

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
January 2001**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER WELCOMES THE  
NEW MILLENIUM**

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**EVENTS CALENDAR:**

- 01/17 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 February Luncheon**
- 04/17 Chapter Board Meeting**
- 04/20 March Board Meeting**
- 05/04 Army-Navy Atlanta Golf Classic**

**THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Happy Holidays everyone! May 2001 be filled with much joy, prosperity and happy surprises for us all.

First, please mark your calendars for a special event and opportunity for the Chapter to show our support for some special midshipmen. On Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, the Naval Academy Gospel Choir will be in Atlanta for several performances at schools and churches around the city. On Saturday morning, January 13, the Chapter and the Georgia Parent's Club will join forces to sponsor a mixer with the Choir members at the Visitor's Center at the Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Site from 11:00 until 1:00.

More good news! The Chapter Roster is at the printers and will be distributed within a few weeks. I sincerely apologize for the lateness of this publication, but as I've explained before, we made some major changes in the way in which the database is managed, updated and maintained. The good news is the effort that has gone into compiling this roster will make future issues more accurate and timely.

The roster will be distributed to all paid Chapter members as of the end of year 2000. Immediately after the first of the year we will send out our dues notices for year 2001. In past years we have been slow in getting our dues mailings out, but the work on our data base has enabled us to be more timely with this mailing as well. A 2001 member's roster will follow later in the year and will include all currently paid members as of the publishing date. Please don't

delay in returning your dues and please be sure to update your information for the roster.

Another membership benefit that we are planning for this year will be a "Members Only" event that is currently in the planning stages for early March. Carl McCallum (long of Lobster Fest Fame) has volunteered to organize this event. It is envisioned to be a coat and tie, cocktails and dinner affair. More on that to follow...

For some time now I have been threatening to add a little more organization to the Chapter's leadership by recruiting members to serve on committees in support of the Chapter's goals and projects. Many of you have expressed a willingness to serve in some capacity and my New Year's resolution is to develop a list of billets that need filling and publishing that list so that those who wish to contribute more time and effort can choose how they might do so.

One of the things I would like to institute is for each Class (or group of smaller Classes) to have a Class Representative who will assist in recruiting new members and facilitating communications between the Chapter and Class members and potential members. I'm not sure exactly how this will come together, but I know other Chapters have done it quite effectively.

It has been my sincere pleasure and honor to serve as your president this year, and I look forward to an exciting New Year. May you all enjoy fair winds and following seas throughout 2001.

BEAT ARMY!!!

BobBush'65

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## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

This new section in our chapter newsletter has not received much input from our members. To make Chapter member announcements such as accomplishments by family members, special occasions (50-year anniversary), illnesses, and other appropriate information of interest to our members we need input. Call me or e-mail it to me at [jsoly@excite.com](mailto:jsoly@excite.com). If it is time sensitive give me the dates. This is neither an advertisement nor a marketing opportunity.

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

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND LISTEN TO THE ACADEMY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Naval Academy Gospel Choir will be in Atlanta January 11 thru 15, 2001 on its annual Atlanta-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Tour. During this annual trip, the Choir celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day by conducting various musical performances at local high schools and civic centers, in addition to ministering in song at churches in the local vicinity. This year, the Choir will conduct presentations at two Atlanta-area high schools on Friday, January 12; perform at the historical site of Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church on Saturday; and then minister in song at the Sunday morning church service at The Cathedral at Chapel Hill on January 14.

This annual trip is very important both to the Gospel Choir and the Naval Academy because it provides an opportunity to showcase the diversity and talents of today's Brigade. The ability to perform in such venues also undoubtedly assists in the recruitment of potential candidates who otherwise would not be exposed to the opportunities offered by attending the Naval Academy.

You ask...what or who is the Naval Academy Gospel Choir?? Don Montgomery '74, Admissions Outreach Coordinator, U.S. Naval Academy tells us, "As an alumni and now Admissions Outreach Coordinator at USNA, it is wonderful to see alumni and parents stepping up for our midshipmen. If you have not seen them perform, directed by Dr. Joyce Garrett, then you are all in for a very special treat. If you have not met any of these fine young people you are in for an even bigger treat. Please take the time to get to know them a little and I promise you will be more impressed with their character than their ability.

The President of the Gospel Choir, Midshipman 1/C Jamila Loynes, Regimental Commander, is just one example of the caliber of young people you are helping. I have had the privilege of watching Midn 1/C Loynes' class from their I-Day to the present, and it's been a wonderful experience to know their tremendous potential and then watch them grow. I look at the plebes and wonder how far these talented young men and women can go and it's gratifying to know that we can be involved and share in the process!

