



# USS Lafayette SSBN 616 Association



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Vol 1

2020

## *Message From Our President Capt Harold Willimas*

CAPT Harold Williams, USN, (Ret), is a 1969 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served in the Submarine Force for 30 years until his retirement in 1999. He is the son of a World War II submarine officer, who completed 8 war patrols in the Pacific Fleet, serving on 8 submarines and commanding 3.

Upon graduation, he completed nuclear power training, basic submarine school, and reported to his first submarine, the USS Guardfish, (SSN-612), in Pascagoula, Mississippi. After the overhaul, he rode her around to Hawaii, through the Panama Canal. After submarine qualification, he attended the submarine officer advanced course, qualified as a nuclear engineer and as a Navy diver and served on 3 more submarines. In 1987, he relieved as the Commanding Officer of the USS Lafayette, (SSBN-616) (Blue), and completed 5 patrols out of Holy Loch, Scotland. He was next assigned as the Deputy Commander for Material, COMSUBRON 10 in New London, CT. A brief tour as the Commanding Officer of the USS Gato, (SSN-615) followed.

He was selected as an Acquisition Professional in 1991 and relieved the Major Program Manager (PMW-181) of the SOSUS system and later followed as the Program Director, (PD-80) the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System. His

last assignment was as the Commanding Officer of NRaD, the Navy's C4ISR laboratory on Point Loma, CA.

Following his retirement in 1999, CAPT Williams worked for PriceWaterhouse Coopers, and then for IBM as a Delivery Program Executive, retiring again in 2013. In 2019, he became the President of the USS Lafayette (SSBN-616) Association. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit (3), the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Meritorious Medal. He and his wife Mary Martin, from Hollister, CA, have been married for 40 years and live in Bay Ho, by San Diego.



# *Message From Our Vice President*

## *Carl M. Brown, Jr.*

I presently live in St. Petersburg FL with my wife Velmon of 50 years this March 22<sup>nd</sup> and our Shih Tzu and Poodle mixed pup named Henry. I was born and raised in St. Petersburg FL. I graduated from St. Petersburg Senior High School and upon graduation I enrolled into St. Petersburg Junior College. In March of 1970, I married a blind date that I met in the summer between my junior and senior years of high school. Our relationship grew with each passing day. She felt that I should have gone on to college and finished prior to marriage, but I knew from the very first kiss, that she was the love of my life. Together we have produced three fine boys, two were born in St. Petersburg FL and the baby boy was born in Naples Italy.

I was drafted in September 1970 due to the Jr. College having issues in notifying the draft board of those who were still in school. The draft board gave me until June of 1971 to complete my two year degree. In January of 1971, I didn't have the funds to pay for my college courses, therefore I decided that I should join the Army before I was drafted so that I could have a choice of jobs. When we sat with the Army Recruiter, he couldn't make any promises as to the type of job I could get, he would only promise me two years. After leaving the Army recruiter's office, I told my wife that what we just witnessed was the promise of two years in the Army with 18 month hitch in Viet Nam.

So, we went to the Air Force to see what they could offer me. The Air Force couldn't offer me anything except four years. He said if his son had to go into the service, he would direct him to the Navy due to a Nuclear Power program. He said that I would have to sign up for six years but the first two years are like going to college to get a four year college degree. He had a full page ad in The St. Petersburg Times telling about the Chrystal River Nuclear Power plant. This was very attractive and the Air Force recruiter took me over to the Navy recruiter and introduced me to a BTC (BOILERMAN CHIEF). I qualified and enlisted into the program. However, in boot camp, somehow I did not score the necessary points to remain qualified. So, I had to make choices out of three possible skilled jobs. I selected Sub School thinking that it wasn't an "A" school and that I

would have time to decide which "A" school to select. However, Sub School became my "A" school and I ended up getting orders after Sub School to the USS George Washington SSBN 598 located in Charleston SC. When I reported to the George Washington, the boat had too many Seamen, therefore I was assigned to the seamen pool at Charleston Naval base. This was the best duty I had in the Navy because all we had to do was paint the barracks of the SSBN crews that were leaving to swap with the other crew. I had a nuke ET1(SS) from the USS Lafayette who was completing his time in the Navy but didn't have enough time to make a patrol as our LPO. This duty lasted from late January until early March when I was pulled from the Seamen pool to be assigned to the USS Lafayette SSBN 616 Blue crew. I served on the Lafayette from March 1971 until May 1976. I left the USS Lafayette as an RM2(SS). After complete a RM "B" School in San Diego CA, I reported to Commander Submarine Group 8 in Naples, Italy. Shortly after arriving I put on RM1(SS) and served until September 1979 when I was Honorably discharged.

In 1994, I joined the Navy Reserves where I served until I retired in May of 2010 as a ET1(SS). My two oldest sons are presently serving as Navy Reservists of which one is an ET2, who shortly will be retiring with 20 years of service and our middle son is an ET1 who has about three year to go before retiring. At one point of our Navy Reserve service we three (father and 2 sons) served in the same Navy Reserve Unit. My third son would have joined as well but flat feet kept him from joining.

For over 30 years I have served my congregation as a Deacon and now as an Elder of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ. A service I truly find joy in doing and continue to do to this day.



# *Message From Our Secretary*

## *Ed Burdick*

Ed was born in Lancaster, PA and grew up in Colonie, NY. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1969. Following Recruit Training, he attended Yeoman Class "A" School in Bainbridge, MD, upon completion, he reported to Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet as the Flag Secretary's Yeoman. During his tour he was advanced to Yeoman Second Class. In 1972 he reported to Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT where he served as the Chief Staff Officer's Yeoman. In 1975, he was assigned to Commanding Officer, Training Squadron THREE in Milton, FL and advanced to Yeoman First Class.

Volunteering for submarine duty, he graduated from Basic Enlisted Submarine School in July 1978 and was assigned to USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN 616)(BLUE) where he earned his enlisted dolphins. He was advanced to Chief Petty Officer in 1980 and commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer Ensign in April 1982.

After attending Officer Indoctrination School in Pensacola, FL, Ed reported in July 1982 as the Squadron Secretary to Commander Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN in Kings Bay, GA. In October 1985, he was assigned as the Admin Officer, USS HUNLEY (AS 31) in Holy Loch, Scotland where he earned his Surface Warfare Officer Insignia. In 1987 he reported to Commander Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN as Squadron Secretary. In December 1989, Ed reported to the Personnel Support Activity, New London for Duty Under Instruction while enrolled in the College Degree Program at Eastern Connecticut State University. He graduated with honors and received his Bachelor of General Studies Degree in 1990 and reported as the Flag Secretary to Commander Submarine Group TWO in Groton, CT. In March 1994, he became the Officer in Charge, Personnel Support Activity Detachment, New London and in November 1995 he reported as Head, Performance Evaluation Section, Washington, DC. In April 1998, Ed reported to Commander, Submarine Group NINE as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and Executive Officer Staff and Transient Personnel. In March 2000, Ed reported to USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) as Administrative Officer. In August 2001, he reported as Executive Officer, Navy Recruiting District, St Louis and in July 2003, he became the Commanding Officer, Navy Recruiting District, St Louis.

In July 2005, he reported to the Staff of Commander Operational Test and Evaluation as the Admin Officer and Commanding Officer of Enlisted Troops. In Jan 2006, Ed reported to the Staff of Commander Submarine Force as the Assistant Chief of Staff of Force Personnel and in June 2006 he reported to the Staff of Commander Surface Force, Atlantic as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel. He retired in May 2007.

After retirement, he was hired as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel at Commander Surface Force, Atlantic as a GS-14. He fully retired in Jan 2016.

Following his retirement, he served as a member of the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council from 2016-2019.

In addition to various service medals and unit citations, he is authorized to wear the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one Silver Star, Navy Commendation Medal with one Gold Star, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Good Conduct Medal with two Bronze Stars, Surface Warfare Officer Insignia, Enlisted Submarine Insignia and the SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia with one Silver Star and one Gold Star.

Ed is married to the former Cindy M. Mauceri of Schenectady, NY. The Burdick's reside in Savannah, GA.



# *Message From Our Treasurer*

## *Mike Skivington*

Presently, I reside in East Meadow, NY with my wife, Julie, and our two feline dependents, Jake and Sophie. I was born in Concord, NH, and from the age of four, I was raised in Brooklyn, NY. I attended Brooklyn Preparatory High School, and upon graduation, I attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY for one year. I joined the Navy Nuclear Power Program in July 1977, and reported to my first boat, USS Lafayette, in March 1979. I proudly served aboard her until August 1983 as a First Class Machinist Mate, and my duties included Engine Room Supervisor, QA Petty Officer, Hydrostatic Test Petty Officer, Diesel Engine Petty Officer, and Ship's Photographer. After being honorably discharged from the Navy in January 1986, I attended college at Texas A&M University, and received several engineering degrees. In 1994, I went to work at Los Alamos National Laboratory where I led an engineering team tasked with designing a passively-cooled storage facility for dismantled nuclear warheads. In 1996, I returned to New York, and transitioned into the information technology field; specializing in Oracle/Hyperion databases and applications. I retired in June, 2019 and became

the Lafayette Trasure at the 2015 reunion. As a firm believer in lifelong, continuing education, I recently completed a certificate program in accounting at New York University, and plan to seek another master's degree in information technology in the near future.

As the association's Treasurer, I am very much looking forward to continuing the excellent work that Joe Geiger has done, and should any questions or issues arise, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.



The Association annual dues are \$10.00 and are collected in two year increments of \$20. A secure payment can be made via PayPal below or checks made payable to the USS Lafayette Association can be mailed to the Treasurer at:

Mike Skivington, 811 Surrey Dr, East Meadow, NY  
11554

If you have questions you may email or call Mike Skivington at:  
ssbn616nuke@yahoo.com or 516-432-3477

## *Message From Our Chaplain*

### *Harvey McFadden*

Harvey served in the Navy from 1973 - 1995. He and his wife, Sharon, are both from Houston, TX, and have been married since 1975. Harvey first served on the USS Robert E Lee, SSBN 601; and then on the USS Thomas Edison, SSBN 610, both out of Pearl Harbor. After Sonar "C" School, in 1979, he then reported to the Lafayette, (Gold/Overhaul/Blue), leaving in 1983. After instructor duty, Harvey reported to the USS James K. Polk, SSBN 645, during overhaul at PNSY. From here, he also did a TAD patrol on USS Will Rogers, SSBN 659, qualifying as COW and DOOW. Harvey served as the Protestant Lay Leader on both the 616 and 645. He left the 645 in 1989, reporting to Naval Ordinance Test Unit, Cape Canaveral/SP-205, until 1992, when he finished out his career at Navy Recruiting District, Houston, as the NROTC scholarship coordinator; retiring in Nov., 1995, as an STSCS(SS).

Harvey returned to his old high school in Houston, serving as a NJROTC Naval Science Instructor, for 11 school years (1996 - 2006; and then went full time as an Elvis Tribute

Artist/Country Classics/Gospel singer. He recently surpassed his 3,600th career performance, 75% of which have been in 250 different retirement centers (nursing homes/assisted living) all over Texas.

Harvey and Sharon live in Hawley, TX, near Abilene. They have served in various capacities in many different churches over the years. They are both on the praise team at Clearfork Baptist Church where Harvey is also a deacon. They have raised 4 children and are soon expecting their 12th grandchild.



## *Message From Our WebMaster*

### *Randall (Randy) Bolin*

Joined the USS Lafayette Blue crew in fall of 1986. Deterrent Patrols 63.65.67.69.71. Served under Skippers Henry Herrera and Hal Williams. Worked with a great bunch in NavCenter. We always finished our refit and turnover duties early, known to be the first on liberty!

In the summer of 1989 given orders to report to USS Canopus stationed at Kings Bay. Immediately upon reporting we sailed to Sparrows Point Shipyards for overhaul. Spent over a year there, with a shakedown cruise to Saint Thomas V.I. for port visit. Although assigned to W5, spent most of time onboard TAD to Master at Arms.

Most memorable times: Road trip to check out castles in Scotland, getting to go to the 1988 Worlds Fair International Exhibition in Glasgow, Scotland, Port call Lisbon, Portugal.

Most embarrassing time: Falling asleep on toilet in Charleston, SC and missing MAC flight boarding to Groton.

Since separating from the Navy I have held many civilian jobs, mostly in the transportation industry as a mechanic,

dispatcher and driver. The highlights of that career: 9 years driving the UFC truck around the country, setting up the Octagon and working the shows as a Gate Keeper: 3 years with the Post Office trucking mail to and from stations. I also worked for 2 years sub-contractor to the IT dept of a banking chain in northern Missouri.

