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2018

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Recommended Citation

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross, "2018 O'Callahan Society Newsletter" (2018). *O'Callahan Society Newsletters*. 7.

https://crossworks.holycross.edu/ocs_newsletter/7

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O'Callahan Society 2018 Newsletter



2017 Holy Cross O'Callahan Society Dinner

On September 30, 2017, the O'Callahan Society hosted its 17th Annual Dinner in the Hogan Campus Center Ballroom with a crowd of approximately 230 midshipmen, their friends and families, NROTC Unit staff, College officials, and other supporters of the NROTC program. Rev. Philip Boroughs, S.J., President of the College of the Holy Cross, was the senior Holy Cross representative and he was joined by Margaret Freije, Provost; Rev. Bill Campbell, S.J. '87, Vice President for Mission; Dan Kim, Vice President for Marketing and Communications; and CAPT Mark Edwards, USN, Commanding Officer of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit.

The dinner celebrated the women who have been commissioned through the Unit in recognition of the commissioning of the 100th woman in May 2017. Attending the dinner were LtCol Kelley McAvoy Nielsen '76, USMC (Ret), the first woman commissioned through the Unit, and LtCol Susan (Goddard) Dooley '81, the first woman midshipman battalion commander in the Unit.



Hon. Jeh Johnson

The guest speaker at the dinner was the Honorable Jeh C. Johnson, former Secretary of Homeland Security (2013-2017) and former General Counsel of the Department of Defense (2009-2012). The Secretary's inspirational address was delivered from notes so we do not, unfortunately, have the complete text of his remarks. The summary below was compiled by Lester Paquin, master of ceremonies for the dinner, and Brendan O'Donnell '71, both members of the O'Callahan Society Executive Board. Thanks to Bruce MacDonald '78 for making the Secretary's visit happen.

Secretary Johnson Remarks

Secretary Johnson's remarks struck the perfect balance between humor, experience, example and inspiration. He cleverly managed the difficult transition between lesson and learning, bringing his audience along on a journey of discovery rather than instruction.

His emphasis on the principles of fairness, honor, honesty, respect, integrity, character, education and patriotism is one we have always shared when it comes to our Midshipmen and their time among us. As an example of these principles, the Secretary stated that he is opposed to cruel, inhuman, and degrading (CID) treatment but when he became DOD General Counsel, statements obtained through CID treatment were allowed. That was later changed.

Another example to illustrate the principles cited the work of General Carter Ham, USA on the review of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy regarding military service by gay and lesbian people:

- General Counsel Johnson and General Ham obtained input from over 15,000 people

- The Military Service recommendations on DADT were:
 - o Army wanted to postpone any change
 - o Air Force was conservative
 - o Navy and Coast Guard said they could change the policy
 - o Marine Corps did not want to change the policy (but were the first to change)
- The final report submitted by Mr. Johnson and General Ham in November 2010 recommended dropping DADT and allowing military service by gay and lesbian people.
- Only after the report was submitted did General Ham reveal to Mr. Johnson that he was personally opposed to changing the policy but had taken an impartial approach to the study.

The Secretary concluded his remarks by reminding the audience that the U. S. military is the most revered and respected institution in this country but we must re-dedicate ourselves to:

- Our word is our bond - Make no compromise in demands for truth and accuracy
- Make value-based judgments about whether something is appropriate
- Good leadership inspires loyalty and a good leader knows he/she is part of a team
- Tolerate and celebrate national diversity
- Know history and learn from it; don't repeat historical mistakes
- Treat others with respect:
 - o Read the Air Force Academy Superintendent's statement after a racial incident
 - o Never forget what it's like to be the new kid
 - o Include others in decision-making

The Secretary's message (especially his concluding summary) echoed and underscored that of Fr. Brooks before him. The words of both men should serve as our moral compass, and our guide in determining and defining our evolving and supportive relationship with the NROTC Unit.

Where Will Your Jesuit Education Lead You?

On February 6, 2018, Commander Michael Hayes, US Navy (Ret), HC NROTC '93, spoke to the Unit Midshipmen and, later, to the larger Holy Cross community on how the principles of Ignatian spirituality shaped his broader vocational discernment and his thinking in individual situations. The second session was sponsored by the College's J. D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World and was aimed at helping members of the Holy Cross community envision their own discernment process and at providing an introduction to the underlying principles of a Jesuit education.

