

rest in peace, My Friend. Yours was a life well lived.

TAPS

Commander Robin (Bob) Starck (12) passed away on 27 January 2021, with his beloved wife of 58 years, Carol (nee Lentz), at his side. Bob served on submarines, and later rose to become executive officer of Lewis and Clark and then commanding officer of Casimir Pulaski. After retiring from the Navy in 1982 he earned an MBA and started a new career as a defense contractor. Memorial services will be held at USNA at a later date.

More in this or a future issue of the Last Call section.

Elbert Grant Rees (19) of Logan, UT, passed away January 24, 2021. After graduating in 1959, he was assigned to the USS PRESTON (DD-795) based in Long Beach, CA. Grant earned his MSEE degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA in 1966, and an MBA degree from the American University in Washington, DC in 1978. Upon retiring from the Navy in 1979, he moved the family to Idaho Falls, ID where he worked several years as an engineer for Argonne National Lab. In 2009 he and his wife moved to Logan, Utah. Funeral services were held on 30 January 2021. **More in this or a future issue of the Last Call section.**

Hugh William (Dusty) Rhodes (23) of Centerville, Ohio passed peacefully on 2 October 2020 with his family by his side. He was the Valedictorian of his graduating high school class, then Dusty moved on to the University of Tulsa for 2 years, where he was recognized for academic excellence. Then Dusty received his appointment to USNA. After graduation he attended flight training and was assigned to fly the F9F-8 Cougar fighter jets, followed by surface ships, and eventually nuclear submarines. After the Navy, Dusty and Linda moved to Louisiana where Dusty started his own company in 1979 and ran that company for the rest of his life. Memorial services will be held at the United States Naval Academy at a later date. **More in this or a future issue of the Last Call section.**

'60

Life Membership: 70%
Donor Participation: 6.01%

Pres: **RADM Peter G. Chabot, USN (Ret.)**
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Classmates! We're still dealing with the Pandemic. Staying safe and isolating where we can. I hope everybody has planned for the Vaccine. In some cases, it has sounded pretty easy. And in others not so. With different medical resources, one cannot be too concerned. We are in the 75+ age group and that should put us near the top of most priority lists. Retirees have the opportunity for Military medicine, veterans (retired & non-retired) have the VA, States and local political jurisdictions are coming on line with their options. Stay safe.

Ben Hallowell (3) sent additional information from Southern California concerning a worthwhile program he is involved in. For detailed information if you are interested, let me know and I'll pass it on to him.

✉ "Greetings Goats and Friends O' Goats, thanks to your support our "Host a Hero Help a restaurant" program exceeded all expectations.

As explained in a local city proclamation, we created the program as a Covid alternative to our annual wounded warrior veterans' day week-end.

We reached 140 deserving recipients in less than two months while helping restaurant employees who are being severely tested. We intend to continue the program as long as we are making a difference. Our focus has now shifted to group deliveries - on Fridays, our Kids Who Care meet and deliver restaurant meals (desserts are most popular) to the Friday evening shift at the hospital and the vaccination center and then on alternate Fridays to the wounded warrior battalion west at Balboa and Camp Pendleton.

If you desire to contribute to continuing the Host a Hero program contact me at the address above (Bill Lewis). I will forward to Ben. He has simplified the process - simply pledge an amount in \$50 increments per hero recipient (the \$50 includes a 25% gratuity for the restaurant employee). You will then receive a hero gift certificate invoice from a participating restaurant. which you can pay by check or credit card as you wish. Our Kids Who Care will include your name as host on a handmade card accompanying the delivery unless you choose to remain anonymous.

As we increase our hosts and hero gift cards available, we will look for more deserving recipient

groups. We are also maintaining our relationship with Warrior Foundation Freedom Station and Loews Coronado Bay Resort in hopes of renewing our annual Wolfpack wounded warrior wheelchair basketball event when and if COVID restrictions allow. Thank you again for making this Host a Hero program such a success. All the best. Ben and the Kids Who Care

Following the death of **Hank Phillips (17)** and his subsequent internment at the Academy, classmates and former teammates got together to donate an "honor chair"

In Hank's name, at the Academy, **Bill Zierden (20)** coordinated the effort as noted below.

