Bob Benner – a USC NROTC Pioneer…

by Paul Alwine ’62

On May 7, 2020, USC and the NROTC Alumni League lost a pioneer when Robert “Bob” Starr Benner passed away at the age of 95. Bob was one of the founding members of the USC NROTC Alumni League and since its formation, he has given generously of his time, talent, and treasures.

Bob was born in Portland, Oregon in 1924, and his family moved to Los Angeles when he was a young boy. Bob was active in Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, before entering USC.

Bob was a member of one of the earliest USC NROTC classes, graduating and being commissioned in early 1945. Ensign Benner was assigned to the USS LSM 267, a “Landing Ship Medium” amphibious ship, deployed in the Pacific. He participated in various island-hopping campaigns of World War II. After the war, Bob served on an admiral’s staff, in charge of “Liquor Control,” until his discharge from active duty in 1946. He then joined the Naval Reserve in 1947.

That same year, Bob married Carol Spaulding, a UCLA graduate, and they had two children – Raymond (1955) and Katherine (1957). In 1947 and 1948 Bob worked for a company selling dictation equipment, and in 1949, he joined the Kirsch Company. Kirsch is a nationwide company selling custom drapery hardware and window coverings, and Bob served with them as a sales training executive for 33 years, until his retirement in 1982.

In 1950, with the outbreak of the Korean War, Bob was recalled to active duty and served as a ship’s officer aboard a reactivated gasoline tanker ship, the USS PATAPSCO (AOG-1). The ship delivered aviation gasoline (AVGAS) to Naval bases on islands throughout the Pacific, including Midway and Kwajalein, among others. In 1952, LT Benner was released from active duty and remained in the Naval Reserve until 1956.

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From the Bridge

Paul R. Alwine (Class of 1962)
CAPT, SC, USN (Ret)
President – USC NROTC Alumni League

What a year it has been...what a rare mood I’m in...why, it’s almost like being in 2020! Can you believe what we have had to endure during this strangest year in our lifetime!

With USC having shut down the campus and having almost all classes be “online and virtual,” we have been unable to be involved with the NROTC unit and the midshipmen on an “in-person” basis since March. There was a virtual graduation and commissioning in May and a virtual swearing-in of the Class of 2024 in August. This was the largest new midshipmen class in many years, due to some aggressive recruiting by LT John Frnka, the unit Recruiting Officer. We also had a virtual Board of Director’s meeting this fall, via a Zoom session...not quite the same...

You cannot even go onto the campus unless you are screened and have a compelling reason to be there! So here we are...and also waiting for our virtual, shortened football season in November...along with a virtual Homecoming!

As you have seen on the front page, we lost one of our founders – Bob Benner. I was privileged to know Bob and work with him for many years, and he was definitely “one of the good guys!” He will be missed, but not forgotten.

We “virtually” presented new scholarships this fall from the Alumni League, to five deserving midshipmen of the Trojan battalion. The Board of Directors was also able to increase the awards from $1,000 to $1,500 each, which is fantastic for the recipients! Just please continue making those generous contributions to the Alumni League to help support the midshipmen of the Trojan battalion!

We are hopeful that an effective Coronavirus vaccine will be approved and utilized in early 2021 so that we can return to some semblance of “normal.” If that happens, we are planning to have our postponed 80th Plus anniversary celebration in early April. Stay tuned, we will advise...

Your Alumni League continues to support the young men and women of the Trojan battalion, and this all happens because of YOU and your contributions – keep ’em coming! Thank you, thank you...

So, while this COVID craziness continues, keep doing all the right things to stay well and be safe...

Still Fighting On...
A few weeks ago in mid-September, on a Thursday morning at about 10:00, I took a walk around campus and found myself in the plaza midway between Tommy and Traveler. Something did not feel right so I stopped and did a complete 360-degree turn. I could see no one. Not a single student, not a single maintenance worker, not a single police officer. After a few seconds, a young couple jogged by and one of the facilities maintenance golf carts approached so I knew that I was not in the middle of a zombie apocalypse…just a COVID apocalypse. It is just not right having the USC campus empty on a fall morning.

Out of an abundance of caution, LA County has yet to approve USC in-person classes or even outdoor physical training. This is disappointing, but in retrospect, the right decision. After seeing the super-spreader events at Notre Dame, North Carolina, Tennessee, and other campuses around the country, it is clear that we cannot stop college kids, even midshipmen, from being college kids. Opening campus now is not worth the risk to our students or faculty and staff. All we can do at this point is to stay healthy in order to help our country get the pandemic under control so that we can get our midshipmen back on campus in January.

I am immensely proud of how our midshipmen are dealing with the pandemic. They actively participated in our voluntary virtual summer training program which included a weekly physical fitness competition with the other school. I am not going to talk about the results of the competition other than to say it was not due to a lack of effort on the part of the Trojan Battalion!

With the cancellation of almost all summer cruises, only two of our midshipmen ‘cruised’ this summer. MIDN 1/C Jack Gao excelled during the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Cruise in San Diego, and MIDN 1/C David Molz led the way at Marine Officer Candidate School in Quantico. Both returned safe and healthy and are anxiously awaiting graduation, so that they can get back out there. Our battalion staff led by BnCO Kayla Wehner continues to do an impressive job of “leading by Zoom.” Morale is high, and we are accomplishing our mission.

We welcomed 36 new midshipmen to the battalion this fall, 26 Navy options and 10 Marine options. We were again fortunate to be joined by USC President Dr. Carol Folt at our swearing-in ceremony. Dr. Folt delivered her typical upbeat message, welcoming our new midshipmen and their families. She is clearly a fan of the Trojan Battalion. Our freshman class, the largest in many years, brings the battalion strength up to 96, which is right about where I want us to stay. We will graduate three midshipmen at the end of this fall quarter and another 22 in the spring, so we all need to work hard at continuing to recruit those fine young Americans that make up the Trojan Battalion. LT John Frnka, our recruiting officer, assures me that he will meet or exceed his quota this year. I believe him.

I was reminded last week that my tour here will come to an end next year when I was notified that the Marine Corps had selected my successor. Colonel Gil Juarez, an infantry officer currently commanding the 3d Marine Regiment in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii will replace me.

