

## U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter August 2011

*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).*

### '53 Octogenarian Club ERRATA

The listing of age/birthdate info in the '53 July Newsletter prompted these reactions and ranges of emotions:

**Mike Boggs** and **Dick Bowers** were *disappointed* because they were not listed in the '53 Octogenarian Club. Mike's DOB was 1/27/30 and he's now 81, and Dick's DOB was 12/1/29 and he's also 81.

**Dan Colussy** was *happy* that he's only 80 and NOT 82 as I incorrectly reported :-). His correct DOB was 6/3/31 NOT 6/3/29!

**Tom Sing** was *happy* that he's only 79 and won't be 80 until Sept. 17th. His correct DOB was 9/17/31, NOT 9/17/30!

**Drury Williford** was also *happy* that he'll only be 82 on Nov. 27th and NOT 84 as I incorrectly indicated :-). His correct DOB was 11/27/29 NOT 11/27/27!

That also means that **Drury** is not our "oldest classmate" -- that "honor" now belongs to **Bud Mathieu** who was 83 on 7/1, (DOB 7/1/28) and who is just one day older than **Frank Frauenfelder** who was 83 on 7/2 (DOB 7/2/28).

And finally, I'm sorry for my mistakes, but *happy* to be able to correct them!

### CGA's 1951 Football Team 60th Reunion

On Saturday, September 17th, a few members of the Academy's 1951 football team and "fans" from the classes of 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955 will celebrate

the 60th anniversary of the Academy's first undefeated football season. Among those who are planning to attend are team members **Roger Madson** and **Bill Reilly** and "fans", **Bob and Beverly Benson** and **Wee and Jane Smith**. CGA will be playing Curry College that day and the players and fans will have a pre-game "training table lunch" and a post-game cocktail party and lobster clambake dinner at the Alumni Center.

### 2012 San Diego Mini-Reunion

**Paul and Donna Arnold** and **Bill and Romy Bruinsma** are busy investigating the possible options for the San Diego Mini-Reunion. The early post card responses indicate these classmates will *probably* be attending the mini-reunion: **Paul and Donna Arnold**; **Roger and Shirley Bascom**; **Bill and Romy Bruinsma**; **Ed and Roz Cope**; **Dick and Meris Donnelly**; **Wendell and Yvonne Driggers**; **George Everett**; **Jan Frauenfelder**; **Kirk and Jackie Greiner**; **Ralph and Diane Hill**; **Bernie and Peggy Hoyland**; **Clay and Jan Hughes**; **Jim and LaVerne Irwin**; **Bill and Andree Kohl**; **Iris Lynch**; **Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu**; **Ed and Joyce Nelson**; **Hal and Sheila Olson**; **Wee and Jane Smith**; and **Dimpy Spadafora**.

A questionnaire, to ask for more input on preferences, will be sent this fall to those who indicate they are *probably* going to attend.

### West Virginia Honors Jimmy Hiteshew

Attached is a resolution passed by the West Virginia legislature to name a bridge in Weston, WV in **Jimmy Hiteshew's** memory.

### '53's CGA "Extended Family" Legacies

**Bill and Ann Clark** noted this interesting addition to the Class of '53 CGA legacies: When their grandson, **LTJG Michael Higbie '09** married his classmate **LTJG Keely Balthorpe**, she became their granddaughter-in-law, which made her the fourth person in the **Clark's** immediate family to be a CGA graduate.

**Jim and LaVerne Irwin's** son-in-law, **Dale Chittenden**, CGA '81, who was an outstanding wrestler at the Academy, and who is married to the **Irwins'** daughter, **Kathleen**, will be inducted into the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame at Homecoming this year. Thus, **Dale** will become the first "second generation person" from the Class of '53's extended family to be inducted into the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame.

*Misc. Bits and Pieces about our classmates  
(listed in alphabetical order):*

**Betsy Anderson Wolfe** (124 Jackson St., Indiana, PA 15701, e-mail: [betsyw@verizon.net](mailto:betsyw@verizon.net)) sent this story about a recent day in her life.

"Hello and a good warning to you all,

Don't get carried away with this "Back to the land" thing, ..... It's downright dangerous!

My daughter, Malinda and I have been planning for many months to make Bread and Butter pickles as I've been doing since the 1950's with no bodily harm until now. Days before the big event my husband, Paul and I spent a very hot, long half day at the Amish Produce auction near Smickburg, PA. Paul did all the bidding as I've never been to an auction and he was quite pleased that he got such a "GREAT" price for a peck of onions, a peck of green peppers and a bushel of pickles. Don't confuse these little buggers with cucumbers cause they are tiny, tiny and LETHAL. He went to get the car while I paid and imagine my shock when this bearded bean pole of a man said, "That will be \$95.00". (Paul had told me \$14.00). This has now put "PROJECT PICKLE" into the gourmet category. I had already spent over \$ 200 for new jars, (I gave all my old ones to Paul's church for apple butter); 25 lbs, of sugar; 1-1/2 gallons of vinegar; and a multitude of spices. When you add in the \$ 50.00 for the ER you'll understand just how pricey these things were.

