

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

JULY • AUGUST 2020



From **Lynn Kimball**, 15 May 2020

✉ The photo of Midshipmen embarked on the Eagle for the '62 Long Cruise contained in the April *Shipmate* inspired me to rummage through my own cache of Academy memorabilia. Following is a list of the selected participants (I can't verify that all actually participated) and a more inclusive photo. **Ernie Alcivar, Mike Borden, Bill Fitzpatrick, Tom Humphreys, Neal Jenkins, Lynn Kimball, Howie Koss, Bill McNulty, Mark Muhsam, Jim O'Hanlon, Don Pilling, Ed Pulsifer, John Reade, Gary Robinson, Todd Sanchez, Hallett Stiles, Fred Vogel, Stan Wallace and Bill Williams.** Regards, L. J. ("Kim") Kimball (I'm the 5th from the top.)

From **Phil Ferrara**, 01 Apr

✉ Our long trip to the Southeast ended in Bluffton, SC where we visited **Dave and Judy Neal** for a few days. We spent a full day travelling around the low country sights and visiting a famous education site for former slaves, called the Penn Center.

It was an interesting rendition of the early efforts of education. On the next day we attended a six-hour seminar on "Memory Matters", with numerous speakers who spoke about brain chemistry and effective practices of diet and exercise that enhance brain health and development. Amazing how retired '65ers in Bluffton spend their days luxuriating on the golf course and gymnasium and local pubs!!! We cut short the trip by a week, as the virus concerns and poor weather in Tennessee convinced us to go home early.



March 10, 2020, visit to Penn Center, near Beaufort, SC. Phil Ferrara and Dave Neal

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 7.12%

Pres: **Gen Carlton W. Fulford, USMC (Ret.)**

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

West Coast Sec'y: **Robert G. Johnson Jr., Esq.**
41391 Kalmia St., Ste. 210
Murrieta, CA 92562

Website: www.usna66.org

Writing this article for July-August, I'm watching snow fall on that began on Easter Sunday and has carried into Monday. Life in Colorado is great. This article is shorter than usual, probably because few of you have been able to get out and around. I hope by now most of you slipped the surly bonds of "stay at home" and spread your wings.

One way the Annapolis Breakfast Group has overcome the "stay at home" restriction is Zoom meetings. Below is a picture of one of the initial meetings. Pictured are **Jimmy Persels, Ace Sarich, Tom Grim, Rodger Carter, Don Jackson, Charlie Jones, Steve Niss, Tom LoMacchio, Bubba Phillips, Andre Simonpietri, Tom Eubanks, and Bill Caiazza.**

Wives and widows are also joining in on Zoom meetings. Ginny Jones, wife of **Charlie Jones**, is one of the participants. Any wife or

widow wishing to join their meetings can contact Ginny through Charlie at technidigm@gmail.com.

Jim Beesley sent a notification that Tracy Droz Tragos, daughter of **Don Droz** was recognized as a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow. The link to her story is <https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/tracy-droz-tragos/>. You can also visit her web site at <http://tracydroztragos.com>. Congratulations to Tracy and thanks to Jim.

Sadly, I must report the deaths of Classmates **Neil Brosee** (17th Co.), **Jim Sullivan** (23rd Co.), **George T. (Tom) Kaye** (12th Co.), and **Dick Salmon** (17th Co.). **Dick Salmon** passed an email to me from Susan Brosee that Neil died on 27 March 2020 from lung cancer and a stroke. His wife, Susan, describes Neil as a very caring person, but also very private, and he wanted no memorial service or obituary. Donations in Neil's name can be made to - Lowcountry Food Bank, 2864 Azalea Drive, Charleston, SC 29405-8216 or go to lowcountryfoodbank.org. Susan has also asked for privacy, but please keep her in your prayers. **Charlie Votava** notified me that Jim died on 7 April 2020 after a protracted battle with bladder cancer. Services are still in work for him. Memorial donations in his name can be made to Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, cceva.org. Please keep

