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O'Callahan Society Newsletters

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2017

## 2017 O'Callahan Society Newsletter

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross

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## O'Callahan Society 2017 Newsletter



### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual O'Callahan Society Dinner on September 24, 2016 celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Holy Cross Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit in July, 1941. The celebration actually began earlier in the day when at halftime of the homecoming football game, all graduates of the NROTC program were invited to assemble on the field and be recognized. At the dinner, nearly 300 faculty, staff, midshipmen, alumni, relatives, friends, and official representatives gathered to hear the remarks of the guest speaker, Vice Admiral Peter H. Daly, U. S. Navy (Retired), a 1977 graduate of Holy Cross and of the NROTC Unit and the current CEO of the U. S. Naval Institute. Admiral Daly's background, experience, and current involvement in addressing the most significant issues facing the Navy and Marine Corps give him insight into future challenges and the preparation needed to face those challenges.



**VADM Peter H. Daly, US Navy (Retired)**

Admiral Daly emphasized that the Jesuits at Holy Cross imparted not just academics but values to their students and that Holy Cross community members such as Father Joseph T. O'Callahan and John Power combined their Holy Cross values with Navy and Marine Corps values, took them into World War II, and received Medals of Honor for their heroic actions.

At the end of WWII, 90% of naval officers were not Naval Academy graduates and a board was formed which looked at schemes for educating naval officers and recommended retaining the mix of Naval Academy and NROTC Units in order to provide the most flexibility for an uncertain

future. Later, describing the advantages of the Naval Academy, the board chairman ironically highlighted their "almost Jesuitical preparation" for naval service.

Since WWII, Holy Cross has produced more Navy Admirals and Marine Corps Generals per capita than any other NROTC Unit and the Admiral humorously observed that this may be due to the similarities between Catholic religious groups and naval officers including hierarchy, uniforms, rules, fear, consequences for actions, and guilt.

Following the tumultuous 1960s and the adverse reaction to the Vietnam War, 1973 saw a cascade of significant historical events as the U. S. left Vietnam, the draft ended, and all NROTC Units in New England closed their doors except Holy Cross and the limited MIT program. The survival of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit is a testament to Father John Brooks, President of the College 1970-94, and Captain Harry R. Moore, Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit 1970-72.

Admiral Daly closed his remarks by reminding the audience that a Liberal Arts education breeds empathy and concern for others and that without Liberal Arts, midshipmen may miss out on courses that help deal with inevitable change. In 2014, the Navy considered capping the Liberal Arts stipend for NROTC students and the O'Callahan Society sent a letter to Navy leaders pointing out that Holy Cross produces graduates who succeed and that the Navy needs diversity in thinking. The Admiral's final thought was that each generation must commit itself to step-up and serve.



**General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC**

Other highlights of the evening included an opening video and congratulatory letter prepared by General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Dunford is a graduate of Boston College High School and St. Michael College but from 1988 to 1991, he was the Marine Officer Instructor at Holy Cross and helped plan and execute the celebration ceremonies for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit. In his video, General Dunford also emphasized the values imparted by the Jesuits to new officers and he highlighted the combat heroism of Holy Cross graduates

John V. Power (World War II Medal of Honor), Robert E. Parrott (Korean War Silver Star), and Thomas G. Kelley (Vietnam War Medal of Honor). Captain Kelley, U. S. Navy (Retired) was a guest of honor at the dinner and is a member of the executive board of the O'Callahan Society. The Society also presents an annual award in memory of First Lieutenant Power who died in the combat action for which he was recognized. Colonel Parrott, U. S. Marine Corps (Retired) expressed regret that he could not attend the dinner but appreciated General Dunford's remarks.

Two other congratulatory letters were read:

- Mr. Todd A. Weiler, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
- Mr. Franklin R. Parker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Finally, Commander Timothy B. Sullivan U. S. Navy (Retired) was brought forward to view the display that will be set up in his honor in the Holy Cross NROTC wardroom. Commander Sullivan is a 1965 graduate of Holy Cross and the NROTC Unit and, as an F-4B radar intercept officer, was shot down over Vietnam in November 1967. Imprisoned for five years and four months, he received the Silver Star for his resistance as a prisoner of war. Fittingly, Commander Sullivan was



**CDR Sullivan Returning**



**Ambassador Middendorf**

joined for this recognition by Ambassador J. William Middendorf who, as Secretary of the Navy from 1974 to 1977, signed Commander Sullivan's Silver Star citation. Ambassador Middendorf was also a guest of honor at the dinner and was a member of the third commissioning class from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit. Commander Sullivan's display will join those of the recipients of three Medals of Honor, four Navy Crosses, and 18 other Silver Stars from the Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute communities.

