

## U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter February 2012

*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](mailto:jdsbridge@aol.com).*

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### In Memoriam Allan Cousins

(July 30, 1931 - January 23, 2012)

We were surprised and saddened to receive an e-mail from Al Cousins' daughter, Kathy Barracchini (1 Tarpley Court, Derwood, MD 20855 - e-mail [kathybarr@comcast.net](mailto:kathybarr@comcast.net)) telling us that Al had died on January 23rd. She said that just two weeks before he died, he was diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and that he passed quickly. Al's remains were cremated and will be returned to Maine, his home state, for burial.

Al is survived by: his first wife, Eileen, who now lives in Sebastian, FL; his second wife, Sharon, (510 E. 50th St. -Apt. 219, Garden City, ID 83714); his daughter, Kathy in Maryland; a son, Sean in Florida; and a son, Caleb in Maine; and six grandchildren.

He was originally from Northeast Harbor, ME. After he resigned from the Academy in January 1952, he served in the Army for three years during which he was stationed in Germany. After the Army, Al worked as a Public Accountant. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Maine at Machias, and his Master's Degree from Arizona State University.

In 1973, Al attended our 20th reunion with his first wife, Eileen. They divorced in 1986 and Al moved to Arizona in 1990 to attend ASU. He married Sharon in 1994.

Al had a wonderful dry Maine sense of humor. Over the years he occasionally sent letters but unfortunately for us, he never attended another '53 reunion. Back when he and Dave Howland were living

in Maine, individually they used to send me humorous "conflicting" descriptions of the same event that they had both just attended. Al's daughter Kathy said her Dad "enjoyed the outdoors - camping and hiking. He loved reading, especially history, and spent time tracing our family tree. He also enjoyed watching sports on TV".

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### San Diego Mini-Reunion (April 23-27 2012)

Details of the reunion along with a registration form and a postage-paid reply envelope were mailed in January with a request that the registration forms be returned by March 1st.

**Early Returns:** As of Feb. 8th, we had received registration forms from the following who are planning to attend: Paul and Donna Arnold, Roger and Karen Britt, Ed and Roz Cope, Meris Hatfield Donnelly, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Clay and Jan Hughes, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Wee and Jane Smith, and Dimpy Spadafora.

If you haven't yet returned your registration form yet, please return it so it reaches me by March 1st.

If you didn't receive the San Diego reunion package, or have miss-placed it, please let me know.

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### Class of '53 Website ([www.CGA '53.org](http://www.CGA'53.org))

If you have e-mail, and haven't been on our website ([www.cga53.org](http://www.cga53.org)) in a while, you should check it out! Especially see the fantastic slide show that Kirk Greiner (18226 Sunset Way, Edmonds, WA 98026; e-mail: [kirk@maritimeconsultant.com](mailto:kirk@maritimeconsultant.com), Tel. 425-640-5137) has put together from our cadet days.

Under the "Members Only" section, Kirk has also included a copy of our class directory. To get into that section, the user name is *roster*, and the password *weesmith*.

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### Upcoming Class of '53 Sponsored Events

**The '53 Fellows Program.** Dr. Steven Flynn '82, a recognized leader in the field of homeland security policy and a fierce advocate for critical infrastructure protection and national resilience will be visiting the Academy 16-17 February as this year's '53 Fellow. Our class sponsors this program to provide Academy faculty with the opportunity to enrich their classes by inviting distinguished Academy alums who have had "real world" successes come back to the Academy to interact and share their practical experiences with cadets. Previous '53 Fellows have included our classmate Bud Grader; ADM Paul Yost '51; ADM Bob Kramek '61; Fred Long '52; Bill Hewitt '59; and our classmate Dan Colussy.

**The Captain Ernie Rowland Cadet Art Contest.** This will be our sixth year of sponsoring this contest in memory of Ernie. It encourages cadets to display and share their artistic talents. Entries for this year's contest will be on display from March 26th to April 13th in the Henriques Room in Hamilton Hall. That was the library back when we were cadets.

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**Some Misc. Bits and Pieces about our classmates:**

**Roger and Karen Britt's** address information is 3346 Goldsmith St., San Diego, CA 92016, Tel. 619-225-1462, e-mail: [roger\\_britt@att.net](mailto:roger_britt@att.net).

**Bill and Ann Clark** (2064 Horne's Lake Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185, [clarkwmb@msn.com](mailto:clarkwmb@msn.com)) are "wintering" in Ocean Ridge, FL until early April. **Bill's** been participating in an interesting project concerning the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking.

**Shirley Coffelt Hicks** (8160 Tavern Keepers Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23111) reported that her son, Don, CGA '85 has been promoted to CAPT and that her new e-mail address is [shirleyc23111@verizon.net](mailto:shirleyc23111@verizon.net).

