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## CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

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This column in a double issue, needed nice editing to fit into the word limitation. The passing on of Classmates is ongoing, and seems to be increasing. It is important that the column and Last Call include as many good words as we can gather; a sort of last hurrah. For some we receive a lot of information – others, very little. We will try to make it come out even.

On the lighter side, **Scorchy Smith** sends us a copy of local Georgetown/Sun City, TX, community magazine, whose cover shows a group of cyclists heading out on a grand February day for a charity ride, and Scorchy leads the pack. He is PR guy for his cycling club, which sponsors a wide variety of rides, most for charity, but otherwise for fun and fitness. I'd print the picture, but by the time it was reduced to column-size, you'd lose it. He still defers to **Bob McClinton's** mighty cycling feats, but he loves his group of less ambitious geezers. This ride took him 45 miles.

**Carlos Villarreal**, immediate past president of the old and prestigious Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square in Washington, was the first recipient in April of the Club's Distinguished Service Award. He and June were feted at a dinner at the Club where the award was made. I, as a fourth generation member of the Club, can vouch that Carlos is highly deserving after serving several terms as president and significantly improving the financial, membership, and material condition of the Club.

**Sally Chapline** sends a dandy photo taken at dinner in Scottsdale, AZ, in February, where she and Ed were joined by Jean and **Gene Kelly**. Kellys and Chaplines were visiting families in the area. (This note appeared in the June column, but without photo.)

**Charlie Heid** reports that he and the Supe, at the 2005 Prizes and Awards Ceremony in Alumni Hall, 26 May, presented the first annual Class of 1948 Information Technology Award (I understand it was a watch.) to that graduating midshipman majoring in IT, who had the highest average in his major and second discipline courses. It went to Midn Anne Cornelia O'Donnell of Swarthmore, PA, who attained a cumulative 4.0 academic average while standing #3 in the Class. She will continue studies in Information Security at the Royal Holloway University in London, on a British Marshall Scholarship. Congratulations to Ensign O'Donnell. There were 131 awards presented that day.

**Ben Bendel's** widow, Bobbi, called the other day to report a new address and chat. Their two daughters and one son are spread between San Diego, Long Beach, and Boston. Nancy is a civil engineer in Long Beach, John an electrical engineer with Fairchild in Boston, and Katy is an electronics engineer in San Diego. Bobbi resides in Sunrise La Costa, 720 Manzinter, Carlsbad, CA, near San Diego. 760-930-5060. She sounds great and would like to stay in touch.

**Levon (Lee) Marvin Berberian** died 17 April at home in Red Bank, NJ. He was in the 20<sup>th</sup> Company, graduating in 48. Leaving the Navy in 1954, he joined General Electric in marketing and product planning for 9 years. In 1963 he moved to Philco-Ford, working international markets. In 1968 he went with Irving Trust in New York as senior vice president of Marketing and Corporate Development. He joined RCA in 1975 as division VP for International Consumer Electronics, and then as staff VP for Corporate Marketing and Corporate Development Staffs. Retiring from RCA in 1987, Lee formed a private investment company,

finally retiring in 1994 after 50 years of productive effort. He and Priscilla were married 47 years. Their son, Levon, predeceased them in 1982. .

Lee as a midshipman was a quiet pipe-smoking gentleman, with a wry sense of humor, and a kind word, something he never lost. He went on to shipboard life and responded to the call to corporate business when that opportunity was available. There, he had a remarkable career. His remains returned to the Academy, and Priscilla and Jean Sprince decided that a joint inurnment was possible and most appropriate. Such a service at the Academy Columbarium took place May 2 following the funeral mass for Dick Sprince at the Academy Chapel. Lee's funeral had been held earlier at St. Stephanos Armenian Church in Elberon, NJ. A joint reception was then held at the Officer and Faculty Club in the Yard, attended by many old friends. I received a note from Priscilla: "The flowers from the Class were lovely. Please thank the Class in Shipmate."

**C. Wayne French** (22<sup>nd</sup> Company) died 7 April at Glen Arbor, MI. He graduated in 1947 and left the Navy in 1949, joining U.S. Steel as an engineer. He soon transferred to labor relations in which he worked until retiring in 1980. He worked in Joliet, IL, Cleveland, Yardley, PA, Chicago, and finally Pittsburgh. Besides his wife of 55 years, Dorothy, he leaves two daughters and two grandchildren.

