

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2020



FEAR
— THE —
GOAT



Bob and Betty Andretta with Phil and Linda Ferrara, visit at Bob and Betty's house, Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis

From **Lee Mager**, 23 Aug

✉ Just FYI, our email forum, the Wardroom, has 268 registered members; the Backroom 72; Reunion Memories 3. Note that all members of Backroom and Memories are also members of Wardroom. Also note, that we don't know if 268 is a "good" number. We used to have close to 400, but **Phil Ferrara** did an excellent job of chasing down all of the many duplicates or deceased members of the original groups. But we still have some duplicates, usually of people who changed their email address and didn't edit their profile to fix it.

From **Ted Nanz**, 26 Aug

✉ Great time snorkeling with sons and their families including my grandkids off the coast of Key Largo on Molasses Reef, Alligator Reef and by its lighthouse, and the underwater statue "Christ of the Deep." Turns out that USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) and two Coast Guard cutters were sunk nearby as artificial reefs and SCUBA dive havens but we didn't get to them. Wanted to snorkel near the famous Fowey Rocks Light but that was too far. Beautiful fish and reefs. Most prevalent were the striped sergeant major fish and barracudas which did not bother us, although I dropped a tow line when distracted by a medium length barracuda which came up to swim next to me only a few feet away. Ted

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Best Wishes for the New Year
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.



From **Phil Ferrara**, 04 Sep

✉ A small but eager group of '65ers got together for the First Wednesday Lunch in September. In attendance were **Moke DeMatta**, **Frank Peterson**, **Phil Ferrara**, and **Art Wittig**. Moke related his adventures on Cape Cod earlier in the summer in the cold waters of the cape's bay side, and Art gave us a master's degree in plant rooting. All is well with the gang so far.



Class of '65 First Wednesday Lunch, 9-2-20, at McGarvey's. L to R Moke DeMatta, Frank Peterson, Phil Ferrara and Art Wittig

Ed. Note: Can't report what I don't receive! I know the pandemic may have limited your activities but welcome INPUT from all of you!

And since I'm light this month on word count and photos, will inflict on you a pic of yours truly taken at the mid-way point of a 15-mile bike ride on the Indian Creek Trail in Kansas City in early Sep.



Dave Anderson

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 24%

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

Despite the COVID-19 debacle, we've finally reached the holiday period, and I hope each of you and your families are safe and well and can enjoy this great time of the year. The mailbox has continued slow to fill, but I do have a few vignettes to share, so here goes.

Miles Still checked in with an email and photo. Here's his update.

✉ Elliott and **Mike Smith** visited Georgi and I a few weeks ago. You can see the Tetons behind my bald head and Mike's sunglasses. Mike and **Lee Sage** were my roommates Youngster year. Never a dull moment. When I was flying out of Chu Lai, Vietnam, Mike flew an Air Force C-7 Caribou into Chu Lai. He gave me a ride in his C-7, which we flew into an Army Special Forces base camp to deliver a huge bag of rice for the troops there. Mike made a nice landing on a short muddy runway. Mike later flew over 2,000 hours in an F-4 out of Thailand. Lee Sage also stopped by to see me at Chu Lai. His A-4 had a mechanical problem, so he had to land on our long runway rather than return to his aircraft carrier. When I flew over to Cubi Point, RP, I met **Clint Farmer** in Olongapo. He had rented a motorcycle and I rode around on the rear seat. It was always great to see Clint Farmer.

Thanks, Miles. Great memories.



MIKE AND MILES

I am sorry to report the deaths of **Gary Schmidt** (28) and **Tom Stouffer** (8). **Carl McCullough** notified me that "Gary died peacefully on 21 July 2020 after a long battle with MS. Arrangements have been made for a service at the USNA Chapel and interment at the USNA columbarium in May 2021. Exact information on arrangements will be announced when finalized. Gary was an exceptional Midshipman as evidenced by his selection as 28th Company Commander, his performance as a varsity golfer, and as a nearly permanent fixture on the Supe's List. Both Otis and I had the pleasure and privilege of rooming with **Snoopy**." **Otis Cole** has been working with Gary's brother Philip on an obituary and the services. My thanks to Carl and Otis. Donations in Gary's name can be made to the MS Society. Please keep Gary's family in your prayers.

