

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

# SIXTY-NATE

JANUARY • FEBRUARY 2025



**1924-2024**





PRESIDENT JAMES EARL CARTER JR. '47 LEAVES

# AN INSPIRATIONAL LEGACY OF SERVICE

The Honorable James “Jimmy” E. Carter Jr. '47, embodied the mission of the United States Naval Academy. He served his country as a submarine officer, his home state of Georgia as governor, his nation as president and the world as a model humanitarian.

Carter died on 29 December 2024 in his Plains, GA, home. He leaves a legacy of inspirational leadership, said President and CEO of the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation, Jeff Webb '95.

“We are saddened to hear of the passing of President Jimmy Carter, Class of 1947. As our sole alumnus who has served as the President of the United States, President Carter served the U.S. Navy, the state of Georgia and the United States faithfully and honorably,” Webb said. “President Carter was known for his commitment to his faith, family and many charitable and humanitarian pursuits. We send our condolences to the Carter family as we honor the legacy left by President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn.”

Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, said Carter’s legacy is forever cemented as “the ultimate example of our mission to develop our nation’s leaders.”

“His lifetime of service will forever serve as an example to all midshipmen, past, present and future, and to all citizens who desire to serve our nation,” Davids said. “On behalf of the entire Naval Academy family, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to President Carter’s family and friends, and express my sincerest gratitude for his extraordinary example and lifetime of service to our country.”

James E. Carter Jr. was raised in Plains, GA. He entered the Naval Academy with the Class of 1947.

After graduation in 1946 (his class graduated early to support the fleet after World War II), Carter married Rosalynn Smith. He then served as a submarine officer in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

Carter was chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover '22, USN (Ret.), for the nuclear submarine program, and completed graduate work in reactor technology and nuclear physics. He served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of SEAWOLF.

He would return to Plains, GA, following his father’s death to run the family business. He would enter politics and serve in the Georgia state senate. He was elected the governor of his home state in 1970 and in 1976 elected to serve as the 39th President of the United States.

After one term in office, Carter and his wife would continue to serve others through the Carter Center. That service included volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for nearly four decades and helping eradicate Guinea Worm disease. Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his “decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.”

On 17 February 2023, Carter Hall was dedicated at the Naval Academy. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro '83, who was present at the name changing ceremony, said Carter turned empathy into action to assist others across the globe. Whether it was through the Carter Center or providing a helping hand with Habitat for Humanity, Carter’s action will serve as a model for future midshipmen.

“He made the world a better place,” Del Toro said. “His life was an inspiration to all of us.”

*Shipmate* will feature extensive coverage of President Carter’s life of service in the March-April 2025 issue. To visit the Alumni Association and Foundation’s tribute webpage, scan this QR code. 📍





1,000  
WORDS



**Commander-in-Chief's Trophy**  
Members of the Class of 2025 celebrate Navy's 31-13 victory over Army on 14 December 2024. The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is back in Annapolis, MD.





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# A YEAR TO REMEMBER

By Jeff Webb '95

## PRESIDENT CARTER PASSES

It was with heavy hearts we learned on 29 December 2024 the passing of the 39th President of the United States. As the sole alumnus who has served as Commander in Chief, President Carter served the U.S. Navy, the state of Georgia and the United States faithfully and honorably.

President Jimmy Carter '47 embodied the Naval Academy mission by assuming the “the highest responsibility of command, citizenship and government.” His service commenced in the Navy, continued through community leadership on his county school board, led him to the Georgia governorship and ultimately brought him to the highest office in the land.

President Carter's passing occurred just as we were about to send this issue of *Shipmate* to print. We will have extensive coverage of his life and legacy in the March-April 2025 issue. Until then, please see page 3 for a tribute to the late president and scan the QR code to visit a webpage dedicated to his legacy.



## CLOSING OUT 2024

The Naval Academy community certainly ended 2024 riding a wave of momentum. As you are no doubt aware, the Midshipmen dismantled then No. 19 Army, 31-13 in America's game on 14 December 2024 at Northwest Stadium in Landover, MD. Coupled with a 34-7 thrashing of Air Force, the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is back where it belongs: Annapolis.

The excitement leading up to beating Army began with the traditional ball run on Friday, 13 December 2024. Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN, “led from the front” by starting the relay with the 13th Company Midshipmen at 0300 in T-court. As a 13th Company alumnus, I had the privilege of joining the Mids later in the morning as the relay progressed to Northwest Stadium on a 63-mile route.

Later that day, the Alumni Association and Foundation honored our inaugural “Thriving as Leaders” awardees. We recognized the athletic and career achievements of Lieutenant Joseph Cardona '15, USNR, Colonel Hank Donigan '77, USMC (Ret.), Matthew Wallace '84 and Mawuli “Mel” Davis '91. “Thriving as Leaders” celebrates alumni, in and out of uniform, whose achievements and service are inspirational.

Army-Navy week culminated an active fall for my colleagues and me, where we had the privilege of visiting with our alumni community in Annapolis and on the road. We were delighted to welcome more than 600 members of the alumni community to our Welcome Home event on 19 October 2024 at the Fluegel Alumni Center. We had more than 2,500 attendees



Jeff Webb '95, president and CEO of the USNA AA&F, joined the 13th Company for the Army-Navy game ball run to Washington, DC. Continuing a time-honored tradition, both West Point and the Naval Academy transport the game ball by foot from their respective academies to the stadium hosting the Army-Navy game.

at five away game tailgates this fall, while 4,592 returned for reunions. And finally, we had a great time connecting with the North Texas Chapter and Navy fans from across the globe at the Military Bowl on 27 December 2024. Navy's thrilling come-from-behind 21-20 victory over Oklahoma capped an excellent fall season for our community and Enterprise.

## ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AT ITS FINEST

Speaking of North Texas, on 25 March, the National Medal of Honor Museum is scheduled to open in Arlington, TX. The museum will share the stories of valor, selflessness and sacrifice of the nation's finest warriors. Captain Chris Cassidy '93, USN (Ret.), joined the museum as its president and CEO in August 2021. BZ to Chris and his team for bringing this important legacy of our national heroes to life.

Just before Chris cuts the ribbon in Arlington, the Alumni Association and Foundation will honor the Class of 2025 Naval Academy Distinguished Graduates. The selectees have all displayed excellence in their fields of endeavor, represented the Naval Academy community honorably through their personal integrity, and have actively engaged with the Naval Academy, the Alumni Association and Foundation, or other USNA-supporting entities. This year's class will be recognized during a 21 March ceremony. The 2025 awardees are:

- ADM Jonathan W. Greenert '75, USN (Ret.)
- VADM Anthony L. Winns '78, USN (Ret.)
- Captain Sunita “Sun” Lyn Williams '87, USN (Ret.)
- JoAnna Garcia Sohovich '93

For more information about this year's DGA class, see page 10.

On 27-29 March, the Fluegel Alumni Center will host the Naval Academy Minority Association Leadership Forum featuring networking, seminars and a gala dinner. This year's theme is Pride in Leadership: Embracing Authenticity to Motivate and Inspire.

As we enter 2025, my team and I look forward to building on our 2024 momentum. We remain committed to improving our programs and services for all members. Concurrently, with the generosity of our donors, we will deliver a *Margin of Excellence* to USNA so the Superintendent and her team can prepare the Brigade for the many challenges that await them in the fleet and Marine Corps.

Go Navy! 🇺🇸



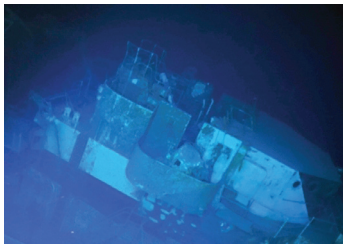
# SHIPMATE

VOLUME 88 • NO. 1

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### Correction

This is the *Lucky Bag* photo of CDR G. Phillip Case Jr. '52, USN (Ret.). The wrong photo was printed in the *Legacy of Valor*. Korean War feature

in the November-December 2024 issue of *Shipmate*.



## NOT FORGOTTEN

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### 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 in the crowd at the San Diego SACC job fair on page 28 in the November-December 2024 issue of Shipmate.*

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### Our Mission

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

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



**On the Cover**  
President Jimmy Carter '47 passed away on 29 December 2024. We honor his legacy from midshipman to Commander in Chief.

Photo courtesy of the 1947 *Lucky Bag*



# ALL HANDS

## Class of '99 Restores 36th Company Guidon

Members of the Class of 1999 commemorated the return to 36 companies at the Naval Academy by returning the 36th Company guidon to the 36th Company Wardroom as part of their 25th reunion in October 2024.

Joe Hubert '99 rescued the guidon from a Bancroft Hall 8th wing stairwell trash bin when Hubert was a midshipman. It made appearances at tailgates and reunions. Members of the Class of 1999 delivered the guidon, now encased in a shadowbox, to current 36th Company midshipmen. They also honored fallen classmate Major Jeremy Graczyk '99, USMC, who died during a BASE jumping accident in 2011.

The Naval Academy cut companies from 30 to 36 in 1996. It restored the six companies in the fall of 2024 to provide more leadership and mentorship opportunities for midshipmen. □



Members of the Class of 1999 delivered a 36th Company guidon to current midshipmen in October 2024 to commemorate the return of companies 30 to 36 to the Brigade.

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Dave Fry, the leader of Idaho Department of Corrections' prerelease program, uses "Beyond the Trident" as a teaching aid for prisoners nearing parole. The book was written by CAPT Thomas Murphy '66, USN (Ret.), to help people deal with life's traumas.

## Idaho Correctional System Using Murphy Book for Parolees

A book authored by Captain Thomas Murphy '66, USN (Ret.), is being used in the prerelease program at the largest prison in the Idaho Department of Correction.

Murphy, a former SEAL, wrote "Beyond the Trident" to help others overcome life's traumas using his experience in Vietnam and his own journey to provide a path toward healing. The Idaho correctional system uses the book in its prerelease/reentry curriculum. Dave Fry, the leader of the Idaho Department of Correction's prerelease program said he uses "Beyond the Trident" as "a base for thinking outside the box for men who have lived a life of marked deviance toward society and as guided learning/reading tool since 50 to 65 percent of our resident population read at less than third-grade proficiency."

Fry is charged with preparing those nearing parole with living "beyond the wall."

"Your contribution has been met with rave reviews by the management/administration I work with," Fry said in an October 2024 email to Murphy. "Your book has given me new and wonderful thoughts about my role as the mentor, leader and role model for my residents. Your book has given me renewed hope and faith in the system that I am engaged in daily and helps me to face the rigors of helping good men that deserve a second chance in life." □



## Leadership LINKS Inc. Hosts "Serving with Honor" Event



**MIDN Nilah Williamson '25**

Leadership LINKS Inc., founded by Naval Academy alumni, hosted a networking session and fundraising event titled "Serving with Honor" on 9 November 2024 in Falls Church, VA.

The program, coinciding with Veterans Day, celebrated a Legacy of Leadership, Character and Service. The event included testimonials from the girls and young women leaders in Leadership LINKS mentoring programs, their parents and organization leaders.

Midshipman Nilah Williamson '25 (daughter of Brigadier General Ahmed Williamson '94, USMC) recalled her

introduction to aviation and flying a flight simulator during a STEM workshop during Leadership LINKS' inaugural summer experience in 2015. Williamson has service-selected Naval Aviation as a Naval Flight Officer. The mentoring programs offered by Leadership LINKS, Inc. expose their mentees to STEM fields where minority women are underrepresented. "That day, I decided I wanted to be a naval aviator," Williamson said.

Leadership LINKS is a nonprofit founded by six Black Naval Academy alumni united by their commitment to leadership, mentorship, public service, education and faith. It provides opportunities and access for emerging leaders to get exposure and mentorship in STEM fields, business and entrepreneurship, media and arts, and military and government. For more information, visit [www.leadershiplinksinc.org](http://www.leadershiplinksinc.org).

Leadership LINKS is eyeing national expansion and seeks mentors and financial support to offer more opportunities for participants. It is aiming to raise \$200,000 during the first quarter. Contact [Board@leadershipLINKSinc.org](mailto:Board@leadershipLINKSinc.org) for more information. □



Leadership LINKS Inc. enters its 10th year in 2025 and is eyeing expansion. The nonprofit provides mentorship and leadership development for girls and young women. On 9 November 2024, it hosted an event in Falls Church, VA, to share some of its successes and launch a fundraising campaign.



## U.S. Naval Academy Letterwinners Association

Honoring All Varsity and Club Athletes

## Navy Letterwinners Association

The Navy Letterwinners Association connects all past and present varsity and club athletes to the U.S. Naval Academy and to each other, by honoring their accomplishments and providing meaningful engagement in support of Navy Athletics.

Starting in January 2025, The Navy Letterwinners Association started distributing monthly e-newsletters to all Navy alumni athletes. It will be a one-stop source for all sport-specific updates, alumni events and ways to connect with Navy Athletics.

The Navy Letterwinners Advisory Committee includes Jennifer Cunningham '94 (intercollegiate sailing and women's track); Captain TJ Grady '96, USN (Ret.) (men's soccer); Dan Quattrini '81 (men's rugby); and Mike Yeager '76 (football).

For more information, visit [www.navysports.com/sports/2024/11/12/Letterwinners.aspx](http://www.navysports.com/sports/2024/11/12/Letterwinners.aspx) or contact Rob Friedrich, [friedric@usna.edu](mailto:friedric@usna.edu), 410-293-8788. □

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## 2025 Distinguished Graduates Announced

The 2025 U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Recipients were selected in December 2024. The following honorees will be celebrated during a 21 March 2025 medal ceremony. This year's honorees are:



**ADMIRAL  
JONATHAN W. GREENERT '75, USN (RET.)**

Admiral Greenert was born and raised in Butler, PA. His service in submarines (FLYING FISH, TAUTOG, NR-1, MICHIGAN (Gold)) culminated in command of HONOLULU SSN-718 in Pearl Harbor, HI. His flag assignments were commander, U.S. Forces Micronesia; deputy comptroller, Department of the Navy; deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet (Asia); deputy chief of naval operations, requirements and resources (N8); commander, U.S. Fleet Forces (Atlantic);

and vice chief of naval operations. Greenert served as the 30th chief of Naval Operations from 2011 to 2015. He retired from military service in October 2015. He now serves as a director on corporate boards, as a consultant and advisor and as a volunteer for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. He served as chair of the USNA Distinguished Graduate Award selection panel for the 2020 through 2022 selection cycles.



**VICE ADMIRAL  
ANTHONY L. WINNS '78, USN (RET.)**

Vice Admiral Winns is a native of Jacksonville, FL. He was the first in his Naval Academy class to achieve flag rank. He commanded Patrol Squadron Eleven, Essex LHD-2, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific and Task Force 32 and served as vice director and acting director for operations (J-3), Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the naval inspector general. He retired from military service in 2011 and joined Lockheed Martin, serving as president of the Middle East-Africa region and later as deputy,

Lockheed Martin International and regional executive, Africa-Latin America, overseeing global partnerships, business development and corporate strategy. He currently serves as national chairman of the Become Everything You Are (BEYA) Stars and Stripes Military Alumni Association. He founded the BEYA National Scholarship Foundation and co-founded the BEYA National STEM Student Mentoring Program. Winns serves on corporate boards and is a trustee of the Naval Academy Foundation Athletic and Scholarship Programs. He and his family reside in Orlando, FL.



**CAPTAIN  
SUNITA "SUNI" LYN WILLIAMS '87, USN (RET.)**

Captain Williams was born and raised in Needham, MA. She began her naval career as a helicopter pilot, logging more than 3,000 hours in 30-plus aircraft as a test pilot. Williams became an astronaut in 1998 and has made three trips to the International Space Station (ISS). She is one of two women to command the ISS twice, and one of five U.S. astronauts with more than 500 days in space. Williams is a perennial fixture at the Naval Academy Space Convocation, relaying her Navy and NASA experiences

to the next generation of leaders and explorers. As a former captain of the USNA women's swim team, she stays engaged with the team and offers her guidance and support. Her many contributions to the space program include helping build the ISS; designing systems, products and processes for future space travel; recruiting and training scores of astronauts from multiple countries; and creating strong and trusted partnerships in both the U.S. and international space communities. She and her husband and classmate Michael Williams '87 live in Houston, TX.



**JOANNA GARCIA SOHOVICH '93**

Sohovich began her career as a Navy Supply Corps officer, serving at the supply depot, U.S. Naval Submarine base in Point Loma, CA. She later deployed to the Persian Gulf aboard Essex, an amphibious assault ship, as one of the first women following the repeal of the combat exclusion policy. In the private sector, she has held leadership positions at Chamberlain Group, Stanley Black & Decker and Honeywell. Sohovich is an independent board director for Barnes Group Inc. and Ingersoll Rand. She chairs a private equity board under Blackstone

for the Chamberlain Group. She is a member of The Committee of 200, an invitation-only membership organization of the world's most successful women business leaders, and a member of YPO, the world's largest leadership community of chief executives. Sohovich serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Board of Directors and as a member of Women for Navy Athletics. Her philanthropic projects include the Sohovich Refueling Station in Lejeune Hall that provides nutritional resources and custom tools needed for athletic programs based on training and competition schedules. 📍





# LEGACY OF VALOR: VIETNAM

*This is the first in a series of stories Shipmate will produce throughout 2025 to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Naval Academy alumni who served in the Vietnam War. These stories will be featured in Shipmate, on a dedicated webpage, on social media and in videos.*

*More than 40 alumni shared their stories to help further the Alumni Association & Foundation's Legacy of Valor series. For all who stood watch, we honor your service and will not forget.*



# NOT FORGOTTEN

## ALUMNI LEAD WITH COURAGE AND SELFLESSNESS

**T**hen-Second Lieutenant Thomas E. Noel '68 pulled the pins on two grenades before beelining toward a pair of North Vietnamese Army bunkers.

Detonating mortars knocked him down repeatedly during his run across an open field. Undeterred, Noel reached the bunkers. He tossed his grenades through the bunker apertures, killing all occupants.

Then, he led his men against the remaining hostile enemy positions. He carried injured Marines to safety despite being wounded himself. Only after consolidating his position and ensuring all wounded Marines were evacuated, would Noel accept treatment for his injuries, which he described as minor.

For his actions on 1 March 1969, Noel was awarded the Navy Cross, the second-highest military decoration for sailors and Marines after the Medal of Honor. Noel, a member of the Class of 1968, retired as a lieutenant colonel.

His Navy Cross citation notes his dedication to his Marines.

*His heroic efforts and selfless concern for his fellow men inspired all who observed him ... By his courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Second Lieutenant Noel contributed significantly to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.*

Selflessness is a common theme among the 22 alumni who were awarded the Navy Cross for their service during the Vietnam War. Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Wroblewski '63, USA (Ret.), also demonstrated an unflinching commitment to his soldiers, earning the Army's Distinguished Service Cross. While there is no official policy to explain why, fewer Medals of Honor were awarded during the decade-plus of U.S. involvement in Vietnam (261) than in the four years of World War II (473). Only one Naval Academy alumnus, Vice Admiral James Stockdale '47, USN (Ret.), was awarded a Medal

of Honor for service in Vietnam. Twenty-eight alumni received Medals of Honor for their actions in World War II.

Actions that might have earned a Medal of Honor consideration in previous conflicts, were awarded Navy Crosses or their Air Force and Army equivalent during Vietnam. While recognition might not have been equal, examples of battlefield valor by Naval Academy alumni are no less inspiring.

On 1 March 1969, Noel had only been in Vietnam for 30 days. He was serving as a platoon commander with Company C, First Battalion, Fourth Marines, THIRD Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force when his men were in jeopardy. It was his first assignment with this platoon.

Noel hadn't had time to earn the trust of his Marines. So, he put himself in the line of fire.

"I didn't feel like I could tell one of my Marines to run across the clearing between where we were and where those bunkers were," Noel said. "I gathered up some grenades and did it myself. I hadn't had time to establish myself with any of those guys to the point where they would just blindly do whatever I told them to do. I didn't want to tell them to go out and expose themselves like that.

"I went out, I did it, got back and I felt like, OK, I had made my mark. From that point on, I was accepted."



Then-MIDN Thomas E. Noel '68

**"Your mission comes first, but you do your mission while you do your best to take care of your troops."**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

U.S. Marines of the 1st battalion, 5th Marines landing team land via helicopter in the Rung Sat special zone of Vietnam during Operation Jackstay in March 1966.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



**A U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) of the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) moves on the Saigon River, Republic of Vietnam, in November 1967.**

Noel attributed his actions on that day to instincts, training and his obligations to his men and their mission. Prior to his assault on the bunkers, his group had been pinned down in a firefight for nearly three hours.

A medevac helicopter would not land unless the pilot was assured the landing zone was free from enemy fire.

“I was the new lieutenant, barely knew who my squad leaders were, let alone knowing the names of my men,” Noel said. “My platoon sergeant had been with me for four days.

“I think (the mantra is) instilled in a Marine Corps officer almost from the

day you take your first oath—taking care of your Marines. Your mission comes first, but you do your mission while you do your best to take care of your troops.”

**STRICT STANDARDS**

While valiant actions shouldn’t be measured by the awarding of medals, the criteria for what constitutes a Medal of Honor commendation has shifted significantly since the award was first bestowed during the Civil War. For example, 27 of the 55 Medal of Honor recipients for actions during the Battle of Veracruz in 1914 were Naval Academy alumni.

Their citations include bringing a ship into the harbor “without the assistance of a pilot or navigational lights” and rendering “important assistance to our forces on shore with his 3-inch battery.”

Rear Admiral Samuel Cox ’80, USN (Ret.), director of Naval History and Heritage Command, said the Medal of Honor (MOH) standards have varied over time, and the trend has been ever more restrictive. In August 1942, the rules changed so an MOH had to be a combat award. Previously, it could be earned for peacetime heroism (now the Navy-Marine Corps Medal).

“The MOHs for Vera Cruz were basically that if you went ashore and got shot at, you got a Medal of Honor,” Cox said. “By World War II, the standards had been tightened considerably. Even in World War II standards were very strict, only three MOH were awarded for aviators in air-to-air combat and only two DD skippers (both posthumous).”

Cox said the MOH vetting process is very detailed and can take years. The tightening criteria for valor awards shouldn’t dampen our reverence for those who put themselves in harm’s way to complete their missions and protect their people, Cox said.

“It is very important to honor our veterans of the Vietnam War,” Cox said. “It is neither to glorify war nor to express opinion about the wisdom of that particular war. Rather it is simply to express the gratitude of the nation for those who

**VIETNAM WAR TIMELINE**

**SEPTEMBER 1950**

President Truman dispatches the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group to Vietnam to assist the French.

**1 NOVEMBER 1955**

President Eisenhower sends the Military Assistance Advisory Group to train the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. This is the date recognized as the start of American involvement in the war recognized by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**17 FEBRUARY 1960**

LCDR Roger Mullins ’45, USN, is an operational loss when the plane he was flying in crashed into Hon Chay Mountain near Da Nang. He is the first Naval Academy alumnus to perish during the Vietnam War.



served and sacrificed, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice and sometimes for a lifetime, doing what the nation asked them to do.”

**‘GO ON AUTOMATIC’**

For two members of the Class of 1963, battlefield actions were based on training, circumstances and instinct. Then-Captain Frank M. Wroblewski '63, USA (Ret.), was an Army captain serving as commander of an infantry company on a combat mission in the former Hau Nghia Province near the Cambodian border on 28 September 1967.

He received a Distinguished Service Cross (the Army equivalent to a Navy Cross) for leading his unit to safety after being pinned down by enemy fire at a helicopter landing zone. For four hours, Wroblewski moved among his men, across 200 meters of open ground while taking fire and directed artillery strikes within 100 meters of his position, and inspired his men to fight until reinforcements arrived.

His Distinguished Service Cross citation reads, in part:  
*The insurgents completely surrounded the landing zone. Captain Wroblewski dauntlessly led his command group through a curtain of fire to a relatively protected position. He then discovered two of his platoons had lost radio contact with the command group and immediately moved to locate and lead them to join his other elements. He moved across 200 meters of open ground, ignoring bullets striking all around him, to reach the first platoon. While he called airstrikes to within 50 meters of their positions, the men began their movement toward the established defensive perimeter.*

*Again, moving across the battlefield alone, he reached the second platoon which was hopelessly trapped by extremely intense fire. The relentless barrage prevented movement without losses, so Captain Wroblewski moved into the open to direct artillery strikes within 100 meters of his position. As the platoon withdrew, he remained behind to personally cover their movement.*

Wroblewski, who retired as a lieutenant colonel, said there’s no script to follow when things turn bad during combat. He just reacted.

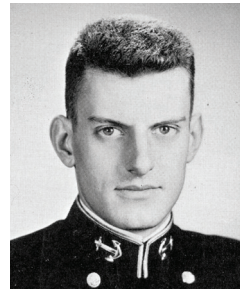
“It’s not so much an intellectual decision to do something or not do something,” Wroblewski said. “After you’ve been in combat a while, it kind of becomes instinctive. It did for me. You don’t analyze it much; you just figure out what you should do, and you do it.

“When you’re in combat, you sort of go on automatic.”

Four years at the Naval Academy helped prepare Wroblewski for the stresses and demands of combat leadership, he said. He is proud of his service and doesn’t consider it a sacrifice.

He looks back on his career without regret.

“I chose it,” Wroblewski said “That’s what I wanted to do and I got to do it. I was fortunate to have the opportunity,



**Then-MIDN  
 Frank M. Wroblewski '63**

**“Going to the Naval Academy is one of the biggest honors you could possibly have.”**

**6 JANUARY 1973**

LT John Lindahl '65, USN, an operational loss, is the final Naval Academy alumnus to perish in the Vietnam War.

**29 MARCH 1973**

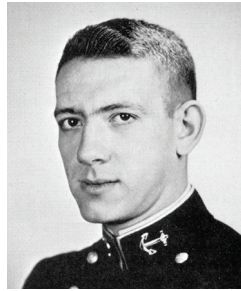
Final American combat troops withdrawn from Vietnam.

**30 APRIL 1975**

Saigon falls.



**“I asked them to put me in the stretcher and prop it up so I could continue with my job.”**



**Then-MIDN  
David B. Robinson '63**

and I was fortunate to survive it. And I'm proud as hell about it.

“Going to the Naval Academy is one of the biggest honors you could possibly have. That's the best thing you can do, if you want to lead men in battle. If I had it all to do over again, I would.”

**'READY TO ACT'**

Then-Lieutenant Commander David B. Robinson '63 was blown to the deck when a Vietnamese bazooka 40mm (B40) round hit the port side of CANON's (PG 90) flying bridge on 11 August 1970. Robinson sustained a broken leg and numerous shrapnel wounds as his craft was patrolling the Bo De River. A couple of small points: CANON was a commissioned ship assigned to the coastal surveillance command, CTF-115, and periodically operated in the Bo De/Cua Lon rivers in support of a headquarters facility dubbed Sea Float which coordinated Brown Water/SEAL/air activities in the Mekong Delta region.

Fueled by anger and determined to free his crew from the 40-man enemy force concealed by a mangrove swamp on both sides of the river, Robinson remained at his post.

Robinson never lost consciousness. He used a severed voice tube to talk to the bridge and ordered his crew to get out of the ambush site without slowing down. One of his gunner's mates fastened a splint out of the remains of an M-15 rifle stock, which was hit by the B40 blast.

**A Navy river patrol boat (PBR) cruises in an inlet in the southern tip of South Vietnam in search of craft carrying personnel and supplies to the Viet Cong on 22 June 1966. Each PBR, with a crew of four, had twin .50 caliber machine guns forward and a single machine gun aft and could patrol at 25 knots far into the inlets and coves of South Vietnam.**

“I couldn't stand but I couldn't just lie there and not know what was going on or have any say in the action,” Robinson said. “I asked them to put me in the stretcher and prop it up so I could continue with my job.”

Although instinct, reflexes and training influenced his response, Robinson said much of his motivation came from an attack three weeks earlier. During that incident, his boat was punctured by enemy fire, one of its engines was knocked off its foundation and the crew had to extinguish an engine room fire.

Robinson said the Viet Cong changed their tactics on 11 August 1970 and he was determined CANON would not lose propulsion.

“Anger was probably the initiating force,” said Robinson who retired as a vice admiral. “We thought we had figured out the tactics of the Viet Cong and felt comfortable going up and down the river ... We were in a crossfire. We had just gotten repaired and everything was in shape.

“My immediate anger was, the SOB's are doing it to me again. We had lost propulsion in the first attack because we lost our hydraulic system. The anger—and a little bit of fear too—made me adamant that we not lose power again, particularly in a crossfire.”

Robinson capped his career as Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific from 1993 to 1996. Classmate Mike Shelley '63 commended Robinson and Wroblewski for their resolve under pressure.

The character and conviction they demonstrated is indicative of their moral character, Shelley said.

“While both were already proven leaders, there was no way to know that they had the reservoirs of courage and resolve that led them to act as they did,” Shelley said. “These traits were likely inherent in their character and upbringing but were strengthened and polished at the Academy and in the years following. They did not plan their reactions, but they were ready to act in the most difficult of circumstances.

“Their examples will both inspire midshipmen and build confidence that they can face and overcome perilous challenges in war and peace.” ⚓



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



## BY THE NUMBERS

**144**

NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI KILLED IN ACTION IN VIETNAM

**30**

NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI OPERATIONALLY LOST IN VIETNAM

**39**

NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI POWS IN VIETNAM

**1**

MEDAL OF HONOR RECEIVED BY NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI VICE ADMIRAL JAMES STOCKDALE '47, USN (RET.), FOR VIETNAM SERVICE

**22**

NAVY CROSSES AWARDED TO NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI FOR ACTIONS IN VIETNAM

**1**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (U.S. ARMY) AWARDED TO NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI FOR ACTIONS IN VIETNAM

## NAVY CROSS RECIPIENTS

The Navy Cross and the (Army) Distinguished Service Cross are the second-highest military decorations for valor behind the Medal of Honor. Here are the Naval Academy alumni who received these awards for extraordinary heroism in combat.



### (ARMY) DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Wroblewski '63, USA (Ret.)



### NAVY CROSS

#### USMC

Lieutenant Colonel William Leftwich '53, USMC (Ret.)  
 Lieutenant Colonel Carlos K. McAfee '55, USMC (Ret.)  
 Lieutenant General William M. Keys '60, USMC (Ret.)  
 Colonel John W. Ripley '62, USMC (Ret.)  
 First Lieutenant Willis Charles Wilson '63, USMC  
 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Noel '68, USMC (Ret.)  
 The Honorable James H. Webb '68



### NAVY CROSS

#### Navy

Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton Jr. '47, USN (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral James Benjamin Linder '49, USN (Ret.)  
 Captain Homer L. Smith '49, USN  
 Rear Admiral Bryan W. Whitfield Compton Jr. '51, USN (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral Robert B. Fuller '51, USN (Ret.)  
 Vice Admiral Lowell Eggert '52, USN (Ret.)  
 Captain Jerrold M. Zacharias '52, USN (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral Charles B. Hunter '54, USN (Ret.)  
 Commander Charles J. Cox '60, USN (Ret.)  
 Lieutenant Commander James J. Connell '61, USN  
 Captain Ronald E. McKeown '61, USN (Ret.)  
 Commander James R. Walker '62, USN (Ret.)  
 Lieutenant William Fitzgerald '63, USN  
 Vice Admiral David Brooks Robinson '63, USN  
 Commander John R. Roland '66, USN (Ret.)

### From the Editor

#### ALL HANDS EFFORT

Gathering and sharing the stories of Naval Academy alumni who served during the Vietnam War required an all-hands effort by the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association's communications team. During the fall of 2024, the communications team conducted more than 40 interviews including meeting alumni in Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Texas, Alabama, Florida, California and Maryland. Thanks to

assistance from class leaders, we were able to identify candidates and conduct interviews in person and virtually.

Producing the *Legacy of Valor: Vietnam War* series would not have been possible without the contributions of Grace Doerfler, Jackie Furton, Emily Lucht, Hannah Munnely, Maria O'Shea, Heather Payne, John Schofield, Anne Sharpe, Sandy Spadaro, Sarah Trimmer and Timothy Woodbury.

—Jimmy DeButts, Shipmate editor



# MEKONG DELTA AND THE SEAWOLVES

By CDR Thomas Hayes '68, USN (Ret.)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CDR THOMAS HAYES '68, USN (RET.)

In 1966, the U.S. Army partnered with the Navy to form Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three (HA(L)-3), also known as the Seawolves. Naval Academy alumni served in all components of TF 116 in the Mekong Delta, with 97 serving in HA(L)-3 from the classes of 1949 through 1969.

The Mekong River begins in the Himalayas, travels through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam on its way to the South China Sea. When it reaches Vietnam, it spreads into a delta with a spider web of branches and five major sub rivers.

The delta created by the spreading river covers 15,600 square miles with a population of 6 million people and has 2,500 miles of waterways.

In 1966, the U.S. Army forces in the delta realized they could not police all the water routes, which carried food, ammunition and personnel to support the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong (VC) fighting forces, numbering 50,000 combatants. A partnership with the Navy arose, with the Navy providing land and floating bases for various river boats, SEAL detachments and a new Navy helicopter squadron—Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three (HA(L)-3)—flying donated Army UH 1B gunships. HA(L)-3 was the only squadron commissioned and decommissioned in a foreign country.

The Seawolves were born.

Activities were coordinated among the river boats, the SEALs and Seawolves as Task Force 116 (TF 116), to ensure each component could contribute to the overall mission. The boats and SEALs' job was to get into trouble, and the Seawolves' job was to get them out.

The Viet Cong were masters of the ambush, and boats and SEALs had to fight them where they found them, rarely picking the site of action. The Seawolves waited for the call "Scramble the Seawolves," and were typically airborne within minutes.

A two-helo fire team carried a small arsenal, with a typical set up of a .50 caliber machine gun, two M60 machine guns, a minigun with 4,000 rounds per minute and fourteen 2.75" rockets. Much of the close air support was flown at night, and communication with the SEALs was



often whispered, while the boats could yell right out “follow the tracers.”

Naval Academy graduates served in all components of TF 116 in the delta, with 97 serving in HA(L)-3 from the classes of 1949 through 1969. The largest concentrations of grads were in the classes of 1967 and 1968 with 25 from each class. Each of these two classes lost shipmates in combat. One nongrad, Commander James Walker '62, USN (Ret.), was awarded the Navy Cross for a daring medevac from a moving swift boat under heavy fire. One made rear admiral.

It is impossible to relate all of the individual actions, which were recognized by awards, and the countless others for whom acts of heroism were “just part of the job.” Collectively, however, in its six years of fighting, HA(L)-3 was awarded five Navy Crosses, 31 Silver Stars, two Legion of Merits, 219 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 156 Purple Hearts, 101 Bronze Stars, 142 Gallantry Crosses, more than 16,000 Air Medals, 439 Navy Commendations, 228 Navy Achievement Awards, six Presidential Unit Citations and two Navy Meritorious Unit Citations, all of which placed HA(L)-3 among the most highly decorated squadrons of the Vietnam War.

Forty-four squadron mates died in Vietnam.

Perhaps the best description of the valor of Naval Academy alumni can be told by those who returned home because the Seawolves showed up when needed. Typical of the many encounters with the enemy is a 4 February 1970 action of SEAL Team One, Charlie Platoon based at Ben Luc, just south of Saigon and led by Tom Boyhan '66.

Charlie Platoon undertook a two-pronged raid to remove enemy leadership in a village divided by a stream. The first call for close air support came from Squad Two whose boat was disabled and pinned down by heavy enemy fire.

Squad One was inadvertently illuminated by Army units in contact nearby, denying them any cover but an abandoned rice paddy. Squad One hugged the mud to avoid heavy machine



gun and mortar fire. Squad Two's Mike Thornton, a Medal of Honor awardee for a different action, recalled the intensity of the enemy fire. Each squad called for prearranged Seawolf close air support.

Intense helicopter rocket and machine gun fire from two Seawolf Detachments (Commander Frank Pinegar '67, USN, and Lieutenant Commander Ted White '67, USN (Ret.)), drew the Viet Cong fire and gave both SEAL units the opportunity to withdraw. The SEALs regrouped that night and returned to the scene of the battle where they discovered the remnants of an NVA 150-man mortar company, whose target was to have been the Navy base at Ben Luc.

The SEALs and Seawolves eliminated province, district, company and platoon leadership and SEALs captured significant weapons and ammunition. Charlie Platoon was officially described by SEAL senior leadership as having “the most impressive combat record of any SEAL platoon ever deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.”

