

## USCGA Class of 1969 - 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Information

### Bulletin #3 – USCGA 1969 Golden Tide Rips

As part of our CGA Class of 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion celebration, we will be creating a “USCGA 1969 Golden Tide Rips” yearbook to share with our classmates, families, and friends!

I (Wayne Gronlund) have agreed to serve as editor for this important undertaking! Mike Sprague has also agreed to help. We could also use assistance from a couple of others – please see the details below.

I have been in touch with Mont Smith from '68 who was the editor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook. He has sent me a detailed explanation of what they did, the pitfalls they encountered, and the lessons they learned. Cliff Carter from '67 also shared a copy of their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook. The information derived from their experiences has been invaluable in helping get our project started on the right track.

Example pages from the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Yearbook from the Class of 1968 are included to give you an idea of what you might want to include on your pages.

Each classmate will have two facing pages in the book. Included will be a summary of your Coast Guard assignments and/or civilian career, whatever photos you would like to share, and a narrative/essay section written by you. In order to keep this project workable, the following guidelines apply:

- Your Coast Guard assignment summary ought to include years, job, organization title, and location and any noteworthy events.
- Our planned format can accommodate 4 to 6 photos. If possible, please send us photos in jpeg format with resolution of at least 72 dpi (higher is better) when the image is adjusted to about 2x3 inches in size. If you only have the photo in another digital format, send it anyway and we will convert it. If you only have hardcopy of the photo and can't provide a digital version, please email me ([tahoekid@mac.com](mailto:tahoekid@mac.com)) and we can figure out the best way to handle it.
- For grads, I will be scanning the official photo from your 1/c page in the 1969 Tide Rips. For non-grads, I will look for an underclass photo in Tide Rips. This photo will appear in the upper right corner of your first page. One other “picture of choice” will appear in the upper left corner.
- The contents of the narrative section will be whatever you would like to share, including talking about life since the Academy, education, jobs, family, activities, and keen interests. This section ought to be 500-750 words in length.
- For our deceased classmates, we eagerly welcome and encourage a submission from their widow, children, or other family member to help make our yearbook as meaningful and complete as possible.

- One important objective of this project is to help us reconnect with each other. Please indicate if you would like your email address included on your page.
- As this project moves forward, we will email you a proof copy (PDF) so you will have the opportunity to proof/review/comment/ change your page, so we get it right!
- We are actively working on this project and need your submissions as soon as possible! The sooner the better!!
- If you have any good photos from any of our previous Reunions, please send those so we can add pages covering those events.
- **In order to get our Golden Tide Rips published in time for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion weekend (3-6 October 2019), we absolutely need ALL yearbook material submitted NOT LATER THAN 1 MAY 2019!**
- Email your submissions to Wayne Gronlund: [tahoekid@mac.com](mailto:tahoekid@mac.com)
- 1 May 2019 is a hard, no-slip deadline – missing it means your submission is likely to not make it into the yearbook!!
- You are free to submit your page contents (assignment summary, photos, and narrative) separately if that helps, so we can get started on building the layout as soon as possible!
- The ultimate success of this endeavor is dependent on your timely support!

To date, Mike Sprague and I have committed to this worthwhile project. We could certainly use some more help! Specifically:

- If someone is digital-photo-savvy, has the requisite software, and is willing to help with quality control of the photos (i.e., adjust size/format/light/dark/color balance/contrast/etc), that would benefit our process flow.
- If someone is especially good at grammar and writing, reviewing and editing the text submissions would facilitate the overall development process of our yearbook.

If you are interested in helping with one of these two tasks and have the time/inclination to do so, please email me at [tahoekid@mac.com](mailto:tahoekid@mac.com) as soon as possible so we can setup Dropbox sharing, etc as needed.

