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O'Callahan Society Newsletters

O'Callahan Society

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2020 O'Callahan Society Newsletter

O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross

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O'Callahan Society 2020 Newsletter



Note: Spring 2020 on-campus activities were cancelled by the College in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, all summer activities, including reunions, were also cancelled. Fall activities are under discussion so the Society annual meeting is TBD and the annual dinner is uncertain.

Dr. Anthony Fauci '62 Graduation Message



Dr. Fauci at a previous Holy Cross event

The College of the Holy Cross held a virtual graduation celebration on May 22, 2020 which included a surprise message from Dr. Anthony Fauci '62, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health and a member of the White House coronavirus task force. Dr. Fauci received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Holy Cross in 1987, one of his at least 26 honorary doctorates.

“I am profoundly aware that graduating during this time and in this virtual way, unable to celebrate in person this important milestone in your lives, with your friends, classmates and teachers, is extremely difficult,” Dr. Fauci said. “I encourage you to stay strong and unflinching. The country and the world need your talent, your energy, your resolve and your character.”

“Especially important during these currently unsettling times... [is] the Jesuit emphasis on social justice and service to others. Now is the time if ever there was one for us to care selflessly about one another. The education that you and I have received at Holy Cross, steeped in Jesuit traditions, should suit us well to confront and ultimately overcome this historic pandemic.”

Dr. Fauci's participation in graduation resulted from a petition by the Class of 2020 to the Administration. The petition stated “During trying times like these, communities often turn to a singular leader as a source of hope. For the Holy Cross Community and US population as a whole, this leader is Dr. Anthony Fauci, Class of 1962.”... [he] has embodied the Jesuit mission of living a life ‘for and with others.’” This petition was initiated by senior William McAvoy and his friends. Now Ensign McAvoy, he received the 2020 Father O'Callahan Bowl, and is a prospective Navy Surface Warfare Officer.



The May 22nd virtual celebration will be followed by an in-person commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 in spring 2021.

Commander Paul L. Bennett, USN (Ret) Passing

We Remember You Fondly

Commander Paul L. Bennett, USN (Retired), Executive Officer of the Holy Cross NROTC unit for most of 1977-1989, died January 28, 2020. At the time when we were midshipmen, most of us could not fathom the extent to which his leadership would influence us or our military careers but we definitely knew he was a compassionate man who had our backs. He also had a terrific sense of humor, was a force on the basketball court, confounded much younger and fitter competitors on the racquetball court, and was known to hold court during Friday afternoon "Beer Blasts."



One of the first pieces of gouge you got when stepping into the (then) O'Kane unit spaces was Commander Bennett "(affectionately known to everyone as the 'XO') had all the right connections." He would ensure we went to CORTRAMID on the West Coast instead of the East Coast, where all ROTC units on the East Coast went. He saw more opportunities in the Pacific Fleet for high quality midshipmen cruises, but also wanted us to experience all the fringe benefits (beaches and clubs and other adventures) that went along with a trip to the West Coast.

This was his schtick from the beginning. An article from the '76-'77 Knightwatch hailed him as 'a messiah' and relayed after he settled in "he made himself known to each ROTC senior and acquainted himself with their desires. After that he made calls, wrote letters, and made follow-ups, all in an effort to get the graduation class the best deal possible. This was no easy task since there were 29 seniors who were expecting 29 different billets. However, the smiling faces once the orders were issued were a good indication of his success in pleasing everyone. His connections to local law enforcement and local judges also came in handy on one or two occasions over the years when a Middie went astray!

If any of us were pressed to conjure up an image of the XO during working hours, he would be in his office with a telephone (the manila one with the spiral cord), balanced between his chin and ear, advocating for us. In fact, it is highly likely the XO managed to procure more two- or three-year scholarships for College Program mids than any of his peers throughout the nation. With the XO, you always knew he had your best interests in mind and his unconditional support long after the work day ended.

A compassionate leader, the XO also stood by us when we fell off track. When asked what event or person had the biggest influence on his life, Daniel Daglio, '90, unequivocally named Commander Paul Bennett. "He became my mentor through inauspicious circumstances as he chaired a board that was held to potentially revoke my NROTC scholarship. After my first semester freshman year, my military attitude was rated unsatisfactory for rather compelling reasons, resulting in a board where 2 of 3 Officers present voted in favor of my dismissal. The XO reviewed my strong grades, and said to me "Don't ever make me regret doing this." He then

overruled the advice of the board members, and as the chairperson, kept my scholarship, and by extension, my naval career intact.” His faith in us and in the human spirit surfaced in stories off Mount Saint James. His cousin, Linda Honan, shared “Paul was a warm and charming presence, brightening gatherings where we met, bringing laughter and tolerance and accepting of all our foibles.”

