

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER REPORT

Have you noticed that the SF Chapter seems to always have their gatherings at different locations? Is that because management won't let them come back after one of their luncheons? Or perhaps they are always looking for the perfect place? Anyway, the latest venue was the Tennis Club at Harbor Point in Marin which sounds good to me. **John Potter** 19th, sent in his Post Action report with the following pictures.



BEN MONTOYA AND WIFE GINNY

CLASS OF 2008

Rupe MacLean 21st reported on links between the Class of 58 and the Class of 08 in the Washington and Annapolis area. The monthly luncheons in Annapolis are held at the GalwayBay establishment on Maryland Ave and attended by folks from both classes. The Washington DC chapter of the Class of 58 holds their luncheons at the Army-Navy Country Club and members of the Class of 08 are welcome. Perhaps other Chapters of the Class of 58 might consider reaching out to the Class of 08. I haven't checked, but I suspect Rupe would be willing and able to pass on information about contacts in the Class of 08.

SAD NEWS DEPARTMENT

Jim Brewer 19th Company and **Bill Brewer** 17th were twins. A few years ago the Class lost contact with both Jim and Bill and they joined the ranks of lost sheep. Recently I had a call from Bill's wife and learned what had happened. Bill had a stroke about 2 years ago which left him partially paralyzed and now he is also suffering from a failing heart. About the same time Bill had the stroke his brother Jim died (3 January 2013) in Los Angeles.

Tom Lacy 12th Company, died on 28 January 2015 in Fayetteville.

Ernie Pyle is reportedly quite ill. His wife mentioned that he would enjoy hearing from Classmates.

59 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 62%

PRES: **VADM Francis R. Donovan, USN (Ret.)**
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 ACTING WEBMASTERS: **Elaine and Pete Stout**

Reporting Illness or Death of a Classmate or His Spouse

If you become aware of a death or serious illness of a Classmate or his spouse, please send your email directly to me, and to your Company Representative. Obituaries for Classmates are submitted to the Shipmate Obituary Editor for publishing in the Last Call Column in Shipmate. Submissions are normally coordinated by the Company Representative for our deceased Classmates. The Last Call Column in Shipmate is reserved for Alumni. I use the Class Column to include obituaries of spouses. Please send spouse obituaries to me at: classec1959@gmail.com and to your Company Representative **Change of Email and Snail Mail Address for Class Correspondence**

If you have not provided your current Email address and Snail Mail Address to your Company Representative and to me please do so. Also, please update your Data on the Alumni Association Web Site.

Good Times: Dr. J.P. (Jack) London (15), Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of CACI, has been named as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Business Ethics for 2014 by the Ethisphere Institute, the global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. The annual list recognizes individuals who have made a positive material impact in the world of business ethics and compliance.

Good Times: Peter and Elaine Stout (10) have accepted the call to serve as Webmaster for the Class of 1959. We are blessed to have them.

Rise and Shine

60 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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From Bob Osmon (17):

“During my recent two week stay with my son and his family in Lakeland, Florida, I was blessed with the opportunity to visit two of our distinguished and handsome 17th Company classmates. It was such a pleasure to be with them both as we told stories of old and they were better than the way I heard them before.

First of all I went over to the East Coast of Florida to New Smyrna Beach to visit Marion & **Hank Phillips (17)**. Hank recently left the hallowed land of Annapolis and found a beautiful home just a brief walk from the Atlantic Ocean. Looked like a damn good swap to me. We went to the local yacht club and hooked up with **Randy McHenry (7)** who also lives there. In fact, it was Randy who enticed Hank to move. Had a wonderful meal at Hank's home and joined Randy and his lovely bride Sheri the next morning for coffee. They have a home on the top floor of a condo that overlooks the Atlantic. The view is magnificent. And I thought I was doing well because I can see a bit of the James River. Anyhow the camaraderie was great and any of you who venture to that part of town would be well pleased to drop in on either of them.

The following week I did a short hop up to Dade City where my former roommate at Supply School lived and now lives again. Melinda & **Frank Bessenger (17)** were the epitome of Old South graciousness as Frank willingly parted with several full glasses of Ames Williams bourbon. They were smooth drinks. Melinda fixed us a wonderful meal of jambalaya and for the first time I had cumquat pie! Any of you ever had it? It was darn good and I had two pieces. Frank and I talked long into the night about every subject under the sun, and came up with the solution to every world problem. How come we are not running this country?

