

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
December 2000**

**NOVEMBER LUNCHEON FEATURED NAT'L
PRESIDENT OF THE NAVY LEAGUE**

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

- 12/02 Army-Navy Football Game
- 12/10 Chapter Christmas party
- 12/12 Chapter Board Meeting
- 12/15 Luncheon - Jim Maddox, Atlanta City Councilman.
- 01/16 Chapter Board Meeting
- 01/19 January Luncheon – LT Wright, regional recruiter for USNA
- 02/13 Chapter Board Meeting
- 02/16 February Luncheon
- 03/13 Chapter Board Meeting
- 03/16 March Luncheon

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I recently had reason to visit the web page of Georgia Senator Max Cleland and found, centered on his Home Page, the following, written years ago by an anonymous soldier:

'In times of war, and not before, God and the soldier men adore;

But in times of peace, with all things righted, God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.'

Lately we have seen plenty evidence of that. On November 17 RADM John R. "Jack" Fisher, USN (Ret), a graduate of the Class of '47 and current National President of the Navy League of the United States, spoke at our regular monthly luncheon. Much of his presentation outlined the disturbing reductions that have occurred in our defense budgets and our military forces and equipment over the past 10 years.

Since the dissolution of the former Soviet Union it appears that many in our government are under the illusion that all the "bad guys" have gone away. How regrettably untrue that is. We learn that China, now less threatened by a weakened Russia to the north, has 13 U.S. cities targeted with ICBM's, North Korea has built significant numbers of cruise missile sites, and while we have substantially reduced the number of our attack submarines, sister ships of the sunken Russian submarine Kirsch continue to do routine patrols off both of our coasts. In the meantime, according to Jack Fisher, our defense

budget has been reduced from 8% of GNP in 1989 to less than 3% today.

Equally disturbing to me are the reports coming out of Florida of the mass disqualifications of absentee ballots in the recent national elections, most of them reportedly the ballots of service men and women - volunteers all - serving on ships and foreign shores. Plenty has been written already, by authors far more eloquent than I, decrying the disenfranchisement of our soldiers and sailors, so I'll not repeat that outcry. I will say, however, that I have registered my concern with both Senators Cleland and Miller, as well as with Congresswoman McKinney. I will include in my December notes any response that I get from any of them.

But there is GOOD NEWS on the local front. As you are all aware, a Board of Trustees governs your Association. Until this year, 12 trustees on that board represented each of the twelve largest chapters, and the Atlanta Chapter consistently fell into that category.

This year the rules changed, and only the nine largest chapters are automatically entitled to a trustee slot. Unfortunately for us, in the 1999 year-end count, Atlanta finished in 10th place, meaning that when Paul Hurst's term expires in May 2001, so will our automatic trustee slot.

However (and this is the good part), three slots are to be filled by "other chapters" as determined by competition in several categories including membership growth at the local and national levels, candidate recruiting activities and Blue and Gold coordination, local and regional chapter events and other community activities. I am most pleased to announce that the Atlanta Chapter was selected this year as one of the three additional chapters to be represented on the board.

I am very proud of the Chapter, its local board members and the many volunteers whose work resulted in this recognition. However, I hastily add that along with this honor comes a responsibility to continue to work in support of the Association and the Academy. Additionally, this is a temporary reprieve from losing our trustee slot because after this new term expires,

we will be ineligible to compete for one of those three seats for the subsequent two periods. Therefore, if we want to have a trustee beyond 2002 we need to continue to actively seek new members.

As we approach the end of the year we have lots of Chapter activities to enjoy. First is the "big game" on Saturday at T.J.'s, followed by this year's Christmas Party at Mike and Susan Loes' on December 10. Our regular luncheon meeting will be held on the 15th at Brookhaven Jocks & Jills and will feature Atlanta Councilman Jim Maddox as our speaker, and on Friday, December 22 is the combine Service Academies Christmas Ball, this year sponsored by the Air Force Academy Alumni.

I hope to see each of you at some event before the end of the year, but if I miss you, my best wishes for a Happy Holidays and many blessings in the New Year.

BEAT ARMY!!!

BobBush'65

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are going to start a new section in our chapter newsletter. We will place announcements such as accomplishments by chapter family members, special occasions (50-year anniversary), illnesses, and other appropriate information of interest to our members. You can e-mail it to me at jsolv@excite.com. If it is time sensitive give me the dates. This is neither an advertisement nor a marketing opportunity. (So far I have received no Chapter input)

- The USNA AAA "On-Line Store" is now open for business on our web site! To find it, go to "Member Services", and then click on the link for "On-Line Store - Shop 'til You Drop!" Our first items for sale are the USNA tumblers and mugs sold at last June's LobsterFest.
- LT Eugene Wright is a newly assigned regional recruiter for the Academy and is located here in Atlanta. He will our January

luncheon speaker and will tell us what his goals are and how we can help.

