

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

SHIPMATE

MAY 2021



Class medical miracle: **Ed Linz**;
 Class compass: **Doug Metzger**;
 Class athletes: **Courtland Gray & Chip Seymour**; Class most famous & Heisman Trophy Winner, et al: **Roger Staubach**; Class brains: **George Kent & CM Wood**; Class thinkers & writers: **Ed Linz, Jack DeVine**; Class authors: **Bob Andretta, Ed Linz, Don Bonsper, Doug Norton, Bob Stevens, Denny Jones, Phil Ferrara, Jack DeVine, Dave Anderson, Ken Meeks**; Class news columnist: **Dave Anderson**; Class book compiler: **Dick Zimmerman** (posthumous); Class crime buster: **Bruce Mouw**; Class artists: **Daven Anderson, Gordon Clarke, Dave Anderson, Tom Dames**; Class professional photographer: **Tom Kinder**; Class musician: **Skip Gunther**; Class college president: **Jim Stark**; Class MIG-killer: **Hank Kleeman** (posthumous); Class most successful in naval profession: **Paul Reason & Don Pilling** (posthumous); Classmate who rose highest as SWO: **Paul Reason & Don Pilling** (posthumous); Classmate who rose highest in submarines: **Denny Jones**; Classmates who rose highest in aviation: **Mike Luecke & Bernie Smith**; Classmate who rose highest in USMC: **Jim Hart**; Classmate who rose highest in the Army: **Joe Frazar**; Classmate who rose highest in the Air Force: **Bear McConnell**; Classmate who rose highest in the Merchant Marine: **Frank Burns**; Class SEAL: **Dawson Richardson**; Class test pilot: **Tom Morgenfeld**; Class Top Gun & Blue Angel: **Howie Koss' son**; Class SNA Executive Director: **Bill Erickson**; Class scholar-athlete: **Pat Donnelly** (posthumous); Class directory compiler: **Jeff Lewis** (posthumous); Class Internet group creator: **Harry Hoffman** (posthumous); Class medic: **Denny Moritz** (posthumous); Classmates married to the same wife the longest: **Paul Mickelson** 56.5 years, **Sam Stevens** 56 years (since May '65); Classmates who have fallen furthest from a tree, ladder or roof with or without chainsaw in hand: **Ed Linz & Doug Katz**; Classmate with nine lives: **Ed Linz**; Classmates with the most

offspring who are also USNA grads: **Harry Fulton** and, **Dave Schlesinger 3+**, **Hal Amerau 2**, and 1 each - **Doug Katz, Wyman Howard, Paul Mickelson, Froggy Kristensen, John Fabry, Ted Fulton, Jack DeVine, Skip Yochanin, Don Tulodieski, Ken Meeks**, others?; Classmates whose ancestors were also USNA grads: **Fred Vogel, Chip Seymour, Al Hoof, Wyman Howard, Tom Eversole**, others?; and last but not least, Classmates' names on Memorial Hall KIA wall: **Ron Meyer, Richard "Dick" Piatt, William "Mike" Grammar, Warren "Bill" Boles, Lynn "Mike" Travis, Edward "Barney" Broms, William "Bill" Covington, Gary Simkins**, and **John Lindahl**.

Pretty darn skimpy input this last month. I can only submit for publication stuff that I get from you guys. Request updates, fam news and pics! Mahalo!

Until then and since I have some room to spare on the column word count, will just relate that **Judy** and I are in our Honolulu home. We continue to split time here and in Independence, MO where Judy's 90-year old parents are still doing pretty darn well. Here in Hawaii, we get out to a nearby beach park daily for what we call our CBEs (calorie burning events) - walking, running, tennis, and biking. Here we also keep - as best we can - the park's lava rock border to the small boat marina's channel to the Pacific clear of debris that will otherwise go out to the ocean on the next tide and join the Great Pacific Plastic Patch northwest of our islands. We also take in a free weekly hula and Hawaiian music concert on the grass in Waikiki. See photo below. **Dave**



That's it, guys! Escribe, por favor! Aloha, Dave

'66

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 4.39%

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

Sec'y: **CDR Mike Baird, USN (Ret.)**
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West Coast Sec'y: **Robert G. Johnson Jr., Esq.**
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Well, looks like summer is near. I hope everyone is doing well and getting vaccinated, and we are getting back to some semblance of normality. I have a few vignettes to relate, so let's go.

