

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2005**



**USNA GOSPEL CHOIR VISITS ATLANTA DURING THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND**

Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

PRESIDENT

Bill Rentz '55

H: (678) 432-3089, C: (678) 230-3661

VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Frederick '72

H: (770) 419-9224, W: (770) 423-9298

TREASURER

Eric Busko '88

H: (404) 816-1691, W: (404) 607-5723

SECRETARY:

Mary McElroy '87

H: (678) 556-9262

DIRECTOR - MEMBERSHIP:

Dick Fitzgerald '62

H: (770) 529-4937, W: (770) 529-4939

GENERAL DIRECTORS:

Stew Caldwell '65, Joe Frazar '65, Paul Borer '70, Mitch Rowland '71, Lee Whitfield '71, Ples Bruce '77, Linda Bolan '83, Terry McElroy '86, Matthew Kirby '94.

BLUE & GOLD CONTACT

Cindy Miller '90, H: (770) 650-8921

WEBMASTER

Bob Schultz '71

H: (770) 448-4299; W: (770) 236-7891

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR:

Mike Herger '90

H: (404) 378-2122; W: (404) 773-6785

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This letter is all about a celebration. On Saturday, January 15, 2005, our Chapter and visiting alumni were very honored and blessed to take part in the 76th Birthday observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. It was an historic day in an historic place. The stars of the day and weekend were the Naval Academy Gospel Choir. They performed at a High School in Atlanta on Friday, followed by a College admissions fair, and performed at two Churches in Jonesboro, GA, on Sunday, before heading back to Annapolis on Monday. They made a great impression everywhere they went.

Key players in the Naval Academy Minority Outreach and Admissions organization accompanied the Choir. The Atlanta Chapter (via Stew) provided the barbecued pork and chicken lunch with all the trimmings and the Parents Club provided the desserts, which were served in the basement assembly room at Ebenezer. Mrs. Coretta Scott King visited with us before the concert and Ambassador Andrew Young, principal speaker, visited afterwards. Both chatted with the Choir members and guests. Alumni attending were: Glenn Brewer '51; Bill and Sue Rentz '55, Bill's mother-in law Fern Johnson, and friend Rosa Lee Thurston; Tony and Virginia Womble '63; Mess Caterer Stew Caldwell '65; Pete Tzomes '67 (in town from Chicago); MGen Charles Bolden '68 (from Houston and one of the principal speakers);

Paul and Jody Borer '70; Dick Folga '70 (from Pensacola); Les Gable '70; Don Montgomery '74 (Minority Outreach Coordinator from USNA); Kerwin Miller '75 (USNA Alumni Assn Admissions Committee from Washington, DC); Ples Bruce '77; Mary McElroy '87 and sons Darrin and Austin; Cindy Miller '90 and daughters Katie and Beth; LT Nikki Peoples '97 (who coordinated many of the arrangements); LT B. Rashad Jones '01 (OIC of the Gospel Choir and former Westminster and Navy Football Player); also present was CDR Vanessa Wyndham, CO of the Atlanta Recruiting Command (former 30th Company Officer).

I want to also mention the Faculty Rep, CDR Henry Jones, Head of Oceanography at USNA, and a former member of the Gospel Choir, Marine 2nd Lt Lanz, who was Midshipman OIC last year. (He just finished TBS and is heading for flight school). Local Atlanta folks might recognize the names of two members of the Gospel Choir who are also on the Navy football team: Midshipman Jon Singleton '05 (#10 a cornerback and 4-sport letterman from Crisp County High) and Midshipman Brian Hampton '07 (#3 a Quarterback).

Ambassador Young and MGen Bolden had some inspiring words to say to the Midshipmen and the rest of us. Ambassador Young talked about the wisdom of his friend Martin. The Ambassador was a close advisor and friend during the early civil rights movement. He complimented the Choir members on their willingness to serve their country and to go in harm's way. He said that even though Dr. King was a man of peace, he believed that because of the Democratic elections about to take place in Iraq, that Iraqis were much better off than they were under Saddam Hussein's reign of terror. Following Ambassador Young, MGen Bolden '68 inspired the midshipmen and us with his heartfelt remarks. General Bolden talked about South Africa and Nelson Mandela and likened Mandela's nonviolent reaction to his struggles to that of Dr. King. He finished by reminding us that sometimes we are made better by facing adversity and by being denied what we thought we needed most, excerpted from "Chicken Soup for the Soul." Before and after the remarks by the speakers, the

Gospel Choir rocked the church with some fabulous musical selections.