Tom Stouffer died of prostate cancer (presumptive Veterans Administration 100% service disability due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam) at his home in Winchester, VA, on 23 August 2020. When circumstances allow, a service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Winchester. Interment will be at the Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, VA, at a date to be determined. Memorial donations may be made to The Semper Fi Fund (<https://semperfund.org/donate>), Christ Episcopal Church (<https://www.christchurchwinchester.org/>), or Blue Ridge Hospice (<https://brhospice.org/donate/>). Many thanks to **Oke Shannon** for the links to these organizations. Please keep Deanna and family in your prayers.

Charlie Jones and **Carl Fulford** recently responded to a request from the family of **Ron Wurster**. Here is his response and that of the family.

✉ "In honor of our Classmate **Ronald Frederick Wurster** (5/3/1943-12/21/1992):

The Wurster family inquired about obtaining a burial flag display case for Ron Wurster's flag. Ron's son Michael barely knew his father, who died when Michael was very

young. Michael is the family custodian of the flag after nearly three decades. Michael reached out to the Class via his mother, Carole, for a way to honor his father's memory. He wanted to have a special place of remembrance for his dad in his new (and first) home in Connecticut. In response to the request, on 6 September 2020, members of the USNA Class of 1966 provided the engraved case as well as a framed montage of Ron's '66 Lucky Bag and 40th Reunion biographies. Michael wants Ron's Classmates to know how grateful the family is for our support of their place of honor for Ron, a place where his grandkids will also learn about and remember him."

The family response came from Ron's daughter, Katie.

✉ "It's impossible to express just how much your gift means to me and my family. The engraved case to preserve Dad's flag is beautiful. It's really special to have a physical, tangible remembrance of him, that also keeps that remembrance safe and properly honored. And the framed montage of Dad's biographies is just wonderful. They gave me such a smile to read and were a joy to share with my children. My kids and my husband never met my Dad, and those biographies, along with stories like Mr. Fulford shared, bring additional dimension to his memory. They also give even more reasons for my children to be proud of their grandfather.

Your kindness and generosity is so deeply appreciated, Katie (Wurster) Rogers. Well done to Charlie, Carl, and the Classmates who undertook this effort of remembrance.

Bill McBride sent the following picture of himself, **Ed Walsh**, **Guy Pete**, and **Mike Cuddington**. The picture was taken a couple of years ago when they visited Mike. Mike has been battling Parkinson's Disease. Bill writes the disease has progressed and he wanted to document their visit, since they were unable to visit him recently because of COVID-19. Thanks, Bill. We hope Mike continues to win out.



GUY, BILL & ED BEHIND MIKE

That wraps up this article. Thanks to all who helped. Hopefully, you all had a great Thanksgiving. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah. I also pray that the New Year finds us all happy and healthy. Until February ☐ All the best ☐ Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 76%
Donor Participation: 38%

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

Jay Williams let us know that **Jon McComas** passed away on 23 August 2020. Jon was predeceased by Cathy, his wife of 45 years. He is survived by his fiancée, Sue Maskiell and his children Mark (Bridget) McComas and Mary Hicks. He had four grandchildren. After graduation, Jon's 28 year career included service as a Surface Warfare Officer and as an Engineering Duty Officer. He served two tours in destroyers including a deployment to Vietnam, an assignment as an NROTC instructor at UCLA, an overseas tour in the Philippines, and culminated in his assignment as a Major Program Manager with the Naval Sea Systems Command. Jon's awards include three Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit. After retirement, he traveled extensively visiting all seven continents and all 50 states. He served as a tutor at the Lorton (VA) Community Action Center and was an active volunteer at their thrift store. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society

(www.cancer.org), the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org), or to the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, indicating Jon's name as the designee of your tribute (U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, Attn: Tribute Gifts, 274 Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21402).

Jay Slough attended Jon's memorial service on 6 September 2020 in Wyoming, OH. His report:

✉ Although Jon and I were in 6th battalion together, I did not really know him at Navy. I wish I had. Jon succumbed to an 18-month battle with cancer. While I am not a fan of Frank Sinatra's lifestyle, I think his song, "I Did it my Way" exemplifies the spirit and determination with which Jon lived, and subsequently died.

