



Interesting Story by the former Ona Richardson.

In their Youngster year, 6th company mates **Tom Billings** and **Dan Truax** convinced their California girlfriends to pick up stakes and move East. Shirley Steele and Ona

Richardson became roommates, first in DC and then in Annapolis. The two couples spent most weekends together attending concerts, sporting events, plays or simply hanging out at the "drag house" in Eastport or their apartment on Shipwright St. Dan and Ona were married graduation day in the Chapel. Shirley and Tom were married several days later in LA.

Our marriages lasted 60+ years and Naval careers reached 28 and 26 years. In November of 2019, Shirley died unexpectedly. Three months later in February, Dan died after fighting severe lung disease for several years. Then Covid hit, cancelling all inurnments at the USNA Columbarium. It took another 16 months to get the inurnments rescheduled. With Tom living in Colorado and Ona in Annapolis, they talked often, grieving together, comforting each other and trying to coordinate the services. In early 2021, Tom and his two daughters came to Annapolis to finalize Shirley's inurnment and visit with Ona. Finally in June of '21 the two inurnments were scheduled on subsequent days. Shirley's service was 2 June and Dan's on 3 June, exactly 62 years after his graduation and their wedding. Later that year Tom attended President's Circle Weekend at USNA and asked Ona to be his "date", and so started a two person attempt to keep the airline business afloat by booking multiple trips between BWI and DEN. Soon realizing jet setting was not their style, they decided to merge households, with Tom's ties to the Academy and multiple classmates living in the area, it was decided his move to Annapolis would be the logical choice. Two old friends (in every sense!) discovered that love and companionship have no age limit. Last November Tom and Ona were married at Tom's church in Aurora. They are now living in Annapolis and looking forward to Navy activities and seeing classmates.

Myrna Ann Cudlipp (6 November 1937 - 27 October 2021)

Myrna passed on to a better place after bravely battling liver and kidney disease over the past year. Myrna was a true southern lady, who grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi, where she met and married Lt. Richard Cudlipp (1st company) in 1961. This past April they lovingly celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Myrna became a committed Air Force wife and mother, raising two sons, and a daughter, always adapting to the challenges of raising a family

even though the Air Force required multiple moves over the years. She took immense pride in her roles as a wife and mother, deeply committed and dedicated to her family, and she performed these roles with much love, caring and compassion at all times. She took great joy in seeing her three children go on to have families of their own, as she became "Mimi" to her four loving grandchildren. The family ultimately settled in Richardson, Texas in 1983, where both boys were fortunate to attend Texas A&M University. In 1985, when her daughter started high school, Myrna started working in her spare time at Dillards Richardson Square as a sales associate. Over the years her roles changed at the store and eventually she became the personnel resource manager, a job at which she excelled. But probably her true role at the store was that of "store Mother" to all the employees, helping with their problems, issues and concerns in a way that no one else could, always there to listen and to care about each and every one of them. Myrna always said she should have written a book based on all the characters and unique problems she had to deal with on a daily basis. Myrna's personal interests included gardening, reading, and travel. She particularly loved the flowers at the Dallas Arboretum. She was an avid reader, reading over 1,000 books on her own and as part of book clubs. She and Richard enjoyed travel around the country and overseas. She is survived by her husband Richard, daughter Karen (husband Charles), sons Kenneth (wife Becky) and David, grandchildren Nicole, Ethan, Adam, and Jack. This amazing woman will truly be missed by all the people whose lives she touched. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her name to the North Texas Food Bank or Network of Community Ministries, or PBI Research Services

Vince Obsitnik (3RD co) has a story in Naples, FL.



On our way from Georgia to Naples, Florida, where we've rented a condo Annemarie and I stopped in The Villages and had lunch with **Tom Lukish** (2nd Co). Tom looks great and healthy as ever.

The next day we traveled to Cocoa Beach to visit Joyce Clautice, widow of **Bill Clautice** (3rd Co). Joyce took us to see the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. It's a great museum and well worth visiting. One of the displays in the Museum had Bill Clautice's original XO



stateroom door from the USS JOHN C. MARSHALL (SSBN 654) where Bill served as Executive Officer. Next to it was a periscope from a SSN 637 Class submarine. It's a great tribute to Bill and his service!!

From here, we are on our way to visit with **Wayne Lockwood '59**-3rd Co and his wife Carol.

'60

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The Dark Ages are over and it's the perfect time to send your Class Secretary updates, pictures and other great info to pass on to the class. Not everybody is located in Tidewater, Annapolis, DC, or San Diego. Let's hear from folks out in the hinterlands as to how things are going. A picture or two would be great as well.

A little input from **"Tug" Knorr 20**:

✉ "Having recently observed the Navy Stadium Football Program, I saw something I have never seen before. ...listing of details of all the Battles everyone sees in Broad Letters along the top of stadium.

1962. - Cuban Missile Crisis - My USS Okinawa (LPH -3), with 2000 U.S. Marines aboard instrumental in locating weapons (some allegedly nuclear) that Russians were "placing in CUBA" and ensured that these were removed! Crisis avoided and Wife Beth, who met me in Mayport, Florida for Moral Support, went back to Norfolk, VA, our home at the time!