Jim's wife, Susan, and family in your prayers. Tom Kaye had suffered a stroke a few years ago, and with the help of his wife Janet, was undergoing an intense rehabilitation program and finally showing nice progress in his recovery efforts. Unfortunately, Tom suffered a Subdural Hematoma from a fall he took earlier this year. Following several days in intensive care after the fall, his condition was stabilized, and he was released to his home where he was receiving care from his wife Janet who is a hospice nurse. He died on 20 May 2020. Local memorial services are planned after the pandemic eases, but Janet provide that information after she has the plans completed. Please keep Janet and family in your prayers. Shortly after notifying me of Neil's death, Dick Salmon had a stroke, from which he never recovered and died on 27 April 2020. His funeral was privately held in Pitman, NJ on 1 May. Memorial donations in Dick's name can be made to Pitman VFW Post 6469, 142 Oakcrest Ave, PO Box 111, Pitman, NJ 08071. Please keep Dick's fiancé, Genevieve (Gene) and Dick's family in your prayers.

The final Class luncheon for 2020 is slated for 12 August at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. Of course, its occurrence depends on the status of COVID-19 openings. A message will be sent to those on the luncheon list a couple of weeks before the planned date citing if the luncheon will be held. Until September... All the best! -Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 76%
Donor Participation: 8.44%

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

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**
1603 John Worthington Way,
Crownsville, MD 21032
p: 410-849-3423; e: scribe67@gmail.com

I didn't know that "social distancing" included keeping such distance from one's keyboard that no notes to a lonely, housebound Scribe would issue forth. I'm sort of



'66: ANNAPOLIS BREAKFAST GROUP ZOOM

Clifford Dean Peterson '56 ■
Col, USAF (Ret.)
14 April 2020

Robert George Schatz '56
CDR, USN (Ret.)
18 December 2019

James Walter Stinson '56 ■
14 May 2020

Frank Buck Tatom '56
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
15 April 2020

Ray Wood Dove Jr. '57
CDR, USN (Ret.)
23 April 2020

Thomas Edward Ross '57 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
28 May 2020

Charles Jacob Bowne Jr. '58 ■
CAPT, SC, USNR (Ret.)
23 April 2020

James Lee Corder '58 ■
21 May 2020

Philip Roberts Given '58 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
3 May 2020

Floyd Carlyle Hissong '58
23 May 2020

George Dalton Myers II '58 ■
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
14 April 2020

Lawrence Renwick Reid Jr. '58
27 April 2020

Donald Richard Dunn '59
21 April 2020

Ralph Joseph Facciani '59
LT, USN
11 May 2020

Ray Evan LaVan Jr. '59 ■
12 May 2020

Frank John Navratil IV '59
Maj, USAF (Ret.)
13 June 2020

Ragan Thomas Phillips '59 ■
26 March 2020

Donald Shelton '59
CDR, USN (Ret.)
26 May 2020

Carlos Leong Agustin '60 ■
COMO, PN (Ret.)
12 April 2020

Heisey Elliott Gardner '60
25 January 2020

Robert Sidney Jones '60
CDR, DC, USN (Ret.)
7 April 2020

Michael Stuart McCullough '60 ■
18 April 2020

Joseph Russell Moulton '60
16 May 2020

Peter Anthony Shanley '60
CDR, USNR (Ret.)
5 April 2020

James Russell Wilson '60
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
2 April 2020

Thomas Tinker Wishart '60
CDR, USN (Ret.)
5 June 2020

James Sharp Bourn '61 ■
16 May 2020

Douglas Blackburn Dillon '61
19 May 2020

Elbert Eugene Flesher Jr. '61
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
18 April 2020

Joseph Carter Maiden '61
13 May 2020

George Henry Podrasky '61 ■
Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
28 April 2020

Gordon Wayne Prescott '61
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
7 April 2020

Allan Judson Claypool '62
4 June 2020

Victor Owen Dewey '62 ■
LTC, USA (Ret.)
29 April 2020

John William Diedenhofen Jr. '62 ■
11 June 2020

James Douglas Fuller '62
29 April 2020

Geoffrey Alan Nelson '62
28 May 2020

Billie Orma Steele '62
18 April 2020

George Russell Waterman '62
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
11 June 2020

Joe Fuller Grable Jr. '64 ■
25 April 2020

John Anthony Stanley '64
11 May 2020

Randall Martin Case '65
18 May 2020

Andrew Michael Prydybasz '65 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
2 April 2020

