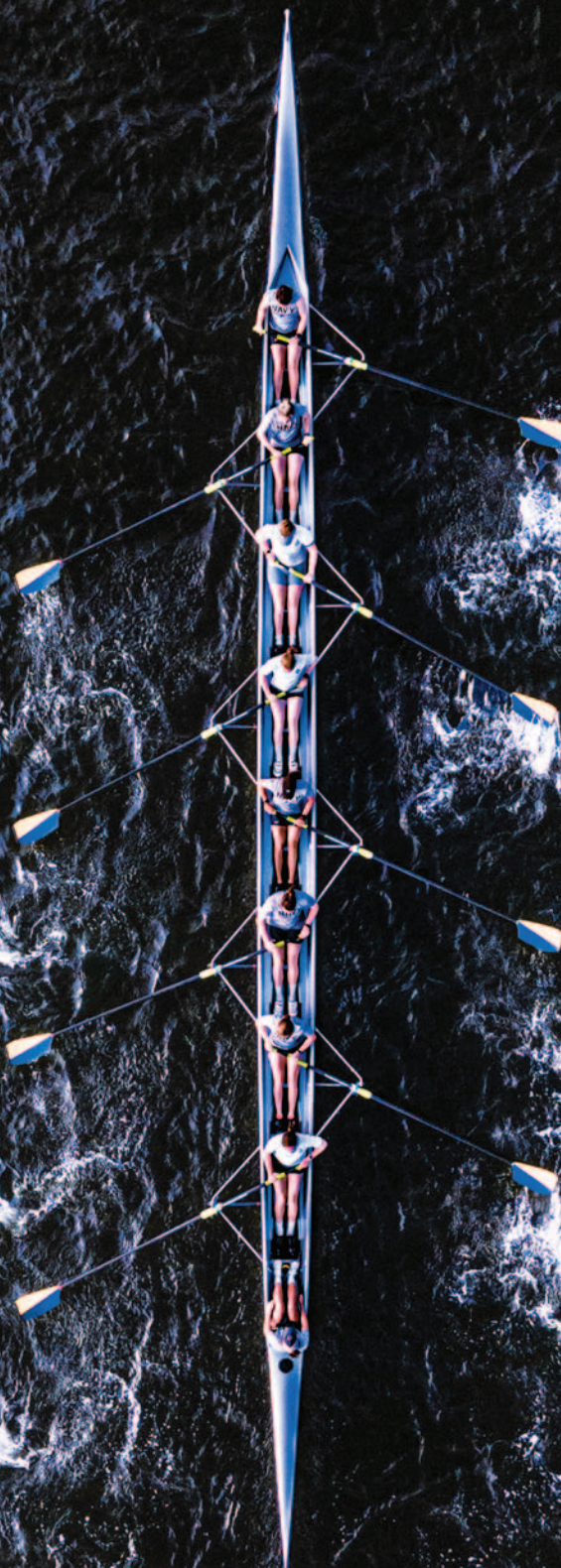


UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

MARCH • APRIL 2021



65/66 CLASS NEWS

a 30-year career Naval Officer. Pat had two sons that followed in his footsteps and attended and graduated from the Naval Academy. Pat '89 played football and Sean '92 played lacrosse.

From **Mike Epprecht**, 11 Dec

✉ We have an opportunity to visit a battleship and share an event with a classmate. As most of you know, **Doug Katz** was CO of the USS NEW JERSEY BB-62 from 1987 to 1989. During this period the ship deployed to Korea for the 1988 Olympics and Australia's Bicentennial. Doug will be donating his uniforms and memorabilia to the ship's museum and that will happen on Wed, 01 Sep 21. You are invited to join in this brief ceremony as well as tour the ship and lunch in the wardroom. For details on this, please contact Mike at: mike.epprecht65@gmail.com.

From **Rick Rickard** (his Holiday Newsletter), 20 Dec

✉ Our year, much like everyone else's, has consisted of sheltering-in-place and lots of time interacting with friends and associates over Zoom. That said, we and our families are comfortable and healthy, and for that we give thanks. We did manage a trip to Kauai in March, leaving California just before the full impact of Covid was recognized, and departing from Hawaii one day before their quarantine went into effect. Since returning home, we've gotten into the sheltering groove. Son Laird and his wife August have joined us a couple of times for al fresco dining on the deck, approximately masked and distanced, of course, their last visit being on Thanksgiving.



From **Dave Miller**, 27 Dec

✉ Our granddaughter, Dr. Taylor Adams was married in a beautiful setting on the beach in Playa del Carmen. We spent Christmas in Mexico with our family enjoying the beautiful warm weather!



