

Class of 1957



Briefing Notes

“Gentlemen of the Air-minded Brigade”

CLASS HISTORY

The Class of 1957 entered into the United States Naval Academy in 1953.

Graduated 7 June 1957

Graduates 848 Midshipmen

Non-Graduates 287 Midshipmen

Back in the day . . . the days of no air conditioning, marching to classes and to mandatory church services, no bothersome choices to make academically (except for which *dago* to study for two years), blue cap covers all winter (so easy to keep neat), folded raingear capes, no booze inside and no liberty outside seven miles, sympathetic jimmylegs at the gates, our M-1 rifles all stowed in Dahlgren, slide rules, drag houses and the flying squadron, garters and detachable starched collars, no cell phones (no *phones!*), and tea fights at Carvel Hall, where many lifelong romances began.

And the academics: A recitation/quiz and grade every day, every subject; grades to two decimal places posted every week, along with standing in each course.

While we were here, Eddie Erdelatz took the Team Named Desire to the Sugar Bowl and there beat Ole Miss on national TV. Hurricane Hazel sank the yacht *Vamarie* and tore the *Reina Mercedes* from her moorings. Home football games were in Thompson Stadium, and we were the first to graduate in the new Halsey Field House.

Upon graduating, 848 strong (down from 1200 entering), we entered a Cold War environment, with Korea over and nuclear holocaust looming; with virtually all ships and submarines driven by diesel, diesel/battery or oil-fired steam turbines – and almost a quarter of our Class - 206 - commissioned in the Air Force.

We sent 203 to destroyers; 42 to auxiliaries and 94 to capital ships; 134 of these surface warriors later became submariners. 160 went to Pensacola; 46 to the supply school; five to CEC; and 62 to the Marines. We had no Rhodes Scholars, nor even Pownalls. But we did have some bright guys, e.g.:

Brad Parkinson, who effectively made GPS the fantastic, ubiquitous everyday tool that it is today (and who is one of our five Distinguished Graduates)

The late, beloved Ron Marryott, also a recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award, who served an exemplary tour as Supe in the earlier years of women in the Brigade, and who ably led the Alumni Association and Foundation to its current structure

Bob Rosenberg, Don Regenhardt, Phil Papaccio, Johnny Sedano, Bud Coyle, John Disher, and Ed Smathers, who helped make the National Reconnaissance Office such an important intelligence resource

Charlie Duke, who walked on the Moon

Leo Hyatt, who endured five years, seven months as a POW

Bob Fox and the late Harry Yockey, who got together to persuade the Navy to take the idea of vertical-launch submarine cruise missiles seriously

Bruce DeMars, who became our own Kindly Old Gentleman and who set a new standard for civility and became our second Distinguished Graduate.

Distinguished Graduate Dan Cooper, who served eight transformative years, as Under Secretary – Benefits, in the Department of Veterans Affairs

Distinguished Graduate Bud Edney, who made 340 combat sorties and 1000 carrier landings, served as Commandant of Midshipmen, and held the first Distinguished Chair in Leadership.

Many classmates who were in submarines during that service's rapid growth into a strong leg (some say the strongest) of our deterrent Triad. Indeed, in the 1980s our guys were known as the '57 Submarine Mafia. Many skippers, some flags

Bob McElwee, who represented USNA and our Class for some 27 years on national TV as a referee in the NFL

The late Dave Smalley, who coached the first women's basketball team at USNA and who touched the lives of virtually every athlete admitted to the Academy for many, many years

Almost 500 classmates married within one year of graduation; 98% have married at least once. Of those marrying in the first year, at least 300 stayed together at least 49 years or until death. Almost 200 have divorced; over 100 have been widowed. About 275 have passed on.

We are fathers of about 2800 children or step-children; grandfathers to about 5000 grandchildren/step-grandchildren; and an uncounted legion of great-grandchildren.

We have 64 legacy appointments connected to our classmates.

On average, we have gained about 23 pounds and 5 inches of waistline while losing about 0.7 inches in height since graduation.

A Class-wide survey conducted in 2006 revealed another important aspect of our classmates’ lives. We seem to be committed to giving back to our communities, our Alma Mater, and our greater society – with time, energy, and money. We are proud of the number, scope, and diversity of the volunteer activities undertaken by our Class.

Our Golden Years have been enhanced by an unforeseen opportunity to re-connect with the Academy, specifically with the great Class of 2007 as part of the Link in the Chain – Our four years with ‘07 were very rewarding, and we hope to maintain that connection.

We are also gratified at the success our legacy gift seems to be enjoying: the Chair in Naval Heritage in the History Department. Our funds suffice to support the Chair handsomely for 20 years at least.