In addition to their planned activities, our lunch with the members and staff of the USNA Gospel Choir will be on Saturday, Jan 13, 2001. This will be a joint effort between the Alumni Chapter and the Georgia Parent's Club. The local Navy League Council has also been invited to participate. The lunch will be held at the Martin Luther King National Historic Site in a room that has been reserved for us from 1100 to 1300. The choir has agreed to do a few warm-up numbers for us and we plan to provide BBQ sandwiches and accompaniments for food. We do not yet have a supplier, and don't know for sure whether it will be fully catered or picked up by us in bulk and served by volunteers. Our goal is to keep the price down, but we want to provide a good meal.

We have three volunteers from the Chapter and could use more if we have to serve. We expect to get some volunteers from the Parent's Club. We would like to give this plenty of promotion and have as many Chapter Members come as we can get, so pass on the word. We will pay for lunch for the choir members and their staff and our volunteers. We'll ask other guests who eat to pay as well. If interested in helping with this visit, please contact Chapter President Bob Bush, or Chapter secretary, Joe Solymossy.

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### CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

About 20 members and their spouses joined us for a catered Christmas celebration at Mike and Susan Lores'74 home on Sunday December 10. The food was excellent and the company stimulating.

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### JIM MADDOX, ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMAN IS SPEAKER AT DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Jim Maddox, uncle to Chapter Member Mario Maddox '85, and Atlanta City Council Member since 1977, was our speaker for the Chapter's December Luncheon. Introducing Councilman Maddox, Mario expressed how important his uncle had been in helping to shape his life as a young boy and inspiring him to strive for accomplishment – inspiration that was instrumental in Mario seeking admission to the Naval Academy.

One of the main themes of Councilman Maddox's talk was the importance of providing quality education to our youth and instilling in them the desire to learn and to achieve. Concerned about the computer literacy gap that exists throughout much of the City of Atlanta, he is a sponsor and strong advocate of a program to make Internet access and training available to everyone, not just at school, but also in Community Centers and libraries throughout the community.

A native of Atlanta, he expressed great pride in Atlanta, and the way it has grown from a small, southern city to a major metropolis. As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Council of International Visitors, he plays an active role in promoting Atlanta internationally, and he credits the 1996 Olympics as having been a significant milestone in Atlanta's emergence as a truly international city.

Councilman Maddox spoke briefly about the \$150 million bond issue that just passed to be used in projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Atlanta. He observed that the city has been identified as being "unfriendly" to pedestrians, and some of the money will be used for sidewalks and parks, as well as to improve the streets and help alleviate some of the traffic congestion.

When questioned regarding plans to reduce congestion on the main arteries into and around Atlanta, he spoke of the continuing efforts to expand and improve MARTA, the city's transit system. That led to a discussion of the relationship between the city and outlying

communities, and the need to better coordinate efforts between the various governments, not only in solving transportation problems, but also in gaining better cooperation in law enforcement and other government functions. When asked if he thought that the greater metropolitan area would ever be unified under one governmental body he predicted that it is inevitable that that will eventually come to pass but it will take a lot of work to accomplish.

The Chapter was privileged to have Councilman Maddox take time from his schedule to join us. He is recognized not only as an accomplished elected official, but also as a true humanitarian. Additionally, he claims to be an accomplished submarine driver, having been given the helm of a nuclear sub on a familiarization cruise – although he admits his time “at the wheel” was limited, and only when they were “way out in the ocean.”

The Chapter, especially the following attendees appreciated Councilman Maddox taking time from his schedule to join the Chapter: Bill Wideman '35, George O'Connell '35, Paul Smith '42, John Cumberland '44, Jim Ravenel '45, John Stark '51, Gill McCullen '53, Walt Coakley '54, Pat Beard '58, Don Thompson '59, Clint Johnson '60, Paul Hurst '62, Lorie Moore '64, Bob Bush '65, Art Czerwonky '65, Jim Slemenda '66, Peter and Nina Dabbieri '67, Mitch Rowland '71, Steve Frederick '72,

Michael Lores '74, Ples J. Bruce '77, Mike Hill '77, Mario and Thalila Maddox '85, Paul Kenney '93.

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### JANUARY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The speaker for the January 20 Luncheon meeting will be LT Eugene B. Wright, '96, USN. LT Wright has recently set up shop here in Atlanta as a permanently assigned full-time recruiter and admissions coordinator for the Academy.

Following graduation from the Academy LT Wright attended Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, Rhode Island. In January 1997 he reported for sea duty in USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974) as Electrical Officer. In April 1998 he reported to USS THORN (DD 988) as Assistant Training Officer. In October 1998 he assumed duty as Combat Information Officer and in December 1999 he was named Administrative Officer and Legal Officer.

LT Wright assumed his current assignment in November 2000. He will speak about the challenges he faces in attracting top-notch applicants to NAVY.

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