

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



CHAPTER BIDS FAREWELL TO BILL WIDEMAN '35

**DR JAMES BRUNS, ATLANTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ADDRESSES THE CHAPTER IN SEPTEMBER**

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

See articles in the newsletter for details!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My Corner starts with some sad news, which has been reported to you by other means. On September 13th, we lost our Chapter's honored senior member, CAPT William B. Wideman, USN (Ret.) '35. Bill and his classmate, CAPT George A. O'Connell, Jr., USN (Ret.) '35, were inducted as our first Honorary Atlanta Chapter Life Members in 2003. To George and the Wideman family, we share your sorrow and we will miss our shipmate. He honored us with his presence for many years and was the standard bearer for Alumni spirit.

We owe thanks to the manager of Jocks and Jill's, Brookhaven, Craig Martin, for hooking up to HDNet TV to give over twenty of us Navy fans an exciting evening of Navy-Duke football on September 4th. Ples Bruce '77 worked and negotiated with Mr. Martin and the result was a schedule of three games not on network TV in the Atlanta area. Besides the Duke game, HDNet will broadcast Navy-Vanderbilt and Navy-Rice, which we will be able to see at Jocks and Jill's. In addition, of course, Navy games against Air Force, Notre Dame, and Army will be on network TV. Check our events schedule for times, dates, and plans for all of those games.

And remember, these things don't happen by themselves. They happen because members of your Board of Directors make them happen.

We need you all to support these efforts by encouraging your classmates, old shipmates, squadron mates, and neighbors to join us for our monthly luncheon meetings and other events found on our website. Spread the word.

Support and pray for our troops. They are doing a much better job than our media wants us to think.

Beat Army! Bill Rentz '55, Chapter President

CAPT Michael Walsh, USNR of
Atlanta Vietnam Veterans
Business Association
Chapter August Luncheon Speaker

The monthly meeting and luncheon for the Atlanta Chapter was held at Jock's and Jill's Sports Bar and Restaurant in Brookhaven on August 20, 2004. It is held on the third Friday of every month at the same location.

We were especially honored to have as SOPA our shipmate CAPT George A. O'Connell '35, who continues to show us by example what alumni spirit is all about. He also celebrated his 91st birthday on this day. Our thanks also to his nephew Reggie Vachon '58, who makes sure he has transportation to our meetings.

We were also pleased to see CAPT Felix De Golian III '63 at the meeting. As many of you know his late father, CAPT Felix De Golian, Jr. '37, was the founder of the Atlanta Chapter and served as President from 1946 to 1947.

Our luncheon speaker was CAPT Michael Walsh, USNR (Ret.), a graduate of UGA and OCS, who served in Destroyers in the Tonkin Gulf during the Vietnam War. Mike is a native Atlantan and is very active in the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. He was accompanied by Rusty Redding, another member of AVVBA, who was a Navy SEAL in Vietnam.

Many of us were not aware of the outstanding work this organization does in the Atlanta area recognizing and honoring those who served and those who gave their lives in the service of their country in Vietnam. Mike described and showed us the locations of several of the monuments erected and beautifully maintained in the metropolitan Atlanta area and reminded us of the presence of the Vietnam Moving Wall, a replica of the Memorial Wall in Washington.

Mike described the memorial that is in the planning stage for next year. It will honor a Naval Academy graduate from Atlanta, CDR Clarence William Stoddard, USN, '49. He was CO of VA-25 and pilot of an A-1 Skyraider that was shot down by a SAM on a mission over South Vietnam in September 1966. He crashed in the Gulf of Tonkin and was not recovered.

His widow, Janey Stoddard, lives in Memphis, grew up in Atlanta, and was Miss Georgia in 1948, and runner-up in the Miss America pageant. They have 7 children, scattered all over the U.S. and we hope that many of them will be able to attend the dedication of the memorial. He has several classmates in our Atlanta Chapter, and coincidentally, our chapter mate Clint Johnson '60, was a squadron mate of CDR Stoddard in VA-25 and flew the same mission the day before CDR Stoddard was killed. Clint is also active in the AVVBA and gave us a lot more information on what they do. Naturally he is vitally interested in this memorial to his former Skipper.

The memorial is tentatively scheduled to be located in midtown Atlanta near Colony Square or the Woodruff Arts Center. As the date grows closer we will keep you informed of the details and we told CAPT Walsh he could count on the Atlanta Chapter's full support in making this a fitting tribute to this fallen hero. Bill Rentz '55, Chapter President, presented Mike with a USNA Atlanta Chapter apron with great appreciation for his presentation.

Upcoming Luncheon Speakers

Friday, October 15 - Ms. Debbie Beck, Managing Editor, SHIPMATE magazine.

Friday, November 19 – To Be Determined

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 has gone up \$2.00. The good news is that the new \$14.00 price INCLUDES service charges (tips). So, most will pay about what you have been paying in the past anyway. Jock's & Jill's has been taking very good care of us for years. The food is always excellent; we will continue to have three main dishes, plus salad, bread, and dessert.

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 follow the directions.

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

Blue & Gold Officer's Update

The class of 2009 is well on their way with their applications to USNA. Currently, Georgia has 256 kids that are applying for the class of 2009. We expect the admissions boards to start up soon and hopefully, we will get some candidates offered an early acceptance to USNA.

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.

If you are interested in becoming a Blue and Gold Officer, I would love to talk to you about the program. BGOs perform counseling and interview students that are applying to USNA. A BGO performs a very important and needed service to the Academy Admissions office by providing a face-to-face interview with the candidate and evaluating the student for their true desire to attend USNA and serve in the Naval service. A BGO can be an active duty or reserve officer, retired military, a civilian who was an Academy graduate, or civilians who are parents of midshipmen or graduates. The program can be tailored to meet anyone's schedule. By working as a BGO, we ensure that the high standards of leadership, morals, athletic ability, and academics are maintained at USNA. It is a wonderful way to help young students and ensure the future of America.

If interested, e-mail Cindy Miller at cindymiller@1990.usna.com or call 770-650-8921.

EVENT CALENDAR

WHEN:	WHAT:	WHERE:
TBD at 6 PM	Social Hour/Dinner	Babette's Cafe
25 Sep 04 at 1:30 PM	Football Navy vs. Vanderbilt	Jock's & Jill's
30 Sep 04 at 1:30 PM	Football Navy vs. Air Force	Jock's & Jill's
16 Oct 04 Time TBA	Football Navy vs. Notre Dame	Jock's & Jill's
23 Oct 04 at 1:30 PM	Football Navy vs. Rice	Jock's & Jill's
11 Nov 04 12 Noon Club	Navy Coach Paul Johnson Speaks in Atlanta	Atlanta Touchdown
2 Dec 04 Time TBA	Army vs. Navy Fundraiser	GPTV
4 Dec 04 Time TBA	Football Army vs. Navy	TJ's Sports Bar

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER
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Address Correction Requested