

weekend trip to West Point in 1958 while dating Joan Schaefer from Albertus Magnus College in nearby New Haven, CT. That was a long weekend since everyone was snowed in at WP. (Don & Joan have now been married for 62+ years). One generation later Don gave his son Dave (USMA 1983) the bathrobe after his plebe year and he had a lot of fun with it at WP, and continued wearing it since then. The years were not kind to the bathrobe. Dave found a tailor (Miss Daisy) who replaced the collar, part of the sleeves and added new buttons. Dave added an old nametag, embroidered a few notes (see picture) and sent it to nephew Jack Herson (USMA 2025) to wear after plebe year. Don likes winning A-N game bets from a son to grandson.

TAPS

William Gabrielsen (17th co.) died on 17 July 2022. Prior to USNA, Big Gabe was a student, star athlete, and a valedictorian of Admiral Farragut Academy (a military preparatory school). Following USNA graduation, he was selected for Flight School in Pensacola, FL. After the Navy, Big Gabe began his career with Westinghouse Corporation in 1960, followed by roles in Sweden and Spain. In 1961 he married Betts Shanhouse and moved to Ridge-wood, NJ and started his family. He built a long career in the elevator industry, culminating with Armor Elevator in Philadelphia, PA.

Captain Joseph Francis King (23) passed away on August 8, 2022, at home following a lengthy illness. During his fourth year at USNA, Joe chose Surface for his Navy career. His first assignment was on the USS DECATUR, with deployment to the Mediterranean. After assignments on several more destroyers, he was sent to the Naval PG School for courses regarding nuclear power for navy ships and earn his masters degree. He served in the Navy for a total of 32 years, including command at sea in USS CLAUDE V RICKETTS (DDG-5) and USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38). Joe is preceded in death by his parents as well as his son, LCDR Joseph Francis King, Jr., USN.

LCDR John Heiges died on August 6, 2022. with family present, John's first assignment was on the USS YORKTOWN (CVS 10), based in San Diego, CA. Then he was assigned to the Naval PG School. A year later he married Shirley Claussen. In 1971 he was assigned as Commanding Officer of Adak, AK. John retired from the Navy in 1979 and moved his family to Maryland where he spent the remainder of his civilian career as a defense contractor. John was the NAVFAC Commanding Officer on Adak, AK, 1971-1973, and was a pioneer in NOD, Naval Operations Deception. He retired from the Navy after 20 years in San Diego, CA. He moved the family to Maryland, where he spent the remainder of his career serving as a defense contractor.

Howard Joe Mitchell (1st Company), passed away on August 25, 2022, embraced by his loving family. Howard served on the USS DEALY for a year and then was accepted at

Submarine School where he graduated first in his class. While there, he met his wife, Dianne, and they were married in December of 1963. Joe then served as the Communications Officer on the USS SKIPJACK, stationed in Groton, CT. His next duty was as Engineering Officer on the USS TAUTOG being built in Pascagoula, Mississippi and upon completion was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Howard resigned from the Navy in 1969 and was honorably discharged. Joe had a successful 30-year career as an investment advisor.

Earl "Coco" Junghans (6) passed away July 2022. He was surrounded by his loving wife and family. Coco's father was in the Navy and stationed at Pearl Harbor where he survived the attacks while flying reconnaissance. Later, while his father was stationed in the Norfolk-Washington area, Coco entered the U.S. Naval Academy, but things didn't work out and he resigned and later graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in architecture. A life-long lacrosse player, tennis player, and runner, Coco won most of his footraces and 5Ks in his age group, winning more than 100 medals. He and his wife Baker played tennis once a week.

'60

Life Membership: 71%
Donor Participation: 22.05%

Pres: **RADM Peter G. Chabot, USN (Ret.)**
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From **John Rogers (17):**

✉ "I live on a small ranch accessed by a dirt road that few people know about however I noticed a guy running down the road with a Navy baseball cap so I hollered "GO NAVY!" at him. His response was "BEAT ARMY!" so I knew I had a live one. He was Dave Williams '74 so I took him to lunch at the Tubac Golf Resort and we traded sea stories. He lives in Tubac part time so Dave will call me when he returns to Tubac AZ.