We also remember his sea stories. Ensign Paul Bennett was commissioned in the United States Navy through Officer Candidate School in 1961. He served two combat tours during the Vietnam War, including serving as Commanding Officer of USS Crockett (PG-88). He was awarded numerous medals throughout his Navy career, including the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, and the Navy Commendation Medal. Although he never spoke of them, no midshipman will ever forget the extensive rack of ribbons on the XO’s chest. During his military career, he went on to further his education by graduating from the Naval War College and earning a master’s degree in International Relations from George Washington University.

At Holy Cross, he taught Naval Organization and Management. An early account said he was “a candid and open individual who laid it on the line. In his lectures, he presented an eye-opening preview of what we future Ensigns were to face in terms of personalities, Navy culture, and organization. Relying on his vast background, he was able to relate his experiences as an officer in order to augment the lessons he was trying to convey. It all made for a thought-provoking discussion.”

His humor was also a constant theme in everyone’s recollection. A colleague from Prudential, Jim Coulter, recalled “Paul’s friendship and humor saved me from total insanity during the days we worked together. He was a true friend and will be sorely missed.” John Sharry, ‘79, remembered being in the wardroom when the XO discovered that the “Gunny” had loaded the soda machine with Budweiser. He was pretty angry, but John wonders if he was just putting on a show for the Mids. John posits “Later on the two of them probably laughed about it.”

And who could forget the basketball court. From Steve Waite, ‘79, “I do remember the staff vs middies basketball games that the XO would play in. He was a big man in the late 70’s, lumbering up and down the court clearing people out of the way so that LT Harvey Gannon could get open shots. Not the fastest (or perhaps fittest) but he always finished the game and was one of the first back to the wardroom to enjoy a beer or two.”

Commander Paul Bennett will be remembered fondly by all of us. He was a great leader, a great role model and mentor, a friend, a sounding board (and in some cases public defender), and an all-around caring and compassionate man. The 445 of us in the 16 classes commissioned from 1977 through 1992 are a tremendous part of his legacy. We are the ones who went into the Fleet advocating for our Sailors, leading by example, knowing how to be part of a team, understanding the importance of humor, and most importantly, being compassionate people. Thank you, XO, for teaching us the lessons we had no idea we needed to learn. You shaped us, our Navy and Marine Corps, our communities, our workplaces, and our futures.

- by Kara C. Dallman ’87, David A. Chase ’86, Joseph P. Waite ’87

USS Thresher Memorial

The USS Thresher (SSN-593) Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Commemorative Monument Dedication Ceremony was held on September 26, 2019 at the ANC Memorial Amphitheater. A reception at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial was held immediately after. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) was the keynote speaker at the Dedication Ceremony in recognition of her continued advocacy for this project.



Senator Shaheen at Dedication Ceremony

This National monument is designed to perpetuate the memories of the 129 men lost aboard USS Thresher on 10 April 1963 during a deep dive test east of Boston. The loss of Thresher was the largest submarine disaster ever experienced by the United States and led to the inception of the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) program to protect the men and women who serve on our Nation's submarines.

One of the members of the Thresher's crew was LTJG Frank J. Malinski, Holy Cross '61, who had been Midshipman Battalion Commander of the Holy Cross NROTC Battalion and graduated summa cum laude. He had joined the crew only the day before the submarine's loss. In his memory, the O'Callahan Society awards an annual scholarship to a midshipman in the battalion.

The monument is in Section 2 along the Roosevelt Drive walkway, mid-way between the ANC Welcome Center and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Memorial, and below the Arlington House (Custis-Lee Mansion). This location will provide the 1.5 million visitors who walk this path each year the opportunity to learn the story of the loss and legacy of USS Thresher.



Captain Larry G. McCullen Retirement

Captain Larry G. McCullen will retire as Commander of the Holy Cross NROTC Unit on August 1, 2020 after 36 years of naval service. He enlisted in the Navy in 1984, was commissioned from Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in July 1992, and was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1994. He has commanded the Holy Cross NROTC Unit since the Fall of 2018.

