CLASS OF 1959

65th REUNION

2024

THE GOUGE

Welcome and Information

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

October 3-6, 2024

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Classmates, Wives, Widows, and Guests,

Welcome to the 65th Reunion of the USNA Class of 1959

We are delighted to greet you and thankful that you are able to join us to celebrate the 65th Reunion of the USNA Class of 1959. We hope that you will enjoy the weekend we have planned for you. It includes a Welcoming Cocktail Reception, a Service at the Chapel to memorialize recently passed classmates, a Company/ Battalion Banquet, and a Farewell Brunch with the Mids in the Mess Hall. On Saturday, we'll be watching on multiple TV screens as **NAVY BEATS AIR FORCE,** while enjoying a sumptuous feast in the N*Room at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. The weekend will be a fantastic time to reconnect with old friends, enjoy some delicious meals, remember and honor our fallen classmates, and cheer for **NAVY** as we **BEAT AIR FORCE**.

Your Reunion Committee has been working very hard to make this gathering the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) and a memorable occasion for all of us. The Committee includes Several of your classmates and widows**: Van Nield (1)**, **Bob Beaton (2),** Sandy and **Bob (Reif) Reifsnyder (5),** Ona and **Tom Billings (6), Joe Flynn (6),** Elaine and **Pete Stout (10),** Betsy Dobbs (10), Joan Finerty (10), **Frank Pipkin (11), Adolf (Dolf) Lekebusch (11), Joe (Paddy) Ford (15), Walt Szczypinski (18), John (Jay) Bainbridge (22**), and **Larry Weaver (24).** If you have any questions not addressed in this gouge, please contact the appropriate member of the Reunion Committee (see listing on page 11 for their respective responsibilities and cell phone numbers).

Sixty-nine years ago, July 3rd, 1955, members of the Class of 1959 walked through Gate 3 to begin a lifetime of service to our nation. Now we gather to celebrate our 65th Reunion. We have developed a remarkable class legacy over the years. Most importantly has been the comradeship, friendship and support we have maintained for each other over time. This weekend is another opportunity to reinforce those bonds and to remember and honor our classmates who are on longer with us, many of whom gave their lives in the service of our country.

Today the Naval Academy is vastly different from the Academy we left in 1959. New buildings and facilities have replaced many that we utilized. The daily life of a Midshipman doesn't include marching to class to the sound of a drumbeat, slide rules, etc. However, this present generation of midshipmen (including both men and women) does abide by the same set of values that we had. The Academy's

mission hasn't changed. Midshipmen are serving their country and communities well just as we did.

Our 50th Reunion gift from the Class to the Academy was the Oratory at the Columbarium. And a Data Base Computer System was also funded by the Class of 1959. This system provides, via a touch screen, the location of persons who are inurned in the Columbarium or buried in the USNA cemetery. Fittingly, services have been held at this beautiful, serene spot for many of our departed classmates.

Unfortunately, this past spring, the Navy Facilities team discovered that Ramsay Road, the road in front of the Columbarium, had eroded to a point that required partial closure to ensure the safety of motorists. Leadership at the Naval Academy has determined that immediate repairs to Ramsay Road and installation of a seawall are required to protect against future flooding. To allow for these necessary repairs, the Columbarium and the surrounding areas was closed on August 30, 2024. During this period of construction, Ramsay Road will be closed to all foot and vehicular traffic for a period of approximately 18 months. Accordingly, we regret that the Columbarium stop on the planned Bus Tour had to be eliminated.

The rest of our activities for the weekend as highlighted in the Schedule of Events on paged 5-7 will go on as planned. So, relax, tell sea stories, eat, drink and be merry, share good times with old friends and cheer on **NAVY as we triumph over AIR FORCE**. "Rise and Shine with '59".

Your 59th Reunion Committee

Class of 1959 65th Reunion October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of Events

Thursday October 3, 2024

1100 Bus Shuttle Service Between Crowne Plaza Hotel and USNA Yard

Two Buses will shuttle attendees between Crowne Plaza and USNA. Each bus will drop off and pick up guests at the following locations. There will be approximately 30 minutes between each bus at each location.

