



United States Navy Public Affairs Alumni Association

SIGHTINGS

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Mermaids Are Calling You to Norfolk For Association's October Reunion

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The siren songs of more than 75 Norfolk mermaids have begun calling USNPAAA members to the Hampton Roads area. At some point in your naval career, you probably spent some time at the Norfolk Naval Station, which occupies about four miles of waterfront and seven miles of pier and wharf space on Sewell's Point peninsula.

Norfolk hosts the world's largest naval base, supporting 75 ships and 134 aircraft alongside 14 piers and 11 aircraft hangars, and houses the largest concentration of U.S. Navy forces in the world.

Port Services controls more than 3,100 ships' movements annually as vessels arrive and depart their berths. Air ops conducts over 100,000 flight operations each year, an average of 275 flights per

day or one every six minutes. More than 150,000 passengers and 264,000 tons of mail and cargo depart annually on Air Mobility Command (AMC) aircraft and other chartered flights from the airfield.

It is the hub for Navy logistics going to the European and Central Command theaters of operations, and to the Caribbean. And it's the hub for this year's USNPAAA Reunion.

If you haven't visited Norfolk recently, the October 7-9, USNPAAA Reunion XIV provides an excellent opportunity to do that. Our "base of operations" is the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk's only waterfront hotel. The Sheraton has recently completed an extensive renovation and USNPAAA has secured 50 deluxe harbor rooms facing the Elizabeth River and Portsmouth.

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View from the Bridge

*Dear Members –
What were they thinking?*

In a vivid demonstration that your Board of Directors has an active sense of humor, they've selected me to be you President ... at least for the near term!



I have to thank Jim Noone for setting a standard of performance so high that there is virtually no doubt I will fall short. Jim has been a superb leader and representative for this organization with all constituencies. Well done.

The good news is that Jim and the Board Members have done such a great job that there's really no way for me to screw this up. Count your blessings.

It is indeed a privilege to follow in the footsteps of some of the giants in the military public affairs community: great practitioners and leaders like Herb Hetu, Jack Garrow, Ed Castillo, Harry Padgett, and more recently Jim Finkelstein, Brent Baker and Jim Noone. I am both humbled and excited about the opportunity to both maintain and enhance the relevance and vitality of USNPAAA.

Elsewhere in these pages you will read a great narrative about the superb work Chairman Craig Quigley and his team are doing to ensure we have a terrific event in Norfolk this October.

We couldn't ask for a finer group of seasoned professionals to find the right balance between substance and camaraderie for our gathering. I have no doubt that this reunion will rank up there with the finest the Association has ever put together. Mark your calendars NOW for the weekend of October 7-9, at the Sheraton Waterside in Norfolk.

Reunions are the major muscle movement of any President's tenure, but they should not be the only thing USNPAAA focuses on. We are not getting

any bigger and we are all getting older. I'd like to focus on finding ways to infuse fresh blood into this organization and create even tighter connections to the active Navy PA community.

As part of that effort we have invited the sitting Chief of Information to join our Board, and the Navy has approved Rear Admiral Denny Moynihan to serve as the "Navy Liaison" to USNPAAA.

Denny has some great ideas on ways to both keep USNPAAA members informed about current Navy and PA issues while we provide services like mentorship and professional development sessions for the service PA force. It was a pleasure to have Rear Admiral Moynihan participate in this new capacity at our Board Meeting at the end of March, and we look forward to a great partnership ahead.

There'll be more to follow, but let me just thank all of you for your service – past and present – and ask for your support and engagement in the year ahead. We have several key initiatives underway, including the effort to obtain a tax-exempt status with the IRS and continuing to flesh out our historical records for the community.

Jim Noone has agreed to head a small team to spearhead the IRS effort, and you can be certain our Historian, Brent Baker, will continue to solicit material from members and contacts to fill out our archives. Baker says you can go to the Association website, click on History, and send your archive photos and information directly to him. The archive and the IRS efforts will have my full attention and support, along with initiatives to increase our interaction with the Navy PA community.

I hope that each of you will think about ways to enhance that relationship. Any and all ideas are welcome. My e-mail is Stephen.pietropaoli@ndu.edu and my line there is 202-685-4261. I'd love to hear your ideas.

That's all for now. Take care.

