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USNPAAA Home:

<http://www.usnpaaa.org/>

UNITED STATES NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SIGHTINGS

July 2013

Volume 19, Issue 2

From the Bridge...

Now hear this!

Now that we are nearly 90 days out from the next Reunion, NOW is the time for you to register, get your hotel reservation and book your flights! We have a great couple days of fellowship planned for you at a fine hotel in a great area capped off by a Gala in the Five Star Ballroom of the new Army Navy Country Club clubhouse. RDML Kirby is working on getting us a Navy headliner dinner speaker. Don't miss the 20th anniversary of our association that will be celebrated this coming November 8 and 9. Look for more information elsewhere in this Sightings on how you can register.

RDML Kirby has also agreed to speak to a lunch meeting our DC area members this coming September 6 and we look forward to that.

Another big reason to attend our Reunion will be to hear the report from RDML Frank Thorp, who is leading a task force to study the future of our organization and make recommendations for its future. I am very grateful to Frank for agreeing to do this and look forward to the discussion that will be stimulated by his task force's report.

Reunion XV

"You're Invited..."

November 8-9 in Arlington, Virginia

Planning for Reunion XV continues to add both interest and enjoyment to this exciting special event.

As President Connor announced in a recent email...

"Our hotel will be the brand new Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington in the lively Shirlington Village just over the hill from the Pentagon and minutes via free hotel shuttle from Reagan National Airport." (No need to rent a car.)



Fantastic room rates, during the event, and for early arrivals and delayed departures. To reserve, you can call the hotel directly at 1-877-STAYHGI (or 703-820-0440) and ask for the Navy Public Affairs Alumni rate or group code NPA.

The hotel has also provided a custom web link: <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/>



“Concerned about our future”: Connor

Association’s Future Is Focus of New Working Group

“I am concerned about our future,” Association President Chuck Connor explained to the Board of Directors in a recent communication. “Instead of growing, we are shrinking. It is not too much of an exaggeration to say that we are slowly dying. We have had little or no new membership activity for many years,” he continued.

What the Association should consider, he suggested, is a “game change” approach that can transform the future of the organization, and improve both its prospects and its services to its constituents. Connor pointed out the example of TROA rebranding itself as MOAA, thus expanding its constituency by offering more services to active duty members.

The Association needs to “act boldly” to include more active duty public affairs colleagues in its membership, Connor urged. While this may require the Association to expand its professional activities and offerings, pursuing such a course of visionary action is the “only way USNPAAA can survive into the future,” he concluded.

Connor asked the board to consider:

- Changing the name of the Association to the U.S. Navy Public Affairs Association. “This step alone signals that one doesn’t need to be a ‘former’ or retired to be part of it,” he pointed out.
- Modifying the bylaws of the Association to create an Active Duty category.

Prior to being distributed, the proposal was discussed informally with most former CHINFO’s, and RDML Kirby. “All are supportive,” he reported. The Board responded favorably to Connor’s request for perspective on the initiative.



Frank Thorp

Connor also announced that retired CHINFO RDML Frank Thorp had agreed to lead a task force “to examine our situation more closely and make recommendations for the benefit of our now 20-year-old organization.” Task Force findings will be presented during the business meeting portion of Reunion proceedings on the morning of November 9 in Washington DC.

In his acceptance email to President Connor, Thorp thanked “all of you who have contributed to creating and continuing USNPAAA as a viable networking organization...There is no question that we all benefit by those who paved the road in front of us. I look forward to working with many of you as we look into the future of the organization and provide recommendations on the way forward. This will be a virtual committee, made up of teleconferences and emails. If you are interested in being a part of it, please let me know. It will be important that the committee report consists of the various views of the group.” Thorp’s email address is ftthorp@gmail.com.



Working Group

Current members of the working group include: Richard Thompson, Tracy Connors, James Newman, Bruce Cole, John Verrico, Kevin Wensing, Jill Votaw, Bob Prucha and Brian Cullin.

Awards Nominations Sought...