- **Preble Hall Museum**
- **USNA Visitors' Center**
- **Terwilliger Center for Student Athletes**
- **Midshipmen Store**
- **Grace Hopper Cyber Building (Drive By Only)**
- **Fluegel Alumni Center (Drive By Only)**
- **Return to Crowne Plaza**

1630 Final Bus Shuttle of the Day Picks Up on USNA Yard and Returns to Crowne Plaza Hotel

1400-1800 Registration/Check-in at the Crowne Plaza Hotel/Calvert Room

1700-2000 Welcome Cocktail Reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel/ Queen Anne Ballroom

<u>Friday 4 October</u>

0730-0830 Fun Walk from the Crowne Plaza Hotel

0730-0930 Check-in at the Crowne Plaza Hotel/Calvert Room

0830-**0930** Buses Depart Crowne Plaza Hotel to USNA Chapel

1000-1130 Memorial Service at USNA Chapel

1130 Bus Available to Depart Chapel for USNA Club
(For those not walking to the USNA Club)

1130 Bus Departs Chapel and Returns to Crowne Plaza Hotel
(For those not attending Luncheon at the USNA Club)

1200-1300 Light Refreshments at the USNA Club

1300-1320 Alumni Association & Foundation Rep Welcome at the USNA Club

1320-1340 Academy Provost Dr. Samara Firebaugh Briefing at the USNA Club

1340-1400 Athletic Association Rep Briefing at the USNA Club

1400 Bus Available to Return to Crowne Plaza Hotel
(For those not going on the Tours)

1400 Bus Tour Shuttle Service Begins at USNA Club

Two Buses will shuttle attendees around the Yard as per the following schedule. There will be approximately 30 minutes between each bus at each location.

- **Preble Hall Museum**
- **USNA Visitors' Center**
- **Terwilliger Center for Student Athletes**
- **Midshipmen Store**

- **Grace Hopper Cyber Building (Drive By Only)**
- **Fluegel Alumni Center (Drive By Only)**
- **Return to Crowne Plaza**

1600 Final Shuttle Pick Up and Return to Crowne Plaza Hotel

1500-1700 Check-in at the Crowne Plaza Hotel/Calvert Room

1700-1830 Cocktail Social Hour in Crowne Plaza Ballroom "A"

1830-2200 Company/Battalion Dinner Banquet in Crowne Plaza Ballroom "A"

Saturday 5 October

0930 Buses Begin to Depart Hotel to N* Room, NMCM Stadium

0945 Doors open to the N* Room

1000-1200 Check-in at the N* Room, NMCM Stadium

1100-1500 Buffet Banquet

1200-1600 Navy/Air Force Football Game

1500-1600 Beer, Wine, and Sodas

1400 Buses Begin Shuttle Service Returning to Hotel

1700 Last Bus Departs Stadium and Returns to Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sunday 6 October

0830 Bus departs Hotel to the Chapel and King Hall for Farewell Brunch

0900-1000 Catholic Service in the Chapel

0900-1200 Farewell Brunch in King Hall

1000 Bus from Chapel to King Hall for Farewell Brunch and to Hotel

1030 Bus from Hotel to the Chapel and to King Hall for Farewell Brunch

1100-1200 Protestant Service in the Chapel

1200 Last Bus from Chapel to King Hall to Hotel

(Those attending the Catholic Service can go to the 1100 Brunch if desired.

Those attending the Protestant Service can go to the 0900 Brunch if desired.

Those not attending Services can go to either Brunch if desired.

Helpful Information

The following information is provided to make your 65th Reunion Weekend in Annapolis as enjoyable as possible.

Check-in. Official check-in for the weekend is accomplished in the Calvert Room at the Crowne Plaza. At 10:00am on Saturday, registration will be shifted to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium N* Room. Classmates who arrive not having previously registered should expect to pay with check, cash or credit card before they will be officially registered and checked in.

At check-in each registered classmate will receive a tote bag and the following items:

- Name badge for each registered person. These name badges must be worn to all reunion events to both identify the wearer as a registered class member or his spouse/accompanied guest and to facilitate recognition during the reunion. The name badge will also permit access to the Midshipmen Store.

- The Gouge, which will include a welcome letter, the Schedule of Events, and detailed and helpful information for the entire weekend including a list of Reunion Committee members with their cell phone numbers.
- Bus Schedule
- List of Reunion Attendees
- Annapolis Visitors Guide

- Local info about the city and USNA

- A commemorative coin, gifted by Jennifer London in honor of her late husband, our classmate Jack London.

Check-in hours are:

Thursday, 3 October	2:00pm – 6:00pm	Calvert Room at the Crowne Plaza
Friday, 4 October	7:30am – 9:30am	Calvert Room at the Crowne Plaza
Friday, 4 October	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Calvert Room at the Crowne Plaza
Saturday, 5 October	10:00am – 12:00pm	N* Room at NMCM Stadium

Hotel. The Crowne Plaza Hotel has been selected as our base of operations. Plentiful parking is available outside in front of the hotel and is free of charge.

