



Left to right: Deb Hernon, Julie Reger (Don's daughter), Mike Hernon and Don Hernon USNA 1959



Don with grandson Jack (West Point '25)

On 4 July 2024 during the Independence Day underway of the USS CONSTITUTION in Boston Harbor a flag of the United States was flown in honor of the late Captain **J. Phillip "Jack" London '59**. Jack's ancestor, Captain Samuel Nicholson, oversaw the construction of "Old Ironsides" and was commissioned by George Washington to be the ship's first commanding officer. Nicholson took the ship on its maiden voyage from Boston on 22 July 1798. The flag in honor of Captain London was presented by Anne Rand, President and CEO of the USS CONSTITUTION Museum and it was raised by Jack's sons and wife. Pictured hoisting the flag are L-R: Jayson London, Dr. Jennifer London, Jackson London and Jonathon London.

CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES	
Send to: classnews@usna.com	
2024-2025	
ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
November-December '24	27 Sept '24
January-February '25	25 Nov '24



USS CONSTITUTION

'60

Life Membership: 71%
Donor Participation: 21.32%

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Following the most recent meeting of the Council of Class Presidents, we viewed a parade and attended an outdoor reception at the Superintendent's Quarters. While there, I had an opportunity to visit with the Superintendent and separately with the Chief of Naval Operations. I must say, I came away totally impressed with both of them. Not only did they exhibit the high-level of professionalism one would rightly expect, but their enthusiasm for the Navy and their jobs was downright contagious. They were literally a breath of fresh air, and I came away strongly convinced they will do their country proud.

A special request: The first thing I did during week one on the job was to call **Bill Lewis (5)** and **Richard Harper (7)** and ask them to find prospective reliefs for themselves in the event they become incapacitated in any way. They are clearly the most indispensable members of our class officer team. Happily, **Dennis Vied (24)** has volunteered to back-up Richard as Class Webmaster, but we have yet to find a backup for Bill as Class Secretary. If any of you feels the call, Bill would be pleased to bring you

up to speed on his duties. He can be reached at bilewis@comcast.net.

A special opportunity: **Dennis Vied (24)** has become the proud owner of a second *Lucky Bag*, with very few miles on it. He would be happy to pass it along to any of you who might have a need (on a first-come, first-served basis). Dennis can be reached at dvied@comcast.net.

Anyone who hasn't seen our latest annual report can find it on our website at (www.1960.usnaclases.net). In addition to providing a snapshot of the Class of 2023 service selections, the composition of the recently-arrived Class of 2027, and various other items of interest it also describes in greater detail our recently launched program of "Re-living the Glory Days of Yesteryear." Carpe Diem, Doug

From **Bob Ianucci (16):**

✉ "Bill, amidst a gentle breeze and spring-like weather, the Hampton Roads/Williamsburg - Class of 60 group came together once again for our monthly luncheon at one our favorite spots, Bubba's Seafood and Crab house in Virginia Beach. Against the backdrop of the Lynnhaven Inlet on the Chesapeake Bay, old friends and classmates reunited to reminisce and share sea stories (some old, some new.) The gathering brought together a distinguished group of individuals who had once walked the hallowed halls of the Naval Academy. Attendees included **Al Ablowich (16), Al Bissell (8), Ed Clextan (10), Jim Eilertsen (21), Rod Friedmann (5), Jack Greenhalgh (9), Dick Hamon (8), Bob Ianucci (16), Bill Kee (9), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Bob Osmond (17), Wick Parcels (12), and Bob Powers (8).**

Over plates of freshly prepared seafood and other delicacies, classmates exchanged updates on their lives, careers, and families. The hospitality of Bubba's restaurant with the Chesapeake Bay in the backdrop provided the perfect locale for our monthly get-together. We'll be doing it again - same time, same place. —Bob



Wick & Ed at lunch



Henry & Rod enjoying a comment



Joyce & Ron at the Fluegel Alumni Center

From **Ron Koontz (21)**:

✉ "Bill, visiting the new Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation building had been on the Koontz "bucket list" ever since our family learned it was ready for visitors on 8 September 2023. After we chose to focus on a weekend in April 2024, we contacted the Alumni Association. Within days, two Fluegel Alumni Center (FAC) resources helped us get underway with logistics, answered questions about parking availability, etc. We learned the building was "open" on weekdays only for the public. Fortunately, an event was already scheduled that Saturday, so we charted our course, with sight on a large sign at Fluegel that reads, DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP.