### **History of the Naval ROTC Program at Holy Cross**

In the spring of 2016, a sub-group of the '75 Committee' led by Brendan O'Donnell '71 took on the task researching and writing a history of both the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and the O'Callahan Society. Brendan was joined by Board members Sue Dooley '81, Jay Burzak, and Lester Paquin.

The Unit history falls into three 25-year periods: a period of strength from 1941 to 1965 when, despite the small size of the school, the Unit was the 15th largest of the 52 NROTC Units; a period of crisis from 1966 to 1991 when the Unit survived several threats to its existence to contribute to the overwhelming American military performance in Operation Desert Storm and to victory in the Cold War; and a period of challenge from 1992 to the present stemming from a new world order, budget cuts, and the rise of terrorism. The history booklet may be found on the Holy Cross CrossWorks website at: <http://crossworks.holycross.edu/nrotc75/1/>

### **103<sup>rd</sup> Woman Officer Commissioned from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit**

In 1972, Holy Cross opened its doors to women for the first time in its 129-year history and with them came a Marine Option scholarship student, the first woman in the nation in that program [see her experience below]. Four years later she would become the first woman commissioned from the Holy Cross NROTC program.

The first woman to graduate from Holy Cross and be commissioned in the Navy or Marine Corps was Margaret A. Simoneau '75 (not an NROTC member) who became an Ensign and ultimately retired as a Commander. Another milestone was reached in 1980 when Susan (Goddard) Dooley '81 became the first woman to command the midshipman battalion. Retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, she is now the Director of Admissions for the Naval Postgraduate School and a member of the executive board of the O'Callahan Society.

Through the end of 2016, the Holy Cross NROTC Unit had commissioned 98 women (84 Navy, 14 Marine Corps). Twelve of these women received the O'Callahan award as seniors and several graduates have gone on to command positions in the Navy or Marine Corps or to distinguished careers in the civilian world. Two, Commander Kara (Jacobson) Dallman '87, U. S. Navy (Retired) and Ms. Lisa (Taylor) Trainor '96, have earned Sanctae Crucis awards from Holy Cross. In 2017, Ensigns Campbell, Carey, Chernin, DePeralta, and Grimmke were commissioned, bringing the Unit to over 100 women commissioned since the first admission.



**2017 Ensigns DePeralta, Grimmke, Chernin, Campbell, Carey**

## **Unit News**

### **New Unit Staff Officers**

The Unit welcomed a new Marine Officer Instructor this year, Captain D. Timothy Wrenn, a Communications Officer from Camp Lejeune and originally from Prospect CT. He and his wife, Nicole, have a new daughter. He was joined by LT Edwin Konrad, a Naval Science Instructor and bachelor reporting from USS Olympia (SSN-717). He is originally from The Woodlands TX.

### **Presidents' Review**

The O'Callahan Society recognized three midshipmen during this event:

- Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Bowl, presented on behalf of the Holy Cross Jesuit Community to Midshipman 1/c William Byrne, HC '17 by Rev Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., President, College of the Holy Cross.
- 1st LT John Power '42 Memorial Book Scholarship awarded to Midshipman 3/c Benjamin Deluca, HC '19 by Jay Burzak, Major USMC (Ret).
- LTJG Frank Malinski '61 Memorial Book Scholarship awarded to Midshipman 4/c Shea Kearney, HC '20 by James Delehaunty, HC '67

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War, lapel pins were presented to all of the veterans in the audience who served on active duty from 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975. Additional information on this nationwide recognition program is available at: [http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/vietnam\\_veteran\\_lapel\\_pin/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/vietnam_veteran_lapel_pin/)

After the recognition awards were presented, the midshipmen battalion passed in review. The reviewing party included RADM Jeffrey Harley, President, Naval War College; Rev Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., President, College of the Holy Cross; Mr. Barry Maloney, President, Worcester State University; Mr. Arthur Heinricher, Ph.D., Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Ms. Karen McNeill, Office of Student Veterans and Commissioning Programs, Brown University; and Captain Mark Edwards, Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science, Holy Cross NROTC Consortium.

### **2017 Commissioning and Orders**

Ten midshipmen from the Class of 2017 have been commissioned into the Navy and the Marine Corps with orders to: surface warfare units [4], nuclear power school [3], flight school [2] and Marine Corps Basic School [1]. WPI midshipmen were commissioned in a joint ceremony by Colonel Brent French, USAF and WPI faculty member, on May 12 and WSC midshipmen were commissioned by Captain Mark Edwards, Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit, on May 13 in the 9/11 Memorial Courtyard behind Fenwick Hall at Holy Cross. On May 26, Holy Cross midshipmen were commissioned at 0800 at Holy Cross by Captain Edwards.