Transportation. Bus transportation is provided between the hotel and the Yard for all scheduled reunion events. The buses will be clearly marked with Class of '59 on the front and side. Bus transportation to religious services at the USNA chapel will also be provided. A detailed bus schedule with important contact information will be included in your check-in package.

Reunion attendees are **encouraged** to use the buses provided at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for travel to and from the Yard. The bus schedules are designed to transport you to the scheduled reunion events. This bus service will assist you to have a pleasant, memorable and worry-free experience during the reunion weekend.

Security Measures/Yard Access. Pedestrian access to the Yard requires a valid photo ID. Suggest you always carry a photo ID when you are away from the hotel. The reunion name badge by itself will not allow entry into the Yard. However, it is suggested that you always wear the reunion name badge whenever you are attending a function or going into the Yard. The reunion name badge is required for access to and purchases at the Midshipmen Store.

Only vehicles driven by active-duty military, retired military with a valid ID, or with valid handicapped decals/stickers will be permitted to drive onto the Yard. A

photo ID is required for the driver and passengers. Parking within the Yard is very limited, especially during normal working hours.

Welcome Cocktail Reception. A cocktail party will be held for all attendees on Thursday evening from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in the Crowne Plaza Queen Anne Ballroom. Welcome your classmates and enjoy drinks, beer, wine, or sodas at a cash bar. Heavy hors d'oeuvres are complimentary, funded by generous donations from some of our classmates who have asked to remain anonymous.

Fun Walk. Pete Stout is leading a Fun Walk on Saturday from 7:30am to 8:30am, departing from the Crowne Plaza Hotel on a local route. Canes and walkers are welcome.

Memorial Service. The Memorial Service honoring our recently departed classmates will be from 10:00am to 11:30am on Friday at the Naval Academy Chapel. Buses will run from 8:30am to 9:30am from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to the Chapel

Light Refreshments. A light luncheon buffet for those who opted to go will be served at the USNA Club after the Memorial Service. Welcome briefings will be presented by the Academy Provost, the Alumni Association, and the Athletic Association.

Company/Battalion Dinner Banquet. There will be a cocktail social hour and a Company/Battalion buffet for attendees and guests, who opted to go, in the Crowne Plaza Ballroom "A" on Friday evening from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. This event is in lieu of the Company Parties held in previous reunions. Companies and/or Battalions will be seated together as much as possible.

Yard Tours. Bus tours of the Preble Hall Museum, the USNA Visitors Center, the Sports Museum - Terwilliger Center, the Midshipmen Store, the Grace Hopper Cyber Building, the new Alumni Center - Fluegel Hall will take place on Thursday from 11:00am - 4:30 and Friday from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

Navy vs Air Force Football Game N* Room Buffet. The first buses begin to depart from the Crowne Plaza to the N* Room in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on Saturday, at 9:30am. The N* buffet, for those who signed up, will be catered by Bo Brooks. This "all-you-can-eat buffet" will include beer, wine, sodas,

bottled water, coffee, and hot tea. The away football game will be viewed on multiple TVs throughout the N* Room. Beverages and snacks will be provided during the second half until near the end of the game. Buses will begin to shuttle back to the Hotel at about 2:00pm and will continue until an hour after the game ends. You are encouraged to park at the reunion hotel and use the Class of '59 buses to go to and from the Stadium. The Annapolis Sailboat Show and a Band Competition on the football field that weekend will impact parking and there will be a charge to park at the Stadium.

Sunday Brunch. A Farewell Brunch with the Midshipmen will be served Sunday from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Mess Hall (King Hall). Be sure to sign up for this activity.

Reunion Committee

Reunion Coordinator	Tom BILLINGS	619-823-7242
Company Coordinator & Shipmate Editor	Larry WEAVER	813-917-5962
Finances	Joe (Paddy) FORD	443-822-8840
Secretary/Minutes	Sandy REIFSNYDER	410-726-5765
Mobility Issues	Dolf LEKEBUSCH	443-286-9356
Hotels	Joe FLYNN	301-814-1444
Printing	Van NIELD	443-510-9286

Registration	Bob REIFSNYDER	443-856-8368
Memorial Service	Bob BEATON	443-871-5842
N-Star Room	Frank PIPKIN	302-541-4310
Sunday Brunch	Joe (Paddy) FORD	443-822-8840
Transportation	Walt SZCZYPINSKI	703-819-6874
Transportation (Asst)	Jay BAINBRIDGE	678-644-8533
Luncheons & Dinners	Ona Truax BILLINGS	410-353-5583
Luncheons/Dinners Asst	Betsy DOBBS	410-507-2471
luncheons/Dinners Asst	Joan FINERTY	410-212-8774
Cocktail Reception	Ona Truax BILLINGS	410-353-5583