Valor. What is it? One concept could be experiencing life threatening combat and escaping, and then doing it again. 🚢

**A group of '68ers at a chance meeting at the HA(L)-3 headquarters at Binh Thuy in the spring of 1970. They are (left to right), standing: John Monroe '68, Jim Thompson '68, CDR Mitch Brown '68, USN (Ret.), CDR Thomas Hayes '68, USN (Ret.), and Rik French '68; sitting: John Dickinson '68 and CAPT Mike Lagow '68, USN (Ret.). The helo was flown in Vietnam and is now located at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL, purchased and donated by the Seawolf Association.**





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITH FAMILY

**CAPT Homer Smith '49, USN, was on his 200th strike mission in Vietnam when he was shot down after a successful bombing of the Bac Giang power plant on 20 May 1967. He was captured by the North Vietnamese and died on 21 May 1967.**

# A FAMILIAR NAME IN A STRANGE PLACE

## CAPTAIN HOMER L. SMITH '49, USN: A STORY OF VALOR

*By J. Robert Womer '81*

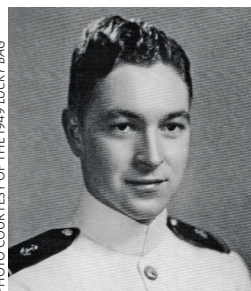


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 1949 LUCKY BAG

**CAPT Homer L. Smith '49, USN, was born in Alma, WV. His remains were returned to the U.S. on 13 March 1974.**

The Vietnam War's influence on Annapolis graduates has been profound. The alumni who fought in the war left an admirable legacy including 39 POWs such as Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale '47, USN (Ret.), Captain John S. McCain III '58, USN (Ret.), and Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence '51, USN (Ret.).

This is the story of one whose impact was monumental although he isn't a household name. Outside the small circle of strike mission pilots who fought the air war over the skies of North Vietnam from 1965 onward, Commander Homer Leroy Smith '49, USN, doesn't elicit instant understanding of his service and sacrifice. His captivity at Hoa Lo prison lasted for one day, perhaps two.

Smith was the commanding officer of VA-211, the Rampant Raiders. On his



200th strike mission in Vietnam, he was shot down 25 miles northeast of Hanoi, after strikes across two consecutive days on the power plants at Hanoi and Bac Giang.

These strikes knocked out power to the surrounding countryside for months afterward. He ejected safely and was immediately captured.

He led the strike on 19 May 1967 (which happened to be Democratic Republic of Vietnam President Ho Chi Minh's 77th birthday) and the strike on the Bac Giang on the 20th. These were not routine bombing runs. Smith and the Rampant Raiders harbored a closely guarded secret that, if disclosed, would alter strike missions for years afterward. The way wars are fought to this day started with the Rampant Raiders over North Vietnam in 1967.

**FROM ALMA TO ANNAPOLIS**

Alma, WV, was never more than a small town in the broad expanse of forests between the Appalachians and Lake Erie. The Depression hit West Virginia hard but folks that lived in these parts didn't need much.

Smith's dad, Lotus, worked the farm for his wife's family, operated a barber shop and taught in the school. His mother died when he was 12. Smith attended Tyler County High School, worked the farm, played ball with friends, fished and learned to shoot.

There was a war going on in Europe, and the Nazis seemed unstoppable. From eager young men in high school, there was plenty of bravado and big talk, until the telegrams and staff cars started showing up at neighbor's houses.

Smith heard the foreign names in school—Anzio, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Ardennes—geography lessons that were far more spellbinding than anything taught in class.

Everyone tracked the war. Smith decided early that Alma was too small for him and though the war might soon be over there'd be another one coming along in a bit and he would be in it.

He wanted to fly, so he applied for the V-5 Naval Aviator Pilot Program, and was accepted in early 1944. He also applied for a nomination for the U.S.

Naval Academy, but was told he'd have to wait in line. He was fine with that, and after graduation, spent time at Bethany College, then the University of Notre Dame for a year, waiting for an appointment, which he received, joining the Class of 1949. He raised his right hand on Induction Day less than two months after V-E Day.

**CHINA LAKE**

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake was the place to be if you were an engineer or scientist in the 1950s. High-performance aircraft and top secret weapons were being developed in the California desert. China Lake is bigger than the state of Rhode Island. Mind-blowing stuff was designed and prototyped there, things that are still in inventory today

The AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seeking missile started development there in the late 1940s, successfully tested in 1953, then entered full production in 1955. The Sidewinder is the missile that shot down the Chinese spy balloons in early 2023. The Ukrainians have modified Sidewinders into a deadly surface-to-air missile defense.

There was one project that really stood out, even in its earliest development. A couple of engineers with a hobby started experimenting with new things in their spare time. Bell Labs invented the transistor and solid-state circuitry in 1947, and everyone was trying to figure out what they could do with it. One of the China Lake engineers built televisions and video transmitters for a hobby, and had an idea. Could they use solid state circuits to replace tubes and heat sinks?

He and his friends went to work, dedicating after-work hours, weekends and holidays on an idea that just seemed too good to fail. They didn't.

Air-to-ground-missile (AGM-62) "Walleye" was the first precision-guided, semi-autonomous "smart" weapon invented. The Walleye had a gyro-stabilized, solid-state television camera built into the nose of the bomb (technically it was a fin-steerable glide-bomb), which transmitted a video image to a black-and-white screen in the cockpit of the

aircraft. The pilot steered the Walleye by aligning a cross-hatched "gate" on the target, allowing the Walleye to lock onto visual contrast and shape edges.

Once locked, the pilot could release from as far away as 10 miles, at an altitude of about 35,000 feet, at nearly Mach One speed, then break off to another direction, confident the Walleye would hit the target.

And did it ever. Testing in China Lake was successful and a production order by the Navy and Air Force pushed the Walleye into operational testing. By early 1967, the Navy was ready to combat test this revolutionary weapon. The honor of testing this highly advanced precision weapon fell to VA-212, the Rampant Raiders, embarking on BON HOMME RICHARD for deployment to Vietnam.

**OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER**

Commander Homer Leroy Smith sat at a table in the officer's club at Cubi Point, Philippines, in February 1967, and looked at four of his most experienced pilots, and one of his newest. BON HOMME RICHARD had stopped in Subic Bay to replenish and refuel before arriving at Yankee station.



An A-4E Skyhawk of Attack Squadron VA-212 "Rampant Raiders" is launched from aircraft carrier BON HOMME RICHARD in the South China Sea in March 1967. VA-212 was commanded by then-CDR Homer Smith '49, USN, and led aerial strikes into North Vietnam.

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



This meeting by the commanding officer of VA-212 was all business. When Smith took over in June 1966, it didn't take long for him to establish the reputation of not only being one of the best A-4 pilots in the air, but a tough, aggressive and absolutely no-nonsense squadron CO. He received word his squadron was picked to combat test and evaluate the AGM-62 Walleye, the replacement for the AGM-12 "Bullpup."



Members of the Rampant Raiders, VA-212, tested the AGM-62 Walleye during Vietnam combat operations in 1967.



Then-CDR Homer Smith '49, USN, was commanding officer of VA-212, the Rampant Raiders, which was selected to test and evaluate the AGM-62 Walleye missile.

He had 129 combat missions from his last deployment and was intimately familiar with the limitations of the Bullpup, a first-generation air-to-ground missile manually guided by the pilot who had to tail the missile to the target. The Bullpup was not popular with Navy or Air Force strike pilots. First, the pilot had to visually acquire the target, launch the missile, then manually guide the missile to target, following the missile's rear mounted flares, trying to point the smoky exhaust toward the target.

The pilot had to control the Bullpup all the way to impact, which meant flying close behind it, resulting in a predictable path for enemy fire. Additionally, the pilot had to avoid surface to air missiles and anti-aircraft fire from the ground. Finally, the Bullpup was underpowered, the 250-pound explosive warhead was insufficient to take out its main targets, which were buildings and bridges.

The Rampant Raiders would be the first squadron to operationally test and evaluate the Walleye, and the six pilots at the table would start as the initial group trained on the ordnance. Their job was to assess the weapon, identify strengths and weaknesses and work up a training plan for the rest of the squadron. He picked the four pilots sitting around him as the most combat experienced pilots in the squadron to test the Walleye, but he also wanted the perspective of a new pilot fresh out of flight training.

Smith would lead the testing, as he had the most combat missions. They would test the Walleye in combat, over the skies of North Vietnam. The other pilots were astounded. They were going to be guinea pigs in the most lethal environment in the world for aviators, with veteran NVA anti-air batteries, advanced SA-2 SAM missile sites and experienced VPAF pilots flying the latest MIG fighters.

It sounded exceptionally dangerous, foolhardy, bordering on suicidal. Naturally, they were all in.

They couldn't talk about the performance characteristics of the Walleye or intended targets in the "O" Club at Cubi, but there was something just as important that needed to be discussed. They had to come up with a

name for their test and training group and, of course, a patch for their flight suits. They decided they would call themselves the Succulent Six, and their patch would be an angry bloodshot eyeball in the middle of a blue circle with the logo "Smart Bombers 1967" beneath it.

When they left the bar that evening, Smith kept a few details to himself. He told his pilots any discussions about potential targets was premature, but the truth was a target list was in the works. The first target was a place that was already legendary by 1967. It had already chewed up nearly two dozen American pilots and aircrew, absorbing tons of ordnance with trivial effect.

The Navy and Air Force pilots that were sent to destroy this target are well represented on the POW guest list of the Hanoi Hilton. Vice Admiral James Stockdale '47, USN (Ret.), was downed on a strike mission planned for this target. It was the nemesis of American aviators during the war in Vietnam, and was one of the few targets everyone, from the president of the United States on down, agreed needed to be obliterated.

## THANH HOA BRIDGE

The bridge over the Song Ma river, about 100 miles south of Hanoi, was a critical logistics span that allowed arms and soldiers to flow south from the north. It was built by the French in the late 19th century, and the Vietminh destroyed the original in 1945, during their fight for independence against the French. When rebuilt in 1957, the North Vietnamese used the thickest steel support beams from Soviet Union foundries.

The bridge was more than 500 feet long, 56 feet wide and suspended 50 feet above the river. A solid concrete center support pillar 16 feet in diameter reinforced the span and was sunk deep in the mud of the Song Ma. Thanh Hoa was completed in 1964. The people living within sight of the bridge nicknamed it "Ham Rong," or Dragon Jaw, because its diagonal struts looked just like teeth.

It was massively overbuilt by intention. It didn't take long for American operational planners to take notice.



Operation “Rolling Thunder” began on 1 March 1965. It was the coordinated air campaign against logistics routes supporting the Viet Cong insurgency in the south, and NVA military offensive capability and industrial capacity in the north. The original philosophy of Rolling Thunder was gradual pressure to convince North Vietnam to rethink both its military and insurgency strategy.

**DANGEROUS AIRSPACE**

The gradual pressure lasted about one week. On 8 March, 3,500 Marines landed at Da Nang. Until then, American presence in South Vietnam had been advisory, training, security, logistics and to show the South Vietnamese that the United States was committed to supporting the south against insurgent and military incursions with limited airstrikes.

When the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines “Lava Dogs” went ashore in Da Nang, it became clear this represented a significant escalation of gradual persuasion.

BON HOMME RICHARD, or “Bonnie Dick,” was on her third combat tour in Vietnam when the Rampant Raiders embarked for deployment in January 1967. As BON HOMME RICHARD approached Yankee Station, Operation Rolling Thunder was well into the second year of airstrikes on targets in North Vietnam. Cracks were showing.

The airspace above Vietnam was divided into zones, or route packages, and assigned to either the Air Force or the Navy. One zone in particular, Route Pack 6, was so dense with potential targets that it was divided into two, RP 6A and 6B. Route 6B covered the skies over Hanoi, including power plants, ordnance storage, fuel tanks and Haiphong Harbor.

RP 6B was at the time considered the world’s most dangerous airspace. The Navy got that assignment.

The Air Force had its hands full with RP 6A. Weapons and supplies were flowing from China into Vietnam on the Lao Cai to Hanoi railway. As airstrikes became more effective, the logistics paths became more distributed and mobile, which made them harder to spot.

There were problems with the rules of engagement. Prohibitions against



**CDR Homer Smith '49, in his aircraft prior to launching the mission to strike the Bac Giang power plant on 20 May 1967.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITH FAMILY

engaging the enemy unless actively being fired upon meant fire control radars used by SAM missile batteries could paint U.S. jets without suppression until firing a missile.

The North Vietnamese adapted their tactics and weapons to everything American pilots did. To avoid ground-based anti-air artillery, U.S. pilots flew higher to release weapons. The North Vietnamese imported SA-2 Guideline surface-to-air missiles from the Soviet Union, the infamous “flying telephone poles,” to engage planes at high altitude. This caused U.S. pilots to fly lower and closer to the target, under the minimum altitude for the SA-2.

North Vietnamese anti-aircraft batteries were paired with fire-control radars. The U.S. then developed Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) pods paired with the “Shrike” missile to destroy fire-control radars. The North Vietnamese would “paint” an incoming sortie to determine which strike aircraft were equipped with the ECM package, let the U.S. pilots launch, then shut down the radar, rendering the Shrike unguided as it was a signal homing weapon.

The U.S. fielded stronger ECM emitters to scramble or fry the guidance radars of the SAM missiles. This deadly cycle kept going, and American pilots kept getting shot down.

By the time Bonnie Dick arrived at Yankee Station on 26 February 1967, 175 American pilots had been shot down over Vietnam. Lieutenant Commander

Charles Nels Tanner, downed on 9 October 1966, would have a role in Homer Smith’s story. Tanner may not be in the narratives of most POW stories, and probably would have wanted it that way.

He wasn’t senior leadership, didn’t have top secret information, he was just a kid out of Covington, TN, who wanted to fly Navy jets, but now found himself on the other side of the world being tortured. Tanner fooled his captors. He was tougher than they thought. When they finally broke him, he decided to “confess,” but made sure he was in front of a foreign news crew. He gave up the names of the other pilots in his squadron, including lieutenants “Clark Kent” and “Ben Casey.” That momentarily satisfied his torturers, until the footage got out. Another time, he was sitting in front of journalists, with a generous spread of food to demonstrate how well treated American prisoners were. Tanner must have forgotten his manners, he grabbed two fistfuls of chow and tried to stuff it all at once into his mouth. He kept stuffing more until it fell out of his mouth, and his torturers had had enough.

He and 10 other POWs, deemed the toughest of the prisoner resistance, were yanked from Hoa Lo and sent to an old French dungeon a few miles away. Nicknamed the Alcatraz Gang, they settled into two years of continuous solitary confinement and, of course, more torture. It was during his stay at Alcatraz that Tanner noticed a small detail he didn’t reveal until 1999.





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITH FAMILY

**CDR Homer Smith '49 en route to strike the Thanh Hoa Bridge in North Vietnam on 11 March 1967.**

## FORMIDABLE FOE

The Rampant Raiders got to work after they arrived at Yankee Station. Power plants, storage tanks, railroads, roads, everything was on the target list. If it rolled, walked, floated, it didn't last long. Smith flew every combat mission.

After every mission, his mind kept returning to Thanh Hoa. He scanned the latest recon photos, consulted diagrams, even built a scale model of the bridge using popsicle sticks and sugar cubes. He'd measured every span and support beam, modeled the support angles and reinforcements, estimating the hardness, toughness and strength of the rolled and cast iron.

Smith decided the best way to bring the bridge down was not to try to sever the massively thick bottom horizontal beams beneath the railroad tracks, as nearly all of the strikes before had attempted, but rather, surgically cut the vertical and diagonal supports that distributed the weight evenly across the span, which would cause the bridge to collapse under its own weight.

The center concrete pillar was the key, and damaging the support structures on each end of the bridge would destabilize the entire structure. Previous strikes tried to hit the tracks but had trivial effect even with direct hits; it was just far too strong.

Finally, the techs from China Lake aboard Bonnie Dick gave the word. It was time to test the Walleye in combat.

The Succulent Six and Rampant Raiders knew Thanh Hoa was the biggest prize for Navy pilots, but also the deadliest. Smith decided the Walleye needed to be tested on a less heavily defended target to ensure that everything was going to work as advertised. The army barracks at Sam Son, near the village of Thanh Hoa, was chosen.

The barracks looked a lot like the China Lake practice targets from footage shown to the pilots of the initial testing. Because they were close to the water, the pilots could stay relatively free of anti-aircraft fire while keeping a stable data link signal between the plane and the weapon. It would also allow the ship to record the data and video in real time.

On 10 March 1967, Smith led a two-plane strike on the barracks. When Smith and his wingman returned to the ship, the China Lake techs were extracting the videotape from the data recorder. The barracks buildings were concrete and white, the windows were black squares, providing optimum contrast. The Ready Room was packed with curious aviators, wanting to see firsthand what this "wonder weapon" was all about. The video started playing on the TV, and all eyes were glued to the black-and-white screen.

The gate locked onto the middle window on the second floor and didn't move. The window grew larger and larger, then the video cut. The Walleye struck dead center on the building, flying into an open window, detonating the warhead and collapsing the entire structure. With a single bomb, from more than 15 miles away. The North Vietnamese did not pick up the strike aircraft on radar.

Every pilot in that space knew the significance of what they had just watched. The Succulent Six didn't waste a minute. The strike on Thanh Hoa would be the next day, 11 March. Three Walleyes, armed with a 750-pound warhead, would take out each of the key support structures and collapse the bridge. The rest of the squadron would provide flak suppression and ECM support.

Crusaders provided cover from MIGs. More than two dozen planes took to the air and streaked toward the

Dragon at first light. As expected, their approach was detected and anti-aircraft fire snapped all around the planes. The telephone poles flew, and the dance began.

Smith led the flight to the release point. Bomb damage assessment planes followed close behind to record what was certain to be an all-time epic success ... except it wasn't. The Walleyes struck the bridge at the three planned points with startling precision, but minimal effect. Film showed black smudges on the bridge at the impact points.

The 750-pound linear star-shaped charges simply weren't enough. Fortunately, all of the strike aircraft returned to the ship safely, without losing yet another pilot to the Dragon. Although the strike failed, Smith knew the Walleye could bring down the Dragon. They just needed a bigger sword.

19 May 1967 was Ho Chi Minh's 77th birthday. The strain of war was taking a toll. He was scheduled to be interviewed by a Japanese journalist that day, and had not been seen in public for nearly a month.

He was preparing to meet the journalist when the lights in his office flickered. A second later, they went out. Hanoi had lost power.

## FATEFUL FLIGHT

Smith and his wingman Lieutenant Mike Cater were on the wildest ride they'd ever flown. Each carried a single Walleye, on a two-plane strike of the Hanoi thermal power plant. They were accompanied by 16 Crusaders for protection. They followed a long, serpentine route heading north, to reach just north of Hanoi.

They were near the end of their fuel, leaving little room for error. Passing through the last karst south of the city, they were painted by fire control radars. Cater estimated nearly 200 SA-2s were launched at them, but they were flying so low and fast that all missed or never engaged since they were within minimum arming distance.

When the power plant came into sight, both pilots locked onto targets, released their Walleyes and sped away. Four MIGs had been shot down, but at a loss of four F-8s. Although the Walleyes struck the plant, one hit an administrative building,

while the other struck the main boiler room, temporarily knocking out power.

By the time Smith and Cater returned to the ship, they knew they would have to double tap the power plant, but the plant at Bac Giang was next. Bac Giang was close enough to Hanoi they knew there was a good chance anti-aircraft defenses had not reloaded. They would hit Bac Giang the next day.

More than 48 hours, and the SAM sites and AA emplacements would be rearmed, replacement MIGs would be ready and it would be the world's most dangerous roller coaster all over again.

This time, Lieutenant Tim Taylor was Smith's wingman, and Cater flew escort. He counted six SAM launches as they approached Bac Giang. No MIGs, almost no anti-aircraft fire.

This time, there were four Walleyes, and the strikes were perfect, two went into the primary boiler room, and two destroyed the main generators. The plant went up with multiple explosions, catastrophic release of high-pressure steam and turbine blades shredded the building. This was the success that made the Walleye.

The price paid was the commanding officer of VA-212, Smith. His plane was hit by flak. Smith ejected safely and was spotted on the ground, surrounded by armed men, his arms raised in surrender. It was Smith's last and 200th strike mission. He was the one pilot more than any other who made the Walleye what it was, and proved conclusively that the Walleye was a weapon of the future. His loss was disastrous.

### SACRIFICE

Smith was processed into Hoa Lo prison, then brought to Interrogation Room No. 1 on the night of 20 May. There is a single document provided by the Ministry of National Defense of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that lists every American pilot shot down.

The 218th name on the list is Homer Leroy Smith, captured on 20 May 1967. Typed in a space just below his name are the words, "Dead 21-5-1967".

Eleven U.S. pilots were shot down from 19-20 May over North Vietnam, the

deadliest two-day period for pilots during the war. Smith went into Hoa Lo, a squadron commanding officer, privy to some of the most sensitive information available to warfighters at the time.

As a squadron CO, he knew operational plans, prospective target lists, force structure, deployment schedules, knew more about the Walleye than even the engineers and technicians knew, as he had participated in every Walleye mission. This information would significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Walleye if discovered by the North Vietnamese. Smith gave them nothing more than his name, rank and serial number and as a result paid the ultimate price.

This line from the Class of 1949 *Lucky Bag* gives insight into his personality:

*Homer was a tough kid out of West Virginia coal mine country. He was built like a lineman, and not inclined to give up easily. His bio points the way. "He would argue about anything, with anyone who would argue, and defeat was unknown to him. His motto was, 'If you can't be logical, be loud.'"*

Everyone flying over the skies of North Vietnam knew what awaited them at Hanoi Hilton. Film of Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton '47, USN (Ret.), blinking the word "TORTURE" in morse code was

shown to every pilot prior to deployment. Footage of the notorious prisoner march of 6 July 1966, where 52 POWs were viciously attacked and severely beaten by city residents as they were paraded out in the streets, was still being shown on TV news channels in the United States.

We may never know what happened that night, save one thing: Commander Homer L. Smith didn't break.

### A CLUE

By 1967, Nels Tanner had settled into a routine. Wake up, torture in leg stocks. Lunch. Rope torture in the afternoon. One day, they roped him so hard, both of his arms dislocated from his shoulders. Then, solitary until the sun went down.

Occasionally, someone would question him about something, anything to get him to talk. Tanner welcomed it, it was a break from the monotony of solitary confinement and daily torture.

Eventually, his captors decided since torture, physical deprivation, borderline starvation and bad food weren't having any effect on Tanner, they would try to get into his head. By late 1967, enough paraphernalia and gear had been captured or confiscated from Americans that the Vietnamese built a museum.

In the front office reception area of their Ministry of Defense adjacent



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON HOLLOWAY

**The Thanh Hoa Bridge in North Vietnam was critical to supplying arms and soldiers into South Vietnam from North Vietnam. Its strategic significance made it a prime target but it was heavily fortified and protected by an immense anti-aircraft arsenal. Eleven U.S. pilots were lost during direct attacks on the bridge and 104 pilots were downed in close proximity to the bridge.**



to the dungeon, there was a large foyer, filled with glass cases and wall displays of captured artifacts from downed American pilots.

In November 1967, Tanner was escorted through the museum before his daily appointment with rope torture, when he spotted a familiar name. He saw the distinctive white flight helmet with the deep blue lions rampant on a golden field, and the callsign “Homer” on a vertical stripe on the rear. He looked closer and saw the nametag of the flight suit strung up for display. “H. L. Smith.”

Tanner instantly recognized the name. He was a F-8 Crusader pilot, and knew Smith from their 1966 deployment on HANCOCK. Tanner thought at the time Smith must be a POW in one of the camps, but never saw him or knew his fate until he was released on 4 March 1973.

Tanner spent 2,339 days as a POW, nearly all in solitary. When he got back to the United States, he underwent physical therapy and healed. He stayed in the Navy until 1985.

He flew FedEx jets for another 10 years before retiring. Although he lived in Florida, he would often return to Covington, TN, to visit friends and family. The Tipton County Veterans Council dedicated a park to Tanner with a static airframe of an A-4 mounted by a pole up the single exhaust of the jet.

In 1999, he came across a website run by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. He started looking at names and found Homer Smith on an online memorial page. Tanner left a note.

*“As a POW in NVN I saw all Homer’s flight gear on display in Nov 1967 when tortured and forced to walk through part of their ‘war museum.’ I expected to hear from him there but found out after our release that he had not survived.”*

He posted that dedication on 31 May 1999. He left a signature, which meant something to him and everyone who endured that hellish experience, something to acknowledge someone he knew and had once hoped to see again.

*“A familiar name in a strange place.”*

Captain Charles Nels Tanner made his last flight to points unknown to the



The U.S. flew 872 sorties targeting the Thanh Hoa Bridge during the Vietnam War but it wasn’t toppled until 13 March 1974. It took six Navy A4’s delivered six 2,000-pound Walleye 2s to down the “Dragon Jaw.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF DON HOLLWAY

far west on 12 June 2015. He is buried in Covington.

### LASTING LEGACY

Although Rolling Thunder stopped in 1968, precision bombing of North Vietnam restarted in 1972. Thanh Hoa Bridge was first on the list. On 27 April 1972, twelve F-4 Phantoms carrying 1,000-pound Paveway 2 laser-guided bombs hit the bridge. When the dust cleared, the western abutment that braced one side of the bridge had dislodged and partially collapsed in the water.

Within hours, the bridge was undergoing repairs. On 13 May 1972, 14 Air Force F-4s dropped nine 3,000-pound laser guided bombs, 15 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs and 48 conventional 500-pound bombs on Thanh Hoa.

This strike knocked the western span off the abutment into the river, 50 feet below. But it was just the western half of the bridge. The eastern half stood. Finally on 6 October 1972, six Navy A-4s delivered six 2,000-pound Walleye 2s on the eastern half of Thanh Hoa, finally breaking the Jaw for good.

In total, 872 sorties were flown against Thanh Hoa Bridge, 11 pilots lost to direct attacks on the bridge and a total of 104 pilots downed in close proximity.

Homer Leroy Smith was returned to the United States on 13 March 1974. There was no explanation, nor accounting of his time. His family held a funeral. He was posthumously promoted to captain, and awarded a Navy Cross. He is buried facing the Severn River at the Naval Academy, in the place where he first saw blue water back in 1945, surrounded by names that have defined American history for more than 150 years.

### COMING HOME

On a country road in West Virginia, northbound on Route 18 approaching Centerville, as it bends east to cross the Middle Island Creek bridge, there’s a green sign with white letters that says, “U.S. Navy Captain, Homer Leroy Smith, Memorial Bridge.”

Mounted atop that sign is a frayed American flag. One day, someone who knows his story, might drive past that sign with a new American flag, a step ladder and some nylon line, and replace that old flag over a nondescript bridge that will never fall, a bridge that a memory stands guard over, back in the place Homer Smith once called home, the place where he always belonged—Alma, WV. 🚩



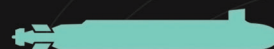


# Thousands of New Roles. Fifty States. **One Mission.**

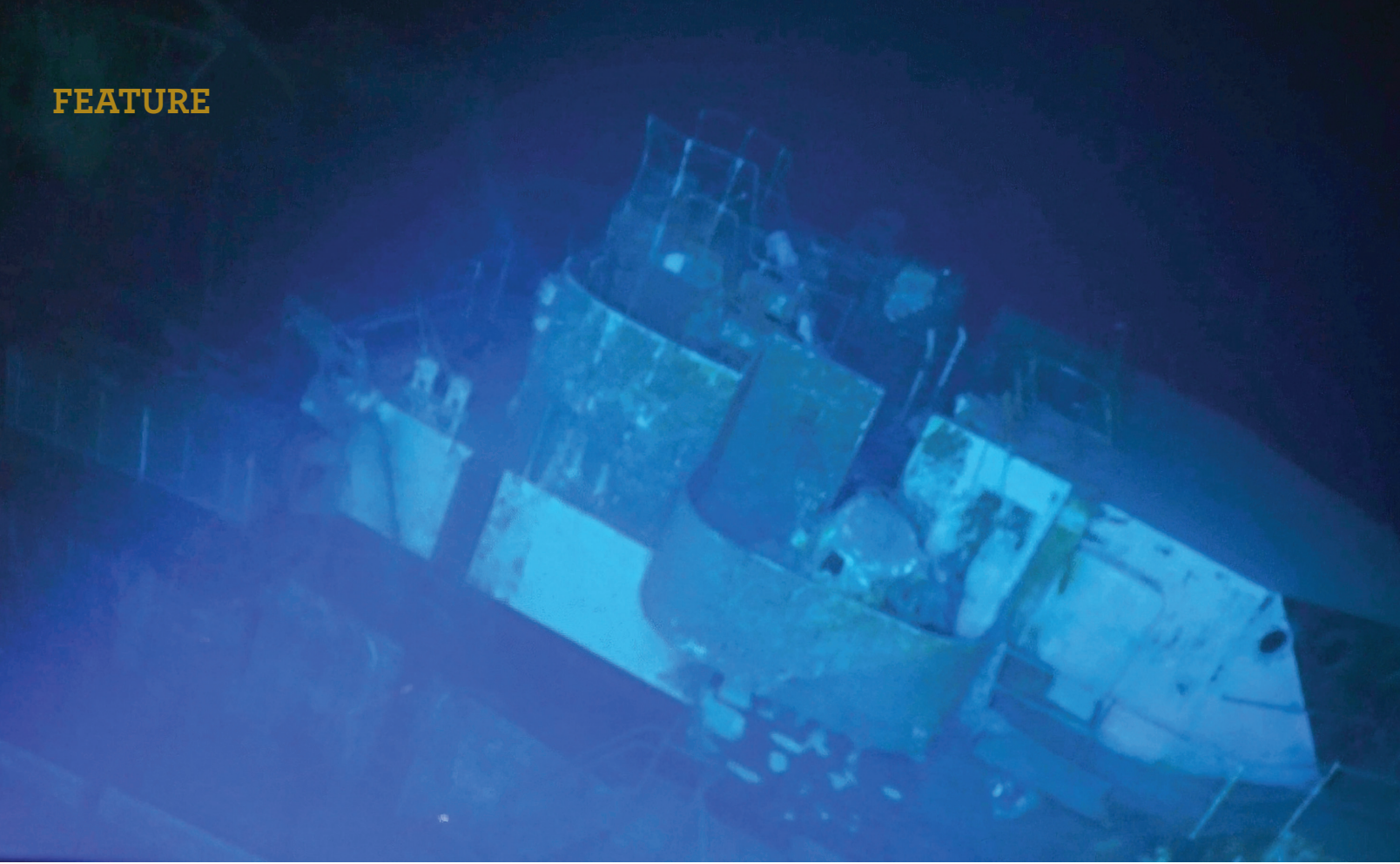
The U.S. Navy is on a once-in-a-generation journey to completely transform its nuclear-powered submarine fleet and maintain a critical undersea advantage. Achieving this ambitious goal will require adding more than 140,000 civilian professionals across every state—including skilled tradespeople, engineers, project managers, and many others with a vast array of talents.

As part of the Naval Academy community, you understand better than anyone the vital role undersea operations play in our nation's security.

If you or someone you know is ready to contribute your expertise to this critical mission, visit [BuildSubmarines.com](https://www.buildsubmarines.com) to learn how to make a difference.







# Exploring the Wrecks of JOHNSTON and SAMUEL B. ROBERTS

By LCDR Parks Stephenson '79, USN (Ret.)

On 25 October 1944, destroyers JOHNSTON and SAMUEL B. ROBERTS disappeared—seemingly forever.

They were battered by shells fired from battleships and cruisers of the Imperial Japanese navy in the waters off the Philippine island of Samar. Combined, 277 sailors were lost when the two destroyers went down.

For almost 80 years, the remains of both warships lay somewhere in or near the Philippine Trench, a large subduction zone with a depth of at least 9,000 meters to the east of the Philippine islands.

It was generally accepted the extreme depths in and around the trench would frustrate efforts to find them. In 2021 and 2022, though, the perseverance of a determined group of explorers with the deepest-diving submersible would bring images of and information about both wrecks back to the surface. Finding JOHNSTON and “Sammy B” (as SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was affectionately called by her crew), was no easy task.

Finding the resting spots for JOHNSTON and SAMUEL B. ROBERTS required sophisticated technology and a submersible capable of reaching some of the Earth’s furthest depths. It also took some persuasion from the author, Lieutenant Commander Parks Stephenson '79, USN (Ret.), to include JOHNSTON after a debris field was found in May 2019 on the western edge of the Philippine Trench.

In the deep ocean, even the wreck of an aircraft carrier or battleship is tiny compared to the immensity of the ocean bottom. A destroyer or a destroyer escort can be practically invisible, especially in rough terrain where a rock can shield a wreck from the sonar's search.

For World War II warships, there is often valuable resource material, like battle reports, ship's logs and war diaries. However, too often, the information can be wildly inaccurate and even conflicting. In World War II, positional information was largely based on dead reckoning (DR) calculated from star sightings. DR navigation became completely unreliable or nonexistent during the chaos of battle. Practical experience has taught us that a shipwreck most likely will not be found at the position given in contemporary accounts.

For the Battle off Samar, no one attempted to report the sinking positions of JOHNSTON or SAMUEL B. ROBERTS after they charged into the smoke and rain to attack the Japanese force. Their fate wasn't even known until survivors were pulled from the water two days later. The only ship able to report its sinking position during that battle was GAMBIER BAY and a subsequent search at that location found no trace of her.

### CLUES SURFACE

In May 2019, Vulcan Inc., operating from the R/V Petrel, found an apparent debris field on the sidescan sonar carried by Petrel's Remus 6000 Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) at approximately 6,220 meters on the western edge of the Philippine Trench. Although the debris field was below the rated depth for the Argus 6000 Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Vulcan managed to image about half of the debris field.

Close to the deepest part of their dive, they came across a track furrowed out of the bottom that suggested a larger portion of the ship had slid eastward on a downhill grade toward the Trench. At the conclusion of their exploration, Vulcan identified the debris field as being probably from JOHNSTON. The location of the debris field was shared with the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) but remained Vulcan's proprietary property.

A vehicle with deeper diving capability would be needed to continue the search for the remainder of the (supposed) JOHNSTON debris. Stephenson previously dived with Victor Vescovo, the owner and operator of the world's only commercial Full Ocean Depth submersible, Caladan Oceanic's DSV Limiting Factor (LF), on the Titanic wreck.

Vescovo, a retired U.S. Navy reserve intelligence officer, commissioned the LF to be built specifically to explore the hadopelagic depths (6,000m to 11,000+m). Even though the LF was not designed for shipwreck exploration, it seemed the only practical vehicle to search for whatever remained of JOHNSTON.

Stephenson approached Vescovo to include a search for JOHNSTON. A visit to the museum ship USS KIDD in Baton Rouge, LA, provided the clues needed to identify much of the debris found by Vulcan and confirm that it did, indeed, come from JOHNSTON. To define the search area, Stephenson used a process called re-navigation, or RENAV. This process looks not only at the reported positions of a given ship's track but also brings in as many cross references as possible to "fine-tune" those tracks.

For a surface battle like the Battle off Samar, Stephenson worked with historian Robert Lundgren to plot the positions reported in the ship's logs of the surviving units of Taffy 3 and then cross-check those with the Japanese reports, especially their gunnery reports.

The RENAV calculations were used to put the LF where it could pick up the trail that hopefully would lead to whatever remained of the JOHNSTON wreck. Stephenson's recommendations for the primary and secondary dive locations were developed by cross-checking the publicly announced depth of Vulcan's debris field with the bathymetric map created by the support ship's multibeam sonar and the newly-developed battle track charts.

The first two dives failed to find any trace of the wreck. During the third dive, Vescovo found the main body of the JOHNSTON wreck at 6,469 meters, making her the deepest known shipwreck.

At first sight, the main body of the JOHNSTON wreck appeared as if the ship was still underway.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR PARKS STEPHENSON '79, USN (RET)

JOHNSTON's hull number painted on her starboard bow.

Starboard side of SAMUEL B. ROBERTS' open bridge area.



**From L to R: Mount 51 on the foredeck of JOHNSTON, still trained to starboard after a Japanese shell fired by Suzuya plunged through the main deck and exploded deep in her magazine.**

**The after 5"/38 mount on Sammy B's stern. The mount explosion due to a hang fire is evident, the spot where GM3c Paul H. Carr died attempting to load the last shell into the gun.**

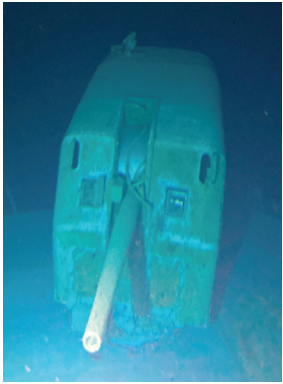


PHOTO COURTESY OF LCDR PARKS STEPHENSON, '79, USN (RETI)



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALDAN OCEANIC

She sits completely upright, buried in the bottom up to her waterline with a hint of a bow wave. The forward two-thirds of the ship appears largely intact and her hull number "557" shines brightly on her starboard bow as though it had been painted the day before.

Both of her forward 5"/38 gun mounts, along with her Mk 37 gun director atop the pilot house, are still in place and trained to starboard. Her hull structure ends abruptly at about frame 136 (roughly the space between her midship and aft deck houses) and roughly where three 18-inch shells from the Japanese battleship Yamato struck early during the battle.

The No. 1 stack is torn in two, the No. 2 stack is gone. The foremast is missing (major artifacts from the stern, along with both stack remnants and the foremast were previously imaged in Vulcan's debris field). The deckhouses above both boiler rooms look to have been blown apart from within.

All the deckhouses show evidence of having burned fiercely during the surface battle. The forward port 40mm gun mount is pulverized. Numerous shell holes—many more than could be included in JOHNSTON's after-action report—of various sizes penetrate the hull, decks, superstructure, deckhouses and weapon mounts throughout the entire length of the wreck.