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**Bulletin Board**

**How to Contact Us:**

USC Naval ROTC Alumni League  
Department of Naval Science  
University of Southern California  
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0654

*NROTC Office Phone Number: (213) 740-2663*

Our NROTC Alumni League members are scattered all over the world and it is always fun trying to keep up with all your moves and changes. One way that we can keep up is for you to complete the “Update My Information” section of the Return Slip of The LOG when you send in your tax-deductible dues and contributions. Another way is to access the USC Alumni Association website [http://alumni.usc.edu/benefits/online.html](http://alumni.usc.edu/benefits/online.html) to update your profile, e-mail or mailing address. Whenever you move, get promoted or change your email address, go online to the USC Alumni site and pop in the current info. We don’t want you to become LOST…

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**Don’t FORGET!! 2020 Membership Dues are due NOW!**

Please complete the form on the back page, write your tax-deductible check and send it to the Treasurer, Ed Tannenbaum, using the self-addressed envelope, or to the NROTC Unit - Attention: Alumni League, at the address listed under “How to Contact Us”

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**Board of Directors’ Meetings**

All NROTC Alumni League Members are invited to attend the Spring and Fall Board Meetings as non-voting attendees. Reservations can be made with Paul Alwine: Home (949) 559-8659 or cell (949) 636-0603. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 on the USC Campus or via Zoom.

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**NROTC Alumni Scholarship Endowment**

As of 31 July 2019 the balance in the NROTC Scholarship Endowment was over $275,000. We awarded $10,000 from the spendable account through 31 July 2020. Any questions regarding the Scholarship Endowment and our scholarship program, contact Jerry Vieau ’68 at jerryvieau@yahoo.com.

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**From the Ship’s Store**

**Trojan Battalion Items:** USC NROTC Polo Shirts - $40, and USC NROTC Challenge Coins - $10 each. To Order: Contact NROTC Office listed above -“How to Contact Us”.

**Alumni League Items:** Tote Bag - $25, Alumni League Challenge Coins - $12, Bottle Openers (made from 50 Caliber Bullets) - $42. To Order: email log_editor@yahoo.com.

*All proceeds goes toward the support of the Trojan Battalion*
CO’s Update

sometime next summer. Gil is a native of San Diego and a graduate of San Diego State, but do not hold that against him. He is an outstanding leader; if he were not, he would not be commanding an infantry regiment. I will leave next summer knowing that the Trojan Battalion is in very capable hands. Col Juarez’s biography can be found here: https://www.3rdmardiv.marines.mil/Leaders/LeadersView/Article/1888769/colonel-gilbert-d-juarez/

As always, I thank our Alumni League for their active support of the Trojan Battalion. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to present $1500 Alumni League scholarships to: MIDN 1/C Jack Salva, Hailey Mollica, Kayla Wehner, Austin Reinhold, and David Molz. USC is not getting any less expensive, so these scholarships are much appreciated and will be put to good use.

I look forward to seeing you around campus one day soon. However, for the foreseeable future the campus is restricted to only those that certify that they are COVID symptom-free. If you do want to visit, first go to the Trojan Check website: https://trojancheck.usc.edu/login. Fill out the questionnaire and either print your ticket or keep it on your phone. You will have to display it when you arrive to the campus. You are always welcome at USC; we all just need to do our part to beat this pandemic.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Fight On!

Semper Fidelis,

Sean McBride

New Item from the Trojan Battalion!

Velcro “Fight On Fly Navy” patch $5/each + shipping.

Contact LT Nick Smith to purchase: nicholas.smith@rotc.usc.edu or 213-740-1870
Despite the USC campus lockdown, in-person student learning took place this summer and continues into fall as Trojan midshipmen participate in the Alumni League-sponsored glider flight training in the skies north of Los Angeles.

MIDN 1/C Alec Wyndhamsmith began level two glider training in early June and soloed in late July. He has been flying at the Southern California Soaring Academy (SCSA) at Crystal Airport, a private airfield on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains. After starting on 7 June, he flew most Fridays and Sundays. He soloed the ASK-21 training glider on 26 July. Flights covered takeoffs, landings, turns, stalls, slow flight, and sustained flying in “thermals”, columns of rising air that develop in the mountains and desert on hot summer days. Flights immediately prior to solo concentrated on emergency procedures, takeoffs, and landings in gusty and crosswind conditions.

Following solo, Alec has been preparing for his FAA private pilot glider check flight. He must first pass an FAA written examination then complete additional flights further emphasizing emergencies, pilot judgement, decision-making, and advanced takeoff and landing procedures. His instructor will then sign him off for an evaluation flight to be flown with an FAA examiner.

As our first level two student, Alec flew 36 training flights leading to solo and incurred $5,200 in aircraft rental and instructor costs. After soloing, the League reimbursed Alec $2,500 from the 5506 General account per level two program guidelines. Alec worked hard and flew well. The $2,500 incentive provided by the Alumni League was well-spent in motivating and assisting Alec to achieve this pilot training milestone.

The Southern California Soaring Academy (SCSA) is one of two training sites used by the League’s glider program. The other is located further north in the mountain community of Tehachapi, CA. SCSA is preferable for level two training due to its larger inventory of advanced training gliders, number of instructors on staff, and its closer proximity to Los Angeles and the USC campus. The training sites can be viewed at these websites: www.skylarknorth.com; soaringacademy.org.

MIDN 1/C Michelle Reiss began level one training last fall and will finish a second day of flying on 16 October. MIDN 2/C Evan Molenda is scheduled to complete level one training in November. For the 2020-2021 academic year, MIDN 1/C Jack Salva, MIDN 3/C Patrick Gallo, and MIDN 3/C Nicholas Imig will be starting level one training in October at Skylark North Flight School in Tehachapi. Level one has expanded to a two-day introductory flying course that includes ground school, simulator training and 6 aircraft flights, up from the original 4 offered when the program started in mid-2018. Learning to fly gliders is a great way for a pilot to gain a foundation of basic skills that will serve him or her well throughout their aviation career.

Unfortunately, USC no longer allows funds from the Alumni League’s 4496 Scholarship account to be used for flight training. Only targeted donations can be used to fund the glider program. The League once again sends a “Bravo Zulu” to USC NROTC alumnus Eddie Tannenbaum ’62 for donations the past two years totaling $14,500, including an $8,000 donation made this past August. Ed’s donations funded a major portion of the expenses paid by the League for the 11 midshipmen who have participated in the program to date. Tax deductible donations to the Glider Flight Program may be made to the USC NROTC Alumni League’s 5506 General account. We pay USC a 15% service charge to use 5506 funds. Non-tax deductible donations may also be made to an account the League maintains separate from USC in which no service fee is charged. Contact Jim Hull ’82 for further information on donating or assisting with the glider program: (310) 902-3860; hulljamesc@aol.com.
My Glider Program Experience

by MIDN 1/C Alec Wyndhamsmith ’21

As the first person to SOLO in the Glider Pilot Program, I had no idea what to expect. I was extremely excited when Mr. Hull offered me an opportunity to fly in this program. My interest in aviation was one of the main driving factors that led me to join NROTC as a college programmer my sophomore year here at USC.

Due to some delays caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, I began the second half of the Alumni League’s Glider Program one month later than expected on June 7th of this year. The airport I was based out of was Crystal Airport (46CN) in El Llano, California, roughly 40 miles south of Edwards Air Force Base. I was assigned two primary instructors, both former military pilots: one from the United States Air Force, the other from the Marine Corps.

