

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

**NAVY WINS ALL STATS IN GEORGIA TECH
FOOTBALL, BUT THE GAME SCORE**

Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

PRESIDENT:

Bob Bush '65

H: (770) 351-0008

VICE PRESIDENT & WEB MASTER

Bob Schultz '71

H: (770) 448-4299; W: (770) 236-7891

VICE PRESIDENT, INFO. SYSTEMS:

Pete Dabbieri '67

H: (770) 433-2599; W: (770) 955-7070

TREASURER:

Mike Hergert '90

H: (404) 873-4812; W: (404) 773-6785

SECRETARY:

Joe Solymossy '68

H: (770) 426-4378 W: (770) 644-8207

TRUSTEE:

Paul Hurst '62

H: (770) 509-7300; W: (404) 894-1944

BLUE & GOLD CONTACT

John Gates, (404) 284-2217

EVENTS CALENDAR:

- 10/17 Chapter Board Meeting**
- 10/20 Luncheon - Maj Gen Rollings, Supt.
Marine Military Academy**
- 11/14 Chapter Board Meeting**
- 11/17 Luncheon - Jack Fisher '47, Nat'l
President of the Navy League**
- 11/30 Army-Navy GPTV Challenge**
- 12/03 Army-Navy Football Game**
- 12/12 Chapter Board Meeting**
- 12/15 Luncheon - Jim Maddox, Atlanta City
Councilman.**
- 01/17 Chapter Board Meeting**
- 01/20 January Luncheon**

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to one and all who helped make the NAVY-GA Tech weekend such a success, with special thanks to Paul Hurst '62 who had primary responsibility for organizing several of the events including the extremely successful Tailgate Party which I am told drew around 600 alumni, family and friends. **Bravo Zulu!**

I was particularly pleased with the turnout for our luncheon on Friday, September 15, which featured George Watt '73, President and CEO of the Alumni Association as our speaker. Bob Schultz '71 has written an excellent synopsis of Pres. Watt's remarks, which were very upbeat and motivating. We are indebted to Jim Ravenel '45 for initially contacting George several months ago and inviting him to speak.

Our room at Jocks & Jills holds a maximum of 65 diners, and I only saw two empty chairs after everyone had arrived. I was especially gratified at seeing many new faces, and many existing members who haven't made a luncheon in a while. **WELCOME ABOARD!!!**

The feedback I got about the meeting was 100% positive (save a comment or two about the lack of elbow room) but one conversation I had has stuck with me and, frankly, has caused me a little concern. One of our regular members told me he was really glad he had heard George Watt's remarks because some of the stuff he'd been reading

recently had him kind of concerned about “...what was going on up in Annapolis.”

I really didn't have the opportunity to ask him more about where his reading material was coming from, but I have an idea. I am guessing that it has come through the internet by way of e-mail, because I myself have been the recipient of several letters and papers, some of which have been highly critical of the Academy, some critical of the Alumni Association, and some critical of both.

E-mail has been a most interesting and powerful invention. Without the expense of paper, printing or postage, a small group of dissenters can flood a network with editorial comment and make it appear that there is a groundswell of popular support behind them. I know there is plenty of it bouncing around. I also know that what I have received is primarily the work of a small but vocal group of disgruntled alumni; that much of it is exaggerated opinion largely unfounded in fact; and that at least some of it is motivated by personal grudges.

My objective here is not to debate these issues, but to express two concerns. The first is that I want to make absolutely clear that if you have received “spam” related to this topic, please know your e-mail address was not obtained from our official E-Mail List Server. That is a secure service for official messages only and will not be the source of unwanted mail. It is the best way for your Board to get out the word. If you're on it, please stay on – if you're not, please get on. You'll like it.

My greater concern is that many of our alumni don't get the opportunity to visit the Academy, as I do, and see first hand that pride and tradition and honor still permeate the Yard as much today as ever. I regret that too few of our number got to see the enthusiasm George Watt has for the future of the Academy, and the expanding role the Alumni Association will play in that future. And I am concerned that without the benefit of experiencing first hand, as I have, the passion, excitement and commitment Admiral Ryan has for the Academy, some of our fellow alumni may succumb to the negativism, tire of

the bickering, become doubtful or cynical, and perhaps even drop out.

I lived outside Atlanta in the 50's and early 60's when the city was learning to live and work together, without the scourge of official racial segregation. It was during that time that someone coined a phrase and dubbed Atlanta “The city too busy to hate.” The message was simple and clear – it was time to put aside old customs and biases, try to eliminate the negatives and get on with maximizing the city's potential.