Thanks to the generosity of Director, Planned Giving Carol Rognrud, who offered her service as tour guide on our preferred date, April 20, 2024, we all arranged to meet her at noon in the Fluegel Lobby. We were escorted by son Kyle and his wife, Leah from TX and our daughter, Kendle, her husband, Perry, and their daughter, Claire, from MD.

Prior to our visit we learned the off-campus building had much to offer to the community. We'd learned the Class of 1960 has a committee for planning our 65th reunion the weekend of 30 August, 2025 with expectation to host some events at FAC, perhaps a dinner in a room capable of hosting up to 280 people. As for our original plan, our resources advised us the new FAC building is located outside "The Yard" on King George Street. There is adequate parking at the location. No need to worry about a military ID. (We had one for each car) We planned lunch in Eastport after our tour ~ then, enter The Yard via gate 1.

Saturday, April 20 dawned as a bright, sunny, Spring Day. Perfect for our visit. Upon arrival at Fluegel, we were welcomed to look around independently and make ourselves comfortable until our tour started. We first viewed the nearby HONOR WALL FOR PLANKOWNERS. Then, I found the Blue and Gold Room was hosting an event for alumni baseball players. I was welcomed as a former member of the Navy baseball team, which was coached by Max Bishop from 1938 to 1962. It had a bar and food available. After the reception most attendees moved over to the stadium to see Navy defeat Lehigh 8 - 2.

At noon, our pre-arranged tour of the building, with the Director of Planned Giving was an elevator away. Carol was welcoming our waiting family as our daughter and I sheepishly re-appeared. Introductions followed and Carol started our tour. She was thoughtful, un rushed, and comprehensive with a narrative that enhanced our journey as we explored all venues throughout each level of the building. While over- looking College Creek, we saw newly planted gardens, the baseball stadium, and skyline of Annapolis. We learned about the Foundation's foresighted decision to move the Columbarium to a scenic higher view, a comforting story for us to discover and share.

We commend the Foundation for selecting an outstanding location for the building, across from the Max Bishop baseball stadium. We enjoyed seeing Class of 1960 donors honored along the North Garden Walkway and met Jeff R. Webb, USNA '95, President and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation on our walk-a-bout.

Truly, our visit to Alumni Center will be remembered as a "special day" with fond memories. We lunched at The Boatyard Bar & Grill, and ended our day as planned, touring the Yard. One of our highlights came the next day, when our granddaughter texted, she was so "happy" to have a fun weekend with all of us together. She's the lucky one who lives nearby!

A personal note: While in The Yard we stopped by the USNA Chapel where we were wed 63 years ago June 17, 1961. A Bravo Zulu to all who contributed to our Annapolis trip and the beautiful new FAC building, and our tour. With hand on heart, we are grateful to experts and leaders who accomplished their mission up to now. We wish all who journey after - fair weather and following seas. Ron

From **Warren Hahn (5)**:

✉ "Bill, the attached photo of myself and son Jeff '88 at "the Run to Honor" event we walked the 5K in honor of **Gary Gretter, Tony Lanzetta and Jon Surratt**, our company mates, who died in service.



Warren & Son Jeff at "Run to Honor"

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

✉ "In May the Tidewater group had a get together at "Atlantic Shores". This very special event coordinated by **Bob Osmon (17)**, hosted by **Don Boecker (15)** and assisted by **Jim Eilertsen (21)**. A nice gathering with our ladies, an enjoyable luncheon topped off with video highlights of our football season presented by Don. Rod



Jim Eilertsen



Don Boecker



Joe Tranchini, our QB back in the day