"Pickle Eve Sunday" dawned and I rushed to the kitchen to begin the festivities. 5 to 6 hrs later I'd scrubbed every one of the little \$#@^\* with a scrub brush on all sides as the Amish often fertilize with non commercial stuff. By this time I'd also invented a name for my brand of pickles which rhymes with but isn't Smuckers. Paul in the meantime had cleaned and DICED over 100 cups of onions and had the good sense to leave.

Malinda arrived mid afternoon and we cleaned four sleeves of fresh garlic. The room and I now smelled less than good and the joy had gone from the whole project. All was carefully stored for Monday Morning and the Canning experience. I arose full of anticipation and started cutting off the ends and sticking the \$#@^\* in a Cuisinart Slicer. I only had a little contact with the things as I was putting four at a time into a slicer. By 10:30 am Malinda was back from the store with the ice and we combined the sliced pickles, salt, onions, garlic and ice to sit for three hours. I needed to send an important e-mail so I asked Malinda to start slicing the remaining half and I

went upstairs to the computer. I noticed shortly that my hands were sticky so I washed and dried them and started typing again. In a few minutes I discovered that I couldn't type. Guess how I felt when I looked at my hands and saw that they were dark brown, very swollen, and hard like they'd been dipped in concrete? I watched the skin burst and start coming off in strips, from the finger tips to mid-palms. Now I was scared as I had just started Pradaxa in place of Coumadin two days before and I knew that there is no antidote for it. I took off downstairs and asked Malinda as calmly as I could to stop slicing and wash her hands. She was fine as I called my Primary care Doctor. As soon as her hands dried the same thing happened. This was good and bad as I then knew it wasn't the Pradaxa. We were told to get to the Emergency Room ASAP, so we did. The ER hadn't a clue.

I called Paul to tell him not to burn the boxes with the grower's tag # and he said, "That sounds like Nitric Acid burns, (which it was). He had worked in the Lab at Westinghouse for several years and said that the brown color and the skin falling off was a classic Nitric Acid burn.

They stuck us in the Isolation Room at the hospital as no one really had the first idea what was wrong. They called the poison control center and were told that it was the outside of the pickle that carried a defensive enzyme to fend off insects. I don't buy that as I'd handled the outside of the pickles for hours the day before with no problem and it was only when the inside was exposed that the trouble started. Paul, the farmer, also said that during hot dry spells such as we've had, the nitrogen in the soil and water build up and become concentrated in the plant, (corn does the same thing). When exposed and combined with water, nitric acid is formed.

To end this long sad tale ..... We came home, threw ALL the pickles down the disposal and ground them up. We did, however, make and can the juice (for meatloaf, pasta, tuna, egg salads, etc.) All we really wanted was the juice anyway. The real kicker was that Malinda didn't have a co-pay at the ER and I did. What's fair about that? We're both fine and have brand new skin on our hands, smooth as a baby's .....

The moral of this story is: Buy *Heinz* or *Vlasic* pickles. You'll be SOOOOOOOO much happier! Betsy"

In reflecting about our Swab Summer days in 1949, **Darrell Babcock**, (144 Twilight Place, Woodlands, TX 77381, e-mail:

*babcocksr.darrell@yahoo.com*) sent, "I seem to recall there was an August 4th (Coast Guard Day) picnic at the CG training station at Avery Point in Groton with a keg of 'near beer'".

**Ken Barrett** (16 Captain's Way - Gerrish Is., Kittery Point, ME 03905, e-mail: *barret1719@aol.com*, Tel. 207-439-2034) shared the following "Sometimes people ask about Eve's Alzheimer's. She lives at home, and we have a caregiver several days each week to help. She attends an adult center one day a week to meet with six or eight seniors in a well planned program. She remembers New London and the Academy, but little else. What is said to her is gone within moments, but we try to make each day worthwhile."

**Barbara Bates** (36 Clipper Dr., Mystic, CT 06355, e-mail: *babates@mfire.com*) sent "This year has been quite an exciting one for me. On January 14th, my son *Skip* - (*Larry*) - and his Chinese partner of 23 years, *Ma Bo* - (*Paul*) - became the proud parents of a baby boy. The baby - *Ma Lun* - was born in China and *Skip* and *Ma Bo*, who live in Tokyo, had a long wait and much red tape and paper-work to wade through in order to bring *Ma Lun* to Japan. Finally, in late July, when they had all the required items which included passport, visa and birth certificate, they were able to bring him back to Tokyo. *Skip* has posted many pictures of the two fathers with *Ma Lun* on Facebook. They look like a very happy family. *Ma Lun* is an adorable little guy and appears to be quite healthy, happy and good-natured. They are planning on coming to Mystic for Christmas and I am certainly looking forward to holding my new grandson. He will be almost one year old by then and will probably be walking.

On another note, my daughter, *Kim*, and I enjoyed a wonderful 12-day Mediterranean cruise in June aboard the beautiful cruise ship, *Celebrity Solstice*. We started in Barcelona and made stops in Naples, Rome, Florence and Venice, Italy; Kotar, Montenegro and Dubrovnik, Croatia. We saw so many beautiful places, historic forts, walled cities and absolutely gorgeous scenery that my poor brain became completely over-whelmed. However, I guess that's what cameras and journals are for! I loved Venice and sailing into port there on a perfect day with bright sun, blue sky and white clouds was indescribable. I also loved Montenegro and Croatia on the Amalfi Coast where it is claimed the water is the bluest in the world. It was a great two weeks with my daughter - the first time we have ever been away

together - just the two of us."

Meanwhile, **Barbara's** son, *Scott*, who is with the think tank, Center for National Policy (*www.centerforinternationalpolicy.org*), over the last four years has been to the Middle East on 24 trips, that usually last several weeks each. These included Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Bahrain. He led the U.S. democracy assistance work in Bahrain and Qatar, assessed our efforts in Afghanistan, and worked with Iraq's Parliament. *Scott* also serves as Police Commissioner in Stonington, CT; is on the Board of L&M Hospital in New London, and is President of the Stonington, CT Free Library.

**Barbara** says "I am thankful that I am in reasonably good health, still in my own home and able to drive. I really enjoy going up to the Mohegan Sun Casino to watch the WNBA pro-team, the *Mohegan Sun*, play basketball - they have several former UConn players on their team and I am a big *Huskies* fan! And, of course, once I am at the casino, I sometimes drop a little money into the slot machines."

On Aug. 23rd **Bob and Beverly Benson** celebrated their 20th anniversary. They also have moved from Old Greenwich, CT to Stamford, CT. Their new address is: 631 Long Ridge Rd. - Unit 14, Stamford, CT 06902, Tel. 203-504-8436, Their e-mail address, *angeldepot@aol.com* is unchanged. With regard to their move, **Bev** sent: "What an experience! Don't move. It's the pits. We moved in on July 27th and we've been unpacking like crazy but we're still in a sea of boxes. Our new house, however, is great."

**Dick Bowers** (P.O. Box 244, Harwich, MA 02645, e-mail: *bayview181@yahoo.com*) advised his recovery from his heart by-pass surgery is "coming along nicely" although he still has problems (i.e., he's real sore when he coughs or sneezes). He said, "I guess I'll just have to give up those two habits."

**Dan Briganti** (1216 Whetstone Drive, Arnold, MD 21012, e-mail: *dantibrig@toadmail.com*) was happy to report that "**Sue** got the go ahead from her surgeon to put up to 50 pounds on her left leg. The immobilizing brace was removed and on August 4th we were able to get her re-admitted to Spa Creek to continue the next level of therapy. On the next day she stood for the first time since May. Eureka! More progress on the walker with a step—then some more—and up to about 16 ft—plus easier transfers. So the outlook is positive and the hard work begins. Her spirits and drive are really good."

Notes and cards of encouragement can be sent to Sue at their home address.

**Dick Donnelly** and **Meris** are back home in Washington, (17818 SE 57th Place, Bellevue, WA 98006 - e-mail: radcesi@aol.com). With **Meris'** help and patience, **Dick** is determined that he will win his battle with mesothelioma. On August 25th, while **Dick** and **Meris** were back east, visiting his son, **Jeff**, **Jane** and I met them in New Bedford, MA; toured the Whaling Museum there; and had lunch with them. **Dick** looks great, but said that he gets tired and that he has to take naps for the first time in his life. He has lost 40 pounds but is walking and working out regularly trying to replace it with muscle.

**Jim** and **LaVerne Irwin** (890 N. Granada Dr., Chandler, AZ 85226 - e-mail: jcilmg@cox.net) are back home in Arizona and both **Jim** and **LaVerne** agree that **LaVerne** is doing well in making slow and steady progress in recovering from the *subdural hematoma*, (bleeding on the brain), that she suffered in June while visiting their daughter, **Julié** in Wilmington, NC.

**Hal** and **Sheila Olson** (1685 Camdem Ct., Arnold, MD 21012, mlandolsons@comcast.net) who are still giving tours of Annapolis, said, "we have been fortunate to have missed the hottest days of this summer and that the cooler weather in the fall will be welcome". Their daughter **Rowena**, a USN doctor stationed in Okinawa, and her family experienced still another typhoon that made an almost direct hit on the island in early August with 41 inches of rain in 36 hours. **Rowena** has orders to NAS Oceana and cannot wait to leave Okinawa and come back to the states. The **Olsons'** son, **Daniel**, has moved into his quarters at the USNA and is well into his assignment as a Battalion Officer. He enjoys his "commute" to work, which is just a five minute walk!

We were sad to learn from **Bill Russell** (2613 Woodfern Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192, e-mail: olddog56@aol.com) that his mother, who was 99, had died on June 29th in San Rafael, CA. "**Russ**" said his mother, who was just six months shy of her 100th birthday, had been living independently in her own home right up until her death.

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"On the lighter side ....."

These are excerpts from an e-mail that **Barbara Mann** received from a friend:

"I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be

older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing "bass-ackwards".

Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35.

Researchers say 18-year olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

If captured, we couldn't "spill the beans" because we forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brain-teaser!

Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course, however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with a rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training.

Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl, and he still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his neck.

And, how about recruiting women over 50 ..... in menopause! You think men have attitudes! Ohhhhhh my God! If nothing else, put them on border patrol ..... they'd have it secured the first night!"

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Thanks to **Bill Bruinsma** for this about PARAPROSDOKIANS " A Figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation." "Where there's a will, I want to be in it," is a type of paraproisdokian. Here are a couple of others

- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list of things to do.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

# House Concurrent Resolution 38 Text

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

(By Delegate Smith)

Requesting the Division of Highways to name bridge number 21-79- 95.73 on I-79 in Weston, West Virginia, the "Colonel James E. Hiteshew Memorial Bridge."

Whereas, James Edward Hiteshew was born October 8, 1930, in Weston, West Virginia, the son of Olive and John Hiteshew; and

Whereas, He attended a two-room country school for the first six grades and then went to Weston Junior High School and Weston High School; and

Whereas, While in school, he participated in various activities. He was president of the senior class and captain of the football team and an all-conference and second team all-state football guard his senior year of high school; and

Whereas, After graduation from high school in 1948, he attended Glenville College, West Virginia Wesleyan College and the United States Coast Guard Academy before entering the Air Force as an aviation cadet in 1952; and

Whereas, He received his wings and commission in September 1953 and then after completing gunnery school at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) Arizona, he was assigned to the 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group at Langley AFB, Virginia and several other assignments throughout the United States and abroad; and

Whereas, Colonel Hiteshew departed for Southeast Asia on September 18, 1966 and was stationed at Takhli Air Base; and

Whereas, He was flying over Vinh Phu province on his 75<sup>th</sup> mission when his F-105 Thunderchief was shot down on March 11, 1967 and was captured; and

Whereas, Colonel Hiteshew's emergency beepers had been heard and his parachute was

observed, but immediate rescue in hostile territory proved impossible; and  
Whereas, While a prisoner of war in North Vietnam Colonel Hiteshew lived in for six years in a twelve-foot cell, was repeatedly beaten by his captures and tied to a post so villagers could pelt him with rocks; and  
Whereas, He utilized tapped codes to stay in touch with other prisoners during his six year stay before being repatriated with other POWs on March 4, 1973; and  
Whereas, During Vietnam POW's reunion in 1996, he recalled that he suffered a broken right arm, a broken left elbow, a badly fractured right leg and a broken left leg after he ejected from his aircraft; and  
Whereas, Colonel Hiteshew retired from the Air Force in 1979; and  
Whereas, After Retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Hiteshew started the Air Force Junior ROTC Detachment at Easter Wayne High School in Goldsboro, North Carolina where his unique teaching style and quick wit developed his detachment into one of the "showcase" detachments in the Southeast region of the United States; and  
Whereas, Colonel Hiteshew bravely earned the decorations of two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts and the Meritorious Service Medal; and  
Whereas, Colonel James Edward Hiteshew was married to Wilma "Billie" Coarathers Hiteshew, was father to Michael Dave and Susan Jeanne Davis and grandfather of Michael James Davis and David Ryan Davis; therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Division of Highways is hereby requested to name bridge number 21-79-95.73 on I-79 in Weston, West Virginia, the "Colonel James E. Hiteshew Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is requested to have made and be placed, signs identifying the bridge as the "Colonel James E. Hiteshew Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates forward a certified copy of this resolution to the family of James E. Hiteshew and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.