



An Audience with a Living Legend: Former Secretary of the Navy Paul Ignatius

by ENS William Durban '24

On 7 September, I had the distinct honor of meeting The Honorable Paul Ignatius, former Secretary of the Navy, World War II veteran, and proud University of Southern California alumnus. At 104 years old, Mr. Ignatius is the oldest living U.S. government official and one of the few individuals to have a Navy ship named in their honor while still alive, an honor often reserved for former Presidents. As I neared the end of my time in the NROTC program at USC, I was thrilled to have been selected to the USS Paul Ignatius (DDG-117), home ported in Rota, Spain. This Arleigh-Burke class Destroyer was commissioned recently in 2019 and carries on Secretary Ignatius' legacy on the forefront of enforcing policy around the world.

Thanks to the efforts of the "Trojan Network" – through the assistance of some outstanding alumni that I met at a networking dinner, I was able to arrange a visit with Mr. Ignatius. Fellow USC NROTC alumni, ENS Blake Harrison '24 and ENS Declan Cooper '24 were able to attend as well. After months of coordination, we traveled to his home in Washington, D.C.

Welcomed warmly by Mr. Ignatius and his daughter, we were captivated by his incredible storytelling. He took us back to his days at USC, and to his time as a naval officer in World War II. Hearing him describe the intense moments when two kamikaze planes attacked his ship - one striking his ship directly - was both humbling and inspiring. His vivid recollection of these events, nearly 80 years ago, felt as if they had happened yesterday. He also shared his experiences as Secretary of the Navy during the Vietnam War, reflecting on the deeply personal and political challenges he faced. It was eye-opening to hear him discuss the weight of decisions that not only shaped military policy but also had a profound impact on his family. His insights, many of which still resonate with today's global climate, were truly remarkable.

Mr. Ignatius remains a proud Trojan, reflecting on how USC has evolved since the 1940s, and expressing his admiration for its continued success.

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Calendar of Events

19 DEC 2024

Winter Commissioning
USC Campus

16-20 JAN 2025

MIDN 1/C Battle Study in
Hawaii

5 MAR 2025

Alumni League Happy Hour
and Basketball Game
(USC-Washington)

6 MAR 2025

Board of Directors Meeting
USC Campus

16 MAY 2024

USC Graduation and
Commissioning
USC Campus

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FROM THE BRIDGE

Jim Hull (Class of 1982)

Col, USMCR (Ret)

President – USC NROTC Alumni League

The Unit will commission 7 new Ensigns on 19 December at 1000 hrs at a ceremony on the steps in front of the P.E. Building. Midshipmen being commissioned are: Bailey Johnson (Industrial Systems Engineering), Kaisa Liljenwall (Biomedical Engineering), Matt Merone (Aerospace Engineering), Luke Miramadi (Aerospace Engineering), Marisol Ruiz (Aerospace Engineering), Jae Sosa (Mechanical Engineering) and David Rozo (Astronautical Engineering). Bravo Zulu to our newest Ensigns for earning both their commissions and USC engineering degrees.

It was a busy summer, starting with Col Tracy Perry assuming command of USC NROTC at a change of command on Wednesday 10 July in the foyer of the P.E. building. I presented Col Gil Juarez, the outgoing CO, our traditional engraved Tommy Trojan statue as a gift from the League. Several League Board members attended the ceremony and the wardroom reception that followed. On 6 September, Col Juarez retired after 39 years of service during a ceremony held at Camp Pendleton on the parade deck of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, where Gil held previous command. Attending with me were Board members Jerry Vieau, Paul Alwine, and several members of the Unit staff. A reception followed and a dinner was held later that evening at the Oceanside Veteran's Center. It was a great day in North San Diego County celebrating Gil's long and distinguished service. He and his wife, Cyndi, are living near their daughter's family in Fairfax, VA. He will teach planners under a US Army contract with the Saudi Arabian National Guard at least for the next few months while traveling back and forth to Virginia.

On Sunday 14 July, Navy Yacht Club Long Beach invited several of our newly commissioned (May 2024) Ensigns, USC and UCLA NROTC staff, and Alumni League Board members for an afternoon of sailing. A post-sail BBQ followed at the NYCLB clubhouse. It became the kickoff event for our sailing program with NYCLB, after a midshipmen sailing event in May was rained out.



Newly commissioned Ensigns Kellen Cheung, Marco Chan, Declan Cooper and Josiah Jordan were introduced to NYCLB membership. Each spoke to the group about their backgrounds and future Fleet assignments.

On 14 September, MIDN 1/C Kaisa Liljenwall, MIDN 4/C Ben Huang and MIDN 2/C Ian Williams were introduced to SoCal yacht racing, serving as crew members during a NYCLB race event at Long Beach Harbor.

The Board of Directors met on Friday 11 October at USC's Tutor Campus Center. The 2024 fall Board meeting was held the day prior to the Penn St. home game. 20 were in attendance, including 3 visiting alumni (Bob Lang '66, Tom Crosby '75, Craig Kennedy '79). During the CO's presentation, Col Perry discussed the current National Defense Strategy, the CNO's "Navigation Plan" for the US Navy and the USMC Commandant's Planning Guidance. Col Perry then discussed the NROTC program from a national perspective and later gave the Board an update of Unit staff transfers, Battalion events, and requests for 2025 League support. Col Perry's brief is posted on our website (uscnrotc.org/alumni-news).

