

served in Seamen's Clubs in Okinawa and Mainland Japan; Inchon and Busan, Korea; Bremerhaven, Germany; and Genoa, Italy prior to defecting to the U.S. Army in Korea where I served with ARMY MWR activities until my **final** retirement early last year. Wherever we have served, the United States Marine Corps always put on the very finest Birthday Balls and Jenny and I always made a point to attend.



Freeman and Jenny Neish at the November 2020 USMC Birthday Ball in Seoul.

TAPS

John R. Williams (8) died on 23 January with his wife Hallie at his side. While at USNA, he earned great grades and played second-string varsity football. After graduation, he qualified in helicopters and saw two tours in Vietnam, primarily performing in a sea-rescue function. John attended graduate school at Monterey and earned a BS in Electrical Engineering. John served additional duties flying helicopters at NAF China Lake. John left the Navy in 1970, earned a doctorate in Educational Administration at Kansas City University, and started a new career.

Pat Schnauffer (18) prepared this announcement on the passing of **his wife, Joni**, on Thursday, 4 March 2021. My dear friends, after a long hard-fought battle with pneumonia and Valley Fever, our Joni passed away this morning (Thursday) and is in God's kingdom. Unfortunately, the illness attacked her immune system, which was compromised due to the Arthritis she had, and she progressed from having oxygen delivered by nose tubes to a full mask. Her breathing became more difficult because the anti-biotics were not effective in curing her lungs. I was with her when her breathing deteriorated

until she passed away. Per our wishes to be cremated, the service was held on Friday, and Joni's ashes will be inurned in the USNA Columbarium at a later date. I feel a great deal of comfort in knowing that each of you were as fond of her and admired her cheerful and positive outlook on life.

Hugh Davis (22) passed away peacefully in his sleep on 17 March 2021. His last three years required nearly full-time care by his daughter. Graduating USNA with distinction, he reported for duty on the USS DUPONT Later, he earned an MS degree from the NPGS and then served on the Navy's COMOPTEVFOR staff. After completing a total of ten years in Navy activities, he accepted a position with the Newport News Shipbuilding Company in their Training and Development Division. Hugh and Joyce became active with the Social Services Department in Hampton, and continued when they moved to Jacksonville, FL.

Lynn (Skip) Gantt (22) died at his home with his family on Wednesday, 10 March 2021. Skip played 150-pound football, then served in the Naval Supply Corps until he left the Navy in 1966. Pursuing a new career, he obtained his JD at University of North Carolina. He married Elizabeth "Louise" Menefee in 1967. They moved to Columbia, SC, where he enjoyed a fulfilling banking career. Funeral arrangements are pending.

John Albert Aho (2) passed at the William Childs Hospice House on 21 March 2021, following a lengthy illness. John was sworn in with the Class of 1959 and discharged for physical disqualification in June 1956. A memorial service will be held at a later date at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on the campus of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Chester Ivan Burnett (22) died on 8 November 2018 in Seville, Ohio. After graduation from USNA, Chester joined the Supply Corps branch of the Navy, serving as comptroller in many various military organizations. He left the Navy after 13 years and continued as a civilian engineer and technical writer for companies in the defense business.

'60

Life Membership: 70%
Donor Participation: 6.01%

Pres: **RADM Peter G. Chabot, USN (Ret.)**
1310 Gulf Blvd. 5-C
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
p: 443-624-0094; e: pgchabot60@gmail.com

Sec'y: **Bill Lewis**
1300 S Hwy A1A Unit 508, Jupiter, FL 33477
p: 804-334-6353; e: bilewis@comcast.net
Website: www.1960.usnaclassess.net

We're hanging in there. Getting our Vaccinations and staying as safe as we can. It isn't easy, but certainly necessary.

While a lot of area groups are not meeting as usual, it gives us a chance to take advantage of a Class asset that is well worth your perusal and possible input. The Class of 60 website (address above) is a great source of information. If you read the class news every month, take a few additional minutes and go to the Web Site.

Some of the information on the Site includes:

- news and contacts.
- Info on Class projects
- 60th Class Reunion 22-24 April 2021 – Cancelled
- Election of Class Officers:
- 60th Wedding Anniversaries: 60 Years of Marriage Certificate
- Classmate Sea Stories: Read All Posted Sea Stories Submit Your Favorite Sea Story
- Recent Class News Articles: Shipmate In Memorial – Last Call:
- Class President's Messages: 2010 Annual Report New Class Officers 2019 Annual Report

From Catherine & **Ed Clextan (10)**:

✉ We are hunkered in VA Beach, VA and wishing you are all well. It's amazing how many things fill our days other than pleasure reading, emails, texts and chores. Doing the Santa thing with family is certainly a big one.

May God be with you in 2021. Ed



Catherine & Santa Ed

From **Bob Osmon (17)**,

✉ Awhile back: "Inge & **Al Whitaker (16)**, Muriel & **Jack Greenhalgh (9)**, and I ventured out of our caves for a few hours and enjoyed lunch together on Sunday. How wonderful to actually talk with real human beings again. We should do this again in about 6 months.