At the beginning of my training, my main task was becoming familiar with the glider plane and learning basic in-air moves. These included turns, stalls, slips, and how to takeoff and properly follow the tow plane. Unfortunately, during the first three weeks, I experienced a lot of air sickness as a result of the more advanced moves. Thankfully, this soon passed as I grew acclimated, and I was consequently able to progress in my training. As I started to master the basic skills, I was given more responsibility and allowed to take the controls for longer periods of time during more important parts of the flight. Many of the pilots up at Crystal Air are experts in “Soaring”. This is a technique that allows a glider pilot to gain altitude by taking advantage of the weather, despite not having an engine. With this technique, trained glider pilots can ride thermal updrafts and mountain waves in order to gain altitude and prolong their flights. I found this to be one of the most exciting parts of flying the gliders, especially because it countered my conventional presumption that glider pilots merely drift down after releasing their tow line.

Alongside the actual flying at Crystal Air, I spent a lot of time and energy in ground school. This aspect of the training included learning about weather, cross-country flights, emergency procedures, and all of the necessary material needed to pass the written test administered by the FAA. Less than 2 months after my first flight at Crystal Air, I completed my first solo flight on July 26th. After training vigorously all summer, I’ve finally gained a measure of independence. Now, when I go to Crystal Air, I just have to complete a single test flight with an instructor before I am cleared to fly solo for the day. The airport is currently closed due to a temporary flight restriction over the area caused by the Bobcat wildfire. I am anticipating completing the final steps in order to obtain my glider pilot license when the airport reopens later this fall.

Overall, I have had a great time in this program. I can confidently say that it was worth the time, commitment, and expense to complete the program. I would definitely recommend this to any of the younger Midshipmen interested in aviation. I am grateful to the Alumni League, and especially to Mr. Hull, for giving me this opportunity.
In the years after WWII, Bob and his fellow USC NROTC grads would gather socially to stay in touch and share stories. In 1982, they decided to formalize their group, and thus the “USC NROTC Alumni League” was born. They were sanctioned by the University and began their “official” support and involvement with the Trojan battalion. As one of the founders, Bob became an officer, helping to develop the League’s administrative and financial operations and practices.

As a key member of the Alumni League Board of Directors, Bob was always in attendance at the NROTC unit Spring Ball, Birthday Ball, and Alumni League annual luncheons. In 1995, he was commissioned an “Admiral of the League” to honor his contributions to the success of the NROTC Alumni League.

With his longtime interest in the Navy, Bob developed a large collection of nautical artifacts, such as Navigational Instruments, Bosun’s Pipes, Barometers, Scales & Weights, Plumb Bobs, and numerous ship’s relics, which in later years, he generously donated to several museums.

Over the years, Bob and his wife Carol loved traveling the world; they visited over 130 countries, all seven continents, and sailed 7 oceans and 70 seas! Because of Bob and Carol’s “cross-town rivalry,” they established the “Benner Memorial Trophy” in conjunction with the LA NROTC Consortium, for the annual competition between the USC and UCLA NROTC units. Carol Benner passed away in July 2010.

In 2011, Bob married longtime friend and fellow world traveler, Valene Smith in Chico, CA. Valene is a renowned Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Cal State University Chico, and a museum bears her name on campus. Bob moved from Los Angeles up to Chico, but unless he was traveling out of the country, he would make his way down to USC to attend NROTC functions and Alumni League meetings.

Bob was honored by USC in 2017 for his Navy service in WWII at the University’s Veterans and ROTC Dinner, held at the Hotel Bonaventure. Bob and Valene attended, and he received a large USC commemorative medal, as well as personal thanks from the President of the University and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Especially noteworthy, Bob established a million dollar endowment fund (Bob Benner Endowment) with USC for the benefit of the USC NROTC unit and the NROTC Alumni League. With his passing, the midshipmen of the Trojan battalion and the Alumni League will continue to benefit from Bob’s generosity for years to come. Those of us that knew and worked with Bob over the years will miss his dedication, patriotism, and spirit.

Rest in Peace, Shipmate…
As many of you know, on September 4th, 2019, we lost MIDN 2/C Ben Duma. Ben was a popular, respected leader on campus and in the Trojan Battalion, serving as our Command Master Chief at the time of his death. While we all mourned his loss, MIDN 1/C Steve Griffith, who will take over as our BnCO for the spring semester, started a Go Fund Me account in Ben’s memory. His intent was to give the money to Ben’s parents to help defray the cost of their travel from Atlanta to Los Angeles to recover Ben’s body and to assist with the funeral expenses. As the fund quickly grew to over $30,000, due in no small part to the generosity of our Alumni League members, Ben’s parents decided to establish a scholarship in Ben’s honor. Working closely with former Associate Dean Regina Nordahl and the staff of the Price School, the “Ben Duma Fight On Forever Scholarship” was established. This perpetual scholarship will be awarded annually to the member of the Trojan Battalion that best embodies the leadership, motivation, and commitment reflective of Ben’s tenacious and lively character, and who demonstrates the Naval core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

On Friday, September 4th, 2020 the Trojan Battalion staff held a virtual memorial service for Ben and awarded the first scholarship to MIDN 1/C Griffith, Ben’s close friend who started the whole process last year with his Go Fund Me account. I cannot think of a more deserving awardee. A plaque depicting Ben’s photo and name tag along with the names of the future scholarship winners is proudly displayed in the wardroom. Check it out next time you visit.
Back at the Battalion

Welcome Class of 2024!

Thirty-Six (36!) freshmen attended a virtual Swearing In ceremony in August to become the newest members of the Trojan Battalion. Due to the pandemic, Orientation week was cancelled. They have yet to meet in-person as a group but have already bonded via Zoom.

James Adams -- San Mateo, CA
Grant Addington -- Fresno, CA
Ron Vincent Aspuria -- Oxnard, CA
Michael Cava -- San Diego, CA
Marco Chan -- Walnut, CA
Kellen Cheung -- Diamond Bar, CA
James Cook -- Reno, NV
Declan Cooper -- Palm Springs, CA
Oliver Doerr -- Yokosuka, Japan
William Durban -- Oyster Bay, NY
Cole Force -- Baltimore, MD
Blake Harrison -- Sammanish, WA
Tyler Hwangbo -- Cerritos, CA
Sean Janka -- Steamboat Springs, CO
Max Jenson -- Oxford, MI
Bailey Johnson -- Fairfax, VA
Karl Kammereck -- Bellevue, WA
Sean Katzmann -- Temecula, CA
Andrew Larratt -- Coronado, CA
Kaisa Liljenwall -- Astoria, OR
Ty Benjamin Majam -- Winchester, CA
Matthew Merone -- Tuckahoe, NY
Luke Miramadi -- Newport Beach, CA
William Mun -- Fullerton, CA
Shea O’Brien -- Ann Arbor, MI
Daniel Parker -- Corpus Christi, TX
Henry Piper -- Collingswood, NJ
Salvador Rodriguez -- Covina, CA
Isabella Sanchez -- Duluth, GA
Jaedin Sosa -- Austin, TX
Ellie Sullivan -- Jupiter, FL
John Thomas -- Cerritos, CA
Jordan Tierney -- Pasadena, CA
John Trodden -- Falls Church, VA
Anne Whelan -- Lorton, VA
John Whidden -- Seaford, NY