USCGA 1969 Golden Tide Rips Working Group  
 Wayne Gronlund – [tahoekid@mac.com](mailto:tahoekid@mac.com)  
 Mike Sprague – [spraguem53@gmail.com](mailto:spraguem53@gmail.com)  
 Others – TBD

**ALL yearbook material needs to be submitted NOT LATER THAN 1 MAY 2019!**



# Bill McGrath

Oak Bluffs, MA

## Coast Guard Assignments:

- '68-'69 Deck Watch Officer, USCGC *Iris* (WLB-395), Galveston TX
- '69-'71 Executive Officer, USCGC *Fir* (WLM-212), Seattle, WA
- '71-'74 Instructor, Professional Studies Department, USCG Academy, New London, CT;  
Summer Planner and Communications/Operations Officer, Sailmaster USCGC  
*Eagle* (WIX-327) during three summers: East Coast, Gulf Coast, Caribbean and  
Europe, including OPSAIL/Tall Ships '74
- '74-'76 Executive Officer, USCGC *Madrona* (WLB-302), Portsmouth, VA, -
- '76-'77 Masters of Business Administration (Finance), American University, Washington,  
DC
- '77-'80 Cutter Division, Office of Aids to Navigation (WAN), USCG Headquarters (Nassif  
Building), Washington, DC
- '80-'81 Commanding Officer, USCG Base, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- '81-'83 Commanding Officer, USCGC *Sagebrush* (WLB-399), San Juan, Puerto Rico
- '83-'86 Chief, Readiness Division, 3rd Coast Guard District, Governor's island, NY
- '86-'87 Commanding Officer, USCG Detachment, UNITAS XXVIII and WATC-87 - Joint and  
international operational deployment and training exercise circumnavigating South  
America, working with Sea and Military Services from nine South American countries  
and several West African nations. This Coast Guard Detachment made the first public  
visit/exchange to Argentina of US Military after the hostilities of the Malvinas/  
Falklands War.
- '87-'88 Chief of Readiness, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Governor's Island, NY
- '88-'90 Commanding Officer, USCGC *Vigorous* (WMEC-627), New London, CT
- '90-'94 Chief, Readiness Plans Division, Office of Readiness and Reserve, USCG Headquarters  
(Trans Point Building), Washington, DC
- '94 Retired

Peggy and I were married in San Juan on the winter Solstice in '68. Our first son, Liam, joined us in Seattle, WA on my birthday. Our second son, Damien, joined us four years later in Portsmouth, VA. We adopted our daughter, Angel, in Washington, DC when she was two months old. All are friends, each successful with families and productive careers. All live in the larger DC-NY metro area and spend a good part of their lives with us on Martha's Vineyard where they enjoyed most summers while we moved about for the Coast Guard. Our granddaughter Janet joins us every summer in that tradition.

After retirement, I taught Middle and High School mathematics for 5 years in Maryland followed by 11 more at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. During the time at MVRHS, I also taught 3 years for Virtual High School, an online accredited program that included students from across the world.

In Oak Bluffs, I've been an active volunteer in Town Government, four times elected to the Finance Committee for 3 year terms, and appointed for the last 14 years to the Capital Program Committee. I also serve on the Board of the Vineyard's three channel local-access, non-profit Television Station.

Additionally, both Peggy and I volunteer our time and talents to many charities for the less fortunate; hungry, homeless and hurting on the Vineyard.

Since leaving teaching in 2011, we have enjoyed increasing our travel to visit more distant and exotic places. We've been to Peru with Coast Guard friends to explore Cuzco and climb Machu Picchu. While in Lima we met Peggy's Uncle, Aunt and many of her fourteen cousins, all unknown to us even two weeks earlier. We've been to Ireland and found the house in Cork that Peggy's Dad emigrated from when he was 4. We've been to Mexico City and Querétaro in Mexico and to a wedding of close friends in Sao Mateus, Brazil.



