

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



CHAPTER MOURNS THE LOSS OF ITS FOUNDER

C. M. WOOD '65 ADDRESS CHAPTER THIS MONTH

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

See articles in the newsletter for details!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the new Atlanta Chapter Officers and Directors, elected for 2004-2005 at the June monthly meeting, and to thank them for their willingness to serve this great Chapter. Included in that gratitude are the Past Presidents and Trustees who serve on the Board of Directors and provide wisdom, sage advice, and continuity. All the names are on the Chapter web site and on the front of the newsletter, so I won't list them all here. The Chapter cannot thrive without their time and effort to provide members with a schedule of activities that appeals to them and also may appeal to that large group of alumni that resides in the Atlanta and surrounding Georgia area who have not yet joined our Chapter. That's where we need your help.

Dick Fitzgerald '62 serves on the Board of Directors as our Director of Membership. He has been writing and calling a lot of those alumni recently to encourage them to join us or to tell us what we can do to make them want to participate in the fun and camaraderie we so much enjoy. We are striving to raise our Atlanta Chapter membership numbers to the level that will put us in the top nine Chapters in the country. Why? You may ask. Because that assures the Atlanta Chapter a Trustee position on the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees! That gives us a voice in the governance of OUR national Alumni Association. Is that important? We think it is! A free nametag, a Chapter Directory, and an Email list of activities and announcements from our fabulous Website are other worthwhile benefits.

So if Dick or one of his assistants calls you, tell him what's on your mind, give him your cooperation, and help him contact other classmates, shipmates, squadronmates, or neighbors whom you know are not members. Also, please help us update our database. If you see an error in your entry or in someone else's, call Mike Herger '90, our Chapter Database Manager, or use the form provided on the Website to correct your entry. Mike has agreed to continue in that job as a Chapter Board support position to provide us with the technical capability and continuity to better serve the Chapter.

Speaking of membership and the growth of our Chapter, it is a fitting time for me to pay tribute and honor to our Chapter founder, CAPT Felix de Golian, Jr., USN (Ret.) '37, who recently passed away at the age of 90. He served his country during World War II and came back to Atlanta to his family business and started the Atlanta Chapter of USNA AA in 1946. He was Chapter President in 1946 and 1947 when the Chapter used to meet at the Officer's Club at old NAS Atlanta (now Peachtree-DeKalb Airport), where I joined the Navy in 1949. An article about him is on our Chapter Website, so I won't repeat it all here, except to say that he was a colorful character and we owe him a great debt for getting this ball rolling. We should honor his memory by keeping this Chapter one he would be proud of.

Finally, you could not help but be moved by the military honor guards, military music, and many other aspects of President Reagan's funeral. It had to make you proud to be an American and a former member of the military. I was on active duty before, during, and after his term in office, and was second CO of USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36), which was commissioned in 1974 when he was Governor of California. If you don't have a feel for what his presidency meant to the U. S. armed forces, you should read the book "The Nightingale's Song".

By the way, do you all know whom the Navy Captain was who presented the U.S. Flag to Mrs. Reagan at the end of the graveside service in San Bernardino? Some of the networks covering the service did not say who he was. His picture was on the front page of the AJC commemorative section about the funeral. He was the current CO of the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 75). I have had to serve as Honor Guard Commander for military funerals on several occasions at Arlington (the extra duties assigned to active duty Navy Captains in

Washington), and those words which are said to the widow upon presentation of the flag after removal from the casket by the honor guard, which are standard protocol, "This flag is presented to you from a grateful nation for your husband's service", are the hardest to deliver I have ever experienced. They come just after Taps is played and they usually bring forth tears the family has been holding back bravely for a long time. The Skipper also said some other words, and I don't read lips, but I think he told her that the flag had flown briefly on the flag mast of the USS RONALD REAGAN.

Hope all had a safe and patriotic Fourth. What a country!

Bill Rentz '55, Atlanta Chapter President

2004 Membership Drive

We are looking forward to a great response in 2004! If you would like to pay your dues online, please go to the following web page and following the directions.