Jon was full of adventure and loved to travel. Like many of us, he had a bucket list, but unlike some of us, he was aggressive in whittling that list to naught. One of the last things on the list, if not the last, was to skydive. One morning in August, he and his son went skydiving. Once they were on the ground, Jon turned to his son and said, "It doesn't get any better than this." He then sat down and died! He did it his way, indeed!

I think I was the only classmate there. The flowers from our class were prominently displayed next to the shadow box of his ribbons, medals and the service flag.

And again, Jay Williams was the bearer of sad tidings. Kitty Juneke had contacted him on 7 August 2020 with news that **John Juneke** had died. She wrote that John died

very peacefully at home with his family. His son, LCDR John "Spoon" Juneke wrote:

✉ ... [M]y Dad passed away yesterday evening at 75 after a brilliantly successful career in service to our Nation followed by the kind of retirement most men only dream about.

...He had cancer for the past four years but it only seemed to get bad this summer. Towards the end it progressed really quickly. He was married to the love of his life and she took outstanding care of him for 48 years. Both of his children and his grand children live within half mile of his home, and we all visited him daily. He had built up an amazing estate for his family on the shores of the Potomac River, which he enjoyed mowing and patrolling regularly. The John Deere Corporation will surely miss him.

... his name still remains on the Tomcat at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum in honor of the flight test work he did in the very early days of that program. The Thanh Hoa bridge still bears the scars of his passing. There are still USAF O'Clubs that he and his squadron mates are not allowed to return to. There are hundreds of sailors who had the honor of serving with him and under his command, as CO of the Black Lions (VF-213) and CO of the USS Roanoke (AOR-7), that will never forget his leadership.

John's immediate funeral was private, but his ashes will be inurned at the USNA Columbarium at a later date. **Buddy Barnes** forwarded a photo from his vast collection that includes



'67: John Juneke and shipmates in the Gulf of Tonkin

Tom Reed Murray II '61 ■
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
12 September 2020

Reid Hesse Smith '61 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
28 September 2020

Thomas Clinton Winant '61
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
17 September 2020

Peter Southworth Gingras '62
LCDR, USN (Ret.)
26 August 2020

Brian Dennis Monaghan '62
LCDR, USNR (Ret.)
29 August 2020

James Richard Turner '63
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
8 October 2020

Joseph George Dimmick '64
3 October 2020

John Paul Harris III '65 ■
28 August 2020

Andrew Richard Kish '65 ■
17 September 2020

Edward Francis O'Connor '65 ■
22 August 2020

Kenneth Koy Adams '66
24 September 2020

Robert Royce Scarbrough '66
19 September 2020

Gary Earl Schmidt '66
LT, USNR
22 July 2020

Thomas D. Stouffer '66 ■
Col, USMC (Ret.)
23 August 2020

Jon Philip McComas '67
CAPT, USN (Ret.)
23 August 2020

John Douglas Morgan '69
7 September 2020

Arthur Frederick Uhlemeyer '69 ■
7 September 2020

Charles Marmon Frary '70 ■
7 September 2020

William Paul Matz '71
18 August 2020

Guy Joseph Carrier '72 ■
CDR, USN (Ret.)
30 September 2020

Charles Edward Petrusch II '72
23 September 2020

Charles Travis Brannon '74
7 October 2020

Stanley Vaughn Miller '74
26 June 2020

Robert Baldowski '75
4 August 2020

Christopher James Hall '75
CDR, USN (Ret.)
2 October 2020

John Alston Cloward '77
19 September 2020

Robert Eugene Duncan Jr. '82
15 August 2020

John Eugene Grider '10
LT, USN
2 July 2020

Katherine Payne Gooding '19
26 September 2020



DONALD MARCHAND MILLER '44

Captain Donald M. Miller, USN (Ret.), passed away on 15 August 2020. He was 100 years old.

“Don” was born in Millersburg, OH. He attended Purdue University and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1943 (Class of 1944). He married Marquita Mize at the Naval Academy Chapel shortly thereafter.

