



October 1, 2016

Volume 7

Marine Corps OCS Classmates Reunited at Navy League meeting

At a recent Navy League meeting two of our members were delighted to learn that they went through the Marine Corps Officer Candidate Course at Quantico, Virginia at the same time – spring of 1962. In fact they were in the same platoon and shared squad bay space just a few feet from each other. Jerry Lechtenberg says he was too busy during those months “just trying to survive OCS” to now remember much about his fellow candidates, but Wayne Zetzman, aided by some wonderful photos from that time, recalls many details.

The following are excerpts from their ongoing dialogue

reminiscing about those grueling three months.

Wayne: I was in survival mode too, especially after Sergeant Roller and Gunnery Sergeant Davis let us know that we were the “most screwed-up recruits that had ever been sent to Quantico.” Please notice in the photo that accompanies this story just how intimidating they were. Their postures! Their scowls!

Wayne: I certainly remember the extra PT on the bar for those of us that didn't join in great condition. The Powerline Trail was not my favorite running course. Our platoon always seemed to get held over after our normal break time for some unknown infringement.

Jerry: When speaking to the sergeants, the first word out of our mouth was Sir! and the last word was Sir! Using very salty language, they let us know that the Marine Corps had drastically lowered the standards to permit such a group of low life to be in their squad bay and their Marine Corps. The training lasted about three months, and if the candidate survived, he was rewarded with a commission as a second lieutenant.

We quickly learned Marine lingo. Underwear became skivvies, pants were trousers, the floor was the deck, the ceiling was the overhead, and the walls were bulkheads, and the local tavern was known as the slop chute.



Membership Info:
Jack Rush
jackrush7376@gmail.com
913.219.7460

Meeting Info:
Ward Cook
816-210-3276
ward@cozadcompany.com

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BALL
INVITATION
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Jerry Lechtenberg front left and Wayne Zetzman upper right –from OCS Platoon picture 1962 on right



Reunited (cont.)

Wayne: I certainly remember the extra PT on the bar for those of us that didn't join in great condition. The powerline trail was not my favorite running course. Our platoon always seemed to get held over after our normal break time for some unknown infringement.

Jerry: The days were long---up at 5 AM and lights out at 10 PM and we were busy with close order drill, class work, physical training, and the runs on dirt trails in the Virginia hills and woods. The trail run rule was that no matter how difficult it was, we were expected to stay with the group and complete the exercise. Legs felt like rubber bands, our lungs were on fire and we were gasping for air as we reached the hill tops. Dismissal was likely for those not completing the exercise. Captain Mason, a red haired fellow, ran beside us, soaking wet with sweat, and informed us that "every day is a holiday, and every meal is a banquet in the Marine Corps." I still think that is funny.

Jerry: Do you remember our having to clean the squad bay?

Wayne: Of course. It wasn't fun cleaning the squad bay floor with steel wool! On Saturday mornings, we had "junk on the bunk" inspections. M-14 rifles, clothing and equipment had to be laid out in a prescribed manor. We failed the first several inspections and the company commander could always find minuscule imperfections, filth and corruption. I don't believe we ever passed an inspection with the first two tries.

Jerry: But eventually it got easier. After seven long weeks, we became adjusted to the routine and the training was less stressful. We began passing our inspections.

Wayne: I believe that our experience was pretty normal for all officer candidates, and probably is the same

culture and training today as it was when we were at OCS in 1962. Just thinking about that time brings back some good and valuable memories of what I (and my platoon mates) lived through and accomplished. It certainly was a confidence builder and gave me a good platform for the future.

Jerry: Without question, OCS training taught us how to handle difficult challenges. If a young person is prepared to be placed in stressful conditions and can survive, then I would certainly recommend Officer Candidate School.

