

# U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005



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## BOB RAVENER '81 TO ADDRESS THE CHAPTER AT THE APRIL LUNCHEON

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Some good news you may not have heard. The Atlanta Chapter will be represented on the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees starting in May 2005 for three years, as we were from 1993 to 2003. According to the Chapter bylaws, the Chapter Board of Directors will elect a Trustee and report the name to National this month. In addition to managing the database, Mike Herger '90 also took the lead during the 2004 membership drive, when Dick Fitzgerald '62 had to ease off as Membership Director due to family illness. I am pleased to report that the result of their efforts was that the Atlanta Chapter membership numbers placed us seventh overall of the nine largest Chapters in the country. We were behind San Diego, Boston, Pensacola, Greater Washington, DC, Hampton Roads, and Los Angeles. Not bad for a sleepy Southern town! We reported 324 members of the Atlanta Chapter to National, although a few didn't count since they were not members of National. That is out of the over 1,300 graduates that we have in the Greater Atlanta area to draw from. We can do better, but we need your help.

Coming off last season's 10-2 record, including an impressive victory over New Mexico University in the Emerald Bowl, Navy football is riding high. The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is again residing in Annapolis and Coach Paul Johnson is the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year. His recruiting and coaching may be put to a test. As

you may know, we lost 16 starters off last years very good team. When Coach Johnson spoke to the Atlanta Touchdown Club last November 2004, he again snagged the Georgia high school player of the week, linebacker Matt Johnson from Starr's Mill H. S. who shared the podium. He signed him up for Navy. Coach Johnson's reputation at Ga. Southern University continues to account for quite a few good players from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina being on the USNA roster.

More good news is that Navy has signed a television contract with College Sports TV (CSTV) and will broadcast all games except Notre Dame and Army, which are under long standing contracts to major network TV. Jocks and Jill's in Brookhaven will cover them all for us, since their big Satellite dish can pick up CSTV. No reservations or cover charge, just show up and yell! Of course, if you can go to Annapolis for a game at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, you should, and we'll look for you on TV in the crowd shots.

Keep checking our web site for luncheon speakers and USNA AA Atlanta events. Our south side Atlanta Vernal Equinox BBQ in Tyrone, GA, on March 21, 2005, was another success and an event that we hope to use to keep reaching out to the Peachtree City crowd. There is another Social Hour and Dinner at Jocks and Jills on Saturday night, April 30. We close out our Events this year with Army-Navy Golf on Friday, May 20, at Fort McPherson, and the world famous Atlanta Lobster Fest on Saturday, June 11, at Red Top Mountain. We'll start the fall with a new cycle of events and a new set of Chapter Officers and Directors elected at the June 2005 monthly meeting.

Bill Rentz '55, Atlanta Chapter President

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## **Best Selling Author "Buzz" Patterson Speaks at Chapter March Luncheon**

Colonel Robert "Buzz" Patterson, author of the best selling books "Dereliction of Duty: The Eyewitness Account of How Bill Clinton Endangered America's Long-Term National Security", and his

recently released second book "Reckless Disregard", spoke to the Chapter at the March Luncheon.

Lieutenant Colonel Patterson USAF (Ret.) was military aide to President Clinton from mid-1996 to mid-1998. He was one of a handful of aides that carried the "nuclear football", the briefcase that contained the nuclear weapons launch codes. This responsibility put him in close contact with the President and gave him a unique perspective on the Clinton administration. He said that though he arrived at his new assignment "filled with professional devotion and commitment to serve," he left believing that Clinton had "sown a whirlwind of destruction upon the integrity of our government, endangered our national security, and done enormous harm to the American military in which I served."

Buzz presented a picture of a White House and its occupants that had a complete lack of understanding of the U.S. Armed Forces and their mission, plus a general disrespect for the men and women who filled its ranks. Not the atmosphere that you would expect in the building that housed the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, nor from that man himself. Hilary, in fact, set a policy that allowed no military personnel on staff to be in uniform in the White House. Civilian clothes were the uniform of the day.

While then President Clinton may well have had the legal authority to act as the Commander-In-Chief, Buzz said that he never had the moral authority to do so. Per Buzz, you cannot command moral authority, you have to earn it, and Clinton never did.

Buzz listed many specific examples of circumstances that required both leadership and command decisions on the part of Bill Clinton. Unfortunately for this country, he either failed miserably or in many cases did nothing. For example, on at least two occasions Bill Clinton had the opportunity to capture or eliminate Osama Bin Laden. One of the two occasions was an offer by the country expelling Bin Laden to hand him over to the United States! A second opportunity was a chance to launch a cruise missile attack on the known location of Bin Laden. (An extremely rare

opportunity.) Clinton delayed too long pondering the political implications of such action on his political career. Bin Laden left the location before he made a decision to act! U. S. forces were "locked and loaded" and ready to fire. To no avail! Clinton squandered both opportunities! If he had acted in either case, the 9-11-2001 attack on America would probably have never happened.

