

'59

Life Membership: 63%

Donor Participation: 18.86%

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GREETINGS TO 1959 CLASSMATES,

The purpose of this message is to provide all of you with an update on the USNA Columbarium, and to encourage your financial contribution for its continued maintenance and expansion. The information is detailed and lengthy, but I hope that you will take the time to read it and give it close consideration.

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation (USNA AA&F) and the U.S. Naval Academy announced last month that the Columbarium - a popular and honored location for the inurnment of our alumni and wives since its opening in 1987 - is nearly out of available niches.

Fewer than 20 new niches now remain at the Columbarium, and the USNA Memorial Affairs team estimates that the current Columbarium will reach capacity for new or first inurnments by the end of the summer of 2025.

USNA AA&F, in close partnership with the Naval Academy, is actively working on plans to expand the Columbarium. The expansion project aims to ensure that alumni who wish to be inurned at the Academy will have the opportunity to do so.

The immediate plan involves the construction of a new 600-count niche wall to be built at the top of the hill overlooking College Creek. The design for this first expansion is complete. However, the project requires additional funding support to move forward. The timeline for the first phase is estimated to be within 2 years once funding is secured. The cost is estimated at \$2.5 million, with \$435,000 already raised. The plan also includes, as a second phase, a larger niche wall on the north side of the cemetery in front of Beach Hall (the name of the former Hospital) with a timeline of 5 years.

In the interim, USNA will implement a waiting list for deceased alumni who expressed wishes to be inurned in the new annex of the Columbarium. The process for signing up for the waiting list is the same as

for scheduling a Columbarium service - notify the Memorial Affairs team on the Yard when the qualified alumni or alumni spouse has passed away. While awaiting the opening of the new annex, families are welcome to work with their local funeral homes for the arrangement of storage of remains or may choose to keep their loved ones' remains at home.

The original Columbarium completed in 1987 was principally sponsored by the Alumni Association, including a major grant from the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation in memory of Jerauld L. Olmsted, Class of 1922. Our Class of 1959 sponsored an oratory and upgrades to the Columbarium in 2004. The Naval Academy Foundation has set up a fund for the Columbarium expansion and is reaching out to classes to garner financial support. We need to raise the necessary funds to ensure that all our classmates have a dignified resting place. This is how we take care of each other until that final bell.

The entire Executive Committee supports this cause - Tom Billings, Executive VP; Walt Szczypinski, Administrative VP; Joe (Paddy) Ford, Treasurer; Art Emerson, Secretary; and Larry Weaver, Shipmate Coordinator. We would like to try our best to have the Class of 1959 lead this support effort. It is our Legacy and our Pride.

To donate by check, make it payable to "USNA Foundation". Write in the memo line: "Class of '59 Columbarium Fund 65590002", and mail it to USNA Foundation; PO Box 79169; Baltimore, MD 21279-0169.

If you would like to pay by Credit Card, you can call Gift Admin at 410-295-4115 and they can take a credit card gift over the phone for the "Class of '59 Columbarium Fund 65590002".

You can also visit this website - www.usna.com - and type in the text that you would like your gift to be used for the Class of '59 Columbarium Fund 65590002

Or you can call Sara Brown, Assistant Director, Class Giving at 410-295-4130.

Thanks very much for taking your time to read this and for seriously considering your financial support for our Columbarium.

The Columbarium is very special to our special Class. It's our Legacy and Pride. Over the years our Class has walked together and honored our Class values of "Kindness, Generosity, Caring, Courage and Friendship." These are our values, these are the reasons we are proud to be members of this special Class, the Class of 1959. To support this Columbarium expansion plan, We know we will continue to walk together. The Class Executive Committee is counting on you. We hope we will have 100% support and participation from our class.

Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated, but for any of you who can afford to contribute \$7,500, you will be recognized with your name on a plaque at the Columbarium expansion.

Tom Lukish

Chief Executive Officer and President
Rise and Shine with '59

'60

Life Membership: 73%

Donor Participation: 17.87%

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President's Column

Posted on our website is my latest annual report, which focuses on our upcoming reunion. If you haven't already done so, check it out and see what we have in store for that weekend. It promises to be an enriching time, and your participation will make it all the more so. Therefore, unless you are confined to quarters for medical reasons, you are highly encouraged to muster on station.

Carpe Diem, Doug

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:



Five Classmates on the SARATOGA

✉ "Bill, while perusing the 2025 Navy Memorial calendar, I came across a Navy painting which highlights the carrier USS SARATOGA CV 60. Since it is our class flagship (IE 60 for 60), I decided to go out to classmates to find out how many of our class actually served on board. Here is what I have found out to date.

1. **Jack Whitely (17)** served aboard during First Class Cruise. I would suspect we had others on board also.

2. **Tom Inderlied (21)** and **Gene Tucker (9)** served on board with VF 31 during the Viet Nam war.

