

## 59/60 CLASS NEWS

on Sanibel on March. 12. They met there for cocktails and chatter followed by a wonderful dinner at Skip's Sanctuary Golf Club on Sanibel. As you can see from one photo, we are not giving up the ship.



'59ers: L to R is me, Skip Yerkes, Steve Burgess, Dave Dyke and Norm Bednarek



The ladies pictured are L to R, Linda Bednarek, Annemarie Obsitnik, Joan Burgess and Judy Yerkes.

### Still More Good Times From Vince Obsitnik — A Half Marathon

Vince reports that he ran and finished the Sarasota Half Marathon on March 19. The course started in the city, ran across two bridges to Lido Key and back to the city up around the Ringling Bros. Museum and back to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center. There were 1542 runners and four in the age group 75-79. Vince. Finished second in his age group with a time of 3h6m. It was a grueling run since I had pain in my left foot for the last seven miles. But, I didn't give up the ship, and kept going to the finish. Way to go Vince !!!

### Rise and Shine!

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## '60

**Life Membership: 69%**  
**Donor Participation: 12.10%**

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From **Ray Burkley (2)**:

✉ "Bill, the Northern California Class of '60 met for lunch at the La Fontaine Restaurant in Mountain View, CA on February 21st. The attendees were **Spencer Cleveland (6)**, **Chuck Peterson (18)**, **Daniel Affourtit (24)**, **Patrick Sullivan (6)** and **Raymond Burkley (2)**. **Dennis Vied (24)** and **Angelo Karpampelas (22)** were also planning to attend but were unable to due to the flooding in the area. A few other 'regulars' were kept away because of the heavy rain. Fortunately none of the class suffered any damage from the flooding, just a little inconvenience. Raymond"



NoCal Group

From **Chuck Agustin (17)**:

✉ "Folks, I had a lunch meeting at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel here with 10 PMA Classmates and **Benny Lomotan (17)** showed up for the first time this year. He asked about his 4-year roomie JR (**John Rogers (17)**), who I said was quite OK, and also remembered the demise of **Joe Peek (17)** and thanked the Lord for many of us getting through some medical issues.

His first comment was that his email was hacked and he had not checked his mail for some time, and was concerned about many of our classmates in 60-17. He recalled the news about **Frank Bessinger's (17)** checkup and wondered how he is now. He said that he had requested

daily mass prayers for a week in his parish, and was relieved to hear that Frank's OK and has posted a few things in our email circuit.

He recalls Oz's great help in passing information and for wishing all of us well.

Benny's looking good as always, although he's gotten a little slimmer, as can be seen in the below photo. Chuck"



**Chuck Agustin (17)**, **Benny Lomotan (17)** and **Jess Alcordo (PMA)**

From **Doug Johnston (5)**:

✉ "March brought a great turnout at our monthly lunch. I suspect the opportunity to hear and interact with Ed Meese as well as one another may have had something to do with it. Mr. Meese who headed the Presidential transition in the Reagan Administration and later served as our country's 75th Attorney General, currently occupies the Ronald Reagan Chair in Public Policy at the Heritage Foundation. Having recently served on the Trump transition team, he spoke to us about the transition process more generally, noting that it is a uniquely American tradition, and he contrasted the process that is currently underway with that which occurred under President Reagan.

Mr. Meese served as an Army Officer during the Korean War, his father served in the Army in WWI, his son recently retired as a Brigadier General, and he has a grandson and grandson-in-law currently at West Point. I told him that this 4th generation status entitled him to at least one joke at Navy's expense. He did so and had us all rolling in the aisles. Those who attended included **Ron Burdge (9)**,

**Hank Chiles (21)**, **Gary Cogdell (7)**, **George Dowell (19)**, **Grant Sharp (19)**, **Duane Tollaksen (3)**, **Bob Traister (2)**, Barbara and **Ward O'Brien (22)**, Becky and **Dick Pariseau (1)**, Darlene Lebedev and **Bob Matulka (2)**, Jeanne Rush and **Tom Solak (2)**, Sheila and **John Chenard (14)**, Dolly and **Gene Tucker (9)**, Dareen and yours truly, Doug



**Doug Johnston (5)** & **Ed Meese**

From **Joe Tranchini (14)**:

✉ "Hi Bill, Cookie and I just returned from a trip to Mesa, Arizona, to attend the funeral of **Carl "Bo" Aglio (14)**, my Academy roommate and best man at our wedding. It was a beautiful service attended by his wonderful family and many of his neighbors and friends. We shared a lot of laughs and memories of Bo's life and his many achievements. I was a bit surprised and pleased that we had three other '60 classmates who learned of Bo's passing and attended the visitation the evening before the funeral. **Pat Sullivan (6)** and **Dusty Craver (24)** just happened to be visiting in Phoenix when they got the notification of the funeral arrangements and made time to pay their respects. But we were all blown away by **Larry Plemister's (13)** efforts to attend - after learning of Bo's passing, Larry tried to make airline reservations from his home in Manhattan, Kansas, but due to the short notice and it being college Spring Break week, couldn't find a seat. So Larry rented a car and drove the 19 hours to Mesa to arrive just in time for the visitation. Larry stayed for the funeral the next day and then drove another 19 hours back to Kansas. Talk about friends and loyalty! It was fun seeing and getting caught up with Pat, Dusty, and Larry again

after too many years, and I just wanted to extend my and the Aglio family's thanks to them for attending. It meant a lot. Joe

