

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

**NAVY AT GEORGIA TECH SEPTEMBER 16,
JOIN IN ON ALL THE ACTIVITIES**

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

- 9/12 Chapter Board Meeting
- 9/15 September Luncheon
- 9/16 USNA Admissions Information Program
- 9/16 Navy vs. Georgia Tech
- 10/17 Chapter Board Meeting
- 10/20 October Luncheon
- 11/14 Chapter Board Meeting
- 11/17 November Luncheon
- 11/30 Army-Navy GPTV Challenge
- 12/03 Army-Navy Football Game
- 12/12 Chapter Board Meeting
- 12/15 December Luncheon

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First things first. Last month I offered to buy lunch for the first member to send me the name of the U.S. ship that was sunk in Darwin Harbor during WWII. That prize goes to our Chapter V.P., Bob Schultz '71 who not only identified the ship as the USS Peary DD-226, but also gave me a web site (www.c7f.navy.mil/news3/7.frel672.html) (whew!) to visit to learn more about her loss.

My guide in Darwin told me more than 300 men were killed, the most on any single U.S. vessel in the war. In fact, 80 sailors lost their lives when Japanese dive-bombers struck the ship on 14 February 1942. This was the greatest loss on any U.S. ship falling under attack in *Australian* waters.

He may have confused that loss with the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in the South Pacific on 30 July 1945. Indianapolis suffered a torpedo attack from the Japanese submarine I-58 and sank in twelve minutes, taking more than 300 of her 1,199-man crew down with her. Only 316 men survived the subsequent ordeal at sea before they were spotted by a patrol plane on August 2 and eventually rescued. How incredibly costly has been this freedom of ours!

I am really looking forward to the weekend of Sep. 15-18 when Navy comes down to play Georgia Tech. At our regular monthly lunch on that Friday our

speaker will be George P. Watt, Jr. '73, President and CEO of our Alumni Association. Then, on Saturday, we will enjoy some spirited camaraderie at the tailgate party before the game.

But prior to the tailgate is another important function I want everyone to know about. At 0900, at the Student Services Building on the GA Tech Campus the USNA Admissions Department will conduct an Admissions Information Program for any and all interested high school students, parents and school counselors. The program will feature the Superintendent, the Commandant, Academic Dean, and Athletic Director in addition to the Admissions folks and several midshipmen in town for the event. PLEASE, if you know of some youngster who should be getting exposure to the opportunities at NAVY, tell him or her about this program. Also spread the word, and suggest that they look for more info at our web site, www.usnaaaa.com.

In addition, we have two more opportunities that weekend to support the Blue and Gold. The NAVY men's soccer team, led by Mid'n 1/c Michael Paisant from Norcross, will compete twice in the Georgia State Soccer Tournament, first against Birmingham Southern on Friday the 15th at 1400, and then against Georgia State on Sunday the 17th at 1400. These games will both be played at Georgia State. For more info on the team, which is the preseason favorite to win the Patriot League Title, visit www.NavySports.com.

Thanks for your membership and fellowship. BEAT ARMY AND DECK TECH!!!

BobBush'65

NEIL BLOCK '61, CHAIRMAN OF THE
USNA AAA GOVERNANCE STUDY GROUP
SPEAKS AT AUGUST Luncheon

Neil Block '61, Chairman of the Governance Study Group and recently

elected Central Region Trustee, spoke at the Chapter luncheon on Friday, August 18. The meeting was well attended for a mid-summer event, with a large number of new attendees mixing with the regulars.

Neil's message centered around the aims of the Governance Study and the changes to the structure of the Association's Board of Trustees that resulted from the committee's recommendations. The objective of the restructuring was to give greater representation to those alumni who reside outside of the cities with the largest chapters. That this was achieved is reflected in the substantial changes that are being made to the Board. While the number of "large" chapters automatically getting to send a trustee to the Board is being reduced from 12 to 9, all other chapters will be able to compete for three seats that will be rotated every two years.

Additionally, while two vice president slots were eliminated, there are now four regional Trustees and several slots for Trustees elected from among Class Presidents. As a result, each member now has at least two, and in some cases three Trustees through whom he or she can communicate with the Board.

Neil also briefly discussed the manner in which the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is selected. He spoke of the recent survey the Study Group conducted to gather opinions regarding the advisability of nominating only one candidate for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's slots (aka the single slate issue) and whether or not the election for those posts should include a write-in opportunity for the membership. He reported that the replies received to date favored the single slate by about 2 to 1, and on the write in issue the responses were about equally divided.

Neil's closing remarks were in the form of a challenge to the Association in general, and the Atlanta Chapter

specifically. Our Association is becoming more pro-active on a national basis in several areas, but especially with regard to attracting good candidates for admission and to the opportunity to assist the Academy financially in some important areas. The Atlanta Chapter is especially well situated to assist in these areas and can make a significant mark on the future of the Academy if our membership accepts the challenge.

USNA NEWS WEB SITE

The USNA web site now includes a News Publications site, which is updated weekly with applicable news. Get on the INTERNET
http://www.usna.com/News_Pubs/News/ViewNews.asp

NAVY-GEORGIA TECH FOOTBALL GAME

Navy is playing in Atlanta September 16 against Georgia Tech. The Atlanta Chapter will host a big pre-game tailgate party in the Georgia Tech - Student Center Ballroom.

We need your help during the tailgate party. Call Bob Schultz for the welcoming committee, Ernie Maticotta for decoration and set-up, and Bob Bush for post-activity work.

Tailgate Party: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Game time: 3:30pm

NOTE: If game time changes, tailgate party will shift to start 2.5 hours before game time.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

George P. Watt, Jr. '73, President and CEO of our Alumni Association will speak at our September 15th luncheon meeting.

Our regular luncheons are held the third Friday of each month at Jocks &

Jills Sports Bar in Brookhaven. These luncheons provide a regular occasion for meeting with fellow alumni, and are held whether or not a guest speaker is scheduled.

USNA On-Line Store

The Chapter 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 that Jim Ravenel obtained for us to sell at last June's Lobster Fest. Thanks to Jim for getting these custom tumblers and mugs designed and made for us.

Happy Customers

We received two notes after our June luncheon which reflect the success of these chapter luncheons. Let's keep it up!!

The first is from SKCS(SW) Douglas R. White, Reserve Programs Division, NSCS Athens, GA.

"I had the privilege of attending your association's June meeting. I went as a guest of LT David Rudko (92') who invited me to hear Congressman Bob Barr speak. The LT knows I am a strong supporter and opportunities to hear him speak in person are limited. I must admit I was a little uncertain about attending a Naval Academy Alumni Association luncheon. I wasn't sure how appropriate it was or of the reception I would receive, but the experience was both pleasant and rewarding. Everyone I met was very kind and welcoming. I thoroughly enjoyed the lunch (the food was outstanding) and the remarks by Congressman Barr, as always, were right on the mark.

Please accept this note as evidence of my appreciation for your hospitality

and extend my thanks to your members for their warm welcome. You are true gentleman.”

And the second is from Lt. Rudko...

“I joined the USNAAAA Chapter about 2 weeks ago and attended the monthly luncheon this past Friday. Everything was absolutely outstanding - the food, the hospitality and the information provided by Congressman Barr.

I am a LT stationed at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. I spoke with Mike Herger about passing the word about activities and events sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter to both the staff and students in Athens. He provided me with member applications and I have obtained info about the upcoming luncheons and events from the USNAAAA website. I had a great time and look forward to next month's luncheon.”

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ATLANTA CHAPTER
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