Having retired to our small farm here in middle Tennessee last year, I now have time to do things besides working and driving to and from. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve my shipmates in the role of Web Master!



# Eternal Patrol Section of the Winter 2020 Newsletter

Happy New Year shipmates! I hope and pray that you're all doing well!

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to informing you of our shipmates who have gone on Eternal Patrol since our reunion in Austin, TX. The shipmates listed below will be honored at a Tolling of the Bell Ceremony during our 2021 reunion.

Since our last reunion we have been made aware of an additional five shipmates who have gone on Eternal Patrol: Richard R. Alkire, 8/13/19; William F. Bundy, 12/15/19; Arlie N. Henry, 6/25/19; John H. MacKinnon, 11/22/19; Franklin D. Pierce, 10/16/19. Their obituaries follow:

## Alkire, Richard R (Blue 62-64 FT)

Richard R Alkire – Ladson, SC - Richard a retired Master Chief FTSM, passed away on Saturday August 31st, 2019. Papa Rich or "Alkie" as he was known was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather as well as friend to all he met who will be greatly missed by all who loved him. Rich was born in Aurora, CO on October 2, 1937 and was the only son of the late Raymond A and Irene B Alkire. He graduated from Aurora High School in 1955 and joined the Navy. During his 28-year Navy career he rose to the rank of E9 Master Chief and garnered the respect of all he met. Upon retiring from the Navy, he embarked a 20-year career with Milcom systems where he continued working on Navy vessels as defense contractor. An avid fisherman and hunter, who was called by many as "the best fishermen they ever knew". While in Washington State he held the base record for the largest King Salmon caught a 35 lbs that stood for over 30 years. Also, in Washington he caught a 12.5 lbs Beardslee Rainbow Trout in lake Crescent and was a record for several years. In the Gulf of Mexico, he caught a 137 lbs sail fish. In South Carolina won numerous bass fishing tournaments. Rich is survived by his loving wife of 50 years Nancy J Alkire; son Neill Kirkpatrick, daughters Kellie Kirkpatrick and Felicia Alkire; granddaughters C Jordan Kirkpatrick DVM, Hannah Sylvester and Beth Alkire and grandsons Logan Grimbball and Hunter Alkire; great-granddaughters Lilly and Abbie Sylvester.

## Bundy, William F (Blue 84-85 LCDR)

CDR William F Bundy, PH.D., US Navy Ret (1946 – 2019) was an Associate Provost at the US Naval War College where he focused on technology integration to the United States Navy. With over forty years of service to the United States, Dr Bundy enlisted in the Navy and rose to the rank of Chief Sonar Technician (Submarines) prior to being commissioned as a Naval Officer. He held various positions in the Navy including Command of a submarine and as the Director, Naval Officer Candidate School. He ended his active duty career as a Commander. He was a member of the Centennial Seven

- one of the first seven African Americans to command one of our nation's submarines in the first 100 years of the nation's submarine force. While in the Navy, Commander Bundy earned a Defense Meritorious Service award and a Meritorious Service Award in addition to over twenty other personal, unit, campaign, and service medals. He was recognized as the 1993 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement in Government and the US Navy League's Dalton L. Baugh award for inspirational leadership in recognition of his professional accomplishments during his service in the Navy. In private life, he served as the Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, was a FleetBoston Financial Executive prior to assuming his civilian position at the Naval War College. He has also served on numerous local and national boards of directors. He was an adjunct professor at Providence College and Salve Regina University where he taught leadership, business organization, and ethics courses. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanne Bundy of Bristol, RI, two sons and a daughter, William, Raymond, and Andrena. He has three grandchildren, Matthew, Eleanor and Annalise. He was a mentor to all and a role model to many aspiring and current Naval Officers. He holds advanced degrees from Salve Regina University and the Naval War College, and the University of Hawaii.

## Henry, Arlie N (Blue 74-75 ETR)

Arlie Nathan Henry, age 71, of Knoxville passed away peacefully early Tuesday morning, June 25, 2019 at his home. Arlie was a member of Farragut Christian. He was a veteran of the US Navy after 26 years of service retiring as a Lt Commander. Arlie was an avid Tennessee fan. He is preceded in death by his parents, Arlie Cox Henry and Virginia Daire Henry; sister, Virginia Elaine Richardson. Arlie is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kathleen Helfst Henry; children, Joel (Patty) Henry, Chris (Melissa) Henry and Jonathan (Jessica) Henry; daughter by love, Ashley Henry; grandchildren, Beth, Nate, John, Payson and Arlie; brother, Gregory Quinn (Marina) Henry; a niece and several nephews.

