

The Pearl Mist is a small cruise ship with about 200 passengers. The cabins were small but adequate and the crew members and food were wonderful.

We visited four UNESCO World Heritage sites: Santiago de Cuba, Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Havana. Our "excuse" to visit Cuba was the ship's People to People program. We interacted with locals at all of our stops to fulfill that requirement of the US government when traveling to Cuba.

From our naval history course, we learned about the battle of Santiago in 1898 which wasn't really a battle, it was a slaughter. The port of Santiago is a very secure port which withstood many pirate raids. We visited San Juan Hill where Roosevelt and the Rough Riders walked up the hill during the battle because their horses were on a ship that was late arriving. There are monuments on the hill honoring everyone killed in the battle no matter on which side they fought. How civilized. In Santiago we visited the cemetery in which Cuban heroes are buried: Martí, Fidel, and the Mother of the Country, Mariana Grajales de Maceo. The goose-stepping honor guards reminded us of North Korean soldiers.

In Trinidad, our people to people stop was in the historical museum which was the home of one of the sugar barons. In Cienfuegos we were entertained by a madrigal chorus which sang beautifully. I asked what they do after they graduated with a degree in music - simple, they are in the professional chorus and teach school children to sing. In Havana we could see improvements to the buildings along the tourist routes. In all four cities the restored colonial buildings and homes of the wealthy are beautiful, but off the tourist path many buildings are in poor repair.

In Havana I rode in a '54 Chevy convertible through the wealthier areas.

Memory from Angelo Fernandez.

The January-February SHIPMATE triggered the question, "Why did I want to go to the Naval Academy?" Born and raised in New York City, I always heard about the Army, West Point, the "Fighting Irish 69th

Regiment," and my older brother piloting B-24 bombers in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Occasionally, the Navy and the Brooklyn Navy Yard came to mind. After High School, I unsuccessfully attempted to enter the U.S. Military Academy and decided to enlist in the Army. When I entered the recruiting station, the uniform that caught my attention was the Marine Sergeant's! After training, assignment to 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, and deployment aboard the USS Mellette as an infantry fire-team leader, my platoon sergeant called to say I had orders to go to Annapolis! I respectfully asked, "Why are they sending me to Italy?" After several expletives directed at the Private First Class, the Sergeant said to me, "Fernandez, you'd better go to the Naval Academy and become an officer because you'll never make sergeant!" And thus I was given the most cherished and respected privilege to join a brotherhood of individuals dedicated to serve and anxious to lead in the service of our country.

Recently I received from **Jim Roberts (24)** a possible article for our Class Column. Unfortunately, due to length limits, it could not be included without severe editing. I suggested Jim look into the possibility of somehow submitting his piece to the Alumni Association. What Jim found was surprising. On USNA.com is a link to "Sea Stories". These stories are grouped by Class authors. For our Class there has only been one such entry. That by Buddy Wellborn writing years ago about the US attack on Libya/Gaddafi. Jim is going to put his piece on Sea Stories. I encourage you to read it there. More importantly, I hope each of you will also add your own Sea Stories for our enjoyment."

This came in a few days ago from **Walt Szczypinski (18)**. Several '59ers and their better halves met for lunch on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in mid-February in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Art (6) and Niki (Pickett) Emmerson organized lunch at the Chart House along the Potomac River in Alexandria, VA. Joining them were Bill Drotleff (22), Wayne (3) and Jan Messner, Betsy and Charlie Dobbs (10),

Guy (9) and Judy Curtis, Charlie (10) and Susie Pease, and Walt and Caroline Szczypinski. The delicious lunch, scenic vista and spirited conversation helped take the edge off the Dark Ages.

TAPS.

Following are brief notifications received on recent departures.

Rodney Johnston (24) died on March 30, 2018 from a series of brain injuries that started with a fall two years ago. Several classmates and friends were present for a memorial service at the USNA Columbarium on April 27, 2018.



From the left are: Liz and Ed Hill, Beverly Elson, Barry Casey, Setsuko Sasaki, and Lou Wardlow

Edward (Ted) Alexander (18)

passed in McLean, VA on December 20, 2018. A memorial service was held on December 29, and a formal service in Arlington Cemetery will be held later.