Fall 2020 NROTC Alumni League Scholarships

Due to the continuing generosity of our NROTC Alumni League members, the Scholarship Endowment fund continues to grow, and the Board of Directors was able to increase our midshipmen scholarships from $1,000 to $1,500 each! See related article on page 14. These scholarships are very important to each of the recipients, and we are glad to be able to provide five scholarships each semester. This semester’s recipients are:

MIDN 1/C Hailey A. Mollica, USNR
MIDN 1/C David M. Molz, USNR
MIDN 1/C Austin S. Reinhold, USNR
MIDN 1/C Jack B. Salva, USNR
MIDN 1/C Kayla M. Wehner, USNR

Thank you again for your contributions to the Scholarship Endowment - - keep ‘em coming!
This Fall, I have had the privilege of being the USC NROTC Battalion Commander. Normally, my position would require many hours in the wardroom; however, this year has looked significantly different. When the change of command ceremony took place in the summer, I accepted my role virtually and got to work on the computer; assigning staff positions and meeting with the CO over Zoom about various Battalion functions.

Our Battalion has done an excellent job adjusting to the virtual platform and has taken advantage of the unique opportunities that it has to offer. We have been fortunate to hear from many prominent military members (due to the flexibility of Zoom), share virtual workouts, and play some interesting military video games. I think that the most ironic challenge with Zoom is taking accountability of over 100 midshipmen. Our CMC has done a fantastic job adapting and can now proficiently get accountability of all squads and platoons on the Zoom call in under 3 minutes! Not only that, but she and GySgt Crespin are incredibly alert, scrolling through Zoom windows and using the power of emojis and chat boxes to keep the Battalion in line.

The 4/C are becoming acquainted with Battalion life as they attend weekly training sessions with MIDN 1/C Ruotolo, MIDN 2/C Kaltenborn, and MIDN 3/C Messina. Usually, a Tuesday morning consists of Cromwell field and an hour of drilling. However, Tuesday mornings are now used for knowledge checks and discussion of key leadership attributes. The 4/C have started presenting to the entire Battalion about various topic, from US Navy recruitment history to the F-35 program to Ballistic Submarines. Their confidence and professionalism have been both impressive and motivating. While we hope to soon get to know each of them personally, it has been rewarding to work with them and watch their development over the past few months.

Although the Battalion is distant, we still work well as a team. Although MIDN Ben Duma passed away last year, MIDN Griffith was awarded the scholarship dedicated in his honor to remember his lively spirit. In addition to remembering Ben, MIDN 1/C Rinko and MIDN 1/C Salva started a social media campaign to raise awareness of Veteran Suicide. By doing 22 pushups (for the 22 veterans who are lost every day to suicide) and nominating someone to do the same, they were able to virtually engage many members of the Trojan family, raising awareness to a topic important to all of us.

As you can see, I am very proud of my fellow Midshipmen for continuing to work hard, achieve good grades, stay in-shape, and make the best of the circumstances. Dealing with COVID-19 during college takes mental resilience as the uncertainty can be frustrating and frightening. Warrior Toughness is a somewhat new program that the Navy has begun incorporating into different training cycles. It focuses on the intersection between spiritual, mental, and physical strength, tapping into all three to produce a warrior. This training can often be misconstrued and seen as unimportant because the conventional definition of strength refers to our physical abilities to “push through.” However, this past semester has significantly altered the way that I view strength in a leader, as it is no longer possible to demonstrate strength by performing highly in PT and staying late in the wardroom. To me, strength has become the ability of an individual to hold people together. Sometimes this may require physical strength and is a reminder of why our bodies must stay disciplined. However, currently, this requires creativity and intentionality - finding ways to prevent our traditions and support networks from disappearing.

As the image of a “virtual leader” has changed, so has my respect for the warrior toughness training. As sailors, we will be pushed physically, spiritually, and
In the short time that I have been a part of the University of Southern California’s Naval ROTC program I have learned leadership skills, military knowledge, spoken to high ranking military leaders, met some of my best friends, and most importantly, earned the opportunity to one day serve my country as a Marine Corps Officer. My experience in NROTC started differently than any other midshipman before me: it started online. From the first Zoom call, I could tell that this unit was filled with special people. As I listened to Colonel McBride and 1/C Midshipman Ruotolo inform us how we would conduct NROTC online, I was filled with excitement. I could see my mom peeping over my shoulder at the sea of red unit polos and could see her smile reflecting off of my computer screen. I could feel my little brother’s eyes glued to the screen alongside mine and heard my father’s hearty laugh as he remembered his days in the Marine Corps. I knew that by earning the NROTC scholarship, I had not only saved my family the cost of a college education, but I had made them proud. That unforgettable first moment in the USC NROTC Unit meant the world to me.

Becoming a Midshipman has changed my life for the better since I moved to Los Angeles. On move-in day to my apartment, two fellow midshipmen recognized me from the summer NROTC Zoom calls, and we made plans for dinner. After that I walked into my apartment and met my three roommates, all fellow 4/C midshipmen. Once we were all moved in, my roommates and I met up with the other two midshipmen. By the end of the night, we had met and became close friends with all the NROTC kids in our building. From that night on, we have done everything together. From 7am Zoom calls, memorizing military knowledge, and group workouts, my experience as a 4/C midshipman has been a team effort. I am nothing without the people around me. My fellow midshipmen push me to learn, run faster, lift heavier, and become a better person. Even though school is online and the country is on lockdown, NROTC has gifted me a place to grow alongside great people who will one day serve our country.

The 4/C midshipman experience has taught me how to adapt to anything and that I am never alone: I have my fellow midshipmen. The pride and responsibility I feel from being a part of this unit, of being something infinitely larger than myself, keeps me motivated. I have my dream, the support of my family and friends, and the respect and high standard expected of a midshipman to get me through any challenges that await me.

