

UNC NROTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 1

February, 1994

Chairman's Report to the Association

First, I would like to encourage each of you to expend a special effort this year to recruit new members for the association. The numbers on our roster have grown now to nearly four hundred, the original modest goal set four years ago. But many of these individuals are not consistent dues-paying members. They are names passed on to us by classmates in anticipation that they might wish to join. If you know of anyone eligible for membership who may be interested in supporting our efforts to enhance the activities of the Unit and add value to the Midshipmen's UNC experience, please contact them or send their name to a member of the Board of Directors.

Your board met recently and set the tone to continue the fine work done by Walt Fitts and his team for the past two years. There are projects on our plate to support the active duty staff, to help the Midshipman Battalion and Association members. We will keep you posted on progress through the Newsletter.

Of more immediate importance to you is the upcoming Spring awards day ceremony announced in this Newsletter. If you are in the Raleigh area and can attend, your support would be much appreciated. This is a most impressive ceremony including a parade with the Marine Corps Band. We hope to gather informally for brunch before the ceremony, so stay tuned for details.

Andy Bunch
Staff 1985-89



The Connor Fund

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Connor Fund has a current balance of \$4,540.85. The annual Connor Award, an aviator's watch and a plaque, is now nearly self-sustaining. A sincere thanks goes out to all who have contributed so far to help perpetuate the memory of this fine Naval Officer, killed in action over the Persian Gulf in 1991.

But, as all who knew Pat Connor ('87) will attest, he was more than a fine officer...he was fine student. He was active in university athletics, an NROTC Battalion Commander, and an outstanding scholar. Therefore, many feel that he should be memorialized on the University campus itself, not only by us through the Connor Award given at each Spring Awards Day. Preliminary research has shown that we can get a brass plaque, approximately 8" by 12" and inscribed as we wish, permanently affixed to a library study carrel for \$2000. It is currently impossible for us to make such an expenditure and continue to make an annual award to the midshipmen.

We need your input. Please let us know how you feel about a permanent memorial to a fallen comrade. Suggestions and gifts in any amount are more than welcome. Remember, your dues in NO WAY support the Connor fund. We need you to keep his memory alive.

Letter of Appreciation

The Alumni Association has received a Letter of Appreciation from Midn 1/C James Hendley. On October 19 of last year, the Board authorized the expenditure of \$700 to assist the midshipmen in their purchase of Unit PT gear. In these times of shrinking budgets and a shrinking battalion at UNC, the Alumni Association's efforts go a long way in helping bolster the esprit de corps that is at the heart of our Unit's leadership training, and the midshipmen do appreciate it.

Spring Awards Day

This year's Spring Awards Day ceremony is will be at 1400 on April 10th. The location will be Paul Derr Track and Field Facility on the N.C. State Campus (see the enclosed letter from Capt Avery). The Second Marine Division Band is scheduled to perform. All UNC NROTC Alumni are cordially invited.

The guest speaker will be RAdm F. Lee Tillotson, USNA '59. RAdm Tillotson is a former F-4 pilot with over 1100 carrier landings and 364 combat missions in Viet Nam. He has served as the Commanding Officer of the USS Kitty Hawk, Carrier Air Wing 11, the USS America and NTC Orlando. If there is enough alumni interest, RAdm Tillotson has graciously consented to speak to the Alumni Association at a brunch prior to the ceremony in Raleigh. Please contact your Association board ASAP if this is something that you would be interested in attending. Call either Capt Andy Bunch, USN (Ret) at (919) 962-3122 (W)/ (919) 929-1496 or Capt Mark Whitson, USMC at (919) 933-7573 to RSVP. Let's turn out to support the mids...see you there!



Homecoming '94

Homecoming '93 was a smash! A win at Kenan Stadium, followed by a first-class pig pickin' at the Armory, which was sponsored jointly by the Midshipman Battalion and the Alumni Association, made it a weekend that could not be beat. Special thanks go to Will Stubbs ('86) for hosting the all-hands cocktail party that evening. If you missed it last year, don't make that mistake again...

Homecoming '94 is scheduled for October 8, 1994. Mack Brown's Tar Heels will be taking on Georgia Tech at 1:30 PM. The Alumni Association plans to purchase a block of 75 seats for the game when tickets become available (sometime in May). Mark your calendars now...we will keep you posted as the plans develop!

We need your help...

The Battalion Library

The midshipmen are trying to establish a professional reading library at the Unit. To that end, they are soliciting contributions. Any books you have that you feel might benefit the establishment of such a valuable resource would be very much appreciated. The midshipmen would especially appreciate cover page inscriptions from the donors inside. Books can be sent either directly to the Armory or to your Alumni Association Secretary (Capt Mark Whitson, 107 Chaucer Ct., Carrboro, NC 27510).

