

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 69%

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From Class President **John Michalski (6)**:

■ “Classmates, Effective July 1, 2016 The Honorable William C. Ostendorff, currently Commissioner of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Will replace Dr. Lori Murray as the Class of 1960 Distinguished Visiting Professor of National Security. Bill Ostendorff has an extensive background in national security. He has served as Counsel to the House Armed Services Committee and Principal Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Bill is a retired Captain USN, a submariner, and a graduate of USNA, Class of 1976. We are proud to have him serve as our fourth DVP.

Dr. Murray has served with great distinction during her three years in the position. She has worked with the Academic Department to increase the impact of the position, exposed midshipmen to U.S. and world leaders through her extensive contacts, allowing for in depth discussion of national security issues, and has kept our class aware and involved in her activities. A number of our classmates have been invited to participate in her classes, and Chris Poindexter and Hank Chiles have given presentations to her classes.

I presented a small statue of Bill the Goat to Lori a small token of our appreciation for her service and dedication to Midshipmen, the Naval Academy and the Class of 1960. After leaving her position, Lori will join the Council for Foreign Relations. We will miss her!

Her activities over the past three years have been too numerous to mention, including leading courses, participation in the annual Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, and encouraging her previous colleagues to serve as Forrestal speakers to the brigade of midshipmen. I have shown below just a portion of a summary provided by Lori of her activities during the past academic year. We're proud to have made such a positive impact on USNA through our last class gift. John Michalski ■

From **Warren Hahn (5)** to the 5th company:



'60: Presentation to Dr. Lori Murray

■ “Company mates, my son (David '85) was driving at Zion Crossroads, Virginia. His wife took this photo of one of our classmates. Gray beard & mustache. Wherever one or two shall meet. Warren Now the question is: “Who is it?” ■



Mystery classmate

From **John Schmidt (20)**:

■ “Bill—our SOCAL 60 group met at the Coronado Golf Course for lunch on the 60th anniversary of our swearing in at USNA. In attendance were **Chuck Schroeder (23), Bill Lloyd (21), Jerry Johnson (21), Tom Curtis (22), John Schmidt (20), Doc Hand (7), George Marburger (20), Mike Fenn (4), John Pethick (9), Bob Stevenson (2), and Mike Merrill (20)**. Many stories were told of harrowing plebe trips thru the dreaded 3rd Batt area! **Bob Stevenson (2)** was applauded for bringing his Reef Points tucked into his support hose and **John Pethick (9)** brought his plebe planning calendar with his MANY come-a-rounds documented. The idea again surfaced as to why not try a '60 class cruise. John ■



'60: So Cal gathering On Message

From **Bob McAfee (23)**:

■ “Hey Bill, 60 years ago today, June 27, I arrived at the Main Gate of USNA. I was two days late reporting because I had to have a second physical. Obviously I passed so there I was. The admin people checked my papers and sent me walking towards Sick Bay. As I passed the Supt's house, a short guy with a bunch of gold on his shoulders came out. We both got to the end of his walkway at almost the same time. The gentleman stopped, shook hands with me and said “Welcome to the Naval Academy. I'm Admiral Smedberg and I wish you success here.”

I have never forgotten that Admiral Smedberg took time to welcome a new plebe. May he rest in peace! Bob ■

From **Mike Midas (23)**:

■ “Dear Bill, Agnes and I had the opportunity to attend my oldest granddaughter Madeline Midas' graduation at USAFA on 2 June. Later, I had the opportunity to swear in Madeline as a 2nd Lt on 1 June. Attached is a picture. Her father Mike Midas III, USNA '84, spent 7 years in and retired as a LCDR. After a two month vacation in the med with some of her Rugby Teammates, Madeline will be reporting to Vandenberg Air Force Base in California for 5 month Satellite Training followed by 3 years of duty as a member of the Space Team at Fort Schriever in Colorado Springs, Co. We have been blessed. May the peace of the Lord be with you all. Agnes and Mike Midas ■



Midas graduation

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill after spending a couple of weeks cavorting around France and bringing home the French “Can-Can” crud, I got my act together and scheduled our July Joint-W’burg/Hampton Roads Class Luncheon. We met at a relatively new restaurant/pub call the Yard House, located in the Virginia Beach Town Center Complex.

