

departure back to Georgia due to the Coronavirus. Except for the beach, unfortunately much has been closed down in the area.

We stopped by Dave Dyke's home to pick up some mail and to say a final farewell. Dave is always up on things and met us in the proper way. To protect us from the Virus, he wore his "Dutchman Dyke" anti-Coronavirus mask. See the picture below!!!



Dave Dyke, wearing his anti-Coronavirus mask

Looking forward to next year's stay in Naples. Hopefully, we'll be able to see Dave's face again!!! Rise and Shine, Vince Obsitnik

### Jay Bainbridge (22) Reports.

✉ This photo was taken at our house last June (2019). Jarrett Brooker, grandson of company mate John Kanuch (who passed away in December 2018) had just completed the USNA summer seminar. In the picture, we are making a mountain of ice cream to celebrate Jarrett's "graduation." More recently, Jarrett applied and was accepted to become a Plebe here in June (2020). I talked to Grandma (Barbara Kanuch) today, and she said the whole family is planning to be here on 22 June for "I Day."



Dad (Rob), is on the left, then Jarrett, Jarrett's Uncle, and me, with my arm in a casket.

### From Gordon Abercrombie (23).

✉ I have written an 850-page *History of the Knights Hospitaller at Rhodes and Malta 1305-1688*. Short-titled *Mostly Bosio* in recognition of the Hospital's first official historian, my history represents a ten-year labor of love relying on Giacomo Bosio, on his immediate successor Bartolomeo dal Pozzo, and on more than 300 years of subsequent scholarship. I am now looking for a publisher and would welcome an introduction or suggestions. The history's opening paragraph follows:

#### **Mostly Bosio, Marketing**

**Excerpt:** Foulques de Villaret was elected Grand Master of the Hospitaller Knights of Saint John within a few weeks of his uncle and predecessor Guillaume de Villaret's 9 June 1305 death. About 65 years of age and a veteran of Louis IX's 8th Crusade to Tunis as well as of combat in the Holy Land, this second son of the Seigneurie of Villaret near Carcassonne in SW France was deemed to be of the same mold as his admired uncle, a knight of energetic brilliance and great heart. Received into the Order of Jerusalem in 1259 and the Order's first and only admiral at the time of his election, he was also considered one of "them," a storyteller with a bellowing laugh who was fond of a cup of wine, a man's man. Villaret chaired his first Sacred Council meeting of Knights of the Grand Cross within days of his election. At the meeting Guy de Séverac of Provence was appointed Villaret's successor as Grand Preceptor while

Sancio d'Aragona was appointed his successor as Admiral, Aragon a veteran sea commander and bastard half-brother of both Aragon's King James II and Sicily's King Frederick III. Also at the meeting it was agreed in view of inhospitable Lusignan hosts on the island of Cyprus, the Hospitaller Order of Saint John must seek a new home. Rhodes.

If able to help, please contact me at tgeyacht@aol.com.

Gordon Abercrombie.

### Another Pandemic, by Bea, wife of Dick Trippe (18).

How many of you remember the Asian Flu of the 1957 Pandemic that occurred in your 2nd class year, and my Freshman? A group of us were invited to the Naval Academy for a dance. Many of us brought the Flu back from Annapolis to College of Notre Dame of MD in Baltimore. The Academy was quarantined but too late for those of us who had dates the weekend before. About 80% of our dorm ended up with the flu. It was a day and a half before the school nurse could help us. My date didn't get the flu, but Dick did. He has reminded me that all of you still had to go to classes. It was the H2N2 Avian Influenza, same as the one that hit in 1918 but weaker. All stay safe. Bea Trippe

**From Walt Wynn.** This photo below was taken at a Club Eleven party at Snork's house in Springfield VA, sometime in 1981.

### TAPS

**Colonel Frank Alexander Roescher (4), USAF, (Ret.)** unexpectedly



'59: Front row left to right: Jerry McDaniel, Sam "Snork" Sigmund, Ron Trossbach, Bob Vogt, Carl Danitschek, Jim Langemo, Bill "Duck" Drake, and Pete Gorham. Back row left to right: Telmo Ortega, Bill Posey, Walter "Topo" Wynn, Buddy Wellborn, Dolf Lekebusch, Frank Pipkin and Charles Houglund. All from the 11th Company. Photo credit: Carol Wynn

passed away on Friday, 13 March 2020, after complications from surgery. Memorial services were held at the Wages Funeral Home in Snellville, Georgia. Frank served the Air Force in a series of interesting positions, including Associate Professor at the US Air Force Academy, and Director for Strategic Force Analyses in the Pentagon. Following his 24-year Air Force career, he worked for GTE for 13 years, and later taught Mathematics at Georgia Perimeter College, retiring finally in 2000.