1968 - HUE, the Imperial Capital in Northern Southern Vietnam was overrun by enemy forces and then logistic support, South Vietnamese and U.S. Marines ejected the attackers. My USS Merrick (AKA -97), part of Logistic support.

1973 I-CORPS -DMZ (Northern South Vietnam region where 1st and 3rd Marines mostly operated.). My ship, USS Merrick, would make Logistic trips to Okinawa and return to main port, DANANG, where we would Anchor and have limited liberty, including Tennis in 100-degree Temperature. Also collected "Combat Pay" of \$60 for every member of the Crew for every time we anchored in DANANG. We heard lots of Gunfire in the mountains above DANANG, but my Movie Officer let me down while trying to transfer THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN to

another ship at Anchor...he dropped in the water!

Here endeth my involvement with war stories." Tug

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:



Sheri & Randy Mchenry

✉ "Our classmate **Randy McHenry (7)**, who hosted our mini reunion in Feb in New Smyrna Beach. We had so much fun that he wants to do it again next year (2024). He has become a pillar of the community since his arrival from Los Angeles several years ago. Sheri sings at their hotel every Friday night. He would gladly welcome any of you who would like some time on the beach in Florida. God bless and Merry Christmas. Oz

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:



Tidewater6 at the Abbey

✉ "Bill, we started off the New Year with a small but good gathering of classmates at an old favorite restaurant. An old church, located in downtown Norfolk, was converted tastefully to an upscale restaurant called the Freemason Abbey. An extensive menu was presented that satisfied nine hungry, old sailors. Classmates present included; **Bob Ianucci (16), Rod Friedmann (5), Bob Powers (8), Bert (short story) Johnson (10), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Wick Parcels (12) and Bob Osmon (17)**. Rod

Also, from **Bob Osmon (17)**:



The Swansons & Oz

✉ "Classmates, recently I had the pleasure to have dinner with Selena & **John Swanson (17)**. They are enjoying their annual 2-week condo time share in Williamsburg, playing bridge, and visiting their daughter in Virginia Beach. Both of them are in wonderful health and looking good and spry as ever. John was moaning about having to learn to play bridge by computer instead of face to face, but, hey, remember he is our company mate who just discovered email a year ago. They both are looking forward to our next reunion and seeing some of you old guys. So, you had better stick around until then. God bless. Oz

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:



Ambassador Tony Hall

✉ "Our January lunch featured a presentation by Ambassador Tony Hall, former U.S. Congressman and later Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food & Agriculture, which among other agencies includes the World Food Program.

When introducing him, I made note of his interesting background, which included being recruited out of high school to play football for Ohio State under Woody Hayes. Because of an injury at the end of his first year, he transferred to Denison University where he became a small school All-American tailback and in 1963 was voted the most valuable player in the Ohio Conference.

After that, a stint in the Peace Corps in Thailand, several years as a small businessman, eight years in State Government, and election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978. During his 24 years as a congressman, he served on a number of committees, including Foreign Affairs, the Rules Committee, and the Select Committee on Hunger (on which he served as chairman from 1989 until it was

abolished in 1993). In an attempt to preserve the Committee, he fasted for 22 days, while calling increased attention to the problem of hunger. Although he failed to save the Committee, his efforts resulted in a significant increase in funding to alleviate hunger in the U.S. and overseas.

Ambassador Hall has undertaken a number of other human rights initiatives as well, including sponsorship of legislation to outlaw the importation of blood diamonds, i.e., those mined with slave labor. This has effectively reduced the influx from 60% to about 5%.

Among the points raised during his sobering presentation:

One billion people in the world live on \$1 a day and two billion on \$2 a day. 25,000 people die from hunger each day.

One of the most effective approaches to alleviating hunger in the U.S. is through school lunch programs (and breakfast in many cases). Not only does it bring relief for parents who cannot afford to provide the meals themselves, but it enables their kids to get an education, rather than having to go to work to fend for themselves.

On the international level, one of the most effective approaches to both creating jobs and alleviating hunger is to teach women how to read and write and then provide them with micro-financing. A total of 87% of all such loans are paid back in full from the profits of these micro- enterprises.

He mentioned other hunger-related initiatives as well, such as promoting gleaning, a process whereby farmers contribute the surplus from their fields to those in need; efforts to provide surplus food to the needy more generally (from the 110 million tons of food that are wasted in the U.S. each year—an old figure); and programs that teach indigenous people how to farm more effectively.

With the United States in the lead on the above and in funding the World Food Program (which feeds 150 million people a year), the state of hunger in the world had been cut in half prior to the outbreak of Covid and the war in Ukraine. In the wake of both, however, the problem is now unfortunately greater than ever.

It was an instructive meeting that underlined how blessed we truly are. Whenever we have problems, one way to put them into perspective is to slow down and think about the fact that we have clean drinking water (800 million people don't), don't live on dirt floors, and don't have to worry about some militia riding through and raping our wives or daughters.

Participating in the discussion that followed were Kathy and **Gary Cogdell (7)**, Martha and **George Dowell (19), Dennis Hickey (22)**, Barbara and **Ward O'Brien (22)**, Becky and **Dick Pariseau (1), Grant Sharp (19)**, Jeanne and **Tom Solak (2)**, Daren and yours truly.

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