

Ernie Pyle, 10th Company passed on 10 February 2018
 Judy Myers, wife of George Myers, 16th Company passed away

'59

Life Membership: 64%
Donor Participation: 5.34%

Chairman Exec. Committee:

Gerald G. Garbacz
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Sec'y: **CAPT Charles C. Pease, USN (Ret.)**
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Webmasters: **Pete and Elaine Stout**

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Change of Email and Snail Mail Address for Class Correspondence:

If you have not provided your current Email address and Snail Mail Address to your Company Representative and to me, please do so. If you do not have an email address for your Company Representative, please send an email message to: classsec1959@gmail.com. Also, please update your Data on the Alumni Association Web Site.

59th Reunion:

By now you should have received in the mail, detailed information on our planned 59th Reunion and instructions on how to register for the Reunion. Please note that on-line registration is the preferred option. Also note that this is our big reunion; there will not be a 60th Reunion. Reunion information is also available on our class website www.usna1959.com. Our 59th Reunion will be held October 4-7, 2018 and will feature a catered buffet and TV viewing of the Away football game between NAVY and AIR FORCE in the comfort of the N-Star Room in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Please register promptly and we look forward to seeing you at a great Reunion weekend.

Vince Obsitnik (3) Reports:

✉ Just joined the 80's Club on January 24th! My wife, Annemarie, was great in arranging a surprise dinner party for the event. The last one she organized was for my 70th

in Bratislava, Slovakia - 300 attended. This was smaller, 15 folks, but wonderful indeed. A total surprise and at a beach restaurant in Naples, FL. Among the group celebrating with us were '59ers, Steve and Joan Burgess (1), Dave and Betsy **Dyke (3)**, and Sue Morgan, widow of Hank Morgan (4).

To close out my 70s, I ran a Half Marathon in Atlanta on Dec. 16th. Ended up second in my age group with a time of 3 hours 10 mins. Had two big problems - first, temperature at start was 37F which caused some exercised induced asthma and second, the city of Atlanta is loaded with hills!!!

Don't recommend anyone else try this. It was my toughest race ever. If any other classmates are still running, I'd love to hear from them to compare notes.

Frank Pipkin (11) Reports:

✉ On the sunny afternoon of October 23, 2017 **Al Ruth (12)**, was inurned at the USNA Columbarium at College Creek, Annapolis. Al was greatly respected and well-liked by his company mates and throughout the 3rd Battalion. Al served on two Destroyers and later transferred to the CEC. After his Naval Career, he worked in the construction management field for private industry and for government agencies. Al was ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church in 2003, and he served in Florida, Alabama, and New Mexico. In attendance at the service was his **wife, Ellen**, of 58 years, and oldest daughter, **Deborah Price**, son **A.C., Ruth** (USAFA, '92, daughter **Lani McCarson** and husband **Tim McCarson**, and grandson **William. Grandson William** gave a heartfelt memorable talk about his grandfather, William has his eye on the USNA, and he plans to attend the USNA Youth Swim Camp this summer. Also at the Columbarium, representing the class and supporting the family, were Dan Truax (6) and wife **Ona**, and **Frank Pipkin (11)**.

Al will be greatly missed at the 59th reunion, but we are eternally grateful to have had his companionship as a classmate, and a shipmate.
Rest in Peace, Al Ruth.

Ron Trossbach (11) reports:

✉ The USNA Alumini population at Falcons Landing has increased to twenty- three. '59ers lead the count with four classmates residing: **Charlie Pease (10)**, **Ron Trossbach, Don Cooper (11)**, and **Lou Wardlow (24)** and another scheduled to move in this year.) Those of us that live here repeat our invitation to visit and tour the facilities if you are in the Washington, DC area. We are anxious to show you how we live and enjoy being part of an attractive and well managed Life Plan Community. Contact: Rontrossbach@msn.com on 703-403-8408

Rise and Shine!

