USNA 1966 Class History (a/o Oct 2026)



Non sibi sed patriae – not for self, but for country

Class History:
Beginnings: In 1962, 1,326 plebes entered the United States Naval Academy. On June 1966, 868 Midshipmen graduated; and were commissioned into the following groups:

USN	773	USA	6
USAF	4	PD	2
USMC	79	FN	4

Attrition rate: 34.5%

Around the Yard Events:

1962 18 August – Rear Admiral C.C. Kirkpatrick ’31 becomes Superintendent.

1963 Navy wins the NCAA soccer championship and will again in 1964.
Navy wins USILA Lacrosse Championship and again in 1964, 1965 and 1966 to commence the “Decade of Dominance”.
Conversion of the Academy’s traditional 4.0 based marking system (2.5 is passing) to the more widely used letter-grade system (2.0 is a C average).
3 July – The U.S. Naval Academy is officially designated a National Historic Site by the Department of the Interior pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of 21 August 1935.

1964 Roger Staubach ’65 is awarded the Heisman Trophy. He is the only winner of the Naval Academy’s Thompson Trophy three years running.
1 January – The Univ of Texas defeats Navy’s football team 28 to 6 in the Cotton Bowl.
11 January – Rear Admiral C.S. Minter, Jr. ’37 becomes Superintendent.
30 June – The number of companies in the Brigade is increased to 36.
1 July - Dr. A. Bernard Drought is appointed as first civilian Academic Dean after service *pro tem* since 26 June 1963. He will serve until his death 18 Sept 1970.

1965 The Navy crew wins the national championship. The first annual John F. Kennedy Memorial Regatta, the intercollegiate big boat national championship, is sailed at the Naval Academy. This regatta will be sailed annually hereafter at Annapolis.
12 June - Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman ’33 becomes Superintendent.

1966 Ricketts Hall is completed to house enlisted personnel. It will later become offices for the Naval Academy Athletic Association.
Professor Samuel Massie becomes the first African American faculty member.

8 June - The Class of 1966 is the first to graduate outdoors. The ceremony takes place in the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.
August – The Chief of Naval Personnel approves the Immediate Master's Program.

After Graduation (from the Class):

Four years in the crucible (1962-1966) – The Beginning

On a hot summer day in June of 1962, 1301 of us gathered in Tecumseh Court to take the oath. Journeys from various points around the world, and across the United States, brought us to this place one by one. We came from high schools, enlisted Navy and Marines Corps ranks, and from colleges and prep schools. There were last farewells with parents and siblings. Then began the unfolding of a seemingly never ending series of life altering events: from that first "haircut," that vast pile of white laundry to be stenciled with our indelible markers, learning to shine shoes, and learning how to respond to an often unintelligible stream of orders and challenges. We hardly had time to contemplate the extent of the transformation while we embarked on a marathon of learning new ways, new facts, including the memorization of Reef Points, our bible through that first year.

Except for a few prep school Classmates from Bullis, Columbia, New Mexico Military Institute and NAPS - journeys that had begun a year earlier - we hardly knew one another. The bonds that would be forged and which would last a lifetime began their melding that summer. Cohesive forces would begin working on this seemingly disparate amalgam of the population.

By late August it was "'66 and the hell with the rest." That's the way it would be until the last man standing. We would never be the same. Recall if you will, from our plebe "bible" a stanza from the poem by Admiral R.A. Hopwood, RN, "The Laws of the Navy" . . .

"On the strength of one link in the cable
Dependeth the might of the chain.
Who knows when thou may'st be tested?
So live that thou bearest the strain!"

Tested we were and what a strong chain we would become. The memories of those collective days have dimmed with the passage of time. However, there are moments that will never be forgotten, from flashbacks of room inspections, marching off demerits (and regretting the infraction that put us there), taking relief from the plebe routine on athletic fields, and emptying laundry bags in the pile, wondering if we'd ever see our gear again. Who could ever forget listening while braced up to April Stevens (with Nino Tempo) purring "Teach Me Tiger" - played to us by one of the "plebe detail", or listening to Peter, Paul and Mary in concert and being mesmerized by them on that special evening in the Field House?

We hung together through the return of the Brigade in September and never looked back. We benefited from the cohesiveness that remained as a unit for the duration brought and remained close to former company-mates when the Brigade went from 24 to 36 Companies Youngster year. For those that stayed the course, enormous contributions were made to the institution individually and collectively, these four years and through the next forty. Many excelled:

academically, as leaders in the Brigade, through competition in sports, and through personal character development. Individually we grew in a myriad of ways, but our differences were our strength, and we would always be Classmates. We continued to grow, in many ways. From newly minted plebes, we found ourselves becoming savvy upper Classmen, navigating everything from seamanship and navigation to learning the intricacies of calculus, thermodynamics and those blessed (for some of us) history classes.

