



Passing of a Four-Star Trojan. . .

by Paul Alwine '62



Admiral Steven (“Steve”) Angelo White of Charlottesville, Virginia, died peacefully in his sleep on Monday, February 1, 2021 at the age of 92. Of all the USC Naval ROTC graduates since 1940, he was the only one to achieve the rank of four-star Admiral!

Born on September 18, 1928 in Los Angeles, California, Steve grew up in Tujunga with his parents, Croatian immigrant, and retired policeman Steven George White (Stojan Sutalo) and Helen White (née Blanchard), his sister, and his two brothers.

Eager to serve his country during World War II, Steve unsuccessfully attempted to enlist while underage. Following early graduation from Verdugo Hills High School in 1946, he pursued studies via scholarship to Occidental College. In 1948, he joined the United States Navy Reserve as an enlisted seaman recruit. Soon after, he continued his studies via a Naval ROTC scholarship to the University of Southern California. While at USC, he pursued his Bachelor of Arts in international relations, while simultaneously pursuing his master’s in political science. He began work as well on a law degree (though, as his military career progressed and his family life developed, he did not complete this degree). During his time at USC, he served on three midshipmen cruises: to Panama on the light cruiser Toledo in the summer of 1949; for amphibious warfare training in Little Creek, Virginia, and Naval aviation training at Pensacola, Florida, in the summer of 1950; and to Cuba on the battleship Missouri from Norfolk, Virginia, in the summer of 1951 (his senior cruise). In 1951, he made the best decision of his entire life and married Mary Anne Landreau and commenced a (rapidly growing) family. Following his gradu-

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Calendar of Events

TBD AUG 2021
Swearing In Class of 2025
USC Campus
*Contact NROTC Unit
for date and time*

16 SEP 2021
Board of Directors Meeting
USC Campus/Zoom

8 APR 2022
80 Plus Anniversary Celebration
USC Campus

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FROM THE BRIDGE

Paul R. Alwine (Class of 1962)

CAPT, SC, USN (Ret)

President – USC NROTC Alumni League

NOW HEAR THIS...all fully vaccinated personnel may now remove their masks and resume almost “normal” activities! We all have been waiting for this for over a year, dealing with all the COVID-craziness! Your USC NROTC Alumni League has been steaming forward, dealing with all the obstacles of virtual operations, and lack of in-person activities and meetings. Fortunately, as things have gotten a bit better, USC just had its in-person Commencement event for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 at the Coliseum. And the Trojan Battalion commissioned 14 new Navy & Marine Corps officers, off campus at the Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme. Off they go for service in the Fleet...

USC has announced that campus will be open for Fall semester classes, and we all look forward to being able to get back on campus. There will be big changes at the USC NROTC unit this summer with a major personnel turnover. In July there will be a Change of Command, with **Col Sean McBride** being relieved by **Col Gilbert Juarez, USMC**, who will be arriving at USC from his last duty station in Hawaii. Col McBride will be retiring on 16 July, and we wish him “Fair Winds and Following Seas!” Sean and his USC wife Michelle have not yet decided what or where their next adventure will be. The unit XO – CDR Rob Hill – will also be moving on this year, along with most of the LT Officer Instructors and the Marine Officer Instructor. We will introduce all the new folks to you in the next newsletter this fall.

This past semester, the Alumni League awarded **\$1,500 scholarships** to five deserving Midshipmen of the Trojan battalion. They were very appreciative of receiving these scholarships which are only possible because of the **continuing generosity of YOU**



- our NROTC alumni! So, keep those checks coming, so we can continue this great program for the students!

We have a new member of the NROTC Alumni League Board of Directors – **CDR Lee Pasaraba, SC, USN (Ret)**. Lee is a member of the NROTC Class of 1993 and resides with his family in Camarillo, CA. He will be the **Vice President of IT/Social Media**. Welcome Aboard, Lee!

Way back in 2020 we had plans to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the NROTC program at USC. We all know what happened last year and we have not been able to do it this year because of the pandemic. So, we are now moving forward to schedule the **80th “Plus” Anniversary for April 2022**. Currently we are planning the weekend event to start on **Friday, 8 April**, with a **Welcome Reception**, then on **Saturday, 9 April**, we will visit the **Space Shuttle “Endeavour”** at the California Science Center, followed by the **80th “Plus” Anniversary /joint banquet with the Midshipmen “Spring Ball”** at the USC Hotel. More detailed info and invitation will be coming later this year. **SAVE the DATES!**

Fight On!