Al said he would give us an update on the potential whether or not the Christmas party looks feasible in the near future. Doesn't look really good now. God bless. Oz



Oz, the Whitakers and Greenhalghs

From **Bob Towle (8)**:

✉ "OZ I finally located the information for **Bob Johannesen's (8)** current address: just sorry it took so long. In my defense, I do have to explain that Mary and I have had a unique time since the outbreak of the Pandemic in Feb. My daughter and son-in-law, living in Colorado Springs, decided to retire and move back to our area and enjoy a more moderate climate. They arrived with two Alaskan Malamutes and a cat with a plan to stay with us until they found a suitable home. They have been with us since then and are waiting for a new house to be built in Culpeper in November. Not long after they arrived, my oldest son and daughter-in-law arrived with their two teen age daughters to stay with us until they could find a home to purchase. They also had a dog. We have another son who lives with

60/61 CLASS NEWS

us and a dog and cat. So, we have had a houseful with nine people, four dogs and three cats. The good news is that we are now downsizing since my son and his family have moved into a house they just purchased. Even better, the remaining group decided to take a week to all go to the beach. Mary and I declined to join them so we could enjoy the peace and quiet of our own home for a while. It's also given me the time needed to dig out the information and send it along to you: I hope you and all are doing well and staying safe. Best regards, Bob

I recently spoke to **Don Tyler (22)** who, it turns out, lives fairly close to our place in Virginia. It is amazing to find classmates in so many areas around the country that we might not have known about before. While we have been losing Classmates its always great to run into one in our travels or nearby.

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:



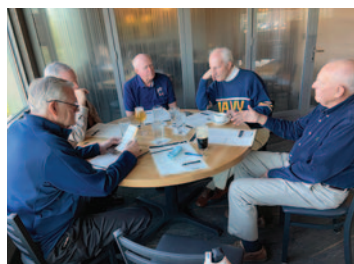
Tidewater Highlights



Tidewater Highlights



Tidewater Highlights



Tidewater Highlights

✉ "Here's a few photo highlights from our Class Luncheon held at Cooper's Hawk in Virginia Beach recently. Twelve of us were able to socialize and chow down without masks. We had a very good turnout & everyone was anxious to get together and start telling "i survived Covid stories" and rehashed some "very old fighter pilot" sea stories. Attendees included: **Bob Osmon (17), Wick Parcells (12), Bill Townsend (19), Ed Clextion (10), Al Whitaker (16), Al Ablowich (16), Rod Friedmann (5), Jack Suddath (6), Jim Eilertsen (21), Bob Brenton (12), Arky Vaughn (21)**, and our best storyteller, **Bert Johnson (10)**.

Bob Osmon (17) sent on a couple of notes from Classmates featured in the 60-year Anniversary Certificate honors. It was quite a job and glad to see the happiness it generated.

From Peggy Reid, **Dan's (19)** widow.

✉ Dear Bob, I want to thank you for the 60-marriage certificate. Actually, we were high school sweethearts. It was a fantastic awesome reunion that I miss so much. Hopefully we can have our reunion next year. Sincerely, Peggy.

From **Harry Branson (22)**:

✉ 'Dear Bob, Thank you for the 60 Year's certificate. It was really a pleasant surprise. Betsy enjoyed it. Where did those years go? I am so happy to have had them. So many of our classmates didn't. Reunion was going to be one of my favorite events for 2020. Hopefully it will be held next April., Cheers, Harry.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

*Fair Winds and Following Seas
from your
Alumni Association and Foundation.*

'61

Life Membership: 71%

Donor Participation: 4.78%

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

Corr Sec'y:

RADM E. S. (Skip) McGinley II, USN (Ret)

1935 Independence Ave., Melbourne, FL 32940

p: 321-622-4640; c: 202-549-2472

e: skip.mcginley@1961.USNA.com;

skipmginley@cfl.rr.com

Webmaster: **Howard Winfree**

e: winfree@1961.usna.com

Website: **www.USNA61.org**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the pickins' are very slim, but I DO have a couple of things to show...first is our faithful/loyal Tidewater Section headed up by **Ned Kuhns**, who actually had a REAL meeting and took a photo to prove it! I will try to dig up a few others along the way as we progress. But this issue will not be full, to say the least. Some of these a few of you might recognize come from past mail-ins, and were not used because we had TOO MANY inputs...I almost forget what that was like...

After a year of meeting via Zoom, the Tidewater '61 group have received their Covid vaccinations and held their 8 April meeting in-person at the Rib City restaurant in Virginia Beach. Had a nice turnout as seen in the photo below. After not having seen each other for a year, the conversation was animated with updates about the upcoming reunion and what everyone had been doing. All agreed the food was delicious and that we will plan to continue in-person luncheons on the second Thursday of each future month. Around the table from left to right were: **Kurt Rohdenburg (20), Tom Markley (12), Jim Noonan (23), Ken Craig (07), Joe Kuhn (03-Honorary), Marc Bruno (01), Tom McNicholas (09), Dick Hixson (19), Bob Graham (18)** and **JP Decker (08)**. Yours truly was the photographer. Ned Kuhns (07)" ... Skip's comment: Wow; Tidewater does it again. BZ!!! I'm not prejudiced, even IF Connie DOES come from Norfolk...and Ned Kuhns has saved my derriere more than once...

Now speaking of vaccinations. the rest of you guys, take note...

At our age, it's fairly certain that MOST of us already have the vaccine. I got called by the local V.A. down here in Melbourne at least a couple of months ago, was told to report in, and in a couple of weeks I was one of the first to be double-vaccinated, at least around here. With all the retirees here in Florida, the V.A. REALLY has its hands full on many fronts. Their big hospital over in Orlando, however, surprised me when I recently went there for a somewhat standard but tricky heart operation. It is HUGE, just about brand new, and I really believe the cleanest, quietest hospital I've ever seen in my whole life, bar none. Yet it seemed to have its fair share of patients. I was so impressed, that I'm about to write the CO a letter of congrats/thanks. I believe that can be an important thing, as that doesn't often occur. People who actually do good work should realize how much they are appreciated...and are often forgotten, once their customers go home.



"Carlos Mercado (07) gets ready for the Army Game last year in Williamsburg."

Skip's added comment: I do exactly the same thing down here in Melbourne, Florida...hang it out a few times a year (if Navy also gets in a bowl game, and of course for