'60

Life Membership: 69%
Donor Participation: 6.61%

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From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ "Bill, below is the narrative for our last 2 months of lunches for Shipmate, including the attached picture relating to our January lunch. The caption for the latter should read as follows (L to R): **Don Boecker (15)**, **Jeanne & Tom Solak (2)**, **Dick Pariseau (1)**, **Beverly & Grant Sharp (19)**, **Dennis Hickey (22)**, **Jim Slattery** (speaker), **Martha & George Dowell (19)**, and **Dareen & Doug Johnston (5)**.

Our December luncheon speaker was **Grant Sharp (19)**, who spoke about the challenges he faced in coordinating the ground campaign in the first Gulf War as General Schwarzkopf's Planning Officer. Grant talked about the insights he gleaned from reading those sections of General Grant's Memoirs relating to the Civil War. Foremost among them was the fact that most of Grant's victories stemmed from outflanking his opponents. Hence the major flanking movement in Operation Desert Storm.

Our just-concluded January lunch featured Jim Slattery, a former Congressman from the State of Kansas, who shared a range of informative insights on Iran stemming from his engagement in an ongoing informal dialogue with high-ranking Iranian religious leaders, academicians, and government officials over the past 15 years and from his more recent on-scene observations in conjunction with a recent speech he gave in Tehran. His presentation to our group painted a far more balanced picture of that country's culture and politics than what one can glean from the media. One of his insights (to which I can personally attest based on my own trip to Iran in 2003), is that in spite of the never-ending, ritualistic condemnations of the "Great Satan," there is great affection toward Americans at all levels of Iranian society— not toward our government but toward our people.

Attendees at one or both lunches included Beverly and **Grant Sharp (19)**, Jeanne and **Tom Solak (2)**, Martha and **George Dowell (19)**,



'60: Washington group



'60: Washington group



'60: Pete Chabot, John Claman, Prissy & Wick Parcels

Charlotte and **Bob Stevenson (2)**, Becky and **Dick Pariseau (1)**, Fae and **Bud Pezet (13)**, **Don Boecker (15)**, **Lou Schriefer (10)**, **Dennis Hickey (22)**, Darlene Matulka, Daren and yours truly. Best to all, Doug



Ed Clexton & Joel Febel

From a message to **Porter Lewis (4)** from **Mike Fenn (4)**:

✉ "Hello Porter,
It is good to hear from everyone who has responded to your emails. I've been fortunate to have stayed healthy as I approach the end of my eighth decade, apart from a short A-Fib episode a few years ago which has never repeated itself. I've been in San Diego for the last 45 years or so, apart from traveling

abroad at every opportunity. Two days after Pam retired at the beginning of 2003 we flew to Norfolk and caught a Space-A flight to Naples, and we haven't slowed down yet. The two of us have visited 38 countries and territories so far, and we still have four more excursions scheduled in the next year. We bought a fixer-upper here in La Mesa 27 years ago, and we're still fixing it up. In my spare time I'm taking language classes in an attempt to become fluent in Spanish. I plan to slow down sometime in the next ten years. Mike

From **Ed Clexton (10)**:

✉ "Recently at Oceana NAS, I saw an older fellow getting into his car with the license **N3N F14** so I went over and asked him about N3N. He said "well everyone around here knows what an F14 is, so I get a lot of questions about that, but you're the first person to ask me about the N3N. You see in the late 50s I was an aircraft mechanic at Naval Station Annapolis and that's the airplane I worked on" I said well, I was in the last class of Mids that flew in the N3Ns at Annapolis in the

summer of 1956 and I remember it vividly. I recall it had a gosport for communications; it took off at 60 kts., cruised at 60 kts., and landed at 60kts.

And also from **Doug Menikheim (10)**

✉ "Clex, yes, they were the Yellow Perils and it was Plebe Year. I'm sure of that because of one of my fondest memories of the late, great **Pete (PB) Dolan (10)**. I did not know Peter until we all gathered together in the Terrible Tenth....

