeira 410-295-4181  
*Director, Donor Engagement and Strategic Partnerships*

Sarah Jane Dunaway 410-295-4124  
*Assoc. Dir., Development Communications*

Jamie Janette 410-295-4113  
*Coordinator, Donor Relations and Stewardship*

**Strategic Advancement Resources**  
Adriana Bitoun 410-295-4150  
*Executive Director of STAR Team*

Beth Spicer 410-295-4149  
*Director, Info. Management and Reporting*

Joshua Henrietta 410-295-4154  
*Assist. Dir., Info. Management and Reporting*

Stephanie Reuer 410-295-4153  
*Assistant Director, Gift Funds Compliance*

**FOUNDATION ATHLETIC AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

Don Hughes '88 410-295-4096  
*Vice President*

Tracey Cook 410-295-4164  
*Director*

Mariola Baker 410-295-4098  
*Assistant Director*

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Death Notifications [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)  
410-295-4064

Class Ring Information [classings@usna.com](mailto:classings@usna.com)

Register of Alumni [registerofalumni@usna.com](mailto:registerofalumni@usna.com)

Address Change/Delivery [alumni@usna.com](mailto:alumni@usna.com)  
410-295-4000

Donate 410-295-4115

Membership Updates 410-295-4000

USNA Main Phone 410-293-1000

U.S. Naval Academy Athletics 410-293-2700