**Jim Knorr (20)** sent along a memory, in line with the Easter season from back in "the day".

✉ "I was assigned to the USS Independence (CV 62) as Chief Engineer. We were in the Med, storms were prevalent and in the 1970s steaming and anchoring were challenges. On one particular occasion, in 1973, a terrible storm made it particularly dangerous to land aboard the carrier. A propeller plane used to transport personnel and cargo, attempting a landing failed, and crashed upside down in the water. The pilot and co-pilot were killed but the 8 passengers were still inside the aircraft. A plane crewman, knowledgeable about hatches and things, after what seemed to be about an extraordinary long time, opened one. Our 5000 shipboard observers, watched in amazement as mail and cargo followed by 8 passengers exited the plane for rescue. One of my Classmates, **Paul Ilg (13)**, survived and later became a Rear Admiral and Carrier Group Commander. When all seemed lost, a miracle happened. Jim"

From **Ron Booth (17)** via **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ "I am in reasonable health for one year shy of 80. Getting old is for the birds with all the minor aches and pains. I volunteer as a tax aide for the AARP on Wednesdays at the Bainbridge Library and go to the local MOAA meetings with a Retired Lt Col who was a Helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War. I am active in the Masonic Lodge here and otherwise I am busy with writing my Mother-in Laws Memoir. She is almost 96 and doing well in a Retirement Home on the Island. I do read your messages and you do a great job of keeping up with the company. We hope to come back for the 60th reunion and hope to see you there. We both enjoyed the 17th and 18th company holding a joint company party and hope for a repeat this time. We enjoy reading

in Shipmate about the Hampton Roads 60 group. Sounds like you really have a great group there. Thank you for the phone call and voice message, Ron"

From **Chuck Agustin (17)** via **Bob Osmon (17)**:

✉ "Oz, During First Class year I went on WESTPAC CRUISE and was on USS Boyd (DD 544) with **Bernie Roeder (23)**. We docked at Hong Kong in Aug 1959. I went with Bernie to a tailor shop called LEE CHONG TAI where USN brass used to order suits made (and I did). But you won't find my picture there. Chuck"

And from **John Claman (3)**:

✉ "I remember Lee Chong Tai and how he sealed the deals with beers. Bought one suit, two tweed sports jackets, several monogrammed shirts and a dinner dress and hand-made shoes from him in Oct 1960. I must've had a lot of beer! He later opened a place in SDiego. John"

From **Ken Loveland (23)**:

✉ "Bill, Betty and I had a leisurely drive to Florida (If one can call 5-7 hours per day for 3 days in a car leisurely) to visit kids and Grandkids there. On the way home to Fairfax, VA we stopped at Judy and **Sid Scruggs (23)** home in Vass NC. We had introduced them to each other some 57+ years ago, and believe it or not we're still good friends. We had a great time catching up on the last 57 years and comparing travel stories. Sid was the International President of the Lions Club so got to travel extensively for that office. We love to travel too, have been to all 7 continents and are still going wherever and whenever we can. Ken



Lovelands and Scruggs

# '61

**Life Membership: 70%**  
**Donor Participation: 7.71%**

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Well, after almost two months off, I'm back at work here on SHIPMATE. Have a lot of good inputs, so some will have to wait for the next issue, but not to worry, I'll get them mostly all squeezed in eventually. This input is due in on April 24th, and you get to see it around the last week of June, when it all gets put together into one magazine. I like the new SHIPMATE format. It's not a macro change, but it's a lot better. Connie & I are going on a long cruise from 19 May through 19 June, from Rome to Singapore. I'm sure there are a few satellite reception gaps for email along the way, and my NEXT issue is due right in the middle. So, if you don't see anything much in the August issue, you'll know that my comms were down for that part of the cruise...I'll try to get everything in that I can before we take off, but somewhere in there, while also watching the grandkids while their Mom & Dad are in and out during a busy period, I'll have to pack....and, one more quick note - **Pete Schilling (18)** has just published a book



**Navy Years** - it can be found on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) by search for "book Navy Years."

This in from **Ron Carlberg (20)**:

✉ "I attended the NAFAC again this year representing our 1961 Class and our 20th



Company. The Title of this year's conference was '**A New Era of Great Power Competition?**'. The Opening Address is named after our departed 20th Company classmate LCDR James "JJ" Connell, who helped organize and was the first Midshipman Director of the NAFAC in 1960, 57 years ago. **RADM Jerry Smith (8)** or I have given the introduction about "JJ" in past years, but starting last year they asked if a Mid could make "JJ" 's introduction so a Mid could experience speaking to an audience of 300 or more people. Jerry and I readily agreed, and we give the Mid our speaking notes about "JJ". The Mids this year and last year have done a great job with the introduction! **Note from Skip:** Some of you had known "JJ", and some not, but besides his photo, by far the best tribute to him and a brief but moving description of what he did under horrific circumstances is given, I believe, in the citation for his Navy Cross, which was posthumously awarded to him, once all the POWs were brought back, and he was not among them:

*"For extraordinary heroism as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam from 1966 to 1971. Under constant pressure from the North Vietnamese in their attempt to gain military information and propaganda material, he experienced severe torture with ropes and was kept in almost continuous solitary confinement. As they persisted in their hostile treatment of him, he continued to resist by feigning facial muscle spasms, incoherency of speech, and crippled arms with loss of feeling in his fingers. The Vietnamese, convinced of his plight, applied shock treatments in an attempt to improve his condition. However, he chose not to indicate improvement for fear of further cruelty. Isolated in a corner of the camp near a work area visited daily by other prisoners, he established and maintained covert communications with changing groups of POW's, thereby serving as a main point of exchange of intelligence information. By his exceptional courage, determination, and resourcefulness in this most difficult line of resistance, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United*