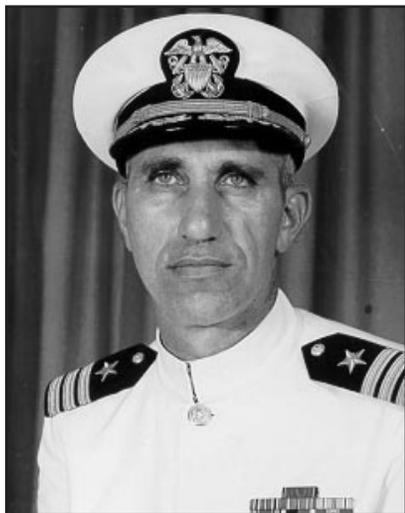
SRP

CDR Ed Sullivan Passes After Productive Lifetime

USNPAAA member CDR Edward Sullivan, (USN Ret.), passed away peacefully February 25. He was born on Feb. 11, 1926, in Chicago and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut where he graduated from St. Augustine School and attended Central High School.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at age 17, serving until 1946. During that time, Sullivan served as a signalman and as a member of the Navy Armed Guard Gun Crew protecting merchant ship convoys. He saw service in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Atlantic, including a northern Arctic convoy to Murmansk and Archangel, Russia.

After the war, he graduated from Boston University and later received a master's degree from RPI. In 1951, he was recalled to active duty as an ensign and served two years on the cruiser USS Columbus. Then he received a regular Navy commission as a public affairs officer, *one of only 39 in the Navy at that time.*



He had an effective career that included service at the Pentagon, the NATO command in Italy and the 6th Fleet. He served in Vietnam in 1966-67, and at stateside assignments until he retired in 1978. He was proud of having retired on board the USS Constitution "Old Ironsides," the world's oldest warship.

Settling in Mystic, Connecticut in 1978, he joined the Republican Party and was active in town affairs for more than 20 years in such activities as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and as a Justice of the Peace. In 2000, he was honored as Stonington's Republican of the Year.

His wife of almost 59 years, Barbara; his son, Mark; two daughters, Eileen McDiarmid, and Megan Sullivan; and his grandson, Brian E. Ostahowski, survive him. Burial with full military honors was held at St. Patrick Cemetery, River Road, Old Mystic.

MacKercher Warmly Salutes His Exceptional Friend Ed!

Everyone should be blessed with at least one exceptional friend in his or her lifetime. Our wife or husband is hands up or down our most important, beloved and best friend. But what is an exceptional friend?

Let me tell you about my exceptional friend. He was a man of inborn integrity. He was a patriot. He had earned his credentials as a lifetime member of our Greatest Generation. He loved God and was proud to show it at every opportunity. He loved his wife and family. He loved our Navy.

I never heard him say anything bad about anyone. His word was his bond and honesty was his trademark. He always could muster a smile and 99 times out of a 100 he could elicit a smile from whomever. Offensive or abusive language wasn't a part of his vocabulary. He had a positive nature and looked for the good in people. I met this exceptional gentleman when he and his family were posted in the Philippines. We established a 49-year friendship on our first meeting.

I know of no one more loyal in his friendships. A few years later this exceptional friend joined me in Vietnam. Being half a world from those we loved, my exceptional friend helped lighten the load by being exactly what he was. He helped me in seeing life as an adventure and a prelude to what awaits us.

My exceptional friend called me in what was a farewell greeting. He didn't tell me he had suffered. I knew he had. What he did was to recall our many years of friendship and the good times we had shared. He emphasized one point concerning his naval career. It was his pride in being a 1650 and his professionalism was never in question. He said, "I loved my work." And he did. I don't shed tears easily, but I did when I hung up that phone. I will always miss Eddie Sullivan. Commander Edward T. Sullivan is and always will be my definition of an exceptional friend. **Jack MacKercher**

As reported in the last issue CAPT Bob Mereness, who passed away on December 15, will be inurned in the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium. His wife Kathleen informs us the ceremony will take place at 11 AM on April 21.



Jim Bullock Leaves Cairo Returns to Promised Land

Jim Bullock says, “It seems almost poetic that I began and ended my overseas adventures with assignments in Egypt”. In 1974, CAPT Harry Padgett sent me over from CINCLANTFLT to join Gene Wentz’s operation in support of the Nimbus Star/Nimbus Moon Suez Canal clearance operation.

In 2008, after 30-years as a civilian/diplomatic PAO in the USIA/State Foreign Service, I was recruited to join the senior administrative staff of The American University in Cairo. Although I only stayed with AUC for a little over a year, that time coincided with the university’s move to a magnificent new \$400 million, 260-acre campus. I had some wonderful colleagues at AUC, and I learned about a whole new world.