WAYNE ZETZMAN'S CAREER

Wayne went on to have a long career with the Marines Corps Reserve eventually achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. After basic school he attended supply school and then was assigned to the Marine reconnaissance battalion at Camp Pendleton, California. Thanks to the physical conditioning from OCS and Basic School, Wayne was selected as the OIC of the scuba unit. For scuba he attended the naval EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) school in Hawaii. In the reconnaissance battalion he enjoyed the experience of repelling, combat swimming, rubber boat work, and the underwater exit from a submarine.

After his active duty, Wayne returned to Minneapolis, earned his CPA certificate and was a Marine reservist for twenty three years. He came to Kansas City as the chief financial officer for Payless Cashways. He also spent 15 years as a financial analyst in process improvement consulting.

Wayne has three sons; Patrick, Tim, and Dan all living in different cities, and four grandchildren. His wife passed away seven years ago. He is now engaged to Frannie Hendricks. His home is in Lenexa, Kansas.

JERRY LECHTENBERG'S CAREER

After his tour of duty, Jerry retired as a first lieutenant and returned to civilian life in Overland Park, Kansas. Still active in business, Jerry has managed all aspects of commercial real estate development, sales and leases and property management for more than 50 years primarily in the Greater Kansas City area but also in many Kansas communities. Jerry and his wife Rita raised five daughters and now have five grandchildren.

Interested in a Council Leadership Position?

The Board of Directors are about to prepare a Nominating Slate for 2017 for Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs who lead the Council in the coming year. If you are interested in leadership position, serving as a director on the board or have questions contact me or a board member. If there is someone you want to nominate check to make sure they will agree to serve. Self nomination or volunteering is also welcome. I am especially interested in these Committees: Awards Committee, Program Committee, and Active Duty Relations Committee.

We are also be planning our Annual Membership Meeting for January 19, 2017, where we will install our new leadership and present the 2016 Awards. It will be an evening event, taking the place of our Holiday Dinner Event. So it will be a social event for spouses or dates.



Shawnee Mission North High School Wins NJROTC National Competition

Shawnee Mission North High School from Overland Park, Kansas, was crowned the 2016 Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps National Academic, Athletic and Drill Champion on board Naval Air Station Pensacola April 1-2.

The 24 NJROTC units, representing 13 states from coast to coast, were challenged on their athleticism, tested in academics and evaluated on the drill deck during the competition held at the Naval Air Technical Training Center's Chevalier Hall.

Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans, commander, Naval Service Training Command, presented the trophies to the top five units at an awards ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation after the competition was finished.

NJROTC is a citizenship development program that instills in high school students and in U.S. secondary educational institutions the value of citizenship and service to the United States.

"This championship was a culmination of all the hard work we have put in the last four years," said Cadet Hope McAlexander, a senior at Shawnee Mission North High School. "We have an incredible team with a great



group of seniors and excellent instructors."

This is the first overall championship for the Shawnee Mission North unit which consistently finishes in the Top Ten. This justifies and sustains the fact that if you work for something you will achieve it. They work, work, work and we had a lot of great seniors leading them.

"I am so proud of my team," said retired Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dennis Grayless, senior naval science instructor at Shawnee Mission North High School.

"They embody traits of selflessness and sacrifice."

The personnel inspections, color guard and the drill events at the competition were judged by Navy recruit division commanders and Marine Corps drill instructors from Officer Training Command, Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. Approximately 26 of 573 NJROTC units worldwide qualify for the national competition annually.

In addition to regular classroom instruction, NJROTC cadets participate in a number of extra-curricular activities throughout the school year and during the summer months that are designed to stimulate learning by hands-on experiences and to reinforce the program's curriculum. Cadet extra-curricular activities include community service projects, drill competitions, academic competitions, visits to naval installations, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) training.



