

**Annual Report of the Quantico Area Chapter of the**

**U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association**

**1 June 2019 – 31 May 2020 (Year 8)**

This annual report is compiled to record events and activities that have taken place during the seventh year of the Quantico Area USNA Alumni Chapter. The narrative is followed by the financial report prepared by the Chapter Treasurer.

Officers and Council Members (volunteers) (Approved in May 2019 by silent acclamation):

President: Nancy Springer ’87, Col USMC (Ret.)

Vice President: Phil Salinas ’82, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Secretary: Melanie Salinas ’09, Maj USMC

Treasurer: Ron Diefenbach ’00, Maj USCMR

Council Members: ‘60s and Before: Walt Giraldi ’69

‘70s: Steve Ritacco ’73, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

‘80s: John Keenan ’81 LCDR USN (Ret.)

‘90s: Greg Lane ’94, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

‘00s: Ron Diefenbach ’00, Maj USCMR

‘10s: Bob Taylor ’74, CAPT USN (Ret.) (At-large)

Appointed Positions:

Senior Enlisted Advisor: J. D. Baker, MSgt USMC (Ret.), Honorary member of ’05

Dave Mattingly, MCPO USN (Ret.)

Membership Committee: Bob Dulin ’61, CDR USN (Ret.)

Area Blue and Gold Officer: Jim Ripley ’74, CAPT USNR (Ret.)

STEM Coordinator: Phil Salinas ’82, LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Website coordinator: Jorge Esparza ’87

Associate Members:

1. Judd D. Baker – 2013
2. Dave Mattingly - 2018

Honorary Members:

1. The Honorable Rob Wittman (R-VA), who represents the first Congressional District in Virginia - 1 Mar 2013

2. Mrs. Joanne MacMurray, widow of member Chris MacMurray ’74

Objectives/End of Year Status:

1. Have fun. The Chapter accomplished this goal. Though the assessment of this goal varies by individual, continued participation in Chapter events indicated that the members had an enjoyable experience this year.

2. Grow and expand the membership. We accomplished this goal by growing the membership by 120% from August 2019 to April 2020.

3. Have a robust selection of QAC activities. We accomplished this goal via a varied activity calendar, with selected events offered at multiple locations and on weekends to facilitate participation. Chapter activities ran the gamut from the Chapter’s signature monthly breakfast speaker series (in its eighth year) to local battlefield tours to honoring our fallen through the Chapter’s Run To Honor (RTH) Remembrance Run.

4. Branding and Fundraising. The Chapter partially accomplished this goal by raising scholarship funds for Naval Academy Summer Programs through the RTH Remembrance Run. Additionally, the Chapter donated to two veteran and service member-themed non-profit organizations: the Semper Fi Fund and the Sgt Mac Foundation. Chapter branding was limited to selling RTH Remembrance Run T-shirts emblazoned with the Chapter logo.

5. Communicate effectively. The Chapter accomplished this goal by developing a comprehensive and varied communications strategy, exploiting all available tools. The Chapter disseminated information over USNAAA-sponsored Chapter email, a QAC web site, a Facebook page, a LinkedIn group, EVite electronic invitations, traditional mail, and in-person meetings.



**Chapter Events**

7 Jun 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker Mr. Lew McIntyre, c/o 70, author of The Eagle and the Dragon, a Novel of Rome and China. Lew gave a very detailed and interesting view of the world in terms of world history both BC and AD. Many found the situations affecting civilizations from then until now are very similar. Lew answered several questions. Tom Connally hosted the event as the new President was unavailable and the new VP had not had any turnover time yet. Tom announced the results of the election and provided a slide show of the recent Run-To-Honor event. Attendees were reminded that the new fiscal year for QAC chapter started on 1 June, with dues’ submissions gladly accepted. A 3-year payment option with discount is now available. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 17

2 Aug 19: President Nancy Springer submitted an application to again be considered for a Distinguished Chapter Award.

9 Aug 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker CAPT Roger Herbert, USN (Ret.), the current General Robert T. Herres Distinguished Military Professor of Ethics at USNA. CAPT Herbert is a former SEAL, having graduated from BUDS in 1985. His presentation was entitled,”7 Questions That Will Change Your Life” discussing personal character, morals and ethics and the affects of these on leaders. He included references and ideas to several of the studied philosophers of history. A very well received and interesting topic. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 21

30 Aug 19: Article published in the September 2019 Shipmate.

6 Sep 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker Dr. Joe Thomas (LtCol USMC (Ret.)), Director, Stockdale Center for Leadership at USNA. Dr. Thomas gave a very interesting talk on leadership and ethics training efforts at USNA and discussed the various changes over the years to increase the effectiveness of the courses. He also readily answered many questions from the audience, who paid close attention to what was being said. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 20

28 Sep 19: Several members and available spouses attended a Bull Run Battlefield Tour/Winery Tour & Tasting event in Manassas, VA. The battlefield tour was led by QAC member Scott Moore. Attendance: 9

11 Oct 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker CAPT Scott Kraft ’93 USN, Commanding Officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division. CAPT Kraft gave a very thoughtful presentation about what he does and included some questions to think about regarding naval service and the state of affairs within DoD. We also celebrated the Navy’s 244th Birthday with a ceremony and cake cutting. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 19

Oct-Nov 2019: Several members served on Congressman Wittman’s evaluation boards for determining his nominations for the coming year. These boards were convened on Saturday mornings over several weeks.

