

'60

Life Membership: 72%**Donor Participation: 20%**Pres: **CAPT Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USNR (Ret.)**

p: 202-203-8360; e: dmij60@gmail.com

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

Webmaster: **Richard Harper**

p: 805-583-1640; e: Richard.Harper@1960.USNA.com

Website: <http://www.1960.usnaclass.net>**President's Corner #8**

A heads-up to all hands that we'll be taking a poll this summer to determine the prospective attendance at next year's 65th reunion. The driving factor in taking it this early is the need to give the Best Western our desired room count by the end of this August. We presently have 80 rooms set aside, a number that will be adjusted to conform with our poll. When the event actually takes place, we will need to fill at least 80% of the rooms we've reserved or get charged for the short-fall. To minimize the uncertainty, it would be helpful if you would respond to the poll when it takes place, even if you can't attend.

As a reminder, we will be holding the reunion the weekend of August 31, 2025, when Navy will be hosting its first football game of the season against Virginia Military Institute (VMI). I recognize that committing to attend a year early may be a bit problematic for any of us with health problems or other complications, but please give it your best educated guess, and we'll use that as our baseline for making the reservations.

I hope this finds you well and able to attend, since it will be one of our last opportunities to bask in the camaraderie of old ties, while drinking a collective toast to Super Sixty. Carpe Diem, —Doug



was very active and social. She was a founding member of the Perry Hill Tennis Club where the "neighborhood" gathered for some friendly competition, and some fierce mixed-doubles action. She was an avid cross-country skier and loved skating, sledding, golf and hiking.

Ultimately, Norma's most-loved role was "Grandma". A day at Grandma's included digging in the dirt, telling stories, singing songs, doing crafts, playing dress-up and make-believe, rides in the wheelbarrow, trips to the reservoir to swim, skiing, skating, making snow forts... and exhausted kiddos at the end of the day! She would often make up elaborate scavenger hunts, full of clever riddles and clues, and she loved a good game of "Mother May I" or "Red Light/Green Light" on the front lawn. No matter the season, there was always fun to be had in the kitchen; be it smashing up fresh applesauce in the fall, baking a gargantuan gingerbread man for the holidays, or just mixing some Hershey's chocolate syrup into a tall glass of milk.

She attended every school and sporting event, dance recital, awards ceremony, and graduation she could- always clapping and cheering, supportive and encouraging.

Norma is loved and mourned by her children Julia Garufi of Waterbury and Stephen McLeod of Starksboro; son-in-law Roger Garufi and daughter-in-law Jodi (Berglass) McLeod; grandchildren Fiona Garufi, Heather Garufi, William McLeod, and Rhiannon McLeod; several nieces, nephews, and grandnephews; and countless neighbors and community members. She was recently predeceased by her loving husband of 64 years, Bob.

Norma was an exceptionally kind soul who touched the hearts of all who met her.

A celebration of the life of Norma T. McLeod will be held from the Waterbury Congregational Church on Saturday, 22 June 2024, followed by a reception in the church's dining room. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Central VT Home Health & Hospice, UVM Home Health & Hospice, or Waterbury Congregational Church. To send online condolences, please visit <https://www.vtfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Norma-Mcleod?obId=31384095>

Corbin and Palmer Shelburne Chapel, 209 Falls Rd - Shelburne, 9 Pleasant St, Essex Junction, VT 05452, 802-985-3370. <https://www.vtfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Norma-Mcleod?obId=31384095>

Monica Mary Mangan Wheaton passed away peacefully on 11 January 2024. She was 87 years old.

Monica was born on 3 November 1936, in Brooklyn New York, and was the oldest child of James and Anna (Farrell) Mangan. She grew up in Manhattan and earned academic scholarships to Immaculata High School and then St. Joseph's College for Women in

Brooklyn, where she earned a B.A. degree in English. She married her husband, Capt.

William C. Wheaton, USN (Ret.) in 1959, after meeting at a national Junior Achievement event. For the first 20 years of their marriage, she focused on raising their three sons and volunteer work for the Navy Relief Society in the various Navy communities in which they lived. She was recognized for her Navy Relief work in multiple communities and was the Navy Relief Volunteer of the Year in Hampton Roads in 1978. She was also a Cub Scout Den Mother for each of her sons.

Monica began her full-time teaching career in 1979, and taught English at Great Bridge High School until her retirement (with a brief detour to Oscar F. Smith High School during the early 1980s). She completed her M.A. degree at Old Dominion University. Monica was lured into the world of competitive high school speech and debate as a volunteer driver, and ultimately became a renowned speech and debate coach in Virginia and nationally. Monica was a fixture in the tabulation ("tab") room of the Tidewater Debate League for decades, continuing that work as well as volunteer coaching long after her retirement from teaching. She was honored as Virginia's debate coach of the year in 2003, was a National Forensics League Diamond Key coach, and was inducted into the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame in 2023. Her speech and debate students have gone on to national success in numerous fields.

After many Navy-induced moves, Monica and Bill made Chesapeake their home beginning in 1974. Monica was a founding parishioner of Prince of Peace Catholic Church and was a volunteer and the lector coordinator there for many years. She was a member of the Chesapeake Library Board and the Alpha Delta Kappa women educators sorority.

