



Vol 32 Issue 2 *** The University of Southern California NROTC Alumni League *** Fall/Winter 2025

Normandy / Belleau Wood Battle Study

by Jim Hull '82

The Normandy / Belleau Wood Battle Study took place from 12 - 18 August 2025. Bob Bennett '79 and I accompanied 20 USC NROTC midshipmen, CO Col Tracy Perry, four of the NROTC staff, and Frank Zerunyan, USC's Director of ROTC Programs. We began on the evening of 13 August at our Paris hotel. One of our alumni, Stephen Kepher '74, an independent scholar and former USMC Naval Flight Officer currently living in France, presented an overview of Operation Overlord based on his book: COSSAC: Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Morgan and the Genesis of Operation OVERLORD (Naval Institute Press, 2020).



NROTC midshipmen and faculty on Omaha Beach in front of the "Les Braves" memorial sculpture

Early the next morning of 14 August, our group boarded a bus and travelled to Normandy to view Omaha Beach. Midshipmen were assigned presentations to give at each of the battle sites. Local historian and guide Mr. Timothy Davis accompanied us throughout the Normandy visit, adding additional insight. After Omaha Beach, we visited the Normandy American Cemetery, where the midshipmen conducted a ceremonial wreath lay-

Calendar of Events

15-19 JAN 2026
MIDN 1/C Battle Study in
Hawaii

12 MAR 2026
Board of Directors Meeting
USC Campus

14 MAY 2026
USC Graduation
Los Angeles
Memorial Coliseum

16 MAY 2026
NROTC Commissioning
USC Campus

*Please see our website for
updates, times and locations:
uscrotc.org/calendar*

In this Issue...

<i>From the Bridge</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>CO's Update</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Bulletin Board</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Honor Flight</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>New Astronaut Candidate</i>	<i>page 7</i>
<i>D.C. Network Event</i>	<i>page 9</i>
<i>Reagan Library Tour</i>	<i>page 10</i>
<i>Alumni Glider Day</i>	<i>page 11</i>
<i>Programs Update</i>	<i>page 12</i>
<i>BN Composition</i>	<i>page 13</i>
<i>Changes to Decades Doings</i>	<i>page 13</i>
<i>Digital Media Update</i>	<i>page 14</i>
<i>Alumni League Budget</i>	<i>page 15</i>
<i>Marsha Stoughton</i>	<i>page 16</i>
<i>In Memoriam P. Ignatius</i>	<i>page 17</i>
<i>Member Registration</i>	<i>page 18</i>
<i>Dues Increase in 2026</i>	<i>page 20</i>

continued on page 8

FROM THE BRIDGE

**Col Jim Hull (Class of 1982) USMCR (Ret)
President – USC NROTC Alumni League**

Election / membership season is approaching here at the League in early 2026. We need alumni, especially from the classes of 1985 and later, to step up and keep the League moving forward. Those residing outside the SoCal area are encouraged to serve, as we regularly use Zoom to conduct and facilitate meetings with Board members residing outside the area. Our secretary position will be coming open in early 2026, as Alex Wright '81 takes over Log editor duties from long-serving Board member Frances Annarella '81. We need a vice president for special events and committee assistants to serve alongside our Treasurer / Finance, Website / Media, and Membership committee chairmen. My position of League President is also opening up in 2026.

Contact me or any Board member to express interest for any position on the League Board of Directors. The Executive Committee will screen the nominees prior to our Board voting at the Spring 2026 meeting. Our bylaws are structured for office holders to serve for 2 years. This is a great opportunity to step forward and dedicate a limited amount of your time supporting the future Navy and Marine Corps officers commissioned at USC NROTC.

Bob Bennett '79 accompanied me to France in mid – August as alumni guests of the Trojan Battalion's battle study trip to the WWII D-Day landing sites in Normandy and the WWI Belleau Wood battle site northeast of Paris. Twenty midshipmen were selected for the trip based on a competitive essay screening (see accompanying article). The Unit is planning to make space available for alumni on next year's Normandy trip along with the upcoming Hawaii battle study in January. I encourage you to participate! Both are great events.

Our Board of Directors met at the USC campus (and on Zoom) Friday 10 October prior to the Michigan home game weekend. We received a Unit update from Col Perry and a Battalion update from this semester's Battalion Commander, MIDN 1/C Gretchen Hof, an Industrial Systems Engineering major from St. Louis, MO, who was



selected into the Nuclear Power / Submarine community and is scheduled to commission in the spring of 2026. Both the CO's and the BNCO's reports have good information on the Unit and are available for viewing on the League's website. We also received an update via Zoom from our Washington D.C. alumni team via former Unit CO Sean McBride '21 and Chris Lutgendorf '99. A D.C. alumni social event was held with USC's Alumni Veterans Network (AVN) on 6 November. USC AVN reached out to the League to schedule the event after our successful Capital Campus get together last January.

Jane Mason Pellegrino '77 also checked in on the meeting via Zoom from her home in Florida, discussing the upcoming Fall 2026 joint reunion of USC NROTC classes of '75, '76 and '77. Watch our website for more information, as this promises to be a very enjoyable event.

The Unit and the League said farewell to long serving Unit administrative assistant Ms. Marsha Stoughton at a League sponsored lunch at the University Club on 15 October (see accompanying article). My predecessor Paul Alwine '62 and I worked with Marsha as a routine part of our duties for many years. Marsha has been a tremendous asset to the League since 2001 and will be sorely missed.

The Trojan Battalion is now 85 strong! Continue reading this edition of the Log for further updates on the Unit and the League, including our organizational advancement, website, finance, and midshipmen support programs (scholarship, sailing, shooting and gliding). Contact me with any comments or questions.

Fight On!

Jim

(310) 902-3860

hulljamesc@gmail.com



COMMANDING OFFICER'S UPDATE

Col Tracy A. Perry, USMC

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

Dear Alumni, Families, and Friends of the Trojan Battalion,

As we enter the 2025–2026 academic year, I'm honored to share the many ways our students continue to grow as scholars, leaders, teammates, and future officers. Across the battalion, I continue to see the same hallmarks that define USC NROTC: intellectual rigor, moral courage, and a deep sense of commitment to service. At USC, leadership is not a singular event—it is a habit formed through repeated practice, mentorship, and reflection. Whether our students are mastering navigation principles, leading physical training, wrestling with ethical dilemmas, or engaging with new global security challenges, they are developing the qualities necessary to serve as adaptable, compassionate, and decisive officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

This August, our unit conducted its inaugural France Battle Study, traveling to Normandy and Belleau Wood to analyze the strategy, decision-making, and human cost of war. The experience brought classroom lessons to life. Standing on the bluffs above Omaha Beach, tracing the movements of Marines through the wheat fields of Belleau Wood, and studying the terrain that shaped the outcomes of two world wars—all of it created a powerful sense of perspective. I would like to thank Captain Mallory VanderSchans and Lieutenant Krishna Peri for the planning and execution of the Battle Study. Thank you to our alumni, James Hull and Bob Bennett, who traveled to France and experienced an amazing staff ride. We look forward to expanding this program and continuing to offer our students and alumni opportunities to connect historical study with the modern demands of military leadership. We are working with the Greatest Generations Foundation on another Battle Study to England and France in August 2026, and possibly Vietnam in 2027.

The Price School of Public Policy captured the significance of this experience in their recent coverage of the program, highlighting how our students engaged deeply with the past to prepare for the future. The article describes how students walked historic battlefields, studied tactical decisions at the point of action, and reflected on the enduring lessons of courage, discipline, and sacrifice. This experiential immersion strengthens not only their academic understanding but also their sense of professional identity as future naval officers. Here is the article: priceschool.usc.edu/news/nrotc-normandy-french-world-war-battlegrounds/

This fall, we welcomed the next generation of Trojan Warriors. During New Student Orientation, a multi-day immersion introduces incoming students to the expectations, standards, and culture of USC NROTC.

continued on page 5

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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: (213 740-266

uscrotc.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 "Please update my record" section of the return slip of The LOG when you send in your tax-deductible dues and contributions OR go online at **uscrotc.org/updates**. We don't want you to become LOST...

Don't FORGET!! 2026 Membership Dues are due in January!

Please complete the form on the back page, write your tax-deductible check and send it to the Treasurer, Ed Tannenbaum, using the self-addressed envelope or to the NROTC Unit - Attention: Alumni League, at the address listed under "How to Contact Us" or visit **uscrotc.org/donate** to pay your dues online.

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 in March on the USC Campus or via Zoom. See our website for date, time, and location.

NROTC Alumni Success Endowment

As of 16 September 2025, the balance in the Midshipmen Success Endowment was nearly \$300,000. We awarded \$20,000 total from the spendable account for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 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

Under construction!

We will post information on our website regarding how to purchase items, both from the Alumni League and the Trojan Battalion as soon as it becomes available.

2025 NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE OFFICERS*continued from page 2***PRESIDENT**

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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 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: nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com

U.S. mail: See our mailing address on the Bulletin Board (page 4) under "How to Contact Us"

Our website: uscrotc.org/contact-us

CO's Update

This year, we welcomed 22 new students into the battalion. Their enthusiasm and dedication were evident from the outset, and we are excited to guide them through the rewarding years ahead. These young men and women join us at a time when global security challenges are evolving rapidly, and their desire to serve—despite the uncertainties of the world—reflects an inspiring level of character and commitment. As we progress through the fall semester, we remain focused on developing officers who think critically, act ethically, and lead with confidence. We continue to refine our training, strengthen our academic programs, and prepare our students for commissioning and service worldwide.

Our success has always depended on the involvement and generosity of our alumni, and this semester reinforced just how meaningful that support is. We were honored to host Col Clyde Woltman '81, USMC (ret), the president of Leonardo Helicopters, USA, who visited USC NROTC to speak with students about leadership, aviation, and navigating the transition from military service to the corporate world. His candid insights on professional resilience, organizational leadership, and the importance of maintaining core values deeply resonated with our students. These moments of alumni engagement—whether through mentorship, guest speaking, or attending battalion events—provide our students with lived experiences and perspectives no classroom could fully replicate. On behalf of the entire unit, I extend my sincere thanks to all alumni who continue to invest in the next generation of naval leaders. Your ongoing support—whether through attendance at events, mentorship, or staying connected to the Trojan Battalion—plays an essential role in our mission. Thank you for helping us build leaders worthy of the trust placed in them by our Navy, Marine Corps, and nation.

Chart the Course. Build the Future.

Fight On!
Tracy Perry

Taking an “Honor Flight”

by Paul Alwine '62

This past September, I was chosen, as a Vietnam veteran, to participate in a weekend-long “Honor Flight San Diego” trip to Washington, DC. On our chartered Alaska Airlines 737, we had 92 veterans from the San Diego area - 1 from WWII, 2 from Korea, and the rest from Vietnam service. Each of us also had a volunteer “guardian” to watch over us and assist us in any way during the weekend trip. Some vets had wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. So, we filled the 737 and had a great flight...which included a “mail call” midway with a package of letters from family & friends that thanked us for our service.

Our Friday flight flew to Baltimore, MD where we stayed at an airport hotel. Up early on Saturday and after breakfast we bused into Washington for a day of sightseeing. We started at Arlington National cemetery, where we watched the changing of the guard and viewed the massive cemetery grounds. Next, we visited the Marine Corps Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, and drove by the Pentagon and the Lincoln Memorial, followed by a visit to the Vietnam Wall Memorial, where I was able to see some names of friends and ship-mates who lost their lives. We also saw the Korean War Memorial, the Nurses Memorial, the FDR Memorial and the Navy Memorial. We ended the day seeing the World War II Memorial, and then it was back to our Baltimore hotel for a dinner honoring all of the veterans.



Over 200 Vets and volunteer “guardians” at the WWII Memorial

On Sunday morning we were up early and on our special Alaska Airlines flight back to San Diego. Our 737 aircraft had a special paint job, “Honoring Those Who Serve” - very classy! Our arrival back at the San Diego Airport terminal was a very moving experience. As we headed from the plane to baggage claim, we passed through a group of about 20 Navy sailors and officers standing at attention and saluting us as we walked by. As we arrived near baggage claim, the entire route was filled with a cheering crowd of hundreds of people there to welcome us home and to thank us personally for our service. It was an overwhelming experience that we will never forget!

Honor Flight was created with a simple, yet powerful, mission- honoring our nation’s veterans by bringing them to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice. Honor Flight was co-founded in Ohio, and the first honor flight took place in May 2005, when six small planes flew 12 WWII veterans to Washington, DC. The objective was to show the vets the new National World War II Memorial in Washington that was completed in 2004. As the Honor Flight grew, chartered airlines were used to transport veterans from all over the country. Trip costs were all paid for by donations.

Initially focused only on World War II Veterans, Honor Flight Network now also includes those who served in the military during the Korean and Vietnam War eras, along with veterans of any service who are critically ill. Transporting approximately 22,000 veterans annually, Honor Flight Network has flown over 300,000 veterans to Washington, D C since its inception.

Continued on page 7

continued from page 6

This non-profit organization is comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight Mission. Honor Flight San Diego started in 2010; and it just made its 31st semiannual trip. The honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to donations to the organization.

Honor Flight shows gratitude through action - to display to our veterans the appreciation and honor they de-serve. To find out more about Honor Flight, access the website at: honorflight.org. Korean and Vietnam veterans that are interested in Honor Flight can search on the website for Honor Flight "hubs" (over 128) that may be near them.



Homecoming in San Diego

Congratulations Astronaut Candidate LtCol Katherine Spies '04

Katherine was one of 10 new NASA astronaut candidates selected (out of over 8,000 applicants) and is currently undergoing astronaut training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

She graduated from USC in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and was commissioned into the Marine Corps through our NROTC program. In the Marine Corps, she was a Super Cobra Attack Helicopter pilot (AH-1W). Spies later completed the Naval Test Pilot School. She ended her active service but remains in the Marine Corps Reserve.

We hope to have an in-depth article on Katherine in a future issue - stay tuned.



continued from page 1

Normandy / Belleau Wood Battle Study

ing. We then took a short bus ride to Pointe du Hoc and viewed the promontory's gun emplacements and fortifications that were objectives of the U.S. Army's 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions on D-Day. The first day of the Normandy visit ended with the group travelling to the city of Caen for an overnight stay.

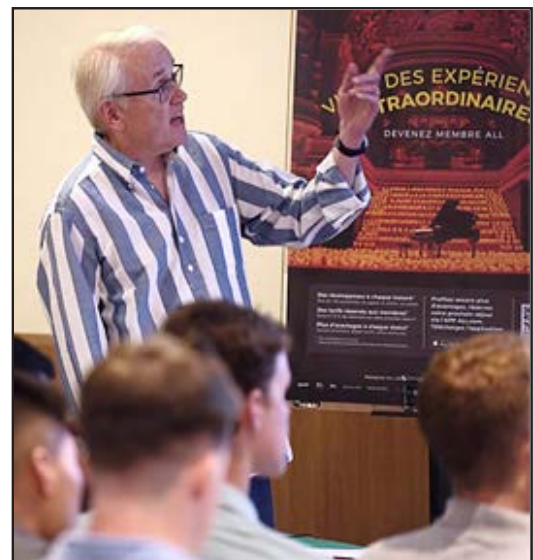
The next morning, on the way to Utah Beach, the group stopped at Sainte-Marie-du-Mont to receive an interesting briefing from guide Timothy Davis on a former German regimental area headquarters. The tour continued to Utah Beach for a briefing and discussion on the 4th Infantry Division's D-Day landing site and the parachute operations that were conducted by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. It was then on to the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise for a walking tour and lunch, followed by an afternoon visit to the nearby U.S. Airborne Museum. The second day concluded with a bus ride back to Paris.

Early on 16 August we boarded the bus for a two-hour drive to Belleau Wood, site of the famous USMC WWI battle. We first stopped at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. There, we received a tour of the chapel and grounds prior to our walking tour and study of the Belleau Wood battle site. After the study, the midshipmen and staff changed into their dress uniforms, took photos, then conducted a wreath laying ceremony near the Cemetery's entrance. We visited Devil Dog Fountain for a traditional visit and drink prior to the trip back to Paris.

It was a great trip to Normandy and Belleau Wood. Col Perry, his staff and the midshipmen did a great job. Special thanks to Capt Mallory VanderSchans and LT Krishna Peri for all their work in planning and coordinating the trip. The Unit has made space available on both the Hawaii and Normandy battle studies for alumni. If you are interested in attending one or both of the battle studies in 2026, let us know. We'll keep you posted via the League's website as to the amount of space available for alumni desiring to participate.



In a time-honored tradition for Marines, the midshipmen drank from the Devil Dog Fountain in the village of Belleau, a ritual tied to the Corps' legacy in World War I. Midshipman (Marine Option) Rebecca Wyman made sure the "Devil Dog" now carries Trojan pride as an honorary member of the battalion.



Steve Kepher '74 briefs the midshipmen on Operation COSSAC, the Allied working group that initiated the plan for OVERLORD/D-Day.

Washington D.C. Trojan Networking Event



USC NROTC Alumni League and USC Alumni Veterans Network members

The USC NROTC Alumni League and USC Alumni Veterans Network co-hosted a Veterans Day Happy Hour for USC Veterans in the National Capital Region on November 6th in Washington, DC. Former CO Sean McBride '21 coordinated the League's effort along with Chris Alora from the USC AVN. Chris reached out to the League a few months back proposing the D.C. get-together after hearing about our first D.C. event in January. About 20 alumni gathered at The Magic Gourd in the Foggy Bottom area of D.C. USC graduate Maj Gen Charles Bolden USMC (Ret), a Viterbi alumnus, former astronaut, NASA Administrator and current member of the USC Board of Trustees, was a walk-up guest. This was the first of what we hope will be regular networking opportunities for the many USC alumni living in the DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia).



*Chris Alora, Sean McBride
and MajGen Bolden*

Congratulations to our newest Alumni League member!

Ensign Luke Miramadi, USN received his commission on the steps of the USC PE Building 11 July 2025. ENS Miramadi hails from Newport Beach, CA and received his bachelor of science degree in Aerospace Engineering. His first duty station is Pensacola, FL for Student Naval Flight Officer Training.

Welcome to the Alumni League!



Reagan Library Tour

by Jim Hull '82

A group of 13 Trojan alumni, midshipmen and guests enjoyed a guided tour of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley on Saturday, 27 September. The tour started at 10:30 and lasted about two hours. We were split up into three docent led groups and toured the main museum along with the Air Force One and Marine One exhibits. Several new exhibits have been added since my last visit several years ago. The docents did a great job and added a lot of insight to President Reagan's political life. The museum is in beautiful condition and remains a showpiece. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit, I highly recommend it.

Our group included C. S. Miller '54, Tom Offutt '74, Bob Frankel '79, Dave Waran '79, Jim Hull '82, David Cole '88 along with wives and girlfriends. Three senior midshipmen, MIDN 1/C Liliana Aragon, MIDN 1/C Pierre Briand and MIDN 1/C Ian Williams accompanied us as guests of the League. The group enjoyed lunch afterward at the Gipper Bistro. Several of us toured the grounds outside the museum after lunch prior to departing. It was an interesting and enjoyable museum visit that included good conversation with fellow Trojans. We are considering a similar visit to the Nixon Library in 2026.

AV-8B USMC Harrier Sundown *June 1 - 5, 2026* *MCAS Cherry Point, NC*

The last active Harrier Squadron, VMA-223 will be hosting the retirement event the week of June 1 - 5, 2026. The Sundown Ceremony and last flight will be held on June 3rd. Various socials and golf tournaments are also scheduled through out the week. MCAS Cherry Point will have a website/link for registration in the coming weeks. We will post the information on our website for those interested in attending.

Alumni League Glider Day

by Jerry Vieau



Jerry Vieau (front) and Jim Hull (pilot) on the Schleicher ASK-21

League President Jim Hull, organized “Glider Day” Saturday September 13th at the Skylark North Flight School at Mountain Valley Airport in Tehachapi. Tehachapi is located in a beautiful valley at 4,000 ft. and is surrounded by agriculture and rugged hills at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada’s. Jim is the driving force behind the glider program that provides midshipmen who aspire to be Naval Aviators a jump start before heading off to Pensacola for flight training. The location of the glider port is ideal for sailplanes. It is near the eastern side of the Sierra’s with lots of rising air columns.

Participants included Board members Jim Hull, Alex Wright and Jerry Vieau who brought his son and nephew, and SSgt Azarte, the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor from the Unit. Each purchased an introductory glider flight offered by the flight school.

Prior to our rides, Jim introduced us to the Schleicher ASK-21 sailplane which is the more advanced sailplane

of the two used for midshipman training and the one to be used for our flights. He explained how the gliders are towed into the air as well as providing some basic concepts of flight. We also got some time on a flight simulator and saw where he conducts his midshipman training. We enjoyed 30 minute rides in the ASK-21 with an excellent instructor from the flight school on a perfect day for flying.

The glider experience was a first for most and we loved the gigantic smile on Alex’s and SSgt Azarte’s faces after their flights. Wing overs, stalls and perhaps experiencing zero G’s made for fun rides! I seem to recall SSgt Azarte saying something about that being the most fun thing she has ever done!

After giving rides to almost everyone the instructor asked Jim Hull to relieve him for the last ride - mine! What fun to have Jim as the pilot! After getting towed to the proper altitude Jim looked for some lift over the hills and then demonstrated some maneuvers. He let me see what it was like to fly the glider and try a few maneuvers which was definitely a challenge. The finale was the landing which in a glider there are no do-overs. Jim, the recently retired United Airlines pilot, then demonstrated how to do a perfect “dead stick landing”.

Alumni who are aviators should come and enjoy the fun of sailplanes and assist in the midshipmen training. To those who are not aviators, this is a great place to learn to fly. If anyone has ever had an interest in flying, check out this flight school north of Los Angeles. You’ll be glad you did.

Note: We hope to make this an annual event for the Alumni League so keep your eyes open for future announcements!



SSgt Azarte on the simulator with Jim giving instructions

Program Updates

Shooting

Five USC NROTC midshipmen are currently slated to take the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club's NRA introductory rifle course at LARRC's facility in South El Monte, about 30 minutes east of the USC campus. Both the class fee (\$50) and ammunition fee (\$20) are paid by the League. MIDN 4/C Luke Axtell completed the course on 11 October. MIDN 2/C Wyatt Morris, MIDN 3/C Dhevin Kundu, MIDN 4/C Parker Finnell and MIDN 4/C Maxine Nocker will attend one of upcoming courses that are held on the first or second Saturday of each month. After completing the course, shooters are able to practice at the range on weekends, receive additional training, and participate in scheduled shooting matches at LARRC. This is our second group of five midshipmen to receive the training in CY 2025.