From **Jim Minderlein**, 01 Jan 21

✉ I received my Nov/Dec 2020 SHIPMATE yesterday with our bronze goat statue on the cover. There are 65 class columns in this issue starting with the Class of 1938. Each class has a donor participation rate for the year. I was pleased to note that the Class of 1965 donor participation rate is 45% which places us in a three-way tie with the Classes of 1978 and 1984 for the best participation rate. We are the top donor participation class in the decade of the '60s. My thanks to all of you who continue to support our class efforts to help the U.S. Naval Academy achieve its mission. Jim

From **Phil Ferrera**, 06 Jan

✉ On a cold, damp day by the sea, but a great day for a '65 First Wednesday lunch, seven '65ers gathered at Middleton Tavern for noon meal.

We sat by the fireplace where George Washington once dined !!!

Attending were **Ed Linz, Art Wittig, Phil Ferrara, John Bishop, Sonny Harrison, Jay Cheney, and Skip Shealey**. We discussed the pandemic, opened New Years' gifts, sports, health, et al.

From **Ron Bishop**, 08 Jan

✉ This is just a short note to report out on the Tidewater '65ers Lunch Bunch Zoom Meeting on 05 Jan.

Tom Forbes, Gordon Clarke, Mike Hester, Bob Finley and I met virtually and enjoyed an hour of general conversation remembering that we had lost three members last year, namely **Frank Mixner, Norm Dean, and Pete O'Connor**.

From **Jim Minderlein**, 20 Jan

✉ Under normal circumstances, the Class of 1965 would be conducting the five-year election during this time that is required by our bylaws. **Mike Epprecht** made a motion that was unanimously concurred with by the Executive Committee that we retain the current officers and committees in place to complete the planning of our 55th/56th Reunion scheduled for 01-05 Sep 21. Our next election will be an agenda item to be discussed at our Annual Meeting at the reunion. Jim

Thazzit, guys! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 65%

Donor Participation: 30.39%

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

As we get deeper into 2021, I hope and pray that this year will see the end of lockdowns, a return to nearly full indoor dining, and reasonable return to normalcy. To help you with providing me *Shipmate* inputs, I'll provide you with my electronic deadlines for the remaining issues. They are the dates I must transmit the article, so your submission needs to reach me before that date. If a particular issue is full, I will let you know if your input will be moved to the next publication.

July-August 2021 – 24 May 2021
September 2021 – 28 June 2021
October 2021 – 28 July 2021
November-December 2021
– 27 September 2021

One final item before I get to the Class info. We are still in need of a new Web Master. John Jackson will remain in the position until 30 June 2021. If you believe you have the skills for the job, please consider contacting John before he retires from doing that work.

Jim Beesley sent an email and photo to document a rare event. The photo is Nurse Becky prepping Jim for a prostate biopsy by Urology doctor **John Williamson**, as all enjoyed a "We Gotta Get Outta This Place" '66 Classmate moment. Jim is "no jewelry" so John is displaying his black onyx Class ring. The good news is Jim's cancer will be eradicated by radiation over nine weeks. Jim, best wishes for a speedy recovery and thanks for sending this unique input.



NURSE BECKY, JIM BEESLEY, AND DR. JOHN

Linda McCook and son, Brendan, participated in the Wreaths Across America at the Naval Academy cemetery on Friday, 11 December. We went to the columbarium to lay a wreath in honor of Kevin, as well as Bob Scarbrough, his new niche mate. The Superintendent, VADM **Sean Buck ('83)**, was on hand for the wreath distributions. Linda and Brendan then laid a few more wreaths for other '66 Classmates, and one also for my late wife, Pat Baird. Many thanks to Linda and Brendan for their thoughtfulness.

DONATE ONLINE

Support the Annual Fund, visit usna.com and click **Give Online**.



BRENDAN, LINDA AND VADM BUCK



LINDA AT KEVIN'S NICHE

Sadly, I report the deaths of four more Classmates. Class-wide emails were sent for each Classmate with a detailed obituary or explanation of services and interment. They are **Tom Gingrich** (9th Co.), on 27 November 2020; **Rich Madaleno** (23rd Co.), on 12 December 2020; **Andy Hunt** (18th Co.), on 8 December 2020, and **Bill Jeremiah** (24) on 14 January 2021. Please keep Lynn Gingrich, Kathy Madaleno, Andrea Jeremiah, and the families of the deceased in your prayers.