**Robert S. Marts** (12<sup>th</sup> Company) died 18 April in Philadelphia. He grew up in Ocean City, NJ, and entered the Academy from the V5 Program at Bushnell, graduating in 1947, and becoming a naval aviator after 2 years of sea duty. He retired as a LCDR in 1967, settling back in Ocean City and becoming a serious studio photographer. He researched local history, was president of the Ocean City Historical museum, member of the Atlantic County Historical Society, and was a frequent lecturer. He is survived by his wife of 57 year, Doris, 4 children, Anne, David, Nancy, and Kathleen, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

You should recall that **Roger Netherland** was shot down in Vietnam in an A-4C in May 67 leading an attack on Hai Phong as squadron commander. There was no ejection, and he was carried as MIA until the end of hostilities, at which time he was declared dead/body-not-recovered. In 1982, a refugee described the downing of an aircraft and the recovery and burial of the pilot's remains, which corresponded closely with CDR Netherland's crash. In 1989, Vietnam returned alleged remains and Roger's ID card and wallet. By 1998, advances in DNA allowed identification if a sample from Roger could be found. Roger's wife, Gloria, located some old photos from Roger's father which included an envelope marked "Roger's first haircut". That lock of hair did the trick, and Roger's ashes were placed in the Columbarium at Arlington Cemetery. On May 10, 2005, a mass of Christian burial was held at the old Post Chapel and the ashes of Gloria Netherland were placed beside those of her husband in the Arlington Cemetery Columbarium. The details of this great story can be found in the 1948 Website.

We have from his daughter, Susan, that **Richard A. Cochran** died 9 May 2005 of pneumonia after 3 weeks of hospitalization. He went peacefully to join with his wife. Dick was in the 14<sup>th</sup> Company and at present, we have no further information.

From Dudley Holstein, I have a report on the passing of **Richard I. (Dick) Henderson** (10<sup>th</sup> Company) in Grayson, GA, 30 April. After a brief shot at Cornell, he joined the Navy in 1943 and entered the Academy in '44, graduating in '48. After a brief look at Supply Corps School, he took a reserve commission, but was recalled during the Korean War, serving in theater in a small gasoline tanker and an ammunition ship. He left the Navy in 1953 and returned to Pennsylvania as a plant manager in the family garment factory. He and his wife, Jean, soon migrated to Hawaii, following various far-east consulting jobs, and eventually to New York, where his job took him around the south, which they liked. He took an MBA at Miami,

and a doctorate at Georgia State in Atlanta. He then enjoyed teaching and writing many articles and successful books on business. He is survived by his second wife, Jean, 2 sons and a daughter and 7 grandchildren.

Received a note from Shirley and **Ken Wilson**, who just returned from a sail up the Rhein and Main and down the Danube from Amsterdam to Budapest in 15 days. Great trip. Flew from Budapest to Philadelphia and will be spending most of the summer in their Belmont, VT, retreat.

Angus McDonald reports the death of Mickey Gralow's widow 11 April 2005 in Kent, WA.

The Washington area Classmates fielded another successful luncheon on 13 May at the Army Navy Country Club. Forty three, including 17 wives/widows, provided fun and discourse. Next luncheon, September.

**Charles A. Sheehan** (Chuck) (3<sup>rd</sup> Company) died at home in Camarillo, CA, 28 April 2005. Born in Nevada, he was destined to play basketball at Navy, having been at U. of Nevada for a year on a basketball scholarship. Graduating in 48, Chuck became a naval aviator in 1950. He flew with ASW and Attack Squadrons, was an air to air gunnery instructor, and a test pilot. He was a Tailhooker, and a Topgun award winner. His wife, Gwennyth predeceased him after 47 years of marriage. They were avid golfers. He is survived by 2 daughters, Grace, a retired captain, USN, and her husband, James Lee, Jr, of Pacific Palisades, and Leslie Sheehan of Camarillo. After retiring, Chuck taught naval junior ROTC at high school, picked up a masters in business administration in 1970 and masters in education in 1979. His daughters remember fondly his amazing sense of humor, his ability to ease their homework anguish, his many talents at home. He even did the ironing while watching football on weekends. He loved his family, his home, his Classmates. In his last year, as illness advanced, he remained always the gentleman,

retained his sense of humor, and was kind and polite to everyone who cared for him regardless of how he felt. He did not complain.

**Jud Shook**, who is one of three 48s who ended up in the Air Force about 10 years after graduation, including **Bill Pierson** and now departed **Dave Smith**. They probably moved that recent service ahead more than a few notches at a time when the AF was short of good men. Jud lived across the hall from **Bob Jortberg** and me plebe year, and roomed with **Don Shake**, which we thought was OK, but people would go out of their way to walk by that room on the 4<sup>th</sup> deck, third wing above the goat court, to verify that there really was a room containing a Shook and a Shake. Jud checked in with me recently with some detail of the illness of his wife, Elaine, and to say that he was spending a lot of time researching the Shook family in Texas and Louisiana, and he wanted Classmates to know that he could be reached at [jud@judshook.com](mailto:jud@judshook.com) until 2009. He plans to stay in touch.