When personal reasons dictated that I bring the family back to the US last summer, I was fortunate to be rehired by the Department of State as a strategic planner. My initial assignment these past few months, in fact, focused almost exclusively on a US-Russia media conference we organized for Boston/Cambridge in March.

That, too, is a full circle for me in that, as a junior PAO at CHINFO in 1973, I went to Boston to work in support of the first Russian ship visit to the United States since VE Day. Then, for the hospitality piece, we took Soviet naval officers to the Boston Pops. This time we took Russian media executives to a Bruins game. Full circle – and lots of fun, both times.

Since returning to DC last August, I’ve managed to attend a couple of USNPAAA events and to reconnect with a number of former (I dare not say “old”) Navy PAO colleagues. And, I look forward to seeing many more in the weeks and months ahead, as Carole and I happily whip our Capitol Hill townhouse back into shape with no plans to relocate again anytime soon. My personal email is Lamerloque@gmail.com, and I would love to hear from more former shipmates.

Editor’s note: With what went on in Egypt this year, it looks like it was a good time for you to return. Welcome back to our Promised Land!

Brian Gray Arrives in Jordan But Leaves Promised Land

Last fall, life member Brian Gray was a guest of the Jordan Tourism Bureau for a one-week visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He traveled with a contingent of religious journalists touring Jordan’s historic secular and sacred sites.

Stops included the ancient rose-rock city of Petra, a new addition to the New Seven Wonders of the World list; Wadi Rum, the desert known for the exploits of Lawrence of Arabia; Madaba and the Gulf of Aqaba.

In addition, the group visited Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land before his death. (Jordanians say lightheartedly that once Moses reached that spot he decided to go no further and remained in Jordan for the rest of his life.)

He also visited the site along the Jordan River where John the Baptist began his ministry. Brian confirms that you really do float in the Dead Sea, but there won’t be any photos of that.



During a briefing at the King Hussein Club in Amman (photo) the group was briefed on the interreligious dialogue going on in Jordan. Although the non-Muslim population of the nation is less than 10 percent, all religions are free to practice openly and in many places it is common to see church steeples and mosque minarets in the same neighborhood.

Brian is editor of *Momentum*, the official journal of the National Catholic Educational Association, and a board member of both the Catholic Press Association and the interfaith Religion Communicators Council.

Could You Be Promoted From Ensign to Admiral in 4 Years?

Paul Shulman was one of 50 Jewish students among 1,100 midshipmen in the Annapolis class of 1944. Four years later he was appointed by Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to the rank of Admiral in the Israeli navy. How he got there and where he came from is told by JOC J. Wandres in *The Ablest Navigator: Lieutenant Paul N. Shulman, USN, Israel's Volunteer Admiral*. (Naval Institute Press; ISBN: 978-1-59114-952-1).

Following his commissioning, Ensign Shulman served on USS Hunt, as part of Admiral Halsey's Third fleet in the Pacific. After being separated from active duty in 1947, he volunteered to help the Jewish paramilitary organization Haganah acquire war surplus vessels for their so-called "Clandestine Immigration" sealift that was carrying post-war refugees to Palestine.

By early 1948 Shulman felt he needed to take "direct action" to help build the Jews' promised Homeland. With the Israelis preparing to defend their right to form an independent nation Shulman answered Ben-Gurion's personal call to help set up an academy to train officers and NCOs to man Israel's "warships" – four former refugee carriers. With no trained Israeli officers available the now-Kvarnit (Commander) Shulman led the squadron against enemy warships – sinking the Egyptian navy's flagship.

For his service, Ben-Gurion appointed Shulman to the rank of Aluf – Admiral. He was 26-and-a-half-years old.

Paul Shulman was one of about 1,000 American "Machal" Volunteers From Abroad who, along with former U.S. Navy officers volunteered to help train and serve with the Israeli Naval Service. He died there in 1994. He was remembered in a 1995 memorial at the U.S. Naval Academy, and his name is inscribed on a window of the Academy's Uriah P. Levy chapel.

Navigator is written by naval historian J. Wandres, a Naval Reserve Chief Journalist and public affairs specialist who served with Atlantic Fleet Audiovisual Unit 193 (Combat Camera), and the Navy Office of Information 102, New York City. He retired in 1995.

The book is available at the Naval Institute Press, by order from book retailers, and online at Amazon.com. Author inquires: Tel: (732) 566-7594 or Email: jperiod@optonline.net

Welcome Home!



This group operated the West Coast Command Information Bureau, during the return of the Vietnam POW's in October 1972. They operated out of the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. In the first row of this photo (left to right) are LT Paul Boire and someone named LCDR Brent Baker (not Tom Cruise). In the second row (left to right) are Photo Warrant Officer Hudek, Ms. Julie Rucker, CAPT Ken Morehead, and CDR Bob Sims (later ASD(PA)). In the third row are YNI Leonard Robbins, JO1 Heck, JOC Sam Bass, Tom Garner and LTJG Mark Day.

CAPT Chris Taylor Passes

CAPT Chris Taylor, USNR (Ret.) passed away on January 8. He was the brother of USNPAAA Life member CAPT Steve Taylor, USN, (Ret.). What follows is information from his obituary in the Washington Post.

He was born in St. Charles, Missouri on July 6, 1949. CAPT Taylor, a Vietnam veteran, retired with over 28 years of active and reserve service. Prior to his death, he was employed at the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, DC. He also was a television personality and broadcast executive in the Johnstown/Altoona area from 1979-2000.

CAPT Taylor was very involved in church activities and in the latter years did dramatic roles in Christmas and Easter pageants at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia, where he and his wife attended.

He will be missed by family and members of the Navy PAO community. He is survived by his loving wife and partner of 36 years, Bonnie A. (Bowman). Also his children: Jill, Erin, and Jared.

Norfolk Reunion

Continued from page 1

Our nightly rate of \$ 99.00 plus 13 percent sales tax and a nominal flat bed tax includes Sheraton's Sweet Sleeper bed, free internet access in your room and complimentary valet parking. (If you are a Starwood member, you will receive points for your stay.) In addition, the hotel is providing a 15 percent discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages in its City Dock Restaurant.

On April 4, you can begin making hotel reservations at our Sheraton website, <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1103155434&key=41CC1>. Simply follow the prompts to reserve your room. Or, you may call the Sheraton directly at 1-888-647-8042 and ask for the USNPAAA room block rate. We encourage our members to book their hotel rooms early to ensure we meet our contractual requirements.

The last day to secure this special rate is September 6. You may still make reservations after that time; however, there is no guarantee for a room with waterside views and this special discounted rate.

You won't even need transportation to visit some of Norfolk's top tourist attractions. Norfolk offers a free shuttle service to the nearby USS Wisconsin,

Nauticus National Maritime Center, Chrysler Museum of Art, the MacArthur Memorial, Moses Myers House and the Battle of Cooper Monument, all less than a mile from the Sheraton.

The Planning Committee is working diligently to provide a top-notch program featuring guest speakers, a panel discussion and a "Current View from CHINFO." The well-rounded committee membership includes active, reserve, civilian and retired PAO's including Craig Quigley, Bobby Lincoln, Kathleen Jabs, Troy Snead, Chris Miller, John Donaldson and Beth Baker.

Plan on arriving Friday, October 7, in time to enjoy public affairs camaraderie in our hospitality suite that evening. After checking in at the hotel, step up to the USNPAAA registration table in the hotel lobby and receive a packet of material.

Our hospitality suite host, Bobby Lincoln, will open the doors of the Montpelier Room on the hotel's fourth floor at 6 p.m. The hospitality suite will remain open for two hours. There will be beverages and

snacks to set the mood for a successful reunion. Troy Snead is in the process of organizing a golf outing and a possible visit to the Navy's newest commissioned aircraft carrier.

After a full day of meetings and professional presentations on Saturday, October 8th, you'll be ready to enjoy the reunion's closing ceremonies in Sheraton's Riverwalk banquet room. A cash bar will open at 6 p.m. and will remain open during the meal.

You can choose from several entrées: chicken boursin, roast sliced sirloin of beef, salmon or vegetarian lasagna. The menu also includes salad, rolls and butter and a choice of desserts – cheesecake or a chocolate soufflé cake. It will be necessary that you make your meal selection via e-mail.

After you register on the Sheraton homepage, you will receive an email from Chris Miller requesting your dinner selection. The committee must provide the final count for dinner by October 3. That evening, USNPAAA will present several awards including the Captain Thomas Coldwell Award for Significant Achievement and the Exemplary Service Award.

Sunday morning will feature the organization's business meeting under the gavel of USNPAAA's newly installed president, RDML Steve Pietropaoli.

Registration fee for the 2-½ day reunion includes Friday night's social gathering, sodas, coffee, juices, morning pastries, and drink coupons. It also includes Saturday's lunch and the closing ceremony banquet. At *Sightings* press time, the final registration cost has not been determined, but it will not exceed the registration fee from the last reunion.