Both sets of quintuple torpedo tube launchers are damaged but their empty tubes confirm that they had already well served their purpose.

## RETURNING FOR SAMMY B

Stephenson partnered with Vescovo in 2022 in a return to the Samar battlefield. The same RELNAV process—now fine-tuned with the known location of the JOHNSTON wreck—was followed in a search for the "jeep" carrier GAMBIER BAY. At first they did not attempt to search for the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS because the chance of finding her was slim. Given that Sammy B was only 93m long and the LF could search an area 2x2 nautical miles square, how could they succeed in finding a target that comprises only 0.0068 percent of the search area?

The dive location was heavily influenced by GAMBIER BAY's reported sinking position, but her wreck was nowhere to be found. Just as the LF was scheduled to end a dive and resurface, LF pilot Tim Macdonald requested to extend the dive, based on a scattering of return picked up by the sonar. A sparse trail of

small man-made objects were followed to an unexpected sight ... a triple-tube torpedo launcher sticking up out of the mud.

Sammy B was somewhere nearby.

Vescovo would dive the next day and visually find the main wreck of SAMUEL B. ROBERTS laying only a few hundred meters away from where the previous dive ended. She lay up against a rock outcropping, upright and with the after quarter of her length separated from the rest of the ship. Because the wreck lay over the rock, she appeared on sonar to be nothing more than a geological anomaly.

Whereas JOHNSTON told them more than they could know from the existing record, the condition of Sammy B confirms much of what they already knew. The wreck at first appeared to be broken in half at around frame 128 (where the after deck house ended). In reality, the bow and stern sections are still connected by the lower hull and keel.

The hull split open upon bottom impact where the port side of the ship had already been torn open on the surface between frames (approximately) 108 and 135, taking much of the portside main deck with it. This was the area where a salvo of 14-inch shells slammed into the side of the ship and destroyed the port engine room.

The after deckhouse, where Mount 42 (after 40mm gun) was located, was completely gone between frames 100 and 128. Mount 42 took a direct hit during the battle, witnessed by crewmembers. The Sky 4, 6 and 8 stations (portside 20mm guns) were destroyed and the stack is riddled with shrapnel. The back of the No. 2 5-inch gun (Mount 52) was blown out, and the interior where GM3c Paul H. Carr died trying to load the last shell in the ruined breech is evident. As expected for wrecks of that depth, no human remains exist.

Sammy B evidently nosed into the bottom but instead of her bow burying itself deep into soft mud, she hit hard rock and crumpled. From the bridge forward, the hull is distorted and twisted from both implosion of the forward

**SAMUEL B. ROBERTS' hull number on the imploded skin of her port bow.**

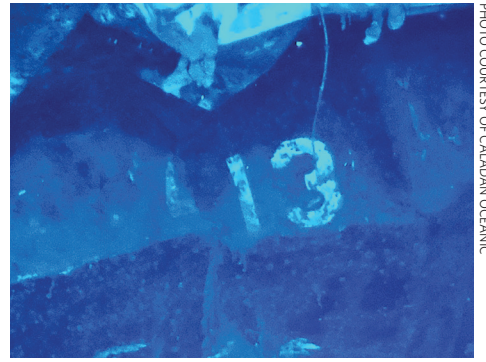


PHOTO COURTESY OF CALADAN OCEANIC

compartments as the ship sank and then collision with rock on the ocean bottom.

The mast collapsed over the stack. After the bow hit and crumpled, the stern settled across a ridge in the rocky outcropping and combined with the damage she sustained from the battleship hit, the hull structure broke in a greenstick-fracture manner with the broken ends of both bow and stern jutting upward from the lower hull. From approximately frame 152 aft, the stern is missing down to the first platform deck.

The steering gear and two rudder posts are exposed. This will take further analysis to determine exactly what happened there because it does not appear to be the result of the collision with the ocean bottom. Interestingly, Mount 51 is pointed aft and port against its stops, Mount 52 is pointed forward and starboard against her stops. Knowing that both mounts were

firing until they almost literally ran out of shells (or, in the case of No. 52, until a hot shell destroyed the mount), Sammy B was evidently surrounded by enemies at the end.

The hull number "413" is still on the wrecked bow, along with her Camouflage Measure 32 Design 22D paint scheme. All of her hedgehogs remain in their launchers and some Mk6 depth charges are jammed unexploded inside the ruined K-gun racks on the starboard side. The most intact section of the wreck is the forward superstructure and pilot house. The still-fresh camouflage paint scheme proved just as confusing to Vescovo as he manoeuvred the LF around the wreck as it was designed to be for enemy gunners.

The scars that the wrecks left on the bottom are as fresh today as they were in 1944. JOHNSTON and Sammy B paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country

80 years ago, and they still stand, unchanged by time, as visual reminders of their legacy today. ⚓

*LCDR Parks Stephenson '79, USN (Ret.), served as technical advisor to James Cameron and Victor Vescovo. He provided a comprehensive forensic analysis of the RMS Titanic wreck. His research proved instrumental in finding and/or identifying the last remaining Japanese midget sub (launched from I-16) at Pearl Harbor, HI, and the deepest shipwrecks known to date, JOHNSTON and SAMUEL B. ROBERTS. He is the executive director of the USS KIDD Veterans Museum in Baton Rouge, LA.*



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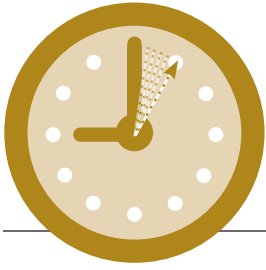
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## FIVE MINUTES WITH... COLONEL KEIL GENTRY '86, USMC (RET.)

*This feature spotlights the extraordinary things being done by alumni in the Navy and Marine Corps and their unique, impactful achievements in the private sector and in their communities. Please send suggestions to jimmy.debutts@usna.com*

The M198 howitzer, located in the National Museum of the Marine Corps, is more than just an example of battlefield artillery to Colonel Keil Gentry '86, USMC (Ret.). For Gentry, relating the historical significance of each piece in the museum is crucial for engaging visitors.

"There has to be a story associated with that howitzer, it fired the first round in Operation Desert Storm," said Gentry, whose tenure as director of the Quantico, VA, museum began in June 2024.

The howitzer offered the first salvo against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces in January 1991. It is one of several large pieces—including helicopters, planes and tanks—that create an immersive experience for visitors. The museum opened two new galleries, encompassing 20,000 square feet, on 6 October 2024. These galleries feature artifacts from all major Marine Corps operations from 1976-2021.

Gentry, who retired from the Marine Corps in 2016 after a 27-year career, served in multiple named contingency operations, including Provide Comfort, Iraqi Freedom and Quick Response. Prior to assuming his role as director of the Marines museum, he served as vice president of business affairs at Marine Corps University.

Colonel Gentry shared a bit of his story with *Shipmate* as the museum was preparing to unveil its newest exhibits.

**Shipmate:** What does it mean to be a Marine?

**Gentry:** Whether you're in uniform or out of uniform, once it gets in your blood, it's like malaria, it never goes away. It's a brotherhood. Part of it is our small size and just the way we look at life. You're a Marine first. We project that unified front.

Every day, I get to walk into this place and be reminded of 249 years of Marine Corps history.

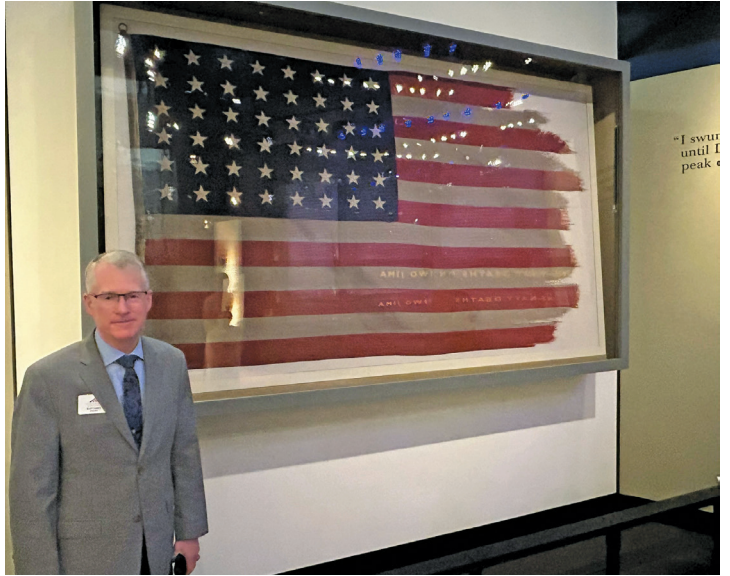
**Shipmate:** How did the Naval Academy prepare you to lead?

**Gentry:** It taught me discipline ... a good work ethic, attention to detail and to think and operate under stress. Something as simple as a chow call or reciting rates as somebody is yelling at you does recreate that environment of chaos and helps you to stay mentally on task.

**Shipmate:** What excites you about coming to work each day?

**Gentry:** The people. We don't have just a bunch of things in a building. We tell the Marine Corps story through artifacts. That's what excites me every day.

All it takes is for me to walk out of my office, take a look at the gallery or engage a few visitors and suddenly I'm completely recharged and remotivated.



Col Keil Gentry '86, USMC (Ret.), director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, alongside the second, larger flag raised at Iwo Jima during World War II. Gentry began his term as museum director in June 2024.

**Shipmate:** Why is it important to have exhibits that engage visitors?

**Gentry:** It really goes back to telling the story. It's all about telling the Marine Corps story, and frankly U.S. history, through a Marine Corps lens.

We really strive to do three things here: we want to showcase the selfless service of those who came before us. We want to reinvigorate the spirit of those currently serving and hopefully, inspire young men and women to be the next-generation Marines. Doing that in an engaging way, is the best way to do that.

**Shipmate:** Why is it important to preserve and share these stories for future generations?

**Gentry:** One of the most important things is, over time, the divide between those who served or know people who served and those who never served or don't have family members who served has grown greater. When there was a draft, everybody knew somebody who served in a uniform.

That was certainly a common bond for generations of Americans. We're seeing a little bit less of that, so it's incredibly important that we connect with the American people and let them know what it means to be a Marine and to a large respect, what it means to serve their country. □



# THIS IS WHAT LEGACY LOOKS LIKE!

Pam and Steve Ewell, Class of '76, are steadfast champions of the U.S. Naval Academy's mission. Steve leads by example, supporting the Long Blue Line Endowment Fund which ensures the Academy's long-term success. This vital fund sustains key programs across academics, athletics and leadership development.

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# SCHMIDT '02 HELPING CHILDREN IN WAR HEAL WITH MOUNTAIN SEED FOUNDATION

Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Schmidt '02, USMCR (Ret.), recognized the trauma.

Ukrainian children were experiencing the effects of long-term bombing by Russian forces. Schmidt has been coping with his own trauma from serving multiple deployments in Iraq and losing members of his unit.

In 2021, Schmidt co-founded the Mountain Seed Foundation. The nonprofit utilizes mountaineering and therapy to help Ukrainians heal and overcome life's challenges. Its camps "provide an atmosphere designed to heal through art, therapy, skill-building and mentoring from a team of professionals who volunteer their time," according to its website.

Mountain Seed's board of directors includes Lieutenant Commander Daniel Cnossen '02, USNR (Ret.). Schmidt said the name for the foundation comes from the parable of the mustard seed in the Bible, "we believe with faith the size of a mustard seed, one can move mountains."

Schmidt recently shared part of his journey and inspiration for founding Mountain Seed with *Shipmate*.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOUNTAIN SEED FOUNDATION

Mountain Seed Foundation co-Founder Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Schmidt '02, USMCR (Ret.), board member Lieutenant Commander Daniel Cnossen '02, USNR (Ret.), and advisory board member Andi Gassner climb the dam at Mooserboden in Austria. Mountain Seed uses mountaineering and therapy to families of war-torn countries heal.

**Shipmate:** What spurred the creation of the Mountain Seed Foundation?

**Schmidt:** Much like the Marine Corps was founded on 10 November 1775 in Tun Tavern, a brewery in Philadelphia, PA, Mountain Seed Foundation was spurred by an idea first discussed in a pub in Kyiv in 2018. The war had been going on since 2014 and during numerous trips to the areas in eastern Ukraine, it was clear this war had a significant impact on the children in this war-torn region.

On one of my trips, I had the fortune to speak to a principal in a school particularly close to the front lines. We sat and had tea in his office in the middle of a cold autumn day. There were no windows in his school; all had been bombed out from artillery strikes, and he described how his children came to the school in the fall, winter and early spring in full snowsuits because the school was so cold. He also described how many of the children lived in cellars for added protection. This school and town is now in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine.

The idea for Mountain Seed Foundation was inspired by one of the founders, Iryna Prykhodko. During that evening sitting

around the table in the pub in 2018, the first seeds of the foundation were planted by her vision to bring these children to the mountains to get them proper therapy and resilience-based skills and outdoor healing from the trauma of years under bombardment.

**Shipmate:** How did Mountain Seed get involved with helping Ukrainians?

**Schmidt:** Founded in Ukraine by a Ukrainian and an American, it was quite natural for our work to first be focused on Ukrainian families. Over the years since our founding in 2021, we have been blessed by the opportunity to assist refugee families, veterans' families and Gold Star families from Ukraine. And our work is truly just beginning as we face the largest mental health crisis in our lifetimes in Ukraine.

However, our foundation was created to assist families impacted by warzones in any part of the world and our work will be spreading to the Middle East and beyond in the years to come.

**Shipmate:** Why is it important to provide assistance to the children and families in war-torn countries such as the Ukraine?

**Schmidt:** While we are not a specifically faith-based organization, I cannot help but respond with my own Catholic faith. We have

all been instructed to take care of the children, to protect them. As a father of four children and a husband and a veteran, I feel this charge of protection is one of the most important and critical missions to which we are all called.

From my own combat experience, I can recall the eyes of the children most of all—how they looked at us and through us. They sought protection. Unfortunately, many of these children saw us through tears and were visibly afraid. To this day, I wish I could bend over and brush those tears away and console them. I fear the damage I left behind in their lives.

**Shipmate:** How did the Naval Academy and your time in uniform prepare you for this endeavor?

**Schmidt:** "Honor, Courage, Commitment"  
"Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful."

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*“To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.”*

The Naval Academy and my time in the Marine Corps had a profound impact on my life and on the creation of Mountain Seed Foundation. I am so honored that my classmate and Navy SEAL Dan Cnossen agreed to join the foundation from its earliest days.

Just as climbing a mountain presents incredible challenges, so, too, the challenges of trying to run a nonprofit are immense and hurdles not always seen until they are right in front of you. However, focused on the mission and your training, you keep going and you never give up, because there are people who need you, who need your help. Plus, when you have your team with you, you can overcome any obstacle.

**Shipmate:** How do experiential and mountain-based programs help participants heal?

**Schmidt:** The outdoors is truly a magical setting to heal. God’s incredible creation. Even as small as we feel in the mountains, there is so much life and healing that comes from just being in their midst.

Families affected by the war in the Ukraine participated in a climb of Kitzsteinhorn, a 10,000-foot peak in the Austrian Alps. The climb, part of a Mountain Seed Foundation camp, is designed to help families of the war-torn country heal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAX LOWE

Our program, developed by Amit Oren, assistant clinical professor in the Yale School of Medicine, focuses on positive psychology using the PERMA+ model. It focuses on confronting our challenges—our mountains, both visible and invisible—and taking the steps to overcome these challenges. We have an incredible team led by Dana Schmidt, my wife and the organization’s executive director, and there is a miracle to the program that is impossible to describe except by witnessing it—so please come and witness in person. Climb to heal!

**Shipmate:** Is this an extension of the service-based ethos ingrained at the Academy?

**Schmidt:** Absolutely—we are never done serving. And we should always seek to serve. I will say that some of the magic is that the volunteers always get more out of this program than they put into it. I can certainly attest to that. This program—our Healing Base Camp—has helped me heal my own wounds from PTSD and my three tours in combat.

I will never forget a quotation on a billboard near the rotunda of Bancroft. I would pass it almost every day during my four years at the Academy. This simple anonymous quotation has had so much significance in my own life, “Evil only exists because good people do nothing about it.”

It is profound in its simplicity and also in its challenge to those willing to heed its message. We can all serve.

**Shipmate:** What are some other programs Mountain Seed offers?

**Schmidt:** Our main program is the Healing Base Camp at our hub in Kaprun, Austria—this was the program featured both in Max Lowe’s documentary *Camp Courage* and in the *60 Minutes* piece titled “Rise.” In addition to these programs, we also conduct Mini Base Camps (two locations in Ukraine) where kids climb at indoor facilities with a therapist on site, art therapy programs throughout Europe (our spokes) and we are excited to be working with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to build a permanent climbing and Healing Base Camp location in western Ukraine.

In the years to come, we will be expanding our program well beyond Ukraine to the Middle East and to other war-torn areas of the world. There is so much healing needed in the world today and all it takes to start is faith the size of a mustard seed.

**Shipmate:** How can others get involved?

**Schmidt:** If you are interested, please email Dana at outreach@mountainseedfoundaton.org. We always need help spreading the message and, of course, bringing in new volunteers. Whether it’s supporting from afar by helping plan an event, volunteering time to climb and mentor at a camp or using your platforms and networks to help us make connections for continued support—all ideas are welcome.

We challenge each of the families that leave our program to go home and pay it forward (add people to your rope), because we know that having a purpose to help others sometimes heals us the most. Simple, good deeds can ignite a ripple effect that we may not even recognize.✝

# 80 YEARS OF A&SP

The Athletic and Scholarship Programs (A&SP) celebrated 80 years of its' longstanding and comprehensive scholarship program and support of the physical mission at the U.S. Naval Academy with a gala on 15 November 2024 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis.

It was a chance to reflect on the incredible impact A&SP has had on the Academy and Brigade of Midshipmen. Since 1944, A&SP has been a stalwart of support for the Academy, helping develop a culture of success.

A&SP provides leadership, need-based funding, guidance and mentoring to all Foundation Preparatory School students. In 2024, A&SP provided \$4.05 million in direct support for all types of athletic activities at the Naval Academy including not only the 36 varsity teams, but the many club and intramural teams as well as to the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, RI.

Dedicated to delivering the margin for Athletic Excellence, A&SP also aids in the construction and renovation of facilities in and around the Yard. It contributes \$450,000 annually to the maintenance of the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, and entirely paid for the Wesley Brown Indoor and Outdoor Track. In recent years, thanks to the generosity of female trustees in A&SP, several nutrition hubs have been established in USNA athletic facilities around the Yard.

Made up of 250 trustees (and about 100 Emeritus trustees), A&SP partners with the Naval Academy Athletic Association to provide significant, direct and unrestricted support toward all types of athletic activities at the Naval Academy.

"The Athletic and Scholarship Programs help the U.S. Naval Academy make good athletic programs into great ones," said A&SP Chairman Admiral Bill Moran '81, USN (Ret.). "The Naval Academy offers the largest field of Division 1 sports in the country, and A&SP touches each of them.

"Through an incredible group of trustees, A&SP helps provide great coaches and facilities to all sports, including club and intramural programs, while also providing an opportunity to young scholar-athletes who need an extra year of academics. All of this takes Navy sports from good to great, and I would argue the best overall in the country because of the incredible contributions of our supporters and alumni."

With more than 30 percent of the Brigade of Midshipmen competing in varsity athletics (and even more participating in club and recreational sports), supporting these endeavors is critical. Thanks to the generosity of the alumni community, A&SP is able to support all Naval Academy athletic teams, events, support systems and facilities, allowing student-athletes to win on and off the field.

"My time serving as a trustee for the Naval Academy Foundation and Scholarship Program has been deeply fulfilling," said Commander David Lilleflore '92, USNR (Ret.), an A&SP Trustee since 2008. "The Foundation has not only provided me with the opportunity to give back to the institution that shaped me, but it has also allowed me to build lasting relationships with fellow trustees who share the same commitment to the physical mission at the United States Naval Academy.

"Together we are bridging the Margin of Excellence for the Brigade of Midshipmen. Through these connections, I've learned the true power of service and the importance of investing in the future of our naval leaders." ⚓



Members of the Athletic and Scholarship Programs Board of Trustees celebrate the organization's 80th anniversary during a 15 November 2024 gala. A&SP supports athletic excellence at the Naval Academy through funding of athletic programs, facilities and need-based scholarships to Foundation Preparatory Schools. In 2024, A&SP provided \$4.05 million in direct support for all types of athletic activities at the Naval Academy including 36 varsity teams as well as club and intramural squads.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HELICOPTER INSTITUTE



In 2023, Chief of Naval Air Training started a trial program allowing student naval aviators opportunities to volunteer/early select for helicopters. COPT-R is enabling these students to earn their wings 8.5 months faster than traditional routes.



# NAVAL AVIATION PILOT TRAINING IS CHANGING ... FOR SOME.

By Commander Daniel M. Wiltfang '03, USN

Since the birth of naval aviation, prospective naval aviators have completed rigorous ground training, followed by fixed-wing primary flight training and subsequent training in their respective aircraft types before earning their wings.

The names of these phases have changed over time: Initial Flight Syllabus (IFS), Powered Flight Program (PFP), Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API), Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation (NIFE) Program, primary, intermediate and advanced. Additional screening processes have been tested and either formalized, integrated or removed depending on the outcomes. However, most of the changes that have been adopted have been pre-Primary.

The goal has been to identify and confirm the requisite desire, aptitude and aeronautical adaptation of student naval aviators (SNAs) as early as possible, hence the IFS, API, PFP, NIFE evolution. Through these changes the path from primary to earning the Wings of Gold and on to the Fleet Replacement Squadrons (FRS) has changed little, until now.

## COPT-R

In 2023, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) implemented a trial program where student naval aviators were offered the opportunity to volunteer and early select for helicopters while still in NIFE. The initial 48 volunteers (33 USN and 15 USCG) went from the completion of NIFE directly to a contracted civilian flight school for Contractor Operated Pilot Training-Rotary (COPT-R), bypassing the traditional primary flight training in the T-6. COPT-R students received 50 hours of flight time in a civilian Bell 206B. Upon completion, they returned to NAS Whiting Field for Advanced Rotary flight training in the TH-57B/C Sea Ranger.

This approach follows a similar structure to the Air Force model for developing their helicopter pilots. From the rotary community perspective, the idea is that while all flight experience is beneficial to developing a pilot, helicopter-specific flight time is what really makes a better helicopter pilot.

The first COPT-R students completed Advanced Rotary flight training on 9 August 2024. So far, the Naval Standard Score (NSS) for these COPT-R students upon completing Advanced Rotary flight training is roughly 10 points higher than for students completing the legacy flight training path and they earn their wings 8 1/2 months faster.

COPT-R 1.0's success has resulted in its continuation for the foreseeable future as an optional path for student naval aviators who know they want to fly helicopters, or for those who are aeromedically disqualified from ejection seat aircraft. At this time, the path is only open to USN and USCG students, though we expect this opportunity to be offered to USMC students with rotary dreams in the near future.

There is also opportunity for Naval Academy midshipmen to pursue this path after commissioning. Newly minted ensigns can volunteer for COPT-R when they arrive at Naval Aviation Schools Command.

## RUMORS AND CONCERNS

The biggest rumor about COPT-R is helicopter pilots are no longer doing primary. This is untrue. The COPT-R program is not intended, or currently able, to handle all USN, USCG and USMC rotary students. The program is intended for a limited number of students per year, creating an enhanced and accelerated path for rotary-devoted SNAs, an aviation accessions path for SNAs who get airsick in or are anthropometrically disqualified from the T-6, and a relief valve for the expanding T-6 demands. Most rotary aviators will continue in the legacy NIFE, primary, advanced path. Only the select few will be COPT-R alumni.

*Loss of flight time.* It is true COPT-R students end up winging with approximately 15 fewer hours overall, compared to their legacy pipeline peers. However, they also wing with 50 more rotary hours than their legacy peers and in nearly half the time.

The additional helicopter experience and time savings actually give COPT-R students an



## FEATURE



An initial class of 48 volunteers (33 Navy and 15 Coast Guard) participated in Contractor Operated Pilot Training-Rotary (COPT-R) and by-passed the traditional primary flight training in the T-6. Newly commissioned ensigns from the Naval Academy can also volunteer for COPT-R training.

advantage, providing them with experiences more relevant to employment of their fleet aircraft and more flexibility in their career timing. Unless CNAF is changed (this is being explored), the hour deficit will have to be made up in fleet aircraft to meet aircraft commander minimums, however, the additional hours can be made up in less than two months of fleet flying and would only serve to make better helicopter aircraft commanders.

**COPT-R may take away qualified Strike pilots.** COPT-R is a volunteer program. Student aviators with jet dreams are unlikely to self-select for rotary at the first opportunity. We expect and have seen a broad distribution of talent volunteer for COPT-R.

Students volunteer for COPT-R because they want to fly helicopters, they like the mission, the camaraderie, the crew concept and the rush of routinely flying below 500 feet. Legacy Pipeline Strike eligible (high NSS) SNAs who request rotary get rotary, so it is unlikely COPT-R will result in a talent drain from the Strike community.

**COPT-R is about Strike pilots.** COPT-R was developed after seeing the success of the Army and Air Force's rotary-only pipelines and with a strong belief that providing a rotary pilot more helicopter flight time during the initial stages of training would create a better helicopter pilot. However, necessity is the mother of invention, or in this case innovation. It is unlikely there would have been as much appetite for change had there not been other compelling factors.

The COPT-R volunteers, by foregoing traditional primary flight training, do indeed reduce the demand on the primary training squadrons and in doing so give the squadrons more bandwidth for other requirements. The aging and beleaguered advanced strike training platform, the venerable T-45, is

overdue for replacement and experiencing Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) limitations.

These T-45 issues have driven the development of the T-6 HELLCAT-Strike intermediate syllabus and are the impetus behind the ongoing development of a further expanded T-6 Super HELLCAT syllabus. Supporting these Strike Training requirements in the T-6 will come at the cost of primary student throughout. COPT-R volunteers by foregoing traditional Primary Flight training help to offset these increasing demands on the T-6 and Primary squadrons and minimizing the impact on overall CNATRA production without taking unnecessary risks or sacrificing the quality of naval aviators produced by any aviation pipelines.

**COPT-R students have an advantage.** Students with more helicopter flight time have been shown, on average, to outperform their peers in advanced rotary flight training, whether that training is from COPT-R or the rare flight student that shows up with a civilian helicopter license. The limited COPT-R class sizes (eight) mean any advantage experienced by the COPT-R student have minimal if any impact on their peers.

Potential career advantages for COPT-R alumni will not be realized for several years to come but should certainly be weighed by students interested in volunteering for the program. Sustained superior performance will be the determining factor for promotion but career timing has been and will continue to play a significant role.

Good timing will not make up for poor performance, but it can certainly be a tiebreaker. COPT-R volunteers, by earning their wings and progressing to the FRS 8 1/2 months ahead of their peers in the legacy pipeline, could get a leg up when it comes time for O-4 and O-5 screen boards, and department head and command selection boards, and beyond. The extra time will give them more observed FITREPS, and more flexibility in their timing may allow commanding officers and NAVPERS to extend them for FITREP timing or get them in residence education opportunities without impacting their career progression.

### COPT-R FUTURE

Although COPT-R is a significant departure from the legacy training pipelines, the results thus far are promising for the COPT-R students and for the Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE). In fact, the first cohort was so successful the second cohort was launched in July 2024.

There will be additional changes for COPT-R; the COPT-R of 2034, for instance, probably won't look like the program today. CNATRA will continue to innovate to provide the best available training to the officers in its charge. For any current or aspiring student naval aviators, I encourage you to consider COPT-R. If you know you want to fly helicopters, there is no better time to volunteer. ✈️

*CDR Daniel M. Wiltfang '03, USN, is chief staff officer for Training Air Wing FIVE.*

# BRAVO ZULU

## 1960s

'67: **CDR Bruce Lakefield, USNR (Ret.)**, was honored by the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County with the Legacy Award for his lifelong commitment to the Y and personal mission to uplift the community through the Y's mission. A former chief executive officer of Lehman Brothers and U.S. Airways, Lakefield's leadership experience has served the Y well through years of change and growth, while also inspiring his children to carry on the legacy of giving. **Tom Knudson** was honored at the 2024 NACD Directorship 100 Awards Gala in December 2024. The awards recognize the most influential directors in the boardroom and leaders in the corporate governance community.

## 1970s

'76: **CAPT Jim Petersen, USNR (Ret.)**, was inducted into The American College of Financial Services Alumni Hall of Fame.

## 1980s

'88: **David Albritton** was inducted into 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. **Paul Rock, USMC**, was promoted to



## Klosowski '20 receives VADM Charles A. Lockwood Award

**Lieutenant Junior Grade Jacob F. Klosowski '20, USN**, received the 2024 Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood Award for Professional Excellence in November 2024. This annual award recognizes individuals for achievement, specific action or consistent performance, which best exemplifies the traditional spirit embodied in the submarine force.

Klosowski was recognized for his tenacious work ethic and tactical drive as a rising star in the submarine force and junior officer in TOPEKA.

During a 2023 Indo-Pacific deployment, Klosowski dedicated countless hours to developing a PYTHON script, which significantly reduced the time required to ingest offhull intelligence into the fire control system. His innovation and

dedication to this program greatly increased TOPEKA's lethality on deployment and is now provided to all deployed submarines. This project was voluntarily undertaken by Klosowski, and he delivered a product to the fleet, which will be used for years to come.

Under his leadership, an underperforming Reactor Laboratories division improved performance in every functional area on a recent Fleet Engineering Examination. He was recognized by Naval Reactors for his excellent performance on the prospective nuclear engineer officer's examination.

His dedication to the crew has been a significant contributor to TOPEKA's success. The crew draws energy from his unrelenting warfighting ethos and he has earned their trust due to his integrated understanding of the ship's operations. His infectious leadership and drive were factors in his selection as reenlisting officer for more sailors than any other officer on board.

The award's namesake, VADM Charles A. Lockwood, USN (Ret.), Class of 1912, served as a commander of submarines for the U.S. Pacific Fleet during World War II. An astute tactician and inspiring wartime leader, Lockwood's fleet sank 58 enemy submarines and damaged 41 others. ♦

lieutenant general as director, Marine Corps staff, headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He was formerly the commandant of the National War College, commander U.S. Marine Forces Central Command. **Harry Wingo** was appointed as the deputy director, Office of the National Cyber Director. He is a former Navy SEAL and a graduate of Yale Law School.

## 1990s

'91: **Dan Durn** was awarded the *San Francisco Business Times* 2024 CFO of the Year (Public Company, Large), for his leadership at Adobe

where he combined its finance and IT organizations into a single team, allowing the business to access data more quickly to make sound business decisions.

'97: **Laura (Tillinghast) Hine** won reelection to the Pinellas County School Board in August 2024.

**Shana Gritsavage Ferguson** was promoted to chief operating officer for USA Swimming, which produced the largest-ever Olympic swimming trials in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN.

## 2000s

'04: **Jeff McLean** was promoted to chief executive officer of the leadership advisory firm ghSMART & Co. He previously served as president of the firm, and led the organization to the industry award for "Best Boutique Consulting Firm" for the past three years.

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# SEVEN NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI SERVE IN THE 119TH CONGRESS

When lawmakers convened the 119th Congress in January, the group boasted nearly 100 military veterans among their members, the largest such caucus in eight years.

Sixteen veterans join 82 incumbent members of Congress with military experience.

Congress opened this 119th session with more veterans than two years ago.

Advocates say the surprise increase in lawmakers with military backgrounds is a positive sign for the veteran community.

Still, even a one-person jump in the number of veterans in Congress is significant, because an increase in members with military backgrounds has only happened four times in the last 50 years.

Because of their backgrounds, veterans serving in the House and Senate are often seen as critical to discussions of military operations and veteran benefits. But the number of veterans in Congress has declined almost steadily since the mid-1970s, as the military shifted from an end strength of largely drafted individuals to an all-volunteer force.

In 1973, only one in every four members of Congress had never served in the military. In 2025, about one of every six members will be a veteran.

## HERE'S A LOOK AT THE SEVEN USNA ALUMS IN THE NEW CONGRESS:



**SENATOR TODD YOUNG**—Indiana—Young attended the U.S. Naval Academy, where he played varsity soccer and was elected as a class officer. Young graduated with honors in 1995 and accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. After training as a rifle platoon commander, Young served as an intelligence officer, spending time on the U.S. southern border.



**CONGRESSMAN SCOTT FRANKLIN** serves the citizens of Florida's 18th Congressional District. He is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds an MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Franklin is also a graduate of the Air Command & Staff College as well as Wharton's Executive Leadership Development Program.



**SENATOR TIM SHEEHY**—Montana—A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 2008, he was the first midshipman to participate in the U.S. Army Special Operations exchange program and the first to graduate from the elite U.S. Army Ranger School. Immediately after graduation, Sheehy was commissioned into the U.S. Navy and completed SEAL training.



**CONGRESSWOMAN MIKIE SHERRILL** proudly represents New Jersey's 11th Congressional District. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1994, Congresswoman Sherrill spent almost 10 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy. She flew missions throughout Europe and the Middle East as a Sea King helicopter pilot, worked on the Battle Watch Floor in the European Theater

during the Iraq invasion and served as a flag aide to the deputy commander in chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.



**CONGRESSMAN NICK LALOTA** (NY-01) was first sworn into office in January 2023. LaLota attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 2000. He entered the Navy and attained the rank of lieutenant. As a surface warfare officer, LaLota served as assistant operations officer on CURTS and as a tactical action officer on CARL VINSON, a nuclear powered aircraft carrier.



**CONGRESSMAN CHRIS DELUZIO** is serving his first term in Congress representing Pennsylvania's 17th district. The district includes all of Beaver County and parts of Allegheny County. Congressman Deluzio is an Iraq War veteran, voting rights attorney and union organizer. He received a bachelor of science degree with merit from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2006. Following

graduation from the Naval Academy, Congressman Deluzio was commissioned as an active-duty surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy.



**CONGRESSMAN JAKE ELLZEY** proudly serves the 6th Congressional District of Texas, encompassing all of Ellis, Navarro, Anderson, Hill, Cherokee, and parts of Tarrant, Dallas, Freestone and Johnson counties. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1992, Ellzey went on to serve his country for 20 years as a helicopter pilot and as a fighter pilot in F-14s and F/A-18s. He concluded his

military service as the air boss on the RONALD REAGAN aircraft carrier. During his career, Ellzey was deployed nine times, with five combat tours, including a ground tour in support of SEAL Team 5 in Iraq. ⚓

**HERE'S A LOOK AT THE INCOMING CLASS, BY THE NUMBERS:**

- **Nine women veterans will serve in Congress in 2025, the largest total in history.**
- **Congress will have 46 Army veterans, 25 Navy veterans, 16 Air Force veterans and 13 Marine Corps veterans.**
- **About one-third (31) began their military careers after January 2000. Twenty-one started before 1980.**
- **Twenty veterans will serve in the Senate, and 80 will serve in the House.**
- **Texas has the largest caucus of members with military experience (11), followed by Florida (9) and California (7).**

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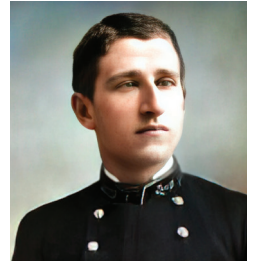
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# GEORGE BREED:

## THE ALUMNUS WHO INVENTED THE ELECTRIFIED GUITAR



By Ray Chance



COURTESY OF RAY CHANCE

George Breed, Class of 1886, has been reimagined as a comic book hero and will be featured in an upcoming virtual reality game by Electrified Reality Studios.

George Breed, a former U.S. Navy officer and 1886 graduate of the Naval Academy, is celebrated for his groundbreaking invention of the electrified guitar in 1890.

His design, which predates the modern electric guitar by four decades, utilized electricity to directly vibrate the strings. Unlike today's electric guitars that use pickups and amplifiers, Breed's guitar operated through the Laplace force—an effect produced when an electrical current passes through a wire in a magnetic field, generating a force that vibrates the strings. This innovation allowed the guitar to be played without the need for traditional strumming or plucking; instead, pressing the strings completed an electrical circuit, creating continuous sound.

However, the guitar's significant weight, nearly 20 pounds, and its unconventional playing style made it difficult for musicians to adopt. The reliance on an electromagnet, necessary due to the weak permanent magnets of the time, added to the instrument's bulk and awkward balance. Despite these challenges, Breed's invention marked a pivotal moment in the evolution of musical instruments, highlighting the potential of electrical innovation in music.

Beyond his work in music, Breed also ventured into aerial photography with a kite-based system, further demonstrating his inventive spirit and versatility. This method involved using a large box kite to lift a camera, which was triggered by a smaller kite on a trolley, showcasing Breed's continuous pursuit of creative solutions.

Breed's legacy as an inventor extends beyond his technical achievements. Recently, he has been reimagined as a comic book hero and is set to be featured in an upcoming virtual reality game by Electrified Reality Studios. This modern adaptation aims to bring Breed's story to life for a new generation, blending historical facts with imaginative storytelling.

In the fictional narrative, Breed is portrayed as a time-traveling inventor who



uses his electrified guitar to combat societal challenges and inspire positive change, underscoring the enduring relevance of his innovative spirit.

Electrified Reality Studios has designed this project to resonate with audiences who value creativity, resilience and the transformative power of music and technology. By reintroducing Breed as a character in contemporary media, the studio celebrates his role as a pioneer of electrical music and honors the visionary qualities that make his story compelling today.

The George Breed Historical Society, located at [georgebreed.org](http://georgebreed.org), plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Breed's legacy. The society is dedicated to educating the public about Breed's contributions and the broader significance of his work. They highlight how Breed, a former military officer who chose to pursue his passion for invention and music, embodies the virtues of creativity, courage and dedication—qualities deeply rooted in the ethos of the Naval Academy.

The society's efforts include establishing a comprehensive web-based gallery, creating educational resources and engaging with the community to foster a deeper appreciation of Breed's life and inventions. The goal is to emphasize the importance of recognizing Breed not just for his technical achievements but also for his forward-thinking approach to problem-solving, which remains inspirational today.

For Naval Academy alumni, Breed's story is a powerful reminder of the potential to make significant contributions outside of military service. His transition from naval officer to inventor, and now to a modern media figure, highlights the enduring impact of creativity and perseverance. Breed's journey illustrates the skills and values developed at the Academy—discipline, innovation and a commitment to excellence—can lead to groundbreaking advancements in any field.

As Electrified Reality Studios prepares to launch the comic book and virtual reality game, they encourage those interested in learning more about Breed's story to visit [www.electrifiedreality.com](http://www.electrifiedreality.com). These platforms offer insights into how Breed's pioneering spirit is being celebrated and how his legacy continues to inspire new generations of innovators, bridging the past with the future through creative storytelling and immersive technology.

By honoring Breed in these modern formats, the project aims to keep his contributions alive and relevant, ensuring that his inventive spirit continues to resonate with those who value progress, creativity and the power of imagination. ⚓

*Ray Chance is the records manager for the George Breed Historical Society.*



**lane** 

## Forging New Paths at NAS Oceana

With over 130 years of industry expertise, Lane Construction is a **trusted partner** in both military and commercial projects. We are honored to have secured the contract for critical taxiway pavement repairs at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA. As a leader in heavy civil construction, we take **pride** in supporting the U.S. Navy's mission with cutting-edge solutions, unmatched reliability, and a **commitment to excellence** in the airfield sector.





# CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

## TULSA IS A SMALL BUT MIGHTY CHAPTER

The Tulsa Chapter is one of the smallest chapters in the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, but has been honored as a Distinguished Chapter in four consecutive years.

“We may be small, but we are mighty,” said Tulsa Chapter President Rocky Goins ’84.

Commander Harry Rouse ’77, USN (Ret.), formed the chapter in 2004 with the belief that there were enough alumni to make a difference. His vision became reality. Kasey Carradini ’84 has been treasurer since the beginning and Captain Patrick Hamilton ’87, USNR (Ret.), is vice president.

Goins shared some of the ways the Tulsa Chapter serves its community and assists the Naval Academy.

**SHIPMATE:** How does the Tulsa Chapter recruit for the Naval Academy?

**GOINS:** The Tulsa Chapter members delight in recruiting great candidates to Annapolis. No doubt being in the same American Conference with the University of Tulsa helps the chapter’s exposure!

In the past decade, we moved from third place to first place in the number of applicants for our local Congressional nomination. We attribute the success to four direct initiatives. First, we doubled the local Blue and Gold Officers in our area—Commander Harry Rouse ’77, USN (Ret.), Jim Farrell ’99, Alyssa Farrell ’99, Brigadier General Mike Meason ’97, ANG, and Commander Jason Nerio ’05, USN—giving the candidates a better experience.

Second, we partner with the local congressman to sponsor “Service Academy Day” where we have representatives from each academy speak about the application process and the service academy experience. Our joint Service Academy Day is the only event like this in the state, and we get families from throughout the state and Arkansas attending.

Third, we maintain a relationship with the only college NROTC in the state at the University of Oklahoma and award the top midshipman in leadership with the Commander Ernest Evans ’31, USN Sword Award. Evans, a Pawnee, OK, native, received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions against the Japanese fleet during the Battle off Samar on 25 October 1944.

We have rotated multiple chapter members to take the lead in presenting the award. Last year, Captain Brian Berryman ’86, USNR, did the honors. Keeping Naval Academy alumni front and center with the ROTC provides us a tangible dividend where we have had three ROTC members in the past five years apply to the Naval Academy.

This fall, the crew of the submarine OKLAHOMA visited Tulsa. We organized the crew’s meeting with four high school JROTC classes, and we are looking into the feasibility of adopting the Navy JROTC class.

Finally, we formed our chapter into a 501(c)(3). We have a trust within the second-largest community foundation in the nation. Through this fund, we are delighted to sponsor candidates to attend STEM/Summer Session who would not have been able to go due to financial restraints. Our members are able to contribute to our trust and take a federal tax deduction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TULSA CHAPTER

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association’s Tulsa Chapter supports its local alumni and helps potential future midshipmen navigate the admissions process. It also partners with the University of Oklahoma’s ROTC program to honor the top midshipmen with the Commander Ernest Evans (’31, USN) Sword Award. In 2024, CAPT Brian Berryman ’86, USNR, presented the award to Ensign Jacob Back, OU ROTC.

**SHIPMATE:** How does the chapter stay so engaged?

**GOINS:** Our chapter had the reality check that we needed to be part of a broader family. We reached out to fellow service academy and Ivy League alumni leaders and held joint events at local sporting events and museums. This created dynamic energy and a strong network. For example, we approached the local baseball team to honor the joint service academies during their Hometown Hero Night, and we take turns picking a Navy, Army or Air Force person to be honored.

The entire stadium hears about the service academies, which has resulted

in phone calls from interested families. Other events have included wine tasting events and happy hours. We drew the line though, when Army alumni asked if we would wear West Point shirts and hats during the Army-Tulsa football game.

We also realized that we need to be closely connected with our Oklahoma USNA Parents' Club (PC) and recent graduates. We attend two PC meetings. The first meeting is the annual Send-Off Party for the onboarding plebes, allowing us to make a presentation demonstrating we are a resource for them. The second meeting is one of the PC board meetings to update them on what is going on at the Academy and answer their questions about Annapolis life. For the recent

graduates, we offer chapter membership scholarships, giving them access to our emails and invitations to attend our events.

In 2022, we received word that Lieutenant Junior Grade Aaron Fowler '18, USN, passed away during a Navy diving accident. Our chapter actively participated in the memorial and funeral services for Fowler. We were stunned how many of Fowler's classmates flew into Tulsa to participate.

The chapter learned that our emails informed Fowler's classmates of his death and funeral plans allowing them to participate. This sad occasion drove home to all of us the importance of our relationships and staying connected. Go Navy! 🇺🇸

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## 64/65 CLASS NEWS



Denny Connolly (24), Bruce Kastel (19), and Grady Perkins (11). Seated on the bombs are Jody Gingiss (8) and Dick Murphy (15).  
BZ Reverend!

*Fair winds  
and a quartering sea,  
classmates.*

## '65

**Life Membership: 65%**

**Donor Participation: 53.48%**

Pres: **CAPT Jim Minderlein, USN (Ret.)**  
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Corr Sec'y: **CDR Dave Anderson, USN (Ret.)**  
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Class of 1965 Home Page:

<http://www.daveand65.com/USNA65/>  
<https://daveand65.wixsite.com/usna65photos>

Sadly, we lost several more classmates since mid-September: **Bill Frigge, Wayne "Bull" Durham, Ken Meeks, Bernie Smith, Bill Hunt**. May all these stalwart classmates rest in peace. For details on their lives, career and families, please check the Last Call section of this edition.

From **Jim Minderlein** and **Dave Anderson**, 20 Oct

✉ It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **William J. Frigge** on 18 October 2024. I have included the e-mail from **Jo MacMichael** to **Dave Anderson** reporting his death. Bill died "due to complications with immunotherapy" to treat his liver cancer; it was a long battle. Bill retired as a Captain with a Masters from PG School and was also a graduate of the Naval War College. He is the first deceased member of 22 graduates from the 29th Company. Sadly, Jim

From **Jim Minderlein**, 26 Oct

✉ I regret to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Wayne Carlton "Bull" Durham**, on 25 October 2024. I was notified by **Mike Scott**. Bull died in home hospice this morning from an aggressive brain cancer. He is the 10th deceased member of 21 graduates in that company. He wore stars and was the Captain of the Gymnastics team. Bull was an F-8 fighter pilot, a Burke scholar, Navy test pilot, Virginia Tech. aeronautical engineering professor, and one of 3 or 4 published world experts on flight controls. His building, years ago, the terrific Excel spreadsheet Directory on behalf of the Class of '65 was awesome. May he Rest in Peace.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 01 Nov

✉ It is again my sad duty to inform you of the death of our classmate, **Kenneth Wayne Meeks** on 29 Oct after a brief but fierce battle with cancer. Ken's son, Michael, notified us of his dad's death. Ken was a retired Navy Captain who graduated from the 6th Company and is the 9th deceased member of 23 graduates from that company. Jim

From **Jim Minderlein**, 04 Nov

✉ I again regret to inform you that we have lost one of our Flag Officers, **RADM Bernard J. Smith** on 01 Nov. I was informed by **Mike Luecke**, a fellow Flag Officer and **Bill Erickson**. Bernie had a consummate professional naval career as a fighter pilot and was a true warrior. Bernie graduated from the 19th Company and is the 5th deceased member of 23 graduates from that company. His 2.5-page obit, which, alas, I can't reproduce here, cites his phenomenal career and life. He was a shining example of the best of '65! R.I.P., Bernie - Jim

From **Jim Minderlein**, 13 Nov

✉ I regret to inform you of the death of our classmate, **William Baille Hunt** on 12 Nov. I was notified by the e-mail below from **Stew Caldwell** and **Bill's** widow, **Penny**. Bill retired as a Captain after a distinguished career. He was a graduate of the Naval War College and had an MS from George Washington University. After retirement, he served as an NJROTC Naval Science instructor at Strom Thurmond High School. Bill graduated from the 4th Company and is the 8th deceased member of 22 graduates from that company. As an avid golfer all his life, he scored six holes-in-one before retiring his clubs. Our sympathy and condolences are with **Penny** during this sad time.

From **John Wroten**, 30 Sep

✉ A Memorial Service was held on Friday, 27 September 2024 for **Dave Miller**. It was

a very nice and appropriate service that had been planned by **Dave** himself. The Naval Academy Classmates in attendance were **Jim Huff**, and **John** and **Leahray Wroten**. **Dave** was interred at the Dallas National Cemetery on 04 Oct.

On to happier news.

From **Phil Ferrara**, 05 Sep

✉ It was a great assembly of '65ers at the monthly Anna Lunch on 04 Sep. **Mitch** gave us an overview of the health programs and meetings being conducted in the Wardroom. Attending were **Mitch Henderson**, **Phil Ferrara**, **Fred Vogel**, **Frank Peterson**, **Moke DeMatta**, **Sam Dutrow**, **Pat Philbin**, **Jim Stark**, **Bob Sullivan**, **Doug Katz**, **Mike Luecke**, **Carter Refo**, **Ted Nanz**, **Skip Orr**, **Tom Kinder**, **Charlie Morrison**, **Bob Andretta**, **Larry Eggert**, **Bill Erickson**, **Dan Flanagan**, **John Collins**, and **Jim Minderlein**.



First Wednesday Lunch, 9-4-24, Mike Luecke, Frank Peterson, Charlie Morrison, Fred Vogel

Annapolis Lunch Bunch

Also from **Phil Ferrara**, 21 Sep

✉ On 19 Sep, a score of '65ers and spouses attended the President's Circle reception and events. The events included tours, parades, Midshipmen panels, and presentations by the Superintendent and Deans. A small part of the '65ers attending are shown in the nearby attached photo.



'65: President Circlers



# **Class of 1965 60th Reunion October 22-26, 2025**

## **Wednesday, October 22**

1800-2000 Welcome Reception and check in at Ballroom Crowne Plaza Annapolis

## **Thursday, October 23**

1000-1300 Fluegel Alumni Center

Class Annual Meeting

Tour Alumni Center

Lunch with Speaker

1500-1600 Widow Tea Crowne Plaza Annapolis

1800-2100 Buffet Dinner N\* Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

## **Friday, October 24**

1000-1045 Memorial Service Naval Academy Chapel

1100-1145 Tour Legends Exhibit Ricketts Hall

1200 Noon Meal Formation

1350-1500 Supe's Presentation to Alumni

1600-1700 P-Rade Worden Field

1830-2230 Seated Dinner Crowne Plaza Annapolis

## **Saturday, October 25**

0900-1030 Prayer Breakfast Crowne Plaza Annapolis

1330-1930 Tailgate n\* Room Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

1530-1830 Navy vs TBD

1930-??? Company/Battalion/Team Parties Various Locations

## **Sunday, October 26**

0900-1200 Farewell Brunch Navy Club

0815-1230 Church Services Naval Academy Chapel

**Contact Mike Epprecht for details [mike.epprecht65@gmail.com](mailto:mike.epprecht65@gmail.com) 410-310-3984**



## 65/66 CLASS NEWS

From **Skip Gunther**, 15 Sep

✉ Our youngest son, Andrew is now 22 and is a Boston 911 EMT. My daughter, Annie, who grew up on our sailboat, is now 30 and is a marketing executive for a clothing boutique in LA. Brendan, my second son, continues to live and work in the grocery business in the DC area. Kerry, my oldest, just sold his Internet consulting company and has launched a new high-end senior care business, initially in the Chicago area. **Nancy** and I sold our Kennesaw, GA house in 2019 and have been traveling North America full-time in our RV. This past Spring, we purchased a new home in a Canton, GA senior living community, while continuing to travel roughly half-time, mostly to see our kids. Lots of hiking, biking, kayaking, and exploring are keeping our spirits high! Go Navy!! Skip



The Gunthers

**Chip Seymour** reported on 13 Sep of his and **Mary's** cruise to Greenland and Iceland. Most telling are his clear observations of the effects of climate change on those island countries. A whale of a lot of glacier loss.

**Sted Garber** also checked in on 13 Sep with an update on what he and **Robin** have been up to lately. You can find his report on the website cited in this column's header. Same goes for **John Owens** who sent one in on 22 Oct.

**Charlie Morrison** posted to the Wardroom on 17 Sep a section he found on the USNAAA website and cited the titles of the contents there - The Class of 1965 Tributes and Stories. They include: First Class Cruise - You Can't Beat It, How's the Cow?, And Then There Were?, The Night I Mooned the Entire Vietnamese Army, Memories of Chu Lai, The Rescue, Beer Run and more, Check 'em out at this link: <https://www.usna.com/tributes-and-stories—stories-1965>.

From **Skip McAlexander**, 20 Sep

✉ Today was POW Recognition Day at Fleet Landing. We started off with a 0800 flag raising. At 1030 we had a program in the auditorium, and I was asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies. It was a wonderful event with a resident and a local veteran telling stories of their father's experiences as POWs in Japan. Very moving. Nearby is a pic of me with some of the Fleet Landing vets. This is a great place!



'65: The POW Recognition Day at Fleet Landing

**Phil Ferrara** posted on 24 Sep a profile of our class that has some comparisons between our class and the Plebe Class of 2028 that recently entered USNA. Email Phil for some photos and details (or links to those) at [pferrara65@comcast.net](mailto:pferrara65@comcast.net).

**Ted Nanz** checked in on 25 Sep with a photo of him and his son, Kevin, celebrating Kevin's 50th Birthday.



Nanz and son

Also from **Ted Nanz**, 18 Nov

✉ Shown here with classmates at the Navy-Tulane game, including left to right: My son David, **Ted**, **Sonny Harrison**, **Judy Harrison**, **Phil Ferrara**, **Bill Erickson**, **Linda Ferrara** and **Meliza Nanz**.



Tulane tailgate

In mid-October, **Jim Minderlein** posted the Annual Report of our USNA'65 Executive Committee. He also posted the report of the Council of Class Presidents in late October. Email Jim (email address is in the header) if you'd like to see it.

From Yours Truly (**Dave A**), 16 Aug

✉ Some Get Ready help for our 60th Reunion can be found on this website - <https://daveand65.wixsite.com/usna65updates> (also shown in the header). It contains some PDF files of the Mini-Bios I worked like a bandit to produce ahead of our 40th Reunion. Each classmate who provided me info a few months before our 40th got a page in the Mini-Bio file - about 400 of us are in there. At the website, you can left click on each of the four PDF icons and scroll through the names therein. If you right click on them, you'll find you can download them to your PC or Mac. These files should help you prepare for running into lots of guys at the Reunion and/or catching up with them via email. And if you report to the Wardroom the classmates you've contacted between now and the Reunion, and/or if you email me an update on yourself, I'll get paragraphs and photos into the website. So, suggest you bookmark the website, too.

Thazzit! Aloha, Dave

## '66

**Life Membership: 66%**  
**Donor Participation: 20.00%**

Pres: **Jim Long**  
e: [jalongiii@aol.com](mailto:jalongiii@aol.com)

Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**  
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Website: [www.usna66.org](http://www.usna66.org)

Happy New Year everyone. I hope everyone has had a great holiday and is warm and safe as that dreary period known as the Dark Ages approaches. I've received several interesting items to share so I'll get to it.

I received an email from **George Moore** that was forwarded by **Charlie Jones**. It's about **Jim Angel** and **Charles M. Coleman '64**. Here's the writeup and the accompanying photo.

✉ "Happy birthday to former Miami High quarterback **Charles "Buddy" Coleman**. **Coleman** (64) (left) is pictured with teammate and lifelong friend **Jim Angel** at the U.S. Naval Academy in the early 1960s. A 1959 graduate of Miami Senior High School, Coleman was an



All City quarterback for the Stingarees then coached by Ottis Mooney. He played all of his home games at the Orange Bowl, sometimes in front of crowds ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 fans against city rivals Miami Edison, Miami Jackson and Coral Gables High Schools. In 1959, Coleman led an explosive Miami High backfield that included halfback Lindy Infante. After an outstanding high school career, Coleman was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Two years later in 1961, he was reunited with Jim Angel, who was his backup at Miami High and later became an All City quarterback himself for the Stingarees in 1960. Both Coleman and Angel had dreams of becoming star quarterbacks for the Midshipmen. But when a young hotshot recruit from Cincinnati showed up, it became apparent neither would see much action at quarterback. That recruit's name was **Roger Staubach '65**. Coleman and Angel both converted to defensive back and went on to fine college careers and a friendship that lasts to this day."

Thanks George and Charlie.



CHARLIE MOORE AND JIM ANGEL

**Jorge Swett** sent the photo below to record his visit to the Annapolis area. He joined the weekly Annapolis Breakfast Group. Pictured are (left) **Ace Sarich, Don Jackson, Robert Percival, and John Posoli**. On the right are **Jorge Swett, Rodger Carter, Steve Niss,**

and **Scott Gordon**. The group meets every Thursday. If you are in the Annapolis area and want to join the group, contact **Don Jackson**, djackson.ng@gmail.com. Thanks Jorge and Don.

**Scott Redd** forwarded an email from **Pete Bernier** with the following news on remembrance of Vietnam MIAs. Specifically, all 19 USNA former MIAs from the Vietnam War received a Rosette adjacent to their names on the Honolulu Memorial's "Courts of the Missing" for the Vietnam War in the "Punchbowl" during the American Battle Memorial Commission (ABMC)/Defense POW/MIA Account Agency (DPAA) Recognition Day Ceremony on 20 September 2024. A Rosette for LCDR **Orland J. Pender** was presented. Thanks to Scott and Pete for passing this to us.

Though the final home game for Navy didn't go well, several Classmates, spouses, and widows joined in the tailgate festivities. It was also Honor Our Fallen commemoration weekend. Our Class has 16 KIA, the most of any Class in Vietnam, and overall, 36 who died on active duty. Thanks to **Charlie Jones** for providing the photos. In the first **Pierce Johnson, Sam Marrone, and Charlie Jones**, are enjoying the tailgate fare. In the second photo are Linda McCook (Kevin), Ginny Jones (Charlie), Kathy Madaleno (Rich), Carole Wurster (Ron), Trudy Hoff (Mick), and Lori Scarbrough (Bob).



PIERCE, SAM, AND CHARLIE



LINDA, GINNY, CATHY, CAROLE, TRUDY AND LORI

Sadly, I report the deaths of **Larry Trice** (13th Co.-NG - 9/21/2024), **Mike Holland** (36th Co.-10/07/2024), **Dick Schwering** (19th Co/-10/04/2024), and **Chris Glutting** (68-10/20/2024). Thanks to **Webb Gilmore** who notified me of **Mike Holland, Tom Ogar** who notified me about **Dick Schwering**, and **Art Bryant** who notified me about **Chris Glutting (68)**. Please keep all the families in your prayers.

In closing I remind you of the Class website, usna66.org, and the vast amount of resource information it contains. I recently was able to direct a Company Rep in providing legal advice for a Classmate's widow involving a well-known investment company. So, take a few minutes to browse the site, especially the Health and Wellness portion, which is kept current by our Web Master, Therese Long-Fish. Until April...All the best...Mike!!!

## '67

Life Membership: 77%

Donor Participation: 38.23%

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

**Larry Morris** passed away on 24 September 2024 as a result of a fall. Larry, a Navy junior, was born in Oakland, CA and graduated from high school in Tainan, Taiwan. After graduation from USNA in 1963, Larry became a fighter pilot flying the F-8 Crusader, then the F-14 Tomcat. He flew two tours in Vietnam. After retiring from the Navy, he began a second career as the safety director of a large east coast steel erection company. Larry became an accomplished stained glass artist, and in August before his death, he presented a stained glass window featuring the USNA '67 1st Company Caveman to the USNA '25 1st Company wardroom. He is survived by his sister and his daughter. He was predeceased by his son. He is also survived by four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Larry's obituary is found at <https://t.ly/CiOcU>.



'66: ANNAPOLIS BREAKFAST GROUP





Larry Morris and the 1st Co. Caveman

**Rick Hudson** passed away on 16 June 2024. He was a Marine, and after retiring from the Corps he earned a law degree from UC San Diego in 1989 (J.D., magna cum laude). He practiced in Escondido, CA, spending much of his time on charitable work. He is survived by his wife, Jessie, of Oceanside, CA, a son, a daughter, and eight grandchildren. A memorial service for Rick was held in July which was attended by **Warren Millard, Buddy Barnes, Rufus Artmann, Gordy Pettus**, and Terri Holcombe. Burial with military honors will be held at a later date.

**Dave Church** received this email from Karen, **Barney Racely's** wife:

✉ Hi Dave,

I have sad news - Barney passed away Sept 19th in University Place, WA. He had a very hard time recovering from surgery when he broke his hip. He enjoyed knowing all of you and his time at the Academy. He will be buried in Tahoma National Cemetery here in Washington. I'm OK but I really miss him. My daughters have been so supportive. And now all the phone calls and paperwork! Hello to everyone whose lives touched Barney's.

As of this writing no obituary has been received, but Barney was buried on 23 October 2024 at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA. A celebration of his life was held on 26 October. If your memory serves you, you'll recall that Barney was the Classmate who placed the hat on top of the Herndon Monument to end our Plebe Year that day in 1964.

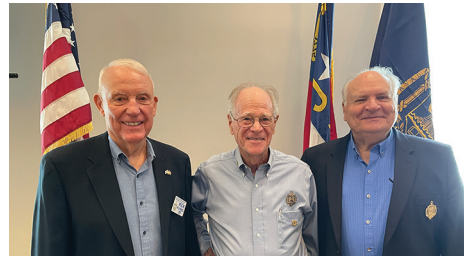


'67 Marines in Colo Spgs

**Rob Skrotsky** checked in from North Carolina:

✉ Last Saturday (28 September 2024) the local alumni chapter held its Founders Day event at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. (Check out the chapter section of *Shipmate* for a description.) In attendance were three from '67, best class representation. In the attached photo are **Rick Kunkel, John Kieffer** and myself, regulars at the chapter meetings. We had an interesting lunch, learning about New Bern and North Carolina activities in 1774 that contributed to the Declaration of Independence.

Maybe we'll see more classmates when Navy plays at ECU after Thanksgiving. Go Navy!



Rick, Rob & John at NC Founders Day Event

The '67 Marines held a mini-reunion in Colorado Springs 3 - 6 October 2024 to watch Navy destroy Air Force. It was really a good weekend in addition to the game. We stayed at the Antlers Hotel, renewed old times, ate and drank (though not so much as we might have some time back). Big thanks go to **Ted Lewis, Bob O'Rourke, and Mike Roth** for organizing. **John Boivin, Jim Buchli, Rich Rogers, George Zahn, Jim McNeece, and Les Christian** answered the muster, along with wives. The image shows most of us at dinner. (Not sure who the guy is strolling through in the back!)

And the Marines weren't the only one in town that weekend. This from **Jon Holzapfel**:

✉ 7th company roommates Ted Verdery, Reb Hester, Jon Holzapfel and John Crouse met up in Colorado to watch Navy's big win over Air Force. Great win. Army may not be so easy.

L/R: Jon, Jennie, John and Sally, Sandy Verdery, Reb and Lynda, Ted.



Roomies then with roomies now

✉ I'm writing this just before Thanksgiving, and you won't see it until after the New Year. It's hard to believe how fast time is flying by, but all things considered it's been a good ride. All the best to all of you and yours for 2025 and beyond! .....That's it...Goodnight!...Jim

## '68

**Life Membership: 62%**

**Donor Participation: 23.12%**

Pres: **CAPT Gary A. Storm, USN (Ret.)**  
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Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Gordon I. Peterson, USN (Ret.)**  
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Website: [www.usna68.com](http://www.usna68.com)

Sadly, as 2024 drew to a close, we learned that **Chris Glutting** passed away peacefully in his sleep at a nursing home in St. Petersburg, FL, 20 October following a long illness.

A memorial Mass was held 21 November at St. Paul's Catholic Church in St. Petersburg.

**Al Burda, Steve Macy '70, Art Bryant '66**, and I joined Chris' 7th Company mates **Ken Kolarcik, Frank Simmons, Jack Rose, Al Pittman, and Jay Cohen** at the Mass and brunch that followed. "The Legend" had the unique experience of being a member of the classes of 1965, 1966 and 1969 (very briefly) before completing his final two years as our classmate. Chris' seven-year odyssey stemmed from excessive involvement in extracurricular activities at the expense of academic studies. His "course correction" in our class saw him named to the Superintendent's List twice. He also served two sets first-class year as the 7th Company sub-commander. Following graduation, Chris had a distinguished 26-year Navy career. Please see his Last Call entry.

As 7th Company mate **Jack Rose** reflected, "Chris was truly a one-of-a-kind human being who served his fellow man in many different capacities—doing each extremely well." **Ken Kolarcik's** friendship with Chris began in 1966 on the plebe detail for the Class of 1970. Roommates first-class year, their paths crossed several times following graduation, including their combat assignments during the Vietnam War. "Chris never missed sending

As 7th Company mate **Jack Rose** reflected, "Chris was truly a one-of-a-kind human being who served his fellow man in many different capacities—doing each extremely well." **Ken Kolarcik's** friendship with Chris began in 1966 on the plebe detail for the Class of 1970. Roommates first-class year, their paths crossed several times following graduation, including their combat assignments during the Vietnam War. "Chris never missed sending





'68: Chris Glutting's memorial Mass, L-R: Frank Simmons, Al Pittman, Ken Kolarcik, Al Burda, Jack Rose, Jay Cohen, Steve Macy '70, Art Bryant '66, and Gordon Peterson.

each of my six children a birthday card every year," Ken said. "That demonstrated his caring nature, loyalty and love of people. We miss him dearly."

I know of no other graduate with "raconteur" listed in their entry in our Alumni Association's *Register of Alumni*, but it was perfectly appropriate for Chris to do so. "When I became editor of *The Log* late in our second-class year," Tom Hayes related, "it was clear to me that there was no other choice for Salty Sam." 7th Company mate John "JJ" Becker, who also crossed paths with Chris in Vietnam, recalled how Chris finally revealed Salty's identity in his last column before we graduated. "He was a real fun classmate and friend," JJ said, "always positive."

Chris sponsored several midshipmen when he was an instructor and company officer at the Academy. "His generosity and warm-hearted hospitality were without equal," Tom Doughty '82 said. "Chris was my daughter's Godfather; he never forgot a birthday or family milestone." Conrad Smith '80 described Chris as a fabulous story teller. "He had a gift for wit and humor that leaned into reality, but always came across with dignity," he reflected. Chris was also Godfather to Conrad's son. "We named him Christian, after Chris," he said. "He became part of our family." Chris' Celebration of Life is planned this summer in Hull, MA, at the family home. As Company mate Frank Simmons said, "May the Legend rest in peace."

Five years have elapsed since the remains of 81 South Vietnamese soldiers who perished in 1965 in Vietnam were finally returned for an honorable burial in the Westminster Cemetery, CA, following a two-year effort spearheaded by Jim Webb, president of the small, non-profit Lost Soldiers Foundation. To mark the fifth anniversary of the soldiers' burial, the foundation held an hour-long ceremony 26 October at Westminster's Freedom Park, followed by further ceremonies at the soldiers' gravesite. Jim emphasized the importance of honoring the soldiers' sacrifices during his opening remarks. The keynote speaker was Lieutenant General

George W. Smith, Jr., who had recently retired as commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Jeff Dumas continued his winning ways in November with the Boulder Road Runners (BRR) during the USA Track & Field Masters 5K Cross Country Championship in Boulder, CO. Jeff and his BRR Men's 70+ B-team ran to a third-place, bronze-medal finish in the race, out of a field of six competing teams. Of note the BRR's 70+ A-team won the gold. "Being long-in-the-tooth for my age bracket, I was pleased to be able to cross the finish line as the third-scoring runner for the B-team,

thereby helping to secure our team's bronze souvenirs." Earlier in the year, Jeff's BRR Men's 70+ team had already clinched the 2024 US-ATF "Masters Grand Prix" national for the third year in a row. Congratulations, Jeff! "Hard core!"



Jeff Dumas en route to a Bronze Medal team finish in the USA Track & Field Masters 5K Cross Country Championship.

The *Tampa Bay Times* headline for Navy's 28-7 win against the USF Bulls in November said it all: "Midshipmen Run All Over Punchless Bulls!" Our class was well-represented, notably by the 24th, 30th and 31st Companies.



'68: Navy-USF 24th Company L-R: Debbie Brengle, Paige French, Carole Martin, Jim Brengle, Kate Burda, Al Burda, Rick French, Hank Martin ... and Eric Stein seated in his Corvette.



'68: Navy-USF 30th Company L-R: Becky and Dan Lear, Deedee and Mike Gaul, Amy and Rick Buchanan, Don Wallace, and Jan and John Knapp.





'68: Navy-USF 31st Company back row L-R: Sandy Pyle, Chuck Mayer, Bill the Goat, Ken Pyle, Gordon Peterson, Donna Carlock, Reid Carlock; front row: Larry McConnell, Greer Mayer, and Laura Peterson. Present but not pictured Kathy Farmer.

Al Burda reported 24th Company mates also admired **Eric Stein's** shiny Corvette. **Rick Buchanan** and the 30th Company held its mini-reunion the day before the game in Tampa's beautiful Hyde Park. The 31st Company's contingent enjoyed meeting Bill the Goat during the tailgate; I joined them for the game along with the late **Paul Farmer's** wife, Kathy.

**Rick Buchanan** had a pleasant "Link in the Chain" experience in October when he attended the Navy-Air Force game at Falcon Stadium in Colorado Springs. "I met **Austin** and **Katie Rhodes** from USNA Class of 2018," he reported. "Katie was the Company Commander of the 21st Company. Austin is a Navy submariner who served on USS HAWAII and is currently employed at Los Alamos. Also present were **Connor Mellett '18** and Alexis Mendolia. A great victory for Navy over Air Force 34 to 7—our first in Falcon Stadium since 2012!"



Navy-Air Force game L-R: Katie Rhodes '18, Rick Buchanan, Austin Rhodes '18 and Alexis Mendolia.

Nearly two weeks after Mary and **Kevin Dwyer's** eldest granddaughter, Emily, was married 1 September in the hills above Santa Cruz, CA, Kevin and his sons Kelly and Ryan departed for Spain on an 11-day trip to walk the Camino de Santiago, a network of "pilgrims' ways" leading to the shrine of the

Apostle James at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. "We walked six days, 70-plus miles of it, enough to qualify as *Peregrinos* (pilgrims). We arrived in Santiago on Sunday 9/22, had a tour of the Cathedral where Saint James' relics are held and attended the Pilgrims Mass that Sunday evening—very meaningful and touching." They visited other sites before heading home. "It was wonderful to have that time with our sons, and I will always be grateful to Mary and our daughters-in-law for granting all three of us kitchen passes!"



Ryan, Kevin, and Kelly Dwyer following their pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Santiago, Spain.

Over Veteran's Day weekend, **Dick Evert** attended a Celebration of Life in San Diego for LT Steve Lambert, a VF-211 F-8 Crusader pilot aboard USS HANCOCK in the late 1960s who later became a Blue Angel. **John Patton** and his wife also attended the ceremony. "He had been in the Blue Angels with Steve in the mid-1970s," Dick reported. John and Steve were great friends and shared their time on the team with gusto." As Dick also reported:

"Several of us represented the Class at the funeral of **Ed Mulhern's** wife, Candy;

Maxine and **Ned Garrigues**, Shirley and **Kent McQuerter**, **Bob Griffin**, Ginny and **Connie O'Leary**, and Laurie and **Todd Hyde**. **Phil Gallery**, Ed's roommate all four years at USNA, flew all the way from West Virginia to attend. Burial ceremonies were held at Miramar National Cemetery and then about 40 participants adjourned to Ed's San Diego home in Claremont to enjoy a wonderful lunch of Filipino food and conversation. Children and grandchildren filled the backyard garden spaces and memorialized Candy in proper fashion."

We lost two non-graduating classmates from our ranks last autumn. May they rest in peace. **Joe Fry** reported the death of his 18th Company mate **Kit DiCarlo** 22 October while in hospice care at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach, CA. "Kit was a regular attendee at class reunions," Joe said, "including our 55th when he was in declining health. He always had a keen interest and love of all things Navy and USNA." **Robert "Bob" Beckis**, also a non-graduating member of our class, passed away 5 September in Phoenix, AZ; he is survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, a daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, and a sister.

Take care, **Gordo**

## '69

**Life Membership: 59%**

**Donor Participation: 25.76%**

Pres: **Steve Comiskey**

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

Sec'y: **Pat Stroop**

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Treas: **Ron Gumbert**

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e: rongumbert@icloud.com

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

845=Welcome to the New Year, '69! So now it has been 56 years since we graduated. Where has the time gone?

**Public Service Announcement:** Effective January 2025 ID cards require 2-factor authentication to use the Naval Academy pedestrian turnstiles at both gates 1 and 3. All CAC cards, DBID cards, and dependent cards will require a 5-8 digit PIN for these turnstiles (and these turnstiles only). These PINs will be set at the Visitors Control Center at Gate 1 entrance to USNA. **This will not affect your ability to drive on base. Repeat: This will not affect your ability to drive on base.** Basically, this affects only locals who might park in the Yard and walk out into town.

From **Todd Creekman:**

✉ On 18 September Debbie and I were invited by retired Captain **Pete Boyne** and his wife Eleanor to join them and their classmates at the monthly USNA '57 luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club. During my post-retirement Naval Historical Foundation career, I met and



worked with and for many '57 alumni, including Pete and his classmate-and my boss-Admiral **Bruce DeMars**. Here's a photo of all of us at lunch. Makes me wistful for the days when we had regular '69 lunches in the DC area!



69 and 57 breaking bread

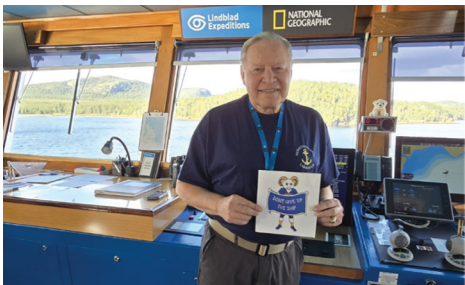
From **Tom Cavanaugh**: Tom led our effort in donating the money for the Class of 1969 Mighty Fine Patio and the large sign and class crest on display outside of the Fluegel Alumni Center (FAC). Here is a picture of Tom pointing to one of the signs outside of the FAC.



Tom Cavanaugh

From **Mike Cross**:

Attached is a picture of Flat Bill on the bridge of the National Geographic Explorer off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, September 2024. It shows that Bill really gets around!



Mike Cross and Flat Bill

From **Lanny Hunt**:

Did you know that our first Superintendent Rear Admiral **Drapper Kauffman** USNA 1933 was the Navy's first frogman - the father of World War II's Underwater Demolition Teams? Sometime in the late Fall 1965, 12th Company plebes had a mandatory "social" at Buchanan House. The admiral took me aside and said, "No one has a better time in downtown DC than a uniformed midshipman during Christmas leave!"

From **Tom Cavanaugh**:

On 16 November, the Alumni Association and Foundation held the 2024 Honor Our Fallen Heroes (HOFH) event. This annual event recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by over 2,700 alumni who were killed in action or died as the result of an operational accident. The Class of 1969 has 16 classmates who fall into this category. Family members of all the fallen heroes were invited to participate in the event, which consisted of a Memorial service in Dahlgren Hall (Memorial Hall is under renovation), a brunch/lunch in the N\* Room at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, and attendance at the Tulane football game. Fifty-four family groups participated this year, including seven '69 families. Our classmates honored were **Arnold Barden, David Buell, James Feeney, Robert Ledbetter, David Lumsden, Thomas Pasquale and William Sigler**. Several classmates served as volunteer escorts for the families including **Norm Brown, Tom Cavanaugh, Kevin Clancy and Mac McClain. Steve Hanvey, Woody Woodworth** (both in HAL-3 at the time of Arne's loss in Vietnam), **Dick Bartlett, Walt Girdali, and Bob Tolhurst**. We had dinner with them two nights and showed them the Yard on Friday afternoon. It was a very meaningful day with a lot of shared memories with the families.

From our EVP **Jim Sandberg**:

Save the date: **14 April 2025**. 69 has just heard from the Chemistry Department of the Naval Academy and they have the honor of hosting this year's Michelson Lecture which as you know is sponsored by our Class. The lecture this year will be on 14 April 2025 and the lecturer will be Professor Susan Solomon, Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Studies and Chemistry at MIT. Professor Solomon is a prominent atmospheric chemist and 1999 recipient of the prestigious National Medal of Science for her work on ozone depletion. There will be more information sent via company reps and in this column of the March-April edition of *Shipmate*.

From: **Steve Comiskey**:

The Draft Minutes of the Council of Class Presidents meeting was sent out via company representatives on 18 November. If you are interested in what is going on at the Naval Academy you are encouraged to check those minutes out.

That's all for this issue and I have no more letters hanging around. Please keep *Shipmate* in mind when you get together with classmates and send me stuff for our next column. Thanks!

I'll say it once again: We had the best music! And then the tequila whispered: "Say what you really think"

**Non sibi.**

## '70

**Life Membership: 63%**

**Donor Participation: 26.75%**

Pres: **CDR Edmund E. Moore, USN (Ret.)**

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Sec'y: **CDR Royal Connell, USN (Ret.)**

10100 Hillview Dr., #332, Pensacola, FL 32514

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Webmaster: **Ed Moore**

e: edmund.moore@gmail.com

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

Greetings all, as I write, I am exactly where I was last year, in a specialty hospital; although this time not coming out of a coma but admitted for severe edema and dialysis. In the past few days they have removed over 15 liters of fluids and my kidneys are starting to respond positively. With continued improvement, I will be re-entering rehab soon, and by the time you read this, I will be home. As you might note from the masthead, that while doing this we have moved into a CCRC, since I could no longer take care of house or yard, and where I can get the PT and care that I need. But enough:

**Sound the Last Post:**

**William "Bill" Henry Sills III**, passed away in his home in Irmo, SC in October after a courageous battle with cancer. Bill attended USNA and graduated from the Georgia Tech. Bill had a large personality, many friends, never met a stranger, and always had a story to share. He thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors including hunting, fishing, scuba diving and playing golf with friends. After hours, you would find Bill adorned in one of his many Hawaiian shirts, having a martini and a cigar in his backyard. Bill was a member of Salem United Methodist Church, and several civic and fraternal organizations, including the Boyleston Masonic Lodge No. 123, Jamil Shrine Temple, and his treasured "Lunch Bunch Boys".



'69: HOFH Remembrance 16 November 2024

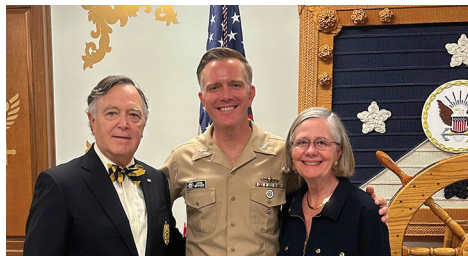


## 70/70 CLASS NEWS

Commander **John Daniel Rogers**, passed away peacefully in October. CDR Rogers served for over twenty years in the Navy. His notable accomplishments included serving as an F-14 RIO aboard the USS INDEPENDENCE. A lifelong adventurer, his travels took him around the world, from his military service to his retirement aboard luxurious Crystal Cruises. Commander Rogers will be laid to rest in Boise, Idaho.

### Bits and Pieces:

**Skid Heyworth** writes that his son Lawrie (USNA 05) was promoted to Captain.



Skid, Lawrie, Marijo

From **Mike Lowe**:

✉ "Attached are some pictures from my recent 25th flight since 2014 with the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight (RMHF) as a lead guardian escorting Veterans to Washington, DC to honor them. A highlight of this trip was my leading three Veterans to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I am a board member on the RMHF and participate in four flights per year, 3 days each flight. I consider it an honor to continue to serve Veterans in the RMHF."



**Mike Bangert** reports that members of the 18th company traveled to Colorado Springs to see Navy beat Air Force for the first leg of the Commander in Chief trophy.



John Collins, Rick Graham, Scott Douglas, Mike Bangert

Bob Berger sent a photo of Chuck Stout, Mike Dunham and him at the local chapter A/F game watch.



**Carl Weiscopef** had the opportunity to be with several 36th company mates.

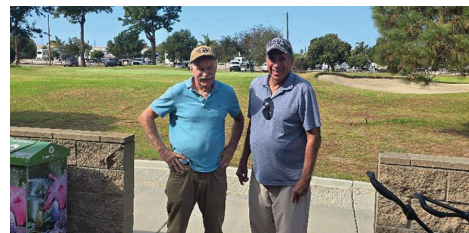
✉ "Charlene and **John Kapololu** were in San Diego in late September. **Joe Cohen** traveled down from Orcas Island, WA and **Pat Tierney** came down from Camarillo, CA. We had a great lunch catching up on our lives and remembering our times together at USNA. While Pat was in San Diego, we played a round of golf at one of the local courses. While Joe was in San Diego, he hosted Pat and me to a wonderful dinner at the Mingel Museum in Balboa Park and then we attended the play Murder on the Orient Express at the Old Globe Theater. Joe is a Trustee and Legacy Society Member for the Old Globe Theater. In late October, Carl visited Pat in Camarillo, as they are both widowers they have a unique bond and shared some of the things which are helping them to move forward. They also were able to play 9 holes of golf at Naval Base Ventura County."



Carl was also able to attend the Air Force game: "was a great victory. After the game I had breakfast with Robert (Buzz) Borries '75. Yes, he is the brother of William (Buzz) Borries in our 7th Company. Buzz (younger) was my commissioning XO on USS ARIES (PHM 5)."



Last summer, in the spirit of connecting with old company classmates, 36th company Joe Cohen and Pat Tierney took up **Eric Thueson's** invitation to join him at his mountain lake cabin near Glacier National Park. Pat writes: "Never having been the lounging type, we filled three days with kayaking, whitewater rafting and mountain climbing, all without the benefit of a hot tub. Eric, as an amateur movie producer, put together a YouTube video to memorialize our exploits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ1e-jy8Cm4>. So pleased were we with our ability to walk at all after our ordeal, that we decided to challenge any other company to beat our senior triathlon - three guys, three days doing things we use to do easily, and still walk upright on the fourth day. Any takers?"



**Les Gable** reports:

✉ "Deb and I spent the last week of September in New England hosted by Pat and **Warren Mackensen** to see the Fall foliage (we were a couple of weeks early and I couldn't change my birthday). He drove for three days so we could gawk while touring the White Mountains in northern New Hampshire, the rocky coast of Maine and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. We visited some quaint villages in the mountains, their condo in Bartlett, and lunch at the Mount Washington resort. We enjoyed meals together at a number of restaurants in Hampton, NH where we had our "base camp" at a charming B&B about a mile from their home. We visited York Harbor in Maine to see the Nubble light house and lunch at the Fox restaurant owned by their close friends. They hosted us for dinner our last night in New Hampshire at their lovely home. We spent our last night in Boston and celebrated my birthday with dinner at Saraceno's on Hanover Street, our favorite Italian restaurant in the States."



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Arizona

BGO Area Coordinator: **Susan Wester**  
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### Northern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **Charlie Bomberger '74**  
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Sec'y: **Juan Segovia '88**  
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The last few months have been exciting ones for the Northern Arizona Alumni Chapter.

In addition to having tremendous turnouts for our (nearly) weekly Navy Watch Parties at Pudge & Asti's we held our Quarterly Chapter Meeting at Gurley Street Grill in historic downtown Prescott.

The weekly Navy Football games are routinely topping 20+ attendees as we've watched Navy turn their recent past around marching to a solid 9-3 record this season, most recently sinking East Carolina in a 34-20 win. Army looks to be tough, but the chapter will be supporting Navy at Pudge and Asti's with what looks to be a showing of 30+ people. Go Navy! Beat Army!

Our Quarterly Chapter Meeting was a time to respect and reflect upon those who have gone before us. We were lucky enough to



have Col. Ron Byrne, USAF (Ret.) give us a presentation of his time spent, 7 ½ YEARS, as a POW during the Vietnam War. Ron regaled us with an incredible recollection of his time and trials as a POW. His factual and inspiring narrative made us all proud and grateful for his service.

Our website, thanks to **Michael Samuels '67**, is up and running boasting more than 27 active members. **Charlie Bomberger '74**, our President, has scoured the local area and we have an active list of more than 73 local alumni that we are actively reaching out to and looking to engage in our activities.

This January we are excitedly looking forward to our next Quarterly Chapter Meeting hosting Vice Admiral Sawyer '83 whose tours as a flag officer include: Vice Commander, Naval

Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Commander, Task Force 74/54 Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet; Deputy Commander, US Pacific Fleet, and Commander, US Seventh Fleet. The meeting will be on 20 January 2025 at the Gurley Street Grill. All are welcome.

Any chapter questions or inquiries can be directed to our Chapter President, Charles Bomberger '74, at CBomberger74@gmail.com.

Go Navy! Beat Army!

*Juan Segovia '88*

### Southern Arizona Chapter

Pres: **John McCarthy**  
p: 520-241-7943; e: j.r.mccarthy2@gmail.com

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

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

The Southern Arizona Alumni Association Chapter had an active October. At the beginning of the month, the Chapter joined with members of the Air Force Academy Alumni Chapter to watch the Navy/Air Force football game at a local Tucson pub. Navy's convincing victory over Air Force made the get-together all the more enjoyable, at least for the Navy attendees. Later in the month, the Chapter held a luncheon where local college professor

## NORTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

### The Alumni Association Welcomes A New Chapter

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

President: **Charlie Bomberger '74**

Vice President: **Mike Samuels '67**

Secretary: **Juan Segovia '88**

Treasurer: **John Burkholder '73**

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



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



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



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



Neil Bungar gave a fascinating presentation on drone technology, including live demonstrations of some of the latest drone innovations. Next on the agenda is the Army/Navy football game in mid-December where the Army and Navy alumni chapters will watch the game together at a local pub.



Chapter President John McCarthy '76 (R) with Air Force Alumni Chapter President Ted Maxwell



Professor Neil Bungar demonstrating drone flight with Chapter President John McCarthy '76

## California

### Los Angeles Chapter

Pres: **Adrian Montecinos '14**  
p: 562-587-3690; e: admont19@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **George Kiernan**  
p: 630-917-2064; e: gkiernan21@gmail.com

Treas: **Michael Seaver '83**  
e: michaelseaver@gmail.com

National Trustee: **Brian DeJarnett**  
e: Brian@dejarnett.net

BGO Area Coordinator (LA County/Orange County):  
**CDR Steve Shatynski '83, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 714-255-6108  
e: Stephan.shatynski@wellsfargo.com

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

Ahoy Shipmates!

The Los Angeles and Orange County Chapter wishes all a Happy New Year!

Our Chapter has thoroughly enjoyed an exciting fall and cheering on our Mids. Our iconic Army Navy watch party aboard the USS Iowa sold out in record time and was once again a grand success.

We hope you can join us next year! Stay tuned for our chapter events this spring! If you haven't, please ensure you have registered with MyUSNA.com as all of our communications are distributed via email.

If you're interested in joining the OC/LA Alumni chapter or want to help in any way please contact our chapter leadership via MyUSNA.com. We look forward to meeting new Alumni and helping grow our local chapter!  
Roll Goats!

### Monterey Bay Chapter

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

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

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **Bob Garcia**  
e: bob@coeususa.com



MIDN 2/C Iglesias and Grant Vermeer '17 connecting for some mentorship at Del Monte Beach

We look forward to sharing photos from this year's Army-Navy game at the Trident Room in the next edition and below is an update from this past summer from chapter member Grant Vermeer.

Take care and BEAT ARMY!

*Becky Singh '03*

We had a great summer of not only graduates getting together, but midshipmen learning about the beauty of the Monterey Peninsula. It was incredible to have multiple midshipmen interning at the Naval Postgraduate School, including MIDN 2/C Iglesias who was working with the directed energy physics group. His studies focused on higher energy laser weapon systems, including laser propagation and atmospheric turbulence. While he was here, we were able to connect and talk about his summer training, plans for the future, and desired service selection. One of the best aspects of being a graduate in the Monterey area is having a wave of Midshipmen stop in Monterey for summer training. Staying connected to the Naval Academy community via direct conversation and mentorship is incredible!

### Grant Vermeer '17

Founder, Academy Insider Partner,  
The Vermeer Group

### San Diego Chapter

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

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

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

Treas: **Maurice Caskey '64**

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

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

Website: <http://usnaasd.com>

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



Hello from sunny San Diego. No winter weather here yet but maybe some rain in the future. If you get tired of snow and muck wherever you are, come visit - there's lots to see and do. Now that I have fulfilled my chamber of commerce duties here's what's been happening here in SD.

Last column I talked about and included pictures from our last lunch when we had CAPT (SEAL) **Brian "Beef" Drechler '98** as our guest speaker. "Beef" invited the Chapter to come downtown and see the new SEAL Museum being prepared for opening in 2025. As you can see in the picture many showed up to see the "bones" of what will be the museum.



San Diego Chapter: Members of the SD Chapter and wives at the "under construction" SEAL Museum in San Diego.



## CHAPTER NEWS

Based on "Beef's" narration of the tour there will be many stories told in the museum plus SEAL gear that you would not normally see anywhere except at the SEAL base. While the museum will initially be modest in size the hope is to continue raising money in order to build a much larger and more in-depth museum in the future. That future will depend on donations. Once they open the current museum further donations will be forthcoming in greater volume. If you're in San Diego next year be sure and include this in your things to see.

Class of '24 - Attention! If you're reading this and stationed in San Diego or Oceanside the San Diego Chapter would like to welcome you here and encourage you to join our Chapter by signing up for your FREE MEMBERSHIP!! Well, it's not actually free - members of the Chapter have pledged to pay for your first year so that you can experience the benefits of being active members of the chapter.

We would also like to offer you the opportunity to have a current member of the San Diego Chapter assigned to you in order to answer any questions you might have before moving to San Diego or while you are getting acquainted with your new hometown.

BEAT ARMY!!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year to all!

### San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

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

Vice Pres: **Vacant**

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

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

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

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

Instagram: @usnaaa\_sfbaychapter

BGO Area Coordinator: **LT Paul Kepner '04, USN (Ret)**

No news to report.

## Florida Jacksonville Chapter

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

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

Treas: **Brian Schultz '95**  
e: searay2795@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Jim Beatty '83**  
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Communication Director: **LT Dusty Carwile '20, USN**  
e: carwile.dustin@gmail.com

Chapter Trustee: **Enochia Anderson '94**  
e: benochia@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Facebook Page: **Jacksonville Chapter - Naval Academy Alumni Association**

MyUSNA Page: <https://myusna.com/topics/9525/home>  
BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Richard O'Sullivan '77, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 407-687-6877; e: raaos@aol.com

The Jacksonville Chapter has kept very busy as we close out the year. Numerous Navy Football watch parties as have been held throughout the area with most of the late season action migrating to Culhane's Irish Pub. Pictures are enclosed from the Air Force and Notre Dame games. Thanks to **Rick Carper '76** for organizing these events. All of this leads to the Army-Navy watch party at Everbank Stadium. We are expecting a large turnout and hoping to celebrate a huge victory!



Navy v. Air Force



Navy v. Notre Dame



Army/Navy Golf Tournament



Jacksonville Chapter: Food Farmacy

The All-Service Academy Golf Tournament was held the day after the remnants of Hurricane Milton brought high winds and rains to the area. The course at Queens Harbor was in surprisingly great shape. Unfortunately, the team from Army-West Point came out on top this year. Navy finished a close second. The trophy handover from **Scott Neidhold** President of the Jax Chapter to Zach Peyton President of the West Point Society of Graduates is enclosed. We look forward to next year's competition!

The Jax Chapter showed up in force for a Food Farmacy event on 24 October at the Fleet Reserve Association. Over 170 military families received food to help them make ends meet. Food is provided by Feeding Northeast Florida, Catholic Charities and the BEAM Food Pantry. Participants included **Mike Borns '70, Drew Beasley '71** and his wife Bonnie, **Craig Chambers '74, Scott Neidhold '77, Barbara Ives '80, Mike Sims '80, David Waugh '83** and his wife Denise, **Tim Kraft '83, Jim Beatty '83, Sam Wartell '97** and **Jaren Woeppel '10**. We invite more Alumni to come out for this worthwhile event to support our Sailors and the Jacksonville area charities.

### Upcoming events for NAAA Jax Chapter:

10 January. Jacksonville Icemen Hockey game

27-28 January. USNA Women's Golf at Sea Best Intercollegiate San Jose Country Club

8 March. USNA Women's Lacrosse vs Jacksonville University at Rock Stadium Faceoff at Noon

8-10 March. USNA Men's Golf at the Hayt at Sawgrass Country Club

13 March. Men's and Women's Glee Club at Riverside Park United Methodist Church 819 Park Street at 1900

## CHAPTER SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

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

2025

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
May-June '25	31 Mar '25
July-August '25	4 Jun '25
September-October '25	6 Aug '25
November-December '25	30 Sep '25





Suncoast Chapter: Navy v Airforce



Suncoast Chapter: Navy v Notre Dame



Suncoast Chapter: Navy v Tulane

## Suncoast Chapter

Pres: **George Thompson '77**  
p: 757-810-9532; e: thompsonw77@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/usnaalumni florida suncoastchapter>

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

## Shipmates:

Navy Football this year was a pleasant surprise. Starting off with 6 wins and no losses

was a lot of fun. We actually were nationally ranked for a week or two. Not bad! But the party ended with Notre Dame and we got surprised in Houston by Rice. We bounced back at USF in Tampa, suffered a disappointing loss against Tulane and beat East Carolina. Bowl eligible. We had TV tailgates at Gecko's Grill and Pub for Air Force and Notre Dame! Looking forward to Army for the big one. We're going to be in post-season bowl and that's also something to look forward to. Above are some photos at our three tailgates against Air Force and Notre Dame and Tulane:

Standby for word of our annual luncheon at Snook Haven and watch for other

announcements for luncheons and mixers in the coming months...  
Beat Army!

## Tampa Bay Chapter

Pres: **CDR Jane Lochner '84, USN (Ret.)**  
p: 301-832-6420; e: jane.lochner@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/USNA-Alumni-TampaSt-Petersburg/120095454740213?sk=wall>

Chapter LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3912975/>

## RESCHEDULED FOUNDERS DAY DINNER A BIG SUCCESS

The chapter held its annual Candidate Information dinner to celebrate Founders Day. This year's dinner was rescheduled due to Hurricane Milton (We just couldn't get rid of those!) and the alumni team really pulled together to hold this event three weeks later. Over 150 candidates and families heard our outstanding speakers representing the major warfare specialties talk about their academy experience and careers, emphasizing the service choices, opportunities, and personal bonds that made that experience unique. This tradition represents the finest of our chapter, and this year's dinner will be remembered as among our best.

## (WE) BEAT USF

After an eight-year absence, Navy football returned to Tampa and the chapter provided strong support as the Midshipmen dominated USF 28-7. It was a big weekend, starting with a joint chapter meeting with the local USNA Parents Club. Then a reception was held at the beautiful FL Aquarium the night before the game. The Aquarium provided the perfect nautical setting for a collegial evening of information sharing and school spirit. We enjoyed the presence of the Supe, the Provost, and other distinguished guests. A festive tailgate brunch started Saturday's activities, including the Navy cheerleaders and Bill the Goat, before the noontime kickoff in the warm FL sunshine. The team took it the rest of the way, capping the weekend off with a well-played victory.

## WINE AND GOOD FOOD GO TOGETHER IN NOVEMBER

After the big football weekend, we still had the energy to enjoy our annual Wine Tasting and Potluck event at the home of Connie and **Miller Detrick '63**. This marked the 13th year at the Detrick home. Chapter members contributed a variety of delicious foods and enjoyed a very cordial evening of fun. Almost 30 alumni and guests participated.





## CHAPTER NEWS



Tampa Bay Chapter: Even after the wine tasting we made it to the staircase for a photo!

### HERE COMES LIGHTNING HOCKEY!

Lace up your skates and come on out (register first)! The chapter will host its annual all-academy night at the Tampa Bay Lightning game vs. the Seattle Kraken on 23 Feb '25. Watch for email announcements and links on MyUSNA.com.

### CHAPTER SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE

Chapter shirts and other logo merchandise are available online. Orders can be placed individually and shipped to your home.

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

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings provide a forum for catching up on USNA news, as well as spirited planning, networking, and socializing. If you are new to the area or have been around a while and just haven't gotten to a meeting, this is a great way to get to see new and old friends. Mark your calendar for the first WED of each month at 1800. We'll plan to have a new home by the time you see this issue. Participants in November included **Don Aiken '78, Travis Atkins '08, Janel Brown '97, Jon Connelly '05, Fr. Tim Corcoran '67, Perry Dempsey '72, Miller Detrick '63, Tom Draude '62, Austin Gullett '03, Warren Hahn '60,**

**James Hamm '84, Chris Heath '72, P.J. Hogan '90, Eric Houlihan '19, Eric Kennington '88, Duane Lafont '78, Jane Lochner '84, Matt Packard '06, Paul Matthews '85, Jon Miles '93, Gary Polansky '69, Karen Quilty '89, Erica Ryder '83, Jose Sanchez '07, Chris Thompson '92, Brian Tsai '16, Joe Wiendl '93, and Trent Wolfersberger '93.** We were also pleased to welcome new members **James Saylor '13, Matt Seay '94, and Shawn Stroud '82.** We appreciated hearing the latest alumni gouge from Laurie Coogan and **Isaac Phillips '19** of the USNA&F.

Watch for information to sign up for these future events -

### Future Events

- Monthly Meetings on first Wednesday of each month at 1800 (no sign-up needed). Brick House Tavern & Tap, 1102 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa
    - **23 FEB 25** - NHL Seattle Kraken v. Tampa Bay Lightning, USNA hosting all service academies
    - **9 Mar 25** - Candidate Information Picnic, Picnic Island Park, Tampa
- Our social media links are in our header. Don't forget to enroll on MyUSNA.com and

join the Tampa Bay Chapter - a Distinguished Chapter in 2020-2021-2022-2023.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2025 -  
Chris Heath '72  
Chapter Secretary



Eric Houlihan '17 and Warren Hahn '60 cut the ceremonial cake at the Founders Day dinner



A packed room waits to hear USNA alumni tell sea stories of world-wide service and adventure



Navy fans ready to beat USF!

## Georgia

### Atlanta Chapter

Pres: DJ Marzetta '94

p: 404-996-7019; e: djmarzetta@gmail.com

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

e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

Website: <http://www.usnaaaa.com>

BGO Area Coordinator (Atlanta/North Georgia):

**Deborah Catrini**

e: deborah.catrini@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Southern Georgia):

**Ryan McDonel**

e: rmcdonel.usna@gmail.com

With the absence of a summer event in 2024, this fall turned out to be a very busy season for the Atlanta Metro Chapter.

In September, several alumni joined the Alabama Chapter in Birmingham, AL to cheer on the Mids as they beat UAB. Then on 25 October the Chapter held its first annual "Oktoberfest" party on 25 October at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant in Atlanta.



The event was well received with over 30 alumni and guests in attendance. After an evening enjoying great food and refreshments, chapter president **Dante "DJ" Marzetta '94** led us through the traditional recognition and toasts. DJ has a habit of making "surprise" announcements at these events - this time he announced his engagement and upcoming nuptials.



Atlanta Alumni & guests - Oktoberfest



Atlanta Alumni & guests - Oktoberfest



Atlanta Alumni & guests - Oktoberfest



Atlanta Alumni & guests - Oktoberfest

Our last event of the season - and for 2024 - will be the Army-Navy Watch Party on 14 December at the Mutation Brewing Co. in Sandy Springs, GA.

The board will soon be meeting to put together a slate of events for 2025. This will include our signature "Dark Ages" party, typically held in February. We also plan to resume the occasional monthly gatherings at various locations around the metro area.

One question I often get is "How can I get notified of upcoming Atlanta Chapter events?" The best way is to make sure you're on our email list. First, log into your profile on USNA.



Northwest Chapter: Luncheon

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.usna.chapters.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)

### Northwest Chapter

Pres: **Brad Little '76**  
p: 619-459-6352; e: [BLittle1052@outlook.com](mailto:BLittle1052@outlook.com)

Treas: **William Crumpler '65**  
p: 509-447-7956

VA Coord: **John Lasher '69**  
p: 208-664-6753

Activities Coord: **Peter Optekar '63**  
p: 208-762-4571

Time marches on and, as I sit here writing this, Navy has notched up an 8-3 record with the only game that counts in 2 weeks. It's been a great season so far. After we beat Army, we can look forward a Bowl Game somewhere in the future.

The watch parties continue to go strong, bringing together like-minded grads and friends to cheer Navy on. We've even had a couple of denizens of the Hudson join us (with the caveat that civil conversation ends 8 December). Speaking of Army, how about that. Playing in the AAC Championship in the first year in a Conference. Kudo's due; kudo's given. By the time this is published we will

know the outcome. As well, our first Holiday Social will be in the rear view mirror.

The big news since our last newsletter is the inaugural Northwest Chapter Luncheon and Social. A rousing success, we learned from Commander **Matt Reigler '04**, Executive Officer University of Idaho, Washington State University, ROTC, about Navy ascension programs, how we are doing with our strengths and weaknesses.

### 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)

Sec'y: **Rufus Taylor '66**  
e: [tincansailor980@gmail.com](mailto:tincansailor980@gmail.com)

Treas: **Tef Nunamaker '92**  
e: [tjnunamaker@gmail.com](mailto:tjnunamaker@gmail.com)

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

Greetings all. Hope all of you had a great holiday season and wishing all the very best for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year. A couple of items to report on. A good turnout of alumni, spouses/So's, parents, family and friends gathered at Quinn's Restaurant and Lounge for the Navy-Air Force football game watch party. The group enjoyed good food, conviviality made all the better with a great win over Air Force. In attendance were **Del Giffin '67, Rick Schellhaas '68, Dennis Hanrahan '68, Ed Brzezinski '85, Thom Bruce '86, Pete Butler '86, Roy Ledesma '87, Van States '91, Paul Campbell '98, and Johanna Schumacher '01.**



2024 Boise Veterans Day SIC Marchers

The annual Boise, Idaho, Veterans Day Parade was held on November 2nd. This year the



## CHAPTER NEWS



Chicago Chapter: Alumni at the celebration of the 179th anniversary of the establishment of the Naval Academy at Annapolis

weather gods smiled on the parade. While a little chilly, the day was bright and sunny. Intrepid SIC marchers included **Rick Schellhaas '68**, **Dennis Hanrahan '68**, **Ken Vanderhorst '79**, **Roy Ledesma '87**, **Jim Matheson '87**, and **Paul Campbell '98**.

## Illinois

### Chicago Chapter

Pres: **Eric Sucharski '91**  
e: eric@sucharskilaw.com

Vice Pres: **Michael Cortesio '85**  
e: mjccortesio@comcast.net

Sec'y: **John Killacky '93**  
e: j4killacky@comcast.net

Treas: **Michelle Lee '16**  
e: michelle.lee@bgo.usna.com

Past Pres: **Fred Weber '75**  
e: Fred.weber@2comm.com

BGO Area Coordinator (Northern IL)  
**LCDR Drew Thomas '04 USNR**  
e: drew.thomas@bgo.usna.com

The Chicago chapter began the month of October at the Green Street Local in the city for the Air Force game watch party. Several members and their families watched Navy take the first leg of the Commander-in-Chief's trophy. The chapter concluded the month at the Notre Dame watch party at O'Toole's in Libertyville. About 20 alumni and their families showed up to cheer on the Midshipmen. Donations were collected by both fan bases to go to the winning team's charity of choice and the Irish alums elected to donate the money collected to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

The chapter again joined the 786 Club (supporting the families and crew of USS ILLINOIS SSN-786) on October 9 at the Union League Club to hear the Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Admiral William Houston, address the strategic importance of the Nuclear Propulsion program. The Admiral also provided an overview of both China's and Russia's submarine capabilities.



Attendees at the 786 club brief included L-R Fred Weber '75, Ed Cladek '64, Len Wass '64, Admiral Houston, Andre Bonakdar '98, Dave Lipinski '74, and Charles Westerhaus '99

The inaugural chapter Founder's Day event, celebrating the Naval Academy's 179th anniversary of the establishment of the Naval Academy at Annapolis was held at the East Bank Club in downtown Chicago on 10 October. Former commandant **Rob Chadwick '91** was the guest speaker at this well attended event. The senior attendees included **Ed Cladek**, **Charlie Jett**, and **Jack Mumaw**, all part of the class of 1964. The junior attendee was **Shannon Gorman '18**. It is hoped this event will become an annual tradition of the chapter.



Jim Driscoll '81 and Dave Frey '79 at the Chicago chapter Founder's Day celebration

Finally, the annual meeting of the USNA Alumni Association, Chicago Chapter, was held via zoom on November 12. The chapter President, **Eric Sucharski '91**, chaired the meeting. A brief overview of the events sponsored by the chapter during the past year was presented, as was an outlook for 2025. The chapter financials were also presented. **Mike Cortesio '85** was elected as the chapter Vice President and **John Killacky '93** was elected Secretary. Both will serve two-year terms. Announcement of the spring meeting, which is hoped to be an in-person event, will be forthcoming.

## Kansas

### Wichita Chapter

Pres: **Don Peacock '93**  
e: peacockfamily8@hotmail.com  
or e: donald.peacock@bgo.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Matt Treaster '88**  
p: 316-706-8594; e: matt.treaster@usdoj.gov

Sec'y: **Michael Ruth '97**  
e: ruth.michael7519@gmail.com

Treas: **Angel Ortiz '98**  
p: 785-643-6698; e: ort12@hotmail.com

On 4 November, the Wichita Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association held its quarterly meeting at the Midian Shrine in downtown Wichita. The meeting was held to discuss upcoming events and to elect the next term's chapter officers. In attendance, there were six alumni and a Blue and Gold officer. Thanks to Donnie Bean of Pizza Ranch for supplying the meeting with delicious fare.

Elected to the next term's positions were the following:

President - **Don Peacock '93**  
Vice President - **Hunt Treaster '88**  
Treasurer - **Angel Ortiz '98**  
Secretary - **Michael Ruth '97**

Aside from electing new officers, the chapter hosted an Army-Navy game watch party at the Midian shrine and is looking to provide a representative for an upcoming college fair in April. The chapter's next meeting is slated for February 10th at 1800 in the Midian Shrine downtown. Hope to see you there.

This is my first submission so if there is something incorrect or if you have questions, please let me know.

*Michael Ruth*



# 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

### "Getting Ready for Dark Ages in Louisville"

By the time this column is published, the Army-Navy game will have passed, and the Naval Academy Brigade will have completed their Fall Semester finals. We will be heading into the "Dark Ages" of winter.

We had a great turnout with the Notre Dame Alumni at Joe's Older Than Dirt in Lyndon, where we unfortunately watched our Midshipmen take a bruising from the Irish. The Midshipmen fought hard until the end and did not give up, embodying John Paul Jones' spirit of "Don't Give Up The Ship." Among those cheering on Navy were **Greg Reinhardt '79** and **Luly, Greg Treitz '76, Tony Ford '70** and **Karen**, and **Parents and Friends of USNA**, including **Lauren Theobald** and **Dan Huneke** and **Chris and Jan Sanford**.

Our next event will be a joint outing with the USNA Parent's Club as we prepare care packages for the 70-plus Kentucky Midshipmen at the Naval Academy to lift their spirits during the Dark Ages. This event is expected to take place in late January or early February. Watch your email and the USNA.com website for updates.

In June, we will have our Hail and Farewell Picnic for the recent graduates and the new Class of Midshipmen, Class of 2029. I expect this picnic to be held on the first weekend of June, either the 7th or 8th. My class, 1979, will be the Link in the Chain.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and happy New Year in 2025. Remember, every wave is a fresh start—ride the wave!  
**BEAT ARMY!**

# 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.navalumni.org>

BGO Area Coordinator: **Kevin Schaaff**  
 e: Kevin.Schaaff@bgo.usna.com

### Events

13 Nov 2024: Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

11 Dec 2024: Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

13 Dec 2024: Eggs and Legs breakfast, Ye Olde Town Café (Leonardtown)



New Mexico Chapter members cheer Navy's victory over Air Force.



New Mexico Chapter members witness Navy's first football loss of the season to rival Notre Dame

14 Dec 2024: Army/Navy watch party, Flight Deck Lounge (Pax River)

### Coming Events:

7 Feb 2025: Dark Ages Dinner

Olde Breton Inn (Leonardtown)

12 Feb 2025: Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

12 Mar 2025: Chapter meeting, Brudergarten (Leonardtown)

Please check your e-mail and the GSMC website ([www.navalumni.org](http://www.navalumni.org))

# New Mexico

## New Mexico Chapter

Pres: **John Scott Kraus '73**  
 2304 Madre Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
 h: 505-296-7409; c: 505-366-7457  
 e: skraus@aquilagrroup.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

Fall in New Mexico is highlighted by our State's largest event of the year, the annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. This year, the first day of the 9-day Fiesta was 5 October, coinciding with the annual Football contest in Colorado Springs between the Midshipmen and the Air Force Academy.

During even-numbered years such as this one, the pleasant 5 and a quarter hour 385-mile drive from Albuquerque to USAFA is an enjoyable time to relish the vibrant Fall colors along I-25 as they change shades during the trip. For those of us without tickets and/or unable to make the trip, getting together at a local sports bar wearing our Navy apparel is the next best thing. Our tradition has been for the Navy Alumni Chapter to invite the local USAFA Association of Graduate (AOG) group to meet with us at the Craft Republic Sports Bar in Albuquerque. Their New Mexico AOG Chapter, known as the "Blue Chile Chapter" was well-represented, but more somber as the day would belong to Navy who didn't let the altitude bother them and won handily 34-7. USNA Chapter members attending the meet-up were: **Brink Trammell '57, G. J. "Hoppy" Hopkins '59, Janice & Keith "Casey" Jones '60, Bonnie & Mike Blackledge '63, Olen Thompson '63, Joe McGuire '68, Ashby Albright '71 Associate, Bob Darwin '72, Jay Carrizales '75, Doug Meints '77, Chris Wright '78, and Deborah and Mark Schaefer '83.**

Riding a high off the decisive USAFA football victory and bolstered by another win over Charlotte, Navy was undefeated for the season winning 6 straight while going to meet their toughest challenge to date, Notre Dame on 26 October at Annapolis. Again, a meet-up was arranged at the Craft Republic Sports Bar in Albuquerque to telepathically cheer our Midshipmen on to victory, but alas, it was not to be. As has been recorded, it was a tough afternoon for Navy suffering their first defeat



## CHAPTER NEWS

of the season. Assembling in Albuquerque to send their best wishes to the team were: **Leo Stockham '56, Janice & Keith "Casey" Jones '60, Fred Corbalis '62, Olen Thompson '63, Ashby Albright '71 Associate, Scott Kraus '73, and Brian Cummings '04.** A review of the photo attached shows that even a tough loss for our team can be assuaged by the beautiful mountain scenery of Albuquerque.

Finally, the "Last Call" for a formerly active and distinguished Chapter member. The family of **Stephen E. Schoderbek '53**, who passed away in Parker, CO on 16 October 2024, posted his obituary in the "Albuquerque Journal" newspaper. For the full obituary notice, and online guestbook, please see [www.frenchfunerals.com](http://www.frenchfunerals.com). It was interesting to note that Mr. Schoderbek was the first Navy quarterback to run for over 100 yards in a game! He was commissioned in the US Air Force upon graduation. Services in Parker, CO were held 11/15/24 and will be followed by another in Albuquerque on 12/13/24.

<https://www.frenchfunerals.com/obituaries/stephen-schoderbek>

## 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)

By the time you receive this issue of *Shipmate*, the 2024 Army-Navy Game will be history. The next issue of *Shipmate* will include a recount of the Chapter's annual get-together at the Brae Loch Inn in Cazenovia for the game.

Alumni, family and friends are encouraged to attend the weekly Wednesday lunch at 1200 at Clear Path for Veterans in Chittenango, NY. You can call (315-687-3300) to let them know if you will be attending a lunch but calling is not necessary...just show up.