G. Thomas Kaye '66
20 May 2020

Richard Charles Salmon '66 ■
27 April 2020

Glenn Smith Finley III '67
3 May 2020

Paul Helmut Wagner '68 ■
28 May 2020

Frank Vincent Barone '69
1 May 2020

Robert Dixon Garner '69
Col, USMC (Ret.)
20 May 2020

Gerald Michael Mitchell '69
23 April 2020

William Bradley Morrison '69
2 May 2020

Corson Lee Allen '70
25 April 2020

Jay Elliott Blum '70
13 May 2020

Albert Richard Currie '70 ■
23 December 2019

Alfredo Graham '70 ■
LT, USN
31 May 2020

George William Karch '70
CDR, USN (Ret.)
13 April 2020

Richard Sills Fletcher '71 ■
5 May 2020

Louis Meyer Hirsh '71 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
1 May 2020

Michael Douglas Trice '71
14 May 2020

Dennis Michael Dwyer '73
RADM, USN (Ret.)
14 April 2020

Garry Michael Basilone '74 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
23 April 2020

Allen Robb Stevenson II '75
LTJG, USN (Ret.)
14 April 2020

Gene Gygas '76 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
27 May 2020

Jerry Francis Bennett Jr. '77 ■
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
30 April 2020

Kathleen Garnette Moeller '81 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
22 April 2020

Roger Russell Bradford Jr. '82
LCDR, USN
29 March 2020

Colin Lee Kiser '83
CAPT, USNR (Ret.)
19 May 2020

Craig Anthony Hrabal '85
4 June 2020

George Scott Burgermeister '88
23 March 2020

Steven Craig Thorne '88
CDR, SC, USN (Ret.)
18 May 2020

Jonathan Lee Hughes '89
CDR, USN (Ret.)
13 June 2020

Noel Michael Griffith Jr. '93
17 May 2020

Jeannette Emily Benson '08
12 April 2020



ARMAND THEODORE PALATUCCI '64

"Ted" Palatucci, 77, passed away peacefully in his sleep on the evening of 19 January 2020.

A native of the Bronx, Ted was born on 2 May 1942. He attended Fordham Preparatory School before being admitted to the Naval Academy, where he graduated with the Class in June of 1964.

He first reported to the Aviation Training Command for flight training. Upon completion, he joined VAW-11 at NAS Coronado and was assigned

to Carrier Air Wing 7 in HANCOCK (CVA-19). He made two cruises to Southeast Asia and qualified as a landing signals officer. He then was assigned to the Training Command as an instructor in VT-5. Ted considered this to be his best job, and he always had great love for the T-28 he flew during that time.

After serving in the Navy, Ted enjoyed very many successful years on Wall Street, working in the Public Finance field, raising capital for state and local governments around the country. He worked at Merrill Lynch for ten years, rising to the level of Managing Director in the Municipal Markets Group, where he was responsible for all municipal bond capital market activities for the firm. Ted then became a senior vice president at Dolphin Bradbury, working in structured finance and specializing in the securitization and private placement of project related debt capital. Next, Ted became a partner at Andres Capital Management in Berwyn, PA.

Ted was a member of St. Mary Magdalene Church (Media, PA). He was an avid golfer and at one point was a 1 handicap. He was an accomplished woodworker, a private charter pilot in Florida and loved his English Sheepdog, Bogey. He was a passionate fan of the NY Yankees, NY Giants and Navy football.

He is survived by his son, Ted Jr.; and brothers, Richard, Joseph and Fr. John.

Ted will be remembered by his 12th Company Shipmates, especially the "Sofa Kings," as a good and trusted friend, a quick wit, keen intellect and an indomitable New York spirit. Ted could be depended upon for sage advice and a wise solution to any emergent problem encountered in the Company. As a Plebe, he was one of the leaders in getting the Company through a tough year. Throughout his life, he was steadfast in his love for Country and the Navy. He is sorely missed by all.

Ted's remains will be laid to rest in the Naval Academy Columbarium at a later date. ★



ANDREW MICHAEL PRYDYBASZ '65

Commander Andrew M. Prydybasz, USN (Ret.), passed away on 2 April 2020 after suffering a heart attack.