Our years in Bancroft Hall were indelibly marked by the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and Blockade, the assassination of a President, and Vietnam. *Non sibi sed patriae* - not for self, but for country - is our adopted motto, and it exemplifies the tie that eternally binds together our Class, a graduate's branch of service, the Naval Academy, and the Naval Service as a whole. A commemoration of those four years was documented in our Lucky Bag, the development of which was led by Tom Marfiak. It still provides a means of reflection on those formative years.

Four years together by the Bay seemed an eternity (and for some of us, longer). Like our unofficial Class song, "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" by the Animals, graduation day finally arrived. On 8 June 1966 we set aside the uniform of a midshipman, reaffirmed our commitment with the "Oath of Office", then 868 of us tossed our caps in the air and took on the responsibilities for which we had been educated and trained. Forged in the crucible of the Naval Academy, we were now asked to take our place in service to our country, primarily as Sailors and Marines, with a handful going to other services and foreign navies. Many of us were married that day and in the weeks that ensued, and for all of us it was a short-lived honeymoon, married or not.

The first ten years (1966-1976):

Emerging from "Mother B" as Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants we were proud of our new status, wearing the insignia of commissioned officers. Our paths to useful service were many and varied. We tackled the rigors of the fleet, flight training, TBS and submarine school, as the majority entered training pipelines that would impart to us the practical knowledge and skills that, when blended with experience, would enable us to hone war fighting skills, and to survive in a nasty environment. We already knew that this was not going to be a 9-5 job, but the reality and extent of our commitment was yet to be completely understood.

We were ordered to myriad duty stations around the globe, taking on Vietnam and the Cold War – and many of us ultimately to the Vietnam War in some capacity. We faced leadership challenges not addressed in any course. We became the backbone of our wardrooms, squadrons, and marine units. Early we were the "nuggets" flying attack and fighter aircraft over hostile territory from flight decks on Yankee Station, challenging enemy missile batteries and fighters on a daily basis. We also went "downtown" and were shot down. A Classmate lost, MIA or a POW was a sobering reality. We were the junior officers on warships—conducting gunfire support from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ and Sea Dragon operations against the North.

We took our turns at the conn on the mid-watch while on plane guard station astern of carriers at the oddest hours and on very dark nights and rescued downed pilots in the Tonkin Gulf while there or on Red Crown duty. A full night's sleep was an anomaly. We provided the leadership

core of the Vietnam Riverine and Coastal Patrol Forces, with U.S. crews and as advisors. We knew John Kerry. Aboard attack submarines and maritime patrol aircraft, and ASW carriers we silently stalked Soviet ships and submarines and performed covert Cold War assignments only some of which are now being revealed in the public domain. We served countless hours on ballistic missile submarines on extended patrols as a critical arm of the strategic nuclear triad and often wondered why we'd allowed ourselves to be interviewed by Rickover. As Marines we slogged our way on patrol through the worst of Vietnam's terrain, across jungles, valleys, and rice paddies. We participated in the significant battles of the time in places like Khe Sanh and Hue, often involved in unnamed firefights, battles, and private hells known only to us. As SEALs we quietly, and without fanfare, took the fight to the enemy - under the worst of conditions, and on our terms. For all that we accomplished, there wasn't much respect offered at home. We learned to accept that, and we moved on.

Long separations from new families marked the early days. Lacking the relatively easy communications available to our young successors of recent years, we wrote many letters from the combat zone with the word "free" in place of a stamp. We knew if we didn't send one, we probably wouldn't get one. We treasured receipt of a letter from a loved one at "Mail Call" and will never forget the feeling when we didn't. We hardly recognized the kids when we got home, but we warmed to each other quickly.

We visited Hong Kong, Subic Bay, Yokosuka, Australia, Kaohsiung, and other Western Pacific and Mediterranean ports before the U.S. devalued the dollar, and our paycheck never went so far again. We bought the best clothes, jewelry, and sound systems available, going broke to save money, buying only the best. There is no period for us that evokes so many memories, and today we pause longingly when we hear the music of that time, wondering where those years went.

We made choices, marrying, starting a family, starting a new career, moving across the country, sometimes several times, as we evolved to mid-grade officer status and made our way through to command qualification and seasoned warrior status, or joined the corporate world and started a new life outside the military.