<http://usna.com/Communities/Chapters.asp>

Felix deGolian Jr., 90, Made a Big House a Home

Article by J.E. Geshwiler,

Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Felix deGolian was a structural engineer who reared 14 sons and daughters to be as straight and strong as the buildings he raised.

"We're lucky to be part o a big family," said his daughter Helen "Butchie" Neely of Atlanta. "Every time there was a new baby in the house, Mother and Daddy were ecstatic."

The funeral for Felix Eugene deGolian Jr., 90, is 11 a.m. today at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. He died Monday at Wesley Woods of complications from Alzheimer's disease. H.M. Patterson & Sons, Spring Hill, is in charge of arrangements.

"Pop was a happy-natured soul, but he had a strict side, said another daughter, Marie Elise "Doll Baby" Sullivan of Minneapolis. "Every night we'd gather

at the dinner table together, and Pop would make certain we sat as erect as he did when he was a Naval Academy Midshipman. He could be rigid about some things, like our observing curfews, but he balanced that with his joie de vivre.

“One of Pop’s greatest gifts was the gift of song. We’d pile into the car with him to go to the Piedmont Driving Club to swim or to the Varsity to eat, and he would lead us in some of his Navy songs or a gospel hymn and, often, ‘Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech.’ ”

“Daddy instilled a hard-work ethic in all of us, “ Mrs. Neely said. “He once owned 20 acres just outside Atlanta and raised 500 chickens there. We children were responsible for gathering washing and packaging the eggs they laid. Each night we’d take 12 to 15 dozen eggs to a market at the corner of Collier and Howell Mill. It was work that made us proud. Daddy gave us all nicknames, and some of them stuck with us all our lives. I’m called by my nicknamed, Butchie. Hardly anybody knows me by my given name.”

“Pop designed the house we lived in with a steel frame like a warehouse -- that’s the way he was used to building things,” said his son William deGolian of Atlanta. “As our family grew, he added on to it -- twice. Among the local projects Pop helped build were the Carillon Tower at Stone Mountain Park, Peachtree Center, Lenox Square, and Lockheed’s C-5A hangar.”

Educated at Annapolis, Md., and Georgia Tech, Mr. deGolian joined his father’s business, Golian Steel & Iron, in East Point, at the end of World War II after naval service in the European and Pacific theaters. Thereafter until the early 1970’s, he did building work in Atlanta and throughout the Southeast.

Survivors include his wife, Helen deGolian; four other daughters, Regina “Nina” Savakus of Ann Arbor, Mich., Luci Marshall of Portland, Maine, and Marie Angelique “Linky” White and Ann deGolian, both of Atlanta; seven other sons, Felix “Poley” deGolian III, Jonathan “Jerry” deGolian, Michael deGolian and George deGolian, all of Atlanta, Robert deGolian of Louisville, Ky., Peter deGolian of Tampa and Andrew “Roch” deGolian of Peachtree City; a sister, Angelique Kidd of Washington, D.C.; a brother, Richard deGolian of Lakeland, Fla.; 36 grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

C. M. Wood '65 to Address Chapter at July Luncheon

C.M.'s topic will be the CDC's role in Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Radiological Terrorism.

C.M. Wood graduated from Annapolis in 1965 and spent 22 years in nuclear submarines. His career included service on 3 attack submarines and 2 Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines, plus command of the USS CASIMIR PULASKI and USS DANIEL BOONE. He retired as a Commander in 1987 and spent 5 years with the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, where he was responsible for the computers and communications equipment for a statewide data network for monitoring the 7 nuclear power plants in that state.

He has been employed as a health physicist by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 1992. He has an MS in Operations Research and Statistics and an MA in Information Resources Management.

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 \$12.

Blue & Gold Officer's Update

If you are interested in volunteering as a Blue & Gold Officer, please e-mail or call Cindy Miller at cindymiller@1990.usna.com or 770-650-8921 and she can give you more information. She is in need of Blue & Gold Officers in the Macon area (2 of my BGOs are moving!!)

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Address Correction Requested.