The meeting kicked off Penn St. home game week-end activities that the League had advertised for several weeks via e-mail flyers and the website. The weekend started that night with a meet up at Top Golf in El Segundo. On Saturday, we had a tailgate in front of the P.E. Building on a beautiful fall morning prior to the game's 12:30 kickoff. A surprising number of USC tailgaters were present on campus despite the early game time. It was a tough 33-30 overtime loss to Penn St., but a great football Saturday. The next day, alumni enjoyed a sail at Navy Yacht Club Long Beach and a post-sail BBQ at the NYCLB clubhouse. We saluted NYCLB's support of USC's midshipmen and then toasted the Navy's 249th birthday. It was great to get reacquainted

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S UPDATE

Col Tracy A. Perry, USMC

Commanding Officer & Professor of Naval Science
University of Southern California

Dear Alumni, family, and friends of the Trojan Battalion,

As the new Commanding Officer of the University of Southern California's NROTC unit, I'm humbled and honored to take the helm. I am grateful to Colonel Gil Juarez for his unwavering commitment, active leadership, and turnover of an exceptionally well-led unit. I'd like to thank the staff and students for their warm welcome; I look forward to commissioning the finest Naval officers.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds, yet they share a common drive for excellence. They know that becoming a Naval officer requires more than physical endurance or tactical acumen; it demands intellectual curiosity, ethical grounding, and resilience. To foster these qualities, our program emphasizes a well-rounded approach, integrating leadership principles into all facets of their education. Through both coursework and real-world training, we challenge our students to grow not just as future officers but as individuals who can lead with integrity, clarity, and a deep commitment to service.

One of our core priorities is instilling a sense of lifelong learning. From understanding the latest technological advancements to studying the strategic lessons of military history, our students are encouraged to cultivate a mind-set that values knowledge as a critical component of effective leadership. In this rapidly evolving world, the need for adaptable, well-rounded leaders is greater than ever, and our USC NROTC program is committed to meeting that demand by combining rigorous military training with a solid foundation in leadership.

As we look ahead, the USC NROTC program will continue building on its tradition of excellence, inspiring Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEPs to rise to the challenges of today while preparing them to lead the fleet of tomorrow. We're proud to add 27 Navy Option Midshipmen, 4 Marine Option Midshipmen, 1 Officer Candidate, and 3 MECEPs to our Trojan Family. Our unit has 87 motivated students eager to become Naval officers.

Fair Winds and Following Seas: Lieutenant Jack Tribolet, Assistant Professor of Naval Science and Course Coordinator for Seapower & Maritime Affairs. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to training, coaching, and mentoring.

Our alumni network is essential to our program and because of your efforts, our students are better prepared to be commissioned as an Ensign or Second Lieutenant. We are extremely fortunate for the support we receive from our Alumni League. We cannot thank you enough for the pivotal role you continue to play in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Please join us on our Annual Battle Study from 16-20 January in Hawaii. Chart the Course: Building tomorrow's Naval leaders, today!

Fight On!

Tracy Perry

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How to Contact Us:

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NROTC Office Phone Number: (213) 740-2663

Online: www.uscnrotc.org/contact-us

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 Member Update form on our website or the "Update My Information" section of the Return Slip of The LOG when you send in your tax-deductible dues and contributions. We don't want you to become LOST...

Don't FORGET!! 2024 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 enclosed self-addressed envelope, to the NROTC Unit - Attention: Alumni League at the address listed under "How to Contact Us" or visit www.uscnrotc.org/donate.

Board of Director's 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 Jim Hull: Cell (310) 902-3860 or hulljamesc@gmail.com. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6th on the USC Campus or via Zoom.

NROTC Alumni Success Endowment

As of 16 September 2024, the balance in the Midshipmen Success Endowment was over \$290,000. We awarded \$10,000 from the spendable account for Fall 2024 and Spring 2024 scholarships. The League also hosts a luncheon for the awardees at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles, sponsored by Eddie Tannenbaum '62. If there are any questions regarding the Success Endowment and our scholarship program, please contact Jerry Vieau '68 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 - \$20, Alumni League Challenge Coins - \$10, Bottle Openers (made from 50 Caliber Bullets) - \$42. To Order, email: *All proceeds go toward the support of the Trojan Battalion*

2024 NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE OFFICERS*continued from page 2***PRESIDENT***Col Jim Hull, USMCR (Ret), '82***SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/SPECIAL EVENTS***CAPT Bob Brockmeier, USN (Ret), '63***VICE PRESIDENTS:****COMMUNICATIONS//THE LOG EDITOR***LtCol Frances Shannon Annarella, USMCR (Ret), '81***FINANCE***CDR Bob Bennett USN (Ret), '79***MEMBERSHIP***Bruce Nelson '76***ADVANCEMENT***Tom Offutt '74***SOCIAL MEDIA***CDR Lee Pasaraba USN (Ret), '93***SCHOLARSHIP & ENDOWMENTS***Jerry Vieau '68***SECRETARY***CDR Maureen "Alex" Alexander Wright, USN (Ret), '81***TREASURER***Ed Tannenbaum '62***PRESIDENT EMERITUS***CAPT Paul Alwine, USN (Ret) '62*

Current Opening: History & Heritage. If interested in this position, please contact Jim Hull (hulljamesc@gmail.com)



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 Midship-men 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:

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mail: see address under Bulletin Board

"How to Contact Us"

website: www.uscnrotc.org

From the Bridge

with CDR Dan Ogar '85 from my years at USC. Dan and his family came up from Orange County for Sunday's sailing event.