Sailing

Navy Yacht Club Long Beach and the NROTC Alumni League teamed up for a Veterans Day weekend sailing event on Sunday 9 November. USC and UCLA midshipmen, cadets, graduate student veterans and a few other local veterans were paired up with NYCLB skippers for an afternoon of sailing in Long Beach Harbor followed by lunch at the NYCLB clubhouse. USC's Alumni Veterans Network, Student Veterans Association, Marshall Veterans Association and the League's SoCal membership received an e-flyer from the League several weeks ago announcing the event. Several cadets, midshipmen and graduate students participated, including MIDN 3/C Jesus Arteaga and MIDN 3/C Blaise Moynihan from the Unit, both first time sailors. The weather was fantastic as was the support from the NYCLB membership. The League looks forward to future networking events with USC veteran and other local veteran groups.

An Alumni League sailing "welcome aboard" for the incoming USC NROTC midshipmen class of 2030 is scheduled for 22 August 2026 at Navy Yacht Club Long Beach. This event will come at the end of the 4/C week-long new student orientation program conducted by the Trojan Battalion. USC's Nautical Science Program Director Captain Lars Harding will participate, bringing one of USC's boats for the sail. The new 4/C midshipmen will receive a briefing on USC's Nautical Science Program from Captain Harding prior to breaking up into groups for an afternoon sail. After the sail, the Alumni League will hold a BBQ picnic adjacent to the NYCLB clubhouse. Put this event on your calendar next year to welcome aboard our new freshman class! We almost had it scheduled for this year's freshmen, but couldn't quite pull it off!



Group photo of participants and NYCLB members at the 9 November event



MIDN 3/C Blaise Moynihan with his trusty sea dog.

Glider Program

The glider program is going strong - thanks to a few big donations in 2025 from Mike Frische '86 (\$5,000), Eddie Tannenbaum '62 (\$5,000), Jay Gallo, father of LTJG Patrick Gallo '23 (\$2,000) and Robert Crawford '75 (\$300). BZ and thank you to these donors and all the alumni supporting the Trojan midshipmen interested in Naval Aviation. Four midshipmen will participate in the level one two-day introductory flight course during the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Level two provides matching funds up to \$2,500 to solo the ASK-21 sailplane, and an additional \$2,500 to pass the FAA private pilot check ride. Level two requires approximately six weekends of flying to solo and six additional weekends to pass the FAA check flight.

The League continues to work with Flight 30 Riverside of the Order of Daedalians (daedalians.org) to promote flight training and flight scholarship opportunities. The Daedalians encourage NROTC midshipmen at USC and UCLA to join their Air Force ROTC counterparts in competing for Daedalian flight training scholarships. USC's MIDN 2/C Rebecca Wyman recently completed her first solo flight in a Cessna 172 after being awarded a Daedalian Flight Training scholarship earlier in the year.

Battalion Composition as of Fall 2025

2025	NAVY			MARINE			TOTAL		
Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
4/C	12	4	16	2	1	3	14	5	19
3/C	24	2	26	4	0	4	28	2	30
2/C	10	2	12	4	1	5	14	3	17
1/C	8	3	11	0	0	0	8	3	11
5th Yr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AD	1	0	1	6	1	7	7	1	8
Total	55	11	66	16	3	19	71	14	85

DECADES *DOINGS* AND TAPS

Decades Doings and Taps have gone digital! We will no longer publish Decades Doings and Taps in *The Log*. Instead they will be posted on line at our website: uscnnrotc.org. We feel that this will allow for a more timely update of current activities. It also allows for a more in-depth write up since space will not be limited as it was with *The Log* and you can submit pictures too! Please submit your updates and address changes online at uscnnrotc.org/updates OR updates **and pictures** may also be submitted via email to alumni@uscnnrotc.org OR you can continue to use the Registration/Dues form at the back of *The Log* to mail in your Decades Doings and your changes of address. We will make sure that your news is posted on our website ASAP.

Go to our website: uscnnrotc.org/alumni-news to see all the
Decades Doings submitted since our Spring 2025 issue!

Digital Media Update - Fall 2025 Edition

By Tom Offutt '74

We've been hard at work keeping your Alumni League digitally sharp and mission-ready. Here's what's been happening behind the scenes since our last update — across the web, in print, and on screen.

Our website, **uscnrotc.org**, continues to be refreshed every 2 weeks (okay, sometimes we stretch that definition a bit).