Paul



COMMANDING OFFICER'S UPDATE

Col Sean McBride, USMC

**Commanding Officer & Professor of Naval Science
University of Southern California**

As I write this, the 2020-21 academic year is drawing to a close, in-person commencement ceremonies are ongoing at the Coliseum, and it appears we are done with the virtual events, finally. On Saturday, May 15, we conducted our commissioning ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) in Port Hueneme. CAPT Jeff Chism, the NBVC CO, USC Viterbi Grad, and LA Consortium Alumnus was a great host, allowing us to conduct the ceremony at the historic Bard Mansion. The Trojan Battalion commissioned 14 new officers: 12 Ensigns and two Second Lieutenants. It is hard to believe, but this was the first time I had been in the same physical location as those 14 young men and women since March 2020. About 100 family members were in attendance, morale was high, and LT Smith and GySgt Crespin delivered a very professional ceremony. It was good to see Eddie Tannenbaum and Lee Pasaraba representing the Alumni League.

This summer promises to be an exciting one for the Trojan Battalion. Summer Training is back on this year, and our Midshipmen are already starting to report for their cruises. Twenty-three 3/C Navy Options will attend CORTRAMID in San Diego or Norfolk. Seven 3/C Marine Options will attend "Marine Month" aboard Camp Pendleton. Eleven 2/C and sixteen 1/C Navy Options will go on their cruises out of San Diego or Whidbey Island with six 1/C and 2/C Marine Options attending OCS in Quantico. Good times!

We will experience a considerable amount of staff turnover this summer. Our previous MOI/OpsO, Capt Niko Patitsas, moved to Camp Lejeune in May, where he joined the 22d MEU. Capt Kristen Gabel, a logistics officer who joined us from 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton,

is our new MOI. LT Eric Tan departs for the Department Head Course in Newport, RI, in August. LT Christina Perez, who joins us from the USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52) in San Diego, will be our new SWO. LT John Frnka will transition from the Navy in August but will remain on campus as he finishes his master's degree. LT Andrew Bates, who joins us from the USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) in Portsmouth, VA, is our new submarine officer. Finally, our battalion change of command will occur on July 6 at the Coliseum. Col Gil Juarez is joining us from 3d Marine Regiment in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The Trojan Battalion will be in good hands.

We had another excellent recruiting season led by LT Frnka. A new Officer Candidate joined us last month, and we expect to welcome 15 new Midshipmen in the fall. With transfer decisions to be announced, we also hope to add four new MECEP Marines and another Midshipman to their ranks. Please keep up your efforts to send quality young men and women our way.

As always, I thank our Alumni League for their generous support to the Trojan Battalion. During our spring awards ceremony, Paul Alwine presented scholarships to ENS Drew Ferrer, 2ndLt David Molz, ENS Kayla Wehner, MIDN 1/C Hailey Mollica, and MIDN 1/C Madeline Nations. Thank you for your consistent support to the Trojan Battalion.

The campus is starting to reopen, and you are always welcome to visit us in the PEB. I encourage you to continue to use the Trojan Check app or website (<https://trojancheck.usc.edu/login>) to confirm that you are COVID symptom-free before visiting campus, just to be safe.

Stay healthy and Fight On!

Semper Fidelis,

Sean McBride

* * * Bulletin Board ** **BULLETIN BOARD** ** 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 send an email to log_editor@yahoo.com with your changes. Hopefully soon, you will be able to update your information on-line through our website, but for now, please use snail mail or email.

DON'T FORGET!! 2021 Membership Dues are due NOW!

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

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, Sept 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on the USC Campus or via Zoom.

NROTC Alumni Scholarship Endowment

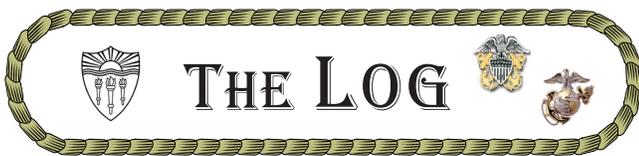
Our NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment at USC is over **\$277,000**. The Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion truly appreciate your support with their school expenses. Any questions regarding the Scholarship Endowment and our scholarship program, contact Jerry Vieau at: jerryvieau@yahoo.com

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 go towards the support of the Trojan Battalion

2021 NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE OFFICERS**PRESIDENT***CAPT Paul Alwine, SC, USN (Ret), '62***SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT***CAPT Bob Brockmeier, USN (Ret), '63***SECRETARY***CDR Maureen "Alex" Alexander Wright, USN (Ret) '81***INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT***CAPT Rich Suttie, USN (Ret), '79***FINANCE***Col Jim Hull, USMC (Ret) '82***THE LOG EDITOR***LtCol Frances Shannon Annarella, USMC (Ret), '81***SCHOLARSHIP & ENDOWMENTS***Jerry Vieau '68***TREASURER***Ed Tannenbaum '62***SPECIAL EVENTS***CAPT Bob Brockmeier, USN (Ret), '63***MEMBERSHIP***Jim Eddy '52***INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/SOCIAL MEDIA -***CDR Lee Parasaba, USN (Ret) '93*

THE LOG is a semi-annual publication of the USC NROTC Alumni League. The USC NROTC Alumni League is a non-profit service organization committed to promote, support, and strengthen ongoing ties among NROTC alumni, the Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion, U.S. Naval Forces, and the University of Southern California. All Navy and Marine Corps alumni of the USC NROTC program (currently over 2,000 officers) are automatically members of the Alumni League upon commissioning.