1 Nov 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker BGen James H. Adams ‘91 USMC, Director, Capabilities Development Directorate; Combat Development & Integration, Headquarters Marine Corps. Gen Adams gave an interesting presentation about reassessing the current mission and roles of the USMC and designing the force for 2030, based upon the new Commandant’s Planning Guidance. We also celebrated the Marine Corps’ 244th Birthday with a ceremony and cake cutting. Ed Burrows ’65 was oldest Marine present, and Melanie Salinas ’09 the youngest. The sitting President of the Central Virginia Parents Club, Elizabeth Buono, also attended with her son Matt. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 26

4 Nov 19: QAC Council Meeting to review current activities, 6:30 pm at Fatty’s Tap House, 225 Garrisonville Road, Stafford.

16 Nov 19: Tour of the Fredericksburg battlefield led by JD Baker ‘05(H). Members and guest met on a cold Saturday morning to walk the battlefield and hear about the leadership successes and failures at the highest levels on both sides. A very interesting history lesson. Several attendees went to lunch following the tour. Attendance: 8

2 Dec 19: Article published in the November-December 2019 Shipmate.

6 Dec 19: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker the Honorable Rob Wittman, Congressman representing the Firs Congressional District of Virginia. He is currently serving his sixth full term in the House of Representatives where he serves on the House Armed Services Committee as Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, and the House Committee on NaturalResources. Congressman Wittman gave a presentation on his roles in the Congress related to the Navy and Marine Corps, including USNA, and his frustrations with the way Congress conducts business with regard to the NDAA, appropriations bills, and continuing resolutions. He also answered several questions from the audience which addressed current challenges in the Navy and Marine Corps. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 27

7 Dec 19: Five QAC Members joined hundreds of others on a sunny and chilly morning at Quantico National Cemetery to assist the Sgt Mac Foundation in laying over 16,000 wreathes on the graves of those who served and went before us.  Wonderful words from the podium, concluded with TAPS played by a lone USMC bugler, prior to a small amount of time laying the wreathes. Attendance: 5

14 Dec 19: Over 15 QAC Members & their families joined at least 90 TBS 2nd Lieutenants & their guests for the 3rd Annual Army-Navy Football Game QAC Watch Party. The event was held again in the Hawkins Room at TBS.  Walking away with a 31 to 7 victory, all hands had a great time with wonderful food and even better company.

27 Dec 19: QAC member CDR Robert "Spike" Souders, '77 USN (Ret), passed away in his sleep on 27 December. Services were held with internment at Quantico National Cemetery on 9 Jan 20.

3 Jan 20: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker BGen Jason Morris ’92, USMC, Commanding General , Training Command. General Morris gave us an interesting overview of how his command is organized, the extent of his command’s responsibility, and the many challenges he faces during these turbulent and changing times. He was very positive about the contributions of individual Marines who come up with solutions to problems that can be used by all Marines. These initiatives are championed by leadership. He also answered several questions from the audience which addressed current training and organizational challenges in the Navy and Marine Corps. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 20

5 Jan 20: Former QAC member and Plank Holder CAPT Deke Forbes ’50 USN, at one time our ‘most mature’ member, passed away peacefully. Services will be held at the USNA Chapel on 27 April.

25 Jan 20: Army/Navy basketball watch party at Paddy’s Steakhouse in Garrisonville, VA. Attendance: 3

1 Feb 20: Two members of QAC helped with wreath pickup at the Quantico National Cemetery. The wreaths had been set out on 7 Dec 19. Volunteers were able to complete the job in about one hour.

7 Feb 20: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker John Keenan ’81, chapter member, who presented a briefing that addressed the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate programs run by the Marine Corps out of Quantico. John’s address was very interesting for all attendees, and he answered several questions at the conclusion. Hats off to John, who stepped in at the last minute after two expected speakers had to reschedule (Acting SECNAV and Deputy Secretary of the VA (Jim Byrne ’87)). Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 37

19 Feb 20: QAC Council meeting convened at Fatty’s Tap House in Garrisonville, VA.

22 Feb 20: Army/Navy basketball watch party at The Liberty Tavern in Manassas, VA. Attendance: 3

6 Mar 20: Monthly breakfast with guest speaker RADM Bill Byrne ’87, USN, Vice Directors of the Joint Staff. RADM Byrne gave a very interesting presentation centered around his duties as a former Commandant of Midshipmen, his experiences as a flag officer in the fleet as a surface warfare officer, and his current duties on the Joint Staff. His candid remarks were well received and insightful. He also answered several probing questions from those in attendance. Held at the Holiday Inn in Dumfries, VA. Attendance: 27

6 Apr 20: Breakfast for April was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. A Council meeting was convened via teleconference on the 6th, and Council business was conducted. At this point, the May business meeting will be conducted by teleconference, if conducted at all.

1 May 20: Annual business meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

1 May 20: QAC President Nancy Springer participated in the virtual USNA Alumni Association’s International Chapter Officer’s Forum (ICOF). 88 Chapters participated and the event was considered very successful by the attendees.

12 May 20: Article published in the April-May Shipmate.

14 May 20: Election of officers and Council members was completed and results announced.

25 May 20: A virtual Run To Honor event was conducted. This event honored all our fallen alumni but highlighted this year's honoree, 1stLt Donald E. Woollett, USMC ’80 who fell in the Beirut barracks bombing on 23 October 1983.  The team transitioned the event to a virtual-only format due to pandemic health restrictions in Virginia. However, COVID-19 did NOT prevent us from honoring our fallen or investing in the future. To personalize the observance, the planning team arranged two Zoom calls during which Don’s parents, sisters, and 19th Company classmates memorialized him, exemplifying the event’s slogan, “Never Forget!”  Our race organizers also sold T-shirts emblazoned with Don’s name and the day he fell for the "virtual" runners/walkers to wear during their individual journeys.  Those proceeds, combined with very generous donations, primarily from Don’s 19th Company classmates, will provide ample scholarship funding for deserving high school students to attend USNA Summer Programs when they resume. Don's legacy will continue through these students.

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**2019-2020 Financial Report of the QAC**