3. In the late 70s, 5 of our classmates were on board all at the same time. **Bill Townsend (19)** was the Operations Officer. **Don Boecker (15)** was the XO. **Pee Wee Reese (7)** was the CO of the VQ Squadron, **Lou Schriefer (10)** was the CO of the Hummers, and **Casey Jones (10)** was the Air Wing



CLASS of 1960



65th Reunion (60 for 60+5)



AUGUST 28-31, 2025

Headquarters * The DoubleTree by Hilton * 210 Holiday Court
Annapolis, MD 21401 * 410 • 224 • 3150

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY 1400-1800 Check-in at the DoubleTree Hotel
1500 Visit to Student/Athlete Center
1830 Welcome Reception at the Hotel

FRIDAY 1000 Class Memorial Service in the Chapel
1130 Buffet lunch at the Academy Club
1315 Link in the Chain Event
1350 Superintendent's Briefing
1600 Parade
TBD Battalion Parties

SATURDAY 1100 Class of 2010 Tailgate
1200 Football Game (vs VMI)
1800 Tour of the Fluegel Alumni Center
1800 Class Banquet at the Fluegel Alumni Center

SUNDAY 0900 Brunch with Mids in King Hall
0900 Catholic Services, Main Chapel
1100 Protestant Services, Main Chapel



Commander. The photo of these distinguished 5 is attached below.

In addition, from Catherine Clextion:

✉ "Hi Oz, I need to correct what I wrote to you: Tom Inderlied served in VF 31, F4's, aboard USS *SARATOGA* during Vietnam. At the same time **Gene Tucker (9)** was in the sister Squadron in same Air Wing. Gene was famous for having shot down a MIG!

Thanks, Catherine
Also from OZ:

✉ "OOps! Another update on the *SARATOGA* article. **Jerry Fee (18)** was the Salvage Officer on the *SARATOGA* in 1972 when there had been a fire in the machinery spaces. He flew to Athens, Greece to accomplish this mission. God bless, Oz

And Jerry chimed in: "Oz—it was actually a serious flooding incident (no fire), but that is not important—Jerry

At this stage of our lives, how wonderful it is to reflect on our duty stations and accomplishments so long ago.

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**:

✉ "Hi Bill, 13 area classmates returned to our familiar Virginia Beach gathering place of Bubba's restaurant for our March luncheon. **Ed Clextion (10), Wick Parcells (12), Bob Osmon (17), Al Ablowich (16), Bob Ianucci (16), Al Whitaker (16), Bill Townsend (19), Jack Greenhalgh (9), Dick Hamon (8), Bob Powers (8), Rod Friedmann (5), Jim Eilertsen (21) and Bert Johnson (10)** all gathered for another session of sea stories and academy memories. Always a good time. Next luncheon same place, 8 April. Attached photos to use as you wish. —Bob



Townsend & Parcells



Johnson, Greenhalgh, Ianucci & Powers



Oz & Hamon



Eilertsen, Johnson & Clextion

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ Classmates, if you had a chance to read this year's annual letter, which can be found on our class website, you will see mention of an opportunity to "Relive the Glory Days of Yesterday" by watching video highlights of the USNA 1959 football season. It was the embarrassment of last year's Air Force game that triggered the thought process, i.e. wouldn't it be nice to see a game from the past when Navy actually passed the football? Fortunately, the NAAA produced the 1959 film (the only one they had on video tape from that era) because it was the first season Navy played in its new stadium.

The goal behind this initiative is for pockets of classmates around the country to come together (as the spirit moves) to watch the film over lunch and reminisce about the good old days. At this point, we have convened three such gatherings, first in DC, second in the Tidewater, and third in Annapolis. The last one was particularly special for a number of reasons, first because **John Michalski (6)** took the lead and broadened the scope to include a number of other sports as well, billing it as "An afternoon With Navy Athletics."

Capitalizing on his influence with the NAAA as a strong supporter over the years, John was able to hold the event in the new Terwilliger Center for Student Athletes, starting with a tour of the facility itself (spectacular in its own right), followed by a buffet lunch catered by Mission Barbeque, and an interactive slide presentation highlighting our class

athletes (14 of whom are in the Academy's Hall of Fame) and their later contributions to the country during their careers.

Following John's presentation, Chet Gladchuk, the Director of Athletics, gave a presentation of his own, reviewing Navy's track record across the board in all sports with the customary focus on Army. During his review, Chet paid particular homage to '60s contributions over the years that had helped make it all possible. The statistics were impressive, as was a short, 4-minute video he showed at the end that will inevitably inspire thousands of young aspirants to seek entrance to the Academy in the future. It was a show-stopper and not exclusively focused on sports.

Finally, we had the showing of the football video in which most of the players on the field that year happened to be classmates. **Dick Pariseau (1)** provided additional narrative, which made it all the more interesting. Speaking of Dick, he's too humble to mention the fact that he made history in each of the first two games of that season, first against Boston College (a game not shown in the video) in which he set the Navy record for punt returns, with an 80-yard scamper for a touch-down (made possible by the fact that no one wanted to kick the ball to Bellino). The second was the team's first home game against William and Mary, in which Dick attempted a punt from his own end zone that was blocked, thus making him the first person in history to score against Navy in the new Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. In addition to his insightful commentary, Dick provided a diagram of names vs positions and numbers; so you can follow who is doing what at any given point in the video.

Bottomline: John did a superb job of orchestrating a memorable afternoon, much of which is now captured on our class website. There you will find four of the items mentioned above (again, in the hope they can become a catalyst for getting together with other classmates in your area): (1) the text of John's presentation (2) the corresponding slides to go with it, (3) Dick's football diagram, and (4) the '59 season highlights. Now, sit back and enjoy the Glory Days! My best, Doug

From **John Schmidt (20)**:

✉ "In response to my MAYDAY MAYDAY!! email early in May, 10 us SOCAL 60ers gather on Pt. Loma on a perfect day for lunch. Attending were Carol & **Dick Bannister (9)**, Glee & **John Schmidt (20)**, Jan Shaw, Avery Hallowell, Pam & **Mike Fenn (4)**, and Joyce & **Chuck Schroeder (23)**." —John



SoCal group