Association Awards Committee Chairman, Jim Noone is seeking your input and nominations for two important Association awards, including: the **CAPT Tom Coldwell Award for Significant Achievement** (for Association members, recognizing achievement after Navy service), and the **Distinguished Service Award** (for a non-Association individual or group). The Exemplary Performance Award, which goes to enlisted members, will be selected in coordination with CHINFO. All will be conferred at Reunion XV.

Serving members of the Awards Committee include: Jill Votaw, John Carman and Terry Cosgrove.

Award Criteria: The CAPT Thomas Coldwell Award for Significant Achievement

This award—presented at the Association reunion banquet—honors a member of the association for significant achievement in any area of endeavor—after service with the Navy. The achievement should be one of success in a unique or exemplary role, not merely doing a good job for which he/she was compensated. The achievement need not be limited to the area of public affairs per se but of definite value and benefit to a group, community, society or mankind in general, e.g. author, producer, manager of a pertinent project or program, contributing to any of variety of programs that benefit educating youth, caring for elderly, leadership in community work.

- Nominations are to be submitted by USNPAAA members only.
- Nominees will be limited to USNPAAA members.
- Nominations are to be based on distinguished endeavors performed after serving with the Navy.
- Along with the justification for the award, the nominating document must include a recommended citation.
- Nominations must be verified and substantiated within the nominating document and endorsed by at least three other individuals or organizations.
- The award should be in keeping with the highest standards and dignity of USNPAAA and appropriate for recognition by the Association.
- Nominating documents must be submitted to USNPAAA National Headquarters in triplicate. If exhibit attachments are included, only one copy is necessary.

[Note: This award was formerly known as the USNPAAA Significant Achievement Award. The name was changed in 2009 upon the death of Captain Tom Coldwell]

The USNPAAA Distinguished Service Award

A generic award for the Association that can be awarded at any time, for special occasions and at the annual USNPAAA reunion banquet. It is designed to recognize a group or a non-member who has distinguished him/herself not only in the area of public affairs or its related fields but who has had a salutary effect on a project or program that has benefitted mankind or contributed to the enhancement of the lifestyle of those in need -- something or someone the association would like to honor. Nominations are to be submitted by USNPAAA members only.

- Along with the justification for the award, the nominating document will contain a recommended citation.
- The award should be in keeping with the highest standards and dignity of USNPAAA and appropriate for recognition by the Association.
- Nominations must be verified and substantiated within the nominating document and endorsed by at least three other individuals or organizations.
- Nominating documents must be submitted to USNPAAA National Headquarters in triplicate. If exhibit attachments are included, only one copy is necessary.

-USNPAAA Life Member-

CAPT L. Edgar Prina, USNR

(1918-2013)



"He was a savvy, gracious man--passionate about the military, in which he had previously served for many years." Lee Roderick

Sources: National Press Club and Washington Post

Former NPC Governor L. Edgar "Ed" Prina, 94, a prize-winning journalist and a Navy veteran of two wars, died May 14 in Washington, D.C.

Prina, a Golden Owl who joined the Club on Dec. 1, 1948, served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and the Korean War, retiring as a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He held two degrees from Syracuse University and worked for the Copley News Service, where he covered the Pentagon. An article he wrote in which Navy Secretary John Lehman told him the agency was bloated with bureaucrats received national attention and raised the ire of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Louis Edgar Prina was born in West New York, N.J., and was a 1938 cum laude graduate of Syracuse University in New York, with a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science. He received a master's degree in political science from Syracuse in 1940.

He began his journalism career in Hornell, N.Y. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War, and served in the Navy Reserve until 1977, retiring as a captain. From 1961 to 1968, he edited Seapower magazine, published by the Navy League of the United States.

He published a book, "The Political Virgin," in 1958.

1988 NPC President Lee Roderick, who opened a Washington bureau for Scripps League Newspapers, got to know Prina when he rented space from Copley in the National Press Building in 1976.