At the end of our military obligations in the early 70's, we either moved into leadership positions at the department head level, or we reset our goals for a life without a uniform. Those who stayed the military course again – the first time being the onset of Second Class year - became the core of wardrooms, squadrons and marine units where we assumed key positions on operational staffs, while many entered graduate education programs. Some got the taste of command early under Admiral Zumwalt's tenure as CNO and knew they wanted more. Many went to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, where we renewed friendships, spent quality time with family, worked on our golf game, played intramural sports, and studied. Those of us who returned to civilian life did much the same as we prepared for another career, be it via graduate school in preparation for law school, medicine, business, science, or education – and with many, it was direct to the work force. Ross Perot took on many of us, as did similar high tech companies on the first wave of a computer revolution in business. Many got in on the ground floor and made the most of it. In the end, many of us renewed our commitment to our military careers or took a less predictable post-military route. As civilians, many took a path that we'd always known

down deep we wanted to pursue, while some of us continued to explore who we wanted to be when we grew up.

In total, we lost 20 Classmates directly attributable to the Vietnam War: the most of any Class. To their memory, and to the memory of all of our deceased Classmates, we recently dedicated the Class of 1966 sponsored Memorial Gardens located near the entrance to the south end of the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. At this site we remember and recognize their uncommon dedication, fidelity, courage, honor, and selfless service. They made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the freedoms we hold sacred. Each of us should visit the site, read the dedication, and reflect on what such service means to us as a Class and an institution. There, but for the grace of God, go we.

A short distance away, the Class has also sponsored the Memorial Arch to the left of the south entrance of the stadium. It commemorates the Vietnam War through the Battle of Hue City, fought principally by the Marines during the Tet offensive of 1968. The "Band of Brothers" dedication on the Arch reflects the special bond between our Marines. It also defines how the Class of 1966 came together over these years with an abiding respect and self-esteem for what we'd together shared, persevered and given of ourselves; little understood by those who didn't make the journey.

Our defining decade – the second ten years (1976-1986):

As we entered the mid-to-late 70's, the Vietnam War was behind us, and the Cold War was reaching its peak. Falling re-enlistment rates, personnel challenges, and maintenance nightmares sorely taxed the fleet. As we persevered, a new President began the task of rebuilding our defenses and sent a potential nuclear nightmare shiver through the spines of our potential adversaries – the Soviet Union. The Free World was back and leaning forward on all fronts.

A significant number of those on active duty migrated to Washington and Annapolis for our first meaningful shore duty, working on Navy Staffs, at the Systems Commands, or assigned to the Academy as company officers and instructors. Others burrowed into fleet concentration areas and populated headquarters staffs and other shore duties where they had served operationally – San Diego, Newport, Jacksonville, Mayport, Pearl Harbor, Whidbey Island, Long Beach, Charleston, and Norfolk, and many stations and bases around the country.

At one of our early social gatherings in the Washington, DC area, a core group recognized that the Washington area would most likely contain a critical mass of our members – both military and civilian - for the foreseeable future. If we chose to pursue meaningful activities as a Class, it could best be done with a less fragmented leadership working collectively in this area. Led by Dick Barchi and Bob Emery, we modified our original Class Charter and presented it at the 10th Reunion in the fall of 1976. With the Class's approval we established an Executive Committee, to be resident in the greater Washington DC area as the governing body. The position of Class President became the only 'at large' elective office. We placed the positions of Class Secretary and Treasurer within the Executive Committee and have subsequently operated effectively in this model.

As Classmates rotated through the Capital area, many participated in activities that continue today, from Holiday gatherings and picnics to Navy football games and regular luncheons. Our Annapolis contingent took on the role of hosting the Homecoming Tailgate each year and in conjunction with the Executive Committee members, planned and managed all of the activities associated with our five-year reunions; and from the 10th onward they have flourished. This also provided us with the forum to begin addressing and defining emerging Class objectives that an increasing number of Classmates put forward, such as taking care of our own, and giving back to the Academy in meaningful ways.

Throughout this period, those on active duty moved into and through executive officer and command positions, while many also attended junior and senior service colleges in Newport, Quantico, Norfolk, Fort Leavenworth, Carlisle, and Maxwell AFB. It was a welcomed break, and it was in such assignments we met Classmates we'd barely known in school, who'd gone to another branch of the service, or had been on another coast. They became new friends, easily accepted because they were Classmates. Now firm in our careers, we acquired the confidence that comes with having mastered our profession. We were ready for the next steps, whatever they might be.

Operationally, our ships, aircraft, submarines and equipment were now more often new, and not the inventory we'd found in earlier days. The draft was long gone, and the all-volunteer force brought a new breed of Sailor and Marine to lead. We were in the decision-making loop at the Pentagon and in the Fleet, FMF, and Operating Forces.