Alumni, family, friends, USNA parents, and others with an interest in the Naval Academy are welcome to join the Chapter at all Chapter functions. Call (315-655-5949) or e-mail **Bob Fegan** to let us know if you plan to attend a function.

Future Chapter activities will be addressed as they are planned.

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

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

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

If 40% of the Alumni in the Central New York area opt for Life Membership and with only \$443 currently in the Chapter's non-profit checking account with M&T, the Chapter would have adequate funds to support the Chapter's financial commitments through 2030.

For those Alumni who choose not to pay the Life Membership Fee, the annual Chapter membership fee of \$20 will be continued.

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.

## Western New York Chapter

Pres: **Dan Sullivan '95**  
p: 585-410-1941; e: [daniel.sullivan@savox.com](mailto:daniel.sullivan@savox.com)

Vice Pres: **Rich Nguyen '16**  
e: [rhnguyen44@gmail.com](mailto:rhnguyen44@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **Nicole Poolman '16**  
e: [nmpoolman16@gmail.com](mailto:nmpoolman16@gmail.com)

Treas: **Anthony Lewis '15**  
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BGO Area Coordinator: **Doug Peters '73**  
e: [douglaspeters@gmail.com](mailto:douglaspeters@gmail.com)

The Western NY Chapter turned over the following Officer positions:

**Vice President: Rich Nguyen '16**  
*Company:* 14th Company - Cobras  
*Service Selection:* Submarines and Diver  
*Duty Stations:* Charleston, SC; San Diego, CA; Naples, Italy; Rochester, NY  
*Location:* Rochester  
*Family:* Wife- Jennifer; Daughter- Vivian  
**Treasurer: Anthony Lewis '15**  
*Company:* 23rd Company - Hellfish  
*Service Selection:* Submarines  
(USS TENNESSEE SSBN 734)

*Duty Stations:* Charleston, SC; Saratoga Springs, NY; Kings Bay, GA  
*Location:* Rochester

*Family:* Wife- Courtney, Son - Earl Jay; Daughter- Lulu

**Secretary: Nicole (Fasolino) Poolman '16**  
*Company:* 25th Company - Bearsharks  
*Service Selection:* Surface Warfare (Nuclear)  
*Duty Stations:* Sasebo, Japan; Charleston, SC; Norfolk, VA; Great Lakes, IL  
*Location:* Rochester

*Family:* Husband - Kyle Poolman (USNA '15); Children - Jeffrey

## North Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Col Kevin Hart '75, USMC (Ret.)**  
p: 847-910-4502; e: [kevinphart1@gmail.com](mailto:kevinphart1@gmail.com)

### Charlotte Chapter

Pres: **Christopher "Nix" M. Nickels '91**  
e: [CHRISNIX@AOL.COM](mailto:CHRISNIX@AOL.COM)

Email: [UsnaaaCharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:UsnaaaCharlotte@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/usna-alumni-association-charlotte-251965968210794/>

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

LinkedIn Group: <http://linkedin.com/groups/8344487>

### Update - Events

**10/26** Joint Navy & Notre Dame Charlotte Alumni chapters watch party at Grace O'Malley's in Matthews, NC. Great time had by all - pictures follow.

**11/09** - Navy Rugby vs Queens. The Mead family hosted a tailgate for USNA Parents Club and Alumni - pictures follow.

Great event with a 49-19 Navy victory over Queens - Go Navy!





# CHAPTER NEWS



Charlotte Chapter



## Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Pres: **Rob Skrotsky '67**  
 P.O. Box 847, New Bern, NC 28563  
 h: 252-514-0299; e: robert.skrotsky@1967.usna.com

Vice Pres: **Rick Kunkel '67**  
 p: 910-347-6251; e: rkunkel@ec.rr.com

Treas: **Aaron Adams '95**  
 329 ClamDigger Ct., 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 luncheon in October was Thursday, the 24th at La Rosa Italian Restaurant in

New Bern; 20 alumni, spouses and guests were in attendance.

The chapter decided to meet at La Rosa's instead of Camp Lejeune, since the proprietor, Angela, is retiring at the end of the year and it is not clear what will happen with LaRosa. Angela has opened just for the chapter at lunch time with a very good menu and has treated us very well over the last several years. So we had a great turnout and honored Angela with a gift, flowers and thanks for years of hospitality.

We welcomed new chapter member **Scott Benedict, class of 1990**. Craven County Commissioner ET Mitchell joined us for lunch. On active duty ET was a Navy Intelligence officer; she is well respected in the County and is heavily engaged in the relationship with MCAS Cherry Point, Allies for Cherry Point (ACT), an organization dedicated to continuing the viability of the air station and the Fleet Readiness Center and promoting opportunities for service members leaving active duty in this area. ET spoke at length about these activities and the success through the BRAC process and related interesting discussions.

After some discussion, it was decided to skip the November luncheon but instead focus on the tailgate and the Navy - ECU football game on the Friday after Thanksgiving. The next meeting will be the Army - Navy game watch party at MCAS New River.

Go Navy, Rob Skrotsky

## 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)



The internationally acclaimed USNA Glee Club will appear in concert at the Duke Chapel in Durham, NC on Saturday, 15 March 2025 at 7:00 pm. Free admission and no tickets are required. Bring your families and friends to see and hear our midshipmen!

The North Carolina Submarine Foundation participated in November's annual Naval Submarine League Symposium. The NSL event connects active duty and retired; past, present and future submarine service leadership. Chapter members in attendance included **Shaun McAndrew '93**, Chapter President; **Noah White '04**; **George Lipscomb '87**; and **Christopher Perrien '74**.

Thank you to Brigadier General **Norm Cooling '86**, USMC (Ret.), for his outstanding and motivational remarks as the Guest of Honor at USMC's 249th birthday lunch.



2024 Distinguished Chapter



# CHAPTER NEWS



Triangle Research Chapter: 2024 Captain & Colonel's Breakfast: (L-R) Andy Hertel (Illinois), Doug Guthe '76, Ryan Tewell '96, Chris Perrien '74, Bill Coleman '95, Shaun McAndrew '93, Mike Patterson (NC State), Steve Gillespie '97, Dave Joseforsky '97, Emory Miller '07 and Noah White '04



Triangle Research Chapter: Navy participants in the annual Battle of the Boot tournament versus Army and Air Force alumni



Jeff Jeffries '64 and Norm Cooling '86- oldest Marine present and Guest of Honor at USMC Birthday cake cutting

Local service academy alumni met on November 7th at the Lochmere Golf Club in Cary, NC for the annual Battle of Boot golf tournament. The Navy team took home the Boot for the third consecutive year. The golf group plays monthly from March to November, with the season concluding against Army and Air Force at the Battle of the Boot.



Chris Perrien and George Lipscomb representing the NC Submarine Foundation at the annual Naval Submarine League Symposium.

Navy defeated ECU in Greenville, NC the day after Thanksgiving with an exciting second half. A large contingent of NC fans were on site to cheer and participate in Blue & Gold with the team. A highlight of the game was a spirit spot from the crew of the USS NORTH CAROLINA (SSN 777) and the presentation of a flag flown by SSN 777 by the director SSN 777 Club, Graham Thompson '07.

## BLUE & GOLD OFFICER Area Coordinators

See a complete list at  
[www.usna.edu/Admissions/BGO.php](http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/BGO.php)

## Ohio Columbus



Pres: **Dave Goins '84**  
e: [dgoins84@gmail.com](mailto:dgoins84@gmail.com)

Vice Pres: **Justin Shineman '91**  
e: [justin.shineman@gmail.com](mailto:justin.shineman@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
e: [bmotisola@gmail.com](mailto:bmotisola@gmail.com)

Treas: **Jim Waddell '71**  
e: [jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jbwaddell@columbus.rr.com)

Shipmate Contact: **Motisola Bowman '95**  
e: [bmotisola@gmail.com](mailto:bmotisola@gmail.com)

Parents' Club Pres: **Russelle Hoslinger**  
e: [napccousna@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/USNAACbus)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12356597/>

Instagram: [USNAACbus](https://www.instagram.com/USNAACbus)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Carla Dowling-Fitzpatrick**  
e: [dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgobal.net](mailto:dowlingfitzpatrick@sbcgobal.net)

"Several members attended the Veterans Day Ceremony at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum where VADM Ted Carter, former Superintendent at USNA and current President of The Ohio State University, was the guest speaker. VADM Carter delivered an outstanding message of appreciation for our veterans, and he shared his vision of creating the nation's premier educational opportunities for current and former active duty service members at Ohio State. Following the ceremony, we were able to chat with VADM and Mrs. Carter and pose for a photo. Attending were **Jim Cowardin '66, Tom Gomia '70, Wayne Hallenbeck '71, Dave Guza '78, Elizabeth Clifton '82, Dave Goins '84 and Rachelle Nowlin '92.**







Chapter Pub Nights are always popular and our evening at The Wine Bistro in Upper Arlington was no exception. A solid crowd of alumni, family and parents gathered and shared good food, drink, and sea stories. If you have not joined us, make sure to watch for details of our annual Dark Ages Pub Night and be sure to join us!

The annual chapter membership campaign will be February 1 - March 31. Your dues are critical to the chapter's support of engagement opportunities for members and for providing scholarships to deserving area students to attend Naval Academy Summer Seminar and STEM sessions.

Remember, Joint Service Academy Networking Breakfasts are the first Thursday of every month at First Watch in Worthington Square at 7 a.m.

For the most up to date chapter news and activities calendar, check out our myUSNA or Facebook pages."

## Oklahoma

BGO Area Coordinator: **Mike Whaley**  
e: mwhaley@ossaa.com



### Tulsa Chapter

Pres: **Rocky Goins '84**  
e: rockygoins@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: **Patrick Hamilton '87**  
e: patrickhami@gmail.com

Sec'y and Treas: **Kasey (Cregge) Carradini '84**  
e: kcarradini@hotmail.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USNA-Alumni-Tulsa-Chapter-220243113307009>

The Tulsa Chapter celebrated Founder's Day with family and friends of the USNA. Our



Tulsa Chapter



Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter

guest speaker was our U.S. Congressman Jeff Hern who gave us an overview briefing of the world's hotspots. Shown in this picture from left to right: **Alyssa Farrell (99), Jim Farrell (99), Harry Rouse (77), Patrick Hamilton (86),** Congressman Kevin Hern, **Rocky Goins (84), George Carradini (84), Kasey Carradini (84) and Shea Farrell (86).**

We welcome **Jason (05)** and **Angela Nerio** to the Tulsa area!

Tulsa Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Coffee Bunker. The Coffee Bunker is a veteran non-for-profit which helps veterans transition from military life to civilian life, helping vets with their interview skills, resume skills and connecting them with fellow vets in the Tulsa area.

## 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)

October and November are the birthday months. In October we celebrated the US Naval Academy birthday with a dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Present were **Doug Ballard '74, Jack Kohl '65** and his wife Joan, **Mike Carmichael '69**

and his wife Suzie, **Doug Bomarito '68, Adam Winslow '00**, Ky and Jenny Nguyen (parents of USNA Graduate and West Point cadet), John Plett '69 and his wife Kathryn and **Frank Swientek '66** and his wife Diane. The annual cake cutting was done by the most senior grad, Jack Kohl and the most junior Adam Winslow. This was Adam's first meeting as he recently moved to Oregon after retiring from the Marine Corps.





## CHAPTER NEWS



In November we held our annual Marine Corps Birthday celebration. Alumni present included **Mike Carmichael '69**, **Adam Winslow '00 (USMC)** and his wife Leslie, **Buff Walter '58** and his son in law Randy, **Mark Norman '80**, **Scott Firzpatrick '80**, **Mark Cooskey '71**, **Doug Bomarito '68** and his daughter Marcie, **Lee Hall '80**, **Mark Cooskey '71**, **George Schultz '72**, **Butch Bewick '62**, **Fank Blake '68**, **Jack Kohl '65**. Representing the US Military Academy was **Terry Connell '58**. Representing the Parent's Club were current President **Shelley Lipscomb** and former President **Shirley Walton**. Our senior USN alumni was **Buff Walter '58**. Buff sat with **Terry Connell USMA '58**. **Doug Bomarito '68** was responsible for inviting the following Marines: Bil Allen, Lew Barnes, Jud Blakely his friend Hellen Young, daughter Sarah and her friend Shandell Culley, Chris Blanchard, Bruce Broussard, Mike Goldade, Steve Harmon, Mark Henley, Chris Howery Nelson Olf, Dave Simpson, Kent Studebaker, George Van Hoomissen, Jim Spears, Carl Lee.

Following lunch, we had the traditional USMC Birthday cutting ceremony led by **Doug Ballard '74**. Cutting the cake were retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice **George Van Hoomissen**, the senior Marine present and **Mark Winslow '00** the junior marine present. Overall, the birthday luncheon was a success thanks to the efforts of alumni **Doug Ballard '74** and **Doug Bomarito '69**.

## Pennsylvania

### Philadelphia Chapter

Pres: **Rob Bender '73**

p: 267-625-3459; e: rbender@travismanion.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CDR Tim Farrell '76, USN (Ret.)**  
e: tim.farrell@1976.usna.com

The Philadelphia Chapter presented the 2024 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion Shipmate of the Year Award to Carl Cherkin - Carl is responsible for bringing the Army Navy Soccer Match to Philadelphia and growing it to be one of the premier college soccer matches in the USA. He has been and he continues to be a tireless advocate for Army and Navy Soccer as well as USMA and USNA.

The Shipmate of the Year is presented to Carl Cherkin by two recent recipients of the award, **Captain Bob Clark USN (Ret)**, **Class of**



Pittsburgh Chapter

**1984** and **Captain Skip Dittmann USNR (Ret)**, **Class of 1967**.



The 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion Shipmate of the Year is presented to a person or group, whose contributions have supported the United States, the Naval Services or the Naval Academy in the Philadelphia area. The presentation of this award is at the Chapters annual Founders Day Dinner.

### Pittsburgh Chapter

Pres: **Conor McKenzie '06**

e: cmckenzie@janney.com

Website: [Pittsburgh.usnachapters.com](https://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

Yinzers,

Thanks to all for coming to the Air Force Watch party and don't forget to join us for one

of our monthly Happy Hours. Stay tuned to myUSNA for more upcoming events.

### Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Pres: **Toni Kasprzak Chase '84**

e: tonitalks14@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Ryan Goldsmith '12**

e: ryan.goldsmith.12@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Rob "Guns" Gundlach '84**

e: rjgundlach@msn.com

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

BGO Area Coordinator: **CAPT Matt Chabal '77**

e: chabal@1977.usna.com

The Susquehanna Valley Chapter recently conducted chapter elections with the terms expiring on 30 June 2026. Board members are: **Bill Boniface '72**, **Matt Chabal '77**, **Courtney Davidson O'Brien '04**, **Tony Yanero '96** and **Kimberly Robertson '96**. Chapter Officers are: President **Toni Kasprzak Chase '84**, Vice-President **Rob "Guns" Gundlach '84**, Treasurer **Jim Nolan '70** and Secretary **Ryan Goldsmith '12**. The newly elected officers and board converged at Tequila Willie's on 21 October to get ideas on ways to engage the chapter. Currently work is underway to improve the data integrity of member data from multiple sources: the legacy email list, USNAAA Alumni Look-up, MyUSNA.com and the Facebook page. Look for a refreshed Facebook page early in the new year.

On 5 October, the chapter held a Navy Air Force Football Watch Party with the Naval Academy Parent's Club of Central Pennsylvania at Lancaster Brewing Company in Harrisburg.



Susquehanna Valley Chapter:



We all enjoyed Navy's dominance over Air Force 34-7.

The Naval Academy Orchestra and Mariachi Band traveled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania on 3 November at the Highland Presbyterian Church. The concert was an impressive showcase of talent that the renowned Monte Maxwell assembled from the Brigade of Midshipmen. For a school without a Fine Arts degree, the level of expertise is amazing. If you have an opportunity to attend a performance, don't miss it! One member of both the orchestra and mariachi band hails from Central Pennsylvania, MIDN 2/c James Redmond '26. He is a Harrisburg native and Trinity High School graduate who is a talented violinist. James is a member of the 16th Company. His family attended as well as about 10 other alumni and their guests. The church was overflowing and there were additional satellite viewing rooms to watch the concert. Afterwards, we dined at Cabalar, a Lancaster eatery.



By the time you read this, the chapter's 13th Annual Army Navy Football Watch Party will be in the books for those not braving the cold in Washington, DC! Many thanks to the dynamic duo of Bill Boniface '72 and Matt Chabal '76 who serve as the fabulous hosts!

We plan on hosting an Army Navy Basketball Watch Party on 26 January with the NAPC of Central PA. Look for the details to come out soon. Stay tuned as we reorganize!



RV Chapter



RV Chapter

## 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**

The USNA RV Chapter hosted 2 separate events to close out 2024.

**June 11-16**, Firsties Tim '72 and Vanessa Hallihan hosted Angela '83 & Dan '82 Brady, Jenny and Dick '78 Findlay, Martha and Paul '73 Gorman, Tim '72 and Vanessa Hallihan, John '77 and Eileen Madaio, Nita and Jack '67 Parry, Gail and Dave '75 Penman, Hoot '76 and Janet Wade, and Tom '70 and Rose Wolfe in Laurel Highlands, PA.

The group enjoyed Happy Hours with sangria and tapas, bicycle rides on the trail, and fishing or reading and relaxing on the

Youghiogheny River. Rounding out the weekend, we gathered at "Harvest Host", Chapel Hill Wines for wood-fired pizza, appetizers, local wines, and musical entertainment from a very talented young lady. Saturday evening, we returned to the campground to support the campground's celebration honoring "Hometown Heroes". As a part of this event, Chapter President, **Tom '70 Wolfe** emceed a solemn flag retirement ceremony where many worn and tattered flags were disposed of in the proper manner. Local veterans and first responders from the crowd were invited to assist with this disposal and were touched and honored to be included in this fashion.

**October 3-8** had the RV Chapter cheering on the USNA Midshipmen win against the AFA Cadets in Colorado Springs, CO. Firsties, Glenn (86') and Tracey Miller and Nick (86') and Peggy Peterson hosted Jim '70 Swoope; Tom '70 and Rose Wolfe; Don '74 and Susan Baldwin, David '75 and Gail Penman; Phil '76 and MaryLou Cahir Kumpis (FIRST COME AROUND); Hoot '76 and Janet Wade; Craig '83 and Kathy Walker and Jerry '86 and Christy (+2 Hodge (FIRST COME AROUND)).



## CHAPTER NEWS



Charleston Chapter: Navy v Notre Dame game



Charleston Chapter: Front row (left to right): Madeline Brophy Wieman, Mimi Flatley Kiteley, Nancy Flatley, Jim Flatley '56 (holding Kai Wiesman '2046!) Cara Flatley Brophy '90; Second Row: Alex Wieman '18, SSGT Rex Kiteley, Rex Kiteley '91, Pat Flatley.

Contact the Chapter to join us for upcoming 2025 events, to include:

Key West Come Around at the Truman Annex, Key West FL from 8 Feb - 17 Feb 2025  
Watts Barr Come Around in Watts Barr, TN from 22 Oct - 26 Oct 2025 (Tentative Dates)  
Navy v Tulane Come Around in New Orleans, LA from 13 Nov - 17 Nov 2025 (Tentative Dates)

## South Carolina

BGO Area Coordinator: **Ryan Blacklock**  
e: ryan.blacklock@2004.usna.com

Website: <http://csra.usnachapters.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

### October Meeting

On Monday, 21 October, the Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our Speaker was **Joe Delpino '75**, who spoke on Project Zero...a Local Initiative to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness in the Greater Charleston Area. In attendance were: **Max Hill '51; Curt Holcomb '61; Frank Bryant '66; Bernie Magdelain '67; Jim Welsch '67; Chuck Meyer '68; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Jim Lyons '74; Ron Malec '74; Bill Conrad '75; Joe Delpino '75; Dave Shimp '76; Bob Kennedy '77; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79;**

**Rick Stein '82; Perry Ramicome '83; and Greg Shore '84.**

### November Meeting;

On Monday, 18 November, the Charleston Chapter held its Monthly Meeting. Our speaker was LGEN John Jansen, USMC (Ret.), CEO, Advanced Technology International. In Attendance were: **Max Hill '51; Fuzzy Knight '53; Jim Flatley '56; Curt Holcomb '61; Ray Setser '65; Alan Burkhart '67; Roger Paradis '67; Jim Welsch '67; Chuck Meyer '68; Greg Wood '68; Mike Malone '69; Charlie Young '70; Steve Weise '72; Mike Bosse '74; Ron Malec '74; David Oyster '74; Bill Conrad '75; Joe Delpino '75; Kirk Donald '75; Dave Fischer '76; Dave Shimp '76; Rick Self '77; Denny Simon '77; Dan Cloyd '79; Glen Morris '80; Phillip Botero '82; Rick Stein '82; John Wiggins '84; Cara Brophy '90; and Wes Smith '90.**

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

### UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

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

### South Carolina Midlands Chapter

Pres: **Craig Augenstein '87**  
4847 Furman Ave., Columbia, SC 29206  
p: 803-309-3060; e: Craigaugenstein@gmail.com  
Programs/Comm: **Ed Tilden '71**  
e: aetilden@gmail.com  
Sec'y: **Randy Brooks '69**  
e: RBrooks47@sc.rr.com  
Treas: **Randy Herald '70**  
e: Randy.herald@usa.net  
Website: [www.usnasc.org](http://www.usnasc.org)

On Tuesday, 18 November 2024 at 1130, the SC Midlands Chapter met at Seawell's Restaurant.

Columbia, SC Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy, provided an impressive update on Columbia Water activities and advancements, including restoration and recovery of the historic Columbia Canal, recent economic development news, and improvements to aging infrastructure and customer service. There were many questions about water quality limits, billing, and planned upgrades.

We had seventeen in attendance including **Joel Wier '66; Randy Brooks '69;** Kathleen and **Randy Herald '70; Tim Kana '71; Chris Osier '71; Ed Tilden '71; George Rogers '72; Margie Welch and Marc Stanley '74; Bob Guy '78; Margaret and Ken Roey '78; Steve Townsend '88; Bruce Easterling '91; James Fuller '98; and Philip Mingtze Yeh '01.**

The SC Midlands Chapter will continue to meet every other month in 2025 except during the summer. An email will be sent to everyone about meetings.

## 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 observed the USNA Founders Day in October by gathering at the High Proof Loft at Kern's Food Hall in Knoxville. The event had a good turnout of 30 people. After enjoying good food and beverages from the vendors in Kern's Food Hall, Jim Ward '85 provided a brief history and opened the floor for alumni and guests to share how USNA impacted their lives. Many shipmates shared very interesting stories. Everyone had a good time recalling their four years on the Severn and how that experience has impacted their lives.

Shipmates and guests in attendance: **Rich Cataldi '69; Mitch Eisenberg '99; Pam and Rudy Escher '78; Kelly and Ernie Gonzales '81; Ross Harding '73; Beka and Mike McLaughlin '08; Carol and Bob Milhiser '64; Rebecca and Ed Price '73; Donna and Mark Prybell '90; Meg and Otto Stutz '81; Joanne and Shawn Tallant '78;**





Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter alumni celebrate Founders Day

Mike Tesar '89; Donita and Jim Ward '85 with daughters Katie and Jennifer and friend Zach Chafin; Beth and Skip Weitz '73; Val Whiting (Ed '57); Priscilla and Steve Zotti '83.



2024 KOR Founders Day



2024 KOR Founders Day



USNA Founders Day in Knoxville

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.

## 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

The chapter participated in two events during the October/November time frame.

The Parents club organized a viewing party for the AFA game. The theme was for Air Force and Navy parents to prepare care packages for their cadets/ mids. Our chapter was included in the invite and several of us attended. The game results were most gratifying. The chapter maintains a close relationship with STNAPC and provides financial support to them as appropriate.



Navy/AF Packing Care Packages



Alamo Chapter: Notre Dame viewing attendees



Alamo Chapter: Celebrating A Score



Guinness Foaming

The Notre Dame alumni association invited us to join them for a viewing party at Anchor Bar. This was the second year they included us, and they are quite the host to say the least. For the second year in a row, they had some door prizes for us in the form of a pint glass with the N\* logo. Their alumni group has close ties with the local Guinness distributor. He had a 'foaming' machine that put logos on the head of the pint. We managed to find the Navy "N" and several of us put it on our pints. I have included a picture of the finished product. Very clever. They are great hosts and I would encourage any fellow alumni to watch for this event next year. Notre Dame alumni greatly appreciate the history behind the game and show it with their hospitality.

Dave Driskell '63  
Secretary, Alamo Chapter NAAA



## CHAPTER NEWS



North Texas Chapter: Alums, their families and parent's club members participate in the annual flag football tournament



North Texas Chapter: Navy fans cheer at the Navy - ND watch party

### North Texas Chapter

Director at Large: **Daryl Smith '88**

Pres: **Jamey Cummings '93**  
e: pres@usnaaa-ntx.com

Vice Pres of Programs: **Carrie Murdock '99**

Vice Pres of Membership: **Wayne Worthington '14**

Treas: **Greg Colandrea '90**

Sec'y: **Frankie Delgado '95**  
e: secy@usnaaa-ntx.com

Website: [www.usnaaa-ntx.com](http://www.usnaaa-ntx.com)

BGO Area Coordinator: **Tom Eschenbrenner**  
p: 972 740 4060; e: eschenbrenner@gmail.com

Fall in North Texas is synonymous with football! The Chapter has been hosting watch parties this season, cheering on Navy against Air Force and Army. This year, we joined forces with the local Notre Dame alumni for a joint watch party, where the Navy crowd reigned supreme, despite the game's outcome. The Irish, gracious in victory, may be hesitant to host us again after we took over their pub.

In November, the Chapter held a virtual Board Meeting to outline plans for 2025. Chapter President **Jamey Cummings '93** emphasized the Chapter's commitment to enhancing member engagement in 2025 with a variety of offerings to including the Navy-UNT tailgate. It was announced at the meeting we are bidding a fond farewell to

board member **Ty Rose '06**, who is relocating. As VP of Membership, Ty was instrumental in organizing our successful Navy-SMU tailgates. In the spirit of "next person up," fellow Marine, **Wayne Worthington '14** has volunteered to serve out as the new VP of Membership. Wayne was introduced to the chapter at the Board Meeting and shared his vision for boosting membership. In late November, Chapter members, families, and Parent's Club members participated in the annual Service Academy Flag Football Tournament. The beautiful weather allowed us to take the event outdoors. While we didn't secure the CinC trophy this year, the Navy alumni team put up a valiant fight, followed by a well-deserved post-game celebration. Come join your DFW area shipmates at some of our variety of new events in 2025! Please join the NTX myUSNA group and look for our events and announcements.

### ALUMNI STORE

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

## 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

The USNA-UK Chapter extends seasons greetings and best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!

Every time we begin to think that maybe, just maybe, London isn't really the crossroads of the world, fate contrives to prove us wrong. Case in point: **Ryan "Ryno" Miller '97**, Navy boxing star and Chapter President **Tim Fox's** classmate and company mate, contacted Tim in late October, saying that he and his boss were hosting some clients at an Arsenal Football match on Sunday, 27 October. Ryno was looking for a venue where he could watch the Navy-Notre Dame game on Saturday, the 26th. Passyunk Avenue — unofficial home of Navy sports on this side of the Pond — to the rescue!

Tim reserved a table, but Ryno ultimately got a lot more than just a great seat and good game-day food: it so happened that Tim's partner, Liz, had planned a huge surprise party for Tim's 50th birthday that evening at Passyunk!



Company mates and classmates Ryan "Ryno" Miller and Tim Fox strike a serious pose.

As for the birthday bash, it was a total surprise and Liz did a terrific job of keeping the details a secret until the day itself! One great thing about gatherings where two or more alumni meet is that there's always an opportunity for friendly rivalry, as shown in the photo above.





Central Virginia Chapter



Central Virginia Chapter



Tim Fox '97 and Sarah Rollings '98 tout their respective classes: Tim points to the Navy '97 bumper sticker, and Sarah indicates the Class of '98 beer tap!

Next time ... look for details and pictures from the blowout Army-Navy Game Watch! And as always, BEAT ARMY!

## Virginia

### Central Virginia Chapter

Pres: **Bill Murray '83**

e: whmurray34@gmail.com

Vice Pres and Treas: **Patrick Hamilton '10**

e: j.p.hamilton9@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Ed Borger '80**

e: ed828borger@gmail.com

BGO Area Coordinator: **Nancy Brooks**

e: nbrooks421@gmail.com

### USMC 249TH BIRTHDAY HIKE RECAP

The Central Virginia Chapter celebrated the 249th birthday of the US Marine Corps with

its annual hike to Humpback Rocks in the Blue Ridge Mountains on Saturday, 9 November.

Participants included **Jay Potter '68, Kevin Moore '68, Bob McMasters '78, Ed Borger '80, RoyAnn and Bill Murray '83, Ernie Harper '87, Jim Derrane '87, Stewart Chang '89, Matt Miller '93, and Nick Co '17**. The Marine Corps was also well represented by our accompanying guests, **Tori and Steve Cole USMC from 2012 - 2019, John Lawson USMC from 2011 to 2019, Jim Mallon USMC, University of Virginia 1984, and Steve Stewart USMC from 1994 - 2023**. Other services were represented by **Will Murray, USN, Notre Dame 2015, Dennis Moler, USA, University of Maryland 1979, Steve Trotta, USN, Fairfield University, and Buddy Weber, USN, University of Virginia 1968 - a great turnout, twenty hikers in all.**

The 0900 morning start was crisp with light wind as we began the steep 700-foot ascent. After 40 minutes we summited the Rocks and were treated to a magnificent view of the Shenandoah Valley and expansive Blue Ridge at an elevation of 2,360 feet above sea level.

After summitting, **Ernie Harper '87** rendered a stentorian pronouncement of the Birthday Message - Marine Corps Order Number 47 - issued in 1921 by Commandant, Major General John Lejeune. After these words, we sang all three verses of the Marine Corps Hymn and raised a toast (see summit picture) to the Corps before consuming a quick shot of fine 10-year malt scotch.

The descent was less aerobically challenging but required sure-footed care and teamwork, for our seventh year in a row. Upon our return to the parking lot, Ernie Harper provided much needed sustenance from the back of his pickup truck with hot coffee, donuts, water and juice for which we were all VERY grateful.

Until next year,  
Semper Fi, and BEAT ARMY!

*Ed Borger '80*

### 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.)**  
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Extremely well-attended football watch parties with excited and loudly cheering Navy fans have continued to be the highlight of fall activities for the Hampton Roads Chapter; and as I banged out this column, we were gearing up for our annual "not to be missed" Army-Navy Party and Silent Auction at Shorebreak Pizza in Virginia Beach.



Watching Navy football at Hampton Roads watch party

At our December Networking Breakfast, the speaker was **RADM Phil Olson, USN (Ret), '62**, who spoke and answered questions about his role as Chair of the Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee. One of the hot button topics he addressed was the work being done to position NAS Oceana as the home base for the F-35 Lightning as F/A-18 aircraft continue to be replaced.



World Quest Winners - (L to R) Joshua Reed, Tina Reed '12, Al Ablowich '60, Sandy Robinette, Larry Baucom '70, Brendan Frerich '24 and Bill Daniels, '77

Congratulations are in order for our "Navy Blue & Gold Team" that represented our Chapter in the World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads



## CHAPTER NEWS



Quantico Chapter breakfast attendees pose for a picture with the Navy Birthday Cake.



Quantico Area Chapter: An enthusiastic group of QAC members and their families gathered at 6 Bears and a Goat to watch the Navy vs Notre Dame football game.

(WAC HR) WorldQuest global knowledge competition. Our team consisting of **Tina Reed '12**, her husband Joshua Reed, **Al Ablowich '60**, Sandy Robinette, **Larry Baucom '70**, **Brendan Frerich '24**, and Chapter President **Bill Daniels '77** brought home 1st Place in the competition's General Category! And a special thanks to **Susan Bore '89**, President of WAC HR, for inviting our Chapter to join. A 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization, the Council is dedicated to promoting an understanding of global issues through education and public discussion, believing that a well-informed public is essential to a democracy for the conduct of foreign policy. It was an incredible experience, and we plan to be there to defend our title next year!

In November, our Chapter hosted a Navy Reserve Panel Discussion at Commonwealth Brewing in Virginia Beach. BZ to **Kelly Goffigan '00** and **Jeff Lin '19** who came up with the idea and then orchestrated and coordinated the event. Attendees enjoyed pizza, liquid libations, and a brief that highlighted the requirements and benefits of serving as a reservist. Following the brief, panelists representing the SWO, aviation, SEAL, and National Guard communities, **CDR Tobias Walters '03**, **CDR Andrew Chess '08**, and **CAPT Kaylee Scott '10**, shared their reasons for joining and some personal

experiences as SELRES and IRR reservists. With over 40 attendees, this first ever event was a great success, plans are already underway to host it again next year!

For the latest updates on upcoming events; future Chapter initiatives and events, including our monthly happy hours at venues throughout Hampton Roads starting in January; and USNA news and updates, check out our website under the Hampton Roads Group at myUSNA.com. And don't forget our LinkedIn, X, Instagram, and Facebook pages!

*Dick Enderly '71*

### Quantico Area Chapter

Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**

e: ryan.steenberge@gmail.com

Vice Pres: **Ryan Steenberge '10**

e: ryan.steenberge@gmail.com

Treas: **Ron Diefenbach '00**

e: qacusnaatreasurer@yahoo.com

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

e: nancy.a.springer.nancy@aol.com

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

e: james.m.ripley@gmail.com

Website: **Quantico Area Chapter | myUSNA.com**

Quantico Area Chapter (QAC) celebrated 249 years of the Navy's warfighting strength and readiness on 4 October during our monthly breakfast. In lieu of a guest speaker, the



chapter elected to watch "The United States Military - A History of Heroes: S1 E1 - The U.S. Navy - 1775-1914". Alongside the traditional cake cutting ceremony, the chapter shared a few stories and laughs as we reflected on the proud lineage of our service.

On 26 October, the chapter sponsored a watch party for the Navy - Notre Dame football game. Despite the final score not being in Navy's favor, the group cheered throughout the game and filled the room with the singing of our alma mater.

The Naval Academy Glee Club conducted their annual Veterans Day concert in conjunction with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. The QAC had numerous members who attended the concert.

On 15 November, the chapter gathered to celebrate the Marine Corps' 249 birthday. After viewing the annual Marine Corps birthday video, the chapter read the traditional birthday message and conducted a cake cutting ceremony. QAC was honored to have **MGen Timothy Hanifan '78, USMC (Ret.)** as our guest of honor. He provided thought provoking remarks on the naval shipbuilding plan and the potential impacts of the plan on Marine Corps force design efforts.



QAC's guest, MGen Timothy Hanifan USMC (Ret) '78, provides remarks to the breakfast attendees.



Oldest Marine Bob Sonnenberg '70, Youngest Marine Ryan Steenberge '10, and Guest of Honor MGen Timothy Hanifan USMC (Ret) '78 participate in the traditional Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremony.

The chapter is looking forward to a couple more events before the end of the year and has a series of speakers and outings planned for 2025. Alumni in the area, either permanently or just traveling through, are always welcome at Chapter events. Please check our calendar for more information.



# Washington

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

## Puget Sound Chapter

Pres: **Alan Schrader '92**  
 e: usnaaa.psc@gmail.com  
 Sec'y: **Mike Mathews '75**  
 e: mjmathews7501@gmail.com  
 Website: <https://myusna.com/topics/9554>

The Puget Sound Chapter continues to rally around a successful Navy Football season with viewing events for Navy-Air Force and Army-Navy. We hosted Navy-Air Force watch parties at McCloud's in Bremerton and Dave and Busters in Bellevue on 5 October and look forward to hosting watch parties at those same locations for the Army-Navy game on 14 December. Expect an email announcement for all social events 1-2 weeks ahead. If you aren't receiving them, use the chapter points of contact above to get on distribution.

Otherwise, the Chapter is sponsoring four area Midshipmen participating on Operation Information over the holidays in conjunction with the Washington Parents Club. We were also pleased to host Ms. Nancy Murray on 12 November when she visited Seattle, braving the weather to speak with area alumni and interested parents on behalf of the Alumni Association and Foundation.

All area alumni are encouraged to get involved....THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER WANTS YOU!