Commander Hayes served with SEAL Team Two in Iraq and Afghanistan and was a White House Fellow serving two presidents. He holds a Master's degree from Harvard University in Public Policy and is fluent in Spanish and German. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal for his work in the White House and two Bronze Stars with Combat V for valor. His delivery is so casual and engaging that both sessions went well beyond their allotted time due to the great number of questions that he fielded. In between the two sessions, there was a reception in the NROTC O'Callahan Room that was well-attended by both the Midshipmen and staff and it provided an opportunity for more direct and personal interaction between all parties.

Commander Hayes has not only had an impressive career but his family is equally impressive and has strong ties to Holy Cross: his father, Commander Edward F. Hayes, Jr., was commissioned through the Holy Cross NROTC Unit in 1968 and his grandfather, Captain Edward F. Hayes was one of the two longest-serving Commanding Officers of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit (1965-1970).

The O'Callahan Society was represented at this event by Robert Keane, S. J., Lester Paquin, John Tata, and Tim Sheehan.

Holy Cross NROTC Hosts 42 Midshipmen Aspiring to be Navy SEAL Officers

Over the weekend of April 6–8 2018, 42 NROTC midshipmen from 24 schools from as far away as Washington state and as close as Boston were greeted on campus to a Spring snowfall in anticipation of a weekend of physical fitness and mental toughness put on by the Navy SEAL and SWCC Scout Team from the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Training Center in San Diego, CA. The team is under the supervision of Ken Marra, '72, NROTC graduate and retired Surface Warfare Officer, to promote outreach and improve the quality of candidates selected for training. Joining Ken for the weekend were active duty SEALs, former SEALs, and officers from the SEAL Officer Community Manager's office. The purposes of this weekend were: to expose those midshipmen who want to pursue a career as a Navy SEAL officer to the rigors of qualification; and to improve their chances of selection to SEAL officer training.

Among the 42 midshipmen in attendance were 7 selected last summer to begin Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL (BUD/S) training after commissioning, and 6 other midshipmen from Holy Cross NROTC. Training evolutions included: SEAL physical fitness standards test; water mask and bobbing appreciation; instruction on the combat side stroke; NSW 101 and application briefings; physical problem sets; and Log PT conducted over the recently melted snow on Freshman Field. To make the experience more realistic, midshipmen were berthed in the Fieldhouse. NSW is grateful to the Holy Cross community for their welcoming support to the Scout Team cadre and the attending midshipmen and particularly thanks CAPT Mark Edwards (CO), CDR Chris Benjamin (XO), and CPT Tim Wrenn (MOI) from the NROTC Unit who arranged logistics and coordinated with the Athletics Department and Campus Security. The Holy Cross NROTC Forum Weekend exceeded expectations. **Bravo Zulu to the Crusader Battalion!**

Association of NROTC Colleges and Universities

Holy Cross is a member of the Association of NROTC Colleges and Universities, an organization dating back to 1946 and consisting of the institutions hosting NROTC Units. Meetings are held annually and include representatives of member institutions, the Director of Officer Development, senior officers and civilian staff of Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), and senior Navy and Marine officers directly responsible for the NROTC program. The Chief of Naval Education and Training often attends and comments on the present NROTC program and its future direction.

Annual business meetings include discussion of Association affairs but the focus of each meeting is a Situation Report from the NSTC staff that includes an overview of the NROTC program, updates on current issues, and new initiatives contemplated by NSTC and/or the Department of the Navy. Over the years, the Association has engaged in productive discussion with NSTC over a wide range of issues, including: whether Midshipmen should be permitted to marry; the amount provided for scholarship recipients; the level of stipend support provided to Midshipmen; qualifications for appointment of Navy and Marine officers to faculty rank; viability formulae (to determine whether units should be continued); free choice of majors vs. a requirement that some Midshipmen pursue technical majors; formation of consortia; efforts to increase enrollment of under-represented minorities in the program; etc. Father Markey represents Holy Cross in this Association.

Thank You to Commander John Bishop, USN (Retired)

The O'Callahan Society sends its best wishes to Commander John Bishop, US Navy (Retired) who retired as the civilian Administrative Officer for the NROTC Unit in September 2017. John reported to the Unit in 2006 as Executive Officer and also served a period as Acting Commanding Officer. Upon retirement from the Navy, he assumed his civilian position in the Unit and provided unfailing support to the O'Callahan Society on too many events and projects to count.