This happened in the Spring of Plebe Year. Long story short: I believe it was a company event and as we were loading into the aircraft, front seat for Mids, back seat for instructors, the pilots were the last to climb in. Pete's pilot was in over-all charge, thus last to board his plane. Remember, the planes were up on dollies and had to be towed to the ramp where they were launched. Did I mention the props were turning? Well, Peter grew bored and started touching what few devices there were in the open cockpit. Naturally, one of those was the throttle, which PB moved forward, as did the plane on the dollies! Well, all hell broke loose; the terrified pilot clambered aboard somehow, stopped the moving bi-wing plane and lit into Dolan. I was in the plane next to Peter's and saw the whole thing. It was such a kick flying those old birds.....those were the days."
—Doug

Joe Matais (10) added:

✉ "PB regaled us with his account and confirmed what you said. He did add that he didn't see what all the hullabaloo was about.

From **Ed Mangan (20)**:

✉ "Bill, A group of classmates paid final tribute to our classmate **Jay Grafton (23)** and his wife Sandy at their internment at Arlington Cemetery Thursday November 9. Present were **Bob Kowall's (20)** widow, Maureen, Suzanne and **Ed Mangan (20)**, Fay and **Jim McConnell (23)**, **John Michalski (6)**, **Willie Taylor (7)**, **Jim Knorr (20)**, **Hank Chiles (21)**, **Bob Stevenson (2)** and **Dennis Hickey (22)**. After the ceremony a very nice reception was held by the

family at the Fort Myer Officers' Club." Ed

Another missive from 4th Company to **Porter Lewis (4)** from **Tony Dunne (4)**:

✉ "It was great to hear from you and **Chris Moore (4)**. It sounds like life has been very good to you and your family. I can imagine what it is like to having your own Marine Platoon and leading the charge (from your favorite easy chair). I knew I was going to get old but I didn't think it was going to happen this fast. I've enjoyed good health since a bout with cancer 20 years ago so hang in there. Life has an expiration date for all of us so it's time to have some fun and let the younger generation see what they can do with the world's problems. I was shore fishing 2 weeks ago on Marrowstone Pt. (Admiralty Inlet-entrance to Puget Sound) and saw a Trident Sub on its way out on a deployment. It made me think of all you old Navy guys. I do love breathing that fresh air coming off salt water on the Washington north coast.

Anyway the new thing in Sharron and my life was a 10th grandchild 2 years ago. I have 3 sons and a daughter. The daughter married late and presented us with a new granddaughter 2 years ago. She is a career Lawyer and her husband to be was retiring from the Navy after 24 years. Four years ago the daughter's future husband was the head of the Intelligence Division on the USS John Stennis (CVN-74) giving me a tour of his ship, when he tells me he is going to marry my daughter. We were standing at the aft end of the flight deck when he said this. Of course I knew what the right response was looking at the water a long way below.

Chris, I think we need a good bottle of single malt Scotch and many hours to make any sense of the Vietnam War and its lessons. This is another book I found very interesting on Vietnam that details North Vietnam politics, strategies, and objectives during the war: "Hanoi's War" by Lein-Hang T. Nguyen, 2012 University of North Carolina Press. The author had

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access to Vietnam Ministry of Foreign affairs archives.

Tony

From **John Michalski (6)**:

✉ "Bill! Here is a note about our recent class lunch in Annapolis: It was Christmas weather in Annapolis when our '60 group gathered in the light snow to celebrate the season. Merf Moerschel (2) once again arranged for us to meet at the Eastport Yacht Club and opened with our usual moment of silence in remembrance of classmates we have lost. Those attending in addition to Merf were Carolyn & **Willie Taylor (7)**, Suzanne & **Ed Mangan (20)**, Fae & **Bud Pezet (13)**, Linda & **Ron Burdge (9)**, Sidsel Fox, and Nancy & **John Michalski (6)**. Some of our Annapoli snowbirds have already flown the coop and we missed their company, but a merry time was had by all as we shared our family plans for the holiday, commiserated over the recent loss to Army, and as usual shared stories about our days in Mother Bancroft. John

'61

Life Membership: 71%

Donor Participation: 4.67%

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

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Hello all '61ers, here we are again, with a grunch of photos and words to go along, and well into the New Year, the year of our big West Coast '61 Reunion. We have a good variety of inputs this time, so I'll stop talking and let's get started...