**Update from Ona Truax.** In the last Shipmate we informed you that **Dan Truax (6th Co)** died peacefully at home 14 Feb 2020 and his USNA funeral and inurnment services would be held on 23 April 2020. The USNA services are now being postponed due to the corona virus. When a new date is available, we will let you know.

## '60

**Life Membership: 70%**  
**Donor Participation: 7.18%**

Pres: **John J. Michalski**  
2039 Homewood Rd., Annapolis, MD  
21402-1003; p: 410-757-6429  
e: navygoat@comcast.net

Sec'y: **Bill Lewis**  
1300 S Hwy A1A Unit 508, Jupiter, FL 33477  
p: 804-334-6353; e: bilewis@comcast.net  
Website: [www.u1960.usnaclasses.com](http://www.u1960.usnaclasses.com)

From somewhere on the East Coast. (Virginia or Florida). With the current health crisis, it's not easy to do any kind of "spur of the moment" travel plans. Hunkering down in the "safest" location seems to be the optimum plan. Thank goodness for the Internet. It is the ideal way to keep us together.

I had dinner recently (Just before the social distancing freeze) with some class of '60 West Pointers. They, at the time, were looking forward to their 60th reunion in the spring (April or early May). I don't expect that will take place now, though they can reschedule till a more reasonable time in the Fall. Hopefully our reunion plans will

hold up and move forward at the currently scheduled time.

From **Ray Burkley (2)**:

✉ Bill, the remnants of the NORCAL '60 group met at Jim's Country Restaurant in Pleasanton on January 29th for lunch. **Jack Newman (6)** drove 2 1/2 hours from the top of the Sierras and **Dick Shawkey (24)** drove 1 3/4 hours from Arnold to make the lunch. **Spencer Cleveland (6)** came down with a bad cold and stayed home. **Kevin Ryan (4)** and **Raymond Burkley (2)** drove 3/4 hour from the San Jose area and **Dennis Vied (24)** came from Livermore. We are pretty well spread out in Northern California but still manage to meet once a month for lunch. The rest of the gang live in Sacramento and Auburn and down in the Monterey area so we try to move the venue around to accommodate those that can attend. We lost **Dan Affourtit (24)** in November but everyone else seems to be in good 'senior health'. All hope to attend the Reunion in September. Raymond



Norcal Lunch bunch

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ Bill, we decided to celebrate & share Valentine's Day with our ladies at a French Restaurant in Virginia Beach, called Le Yaca. This was a repeat from last year and was well attended despite some stormy and wet weather. Our ladies dressed mostly in "red" for the occasion and looked great! The men were on their "best" behavior.

We enjoyed a wonderful fixed price, 3-course luncheon menu which included four entree selections. The French really can create and serve up some appetizing meals and desserts. The service was very friendly, efficient and accommodating.



'60: Valentine's Day luncheon

Twenty four classmates and wives signed up for the luncheon: Merrill & **Al Ablowich (16)**, **Al Bissell (8)**, Catherine & **Ed Clextion (10)**, Sue & **Paul Cooper (5)**, Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**, Jackie & **Bob Ianucci (16)** plus Bob's sister Toni Nichols, Karen & **Tom Inderlied (21)**, Marti & **Bert Johnson (10)**, Prissy & **Wick Parcels (12)**, Sara & **Bob Powers (8)**, Lynn & **Torry Rogers (3)**, Bobbie & **Bob Brenton (12)**. Three last minute cancellations included: Jane & **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, Mary & **Henry von Kolnitz (22)** and Barbara Bissell.