As civilians, we struck out to form our own companies, to assume positions of influence in government, industry, medicine, education, and as spiritual leaders. We set our minds to goals we'd earlier thought unachievable. In large numbers we began giving back to the Academy that had spawned us. And we made a difference in so many ways.

Whenever two or more of us would meet it was an event. Regardless of venue, it was a time to reform bonds, share precious moments that would be too short in passing, reminisce, and to simply be together with Classmates. We were a unique group. We were proud to be associated with those we realized were a cut above.

The "Who We Became" Decade (1986-1996):

For those remaining on active duty it was time for major command, and for 22 of us, promotion to Flag and General Officer rank. The numbers of those remaining in the service dwindled through the period with retirements from active duty. Many second careers were begun, a large number in the military-industrial complex of Ike's reference. We thrived and flourished here, as we had in the service; as consultants, in government, in laboratories, and in the private sector, bringing the expertise we had acquired while in service to further benefit the Nation. The children were now in college, or starting families of their own, and many of us began to know the special status conferred upon "Grand Dad."

The Class Executive Committee consolidated our leadership and finances, and by the late 80's, we began looking for that "something meaningful" to do as a Class. We were never wont to put

our imprimatur on granite or to put plates or plaques on seats in the stadium. While we explored options, we felt the loss of many Classmates in Vietnam, and others along the journey to accidents and illness – for so many reasons. It did not go unnoticed that their children were rapidly approaching college age. This ultimately led us to establish the Class of 1966 Foundation in the late 80's. Dick Michaux noted the path an earlier Class had taken and convinced many of us this was worth pursuing. At the initial meeting to discuss the proposal, it was quickly adopted with our own special touches, and we set about to create a living memorial to our deceased Classmates.

We began our work in 1988 with a committee involved in locating and reaching out to spouses of deceased Classmates. That effort resulted in the identification of 15 spouses and a total of 33 eligible children. In that first year we awarded grants to 12 children. In the first year, grants were limited to $500 because we were unsure how successful our fund raising would be. In 1989 the incredible generosity of the Class allowed us to raise the annual amount to $2000. In 1992 we raised it again to $2500 per year, and a total of $10,000 per eligible child. Many Classmates contributed time, expertise, and fund-raising support, but none more than Jim Long, who was the Foundation Chairman from the outset to its recent termination. He effectively led an endeavor of which we have all been especially proud. Doug May took on the key role of corresponding with the recipients each year to inform them about the program for that year, the size of grant for which they are eligible, and to provide an application for the current year grants. In this role Doug experienced firsthand the enormous satisfaction in knowing the impact we were having on these children's lives. He was the first reader of the many letters that our students and their mothers sent to express heartfelt gratitude for our efforts to assist them in their education, and for the connection we helped them make to their fathers. Many in the Class have had the opportunity to read those letters at homecomings and in Shipmate, and there is no doubt that these kids have touched us deeply with their heartfelt sentiment. Through the years, we continued to lose Classmates and to identify additional eligible children. In all, we identified 50 eligible grant recipients who were children of 24 deceased Classmates. The program ceased providing new grants in 2008 - twenty years after we began. When the last existing grant was paid in 2013, we had made gifts totaling nearly $400,000, with all of the funds contributed by members of the Class. We are proud of the success of the Foundation that has connected us with an outstanding group of young people, and in a small way we have been able to sustain their father's spirit. Jim and Doug are quick to cite the many Classmates who have contributed time and effort over the years to make the Foundation a reality. A significant manifestation of Dick's original vision as to why this effort was important came when Tracy Droz Keyes produced a documentary, released on Veteran's Day 2004. In it, she tells the story of her personal journey to understand the father she never knew, including a visit to the site where he was killed aboard his swift boat during an intense firefight on a river in Vietnam. Tracy produced the documentary and she was our first grant recipient. In a small but significant way, Don, and the spirit of all of our deceased Classmates, continues to live through those of us who remain.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S280P5cg8AY

Another initiative of the Class during this period was to establish Leadership Awards for the cruiser HUE CITY (CG-66) and the guided missile destroyer GONZALEZ (DDG-66). The commissioning Commanding Officer of HUE CITY was Classmate Tom Eubanks. During his command the concept of awarding a junior officer and senior petty officer whose leadership has

been recognized by their command as exceptional, a certificate and stipend originated. This practice was expanded to include GONZALEZ after its commissioning. A perpetual plaque was provided to each ship to commemorate the annual winners. A Classmate, usually the Class president, has presented the awards on each ship annually since their commissioning in 1991 and 1995, respectively, and many Classmates in the Norfolk and Mayport areas have been able to attend. The presentation consists of a cash award and a parchment certificate signed by our Class President describing the individual's leadership achievements. The relationship we've developed with each of these two ships in recognizing outstanding leadership in their commands has allowed us to keep touch with the fleet in a way that is consistent with the character of the Class.

