

CDR SUMNER K. MOORE, USN (ret)
11 SEASTONES DRIVE
PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871
401-846-2875
sk48moore@aol.com

CLASS WEBSITE: usna.com/classes/1948

CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

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Well, a strange thing certainly happened to the August SHIPMATE. In my 40 years in this business I have written somewhere around 400 columns for you, and the magazine staff, printers, etc, have always done a fine job getting what I sent them into print, with seldom a slip of any kind. When I opened the August SHIPMATE and turned quickly to the Class column, I got a funny feeling that something was wrong. The June-July text appeared having already appeared the month before, and the August text was nowhere to be found, although the photos were incongruously there. With this column we try to resurrect the bulk of the August text and add some new material I have scheduled for this issue. Just what happened in the inner works and hidden mechanisms of SHIPMATE is immaterial, but I hope this works. Sorry.

Bob Ghormley reports that the solicitation of funds for the Class flowers/24th Company fund has thus far netted some \$19,700, which includes \$2477 from the San Diego Reunion committee, representing a surplus due to hotel change, etc. We are doing well, but if you have not contributed, you still can. We are making a charitable donation of \$100 in the name of the departed, and flowers are currently running about \$90 per funeral.

Phil Rogers sent out about 600 post cards to all hands requesting info on Classmates' desires regarding the coming 60th Reunion in Annapolis. He has about 150 replies at this writing, and the inflow has almost stopped. Your reply to Phil would greatly help his planning process, even if you just say you can't make it.

I am very sad to report that **Jack Ryder's** wife, Joan, passed away 30 July 2006 at their home on Lake George, NY. She was stricken with a stroke, which was controlled and she seemed to recover quickly. However, a second attack about 3 weeks later was fatal. Jack says that she was a wonderful Navy wife, loving almost every part of it. Over the years, she was president of three different officer's wives clubs.

We have reports of the deaths of **Robert H. P. Dunn** (24th Company), on 30 July 2006, and **Thomas Francis Kilduff, Jr** (16th Company) on 10 July 2006. Further details will have to await the next column. Check Last Call in this issue. Also, **Jim Callahan's** wife, Mary, died 27 May 2006.

Gerry Palmer reports in connection with an email address change, that he and Ann have been living in Wilton CT since 1960. Their current complement includes 3 cats and an English Setter. Gerry works 2 days a week for a pharmaceutical PR firm, and Ann works 2 days a week in NYC as a medical librarian.. Life goes on.

The rest of the column picks up most of the August text, which curiously disappeared last month. Next month, we hope to be back to normal?