"Ed Prina was one of several Copley staffers who went out of their way to show me how the media work in Washington," Roderick said. "He was a savvy, gracious man---passionate about the military, in which he had previously served for many years. Today, in an era when too much of the media have become overly partisan, Ed is a good reminder of what good journalism was and can be."

When Prina served as Speakers Committee chair in 1989, the Club hosted Lech Walesa, Jacques Cousteau, and mime Marcel Marceau, 1989 NPC

President Peter Holmes recalled.

"Ed's Rolodex had few rivals," Holmes said. "His charm and wit were known widely, and his news sense was without parallel."

Mr. Prina lived in Washington and was a member of the Church of the Annunciation, a Catholic church in the District. He was a former chairman of the board of governors of the National Press Club and a former president of the D.C. chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. He was also a member of the Gridiron Club, Metropolitan Club and Chevy Chase Club.

He is survived by Lee Lorick Prina, his wife of 66 years, a daughter, Lee "Lee-Lee" L. Prina, and other friends and relatives.

News From Our Authors...

BLACK WINGS ... SOARS!

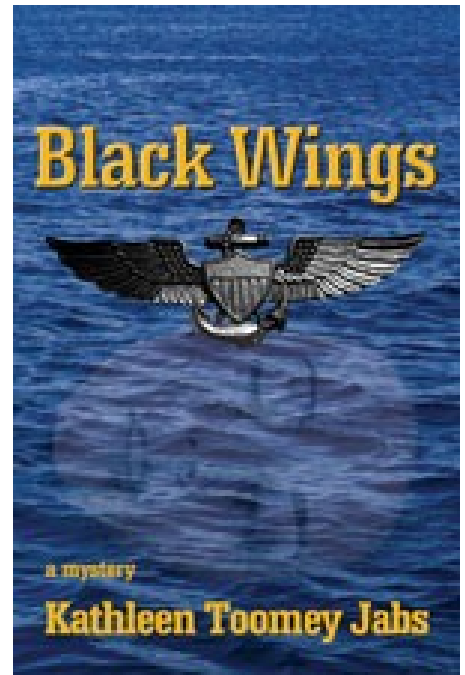
Black Wings (Fuze Publishing: <http://fuzepublishing.com/>), Kathleen Toomey

Since its publication in late 2011, CAPT Kathleen Toomey Jabs' novel, *Black Wings*, has been awarded a runner up prize by the Military Society of America for outstanding Mystery/Thriller, and was one of three finalists for the Bethesda, Maryland's Writer's Center First Novel Award. *Black Wings* was featured at the Virginia Festival of the Book held in March 22-24, 2013 in Charlottesville, VA where Kathleen appeared on a Crime/Thriller panel.

Black Wings deals with a subject close to USNPAA members - the main character is a PAO--Navy public affairs officer, Lieutenant Bridget Donovan is assigned to the CHINFO news desk when she learns of Naval Academy roommate's death from a botched aircraft carrier take-off. Facts don't add up, and Bridget is compelled to search for answers.

Navigating two time-periods and shuttling between the Pentagon and the Naval Academy, *Black Wings* introduces the reader to secret societies, gender politics, and the possibility of murder. Bridget's unofficial investigation into what really happened, both during their past Academy days and in Audrey's final hours, forces her to examine the concepts of honor, justice and the role of loyalty in the pursuit of those ideals. As she untangles a tragedy of envy, revenge, and deceit—both personal and institutional—Bridget encounters an unexpected and dangerous conclusion.

[Just another day on the News Desk..]



Sightings MBol (might be of interest) Item

...from Mark Brender

Social Security Supplement Info...

Upon application of Social Security ask about Special Extra Earnings for Military Service for service in years 1940-2001. Must bring ORIGINAL DD 214.

For service in 1978 through 2001 for every \$300 in active duty base pay you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a max of \$1200 a year.

For Service in 1957 through 1977 you are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

News From Our Authors...

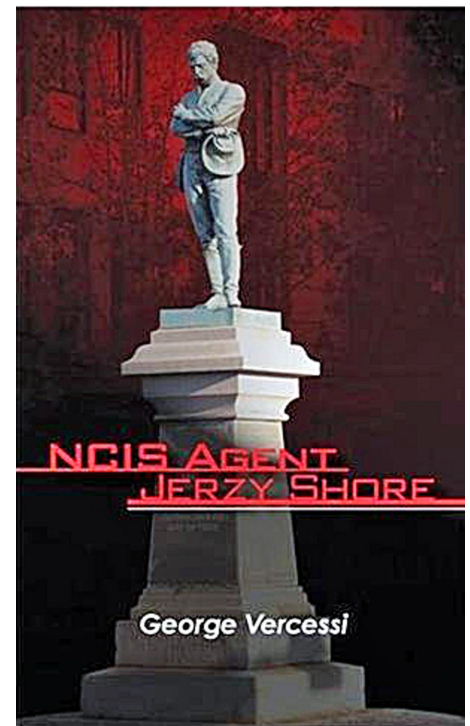
CAPT George Vercessi's new novel, *NCIS Agent Jerzy Shore*, is a conspiracy tale like no other, where egos clash and rules change depending on who's in charge.

The decades-old death of U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Jeff Resnick, whose body is found at the base of the Naval Academy clock tower days before the annual Army-Navy football game, has suddenly become a hot item among the Navy's top brass.

This development sends the normally quiescent life of NCIS cold case investigator and Feng Shui enthusiast Jerzy Shore into a tailspin. Initially determined to be accidental, Resnick's death is called into question by an anonymous letter that ultimately lands in Jerzy's lap, quickly pulling him into a convoluted scheme that turns his once-quiescent life upside down.



Yet, all might go well for the NCIS sleuth but for two major distractions; Captain Carol Rutter, Resnick's former schoolmate and key player in unraveling the mystery, and the elusive stranger hellbent on killing him.



Korean War's Tragic Love Story E-published

BelleAire Press announced that *Baited Trap*, the ambush of Mission 1890, has been e-published to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

Baited Trap, *The Ambush of Mission 1890* tells the story for the first time of perhaps the most dangerous Korean War helicopter rescue mission in compelling detail gleaned from formerly classified official records, first person accounts, and family documents long unknown.

Baited Trap is much more than a heroic war story from the "forgotten war." It is also the Korean War's greatest love story, following Wayne and Della Lear, Bobby Holloway, Ron Eaton and Dolly Sharp, and Frankie and Archie Connors as they tried to put their lives and families together even as the Korean War was reaching out to engulf them.

<http://www.baitedtrapambush.com/>





HONORED...

USNPAAA President Chuck Connor was honored by the **Chicago Blackhawks** at the opening game of the **Stanley Cup Playoffs** this past Spring. Chuck was invited, along with an active duty Marine, to stand at center ice for the singing of the **National Anthem** by **Jim Cornelison** of the **Chicago Lyric Opera**. The ceremony is a legendary ritual that calls for the entire crowd of 20+ thousand in the **United Center** to scream at the top of their lungs to intimidate the visiting team. Chuck recovered his hearing a few days later and the **Blackhawks** went on to win the **Stanley Cup**.