Watch for an email in April that will provide additional information and a registration form that details meal choices, what events you plan to attend, etc. Remember, you must make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel. Conference registration will be done via email.

We are all looking forward to seeing you in Norfolk! *Christine Miller*



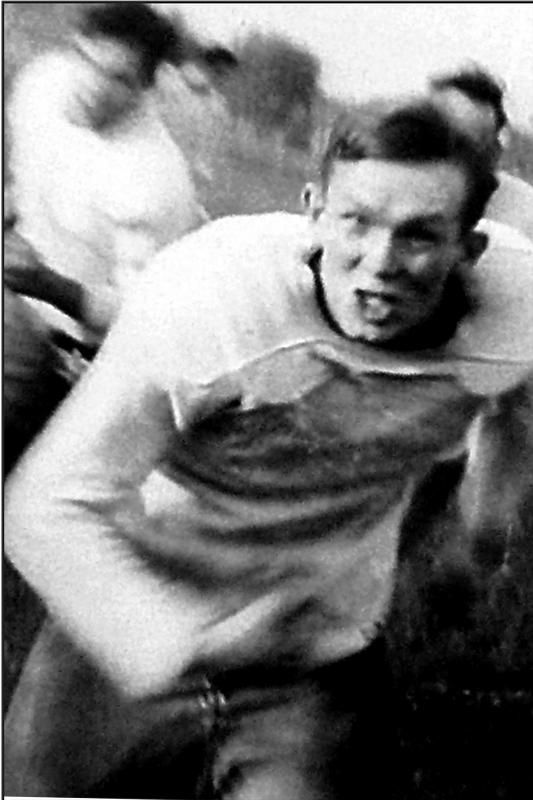
RDML Thompson Comments on His *Gumption* at Book Signing

Association Secretary Jim Mitchell took notes at the long awaited *Gumption* book signing. Reported here are some of the more interesting quotes.

“First and last book signing... it’s significant – I’m here and finished this damn book!”

Thompson describes *Gumption* as having three parts: “Growing up; 32 years in USN and 15 years building the Navy Memorial.”

“On December 7, 1941, I was a football player playing at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. We finished the season with no victories.”:



He addressed his time in the Navy: “Sum up my Navy career: Varied, unorthodox assignments, providing background to be a PAO.”

“I was an aviation cadet, but was washed out, which saved the Navy a major expense.” “I don’t know of any other place where you can give youngsters responsibility.”

He said that “In afterlife, memories of all the flags/captains I worked for were good to me and kept me on a short leash.”

“I was not the founder of the Navy Memorial Foundation.” I was not the first president of the

Navy Memorial, J. William Middendorf was the first president... I just built it with my hands.”

“Arleigh Burke pushed for Navy Memorial, but found there were no plans, no work had been done; we had only \$25,000 from Stroh’s Brewery. “I made a decision to go with my original plan, and then became infatuated with the situation. Six months later, I became president and CEO.”

“We never got any good ideas; we had ideas of what we didn’t want. We got Board approval of the concept and started construction; it was dedicated on 10/13/1987.”

“We got the “Lone Sailor” started and got some flack: ‘Why don’t you have an officer?’ **It took five years to come up with the Lone Sailor, now probably the most photographed statue in town.**

“Lone Sailor has his hands in his pockets. I was a sailor and kept my hands in my pea coat pocket while standing watch.”

“I know the sailors like him; I have talked to many sailors. I noticed a retired chief – he came up and stood right near me and he said, ‘Admiral.’ He stepped forward and whispered in my ear, ‘Thank You,’ with tears in his eyes.”

“Ninety percent of those serving in the Navy are enlisted. **The Fleet Reserve Association pledged \$1,000,000 in our fund-raising campaign.**”

“Just sitting and watching people enjoying this Memorial... the tourists...this Memorial has been assimilated into this city.” “We did succeed in bringing life to the Avenue with great dignity.”

Answers to questions closed the evening of humor and camaraderie:

Q: When did you start writing *Gumption*?

A: “Fifteen-twenty years ago; I worked on it sporadically, putting it away for a month or so.”

Q: What should we look back at, when we end our careers; what advice?

A: “You shouldn’t have had an affair with the Skipper’s wife.”

At the end of the evening, Navy Memorial VP Taylor Kiland said, **“There’s evidence of a lot of love, affection and camaraderie; thank everyone who participated and contributed for a very successful event, beyond my expectations.”**