Send comments to:

Frances Annarella '81

e-mail: log_editor@yahoo.com

mail: See address under Bulletin Board

"How to Contact Us"

Our website: <http://uscnotc.org>

USC NROTC Alumni League Scholarships for the Spring Semester 2021

As mentioned in the Fall/Winter 2020 issue of the Log, the Board of Directors increased the midshipmen scholarships from \$1,000 to **\$1,500** each, beginning last Fall. This is due to the continued growth of the of our Scholarship Endowment Fund from generous contributions by our NROTC Alumni League members. These scholarships are very important to each of the recipients and we are glad to be able to provide five scholarships each semester. This scholarship recognizes their scholastic and leadership achievements in the Battalion, at USC and in their community. The funds are credited to their university account to assist with their school expenses.

This semester's recipients are:

MIDN 1/C Hailey Mollica

MIDN 1/C Drew Ferrer

MIDN 1/C David Molz

MIDN 2/C Madeline Nations

MIDN 1/C Kayla Wehner

Congratulations Scholarship recipients!

Thank you Alumni for your generous contributions!

Military and Veterans Benefits:

FREE National Parks passes available for military and vets! If you enjoy the great outdoors, you need to check this out:

<https://store.usgs.gov/faq#US-Military>

Click on "US Military" to get the info.

Do you know any programs that may benefit active military, veterans and retirees? If so, please send it to log_editor@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Social Media and Website Updates

In an effort to improve Alumni communications, the Alumni League is broadening its comms spectrum by establishing a **Private Group in Facebook** in addition to the existing “The Log” newsletter and the Alumni League website.

Capabilities:

- Instantaneous communications
- Two-way communications vs one-way broadcast communications
- Audience/members limited to USC NROTC Alumni
- Event notifications

Check-out the newly-established Alumni League Private FB Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uscnotcalumni/>

Any suggestions on additional ways to improve comms are greatly appreciated.

Website - please be patient with us! We are working on making our website more interactive.

For those who requested e-copies only of the newsletter - we hope to be able to accommodate you by the next issue - we want to make sure that we have a good system in place for you to be able to make donations, update your information, submit comments for the “Decades Doings” section of the Log and communicate more easily with us before we remove you from our hard copy mailing list.

Regina Nordahl and her “Swag”

Regina Nordahl retired as the Associate Dean of the Price School in March of 2020.

Both MajGen Bierman (CG of Marine Corps Recruiting Command) and RDML Sands (CO of Naval Service Training Command) gave her letters of commendation, and the Trojan Battalion gave her a paddle.

The Battalion held onto them, hoping to present them in person at her retirement ceremony (*anceled*), the spring ball (*anceled*), or her rescheduled retirement ceremony (*anceled*). We gave up on an in-person event and presented them to her virtually at the battalion’s spring award ceremony on 29 April. Col McBride and his wife, Michelle, delivered them to her the following weekend.

Regina is now an active associate member of our Alumni League. Welcome aboard Regina!



The Brink

On August 23, 1958, the communist-led Chinese forces launched a massive artillery barrage of two small islands off the coast of Taiwan, where thousands of Chinese Nationalist troops were stationed. This act of aggression would set in motion a series of events that would bring the world to the brink of nuclear war. The **USS Midway**, fresh off of receiving three years' worth of major upgrades making it a nuclear force sailed to the Taiwan Strait to deter further aggression by the Chinese Communists.

On board the USS Midway was NROTC Alumnus, **Richard Setlowe '56**, a junior officer responsible for giving the nuclear bombers their targets should it be necessary. A reality that still haunts him today. The Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1958 brought the USS Midway and her crew to the brink of nuclear war. . .

Please go to the below link for the short documentary about the USS Midway's role as told by Rick Setlowe:

<https://youtu.be/FPC4qFp0YKE>

If the link doesn't work, search "setlowe" at www.midway.org (USS Midway Museum)

Class of 1981 - 40th "Plus" Reunion

We are combining our reunion with the NROTC 80th "Plus" Anniversary!! Our plan is to start a couple of days early (April 6th and 7th) in San Diego and then join the rest of the Alumni on Friday April 8th at USC for the 80th Plus Anniversary Reception.

We will be posting information on the alumni website and facebook group. I will also send out updates via email - if your email has changed or if you have a preferred address, please contact me.

Would you like to be on the Planning Committee? Currently, it's Dave Thompson, Don Biedermann and me - would love to get input from some of you Navy types. . .

Frances (Shannon) Annarella
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.

Donald D. Braas '47	Nov 10, 2019
Everett Dodge '48	Oct 30, 2019
John Holz '49	July 2020
Steven White '52	Feb 1, 2021
Richard Moore '54	Aug 9, 2020
Wayne Keup '69	Mar 28, 2021
Dave Greenlee '74	December 2020
Terrence Takenaka '81	21 Jan 2021

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.