Following Submarine School, he reported to DARTER (SS-227), operating out of Brisbane,

Australia. DARTER fired the first shots of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, sinking Admiral Kurita’s flagship, ATAGO, and later was grounded while attacking the damaged cruiser, TAKAO. After the DARTER crew was rescued by DACE (SS-247), he made another patrol in ANGLER (SS-240), participating in another exciting rescue of the damaged BERGALL (SS-320) and her crew. He rejoined the DARTER survivors in Manitowoc, WI, to commission MENCHADEN (SS-377) and was en route to the Pacific when Japan surrendered. Subsequently, he served on SEACAT (SS-399) and GRAMPUS (SS-207) and went back aboard to command the modernized MENCHADEN. After nuclear power training, he commissioned and commanded the Polaris fleet ballistic missile submarines, ABRAHAM LINCOLN (SSBN-602) (Gold Crew) and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN-640) (Blue Crew) and made six strategic deterrent patrols.

Ashore, he was an instructor at the Naval Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School. He attended the Naval War College and National War College, where he wrote a prize-winning thesis, “Economic Prospects of the United Arab Republic resulting from the Aswan Dam” which, unfortunately, Nasser never read. He earned a master’s degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University; was a naval aide to Commander in

Chief Caribbean Command in Panama; and served on the staffs of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs and Chief Naval Operations. He commanded the Fleet Training Center in Mayport, FL, and retired in 1973 after a 30-year career.

He then worked with the United Services Planning Association/ independent research agency in the field of Family Financial Programming until 1985.

Don was predeceased by his wife of 77 years, Marquita, three days earlier, on 12 August 2020. They are survived by their daughters, Leslie Hicks and Lynne Vines (husband, Jeffrey), both from Pt. Richmond, CA; son, David Miller who resides in Atlantic Beach, FL; and two grandchildren, Jaime Vines-Aquino and Bradley Vines, who reside in Richmond, CA.

For Don and Marquita, it was a wonderful and romantic life together. They will be interred together at the Naval Academy Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorial contributions to your local hospice. ★

OBITUARY GUIDELINES

Please note that we have a maximum word limit of 400 words. Obituaries may be submitted electronically (preferred) to obits@usna.com, or via U.S. Mail to: Shipmate obituaries, 247 King George Street, Annapolis, MD 21402-5068.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of obituaries to Shipmate, please contact Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury (410-295-4064 or obits@usna.com).



EDWARD FRANCIS O'CONNOR SR. '65

A true gentleman: humble, self-less and patient.

On Saturday, 22 August 2020, Lieutenant Commander Edward F. O'Connor Sr., USNR (Ret.), passed away in the comfort of his home after courageously fighting a nearly four-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 79 years old.

"Ed" was raised in Brooklyn, NY, and was the eldest son of Edward and Genevieve O'Connor.

He attended Brooklyn Technical High School, served time in the Navy and graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1965. He humbly served aboard the ballistic nuclear submarine ROBERT E. LEE and retired from the Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Ed worked as a nuclear engineer for New Jersey Power & Light and the General Public Utilities Nuclear Corporation for more than 25 years. He obtained a master's in science from NJIT.

He lived every moment to the fullest. He kept his mind busy by completing Sudoku puzzles and exercising daily. Additionally, he enjoyed woodturning in his shop, geocaching with his buddies and boating with family. He cherished "adventure days" with his grandchildren.

Ed resided with his beloved wife, Arleen, on Lake Hopatcong in the King Cove Lake section of Mt. Arlington, NJ. One of his last requests was to be brought out to the back deck of his house so that he could see his grandchildren tube off the back of his boat.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Arleen; their three children, Edward, Heather (Ken Schmidt) and Amy (Manuel Loureiro); his dog, Molly; five grandchildren, Taylor (Jason McCallister), Noah, Keegan, Lonan and Haven; and his loving siblings, Jim and MaryAnne. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, Tom and Joe.

Private services have been held by the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be accepted on Ed's behalf to the Lustgarten Foundation (lustgarten.org) to fund pancreatic cancer research.

