

died after a painfully long interval. I, obviously, did not personally witness these atrocities, but the account came from my Vietnamese counterpart who was a close friend of the Deputy Village Chief.

For these legitimate (in my view) reasons, the PRU Chief was not a strong and vocal supporter of the "Winning VC Hearts and Minds Program" advocated by the U.S. Forces Psychological Warfare Units.

During our mission we duked it out with a VC platoon and killed all but two, whom we captured. As a personal note, one of the prisoners had suffered a gunshot wound on his cheek. This was administered by me as I was trying to impress the PRUs with a 150-meter head shot but missed by several inches.

Our female PRU corpsman (Medic for you Army Dudes) was, without question, the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. She was probably one-half, or at least one-quarter, French. Her medical kit on her web belt was a small packet between her razor-sharp Machete and her .45 Pistol.

Our prisoners acknowledged that there was a weapons cache in the vicinity but after leading us for hours through waist deep mud and water, they just could not seem to find it. The PRU Chief pointed to the prisoner with the still bleeding face wound, and told the PRU Corpsman to "Take care of him", I thought that was pretty decent of him until she walked over, unholstered her pistol and proceeded to blow his brains out.

Regrettably, he was standing right next to me, and I was the recipient of blood, skull fragments and brain tissue on my shoulder. The Corpsman cried out "Xin Loi, Xin Loi" (I am SO SORRY) and proceeded to take out her only bandage from her kit, and dousing it with water from her canteen, she cleaned off the debris from my shoulder as best she could.

An amazing thing happened; however, the memory of the remaining prisoner was miraculously restored, and he took us directly to a camouflaged bunker that contained many B-40 and B-41 RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenades) along with countless AK-47s and associated ammunition plus a large number of Chinese made hand grenades. The PRUs were absolutely delighted because they received significant bonuses for retrieving VC weapons.

Early in the mission, as a then unmarried defender of our nation, I had been very impressed with the physical attributes of our Corpsman and had suggested that we might have dinner together that evening. She was quite amenable to that but after the events of the day, I decided to cancel the invitation.

What if I ordered the wrong wine, or inadvertently spilled my drink on her??

I can safely say, however, that in my entire 15 months or so in the RVN, I always passionately felt that we were on the right side of that conflict.

Freeman Neish, USN (Ret.) USNA Class of 1959

'60

Life Membership: 72%

Donor Participation: 5.64%

Pres: **CAPT Douglas M. Johnston Jr., USNR (Ret.)**

p: 202-203-8360; e: 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

Webmaster: **Richard Harper**

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

myUSNA: myusna.com/topics/9407/feed

Website: <http://www.1960.usnaclases.net>

President's Column

A Bravo Zulu to **Tom Solak (2)** and **John Michalski (6)** for being elevated to Emeritus status as Trustees of the Academy's Athletic and Scholarship Program (A&SP). This is the program that was responsible for the testimony of Nicholas Barra from the class of 2028, which we shared in the last edition of *Shipmate*. A Track and Field star and accomplished baseball player, Nicholas was one of 40 scholar athletes to receive a year of additional academic preparation at a prep school or junior college prior to entering with the Class of 2028.

In addition to this forward-looking dimension, Tom and John as Trustees have certainly contributed over time to the current success on the playing fields of Navy's 36 varsity sports, ranging from football to water-polo and everything in between. Over the past ten years, this has included 84 Patriot League Championships, 14 Conference Championships, and victory over Army on most occasions. On the scholarship front, a student-athlete has stood first in his or her graduating class for the past nine years straight; and the graduation rate for all USNA Varsity athletes has been a sterling 94 percent.

As funders of the Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship that sponsored Midshipmen Barr's year at Blair Academy in New Jersey prior to entering USNA, we should all take a bow (in addition to Tom and John) for a future "track record" in which everyone can take pride. Carpe Diem, Doug

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ Dear classmates, Cindy & **Jim Kinney (17)** were in Williamsburg for a few days recently for some golfing with friends. They both attended Homecoming last week, so stopped here on their way home. I truly enjoyed the few hours I had with them catching up on many things since we last saw each other about 5 years ago. "When two or three meet!"

Anyhow, here is a photo we took. Both of them are hale and hearty. Jim is still striving to shoot his age. How wonderful he is still out there on the course. Sends his best to all of

you and says "Beat Notre Dame."
God bless, Oz



Oz and Jim Kinney

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ Dear Classmates, Today I attended **Pete Chabot's (14)** Inurnment in Annapolis and truly the ceremony was quite impressive. Because he was an Admiral, he had a flyover, a band, and an eleven-gun salute. His minister from Florida flew up and gave a talk on the light Pete always had shown and did a superb job.

I had the chance to kneel before Pete's inurnment urn and say a few words to my old buddy. I am going to miss him. We became very close over the past 20 years. While there I saw the names of many classmates that came before: Gamba, McCaskill, Phillips, Febel, Kay, Sestric, and I'm sure there are many more.

Also attending that I recall seeing were **John Michalski (6)**, **Doug Johnston (5)**, **Bob Antonio (14)**, **Merf Moershel (2)**, **Tom Hutt (19)**, **Jack Paepecke (11)**, **Jim Knorr (20)**, **Jack Greenhalgh (9)**, **John Claman (3)**, and possibly more. Will send 2 more photos by separate email.