A highlight during this period was the 25th Reunion in the fall of 1991. On the Thursday before Homecoming, more than 150 Classmates and their families joined the Commanding Officer, Classmate Tom Eubanks, aboard the "Class cruiser", HUE CITY, in Norfolk for a day transit of the Chesapeake Bay to anchor in Annapolis Roads. It was a chance to touch the operating forces and to see how far the Navy had come since our early days, and to see first-hand the quality of the Sailors in the fleet today. It was the perfect start for a great Homecoming weekend of renewing friendships and sharing memories.

Into the 21st Century (1996-2006):

As a Class we continued to give back. We established a committee made up of Classmates from across the country to work closely with the Naval Academy Foundation to identify areas where we could contribute, consistent with our Class goals. What resulted from the work of this committee was our decision to support the establishment of the Memorial Gardens and the Hue City Arch at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, both mentioned earlier. In addition, we took on two other significant efforts: the renovation of the Naval Academy Museum and the establishment of an Ethics Chair in the Professional Development Department. Our commitment as a Class continued for these endeavors, and we continued to solicit contributions to meet these obligations. Our Class Crest is displayed in the Museum documenting our contribution to its renovation.

Many of us were now retired and were giving back to our communities and the nation in many meaningful ways. Prior to becoming Superintendent of the Naval Academy, VADM Rodney P. Rempt tried to retire more than once but answered the call to take on this rewarding and challenging assignment. For one who could barely spell "football" in earlier days, Rod had to feel enormous pride in seeing the team earn invitations to an unprecedented three successive post-season bowl games. More importantly though, he restored the Brigade's spirit and improved every critical aspect of Academy life from honor and academics to ethics and leadership. In addition to raising the percent of female inductees to more than 20%, he skillfully modified our Alma Mater, Navy Blue and Gold, so it was gender neutral. We are proud to have had him serve in this critical position at the very foundation of the Naval Service and the Officer Corps. By chance, Rod was our last line officer standing.

The year 2006 marked our 40th Reunion celebration, and it was fortuitous that Rod Rempt was the Superintendent as it opened many doors for our planning. Once again, the Class called on Tom Marfiak to use his skills in documenting the 40th celebration with a yearbook, similar to our

Lucky Bag. Tom and Don Jackson were able to recruit a team of helpers, including Battalion and Company Reps to gather biographies, sports input, and Lucky Bag photos to compile a memorable book that gave Classmates a means of updating their life stories from the 20th Reunion.

Continuing to use our Talents in Government and Corporate Leadership (2006 – 2011)

We continued efforts in industry and community efforts. VADM Scott Redd, USN (Ret.) became the first Director of the National Counterterrorism Center in 2005, retiring in 2007. ADM Steve Abbot, USN (Ret.) became the CEO of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and was elected chairman of the Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Trustees. W. Hall Wendell endowed a research professorship and the W. Hall Wendell, Jr. Musculoskeletal Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Bill Bina (CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.) was appointed dean of the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon Georgia. Dr. Kirby (Skip) Hughes was appointed Director of the School of Accountancy at Southern Mississippi University.

On other fronts, Classmates Bob Martin, Bruce Valley, and Hank Nothhaft took to writing, authoring several books. Wayne Hicks was inducted into the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Hall of Fame. John Orcutt, a Distinguished Professor of Geophysics received several awards for his work at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and was elected into the National Academy of Engineering. Still other Classmates sought some closure from their experiences in Vietnam, and a group of Marines toured the country in 2007. In 2011, William F. Higgins received the first J.B. and Louisa Rhine Distinguished Service Award. It was presented by the Rhine Center, located in Durham, NC, and was for furthering the research on Psi, which is the study of human paranormal abilities; psycho kinesis (PK), extra sensory perception (ESP), and human consciousness. Gen Carlton W. Fulford, USMC (Ret.) was selected as a 2010 USNA Distinguished Graduate, marking another milestone in his exemplary career.

We continued our presentation of leadership awards to our "Class" ships, HUE CITY and GONZALEZ. We also began researching our options for a major Class Project culminating in our 50th Reunion celebration. In conjunction with that we took on the Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) program that sponsors the 50th year Class of 2016. We looked forward to our participation in that program that began in 2012.