Rufe Taylor sent a short note and picture to document his COVID-19 vaccination. Here's what he said. "Greeting Mike, trust all is well with you and Leah. We are fine here. Thought I'd send along this pic along to you for a chuckle or two. The caption should read ... "Geezers to the head of the line". To paraphrase Neil Armstrong ... "It is one small step for me and hopefully a giant stride forward toward normalcy." Well - my caption will be a bit shorter, but thanks, Rufe.



RUFE IS VACCINATED

Charlie Jones sent an email with a description of the weekly Classmate Zoom meetings. It's a concise telling of the topics and presenters that are part of the meetings.

✉ "As you know, our USNA '66 Thursday breakfast meetings in Annapolis gave way to the pandemic early last year, so **Rodger Carter**, then **Don Jackson**, started up Zoom sessions as an alternative. **Charlie Jones** took over the "Guy" hosting duties since **Ginny Jones** was hosting the wives, widows, and SOs,

and the Zoom account could be shared. The ladies established a special connection with the widows of Classmates, organized by **Linda McCook**, who lost **Kevin McCook** this past year. The ladies Zoom every Wednesday at 4 PM ET. The Guy Zoom is Tuesdays at 2 PM ET. The Guy Zoom attendees migrated to scheduling topics of potential, common interest.

As the pandemic starts to fade away (hopefully!), we should thank the many Classmates who have joined in our Tuesday Zoom sessions, especially those who stepped up to teach us a range of interesting topics. We have done over 30 weekly Zooms with up to 35 Classmates Zooming, with several Classmates providing insights with professionally relevant presentations. **Carl Fulford** updated us on Annapolis happenings and information on developments of interest to all USNA alumni. We tried to keep tabs on Classmate and spouse medical issues, and were often joined by **Cameron Smith ('16)**, a young pilot with his career on hold while taking care of his wife Lauren, who has had two life threatening cancer surgeries this past year. The 50-year Link-in-the-Chain continues!

Dr. Frank Day provided his many medical insights on the pandemic as well as diverse topics like the loss of the Scorpion, robotics and 3D printing, and social media weaponization issues. **Tom Marfiak** provided his expertise on China, raising issues like the 5G debate going on between China and the U.S. on the Huawei technology. **Tom Clark** and others raised additional interests and issues regarding China.

Scott Redd gave us an overview of counter terrorism concerning the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and other aspects of his very interesting career. **Tom Eubanks** connected us with **Al Konetzni**, who joined in with his career insights on leadership and, also, his extensive experience with Cold War submarine adventures. Al also connected us with retired Navy Captain **Dave Adams** (Director - Navy Museums; Naval History and Heritage Command) for an enlightening

session on the rail gun program and recent technology advances.

Robert Percival did an informative presentation on the complexities of Climate Change issues, focusing on the complexities of the UK plan. Our top professional engineer

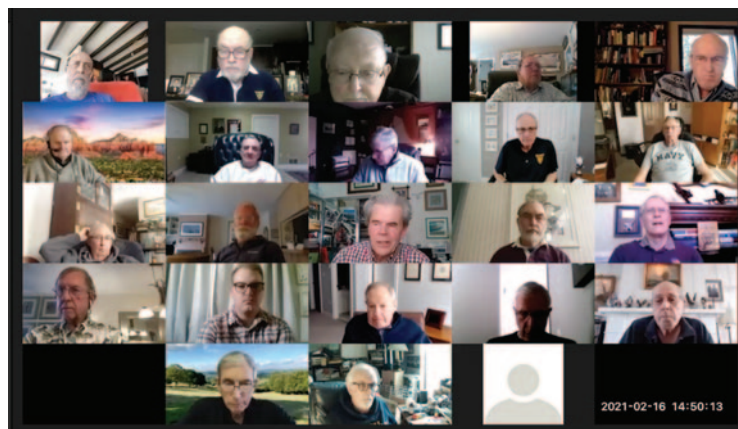
Charlie Johnson discussed the expert-level details of saturation diving, reminding us of our many long forgotten technical courses at USNA. **Bill Dornsife** did the discussion of the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident, having been a top PA government honcho on the state's response. Bill also signed up to lead a discussion on the first submarine used in combat, The Turtle.