This is in from **Don Coullahan (06)** and **Jim Richardson (16)**: "The SOCAL 1961 contingent met on 13 February for our 8th annual Valentine's Day Sweethearts' Luncheon at Carvers Steak and Chops in Rancho Bernardo. Patsy and **Bill Kraus (12)** did an outstanding job organizing this year's event that was well attended by a bunch of older gentlemen (our classmates) and their lovely young-appearing sweethearts.

The ladies were all presented with a favor to treasure forever and to remember our luncheon whenever garlic needs to be grated. (A nifty decorative culinary garlic grater set was presented to each sweetheart). Attendees were:

Tom and Betty Bailey (16), **Jim and Lee Cavanaugh, (11)** **Don and Judy Coullahan (6)**, **Bill and Patsy Kraus (12)**, **Jim and Hannah Richardson (16)**, **Dick and Ann Rothwell (7)**, **Bruce and Melanie Maxon (15)**, **Chuck and Arilla St. Laurent (21)**, **Boyd and Nikki Steele (18)**, **Mike and Carol von Radesky (7)**, **Leo and Kathryn Willetts (5)**, **George and Veronica Worthington (2)**, and **Ralph and Marilyn Zimmerman (12).**"



Not to be outdone, here is the input from **Ned Kuhns (07)** and our big East Coast crowd in Norfolk:

"The Tidewater '61 Group decided to celebrate Valentine's Day with our ladies a few days early to keep on our second Thursday of every month schedule. We had a great luncheon and were pleased to have Mike Gambacorta (03) who lives in Smithfield join us. Attending the luncheon were: **Jan Bradley (Mike (03))** was busy supervising a tax preparation office), **Bonnie Campbell - Kuhn (Joe (03) - Honorary)** had another prior commitment, **Sandy & Ken Craig (07)**, **Carole & JP Decker (08)**, **Mike Gambacorta (03)**, **Peg & Bob Graham (18)**, **Sue & Dick Hixson (19)**, **Sharon & Jim Joyner (01)**, **Ned Kuhns (07)**, **Judy & Jim Laster (15)**, **Jane & Tom McNicholas (09)**, **Barbara & Carlos Mercado (07)**, **Fran & Kurt Rohdenburg (20)**, and **Breeze & Charlie Stewart (06)**. Due to the large number of guests, we had a number of individual tables so decided to take a photo of only one. Left to right are: **Judy Laster, Tom McNicholas, Mike Gambacorta, Jane McNicholas, JP Decker and Carole Decker**. A good time was had by all."

Dick Garritson (22) sends in:

✉ **Jerry(08) and Jill Smith** hosted the '61 sponsored Pipes and Drums members/'61 alumni to both a Winter (January 26th this year) and a later Spring (pre-graduation) gathering at their lovely Annapolis home. For the Winter Chili Feast, attending '61ers were (L to R) **David Wright(03)**, **Bill Ciesla(18)**, **Bob Shearer(04)**, **Ike Cole(05)** **Jerry Rosenberger (06)**, **Jay Bower (14)**, **Jerry Smith(08)**, **Dick Garritson**

(22) (not pictured) with attending Pipes and Drummers behind the alums. Jerry revealed at the monthly '61 luncheon that, for the first time, we actually ran out of chili! A most successful gathering!



Here is a great input/piece of family (and U.S.) history from **John Butler (05)**:

✉ My Dad was KIA on Iwo Jima in Mar 45. We traveled to Ft Myers FL via NOLA, my Dad's home town. We Arrived in Tampa Sep 45 by train. My mother's parents met us and then drove down the old Tamiami trail (US41) to Ft Myers, then a sleepy little town in SW FL. Mom ended up buying an old home with 10 acres on the Caloosahatchee River. Despite skeeters & heat it was a memorable boyhood. A paradise for a boy to explore, fish & hunt. A growing up to never forget. And



61: East Coast Crowd in Norfolk