

'60

Life Membership: 69%**Donor Participation: 26.54%**

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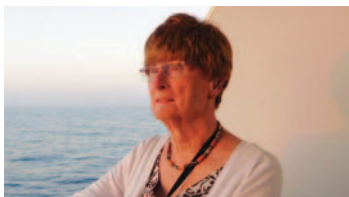
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Dark ages are upon us. Even more so than years in the recent past. Hang in there, stay safe and we'll weather it once again.

From **Robyn Walters (20)**:

✉ Good morning, Bill. I was just looking at the class website and thought I'd do a quick check in from Maui. Other than suffering from cabin fever, things are going pretty well here. My Indonesia dive trip was cancelled, and my NOAA Whale Sanctuary work is still on hold, but I'm back in the gym, attending class on line, snorkeling, diving locally, and getting to Walmart and Costco occasionally. No USNA activity on-island, but *Shipmate* helps. Thanks for that, Bill.

My doctor says no traveling for now, so I'll miss our class reunion and a granddaughter's Florida wedding. I'm hoping for an easy dive trip in 2022, around my 85th birthday. Let's all hang in there ... and BEAT ARMY. Robyn



Robyn Walters

From **Rob Kunkle (10)**:

✉ "Hey Bill! I'm writing NOT because I have much of interest to report but rather to give you some fodder to report as needed! For those who keep track of whereabouts, I recently sold my house in McKinney, Texas (north of Dallas) and moved to Plano - further south by 25 minutes but still north of Dallas proper. A new house always keeps me busy repairing and

upgrading, etc. and I am getting more and more handy at it. Next is to install a doggy door and find a new "rescue mutt".

I'm still organizing and running my monthly Sunday Dance Parties at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Dallas. I have a database of over 1300 Singles and 40 married couples who like to attend. The \$20.00 agenda includes a buffet, sit down, dinner, dancing to a DJ's music and general socializing. COVID 19 took us offline but they hope to allow us back in sometime in January 2021!

I'm retired but not yet retarded. Single, active, still athletic. I plan to attend the 60th reunion - when I land if! Photo shows Rob and **Keith S. (Casey) Jones (10)**, 4 year roommate, during a recent Dallas visit. Casey still flying and training pilots for his company's jet! Best regards, Rob



Kunkle & Jones

From **Bob Traister (2)**:

✉ Home confinement finally reached the breaking point. I telephoned our classmate, **Denny McCrary (2)** in Georgia and begged him to help me, escaped Virginia in early November. I knew Denny had been the chairman of the development of Sea Island resort on St. Simon Island for over 30 years. He urged me to drive down and sample Georgian hospitality.

I spent a week with Denny and Francis and was so overwhelmed with their hospitality am planning to return for a longer stay in January assuming the pandemic doesn't scare me off.

We discussed our shared past and our lives since we graduated. He could recall everyone's name, while I stumbled recalling their attributes. We had a lengthy telephone conversation with **Jack Herbein (2)** who as our company

commander during our first-class year described how he protected me from our company officer, Lt. Campbell who forecast my dismal naval potential. Classmates are forever. -Bob

As we reminisced over an hour with Jack we were unaware he had been battling Covid 19. Early December we were both shocked to learn from Angie that he had lost the battle. -Bob

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ Dear Classmates, Recently, **Frank Kay (8)** was laid to rest at the columbarium at the Naval Academy. He was one of our Silver Star winners and joins his close friend **Ed McCaskill (8)** who was also a Silver Star honoree. Representing our class were Barbara and **Al Bissell (8)**, Sarah McCaskill, and me. Ruth Kay and her three sons and their families were most pleased that we were there. The four of us felt honored to be there. The service was emotional, but in honor of a classmate, friend, and valued shipmate. Rest in peace, my good friend. You have earned it, Bob!



Traister & McCrary

I recently received some information concerning Arlington National Cemetery. Your voice still may matter regarding proposed eligibility changes to Arlington National Cemetery.

Recently, the Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Council (ANCAC) convened to review the changes to ANC and discuss the Federal Register public comment period currently underway. MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC) - a group of organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services past and present, families, and survivors - submitted written

statements in support of grandfathering those currently eligible and conducting non-contiguous expansion to ensure ANC operations with full military honors can continue well into the future. You can read MOAA's recap of the changes or view the entire proposed rule elsewhere.

Unfortunately, the ANCAC, which reviews proposals and makes recommendations to the secretary of the Army, dismissed these requests. But hundreds of stakeholders already have weighed in with their opinions on the move, and many others have reached out to MOAA to learn how they can have their say.

Submitting a formal comment as part of the regulation-review process may no longer be timely, however asking your lawmakers to push back on this shortsighted process is still a viable option.

It is important for your comments to be yours alone, and not the product of mass mailings. Use your words - and, if applicable, say what the changes will mean to you or your family's future plans. Not sure what to write? Consider these arguments and recommendations culled from MOAA's statement to ANCAC **Arguments Against the Changes**

1. The proposal will force those who have already made end-of-life plans to make difficult decisions - in some cases, the family will have to decide on behalf of the deceased with no previous input or planned options.