We ride bicycles. I spent every summer on the Vineyard growing up. One of my best, earliest memories is biking in a large neighborhood group of dads and moms and uncles with about 20 kids ranging in age from almost 5 (me) to 13. I remember one long ride – might have been 5 miles – where I kept pedaling as fast as I could to keep up. Peggy and I ride a tandem (bicycle built for two) and have owned several since 1970. We've pedaled our tandem the length of Hwy 50, "the worlds loneliest highway," across Nevada, and rode the "Camino

de Santiago" in Spain. We've cycled together in Mexico City, San Juan, Washington, DC and many other lovely places in the U.S. on every coast. My first official act on terminal leave from the Coast Guard, was a cross-country bike ride with my sons from Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. I love to ride my bicycle.



# Peter A. Poerschke

## Birmingham, AL

### Coast Guard Assignments:

- '68-'69 Deck Watch Officer, USCGC *Winnebago* (WHEC-40), Honolulu, HI and USCG Squadron Three, Viet Nam
- '69-'70 Naval Air Basic Training, NAS Pensacola, FL and NAS Corpus Christi, TX
- '70-'73 Master of Science, Electronics Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- '75-'79 Avionics Branch, Aeronautical Engineering Division, USCG Headquarters, Washington, DC
- '79-'82 Engineering & Management Information Systems Divisions, CG AR&SC, Elizabeth City, NC
- '82-'86 Engineer Officer, USCG Air Station Miami, FL
- '86-'87 Commanding Officer, USCG Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, NC
- '87-'88 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- '88-'91 Chief, Training and Education Division, USCG Headquarters, Washington, DC
- '91-'94 Commanding Officer, USCG Aviation Training Center, Mobile, AL
- '94 Chief of Operations, 5th Coast Guard District, Portsmouth, VA
- '94-'96: Chief of Staff, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Headquarters, Governor's Island, NY

I flew the HC-130B (CGAS BARPT), HH-52A (CGAS Miami) and HU-25A (ATC Mobile). After retirement I started work for a guy who was on the board of Norwich University (Peaches put me on to him) as his COO. I stayed there for about a year and a half and then moved to the Hackney Group who bought and sold businesses. I first managed a few of their businesses and then moved to the front office as Human Resources. After five years I moved to a small bank as head of HR and stayed with them for about eight years, until the housing crises caused the bank to fold and I moved to a quick oil change company as HR. After a year with the oil change guys my friends in



**Our younger daughter Mabry's wedding in March of 2015**

the small business group formed a new company and asked me to act as an interim General Manager and I did that for about six months until I decided that my true calling was as a super grandfather and went to work in that capacity. Page and I have spent our time spoiling our grandsons since that time and have never been happier. After we had two girls, we now have two grandsons...never realized how different little boys and girls are. It's a whole different ballgame! But what fun we are having! Both families live less than a half hour away and we see them often. They keep our 'old' hands full as they are 7 (McLean Pitts) and 9 months (August Hicks) at this point.



**Mabry & Thomas' baby August who was named for Peter (his middle name)**



**Peter and McLean Flying an HH-52A helicopter**



**Grandad, Dad, & Grandson**



# Ron Sharp

Las Vegas, NV

## Coast Guard Assignments:

- '68-'70 Deck Watch Officer, CIC Officer, Oceanography Officer USCGC *Pontchartrain* (WHEC- 70), Long Beach, CA\*
- '71-'74 Marine Safety Inspector, Marine Inspection Office, Long Beach, CA. Great Job. Enjoyed the work and challenges.
- '74-'84 Marine Safety Inspector (USCGR), Marine Inspection Office, San Francisco, CA

*\*We spent 20 months on Ocean Station November and Ocean Station Victor, Reserve Cruise and Refresher Training in San Diego. I did a ten month deployment to Market Time Patrols in Viet Nam instead of flight school. My apologies to Mouse Clark, Mike Phillips and their shipmates as we were delayed en route and relieved them a month later than scheduled!! I'm quite sure they have never forgiven us.*

