

## '60

**Life Membership: 69%**  
**Donor Participation: 34.61%**

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**NOTICE** – The Class board met recently and reviewed the continuing effect of the COVID 19 virus on the Annapolis/Naval Academy area and our April, Class of '60 reunion. The Board considered all the factors and reluctantly voted to cancel the planned reunion for April 2021. Planners will review continuing progress in dealing with this health emergency and if appropriate, initiate plans for a future reunion.

Hope everybody's staying safe. I heard from **Bob Osmon (17)** recently:

✉ Dear 1960 Classmates, yesterday, 25 September, was the inurnment ceremony for our good friend and fellow classmate **Captain Henry (Hank) Lemle Phillips**, US Navy (RET) at the Naval Academy columbarium in Annapolis. There were approximately 50 in attendance including family, friends, and seven of our classmates. The columbarium has been greatly improved since the last time I was there and is now an absolutely beautiful and inspiring place to hold a celebration of a USNA grad's life.

The Chaplain opened with a prayer and read a very appropriate passage from the Bible. Hank's two children, Blake and Kelly, took turns relating their memories and thoughts about their Dad, interspersed with humor and solemnity. And they nailed him perfectly. At times gruff: but always loving. Proud of the Academy: proud of his children. Loyal in his friendships: loyal to the USA and the Navy.

Their words certainly brought tears to my eyes remembering the times Hank and I have spent together in true friendship. I told Kelly and Blake that the day before he

went to the hospital he had called me. "Oz, cancer has invaded me once again, so I am headed to the hospital for some tests. BUT. just in case I don't get to talk to you again, I want you to know how highly I have regarded our friendship." Two days later Marion called me to tell me he was gone. How fragile is life. Live your life today as if it is your last.

The Color Guard unfurled and then folded the American flag and presented it to Marion. We all then moved to that spot in the columbarium where Hank was to be inurned. The urn was inserted and Blake added Hank's USS RALEIGH CO cap which he so much treasured. Hank appreciated that, I know. The cover plate was inserted and the seven of us along with seven more Academy grads joined together for the singing of Navy Blue and Gold. We then all reluctantly moved off to make way for another ceremony. But our thoughts and warm memories will linger on. Rest in Peace, Hank. Rest in Peace. Your tour of duty has come to an end.

Attendees from our class were **Randy McHenry (7)**, Hank's neighbor in New Smyrna, FL, **Jim Kinney (17)**, **John Michalski (6)**, **Gene Gasser (8)**, **Al Bissell (8)**, **Jim Knorr (20)**, and me, another 17th Company mate.

While attending **Hank Phillips (17)** funeral, I was able to meet up with two of our company mates whom I have not seen in at least five years: **Gene Burroughs (17)** and **Jim Kinney (17)**. I drove up to Annapolis early on Thursday and stopped at La Plata, MD to see Gene and Ann. We met at their favorite restaurant and had a great couple of hours together. Gene is suffering from arthritis and a few other things and needs a walker to get around, but was in great spirits and had lots of tales to tell. I was in their wedding 60 years ago this summer, so they are celebrating their 60 for 60 Anniversary as well. I was so pleased that their marriage has thrived. Ann looks great and bouncy as always. Attached are two photographs from our luncheon together.

Later that evening in Annapolis I met up with **Jim Kinney (17)** and **Randy McHenry (7)**. Jim and Cindy drove up from Durham, NC that day and Randy and Sheri flew up from Florida. We all met for dinner at the Doubletree. Again, I heard more great stories from those two than I could ever recount. But it was wonderful camaraderie and gave me a wonderful sense of belonging to something much bigger than myself. I pray for us all that our reunion will take place this spring. Hopefully, we can all once again enjoy the friendship of classmates who mean so much to us. Attached are photos from that evening. God bless and smooth sailing. Oz



Classmates



From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ "Bill, finally something to celebrate and report. Eight couples were able

to gather at the Le Yaca Restaurant in Williamsburg on Dec 7th for a mini-Class Christmas Party. Those able to attend included: Jan & **Pete Chabot (14)**, Joyce & **John Claman (3)**, **Bob Osmon (17)** & Guest, Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**, Inge & **Al Whitaker (16)**, Gloria & **Bob Antonio (14)**, Joy & Dick Hamon (8). As usual, the food and service, were top notch, but best of all, the holiday spirit and joy of finally getting together we're the high lights of the evening. A Merry Christmas wish to you and Linda. Rod

Memories from **Justin Wickens (18)**:

✉ My favorite memory of **Chuck (Agustin) (17)** was Youngster Summer, when he, **Benny Lomotan (17)**, and I hitchhiked (Space Available) to the Philippines to see our families. First leg was a B-25 out of Bolling with me in the nose, and Chuck and Benny in the bomb bay. Various other hops and airplanes. We even got to spend some time on Kwajalein. Quite an adventure. Justin!

From **Ben Hallowell (3)** via Facebook:

✉ "Here's a photo of the Old Goats Kids Who Care and David Spatafore on Christmas eve on the way to deliver 50 desserts to the night shift at Sharp Coronado Hospital.

The Old Goats Kids Who Care project which kicked off a few weeks ago now has 97 host sponsors who have directed over \$10,000 in business to our participating local restaurants. We intend to keep going as long as we can make a difference and really appreciate your support.



'60: Christmas Party in Tidewater



'60: Old Goats Kids Who Care

Happy New Year, the Old Goats Kids Who Care team.