2. The changes, which would force more people to a different cemetery, do not account for all-important military honors.

3. The proposed eligibility, emphasizing combat and the Purple Heart, diminishes the value of career-long service for others who wore the uniform, particularly those who shared similar risks in the air and at sea.

4. As proposed, the changes could end up being discriminatory against some military branches and specialties, and against those whose gender prevented them from serving in certain capacities. MOAA has requested, and has been unable to obtain, any reliable information

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from DoD or the Army on how the proposed changes impact eligibility from each service or how the changes impact eligibility by gender. We can only conclude such information was not considered in any meaningful way when the proposal was developed. Without this information, it is fundamentally unfair and disrespectful to the entire veteran community to rush through these new exclusions on Arlington eligibility.

5. The proposal allows for eligibility of political appointees, possibly displacing a more deserving servicemember. It's an unpopular change among many MOAA members; any changes that narrow eligibility for those who served a career should not be used to create space for political appointees not otherwise eligible.

Possible Recommendations

1-Grandfather those who are currently eligible to account for 20-year retirees who have already intended ANC to be their final resting place.

2-Expand ANC using non-contiguous federal land, which would allow years to figure out how to bestow similar honors at partnered or sanctioned locations. MOAA is concerned non-contiguous expansion was not considered with the same fervor applied to eligibility.

3-Change the time horizon to 90 years. The planning criteria for extending the life of ANC for 150 years was arbitrary and spans over the next five generations. Conditions for the past five generations are not a reasonable yardstick when looking five generations forward.

4-Extend the period of implementation. A protracted period of three to four years would afford time to create a reservation system to gauge intent for those currently eligible and examine the creation of ANC annexes through noncontiguous expansion, as specified in Public Law 114-158 and outlined above. Congressional approval and oversight for the final determination is needed to ensure the intent of this law is met.

Although the Federal Register public comment closes, it will take over a year to reconcile and resolve

legal challenges before approval. Existing ANC standards will remain in effect during that time.

Intervention from elected officials may be required to change course for reduced eligibility for our national cemetery. Congressional staff members have already indicated it is not too early to reach out to your elected officials and voice your concerns.

As mentioned above, the Naval Academy Columbarium remains an option and should be considered as an alternative to Arlington.

'61

Life Membership: 71%
Donor Participation: 28.23%

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Intro

Greetings from Florida! Hope you are all having as much fun as we are during the pandemic... Here are a few items received during the COVID crisis. Actually, got many more than expected! THANK for your great response (as usual). If you have anything please send it in; I will probably be easily able to use it for the next one!



I mentioned last issue that Connie and I are now permanently in Florida, having sold our other place up in PA. Got tired of the back and forth. This photo is us on our back porch (we don't always dress up; this was just before a dinner dance).

We live in a place named the IRCC (Indian River Colony Club), a very nice retirement facility started by a retired USAF General from the local AF base a number of years ago. Good facilities, club, etc. (what would you expect; it's the Air Force). Mostly retired military and a few others who served at one time or another.

Come see us (but not all at once; you'd wind up sleeping out on the lawn in the photo). A few alligators and wildcats around, and our daughter, who after a long run up the ladder, now launches all of NASA's rockets from here at the Space Center, Wallops' Island up in New Jersey, and Vandenburg AFB out in California. Our son is now the Chief Civil Engineer for the Federal Reserve System Banks & Facilities and lives up in the DC area with his family. We had a neat South Pole trip lined up for this December with them, but that is now defunct due to the virus.

From: Ned Kuhns

Thought you might like to include in an upcoming SHIPMATE column this photo of Carlos Mercado, 7th Company 1961 celebrating USNA Founder's Day in Williamsburg, VA.



Carlos Mercado

As you have been requesting and with some help from Jim Richardson

on how to take a screen shot, the Tidewater '61 group held its August luncheon virtually. Although all 22 of us locally were invited to participate, we had fewer attendees than usual. This is the first we have seen Kurt Rohdenburg since April when he was "locked down" in his accommodations. Had good discussions and found everyone to be well and staying safe. Pictured are: Mike Gambacorta (03), Ned Kuhns (07), JP Decker (08), Joe Kuhn (03 -Honorary), Bob Graham (18), Kurt Rohdenburg (20), Tom McNicholas (09) and Jim Henderson (15).

Here is the gouge we have used to set up ZOOM meetings for the Pacific Southwest classmates. Bruce Maxon originally developed it for a 15th Company get together. For starters, only the host needs to have a ZOOM account which is free and available at the ZOOM link <https://zoom.us>. Just select "SIGN UP, IT'S FREE". Participants do not even have to have ZOOM installed or have an account. You simply click on the link the host provides via an e-mail and you will be asked to "Join with Computer Audio". Select that and you are good to go.

Individuals can download the ZOOM app on their MAC or PC computer, I-pad or smart phone. Just open the app, select "Join a Meeting" and provide the meeting ID and password.

There are also a lot of training videos on the ZOOM site at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials>

The best page on their site is the FAQ one that provides information



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