Ace historian **Skip Stephenson** delivered multiple sessions such as on the Battle of Midway, the history of Arlington Cemetery, the Doolittle Raid, and the origin of the name Shangri-La. Skip and **Rufus Taylor** also showed off their Army B-robies and all their special unit patches. We found out that Rufe is an expert on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste disposal site. **George Moore** gave an airpower presentation with focus pre-WWII airpower aid from the Soviet Union to China. George covered the "The Red Flying Tigers" as well as Nuclear Forensics from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) perspective.

The USNA Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science and senior Marine Colonel Jeff Smitherman, gave us an overview of academy academics, the challenges faced by current Midshipmen, and current culture issues. We learned that referring to Bull Majors is considered a micro-aggression.

Tom Rorick's daughter, Army Colonel Elizabeth (Liz) Duque (MC), gave us an Army War College view of "Joint All Domain Warfare." We also started early promotion of **Carl McCullough's** new book published in April. Finally, we note that **John Posoli, Scott Gordon, and Charlie Jones** continued in-person Thursday breakfasts in Annapolis, defying the pandemic and, also, finally getting vaccinated!

If interested, those Classmates, wives, widows, and SOs not yet on the Zoom email distribution lists;



'66: WEEKLY ZOOM COMPOSITE

one for Classmates, one for the ladies; should send an email to Charlie Jones at technidigm@gmail.com and ask to be added.

Tom Petillo forwarded an email from Kathy (Jay) Prout citing that she was recently named a Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) annual award winner. Here is her email.

✉ "I was honored and humbled to be included in MOAA's awards this year with these amazing people. This was for my leadership and work in getting the SBP-DIC offset, known as the Widow's Tax repealed. I got the law changed with the help of other military surviving spouses from my Facebook group, Military Widows: Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependents Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) Offset, family, media, and friends through grass roots advocacy. I attended the reception in Washington, DC, in February 2020 to celebrate the bill passing with others who worked on this including many Senators and Representatives. Mrs. Pelosi said she was sorry it took so long. This issue impacted all military retirees who purchased SBP and then had the misfortune to die of a service caused illness. It also impacted active duty deaths. I didn't know about this until Jay was killed. It was basically legal robbery. Information about this issue and the phase out can be found in my FB group or by going to www.DFAS.mil or by contacting me. Now others will receive what their spouses earned and purchased in full.

Kathy's cell is 619-980-6623. Her email is: kmprout@aol.com. Congratulations to Kathy.

Three Classmates have died recently. They are **Craig Betts** (19), **Jim Stoll** (31), and **Mike Cuddington** (17). **John Jackson, Jim Maynard, and Steve Niss** collaborated on providing information on Craig. Craig died on 11 March 2020, and only through research were John, Jim, and Steve able to find out the details from Craig's son, Erin. I sent a Class-wide email with Craig's obituary attached. **Bill McBride** and **Jim Hartneady** reported the death of **Jim Stoll** (31). Jim came to Navy via NAPS. Though he left in February 1963, he continued in the Marine Corps. His obituary relates "Jim enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18 and dedicated 26 years of his career to military service. During his military career Jim became a Naval Flight Officer, deployed to Vietnam, and served as an Assistant Defense Attaché, ultimately retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1985. Jim received several awards for his exemplary military service to include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star with Combat V. As an insatiable learner, Jim studied four languages and a host of other subjects. Upon retirement from the military, Jim continued his career in civil service with the federal government both in the United States and abroad." Jim is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jane; by his children, Jim, Mike, and Michelle and their families; by his nephew, Jon and by extended family in New York and

New England. **Mike Cuddington's** daughter-in-law informed me of Mike's death. Mike died on 17 February 2021 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's Disease. Though originally a Marine who entered NAPS, Mike entered the Navy at graduation, retiring as a Captain. I thank all the those who helped provide me information on the deaths of these Classmates. Please keep all their families in your prayers.

And that's it for May. Thanks to all who helped make this issue full. Again, stay safe and well. Until June . . . All the best . . . Mike!!!

'67

Life Membership: 76%

Donor Participation: 5.09%

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

Sec'y: **LtCol Jim McNeece, USMC (Ret.)**

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I don't want to do this column.