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ADMIRAL WHITE

ation from USC in the summer of 1952, he was commissioned an Ensign.

As a commissioned officer, Steve served aboard the cruiser USS Manchester (CL-83) during the Korean War. In 1953, he entered the submarine program and served aboard the diesel submarine USS Tang (SS-563). Three years later, he entered Admiral Rickover's prestigious Naval Nuclear Power Program. Steve and his classmates, who comprised the second class to pass through the rigorous training at the Naval Nuclear Power School in New London, Connecticut, were known as the "Dirty Nine". Following further training at the nuclear prototype reactor in Arco, Idaho, Steve received assignment to the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), Rickover's first nuclear submarine. Steve remained with the Nautilus from 1957 to 1960. In August 1958, he participated in Operation Sunshine, the first successful transpolar crossing—traveling from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean via the unexplored and dangerous depths of the Arctic Ocean. Emerging in the Atlantic Ocean, Steve sent the coded message of their achievement, "Nautilus Ninety North". He was the last surviving officer of the "PANOPO" crossing (Pacific to Atlantic via the North Pole).

Following further training in 1960 at Westinghouse's Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, Steve served aboard the USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608), first as Engineer and later as Executive Officer. During this assignment, he participated in Ethan Allen's live Christmas Island shot (in 1961), the only complete missile test with an armed warhead ever ordered and was engaged in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

In 1964, Steve received his first shore duty assignment, serving on the staff of the Deputy to the Submarine Force Commander Atlantic (SUBLANT), during which time he unilaterally developed the Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination (ORSE) for submarine personnel. Two years later, after training at Rickover's CHARM school in Washington, D.C., he served as commanding officer of USS Pargo (SSN-650). Under his command, Pargo accomplished significant North Pole exploration and experiments. In 1969, he served as Commander of Division 102, and

the following year went to work directly for Admiral Rickover at Naval Reactors.

In 1972, Steve received the "plum" assignment to serve as Commander of the Navy's second Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Submarine Squadron in Rota, Spain. Two years later, he was named Commander of Submarine Group Two, based in Groton, followed in 1976 by an assignment to the Office of Naval Material (NAVMAT), serving under Admiral Michaelis. He continued his prestigious service for nine more years, including two years serving under the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (OP-02), in charge of Submarine Warfare, three years as COMSUBLANT, and two years as Chief of NAVMAT. Throughout his over thirty years in the Navy, he demonstrated deep love of his country, dedication to the submarine service, and an unshakable commitment to reform and fiscal responsibility. He received many awards, including the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (four times), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1985, following his retirement from the Navy, Steve commenced work as a contractor. That same year, he took charge of the nuclear power division of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and undertook intensive reform and restructuring, leading to the successful restoration of TVA's Sequoyah PWR Unit 1 in 1988. Soon thereafter, he retired from TVA.

After retirement, Steve dedicated the rest of his life to the care of his beloved wife, innumerable building projects, cross-country trips (in a motorhome nearly as large as one of his submarines), and time with his extensive family.

Steve was predeceased by both of his parents, his sister, Frances, and his brothers, Raymond and Richard. Steve is survived by Mary Anne, his devoted wife of 70 years; his seven children, 35 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren (and counting), and many nieces and nephews. When he considered all that he had accomplished in his life, Steve insisted it was the result of hard work and "God shining His light on me." He unequivocally stated over and over again that his greatest "achievement" was his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

USC NROTC Class of 1974 Conducts a Zoom Reunion

By Bob Katin '74

Background: I maintained a partial list of Navy colleagues with whom I have served. On 13 OCT 2020, I sent a group e-mail saying, "Celebrating 245 Years as a Global Force for good! Thank you for your service!!!" Afterwards, I received an e-mail response from a USC NROTC classmate, Greg Stearns, who owns a business and has a paid Zoom account. Greg suggested we set a Zoom Reunion for our class. so, on 20 OCT, I sent out an e-mail soliciting interest in a Zoom meeting.

Preparation: It was a good thing that we made the reunion date about 7 weeks in advance. We were missing points of contact for many of our class. We asked for help from the Alumni League in trying to locate some of our missing members and they provided what they had available. Based on their help and help from other classmates, of the 35 men commissioned on 6 JUN 1974, responses were received from 33 of the 35. Unfortunately, 5 responses were classmates forwarding obituaries of former classmates.

A Zoom Reunion invitation was distributed by e-mail asking attendees to prepare a 2-minute update by discussing the following information:

- Rank at which you left the Navy/Marine Corps
- What you did while you were in the Navy/Marine Corps
- What you have done since leaving the Navy/Marine Corps
- Family
- City, State where you currently live
- Travel/Hobbies

I then made a PowerPoint presentation, with an individual page per classmate. Each page included the six bullets above (with a reminder that the presenter only had 2 minutes); the name of each classmate; and a photo of their commissioning photograph scanned from the Seahorse.