# Wisconsin

## Wisconsin Chapter

Pres: **Jeff Reagan '88**  
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Vice Pres: **Craig Walker '83**  
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Sec'y: **Rob Grasse '88**  
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At Large: **Chris Adams '75**  
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Website: [www.myusna.com](http://www.myusna.com)

Wisconsin Naval Academy Parents' Association (WISNAPA)

Pres: **Steve and Katie Kotansky**  
 e: wisnapacontact@gmail.com

Vice-Pres: **Jim and Amy Langeland**

Past Pres: **Lisa and Chad Stigler**  
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Website: [www.myusna.com](http://www.myusna.com)

Wisconsin Blue and Gold Officer Coordinator  
 BGO Area Coordinator: **Mr. Mark Germano**  
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The United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Wisconsin Chapter is pleased to provide this Class of 2028 Congressional Nomination Recognition Event report for Wisconsinites' reading pleasure:

Congressman Scott Fitzgerald (WI-5, and LtCol, USA, Ret.) held his annual Academy Nominations Recognition Presser for his Nominees for the Class of 2028 at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin on 10FEB24. In attendance for the celebration of achievement were Nominees, their proud parents, Congressman Fitzgerald's

staffers and Nomination Committee Members, and members of the local press. Despite only having three open slots to fill in the class of 2028 (one each at USNA, USMA, and USAFA), Congressman Fitzgerald and the great state of Wisconsin continued to overachieve and earned 11 slots for appointees (3 at USMA, 3 at USNA, and 5 at USAFA). Fitz's three appointees to USNA for the Class of 2028 were Harrison E. Kennedy (Primary Nominee) from Menomonee Falls High School, Izabella L. Barkhimer also from Menomonee Falls High School and Meghan M. Finerty from Divine Savior, Holy Angels High School. Congratulations to our newest Midshipmen from District Five!



(L to R) Izabella Barkhimer (USNA), Dillon Hamer (USMA), Elijah Kolstad-Woods (USAFA), Congressman Fitzgerald, Harrison Kennedy (USNA), and CDR Rob Grasse '88

Happy New Year to the Wisconsin Naval Academy Family!

Forward for Freedom!  
 (ala BB-64 USS WISCONSIN)

Aloha, Rob Grasse '88





# SHARED INTEREST GROUPS



Run To Honor: The Penguin award presented to this year's last official finisher of the 49th MCM.

## Run to Honor

Pres: **Steve Swift '87**  
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Vice Pres: **Pat McConnell '02**  
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Treas: Jan Kennedy  
Sister of **John Kennedy '79**  
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Sec'y: **Shannon Webb '04**  
e: secretary@runtohonor.com  
Website: [www.runtohonor.com](http://www.runtohonor.com)

Two of the events RTH was active in this fall, the 2024 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) and Honor Our Fallen Heroes weekend were deeply moving tributes to the service and sacrifice of the Naval Academy community. Together, these events exemplified the enduring bonds shared by alumni, families, and friends.

The **Marine Corps Marathon**, held on 27 October, brought together approximately 23,000 runners, including many alumni running for a purpose. RTH's legacy involvement in the MCM weekend aimed to honor USNA graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice, a mission that was still strong at this year's event.

The day's highlight for RTH was the Penguin Award presentation at the finish line, where Maurice Sawyer of Washington, D.C., was honored as the last official finisher. The award, a stuffed "Paul the Penguin," was given in memory of **Megan McClung '95**, the first female Marine officer killed in combat in Iraq. Michael McClung (brother to Megan McClung), **Hank Donigan '77**, **Stephen Sklenka '88**, **Jeff Webb '95**, **Shannon Webb '04**, and **Danielle Beier '10**, along with family and Marine volunteers, presented the award, symbolizing resilience and remembrance.

The **Honor Our Fallen Heroes** weekend on November 16 at the Naval Academy was equally impactful. Alumni, families, and midshipmen gathered at Memorial Hall for a solemn ceremony, where **Yvette Davids '89** delivered poignant remarks. The names of fallen alumni were read aloud by Run to Honor President, **Steve Swift '87**, a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made in service to our nation.

Volunteers and Gold Star families shared stories, strengthening the collective commitment to preserving the legacies of those we have lost.

Both events underscore the Academy's commitment to honor its heroes and support their families. Join us in carrying forward this mission at future events. For details, visit Run to Honor or USNA Alumni Association.

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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).



RUN TO HONOR

Learn the stories behind the names in Memorial Hall at: [www.usnamemorialhall.org](http://www.usnamemorialhall.org)  
Find RTH gear at: <http://runtohonor.com>  
To Honor!

## USNA Women

Pres: **Linda "Postie" Postenrieder '82**  
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Vice Pres: **Maegen Nix '97**  
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Treas: **Sarah Self-Kyler '99**  
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Sec'y: **Cecily Walsh '01**  
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Happy New Year! 2025 promises to be a fun and important year for alumnae history. We will start our election process in January 2025.



Womens Shared Interest Group

If you are interested in running for the USNA Women Shared Interest Group Board, please watch social media for the official call for nominees. You'll be asked to send a short (no more than 300 words) bio and a head shot. More events to follow on the <https://usnawsig.org>.

September and October 2024 were busy months for the USNA Women! The beginning of Academic Year provided new opportunities to engage with Naval Academy Women's Network (NAWN) through events like Speed Mentoring, Lean-In Circles, athletics support, Leadership Development and more. BZ to **Maeg Nix '97**, **Cess Walsh '01** and **Lucy Ford '17** for their dedication to the Brigade. Dozens of alumnae players, managers, coaches and fans celebrated Navy Volleyball during the Women For Navy Athletics (WFNA) Volleyball Reunion. This is the 6th sport to be honored. Events included a Friday evening reception/dinner to meet the current team, an alumnae match on Saturday morning in which alumnae from this decade showed their impressive skills. Those of us from the '80s and '90s were happy to watch and cheer. At the end of halftime at the football game, we were recognized on the big screen. Many thanks to WFNA! Too many names to include, but a fantastic time had by all. The Survivor Advocacy Network (SAN) presented its final Healing Webinar: "Empowerment! A Trauma Recovery Workshop" in which participants were guided through a journaling exercise. In addition, the SAN held its first ever in-person healing retreat. Our team lead by **Stef Goebel '80**, **Jill Richards '94** and many other team members has done an amazing job. Alumnae connection remained strong with 2 Book Club events reviewing "Midwatch Stories" and "Eyes Right: Confessions from a Woman Marine". Next year's book club promises to be full of amazing titles. We also had an event at the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens (see photo). Thanks to **Lauren Moe '11** for her organization! We gathered to tour the grounds and then had a wonderful lunch at the Cafe on the grounds. Looking forward to the events for 50 years of women. See you at the Annual Meeting!



# 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

**Robert Adikes Kirtland '43**

13 September 2021

**President James Earl Carter Jr. '47**

29 December 2024

**Ivan Leo Roenigk '49**

22 November 2024

**Robert Thomas Sena '49**

6 September 2024

**Harry Llewellyn Bixby Jr. '52**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

14 September 2024

**Frederick Alonzo Alden III '53**

17 October 2024

**Dean Oliver DeLamar '53**

23 November 2024

**George Henry Greaves '53**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

22 September 2024

**Francis Eugene Lammers Jr. '53 ■**

11 August 2024

**Charles Arthur Reed '53**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

13 November 2024

**Paul Ramon Salgado '53**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

30 October 2024

**Stephen Ernest Schoderbek '53 ■**

Col, USAF (Ret.)

16 October 2024

**Joseph Lennington Vail '53**

15 October 2024

**Walter Irving Foss III '54**

28 October 2024

**Gerald Duane McCarthy '54**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

14 November 2024

**Thomas Campbell Watson Jr. '54**

RADM, USN (Ret.)

1 November 2024

**Robert David Blaine '55**

21 October 2024

**George Owen Compton '55**

21 October 2024

**John Ward Smith '55**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

13 November 2024

**James Histaspas Stewart '55**

Lt Col, USAFR (Ret.)

13 October 2024

**George Paul Cox '56**

2 October 2024

**Edgar Daniel Decker Sr. '56**

25 November 2024

**Gerald Albert Fulk '56**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

15 November 2024

**Samuel Edwin Mays Jr. '56**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

20 May 2023

**David Carson Minton III '56**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

7 July 2024

**Phillip Jax Smith '56**

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

15 September 2024

**Robert Luke Crouch '57 ■**

CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.)

3 November 2024

**Forrest Robert Hanvey Jr. '57**

4 December 2024

**Angelo Mario Inglisa '57**

Maj, USMC (Ret.)

30 October 2024

**Richard Harry Spackman '57**

1 October 2024

**James Alphonso Estep Jr. '58**

20 November 2024

**Ronald Sheldon Friedman '58**

CDR, USNR (Ret.)

5 December 2024

**William Augustine Garvey '58 ■**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

22 October 2024

**Thomas Gibbons '58**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

6 November 2024

**Hugh James Harper '58**

15 November 2024

**Donald Raymond McGarrigle '58**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

13 October 2024

**Gary Harold Minar '58**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

24 October 2024

**Theodore Merle Morgan '58**

21 September 2024

**James Lee Mount '58**

2 October 2024

**William George Schramm '58**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

10 November 2024

**Josiah Dirck Stryker '58 ■**

27 November 2024

**Denis James Taft '58 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

11 October 2024

**Joseph Albert Brantuas '59**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

21 October 2024

**George Edward Gifford '59**

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

19 November 2024

**Duane Barry Walsh '59**

13 October 2024

**Gary Dean Ballard '60**

2 November 2024

**James Waller Lambuth Lewis '60**

13 September 2024

**George Maharadze Marr '60**

LT, USNR

12 October 2024

**Larry Wayne Waterman '60**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

7 November 2024

**Robert Raymond O'Neill '61**

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)

22 October 2024

**Robert Richard Yohanan '62**

2 November 2024

**Gary Ronald Adams '63 ■**

12 November 2024

**Brian Frederick Campbell '63**

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

31 October 2024

**Donald William Christensen '63**

13 November 2024

**James Watts Eckert '63 ■**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

27 November 2024

**George Robert Guest '63**

8 October 2024

**Ralph Dace Kimberlin '63**

Col, USAFR (Ret.)

28 November 2024

**Russell Edmund McKenna Jr. '63 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

18 October 2024

**Roger William Mehle Jr. '63**

10 October 2024

**Anthony John Nargi '63**

4 November 2024

**Neil Austin Smart '63**

COL., USA (Ret.)

31 October 2024

**Thomas James Smith '63**

26 October 2024

**Edward James Wilkinson '63**

3 December 2024

**Harold Murray Anderson '64**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

26 November 2024

**Marshall Harlan Austin Jr. '64**

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

31 October 2024

**Herbert Francis Bryan '64**

CDR, USN (Ret.)

26 March 2022

**Michael David Coughlin '64**

16 October 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.*





# LAST CALL

**Paul Herbert Fenton '64**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
2 November 2024

**Richard Thomas Harry Sr. '64**

20 November 2024

**Robert Drake Jones '64 \***

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
26 November 2024

**Keith Michael Gregory Werner '64 ■**

LCDR USN (Ret.)  
23 November 2024

**Wayne Carlton Durham '65**

24 October 2024

**William Joseph Frigge '65 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
17 October 2024

**William Baile Hunt '65**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
12 November 2024

**Kenneth Wayne Meeks '65 ■**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
29 October 2024

**Bernard John Smith '65**

RADM, USN (Ret.)  
1 November 2024

**Anthony Drake Vinsavich '65**

21 November 2024

**Albert John Motta Jr. '66**

7 December 2024

**Roger Corwin Spayde '66**

26 October 2024

**Joseph Christopher Glutting '68 ■**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
20 October 2024

**Michael Alex Kalashian '68**

Col, USMCR (Ret.)  
13 November 2024

**Robert Bennett Buls '69**

17 October 2024

**Thomas Harold Etter '69**

CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
30 October 2024

**Robert Edward McPhillips '69**

14 August 2024

**Gerard Richard Finnegan Jr. '70**

14 November 2024

**Larry Neil Ivy '70**

1 December 2021

**John Daniel Rogers '70**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
4 October 2024

**William Henry Sills III '70**

21 October 2024

**Chris Bennett '71**

Maj, USMC (Ret.)  
24 November 2024

**Robert Michael Flack '71**

14 October 2024

**Paul Alexander Sonye '71**

15 November 2024

**David Bruce Reppard '72**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
28 November 2024

**John Frederick Tepy '72**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
8 November 2024

**Thomas Richard Nadeau '73**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
17 October 2024

**Michael Lyndon Rowland '73**

CDR, USN (Ret.)  
2 October 2024

**John Joseph Harris '74**

13 November 2024

**Patrick William McNallen '74**

24 November 2024

**Michael Ray Phillips '74**

CDR, USNR  
23 October 2024

**Gary Allen Wirsing '74**

3 November 2024

**Christopher Charles Adams '75**

12 November 2024

**George Edward Mueller Jr. '76**

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)  
10 November 2024

**Kenneth Jerry Halek '78**

17 September 2024

**Joseph Eric Videll '87**

14 November 2024

**William David Peltzer '92**

23 October 2024

**Joseph David Delaski '95**

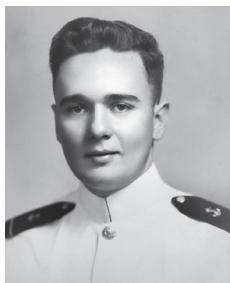
ENS, USN (Ret.)  
19 October 2024

**Olufunmike Ferance Adeyemi '98**

Maj, USMC (Ret.)  
17 October 2024

**Shawn Matthew Charchan '00**

29 November 2024

**FRANCIS EUGENE LAMMERS JR. '53**

Francis E. Lammers of Sagaponack, NY, died on Sunday, 11 August 2024, surrounded by his wife and children.

"Frank" received his BS in engineering from the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1953. Upon graduation, he served aboard the cruiser COLUMBUS and the destroyer GAINARD. After resigning from the United States Navy, he received an MBA in marketing and finance from the Baruch School of Business.

He had a career spanning 40 years in the power generation and environmental field. In addition to being president of Peabody Engineering Corporation, he was president of Peabody Engineering Corp. of Canada Ltd., president of Chentronics Inc. and VP of Ingeniera Peabody of Mexico City.

Frank travelled internationally negotiating joint ventures, license agreements and marketing agreements. He brought to the marketplace many new high-efficiency combustion and environmental products for industrial, utility, chemical and petrochemical industries.

In recognition of his expertise in his field, he was elected chairman/president of the American Boiler Manufacturers Association (ABMA).

He was the first person from a non-boiler manufacturing company to hold the position in over 100 years of the Association's existence. He also received their highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, for his contribution to promoting the general welfare of the industry.

He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and served on committees of the National Fire Protection Association, writing safety codes for boilers and boiler-related equipment. He also was a life member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

Frank was a member of the Iona Preparatory School Board of Governors and served as president from 1981 to 1983 and was the first recipient of the Headmaster's Award. He also served as VP and president of the Holy Family Parish Council and VP of the Holy Family PTA. He was also a Little League coach and a member of the Larchmont Shore Club.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Patricia (née Byrnes); their six children, Deirdre McDermott (Frank), Patricia Lammers and Francis Lammers (Anne), all of New Rochelle, NY, Ann Doherty (Eugene) of Madison, CT, Thomas Lammers (Luciamarie) of Harrison, NY, and Edward Lammers (Stephanie) of Bedford, NY; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Roseanne Rodilosso of Falls Church, VA. He was predeceased by two infant sons, Frank and John; and a grandson, Frankie.

*The Lammers Family* ★





**RICHARD BUCKLEY LUTHIN '53**

Dr. Richard B. Luthin, M.D., of Jacksonville, FL, passed away on 27 June 2024 at the age of 92.

Born on 10 September 1931, Richard was proud of his humble upbringing and youthful adventures in Bellmore on Long Island, NY. In 1949, he graduated from Wellington C. Mepham High School and received a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1953.

After Annapolis, he served in the gunnery department aboard FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CV-42). After flight training, he was assigned to fly with the "Gladiators" of VF-62 (later redesignated as VA-106). During this tour, he met his wife, Nellie Jo Wilson, in March 1955. They were married in 1956.

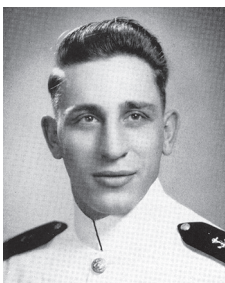
After obtaining an aeronautical engineering degree at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, Richard was assigned to overhaul and repair at Jacksonville Naval Air Station. He then reported to the staff of Rear Admiral Marshall W. White. With a longtime dream of becoming a physician, he enrolled at Jacksonville University and later at San Diego City College to complete the necessary premedical courses. After being accepted at the University of Florida College of Medicine, he resigned his line commission of lieutenant commander and entered the Reserve Medical Corps.

Following his graduation from the University of Florida College of Medicine in 1968, Richard established an OBGYN practice in Jacksonville with Nell as his office manager. After delivering over 3,000 babies, Richard closed the medical practice to embark on a new journey. With an emphasis on high-risk pregnancies and infertility, he became a "locum tenens" with assignments in the Northeast and Midwest. He also taught English online to students in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and South America. Fluent in German and French, he "worked towards" fluency in Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, especially when he and Nell traveled overseas for months at a time. After Nell, his beloved wife of 67 years, passed in 2023, Richard moved to independent senior living at Cypress Village near Jacksonville Beach, FL.

He is survived by their daughter, Bonnie Luthin Miller; grandson, Richard Miller (Peggy); granddaughter, Claire Burns (Nick); great-grandson, Henry Joseph Miller; and great-granddaughter, Laura Rosemary Miller.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jacksonville, FL, on 12 July 2024, with a military honors committal and burial at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

*The Luthin and Miller Families ★*



**STEPHEN ERNEST SCHODERBEK '53**

Colonel Stephen E. Schoderbek, USAF (Ret.), died in Parker, CO, on 16 October 2024. He was 95 years old.

Born in Duquesne, PA, "Steve" joined the U.S. Navy after high school in 1947. He served at St. Alban's Naval Hospital and aboard MISSOURI (BB-63) as a hospital corpsman prior to entering the Naval Academy Preparatory School. Steve reported the Naval Academy in June 1949. He was a varsity football player and

was the first Navy quarterback to run for 100 yards in a game, against the University of Pennsylvania in 1952.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1953, Steve transferred to the U.S. Air Force. He served 24 years in the Air Force, initially with the

Air Training Command before attending University of Wyoming and receiving an MS in industrial management in 1958. After a tour as production officer in the Air Material Command, he was selected in 1961 to teach economics at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Steve served as an assistant and associate professor before becoming Chairman for Economics and Management. In his last Air Force assignment, Steve was appointed in 1974 as Chief of Economic Studies at the Air War College in Montgomery, AL. His performance earned him the Air Force Commendation Medal (2) and Legion of Merit (2).

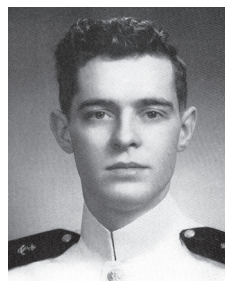
After his military retirement in 1977, Steve moved his family to Albuquerque, NM, where he worked for eight years as a senior economist for BDM Corporation. At BDM, he performed analytical studies on proposed Directed Energy Space Weapons Systems. He wrote and lectured on defense economics and delivered papers at numerous military schools and colleges on the cost and effectiveness of potential laser weapons systems.

Predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Leslie Wardrop Schoderbek, a former Air Force nurse, and their son, Brian, Steve is survived by their daughter, Joanna Schoderbek (Maris Biela) of Littleton, CO; son, David Schoderbek (Dianna) of Parker, CO; grandson, Donald Schoderbek (Madelyn); granddaughter, Florence Lindsay (Aaron) and great-grandchildren, Swen and Caper.

Funeral services were conducted at Ave Maria Catholic Church in Parker, CO, in November 2024, followed by a memorial service in Albuquerque, NM, in December 2024. Interment took place at Santa Fe National Cemetery, NM, alongside Leslie and Brian.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your favorite charity in Steve's memory.

*The Schoderbek Family ★*



**DON ROGER RAY '54**

Colonel Don R. Ray, USAF (Ret.), passed away on 2 October 2024 in Rockville, MD. He was 95 years old.

Don was born on 11 July 1929 in Highmore, SD, to Robert Victor and Sybil Eva Ray. He was the youngest of four boys. Don was admitted to the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1954. While there, he met the love of his life, Edith Ann Cashman. They were married the day after graduation,

on 5 June 1954 and would go on to welcome five children along their journey through several postings around the country.

Commissioned into the United States Air Force, he served as a pilot and flying B52s over Vietnam early in his career. His promotion to colonel led to his final post in the Washington, DC, area as commanding officer of the National Emergency Airborne Command Post until his retirement in 1979.

He lived in Montgomery County, MD, in the same home with his wife for 54 years. Following his retirement, many winters were enjoyed at their beautiful home above Cane Garden Bay in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. They happily shared it with family and countless friends, new and old. Don was an avid hunter and always looked forward to returning to Highmore, connecting with family and his fellow hunting buddies. He was a lifetime member of The American Legion.

Don is survived by his wife of 70 years, Edith Ann; and their children, David Ray (Gail) of Sioux City, IA, Dana Ray (Patricia) of Sioux Falls, SD, Dennis Ray (Michael Barratt) of Washington, DC, Donna Kilcarr of Fulton, MD, and Diane Graf (Scott) of North Glenview, IL. He is also survived by 18 loving grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two

brothers, Hal Ray and Jerry Ray. He was predeceased by his parents; brother, Gordon Ray; and grandson, Logan Kilcarr.

Rest in peace, Colonel Don, Husband, Dad, Grandad and friend.  
*The Ray Family* ★



## BRUCE HAMILTON DOLPH '56

Bruce Dolph passed away peacefully following a stroke at his home in Palm Desert, CA, on 5 August 2024.

Bruce was born to Laura (Knapp) and Edward Dolph (USMA 1918) on 17 December 1932 in Brooklyn, NY. His father graduated from West Point and later taught at the U.S. Military Academy, so Bruce grew up in a military environment. After attending the University of Rochester for one year, he applied

for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was a member of the Class of 1956.

Following graduation and a commission in the U.S. Air Force, Bruce served as a pilot at Air Force bases in the U.S. In 1961, Bruce resigned from the Air Force to pursue a growing interest in the expanding computer industry. He joined IBM, and helped develop a market for IBM products in Austria and Czechoslovakia. He also designed a human resources management system for Albania. After a successful career, he retired from IBM in 1987.

Bruce then joined the Peace Corps, serving in Malawi for two years teaching and strengthening the growing computer interest. Bruce later joined various non-government organizations within several countries in Africa and South America. For example, he helped repatriate refugees suffering from genocide in Rwanda and worked as an Episcopalian missionary with a disabled children's clinic in Kenya. He also taught business administration, finance and ethics across Africa and later in Honduras, with Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA).

The physical demands of his volunteer work were great. However, Bruce was also an athlete as a marathon runner, with several awards to his credit. Upon returning to the United States, he became a certified official with the U.S. Track and Field Association, and his weekends were frequently filled with officiating at university and other track meets. He was also an Episcopal lay reader and eucharistic minister and organized more than 20 Alcoholics Anonymous groups in several countries.

Despite the demands of his professional life, Bruce enjoyed his large family. He is survived by his lovely wife, Helen; son, David Dolph; daughters, Laura Dolph Braham, Jennifer Dolph Mondschein and Andrea Dolph McGimsey; stepsons, William Meitz, Richard Meitz and John Schmid; stepdaughters, Barbara Meitz Hartung and Nancy Schmidt; plus 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bruce's ways and means of service to others in great and immediate need, yet maintaining himself so graciously within his own family, is admired by all. ★

## OBITUARY GUIDELINES

Please note that we have a maximum word limit of 400 words. Obituaries may be submitted electronically (preferred) to [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com), or via U.S. Mail to: Shipmate obituaries, 301 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of obituaries to Shipmate, please contact Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury (410-295-4064 or [obits@usna.com](mailto:obits@usna.com)).



## JAMES LEON OWEN '56

James L. Owen passed away peacefully on 29 May 2024 in Collierville, TN, at the age of 91.

"Jim" was born on 31 July 1932, in Palmyra, AR, to Annie Mae and James E. Owen. He attended Pine Bluff High School and in 1952, he received an appointment to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. During his years at Annapolis, he was a member of the varsity football team (Sugar Bowl 1955) and varsity lacrosse team. He also sang in the Academy choir, which

toured the U.S. and was featured in the movie, "This Is Cinerama." He is also pictured in the book, *The History of American Football*, by Allison Danzig (1963).

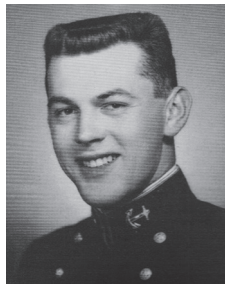
Upon graduation with the Class of 1956, Jim was commissioned as a Navy ensign. He served on several surface ships and was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Submarine School in New London, CT, and was later assigned to teach submarine tactics to recent college graduates. His many tours of service included traveling to places like Santos, Brazil; Mazatlán, Mexico; Mallorca, Spain; and Reykjavik, Iceland. In 1953, he was inducted into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep for crossing the Equator, and in 1957, his ship crossed the 180th meridian (International Date Line), earning him the Domain of the Golden Dragon.

After attending graduate school at the University of Vermont, he and his wife, Ruth, moved to Memphis, TN, and joined Idlewild Presbyterian Church. Jim acquired several businesses before retiring in 2008, when he and Ruth traveled abroad. He loved watching University of Memphis football games and was a season ticket holder. He also loved vacationing in Gulf Shores, AL.

Jim leaves his loving wife of 67 years, Ruth; son, James Jr. (Juli); daughter, Elizabeth; grandsons, Bryce, Calvin and Jared; brother, Larry (Doris); and sister-in-law, Ann.

His remains will rest at the Naval Academy Columbarium.

*The Owen Family* ★



## JAMES HUGH BOSTICK '57

Commander James H. Bostick, USN (Ret.), passed away unexpectedly on 6 April 2023 in Statesville, NC. He was 88 years old.

"Jim" was born on 5 August 1934 to James Archibald Bostick and Isabella Campbell Bostick in Laurinburg, NC. He graduated from Laurinburg High School in 1952, and went on to Columbia Prep School in Washington, DC, in preparation for entering the Naval Academy. While at USNA, he was on the staff of the

school magazine, *The Log*, and was a cheerleader.

He graduated from the Academy in 1957 and was commissioned as a Navy ensign. After graduation, he married Barbara Edwards from Laurel Hill, NC. They had three children, James Scott Bostick, Blair Edwards Bostick and Erin Melayne Bostick. He and Barbara later parted.

His first duty station was in Pensacola, FL, where he entered naval flight training. After finishing basic training, he went to Kingsville, TX, for advanced training. Upon completion, he was assigned to VS-30, an anti-submarine warfare squadron in Norfolk, VA, which was later reassigned to Key West, FL. Jim went on to serve at various Navy installations including Paris, France, as an aide to two different admirals at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

Later, while assigned to Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) headquarters in the Netherlands, Jim met and married Gillian Wyatt.



He and "Gill" had two sons, Matthew James Bostick and Timothy Brett Bostick. After 26 years, Jim retired from the Navy at NAS Lakehurst, NJ. He and his family continued to live in New Jersey, where Jim worked for Planning Research Corporation (PRC) and Teledyne-Brown, for many years until they retired to North Carolina in 2008.

Jim was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Tommy Bostick; and his eldest son, James Scott Bostick. Gillian, his wife of 46 years, passed away in November 2023. Surviving are their two sons, Matthew Bostick of Pittsburgh, PA, and Brett Bostick of Charlotte, NC; his son and daughter, Blair Bostick (Rebecca) of Alexandria, VA, and Erin Bostick Cory of Medina, OH, and their mother, Barbara Edwards Dunn of Pinehurst, NC; seven grandchildren, Taylor Bostick, Patrick Bostick, Kylie Bostick, James Sean Bostick, Hayden Cory, Ashton Cory and Carson Cory; and a great-granddaughter he never knew, Alaia Gray Massey, born on 1 February 2024. ★



**ROBERT LUKE CROUCH '57**

Captain Robert L. Crouch, USN (Ret.), passed away on 3 November 2024, in Fairfax, VA, at the age of 89.

Born in Florence, SC, on 2 December 1934, "Bob" graduated from high school in 1952 before attending Clemson College for one year. He then received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1957.

Upon commissioning as an ensign in the Supply Corps, he attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. His Navy career spanned over 28 years, starting as supply officer on HAROLD J. ELLISON (DD-864) based in Norfolk, VA. He specialized in resale, logistics systems, computer systems and financial management, serving at locations including Naval Station Trinidad, Naval Training Center Bainbridge, MD, and Staff Commander in Chief Pacific in Pearl Harbor. His Washington, DC, assignments included roles at the Naval Data Automation Command and as vice commander of the Navy Accounting and Finance Center. In 1981, he became commanding officer of the Navy Finance Center in Cleveland, OH.

Bob also served as an instructor at the Naval Academy and as faculty at the National Defense University. His commendations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2) and Meritorious Service Medal (3). He retired from active duty in 1985.

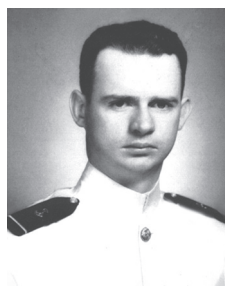
Following his retirement from the Navy, Bob served as vice president of the Navy Mutual Aid Association and earned professional degrees as a Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter.

Bob was an avid golfer and a long-time member of the Army Navy Country Club, where he served on the board of governors for over 12 years, including roles as treasurer and president.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Nancy; daughter, Donna J. Tanner (Mike) of Ashburn, VA; son, Robert A. Crouch (Judy) of Cary, NC; four grandchildren, Lindsay, Amanda, Nicole and Jared; and seven great-grandchildren, Riley, Brooke, Jack, Charleigh, Luke, Shea and Ayla.

A long-time member of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Annandale, VA, Bob was honored with a Celebration of Life service at St. Matthew's on 16 December 2024, followed by a reception at the Army Navy Country Club in Fairfax, VA. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date for family and close friends.

The Captain has answered the last call...fair winds and following seas.  
*The Crouch Family* ★



**WILLIAM AUGUSTINE GARVEY '58**

Lieutenant Commander William A. Garvey, USN (Ret.), passed on 22 October 2024 in Medford Lakes, NJ. He was 90 years old.

Born in Yonkers, NY, "Bill" was the son of William A. Garvey and Irene V. Keating. He attended St. Frances of Rome grade school and graduated from Mount St. Michael's High School, where he played football and ran track. He was a chemistry major at Manhattan College before joining the Naval Academy Class of 1958.

At Annapolis, he was a member of the 10th Company and he learned to play squash, which he continued to play for many years after graduation.

Upon graduation from USNA, he was commissioned as a Navy ensign and joined HARWOOD (DDE-861). He married the love of his life, Alice A. Andersen in 1962. Bill excelled as a submarine officer and over his 20-year career, served aboard a number of boats, including his favorite, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, and was on the submarine staff of the Pacific and Atlantic. He obtained an MBA from the University of Hawaii.

After the Navy in 1978, Bill and Alice settled in Medford Lakes, NJ. Bill worked for Stone and Webster Engineering in Cherry Hill, NJ, and Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Plant. Bill held a number of management positions during his 15 years at this Jersey Central and GPU nuclear plant. Bill became a licensed professional engineer during this period.

Upon his retirement in 1994, Bill stayed active, serving as Medford Lakes Emergency Management Coordinator for a number of years. He joined the Medford Lakes Lions and served as president. He was active in the cabulance program, which provided transportation to medical appointments for those in need. Bill also volunteered as an AARP tax aide. Bill was a life member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and the VFW. He enjoyed many reunions with his USNA 10th Company friends over the years.

Bill was predeceased by his parents; and Alice, his wife of 61 years. He is survived by their children, Peter Garvey, Kathleen Garvey (Neil) and Heather Garvey (Lieutenant Colonel Thomas R. Williams II, USAF (Ret.)); and four grandchildren, Aoife Fidler (Lieutenant Junior Grade Cody Fidler, USCG), Lieutenant Junior Grade Conor Garvey, USN, Gwynn Marotta and Ensign Sarah Marotta, USN.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Medford Lakes Lions ([www.medfordlakeslions.org](http://www.medfordlakeslions.org)). ★



**JOSIAH DIRCK STRYKER '58**

J. Dirck Stryker of Arlington, MA, passed away peacefully at Mount Auburn Hospital on 27 November 2024, after a battle with pneumonia. He was 88 years old.

Born on 11 October 1936 in Honolulu, HI, Dirck was the elder son of Rear Admiral Joe Warren Stryker '25, USN, and his wife, Anne (Agee). Dirck graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1958 and served four years in the U.S. Navy.

After his military service, Dirck earned a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University, then went on to become a professor of economics at Yale University, and later the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. While at Tufts, Dirck founded Associates for International Resources and Development, a consulting firm focused on economic development for African countries.

An avid tennis player, Dirck also enjoyed sailing, hiking, skiing and other outdoor activities. In his later years, Dirck pursued interests in politics, sociology and urban planning, and volunteered his time to help

## LAST CALL

improve criminal justice in Massachusetts. Dirck enjoyed playing music, especially the guitar and world percussion, as well as singing in his church choir.

A beloved father and grandfather, Dirck, will be remembered fondly for his zeal for life, his kindness to others, his professional achievements in the field of economics and his generous community contributions.

Dirck is survived by his long-term partner, Dorothy Nash-Webber; three children, Sean, Sonia and Colin; five grandchildren, Aaron, Scott, Emily, Eric and Ell; and his brother, David '61. Dirck was preceded in death by his former wife, Floy Stryker, the mother of his three children.

The family will hold a private memorial.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Arlington Friends of the Drama ([www.afdtheatre.org](http://www.afdtheatre.org)) or the Winchester Unitarian Society ([www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)), two organizations very close to Dirck's heart.

*The Stryker Family* ★



### DENIS JAMES TAFT '58

Captain Denis J. Taft, USN (Ret.), died on 11 October 2024 in Kent, WA.

Born in Mitchell, SD, on 30 June 1935, to Martin and Wilma (Weber) Taft, Denis attended Notre Dame Academy and High School in Mitchell, SD, graduating in 1953. He attended Northwestern Prep School in Minneapolis, MN, prior to accepting a U.S. Senatorial appointment from South Dakota to the Naval Academy, where he graduated on 4 June 1958, as a

member of the 12th Company.

After marrying Sylvia Pfllepsen on 30 June 1958 in St. Cloud, MN, he began flight training at Pensacola, FL, earning his pilot wings in November 1959 and flying patrol squadrons during his first tour. He matriculated at the Naval Postgraduate School and Cranfield Institute of Technology in England, earning an MSC in aeronautical electrical/control engineering.

In 1968, he deployed twice to the Mediterranean aboard INDEPENDENCE, flying the EA-6B Prowler. He commanded VAQ-132 and VAQ-129 between 1975 and 1978. Next, he was executive officer of CONSTELLATION for two years, deploying to the Indian Ocean. He reported to Naval Air Station, Fallon, NV, May 1981 as commanding officer. He piloted jet aircraft until retiring from the Navy on 30 June 1983, having accumulated over 5,400 flight hours in 33 aircraft models. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (3) and many others.

Denis worked for Boeing in Seattle, WA, from 1983 until retiring on 1 July 1995. He and Sylvia traveled over the years yet found time to volunteer for numerous projects at their church and hospital and spend time with their beloved family.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sylvia; daughters, Karen Loomis (Ken), Sara Taft Merkes and Joanne Lane (Michael); sons, Martin Taft (Soucky) and James Taft (Amie); 11 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his siblings, Marilyn Mechtenberg, Deanna Hall (Rod) and Dan Taft; and brother-in-law, Zeno VanErdewyk. He was preceded in death by his parents; infant daughter, Mary Ann; his sisters, Carol VanErdewyk and Sonja Lipovac; and son-in-law, Rob Merkes.

Memorials may be made to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Covington, WA (<https://sjtbcc.org>).

A Funeral Mass and Celebration of Life took place at St. John the Baptist Church in Covington, WA, on 18 October 2024, followed by committal with full military honors at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA, on 23 October. ★



### LEON ERVIN EVERMAN '60

Captain Leon E. Everman, USN (Ret.), passed away at his home in Bloomington, IL, after a battle with prostate cancer, on 5 September 2024.

Leon was born on 26 November 1938 in Twin Falls, ID, to Glenn Ed and Pearle Faye (Uthe) Everman and grew up in the country surrounding Winston, MO. He left Missouri at 17 to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class of 1960.

After nuclear power training, he served on NATHAN HALE (SSBN-623), HENRY CLAY (SSBN-625) and JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN-630), and was commanding officer of GEORGE BANCROFT (SSBN-643). In addition to these boats, he served in several management and training commands, primarily in Charleston, SC. He retired from the Navy as Director of Undersea Manpower, Personnel and Training at the Pentagon, after 30 years of service in the submarine force.

He retired again from Clinton Power Station in Illinois as Director of Plant Radiation Protection in 1996. The next few years were spent monitoring his youngest child's whereabouts and making sure she did her homework. Eventually, he and Martha were able to take some wonderful trips and spend winters in a second home in Beaufort, SC. Leon played golf as part of a special foursome of dear friends, very much enjoyed his time in the Young Men's Club and was the faithful hardware guy at the Second Pres Group Sale for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Martha Martin Everman; his children, Stephen Joseph Everman (Kristina), Lynn Marie Gee (Paul), David Glenn Everman (Anne) and Grace Balestrieri (Dominic); stepson, Stephen Frair (Patricia); and nine grandchildren, Nathaniel, Samuel, Tatum, Gabriel, Jocelyn, Luca, Leo, Emma and Gibson.

He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Jerry Dale Everman; and granddaughter, Ashley Everman.

A Celebration of Life took place on 26 October 2024 in Bloomington, IL.

