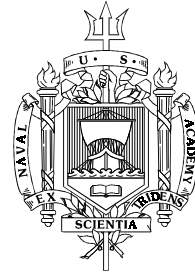


**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
October 2001**



**MAJOR GENERAL GORDON J. DUQUEMIN, USA (Ret.)  
TO SPEAK AT OCTOBER 2001 LUNCHEON**

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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**EVENTS CALENDAR:**

**10/16 Chapter Board Meeting**

**10/19 October Luncheon**

**11/13 Chapter Board Meeting**

**11/28 November Luncheon (Wednesday)\*\***

**12/18 December Board Meeting**

**12/21 December Luncheon**

**\*\* (Please note reservation procedures in the "Chapter Announcements" section.)**

**THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

In the past few weeks, since the attack on America on September 11th, I have had time to take notice of the many things around me that have changed in some way.

Of course, there are the many obvious ones that are hard to miss. People are depressed, afraid, sorrowful, concerned about the future, and more subdued than normal in going about their daily lives. And then there are the physical signs. The empty airports, the stock market reaction, the closed businesses, the layoffs and lost jobs, the pile of rubble where two proud towers once stood, the gaping wound in the side of the Pentagon building, and the thousands of lost lives.

However, I want to bring your attention to a much more subtle change that I've noticed in the halls of the corporate offices of Scientific-Atlanta where I work. This change, though it saddens me, also gives me great hope for the future.

In the past few years, I have made a habit of posting various military graphics on the bulletin boards in the break rooms on each floor in my particular building. I also usually post one just outside my office. I post them on Veterans Day, on Memorial Day, and on June 6th (D-Day), each year. They consist of a collage of various military graphics that I've collected and arranged on a page, usually surrounding a central graphic. The central graphic simply says:

**"Freedom is Not Free"**

Sometimes it's text alone on a plain background, other times it's in the foreground over a bald eagle or an American flag.

I think that probably the one with the most visual impact is the one I post on D-Day. The "Freedom is Not Free" graphic is at the top followed

below by several pictures taken by military photographers during the actual invasion of Normandy. There is a trench full of soldiers bandaged from head to foot from their just-received wounds, a picture of Higgins boats coming ashore, a picture of soldiers running up the beach dragging a wounded comrade behind them, and a picture of fallen soldiers being attended by medics. The most haunting however, is a picture taken from the back of Higgins boat with the landing ramp down, having just emptied its complement of soldiers into the water. All that you see is a dark foreboding view of the beach in the distance and the soldiers moving slowly toward it. It looks, for all purposes, like the gateway to hell itself. I can only imagine that for those veterans it surely must have felt that way as well.

For a week or two after I post these pictures I take note of the reactions that I see and hear from various co-workers. Those who stop and take time to reflect upon the images have been folks primarily in their fifties and older. It was a rare occasion when a person in their twenties or thirties would comment or even notice at all. When they did, I would usually find out that their father had served in a branch of the armed forces.

In the past few weeks there has been a dramatic turnaround in this trend. My "Freedom is Not Free" graphic has met with comments from people of all age groups. The most vigorous and heart felt of those comments now coming from those folks who I consider young!

On September 11th, a new generation of Americans had the true meaning of the phrase "Freedom is Not Free" suddenly and abruptly forced into the very core of their consciousness, along with the rest of us.

As I said earlier, while it saddens me that such a hard lesson had to be learned, it also gives me great hope for the future. I think that all Americans now stand more united in this country than we have been for many years in the recent past. Look around you and just try to count the number of American flags you see flying from every possible post.

God bless America, and God bless our troops deploying to the Middle East.

**Bob Schultz '71**

## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Anthony Principi '67, Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be Speaker at November Luncheon at 12 noon. This will be the first time in the Chapter's 55-year history that we have been honored to have a member of the President's Cabinet as our guest speaker! And he is one of us, Class of '67.