I feel the need to mention one 17th company classmate I have recently emailed since I was the Director of Engineering at the Vancouver, Washington Veterans Medical Center in 1977. **Jack Whitely (17)** was the CO of the USS HAMNER (DD-718) based in Portland OR. Jack and I traded family BBQ's and stories until I left to return to the VA in D.C. In recent emails I told Jack that I knew he had a rough time as a plebe and told him that he was a very tough man to finish plebe year. Jack responded and I quote: **"Yeah, Plebe year was a little difficult**

for me. I weighed 115 pounds, and hard as I tried, I often disappointed upperclassmen, instructors and Company Officers. I almost maxed out demerits and ended the year with a 2.54 average, standing 906. Sometimes I quietly thank Stone and Barta. Life got a whole lot better during the next three years."

I therefore nominate Jack as the toughest plebe in the class of 1960. Jack and his wife Marietta are living in Tacoma WA and are planning to retire to an assisted living facility in the area. John

I heard from **Doug Johnston (5):** a few weeks ago, and he reminded me of what so many of us have had to add to our plates over the past few years.

✉ "First the good: Although I tested positive for Covid, the symptoms were so mild I would have bet the farm the test would have come up negative. My experience would thus seem to confirm the conventional thinking about the latest variants, i.e. more contagious, but considerably fewer consequences.

Now the bad: If you haven't heard thru other channels, Bud McFarlane '59 passed away recently. As you may recall, he was the only person to have spoken twice to our lunch group. Bud was on the board of the NGO I used to run, so I can personally attest to what a quality individual he was. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Doug"

From **Tug Knorr (20):** Subject: North Severn Crab Story.

✉ "Sometime after moving to Qtrs. B on North Severn River, most likely at a Class of '60 function, Beth and I met up with Daren & **Doug Johnston (5)**, who just happened to live at #6 Pines on the Severn. This may have been the Northern-most location where I had Crabbed during my career! Their Pier jutted out into the Severn and only Doug's 24 ft Sailboat took space on the North side of his Pier.

For the History books, Doug and Daren not only offered a Crabbing Pier, but two kayaks in their garage, a porch with stupendous view of USNA, and also the Severn River Scene.

I had not known Doug at the Academy because of Company locations, but he being a Water Polo player and Super Swimmer, My Masqueraders Make-Up Gang career indoors and Volleyball team 20th Co. Runner - up accomplishments 1955-56 years didn't bring us close.

Our Knorr Family took to the Crabbing on Johnston Pier in earnest in 1981. Since they had a small lawn, we put our manual lawn mower in their garage and even cut lawn when Crabs not running. Large Jimmie Crabs were plentiful most of the time and we supplied Daren with picked Crab Meat containers for whatever Crab delicacy that she desired to steam!

The Pines Association was ever present and we kept a low profile and did not use their Beach just below #6 property. Parking in Johnston Driveway easy, even if we brought

two cars. One incident that involved hucksters from outside the Pines selling corn, tomatoes, etc. caused their abolishment and got our attention. However, when Assoc. allowed a large Powerboat to use Open side of #6 Pier, it got our attention. Space for Traps was limited and BIKINI-Clad Ladies tried to keep us from Crabbing. We had to alter our Crabbing times and this curtailed our Time at #6. We still had maybe 4 years with use of Johnston Pier, and we still enjoy occasional trips down that Lane heading down to Doug and Darren's Crabbing Pier.

And... recently, Nancy & **John Michalski's (6)** Severn River Pier produced Crabs for Knorr Offspring. In the past, Mangan's (20), Johnston's (5) and others have been part of the North Severn Crabbing Story. Tug

From **Rod Friedman (5)**:

✉ "Bill, when it's good, fresh seafood from the Chesapeake Bay, we always seem to get a great turnout. Today was no exception, 13 aging warriors were able to navigate to the Dockside Seafood Restaurant & Marina in Virginia Beach. Great view of the Lynnhaven River and Bay, but the weather was very hot and humid, so we opted for an inside table with a view..

