

CDR SUMNER K. MOORE, USN(ret)  
11 SEASTONES DRIVE  
PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871  
401-846-2871  
[sk48moore@aol.com](mailto:sk48moore@aol.com)

CLASS WEBSITE: [usna.com/classes/1948](http://usna.com/classes/1948)

**CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN**  
SEPTEMBER 2006

Seems like we have secured summer without really getting it properly going. At this writing, the weather has been atrocious almost everywhere in spite of the best efforts of the media weather-guessers to mislead us. Now, the Summer-of-'44, that was a proper summer. Smothering heat, plenty of fresh air and no air conditioning. Actually, those details have softened, although the accompanying activity remains comfortably lodged in the memory.

Because of the considerable effort on the part of the Class of 48 in providing and presenting during our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion the \$2M gift to the Academy in support of the Information Technology program, which has also funded the Class of 1948 Annual Prize, it is important to detail here this year's presentation made by Classmate **RADM Eddie Welch** on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Here is Eddie's report.

"I served as the '48 Rep in the pleasant (and busy) Presentation of Prizes and Awards at the Academy in Alumni Hall the day before graduation. I must say that this was a superbly planned and executed operation by the recipients, staffs and escorts. Our presentation was the 'Class of 1948 Information Technology Prize for that midshipman of the graduating class, majoring in Information Technology, who has achieved the highest average in his/her major courses, including the second discipline courses, which has presented a watch and plaque

to Midn Matthew Glenn Packard'. This event was #88 in the presentations and was received by Matt Packard in fine style while cameras clicked and families and friends beamed. Matt has also been selected for the Immediate Graduate Education Program at the Post Grad School, Monterey, in which he pursues 'Operations Research Analyses'.

Eddie goes on, "In my chats with Matt Packard, I was impressed and pleased to believe that he has a great future in the Navy, which will be greatly enriched by his presence. In a note, he said, 'Thank you very much for attending the Prizes and Awards Ceremony and presenting me with the Class of 48 IT Award. I have been working very hard in my IT major the past few years and I'm glad it paid off.'"

Eddie included a photo, which I hope will print, of Matt Packard, himself, and RADM Bill Miller, the Academic Dean and Provost, who has established a fine reputation with our Class, especially in respect to the support we have provided toward the important work in IT. He is one of the best.

As an interesting sidelight, Eddie reports that his nephew, Jim Welch, Class of '86, won the watch for standing first in Computer Science, and that it is a small world.

In response to our request for money to boost our Class Fund for flowers and support of the 24<sup>th</sup> Company, **Charles J. Kelly** sends a check and a welcome update on his doings. "Half the year, my wife, Katy, and I reside at Fair Oaks Ranch in nearby San Antonio and spend the rest of the time tending business in Elkins, WV. Basically, we're farmers, we grow hardwood timber. It's a

generational business as the normal hardwood, such as cherry, takes 60 years to mature. Therefore, I am a lazy man's farmer. In the meantime, we lease the same lands for the production of natural gas and occasionally the mining of met coal. All in all, it gives us plenty of time for other activities. Up until last year I was an avid golfer. Then I was diagnosed with spinal stenosis, cutting my play to 9 holes 2X a week. We built a commercial lodge on 2600 acres at Point Mountain. We call it Point Mountain Wilderness, and it's available for hunting, fishing, hiking, trap and skeet shooting and just relaxing. It is available to corporations and individual groups, up to 16 people. This is really remote and very private."

My thanks to CJ for the update. I need more of them from you quiet Classmates out there.

We are very sad to learn of the death of Jean M. Kelly, wife of Classmate **Eugene F. Kelly**, on 22 June 2006 of cancer under Capital Hospice care in INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Jean and Gene, that inseparable couple for 56 years, very much 48ers. It is hard to comprehend. They had recently settled in Gainsville VA. A memorial mass was scheduled for 10 August in the Ft. Myer Memorial Chapel in Arlington VA followed by a reception at the Officers Club, and inurnment at the Naval Columbarium at a later date.