Treasurer's Report

Alumni Association General Fund
\$3,533.88

Connor Memorial Award Fund
\$4,540.85

Memorabilia

As most of you know, the size of the Midshipman Battalion has shrunk dramatically in the last few years. The University has decided that the Unit's exclusive use of the Naval Armory is therefore no longer justified. In the near future, the Naval Armory will become home to the Air Force ROTC and possibly a new Army ROTC program as well. It is very important that we not allow this merger to water down the pride and camaraderie that go with our Unit's proud history at UNC.

The current midshipmen are anticipating this need and are asking all of us to dig through our closets, attics and garages for UNC NROTC memorabilia. Photos of NROTC activities, trophies, uniforms, anything, would be welcomed. Please give generously in support of a vital effort to retain a sense of history at the Naval Armory. Contributions can be sent either directly to the Unit or to your Secretary (Capt Mark Whitson, 107 Chaucer Ct., Carrboro, NC 27510).

Local Sponsorship Program

Steve Fish ('85) made a suggestion at the last board meeting that we consider a local sponsor program for the battalion midshipmen. The idea would be to pair up a current active midshipman with an alumnus who lives in the mid's hometown. They could then meet socially, either when the alum visits the "Southern part of Heaven," or when the mid goes home on break or vacation. This would be a great way to enhance the mid's total ROTC experience, as well as provide a little support now and then. If you would be interested in participating in such a venture, let your Secretary know (Capt Mark Whitson, 107 Chaucer Ct., Carrboro, NC 27510). We will then check with the Unit to see if there is a current midshipman who hails from your locality and provide him or her with your name and address.

Congratulations

are in order for the following December '93
commissionees:

Ensign Kristin Acquavella

Ensign James Buchannon

Second Lieutenant Charles Rivenbark

The NROTC Alumni Association wishes them
all the best of luck in their new careers!

cut out and send with your check...

UNC NROTC Alumni Association Registration Form

If you haven't had the chance to mail us your annual dues yet, please take this opportunity to do so. Your \$10.00 will go a long way to helping us improve the level of service the Association can provide to you, as well as allowing us to better serve the current midshipmen.

Name: _____ Year Commissioned: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Service: _____ Still on active duty? _____

Any other comments (current unit, duty station, suggestions, etc.): _____

Please send your check for \$10.00 (plus any contribution you would care to make to the Lt. Pat Connor Memorial fund) to:

UNC NROTC Alumni Association
NROTC UNIT
CB #3325 UNC
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3325



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS UNIT
NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT REGION
HANES HOUSE, TRENT DRIVE
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27706-2589

4 March 1994

Duke University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Harold A. Bunch Jr., CAPT, USN(Ret)
1202 LeClair Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Andy,

I would like to update you on the UNC Battalion activities and extend an invitation to the NROTC Alumni to join us for our Spring 1994 Awards Day ceremony.

The UNC Battalion continues to thrive even though the total number of midshipmen is well below that of past years. There are currently thirty-six midshipmen participating in the program at UNC, eight of whom are women. We graduated and commissioned five in June 1993 and three in December 1993 (all were outstanding midshipmen and will no doubt be excellent officers). I do not expect the battalion size to grow significantly because the number of scholarships is being limited nationwide as part of the Department of Defense downsizing.

The Battalion had a great Fall semester and participated in a number of activities. Hosting the alumni for the Fall gathering and pig picking was a highlight for them. They were especially appreciative of the Alumni's donation which they used to buy Navy and Marine running shorts. They now proudly do their PFT's around campus with a "team" uniform.

The battalion has undergone some changes with the advent of the Piedmont Consortium arrangement with Duke and NC State, however most activities are consistent those of past years. The Spring Awards Day ceremony which has been conducted with the NCSU Battalion will continue as a joint unit ceremony with alternating campus sites. Other activities such as Balls will be conducted as two or three Battalion activities depending on size constraints and school calendars. My goal has been to allow each Battalion to operate independently as much as possible and to look for opportunities to work (and play) together whenever possible. Logistics and school schedules have thus far limited joint battalion events.

The Armory is also scheduled to undergo some changes. This past fall, the university began painting the exterior. It's nearly finished and looks much better. The university has also proposed a major renovation of the interior in order to accommodate both the Navy and Air Force ROTC programs. (The current Air Force ROTC space in Chase Hall is being sought for use by other departments in the university). The proposed plans would reduce our Navy space but would improve the quality and utility of the spaces and classrooms. Based on expected ROTC scholarships and unit size I believe this plan will work. However getting NROTC, AFROTC, and the university to agree on space allocation has to be akin to the interservice battles over the budget in DOD... there is simply not enough for everyone. These changes may begin this year.

Our Awards Day is scheduled for 1400 on 10 April at Paul Derr Track (Cates Avenue) on the North Carolina State University campus. Our guest of honor is Rear Admiral Lee Tillotson, currently Commander, Naval Training Center, Orlando. He will be available Sunday morning and I am sure he would be happy to meet with any alumni who are here. Please let me know if any alumni meetings are scheduled for that weekend.

I look forward to seeing you on Awards Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Avery".

ROBERT B. AVERY
Captain, U. S. Navy