Consistently good food & service added to the enjoyment of the get together. Attendees included: **Bert Johnson (10), Bob Brenton (12), Al Whitaker (16), Bill Kee (9), Wick Parcels (12), Ed Clextan (10), Jim Eilertsen (21), Rod Friedmann (5), Bob Ianucci (16), Bob Osmon (17), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Bob Powers (8) & Al Bissell (8).**



Bill Kee discussing Annual Oyster Fest

Bill Kee (9) announced the Annual Oyster Fest, which benefits many local charities. Our leader, **Pete Chabot (14)**, missed the luncheon due to a recent COVID exposure. And on a sad note, Classmate **Al Ablowich's (16)** wife Merrilu passed away recently.



Johnson, Brenton, & Whitaker



Oz & Ianucci enjoying lunch



Bissell & Powers

From **Doug Johnson (5)**:

✉ "The month of July for the DC lunch bunch was largely devoted to swapping sea stories, telling jokes and otherwise challenging the status quo. On a more serious note, we also discussed the Academy's plans for dealing with the near and long-term challenges of rising water levels due to global warming exacerbated by the fact that the entire Chesapeake Bay region is sinking of its own accord. When I asked the Sup what was causing the latter, he

said it was the long-term effects of a direct hit by the largest meteor ever to strike the planet. Apparently even larger than that which caused the demise of the dinosaurs.

Anyway, the planning process to address the consequences of the above was initiated on VADM Ted Carter's watch when he was Sup and recently concluded with a set of thoughtful, detailed recommendations. In a nutshell, executing the plan will cost the Navy \$1 billion over a 40 year period, and VADM Buck has already secured \$31 m toward that end out of Navy Infrastructure funds.

In the big picture, the only land that will be sacrificed in this process is in the Hospital Point area, more specifically that which you see to your left as you enter Gate 8 (on which the various Navy aircraft are now sitting). As part of this total process, the Columbarium will need to be moved. The Sup knows where he wants to move it but isn't saying at this time. In any event, there is apparently only about a year and a half's worth of space left in the Columbarium for future additions, mostly on the bottom (and the first to go when the water levels rise). I have a copy of the final plan. If anyone would like to see it, just let me know at (dmj@icrd.org) and include your email coordinates.

It being mid-summer, our ranks were a bit thin; but those who joined in the fun included **Gary Cogdell (7)**, Martha and **George Dowell (19)**, **Dennis Hickey (22)**, Becky and **Dick Pariseau (1)**, **Grant Sharp (19)**, Jeanne and **Tom Solak (2)**, **Bob Traister (2)**, Daren and yours truly.

Reviewing traffic over the rather quiet summer I heard from **Bill Zierden (20)** responding to the above recent DC group activity:

✉ "Bill Z 20th here looking out on the Maine river where I will be sprinkled. I hope the attendees drink a lot before that wonderfully uplifting gathering. Maybe a recording should be shown in carrier ready-rooms and SS control rooms before diving, and to Seals before diving out of the chopper. WTF guys. Cheers!" BZ

Good to hear from Bill even from up in the wilds of Maine. BL

I also heard from **Angelo Karampelas (22)**:

✉ "Bill, as they say 'when two or three shall meet.' I had the privilege of meeting Father Aris Metrakos, USNA '78, after he celebrated the Divine Liturgy on a recent Sunday at St. Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Cruz, CA. You never know where you'll find a fellow alum! Angelo"



'60 group in Tidewater

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Log into **Online Community at usna.com** to update your profile.



Karamelas & Metrakos

'61

Life Membership: 72%

Donor Participation: 28.25%

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

Corr Sec'y: **CAPT Bob Sherer USN (Ret.)**

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Dear Classmates,

Direct from the keyboard of Brown Water veteran **Jay Bower** (14), here's a new perspective on the Gator Navy's indispensable role in the Vietnam war.