Events around the Yard while 1957 were at USNA:

Royalty to visit the Academy in the 4 years ‘57 attended:

- Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain
- King Paul and Queen Frederika of Greece
- Prince Faisal of Jordan
- King Saud of Arabia

In 1956 First and Second Class marched in the Inaugural Parade for Dwight D. Eisenhower

Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington sang in Dahlgren Hall

Halsey Field House complete

Three Superintendents

VADM C. Turner Joy ‘16

RADM Walter F. Boone ‘21

RADM William R. Smedburg III ‘26

Traditions:

1954 resumed mandatory Sunday afternoon Tea Fights

In 1955 greased Herndon Monument for first time

Flags, Generals and Notables:

Flags Officers: 25

RAdm	Robert H. Ailes
MGen	M. G. Alkire
RAdm	Theodore A. Almstedt
BGen	James D. Beans

RAdm	Dennis M. Brooks
RAdm	Eugene D. Conner
VAdm	Daniel L. Cooper
Adm	Bruce DeMars
VAdm	John S. Disher
BGen	Charles M. Duke
Adm	Leon A. Edney
RAdm	Thomas R. Fox
RAdm	John C. Fraser
RAdm	Richard C. Gentz
RAdm	Dean H. Hines
Adm	Jonathan T. Howe
VAdm	Kenneth C. Malley
RAdm	Ronald F. Marryott
RAdm	Charles R. McGrail
RAdm	Robert A. Phillips
MGen	Robert A. Rosenberg
RAdm	Laverne S. Severance
BGen	Richard J. Toner
MGen	Julio L. Torres
VAdm	Francisco Vainstein (Peru)

Five Distinguished Graduates:

The Honorable Daniel L. Cooper: Vastly improved the nation’s veteran’s disability compensation processes. As the under secretary for benefits at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cooper instituted extensive changes to improve the delivery of those benefits. He also had direct oversight of the very successful Veterans Loan Guaranty Service, with foreclosure rates well below the national average; the improved and increased Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance Program; and the modernization of the GI Education Bill. That vital work was accomplished well after Cooper’s retirement as vice admiral from a Navy career capped with service as commander of the Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet, during which he worked closely with submarine and strategic commanders of NATO nations to improve water space management, submarine safety and classified operations execution during the Cold War; assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Undersea Warfare, was commanding officer of PUFFER (SSN 652) as it successfully tested the new Mk 48 ADCAP torpedo; vice president and general manager of the Nuclear Services Division for Gilbert Associates Inc.; director and vice chairman of the board for USAA, president of the Naval Submarine League and on the advisory boards for the Applied Research Lab of Penn State University and the Applied Physics Laboratory of The Johns Hopkins University; nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate to serve as under secretary for benefits and was subsequently granted the title of The Honorable Daniel L. Cooper in April 2002, he

served six years, longer than any predecessor in the position. Awards include the Department of Veterans Affairs Exceptional Service Award, three Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit Medals and four Meritorious Service Medals.

Rear Admiral Ronald F. Marryott, USN (Ret.): 2004 Recipient: flew anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft; participated in quarantine operations during the Cuban missile crisis; assistant and chief Project Mercury Recovery officer for airborne search and recovery operations for the first three manned space flights; assignments in Vietnam and other Cold War hot spots; Commander Iceland Defense Force; President of the Naval War College 1985; Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy 1986; President and CEO Naval Academy Alumni Association; first President of the Naval Academy Foundation.

Admiral Bruce DeMars, USN (Ret.): Commanded USS CAVALLA; served as Deputy Squadron Commander, Submarine Squadron 10, followed by three years as a senior member of the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Power Examining Board. In 1977 he became Commander, Submarine Development Squadron 12, and then Deputy Director of the Attack Submarine Division in OPNAV. Promoted to flag rank in 1981, he commanded Naval Forces Marianas and was the CINCPAC representative for the Trust Territories; served as Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (ADCNO), then DCNO for Submarine Warfare with additional duties as SEAWOLF project officer. As the DCNO, he strengthened congressional support for submarine programs. In 1988 he was promoted to Admiral and spent eight years as Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; his leadership in the design and authorization for the VIRGINIA class secured the future of the submarine service.

