



'59: Louise Jardine, Judy Collins; Rear: Walt Szczypinski, Carl Mott, Wayne Hildebrand, John Collins, Ann Alexander, Pat Schnauffer and Caroline Szczypinski



Vince Obsitnik (3rd Company)



Jennifer London and sons

Jennifer London (Widow of Jack London (15th Company) and Sons - Jayson London, Dr. Jennifer London, Jackson London and Jonathon London.

Although this is not a "joyous occasion for all, it was also part of our Reunion - the inurement of the ashes of Claire, wife of **Wayne Hildebrand** at the USNA Columbarium.



l to r - John Collins, Judy Collins, Walt Szczypinski, Caroline Szczypinsky, Tom Billings, Ona (Name & SP?) Billings, Wayne Hildebrand, Louise Jardine.

'60

Life Membership: 72%
Donor Participation: 28.96%

Pres: **CAPT Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USNR (Ret.)**
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President's Column

Classmates, below is a heart-felt letter of appreciation from a young man who has benefited from our class support of the USNA Foundation's Athletic and Scholarship Program. Among other initiatives to support athletic excellence, the program provides a year of post-high school education for qualified young men and women who need further academic preparation prior to entering the Academy.
—Carpe Diem, Doug

✉ Dear Annapolis Class of 1960: THANK YOU! My name is Nicholas P. Barra, and I have had the wonderful opportunity of attending

Blair Academy as the 1960 Memorial Scholarship recipient, an award made possible by your extraordinary generosity.

I will swear my oath on I-Day as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2028, and I could not be more grateful for the chance you have given me to make this dream a reality. The time spent at Blair Academy has given me the opportunity to hone my study skills, time management skills, and to appreciate the benefit of maintaining a very stringent academic and athletic schedule. My multi-tasking skills have been weighed and tested and I will carry those skills with me throughout the Academy. I cannot express what an awesome experience this has been because of your generosity and belief in me. Although our record wasn't the best, without your assistance, I would not have had the opportunity to play varsity baseball for the last time. I am more educationally and physically prepared because of my prep year. I am thankful for the friends, teammates, academic advisors, and teachers I had the opportunity to work with. The knowledge, friendships, and memories I have made there will last a lifetime.

I can't wait to get to Annapolis. My dream has come to fruition, and I am now more excited than nervous to begin my future in the Navy. I chose the USNA, first and foremost, to serve my Nation as a Marine Officer. I am attending Annapolis to be the best leader I may be, and I can only imagine where this path will take me. I've been looking over the list of sports, clubs, and majors at the Academy. So many choices. So much to do. I am a bit overwhelmed by all the opportunities available to me and I still can't believe the amazing future opportunities available to me. I understand the physical and academic commitment required and, frankly, I just can't wait to get started. I am leaning towards possibly, rugby, boxing, and, of course, baseball. Any and all of these sports will provide me with an advantage in achieving my goal of going into special operations. The physical, mental, and most importantly, the team building aspects will only help me in my future as an officer.

Right now, I'm leaning towards a business pathway in either finance or economics but it's too early to tell as there are just so many different choices and thankfully I have a little bit of time left to make my final decision. As far as my service selection, my ultimate goal is to serve as a Marine Officer in the special operations community as an Operator. Of course, the priority right now is to absolutely excel in Plebe Summer and become the best leader I can be. I am prepared to give all, to lead by example, and to make Honor, Courage, and Commitment the credo for a career in service to others.

Once again, thank you so much for your support. It means a lot to those of us navigating the prep school year to know that there is someone besides our families supporting us.

I hope we will have the opportunity to meet at some point in the future so I may thank you in person. Sincerely, Nicholas P. Barra.

