



L-R Bonnie Welsh, Ginny Johnson, Bill Drotleff, Joan Finerty and Nickie Pickett



L-R. Walt & Caroline Szczypinski, Elaine & Pete Stout



L-R Tom and Ona Billings, Joan Finerty and Art Emmerson

The USNA Alumni Association & Foundation has set out a yellow post card as part of their comprehensive alumni data verification project. This card requests all alumni to contact the USNA A&F partner, PCI at the following number as soon as possible to take care of this important matter:

**1-888-811-8793**

If you have not received this card, please contact me (Larry Weaver) at 1-813-917-5962

## CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: [classnews@usna.com](mailto:classnews@usna.com)

**2024**

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
May-June '24	21 Mar '24
July-August '24	28 May '24
September-October '24	30 Jul '24
November-December '24	25 Sept '24

# '60

**Life Membership: 71%**  
**Donor Participation: 26.29%**

Pres: **CAPT Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USNR (Ret.)**  
p: 202-203-8360; e: [dmjj60@gmail.com](mailto:dmjj60@gmail.com)

Vice Pres: **CAPT Bob Osmon, USN (Ret.)**

Treas: **CAPT George W. Dowell III, USN (Ret.)**

Sec'y: **Bill Lewis**  
1300 S Hwy. A1A Unit 508, Jupiter, FL 33477  
p: 804-334-6353; e: [bilewis@comcast.net](mailto:bilewis@comcast.net)

Webmaster: **Richard Harper**  
p: 805-583-1640; e: [Richard.Harper@1960.USNA.com](mailto:Richard.Harper@1960.USNA.com)  
Website: <http://www.1960.usnaclass.net>

## President's Corner

Dear Classmates: If you haven't visited USNA within the past couple of years, there's a new addition you'll want to check out when you have a chance: The Ron Terwilliger '63 Center for Student-Athletes. A \$27 million dollar extension of Ricketts Hall (inside Gate 1), the Center was completed in September of 2021 to celebrate the physical mission of the Academy and the athletic exploits of any number of Mids over the years.

I haven't had a chance to check, but I suspect both Plebe Summer roommates may be included among those so honored: **Lyman Perry (7)**, who was Stroke Man on the 1960 Olympic Crew Team, and **Randy McHenry (7)**, who holds the all-time record in the 220-yard low hurdles. I say "all time" with a relaxed degree of certainty, because the year after Randy set the record, they discontinued running at that distance. Anyway, a treat awaits your next visit to the Big House.

Carpe diem! —Doug

## From merf (little m) Moerschel (2):

✉ "About half of our remaining 2nd Company shipmates & wives took an American Cruise Lines 5-day 4-night cruise from New Orleans up the Mississippi and back in early December. The weather cooperated... we dodged rain on both ends. The river was about 20 feet below norms resulting in busing us to St. Francisville, LA our turn-back port for the shore tours there.

The service, food and amenities were exceptional. We were feted with a cocktail party with the skipper and were provided with a private room to watch the A-N game. Close again but no cigar! Several of us toured NOLA and visited the WWII Memorial Museum. The museum is located in NOLA because Andrew Jackson Higgins the developer of the LCVP (Higgins Boat) and other landing craft were built there. Great venue. The best part was being with each other and sharing experiences. We highly recommend the "Company" approach to reunion as we approach our 65th ... and beyond. Further, the sizable American Cruise Lines fleet operates on all coasts including the Great Lakes. Check them out.

## From Wayne Vinje (9):

✉ "The insurance company Grinch caught up with me recently, and ended my solo flying career at age 84. I'm still OK to fly and carry insurance, but I need a qualified "Minder" in the right seat. A most uninteresting way to aviate. And this happens after I've learned to fly aerobatics, ("Gentleman's" aerobatics, mind you: Immelmann's, Hammerheads, Cuban Eights, Split S's, and the like. No Lomcovaks.) and have possessed two, most interesting aerobatic airplanes: A Micco SP26A and an Extra 330LT, both pictured here. The Micco was built by the Seminole Indians, and there are only 15 or so flying. It's all metal and fully gear retractable with a 260HP Lycoming engine, but it's heavy, weighing around 2600 lbs. for aerobatic flight. The Extra is 1000 lbs. lighter with 40 more HP, a real flying machine. Both airplanes have great visibility, bubble canopies with the Micco having side by side seats and the Extra fore and aft. My Extra model, 330LT, was not certified (I had been promised that it would be). Rather, I believe their current best aerobatic model, the 330SC grew out of the 330LT.

The insurance company's behavior is particularly rude, since getting to this stage in my flying experience took some doing. I grew up loving airplanes, from the crop dusters at work in eastern ND, to the B-36's still gaining altitude as they flew north from Ellsworth AFB, SD, to the P-51s of the NDANG. When I was



'60: Folks on the Cruise; L-R Bob & Charlotte Stevenson, Darlene Matulka, Denis Crawford, Dennie & Francis McCrary, Merf & Betsy, Ray Burkley, Ann & Hank Rinnert, Capt. Duncan, Master American Cruise Lines M/V AMERICAN SERENADE

accepted to USNA, it was a given that I would apply to become a Naval Aviator. Upon graduation, I did but the Medicos decreed that my left eye was 20/20 - 2, not good enough to fly. (I also was told that I had too much astigmatism for the submarine service. Are the vision requirements for either still this tight?). I wanted to fly the machine rather than tell the pilot where to go, so I didn't opt for Flight Officer training.