**What:** Anthony Principi '67, Secretary of Veterans Affairs speaks at November Luncheon

**When:** 12 noon, *Wednesday*, November 28, 2001

**Where:** Cherokee Town Club

155 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta

**Dress:** Gentlemen, coats; Ladies, appropriate

**Cost:** Twenty-Five dollars (\$25.00) per person

**Parking:** Valet, no charge

**Tipping:** None allowed

**Reservations:** A MUST! Your check is your

reservation. Please mail your checks before

Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> payable to "USNAAA"

**Mail to:**

Jim Ravenel, '45

230 Lakeview Ridge East

Roswell, Georgia 30076-3205

Please include the names of your guests with your check so name tags can be provided. Be sure to wear your name tag.

**Guests:** Encouraged and Welcomed!

**Questions:** Jim Ravenel '45: 770-992-1515

### 2. New Board Member

In response to last month's newsletter, Matthew Kirby '94 volunteered to take a Board position and serve as our Secretary. Kirby recently earned an MBA from Emory's Goizueta Business School, and he works for Insignia/ESG, Inc. in commercial real estate brokerage and investment.

Joe Solymossy '68, our past Secretary, retired and moved away from Atlanta. Current director Nick Ward '74 was quick to take Joe's place on a temporary basis. Nick recently accepted a job with Allied Mortgage Capital as a commercial and residential mortgage broker.

Thanks Joe, Nick, and Matthew for your service.

## Atlanta Chapter President Presents Program at September 2001 Luncheon

No guest luncheon speaker was scheduled to speak at the Chapter September luncheon. Instead, I took it upon myself to prepare a program appropriate for the previous week's events.

I think that it is fair to say that the events of the past several days are unprecedented in American history. Most of us have had nothing else on our minds since the Tuesday, September 11th, terrorist attack on America.

In light of these events I prepared a program for the luncheon that included:

1. A personal coping strategy story
2. A reading of the Leonard Pitts article in the Miami Herald
3. A brief Memorial Service with the reading of the roster of our Fallen and Missing Shipmates
4. Close with the singing of Navy Blue & Gold

I had noticed that people everywhere were developing their own coping mechanisms for dealing with the events of the past several days. By the Saturday after the attack I just couldn't watch any more TV coverage nor sit alone with my thoughts. Neither was working for me. I had to do something else. Get outside and work with my hands. I call my "something"...

#### Bob's Quest for a Flag

By the weekend of September 15th and 16th there were no U.S. flags to be found anywhere. Any store that did carry them, were sold out. People had flags up everywhere... on houses, cars, lawns, even baby carriages!

I had to have a flag to raise! Then I remembered that somewhere in amongst boxes of old Navy stuff in my attic, was a 5 foot by 10 foot regulation United States flag that had never been out of the box. The quest was now on to find it and mount it to the side of my house.

After 45 minutes of searching through boxes in the attic, I found the flag. The label on the box was a sure clue that it was Government Issue:

Flag, National, USA (50 Star)  
Heavyweight Nylon, Type I, Class I  
5 Ft. x 9 Ft. 6 In.  
1 Each

So, my project was now underway in four phases: The Design Phase, The Supply Phase, The Installation Phase, and The Stunned Neighbor Phase

The Design Phase - The design specifications were to pole mount the flag on the side of my attached garage and position it so that the top of the flag pole was at the necessary height to keep the bottom edge of the flag above the top opening of the

garage door. (This to keep my wife's SUV from snagging it and pulling it down off the pole!)

The design task was therefore to determine the length of the flagpole, the angle of the flagpole to vertical, and the height of the entry point of the flagpole into the siding in the gable of my garage to meet the design specifications.

This, Lord help me, would require the application of the Pythagorean Theorem to find the length of two hypotenuses (plural of hypotenuse?) - one of the diagonal of the flag pole holder, and one which would determine the length of the flag pole itself that must extend outside of the house. A third hypotenuse was actually needed, the diagonal dimension of the flag itself, but I could just measure that one, thank goodness.

For the next 30 minutes I sat at the kitchen table with CRC math tables, calculator, graph paper, ruler, and mechanical pencil in hand... much to the amazement of my wife who thought I was just going to go outside and install the flag with no proper prior planning at all!