- The 5th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic is planned for May 04, 2001 at The Commons Fort McPherson. This is a Friday with an 11:00am Shotgun Start! Details to follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND LISTEN TO THE ACADEMY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Naval Academy Gospel Choir will be in Atlanta January 11 thru 15, 2001.

The Gospel Choir is by far the Academy's best marketing asset for attracting minority students. These fine young men and women relate very well to minority high school students and Atlanta is a great place to recruit for minority students. So far they have two outstanding churches on their schedule and any help in setting up other opportunities is welcome. Any Atlanta Chapter support will reduce the cost of the trip and put the Gospel Choir in a position to make their limited budget go further.

If interested in helping with this visit, please contact Chapter President Bob Bush.

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for a catered Christmas celebration at the Lores'74 home on Sunday December 10, 2000, 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

Reservations required! If this is the first time you hear about this call Mike or Susan at 770-360-7020.

155 Wilde Green Drive
Roswell, GA 30075
Located in the Edenwilde subdivision.

support of the Marines in I Corp and later commanded all Pacific Fleet Seabees. His military decorations include the Distinguished

\$20.00 per person for

Cocktail Hour:
Beer, Wine, & Open Bar

Assorted fresh and steamed vegetables with dip, cubed cheese and crackers, baked Brie with ginger snaps
sweet and sour meatballs, fresh mozzarella and plum tomatoes, chips and salsa.

Dinner:
Bialy breads made in the shape of the letters USNA stuffed with corned beef, pastrami, roast beef, turkey, tuna salad, or chicken salad. Add cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, mayo & mustard as desired. Some grilled veggies, assorted salads and slaws complete the main course. Finish it with fresh fruit and assorted pastries.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

RADM John R "Jack" Fisher, '47, the current National President of the Navy League of the United States, visited the Chapter from his current home in Scottsdale, AZ. Jack is a former resident of Atlanta where he was an Atlanta Chapter member and served as President of the Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League, so to him it was "a little bit like coming home."

The mission of the Navy League is to support the men and women serving in the Navy and Marine Corps, and to educate the general public about the importance of maintaining a strong naval force in defense of the freedom of the seas. Jack has been pursuing that mission in positions of leadership with the Navy League of the U.S. for more than 20 years.

RADM Fisher had 34 years of naval service that included Atlantic Fleet sea duty aboard the aircraft carrier *Kearsarge* and the minesweeper *Plover*. He commanded 8,000 Seabees of the 30th Regiment in Vietnam in Service Metal and two Legions of Merit with Combat "V".

Jack spoke of his travels all around the world where local Navy League Councils regularly host U.S. ships. One particularly interesting story told of how a local council in the Czech Republic had a member who was able to pave the way for U.S. Marine air units stationed in Hungary to gain clearance through Czech airspace to fly U.N. missions in Kosovo.

Much of his efforts revolve around bringing to the attention of Congress the disturbing reductions in our military strength and defense budgets over the past ten years. Much educating needs to be done as fewer than 25% of the members of Congress have had any military experience, and he believes that that figure is less than 10% for the new freshman class. In 1989 the defense budget was 8% of the GNP; it is now less than 3%.

A Quadrennial Review in 1997 called for 305 Navy warships including only 50 attack submarines. While current funding does not even support that force structure, the CNO, Admiral Clark, has determined we need 360

ships to meet current national tasking. The Navy currently has a 14,000-manpower shortfall. Battle Groups are presently deploying undermanned by 8-10%. In a recent visit by him to NAS Whidbey Island he learned that only two squadrons of EA-6B's were not deployed, and their readiness was down to 20% due to cannibalization to keep the deployed units up and running.

On the home front, the Navy League sponsors the Sea Cadets nationally. Participation in Sea Cadets educates both the Cadets and their parents on the significance of sea power to the security of our nation, and also encourages them to seek careers in the naval service. The USNA Class of 2004 has 24 former Sea Cadets, it is reported that there are about 80 in all classes currently, and 65 former Sea Cadets at the Coast Guard Academy.

We appreciate RADM Fisher taking time from his schedule to join the Chapter and fill us in on the Navy League of the U.S.

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