A native of Pennsylvania, "Andy" graduated from Muhlenberg Township High School and spent a year at Penn State before entering the Naval Academy. During First Class Year, he was in the 34th Company and was often on the Superintendent's List.

After graduation, Andy served aboard KEPPLER (DD-765) and then went through A-6 bombardier navigator training and was assigned to VA-176. An unexpected aircraft ejection and resulting injuries forced him to leave the squadron early and move to an assignment at the Naval Plant Representative Office (NavPro) Baltimore at the Westinghouse Defense Plant as a contract administration program manager.

In September 1975, Andy completed Naval Postgraduate School and was awarded an MS in Aeronautical Engineering. Upon retiring from the Navy, he relocated to St. Louis, MO, to work for Boeing/McDonald Douglas in engineering and weapons systems design.

Andy donated a tail-hook from his plane for the Class of 1965's goat statue at the Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium and it is buried in the granite base beneath the statue.

Andy posted a recount of his Vietnam experience online at (<https://stories.ninenet.org/viewstories/andrew-prydybasz>).

He cherished many things in life including traveling, all forms of art and red wine.

Andy is survived by his loving wife, Sondra; and his granddaughter, Gwendolyn. He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Andrew Prydybasz; his son, Chris Prydybasz; and daughter, Judith Oleskevich.

A memorial service with military honors will be scheduled for some time in June at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO, followed by a Celebration of Life.

Donations to the Humane Society of Missouri (www.hsmo.org) or your local humane society may be made in Andy's honor.

Joel Ewbank & Bill Zuna '65 ★



RICHARD CHARLES SALMON '66

Richard C. Salmon died on 27 April 2020. He was 76 years old.

"Dick" arrived at USNA via Boot Camp and NAPS.

He was a quiet sailor with a calm demeanor, but an avid and physical competitor on the athletic field. At Navy, he was an All-American lacrosse midfielder. He played on the undefeated Plebe team and as a Youngster was on Navy's National Championship team that also beat Army. He also

enjoyed playing Company football. During Dick's Academy years, he never burned up the academics, but was a solid student, highly respected counselor and mentor to underclassmen and always took time to find ways to improve his Classmates morale, especially when they were recovering from injuries.

At his first duty assignment in BORDELON (DD-881), he deployed with the Sixth Fleet in the Med, followed by a WestPac to the Seventh Fleet in support of the Vietnam War. He next served in FALGOUT (DE-324) and again deployed to the Tonkin Gulf. Dick completed his active duty in MADDOX (DD-731), supporting Naval Reserve training operations in EastPac.

After leaving the Navy in 1970, he drove the ALCAN Highway and briefly stayed in Alaska. Returning to the lower 48, he planned to buy a dairy farm in Kentucky. His parents' medical issues caused him to return to his hometown of Pitman, NJ, to take over his father's business, Salmon's Signs, which he managed until he died.

In retirement, Dick served on the council for the Borough of Pitman from 1977-1979, overseeing public works. He was also Pitman's mayor from 1980-1983.

He closely followed the Naval Academy lacrosse team, was an avid supporter of Pop Warner football and played golf at every opportunity. He supported Class of 1966 events by providing Class crest appliques for golf carts and other printed material.

Dick is survived by his children (and their spouses), Richard C. Jr. (Jennifer) and Neil (Erica); fiancée, Genevieve "Gene" Cressman; brother, Harry Jr. '63 (Doris); and sister, Bette Drexler (Chris). He was "Poppy" to his grandchildren Luke, Piper, Holly, Grace and Charley; and to his extended grandchildren,

Robert, Rachel, Sean, Hannah, Laura, Monica, Corrine, Nicole, Andrew, Danielle, Nicky, Joy and Maddie.

Funeral services were held on 1 May 2020 in Pitman, NJ, followed by interment at Hillcrest Memorial Park. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be sent to Pitman VFW Post 6469, 142 Oakcrest Avenue, P.O. Box 111, Pitman, NJ 08071. ★



JAMES WILSON BARRETT '67

Commander James W. Barrett, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully at Delaware Hospice Center in Milford, DE, on 20 March 2020.