Mentoring the next generation – Another Link in the Chain (2011 – 2016)

As we entered our next five years, we completed planning for our sponsorship of the Class of 2016 in the Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) program. RADM Tom Marfiak was designated the ALITC Coordinator for the program. Tom superbly led the effort since its inception in 2011 as we began our initial planning through the I-Day picnic, the Honor Coin presentations, the celebration of Sea Trials completion, the Herndon monument climb, the posting of our Class Crest in Alumni Hall as the ALITC Class for the Class of 2016, participation with 2016 in football tailgates, the Bonds of Gold ceremony, the Commitment Dinner, the Ring Dance, the Service Assignment Dinner, Battalion Receptions, and then all the planning for graduation and its various activities. It was a great ride, and it went off smoothly thanks to the exceptional

efforts of RADM Marfiak and his team of Classmates. The effort continued through 2016 as we assisted in delayed graduations for our protégé Class.

The second major effort we made was our legacy gift to the Naval Academy. Our Class President, Gen Carl Fulford, USMC, (Ret.) was selected as our campaign lead. Our goal was established at $1,966,000. Our primary project selected was support to the planned Cyber Operations facility and the Cyber Operations curriculum (65%). We chose that because our ALITC Class would provide the first graduates in that major field of study. In addition, we chose the Naval Academy Athletic fund (20%) and the general fund (15%). Our initial fundraising enabled us to sponsor the renaming and display of the Battle Names in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to which a plaque is displayed on the east stadium upper level. In that effort, the HUE CITY battle was added to the listing, which fit uniquely as the HUE CITY (CG-66) was commissioned under Classmate Tom Eubanks as the first Commanding Officer. In support of the Cyber Operations curriculum, we sponsored participation by the Class of 2016 in cyber conferences, providing funding for visits to Estonia, London, and Finland. We also provided funding for cyber analysis equipment in Grace Hopper Hall. Again, our Class Crest is displayed in Grace Hopper Hall. Finally, we achieved $2.67M in donations from 50% of our living Classmates, well over the $1.966M goal.

In other accomplishments, Classmate John Beakes continued to publish novels. Classmate H. Keith Melton was featured in ***Forbes*** magazine for his International Spy Museum. Keith also was a key figure in establishing the new International Spy Museum, donating a great deal of his intelligence equipment from his personal collection. Other Classmates recognized were: (1) Charles "Skip" Cramer for his work as CEO of the Northeast Florida Red Cross, the Presidential Service Award and the Champion of Service Award; and (2) Charles Johnson for his work with the New Jersey Masons. Finally, VADM John S. Redd, USN (Ret.) was selected to be a Distinguished Graduate in 2012, and ADM Charles S. Abbot, USN (Ret.) was selected to be a Distinguished Graduate in 2014.

As before, we continued our sponsorship of Class of '66 Leadership awards to GONZALEZ and HUE CITY. We also looked forward to our continuing association with the Class of 2016 as they assume leadership positions in the Fleet.

Answering the Call after the 50th Reunion – (2016 – 2026)

Following the 50th Reunion, the Class began to focus on communications among Classmates, Widows and Significant Others on current topics as well as health and wellness information. To that end, several individuals stepped up to meet these challenges.

Following the 50th Reunion, John Jackson took over updating and maintaining the Class website from Dave Lovelady. Dave made major modifications to the Class website taking over from Mike O'Shea, who established the website. In 2020, John Jackson stepped aside and Therese Long (Larry Fish) agreed to be the Webmaster. Through her efforts, the website has expanded to include Class news items, the ability to register for reunions, and a source of Health and Wellness, led by Phil Bozzelli and Rick Grant, and other support topics.

Expanding on an idea Leah (Oman) Baird initiated at the 50th Reunion, Linda McCook established the Sail on Solo group for widows and significant others (SOs) of deceased Classmates. In consonance with this, Ginny Jones began a forum for Classmate wives and interested widows and SOs. Bi-weekly Zoom meetings began, which continue for both groups. Charlie Jones also initiated weekly Classmate Zoom meetings which are recorded and made available on the Class website. Don Jackson took the reins from Rodger Carter to continue the weekly Class breakfasts in Annapolis. Rodger began the breakfasts following the 50th Reunion to foster Class camaraderie.

Home game football tailgates began in 2006 when the NAAA offered Classes tailgate areas for rent. Bill Caiazza and Bubba Phillips started the efforts assisted by Al Hendershot. John Posoli, Charlie Jones, and Don Jackson later took over running the tailgates, which have continued each year. In addition, Charlie Jones continues to provide football information on games, ticket purchase/exchange and statistics throughout the football season.