The USAF came calling, and I accepted, spending two years at the U of Michigan and leaving with two engineering Master's degrees on my way to Holloman AFB, NM to test inertial guidance systems. Such systems were a priority then, as this was the time of John F Kennedy's "Missile Gap." It was good work, but the USAF was run by fighter pilots, career opportunities weren't great in R&D, and I still wanted to fly airplanes. Once more my left eye didn't pass muster for pilot training, so I decided that telling the pilot where to go might be the only way I could get on the operational side of the USAF. I passed the Navigator aptitude test with a record score, but this time the vision folks said I didn't have the near vision I needed to be a navigator. By this time, I was 26 years old, and the Regs said I was too old to apply for either pilot or navigator training.

I concluded that the Cosmic Plan for me was not in military aviation. I left the USAF, earned my engineering PhD and have had a rewarding career in high technology, much of it for the DoD and Intelligence Community.

\_\_Wayne Vinje



From **Ron Burdge (9)**:

✉ "Linda and I attended the Memorial Service for Gene Tucker (9) on June 12. Other Ninth Company attendees (included **Norm Slezak** and Harriett, **John Groth** and Joan, **Mike Gavlak** and Marlene, as well as our Class President, **Doug Johnston (5)** and Daren. The service was held at Ashby Ponds Senior Living

community, Ashburn, VA, where Gene and Dolly had recently relocated. The Tucker family arranged a beautiful service and reception on relatively short notice. It was very well attended.

Gene's close friend, and fellow naval aviator, Rear Admiral Fred Lewis '62, spoke of Gene's exceptional career, including his distinguished Vietnam combat service, which was chronicled in the pamphlet, USN Phantoms in Combat. His many awards included the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. Norm, who was Gene's NAPS classmate, and four-year roommate, along with Gene's son, Bob, spoke of the more personal side of his life. The service was a fitting tribute to the man and the warrior. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

At graduation, Gene, along with John, Norm, (Charley Simmons, Art Wegner deceased), and myself agreed to keep in touch. And we did, through a chain letter, Class reunions, and other occasions. We were all submariners, except for Gene, the fighter pilot. He was clearly, the most colorful one of the group. and could always keep us laughing. The Burdges and Slezaks were blessed, to have Gene and Dolly living close by, in the DC area, which allowed for many enjoyable get-togethers. He will be greatly missed. —Bob

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**:

✉ "Happy New Year, Bill! A group of our Williamsburg - Hampton Roads area classmates braved the dire weather predictions for 9 January and gathered at one of our favorite lunch spots, Bubba's Crab and Seafood Restaurant in Virginia Beach. Our first of the year gathering included: Al Ablowich (16), Al Bissell (8), Bob Ianucci (16), Bert Johnson (10), Bob Osmon (17), Wick Parcels (12), Bill Townsend (19), Henry von Kolnitz (22) and Al Whitaker (16). Lots of sea stories were exchanged, some old some new.

Oz gave us a preview of the mini reunion scheduled for 6 February in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Dinners and side trips to Kennedy Space Center and St. Augustine have been arranged for those interested.

Looking ahead to February, Bob I. said he was working with Rod Friedmann (5) to set a location for our annual Valentine/couples lunch. Bob also told the group about his son Tom's serious bout with the RSV virus which landed him in Lawrence Memorial hospital in New London for 3 days. Tom is the Command Chaplain at the US Coast Guard Academy. Bob strongly recommends that we all talk to our doctors and get the RSV vaccination.

Regret no photos to send with this. Have a Happy, Healthy New Year - and get that RSV vaccination. —Bob

From **Hap Peterson (22)**:

✉ "Bill, Jan and I were privileged to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary on 4 January with our son, Scott '88 and his bride, Lori. Jan and I were married at the NAS Patuxent River Chapel. **Bob Kowall (20)** was responsible for

my meeting Jan in July 1962. It took me until January '64 to land this prize. Classmate and squadron mate, **Carl McCallum (6)**, and his bride, Marilyn, were our Best Man and Matron of Honor. We continue to be blessed and live near our son in Argyle, TX.

—Hap Peterson '22



Hap & Jan PETERSON

## '61

**Life Membership: 73%**  
**Donor Participation: 33.10%**

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

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

2301 River Crescent Dr., Annapolis MD 21401

p: 410-266-1334 voice and text

e: enavant1305@icloud.com; sherer@1961.usna.com

Webmaster: **Howard Winfree**

e: winfree@1961.usna.com

Website: **www.USNA61.org**

Dear Classmates,

I hope this issue brings hope of fairer weather and more opportunities to BEAT ARMY.

The Annapolis group dined at McGarvey's to wind up the year. A good percentage came over from Virginia.

In the photo: from left: **Jack Pappas (2)**, **Jim Connell (2)**, **Jay Bower (14)**, **Ron Campbell (15)**, **Bob Fitch (6)**, **Ron Carlberg (20)**, **Bob Giuffreda (2)**, **Bob Glover (8)**, **Ike Cole (5)**, **Jerry Smith (8)**, **Mike Welch (7)**, **Bob Sherer (4)**, **Dana French (17)**, **Rich Lamporte (15)**, **Bill Ciesla (18)**



'61 at McGarvey's

The ladies dined as usual at Carroll's Creek. Real dedication was evident as Gloria Stem had driven from Philadelphia and Caryl Morgan had come from Vienna to Annapolis with a courtesy ride from guest and photographer Anju Olsen.