"Jim" was born in Baltimore, MD, on 14 September 1945 to the late Dorothy and Frank Barrett. He was a 1963 graduate of Towson High School in Towson, MD, where he excelled playing baseball and soccer. He was recruited to play soccer at the Naval Academy, but a leg injury Plebe Year prevented him

from playing. He graduated from USNA with the Class of 1967, Fifth Company.

After completing flight training, Jim served four years in patrol squadron VP-16, homeported in Pensacola, FL, flying the P-3 Orion antisubmarine patrol aircraft and deploying to Spain, Italy and South America.

His next tour was at the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the P-3 placement officer. The Navy then sent Jim to The George Washington University, where he earned an MBA in financial management.

His next duty station was in the nuclear aircraft carrier EISENHOWER (CVN-69) as communications officer. Jim was proud to be an IKE plankowner and to be one of the ship's first officers to qualify as officer of the deck underway.

After a tour with VP-56 as operations officer, Jim became an Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer, specializing in the procurement, maintenance and repair of aircraft. His last two Navy assignments were with the Naval Air Systems Command, where he was directly responsible for the funding, development, procurement and support for new and retrofit P-3 programs.

Upon retiring from the Navy, Jim bought and operated a bed & breakfast in St. Michaels, MD. In 2006, he retired to Lewes, DE. He was a member of the Lewes Rotary Club, Military Officers Association, USNA Alumni Association, and the Realtors Association of Sussex County.

Jim was a true American patriot who was proud of his country and his 20 years of naval service. He loved playing golf, attending USNA football games and supporting the Baltimore Orioles. Jim was a member of the Episcopal Parish of All Saints and St. George's Chapel.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary Catherine (Durkin) Barrett; two sons, Christopher (Lauren) and Michael (Katherine); stepchildren Elizabeth Steele (Dean), Edward Durkin (Kristen), Catherine Keely and Patrick Durkin (Kimberly); nine grandchildren, Joshua (Kristen), Garrett, Patrick, Joseph, William, Zachary, Shawn, Kylie and Molly; and a great-grandson, Wyatt. Jim was predeceased by his brother, Ensign Daniel Barrett '71, USN.

A memorial will be held at a later date. ★



PAUL HELMUT WAGNER '68

Paul H. Wagner passed away on 28 May 2020 of complications following heart surgery.

He was born on 21 May 1945 in Sulzbach, Germany. He lost his father, Peter Wagner, two years after his birth, due to wounds received on the Russian front during World War II. Along with his mother and two siblings, he emigrated to the United States in 1949, settling in Tallahassee, FL. He was a 1963 graduate of Leon High School.

After studying at Florida State University for one year, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1964. Paul's calm demeanor and ability to find humor in any situation helped many of his classmates endure the rigors of Plebe Year. His preferred sport was crew, where he earned varsity Plebe and Brigade Championship numerals. A habitual denizen of the Superintendent's and Dean's lists, he was always available to help less gifted classmates with their studies. Paul's leadership earned him an assignment as 31st Company Sub Commander.

Upon graduation, he entered naval flight training, receiving his Wings of Gold and an assignment as an A-6 Intruder bombardier-navigator. In 1972, he deployed on SARATOGA (CV-60) to Yankee Station off the coast of Vietnam, where he flew 185 combat missions over the Hanoi-Haiphong Triangle. While in Vietnam, he was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses for gallantry, 12 Air Medals and numerous campaign and meritorious unit commendations. In the words of his pilot, "He had a great wit, a high degree of intelligence, a heart of gold and the courage of a lion."

Paul returned to Tallahassee and lived a quiet life on his farm on the city's outskirts, surrounded by friends and neighbors, where among other things, he enjoyed studying military history and providing support to the KWB Pathology Associates group that maintains a courier system for all manner of medical logistical and other transportation needs, logging nearly a million miles over many years.

He was preceded in death by his father; mother, Elizabeth Wagner; and his sister, Hildegard Wagner Schow ("Doc" Schow, USMA '55). He is survived by his brother, Hans Wagner (USMA '61) of Huntsville, AL.

A virtual memorial service was held on 17 June 2020 for his classmates, shipmates and friends. Inurnment will take place at Tallahassee National Cemetery later this summer.

Memorial donations may be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (www.pva.org). ★

*What greater thing is there for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined to strengthen
each other, to be at one with each other in
silent unspeakable memories.*

~George Eliot