I do not need the extra free time or couple extra hours of sleep that other college students enjoy. I do not need to be like other students at USC. I just need the midshipmen to the left and right of me. I just need my dream. The experience of a 4/C midshipman is different than other college students. It is filled with many more early mornings of drill and many more late nights of studying, but it is filled with the best people you could possibly ask for. It is filled with invaluable experiences and opportunity. NROTC helps me achieve a dream that is bigger than any party and that feels better than any amount of sleep. For me, being a 4/C midshipman is the best opportunity to become a Marine Corps Officer. It has also taught me that this journey is not all about myself. It is about my fellow midshipmen. We live, eat, and train together. We win or fail as one unit. I am never alone in my journey. I have some of my best friends right next to me and my faith in them is unshakeable. Our path is clear, and together, we will achieve our dreams- because our experience as 4/C midshipman ends with the same dream. To serve our country, to become the best version of ourselves, and to help the man or woman next to us as much as we can.
Midshipmen 4/C Experience

MIDN Shea O’Brien (continued)

Every Tuesday, my fellow 4/C Midshipmen and I get up for an early AM muster for Zoom drill. Though we can’t march together, we’re quizzed on our NROTC knowledge packet. Together, behind our computers, we form the scout team offense. Many of us live in the same apartment complex and study our playbook for knowledge checks. Our 4/C TRAINO is hard on us, but if the veterans don’t hit the scout team, nobody gets any better. We aren’t always perfect; in fact, sometimes we’re expected to fail. We don’t always remember the Rifleman’s Creed. Sometimes, we miss a block on the Mission of the Navy or somebody fumbles on the 5th General Order of a Sentry - oftentimes, it’s me. But together we’re a team, and we’re always quick to pick each other up off the turf and get ready for that next play.

From a physical perspective, we’ve spent the semester on the sidelines. As backups, we might not see the field, but we’re expected to be ready the moment we’re called upon. We all work out together and hold one another accountable for staying in great physical shape, all waiting for a chance to prove ourselves. At any moment, Colonel McBride could give us the all clear to take our PFTs and PRTs. For now, it’s Zoom calls and small group workouts until our number gets called.

NS Lab is all online, and, in classic scout team fashion, we still do not have uniforms. However, we log on every Thursday morning in our unit polos, prepared to learn. A huge part of being a back-up is learning from your starters, coaches, and the legends that came before you, and in the words of Bill Belichick, “Do your job.” In NS Lab, we soak up as much information as we can. We try to learn from the example of our BNCO and our other upperclass midshipmen. We do our best to learn from briefs given by our OIs and follow our chain of command. Additionally, we get to hear from legends like retired Admiral Michelle Howard, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US military, who, due to the advantages of a virtual classroom, took the opportunity to speak to us as a battalion. Though our online atmosphere isn’t ideal, we continue to make the most of our situation.

Most importantly, we as a scout team are bonded together as strongly as any team can be. While every other 4/C class has bonded together as a unit, this one is special. Due to COVID, those of us in LA do our best to keep our social circles small. Because of this, we as a unit have become a family stuck together in quarantine. We run together, study our knowledge packets together, and go to the beach together. Our STEM majors help each other with their calculus work and still find the time to assist third-tier majors, such as myself. We cook group meals and push each other to be better everyday.

Together, we are the back-ups. We live in a pandemic and spend much of our time behind a computer screen. We’re a scout team without uniforms, riding the bench of ROTC. However, we’re still a team, each looking to learn as much as possible and apply this information to ourselves. We’re learning all we can about the Navy and preparing to put that knowledge into action. Together, we have a common goal to graduate and be commissioned and to leave no one behind.

MIDN 4/C Kaisa Liljenwall
Hometown: Astoria, OR
Major: Biomedical Engineering

As a high school senior, I was conflicted about what my future would be like. I had applied for the Naval ROTC scholarship earlier in the fall but was wary of accepting it because I liked the idea of having the freedom to choose where my life was headed after four years of university. I was also endlessly worried about the lack of vitamin D I would get if I ever ended up on a submarine for three years. However, I accepted because, as the daughter of a retired Army Officer, I felt I had a moral obligation to serve a country that had provided many people, including myself, with fundamental freedoms denied in other parts of the world. After eighteen years with my father showing me a deep love of country, dedication to duty, and loyalty to the nation, I have realized that serving in the United States Navy is not only a career choice that dedicates itself to helping others but an opportunity full of endless possibilities. So, in August 2020, my adventure to become a commissioned officer and ecstatic Trojan began.

As a 4th class midshipman at USC, I have experienced more through the tiny window on my computer screen than I thought possible. I have become accustomed to waking up early and being prepared to recite knowledge on Tuesday mornings. I have enjoyed lectures by some of the finest leaders of our country on Thursday morning.

I was taught to keep my expectations high and my mind open. As my journey in the Trojan Battalion began, that
BnCo’s Report

MIDN 1/C Kayla Wehner (continued)

mentally. If all three of these aspects are not trained we will not be able to perform at the level that our nation needs us to. While the past few months have been hard, I think that ultimately our Battalion will be stronger for it! The lack of daily structure and personal interaction counters what our spirit and mind want. Thus, we have had to adapt and rise to the challenge, increasing our resilience and ultimately making us tougher. All this being said, I am hoping that we can return to traditional battalion function soon; while challenges are good, I am ready for this one to end!

I want to conclude with an enormous thank you to the USC Alumni League. Your support is immensely appreciated. This league is another example of strong leaders who value holding traditions and networks in place. I hope that you all are good, I am ready for this one to end!

MIDN 1/C Kayla Wehner is from Lincoln, California. She is studying International Relations and Russian Foreign Area Policy.

Midshipmen 4/C Experience

MIDN Kaisa Liljenwall (continued)

is the exact mindset I tried to keep. Although my time as a midshipman is very minimal, I can say that despite the many times I have incorrectly addressed an officer or answered a knowledge question, the training program I have experienced so far is one with high standards and firm policy to “learn from your mistakes the first time.” I believe that the best example of adaptation to our current environment is how MIDN 1/C Claire Ruotolo and Gunnery Sergeant Waylon Crespin have acclimated the 4/C Midshipman program to fit the environment we live in. One of my favorite parts has been the discussions on how military culture is represented in film and books. A recent discussion was on August Cole and P.W. Singer’s novel, Ghost Fleet. As a lover of autobiographical and mystery novels, I had never been a huge fan of military fiction. However, to my surprise, the novel’s discussion was engaging, due to the variety of perspectives each midshipman contributed to the conversation. Lessons that came from that discussion were the importance of learning from those who came before us and the need to adapt to specific circumstances as future leaders.

Although the intensity of the fourth-class experience may not be a congruent representation of past years, the training we are receiving is an experience that I believe we will only benefit from. The challenge of working alone and far away from campus to complete this course is a unique opportunity. Self-sufficiency is a crucial skill. I look forward to many more experiences as part of the USC NROTC Trojan family. Fight On!

Scholarships Committee Report:

by Jerry Vieau ’68

The USC NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Committee was presented with a fortunate situation this Fall. As mentioned earlier in the Log, the passing of Bob Benner, a legacy and founding member of the USC NROTC Alumni League, triggered the activation of the Bob Benner Endowment. Ten percent of his endowment is allocated for Alumni League scholarships, which would add about $4,000 per year to our scholarship fund.

