

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter February 2014

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 LX Reunion Photos Available

Koren Lipsett, (Gerry's daughter) has assembled a 28 page 12" x 12" hard cover coffee table-type "Shutterfly" book. It has 278 photos taken by **Kirk Greiner, Ralph Hill, and Koren** during our 60th reunion. Copies of the book are \$55 each (including shipping). If you'd like a copy, please send a check payable to "CGA Class of '53" to reach me at 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 **not later than 17 March 2014**. Delivery of books can be expected by April 17th.

Photos of our 60th reunion photos can also be seen on **Kirk Greiner's** Class of '53 website, (cga53.org) either on your computer at home or on a computer at your local library.

Sandy Crouch's Memorial Service

Attached is **Sandy Crouch's** obituary. As noted, her memorial service will be at **11 a.m., Saturday, March 1st** at the Noank, CT Baptist Church, (18 Cathedral Heights, Noank, CT). Sandy's daughter, Sue Aldridge, can be reached at 42 Mumford Cove Rd., Noank 06340, e-mail: suealdrige@att.net.

Eve Barrett's Battle with Alzheimer's

Eve Barrett was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease eight years ago, and since then has lived at home, with medication, and with some home help. **Ken**, (16 Captains Way,

Gerish Is., Kittery Point, ME, 03905, e-mail: barret1719@aol.com) said, that "Eve's progression has been slow, but inexorable. We have found that we can no longer provide her with the help and support that she needs, and so she was moved to the memory care unit of Sentry Hill in York Harbor, ME. They are trained and equipped with a caring and skilled staff to be available for her on a 24-hour a day basis." **Ken** added, "To most people, moving someone to a memory care unit is a normal development in the lives of older people. To me, this is a tragic and heartbreaking necessity, **Eve** is better cared for where she is, but she's also greatly missed."

"Adventures", Travels, etc.

• In November, **Donna Arnold** (8932 Amadore Circle #1309C, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, e-mail: dba1043@yahoo.com) took an 11 day hiking trip to Peru arranged through Vermont Bicycle Tours (VBT). It included stops in Lima (2 days) and to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley (9 days). The highlight of her trip was a one day hike on the Inca Trail, (8 miles - 5 to 6 hours) which took her to the Sun Gate, the original entrance to Machu Picchu. From the Sun Gate, there was an iconic view of Machu Picchu. Other days there were day hikes throughout the Sacred Valley and Cusco.

• **Bill Bruinsma** (2882 Dartmouth Dr., Oceanside, CA 98056, e-mail: 4the2bears@cox.net) reported that "All has gone well after getting my right shoulder replaced. The pain I was experiencing for many years is gone. However, I still have to wear a special sling and am restricted from most uses of my right arm for now."

• **Wendell and Yvonne Driggers** (1671 Cedar Hollow Way, Reston, VA 20194 e-mail: yedpurple@aol.com) started in mid-January and ended the last week in February on a trip to the Far East. They flew to Singapore, then boarded a ship for a two-week cruise. They headed south across the equator to the islands Lombok, Komodo (**Wendell** survived the Komodo dragon experience), and Bali in Indonesia. The ship then headed north to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Penang, and the island of Phuket, Thailand. The ship returned to Singapore, and the Driggers flew to Dubai, UAE. Their reactions to Dubai: "What a modern city, with the world's tallest building!" A 14-hour flight

brought them back to Dulles airport.

• On March 1st, **Ed and Roz Cope** (1031 North Arroya, Mesa, AZ 85205 e-mail: ltbeam53@yahoo.com) will be going to San Jose de Cabo, Mexico (Baja) for two weeks with Ed's oldest son, Kelly, who is going into his ninth year with Parkinson's disease, and who will turn 60 while they are there.

• On January 29th, **Ed Farmer** (e-mail: journeyer75@yahoo.com) left Hawaii and returned to India "where I accept that my Cosmic Destiny lies. This is my third return after short absences starting in 2010 to realize I am more Indian -- than I ever realized before."

• **Bud and Geri Foster** (22 Westwood Dr. W., Trinity, TX 75862, e-mail: gbfoster@windstream.net) have sold their motor home and said "they miss it, but setting it up was getting harder as they got older". On the other hand, they are enjoying "playing golf" -- "no rules, just hit the ball, and play about 6 or 7 holes".

• In February, **Kirk and Jackie Greiner** (P.O. Box 908, Edmonds, WA 98020-0908, e-mail: kirk.greiner@gmail.com) enjoyed a week with his son at their time share in Hawaii. In May **Kirk and Jackie** will be going to New Zealand and then plan to join up with some Rotarians for an RV tour of Australia.