Congratulations to our Fall 2024 Scholarship Program awardees. Each received \$2,000 for use on student related expenses: *MIDN 1/C Kaisa Liljenwall (Biomedical Engineering)*, *MIDN 1/C Hunter Brophy (Physical Science)*, *MIDN 3/C Jack Breen (Economics and Data Science)*, *MIDN 3/C Nick De-Fina (Political Science)*, *MIDN 3/C Colin Scott (Mechanical Engineering)*.

In 2025, in addition to our scholarship, sailing and glider programs, the League will provide financial support for 16 midshipmen traveling to the University of Colorado Drill and Endurance Meet being held 6-8 March. In April, we'll present swords to several graduating midshipmen, recognizing their superior performance at USC NROTC. We are also planning to support another small arms training event at a local shooting range. Thank you for your donations in support of our midshipman programs.

Have you seen the League's updated website, www.uscnrotc.org? Tom Offutt '74 has done a great job revamping the site with many new pages and postings. Our 11-13 October weekend events were advertised with first rate messaging and graphics. Please update your contact information with the League and let us know if you have any suggestions and/or additional material for the website.

One of our active-duty alumni, LCDR Lyndsay Evans '14, was killed in an EA-18G "Growler" mishap on 15 October while on a training flight in the state of Washington. Lyndsay was an NFO based at NAS Whidbey Island with VAQ-130. Killed along with Lyndsay was mission pilot LT Serena Wileman. Lyndsay's sacrifice to her country, service in the Navy, and her roots at a USC alumnae, were honored during a tribute at the USC vs. Rutgers football game at the Coliseum on 25 October. Please see the accompanying article on page 8. The League, along with the entire Trojan family, mourns her loss. Unit alumni who have died in the line of duty are posted on the League's website on the "Fallen Heroes" page.

Call, text or e-mail me with your feedback and ideas: uscnrotcalumni@gmail.com, hulljamesc@gmail.com, or (310) 902-3860.

Fight On!

Jim

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Living Legend, Paul Ignatius

It was an unforgettable day, one filled with stories and insights that I could discuss for hours and can't fit on just one page. Meeting Mr. Ignatius was a powerful reminder that history isn't just something we study, it's something we actively shape with our choices. His enduring legacy and the changes he championed continue to influence the Navy and the world today, serving as a testament to the impact one individual can have.



ENS Will Durban, Mr. Paul Ignatius



Will Durban, Mr. Paul Ignatius, Blake Harrison, and Declan Cooper

Note: The author, ENS Will Durban graduated May 2024 with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering AND a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering. He reported to the USS PAUL IGNATIUS in October 2024.

Who is Paul Ignatius?

Paul Robert Ignatius (born November 11, 1920) is an American government official who served as Secretary of the Navy between 1967 and 1969 and was the Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Lyndon Johnson Administration. He is currently the oldest-living U.S. government official.

Ignatius was born in Glendale, California, the son of Armenian parents who migrated to the United States. Ignatius received his bachelor's degree from the **University of Southern California** (Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Tau) and his MBA degree from Harvard Business School. He served as a commissioned lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in World War II, principally as an aviation ordnance officer aboard escort aircraft carrier USS MANILA BAY (CVE-61) in the Pacific.

Ignatius has served previously as cofounder and chairman of the board of trustees for Logistics Management Institute; chairman, president and CEO of Air Transport Association; president of The Washington Post newspaper, Secretary of the Navy; Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), Under Secretary of the Army, and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Logistics).

While serving as Secretary of the Navy, he presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to **Captain William Loren McGonagle (USC NROTC Class of 1947)** for the heroism he demonstrated during the 1967 USS Liberty incident. McGonagle's Medal of Honor was not presented to him by the President of the United States in a public ceremony at the White House, as is customary, but was instead presented at the Washington Navy Yard. This is the only time in history it has been done this way.

On May 23, 2013, the Navy announced that an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG-117) would be named for him. It was commissioned at Port Everglades, Florida on July 27, 2019.

note: For more information on USC NROTC's distinguished and notable graduates, visit www.uscnrotc.org/grads and www.uscnrotc.org/notable.

USS JOHN BASILONE (DDG-122) Commissioned In New York City on Saturday, November 9th

by Bob Terhune '64

When I first considered attending the Commissioning of the new Arleigh Burke-class Guided Missile Destroyer named for the same U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant as my first ship USS Basilone (DD-824), I thought it would just be a nice special event to attend.

This Commissioning was so much more. In the words of Ed Sullivan, it was a really big show! There were several distinguished speakers; the admiral in charge of the Atlantic Fleet Forces Command, a Marine Corps Lieutenant General, a member of the Basilone Family, speakers from the ship's sponsors and the principal speaker, Carlos del Toro, the Secretary of the Navy. Secretary del Toro paid tribute to Basilone's service to the nation and reminded the crew of the value of service. Afterwards, there was a 21-gun salute by a saluting battery, a flyover by four Marine Corps helicopters as the ship was placed into Commission. The ship's crew of more than 300 then jogged aboard fore and aft gangways and manned the rail.