Anyhow I feel so blessed that I could be with these old, old friends. As we all know, we are not guaranteed tomorrow, so I'm glad we got together now. Attached are photos of these two handsome guys. God bless and smooth sailing. Oz ■

AMP
 Alumni Mentoring
 Program

AMP is a system of connecting Alumni for a greater good.

Contact: Stephen Leaman at sjlconsulting@cox.net; Dr. Steve Hudock at shudock@1969.usna.com or RADM (Ret.) Stan Bryant, AMP Director of Communications at stanleywbryant@hotmail.com



Phillips & Oz



Bessenger & Oz

From **Chuck Agustan (17)** via **Bob Osmon (17)**:

■ Jim, Oz and all my 17th company brothers, Great news, as I finally found BCL (Benny Lomotan), who after evading us for health reasons finally showed up today, Saturday 24 Jan 2015. The occasion was the annual general meeting of the PMA Alumni Association at the AFP Theater (lunch at the nearby Officers Club). You all know PMA is where we all started our first plebe year with the PMA Class of 1959 in 1955-56. Benny had missed all our PMA Class activities in 2014, due to some medical problem that he finally got fixed, except a minor stomach ulcer that he is watching closely (not too bad, as he agreed to have coffee after the lunch).

Benny and I both became Chairman of the Board of Association, I in 2002 and 2003, and Benny in 2009, the PMA Class of 1959's 50th Homecoming reunion.

BCL – WELCOME BACK and please get active on this net. Chuck

Yeah, Benny. Glad to have you back with us. You are as handsome as ever. Don't stop communicating with us just because you are chasing all those beautiful Filipino women around the country. Can we hope to see you at the reunion in several months? God bless. Oz ■

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

■ Dear Naval Academy Classmates, I am going to brag about my Super Amazing Daughter in Law, Stacey Osmon, and in a

moment you will understand why. On Friday before the Army/Navy game I had the privilege and honor of showing my two daughters in law and three grandchildren around the Academy. It was the first time they all got to see where Granddaddy went to school, so I was quite pleased.

As part of the tour, I took them to LeJeune Hall. As many of you will recall, that is where we honor all of our All Americans and have a trophy case with a gold football representing every Navy victory over Army. Of course, I proudly pointed to the one with the 43-12 score in 1959 when Joe Bellino, Trigger Joe, and the rest demolished Army to cap off a great year for us seniors. Unbeknownst to me, she took a photograph of that football to take home with her.

Then one day last week I received a package from my family in Florida. When I opened it, much to my surprise, was a replica of that same football that was so accurate I thought at first Stacey stole it. Then I thought she may have purchased it through the Athletic Association. When I called her, I found out she simply bought a football and then painted it herself. I was blown away.

So I created a special shelf for it in my living room. It now sits between two Navy nutcrackers and in front of my Roger Staubach goat. Attached is the photograph of the said football so you too can see what a terrific job she did. So the next time one of your kids say, "Dad, you have everything. What could we possibly get you for Christmas?" you might think

about adding one of these to your decorations. It would be a great memento of our final year at the old Boat School. (Back when we used to play Army right after Thanksgiving.) God bless. May I wish all of you nothing but joy and happiness for 2015. Oz ■



Memories of Army Navy victory

From **Tom Solak (2)**:

■ "Bill, I was fortunate to represent the Class at the Alumni Association's Honor the Fallen Heroes Evening at Ogle Hall in November. Alumni honored are drawn from those lost in combat or operations as listed on plaques in Memorial Hall. Our classmate **LtCol Frank Kolbe, USMC (11)**, was one of those honored. Representing his family was his daughter Col Kathryn Kolbe, USAF (Ret). She was accompanied by her husband, Col Rick LeBlanc, USAF (Ret). Frank was lost in 1981 while on active duty as a reservist when the helo he was riding in crashed off the USS Guam. I think it important to note that Frank had an illustrious career, having been awarded the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and 27 Air



'60: Valentine group



'60: Greeks

Medals. Also, in 1990, the Marine Corps established the Frank Kolbe Jr. Memorial Award for Professional Safety, and more recently, as reported in our Shipmate column of January 2014, the Marines named a hangar in his honor at the Joint Base McGuire – Dix – Lakehurst in New Jersey. His daughter, Kathryn, thought the Alumni Association event was indeed an honor and she was pleased to be there. Tom ■

