

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter July 2013

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.*

Helene Graham Colussy

June 2, 1934 - June 18, 2013

Helene passed away peacefully at her home in Jupiter after a long illness. Born in New London, she graduated from the Williams School and on June 6, 1953, (the day after our Academy graduation), she married Dan in the Academy Chapel. Together they began a life-long odyssey that spanned 60 years, recently celebrating their diamond jubilee.

In addition to Dan, Helene is survived by two daughters, Deborah Thompson (Craig) of New Canaan, CT and Jennifer Grace of Jupiter, FL; four grandchildren, Caroline M. Thompson, Kimberly G. Thompson, Claire M. Thompson and Harrison S. Thompson, all of New Canaan, CT; a sister, noted author and historic preservationist Ellen Uguccioni of Coral Gables, FL; and a brother, Captain Scot Graham, '81, USCG(Ret) of Waterford, CT.

Helene was the daughter of the late Arlene Colby Kohl of Lakeland, FL and the late William Graham of New London, CT. A descendant of John Howland, she was a long standing member of the Mayflower Society.

Helene traveled the world with Dan as his career heading multinational airline, aerospace, and satellite companies brought them to travel and live in many far flung places. She lived and established residences with Dan in Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Annapolis, MD; Honolulu, HI; New York City, NY; and Boston, MA. In each place, with her keen sense of design she created a beautiful home for her family, to whom she was devoted. In 1997, she put down roots in Florida and moved to the Bear's Club in 2009.

In the 70's, 80's, and 90's, Helene criss-crossed the globe, visiting Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia at a time when such travel was not commonplace. During her travels she and Dan collected an extensive and eclectic art collection from all parts of the world. She was among the first Americans to gain entry to China after it opened to the West in January 1974 and was part of a successful mission "Flight for Sight", bringing eye care to remote areas of Kenya in Africa. Where ever she went she established long-standing relationships and had the opportunity to meet numerous heads of state, senior government officials, and heads of multinational corporations.

A voracious reader of current affairs, Helene loved to engage in political and foreign affairs discussions. She also loved flowers and to entertain. She is remembered for the elaborate luncheons she loved to arrange for her many friends and for lively, sumptuous dinner parties. She touched many people with her many friends with her vivacity, graciousness and flair for life.

A memorial service to celebrate Helene's life was held on June 26th at their home. At this service Dan offered the following "**Remembrances of Helene**".

"Helene and I spent well over 60 years together and she was always by my side regardless of the situations we had to deal with both the good and the bad.

I could always count on her support on whatever new venture we decided to undertake even if it involved packing up and moving on to a new location. I always sought her counsel because she always had a pragmatic, common sense approach to life which was very helpful to me.

On the social scene she was always a great asset to my career. Where ever we went she always seemed to quickly make friends and developed solid relationships. She cared about other people and would never miss a birthday of a friend or relative.

As a family we sailed and skied together for about 45 years often in foreign countries. Helene was an excellent skier and a terrific first mate on our 41 foot ketch "**Gemini**". When we moved to Florida in 1998 she became a pretty good golfer until she had to give it up.

Above all that she was a very loving person to me, our daughters and our grandchildren and her family always came first. We fell in love at an early age and for me it was love at first sight when I first saw her across a crowded room. As we matured nothing really changed much through all the 60 plus years we were together.

We first knew she was seriously ill several years ago but she fought it every day with never a complaint. I was fortunate to be by her side when she passed on last Tuesday morning here in our home which she dearly loved. It was a painless and peaceful passing.

(OVER)

It occurred only three days after we celebrated our 60th anniversary with a dinner party with close friends which she planned in great detail with her usual elegant style and grace.

Helene was the love of my life and her passing has left a big hole in my heart. I am very grateful to be surrounded by family and friends who shared my love for her, and I really appreciate all of you coming today to help us honor and celebrate her wonderful life here on earth."

Classmates **Murray Boggs, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Dick and Donna Littlefield, and Wee Smith** were able to attend **Helene's** memorial service.

Donations in **Helene's** memory may be made to *Woundedwarriorproject.org* (Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 666575) and The Williams School, 182 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320.

Our 60th Reunion ('53 LX)

October 16 to 20, 2013

The reunion schedule and registration forms were sent by "snail mail" in June. Please let me know if you have not received yours.

The deadline for registering is September 15th.

Misc. Bits and Pieces from or about our classmates (in alphabetical order)

Barbara Bates (36 Clipper Dr., Mystic, CT 06355, e-mail: *babates53@sbcglobal.net*) is doing well after having some back problems. She said "I'm back to bowling although now with a 10 pound ball rather than my 12 pound ball. Also, now I only take three small steps and then throw the ball rather than the correct way which I used to be able to do. But, I am bowling and that is what is important to me!"

Bill Clark (2064 Home's Lake Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185, e-mail: *clarkwmb@msn.com*) sent the following: "Each year, MOAA has a signature cruise and this year **Ann** and I decided to sail on it. The trip was a riverboat cruise on the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland, visiting Cologne, Koblenz, the Rhine Gorge, Rudesheim, Mainz (Heidelberg), Strasbourg, and Breisach. We returned from Zurich. Since **Ann's** mother's side came from Alsace, France, we particularly enjoyed the tours around Strasbourg. The boat can only hold 138 passengers and, although all are military officers and spouses, we weren't expecting any other Coast Guard. What a surprise it was to see **Wendell And Yvonne Driggers** on board! Neither of us knew the other would be touring. What are the odds on that?"

Ed and Roz Cope (1031 North Arroya, Mesa, AZ 85205, e-mail: *ltbeam@yahoo.com*) left on July 10th to spend two weeks in Scotland & Ireland, (numbers #1 and #2 on Ed's "bucket list"). The trip was Ed's birthday present from **Roz**

In spite of her battle with ovarian cancer, **Sandy Crouch** (42 Mumford Cove Rd., Noank, CT 06340) is positive and upbeat and is greatly enjoying being able to have time with her children and grandchildren. **Sandy** said that she has not been checking her e-mail so "snail-mail" is a better way to reach her.

Jan Frauenfelder (8387 Fig St., Arvada, CO 80005 - e-mail: *seabag2@comcast.net*) has a broken hip and because of an infection, may have to wait for 6-8 weeks (and be wheel-chair-bound) for her hip-replacement surgery. Please send notes and cards to her home address above.

In June, **Barbara Mann** (35 E. All Saints St., Apt. 305, Frederick, MD 21701, e-mail: *piperhouse1@verizon.net*) took her granddaughter, **Lindsay**, to London for a week. **Barbara** said they had a wonderful time and that the highlight of their trip was a trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Fred Sponholz called to say that on his birthday, (May 10th), he started having some problems with his breathing and lung capacity and that so far, his doctors aren't sure what's causing it. But, **Fred** is happy with his decision to move into a house in the Hamlet Village retirement community where everything is done for him. His new address is 123 Hamlet Hills Dr., Chagrin Falls, OH 4886, Tel. 330-608-4886, e-mail: *freds1953@gmail.com*.

The Chief

A Chief Petty Officer noticed a new seaman and barked at him, "Get over here! What's your name, sailor?"

"John," the new seaman replied.

"Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they're teaching sailors in boot camp these days, but I don't call anyone by his first name," the Chief scowled. "It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my sailors by their last names only. 'Smith', 'Jones', 'Baker', whatever and you are to refer to me as 'Chief'. Do I make myself clear?"

"Aye, Aye, Chief."

"Now that we've got that straight, what's your last name?"

The seaman sighed, "Darling. My name is John Darling, Chief."

"Okay, John, here's what I want you to do."