### **Class of 2021**

The NROTC Class of 2021 which arrives in August is expected to be larger than recent classes with perhaps as many as 30 freshmen. The exact number will depend on how many scholarship students actually enroll and how many non-scholarship College Program students are admitted.

*For more midshipmen battalion news see its spring newsletter.*

## Alumni News and Notes

### First Day as a Member of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit

*In recognition of the Unit commissioning its 100<sup>th</sup> woman officer, the following is reprinted from the 2011 O'Callahan Society Dinner Program*

Like all other personnel new to the unit, I received paperwork which instructed me to check in by 5 p. m. on Sunday evening. Being a very typical 18-year-old college student, I checked in at approximately 4:58 p.m. The two midshipmen at the supply window mentioned that they thought I would not arrive at all! At the time, I assumed they were referring to the fact that I was checking in close to the deadline. Quite frankly, I was surprised more students weren't doing the same thing.

The next day, I reported to the O'Kane ROTC classroom for the mandatory, all-hands, initial orientation. At first, I didn't notice anything unusual. As students drifted in, it dawned on me that all of the students I had seen arrive thus far were male. Being very new to the college and the unit, I decided to very casually look to my right. When I did, I noted all students in my limited, right line-of-vision were male. At that point, again very casually, I looked to my left. Again, all students in my limited left line-of-vision were male. It was at that point my curiosity and impending sense of dread got the best of me. Very bravely I turned all the way around and scanned



**Midn 1C McAvoy**

all risers and seats in what now felt to be an immense classroom. Though I knew the ROTC scholarships for women were fairly new, it truly wasn't until that moment that I had any idea I was going to be the only girl among approximately 80 other Holy Cross Navy and Marine midshipmen.

Kelley (McAvoy) Nielsen '76, LtCol, USMC (Retired)

### President's Review History

The origins of the annual Spring President's Review of the ROTC Unit(s) are somewhat murky but seem to go back to 1952 and probably coincide with the establishment of the Air Force ROTC Unit on campus. There were certainly reviews of the Navy ROTC Unit in the 1940s but it is not known if they included awards presentations. The opening of the Fieldhouse (a re-located surplus Navy building) in 1948 provided an all-weather venue that was large enough to host the then much larger combined ROTC Units and facilitated firm scheduling of annual events.

Once established, the timing and format of the President's Review varied little until 1970 in the wake of the Cambodia Incursion and nationwide anti-Vietnam War protests. In lieu of the Review, the College offered an indoor awards ceremony without the President and without the pass in review. Both Units declined this alternative although an off-campus retirement ceremony was held for the NROTC Commanding and Executive Officers. In 1971, the President's Review was restored but held at an off-campus location and in 1972, the event returned to campus. As the 1970s progressed and students from other Worcester area schools joined both ROTC Units, the reviewing party broadened from just the President of Holy Cross to include senior representatives from the other participating colleges and universities. However, when the Air Force ROTC Unit transferred to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1990, the Review reverted to a Navy-only event.

Newsletter readers are invited to offer their recollections of the President's Review.

# Society News

## 2016 Annual Meeting

The members and friends of the Holy Cross O'Callahan Society gathered early on Saturday, September 24, for coffee and conversation before beginning its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Hogan Center. The meeting was called to order at 1000. Approximately 30 attended and a few board members participated on a conference call link.

Treasurer James Moran '75 presented a brief report that highlighted an increase in the O'Callahan Fund balance of \$23,000 from the prior fiscal year. Board Co-Chair Jim Delehaunty '67 reported on the Board's action in October and November of 2015 that amended the original by-laws which were adopted in 2010. This amendment updated them to include the role of the O'Callahan Society Initiative Fund, established at the College in 2011, and recognition of the Society by the Naval Training Service Command in 2015.

Jim then reported on the actions of the Board's Executive Committee during the year. Chief among them were the establishment of the O'Callahan Collection in CrossWorks, the College's digital repository, the funding of a new collage/display honoring Father O'Callahan in the science library bearing his name, the increases to the Society's Power and Malinski scholarships for outstanding performance by two College Program [non-scholarship] midshipmen, and the formation of the ad hoc, '75 Committee', to execute this year's dinner and produce a history of the first 75 years of NROTC at Holy Cross. A discussion period followed the reports.

