

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2004**



**NAVY BEATS ARMY AGAIN IN 105TH ARMY-NAVY
FOOTBALL GAME AND IN PLEDGES FOR GPTV**

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Atlanta Chapter Mates,

I have just returned from Annapolis where I attended the Admissions Standing Committee meeting on 1 December and got to sit in as a spectator at the Alumni Board of Trustees meeting on 2 December. I also attended the "Mule Stew" reception, part of the hijinks including a pep rally, prior to the Army-Navy Game. Let me tell you, or maybe I don't have to, they were fired up! And you know what they did to Army. The Emerald Bowl against New Mexico University in San Francisco on 30 December is a just reward for the team and the Mids. Beat the LOBOS!

After our terrific win over Army, we are now focusing on the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco at SBC Park (kickoff 1:30 PST) on December 30, 2004. Many of you donated tickets last year for the Houston Bowl and we are asking you to do the same this year. The Naval Academy is trying to get 2,000 to 3,000 midshipmen to the game and they all need tickets. The Navy will get the Mids to San Francisco, but game tickets need to be provided by the alumni. Any left over tickets purchased this way will be offered to sailors and family in the Bay area. Please consider sponsoring a midshipman or midshipmen by purchasing tickets at \$30 per ticket.

Please purchase your tickets through Navy Sports so that the Naval Academy gets credit for them (we need to sell between 20,000 and 25,000 tickets).

You can do this by ordering online at www.NavySports.com or by calling 1-800-US4-NAVY.

It is vital for future bowl aspirations to not only have a great football team but to have Navy fan support at the game, including a march-on and stands full of Navy Blue like we did last year at the Houston Bowl.

In Atlanta we will gather to watch the game at Jocks & Jills in Brookhaven at 4:30 pm on Thursday, 12/30. (Our usual monthly luncheon location.)

Home Depot has given us two \$100 gift cards to raffle to the Chapter which we will do at the first opportunity (maybe at the Christmas Party on 12/12 and at the Chapter monthly luncheon on 12/17). All the proceeds from these raffles will go toward purchasing tickets from USNA AA for the Mids to attend the Emerald Bowl. Thanks to Bob Ravener '81 of Home Depot for his generosity.

Along with the Trustees, I got a tour of the almost finished Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, including private boxes, press boxes, coaches boxes, and the banquet facilities. It is amazing, and if you haven't taken in a game lately, you should and see what your alumni contributions have done.

Many of you have been saturated with emails from the Alumni Association Staff on this subject and the Eastern Region Trustee about the details of the Board of Trustees meeting, including the vote on the Castro Chapter, so I won't repeat them here. But if you have not seen these emails and would like to see them, call or email me and I will forward them to you. I am impressed with the work of the Chairman, ADM Trost, and the Alumni Association Staff. They are doing a bang up job for our institution.

Happy Holidays to all. See you at a USNA AAA event!

Bill Rentz, '55

NAVY TAKES THE CALL

You've no doubt seen pledge drives on television before where you see people sitting behind the emcee, manning telephones and accepting phone calls in support of the pledge drive. Well, each year, the Atlanta Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and the West Point Society of Atlanta get together to assist Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) with their annual pledge drive.

The event takes place on the Thursday before the Army-Navy game and involves the teams competing to see which group can raise the most money. About fifteen members of each alumni group report to the GPB studios for a nutritious dinner, a brief orientation and then report to the studios to man the phones. Depending on the goal, we stay at the station between two and four hours. The Navy contingent is usually outfitted in matching blue and gold sweatshirts and the Army crew wears matching gold and black shirts. Between crank calls and good-natured ribbing of the Army guys, we work hard on the phones to assist as people part with some of their hard-earned cash to help provide programming and personnel support for the cultural and educational initiatives that the channel is pursuing.

During the telecast, there are usually live interviews where each organization gets a chance to plug those things that are near and dear to them and express appreciation for the good work that the television station is doing. Navy beat Army again with \$6,815 being collected by Navy and \$6,805 being collected by Army. Georgia Public Broadcasting's goal for the evening was \$12,000. Meaning that this year, we exceeded the goal by \$1,620 overall.

December is a Networking Luncheon

Friday, December 17 – Come by to eat and network with other USNA alumni.