Monica is survived by her husband Bill, sons Jim (Laurie) of Williamsburg, Pat (Laura) of Statesboro, Georgia, and Mark of Chesapeake, and six grandchildren: Mary, Annie, Will, Hannah, Johnny and Austin. She is also survived by her brothers Chuck and Tom and was predeceased by her sister Kathryn (Kitty) and brother Joe.

A requiem Mass to celebrate Monica's life was held on 19 January 2024 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Chesapeake, Virginia. A wake and visitation with Monica's family was held at H.D. Oliver's Chesapeake Chapel. The family requests donations be made to Covenant House (www.covenanthouse.org) or St. Francis Breadline 135W31st St. NY NY 10001.

Finally, the family would like to extend a special thanks to Wings Over Virginia Hospice (www.wovhospice.com) for the extraordinarily compassionate care they provided Monica in the final days of her life.

60/60 CLASS NEWS



From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ "Bill, Our Mini Reunion in New Smyrna Beach is now history, but I believe all of us there will have good memories for a long time to come. The accommodations that **Randy McHenry (7)** provided at his Springhill Suites were just wonderful, the food by the caterers was just delicious, the trips well organized, and the camaraderie amongst those present was truly heartwarming. Unfortunately, Randy was undergoing eye surgery in Argentina and couldn't be present. But we all had a moment of prayer in his behalf.

The first evening on Tuesday was a cocktail party in the lobby of the hotel. It was a great ice breaker and went on for hours. The next morning most of us went to the Kennedy Space Center. As Viet Nam era vets, we were given free tickets which was a blessing. We spent about 3 hours there taking in many different exhibits. Had dinner at the hotel that evening and were most pleased to have the Mayor of NSB, Fred Cleveland '80, join us for dinner. He gave a rousing pitch for NSB giving us the history of the town and how it started and where it is going.

The next day about half of us went to St. Augustine where we took about a 1 1/2 hour trolley ride around the city. The architecture is very Spanish and quite beautiful. And, no, none of us discovered the Fountain of Youth. Darn!! The other half went to the Marine Discovery Center where they boated through the marshes seeing birds and dolphins. It was a little chilly and breezy, but nothing like an open bridge in the North Atlantic on a nasty night, so they survived.

But I believe the highlight of the entire reunion was at dinner on the last night. After a wonderful meal of beef and salmon, **Sal Zaccagnino's (16)** son Tony read the prophecies from the *Lucky Bag* that our roomies wrote about us 64 years ago. It was hilarious. Amazing how many classmates DIDN'T go into the field of service that was predicted. Then we took photos of everyone by Service Selection. After that the energy level was so high that no one wanted to leave. Finally, the caterers pushed us out so they could clean up, so we went to the bar where it all went on for

another several hours. How pleased Doug and I were to see that happen. Frankly the primary purpose of this mini gathering was to bring classmates closer together and talk about old times. As our numbers dwindle, the camaraderie

between those of us left becomes more and more important. And certainly, we all left with a good feeling that we had renewed friendships with old classmates and started good ones with classmates we had never met before.

The list of attendees are as follows: **Rich Lang (7)** & Sandy Neal, Nancy & **JJ Fee (18)**, Joyce & **John Claman (3)**, **Bob Osmon (17)**, Daren & **Doug Johnston (5)**, Vicky & **Bob Meck (19)**, Peggy Ann Reid, Fay & **Jim McConnell (23)**, Annette & **Gary Lew (16)**, **Richard Harper (7)** & Peggy Spellman, Vonnice & **Ray Jones (10)**, Sara & **Jim Worthington (19)**, **Pete Bos (7)**, Kathy & **Gary Cogdell (7)**, Monty & **Clint Johnson (10)**, Karen & **Denis Vied (24)**, Barbara & **Al Bissell (8)** **Buz Ausley (16)**, Alice & **Sal Zaccagnino (16)** Theresa & **Hank Papa (17)**, **Ron Hinkel (14)**, and his daughter Heather McNally, **Dave Schnegelberger (16)**, and Karen Inderlied. I look forward to seeing everyone again at our 65th. God bless, Oz

And as a follow-up: I talked to Randy recently and he is now home. His doctor was quite pleased the way the operation went and has high hopes for excellent results. Randy himself says he is feeling fine, but obviously has a little trouble seeing. He will have to go back in a few months for a checkup to see how healing is progressing. But let's continue to hold him in our prayers.

He wanted me to tell all of you how pleased he is that everyone enjoyed NSB and Springhill Suites so much. He already is talking '26 or '27 for three-peat. Sounds good to me. I know where all the glitches are now, so next time should be a piece of cake. So, everyone please stay healthy until then. Oz



From **Dennis Vied (24)**:

✉ "Hi, Bill. The following members of the Class of Sixty met for lunch on April 4th, 2024 at Jim's Country Kitchen in Pleasanton, CA. **Dick Shawkey (24)**, **Kevin Ryan (4)**, **Ray Burkley (2)**, **Angelo Karampelas (22)**, and **Dennis Vied (24)**. The sea stories flowed, and a good time was had by all. Dennis



'60: SOCAL gathering

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