Unit News

Presidents' Review

Because of the College's termination of on-campus activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Presidents' Review was not held. Honorees received their awards individually and 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 William McAvoy, HC '20.
- 1st LT John Power '42 and LTJG Frank Malinski '61 Memorial Book Scholarship awarded to Midshipman 4/c Molly MacAllister, WPI '23.
- O'Callahan Society Special Award to Midshipman 1/c Ian Murray, HC '20.

2020 Commissioning and Orders

Seventeen midshipmen from the Class of 2020 were commissioned into the Navy and the Marine Corps with orders to: surface warfare units [6], nuclear power school [2], pilot training [3], NFO training [2], and Marine Corps The Basic School [4]. On May 15, there were some individual commissioning ceremonies done by video but the main commissioning ceremony was a video ceremony on May 22 attended by all seniors. It was officiated by RADM Shoshana S. Chatfield, President of the Naval War College and a graduate of Boston University and its NROTC Program.

Midshipman Essay Contest Prize Winner



Midshipman 1/C Benjamin Chiacchia won first prize in the 2019 United States Naval Institute Midshipman Essay Contest. The title of his winning essay was: "Failure to Launch: Illegal Orders, Nuclear Weapons, and the Responsibility of the Officer Corps Under the Law of Armed Conflict." Midshipman Chiacchia attended Brown University and has served as the Holy Cross NROTC Midshipman Battalion Commander. He is the first NROTC midshipman to be commissioned from Brown University since the 1970s.

Father O'Callahan Commemoration

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the College, the NROTC Unit, and the O'Callahan Society had planned to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the March 19, 1945 World War II bombing of USS Franklin (CV-13) and the subsequent heroic actions for which Father Joseph T. O'Callahan received the Medal of Honor. Unfortunately, the sudden necessity to close the campus in mid-March and send Holy Cross Community members home forced cancellation of the ceremony. Instead, as the College and Unit transitioned to online activities, the Unit Midshipmen made the story of Father O'Callahan and the Franklin the subject of one of their weekly training sessions.

To further highlight the legacy of Father O'Callahan, the O'Callahan Society has given a copy of his autobiography, "I Was Chaplain on the Franklin," to each midshipman in the battalion.

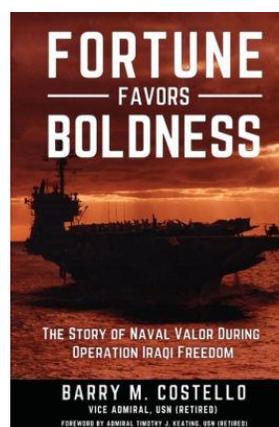
Alumni News

Captain Kenneth J. Barrett, USN (Ret) DACOWITS Appointment

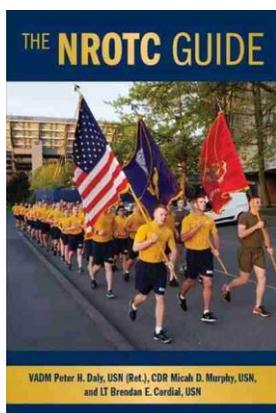
Captain Kenneth J. Barrett '84, U.S. Navy (Retired) was one of five new members appointed to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) in 2019. DACOWITS provides the Secretary of Defense with advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being and treatment of women in the armed forces. Committee members include military retirees, veterans, civilian women and men from academia, industry, public service and other professions. Selection is based on military experience or with women-related workforce issues. The five new members were sworn-in at the committee's June 2019 quarterly business meeting and join 11 current members.

VADM Barry M. Costello, USN (Ret) Book

VADM Barry M. Costello '73, USN (Retired) has published a book describing his experiences as commander of the Constellation Strike Group during the opening stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Admiral was commissioned through the Holy Cross NROTC Unit and served as a Surface Warfare Officer. Other significant assignments included Chief of Legislative Affairs and Commander, Third Fleet. His book is available for purchase through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.



VADM Peter H. Daly, USN (Ret) Award and Book



The National Maritime Historical Society honored VADM Peter H. Daly '77, USN (Retired) at their Annual Awards Dinner on October 25, 2018 with its Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his inspirational leadership of the US Naval Institute since 2011. Congratulations to Admiral Daly who is also co-author of "The NROTC Guide", a comprehensive guide to all aspects of the NROTC which will be released later this year.

Colonel Robert E. Parrott, USMC (Ret)

Colonel Robert E. Parrott '46, USMC (Retired), passed away last October. A thirty-year Marine Corps veteran, he received the Silver Star for his actions at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950 and also received two Purple Hearts. After his military career, he held several positions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Colonel Parrott was one of several Holy Cross alumni cited by General Joseph Dunford, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in his introductory video for the Holy Cross NROTC 75th anniversary dinner in 2016.