The 55th Reunion was held in 2022 due to COVID concerns and was labeled the 55th +1 Reunion. At that reunion, Scott Redd assumed the office of Class president to complete Carl Fulford's term, who elected to step down after superb leadership to the Class. At the end of Scott's term, he had served as Class president three times totaling 14 years of service to the Class. In 2024, Jim Long was elected Class president.

Begun in 1991 by Pete Leniart, the Florida Comearounds have been another way to foster Classmate gatherings. At the Comearound in 2019, Pete passed the baton to Bob Zvacek and Wayne Lynn who began rotating the venue responsibility, which has successfully been accomplished to date.

In 2021, Nunna Spikes died. Nunna had been the chief coordinator for various Class social events, especially reunions, beginning with the 25th Reunion and continuing with planning for the 55th Reunion. In recognition of her contributions to the Class, she was elected to be an Honorary Member of the Class of 1966. A memorial fund, Nunna's Caring Heart Fund, was also established. In addition, a proposal was made to the Naval Academy to install memorial benches to honor her and the support of all Navy spouses. In 2024, the benches were installed in the vicinity of the saluting guns, facing College Creek.

The presentation of Class Leadership awards has continued. Chuck Grutzius continues to liaison with the XOs of the GONZALEZ and HUE CITY to establish dates for the ceremonies, obtain a Class Flag for guest speaker, and award presentation, and official documentation of the award certificates and disbursement of the award checks. In September 2022, HUE CITY was decommissioned. The awards continue for GONZALEZ.

Kathy Prout, widow of RADM Jay Prout, USN, has been a consistent proponent of military widows' rights and benefits. Most recently she was honored as one of MOAA's 2025 Change Makers in the Military Officer July 2026 issue. The Class website, usna66.org has the full story.

During our first 20 years our Class lost 34 Classmates on active duty. Of those, 16 were killed in action, more than any other Class since WWII. In 1978, LCDR Clint Farmer died in an aircraft

accident at NAS Patuxent River, MD. In 1995, RADM Jay Prout died in an aircraft accident, bringing our total losses on active duty to 36. Memorial Hall lists those Classmates.

We must have been good examples to our children as several Classmates have had dependents graduate from USAFA, USNA, and USMA. It would be time consuming to list them all, but it reflects well on our Class that the tradition continues.

Finally, it is fitting to recognize the Company and Battalion Reps who have, throughout the years, been instrumental in keeping their Classmates informed of Class events, especially reunions, and ensuring the needs of Classmates and widows/SOs are addressed. Thanks too, to Don Jackson who took the lead several reunions ago to administer the Co/Batt Rep program.

Flags, Generals, and Notables:

ADM	Charles S. Abbot, USN (Ret.)
BG	Frank H. Akers, USA (Ret.)
RADM	Timothy R. Beard, USN (Ret.)
RADM	David S. Bill, USN (Ret,)
RADM	Robert L. Ellis, USN (Ret.)
Gen	Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., USMC, (Ret.)
RADM	Harold E. (Rick) Grant, JAGC, USN (Ret.) – Was Navy JAG last tour
VADM	Michael D. Haskins, USN (Ret.) – was Navy IG last tour His daughter is RADM Eileen H. Laubacher, ’90 They may be the first father-daughter admirals that are both USNA graduates.
RADM	Henry F. Herrera, USN (Ret.)
RADM	Pierce J. Johnson, USNR (Ret.)
VADM	Albert H. Konetzni, (USN Ret.)
RADM	Thomas F. Marfiak, USN (Ret.)
RADM	Ralph M. Mitchell, SC, USN (Ret.)
VADM	Joseph S. Mobley, USN (Ret.)
RADM	Robert M. Nutwell, USN (Ret.)
RADM	Thomas J. Porter, USN (Ret.)
RADM	James G. Prout, USN
VADM	John S. Redd, USN (Ret.)

VADM	Rodney P. Rempt, USN (Ret.)
RADM	Scott L. Sears, USN (Ret.)
RADM	John F. Sigler, USN (Ret.)
ADM	Jorge E. Swett, CHN (Ret.)

2 Astronauts: John O. Creighton and David M. Walker
1 Rhodes Scholar: Charles S. Abbot
4 Olmsted Scholars: Michael E. Field, John H. Rockwell III, Thomas E. Murphy, Thomas F. Marfiak
1 White House Fellow: Randall Hardy, 1975 - 1976

Distinguished Graduates:

DGA 2010 - General Carlton W. Fulford Jr., USMC (Ret.)
DGA 2013 - The Honorable J. Scott Redd
DGA 2014 - Admiral Charles S. Abbot, USN (Ret.)