We received word from **John Sheldon** that **Bruce Rossing** died on 23 January 2021 in Palatine, IL. Bruce was a member of 19th Company. After graduation, Bruce became a destroyerman. Among his at-sea tours, he served as Operations Officer on SAMPSON (DDG-10) and Executive Officer on VOGLEGESANG (DD 862). Because of his early career experience in the Naval Advisory Group in Vietnam, and a Defense Intelligence Agency tour in the China Branch, Bruce had a commitment and expertise in supporting both conventional and Special Operations warfare in the Asian Theater. He became the Chief of the Crisis/Operational Support Branch at DIA, developing exceptionally close rapport with the on-scene Operational Commanders in many high-level crises. Bruce was awarded the Torch Bearers Award from DIA, the highest honor the agency can bestow on a former employee.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Anita, his daughter, Robin (Phillip) Bellagamba, three grandchildren, his brother, and other friends and

LAST CALL

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

—Laurence Binyon, 1914

Cecil Robert Lubitz '46

5 March 2021

Peter Henry Hill Dunn Jr. '47 ■

9 January 2021

Eugene Marion Henry '47

CDR, USN (Ret.)

1 March 2021

Roy William Montrose Graham Jr. '48

7 March 2021

Edward Bruce Pickell '48

LCDR, USNR (Ret.)

27 February 2021

James Carl Ruehrmund '48

CDR, USN (Ret.)

18 February 2021

Edward Carson Waller III '49 ■

VADM, USN (Ret.)

2 March 2021

David Colwell Wherry '49

7 March 2021

Herbert Robert Babington Jr. '50 ■

CDR, USNR (Ret.)

7 March 2021

Harry Paul Madera '50

CDR, USN (Ret.)

14 February 2021

Milton John Schultz Jr. '50

RADM, USN (Ret.)

26 February 2021

Collins Snyder '50

23 February 2021

Dickey Lee Baltz '51

Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)

28 February 2021

John Ferries McGrew '51

25 February 2021

Douglas Vrooman Murray '51

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

10 March 2021

John Walter Niven '51

13 February 2021

Arthur Harold Gilmore '53 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

6 March 2021

Curtis William Miller Jr. '53 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

5 February 2021

Richard Ridgard Hartley IV '54

CDR, USN (Ret.)

2 March 2021

John Hrustich '54

19 February 2021

Francis Stephen Mudgett '54

LCDR, USN (Ret.)

14 February 2021

Francis Xavier Steele '54

CDR, USN (Ret.)

22 February 2021

John Louis DeZell Jr. '55

12 February 2021

Paul Warren Fiedler '55

17 February 2021

Gerald Edward Green '56 ■

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

13 February 2021

Robert Monteith Keller '56

4 March 2021

Bryan Weaver Barton '57

CDR, USN (Ret.)

25 February 2021

Charles Edward Biele Jr. '57

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

9 March 2021

Donald Joseph Couture '57

Col, USAF (Ret.)

13 March 2021

John David Jerome '57

CDR, USN (Ret.)

3 March 2021

Arthur Kenneth Ridley '58

5 March 2021

Stanley Edward Sharp '58

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

6 February 2021

Lynn Morgan Gantt '59

10 March 2021

Hugh William Rhodes '59

2 October 2020

Thomas Allan Hyde '60

17 December 2020

Robert Charles Rybicki '60

5 October 2020

David Joseph Wright '61 ■

24 February 2021

Leonard Stephen Yurkovic '61

23 February 2021

Hilton Copeland Bowers '62 ■

13 December 2020

David George Clark '62

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

14 February 2021

Charles Leon Keithley Jr. '62

CDR, USN (Ret.)

4 March 2021

Richard James Vopelak '62 ■

LCDR, USNR (Ret.)

28 June 2020

Charles Carlo DiBari '63

1 January 2021

John Ross Middleton Jr. '63

1 February 2021

Vincent Anthony Brunotts '64

16 February 2021

Paul Raymond Caldwell '64

13 February 2021

Asbury Coward IV '64

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

14 March 2021

Patrick Arthur Curtis '64

13 February 2021

Robert William Easton '64

31 December 2020

Thomas Joseph Tarbox '64 ■

4 March 2021

Larry Raymond Herring '65

2 January 2021

Michael Eugene Cuddington '66

17 February 2021

Glenn Everette Ewing '67 ■

15 February 2021

John Harty III '68

27 December 2020

Ralph Jeffrey LaDouce '68

CAPT, USN (Ret.)

16 January 2020

Robert Charles Schweitzer '68

CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

21 February 2021

Gilbert Manuel Gonzales '70 ■

15 February 2021

James Herbert Hill '70

30 January 2021



■ Obituary appears in this issue

This list consists of alumni deaths we have learned of since our last issue. Full obituaries will appear in Last Call if/when families send them in.