Society News

2019 Annual Meeting

The members and friends of the Holy Cross O'Callahan Society gathered early on Saturday, October 26 2019, for coffee and conversation before beginning its 11th Annual Meeting in Hogan Center. The meeting was called to order at 1000 by Board Co-Chair Bill McCarthy '76. Several members participated on a conference call link. The following business was conducted:

- Treasurer Report – presented by Jim Delehaunty because Jim Moran was traveling. 2019 was an excellent year for donations and the Society is able to fund an increase in midshipman activities for the Unit.
- Executive Committee Report from Jim Delehaunty:
 - Two 'ad hoc' groups were formed this year:
 - o Annual Dinner: due to conflicts over the timing of Homecoming (late-October) and competition with the Alumni Association 175th anniversary dinner, no O'Callahan Society dinner was held and no feasible alternate dates were available. The dinner will be renewed in 2020.
 - o The Growing OCS Fund: with the extra donations, the Society raised the stipend for the Power and Malinski scholarships and added a third for Advanced Standing (non-scholarship) students. These were one-time changes and will be re-addressed in 2020.
 - Unit is fully staffed with a new XO and several changes among the instructors. There are 59 midshipmen, 50 of whom are on scholarship.
 - Commissioning was held off-campus but, because it preceded Commencement which was also off-campus, this allowed many of the new officers' classmates to attend so it was viewed as a good thing.
 - Reunion was held 8 June and attended by RADM Robert P. Hickey '64, USN (Ret) and Silver Star recipient who 'wowed' the attendees with his stories.
- Mentoring Program under Ken Marra's leadership has been very active this year and 12 graduates from the Classes of 2000 through 2014 engaged with NROTC seniors this year.
- Board member Brendan O'Donnell provided an update on the Society's various publications (see section below).

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.

Society Publications Update

1. Revised History of the Naval ROTC Program at Holy Cross: in 2019, one more revision was made to the History of the Unit to reflect a slight change in commissioning numbers and one other change. This will be the last History revision and it may be found on the Holy Cross CrossWorks website at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/nrotc75/> under '2016 Submissions.'
2. Revised list of NROTC and PLC Graduates: was updated summer 2019 to include the Classes of 2018 and 2019 and two corrections. The 2019 list is located at the same link as the history under '2017 Submissions.' Additional information such as warfare specialty, years of service, and highest rank is added to the list when obtained. **If you would like your service added to the graduate list, please complete the Military Service Data Collection Form located under '2017 Submissions.'**
3. Naval History Magazine Acts of Valor' section featured Captain Kelley in 2018, Father O'Callahan in 2019, and will add Lieutenant Power in the July/August 2020 issue. This will complete coverage of the three members of the Holy Cross community who have received the Medal of Honor.

Holy Cross Alumni Buried in Arlington National Cemetery

Father Keane and Tom Cadigan compiled a list a few years ago. If you know of other alumni buried in Arlington, in overseas military cemeteries, or whose remains were not recovered while in military service, please send name, class, rank, and service to ocallahan@holycross.edu

Class	Name	Rank	Branch
1936	Joseph Edward Gallagher	Captain	USA
1939	George Homer Tarr, Jr., M.D.	CAPT	USN
1940	Anthony Thomas Shtogren	MGen	USAF
1941	Anthony A. Akstin	Lt Col	USMC
1941	John ("Moose") William Hanlon Jr.	LT(jg)	USN
1941	Martin Fahy Mulry	Lt Col	USAF
1943	Thomas J. Alberghini	2nd Lt	USMC
1943	Daniel Joseph Lynch	1st LT	USMC
1946	William Robert Dolan Jr., Ex '46	CDR	USN
1948	Thomas Edward Morris	RADM	USN
1951	Gerard P. Shabe	CDR	USN
1953	David Patrick Donohue	RADM	USN
1953	Patrick McKenna	CDR	USN
1953	Patrick Joseph Ryan	Lt Col	USMC
1956	Edward Richard Way	CAPT	USN
1959	Philip Tracy Cunningham	CDR	USN
1960	Donald William Rourke	Major	USMC
1964	Michael William Doyle	CDR	USN
1970	John Michael O'Sullivan	LT(jg)	USN
1974	Robert J. Sise, Jr.	LT	USN
1976	Robert Roger Craner	Colonel	USAF
1995	Matthew Patrick Burke, M.D.	Major	USA