A Civics Lesson

from Ed Cope

"In God we trust others: Photo I.D."

A Grammar Lesson

from Mike Boggs

On his 80th birthday, a man was given a gift certificate from his wife. The certificate was for consultation with an Indian medicine man living on a nearby reservation who was rumored to have a simple cure for erectile dysfunction!

The husband went to the reservation and saw the medicine man.

The old Indian gave him a potion and with a grip on his shoulder warned, "This is a powerful medicine. You take only a teaspoonful, and then say '1-2-3.' When you do, you will become more manly than you have ever been in your life, and you can perform for as long as you want."

The man thanked the old Indian and as he walked away, he turned and asked, "How do I stop the medicine from working?"

"Your partner must say '1-2-3-4,' he responded, "but when she does, the medicine will not work again until the next full moon."

He was very eager to see if it worked so he went home, showered, shaved, took a spoonful of the medicine, and then invited his wife to join him in the bedroom. When she came in, he took off his clothes and said, "1-2-3!"

Immediately, he was the manliest of men. His wife was excited and began throwing off her clothes, and then she asked, "What was the 1-2-3 for?"

And that, boys and girls, is why we should never end our sentences with a preposition, because we could end up with a dangling participle.

OBITUARIES

Alexandra Crouch

Groton — Sandy (Nicoll)

Crouch of Noank, left this world on Jan. 4, 2014, her 81st birthday, after a valiant battle that wracked her body but couldn't dim her spirit.

A piece of blue sea glass would put a smile on her face. A beach stone polished by years of tumbling in the surf would always put a sparkle in her eye. But what put true joy in her heart was being the matriarch of her clan. She nurtured her extended family with unconditional love.

Sandy was born in Bayonne, N.J., the daughter of Donald and Lillian (Guest) Nicoll.

She met the love of her life, Cal Crouch, while he was at the Coast Guard Academy, and she was studying across the street at Connecticut College. They were married in 1953, and Sandy began her career as military wife and mother.

Sandy's life was filled with volunteer and community activities. She was an active member of the CG Officers Wives Clubs and local gardening organizations wherever the Coast Guard took them, and served as a hot line volunteer and church youth leader. When they retired, Sandy and Cal settled in their Noank home where they were active with the Noank Baptist Church. Sandy was known for the Greek dinners she prepared for church fundraising events and for her volunteer work at the Corner Closet thrift store. She also put her beautiful voice to work reading to residents of Mystic River Homes Congregate.



Always the caregiver, Sandy was the primary caregiver for her mother for many years while she lived with them. Later she devoted herself to caring for Cal's parents, Barbara and Ellis Crouch, when they struggled with their own serious illnesses.

Cal passed away in 2001, but their shared legacy and love of family survives in their four children, Cal Jr. of Monroe, Pete Crouch and his wife, Lori, of Alexandria, Va., Sue Aldridge and her husband, Dave, of Noank, and Jenny Gill and her husband,

Pat, of Groton Long Point and North Stonington. She was blessed with 11 grandchildren, Ryan Crouch (and wife, Alexandra), SFC Ian Crouch (and wife, Courtney), Meagan, Katie, Micki, and Jackie Crouch, Alexandra (Lexie) and Mackenzie Aldridge, and Chris, Ben, and Sela Gill; two

great-grandchildren, Jordan and Colton Crouch; and dear friend Marnie Wall filled out her inner family circle.

She also had a tremendous gift for transforming casual daily interactions into deep and abiding friendships. There were no strangers, just friendships not yet made.

Next to her family and friends Sandy's greatest passions were her gardens and the time spent at the family cottage at Groton Long Point. When her hands grew gnarled by arthritis the majesty of her gardens and window boxes became the shared product of her vision, loving-

ly executed through Marnie's hands. And from her seat at the head of the long dining room table at "The Point," she choreographed countless family dinners where lobsters from Ford's and Whittle's corn shared center stage with generations of family stories.

During her final days she was on a mission to ease our grief. Mom drew each of us near and shared her wishes for our future. And then smiled, as she always did when her kids were around, and said, "and those are my final words." Then paused for a second and with a twinkle in her eye whispered, "well, maybe."

They were her final words. But her spirit will live forever through everyone she touched.

A memorial service will celebrate her life at 11 a.m. on March 1 at the Noank Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, she asked friends to consider making a contribution to the Center for Hospice Care Southeast Connecticut in honor of the caregivers who provided such loving and attentive care during her final days, or to the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association — Class of '53 Memorial Fund.