The Scholarship Committee decided to keep the same number of scholarships (five) for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters as in the past; however, the dollar amount of the scholarships has increased from $1,000 to $1,500 per recipient. The new funding makes it possible to raise the dollar amount above $1,500, but if the battalion grows in size in the near future, more scholarships might be warranted. As a result, we are waiting to assess additional funding for the following academic years.

As a reminder, these scholarships are possible through contributions provided by our members to the Alumni League Scholarship Fund. The scholarship recognizes the midshipmen’s scholastic and leadership achievements in the Battalion, at USC and in the community. The funds are credited to their university account to assist with school expenses.
Battalion’s New Midshipmen Mentorship Program

by MIDN 1/C Stephen Zimmer ’21

The new "Seaparent" mentorship program (naming credits to LT. Smith) builds relationships between the 4/C and more senior members of the battalion by creating midshipmen "families" of five members or fewer who meet, work out, and form mentoring relationships. The Seaparent Program is the successor to the mentorship program that was previously created and is now enhanced in response to a spread-out battalion with few in-person activities due to COVID-19. The purpose of the program is to safely and effectively introduce the 4/C to battalion relationships that can guide them through their time at USC and beyond.

To create these families, multiple interest and major surveys were distributed to match 4/C (the "seachildren") to 2/C or 3/C (the "seaparents"), with existing friendships being used to match 2/C and 3/C to 1/C (the "seagrandparents"). As time goes on, the 4/C matched this semester will become seaparents with seachildren of their own, and become seagrandparents by the time they graduate!

The seaparent program will foster interclass collaboration and professional development for younger midshipmen, as well as leadership skills for the older ones. Great results have already been observed, as we have thus far received very positive feedback. Activities that the midshipmen families have already participated include surf days, hikes, dinners, and more. The battalion staff is very excited about this new tradition and cannot wait for what the future will hold.

Midshipmen Community Service

by MIDN 2/C Ian Brill ’22

Community service by members of the Trojan Battalion has surely stalled during the summer and this semester due to the pandemic, but we all still make a conscious effort to do a little extra in support of our communities, recognizing that our future job is about leadership and service to the nation, and that community service helps us develop into the officers that our nation needs.

MIDN Nations, in Naples, Italy, has been participating in the Pets and Warriors (PAWS) Red Cross Program, where she and her dog go to the hospital weekly to interact with patients and staff.

MIDN Hennegan spent some of her time this summer working with Kids Against Hunger, a non-profit organization that focuses on providing nutritious food to struggling families around the world. Her role was to help package meals that could then be sent out.

MIDN Saville served his community through his involvement with the fire department. He draws inspiration from his father and uncle, who both serve as chiefs in several New York fire departments. He signed up to take Essentials of Firefighting this fall, which is the first step towards qualifying for Firefighter 1 Certification.

My brother and I worked with young sailors (youth) and shared sailing skills and knowledge that I have learned throughout the years. It has been rewarding working with the kids and teaching them not only sailing skills, but how to effectively communicate to form strategies and create game plans during sailing competitions.
DECADES DOINGS

This section of The Log is to share brief “happenings” or news items with our NROTC Alumni League members. It is organized by decades of your commissioning date for ease in finding info about your ’SC classmates. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to Frances Annarella at: log_editor@yahoo.com or on the return slip along with your annual dues. Please keep it brief and please PRINT clearly. Note: If you e-mail us, please include your commissioning year.

1940’s

Harold Wilkins ’44: Time has taken its toll. I gave up driving and playing golf on my 95th birthday. I try to keep active, but walking is a problem.

William Earnshaw ’46: Robert Fairhead passed away in August 2020. We last visited in March of 2019 in Bob and Janet’s home in Florida. I have lived with my son, Scott, and his wife, Valerie, since 2001 in Bedford, N.H. We miss my wife, Lori, who died on April 19, 2019. As far as I know, I am the last one standing from those commissioned in June 1946. Please let me know if this is correct. John Ferlin, whom we thought would outlive us all, passed away in December 2019.

1950’s

Jim Norris ’52: I played Water Polo at USC (1948 - 1952), was named All-American and was on the 1952 U.S. Olympic Water Polo Team. Served aboard the USS Los Angeles (CA-135) from 1952-1955. Later, I was high school counselor, teacher, and coach. I am also an author and owner of Olive Press Publication.

Raymond Williams ’55: “If you are the smartest guy in the room, you are in the wrong place.” Living in the same house for 57 years in Beverly Hills. I will be 88 soon, 65 years since I became an Ensign!

1960’s

Martin Oberacker ’61: Thinking about old friends and classmates. Where have you gone in the last 59 years? I would be interested to know who is still with us and who has departed. Appreciate hearing from anyone - mandmob@aol.com or 562-413-5634.

1970’s

Paul Alwine ’62: 2020 SUCKS! Personal travel cancelled this year as we all deal with the COVID craziness. Zoom meetings are not the same as in-person interaction. I feel bad for the Midshipmen. Hopefully we’ll get a terrific vaccine and head back to “Normal” in 2021!

Kirk Boman ’62: after 33 years of airline flying, the first 20 for Western Air Lines, the remainder for Delta, I retired at the then mandatory age of 60 in 2000. It is hard to believe I’ve been retired for more than 20 years and am still here enjoying life. My wife of 53 years, Susan, was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in 2008 and died of this incurable disease at the end of 2015. She was on supplemental oxygen 24/7 from the time of diagnosis until the end. My primary occupation during those years was her care. I have since remarried and live in the Sugar House district of Salt Lake City. Recently, Fred Wagner, USC NROTC 1962, who now lives in Las Vegas, and I have reconnected after many years and are enjoying getting reacquainted. He is doing well.

David Todd ’67: I am a retired partner from Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLP. Some of my activities include: volunteer with Newport Beach Fire department, UC Irvine Chancellors Club, UC Irvine Athletics Advisor/Booster (Lacrosse), Phi Gamma Delta Advisor for UCI and Chapman, US Navy League, and South Coast Swim Conference Board.

Stephen Troutman ’71: Adult enrichment education is one of my key focuses in retirement. With the shutting down of our community college, our LIFE (Learning Is For Ever) program also shut down. I volunteered to put the LIFE program on-line with Zoom. This required
training our senior audience how to be Zoom participants and the training of a number of our instructors on how to present on-line with Zoom. I then hosted every one of our two hour classes from May to August. I hosted 46 classes, 3 participant sessions, and 4 presenter classes. As we prepare for the Fall semester, I am training hosts (to put myself out of work). I am busy but extremely fulfilled. Check out LIFE’s on-line classes at learningisforever.net.

Gordon Hill ’72: Happily retired and in semi-isolation due to COVID-19.