Please let us know if you'd like to host a hero (wounded warriors, healthcare workers, other deserving young families) while at the same time helping a restaurant worker. Hosts so far include **Al Lansdowne**, **Hal Sperling (7)**, **Joe Tranchini (14)**, **Wayne Vinje (9)**, **Wick Parcels (12)**, **Sam Ward (8)**, **Danny Musselman (5)**, **Jim Maxfield (7)**, **John Greenhalgh (9)**, **Doug Johnston (5)**, **Bob Fraser**, **Chuck Schroeder (23)**, **John Michalski (6)**, **Angelo Karampalas (22)**, **Ron Hinkel (14)**, **Tom Solak (2)**.

Happy New Year Ben

From **Rob Kunkle (10)**:

✉ **"Keith 'Casey' Jones (10)**, my roommate for 4 years at USNA, was in town Saturday and invited me to join him for breakfast and the ceremony at Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas, Texas.

Casey was C.O. of the Blue Angels, 1976-1977, and was invited to witness the 'retirement' of a F/A-18 'Hornet' at the museum. Casey and Janice, his wife of 60+ years, now live in Albuquerque.

Admiral Pat Walsh (Ret.), Dallas, another Blue Angels alum, and USNA grad, was the main speaker. His name is on the F/A-18. Rob



Jones & Kunkle

With the social distancing brought on by the Pandemic a lot of "Class get togethers" have been impacted. We have groups in Tidewater, DC, Annapolis, Southern California, and Northern California as a minimum. Recently **Ray Burkley (2)** who helps run the Northern California group organized a 2nd Company get together via Zoom. What a great idea. An extremely short drive! The Class Board is attempting to benefit from this by electronically meet occasionally, in the future. Something to think about.

I know of no 5th company folks within 100 miles, but there are a bunch who could meet "on line". Something to investigate.

**HONOR CHAIRS**  
Remember or Honor a loved one in Alumni Hall. Call 410-295-4100 for more information.

# '61

**Life Membership: 71%**

**Donor Participation: 35.67%**

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

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From **Ned Kuhns**

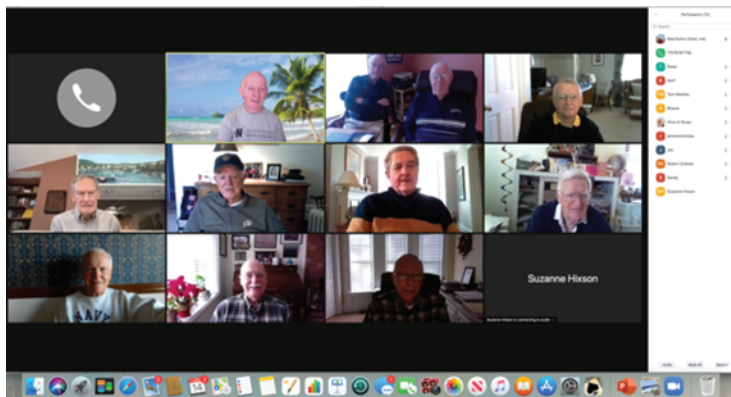
✉ "The Tidewater '61 held their first monthly luncheon of the new year in a virtual mode on 14 January, the second Thursday of the month as usual. Participating as shown on the nearby screen shot (left to right, top to bottom) were: **Dick Hixson (19)** via phone, **Ned Kuhns (07)**, **Joe Kuhn (03 Honorary)**, **Bob Graham (18)**, **Jay Decker (08)**, **Tom McNicholas (09)**, **Tom Markley (12)**, **Ed Straw (07)**, **Charlie Stewart (06)**, **Fred Lowack (07)**, **Ken Craig (07)**, and **Ken Sydow (14)** who joined us for the first time. Sorry that the lighting wasn't so good for some photos. Joining us after the photo was taken was **Mike Bradley (03)**. Had hoped to have more participants, including **Walt Strobach (18)**, **Kurt Rohdenburg (20)**, **Jim Henderson (15)**, and **Carlos Mercado (07)** but it was a day when Naval Hospital Portsmouth was offering COVID-19 immunizations which took priority. We will do another virtual on 11 February and then consider an in-person luncheon in March, depending upon control of the virus."

From **Warren Hoppe**

✉ In August 2013 Donna and I began a long weekend in Virginia Beach by joining in on the area's monthly husband-wife dinner held by members of Sixty-One. This was our third such trip and on the way home we spoke about the good times we always have at social gatherings like this but in the DC area they can be too few and far between. I then decided that I'd bring up the possibility of sponsoring regularly-scheduled husband-wife dinners at the Executive Committee meeting set for September.

My thinking was that it would be added to the social calendar for the Greater Washington Area for which the Class Executive Vice President is responsible. The reaction when I brought up the suggestion at the meeting was that it wasn't a bad idea so "go ahead and do it, Warren." I didn't intend for it to fall into my lap and therefore didn't rush to make it happen. However, it stayed in my mind and by early spring 2014 I shamed myself into organizing what turned out to be a series of husband-wife luncheons. The first of these was held on Wednesday April 23, 2014. They continued on a monthly basis, then bi-monthly, and finally monthly again, until like so much activity in the country they were brought to a halt by the covid virus, with the last one taking place on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

We had expected to resume the luncheons during last summer and then by early fall, but with outlook for restarting the live gatherings, at **Bob Shere's** suggestion we resumed them as Zoom meetings at noon on Thursday, December 12, 2020.



'61 January Zoom Meeting