## MacKinnon, John H (Both 72-76 CDR)

John (Jack) Hutchison MacKinnon, Sr died Nov 22, 2019 at Virginia Hospital Center of heart failure. He was 83. He is remembered for his love of country, family, and service. Jack was born Oct 9, 1936 to Edwin and Thirza MacKinnon in Saginaw, MI. Jack prepped at Culver

## Eternal Patrol Section of the Winter 2020 Newsletter

Military Academy (1954) prior to graduating from the United States Naval Academy with Honors (1958). Admiral Rickover selected Jack for his elite Nuclear Submarine program in 1959-60 in Groton, CT where he met his wife Nadyne "Nikki" Loeffler. They married August 26, 1960. Jack worked his way up in a 20+ year Naval career including Commander of nuclear submarines including both crews of the USS Lafayette SSBN-616, ending up in a leadership role of the Submarine Squadron out of Groton, CT. Upon completion of his military career, Jack had a 20+ year career in the Nuclear power industry. Jack and Nikki lived all over the country with their two children John and Julie. Jack's wife Nikki predeceased him in 2001.

### Pierce, Franklin Dwight (Gold 68-70 ETCS)

Franklin (Frank) Dwight Pierce of Columbia, SC passed away Oct 16, 2019 (age 86). Frank will be interred with Honors at Ft. Jackson National Cemetery during a private family service. Frank is survived by his children Michael Bryan Martin, Lori Anne Pierce, Gerald Franklin Pierce, and Angela Lee Pierce, as well as 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Born March 11, 1933, Frank was destined to live a life on the water and in service. He joined the Navy at age 17, serving aboard the USS Oriskany as a radarman; his last ship was the Nuclear Submarine USS Lafayette. He also served as radar instructor and retired as a Senior Chief Electronics Technician. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal (5 awards), the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the China Service Medal, and the United Nations Medal.

### Benedict, William H. (Both 72-75 EMCS)

William H. "Skip" Benedict, 63, of Pittsford, passed away Thursday, May 29, 2003, at the Foote Memorial Hospital in Jackson. He was born Nov. 6, 1939, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Henry and Esther (Dull) Benedict. Skip was a career service man attaining the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. He was also involved in the first testing of the Trident Nuclear Submarines; he was a nuclear submarine operator for 14 years and a member of the Fleet Reserve. Skip was a leader who pushed his people to get qualified. When he took the reins of "E" Division qualification of his people was a high priority to him. He motivated the "E" Division crew to get qualified and stay qualified. He was very proud of his people and loved going to sea. Although he went to recruiting duty after his tour on the Lafayette, his heart was still being at sea. He was that type of individual that prospered at sea. When he retired from the Navy, he worked for Mack Steel in Jackson, retiring as Electrical Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Benedict was married Jan. 23, 1963, to Rose David and she survives. Also surviving are two sons, Bill (Eileen) Benedict of Grand Rapids and David (Cindy) Benedict of Jonesville; three daughters,

Rosemarie (Scott) Hinkle of Cumming, GA., Kathy Benedict of Jonesville and Ruth Ann Fernandez of Hillsdale; 18 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Joseph, and a sister. His funeral services took place 11 a.m. Thursday, June 5, 2003 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Jonesville with President James Condon officiating. Skip's body was interred at the Sunset View Cemetery in Jonesville.

Please keep their families in your prayers, especially those that have gone on Eternal Patrol within the past year.

Please inform me or Harvey McFadden of any shipmate you know that has gone on Eternal Patrol. I am responsible for making contact with the family and sending sympathy cards on behalf of the Association. I also inform our association officers and make sure the obituary is posted.

If you should need prayer or you know of anyone that does, please let me know. I can be contacted by phone at (423)310-3331 or by email at [jcfornicola@gmail.com](mailto:jcfornicola@gmail.com).

Until our next newsletter:

"I pray that you prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." 1 John 1:2

May God richly bless all of you!

Chaplain John



Reunion'19, August 13-16, 2019  
Austin, TX



If you missed 2019 reunion,  
Then Don't miss the 2021 Reunion  
It will be one special memory  
That you will never Forget....