Unit News

Father Brooks Presidents' Review

This year's Presidents' Review on April 13 was dedicated to Rev. John E. Brooks, S. J., President of the College of the Holy Cross 1970-94 and a staunch supporter of the Navy and Air Force ROTC programs at the college. An Army veteran of World War II, Father Brooks held strong opinions on the value of a liberal arts education for military leaders.

The guest speaker for the Review was Brigadier General Christopher Mahoney, '87. Director Strategy and Plans Division, Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters USMC (bio at <http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/138/Users/028/44/2844/BGen%20Mahoney%20bio.pdf?ver=2016-08-15-112546-050>). He was joined by Rev Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., President, College of the Holy Cross; Mr. Barry Maloney, President, Worcester State University; and Captain Mark Edwards, Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science, Holy Cross NROTC Consortium. Other highlights of the Review included performances by the Unit's Silent Drill Team and by Navy Band Northeast from Newport RI.

Among the award recipients, the O'Callahan Society recognized three midshipmen:

- Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Memorial Bowl, presented on behalf of the Holy Cross Jesuit Community to Midshipman 1/c Joseph Tomellini, WPI by Rev Robert Keane, S.J. Captain, U. S. Navy (Retired).
- 1st LT John Power '42 Memorial Book Scholarship (\$1500) awarded to Midshipman 2/c Hunter Brining, WSU, Advance Standing, by Mr. Lester Paquin, O'Callahan Society Secretary.
- LTJG Frank Malinski '61 Memorial Book Scholarship (\$1500) awarded to Midshipman 3/c Collin Shanahan, HC by Mr. Jim Delehaunty, '67, O'Callahan Society Co-Chair

2018 Commissioning and Orders

Twelve midshipmen from the Class of 2018 will be commissioned into the Navy and the Marine Corps with orders to: surface warfare units [5], nuclear power school [2], flight school [1], SEALs [1], EOD [1], and Marine Corps Basic School [2]. WPI midshipmen will be commissioned on May 11 in a joint ceremony with Army and Air Force cadets, WSU midshipmen will be commissioned on May 19, and Holy Cross midshipmen on May 25.

WPI/WSU Officer Pay Entry Base Date

WPI/WSU alumni who were commissioned between 2006 and 2016 could have an error between their graduation date and entry date for active duty (commissioning). These two dates should be the same but in some cases the entry date of active duty was mistakenly entered as the same date as Holy Cross commissioning. This error could be as much as two weeks. This is also different from date of rank. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the unit at 508-793-2433.

First Woman Admiral from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit

Captain Nancy J. (Stewart) Lacore, '90, U. S. Navy Reserve has been nominated for the rank of Rear Admiral (Lower Half), the first woman graduate from the Holy Cross NROTC Unit to be so honored. Captain Lacore has mobilized for active duty tours in both Afghanistan and Djibouti. The O'Callahan Society congratulates Captain Lacore on her outstanding achievement.

Alumni News

Naval War College Memorial to Holy Cross Graduates

On the Naval War College campus in Newport RI, there is a flagpole in front of the building housing the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS) that is dedicated to “The Thousands of Graduates of The College of the Holy Cross who proudly served their country as US Navy and Marine Corps Officers.” This dedication was the gift of three Holy Cross graduates: LT Edward J. Brennan, USNR, '52; LCDR James E. Hayes, USNR, '52; Capt James T. Larkin, USMCR, '53.

LT Brennan and LCDR Hayes are deceased but according to Captain Larkin, the flagpole and surrounding area was dedicated in 1999. At that time, he and the others determined that about 4,000 Holy Cross graduates had served or were serving as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.



Presidents' Review History

Following up a similar article in last year's newsletter, readers are invited to offer their recollections of the annual Spring President's Review which originated in 1952 and coincided with the establishment of the Air Force ROTC Unit on campus. 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 when the Review was cancelled (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 this continued for a few years until the event returned to campus (not later than 1976). 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.