From **Clint Johnson (10)**:

✉ Bill, Photo is from **Curtis Goldtrap (10)** funeral in Fort Smith, AR. Left to right are **Clint Johnson (10)**, Monty Johnson, Diane Goldtrap, **Keith Jones (10)**. Casey (Keith)

flew his Mooney in from Albuquerque, NM. Monty and I flew in on Delta. -Clint



From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ On Tues., March 10th, the 1608 Craft House of Virginia Beach open its doors exclusively to welcome members of the Class of '60 and our guest speaker, **Mike Brown '10**. We had a great turnout and really enjoyed a hearty luncheon and grog

(excellent selections) in a very relaxed and rustic atmosphere. The service was unobtrusive but efficient, and the menu was quite varied, despite their renown for a variety of burgers. This gave us ample time to conduct our pre-luncheon meeting and the presentation by our guest speaker without being rushed.

**Bill Kee (9)** introduced Mike Brown, who is the Executive Director of the Veteran Pathway Home organization. Mike is a member of our Link-in-the-Chain, from the Class of 2010. Mike gave us a rundown on his not-so-tough Plebe Year, and his military background. He got out of the Navy and went to work with an organization to help veterans needing assistance (VeteransPathwayHome.ORG). It is a relatively new organization and is expanding its ability to assist veterans in need. Mike can be reached at 908-619-0913 for those desiring to follow up or contribute to this worthy cause.

We had a total of 16 classmates including: Bob Ianucci (16), Torry Rogers (3), Ed Clextion (10), Bob Osmon (17), Al Ablowich (16), Al Whitaker (16), Mike McCullough (14), Bob Brenton (12), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Bill Kee (9) (with his guest Mike Brown 2010), Paul Cooper (5), Jack Suddath (6), Al Bissell (8), Bert Johnson (10), Frank Kay (8), Wick Parcels (12) and yours truly.



'60: Craft House Gathering



# Class of 1960 60th Reunion

September 10-13, 2020



## Thursday 10 September

- 0730-1600 Midshipmen Store Hours
- 0900-1700 Visitor Center Hours
- 0900-1700 Museum Hours
- 1200-1215 Noon Meal Formation
- 1300 9 Hole Golf, Naval Academy Course
- 1800-2000 Evening Reception at Headquarters Hotel

## Friday 11 September

- 0730 -1600 Midshipmen Store Hours
- 0900-1700 Visitor Center Hours
- 0900-1700 Museum Hours
- 1100-1200 Class Memorial Service in the Main Chapel
- 1200-1300 Lunch at the O Club
- 1350 -1500 Superintendent Briefing and Alumni Association  
Welcome to all classes
- 1600-1715 Dress Parade on Worden Field
- 1915-2030 Jewish Service in Levy Center
- TBD Company / Battalion Parties.  
Times determined by party organizers.

## Saturday 12 September

- 0730 -1200 Midshipmen Store Hours
- 0900-1700 Museum Hours
- 0900-1700 Visitor Center Hours
- TBD Afternoon Banquet in the N\* Room, Navy-Marine Corps  
Memorial Stadium (time depends on start of game)
- TBD Navy vs Lafayette

## Sunday 13 September

- 0900-1700 USNA Visitor Center Hours
- 0900-1000 Catholic Service (Main Chapel)
- 1100-1700 Museum Hours
- 1100-1215 Protestant Service (Main Chapel)

**Headquarters Hotel:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Registration:** Barnett Associates \* **Transportation:** Annapolis Bus Company \* **Check-in Location:** Headquarters Hotel

**Bob Traister (2)** with a couple of “well dressed” friends on following page, during a recent cruise to the Antarctic.



Bob Traister & Friends

## '61

**Life Membership: 71%**

**Donor Participation: 6.06%**

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

Corr Sec'y:

**RADM E. S. (Skip) McGinley II, USN (Ret)**  
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I received a very nice letter in from Kim Hill, the wife of a Classmate, RADM Virg Hill, who has been bedridden now for several years. Virg suffered some sort of a brain injury several years ago after he retired and has been hospitalized almost ever since. He was a very popular member of our Class, well-liked by all, and was also very popular with the midshipmen when he was superintendent of USNA a few years ago. I asked her if she'd like to put something in SHIPMATE about Virg, and she sent in this letter.

✉ A quick recap...After happily living in our apartment here at Willow Valley since September of 2016, Virg was moved into a Willow Valley Skilled Care Unit, Arbor View, in early June 2019, following a hospitalization. He continues to struggle with the symptoms of Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, and Dementia.