"What are you doing honey," she asked. "I'm putting up the flag, dear," I replied. "Don't you have to be outside to do that," she said. "I have to design the installation first, honey," I responded. "Oh!"

The Supply Phase - I now had a lot of material to round up. After an early morning Home Depot run, I returned with the following:

12-foot long 1-1/4" OD wooden pole  
Can of antique mahogany shellac/stain  
4-foot long 1-1/4" ID white PVC pipe  
Assorted flag pole hardware  
Two 8-foot long 2 x 4s  
50 feet of 1/4" nylon line  
(Total bill: \$56.00. Money was no object - I was on a mission!)

The Installation Phase - The design phase had solved the problem of not wanting to have a 12-foot pole permanently sticking out of the side of my attached garage. It was time to install the flagpole holder!

The flag pole holder installation required mounting the 4-foot PVC pipe inside the garage attic using two cross member 2 x 4s, with pre-drilled 1-1/4" through holes, to provide a proper anchor for the permanent PVC flag pole holder at the required 30 degree angle.

Note that this phase actually consisted of over three hours of measuring, cutting, drilling,

sweating in the attic heat, and occasional use of a variety of foul language. The latter being a direct result of a flagrant violation of the “measure twice, cut once” rule of carpentry.

After attaching the flag pole hardware to the pole, and attaching the flag (carefully held off of the ground my wife, Linda), I climbed up the ladder and inserted the bottom 4 feet of the pole into the PVC flagpole holder.

The Stunned Neighbor Phase - With now what was arguably the biggest personal flag in Peachtree Corners mounted on the side of my house, it didn't take long for my neighbors to comment.

My neighbor from two doors up stopped by Sunday afternoon to admire the flag and made the following comment: “My God, Bob, if a stiff breeze ever comes up your entire house is going to change heading!”

Upon heading out to church Sunday morning my wife and I heard the following comment from two of our church-going neighbor ladies across the street: “Good Lord, Marilyn, look at that big-ass flag!”

So...Mission Accomplished! Old Glory is flying strong and free over the Schultz household!

Present at the September luncheon were:

Bill Garrett '75, Tom Blake '49, Bob Schultz '71, Jim Ravenel '45, Art Crowe '88, Dick Fitzgerald '62, Jim Hatch '47, Michael Lester '85, Courtney Lester (guest), Mike Riley '65, Joe Frazar '65, Bill Miller '88, Ray Wassel '75, Ron Surfield '90, Doug McDaniel '61, Bill Holmes '64, John Andrews '64, Bob Bush '65, Paul Hurst '62, Lorie Moore '64, Carl McCallum '60, Donald Thompson '59, Patrick Hamilton '87, Stewart Caldwell

'65, Bill Rentz '55, Dale Herndon '56, John Jaudon '55, Michael Lores '74, Gil McCullen '53, John McVay '91, Walt Coakley '54, Matthew Kirby '94, Jim Slemenda '66, Steve Frederick '72, Mario Maddox '88, Nick Ward '74, Ples Bruce '77.

### OCTOBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Major General Gordon J. Duquemin, USA (ret.), currently a consultant for military affairs to NBC, will speak on the Middle East and the present situation with terrorists. General Duquemin has recently appeared on NBC discussing this topic. Please join us at Jock's and Jill's Sports bar in Brookhaven on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 11:30, chow line opens at 12:00. \$10 cash.

### NOVEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Tony Principi USNA '67, Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the Bush Administration, has agreed to be our guest speaker for the Chapter November luncheon. Please refer to the Chapter Announcements section for details.

### JANUARY 2002 LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The Academic Dean of the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Admiral Bill Miller, Sr. (retired) has agreed to speak to the Atlanta Chapter at the January luncheon. The luncheon will be held on the third Friday of the month, January 18<sup>th</sup>, as usual.

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**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
ATLANTA CHAPTER**

**P.O. BOX 76684**

**ATLANTA, GA 30358**

**Return Address Requested:**