The week prior to the Zoom Reunion, an e-mail invited attendees without Zoom experience to attend a pre-meeting to work out any bugs. A phone number was provided to guide attendees on how to download and operate Zoom.

The Reunion: On the day of the Zoom Reunion, half the Zoom window was the PowerPoint of the presenting classmate, and the other half of the Zoom window was the active presenter. I received input on the 6 bullets from some classmates who knew they were not going to be attending. Greg was the Zoom Moderator, keeping everyone moving through their 2-minute presentation, and announcing the next speaker. For classmates that were not in attendance or who had passed, I read notes from the PowerPoint that summarized the classmate's talking points.

The Zoom Reunion was a tremendous success. We received many positive comments and everyone is looking forward to another get together.

Bravo Zulu Bob Katin and Greg Stearns!

Class of 1981 Holds Zoom Get Togethers Also

Although it wasn't as well planned or organized as Bob Katin's Class of 1974 Reunion, the Class of 1981 also had a few get togethers. Hosted by Clyde Woltman, invitations were sent to known email addresses and classmates were asked to forward to those not on the list. They have gotten together a total of three times over the past year; an initial Reunion/Happy Hour, Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Celebration and sadly, the last one was a Celebration of Life for one of their own, Terrence Takenaka. They really enjoyed spending time together and hope to have other zoom happy hours in the future. Class of '81 classmates - if you were not included, please email Frances at log_editor@yahoo.com to be added to the distribution list.



CLASS of 2021 Marine Corps Second Lieutenant and Navy Ensigns

*Congratulations to our newest officers commissioned on May 15, 2021
Welcome aboard to the Alumni League!*

ENS Drew Ferrer, USN

Hometown: San Diego, CA

Degree: BA in Political Science

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC

ENS Jack Gao, USN

Hometown: San Jose, CA

Degree: BS in Business Administration

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC

ENS Stephen Griffith, USN

Hometown: Boulder, CO

Degree: BA in Political Science

First Duty Station: Basic Underwater Demolitions/SEAL Training, Coronado, CA

ENS Henry Linenger, USN

Hometown: Suttons Bay, MI

Degree: BS in Geodesign

First Duty Station: Student Naval Aviator, Pensacola, FL

2nd Lt David Molz, USMC

Hometown: Moorestown, NJ

Degree: BA in International Relations

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA

ENS Adrian Perez, USN

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Degree: BS in Public Policy and Law

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC.

ENS Tripp Quarles, USN

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Degree: BA in International Relations, Global Business

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC.

*****GO NAVY *** SEMPER FIDELIS *** FIGHT ON!!!*****

*****GO NAVY *** SEMPER FIDELIS *** FIGHT ON!!!*****

2nd Lt Pedro Ramirez, USMC

Hometown: Maui, HI

Degree: BA in Economics

First Duty Station: The Basic School, Quantico, VA

ENS Michelle Reiss, USN

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV

Degree: BS in Business Administration

First Duty Station: Student Naval Aviator, Pensacola, FL

ENS Claire Ruotolo, USN

Hometown: Cornwall, NY

Degree: BA in Business Administration and International Relations

First Duty Station: BDOC in Norfolk, and then join DDG-85, the USS McCAMPBELL in Portland, OR

ENS Jack Salva, USN

Hometown: Riegelsville, PA

Degree: BA in International Relations

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC

ENS Kayla Wehner, USN

Hometown: Lincoln, CA

Degree: BA in International Relations

First Duty Station: Nuclear Power Training for Submarine Warfare Officer, Charleston, SC

ENS Alec Wyndhamsmith, USN

Hometown: Pasadena, CA

Degree: BA in Economics

First Duty Station: Student Naval Aviator, Pensacola, FL

ENS Madeleine Yi, USN

Hometown: Seattle, WA

Degree: BA in Political Economy

First Duty Station: Student Naval Aviator, Pensacola, FL



Back at the Battalion

Battalion Commander (BNCO) Profiles

Fall 2020 - MIDN 1/C Kayla Wehner, USNR

Kayla grew up in Lincoln, California, near Sacramento. She attended St. Francis High School in Sacramento, graduating in 2017. She was awarded an NROTC scholarship and selected USC, where she majored in International Relations, with a minor in Russian Foreign Area Policy.

In the Trojan battalion Kayla served in a number of billets, including Drill Team member as a Freshman, Squad Leader & Assistant Plans Officer as a Sophomore, Assistant Operations Officer as a Junior, and Battalion Commander as a Senior. As the Battalion Commander, Kayla provided “virtual” leadership of the USC midshipmen while the campus was closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. She organized and participated in weekly Navy Science Lab virtual Zoom sessions. She also developed and implemented a unique mentoring program for lower classmen, called “Sea Family,” which connects students with multiple upper classmen.