James (Jim) Tidd (13) left us on December 20, 2018. A memorial service with military honors was held on December 29, 2018.

Richard Madden (8) passed away in Summit, NJ on December 21, 2018. A Memorial Mass was held at St. Teresa of Avila Church, in Summit on Saturday, January 5th

Thomas Henry Gainer (2) of Pisgah Forest, NC went to GLORY on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. The family had a visitation service on January 25 and a gravesite memorial was held on January 26.

Ben Holt (18) passed on January 30, 2019. A funeral service was scheduled at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, February 8, 2019.

Jim Featherstone (24) passed away on February 2, 2019. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, February 7, in Orlando, Florida. A memorial service is scheduled at

the USNA Columbarium for March 18. Obituary in Last Call.

William Powell (20) passed on February 3. Bill was in the Supply Corps, promoted to Rear Admiral in 1985, and was CO of the Naval Supply Center in Norfolk. Burial will take place at USNA at a later date.

Marjorie Ann Botorff, wife of Dave Botorff (16), passed away on February 5. A funeral service is planned for March 15 at the Kempsville, VA Presbyterian Church.

'60

Life Membership: 69%

Donor Participation: 5.09%

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had a little computer problem during the late fall that created a little havoc with my records. Some data was lost but most of it might not have been used anyway. Still, record wise hardcopy Shipmates will be the way for me to go. Material from about Dec 2018 should be okay going forward. In any event let's hear from you as we look forward to the Class's 60th in the upcoming year and a half.

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ "Dear Bill, In December I went to Florida to visit my son and family for Christmas. One day I rented a car and drove to New Smyrna Beach to see two of our classmates, **Hank Phillips (17)** and **Randy McHenry (7)**. We all spent about four hours together thoroughly enjoying each other's company and retelling old stories.

Hank has just finished doing a series of radiation treatments for cancer and the docs are telling him he is cancer free as of this date. He works out fastidiously and I expect will be around for a long, long time yet. Hank stays very active in Navy Aviation gatherings and reunions, and lives just a block from the beach in a wonderful area.

60/60 CLASS NEWS

Randy continues to put his superb financial mind and skills to good use to the betterment of the community. He recently opened a new Marriott Plainfield Hotel right on the beach and it is truly lovely. He told me to tell all classmates to "C'mon down!! He'll give them special classmate rates." He also is buying and renovating a huge old railroad station and turning it into a dance hall. Already has a contract for some dancing competition to be held there next year. Unfortunately he is having some trouble with his eyes, but isn't letting that slow him down one bit.

It was truly an honor and a pleasure to spend time with these two fine men who are our classmates. I feel blessed every time I'm with a Class of 60 grad. God bless and Happy 2019. Oz



3 amigos

And from **Chuck Agustin (17)** in PI:

✉ "Thanks Oz. I thought for a while that Hank was up north skiing. Glad he's OK.

The recent long weekend here from Saturday to Tuesday 1 Jan 2019, had 3 days of RAINY golf with Medy, our son Jay and grandson Paolo. The bad news is my 9 year old grandson keeps beating me.

Bless you all, and hope the New Year will find us all well and active. Chuck, Dasmariñas, Cavite, PH.

From **Tug Knorr (20)** to **Roy Smith (20)**:

✉ "My Eagles went down the drain, but your Patriots are riding high! My Niece, Betsy Knorr, who lives full time in Chatham also very happy. I was going through pictures today and found one from Ginger Cove where your Mom kept me on my toes

during my Clever Endeavors Classes. My short story about your Mom, Ann. I gave her a 60 Pen as prize one class day. Next week I asked if she was using her 60 pen. She replied...."I sold it for a dime", what a Cool Mum.

Dad also full of Vim and Vig... playing # 17 at Navy he would always share with his partners, "Can't see the damn hole, I just shoot for the turnbuckle" (for towers).