✉ "Dear Mr. Zierden, On behalf of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, I would like to thank you for your donation to the Naval Academy Fund in honor of Captain Henry L. Phillips, Jr., USN (Ret.) '60. Your gift to the Honor Chair Program ensures that the current and future Midshipmen benefit from your philanthropic support. Thanks to your generosity, the Naval Academy will continue the mission of developing midshipmen who are morally, mentally, and physically prepared for service. We are grateful for your dedication to these leaders. Due to our remote work, I will mail the photo page and certificate once we return to the office. Below is the inscription and location of the



'60: 40th Reunion Folks



'60: Tidewater group

Honor Chair. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at: 410-295-4111 or by email at: kellyn.caldwell@usna.com.

Location: Section Y, Row 17, Seat 12
H.L. "Hank" Phillips Jr.
CAPT USN Ret. Class of '60
By family, friends and classmates"

And from Bill Zierden (20) "via **Ed Mangan (20)**, Please forward to those you think might be interested. A total of \$2,100 was raised; \$1,000 to the Chair, the balance to the Track & Field Fund. Thanks. We are sitting quietly waiting for word about vaccines. Hope all are well.
Bill Z

From **Doug Johnston (5)** "Bill, I recently came across the enclosed photo taken at a picnic at our 40th reunion, I believe. It was a great occasion, and If you can somehow enlarge it slightly, folks will recognize any number of would-be all stars. Hard to believe it was 20 years ago. Warm regards, Doug

(see the photo on previous page)

From **George Marburger (20)**: "Big thanks to the Reunion Committee for the unique Marriage Certificate. Ann and I celebrated our 60th today in true COVID fashion; home alone with restaurant takeout. Looking forward to the New Year!



The Marburgers

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**: "Bill, we (Hampton Roads & Williamsburg) finally have something to report. Despite the COVID restrictions, nine of us were able to rendezvous with our sweethearts at the Le Yaca Restaurant in Virginia Beach on the 9th of Feb for a pre-Valentines' Day luncheon. As usual, an excellent & consistently good choice.

Attendees included: Catherine & **Ed Clexton (10)**, Sue & **Paul Cooper (5)**, Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**, Priscilla & **Wick Parcels (12)**, Inge & **Al Whitaker (16)** and **Al Ablowich (16)**. Rod"

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'61

Life Membership: 71%
Donor Participation: 4.78%

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

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Well, greetings once more to the Class of '61 from Florida. Since the COVID Crisis is still upon us, this time I don't have much to write about, so I've dug up a couple of past items of some interest. All I can say is, whatever inputs you send in, no matter how semi-interesting you think they may be, are FAR better than nothing at all. In one of our issues we mentioned the use of ZOOM meetings. In the JAN-FEB SHIPMATE issue, there is a VERY good description by Ned Kuhns on how to ZOOM, in the '61 section (page 62), then take a photo with your cell phone, or better yet take a screen shot. Voila...there you have a nice photo of an area Class of '61 meeting! If you've already thrown that copy away, let me know, and I'll email you a copy. Not much is happening, so we ALL have to improvise...If no one sends anything in, I *run out of things* to say of any interest. This issue is

an example; I have come up with a couple of things I had on my PC, or in my head, but I don't have much more. I need help, until the country opens up again! This obviously impacts ALL of our senior classes.

This item is historical in nature... over New Year's during our 3/c year, the combined Naval Academy choirs made a trip up to New York City by bus. The objective was to have us all sing on the Dave Garraway Morning Show, which was to take place on the flight deck of the brand new aircraft carrier USS SARRATOGA; it was to be commissioned there, before the ship proceeded up to Saratoga, NY, for further celebrations. We were bused up to and stayed in a small New York hotel, downtown. The morning of the program we all got up early and were transported by various boats across the Hudson River to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where the SARRATOGA was tied up to a pier. We were transferred to an aircraft elevator, along with the Navy Band, and slowly lifted up to the flight deck with the band playing and the choir singing, where the NBC Morning Show's Dave Garraway, the CV CO, the Naval District Commandant, and other mayors & political hotshots greeted us, thanking us for coming. We sang the Navy Hymn and maybe a few other nautical things as I recall, and also had a musical part in the commissioning ceremony itself.



'61: Choir group