Teen and **Hart Stringfellow** were at the San Diego reunion and sent photos. He reports, "The Gordons were wonderful hosts, the weather was perfect, the ladies all glamorous, and the company was the best. I had not seen Tom Hayward since we were plebes in the same company. I met a lot of Classmates for the first time, and they are a fine group. Teen and I will be in Annapolis in '08."

**Ed Ortlieb's** remains were interred in Arlington Cemetery on 12 July in the usual splendidly executed ceremony, attended by a large group of Classmates and followed by a fine reception at the Ft. Myer Officers Club. His death on 16 May was reported in last month's column.

**Bob Gormley** (RADM Robt. H.) writes, "After these many years, I thought it might be time for our Class Secretary to hear from the 'other' Gormley (a reference to **Bob Ghormley**, with an "H", our Washington area treasurer. But, of course, you all knew that!). Following graduation, I pursued a carrier aviation career, the highlight of which was command of JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67). I retired in '76, and Linda and I returned to our home in Pebble Beach where we now live. While enjoying life on the Monterey Peninsula, I remain involved in business as well as government advisory work. UAVs and aircraft survivability have been my primary focus for the past 20 years. I am also a principal with an international projects firm in Washington DC. From time to time I serve on study panels of the Naval Studies Board (National Research Council) as well as the Defense Science Board."

A couple of years ago, **Dick Bates's** widow, Connie, asked me for tips on guiding a grandson into the Academy entrance routine, and I was less than helpful as I recall. Now, a report from Rich Bates, their son, states that grandson, Patrick W. Bates participated in this summer's Summer Seminar at USNA, in which 1800 young candidates are exposed to a week of intensive warm-up indoctrination at the Academy. Candidate Bates reports that the experience was beyond his imagination and he is currently working on his applications and

nominations to join the Class of 2011, with possible NROTC backups at UVA, VMI, and VA Tech. Congratulations and Good Luck.

I am sad to note that **Arthur C. Bigley, Jr**, (Pete) (22<sup>nd</sup> Company) passed away unexpectedly 29 May 2006, in La Crescenta CA, after a brief hospital stay. His 6 children and his wife, Jeanne, were at his side. Funeral details were incomplete at this writing. Pete's daughter, Taryn, provided such info as we have. **Harry Belflower** sent The following to Taryn, and I repeat it here because it is nostalgic for all of us, and bears airing now and then.

"Your Dad and I reported to the Academy in June '44, coincident with the Normandy landings. The Navy's penchant for doing things easily caused us to be lined up alphabetically and so Bigley and Belflower found themselves nearby for Plebe Summer. Immediately we were given our haircut, issued our white works, and set to stenciling each and every item of clothing with our laundry number. Mine was '642' and I use it to this day as my lucky number. Indoctrination into the life at 'Navy' began immediately, including the obstacle course near the seawall facing the Bay, marines instructing us in the use and firing of small arms at the rifle range, sailing whaleboats on the Severn River, and learning from salty old boatswain's mates the art of knot-tying, which were just a little part of what we did that summer. With the return of the upper classes from summer cruise and leave we were integrated into the regular regimental companies where the real life of a midshipman began and we collected our fondest and most lasting memories as a plebe. It was also during that academic year that the powers-that-

be decided to return the Academy to a four-year academic schedule, and that is also where Pete and I parted ways.”

Warren Graham, Hugh Rardin, and wives recently made a jaunt to parts of Europe most folks just don't visit, Montenegro, Croatia, and Slovenia, countries that used to be part of Yugoslavia. It was a super trip, food outstanding, people friendly, and breathtaking scenery. Warren reports they had a super guide and learned a lot of history. He had always wanted to go ashore during destroyer shipboard trips up to Trieste, viewing the landscape by long glass enroute.