

## '60

Life Membership: 74%

Donor Participation: 20.29%

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## President's input

The Lord clearly smiled on our reunion, with some of the nicest weather to be found anywhere on the planet. We also had a great turnout, with 77 classmates, 5 widows, and 85 wives and guests in attendance. The frosting on the cake was the 52-7 victory over VMI in the first contest of the football season. An impressive performance on the part of all three Navy quarterbacks provided a strong note of hope for the future as well.

Your reunion team turned in a comparable performance with **Ken Batchellor (12)** heading up a stellar welcoming committee and **Jack Paepcke (11)** providing impressive, tailor-made badges for all hands and riding herd on the transportation. **Willie Taylor (7)** nailed it with a deeply meaningful Memorial Service and **Bob Osmon (17)** gave expanded meaning to the term "herding kittens" as coordinator of the Company and Battalion parties. My dear wife organized some tasty meals, and **Bill Ballard (4)** did yeoman service as a utility infielder, helping out wherever needed over the course of the three days. **Richard Harper (7)** was his usual irreplaceable self in facilitating close communications with the class throughout the planning process as was **Bill Lewis (5)** in doing the same via *Shipmate*.

The unsung hero of this adventure, though, was **Gary Cogdell (7)**, who as Reunion Co-Chair handled the registration, producing countless iterations of attendance lists, banquet table seating arrangements, and God knows what else. Despite the challenges, he maintained his good humor throughout, even while noting he had received more phone calls in a single week than he had in his entire life from attendees needing something changed for one reason or another.

Finally, a grateful Bravo Zulu to Heather Mc Nally, daughter of **Ron Hinkle (14)** for capturing on film as much as she could with her formidable photography skills, and a special tip of the hat to **Barbara & Ward O'Brien (22)**, **Pat & Joe Dobes (22)**, and **Maryann & Tom Glew (15)** for their financial contributions to the event.

During our interaction with the Class of 2010, Oz did us proud in reminding them of

the unique nature of our Link-in-the-Chain experience in which a number of us joined them in meeting the physical challenges of their Sea-Trials experience. In doing so, he gave **Larry Ryan (5)** a well-deserved shout-out both for having inspired the idea in the first instance and for making history in the second. Although none of our participants sustained an injury of any kind, the powers that be brought this practice to a screeching halt immediately afterward as they pondered the potential liabilities that could arise if someone did get hurt. In the words of Edger Allen Poe, "Quote the raven nevermore."

The highlight of our Farewell Banquet was the presentation of handsome plaques to **Linda & Jack Paepcke (11)** for their leadership and support in managing our tailgates for 37 years, to **Bill Lewis (5)** for serving as Class Secretary for 30 years, to **Richard Harper (7)** (in absentia) for serving as Class Webmaster for 19 years, and to **Pete Chabot (14)** posthumously for his inspiring leadership as Class President, even while suffering a severe medical challenge during his final year. Jan Chabot graciously made the trip up from Williamsburg to accept the plaque on Pete's behalf.

The final award in the form of a strong round of applause went to **Al Pauole (10)**, who traveled the furthest (from Hawaii) to participate. Also deserving of awards were those of you who attended despite the inconvenience of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. We can't thank you enough for making the effort and enriching everyone's experience by doing so. For those classmates who were unable to attend, you were with us in spirit and can take heart in knowing that despite the ten-year gap since our last reunion, the camaraderie was off the charts and a clear indicator that the bond of brotherhood remains as tight and unbreakable as ever. Carpe Diem **Doug**

## REUNION IS OVER.

What a great event. Weather was great. Events were basically smooth. The Reunion Committee deserves a pat on the back for bringing everything together. While the Hotel was a bit far from the grounds, parking and the bus arrangements were great. The football team performed well as did the parading midshipmen both at Worden Field and the Stadium. 2025-time frame brought sky diving midshipmen that we didn't have back in the day and as best I could tell, the parade ground markers were solidly anchored at Worden.

A special shout out also goes to Paul Lewis '87 who accompanied Mimi Lewis, the widow of **Harry Lewis (15)** and enabled her to participate throughout the Reunion.