Buzz's recently released second book "Reckless Disregard" discusses the negative impact of the Clinton administration and, in particular the "liberal left", on the defense establishment. (Buzz makes a specific distinction between the Democratic party and members of the liberal left.) We won't steal anymore of the either book's thunder here. They are a must read!

Book sales were brisk after Buzz's presentation. Also at the luncheon were Bruce Holroyd and Ronnie Rondem of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA). Buzz had spoken to their group previously and they helped with book sales. Chapter member Clint Johnson '60, was also at the luncheon and is a member of the AVVBA as well. Plus, in the "small world, isn't it" category Clint actually hired Buzz to fly for Delta Airlines when he left the Air Force in 2001!

Luncheon attendees were: AVVBA members Bruce Holroyd and Ronnie Rondem, Carol Sue and Jim Ravenel '45, Walt Sheffield '51, Perry Stephens '51, Sibyl and Charley Plumly '55, Bill Rentz '55, Frank Roescher '59, Don Thompson '59, Clint Johnson '60, Lorie Moore '64, Bill Williams '65, Jon Barton '66, Bob Wittenberg '66, Jim Slemenda '67, Pete Tzomes '67, Paul Borer '70, Dick Click '70, Mitch Rowland '71, Bob Schultz '71, Mike Loes '74, Alex Cobble '76, Jack McCourt '78, Guest Lynche Lippert and Ed Brownlee '81, Mario Maddox '85, Rob Burger '86, Tim Phillips '89, Kary Brownlee '93, Mike King '95, Jennifer Ruegg '96, Ravi Vemulapalli '96, and Josh Height '98.

Many thanks to Colonel Patterson for making time to share this very eye-opening personal account of the Clinton White House with our Chapter, and for staying "late" to sign everyone's books.

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## The April 15<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Speaker Will be Bob Ravener USNA '81

Bob is the VP of Human Resources for Home Depot. Bob will speak about Home Depot's support for troops, military families, and Veterans. Come out and hear Bob and enjoy good fellowship.

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### 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, which includes service charges (tips). Please bring exact change if you can.**

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### Blue & Gold Officers Update

Blue & Gold Officers are volunteers that assist USNA by performing the face-to-face interviews of students that are applying to USNA. For more details on the program, please see past articles in the USNA Atlanta Alumni newsletter or contact Cindy Miller at (770) 650-8921 or [cindymiller@1990.usna.com](mailto:cindymiller@1990.usna.com). We are in need of Blue & Gold officers in the Roswell/Alpharetta/Cumming area and in Macon. If you can help, please contact me at the above phone number or email address.

As the year is wrapping up for Blue & Gold Officers with respect to interviewing seniors, it is just beginning for the junior class. If you know of any junior who is interested in USNA, please make sure that they go to the USNA web site at [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu) and under Admissions, register for the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS). It is an online registration that opens up on 1 Feb 05. Admittance into the program is based on above average PSAT/SAT scores, good grades and a

good record of sports and extra curricular activities. If a junior hasn't taken the PSAT/SAT yet, they need to before the end of January in order to competitive in obtaining a spot in the summer seminar program. The program fills up very quickly so it is imperative that juniors turn their applications in as soon as possible.

The admissions process is going great this year for the state of Georgia. So far, we have 361 students applying to USNA from Georgia. This is a little lower than 426 at this time last year. To date, we have 3 students who have been offered and accepted appointments to USNA, another 5 have been offered conditional offers (this means that they will be offered an appointment once they have been cleared medically and have a nomination). We have 2 students who have accepted NAPS and another that has been offered NAPS. The USNA Foundation has recently mailed out applications to 5 Georgia students for participation in the Foundation program. Both NAPS and Foundation guarantee admittance into USNA next year upon successful completion of their programs.

Congressmen and Senators are required to submit their nominations to USNA at the end of January. After the deadline, we expect USNA to send out a lot of offers.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

**WHEN:      WHAT:      WHERE:**

**30 Apr 05      Social Hour and      Jock's & Jill's  
Dinner**

**20 May 05      Army-Navy Golf      Ft McPherson  
9:30      Challenge      Army Base,  
Registration      11:00 Start      Atlanta**

**26 May 05      AVVBA Dedication      Colony  
11 AM      Square      of Memorial for CDR  
C. W. Stoddard '49**

**11 June 05      Lobsterfest      Red Top  
4 PM      Mountain State Park**

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