Other activities that Kayla had were the USC Model United Nations Club and the USC Christian Club. Additionally, she was initiated into the USC Skull & Dagger Honor Society for her leadership and academic achievements.

Following her May graduation and commissioning, Kayla will report for duty at the Navy’s Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC. After completing the nuclear course, she will be assigned as an officer on a Navy attack or Fleet Ballistic missile submarine.



Spring 2021 - MIDN 1/C Stephen Griffith, USNR

Born in Pasadena, Stephen grew up in Boulder, Colorado, graduating from Fairview High School in 2017. His uncle, a Naval Academy grad and former Naval Flight Officer, fueled his desire to serve. When Stephen was awarded an NROTC scholarship, he chose USC to come back to the west coast and be a Trojan.

As a member of the Trojan battalion, he served as Command Master Chief, 4/C Training officer, and Squad Leader, before becoming Battalion Commander during the difficult and virtual Spring semester. For summer training Stephen completed the 3/C CORTRAMID, his 2/C cruise on the USS SEAWOLF (SSN-21) in Pearl Harbor, and his 1/C training at “SOAS” - SEAL Officer Assessment and Selection in Coronado.

He is majoring in Political Science, with a minor in Human Security Geospatial Intelligence. Stephen is also a member of Sigma Nu fraternity where he served as Vice President and Risk Management and Prevention Chair.

After graduation and commissioning in May, Stephen will report to Coronado for “BUD/S” – Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training.

2021 Commissioning Ceremony

New Officers able to celebrate together In person!

May 15, 2021 - It was an overcast Ventura County morning at the 100 year-old historic Senator Thomas Bard Mansion Garden on Naval Base Ventura County, but it was a great day to hold the outdoor USC NROTC Commissioning Ceremony for the 12 Ensigns and two Second Lieutenants and their families. This was most likely the first time many of these Midshipmen have met in person in over a year. The recent relaxation of COVID requirements allowed for them to gather in person for this milestone event, and even take some unmasked photos. USC NROTC Alumni League Board Members Eddie Tannenbaum and Lee Parasaba were in attendance to congratulate the new officers and hand out Alumni League Challenge Coins.



It started like this. . .



But ended like this!!!

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

Charles Repp '44: Still alive! Boating and breathing.

1950's

George Strella '51: Hats off to Paul Alwine for his memorial article about Bob Benner '45. I wasn't a classmate but met him at the 2017 Vets and NROTC Dinner. I'm still in touch with classmates, Bob Lates, Ron Hall and Howard Jackson. I'd love to hear from others. I never read about the Fighting Tops in the Log - is it still a campus club? Regards from Tulsa, OK.

William Green '52: Enjoyed celebrating Jim Eddy's 90th Birthday in September surrounded by family.

Fred Hoepfner '55: Although I wasn't a music major during my college years, my avocations have provided solace during times of stress. These have included music and hiking. A piece of piano music that I composed about six years ago for a composition contest honoring my recently deceased friend, Lucille Salerno, has just resurfaced. Norwegian pianist Morten Gunnar Larsen has performed a beautiful, reading of my composition "Lucille's Rag Arabesque" at the virtual West Coast Ragtime Festival. It's still available via Facebook and You Tube. To listen, enter "West Coast Ragtime Festival 2020" in the search box, then "Saturday afternoon concert." My composition comes at about 51:40.

1960's

Richard Blankmeyer '60: After a 39 year career in banking, my wife, Carol, and I retired from CA to New Mexico. Besides enjoying the natural beauty of my adopted state, I now volunteer and teach adult education courses for Osher Lifelong Learning in Santa Fe. Most of my courses relate to the World War II period, focusing on USN/USMC actions in the Pacific, and the war's impact on American society at home.

Paul Alwine '62: Fully vaccinated and ready to travel! Just finished a southeast road trip to Georgia, North Caro-

lina, and Tennessee. Next, annual trip to Florida. Can't wait for campus to open in the fall and again having SC football in the Coliseum!

Michael McDevitt '63: Keeping busy in semi-retirement from my "second career" as a manager and analyst at the Center for Naval Analysis. After 34 years active duty, the last two decades have been focused on security policy issues in East Asia - especially China.

Note: RADM McDevitt recently published a book entitled "China as a Twenty-First Century Naval Power." It's available on Amazon. See page 17 for more information.

Bob Zeman '63: I knew Bob Benner quite well from our weekly meetings at the Adventurers Club. Both of us served as officer or director at different times.

David Todd '67: Retired partner Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLP after 31 years in 2002. Currently on the Advisory board for UCI Athletics, volunteer for NBF (Cert Program), Corona del Mar High School Athletics (Water Polo and Lacrosse) and the Red Cross. I also serve as our HOA Representative.

Val Daigle '69: Retired from US Navy August 1989. After obtaining MBA - Financial Management and MS - Taxation, owned business for almost 20 years in Coronado, CA - Tax and Financial Services. Sold practice and retired (again) in 2017. We love the beauty of Idaho and freedom. Fight On!