The audience lined the pier practically the entire length of the ship and a major part of the balcony of the Pier 88 Cruise Terminal, including Navy, Marine Corps, civilian dignitaries, Basilone Family members, New York State and New York City leaders, Navy League, USS Intrepid Museum Ship volunteers, Sea Cadets and our group of crew members from USS Basilone (DD-824).

The Basilone is named for the legendary Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, who received both the Medal of Honor for his "extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry" during the Guadalcanal campaign and a posthumous Navy Cross for his valor during the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II - the only enlisted Marine to receive both decorations during the conflict.

The ship is the second named for GySgt Basilone. The first ship was DD-824, a Gearing-class destroyer commissioned in 1949 and decommissioned in 1977. USS Basilone (DDG-122) joins the fleet as part of the Navy's surface warfare backbone, equipped with dual helicopter hangars and advanced capabilities for anti-submarine, anti-surface and anti-air warfare operations. After the commissioning, the warship departed for its home port assignment at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.



USS John Basilone (DDG-122)

Fight On Forever LCDR Lyndsay Evans

On Oct 15, 2024, two highly skilled, combat-decorated Naval aviators lost their lives during a training flight when their EA-18G crashed near Mount Rainier in Washington state. Both were from Electronic Attack Squadron 130 based out of Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington. The Electronic Warfare Officer, LCDR Lyndsay Evans, was one of ours. Lyndsay was a 2014 graduate of USC NROTC.

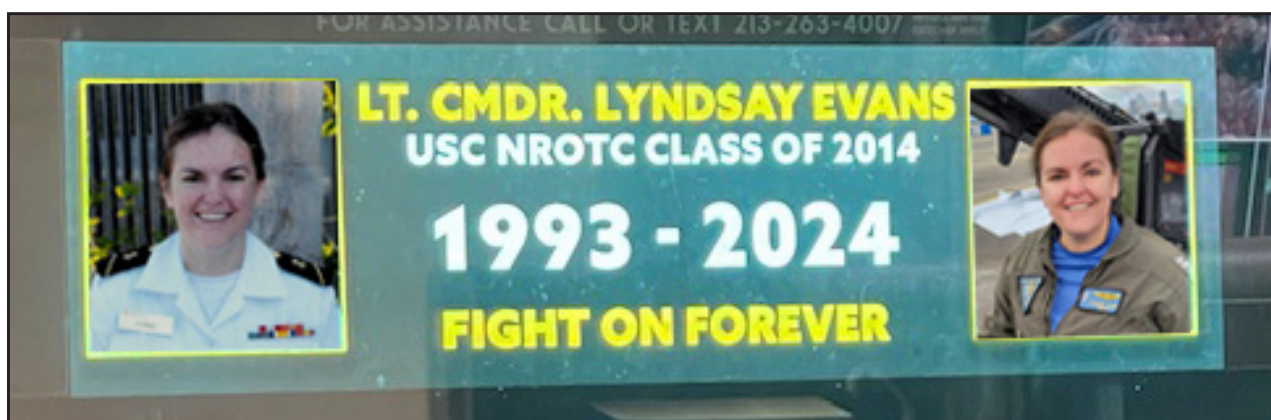
Naval aviator LT Serena “Dug” Wileman, 31, and naval flight officer LCDR Lyndsay “Miley” Evans, 31, had recently returned from deployment to the Middle East with their squadron, Electronic Attack Squadron 130, known as the “Zappers, with Carrier Air Wing 3 embarked on the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Operating mostly from the Red Sea, Evans coordinated and executed multiple combat strikes against Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen and implemented new warfare tactics as the squadron’s training officer to deter Houthi aggression. Wileman oversaw all detachment operations in support of Operation PROSPERITY GUARDIAN to safeguard vessels in the Red Sea and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE to combat the Islamic State.

Evans earned two Single Action Air Medals for her “exceptional performance” during strikes in January, as well as three Strike Flight Air Medals for missions conducted in December and March. Wileman also earned three Strike Flight Air Medals for her role in combat missions in December and April. According to the Navy, Evans and Wileman are among the few women in the service who have conducted combat missions over land.

Lyndsay was a native of Palmdale, CA and was an active member of the NROTC program at the University of South-ern California. She was commissioned an Ensign in 2014 and earned her “Wings of Gold” as a Naval Flight Officer out of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. Evans always carried herself as a humble yet strong leader – the quiet professional. As an EA-18G Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO) and veteran of two sea tours, she earned the respect of the entire Growler community for her tactical expertise, mentorship to those of all ranks and communities, and ability to bring out the best in everyone around her.

On Sunday, Feb 12, 2023, she was selected to take part in the “Women in Naval Aviation” fly over of the Super Bowl. In one EA-18G Growler were two USC NROTC grads – then LT Margaret “Peggy” Dente (nee Bobbin) as the pilot, and then LT Lyndsay Evans, the Electronic Warfare Officer. This event also symbolized the progress of women in aviation across all military branches. For those who knew her best, this was only one highlight in a notable career de-fined by high performance and distinction. After completing the challenging 12-week HAVOC graduate-level course at NAS Fallon (the TOPGUN of the Growler community), Evans earned the honor and responsibility of becoming a Growler Tactics Instructor (GTI). Living up to this responsibility daily, her approachable and knowledgeable demeanor enabled the training and development of countless junior EA-18G Pilots and EWOs. Therefore, it was no surprise to her mentors and peers when she was recognized as the FY2024 Growler Tactics Instructor of the Year, a prestigious honor earned through her tactical acumen and sustained leadership.