Chris Hobbs ’74: I continue to enjoy working for the Marine Corps Systems Command in Orlando, FL as an Operations Research Analyst. I have 4 years of government civilian service and 16 years of combined service including 12 years of commissioned service in the Marine Corps.

Greg Stearns ’74: Owner of Tel Tech Plus in San Marcos, CA, which engineers, designs, constructs, and installs communication infrastructure in outside plants and inside plant environments. Certified as a registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD). Designed and installed the communication infrastructure for the Navy’s new 17-story Administration facility in San Diego, which is across the street from the USS Midway Museum, my home for five years in the 70’s and 80’s when I flew the A-7 and F/A-18.

John Simmons ’76: Nothing new . . just going nuts sheltering at home!

Derek Robins ’82: Fight On from Texas! Ran into Carlos Noriega ’81 at the USC President Carol Folt’s reception in Houston. I keep in touch with Jim Hull and Pat Moynihan on USC matters. Looking forward to attending the 80+ Anniversary!

1990’s

Matt Dean ’92: After retiring from the Navy in 2012, I worked as a contractor in Washington, D.C. until I became a Foreign Service Officer in 2017. We completed our first assignment in Feb 2020 and are back in Washington. My wife and I have two great kids, ages 6 and 3. Fight On!

2000’s and 2010’s

Nothing to Report

1980’s

Frances Annarella ’81: Along with Dave Thompson, still trying to plan a class reunion, hopefully in 2021. Until then, really enjoyed the Class of ’81 Zoom Happy Hours hosted by Clyde Woltman. We’ve had two sessions so far and hope to have more in the future. If you are not on our class of ’81 Zoom distribution list, please email me at log_editor@yahoo.com.

TAPS

Farewell and bon voyage to our departed shipmates.

A donation has been made to the USC NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment in the name of each officer listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Benner ’45</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Fairhead ’48</td>
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<td>John Ferlin ’48</td>
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<td>Gerald Carr ’54</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal Oberg ’66</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>2020</td>
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Note: All names are published and donations are made to the Alumni League Scholarship Fund in their honor when their passing is brought to our attention.
Norfolk, Virginia, Christmas morning 2017. My family had almost finished unwrapping presents, but there was one last gift under the tree addressed to my siblings and me. Then, my parents pulled out three large gift bags from the other room. We opened the bags and each pulled out identical travel packs. Turning to each other, visibly confused as our parents looked on with glee. Then the camera came out to start recording, and that’s when you know something big is happening. Unwrapping the big box, the three of us pulled out a bottle of Brunello, panettone, leather passport holders, and Rick Steves’ Guide to Italy. My siblings and I still couldn’t figure out what was happening: a vacation in Italy, we mused? Our parents laughed and exclaimed “We’re moving to Italy in 6 months, surprise!” Cue the crying from my brother and the screams of excitement from the rest of us.

My family’s story starts out with USC NROTC. My dad was a Navy Nurse Option midshipman, back when USC had a nursing program, and he commissioned in May 1996. Then, it was off to Bethesda, MD; Guam; back to Bethesda, MD; San Diego; Guam; San Diego; Portsmouth; and now Naples, Italy. Next summer, we’re starting another exciting journey when we PCS to Yokosuka, Japan. My Dad’s career as a Nurse Anesthetist has taken us all over the world and I am proud that he is still serving.

When I was in fourth grade, my Dad was assigned to the USS Bonhomme Richard. I got to skip school and go out on the Tiger Cruise where I ate Dippin Dots, saw a man overboard rescue of their crocodile mascot, and got to check out the Bridge. That’s also the day that I decided I wanted to join the Navy. Fast forward to 2018 when I got the NROTC scholarship to study at USC. After graduating from high school on the outskirts of Portsmouth, we moved to Naples. And just a few weeks later, I started my NROTC journey with the rest of my class as the first group to go through NROTC’s New Student Indoctrination (NSI) in Great Lakes. One of my most clear memories is being jetlagged and quaking in my boots at the Chicago O’Hare arrivals terminal as a Gunnery Sergeant “voice inflected” at me to get into the van. I was about to start NSI. That was a whirlwind adventure and my subsequent time in NROTC hasn’t disappointed. I have realized that the Navy can’t be that fun and exciting every day, but I still enjoy the adventure that comes with it.

I’m so thankful for all the opportunities we’ve gotten because of my Dad’s Navy career. It’s funny to think that without USC NROTC, I wouldn’t be living the life I have now. And I think it’s also a testament to this battalion’s ability to produce quality Naval Officers that want to serve for decades. After 24 years of service, my Dad is still in it for the experiences and adventures.

The travel here in Naples is phenomenal. We’ve been all over Europe and even ventured into Africa because it’s so close. But now, with the pandemic, that has all come to a screeching halt. Back in March, when USC decided to switch to virtual learning, I didn’t know whether I’d be able to make it back home to Italy. In a crazy 24-hour period I packed up all of my dorm room, got a flight out of Los Angeles, and made it on a 2340 flight to Rome out of New York before the E.U. borders closed to incoming international flights at midnight. Since then, Italy has weathered a nationwide weeks-long lockdown and is doing a pretty good job handling the pandemic.

This semester looks significantly different than any semester in history. There is no Battalion PT, no chats in the Wardroom, no USMC Birthday Ball; none of it. Zoom University, as we midshipmen have taken to calling it, is comprised of fully virtual classes, odd mixes of online and DIY STEM labs, and lots of awkward silences in breakout rooms. It’s the new normal, and it’s tough. But as General James Mattis said when he came to NS Lab, “These are not tough times, these are stern times. You don’t have to storm the beaches of Normandy, you have to sit on your couch and wash your hands.” Gen. Mattis is right, and thanks to our CO, we’ve gotten to talk to other amazing leaders. The one good thing about Zoom is that we can get phenomenal

Continue on page 19
guest speakers that we may have never had the opportunity to have before the pandemic. Col McBride even got the last two Commanders of Naval Forces Europe-Africa and the Allied Joint Force Command Naples, (Ret.) ADM Michelle Howard and (Ret.) ADM James Foggo to come speak with the battalion, which was cool to hear, especially as someone who lives here in Naples. This semester has had a star-studded agenda like no other semester in history.

While it has been challenging for all of us, I’m proud to be part of a Battalion that has made the best of a dismal situation. Hopefully, we can be back on campus come January. Until then, Fight On and Forza Napoli!

*MIDN 2/C Madeleine Nations currently resides in Naples, Italy. She is majoring in Central European Studies with a minor in Cultural Diplomacy.*

*MIDN Nations and her father, CDR Ryan Nations USC NROTC ’96, on the USS Bonhomme Richard’s flight deck during the 2008 Tiger Cruise.*

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**User-friendly E-edition Options for the Log Coming Soon!**

Some of our alums have expressed an interest in receiving electronic copies of the Log and opting out of getting hard copies in the mail. We are currently exploring the best way to provide this.