On January 6, 2020, he was in the first group of ten residents to move into a beautiful, brand new five-story building, The Glen. He is on the fifth floor, has a private room

& bath, this one being larger, with a beautiful view, including a large American Flag just outside his window. He loves that, and the spectacular sunsets. Kelly and Scott set up the television in his room with Netflix, Amazon Prime, & YouTube. He has enjoyed it along with music, family picture albums, and his '61 Lucky Bag. Right now, we are going through what everyone else in the world is facing. As of March 13th, The Glen was put under quarantine, and I cannot go into the building. He has a new iPad, which Kelly set it up so Virg and I can FaceTime with the help of the Nurses and Aides. It is wonderful, after spending every day with him for almost ten months, to actually see him, and know he is ok.

We continually count our blessings, and thank everyone for their prayers. The care Virg is getting is exceptional, and God Bless the nurses and CNA's who have become our family. They adore Virg and he adores them...(most of the time).

Love to all of you.  
We still get mail at:  
635 Willow Valley Square  
H-504  
Lancaster, PA 17602

BUT...the address where Virg will receive mail directly is:

Virgil Hill  
The Glen  
675 Willow Valley Square  
Room 547  
Lancaster, PA 17602

Connie and I have recently returned from our big cruise to S. America, which I partially described in last month's issue. We have sold our PA home, and now are living permanently in our Florida home (just in time for the neurovirus quarantine). As you can see, I've included one more photo from Easter Island which I neglected to include in the last issue. Thought it was interesting and fills in a little on the rest of what we saw there, at least in a topographical sense.



This is one of the two volcanoes and was the only one active during the early part of the Easter Island native occupation. It is now dormant, filled with sea water and water plants. Also it is a very good/very large fishing hole! I didn't mention much about our previous stops down the west coast of South America, but some of the sights there were also quite intriguing. In particular, at about three of the stops down the coast, we were able to explore ancient Indian ruins. Now, these were OLD Indian ruins which predated the Incas by over a thousand years in some cases; cities and temples. One of the temples was literally dug out of a mountain, with columns and terraces built around the outside. VERY impressive, and surprising. I hadn't realized that there were so many Native Indian civilizations which had predated the Incas; at least architecturally, they were almost on a par with the Middle East in some ways, and in somewhat the same time frames. And imagine, this was after these people *walked over there* from Asia via Alaska, then all the way down the coast to S. America. Wow. Must have used up countless moccasins (and probably had flat feet, just like me).

Here's an update from:

**Ronald Reimann**

✉ I After commissioning, I was ordered to nuclear power training and sub school, from which I had my first operational job on the USS George Washington, SSBN 598, a

great assignment. Incidentally, I had specified on my “dream sheet” USS Thresher, as did my roommate and our classmate, John Grafton. We believed that we would have the perfect assignment: two buddies on the hottest boat in the Navy. Because of wedding plans, I had to back out of my plan with John, which earned me much good-natured chiding from him. He left our wedding reception in Illinois to make the Thresher's post shake-down sea trials. The rest is history.

After the George Washington, the Navy sent me to PG school at Harvard where I studied national security policy—an extraordinary opportunity for learning. I was then ordered to SSN 639, Tautog, under construction in Pascagoula, Mississippi. When VADM Rickover came aboard for first sea trials, he brought two CIA senior officers as guests. My conversations with them led to my recruitment as a civilian analyst when my tour on Tautog was concluded. I served in several capacities there, including chief of the Naval Operations Branch, in the Soviet Strategic Forces Division—or as I was sometimes called, tongue in cheek, Chief of Naval Operations (boasting that I made CNO as a Reserve LCDR). While at the Agency, I was selected for a fellowship in Congressional Operations. I served on the staff of the Transportation Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Commerce Committee, where railroad bankruptcy was a major issue. As it happened the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration offered me a job as Associate Administrator for Policy. I was assigned to work with a group at Department of Transportation tasked with drafting regulatory reform legislation, (the Staggers Act) that was passed in 1980. Later, joined Burlington Northern Inc, as VP Corporate Affairs, retiring in 1991. One of my retirement pursuits was serving on the Board of Global Volunteers and working in Russia and Ukraine teaching business to budding entrepreneurs, who were eager to get into business after 300 years of Romanovs and 75 years of

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