

58/60 CLASS NEWS

You can read about LCDR Alexander Morris by going to the USNA Band web site. Click on History and then click on Alexander Morris. He was the Bandleader when we were plebes and retired from the Navy in 1955 with over 47 years service. The photo nearby shows both Shorty and Alexander Morris with other boys at the St. Phillips Home for Industrious Boys orphanage in New York in 1908. Shorty is at the far right in the front row. He would go on to enlist in the Navy that year. Alexander is 4th from the left in the 2nd row. He had joined the Navy two years prior and is in a Marine uniform because at that time members of Navy bands wore that uniform. The other picture shows Shorty being piped over the side at the time of his retirement in 1958.

The other reader who contacted me was our Classmate Kent Lawrence, 16th Company. Kent recalls Shorty giving the following words of wisdom when we were plebes. "Don't never be first, don't never be last and don't never, ever volunteer for nothing, No How".

CLOSING RANKS

John Bruce Bradley, 16th Company passed away on 26 February 2019

Stephen Wawak, 8th Company died on 18 March 2019

William Keith Young, 18th Company passed on 8 March 2019

John Paul Nickerson, 19th Company died on 15 February 2019

'59

Life Membership: 64%

Donor Participation: 3.85%

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In May of 2017, Barbara and I traveled to The Dalles, Oregon to visit the Lewis and Clark Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum near the Columbia River.

Our visit was twelve years in the making. In December of 2005, I replied to an email from a member of the Class of 1958. He said he had seen my Cruise Box on display at

The Lewis and Clark Discovery Center at the Dalles Oregon Museum. He asked why it was there. I told him that I did not know. But for ten more years, the question of why my cruise box would be at the Museum festered until in 2014, when I contacted the Museum to ask. The response said they would try to locate The Box and learn why it was there. Long story short, the Museum found The Box, but was unable to provide any information about it. In May, Barbara and I drove to The Museum to visit my Cruise Box. We were told I could take the Box or the Museum would continue to store it. Decision made. It will remain at The Museum. A home for life!

When two or three shall meet.
From **Howard Poxon**.



Bob Larkin (2) (left) and Howard Poxon (20) on their recent semi-annual reunion in Australia.

Bob Larken and Howard Poxon, shipmates aboard the USS SOMERS (DD-947) in March 1960, met for lunch at the Kooyong in Melbourne. Following operations in the South Pacific, SOMERS was dispatched to Australia to represent the US at Coral Sea commutation ceremonies in Australia. Both bachelors met young ladies - Howard in Hobart, Bob in Melbourne - who they eventually married.

After leaving the service, both Bob and Howard returned to Australia to live. Seventeen years



Jim Roberts (24) and his **Traveling Cruise Box**

later, still in Australia, Howard accepted a position with Holden, a GM-owned subsidiary, working in Detroit. Since retiring, Howard and his wife try to return every other year to winter "Down Under" for three months to visit family and friends and catch up with Bob. This year Howard brought Bob mementos of our '59th reunion which included a '59 shirt.

Memory from Angelo Fernandez (10).

✉ 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.

TAPS

Rear Admiral William E. Powell (20), passed on February 3, 2019. He was commissioned in the Naval Supply Corps and served with distinction for 30 years. Burial will take place at USNA in early June.



The Featherstone family. Jim's wife/widow, Betty, is the third one in from the right.

Jim Featherstone (24). In the previous '59 column, we announced Jim's passing on February 7. On March 18, the family gathered at the USNA columbarium for his memorial service. Lou Evans (24), Lou's wife Rosalee, and Ed Hill (24) also attended. Following the service, attendees joined for lunch in the Alley Room.

Mrs. Geraldine Boltz, wife of Jacob Boltz (21), passed on February 8, 2019. A Columbarium Committal Service was scheduled for May 6, 2019.

'60

Life Membership: 69%

Donor Participation: 8.41%

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From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ Bill, by way of catch-up on the most recent lunches of our DC chapter, in January we took time out from our normal speaker routine to share personal sea stories and the like. To get the juices flowing, all gentlemen in attendance were invited to share their most humorous memories from bygone days at the Big House.

Amidst the ensuing laughter, we became aware that unbeknownst to any of the rest of us, we had a real live, veteran night-crawler in our ranks by the name of **George Dowell (19)**. George's tales elicited uproarious memories of cannons going off at inopportune times,

embarrassing performances on the parade field in front of foreign dignitaries, etc.

However, the applause meter pegged when **Ward O'Brien (22)** shared with us the tale of his profound, self-imposed test of manhood that he underwent First Class year by proving to himself that he had what it takes to go over the wall (at least once). Then he lived it out for us, giving chapter and verse of how he made his great escape, only to find that once he was out in town, there was absolutely nothing going on. So, he turned around and went back. His return trip was even more harrowing than his exit; but the fact that there was absolutely no gold at the end of that rainbow had everyone in stitches. However, we could all tell from the manly pride with which he told his story that the fundamental purpose for going over in the first place had been more than achieved.

