

Having been ranked nationally, we look forward to her great progress as a Midshipman but also as a great Navy tennis player.

Vince Obsitnik

## 35th USS STODDARD Alumni Reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah

From J. Freeman Neish:

✉ All Hands:

I served aboard STODDARD (DD-566) in 1960 and 1961 - my very first Destroyer. For some reason I have stayed in touch with several of the Wardroom Officers (those that are still alive, that is) much more than those on the other four ships upon which I served. Many, many wonderful Sea Stories about life aboard I served aboard STODDARD particularly our six-week **ordeale** as USN Station Ship Hong Kong.

I still receive reunion brochures and the most recent one carried a poignant poem (at least to this Old Sailor) that I have added as Attachment #1. The thought is what counts, and you can replace Sailor where it appears with Marine, "Soldier", "Airman", "Coast Guardsman" and lose nothing in the translation. Be forewarned, it is not particularly kind to our legislative branch - gasp !!!!!

Best Regards

J. Freeman Neish

## '60

**Life Membership: 73%**

**Donor Participation: 21.50%**

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

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

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### President's input

"The following is an inspiring tribute to the legacy of **Tom Mariano (1)**, who passed away in 1995." As before at the bottom:

*Carpe Diem, Doug*

✉ My name is Beauregard Lee, and I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend Marion Military Institute (MMI) as the recipient of the G. Thomas Mariano Jr. '60, USNA, Memorial Scholarship-an honor made possible by your extraordinary generosity. I will take the oath on I-Day as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2029, and I could not be more grateful for the chance you have given me to make this dream a reality. I was initially hesitant about attending MMI. Having never been to the South, let alone Alabama, uprooting my life to attend a military junior college

was daunting. I hadn't heard of the Foundation program before being selected, and I was still processing the fact that I had not been directly accepted or rejected by the Academy. However, I committed myself fully to the opportunity, determined to make the most of this unique path and use it as motivation to earn my place at USNA. Even though my family and I were presented with multiple prep school options, I had heard positive things about MMI and believed it would provide the structure and preparation I needed. While the academic rigor was challenging, I leaned on my strong STEM background to succeed. Beyond academics, MMI introduced me to a foundational level of military life. The Intensive Training Cycle (ITC) during the summer, while grueling at the time, gave me a taste of the discipline and demands I can expect during Plebe Summer. The military science courses also gave me valuable technical insights and helped reinforce my understanding of service and leadership. Looking back, I am sincerely grateful for the year I spent at MMI. What I once feared might be a lost year became one of the most formative experiences of my life. I leave with a stronger mindset, better preparedness for life at the Naval Academy, and friendships with cadets bound for service academies across the country-bonds I know will last for years to come. Once again, thank you so much for your support. It means a great deal to those of us navigating the prep school year to know there are people outside our families who believe in us and invest in our futures. I hope to have the chance to thank you in person one day. Sincerely, Beauregard Lee

From **Warren Hahn (5)**:



Warren Hahn

✉ Bill & Doug, I walked the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter "Run to Honor" 5K run

recently in honor of our class of 1960

28 honorees who died in service:

3 in aircraft combat

19 in aircraft accidents

2 aboard the THRESHER in a Sea trial Error

2 in infantry combat

1 man overboard

Services:

21 Navy

3 Marines

3 Air Force

1 Army (Military Assistance Advisor)

Proof below, 8,462 steps in 95°F heat, on the Tampa boardwalk sidewalk.

I didn't win the 5k. Warren"

From **Bob Osmin (17)**:

✉ "Dear Bill, last week the WSJ published a photo depicting the Class of 2028 going through Sea Trials. Viewing this shot, I was reminded of the fact that the Class of 1960 was the only class that was allowed to actually participate with the Class of 2010 when they went through Seat Trials. **Larry Ryan (5)** strong armed the Commandant during a visit to Seattle to allow this to happen.