Eleven brave souls fought the Virginia Beach traffic and parking (no parking tickets) and made it to the restaurant. Attendees included: **Al Whitaker (16), Pete Chabot (14), Bob Ianucci (16), Frank Kay (8), Paul Cooper (5), Ed Clextion (10), Geo Van Houten (24), Al Ablowich (16), Mike McCullough (14), Joel Febel(5)** and **Rod Friedmann (5)**. Since we were the first to arrive when the Yard House opened, we had the place to ourselves and were able to conduct our “business meeting” before we had any lunchtime competition. **Pete Chabot (14)** was kind enough to provide us with some preliminary thoughts for our 60th Reunion in 2020. The Reunion Committee is thinking outside the conventional reunion box and will solicit inputs from the class constituency via an electronic survey. The survey will include preferences for time of the year and location, intentions to attend, and some opportunities for write-in suggestions. The goal is to make your input easy, while providing the Reunion Committee with the necessary data for an informed decision for our special 60th Reunion. Stay tuned.

Our Aug. luncheon is sked for Aug 9th and will include a tour of Virginia War Museum in Newport News, VA, followed by a lunch at the famous Crab Shack-on-the-James. Rod ■



Cooper, Clextion, Van Houten, &amp; Ablowich

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

■ “Dear Bill, we ended the Spring season on a high note with 14 in attendance to hear a fascinating presentation by **George Dowell (19)** on a number of key issues relating to the commercial advent of drones. Although the Army/Navy Country Club was a bit too confining to permit a live demonstration of the Predator we have been hearing so much about for so long, George was able to demonstrate actual flight with several much smaller versions. I doubt that any Shipmate picture will provide the necessary resolution to see the drone in this picture, but picture, if you will, a miniature drone flying a few feet above and to the right of George’s head.

In addition to George and yours truly, a good time was had by the following officers and gentlemen: **Don Broadfield (22), John Chenard (14), Hank Chiles (21), Dennis Hickey (22), Bob Matulka (2), Ward O’Brien (22), Grant Sharp (19), and Gene Tucker (9)**. In addition, Gene’s wife Dolly attended, as did Ward’s wife Barbara, George’s wife Martha, and my wife Dureen. After our summer break, we will be reconvening in September to hear **Don Broadfield (22)** entertain us with witty insights on U.S. Presidents, past and current. For a real laugh, he may want to include today’s candidates as well. Cheers to all, Doug. ■

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 70%

PRES: **RADM Jerome F. Smith Jr., USN (Ret.)**  
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Well, Classmates, here is my next input. Have a good variety of articles here, I think, with a lot of very good, some unusual, inputs. I expect a lot of us now are looking forward to the big 55th

reunion coming up this Fall. It so happens that I have my high school reunion at the beginning of the same week up in Pennsylvania, so I expect that I’ll be reunited out by the time both are over, or, maybe just numb from trying to recall all those names...

**Ned Kuhns (7)** checks in once more:

■ The 1961 Tidewater group had a good turnout for their 9 June luncheon held at the new location of BRAISE restaurant at 3333 Virginia Beach Boulevard in VB. Around the table from left to right are: **Charlie Stewart (6), Cyd Driscoll (22), Bob Graham (18), Kurt Rohdenburg (20), Tom McNicholas (9), Carlos Mercado (7), Jim Joyner (1), Jay Decker (8), Buzz Needham (12), Joe Kuhn (3 - Honorary), Ned Kuhns (7), Ken Craig (7) and Jim Henderson (15)**. Any classmates visiting the Tidewater area are invited to join us at 1130 on the second Thursday on every month. ■

Received this very interesting and moving article about **Benno Gerson(19)**:

■ As a young boy, Benno Gerson survived the Holocaust by hiding with his sister in a basement in Belgium. Benno was in Arnold with members of Anne Arundel County’s Jewish community for a Holocaust remembrance event to share his story. His story captivated those in attendance. Benno was born in Essen, Germany, in 1937, where he lived for only a short time with his parents and older sister. “As you know, that wasn’t a good time to be a Jew in Germany,” he said in an interview before the event. Less than a year later came Kristallnacht, “The Night of Broken Glass,” when many non-Jewish Germans wreaked havoc on the Jewish homes and businesses as authorities stood by and watched. This led their family to flee to Brussels, Belgium, where they lived together until tragedy struck in 1942. “Belgium was occupied in 1940, so by 1942 Hitler was systematically rounding up the Jews (and) my sister and I went into hiding,” Benno said. “Luckily my parents found a Catholic lady who was a widow, no children, and she bravely agreed to take us and hide us. “That was the last time our family would be together. My parents in November 1942 were taken to Auschwitz and murdered,” he said. The woman who took in Benno and his sister, Anni, was Marie Vandenberg Andries, who raised and protected the children until well after the end of World War II. “I don’t remember my parents, and