Admiral Leon A. Edney, USN (Ret.): Designated a naval aviator in 1958, flying tours with Air Antisubmarine Squadrons 27 and 24 for his first four years of sea duty; Master of Public Administration from Harvard University in 1963; special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Research and Development. In 1965 he returned to flying, assigned to Attack Squadron 164 for two back to back deployments in Vietnam, followed by two years as a flight instructor introducing the A-7 attack aircraft to the fleet; 1970 assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Western Hemisphere Plans Officer; 1970-71 selected as a White House Fellow, serving as special assistant to the Secretary of Transportation; 1971 executive officer of Attack Squadron 27 and assumed command the following year. He commanded Carrier Airwing Two attached to RANGER (CVA 61) from 1974–75, followed by tours as commanding officer of PONCHATOULA (AO 148) in 1976 and Chief of Staff Cruiser Destroyer Group Five in 1977; assumed Command of USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) 1980-81; Commandant of Midshipmen at USNA in 1981 where he was promoted to the rank of Commodore; 1984 commander of Carrier Strike Group One; 1986-90 director of Aviation Programs, director of Program Appraisals, chief of Naval Personnel and vice chief of Naval Operations. His final active duty tour was as commander of U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. Following retirement in 1992, he worked for the

Loral Corporation, became the first Distinguished Chair of Leadership at the Naval Academy and served on multiple corporate and non-profit boards. Admiral Edney completed more than 350 combat missions, 1,000 carrier landings and 5,600 flight hours. He has been awarded the Defense and Navy Distinguished Service medals, Legion of Merit with two gold stars, Distinguished Flying Cross with four gold stars, Bronze Star, the Individual Air Medal with Silver Star, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with gold star and other unit citations.

Dr. Bradford Parkinson, USAF (Ret.): earned a master of science in aeronautics and astronautics at MIT; doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics at Stanford in 1966; in 1972, he became a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War; U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School academic instructor and chief of the simulation division; was on the team of developers for the modern AC-130 Gunship and later was one of the first to deploy with the new aircraft; directed the effort to develop the Global Positioning System (GPS), a worldwide satellite-based navigation system. He not only designed the system but also led the fight to gain Department of Defense approval.

1 Astronaut: Charles Moss Duke, Jr.

Other Notables:

1 Superintendent of the USNA Rear Admiral R.F. Marryott

1 Commandant of Midshipmen – Bud Edney

1 USNA/USNAF CEO & President – Ron Marryott

1 USNA Varsity Athletic Coach – Dave Smalley

3 appointees to National Sub-Cabinet level posts – Dick Furiga, Joe Ksycewski, and Dan Cooper

1 Senior National Football League Referee - Bob McElwee (3 Super Bowls!!)

1 Key designer of the GPS Navigational system and recipient of Charles Stark Draper award – Brad Parkinson

1 Recipient of prestigious Harmon International Aviation Trophy – Jerry Gentry

1 Defense Science Board Member – Ed Biggers

Inspired over 40 sons AND daughters to attend USNA. Now grandchildren are attending in numbers.

Decorations:

7 Silver Stars

10 Purple Hearts

BGen James D. Beans, USMC (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Maj Gardner Brewer, USAF	Purple Heart
Col Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., USAF (Ret.)	Purple Heart
Col Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., USAF (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Col Donald J. Couture, USAF (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Mr. Alton I. Crowell, Jr.	Purple Heart
Capt Thomas F. Drumm, Jr., USNR (Ret.)	Purple Heart
Col Jerauld R. Gentry, USAF (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Capt Leo G. Hyatt, USN (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Capt Leo G. Hyatt, USN (Ret.)	Purple Heart
Capt Roger B. McPherson, USN (Ret.)	Purple Heart
LtCol John W. O'Donnell, USMC (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Capt Robert W. Peacher, USN (Ret.)	Silver Star Medal
Col Jerry D. Peterson, USMC (Ret.)	Purple Heart
Col Earl S. Piper, Jr., USMC (Ret.)	Purple Heart
Col Robert P. Rogers, USMC (Ret.)	Purple Heart
BGen Richard J. Toner, USAF (Ret.)	Purple Heart

Class of 1957 Gifts/Giving:

1. Since graduation, the Class of 1957 has donated \$6,462,311 to various causes around the Yard. This places '57 in 2nd place in total giving of all classes that have graduated in the past 83 years, and in 8th place in the decade of the '50s.
2. A number of Class Projects have been funded:
 - a. Faculty Chair Naval Heritage

- b. NMCS Gate
 - c. Alumni Hall Scoreboard
 - d. Chapel Walk tree plaque
 - e. Visitors Center – Theater
 - f. 22nd Company Sponsor
3. 28.8% of the class made donations during 2016.

The Class of 1957 Honor Scholarship:

Created by classmate David Mitchell in 1981- to date there have been 24 recipients of this scholarship.

Class Officers:

President: David S. Cooper

Vice-President: William H. Peerenboom

Secretary: Paul O. Behrends

Treasurer: John D. Regenhardt

Corresponding Secretary: Frederic N. Howe

Shipmate Class Contact: Frederic N. Howe

Web Contact: Charles R. Hall