Death of Mike Cuddington (17th Co)? No spouse; daughter -in-law, Jenn

In Early February 2020, Leah and I attended a neighborhood party, at which, we met Rodney and Vivienne Goodrum, parents of **Wes Goodrum ('16)**. It turns out they lived just around the corner from our home. Wes visited his parents over Christmas, and Leah and I were invited to meet him and the rest of

the Goodrum family. Wes is a helicopter pilot, based in Norfolk, VA. It was great to socialize and maintain the Another-link-in-the-chain relationship with the Class of 2016. I was able to capture the moment in a photo.



WES ('16) AND MIKE ('66)

Robert Johnson sent the following update and **Bo Wiley** sent the following memory photo of him and **Roy Bell** sharing a bottle of wine after the Class Golf Tourney at our 35th Reunion. Great memories. Thanks to Bo and Robert.



ROY AND BO

Just a reminder of the 55th + Reunion schedule: 1-4 September 2022. Hotels and tailgate site are already under contract. I will provide more on planning later this year. Finally, I'm hoping that most of us will have been vaccinated by the time this is published. In the meantime, stay safe and well!!! Until May, All the best, Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 76%
Donor Participation: 42.60%

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

As I was wrapping up this column, I received a note from **John Sheldon** relaying the news of the death of **Bruce Rossing** on 23 January 2021

after an extended battle with prostate cancer. At this time there's not much information available. Bruce is survived by his wife, Anita, but she is confined to a convalescent facility. John and **JC Bates** are in touch with their daughter, Robin, and will provide information as it becomes available.

Last year at the start of the pandemic, I received sad news from my predecessor, **Don Fraser**. His wife, Nancy passed away at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL on 20 January 2020 after a tenacious battle with cancer. She was 69 years old. Nancy was a Navy junior and a Registered Nurse. She served as a Navy nurse, both active duty and reserve, retiring at the rank of Captain. As a reservist recalled to active duty, she served with Fleet Hospital 15 in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm in 1991. After additional degrees at the University of Maryland, she completed a Nurse Practitioner course at Emory University in 1991 and practiced in women's health for the remainder of her nursing career. She and Don were married for 47 years. She's also survived by her daughter CDR Jennifer Fraser, JAGC, USN (Jeff Widenhofer), her daughter, Jessica Hernandez, DPT (Randy) and four grandchildren.

At Don's request, I held up on including this in a column until funeral plans could be firmed up. Don has let us know that he has finally received a schedule for Nancy's interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Services will begin at 1 PM at the Old Post Chapel on 23 March 2021. Full honors will be rendered. He advises that anyone who might plan to attend should check with the latest Arlington National Cemetery rules found at: <https://www.arlington-cemetery.mil/Funerals/Attending>.

Don, please accept the most sincere condolences from your Classmates.

Michael Cathey passed the word that **Jim Tamplin** posted sad news on Facebook that one of his sons, Erik, unexpectedly passed away at home before Christmas. The death of a child, no matter the age or the timing, is devastating,

and this came at an extraordinarily terrible time. Jim, we're all so very sorry.

Somebody asked a couple of months back if I knew where **Walt Newton** had gotten away to. Don't remember now who asked or why, but I went looking and found him in Helena, MT where he's lived for 20 years. He had been teaching math until he had a stroke about 4 years ago. That has "taken him out of the work force" he said when I talked to him on the phone.

Don Hefkin asked me to include a note of appreciation in the column, and I'll gladly do that. Here's his note:

✉ The 2020 Fire Season finally ended officially in Mid-December marking the longest and most destructive fire season in Northern California in the past 25 years we have lived here. A thank you to all the many Classmates that reached out to us during the fires. Being exiled on this left coast and far removed from most of my Classmates, it felt good to be remembered. Thanks again to all.

A heads-up for any serious oenophiles in the Class – steer clear of the 2020 Napa Valley cabs, merlots, zins, cab francs, and petite verdot including the big expensive blends using these varietals. Much of the late harvest fruit (Reds) was likely tainted – smoke damage. All the sparkling and white wines should be fine as this fruit was harvested before the fires got out of hand. (*Don added a personal note that my and Pat's favorite wine – O'Briens Family Winery – will probably be fine because of their location in the valley...jm67*)

One other positive note – another west coast Class exile (a nomad actually) – **Jim (Poopie) Schear** has again been recognized, this time twice, for his distinguished service. In September, Jim received the FAA's prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for his service in the Navy, Navy Reserve, PSA/USAir and the FAA. Then in November, Jim was inducted for his service to the Country along with nineteen other veterans into the State of Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