The meeting adjourned at 1100 and members proceeded to Carlin Quad to join NROTC staff and families of the midshipmen at a well-attended open house and tailgate party hosted by the battalion.

## New Logo

Please note the logo on the Events Calendar. We have modified the logo used to commemorate 75 years of NROTC at Holy Cross and made it evergreen by substituting 'Since 1941' for '75 Years'. We have also used this design for a Society logo. It recognizes that the Society traces its founding to 1994 when Father John Brooks formally established the Father O'Callahan Committee.

## O'Callahan Society Ongoing Programs

- 1. Mentoring:** pairs midshipmen with Society members from all over the country to provide the midshipmen with insight, guidance, and advice from a very impressive group of mentors. To sign up, please email Frank Bergin at [fbergin3@gmail.com](mailto:fbergin3@gmail.com).
- 2. LinkedIn:** to join the O'Callahan Society's group on LinkedIn, search for "Holy Cross NROTC Alumni" (aka The O'Callahan Society) once you have logged into LinkedIn or type the following into your browser to be taken to the group's home page where you can request to join the private group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8220455>
- 3. Initiatives Fund:** since 2012, each spring we have asked for your support of Society Initiatives that enhance the experience of the students enrolled in the NROTC program. By now, you should have received this year's solicitation. Your generosity has allowed us to sustain and increase the Society's commitment to the NROTC Unit at the College.

## General Navy News

### Holy Cross Support for the Ivy League

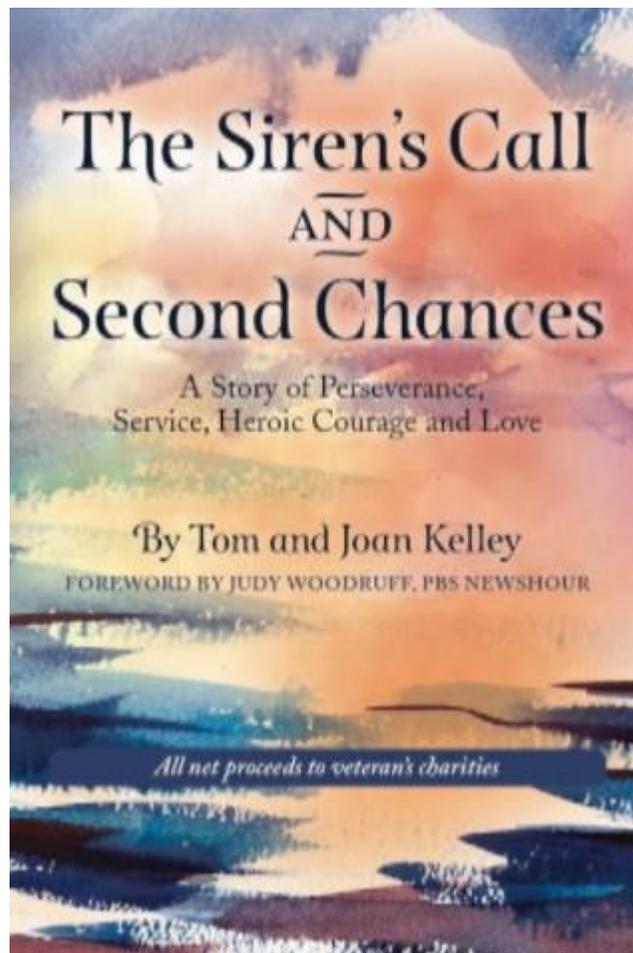
Brown University resumed its participation in the NROTC program this academic year with the enrollment of one midshipman who currently commutes to the Holy Cross NROTC Consortium in Worcester. A Brown University official has indicated that several more NROTC scholarship students have been admitted for the next academic year.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Midway

The CNO is promoting commemoration of this pivotal event this year. Several Navy-related associations and foundations will host a dinner in Arlington, Virginia on 4 June with other events at the National WWII Memorial, the Navy Memorial, Midway, Pearl Harbor, Norfolk, and elsewhere. For additional information, see the website at: <http://bomcommemoration.org/>

### Captain and Mrs. Kelley Memoir

Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Tom Kelley, U. S. Navy (Retired) and his wife Joan whose love for their country is as powerful as their love for each other, have a new joint military memoir/love story. Available on Amazon. Net proceeds go to the Ahern Foundation. For more information visit the website: <https://tomandjoankelley.com>



## Calendar of Events

**Homecoming**  
**September 30, 2017**

**Society Annual Meeting**  
**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
Hogan Campus Center

**Battalion Tail Gate**  
**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Carlin Quad

**Annual Dinner**  
**5:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
Hogan Campus Center