- We added homepage banners in October and November to celebrate the 250th Navy and Marine Corps birthdays.
- The Battalion News page sees new posts at least twice a month (except during the government shut down when public activities were restricted). The CO's State of the Unit presentation from October can be found there.
- The 2025 Battalion statistics are now online as well as the Fall Battalion leadership. The Alumni News page is updated regularly as events occur. Recent activities include a Veterans Day meet up in Washington, DC, a Veterans Day Sail with the Navy Yacht Club Long Beach, a visit to the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum and much more!
- We continue to expand the Log and Seahorse archives. More Battalion and Alumni League history pages are in the works.

Lights, Camera, Commissioning! We ventured into the new (for us) world of live streaming by making the May 2025 Commissioning Ceremony available for viewing in real time—and it's now available for replay on our official **YouTube Channel: @USCNROTC**. There were some technical issues with sound that we will fix next time.

The Spring 2025 **Log** was The. Biggest. Issue. Ever. It included 24 full-color pages. We mailed out 1,200 copies in July with Alumni stories, Battalion updates, and lots of Trojan pride. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed photos, articles, and editing muscles to make it happen!

We've been keeping inboxes and mailboxes busy with two all hands e-blasts this cycle, plus three additional emails to selected subsets of our membership:

- July: Spring Log release
- September: Fall alumni events: Glider Day, Reagan Library visit (sent to AZ/CA/NV only)
- October: Fall Ball invite and Navy Yacht Club sailing opportunity
- October: Retirement of Marsha Stoughton (Classes of 2001 - 2025 only)
- October: Washington DC Happy Hour (DE/MD/VA residents only)

We also mailed a September flyer to members in Arizona, California, and Nevada—complete with a custom printed envelope to boost open rates.

From live-streams to color spreads, it's been a strong digital year for the Alumni League. Thank you to everyone who reads, clicks, watches, donates, and shares - your engagement keeps this community thriving.

2026 USC NROTC Alumni League Budget

by Bob Bennett '79

The Alumni League Board of Directors has officially approved the budget for the 2026 fiscal year. The fiscal year aligns with the University calendar, running from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This document outlines the two primary fund types managed by the Board, the advantages of the current University of Southern California (USC) donation process, and ongoing efforts to optimize support for Midshipmen. The 2026 budget reflects the Alumni League Board's ongoing commitment to responsible fund stewardship and maximizing the impact of donor contributions.

Fund Types:

1. Midshipmen Success Fund: This is an endowment account, previously known as the Alumni League Scholarship Fund. The principal of this fund is preserved and not spent. Instead, USC determines an annual payout amount that can be spent each year to support Midshipmen activities and initiatives.

2. Naval ROTC Alumni Fund: This is a gift account where donations received and processed through USC are available for expenditure. There is a University administrative fee applied to these funds as they are used.

Advantages of the USC Donation Process:

The current process of routing donations through USC offers notable benefits. Donors receive formal acknowledgment from the University, and their contributions are eligible for tax deduction under the 501(c)(3) designation. All expenditures from both fund types must comply with USC rules as they are processed through the University's financial systems.

Exploring Alternative Funding Approaches:

The Alumni League Board is actively exploring alternative fund management approaches. The goal is to identify a method for supporting Midshipmen that does not incur the University pass-through costs (such as the current administrative fee on expenditures).

ALUMNI LEAGUE FINANCIALS

As of October 2025			Alumni League Spendable Funds					
			FY26 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026					
Account Name	Fund Type	Endowment Principle	FY25 Ending Balance	FY26 Income Projection	FY26 Total	FY26 Budget (Expenses)	FY26 Ending Estimate	
Midshipmen Success Fund	Endowment	\$ 299,770	\$ 43,828	\$ 21,201	\$ 65,029	\$ 20,000	\$ 45,029	
Naval ROTC Alumni Fund	Gift	n/a	\$ 77,855	\$ 20,000	\$ 97,855	\$ 19,525	\$ 78,330	
	Totals	\$ 299,770	\$ 121,683	\$ 41,201	\$ 162,884	\$ 39,525	\$ 123,359	
Additional Sources of Income:								
Benner Fund	Endowment	n/a	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$0	
Parker Fund	Endowment	\$ 25,000	\$ 6,033	\$ 3,675	\$ 9,708	\$ 3,675	\$ 6,033	
	Grand total	\$ 324,770	\$ 127,716	\$ 48,876	\$ 176,592	\$ 47,200	\$ 129,392	

NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE FY26 BUDGET

Item	Expense
Financial Aid/Merit Awards	\$ 20,000
LOG Printing, Digital Media	\$ 10,000
Senior Swords	\$ 4,000
Boulder Field Meet	\$ 3,500
Glider Program	\$ 2,500
President's Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,500
Alumni League Board Meetings	\$ 1,500
MIDN Recognition Lunches	\$ 1,200
Range/Small Arms Training	\$ 1,000
CAPT. McGonagle Memorial Award	\$ 500
Sailing Program	\$ 500
Total	\$ 47,200



Thank You Marsha Stoughton!