LGEN Robert P. Keller, USMC (Ret.) Speaks at November Luncheon

Chapter member Les Gable '70 arranged for Lieutenant General Robert Keller to visit the chapter in November. Les came to know LGEN Keller through his friend and USNA company classmate Dick Folga '70, visiting along with his wife, Celeste. Dick was a Naval Aviator and is active in the Pensacola Chapter and the Naval Aviation Museum at NAS Pensacola.

LGEN Keller's book titled "Three Wars... One Marine", relates his personal experiences and distinguished military career serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Dick Folga introduced LGEN Keller, who began by explaining his early fascination with flying and some key events that lead him to a career in aviation. He displayed a pair of weathered books that sparked his interest in flying. These were both books about the adventures of flying, written by author Tom Swift; one was dated 1910 and the other 1921! As a youngster, he also had the occasion to see, in person, Charles Lindbergh (in 1927) and Amelia Erhardt a few years later.

He entered a military Aviation Cadet program and learned to fly. He completed the program in January of 1940 and was accepted into the Navy's aviation program; however, there were no billets available until that October. Since he was "ready now", he found and accepted a billet in a Marine aviation program that summer. "That", he said, "is how I became a Marine!"

His Marine Fighter Squadron was deployed to Midway Island. He was rapidly promoted, becoming the XO then CO of the squadron as a Major at the age of 23! For that accomplishment and others, he became known as "Young Bob". Combat flight mission assignments were six weeks on and six weeks off. During his missions he downed one enemy aircraft and damaged two others. He claimed that it took him a time or two to get the hang of leading the target with the tracers and not flying so fast he flew up their tails before he had a chance to fire the guns!

After Midway, he returned to the U.S., completed night fighter school, and was deployed to Okinawa in July of 1945 as CO of Marine Night Fighter Squadron 553 assigned to cover the invasion of Japan. When the war ended, his squadron flew to Peiping, China, to assist in the repatriation of Japanese forces.

LGEN Keller's Marine Corp forces were the first to reach Korea in 1950. Their squadron of 24 Corsairs catapulted off an aircraft carrier to a shore base to support a regiment of Marine troops. He led the first sortie of eight Corsairs and fired what were the Marine Corp's first shots of the Korean War!

LGEN Keller also served in the Vietnam War from April 1967 to April 1968 as Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Both of his sons served in Vietnam about that same time.

According LGEN Keller "we won World War II, we tied the Korean War, and we lost in Vietnam." By the time he retired from the service in 1974, LGEN Keller was qualified to fly over 75 different aircraft.

Many thanks to LGEN Keller for taking the time to visit us in Atlanta and sharing his insights.

Summary provided by Bob Schultz '71

Monthly Luncheon Details:

We hold monthly luncheons at noon on the third Friday of each month at:

**Jocks & Jill's Sport Bar & Restaurant
4046 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 816-2801**

The cost is \$14. Please bring exact change if you can.

NOTE: The luncheon price INCLUDES service charges (tips). The food is always excellent; and they offer us three main dishes, plus salad, bread, and dessert.

Blue & Gold Officer's Update

If you know of a student that is interested in USNA, no matter what age, have them log onto www.USNA.edu and under "admissions" they can fill out a registration card or preliminary application. The entire USNA catalog is online at the web site as well as almost any information that a student would need with respect to applying or learning more about USNA. If a student is applying for 2009 and has not been in touch with their Blue and Gold Officer (BGO), they can email cindymiller@1990.usna.com and to get the information on their BGO. Each student that is applying gets a BGO assigned to them.

E-mail Cindy Miller at cindymiller@1990.usna.com or call 770-650-8921.

EVENTS CALENDAR

WHEN:	WHAT:	WHERE:
15 Jan 05 at Noon	USNA Gospel Choir Holiday Concert	MLK Center Ebenezer Baptist Church
26 Feb 05 at 6:30 PM	Founders Day Guest of Honor: VADM Rodney Rempt, USNA Superintendent	Cobb Galleria
19 Mar 05 Coffee's TimeTBA	Vernal Equinox Southside Event	Wendell Golf Center Tyrone, GA
April 2005	Social Hour and Dinner	Jock's & Jill's

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Address Correction Requested