I don't remember all we did, but I know we had 12 of our classmates run with the Mids from the Athletic Field to the Radio Station. And later a bunch of us participated in Tugs of War against the mids. (I think we lost)

But the following year it was deemed that we were a liability risk (I thought we inspired the Plebes!), so the practice was discontinued. So we remain the "One and Only" to do so. Yeah, '60!! God bless, Oz

From **Bob Ianucci (16)**

✉ Hi Bill, Our Williamsburg/Hampton Roads classmates gathered at Bubba's Seafood Restaurant in Virginia Beach on 10 June for our regular monthly luncheon. With **Wick Parcels (12)** lead we all toasted to the 65th anniversary of our graduation. And then the Canoe U. memories and sea stories began. Together for lunch were **Al Ablowich (16)**, **Al Bissell (8)**, **Ed Clextan (10)**, **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, **Dick Hamon (8)**, **Bob Ianucci (16)**, **Bill Kee (9)**, **Bob Osmon (17)**, **Wick Parcels (12)**, **Henry von Kolnitz (22j)** and **Al Whitaker (16)**.

Photos, captions and companies provided for your use below. Unfortunately, Wick had to leave before the photo session. Bob



Ablowich, Bissell, Whitaker in Tidewater



Claxton & Eilertsen in Tidewater

From **John Schmidt (20)**: "Great time had by all: Including in the photo, the Bannisters, Schmidt's, Jan Shaw, Avery Hallowell, Fenns, and Schroeders!

From **Dave Banner (24)**: A photo including himself, **Carl Ingebreetsen (24)**, & **Ben Cote (24)**. We'll learn more at the reunion since Dave is just down the road in Maryland.



Banner, Ingebreetsen, & Cote at lunch

Finally, reservations have been made... football game tickets ordered and the old transportation lined up. A drive from Florida to Annapolis with a brief stop in Richmond shouldn't be too bad. Linda and I look forward to seeing you all in Annapolis for 60s .... 65th — Bill

## '61

**Life Membership: 74%**

**Donor Participation: 24.33%**

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

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

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Dear Classmates,

General **John R. Allen '76 (Ret.)**, USMC was the guest for a colloquy with students from St. John's and USNA at St. John's College 29 April. This was part of an annual series honoring Lieutenant Commander **Erik Kristensen '95**, a SEAL killed in action in Afghanistan in 2005. Erik had attended the Graduate Institute at St Johns while on an instructor tour at USNA, and a public-spirited 1992 St. John's graduate, Lieutenant Michael Zampella,



'60: SoCal Luncheon Group

founded this program in 2013 in honor of Erik. The students' questions were well thought out, and the general shared his experience extensively. After the formal Q&A, audience members posed questions; first in line was **Mike Pestorius (18)** who invited controversy asking "What do you think, Sir, about the turmoil in the Pentagon?" I'm not authorized to quote from this event so you'll need to check YouTube for the response. <https://www.youtube.com/live/BmPzHmH0AeU?si=wwa-Lo3W2w5LCmdb5>

The Tidewater contingent joined family and friends of **Cyd Driscoll (22)** at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery 12 May. Attendees left to right are: **Tom McNicholas (9)**, **Ned Kuhns (7)**, **Tom Markley (12)**, **Breeze Stewart**, **Charlie Stewart (6)**, **Ernie Moreno (23)**, **Buzz Needham (12)**, **Jim Noonan (23)**, Letty Gambacorta, **Mike Gambacorta (3)**, **Bob Graham (18)**, Peg Graham, **Fred Lowack (7)**, **Herky Hardison (1)**, Gayle Hardison, Bonnie Campbell-Kuhn.

Following my minimum attendance rule for class get-togethers, here's a report on a "...two or three shall meet..." occasion. In early June when Susan and Howie (3) Winfree joined with Benno Gerson (9) for lunch at The Narrows Restaurant in Grasonville, Maryland, they encountered Bob Sherer (4) and Ellie Nichols.

Now it's time for you to send in your photos and reports of casual meetups.

In the photo Susan Winfree, Benno, Howie, Bob, Ellie



'61 at The Narrows

The Annapolis group met at McGarvey's on the first Tuesday for the June luncheon. You can tell school was out for our Leadership prof, Dog Rau '74. Note the strong motivation by Bob Fitch to be included in the picture as he appears twice (check the mirror image on the right). In the photo from left: **Bob Sherer (4)**, **Ike Cole (5)**, **Mike Welch (5)**, Jay Bower (14) **Bob Fitch (6)**, **Bill Ciesla (18)**, **Bob Glover (8)**, **Jerry Smith (8)**, **Doug Rau '74**, **Tim Dugan (12)**. The photo is on the following page.

The ladies gathered at Carrol's Creek. In the photo from left: Donna Ralston-Latham, Kathy Rosenberger, Ellie Nichols, Barbara Bower, Gisela Cole, Chris Umberger:



Tidewater '61