The bottom line is if you missed this, you need to pay attention to our website and participate. The events represent a lot of work on the part of a lot of people. We need your support. Encourage your classmates, old shipmates, squadron mates, and neighbors to join us for our monthly luncheon meetings and other events found on our Website.

Support and pray for our troops. They are doing a much better job than our media represents.

Beat Army! Bill Rentz '55

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY

This year's party was held on Sunday December 12th at the home of Michael and Susan Lores '74, in Roswell. About 40 alumni and friends attended the catered event. The food and spirits, the company, and the Lores home were all wonderful.

Many thanks to Mike and Susan for sharing their beautiful home with us.

In attendance were: Carol Sue & Jim Ravenel '45, Lynn & Jim Hatch '47, Sue & Bill Rentz '55 and Fern Johnson (Sue's Mom), Patricia & Jack Clay '56, Choyce & Don Thompson '59, Carl McCallum '60, Monty & Clint Johnson '61, Nancy & Paul Hurst '62, Karen & Keith Waldrop '64, Lorie Moore '64, Ann & Stewart Caldwell '65, Carolyn & John Johnson '65, Jan & Jon Barton '66, Mary & Sam Newton '68, Joan & Paul Borer '70, Linda & Bob Schultz '71, Karen & Steve Frederick '72, Barbara & Jerry Schubert '72, Nick Ward '74 & his fiancée Jean Jacob, and Susan & Michael Lores '74.

January Luncheon Speaker -- Dr. Leo S. Mackay, Jr. '83, former Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Friday, January 21 – Come by to eat and chat with other USNA alumni.

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.

Blue & Gold Officers and Their Involvement with High School Juniors and the USNA Summer Seminar Program

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. 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 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 Naval Academy Summer Seminar program is the Academy's most successful marketing and recruiting program. Conducted and managed by the Office of Admissions, the Summer Seminar is scheduled annually during the first three weeks of June. Designed for top-performing, highly qualified rising high School seniors, a total of 600 students will attend each of the three

sessions scheduled annually in June, coming from all 50 states of the U.S. The purpose of the Naval Academy Summer Seminar is to introduce potential candidates to the total experience of the Naval Academy. Emphasis and events are designed to allow the students to experience, firsthand, the Naval Academy mission, highlighting the moral, mental and physical development of each midshipman. Summer Seminar events include eight academic workshops taught by members of USNA's Faculty, daily physical training sessions, intramural sports activities, seamanship and sailing opportunities, leadership training, drill competition, briefings on the character development program and the honor concept and a Plebe Indoctrination Session. Students live in Bancroft Hall and receive a firsthand introduction to midshipman life in the Yard. The mainstay of the Summer Seminar is the leadership and mentorship provided by the midshipman detail, all of who are volunteers and highly recommended by the Commandant of Midshipmen for this program. Summer Seminar attendees are selected for their well-rounded and versatile resumes that are competitive for USNA admissions criteria. Each year, more than 80% of the Summer Seminar attendees become candidates for admissions to USNA. Applications for the Summer Seminar program are found on the USNA web site, and are usually open and available after 1 February. The cost is approximately \$200. Applicants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Annapolis.

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. The next few months are very exciting and sometimes disappointing for our BGOs and their students.

EVENTS CALENDAR

WHEN: WHAT: WHERE:

**26 Feb 05 Founders Day Cobb Galleria
at 6:30 PM Guest of Honor:
Formal attire VADM Rodney Rempt,
USNA Superintendent**

**19 Mar 05 Vernal Equinox Wendell
Coffee's Southside Event Golf Center
TimeTBA Tyrone, GA**

**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
Square
11 AM of Memorial for CDR
C. W. Stoddard '49**

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

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P.O. BOX 76684
ATLANTA, GA 30358**

Address Correction Requested