Thank you for your service Lyndsay - you will be missed...



Lyndsay Evans Tribute on the video board at the USC vs. Rutgers football game on 25 October 2024. Visit www.uscnrotc.org/evans for more about Lyndsay.

Tax Support to Maui Lahaina Fire Victims

by Bob Bennett '79

In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the Hawaiian Islands, predominantly on the island of Maui. The wind-driven fires prompted evacuations and caused widespread damage, killing at least 102 people and leaving two people missing in the town of Lahaina on Maui's northwest coast. The proliferation of the wildfires was attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. Josh Green, the Governor of Hawaii said the fires were the "largest natural disaster in Hawaii state history" and that 80% of the beach-front town of Lahaina was "gone." Lahaina was home to about 12,000 people - the initial assessments say about 86% of the damaged buildings were residential.



Lahaina, Maui August 2023 in the aftermath of wildfires. A year later, residents are still recovering, and many have not yet been able to rebuild.

Having been born and raised in Hawaii through high school – I wanted to find a way to help the Lahaina fire victims and as a volunteer tax preparer, I was able to do just that. As a young teen, I remember getting my first paycheck from McDonald's of Aina Haina (Honolulu) and not understanding why – if I was paid \$1.60 per hour (the then minimum wage) and I worked 20 hours why I didn't get paid \$32.00? It was less, *always* less. So I started researching how taxes worked and during my time at USC, I became known as "H&R Bennett" and enjoyed helping classmates file their tax returns for income they received from summer cruises. After serving in the Navy and Navy reserve, I worked in the defense industry until retiring a few years ago. I moved to North Carolina and I started volunteering at the Senior Center under the AARP Tax Aide Program and have been doing this for a few years now.

I heard that the IRS has extended tax relief for Hawaii wildfire victims so they had until Aug 2024 to file their tax returns and was wondering if I could somehow help. A high school classmate mentioned that my old school had an outreach program from Honolulu to help Lahaina fire victims file their taxes over the summer, so I got a hold of the school liaison and because of my AARP experience I was able to support them through the VITA program (same IRS test and tax software). The outreach challenge was they needed to have someone meet in person with the taxpayers, collect their documents, and present their final return for approval and submission. This was a perfect fit for me since I spend quite a bit of time in Hawaii anyway.

So, for two months, on Mondays, I would fly to Maui, meet with taxpayers, return to Honolulu that night. Students from my high school would prepare the returns and the next Monday I would return to Maui. I referred to it as "**Maui Mondays**". This experience, for me, was more than the tax return. The stories I heard from the taxpayers were amazing. One taxpayer had four generations in her house, and she was rebuilding. Another had lost EVERYTHING in the fire – house – work tools – car and was getting around, almost a year later, by bus. Another lost a parent and had to file a final return. I was surprised by the number of taxpayers that filed multiple years (one had us do four years of returns). It turns out that FEMA and the Small Business Administration would not help unless the applicants were current on tax filings.

EVERYONE appreciated getting their returns done. As is common in Hawaii there were many hugs. A couple of taxpayers cried. They were overwhelmed that one of their actions, that had to be done, actually got done. Now they could concentrate on the next steps to get their life together. This was an experience that I will forever remember.

Back at the Battalion

Alumni League,

My name is MIDN 1/C Paradis, and I have served as the Battalion Commander for the past fall term. I am from Atlanta, Georgia studying to obtain a B.S. in Business Administration. I will be commissioned in Spring 2025 as a Marine Corps (Ground) 2nd Lieutenant.

Here are some quick updates on what we've been doing here at the unit during the Fall semester:

- 26 September: A visit from VADM Daniel Cheever, Commander of Naval Air Forces, with a discussion on leadership, followed by a Q&A session.
- 3 October: SgtMaj John Miller along with other Marine Corps SNCOs and Officers from MCRD San Diego, visited us to provide lessons in leadership.
- 13 October: We celebrated the 249th Navy Birthday after PT
- 7 Nov: We did a Motovation run around USC campus during Prolab (NavSci Professional Laboratory) to honor and celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day.
- 8 Nov: We held our Fall Birthday Ball at UCLA.
- 13 Nov: We played both Army and Airforce ROTC in a game of football for our first annual Tri-Service Cup. ***NROTC took home the trophy this year!***
- 22 November: We sent 30 MIDN to visit Weapons Field Training Battalion on Edson Range to get familiarized with the M18 service pistol. We also played UCLA in the annual bloodbowl, ***beating the Bruin battalion and taking home a victory!***



Happy 249th Birthday to the NAVY!

USC NROTC Class of 1974 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Tom Offutt '74

Members of the Class of 1974 gathered in Los Angeles this past September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation and commissioning. For some of us, it was the first time seeing any of our classmates since that memorable day in June 1974. Participation was OK with nine alums (33% of the surviving class members) in attendance, along with a good number of wives.

We set up our HQ at a bed and breakfast in West LA to provide easy access for the out-of-town attendees and to enjoy the casual atmosphere of the LA marina/beach environment. We met for dinner on Friday night and ate at an outdoor restaurant patio next to the beach. We quickly reconnected and made sure all the wives had a chance to get acquainted.

