

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
January 2015**

About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "as soon and as often as we can get around to it". Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' lives and activities, and to occasionally provide some tid-bits of trivia and information.

Because not all of our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, and not all of our classmates have e-mail, and the deadline for articles for our class notes section in **The Bulletin** is almost two months before it's published, there will be, from time-to-time, duplications and gaps in what is included here, what is sent by e-mail or "snail-mail", and what appears in **The Bulletin**.

Send items for **The Bulletin** and this Newsletter to: Wee Smith, 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 - Tel./FAX 860-464-8425 or e-mail to jdsbridge@aol.com.

'53 LXII

**Annapolis, MD Mini-Reunion
5/26/15 - 5/29/15**

Dick and Donna Littlefield, Hal and Sheila Olson, Keith and Alice Schumacher, and Glenn and Betty Young are developing excellent plans for this year's mini-reunion.

We will see historic Annapolis, Capital of Maryland since 1694 and briefly the U.S. Capital. Tour with personal, experienced guides the oldest State House in the country, recently restored and where George Washington resigned his commission. See the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel, John Paul Jones' crypt, the interesting Naval Academy Museum, and enjoy lunch at the USNA's "Dry Dock", midshipman's recreation area. We will also be seeing the fabulous colonial mansion and gardens of William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence as well as cruising the Chesapeake Bay on the historic skipjack "Stanley Norman". And we'll have lots of time to relax and catch up with our classmates.

You can come early and stay late in the same hotel at the special CGA '53 rate so you can take day trips into nearby Washington, D.C. and/or Baltimore.

In order for the committee to go forward with its planning, we need to get a count as to what the probable attendance will be. **Please indicate your intentions in this regard on the enclosed postage paid post card and please return it to reach me by February 15th.**

More information and registration forms will be sent to those who are interested in attending this reunion.

'53's Newest Great Grand Children

On Dec. 28th, 2014 **Bill and Ann Clark's** grandson, Mike Higbie (and his wife, Keely had an 8 pound baby girl.

And, on Jan. 2nd, 2015 **George Everett's** granddaughter, Donan and her husband, Jeremiah George had a 10 pound baby boy.

Hap Hazard Not Doing Well

Hap's daughter, Virginia Hazard Mueck, (mueckvj@aol.com) has advised that "Hap had surgery last July for hydrocephalus and it was very successful for about three months. Now, his left side (arm and leg) aren't working well at all, almost as though he has had a mini-stroke. His doctor did not say if he had a stroke, but the only thing they could do for that is physical therapy and blood thinner - which they are already doing. Dad lives in an assisted living place in Urbana and receives excellent care. He often raves about their diligence. Unfortunately, Dad seems to have no interest in sitting at the computer and reading e-mails like he used to. My older sister doesn't think he can focus on it. He was an avid reader but I haven't seen him sit and really read something for several months. He listens to the news on television, however, and seems to be current on some major events."

Kirk + Jackie -

Happy New Year!! Hugs!! Wee

Liz Stevens battling Alzheimer's

In December, **Ray Stevens'** widow, **Liz**, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and is now temporarily living with her son, Richard Upjohn, 33 Violette Circle, Northbridge, MA 01534 until a long-term residence can be established for her near her three children who live in the Manchester, CT area.

Bud Grader remembered

Our late classmate, **Bud Grader** is mentioned frequently in Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Rohde's new book, *Beyond War*, (reimagining America's role and ambitions in a New Middle East) published by *Pequin Books*. Rohde describes **Bud** as "a weathered New England blue blood" a mentions that **Bud** was the last American to head the Kabul, Afghanistan office of the U.S. Agency for International Development before the 1979 Soviet invasion." He also notes that "**Bud** was back in Afghanistan in 2004 working as a contractor trying to do good".

Some observations for 2015 from

Ed Nelson

- Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!
 - The biggest lie "I don't need to write that down; I'll remember it."
 - The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than "please". I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".
 - When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment ,, now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation.
 - Lord, give me patience and give it to me NOW!
 - Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass it's about learning how to dance in the rain!
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Julie Andrews Turning 79

One of the musical numbers actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews sang to commemorate her birthday, was 'My Favorite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.