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, I wish you and Linda could have made it down to Virginia Beach for our Annual Valentine’s Day Luncheon at the Eurasia Cafe. The event was held on Tues., Feb 10th (we jumped the gun a little bit, but no one seemed to mind). The weather outside was wet and gloomy, but the atmosphere inside was warm and cozy, especially since our spouses and guests were able to share in the festivities. The restaurant prepared a special three course luncheon menu for us at a very reasonable price and provided our ladies with some nice take home flowers to top the luncheon off. The meal & service were excellent. Attending the luncheon were: Alice Meinicke, Merrilu & **Al Ablowich (16)**, Sue & **Paul Cooper (5)**, Ruth & **Frank Kay (8)**, Mary & **Henry von Kolnitz (22)**, Karen & **Tom Inderlied (21)**, Catherine & **Ed Clextion (10)**, Sara & **Bob Powers (8)**, Sarah & **Ed McCaskill (8)**, Barbara & **Al Bissell (8)**, Donna & **Mike McCullough (14)**, **Bert Johnson (10)** and Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**.

Our next luncheon will be held at a “Cheers-like” Restaurant & Pub called Tempt’s, located near “the beach” on Tues., Mar 10th. According to one of our classmates who frequent the establishment, they have the “Best” Oyster Rockefeller in town. It will be on the menu. Rod ■

Also from Rod:

■ “Bill, it was a clammy, wet, cold day in Virginia Beach, when we gathered at a Greek Restaurant to warm up and started spinning tall tales. By the time the luncheon was over, nobody cared about the New England type weather. The restaurant was named AMMOS and featured typical and tasty Greek style food. We hit it just right in that it was Restaurant Week in Virginia Beach, so for about ten bucks, we got a nice two course selection from their special menu. Braving the not-so-nice weather were: **Jim Eilertsen**

(21) (just coming off of shoulder surgery), **Al Ablowich (16)**, **Tom Inderlied (21)**, **Jack Greenhalgh (9)**, **Joel Febel (5)**, **Bert Johnson (10)**, **Bob Powers (8)**, **Mike McCullough (14)**, **Wick Parcels (12)** (too cold & wet for golf), **Frank Kay (8)**, **Ed Clextion (10)** & **Rod Friedmann (5)**. The service was superior and our two Greek waitresses took very good care of us. I’ll add this restaurant to my “keeper’s list.” Try it Bill, the next time you’re down this way. — Rod” ■

61 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 69%

PRES: **RADM Jerome F. Smith Jr., USN (Ret.)**
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I believe that most all of you have heard by now from your Company Reps of the passing of our classmate and SHIPMATE scribe, **Bob Denis**. Bob was a fellow submariner of mine and a good friend; we will ALL miss him. He did a great column; I don’t hope to be able to come up to his level, but I’ll at least endeavor to get out the skinny.

Received from **Ned Kuhns**:

■ “Before you take off to draw some more sea pay on your Caribbean cruise,

I just wanted you to know the 1961 Tidewater Group celebrated Valentine’s Day a few days early on our regular second Thursday of each month Class luncheon date. As you can see from the photo, we had a very nice attendance and everyone appears to have had a good time. Seated in the front row left to right are: Sandy Craig, Jan Bradley, Judy Laster, Jane McNicholas, Breeze Stewart, Fran Rohdenburg and Margie Driscoll. In the second row are: Mike Bradley (3), Carole Decker, Jim Laster (15), Georgeanne Pearson, Laura Bruno, Bonnie Campbell-Kuhn, Peg Graham, Bob Graham (18), Charlie Stewart (6), Ned Kuhns (7), Fred Lowack (7), and Tom McNicholas (9). In the back row are: Ken Craig (7), JP Decker (8), John Pearson (8), Joe Kuhn (3 - Honorary), Marc Bruno (1), Kurt Rohdenburg (20), and Cyd Driscoll (22). We missed some of our “regular” attendees since Jim & Toni Henderson (15) were in Florida, Jim & Sharon Joyner (1) were in Hawaii and Buzz and Karla Needham (12) were in DC. As always, any Classmates who might be visiting Tidewater on the second Thursday of each month are always invited to join us for lunch at T. K. TRIPPS in Virginia Beach.” ■

Received from **Bruce Maxon** and our classmates on the Left Coast:

■ 38 classmates and wives of the San Diego alumni chapter of the class of 1961 held their Sweetheart Valentines luncheon at Poseidon Restaurant in Del Mar on



‘61: January attendees Fred Lowack (7), Ken Craig (7), Tom McNicholas (9), Joe Kuhn (3 - honorary classmate), Ned Kuhns (7), Cyd Driscoll (22), Kurt Rohdenburg (20), Jim Henderson (15), Jay Decker (8), Bob Graham (18), and Jim Joyner (1).



‘61: Tidewater Group Valentine’s Day lunch