While I am sad to see him leave our midst, I am so pleased I had him as a friend while he was here. God bless and stay well. —Oz



Claman, Hutt and Greenhalgh

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Log into **Online Community** at usna.com
to update your profile.



Knorr and Michalski

From **John Schmidt (20)**:

✉ "A smaller '60 group met for lunch late January. Attending were Pam & **Mike Fenn (4)**, Nancy & **John Pethick (9)**, Avery Hallowell (3), Jan Shaw (2), **Chuck Schroeder (23)**, and Glee & **John Schmidt (20)**.

It should be noted that the Class Column doesn't need 3 or 4 hundred words. Just let us know how things are going in your neck of the woods. Keep in touch. SHIPMATE is an easy way. Bill

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ "Classmates, Last week, Jerry Fee (18) spoke at our Northern Virginia luncheon and gave a fascinating presentation on the now bygone era of nuclear testing in the atmosphere. He particularly focused on the roles played by the key players both before and throughout that testing (including that of his father). Jerry played a tangential role himself near the end of that period, which added to the richness of the discussion. The slides, which he developed for the presentation, are largely self-explanatory and can be found on our class website under "Advent of the Atomic Age." I think you'll enjoy them. Best to all, Doug

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ In September, Northern Virginia classmates gathered at Falcon's Landing, a well-known senior living community with a sizable military population. The lunch was hosted by Barbara & **Ward O'Brien (22)**, who have been enjoying the amenities there for quite some time. Following the lunch, a tour of the premises was provided for those who were interested. Joining in the fun were **Dennis Hickey (22)**, Lynn & **Lew Hilder (5)**, Dick & **Dick Pariseau (1)**, Fae Daniels & **Bud Pezet (13)**, Jeanne Solak, Charlotte & **Bob Stevenson (2)**, Dureen Johnston and yours truly. Revelers pictured below.



'60 at Falcons Landing



'60 at Falcons Landing

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**:

✉ "Bill, the 1960 Williamsburg/Hampton Roads classmates were joined by some of our wives and friends for a pre-St. Valentine's Day lunch at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht club in Virginia Beach. Inge & **Al Whitaker (16)**, Jackie & **Bob Ianucci (16)**, Gail & **Bill Kee (9)**, Prissy & **Wick Parcels (12)**, Linda & **Bill Townsend (19)**, Catherine & **Ed Clextion (10)**, Alice Meinicke (22), (Tom's widow), Al Ablowich (16), and **Jim Eilertsen (21)** took advantage of the beautiful weather to attend.

The luncheon was highlighted by excellent food, superb service, a great scenic view of Linkhorn Bay, the marina, and of course, the lovely ladies who joined us." —Bob

'61

Life Membership: 74%

Donor Participation: 6.74%

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.1961.myUSNA.com

Dear Classmates,

This issue arrives around graduation time with another reminder of how long it's been since 1961. We continue to value our opportunities to gather and try to live on with grace and patience. Don't forget to share your experience by sending in your photos and reports.

Tim DeGavre reports:

✉ Once a month, the USNA Alumni living in or near The Villages, Florida meet for dinner; about forty usually come, including wives, with '61 each time taking line honors with the largest number of grads. November's dinner was no exception, with the following "Get it Don-er's" in attendance. (**Art Rowe, (12)** and Linda Rowe are always with us - except this time.) In the photo Anchor Doris McLaughlin (**Bob McLaughlin, (11)**; **Tim deGavre (11)**; Caroline deGavre; **Chuck Morris (5)**; Bunny Morris; Kathleen Preston; and **Mike Preston (4)**.



'61 at The Villages

The Annapolis group gathered at the traditional McGarvey's for their March luncheon. We welcomed new participant classmate **Mike Pestorius**, **Bill Ciesla's** roommate, who just moved from sunny Austin, TX to Annapolis with wife Eileen. We lament the loss of two second company regulars **Bob Giuffreda** and **Jim Connell**.

Warren Hoppe took the opportunity to introduce his new 501(c)3 project, Celebrating Military Heritage Through Fine Art (CMHT-FA). In the photo at the wall from top: **Doug Rau '74** our leadership prof, Jack Pappas (2) **Mike Welch (5)**, **Ike Cole (5)**, **Jerry Smith (8)**, **Bob Sherer (4)**, **Tim Dugan (12)**. At the railing from top: Mike Pestorius (18), Bill Ciesla (18), **Jim Lamporte (15)**, **Jay Bower (14)**, **Benno Gerson (19)**, **Ron Carlberg (20)**. In the middle from top: **Paul Lang (19)**, **Warren Hoppe (21)**, and **Ron Campbell (15)**.



'61 at McGarvey's

The ladies dined at Carrrol's Creek in Eastport. In the photo on the following page, from left: Gisela Cole, Barbara Bower, faithful organizer for the group, Donna Ralston-Latham, newcomer to the area Eileen Pestorius, Julie Erickson, Chris Umberger, Kathy Rosenberger, Ellie Nichols and Joan Evans.

SEA STORIES

A Navy tradition

*Stories of action and inspiration.
Entertaining and educational.*

<https://www.usna.com/sea-stories>