

We successfully held our oft-postponed 65th (i.e. 67th!) Class Reunion in Annapolis on 28-30 April 2022. A total of 75 people attended all or part of the Reunion. Of that number 22 people attended only the Memorial service and luncheon at the Naval Academy Club which followed, leaving 53 who attended the entire Reunion. A total of 27 Classmates attended plus 9 widows of Classmates there representing their husbands. There were a total of 39 other family members and guests in attendance. (Each time we had to delay the Reunion we lost about 50 prospective attendees.)

After the rolling arrival and registration of attendees on Thursday afternoon the group gathered for the kickoff event, an informal reception and cocktail party at our headquarters hotel, the Hilton DoubleTree of Annapolis, featuring an available bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres as attendees greeted friends and caught up with those in attendance. By evening's end the buffet had far outlasted the attendees!

Friday morning began with an hour's long Class Meeting at which the officers made their reports. The Secretary reported that of the 742 who graduated with us 511 have passed away, including one on the eve of the reunion, leaving 231 "not known dead." The President read the Treasurer's report in his absence, He reported that for the year 2021 the Class had expended \$3852.60 as follows: Flowers in remembrance \$2258.56; Newsletter \$424.04; BR retainer \$1170. We received \$3280 in dues from 68 Classmates. So far in 2022 we have expended \$500.25 for flowers and \$30.97 for checks. We have received \$60 in dues from two Classmates. The bank balance is \$33,218.08. Clearly more dues participation is needed to extend our Class policy of providing flowers for member's Memorial services and periodic Newsletters to the class.

A brief discussion ensued relative to a possible 70th Reunion. The President reported that he had been contacted by the Class of 1965 who are interested in joining forces for their 60th. Rather than hold a vote when a relative few were present the President indicated his intention to raise the question of a 70th with the Class as a whole in the Fall, and secondly the proposal of the Class of '65 that we join with them. He noted that an early decision is needed in order to make necessary hotel reservations.

Jerry Holland, the designated Officer of Elections, reported that no additional candidates had been nominated as Class officers by the 1 April deadline. Consequently the present Class officers were reelected by acclamation to serve until the next Reunion. They are: President - Bob Fountain; Vice-President and Treasurer - Robin Pirie; and Secretary - Tom Stallman. The President noted the important service in support of the Class which had been performed by Class Secretary Stallman over the past seven years in which he was the fourth President to hold the office as result of the deaths of predecessors

Following the Class Meeting the entourage embarked in buses for the Naval Academy Chapel. The Class and guests were seated in the forward left section before the Reader's desk in the Main Chapel. On entry each of the Class widows had been presented with a white rose. The service began with the organ prelude "O God Our Help in Ages Past" This was followed by "Church Call" sounded by a bugler in the rear of the Nave. The Class President presided and opened the Service with brief remarks followed by an invocation delivered by the First Battalion Chaplain, LT(ChC) Vanessa Platek. The congregation then sang "God of Our Fathers" accompanied by the

organ. Jerry Holland read three selected Old Testament passages. Don Sturtz then read his Meditation "The Blessings of Age" (Now available on the Class website.) The names of all those Classmates deceased were printed in the program. Our Secretary Tom Stallman read the names of those we have lost since the last Reunion. This was followed by a beautiful sounding of "Taps" by the bugler and the hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" sung by the congregation to organ accompaniment. The Service ended with a Benediction pronounced by Jerry Holland. The congregation exited the Chapel to an organ improvisation on "God Bless America" by the excellent organist, a last-minute substitute for Monte Maxwell.

On exiting the congregation paused on the Chapel steps for group photos of the entire assemblage and of the Classmates and widows in attendance. The entire group then walked or rode over to the Naval Academy Club for a plated salad lunch and refreshments. After lunch we were joined by the Academy Superintendent VADM Sean Buck, USN. Adm Buck, a Naval Aviator (NFO) is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, Class of 1983. He is beginning his fourth year as Superintendent, a difficult period for the Academy because of the Covid outbreak. He spoke to our group eloquently and without notes for almost an hour in which he touched upon disciplinary matters and discussed the urgent matter of rising waters affecting the Academy and the City of Annapolis in concert.

Following the luncheon, the Class and guests were invited to attend the Parade of the Brigade of Midshipmen on Worden Field. While some elected to return to the hotel by available bus others walked over to the Grounds to the section reserved. The Class President was invited to take the Review of the Brigade in honor of the Class alongside the Superintendent. The Brigade, now 4400 strong and composed of about 30% women, is composed of five Companies per Battalion in six Battalions. It was observed that the Brigade Commander and about half the Company Commanders are currently women. Also noted was that Captains of sports teams and other groups are now 3-strippers in the ranks. Bancroft Hall now has eight wings, of course. Upon completion of the Parade the remainder of us returned by waiting bus to the hotel. The evening was free but many took the opportunity to rest!

The final day, Saturday, began with an excellent hour and a half virtual tour of the Academy highlighting some of the contributions of the Class as well as the numerous new academic and sports facilities by CAPT Jim Minderlein '65, the recently retired head of the Visitor Center guides. He was followed by a most interesting dialog between RADM Jerry Holland, who years ago as a Battalion Officer had been assigned the task of planning for the introduction of women into the Brigade, and Marine COL Maria Pallotta USMCR '91, Director of the Center for Experiential Leadership Development at the Academy and an impressive officer. She brought with her three top 1/c women Midshipmen, all members of the Crew, and by good fortune was accompanied by two former graduates from the initial class of women Midshipmen. They engaged in a most interesting discussion of the progress of integrating women into the Brigade over time to the point that currently it is not exceptional. For some, especially the wives, this was the highlight of the whole Reunion!

The afternoon was free for attendees to tour Annapolis or the Academy but few had signed up for the Trolley Tour and it was not held. Many chose to rest for the evening's activities. The highlight of the evening was the excellent culminating banquet which was greatly enjoyed by all. Various

Classmates and widows of Classmates in attendance availed themselves of the opportunity to comment on the excellence of the Reunion and their enjoyment thereof. Finally, a number of diehards repaired to the Hospitality Room to finish the evening in song led by Fred Schoenberg with his "banjo uke!"

In all, the general and expressed opinion of the 67th Reunion was that it had been highly successful and greatly enjoyed by all. Clearly those unable to attend were greatly missed. How many will be up for a 70th in three years is a matter for Class consideration and decision by about the end of the year. On behalf of your Reunion Committee, Bob Fountain, Chairman, and Robin Pirie and Tom Stallman, Members, it has been our privilege to serve."

RADM Robert Fountain, Chairman and Class President