I also heard from **Harris Sperling (7)**:

✉ Bill, my good friend, **Jim Maxfield (7)** stopped by my home in Millsboro, DE, while he was enroute from Florida to Virginia. We talked about our time at the academy of course and reminisced about our fellow

football colleagues, many no longer with us. Jim recalled the 1956 plebe team that won 10 of 11 games and we chuckled over the football monikers of "Tranchini's Torpedoes" and "Max's Missiles." I did not realize that Jim held five football Academy records at one time. Both of us, well into or 80's, still filled with the impact of our experience at the Academy. Harris

With the reunion in mind... I believe **Bob Osmon (17)** initiated a group reflection of our initial arrival at Mother "B". Several are included below:

From **Allen Whitaker (16)**: I was second alternate and arrived almost a week late (2 July, 1956 I believe). My roommates had already stenciled all their clothing and other gear with their name and laundry number, mine was (and is 501), and basically for four years I never caught up. Al

From **John Claman (3)**: I was a 4th alternate, got dropped off at the admin building the day of, but they hadn't received my HS transcript so I had to sit out a day in civvies in Wing2 basement till it got there. Then "reality" set in and I caught up with everyone at the barbershop. My "lineal number" was always at the bottom until graduation "reset" things. John

From **John Rogers (17)**: I had a glorious day! I reported in needing a physical waiver, so my first trip was to Hospital Point for the exam. So, passing the exam and joining the rest was so much better than getting on a train to return to Wisconsin. JR

From **Jerry Fee (18)**: I remember standing in line behind Dahlgren Hall to check. I had been instructed that we could not check in with anything but a toothbrush and a picture of your girlfriend to put into your new naval hat. So, I had nothing else. Standing in front of me was **Hank Chiles (21)**: loaded down with a lacrosse stick, tennis racket and some other stuff. Being always the "wise guy," the first thing I said to him was, "Where's your golf clubs?" Jerry

From myself: Having taken a ship from Panama to the US with assorted other transport and arriving on time, I reached in my room at the NAVAL Academy to be greeted by an Army PFC, **Dave Lowry (15)**. Well Dave did the Naval Academy proud in tennis and lacrosse though he did end up returning to the "Sons of slum and gravy" at graduation.



Demerits for "out of uniform"





Midshipmen Sky diver at our parade



Maxwell & Sperling



Ron Hinkle & his photo team

## '61

Life Membership: 74%

Donor Participation: 23.49%

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

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

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Dear Classmates,

Drafting the November issue while it's 90 degrees requires concentration, but I'll try.



'60: Demerits for "out of uniform"



'60: The Brigade at our Parade

**Bill Kraus reports:**

✉ **Tom Bailey** was the stand-in host for our 1961 USNA San Diego bi-monthly luncheon held at the San Diego Yacht Club on 12 August. Ten of us were in attendance during a sunny afternoon on San Diego Bay. Seated around the table, left to right are **Bill Eldredge** (13), **Alan Armstrong** (1961 USMA), **Frank Butsko** (1), **Dick Rothwell** (7), **Jack Allen** (13), **Tom Bailey** (16), **Bob Sheridan** (24), **Bruce Maxon** (15), **Ralph Zimmerman** (12), and **Leo Willetts** (5). **Jim Richardson** (16), **Don Coullahan** (6) and **Bill Kraus** (12) had to cancel late in the game. As Tom reported, there was good service, good food and great sea stories. Everyone is looking forward to the start of football season, and quite a few classmates are considering attending our upcoming 65th Reunion. BEAT ARMY!!!

### 50 YEARS OF WOMEN

Join USNA Women in celebrating 50 years of women at USNA! To learn more about USNA Women and the 50 Years of Women Celebration and Recognition check out page 108 and the USNA Women myUSNA page at: <https://myusna.com/topics/9176/home>.



'61 at the San Diego Yacht Club

The 2025 football season opened 30 August with an easy 52-7 win over VMI. It was encouraging to see Coach Newberry putting in backup quarterback 2/c Braxton Woodson for the entire second half as he's our most likely starter next year. The first conference game ended (finally after a 2:06 inclement weather delay) with Navy vanquishing University of Alabama, Birmingham 34-24. A 42-23 come-from-behind defeat of Tulsa put the Mids at 3-0 on the season. First year Director of Athletics Mike Kelly took over in June from Chet Gladchuk who served 24 years in the position. Tailgating continues at actual automobile tailgates at locations a few feet from the stadium gates. Ed Straw hosts the default hospitality gathering place.