

'60

Life Membership: 71%
Donor Participation: 23.17%

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An **update** from of COVID effecting travel, the Sarasota mini-reunion has been pushed back from January to possibly May or April. We will continue to monitor conditions and arrange for the safest, most enjoyable Class get together possible.

From Bill Ostendorff '76 our outgoing DVP Chairholder:

✉ "Class of 1960- As I wrap up my term as Class of 1960 DVP of National Security, I just wanted to say a final thanks to all of you and your class for your tremendous support. It has been a distinct honor to serve in this position and I am most grateful for the opportunity. My new email is Bill.Ostendorff@gmail.com. If I can ever be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know. I do hope our paths will continue to cross. Very respectfully, Bill

Class VP **Doug Johnston (5)** sent along the following picture: "Class President **Pete Chabot (14)** and **Hank Chiles (21)** present a Bill the Goat statuette to outgoing DVP Chairholder Bill Ostendorff in appreciation for his superb performance in the Chair." Doug



Bill Ostendorff with Chiles and Chabot

From **Harris Sperling (7)**:



Egan & Sperling

✉ "Hi Bill, I am sending an article written by me when **Hank Egan (7)**, my roommate at the USNA, and I got together after 62 Years. With best wishes and thank you for your work on behalf of the class, Harris Class Reunion After 62 Years: On August 31, **Harris Sperling (7)** and **Hank Egan (7)**, roommates in the 7th company, met in Snowmass, Colorado, for the first time in 62 years. After a series of phone calls, Hank and his wife, Judie, left Colorado Springs to drive to Snowmass and meet Harris and his wife, Linda, who were vacationing in their mountain condo. The foursome celebrated this long-awaited reunion by having lunch in nearby Aspen. Hank, who played varsity basketball, and Harris, who played football, regaled their spouses with countless memories of their Academy days, and promised to not wait another sixty years before seeing each other.

From **Russ Hoke (6)**:

✉ Dear Bill: Enclosed please find a brief write-up of the commitment services for Skip's inurnment at the USNA Columbarium on August 20, 2021.

On August 20, 2021, the ashes of Colonel Warren E. (Skip) Sweetser, III USMC (Ret.) (6th Company) were inurned at the USNA columbarium. (Skip passed on November 17, 2020).



Skip Sweetser

The weather was not very cooperative (rain), but it was still a very fitting and moving

service. There were between 50-60 attendees - family, classmates, USMC colleagues, and friends. (Of the total, 29 of the attendees were just immediate family). The 1960 classmates that I saw included **Pete Bos (7)**, **Lyman Perry (7)**, **Jack Suddath (6)**, **Dave Derbes (6)**, and **Bob Meck (19)**. Chuck Davis and a member of the 1960 Olympic crew team, both from the class of 1961, were in attendance as well. Before the service, we all took a personal guided tour of the boat house (Hubbard Hall) and saw the shell that the 1960 USNA Olympic Crew Foundation had gifted to USNA. A reception and luncheon followed the service at the Severn Inn, across the river from the academy. This was another opportunity for everyone to reminisce and to share stories of Skip and his family and what his friendship and commitment to his country, family, and friends have meant to all of us over the years

Best regards, Russ

I receive the following from **Harry Butler (10)** and **Ed Clextion (10)** recalling how we are tied together sometimes years later.

✉ From Harry to Ed: Recently we had a birthday celebration for one of our 55+ community residents who was turning 101. He's Marine Colonel who fought in the Pacific in WWII. The party was organized by his American Legion Post, and a number of the Post members attended. In the crowd, there was a guy with a USS Eisenhower CVN 69 baseball cap.

I went up to him and asked if he had sailed on the Ike. He said yes. I told him that my Naval Academy roommate (if I had said 'wife', I don't think he would have understood) was **Ed Clextion (10)**, who had been Skipper of the Ike. He told me that you were the CO when he was aboard. Turns out he was an enlisted nuke who could speak French, and Ike was to be off the coast of Normandy for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. He was called to the bridge to meet you, and you gave him a handful of

'I Like Ike' buttons to give to the French. It's a small world. Hope you and Catherine are doing well.

—Harry

More to the story from Ed:

✉ "I'm glad he had his IKE hat on! Every day at sea I would have a "nuke of the day" spend the day with me on the bridge and where ever else I was going except lunch. They were selected by their Division Officers and rotated by Division. I did that to try to maintain what I learned in Rickover school. Apparently he wasn't one of those, but I'm glad he answered the call for French speakers before we went into Brest.

It ended up a problem when the French cancelled our entry on a Saturday. It then turned out to be the only time I ever asked the crew to tell me what to do. I took a poll and asked should we wait another day and go in for 2 days, or should we just go home?

I wanted to go in and the skippers of USS Virginia and USS South Carolina, my 2 escort CGNs, who were both senior to me, said whatever I want was ok with them.

First I polled the Engineering and Reactor Depts, avg age 28, mostly married: they said "go home". the only reason we were there for the 40th anniversary of D Day at Normandy was we (3) had just finished a deployment and were in stand down, but when I heard about this event I went to Air-Lant and said "respectfully, Sir, you should send IKE, not JFK, to Normandy". I mean, come on, D Day/Eisenhower" and he said "Ed, since you asked, I agree with you".

I then, polled the Air Wing, avg age 24 and they said "go in, albeit a day late."

So, how to break the tie? Did I forget to tell you Naval Reactors in DC wanted us to go in because there hadn't been a nuke ship in France since DeGaulle took over! I then went on the 1 MC to the flight deck, avg age 19. We waited a day and went in on Sunday; the stores were all closed but the bars were open. so, that's how decisions are made in Naval Air. Ed"

60/61 CLASS NEWS



'60: Tidewater luncheon group

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ "It was a bright sunny day along the Eastern Branch the Lynnhaven River to Chesapeake Bay! Our Class Luncheon was held at an old standby called Chick's Oyster Bar, featuring great seafood specialties, good service and plenty of "eye candy" pulling up to the dock to disembark their passengers.

We had a perfect, but small table, overlooking the water, which held exactly ten classmates: **Pete Chabot (14), Wick Parcels (12), Jim Eilertsen (21), Bill Kee (9), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Bob Powers (8), Bob Ianucci (16), Rod Friedmann (5), Bert Johnson (10) & Al Bissell (8).**

Navy football discussions were sparse, "old" Bancroft Hall tales still abound, but the afternoon discussions concentrated on **Ed Clextan's (10)** exploits (sorry you weren't there to defend your actions, Ed!)



Von Kolnitz & Powers



Bissell, Chabot and Kee

'61

Life Membership: 72%
Donor Participation: 24.15%

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

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The USNA Goat is bursting out at the Terwilliger Center

Happy 60th anniversary, Class of 1961! If you missed our reunion in September, you can catch up with all of these great photos, provided by Chris Umberger. We had hundreds of Alumni, friends, and family who gathered for luncheons, meetings, socializing, tailgating, and game watching. It was a really fantastic event with a good time had by all.



A beautiful memorial for Joe Bellino in the Terwilliger Center. You will be missed by us all



Chris Umberger and Mike and Marcia Barr



A delicious birthday carrot cake



Ginny and Wally Guthrie



Linda Campbell, Bill Moore and Ron Campbell



Ron Campbell and Mike Barr



Jim and Toni Henderson with Suzi Watterson,



Rod Watterson and Walt Draper sharing some stories



Ramon and Ana Mendez



Jane and Tom McNichols with Chris!



Connie and Skip McGinley pose with our class insignia

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have shown me in providing inputs for the Class of '61 Alumni column through a lot of years, especially in difficult times when socializing was not easy to do. I've been proud to be your focal for all of our class news-bites. This will be my last column and it has been a great run. I am handing over the reins to Bob Sherer, who will be looking forward to your news to share with us all. May you have many years of stories to share! Fair winds and following seas, Skip McGinley