## Post-USCG Work History:

- '74-'94 Self-employed in family business in Central California.
- '94-'96 Field Construction Engineer, Contel Cellular, Fresno, CA
- '96-'00 Field Construction Engineer, GTE Mobilnet, San Francisco, CA
- '00-'15 Implementation Manager, Verizon Wireless, Walnut Creek, CA

## Retired History:

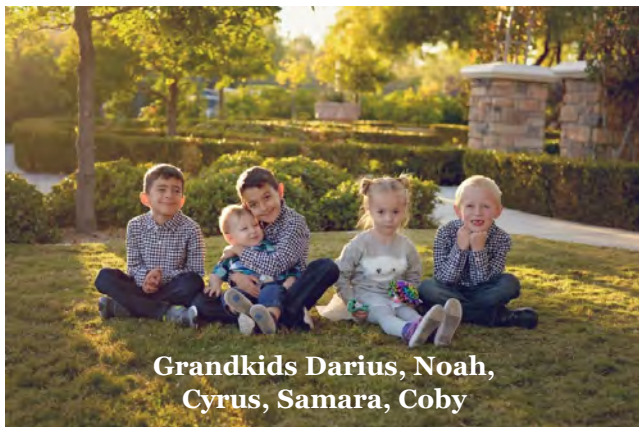
- 2016 Retired from Verizon Wireless and relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada
- '16-pres Doing Contract work for Verizon Wireless in Las Vegas as time permits!!

## Family:

Needless to say, my greatest accomplishment in the last 50 years is my family. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, 3 beautiful children and 5 precious grandchildren.

I met the love of my life after returning from Viet Nam and we were married in November of

1971. She worked the MIO Office...first time I met her she had to call me sir! That did not last long. Our first beautiful daughter, Jennifer, was born in March of 1974.



Grandkids Darius, Noah,  
Cyrus, Samara, Coby

Our son, Gary, was born in March of 1977 and our second daughter, Veronica, in October of 1982. Not being in the service had its benefits on the family side. All my children attended the same school from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

I served on the local school board for eight years and coached at the local high school for 10 years; Freshman Boys, Junior Varsity Basketball and Varsity Football. My kids sometimes did not think that was such a good thing as they were often referred to as

Coach Sharp's kids, or the kid of that school board member!

Daughter #1 attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and graduated top of her class in Business Economics (about the same class rank I had!), worked for Allen Greenspan at Federal Reserve and then obtained her Masters at the University of Wisconsin. She now lives in



Samara, Gary, Ruth, Coby, Darius, Bob, Cyrus,  
Jennifer, Linda, Ron, Veronica, Noah, Cameron



Cyrus, Noah, Linda, Darius,  
Ron, Coby, Samara

San Diego, California with her husband Bob and two of my grandsons, Cyrus and Darius.

Our son attended Reedley Junior College for two years and then attended Southern Utah University on a football scholarship for two years. He was a starting offensive lineman (??) all four years and I was able to attend every game except for one. He now lives in Las Vegas with his wife Ruth and my grandson Coby and granddaughter Samara.

Daughter #2 attended Azusa Pacific University, received her BA degree and traveled the world with a state youth choir where she met her future husband Cameron. They live in Kelso, Washington and have added my 4<sup>th</sup> grandson, Noah.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you, my '68 Classmates, for the impact you have had on my life. Those of you in W-1 Swab Summer, Foxtrot and Bravo Companies, study helpers that kept me eligible, and my Teammates in Basketball, Baseball, and Football. Guys like KB, Zorba, Mondo, L-Bolt, Omar, Schulz, Jerk, Brillo, Rudy, the little giants Dan and Ned, Toz, Ghost, Stan the Man, the Baby Bull, Mouse, Smelly, Anchor Ball, Plant, Monk, Hoovy, Fang, Objee, Mugs, the Polack, Boog, the Hound, Stumpy, and all the rest of you without cool nicknames. I am proud and honored to call each of you Friend and have cherished your friendship and support for the last 54 years. May we have many more.