1970's

Gene Talmadge '70: Appointed "Chairman" City of Camarillo Planning Commission, past president of California Association of Environmental Professionals.

Don Davis '71: Happily retired in Los Angeles. Wife, Julie (UCLA Grad) is a professor of Education at USC. Looking forward to campus lunches with her after COVID craziness dissipates.

Douglas W. Keith '72: Retired for good (2nd time) from support of Navy Shipbuilding at NAVSEA, Washington

DECADES *DOINGS*

D.C. Watched burning of ship I commissioned in 1998, as Commanding Officer; the Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in San Diego in early July. Spoke to plank owner crew. Was hopeful Navy will repair the ship and return to the fleet. Proud of the fire fighting efforts of the ship crew. However, decision made to decommission the ship due to the damages. Spending time at home with wife of 49 years and daughter and grandson during COVID lockdown. Fight on and stay safe.

Jeffrey Stearns '72: My wife, Denise, and I welcomed our first great-grandchild, a beautiful little girl in March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has kept us close to home but otherwise all is well. We will celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary in October 2020. I am active as a Michigan commercial real estate transaction law specialist even though the work has been spotty until recently. Several of the annual charity golf tournaments that I normally participate in were cancelled, but like the Kentucky derby and the Indianapolis 500, others were postponed until the fall as we can play golf in Michigan until it snows.

Bruce Nelson '76: Still working from home and waiting to get the shot! Hope we are all vaccinated by the time you get this. Fight On!

Jon Simmons '76: Let's hope 2021 will be much better than 2020!

Jeff Subko '78: Retired Captain USNR 2003. Retired from DoD career in Legislative Affairs at OSD and a Defense agency in 2012. Moved from Northern VA to Margot's hometown in Iowa in 2013. Married since 1987. Love to travel!

1980's

Dave Thompson '81: Officially retired from Delta Airlines 1 Sept. 2020! Coaching high school soccer, baby-sitting grand daughters, playing golf and travelling (when able!) with Sherry! Married for 41 years! Looking forward to the 80+ Anniversary Celebration and Reunion and the Class of '81- 40th Reunion.

Mark Jurgensen '84: I retired from the Navy Reserve but I am still working long days developing renewable energy and grid scale battery projects.

George Shannon '84: Well 2020 was a year of improve, adapt, and survive! Our family is grateful for continued good health and success. My wife Linda (CPA) was busy handling COVID-19 impacts on client businesses and processing many PPP loan applications. Our daughter, Katie is now in her senior year (Bio pre-med, Spanish minor) at Goucher College, Maryland. Last February, we were able to travel and see her swim at the Landmark Conference Championships just before COVID took hold. My work at Aerojet Rocketdyne has been keeping me very busy and I support multiple programs, including the Navy's Mk54 Mod2 Advanced Light Weight Torpedo and as the RS-52 engine project engineer for NASA's Space Launch System. We are really looking forward to attending the 80+ Anniversary celebration.

David Hansen '85: I was recently competitively promoted to the Senior Executive Service (SES) on 11 April 2021 in the Position of Executive Director of Border Enforcement Management Systems Directorate, in the Office of Information Technology, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Todd Porter '87: Commander, USN retired, currently C/KC-130T (USN) and KC-130J (USMC) Product Support Manager. Also a Trojan Marching Band Alum!

Dennis Hensley '88: We moved further away from So-Cal but closer to FedEx so there is no more commuting. Our oldest daughter just graduated from SMU in May and our youngest is a sophomore at USC in the Air Force ROTC program. Fight On and Be safe!

1990's

Nothing to Report

2000's

Tyrone Pham '05: Currently stationed in Tampa, FL, living the life of a staff officer at USSCOM. Lateral transferred from the submarine warfare community to the cryptology community back in 2012. Spending 2020 "living a quarter mile at a time. . ." Fight On!

2010 and 2020's

Nothing to Report

The Photo Gallery

Happy 90th Birthday Jim!

Alumni League Board Member, Jim Eddy '52 turned 90 in September 2020. Jim is pictured here with a photo collage made by his daughter.



Celebrating the passing of the torch from one generation of Marines to the next. . .Clyde Woltman '81 (right) with his son Niko in Philadelphia by the site of Tun Tavern. Niko graduated Magna Cum Laude, from Villanova with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in May. His degree has a Russian Area Studies concentration, and he also received Russian and Business Minors. Congratulations Colonel and 2nd Lt Woltman!

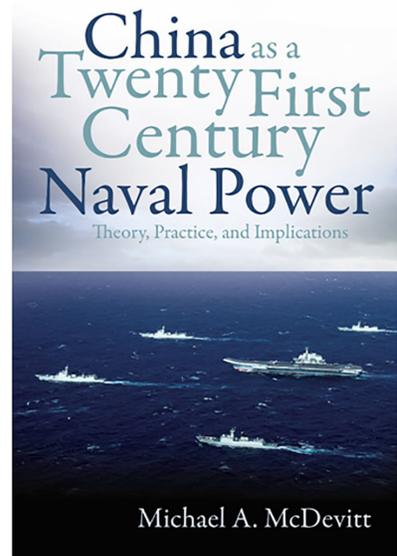
Happy 80th Birthday Paul!