**Ed Cope** (1031 North Arroya, Mesa, AZ 85205, [ltbeam53@yahoo.com](mailto:ltbeam53@yahoo.com)) recently had some successful prostate surgery. About a week before **Ed** was due to have his surgery, he called **Dick Donnelly** to ask him about his experience since **Dick** had had the same surgery a few years before. **Dick** said, "I told the Doc I had a problem. I used to stand on the inside edge of the sidewalk and pee all the way to the curb, and now I pee on my shoes." **Ed** said his conversation with **Dick** was only a few weeks before **Dick** died and **Dick** still had his great sense of humor. In March, **Ed** and **Roz** will be spending two weeks in Puerto Villarta, Mexico.

If you have received or receive an e-mail supposedly sent by **Rick Cueroni** (5305 Fleet Landing Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 - Tel. 904-249-4970 - e-mail [cue53@bellsouth.net](mailto:cue53@bellsouth.net)) that he's stranded in the Philippines and needs money to get home, ignore it -- it's a scam -- **Rick** is home and just fine -- someone apparently "hacked" into his e-mail account!

**Jan Frauenfelder** (8387 Fig St., Arvada, CO 80005 - email: [seabag2@comcast.net](mailto:seabag2@comcast.net)) said that **Frank** has lost weight, doesn't have much strength, sleeps a lot and has trouble carrying on a conversation, but he listens and seems to understand what others are saying. From Feb. 18th to March 9th **Jan** will be 'checking-off' an item she has had on her "bucket list" for a long time. She and a widow friend are taking a 3-week Grand Circle tour of South Africa. **Jan** said she's had all her shots, (e.g., typhoid, malaria, yellow fever, etc.) and is looking forward to the trip, but not the 16 hour flight from Washington's Dulles airport to Senegal where they will refuel before flying on to Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Norma Hintze** (6 Buckspark Court, Potomac, MD 20854) advised her correct e-mail address is [donaldhintze6@comcast.net](mailto:donaldhintze6@comcast.net). She said, "I'm o.k. except for arthritis and missing **Don** -- it's been almost five years since he died." She added, "My children are o.k. Jim lives in Crofton, MD; Curt in Olney, MD and is still working on the tugboat pulling oil barges on the Delaware River; and Julie is a Psychologist in California and has 10 dogs and 5 cats like a mini-zoo".

**Bill and Helen King** (109 Starboard Court,

Montross, VA 22520, e-mail: [kinge@rivnet.ne](mailto:kinge@rivnet.ne), Tel. 804-472-2454) will be "down-sizing" and moving this spring to a retirement community. Stay tuned for their new address.

**Roger and Jerry Mowell** (13815 Pebblebrook, Houston, TX 77079) advised that their e-mail address is [jrmowell@gmail.com](mailto:jrmowell@gmail.com). **Roger** noted that his older brother had died at 52 from mesothelioma, the same nasty cancer that **Dick Donnelly** died from.

**Ed and Joyce Nelson** (1160 Niagara Ave., Astoria, OR 97103, e-mail: [radmed1@msn.com](mailto:radmed1@msn.com)) are frequent users of Skype these days so they can see and talk with their son, Darrell, CGA '77 and CG CAPT (Ret), who's in Baghdad, Iraq flying helicopters for the U.S. State Dept.

**Bill and Fran Plummer's** address is now: 1105 East Ridge Village Drive, Cutler Bay, FL 33157-8018.

**Ted and Mary Frances Smith** (6443 Gerard Court, Falls Church, VA22043, e-mail: [tedmary2@verizon.net](mailto:tedmary2@verizon.net), Tel. 703-538-4588) will be "down-sizing" and moving this spring to a retirement community. Stay tuned for their new address.

**Dave and Teresa Stryffeler** (52 S. DeHoff Dr., Youngstown, OH 44515) sent a correction to their e-mail address. It's [destryffeler1@yahoo.com](mailto:destryffeler1@yahoo.com). **Dave** added, "Been busy as the devil, lately. At our age it takes longer to get things done. Watching a couple of grandsons playing basketball takes up a lot of time. Been getting a few earthquakes nearby, lately, ten miles or so."

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**Some "Trivia" to fill up the empty space**

**"Shampoo Warning":** **Beth Cueroni** (5305 Fleet Landing Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233, e-mail [cue53@bellsouth.net](mailto:cue53@bellsouth.net)) said, "I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: 'FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY'. No wonder I have been gaining weight!! Well, I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I'm going to start showering with Dawn dish soap instead. Its label reads, 'DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE.'"

**Daily Exercise Routines for Seniors:** **Harry Oldford** (1017 Lakemont Circle, Winter Park, FL 32792 e-mail: [harborone@aol.com](mailto:harborone@aol.com)) sent these instructions on how to use an "Exercise Block".

(1) Place the "Exercise Block" on the floor in the center of the room. (Note: just a plain block of wood will do).

(2) Walk around the block twice, sit down, and relax.

If anyone asks you if you exercised today, you can tell them that you walked around the block TWICE!!