

He was a truly outstanding officer to work for. I just wanted to make sure that he was remembered by his class."

Ernie Lockwood USNA 1965

(LSW Note: I have the phone number of Al's widow if any classmate wants to contact her.)

Contrary to the note above, the last of the "missing five" **Hugh Snively** has been located. His information will be added to the Class Data Base shortly

'60

Life Membership: 71%

Donor Participation: 23.60%

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President's Corner

Included among our recently deceased classmates was **Ted Parsons (18)**, with whom I had a brief, but unforgettable, encounter in the 1970s. Its genesis was an article I read in Time

Magazine. about a Navy Lieutenant, who was suing the Navy because he broke his back during Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training.

I was working in the Navy Secretariat at the time and felt a need to get out front of the Congress on the matter by taking a hard look at the training to ensure there was no physical abuse taking place. For those unfamiliar with this particular training, it is designed to provide a realistic prisoner of war experience for Navy pilots, and anyone else who might conceivably get captured behind enemy lines.

A few weeks later as I made my way to the training facility in the California desert, I was surprised to find Ted in charge. Although I hadn't known him at the Academy, he was clearly a great guy; and we quickly became good friends. With this instant rapport, he showed me the full gamut of what was taking place.

Basically, the process begins by setting the participants free in the California desert to test their survival skills and ability to evade capture. Because there's really no place to hide, all of them are quickly captured; and the ordeal begins. The first thing I witnessed was the waterboarding of one of those captives, and it went downhill from there.

After several days of this, the training concluded with the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner over the loudspeakers surrounding the compound. At that point, the prisoners exited

their cages and stood at attention, many with tears streaming down their faces. To a man (and there were only men receiving such training in those days), they were glad to have had the experience but absolutely didn't ever want to do it again. As for abuse, I had never in my life seen so much of it. However, in the cold light of day, it seemed more than worth any anguish it might cause. And Ted did a great job of overseeing it all for close to four years.

Later, I visited an air base outside of Spokane, Washington where the Air Force provided its version of the same training. It was a good bit milder; and from what I later came to understand, Air Force POWs had a tougher time adjusting in captivity. Doug

From **Russ Hoke (6)**

✉ "A crew shell dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Hubbard Hall in honor of Colonel **Warren E (Skip) Sweetser**, USMC (Ret) (6th Company). Skip was a member of the Navy Varsity Crew Heavy-weight Eight, who won the 1960 Olympic trials for the right to represent the United States at the Rome Olympics. Skip and his teammates were always huge supporters of Navy Crew and Hubbard Hall and have endowed in perpetuity, a shell in honor of their 1960 Olympic Crew team. The sponsorship for this new shell is the USNA Class of 1973 on the occasion of its 50th graduation anniversary. It is also the second shell this class has donated in Skip's

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60/60 CLASS NEWS

name. The first shell was dedicated 28-29 years ago. Skip was a Company Officer at the academy from 1969 to 1972. Additionally, during this period he was also the head lightweight crew coach where he mentored and guided countless midshipman to become hard-working oarsman, dedicated officers, and men of character. In the years that Skip coached the Navy Lightweights, the team earned three medals at the Eastern Sprints – a Silver and two Bronze. However, their standout performance during Skip's tenure was winning the 1971 Head of the Charles race (Charles River, Boston, MA) and breaking the course record for the Lightweight Eight Division. Members of the Sweetser family were present for the dedication – wife (Nancy), daughter (Janice), sons (Wes and Seth) and seven grandchildren. All the grandchildren participated in the traditional christening ceremony of pouring water over the prow of the shell.



Sweetser Shell



Sweetser family at boathouse

Also from **Russ Hoke (6)**:

✉ A committal service was held on October 12, 2023 at the USNA columbarium for Eleanor Picken Suddath, wife of Captain **J. Jackson Suddath**, USNR (Ret) (Sixth Company). It was a gorgeous fall day and officiating the service was First Battalion Chaplain, Lt Vanessa Platek, CHC, USN. Jack's family participated in the ceremony and shared both endearing and humorous stories, remembering their times, lives, and events with Eleanor. Jack's family joining in the service included daughter Sue and her son (Aedan), daughter Cindy and her



'60: SOCal group

daughters (Kate and Cecily), and his son Jay and his wife (Courtney) and their son (Jackson – USNA 2025). A light lunch was served after the service. It was Eleanor's request to be interred at the columbarium and Jack's ashes will be placed in the niche next to Eleanor. Classmates in attendance included Nancy & **John Michalski (6)** and **Russ Hoke (6)**. Russ

From **John Schmidt (20)**:

✉ "Classmates gathered in SD recently for lunch. Attending were Joyce & **Chuck Schroeder (23)**, **John Pethick (9)**, Sue & **Sam Ward (8)**, Glee & **John Schmidt (20)**, **Denis Crawford (2)**, Pam & **Mike Fenn (4)**, Jan Shaw, Avery Hollowell, and **Dick Bannister (9)**. Happy Thanksgiving to all!! Go Navy Beat Army!!

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**:



Ablowich, Bissill and Von Kolnotz



Greenhalgh and Kee

✉ "Bill, the Williamsburg/Hampton Roads monthly lunch bunch gathered at Bubba's Crabhouse & Seafood Restaurant in VABEACH on 10 October for food, fellowship and retelling of old tales. Bubba's warm welcome, food and

gracious service are always outstanding. Per your request, **Al Whitaker (16)** took lots of photos which I will send in a separate email. Eleven classmates attended the lunch, including: **Ed Clextan (10)**, **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, **Bill Townsend (19)**, **Al Ablowich (16)**, **Henry von Kolnitz (22)**, **Al Whitaker (16)**, **Bob Powers (8)**, **Al Bissell (8)**, **Bill Kee (9)**, **Jack Greenhalgh (9)** and **Bob Ianucci (16)**. While waiting for lunch to be served Al Whitaker (16) reminded everyone about the details of our annual Christmas Party, dinner and concert in W'burg on Wed., 6, Dec. Always a popular event.

Bill Kee (9) thanked everyone who bought tickets or contributed to the annual Cape Henry Rotary Club "Oyster Crush". \$1,000 of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Honor Flight program which celebrates America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Bill and Jack Greenhalgh have both participated in the program as guides and guests and attested to the positive reactions of all participants in this completely free program. They reminded us that we are all eligible for the Honor Flight tour and encouraged everyone to sign up for a tour. Bob

From **Vance Fry (24)** to **Bob Osmon (17)** and the rest of us:

✉ Bravo Zulu !!! Apparently, you did most of the work for our class. Congratulations for you being named "Vice President" They couldn't have chosen a finer man to fill the job! We have moved into a Retirement Home in Chattanooga. (See attach) We are pleased !

I am not doing "as well" with my health....that is why I have not been in touch in the last two years. Char and I went to Hawaii for 10 days.....just returned on Sunday. We took a cruise to all 4 islands.

Your Pal, Vance Fry

From **Harry Lewis (15)**:

✉ Just some local news, Bill. My son, Paul C. Lewis, '87, has recently moved from S. Berwick, ME, to here in St. Marys. He is teaching at Frederica Academy in St Simonds Island, GA, where we were invited to give a Veterans Day presentation yesterday. Hope all is well with you and yours, Harry