Please visit (<https://normandean.com/tribute/details/10460/Edward-O-Connor-Sr/obituary.html>) to share fond memories of Ed.

He will be missed deeply.

The O'Connor Family ★



THOMAS D. STOUFFER '66

Colonel Thomas D. Stouffer, USMC (Ret.), succumbed to prostate cancer on 23 August 2020, at his home in Winchester, VA. He was 76 years old.

Born in Riverside, CA, on 13 August 1944, "Tom" grew up in Lancaster County, PA. After graduating from Elizabethtown Area High School, he received an appointment to the Naval Academy, where he excelled in academics and debate.

Graduating in the top 15% of his Class, Tom could choose from all possible service selection opportunities and proudly selected the United States Marine Corps.

Upon graduation from the Academy in 1966, Tom put his foreign affairs and German language skills to use as a Fulbright Scholar, attending the University of Vienna. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1967, he attended the Marine Corps Basic School. Active duty assignments included infantry company command in Vietnam; command of Marine Barracks, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Chief of Staff, First Force Service Support Group during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm; as well as various command, staff and

educational assignments. During his career, he completed a Master of Arts in International Relations in 1988.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Award, Legion of Merit (two awards) and the Bronze Star Medal.

After retiring from a full career in the Marine Corps, Tom returned to Lancaster and served five years as director of Lancaster (PA) Farmland Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation of farms in the county. During this period, he and Deanna began a close relationship with the Episcopal Church that continues to this day. They were deeply involved with the church and their communities in Lancaster, then in Shippensburg, PA, and finally in Winchester, VA. Tom served on the church vestry, as a lay member of the Central Pennsylvania Commission on Ministry, a board member of the Cumberland Valley (PA) School of Music, and as a board member and president of the Chambersburg (PA) Country Club.

A patriot, scholar, loyal friend, Marine and community servant-leader, Tom felt his greatest accomplishment was his enduring love affair with his wife and the family they raised. Tom is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Deanna; his three children, Lieutenant Colonel Dean Thomas Stouffer '96, USMC (Ret.) (Andrea), Craig Gordon Stouffer (Heather) and Charissa Stouffer Larson (Michael); stepdaughter, Amy Potter; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Larry A. Stouffer (Vicky).

Memorial services were held in Winchester, VA, and interment with military honors, at Quantico National Cemetery, VA. ★



ARTHUR FREDERICK UHLEMEYER '69

On Monday, 7 September 2020, "Chip" Uhlemeyer, a wonderful husband, father and dear friend to many, passed to the Arms of Our Lord at the age of 73. His demise was Agent Orange related.

Chip loved his time at the Naval Academy and treasured his friendships with his Fifth Company buddies. He graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1969 and accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine

Corps. After going to The Basic School in Quantico, VA, for seven months (1969-1970), he was assigned as an infantry officer to First Battalion, First Marine Division and went to Vietnam (1970-1971). During his Vietnam service in "The Arizona," he was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat V, among other commendations, for outstanding service to our country.

Upon leaving the Marines as a captain, he went to law school at Washington University in St. Louis, his hometown. Upon receiving his law license, Chip took to corporate law, where he excelled. He began his law career working for Anheuser-Busch, where he met his future wife, Katy. Chip went to work as general counsel for Save-A-Lot groceries. He excelled at union dealings and he never lost a case in 22 years.

Chip brought his spontaneous, childish and loving nature to all who met him. This was especially true for his Naval Academy, Fifth Company friends and his Marine Corps brothers. His jokes and fun stories are legendary to most of them, and sometimes embarrassing to the love of his life, Kathleen "Katy" Cortelloni Uhlemeyer.

He is survived by his wonderful wife, Katy; and two sons, Chris Uhlemeyer and Lou Allen. His son, Chris, now serves our country as did his grandfather (a Pacific World War II veteran) and father, as a Navy 1/C petty officer.

Chip Uhlemeyer was, and always will be, a hero. All of those who came to know and love Chip, are better for it. So then is our Academy, our Naval Service, our Corps and our Country. Rest in Peace, Devil Dog, Friend and Father. You are loved by so many. *Semper Fidelis.* ★