Presently, we post the latest edition of the Log on our website but it is not an interactive file, i.e., you cannot send in donations, complete changes of address information, or provide “Decades Doings” updates. We want to make the online newsletter user friendly so with just a click of a button, you can be connected to the University’s Giving Office, complete change of address forms, type in your updates for our Decades Doings section of the newsletter, and have it delivered directly to the Log Editor. We are working with our webmaster and hope to have a new and improved e-version of the newsletter in 2021.

Please contact Frances Annarella at log_editor@yahoo.com with your email address if you want to opt out of receiving hard copies.
Support the USC NROTC Alumni League Glider Flight Program

Give our future Trojan Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers a great start in the world of aviation!

Our Glider Program is funded solely by alumni donations. Sponsor a midshipman for level one training, level two training--or both! Any amount helps!

**Level One:** Introductory 2-day flight course--$770: 6 flights in two different types of training gliders (includes ground/flight instruction, simulator sessions and associated textbook/publications).

**Level Two:** Advanced--$2,900: We match the midshipman up to $2,500 in training costs leading to solo flight and the FAA private pilot glider rating. Payment is made only after the midshipman solos. Training costs leading to solo are approximately $5,200 for a new pilot trainee.

Both amounts include the 15% service charge we are assessed when we use funds donated via the Naval ROTC Alumni Fund (5506).

Any amount helps! Special thanks again to USC NROTC alumnus Eddie Tannenbaum ’62 for his August 2020 donation of $8,000. Eddie has donated $14,500 the past 2 years and has been a major source of funding for this rewarding program for our future Navy and Marine pilots and NFOs.

For more information on donating, contact Jim Hull ’82: (310) 902-3860; hulljamesc@aol.com.

**Thank you and FLIGHT ON!**

Wounded Vets SOAR at SoCal Flight School

Wounded veterans are experiencing the thrill of flying in the California mountains and high desert by participating in The Southern California Soaring Academy’s Wounded Service Member Glider Program, also known as Warriors SOAR. SCSA is located on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains at Crystal Airport, a small private airstrip used for glider training and home to several privately-owned gliders. The Alumni League uses SCSA for advanced glider training as part of its glider flight program for USC midshipmen.

In 2012, SCSA purchased 2 specially configured ASK-21 training gliders that give disabled veterans lacking use of their legs the ability to manipulate rudder pedals during flight. Rudder pedals control a vertical surface on an aircraft’s tail used for balanced, coordinated flight. The rudder is also a key component for aircraft control during takeoff and landings. A special lever, located on the left side of the front cockpit, can be installed prior to flight allowing for this method of rudder control.

SCSA, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit glider flight school, holds Warriors SOAR day once a month. Funded through donations by the general public and staffed by volunteers, Warriors SOAR days give disabled veterans the opportunity to experience flight and, if they desire, start down the road of flight training, leading to solo flight and the FAA private pilot glider rating. Over 1,700 veterans at 80 events have been flown during the life of the program. The opportunity to control an aircraft in flight gives disabled veterans another opportunity during their rehabilitation for recreation and challenge. For more information on this terrific program for our wounded warriors, see these two SCSA websites:  [soaringacademy.org](http://soaringacademy.org); [socalsoaringacademy.org](http://socalsoaringacademy.org).
The Photo Gallery

Happy 90th Birthday, Jim Eddy ’52!!

Alumni League Spring 2020 Board Meeting

Community Volunteers:

MIDN Saville with Plandome, N.Y. Fire Department
Therapy dog “Andy,” volunteers at the Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy with MIDN Nations

MIDN 3/C Patrick Gallo seated in Schweizer 2-33 training glider

MIDN 1/C Michelle Reiss (at left wing) positions the ASK-21 glider prior to takeoff at Mountain Valley Airport in Tehachapi, CA

Fight On!
The USC Naval ROTC Alumni League is an all-volunteer organization of the university whose mission is to provide the Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion with things, such as supplemental scholarships, achievement recognition, an alumni-funded computer lab, and Drill Team funding assistance. We provide mentoring and an “alumni connection” for current Midshipmen when and where possible. **Associate membership is available to families and those interested in the USC NROTC unit,** to provide additional much-needed financial contributions. All Associate members receive the semi-annual newsletter “The LOG” as well as invitations to Alumni League Events.

☐ Family Membership:
   In Support of Midshipman: ________________________________
   Anticipated Commissioning Year: ______

☐ Associate Membership:
   Affiliation (e.g., Staff) ________________________________

Here is my contribution for the USC NROTC Alumni League and Trojan Midshipmen Battalion:

$ 25.00  Associate Member Dues Donation for 2020

$ _____  Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)

$ _____  Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment

$_______  TOTAL

Name: ________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________

City: ___________________________  State: _______  Zip Code: ___________________________

Email Address (please print in all CAPITAL letters):

_____________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________________________

Please return this page in the envelope provided.
Make checks payable to: **USC NROTC Alumni League**
Mail to: **Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer**
        12812 Bristol Cir
        Los Angeles, CA  90049
USC NROTC Alumni League  REGULAR Membership

All Graduates of the USC NROTC Program are REGULAR members of the Alumni League.
Please use this form for donations and updates.

Name: ____________________________  Commission Year: _____________

Here’s my support for the USC NROTC Alumni League and the Trojan Midshipmen Battalion

TAX DEDUCTIBLE  (Note:  You will receive a donation receipt from the University)

$ 25.00  Member Dues Donation for 2020
$ _____  Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)
$ _____  Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment
[  ]  My company will match my gift.  Contact your Company HR Dept for form and assistance
$ _______  TOTAL

Please return this page in the envelope provided.
Make checks payable to:  USC NROTC Alumni League
Mail to:  Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer, 12812 Bristol Cir., Los Angeles, CA  90049

[  ]  Please update my record

Name: ____________________________  Date of Commission: _____________
Address: ____________________________  Year & School of Degree: _____________
City, State & Zip Code: _____________
Email address (please print in CAPITAL letters):

________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________  Spouse Name: ____________________________

For “DECADES DOINGS”  Name: ____________________________  Commission Year: ______

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USC Naval ROTC 80+ Anniversary Celebration

In 1940 the Navy established the NROTC unit at USC, which makes 2020 our 80th anniversary. But with the COVID-19 craziness, we had to scrub the April 2020 weekend celebration that was all planned and set to go! As we are now in Fall, we are still not able to conduct this event – yet.

We are now possibly celebrating our 80th Plus Anniversary in April 2021. Hopefully, early in 2021 we will have access to an effective and safe COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, we are looking at either the weekend of April 2-3 or April 10-11, 2021…BUT, this is if we have reached some level of “normalcy,” with NO masks and NO social distancing. Otherwise we will stay on hold…

If we are able to go forward, we will advise our members in early 2021 with registration details.

Stay Safe and Fight On!