Saturday morning was dedicated to seeing the familiar spaces of the NROTC unit and the not so familiar USC campus. Two MIDN 3/C acted as our guides. It was great to get to know some current members of the Trojan Battalion. We finished up with lunch in USC Village. What a remarkable development by the university. It is vastly different from the many small businesses that lined both sides of West Jefferson Blvd. in our day!

Saturday evening was given over to our “official” reunion dinner. We kept it very casual and were very pleased to be joined by the new CO, Col Tracy Perry, USMC and two outstanding MIDN 1/C: Hollis Paradis and Earle Schweizer, Battalion CO and XO respectively. The midshipmen filled us in on their college journey and career plans. Col Perry provided an update on the state of the unit, major activities planned for the academic year, and an overview of the 2024 status of NROTC nationally. It was a special evening set to the classic rock sounds of the early 1970s accompanied by a slide show of our time at USC. You can see some of the highlights of our time together on our reunion website: www.uscnrotc74.org.

The weekend was a great success! Everyone had a fantastic time. Our wives really bonded to the point they were planning their own get together at some future time. Let’s see if there is interest from the class in coming together to celebrate again in 2029 or 2034 (60th). Fight On!



In the Wardroom: Rick Stephens '74, Ritwuiik Ganguly '27, Dale Anderson '74, and Kameron Scott '27

***Bravo Zulu Tom Offutt
on coordinating a
fantastic reunion!***

*Members of the '74 class with
the obligatory
“Picture with Tommy”*



Class of 1974: front (l to r): Chris Hobbs, Bruce Barnum, Greg Stearns, Bob Katin, rear: Rick Stephens, Tom Offutt, Dale Anderson, Joe Odekerken Missing: Mike Lievens

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: nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com, on the return slip along with your annual dues or by using the update form on our website: www.uscnrotc.org/updates. Please keep it brief and please PRINT clearly. Note: If you e-mail us, please include your commissioning year.

1940’s

Nothing to Report

1950’s

George McMichael ’57: I have maintained contact with some of my 1957 classmates, and have just become aware of the passing of Donald F. Walter, a 1957 graduate in Industrial Engineering. His wife, Erdine, remains in their Springfield, VA home. My wife of 57 years, Patricia “Paddy” McBride, also passed away last year.

George Weller ’58: I spent five years active and then two years in the reserves as a SWO (on Amphibs). I then taught high school for two years and completed my MS at USC. Following that, I went to IBM and spent the next 26 years in the early days of the computer industry, retiring from IBM in 1991. All of my time with IBM was spent in Los Angeles. On retirement, my wife and I moved to northwest Arkansas (Beaver Lake). Following that, we moved to Minden, Nevada and that is where I am today. During those retirement years, we traveled a lot, including many cruises and visits to foreign countries. Our son, Scott, was commissioned in the Navy in 1983, attended flight school and spent 26 years as a Naval aviator. He retired in 2010 as an O-6 and will be retiring from his post Naval career this year.

1960’s

Paul Alwine ’62: Life is good at our new senior retirement community in Rancho Bernardo (northern San Diego), CA! Quite a change for us after 60+ years in Orange County! Managed to get some good

travel in, even with my wife’s total knee replacement surgery in the summer. Made another expedition cruise to Antarctica in March, then a Great Lakes cruise in May. Then in November a great cruise in the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador. Jerry Vieau – ’68, and his wife Gwen, joined us for this fun trip. To my ’62 classmates and other NROTC alums – have a great holiday season and a Happy 2025!

Walter Hindenlang ’66: I retired in June after more than 50 years of employment since leaving the Navy. I worked for over 20 years for the Hughes Electronics Space & Communications Group. My favorite assignments included managing international sub-contracts as part of a global satellite network, serving as VP of a non-profit educational technology company developing programs being broadcast by DirecTV to pilot schools in 25 states, and working with the management team to implement DirecTV for Latin America. After opting for early retirement from Hughes, I worked for 21 years as a Trust and Estate attorney in the South Bay. My wife, PJ, and I celebrated our mutual retirement with a dinner party for friends and family at the Tin Roof Wine Cellar in Manhattan Beach. Our celebration concluded with a Viking Christmas cruise down the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland.

David Todd ’67: Retired partner, Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

R.C. Allen ’68: Gail and I continue to spend time at our home in Virginia and our second home in San Diego (especially in winter!). BZ to Tom Offutt for his outstanding work developing the USC NROTC Alumni website! Long overdue! Hopefully, we will hear more from our USC NROTC Classmates.

John Bingham, Jr. '68: It has been 60 years since I first walked upon the USC campus. My dad (a WWII Navy pilot) drove me down from our home in Bakersfield on that August day to begin my adult life. He dropped me off with my suitcase at the Barracks on Jefferson Blvd, across the street from the 901. My roommates for the next year were Clay Geilfuss, Les Berkes, and Tom Ford. As an aside, Tom was from Louisiana, got homesick for the bayou and after the first semester, transferred, I think to LSU. During the first semester, through the help of an alumnus, we all got union wage jobs with Standard Oil as gas jockeys in gas stations in south LA. What I remember most vividly was that we worked hard and played hard. To paraphrase Chico Escuala, from a 1970s SNL skit "NROTC and the Navy was very, very, good for me." I thank the institution and the men and women of the Navy I met and worked with during my years at USC, while on active duty, and in the reserves, for the experience has guided me throughout my professional and personal life, as a police officer, and later, as a bankruptcy attorney. As to current events, my wife Leesa, and I live in McAllister, MO, a small rural post office town 60 miles outside of Yellowstone National Park. I hunt, fish and drive our Corvettes.