The US Army Command and General Staff
College US Navy Element, in conjunction
with the Kansas City Navy League,

requests the pleasure of your company for a
celebration ball in honor of

The United States Navy's 241st Birthday
Saturday, October 15, 2016



Time: Cocktail hour with cash bar at 1800, Dinner at 1900
Location: Frontier Conference Center, 350 Biddle Blvd.,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
Uniform: Dinner Dress Blue Jacket with Mini Medals (O4+);
Dinner Dress Blue with Mini Medals (E1-O3);
Formal Attire (Civilian)
Ticket Price: \$55(E7-O10, Civilian); \$45 (E1-E6)
Please RSVP to Ms. Ann Chapman
(ann.m.chapman14.civ@mail.mil) by 1 October with number
of guests and preference of chicken or beef

Next Council Meeting October 20, 2016

A Lecture and Tour will be the activities of our October 20th Council meeting. A member of the Army Command and General Staff College faculty at Ft. Leavenworth will tell us about the history and development of the Post. The Director of the Navy Element will provide a tour of their command and staff offices as well as brief us on their mission in support of the Navy students. Following these presentations we will tour the Post and conclude with a lunch on site. Names of those attending will be turned in early through the Council President in order to access the security gates easily. A separate email will be issued soon with details

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
Post Office Box 411361
Kansas City, Missouri 64141



The President's Gavel

The Plaza III Restaurant which has become our new meeting site because of the sale of the Hotel where we had been meeting is proving to be a good choice. The location is much more conveniently accessed, the staff is extremely accommodating and the food combines quality and price at a nice level. Perhaps these are the reasons we are seeing some new faces in our midst. We have also had a spectacular list of speakers over the summer starting with LTGEN Duane Thiessen, in June, a USMC Aviator, who is now Director of the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, who brought news about the National Flight Academy which the Museum sponsors there.

In July, Mindy Corporan, whose father and son were both shot and killed by a white supremacist in 2014 while rehearsing here in Kansas City, for a musical production, spoke to us about making a personal response to terrorism and the fear terrorists seek to create in us. She has found a way of coping with her feelings and her loss which she brought to us as a spiritual response to a spiritual problem in our midst that affects all of us. We were on the cutting edge of technology in strategic initiatives for our

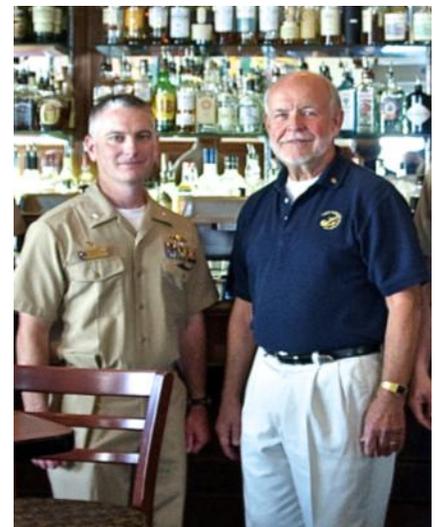
national defense in August and September. The Deputy Director of the Navy Element at Fort Leavenworth, CDR David Stebbins, brought us current information in developments of stealth technology for surface vessels in our fleet and innovations in electrical plant design for meeting future electrical requirements of the surface fleet. Illustrations of these changes are the ships being built and launched now, USS GERALD FORD, USS AMERICA and USS ZUMWALT



President Ron Brooks presents a NL Coin to CDR David Stebbins thanking him for his presentation

Breakfast With the Skipper- Members of the Greater Kansas City Council enjoyed an informal breakfast conversation with the Commanding officer, CDR Frazier Hudson, and five members of the crew of USS MISSOURI (SSN 780) in El Centro

Café in Kansas City, September 21. The captain provided information about the daily activities and training of the ship and its crew. One of the Petty Officers, ETRSN Marcus Woods, is a 2015 graduate of Park Hill High School. He enjoyed visiting his parents and being home again. If you remember, we provided 1,800 pounds of barbecue from Jack's Stack in Kansas City for the ship's commissioning Party in 2014. We continue an ongoing relationship with the command and appreciate the opportunities we have to be of service to the active duty personnel and their families.



President Ron Brooks presents a NL Coin to CDR Frazier Hudson, Captain of the USS Missouri (SSN 780)