Jay had command of **OUTAGAMIE COUNTY** (LST-1073) attached to LanShipRon One (SDGO) from July '67 thru July '69. Change of Command in July '67 was in Guam on the way west to Vietnam, and the ship had an LCU 1610 Class deck-loaded (in Long Beach before departure from SDGO) with which they proceeded to Saigon to off-load using an old German YD. That was a tale in itself, but from there **OUTAGAMIE** proceeded to Danang to load the first of numerous loads of 900+ tons of fused 90/105/155 mm rounds bound for the Cua Viet River to be off-loaded and then trans-shipped in LCM-8's and LCU's up the river destined for the Marines in Dong Ha, Khe San, Con Thien and environs. With just a couple of breaks out of country for R&R, and a brief run to Vung Tau, that was the routine for the next 6 months.

After a trip back to her San Diego homeport for an overhaul early in '68, **OUTAGAMIE COUNTY** returned to WestPac in November '68 for the same old Danang/Cua Viet ammo runs (guess we didn't get it right the first time....) until late May of '69 when she returned to her newly assigned homeport of Guam and a move to LanShipRon Three (another interesting tale - only in the Gator Navy!). In July '69, after about two months of uncertainty (a lot of softball and



'61: **OUTAGAMIE COUNTY** in action

a lot of beer consumed), a crew swap saw the officers and crew of **COCONINO COUNTY** (LST-603) relieve the entire **OUTAGAMIE COUNTY** crew (CO, XO, officers, and entire crew). **COCONINO COUNTY** was then transferred to the RVN Navy, and a few days later, **OUTAGAMIE COUNTY**'s original, formerly San Diego-based ship's company, flew on an Air Force charter to San Diego via Travis AFB with orders to their next duty station in hand!

Social scene

From **Ned Kuhns**:

☒ "The Tidewater '61 group held its August luncheon on schedule the second Thursday of the month at our usual location, Rib City restaurant in Virginia Beach. The turnout was a bit smaller than usual due to vacation plans and other commitments, but nine of us enjoyed the delicious barbecue and interesting conversations. Attendees around the table from left to right are: **Ned Kuhns** (07), **Ken Craig** (07), **Dick Hixson** (19), **Cyd Driscoll** (22), **JP Decker** (08), **Tom McNicholas** (09), **Joe Kuhn** (03-Honorary), **Buzz Needham** (12) and **Charlie Stewart** (06)."

From **Jim Cavanaugh**:

☒ "Ten '61 classmates got together for lunch at the San Diego Yacht Club Tuesday, 9 August as part of the bi-monthly get-together series. After getting seated and placing food/drink orders, at Bill's suggestion we all bowed our

heads for a minute of silence and prayer for the recent loss of wonderful wives Judy Allen and Judy Coullahan. Afterwards, as rolls & butter were being served, we all began to give updates on ourselves. Mostly about health... Chuck "Saint" describing Arilla's struggles with her leg and many of the rest of us with our individual health issues. Then "BILL THE HOST" got us fired up on a more positive note by reminding us (quoting from his earlier email): "This luncheon will celebrate the 65 years since we first met to begin Plebe Summer".

So, honoring the phrase "But still when two or three shall meet", we soon flooded ourselves with all kinds of memories... how many demerits? how about "Class A's"? (What !!! Saint got caught drinking in Bancroft Hall?... how could that be???) Careful and thoughtful Jim Richardson managed to get through his entire Plebe year without any demerits, but at the very end the Battalion Officer noticed this and so nailed him with a 5/2 just for the record. Lots of quotes from *Reef Points!* As the luncheon came to an end, Bill went over plans for the next get-together, the annual beach party at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club on October 15th. Some will arrange for the food, others for drinks, etc. Then Jim Richardson got one of the Yacht Club staff to take a picture of us out on the SPAWAR VIP patio overlooking San Diego Bay out on the way to Ballast Point. Standing: left to right **Bill Kraus** (12),



'61: **Tidewater** at Rib City Restaurant