David Troutman '68: My daughter, Michele, was born 3 months early in 1977 while we were stationed in Hawaii. Disabled by Cerebral Palsy, she uses a wheelchair but still graduated with Honors from San Jose state University. When my wife died in 2014, I became a sole full time caregiver. What an honor and joy! In 2021, my mother died leaving me her house in La Jolla. Immediately, my children said "We are not selling the San Jose house (where they were raised and their mother is buried), so we have two houses. One in Silicon Valley and one in La Jolla. Michele and I switched houses every two weeks or so, turning the La Jolla house into the "beach house." The house motto is: If it is too hot or too cold, wherever you are, come to San Diego, it's always perfect. The rent is zero, and we have fish tacos." We know I-5 very, very well! God has given me marvelous gifts and we are enjoying them to the fullest.

1970's

Dave Watson '79: Valerie and I are enjoying life in Northern California, living in the East Bay just south of Walnut Creek. Our boys, Jack and Finn, are wrapping up college this coming year so we're planning for our empty nester period. Still working in health-care but retirement planning has begun!

1980's

Bob Cowing '80: "Retired" but "employed" supporting a local bicycle repair team for Clay County's needy, supporting Atlanta's BRAG Dream Team (an inner-city bicycle leadership organization) and a local children's home. Welcomed 3rd grandchild in June!

Maureen Alexander '81: I started a new YouTube channel! It's called **Ambicurious**. I talk about living the night-owl, multi-passionate life in a dark world intent on forcing us to focus!"

Dave Thompson '81: Sherry and I celebrating our 45th anniversary this year! Fully retired, coaching high school soccer with my youngest son, Jordan. Spending wonderful times with our 7 grandchildren and enjoying traveling with Sherry.

Derek Robins '82: Still working at Marine Well Containment Company in Houston. Was able to attend an SC game in October. Oldest is in law school and youngest just graduated from Texas Tech. We enjoy game watches with the Houston Alumni group. Fight On!

Stephen Beck von Peccoz '83: I am the Deputy for Force Readiness and the Special Access Programs (SAP). All the Time (SATT) Team Lead at Commander, Naval Air Forces in San Diego. I led the effort to update Naval Aviation policy to require eligibility for access to SAP and Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) for all student Naval Aviators and student Naval Flight Officers, as is now the case for fleet aviators.

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USC Naval ROTC Alumni League Midshipmen SUCCESS Endowment

by Bob Bennett '79

Since 2000, the NROTC Alumni League, thanks to the very generous donations from alumni and associates, has been able to support midshipmen with scholarships, specifically through contributions made to the USC Naval ROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment. The current balance of the endowment is over \$290,000.

This Endowment generated annual spendable income each year for the exclusive use of midshipmen scholarships. The spendable income was restricted to providing funds specifically for scholarships, governed by inflexible university rules. Any uncommitted funds have been carried over each year and added to the next increment of spendable funds. With the restrictions on this account, we could only support the Midshipmen with tuition related expenses and the Board of Directors realized that there are many more educational opportunities that would benefit the students but could not be supported from the endowment due to university rules.

The NROTC Alumni League Board, with the assistance of Professor Frank Zerunyan, the Director and University Liaison to USC ROTC and Nautical Programs, approached the University to modify the Scholarship Endowment to become the **USC Naval ROTC Alumni League Midshipmen Success Endowment**. This change now allows the spendable account to be used for scholarships as well as internships, and expenses associated with experimental learning programs (such as shooting, sailing, glider flight training, and battlefield studies). We will continue to provide five \$2,000 scholarship per semester to deserving students, but now will be able to assist with additional expenses to help prepare our future leaders for success. Thank you for your contributions to our newly renamed Success fund. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Bennett, Alumni League VP of Finance at robert.m.bennett@outlook.com.

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DECADES DOINGS

1990's

Thomas Dixon '94: I retired in 2019 as an O-6. Since that time, I have been working as a United Airlines First Officer and living in Maryland.

Darryl Sol '97: Executive Officer, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Quantico, CA 2023 - present. <https://quantico.tricare.mil/about-us/executive-officer>.

2000's - 2020's *Nothing to Report*



TAPS



Farewell and bon voyage to our departed shipmates.

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

Charles L. Repp '45	2024
Harold Wilkins '45	2024
Willis O. Schenck '49	2023
Donald F. Walter '57	2024
Gerald D. Dunn '58	2020
Michael W. John '76	2024
Lyndsay Evans '14	2024

Note: All names are published and donations are made to the Alumni League Success Fund in their honor when their passing is brought to our attention.

Information Technology Update

by Tom Offutt '74

Our updated website, www.uscnrotc.org, went live in July 2024 and has continued to be expanded with new content and timely additions to the Battalion and Alumni News area every week or two. Please take a minute and visit, look around, and use the “**Contact Us**” link at the bottom of each page to provide any feedback or ideas for new pages.