I am not suggesting that the Academy is perfect, or that we should ignore its problems as they arise. However, I am suggesting that if you receive a diatribe that seems a little too vehement and perhaps a bit far out of character with your experiences at the Academy, check out the source of the message and the validity of its content. If you have questions or concerns, take them up with me, or our Trustee, Paul Hurst, or any of the other Chapter officers and directors. And if you ever tire of the e-mail tirade, use your “Reply” function and send this message:

**I DON'T BUY IT, I DON'T WANT IT,
TAKE ME OFF YOUR LIST!!!**

You might add, BEAT ARMY!!! BobBush'65

**GEORGE WATT '73 PRESIDENT AND CEO
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION SPEAKS AT SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON**

In town with the USNA official party to attend the Navy – Georgia Tech football game, USNA Alumni Association President George Watt spoke before a packed house at the September Chapter luncheon at Jocks and Jills in Brookhaven.

George is also President of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, Inc., which is now the sole organization that seeks private funding to support the Naval Academy. That, he said, was a topic for another discussion.

George started out by reminding us that the national U.S. Naval Academy Alumni

Association is headquartered in the Alumni House on King George Street in Annapolis and that annual memberships are \$40.00. Memberships include a subscription to Shipmate Magazine, which will keep you current on association and alumni activities.

Next he presented some interesting figures: There have been approximately 67,000 USNA graduates in the last 150 years, 48,753 of which are living today! There are approximately 43,000 USNA Alumni Association members today out of 60,000 potential members.

According to George, the mission of the Alumni Association is three fold:

1. To support the Navy tradition.
2. To support the Brigade of Midshipmen and the Naval Academy through the association and bonding of its alumni, parents, and friends.
3. To find qualified candidates for the Academy and military service.

George said that the Naval Academy is a "four-year leadership factory" in that its mission is to produce leaders of great character. In order to do so, we must identify and recruit good raw material to start with, i.e. we must get the "right" young people. In that regard, he said, we are truly "in a war for talent" with all the other great learning institutions in the country. High achievers who are intelligent, active in athletics and other extracurricular activities are good raw material, but that alone is not enough. They must also "have service in their hearts".

A new USNA recruiting program will soon be under way. In it, Midshipmen will go out during the year to high schools, middle schools, chambers of commerce, boy's clubs, girl's clubs and other similar organizations to promote and recruit for the Naval Academy. These Midshipmen will be accompanied by a junior officer and by a board officer from the local chapter of the USNA Alumni Association. This program will be started with the Atlanta Chapter and four other large chapters throughout the country. George said that local chapter involvement is critical for the success of this program.

In closing George made mention of a new tradition at the Naval Academy that was started with the class of 2000. Members of the class of 1950 participated in the graduation and commissioning ceremony for the class of 2000 this past June. As each graduate walked off of the podium after receiving their diploma and commission, a member of the class of 1950 presented each one with their Ensign's bars or Second Lieutenant bars! What a great idea and what an honor. This tradition will now continue each year with graduates being presented their bars by a member of the class that graduated 50 years previous.

Many thanks to George for visiting with us and getting us up-to-date on the national USNA Alumni Association.

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 jsoly@excite.com. If it is time sensitive give me the dates. This is neither an advertisement nor a marketing opportunity.

- Navy men's soccer beat GA State September 17, 2000, 1-0, which brings their record to 6-0-1.
- The USNA "On-Line Store" is now open for business on our web site! To find it, go to "Member Services", 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.
- Maj Gen Rollings, Supt. Marine Military Academy will be our luncheon speaker on October 20.

Mark your Calendar and Volunteer
Thursday, November 30, 2000

Navy challenges Army to the annual *GPTV Pledge Drive fundraiser*.

Watch for full details on our web site (www.usnaaaaa.com) and in our next newsletter.

- We will answer the phones and take pledges.

ARMY – NAVY FOOTBALL - NAVY WILL
DOMINATE

TV Party at TJ's Sports Bar

Saturday, December 2, 2000 **Join the
FUN. Help celebrate...**

2880 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell

Doors open at 11:00 am – Breakfast at 11:00

Kickoff at 12am

Lunch served at 12:15

\$15 per Person payable at the door

Multiple TV's, Great Food with cash bar

Directions:

TJ's is located about 2.5 miles east of GA 400 on the north side of Holcomb Bridge Road. If Traveling east, look for the A&P sign on your left and a Pike's Nursery on your right. TJ's is in the Holcomb Center shopping center at the intersection of Holcomb Bridge and Nesbit Ferry.

BEAT ARMY !!!

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

ATLANTA CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 76684

ATLANTA, GA 30358

Return Address Requested: