

“SIR, THIS IS A NAVY BUILDING.”

In July 2006, after years of planning and at a cost of more than \$14 million, the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, RI, dedicated its newly constructed bachelor enlisted quarters *Ripley Hall*, in honor of Colonel John W. Ripley '62, USMC (Ret.).

Colonel Ripley, who attended the preparatory school when it was located in Maryland before entering the Academy, is one of the school's alumni as well as one of the Academy's most recognized graduates, for decorations he received for valor in Vietnam (see article below). In attendance at the dedication ceremony, representing collectively the institutions of Naval education, were Captain Charles Hautau, commanding officer, NAPS; Rear Admiral James C. Van Sice, superintendent, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Rear Admiral John Christenson, commanding officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command; and Vice Admiral Rodney Rempt '66, Superintendent of the Naval Academy.

The dedication also holds significance in that Colonel Ripley is one of very few living Marines to have a structure named in his honor (it is a Marine Corps tradition not to name anything after a living Marine). However, when Colonel Ripley brought this detail to the attention of Admiral Rempt, the reply was “Sir, this is a Navy building.”

Colonel Ripley also holds the distinction as the first Marine to be a recipient of the Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award in 2002.



Passing the knife for the ribbon cutting at the dedication ceremony at Ripley Hall. Pictured from left to right: Mr. Jay Korte, Korte Construction Company; Captain Charles A. Hautau, USN Commanding Officer; Colonel John W. Ripley '62, USMC; Vice Admiral Rodney Rempt '66, USN, Superintendent of the Naval Academy; and Rear Admiral James Van Sice, USCG (Ret.).

A HISTORY OF VALOR AND COURAGE



Lucky Bag, Class of 1962

Throughout the course of his military career, Colonel John W. Ripley '62, USMC (Ret.), has been recognized with many awards and honors. Not only has he received recognition for having more combat experience than any other Marine (a distinction he shares with only one other Marine), the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. However, it was one brave and selfless act more than 34 years ago during one of the most controversial events in American history ago that has memorialized him in the history of the Naval Academy, as well as that of the U.S. military.

During the North Vietnamese Easter Invasion in the spring of 1972, Colonel Ripley was almost single-handedly responsible for blowing up the Dong Ha Bridge. By climbing hand over hand along the girders beneath the bridge, setting charges under enemy fire, he disabled the bridge, checking the onslaught of the approaching North South Vietnamese forces.

Colonel Ripley's brave feat has been memorialized in a painting by Colonel Charles Waterhouse, in a book by John Grider Miller, *The Bridge at Dong Ha*; in a diorama, “Ripley at the Bridge,” on display in the Naval Academy's Bancroft Hall for 21 years; and now in the dedication of the Naval Academy Preparatory School's *Ripley Hall*.



Official military photo



HOMECOMING 2006

- 12-14** HOMECOMING WEEKEND @ USNA
- 12** Alumni/Spouse Homecoming Golf Tournament @ USNA Golf Course, 9 a.m.
- 12-13** Alumni House open for registration, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 12-13** Taproom open with beer, wine and soda available for purchase @ Alumni House, 12-4 p.m.
- 13** Happy Birthday, Navy!
- 13** Alumni Homecoming Golf Championship Tournament @ USNA Golf Course, 9 a.m.
- 13** Formal Parade @ Worden Field, 4 p.m.
- 13** USNA Alumni Association and Foundation Homecoming Celebration @ Alumni Hall, Bo Coppedge Room, 5-7:30 p.m.
- 13** Alumni Water Polo game @ USNA, 7:30 p.m.
- 14** USNA Alumni Association and Foundation tailgate @ Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- 14** Football—Navy vs. Rutgers @ Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, 1:30 p.m.
- 14** Homecoming Dance @ Smoke Hall, 8 p.m.

2006 HOME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM

- 9/02** Navy vs. East Carolina @ 5:30 p.m.
- 9/09** Navy vs. University of Massachusetts @ 1:30 p.m.
- 9/23** Navy vs. Tulsa @ 1:30 p.m.
- 10/14** Navy vs. Rutgers (**Homecoming**) @ 1:30 p.m.
- 11/18** Navy vs. Temple @ 12:30 p.m.

NAVY VS. RUTGERS

On 14 October, Navy will play Rutgers University in the 2006 Homecoming game at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Take the opportunity before the game to catch up with your classmates and other Alumni at the Alumni Association and Foundation tailgate!



ALUMNI TAILGATE

Before the Homecoming game on 14 October, the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation will sponsor a tailgate from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Alumni House will be open on 12-13 October for registration. The Taproom will also be open from noon-4 p.m. with wine, beer and soda available for purchase.

SAVE THE DATE: GLEE CLUB BIDS DIRECTOR FAREWELL

On 13 October, in the midst of the Homecoming Weekend festivities, Alumni, midshipmen, family and friends are invited to attend Dr. Talley's farewell tribute concert in Alumni Hall at 8 p.m. Dr. Barry Talley will be retiring as the director of Musical Activities in December 2006. A highlight of the concert will be former Glee Club members joining the current members on stage for special selections. The overall program for the concert will include arrangements that have been part of the Glee Club's repertoire for the past 35 years. Visit www.usna.edu for more information.

The Men's Glee Club will feature three other concerts during the month of October, as part of their Fall Tour, including:

- 7 October, 7 p.m.**— First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC
- 9 October, 7 p.m.**— Performing Arts Center, Hilton Head High School, Hilton Head, SC
- 10 October 7 p.m.**— Performing Arts Center, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, NC

NEW ADMISSIONS VIDEO FUNDED BY THE CLASS OF '65

The Alumni of the Class of '65 have a long tradition of supporting the Naval Academy, contributing more than \$7 million dollars to the alma mater and its current midshipmen over the years.

Most recently, as part of their \$1.4 million 40th Reunion gift, the Class of '65 funded the production of a new, mission-oriented admissions video, *Leaders of Character Serving the Nation*. This video, which will be used as an informative marketing tool by the admissions department, was unveiled this summer.

BROTHERS, USNA GRADS AND AVIATORS



A Bond Three Times as Strong: After nearly six months apart on separate assignments, brothers, Naval Academy graduates and naval aviators Lieutenant Jason Walborn '01, USN; Lieutenant Steve Walborn '97, USN; and Lieutenant Ben Walborn '01, USN, were reunited in the hangar bay aboard RONALD REAGAN on 18 June, at the onset of Exercise Valiant Shield 2006. This exercise, in which all three brothers were involved, occurred on 19-23 June in the Philippine Sea off the coast of Guam and focused on integrated joint training among U.S. military forces. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Marc Rockwell-Pate

UPDATE ON THE CHALLENGE OF 1977



Seven months into the year-long challenge, donor participation continues to increase. However, the pace has slowed. Please make your gift today to be counted among your Class. Your gift could be worth millions.

A member of the Class of '77 will donate \$200,000 to the USNA Foundation (up to \$1 million) for every one percent increase in donor participation; as well as an additional \$5,000 for every class that can surpass the Class of '77 participation percent.

Contact the Office of Annual Giving for more information at 410-295-4160 or visit www.usna.com.

A NEW LOOK FOR WWW.USNA.COM

In late summer, the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation will launch a new site at www.usna.com. The new design will feature easier navigation and better content organization. Additionally, more features will continue to be announced for Online Community. Interactive polls, an expanded Alumni lookup feature and email opt-out option have recently been added to the site. Visit www.usna.com—your connection to the Naval Academy Community.

SAVE THE DATE: ALUMNI SQUASH MATCH

On 14 October at 8:30 a.m., the annual Alumni Squash Match will be held at the Halsey International Squash Courts. For more information, contact Coach Craig Dawson '73 at 410-353-9190 or at cdawson@usna.edu.



The Naval Academy, circa 1923. Photo courtesy of Special Collections & Archives Division, Nimitz Library, U.S. Naval Academy

SECOND ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE SUMMIT

On 19–21 July, the Naval Academy Foundation, the Conference Board and Academy Leadership sponsored the second annual Leadership Excellence Summit. The summit featured keynote speeches and workshops hosted by leaders of the corporate and military world. Speakers included Jim Donald, CEO of Starbucks Coffee Company; Brad Anderson, CEO of Best Buy Co., Inc.; and Anne Stevens, executive vice president and COO, The Americas, Ford Motor Company. Featured Alumni presenters included Vice Admiral Mike Haskins '66, USN (Ret.); Captain Perry Martini '71, Ph.D., USN (Ret.); Michael J. Duncan '78; Dan Lyons '81; Walter P. Havenstein '71; Colonel Art Athens '78, USMC (Ret.); Eric Grubman '80; Dick Couch '67; and Vice Admiral Rodney P. Rempt '68, USN, USNA Superintendent.



Leaders in the corporate and military world gather at the 2006 Leadership Excellence Summit. Photo by Ray Mitchell

GETTY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO USNA FOUNDATION

In July 2006, the Getty Foundation announced the 13 recipients of 2006 Campus Heritage Grants, including a \$190,000 grant awarded to the Naval Academy Foundation. This grant will enable the Academy to conduct a survey of its historic structures, providing an inventory of the character-defining features and historic attributes of each building. The results of the survey will be used to develop guidelines and strategies for conservation and treatment for these historically significant buildings.



SAVE THE DATE

2006 HALLOWEEN CONCERT

On 27 September, tickets go on sale for the annual Halloween Concert, which boasted a sold out performance last year, attracting more than 4,000 patrons. The 2006 Concert, which will be held in the main Chapel on 27 and 28 October will feature eclectic selections with pieces from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Addam's Family* and *The Munsters*. More than 100 midshipmen will participate in this Broadway-style show, involving special effects, smoke and lights.

This year's concert will also feature a special performance by Naval Academy Organist Monte Maxwell on the Chapel's newly enlarged pipe organ.

For more information, contact the Naval Academy Music Department at 410-293-2439. Tickets will be available from the Naval Academy Music and Theater Ticket Office at 410-293-8497 or by visiting www.usna.edu.