Other Notables:
ADM Steve Abbot – CEO of Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and Chairman of USNAAA and Foundation BOT, Distinguished Graduate

Gen Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., USMC (Ret) - 2010 DGA

VADM Mike Haskins, USN (Ret) – Prior Chairman of COCP, relieved ADM Chiles as Distinguished Chair for Leadership

RADM Thomas F. Marfiak, USN (Ret) – Prior CEO of the US Naval Institute

VADM John S. Redd, USN (Ret.) First Senate-confirmed Director of the National Counterterrorism Center

VADM John S. Redd, USN (Ret) – Awarded the National Security Medal by former President Bush

RADM Henry F. Herrera, USN (Ret.) - Awarded the Professional Achievement in Government Award by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

VADM Rodney P. Rempt, USN (Ret) – Superintendent of USNA (2003-2007)

Decorations:
Purple Heart – 26
Silver Star – 8
POW – 1 - **VADM Joseph S Mobley,** USN (Ret.) June 24, 1968 – March 14, 1973
Navy Cross – 1 – **CDR John R. Roland, Jr**., USN (Ret.)

Class Gifts/Giving: A number of Class Projects have been funded:

1. **Scholarship Program for Children of Deceased Classmates.** A Class-funded college scholarship program for the sons and daughters of Class of 1966 Classmates who have died. It was run by the Class itself, outside the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.
2. **Support for Widows' Attendance at Recent Reunions.** Class funds that cover registration & event costs so the widows of Classmates can attend reunions as full members of the ’66 family.
3. **Memorial Benches at the Columbarium.** Marble benches placed at the Naval Academy Columbarium, where the ashes of graduates rest in marble niches overlooking College Creek, giving visiting families a place to sit and remember.
4. **Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium — Memorial Battle Arch.** of the memorial arches that ring the stadium, pairing a bronze plaque about a historic naval or Marine Corps battle with the story of the sacrifice made there — the reason the stadium is a memorial and not simply an athletic field.
5. **Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium — South Memorial Gardens.** Landscaped memorial gardens at the stadium's south end, holding plaques, statues, and dedication markers honoring those who served in the Navy and Marine Corps.
6. **Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium — Battle Names.** The battle and campaign names carved into the stone facade — Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Coral Sea, Yankee Station, and others. The Class funded inscriptions in this permanent roll of naval and Marine Corps engagements.
7. **Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium — F/A-18 Hornet Monument Honoring Hank and Randi Nothhaft.** The Blue Angels F/A-18 Hornet aircraft displayed on the stadium grounds, with a plaque thanking Classmate Henry (Hank) Nothhaft '66 and his wife Randi for their generosity to the Naval Academy.
8. **Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership — Director of Strategy and Research.** The Class helped underwrite a senior staff position at the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, the Academy's ethics center, named for VADM James B. Stockdale '47, Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam prisoner of war.
9. **Center for Cyber Security Studies Support.** Support for the Naval Academy Center for Cyber Security Studies, housed in Hopper Hall — named for Rear Admiral Grace Hopper — the first building at any U.S. service academy dedicated to cyber security education.
10. **United States Naval Academy Museum Renovation Support.** Support for the renovation of the Naval Academy Museum in Preble Hall, home to the Academy's collection of ship models, flags, paintings, and naval artifacts.
11. **Portrait of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in Nimitz Library.** A commissioned portrait of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USNA Class of 1905 and Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, during World War II, hanging in the library that bears his name.
12. **Athletic Excellence Program Support.** Gifts to the Fund for Athletic Excellence, which provides coaching, training, travel, and facility support for Navy's varsity teams beyond what appropriated funds cover.
13. **The 1966 Crew Shell.** A racing shell given by and named for the Class of 1966, rowed by Navy crew and housed at Hubbard Hall, the historic boathouse on Dorsey Creek.
14. **Prusmack Rugby Center.** Support for the Prusmack Rugby Center, the home of Navy rugby, which opened in 2016 with three full-size pitches and spectator stands.

15. Gate at the New Alumni House — Gift of the Spadafora Family. An entrance gate at the Alumni Association's new Alumni House, given by the Spadafora family of the Class of 1966.

Class Officers:

President:	Mr. James A. Long III
Executive Committee Chairman	CDR Clayton H. Spikes, USN (Ret.)
Secretary:	CDR L. J. Michael Baird, USN (Ret.)
Treasurer:	CAPT Charles R. Grutzius, USN (Ret.)
Shipmate Contact:	CDR L. J. Michael Baird, USN (Ret.)