February was spent at the annual Valentine's Day dinner dance at the Fort Myer Officer's Club. Although only three couples participated, i.e. Barbara & **Ward O'Brien (22)**, Fae Daniels & **Bud Pezet (13)**, Daren and yours truly, we had an absolutely wonderful time. What's that old saying about "Wherever two or three may gather....."

Those besides Daren and myself who participated in the January fun fest included **Don Broadfield (22)**, Martha and **George Dowell (19)**, **Dennis Hickey (22)**, Barbara and **Ward O'Brien (22)**, **Bud Pezet (13)** and Fae Daniels, Jeanne and **Tom Solak (2)**, and **Duane Tollaksen (3)**

From **Rod Friedmann (5)** :

✉ Bill the "Old Sea Dogs" of 60, actually tried something new in Mar. It was a luncheon at a "new" establishment in Virginia Beach called Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, which featured "free" sippings of the wine-of-the-day. Obviously, a big hit and a nice way to start the gathering of our members. Their luncheon menu was decidedly different from the run-of-the-mill restaurants in the areas, and provided some nice luncheon variations. Service was excellent

and the atmosphere was relaxed. Food service was good and the food quality was high.

Sixteen attended, including **Ed Clextan (10)** and his son, Eric, as well as **Bob Ianucci (16)** and his son, Chaplin Tom Ianucci. Other attendees included: **Tom Inderlied (21)**, **Bob Osmon (17)**, **Wick Parcels (12)**, **Al Ablowich (16)**, **Frank Kay (8)**, **Bob Powers (8)**, **Henry von Kolnitz (22)**, **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, **Al Bissell (8)**, **Bert Johnson (10)**, **Jack Greenhalgh (9)** and **Rod Friedmann (5)**. **Paul Cooper (5)** and **Bill Kee (9)** had to cancel at the last minute. Chaplin Tom Ianucci started our business meeting with a prayer. **Bob Osmon (17)** gave us a short run down on the our upcoming Christmas Party sked for Dec 9th at the Le Yaca restaurant in W'burg, with an offer from **Jack Greenhalgh (9)** to obtain tickets for the Christmas Concert on Sun., Dec 8. Bill, here's a few photos from the event for publication in SHIPMATE Thanks, Rod



Ed Clextan, son (Eric) & Tom Inderlied



Chaplin Tom Ianucci, Bob Ianucci



'60: Northern California bunch

From **Ray Burkley (2)**:

✉ Bill; Below is a shot of most of the classmates in Northern California. **Charlie Roberts (20)**, **Mel Nosal (4)**, **John Blum (6)**, **John Fulton (22)**, **Angelo Karampelas (22)**, **Chuck Peterson (18)** and several others were not at the luncheon (but all the good guys were. Recently **Pat Sullivan (6)** had a stroke but is recovering nicely and **Nick Temple (14)** had moved to the State of Washington. Hard to get everyone together since they are scattered over all of Northern California and Nevada and most of them do a lot of traveling.

In this group (Clockwise) are **Pat Sullivan (6)**, **Dan Affourtit (24)**, **Bob Bourke (1)**, **Tom Teal (16)**, **Dennis Vied (24)**, **Dick Shawkey (24)**, **Kevin Ryan (4)**, **Raymond Burkley (2)**, **Spencer Cleveland (6)** and **Jack Newman (6)**. Best regards, Raymond

A little editorial: As we proceed later into retirement many classmates are no longer located in high-Navy populated areas. There will always be Annapolis/DC, Norfolk/VA Beach and San Diego, but lots of folk are strung out in wide areas of Florida, Texas, the Carolinas... etc. While there may not be Monthly gatherings to talk about, we would like to hear synopsis's from folks. How they're doing. What they're doing, etc. There is room in the Class column for updates from the wilds of Idaho, Maine or Tennessee. Let's hear from you!

'61

Life Membership: 71%

Donor Participation: 7.05%

Pres: **RADM Jerome F. Smith Jr., USN (Ret.)**

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Hello, again, Class of 1961! As I write this in late March, we are down in our home in Melbourne, FL, and moving North to PA in about two months. We will put our house up there on the market, and look forward to having not so many North and South treks any more, which means less business for the AUTO-TRAIN. We have moved to a place named the Indian River Colony Club here in Melbourne, FL. It is a very nice retirement community populated mainly by retired military officers and some senior enlisted folks, along with a smaller number of civilians, mostly coming from the space industry. Full of lakes and woods and migratory birds, along with a few alligators, which keep the bird population at a comfortable level. Plus LOTS of outdoor (and indoor) activities, year-round. We are just a couple of miles west of the Indian River, and about 6-7 miles from the Atlantic Ocean/beaches. There is also a handy, large Air Force base here, which is good for commissary, haircuts, gas, and wine/beer. They partner with the nearby huge Cape Canaveral NASA facility on multiple space shots. My daughter Amanda picked NASA as her place of work many years ago after a Georgia Tech industrial engineering degree, and made her mark early by unscrambling a rather horrendous backup in the old SHUTTLE repair facility. She now is responsible for all of NASA's rocket shots, including those partnered with the Air Force, both here, on the West Coast, and occasionally beyond, depending on the required trajectory.