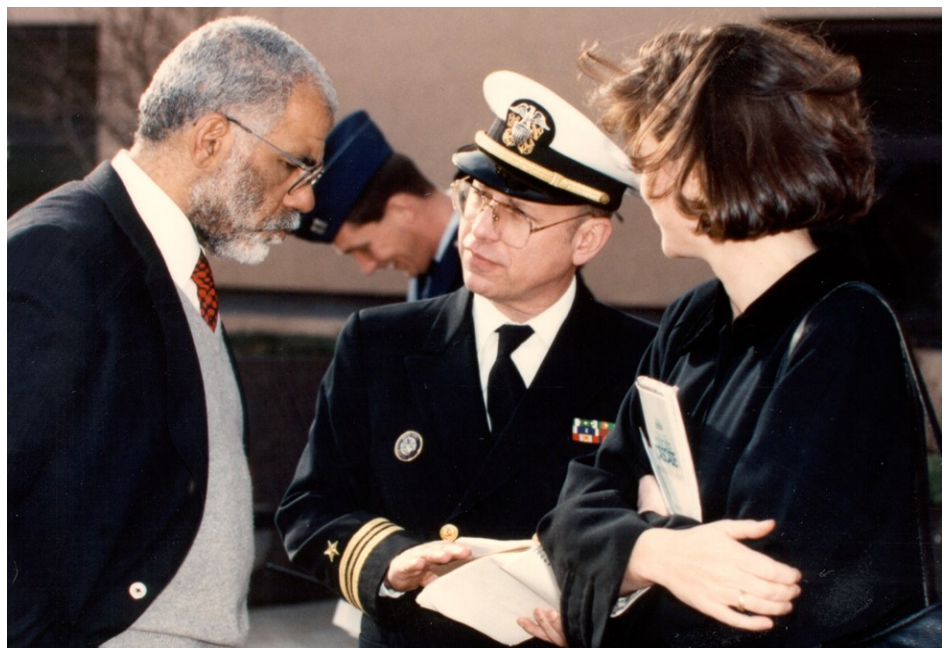
LINKS TO STORIES OF INTEREST...

Public Affairs Must Change With Times by **Karen Parrish (AFPS)**-- The Defense Department is facing a once-in-a-generation change, and its public affairs practitioners around the world need to communicate that change clearly, the Pentagon's chief spokesman said today. <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=120522>

37 Years in the Navy—ADM James Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander retires, and looks back on his time spent in three uniforms. <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/07/37-years-in-the-navy/277424/>

IN ACTION...

(December 3, 1993) **LCDR Alan P. Goldstein (center)**, assigned to the **U.S. Strategic Command** public affairs office, discusses the next venue with **Ed Bradley (left)**, **CBS News "60 Minutes"** reporter, on the tarmac at **Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb.** ["60 Minutes producer at right, unidentified.] Bradley was researching a story on the de-targeting of ballistic missiles by the **U.S.** and **U.S.S.R.** Bradley was at Offutt during the visit of the **Russian General** in charge of ballistic missiles who was visiting his counterpart at the **U.S. Strategic Command**.



(U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs Office photo).



USNPAAA

USNPAAA Reunion XV Registration

6119 Larstan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22312

USNPAAA Reunion XV Registration Arlington, Virginia November 8-9, 2013

*(Does not include hotel reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn
Make reservations directly with hotel)***

Member Name:	
Guest Name:	
Member Address:	
Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
Email:	

Check here if this is new address information so that your information can be made current with USNPAAA: ☐

Please circle the letter below appropriate to your participation and make out your check accordingly for you and your guest.

A. Full Reunion XV Registration covering all events at \$195 pp.
Number of attendees:

Sub Total \$ _____

or.....

B. Friday evening Welcome Reception at \$45 pp.
Number of attendees:

Sub Total \$ _____

C. Saturday daytime program to include lunch at \$70 pp.
Number of attendees:

Sub Total \$ _____

D. Saturday evening Gala at Army Navy CC at \$95 pp.
Number of attendees:

Sub Total \$ _____

and.....

Here is my voluntary contribution to assist USNPAAA in hosting DC-based active duty guests:

Sub Total \$ _____

Reunion Total \$ _____

Please tell us about any special dietary restrictions or other requirements:

--

Registrations must be received by October 1 at the latest; no refunds after October 17.

To make your reservation, send this completed form and your check, payable to “USNPAAA”, to:

USNPAAA
6119 Larstan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22312

****You must reserve your own hotel directly with the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington. To make reservations online, go to:**

http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/D/DCAASGI-NPA-20131107/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

To make reservations by phone, call 703-820-0440 or 1-877-STAYHGI and mention the group name Navy Public Affairs Alumni Association or group code NPA.