LAST CALL

Donald Leslie Mitchell '57

CDR, USN (Ret.)
14 January 2021

Bert Morse Concklin '58

23 December 2020

George Littrell Denny II '58 ■

30 January 2021

David Kearney Eller '58

15 December 2020

Ernest Celestino Luders '58

CDR, USN (Ret.)
8 January 2021

Lee Melvin Meador '58

8 February 2021

John Lawrence Nulty Jr. '58 ■

23 January 2021

Robert Huntley Pidgeon '58

CDR, USN (Ret.)
30 December 2020

Reginald Irene Vachon '58

24 December 2020

Frederick Lauriston Wales '58 ■

13 July 2020

James Peter Cartwright '59

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
28 December 2020

John William Hilt '59

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
17 December 2020

J. Phillip London '59 ■

18 January 2021

Walter Lee Owen '59

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
3 February 2020

Elbert Grant Rees '59

24 January 2021

John Reed Williams '59

23 January 2021

Raymond Nagle Fitzgerald '60 ■

Col, USAFR (Ret.)
29 December 2020

Joseph Davies Jaap '60 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
1 February 2021

Charles Edward Koch II '60

6 September 2019

Paul Whitney Sparks '60

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
20 January 2021

Samuel Ralph Wills '60

22 January 2021

John Howard Edson '61

LCDR, USNR (Ret.)
9 February 2021

Harold Eldon Harden '61

24 December 2020

Michael Charles Roth '61 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
28 December 2020

Thomas Clay Lofton Jr. '62

23 December 2020

Howard Samuel Pinskey '62 ■

CDR, SC, USNR (Ret.)
31 January 2021

Victor George Reiling Jr. '62

1 February 2021

James Ronald Hand '63

22 December 2020

John McCoy Hood Jr. '63 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
3 January 2021

William Michael Horton '63

18 December 2020

Don Gilbert Palen '63

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
31 December 2020

Ronnie Reginald Radford '63 ■

Col, USAF (Ret.)
23 January 2021

Allan Russell Coulson '64

CDR, USNR (Ret.)
28 January 2021

William Peyton Dobbins Jr. '64

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
26 December 2020

Matthew Strohm Evans Jr. '64

6 January 2021

Grant Dale Fulkerson '64

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
23 January 2021

Burr Caldwell Hartman '64

26 January 2020

Bert James Mackaman '64

25 January 2021

Edward Bernard McCaffrey Jr. '65

6 January 2021

Harold Allen Sandstede '65

1 February 2021

Craig Robert Betts '66

CDR, USN (Ret.)
11 March 2020

William Lewis Jeremiah '66

14 January 2021

James Edward Stoll '66

LtCol, USMC (Ret.)
9 February 2021

Bruce William Rossing '67

CDR, USN
23 January 2021

Vernon Eugene Wright '67

2 February 2021

Marvin James Franger Jr. '68

28 December 2020

Tommie Dean Hardin '68 ■

CDR, USNR (Ret.)
2 January 2021

Raymond Lynn Maki '68

24 January 2021

Patrick Alfonso Sabadie '68 ■

CDR, USN (Ret.)
26 December 2020

William Harold Smith '68

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
10 February 2021

John Thomas Tschirhart '68

1 February 2021

Charles Lynn Butler '69

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
31 December 2020

Michael Thomas Swanson '69

23 November 2020

Vincent John Esposito III '71 ■

CDR, USNR (Ret.)
1 May 2020

Jeffrey Dale Welsh '73

24 December 2020

Donald Woodford Hagerling '74 ■

8 January 2021

Robert Mark VerSchure '74 ■

LCDR, USN (Ret.)
9 January 2021

Glenn Martin Amundson '75

1 January 2021

Thomas Alexander Dowell '76

CDR, USN (Ret.)
4 December 2020

Donald Stephen Love '76

27 January 2021

William Edward Davis '78 ■

7 January 2021

Eric Keith Jackson '83

31 December 2020

James Michael Kuzma '83

CAPT, USN (Ret.)
5 February 2021

Earl Anthony Panico '84

LCDR, USNR
23 December 2020

Michael Francis Hajosy '85

CDR, USN (Ret.)
6 January 2021

John Thomas Shippey '85

14 December 2020

Scott Duncan Goodwin '86

26 December 2020

Maurice Edward Jarrell '86

LT, USN
24 December 2020

Robert Bernard Pothier Jr. '92 ■

14 February 2021

Jason Thomas Wathen '93

27 December 2020

Andrew Hunt Froistad '04

28 January 2021