From **Jim Baker (12)**:

✉ "Bill, I attended **Walter (Walt) R. Land's (6)** funeral service August 21, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn, IL. It was very moving and well-attended. His grandchildren served as pallbearers, and his son Mike and daughter Susan spoke elegantly on Walt's life. Six fellow retired Naval Reserve officers who served with Walt also attended the service. The celebration of life luncheon which followed was lovely and very crowded with friends and family. Photographs of Walt's USNA days, his Navy career, family life and friends were shared on a large screen. Burial was private at Forest Hill Cemetery in Glen Ellyn.

As a side note - I knew of Walt at USNA (both being class of '60), but did not get to know him until 1971 after I returned from Vietnam. Yes, the 60 BB team was great, I remember they were to play #1 North Carolina (led by Doug Moe) in the NCAA. I was going to go to the game, but while in formation was informed that anyone on restriction (I had a Class A) was not authorized to go etc., so discretion being better part of valor returned to my room & listened to the game on radio. Great game and tremendous upset.

I met Walt at my first Naval Reserve meeting at the Chicago Reserve Center. We began a friendship that lasted for 52 years. I was quite shocked when I learned of his passing. My intention that week was call and invite him to watch the Navy/Notre Dame game with me. Instead, I attended his funeral. —Jim Baker

From **Bob McAfee (23)**:

✉ "In 1965 I was Ops Boss on WILTSIE DD716. In April we pulled into Hong Kong for a week of R&R after a long stay on YANKEE STATION. Since late January except for two weeks in Subic we had spent most of our time up near Hainan Island as one of two radar picket ships making sure our returning aviators had no unwanted company.

As we approached Hong Kong our air search radar died. My very competent Electronics Officer and his ET friends quickly discovered a failed capacitor. But the bad news is we did not have a spare on board. Along with submitting a CasRept we queried the other ships in company. I even sent an ET over to the carrier that we had escorted to see whether they might have one. No luck!

The next day as I was leaving the ship for liberty I ascertained the electrical specifications for the errant device. That afternoon I found a Hong Kong equivalent of Radio Shack. The good news is that they had two capacitors that exactly matched the electrical specs for about \$1.00 each. The bad news is that they

were of Chinese manufacture and at the time it was against US law to purchase anything made in the PRC. But with a broken radar and a one dollar solution, I broke the law and bought both capacitors.

When I returned to the ship, I handed the two to my technician. In short order he came back all smiles reporting that the radar was up and ready to go. He had taped the spare capacitor into the set for future use if required. So, I went to see the captain (Bill Nivison '47) and confessed my crime. At the same time, I told him the radar was back on line. He granted me a full pardon

Our request for the official part remained in the system and we eventually received it after our return to San Diego two months later. But given the Hong Kong capacitor was still working we just put the new arrival in stock and let the illegal part continue to function. —Bob

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**:

✉ "Hi Bill, The Williamsburg/Hampton Roads group held our post Labor Day/monthly luncheon at Bubba's Seafood Restaurant in VABEACH on 10 September. Ten classmates attended the lunch: **Ed Clexton (10), Wick Parcels (12), Jim Eilertsen (21), Al Ablowich (16), Al Whitaker (16), Bob Powers (8), Bob Osmond (17), Bert Johnson (10) and Bob Ianucci (16)**. While waiting for lunch to be served, **Bill Kee (9)** told the group about the 40th annual Oyster Crush Fundraiser, hosted by the Cape Henry Rotary Foundation, which will occur on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Of particular interest is the financial support the Crush provides to sponsorship in the Honor Flight program allowing as many veterans as possible to see the military memorials of their respective services in Washington, DC, at no cost to the veterans. —Bob



Bob Powers and Bob Ianucci



Bob Osmond & Bert Johnson



Ianucci, Bill Kee, Ablowich, Clexton, & Eilertsen



Ed Clexton & Al Whitaker

'61

Life Membership: 74%

Donor Participation: 28.43%

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

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

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Dear Classmates,

Our first order is the heartfelt note from Kim Hill following the death of her husband, **RADM Virgil Hill (13)**.

TO THE GREAT CLASS of 1961

I want to thank you all for your support over the years, and especially during these last six years, while Virg was going through a difficult time. We always enjoyed being with