After 25 years of dedicated service, Marsha Stoughton bid farewell to the Trojan Battalion in October as she was caught up in the University's downsizing effort. Marsha has been an unofficial member of the Alumni League and has been our "go to" person for many requests. The Alumni League had a farewell lunch for her on 15 October and the Trojan Battalion celebrated her service at the Navy & Marine Corps Ball in November with a video presentation (that you can view on **YouTube @USCNROTC**). Louisa Balayan will be taking over for Marsha in administrative support of USC NROTC (and the Alumni League), along with continuing her role in administrative support of USC's Army and Air Force ROTC units.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Marsha!



Honoring Marsha at the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball with a presentation of a USC Football Helmet



Marsha Stoughton and Louisa Bayalan, the new Admin support person.



Farewell Luncheon at the University Club

In Memoriam – Paul R. Ignatius (1920 – 2025)

by Tom Offutt '74



It is with profound respect and sadness that the Alumni League acknowledges the passing of USC alumnus the Honorable Paul R. Ignatius '42, who died November 6, 2025, at the age of 104. Secretary Ignatius graduated from USC into 1942 with a bachelor's degree in history — at a time when the world was at war. Immediately following his undergraduate studies, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy as an ordnance officer, serving during World War II aboard the carrier USS Manila Bay and surviving kamikaze attacks, including during the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Following his wartime service, Secretary Ignatius earned his MBA from Harvard Business School and moved into public service. He held senior posts in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations: Assistant Secretary of the Army, Under Secretary of the Army, Assistant Secretary of Defense — and in 1967 was appointed the 59th Secretary of the Navy, serving through 1969.

During his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, Ignatius steered the Department through critical years of modernization and challenges. His commitment to duty, integrity, and public service set a standard for all naval officers and citizens alike. In 2013 the U.S. Navy announced that an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer — USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG 117) — would bear his name. The ship was formally commissioned in July 2019 and carries forward the legacy of its namesake as a part of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, home ported in Rota, Spain.

The USS PAUL IGNATIUS serves as a powerful reminder that one Trojan's service at sea, in government, and in community leadership resonates across decades and platforms. It is a legacy that the Trojan Family and our Naval community can take deep pride in. Secretary Ignatius' life affirms that the character, discipline, and vision developed at USC and enhanced by his experiences as a Navy officer, can translate into influence at the highest levels of our nation. The destroyer bearing his name stands as a beacon — to every midshipman, every alum, and every supporter of our program. You may serve in uniform, you may serve ashore, you may shape policy — but your threads all tie back to that foundational call to duty.

We express our deepest condolences to the Ignatius family, to his fellow USC alumni, and to the broader Navy community mourning his passing. His legacy will live on — in our memories, in our missions, and in the USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG-117).



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:

\$ 50.00 Member Dues Donation for 2026

\$ _____ 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)

\$ 50.00 Member Dues Donation for 2026

\$ _____ 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: _____



University of Southern California
USC Naval ROTC Alumni League
Department of Naval Science
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101
Los Angeles, CA 90089-065

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Annual Alumni League Dues – A Small Change for a Big Impact

As we continue to grow and enhance the programs, events, and services we offer to our midshipmen and alumni, we want to inform you of a small—but important—update regarding our annual dues.

Beginning January 2026, the annual Alumni League dues will increase to \$50.00

This change reflects our ongoing commitment to providing meaningful opportunities to both midshipmen and alumni for professional development, connection, and unit support. Your dues directly fund:

- Professional development programs
- Glider flight training
- Sailing experiences and Nautical Science education
- Small arms training at local ranges and shooting simulator support
- Support for Battalion activities
- Travel to competitive events, such as the University of Colorado Boulder annual drill/field meet
- Indirect support for Battle Study trips to Peal Harbor and Normandy
- Emerging opportunities as requested by the PNS or BNCO
- Annual awards, including officer swords to recognize outstanding performance by graduating seniors.
- Captain William L. McGonagle Scholarship Award
- Alumni League communications and outreach to keep everyone in the loop

This is only the second time our dues have increased in over 40 years. The original Alumni League annual dues were set at \$15 in 1984 (\$46 today). Dues were last increased to \$25 in 1995 (\$52 today). We understand that every dollar counts, and we remain committed to transparency and value in how we use your contributions. With your continued support, we can make 2026 our most impactful year yet in support of the Trojan Battalion. Thank you for being an essential part of our USC NROTC alumni community. Whether near or far, your involvement keeps our spirit strong.