In lieu of flowers, gifts to Second Presbyterian Church ([www.secondpres.com](http://www.secondpres.com)) or the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal ([www.bgcbn.org](http://www.bgcbn.org)) would be appreciated.

*The Everman Family* ★



### JAMES CLARENCE HOUSEHOLDER '60

James C. Householder passed away on 31 August 2024 in Mountain Home, AR, with his family by his side. He was 88 years old.

"Jim" was born in Milo, MO, on 1 June 1936. He graduated from Nevada High School in Nevada, MO, attended SMS (MSU) in Springfield, MO, for two years, and then completed four years at the Naval Academy.

On 8 June 1960, he graduated from USNA with an engineering degree and married his SMS sweetheart, Marjorie Elizabeth Fearl. He served over three years as an Army first lieutenant in Munich, Germany, where he and his wife welcomed their daughters, Kelly and Dana. They loved their time in Europe, traveling as much as possible, learning to snow ski and making life-long friends.

Jim began his career in engineering at Eastman Kodak working in Rochester, NY, and Houston, TX, for over three years. While he enjoyed working with Kodak and learning about photography, the desire for a more rural life prompted him to move his family to Mountain Home in 1967 and build their home in the woods by the beautiful Big Creek. Except for a few years supervising construction projects in the area, he was employed at Baxter Healthcare Corporation with over 25 years as a



plant engineering manager. He was considered a great leader, generous mentor and was appreciated for his many talents. After retiring, he consulted on several projects for Baxter.

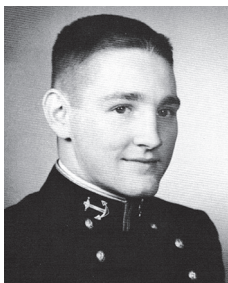
Jim loved road trips, exploring the country's national parks, tractor hunting, tinkering with his antique and classic tractor collection, competing in tractor pulls, bird hunting (particularly the annual pheasant hunting trips in South Dakota with his buddies for over 30 years) and spending time with his family and friends. He will be remembered for his brilliant mind, sense of humor, kind manner, hard-working nature, and as a wonderful husband, father and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Jim is survived by his wife, Marjorie Householder; daughters, Kelly Lynn Householder-Giuliano (Peter) and Dana Leigh Householder; sister, Helen Joan Kosley; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Roy James Householder and Lucille (Palmer) Householder; sister, Riva McMannis; and brother, Karl Otis Householder.

A Celebration of Life was held on 21 September 2024 in Mountain Home, AR.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of the Ozarks ([www.hospiceoftheoark.org](http://www.hospiceoftheoark.org)).

Condolences may be left for the family at ([www.rollerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rollerfuneralhomes.com)). ★



**MILTON HADDON JONES '61**

Lieutenant Commander Milton H. Jones, USN (Ret.), died peacefully from complications of Parkinson's disease on 20 September 2024.

Born on 24 October 1938, he was the eldest of four sons born to George Heflin Jones and Frances Haddon (Riley) Jones. "Milt" spent his formative years with his family in the Tuskegee and Montgomery areas of Alabama. After graduating from Tallassee High School (1957), he was accepted into the Naval Academy,

where graduated with the Class of 1961.

Milt married Marjorie Jean Powell, and over the course of their marriage, they were blessed with four children. During his time at home, Milton enjoyed cooking for his family (particularly, Thanksgiving turkey and stuffing, ribs and chili), ski trips to Sunday River and Snowshoe, working in his garden, and playing squash with friends and coworkers.

He enjoyed a dedicated naval career spanning 20 years, serving on the following naval vessels: CAPITAINE (SS-336), TIGRONE (SS-417), BLENNY (SS-334), HARDHEAD (SS-365), LITTLE ROCK (CLG-4); and on the staffs of Submarine Flotilla Eight, Naval Activity, Naples (as port operations officer) and the Naval Academy. He also managed to further his education by earning several postgraduate degrees, including a BS in electrical engineering (Naval Postgraduate School, 1968), an MBA (Boston University, 1978), and a MS in administration, specializing in information systems technology (The George Washington University, 1981).

Upon leaving the Navy, Milt continued his career in engineering with ExxonMobil. He oversaw multiple projects domestically and internationally, working in South America and in Asia. His time in Hong Kong as a member of the Tsing Yi Project Design Team proved to be most notable, completing and opening the lube oil blending plant and fuels terminal.

Not one to remain idle, after retiring from ExxonMobil, Milt took a last civilian command with Entergy in New Orleans, LA. He acted as the company's on-site construction manager for the Mississippi River Crossing Project (2003-2004). He continued to consult with the company until his Parkinson's disease began to interfere.

Milt is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marji; their children, Geoffrey Jones (Kathy), Corinne Parker '93 (Greg '90), Kathryn Looney (Todd, USMA '99) and Megan Jones (Clint Bell); seven grandchildren; and his brothers, Howard (deceased), George Jr. and Wallace.

A memorial service and interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on 25 March 2025. For details, please contact ([mhjones61@aol.com](mailto:mhjones61@aol.com)).

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorials to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research ([www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)). ★



**ROBERT EUGENE FULGHUM '62**

Captain Robert E. Fulghum, USNR (Ret.), DVM, 85, died suddenly on 3 September 2024 from heart complications, with his beloved wife of 58 years, Leona, at their home in Concord, NC. He had led an accomplished life defined by love and service.

"Bob" was born in Memphis, TN, on 20 August 1939 to Bernard Eugene Fulghum and Agnes (Warbritton). Raised on a small farm, Bob developed a love for animals and the

peace found in nature. Following graduation from Central High School, he briefly attended Southwestern College (now Rhodes College) on a leadership scholarship. In 1958, he received a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy. While at USNA, he was on the swimming, diving and football teams.

After graduation with the Class of 1962, Bob was stationed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and met the love of his life, Leona Garth. They were married on 29 December 1965 in Florence, AL. As a Navy Supply Corps officer, Bob was deployed for two tours to Vietnam; and while Stateside, was stationed in San Diego and Detroit.

Shortly after the birth of his first two children, Bob left active duty and enrolled in veterinary school at Auburn University. An opportunity to be a practicing veterinarian brought Bob to Concord, NC, where he opened a veterinary practice. In 1984, he was hired as Assistant State Veterinarian of the NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) and transitioned to a long career as a NCDA veterinary medical officer. Throughout this period, Bob remained in the Naval Reserve, retiring after 26 years of service.

Bob continually set aside personal ambition to dedicate himself in loving service to his family and community. He was a loving and steadfast father to his children, Shawn, John, Heather and Margaret. A faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, he taught and was superintendent of the Sunday School and served as chair of the deacons. After a tragic car accident killed his first son, Shawn, and left his other son, John, with a severe traumatic brain injury, Bob and Leona both retired and lovingly cared for John in their home for 24 years. All who knew Bob were inspired by his selfless dedication to his family and how he met toil and grief with joy, hope and faith in God.

Services were held on 12 October 2024 at Concord's First Presbyterian Church, and Bob's remains were laid to rest alongside his sons at the Memorial Garden. ★



**GARY RONALD ADAMS '63**

Gary R. Adams passed away after a short illness at his home in Galloway, OH, on 12 November 2024. He was 82 years old.

Born in Hamilton, OH, to the late Theodore and Jaqueline Adams, Gary was a graduate of Hamilton High School (1960).

Upon graduating from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1963, he was commissioned as an ensign and proudly served in the United States Navy until 1969.

## LAST CALL

After his naval career, Gary attained his master's degree in engineering from The Ohio State University. He was employed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH, where he retired in 2000 after 37 years of service.

Gary is survived by his wife of 35 years, Amy Adams; daughter, Kristen Cummins (James); grandchildren, James, Dillon and Grant Cummins; stepson, Jeremy Burns (Ana); step-granddaughters, Elaina and Audrey Arthur; his siblings, Georgia Patrick, Patricia Richardson, Margo Benham, Rickey Adams (Melissa), Melody Adams, Walter Adams, Luanne Hubbard (Bob) and James Adams (Tena); and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Private family services were held.

Please visit ([www.radermcdonaldtiddfuneralhome.com](http://www.radermcdonaldtiddfuneralhome.com)) to share your favorite memories and to send condolences to the family.

*The Adams Family* ★



### **JAMES WATTS ECKERT '63**

Lieutenant Commander James W. Eckert, USN (Ret.), of Troy, PA, passed away on 27 November 2024.

Born in Philipsburg, PA, on 7 December 1940 to George Herman Eckert and Esther Watts Eckert, "Jim" grew up in Tyrone, PA. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963 (Third Company) and earned a master's degree in science and engineering at the University of Michigan in 1966.

Jim married his beloved wife, Cynthia Loomis Eckert, in 1964. The Civil Engineer Corps took him to Thailand (1966-1968), Vietnam (1968-1970) and Boston (1970-1973), before settling in Northern Virginia. He finished his military career at the Coastal Engineering Research Center at Fort Belvoir, VA, in 1983.

Jim then became a founding partner at Engineering Consulting Services, Ltd., where he was senior vice president and chief engineer until his retirement in 2006. In 2007, Jim and Cynthia moved to her childhood home, a farm in Troy, PA.

Jim had an abiding faith in Christ, a keen and curious mind and a love for building things that would last, as seen by the thousands of saplings he planted on his farm and the thousands of hours he invested in mentoring relationships. He delighted in deep discussion. One of his favorite ways to engage with someone was to send them a copy of an article he had just read, with a handwritten note across the top beginning with, "I thought you would find this interesting..."

Jim supported many non-profits with his time and resources, bringing to them the same desire to build wisely and sustainably that he brought to all his endeavors. He was a loving and nurturing husband, a patient and encouraging father and grandfather, and an insightful and loyal friend. The inscription carved above his mantelpiece reflects the driving passion of all his pursuits and the humility with which he worked at them: *Soli Deo Gloria* — "To God Alone Be the Glory."

Jim is survived by his wife, Cynthia; his brother, George Eckert; three sons, James Eckert (Amy), Matthew Eckert (Karen) and Andrew Eckert (Sandra); and a daughter, Elizabeth Coburn (Philip). He deeply loved and cared for them, his 11 grandchildren, and his granddaughter-in-law.

A Celebration of Life was held on 5 December 2024 at Holy Trinity United Methodist Church in Troy, PA.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Troy Food Pantry, 532 Elmira Street, Troy, PA 16947. ★



### **RUSSELL EDMUND MCKENNA JR. '63**

Commander Russell E. McKenna Jr., USN (Ret.), passed away on 18 October 2024, after a battle with cancer. He was 83 years old.

Born on 15 April 1941, in Providence, RI, "Russ" grew up in Warwick, where he participated in basement craft projects, church basketball, choir, sail and motor boating on Narragansett Bay, neighborhood sports, Scouting and music. He was one of the first Eagle Scouts in the community, a unique achievement in the

1950s. In high school, he was involved in many extra activities and club leadership positions, as well as playing trombone in the marching band, concert band, orchestra and school dance band.

Russ graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963, standing near the top of his class. He was selected for the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program and volunteered for submarine duty. Married to Joan Janet Ashton in 1963, the couple had two children and later divorced in 1972. He served on two diesel subs, three fast attack subs and two ballistic missile subs. There were five full WestPac deployments, seven Polaris missile deterrent patrols, nine submarine special operations and countless fleet exercises and local independent missions. He was trained as a Navy scuba diver and performed many underwater exploits as well as having exciting recreational adventures. Under his command, PERMIT (SSN-594) was awarded the Battle E two years in a row, and also received the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Navy Unit Commendation based on special missions. He personally received the Legion of Merit.

After his retirement in 1984, he moved to Sequim, WA, with his wife, Catherine. Together, they traveled around the U.S. in a RV before changing pace and navigating the Eastern U.S. and Canada in a 37-foot Lord Nelson Victory tug yacht. Ready to resume life ashore in Sequim, he built a beautiful home and turned to his passion of playing piano and ragtime music, even recording a CD. He volunteered with local hospice services and enjoyed fishing, crabbing and outdoor activities.

Russ was a happy, fun-loving perpetual optimist. He served his country well and helped make the world a little better place because of his being here.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Catherine Emerson McKenna; son, Russell McKenna III; daughter, Elizabeth Bennett; and grandchildren, Peyton, Cameron, Katelyn and Russell IV. He was predeceased by his parents; sister, Marilyn Jenkins; and son, Daniel Emerson.

He is interred in Sequim View Cemetery among fellow veterans. ★



### **ROBERT DRAKE JONES '64**

Captain Robert D. Jones, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully on 26 November 2024 after a multi-year struggle with Lewy body dementia in Sugar Land, TX. He was 82 years old.

"Bob" was born on 12 December 1941 in Shreveport, LA, as an Army brat. His travels, including Japan during the Occupation, helped develop his quick wit, work ethic and desire to succeed with a fun-loving attitude. He attended Texas A&M for a year before graduating

from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964 with a BS in engineering.

At-sea assignments include CHEVALIER (DD-805), GOODRICH (DD-831), LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852) and commanding officer of DAVIS (DD-937) and NICHOLSON (DD-982). He served three tours of duty in Vietnam, including one with Vietnamese Riverine Forces as senior advisor to IV Corps.



His advanced degrees include a master's in ocean physics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA; Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University; and graduation from Naval War College in Newport, RI. He also served as the U.S. Navy exchange officer at the German Naval Academy in Flensburg, Germany.

Shore assignments included staff of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet and executive officer of the largest missile engineering station in the Navy. Bob retired from the Navy after 24 years although selected for additional sea commands.

His personal and foreign awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with/V) and Vietnamese Honor Medal (First Class), in addition to 16 other campaign and personal medals.

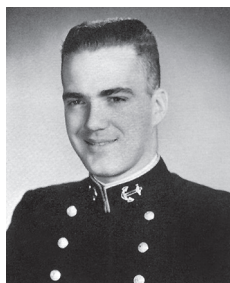
Bob worked with various high-tech firms, was Chief of Maintenance for the State of Washington Ferry System and founded a successful real-estate company in Georgetown, TX, which he ran for many years.

Bob was predeceased by his father, Colonel Richard A. Jones, USA; mother, Eva D. Jones; brother, Richard M. Jones; and sister, Betty Wiley.

Surviving relatives include many nephews and nieces, along with his sister, Eva Lynne Moore of Lampasas, TX; two brothers, Roger E. Jones of Dadeville, AL, and Mark R. Jones of Sugar Land, TX; his former wife, Margaret Jones; stepdaughter, Amy Sorenson; and stepsons, Tim Burrington and Chad Burrington.

Bob will be laid to rest at the Naval Academy Columbarium with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers or other remembrances, the family requests memorial donations to Hillsdale College (alumni@hillsdale.edu; 517-607-2723) or to a charity/organization of your choice. ★



**KEITH MICHAEL GREGORY WERNER '64**

Lieutenant Commander Keith M.G. Werner, USN (Ret.), 82, of Elkton, MD, passed away at home on 23 November 2024.

Born on 12 March 1942 in Omaha, NE to James Joseph Werner and Cathryne Agnes (Mitchell), Keith lived a blessed and fruitful life. After studying at the Naval Academy, he earned a BS in general engineering with minors in history and Russian language and was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer. The same

month, he married his high school sweetheart, Kathleen Marguerite Winkelman. He continued to serve, further his education and receive several medals over the 20 years before his retirement in July 1984. Throughout his service, he completed three separate master's degree programs in the postgraduate fields of Nuclear Physics/Reactor Operations, Joint Intelligence and International Studies.

After retiring from the Navy, he continued to work in the defense industry as a systems engineer for Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, NJ, until his final retirement in 2003.

Keith was very proud of his faith, having been raised Roman Catholic in a German-Irish family. Throughout his military career, he often served as a Catholic lay leader, and eventually Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, aboard the ships he served on. He was very active in his spirituality and his communities, constantly working to expand and grow. Eventually, he was called to break down barriers and create unity throughout his Church, starting a nonprofit program called Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center, organizing pilgrimages to sites throughout the world. He was a 4th Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus, assembly No. 380.

Keith will be remembered as the proud patriot that he was, who deeply loved and cared for all. He enjoyed traveling, and cherished his experiences in the Navy, attending all of his alumni reunions. His family

was very important to him, and he especially loved the time spent with his grandchildren.

Keith is survived by his children (and their spouses), Kent Werner (Wendy) and Katherine Bagnato (Ralph); his grandchildren, Dominic, Raffaele and Gabriela Bagnato; as well as his companion of three years, Joanne Morris. He was predeceased by his parents; his wife, Kathleen Werner; their son, Kurt Werner; and his brother, Robert Werner.

A memorial Mass took place at Immaculate Conception in Elkton, MD, on 5 December 2024. A Celebration of Life and interment with military honors will be on 12 March 2025 in Berlin, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your charity of choice. ★



**WILLIAM JOSEPH FRIGGE '65**

Captain William J. Frigge, USN (Ret.), crossed over the bar on 17 October 2024.

"Bill" was born on 23 January 1942 in Vincennes, IN, and was educated in the Catholic school system there. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy from 1961 to 1965 and was commissioned as an ensign in June 1965. He also attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School from 1971 to 1973, obtaining an MBA in Oceanography, as well as the U.S. Naval War

College, where he graduated with distinction in 1978.

Bill served as ship's company on four destroyers and frigates, commanding TRUETT (FF-1075). He also served on three sea-going staffs. He had four shore duty tours including on the Navy staff in Korea. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with one Gold Star), Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnamese Service Medal (with five Bronze Stars) and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (with four Bronze Stars).

Bill met his wife of 57 years, Caren Lee (Jennings) Frigge, in Newport, RI, in February of 1968. They were married in December of the same year. They have two children, Lisa Frigge and Beth (Frigge) Zelibor; and four grandchildren, Abby, Alex, Kate and Tori. As with most military families, they lived in different East and West Coast locations, as well as the Republic of Korea in Seoul.

In April of 2000, Bill and Caren set anchor for good in Mathews County, VA, on the banks of Queens Creek. There, they joined and became lifetime members of the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad. Captain Frigge was a 15-year member of their board of directors, including one year as chairman. He also served as chairman of the building committee for the construction of the new squad building in 2006.

Captain Bill Frigge is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

His ashes will be scattered at sea by his family, becoming a part of it forever.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad, 94 Cricket Hill Road, Hudgins, VA 23076. ★



**KENNETH WAYNE MEEKS '65**

Captain Kenneth W. Meeks, CEC, USN (Ret.), died in Cumming, GA, on 29 October 2024. He was 82 years old.

Born on 28 September 1942 in Union Point, GA, to William and Iris Meeks, "Ken" graduated from Gainesville High School in his hometown of Gainesville, GA. He attended Georgia Tech for one year before receiving an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. As a midshipman, Ken was very active in the Baptist Student

Union and served as the State of Maryland president of the Baptist

## LAST CALL

Student Union his First Class Year. Ken always enjoyed math, science and engineering, and earned an area of emphasis in Physics, graduating with his Sixth Company in 1965.

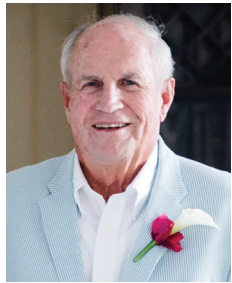
For the first two years of his naval career, he served aboard MACDONOUGH (DLG-8) in Charleston, SC. He then transferred into the Civil Engineer Corps and spent two years studying civil engineering at Georgia Tech as a graduate student. Ken earned bachelor's and master's degrees while at Georgia Tech, and later earned licensure as a registered professional engineer in both Louisiana and Virginia.

Ken's Navy career touched on all areas of responsibility of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. His senior officer assignments as a captain included: officer in charge of construction on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean; XO for Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, SC; commanding officer of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center Public Works Center; and deputy assistant secretary in the Department of Energy in Washington, DC, in charge of the nation's naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.

After retiring from the Navy in 1994, he earned a doctorate in civil engineering (structures) from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. He accepted a position on the faculty of Tri-State University in Angola, IN (now renamed Trine University), a private university that specialized in teaching undergraduate engineering. He had a very successful second career there, retiring for the second time in 2008 as a full professor and head of the Department of Civil and Environment Engineering. He was awarded professor emeritus status.

Ken is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lynn; son Michael '96 (and his wife, Anne); three granddaughters, Mary, Katherine and Meaghan; sister, Wilma (and her husband, Ray); and two nieces.

A memorial service and burial with military honors were held on 4 November 2024 in Cumming, GA. ★



### DAVID LEE MILLER '65

David L. Miller, 81, of Dallas, TX, passed away on 16 September 2024. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to many.

"Dave" was born to Myrtle Cook Miller and Sherman Lee Miller on 29 March 1943. He grew up in southwest Virginia with its mountain peaks and coal mining industry. He became a Christian at the age of nine, became a Baptist during flight training in Pensacola, FL, and had been a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas since 1971.

Dave attended Garden High School in Oakwood, VA, where his main interest was sports. He was quarterback and captain of the football team, captain of the basketball team and played baseball. Dave received an invitation to walk on to the Duke University basketball team and during his junior year, he was elected as lieutenant governor to preside over the senate at the Virginia Model General Assembly during his senior year.

At the Naval Academy, Dave was a member 12th Company during First Class Year and chose a career in naval aviation after graduation. The day after graduation, he and Patricia Kennington were married at the Naval Academy Chapel.

Upon receiving his Wings in December 1966, Dave returned to Milton, FL, as an instrument flight-instructor and then went on to Jacksonville, FL, to fly the P-3 Orion aircraft and advanced to being designated a patrol plane commander.

He resigned from the Navy after six years and went to work for Electronic Data Systems, where he enjoyed a 29-year career before retiring.

Dave loved sports. He rarely missed watching golf, the Dallas Cowboys, Navy football, the Texas Rangers and Lake Highlands Wildcat sports. He loved to travel with his family each summer to the beach and enjoyed seeing the world with Pat.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bill Henry Miller. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Pat; their daughters, Laura Adams (Lance) and Elizabeth Miller (Carter Calle); granddaughter, Dr. Taylor Adams (Evan); and grandson, Connor Adams. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Patricia Miller; nephew, William Cody Miller; and many cousins.

A celebration of his life was held on 27 September 2024 at Park Cities Baptist Church, in Dallas, TX.

Donations in Dave's memory can be made to the Naval Academy Foundation ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)) or First Baptist Church of Dallas (<https://pushpay.com/g/firstdallas>). ★



### ROBERT WAYNE CASSELL JR. '67

Robert W. Cassell passed away on 30 July 2024 in Chapel Hill, NC. He was 78 years old.

"Bob" was born on 5 December 1945 in Lakewood, NJ, to Lieutenant Robert W. Cassell Sr., USN, and Doris Erickson. At the time, his father was serving in the Navy as a blimp pilot stationed at Lakehurst NAS. Bob mainly grew up in Northfield, NJ, and graduated from Mainland Regional High School. He then enrolled in the Naval Academy, where he

was active in athletics, participating in football and rugby.

After graduating in the Class of 1967, he was initially stationed at Pensacola NAS. His most memorable time there was playing for the Goshawks football team, which notably included Roger Staubach. He married Delores Svitila in 1967, with whom he had two children, Julie and Robert III.

He served as a surface warfare officer on MCMORRIS (DE-1036) and HASSAYAMPA (AO-145). Bob attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, where he received a master's degree in computer science. He completed his career in the Navy in 1975 at CinCPacFlt in Hawaii, where he managed Command and Control Systems. Bob always enjoyed the ocean, whether it being surfing or scuba diving.

After leaving the Navy as a lieutenant commander, he worked for Honeywell Information Systems. One of his assignments was as manager of operations for Honeywell's business at Newport News Shipbuilding. Later in his career, he returned to the federal government, working for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Environmental Protection Agency, before retiring from civil service in 2009.

Following retirement, Bob and his second wife, Michelle (Vermilyea) lived in Estero, FL, for six years. While there, he taught several college computer courses. They moved to Chapel Hill, NC, to be close to Michelle's daughter, Jessica, and her family.

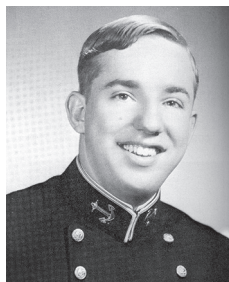
Bob is survived by his wife of 33 years Michelle; children, Julie Cassell-Vlach, Robert W. Cassell III (Maricel) and Jessica Guice-Albritton (Mike); his brothers, Steve and Eric; and 11 grandchildren, Ty, Vera, Lucia, Krystiana, Daniel, Robert, Kaylee, Nicolas, Noah, Nathan and Alessia.

Services were held at the Naval Academy Chapel on 19 November 2024, followed by internment at the USNA Columbarium. ★

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**RONALD BRUCE BAUMAN '68**

Captain Ronald B. Bauman, USN (Ret.), passed away on 31 July 2024 in Virginia Beach, VA. He was 77 years old.

"Ron" was born in Streater, IL, the son of Floyd and Dorothy Bauman. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1965, Ron met the love of his life, Susan Elaine Russ, on a blind date for the Maryland-Navy football game.

After graduation with the Class of 1968, 17th Company, he reported to flight training and received his naval aviator Wings in February 1970. His first assignment was with Attack Squadron 43 (VA-43) at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA, where Ron served as an instrument flight instructor. Following replacement pilot training in the A-6E Intruder aircraft with VA-42, he reported to VA-35 aboard AMERICA (CV-66).

Returning to VA-42, he served as an A-6E instructor pilot. Ron's next assignment was with VA-34, serving as Operations and Maintenance Department Head. In November 1983, Ron reported to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI, where in November 1984, he graduated with Highest Distinction. During this tour, he earned a Master of Science Degree from Salve Regina College in Newport, RI.

Awaiting his command tour, Ron was assigned as readiness officer for CoMatWing 1 at NAS Oceana; in April 1985, he joined Fleet Composite Squadron Six (VC-6) as executive officer. On 3 July 1986, Ron took command of VC-6 at NAS Norfolk.

During his distinguished career, Ron was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Battle "E" Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5).

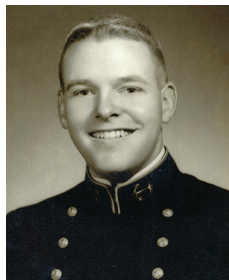
After his VC-6 command tour, he reported to JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) and served as the ship's navigator. Ron's last duty was at CinCLantFlt in Norfolk, VA, serving as Deputy Director of Tactical Development.

One of Ron's proudest accomplishments was becoming an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), riding in ambulances with his paramedic wife, Susan, for 18 years.

Ron is survived by his wife of 56 years, Susan; daughters, Angela Benarth (Jason), Patricia Tuure (Steve), Michelle Bauman (Jeff) and Carlye Strumski (Eric); seven grandchildren, Joshua, Brandon, Ian, Emilie, Rebecca, Caroline and Jaimie; and his great-granddaughter, Eliyana.

Ron was interred with military honors at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 1 October 2024.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the Bauman family at (a6intruder1@cox.net). ★



**JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER GLUTTING '68**

Commander "Chris" Glutting, USN (Ret.), died peacefully in his sleep at his nursing home in St. Petersburg, FL, on 20 October 2024.

Born in Boston, MA, on 31 August 1943, to Rear Admiral Paul R. Glutting (USNA 1916) and Barbara (Blake) Glutting, Chris reported to the Naval Academy in 1961. Thus commenced a seven-year odyssey as a member of four classes: 1965, 1966, 1969 (briefly) and 1968. Graduating as a member of '68's Seventh

Company, "The Legend" began a distinguished 26-year career as a surface warfare officer.

Following sea duty on ROGERS (DD-876), Chris was the senior advisor to the Republic of Vietnam Navy's River Assault Interdiction Division 75 during intense riverine-warfare operations (1970-1971). After attending

the Naval Postgraduate School and Destroyer School (1971-1974), he served on POWER (DD-839) and POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-3) (1974-1978); was an instructor and company officer at the Naval Academy (1978-1980); and was senior aide and flag lieutenant to the commander in chief of NATO's Allied Forces Southern Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and later, the U.S. Pacific Command (1980-1983).

Following studies at the Defense Language Institute and the Inter-American Defense College, Chris served at the U.S. Southern Command in Panama and the Joint Chiefs of Staff headquarters in Washington, DC (1985-1991). He was a senior instructor at the Naval War College's Naval Staff College until retiring in 1994.

His decorations include the Bronze Star with "V," the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal with "V," Combat Action Ribbon and numerous unit and service awards.

In civilian life, Chris moved from Massachusetts to St. Petersburg in 1997 and worked there until his retirement in 2020. A gifted writer and enthusiastic raconteur, Chris loved reading, watching classic motion pictures or playing a spirited game of acey-deucey. He cherished his family and friends—and enjoyed entertaining them.

Chris is survived by his brother, J. Andrew Glutting (and his wife, Cyndie); and cousins, Betsy Gannon, Janet Gannon and Barbara Wilson. Mourned by his family and friends, they will long remember his humor and generosity.

A memorial Mass was held 21 November in St. Petersburg, FL. A Celebration of Life will be held this summer at the family home in Hull, MA.

Memorial donations for hurricane disaster-relief assistance to those impacted by hurricanes Helene and Milton in Pinellas County, FL, may be made to the "We Are St. Pete" fund (www.pinellascf.org/wearestpete). ★



**JAMES WALLACE GARROW '71**

James W. Garrow of Oxford, MI, passed away in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family on 6 September 2024. He was 75 years old.

"Jim" was born in Springfield, MA, to Walter and Barbara Garrow. Jim was a proud veteran. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1971, he spent time as the first lieutenant on a destroyer. Jim then reported for flight training in 1972 and earned

his Wings of Gold in 1973. He completed his Navy service at the Naval Photographic Center in Washington, DC. Flying was Jim's passion.

He transitioned to civilian life and spent the remainder of his career as a sales engineer in the automotive industry.

No story of Jim would be complete without mention of golf. Wherever Jim was, there was a golf course to be conquered. He would study the game and practice often. He was incredibly proud of his relatively low handicap.

Above all else, Jim's greatest love was his family. He did everything he could to be an integral part of their lives. He coached his children in a majority of their sports. His grandson, Richie, was coached in golf by Jim and his grandson, Henry, became his painting partner. He was honest, kind and rarely negative about anyone or anything. He has aptly been described as, "A prince of a man." These traits he leaves behind in those whom he cherished most. Jim is and will continue to be sorely missed.

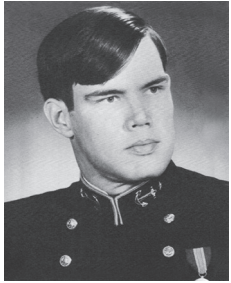
Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Barbara "Barb" Garrow; daughter, Adrienne Majewski (William); son, Timothy Garrow (Brittany Kohlberger); grandsons, William "Richie" Majewski and Henry James Majewski; and sisters, Christine Spagna (Thomas),

## LAST CALL

Lynda Maggipinto (John) and Nancy Aldrich (Jim). Jim was also preceded in death by his aforementioned parents.

In keeping with Jim's wishes, an inurnment service with military honors was held at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 9 October 2024.

Memorial donations may be made to the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation ([www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org)). ★



### RICHARD PITKIN GILBERT '72

Richard P. Gilbert passed away on 5 December 2023. He was 73 years old.

"Rick" was born on 19 June 1950 to the late Richard "Dick" and Priscilla (née Pitkin) Gilbert in St. Louis, MO. A 1968 graduate of Webster Groves High School, Rick went on to attend the United States Naval Academy.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1972, he was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer and went on to serve aboard BERKELEY

(DDG-15) during the Vietnam conflict. Following a shore tour teaching naval history at the Naval Academy, Rick concluded his military service and entered private industry.

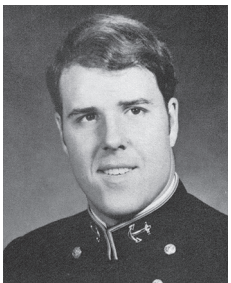
In 1975, Rick married the love of his life, Susan Kelly, in Clayton, MO.

Following a distinguished 43-year career in manufacturing, Rick retired in 2014 to enjoy his passions: his family, speaking about naval history, teaching for Johns Hopkins University, golf, St. Louis Cardinals baseball and of course, Navy football. He never missed an Army/Navy game, surrounded by his family and friends. His devotion to God, Country and Family was evident in all he accomplished, including his children, who all entered military service.

Rick is survived by his wife of 49 years, Susan; three children (and their spouses), Kelley Dausman (Aaron) of Yorktown, VA, Katherine Niebes (Jonathan) of Albuquerque, NM, and Douglas Gilbert '03 (Elizabeth) of Powhatan, VA; six grandchildren, Noah, Tristan, Samuel, Molly, Lucia and Neil; his sister, Virginia Wheeler-Jones (Jim); and brother, William Gilbert (Janice).

He was a gifted orator and had a warm, yet wise, presence that blessed his listeners. Rick faithfully participated in Bible study and church fellowship. He is even now delighting in the presence of his savior, Jesus Christ, with his parents and brother, Roderick.

*The Gilbert Family* ★



### MAX EUGENE LEGG '74

Max E. Legg passed away in Albuquerque, NM, on 9 February 2024. He was 71 years old.

Max (AKA "Cuddles") was born in Perryton, TX, on 9 September 1952 to Otto and Maxine Legg. He was recruited to play football at the Naval Academy and started on the offense as #52. He played in the now-famous 1973 game against Army, winning 51-0.

He graduated with the Class of 1974 with a degree in ops analysis. Two days later, on

7 June 1974, he married the love of his life, Loren Eklund. His first duty station took him to Hawaii to serve on COCHRANE, then back to the DC area to work at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. During this tour, Max went to night school, then took and passed the CPA exam. Max embarked on a 34-year career with Moss Adams LLC CPA firm in Bellingham, WA, becoming a partner in 1988. Max led the way in starting international tax work and was part of a group leading seminars in "Doing Business in the U.S." They were held in high regard by both the U.S. and Canadian consulates.

Max served as president of Bellingham North Rotary and was on the board of Bellingham Technical College, as well as supporting many local

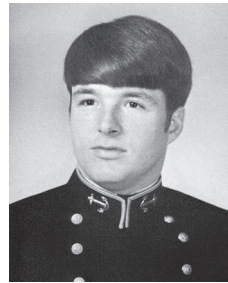
charities. Max shared many hobbies with his wife and together, they traveled the world. His passion was playing guitar and singing harmony with his wife and playing at bluegrass jams and festivals around the northwest and Canada. He was known for his sense of humor and telling long stories. Max was a member of First Christian Church of Albuquerque and spearheaded the Christmas gift giving for PB&J, an organization for children and families.

Max loved his family, his church family and his Navy Football Brotherhood family, as well as his Company and Classmates. He kept in constant touch with friends and family and always had a listening ear for everyone.

Max is survived by his wife, Loren; his sister, Neta (Doug); brother, Rusty (Pat); and brother-in-law, Carl (Ruth). He was predeceased by his parents and sister, Ann.

Max left these words: *My parents and siblings were wonderful to me. My greatest earthly treasure, though, has been the love of my life, my beautiful wife, Loren, who thankfully shared her life with me. God is my Father, Jesus Christ is my Judge and Savior.*

Max was inurned at the USNA Columbarium on 19 September 2024. ★



### MARK DANIEL SHELL '79

Commander Mark D. Shell, USNR (Ret.), 68, passed away on 5 October 2024 in his Gaithersburg, MD, home, surrounded by family.

Born in Columbus, OH, on 10 June 1956, Mark was the oldest of four brothers born to Emerson Daniel and Claire (Patterson) Shell. He graduated from Hilliard High School and departed Ohio for the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, RI, in 1974. At Annapolis, Mark joined the Class of 1979. He was a proud

member of the Ninth Company, led the Scuba club, played sprint football and served as Ninth Company Commander.

Mark graduated with his degree in Ocean Engineering and, after a successful interview with Admiral Rickover, was selected to the Navy's nuclear power program. In ten years on active duty, Mark served as a nuclear surface warfare officer aboard MISSISSIPPI (CGN-40) and JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-27). He then returned to his hometown of Columbus to teach ROTC at The Ohio State University, where he was named Instructor of the Year. Mark then served ten years as a reserve Engineering Duty Officer before retiring in 1999.

Upon leaving active duty, Mark began a distinguished 35-year career in commercial HVAC sales with Boland Trane. Mark's work serves the White House, Dulles Airport, the National Archives and Nationals Park, among other area venues. He was also active in veterans' service organizations, especially Operation Second Chance. He was instrumental in the growth of their largest fundraiser, Ride Allegheny, a four-day, 300+ mile tour of the Great Allegheny Pass and C&O Canal, repeatedly being the ride's top fundraiser. Even though Mark left the Navy, he never lost his love of the sea. He loved skipping his 45' motor yacht, CARPE DIEM, around the Chesapeake Bay, and proudly served as commodore for the Chesapeake Yacht Club.

His love of the sea was only exceeded by his love for his family. Mark met the love of his life, Therese Keehan, as a midshipman at the Naval Academy Club. They were married on 3 May 1980. Together, they raised three children, Jason '05, Justin and Christie; and six grandchildren.

More than once referred to as a "force of nature," Mark will be dearly missed by his family, Navy classmates and friends.

Services were held at St. Raphael's in Rockville, MD, with interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD, on 15 October 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Operation Second Chance ([operationsecondchance.org](http://operationsecondchance.org)). ★





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	\$545.00	8"	\$485.00	



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