Alumni League Board President, Paul Alwine '62 turned 80 in November 2020. Paul's wife, Binnie, got him a special birthday gift – a flight at John Wayne Airport, with Paul as the pilot (along with an instructor) in a classic Cessna 172! Paul had flown a lot of 172s back in the 1970s and 80s, so he said “this was sort of like coming home after a long time away.”

China as a Twenty-First-Century Naval Power Theory, Practice, and Implications

By Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt, USN (ret) '63

General Secretary of the Communist Party Xi Jinping made his ambitions for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) perfectly clear, there is no mystery what he wants, first that China should become a "great maritime power" and secondly that the PLA "become a world-class armed force by 2050." He wants this latter objective to be largely completed by 2035. China as a Twenty-First-Century Naval Power focuses on China's navy and how it is being transformed to satisfy the "world class" goal.



Beginning with an exploration of why China is seeking to become such a major maritime power, author Michael McDevitt first explores the strategic rationale behind Xi's two objectives. China's reliance on foreign trade and overseas interests such as China's Belt and Road strategy. In turn this has created concerns within the senior levels of China's military about the vulnerability of its overseas interests and maritime lifelines. This is a major theme. McDevitt dubs this China's "sea lane anxiety" and traces how this has required the PLA Navy to evolve from a "near seas" focused navy to one that has global reach; a "blue water navy." He details how quickly this transformation has taken place, thanks to a patient step-by-step approach and abundant funding. The over 12 years of anti-piracy patrols in the far reaches of the Indian Ocean has acted as a learning curve accelerator to "blue water" status.

McDevitt then explores the PLA Navy's role in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. He provides a detailed assessment of what the PLAN will be expected to do if Beijing chooses to attack Taiwan, potentially triggering combat with America's "first responders" in East Asia, especially the U.S. Seventh Fleet and U.S. Fifth Air Force.

He conducts a close exploration of how the PLA Navy fits into China's campaign plan aimed at keeping reinforcing U.S. forces at arms length (what the Pentagon calls anti-access and area denial (A2/AD)) if war has broken out over Taiwan or because of attacks on U.S. allies and friends that live in the shadow of China. How Xi defines "world class" remains a bit of a mystery, but the evidence from the past 15 years of building a blue water force has already made the PLA Navy the second largest globally capable navy in the world. This book concludes with a forecast of what Xi's vision of a "world-class navy" might look like in the next fifteen years when the 2035 deadline is reached.

Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt, USN (Ret.) is currently a Senior Fellow at CNA Strategic Studies at Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), a Washington DC area non-profit research and analysis company. He has been involved in U.S. security policy and strategy in the Asia-Pacific for the last 30 years, in both government policy positions and, following his retirement from the U.S. Navy, for the last decade and a half as an analyst, author and commentator. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, Georgetown University where he received a Master's degree in U.S.-East Asian diplomatic history, and the National War College. In his final active duty assignment he returned to the National War College as its Commandant.

During his Navy career he held four at-sea commands; including an aircraft carrier battlegroup. He was the Director of the East Asia Policy office for the Secretary of Defense during the George H.W. Bush Administration. He also served for two years as the Director for Strategy, War Plans and Policy (J-5) for US CINCPAC.

USC NROTC Alumni League ASSOCIATE Membership

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: _____

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Affiliation (e.g., Staff, former Midshipman) _____

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

\$ 25.00 Associate Member Dues Donation for 2021

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

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*All Graduates of the USC NROTC Program are REGULAR members of the Alumni League.
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My company will match my gift. Contact your Company HR Dept for form and assistance

\$ _____ TOTAL

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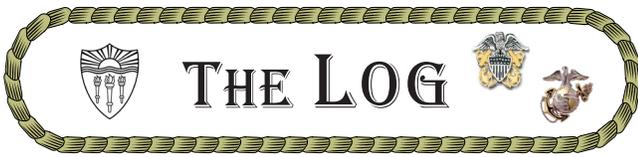
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USC NAVAL ROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE
Department of Naval Science
University of Southern California
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0654

******SAVE the DATES!!!******

**NROTC 80th “Plus” Anniversary
*April 8th and 9th, 2022***

*Currently we are planning the weekend event to start on **Friday, 8 April**, with a **Welcome Reception**, then on **Saturday, 9 April**, we will visit the **Space Shuttle “Endeavour”** at the California Science Center, followed by the **80th “Plus” Anniversary / joint banquet with the Midshipmen “Spring Ball”** at the USC Hotel. More detailed info and invitation will be coming later this year.*

Information will be posted on our website and private facebook group:

<http://uscnrotc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uscnrotcalumni/>