The Alumni League website is divided into six sections:

1. **HOME:** The Home Page features a welcome letter from Jim Hull, our president, and an overview of the other five sections.
2. **THE LEAGUE:** Learn about the mission of the USC NROTC Alumni League and our interaction with and support of the USC Trojan Battalion. See our Board of Directors, details on the many programs your contributions support, League history, past leaders, founders and more.
3. **THE BATTALION:** Read the latest news from the Wardroom, plus view our midshipmen leaders, unit statistics, Alumni League scholarship recipients, commissioning classes with first duty assignments, NROTC unit history and more. There are also profiles of the midshipman of the month so you can get to know some of the students better.
4. **ALUMNI:** Find out what your classmates are doing, read and download current and past issues of The Log and Seahorse, enjoy sea stories sent in by alumni, learn about our many distinguished and notable graduates, and our fallen heroes. We are in the process of digitizing documents back to the founding of the Alumni League. The idea for the League was driven by USC NROTC members of “The Greatest Generation,” WWII veterans who believed we should create an organization to

maintain a strong connection to the current midshipmen and active duty staff.

5. **EVENTS:** Check the calendar of upcoming Battalion and Alumni League events. Find information on future and past class and unit reunions.
6. **MEMBERSHIP:** If you are not an Alumni League member, this section has applications for both NROTC graduates and friends of the program. If you are a member, but need to update your address or email, there is an online form. Finally, if you would like to pay your dues online or contribute to our many programs, there is a link to the USC Giving website and the mailing address where you can send a check. Join today!

At the foot of each web page, you will find clickable icons that will take you to the USC NROTC website, the USC website, the USC Alumni Association website, and our social media accounts.

Instagram: www.instagram.com/uscnavalrotc/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/uscnrotcalumni

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@USCNROTC

- Check out some of the 75 videos on our channel. They are divided into two playlists: USC NROTC and USN/USMC videos.

In August, we began to send email blasts to our members with updates on coming Alumni League activities. If you did not see any of the “Big 10 Blockbuster Weekend” messages, we do not have your current email address. Go to www.uscnrotc.org/updates. Update your contact information and add a note for the Alumni News to share with your classmates.

PHOTO GALLERY

October 11-12 Alumni League BIG TEN Blockbuster Weekend Activities: Top Golf, Tailgate, Sailing!



Craig Kennedy '79, JC Hull '82, Bob Bennett '79 at TopGolf



Steve Wright, Capt. Heinz Butner, Alex Wright '81, JC Hull '82, Lisa London, standing next to the yacht "Raptor"



George Shannon '84, Pat Park '70, JC Hull '82, CDR Josh Ragadio (XO), Bob Bennett '79, Craig Kennedy '79, Ben Ammerman '97 and son at pre-game tailgate in front of the P.E. Building.

Glider Program Update

During the 2024 Fall semester, MIDN 1/C Matt Merone and MIDN 1/C Nathan Wise are participating in the two-day introduction to flying (level one) glider course at Mountain Valley Airport in Tehachapi, CA. 2ndLt Michael Cava made good progress toward soloing the ASK-21 sailplane at the Southern California Soaring Academy during the final weeks of summer 2024. However, a combination of poor weather, aircraft availability and a change to his TBS report date prevented him from soloing prior to his departure to Quantico. He has the option to complete the syllabus and solo at a later date.

This summer the glider program received big donations from Mike Frische '86 (\$2,000), Jim Hull '82 (\$10,000), Ed Tannenbaum '62 (\$12,000), and from Associate Members CDR and Mrs. John Gallo (\$2,000), parents of ENS Patrick Gallo '23 currently in NFO training at Pensacola. After deducting the 15% surcharge paid to USC, these donations will allow several midshipmen interested in Naval Aviation to participate in both our introductory and advanced glider flight training courses. Thank you to all our flight program donors!

Separate from the League's flight program, MIDN 1/C Merone received a Daedalian Flight Training Scholarship, awarded by the Order of Daedalians (Flight 30) in Riverside, CA. The non-profit organization offers flight training and financial scholarships to young adults pursuing careers in military aviation. MIDN 1/C Merone soloed in a Cessna 172 at Riverside airport on 29 September. The Alumni League is assisting in promoting Daedalian programs to NROTC midshipmen at both USC and UCLA.

Col Gil Juarez Retirement Ceremony

On 6 September, Col Gil Juarez officially retired after 39 years of service. His retirement ceremony was held at Camp Pendleton on the parade deck of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion where he once commanded. In attendance were Alumni League Board members Jim Hull, Jerry Vieau, Paul Alwine, several members of the Unit staff and USC ROTC Liaison Frank Zerunyan.



Prof. Frank Zerunyan, Jerry Vieau '68, Gwen Vieau, GySgt Taylor, Col Gil Juarez, Jim Hull '82, Paul Alwine '62, CDR Josh Ragadio, LT Krishna Peri



Jim Hull '82, Col Gil Juarez

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 items such as supplemental scholarships, achievement recognition, sword awards, sailing, glider, and small arms training programs. 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, former Midshipman) _____

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

\$ 25.00 Member Dues Donation for 2024
\$ _____ Extra Donation to the NROTC Alumni League SUCCESS Endowment
\$ _____ Additional contributions for special programs supporting the Trojan Battalion
\$ _____ 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 Midshipman Battalion

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

\$ 25.00 Member Dues Donation for 2024

\$ _____ Extra Donation to the NROTC Alumni League SUCCESS Endowment

\$ _____ Additional contributions for special programs supporting the Trojan Battalion

\$ _____ 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 of Degree and School: _____

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 NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE

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Welcome USC Naval ROTC Alumni

THE LOG

Uniting the Trojan Battalion: Past, Present, & Future!