I will never forget your folks inviting a gaggle of Mids on youngster cruise to Med who were on Destroyer McGowan getting invited to their Chateau overlooking Gibraltar. Generous of them for sure, and we will not forget them for the opportunity.

Pray that Meds are working for you.

We got 9 inches of snow here in Annapolis. I have kept a steady conversation with Classmate **Grant Plummer (6)** in Puget Sound, who tells me tales about Classmate **Bob Dropp (20)** and his Pris. Suzanne and **Eddie Mangan (20)** let me use their pier for my Crab traps and both under Doctors care as we speak. (Aren't we all!!!) Their youngest daughter Maureen expecting any moment now. The '60 brood here in Annapolis have you in their prayers, for sure. God's Peace. As roommate George Marburger refers to me, Tugger.

Recent discussion regarding youngest classmate focused on a group of the youngest. **Butch Khoury (14)** checking in at 20 June 1939, was followed by **Jack Lynch (11)**, **Pete Shanley (3)** **Scott Logan (14)** and **John Swanson (17)**. I come in around 7th youngest at the end of March.

Bob Osmon (17) also added: "The oldest living grad in our class is **Ron Earle (12)**, Born 9/13/34. In our Hampton Roads area we have **Al Bissell, (8)**, who was born 9/13/35. This means there is a spread of almost 5 years between our oldest and youngest classmate. Hope they both live to 100. God bless. Oz

On a sad note, **Butch Khoury's (14)** wife passed away recently and will be greatly missed.

From Bruce Webb '63:



'60: Tidewater Valentine group

✉ "Bill, although I graduated as a 'Plebe', member Class of 63, I am writing to fill you in on **Lowell Webb (3)**, my brother and your classmate in hopes it will make a contribution to your Shipmate column.

He recently (2018) retired from the U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office - 7 and received honors as the longest serving member of the Naval Oceanographic Office, having served the U.S. Navy with a combined active duty and civilian Federal service of 60 years. I am attaching a picture and press account of his service.

I hope you are doing well. I always have (mostly) fond memories of interacting with your class during my plebe year and receiving guidance that has lasted a lifetime.

Wishing you all the best with warm and kind regards, Bruce '63



Lowell Webb's retirement

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ "Bill, just two days before the actual Valentine's Day official Date, the W'burg/Virginia Beach Class-of-60 men extended an invitation to our ladies and class widows to join us for a special luncheon at an upscale French restaurant, called Le Yaca, in Virginia Beach. We experienced a near capacity turnout, with three couples abstaining because of sickness or travel. While the weather was kind of dreary, the atmosphere inside was warm, full of good fellowship & laughter, wine, and a

nice three-course French style menu. No complaints were heard, while all appeared to enjoy themselves and each other's company. Participants included: Merrilu & **Al Ablowich (16)**, Marti & **Bert Johnson (10)**, Jane & **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, Bobbie & **Bob Brenton (12)**, Lyn & **Torry Rogers (3)**, Karen & **Tom Inderlied (21)**, Catherine & **Ed Clextion (10)**, Prissy & **Wick Parcels (12)**, Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**, Barbara & **Al Bissell (8)**, Jackie & **Bob Ianucci (16)**, Mary & **Henry von Kolnitz (22)**, Gail & **Bill Kee (9)**, Ruth & **Frank Kay (8)**, Alice Meinicke, Sarah McCaskill and Sue & **Paul Cooper (5)**

I also got a note from **Doug Johnston (5)**.

✉ He had been in Touch with Becky and **Dick Pariseau (1)** concerning judging Virginia History Day judging:

Doug/Dareen, Becky and I were judges last year and found it an exciting and rewarding experience. We will both be judges again this year. Notice the plea for more judges in the attached letter to Becky & me as judges.

I request that you look over the material and if you think it's appropriate, either send it to the local Class '60 group or let me have a copy of the list so I can send it out.

The topic this year looks great. look especially at the 1st reference, "2019 Theme Narrative."

Thanks, Dick

PS We just returned from our "teaching experience" at the Tuba City Boarding School on the Navajo Nation Reservation in AZ. It was great fun and eye-opening.