Please email your recollections to the Society at ocallahan@holycross.edu

Society News

2017 Annual Meeting

The members and friends of the Holy Cross O'Callahan Society gathered early on Saturday, September 30, for coffee and conversation before beginning its 9th Annual Meeting in Hogan Center. The meeting was called to order at 1000 by Board Co-Chair Bill McCarthy '76. Approximately 30 attended and a few board members participated on a conference call link. The following business was conducted:

- Board Co-Chair Jim Delehaunty '67 provided an updated roster of the Society board. Currently it consists of eighteen active members including new member, Ken Marra '72 Ph.D., CDR, USN Ret of San Diego CA. Jim also reported that four members had joined twelve other members on the board's in active list.
- Treasurer James Moran '75 presented a brief report that highlighted a year over year increase in the O'Callahan Fund balance.
- Jim Delehaunty reported on the actions of the Board's Executive Committee during the year. Chief among them were the funding of travel for 11 midshipmen to conferences and seminars at Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, USNA, and Yale. This was an increase of 8 from the prior year.
- Board member Brendan O'Donnell reported on efforts to update and correct the list of Holy Cross NROTC graduates and the changes generated to the history of the first 75 years of NROTC at Holy Cross. A suggestion from the audience led to the creation of a form (see following page) to collect basic information on Unit graduates and the Holy Cross Alumni Office will publicize this form in the Alumni Magazine and Class Reunion notices.

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.

O'Callahan Society Ongoing Programs

- 1. Mentoring:** pairs midshipmen with active duty or recently detached 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 Ken Marra at Kenneth.Marra@socom.mil.
- 2. 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.

2018 O'Callahan Society Dinner Theme

2018 is the 50th anniversary of one of the most tumultuous years in American history and one of the major issues in that trying time was the Vietnam War. This year's dinner will honor the alumni of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and Platoon Leaders Course (PLC) who gave their lives during the war and those who received combat decorations.

In a nationwide recognition program, lapel pins are available to all veterans who served on active duty from 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975. Additional information on this program is available at: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/vietnam_veteran_lapel_pin/

Revised History of the Naval ROTC Program at Holy Cross

In 2016, the O’Callahan Society sponsored a history of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and of the O’Callahan Society and, in 2017, the O’Callahan Society updated and corrected the roster of graduates from the NROTC Unit which resulted in significant changes to the numbers used in the history, specifically to the Overview and Appendices A, B, C, E, F, and G. The revised history also added a new Appendix J (Holy Cross NROTC Commanding Officers and College Presidents), some new or better photos, and correctly identified more than 120 Marine Officers previously listed as NROTC graduates who were actually members of the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) program. The history is now very much a history of both the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and the PLC program.

The updated list of NROTC and PLC graduates includes additional information on graduates when available and, if you would like your service added to the graduate list, please complete the form developed by the Society. The revised history booklet and overview history may be found on the Holy Cross CrossWorks website at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/nrotc75/> under ‘2016 Submissions.’ The updated list of NROTC graduates and the Military Service Data Collection Form are at the same link under ‘2017 Submissions.’

Naval History Magazine Article on Holy Cross ROTC Crisis in 1970-71

The April 2018 issue of *Naval History* magazine includes an article by Brendan O’Donnell titled “ROTC Under Siege” which was adapted from the Holy Cross NROTC history and which describes the 1970-1971 challenge to the Unit’s existence. The article is at: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/navalhistory/2018-04/rotc-under-siege>

General News

Forever GI Bill

Signed into law in August of 2017, the Forever GI Bill means that the GI Bill will no longer expire. Prior to the Forever GI Bill, service members, veterans, and their families only had 15 years to use their GI Bill benefits. Now there is no time limit which means individuals can take their time to make important decisions about their future education and career goals. The pressure to “use it or lose it” is no longer a concern. These provisions go into effect on August 1, 2018.

Some specific issues addressed by the new bill include:

- All veterans awarded the Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001, will receive full Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits no matter how much time they spent on active duty.
- Surviving spouses or children of service members who have lost their lives, are no longer limited to a 15-year period to use the benefit.
- If a veteran transferred his or her GI Bill while alive and passed away on or after August 1, 2009, the recipients of those benefits can now reallocate the months.
- Reservists who lost Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) benefits because of the sunset provision, may have that service credited towards the Forever GI Bill.
- Fry Scholarship-eligible surviving spouses no longer have a 15-year time limit to use the benefit; however, surviving children must use their benefits by age 33. This provision is retroactive to 2001 for spouses and goes into effect immediately.

On October 1, 2018, the monthly payment for educational assistance provided by the DEA will increase by \$200 a month. For more detailed information on the Forever GI Bill, see: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIBSummaries.asp>

Calendar of Events

Homecoming
September 29, 2018

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

Battalion Tail Gate
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
TBD

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

