

Pres., Capt. **Peter W. Grieve** USMC
 Sec'y, Mr. **Daniel F. Busch**
 2405 Lemontree Ln., Plano TX 75074
Percent Members: 74 Living Grads: 910

Sorry I missed last month, but the time seems to slip away. It doesn't seem like we have been in Texas a year. I am again sorry to report the death of another Classmate. **Peter Olsen** died in April, but I have no details except his wife's address of 13568 Stoney Creek Rd., San Diego CA 92129. Our condolences to his family.

Greg Gray writes from the University of Alabama where he graduated from medical school in June. Greg and his wife Myrna are now in San Diego doing an internship in internal medicine. **Tom Gorman** has left the Navy and is working for Westinghouse near BWI airport and is living in Glen Burnie. **John Burton** is an NROTC instructor at Cornell and **Ray Tranchant** is an NFO flying F-14s out of Oceana, Virginia.

Mark Claussen will leave his admiral aide job in London in the Fall and head for CEC Basic School at Port Hueneme, California. **Jim Rowan** is a navigator on A-6s in Cherry Point and will deploy soon in SARATOGA. **Tom Keeley** is an instructor in VA-12 in Pensacola. **John Bukaukus** has finished legal school and is headed for Camp Lejeune.

Ed Anderson and his wife Amy are living in Virginia Beach and are the proud parents of their first child, Kathryn, born in April. **Carl Moore** and his wife Cheryl are living in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Carl is working at the Washington Navy Yard. **Shan Delmar** has finished his tour as XO in CONSTITUTION and is now at Newport in department head school. Shan and his wife Frances and a baby girl, Jennifer, on Mother's Day. **Ron Miller** and his wife Marsha were expecting in June and are moving this Summer from San Diego to New London.

Marv Rogers is in Orlando with the recruiting mobile training team and **Jerry Bennett** is still in Norfolk as an instructor with HC-6. **Dave Hayes** is working for the Singer Corporation in Maryland.

Tom Armino is an instructor at a RAG at Moffett Field. He has bought a house in the area and his new address is: 41996 Via San Carlos, Fremont CA 94539. **Dave Aland** is married and teaching SWOS in San Diego. **Tom Hejl** is leaving his A-7 RAG soon and should stay on the West Coast somewhere. **Dan Porter** is out of the Marine Corps and living in El Paso, Texas.

Frank Spence and his wife Mary sent the picture from Teresa and **Kilton Kingsman's** wedding in February at NAS Norfolk. Frank is now in El Toro, California. **Bill McCulloch** and Sandy are stationed in Quantico. **Glen Bacon** is stationed at Pt. Mugu at V-XE-6 and is a naval flight surgeon.

Group at the Kingsman Wedding



Al Clever and Gail are both stationed at the Academy. **Betsy** and **Monty Packer** are stationed in the Washington area. **Debbie** and **Roger Fleischer** and two children are stationed in Virginia Beach. **Loren Plisco** and **Patty** are living in Pennsylvania and working for the NRC.

I had a long talk with **Pete Grieve** about many things the Class could be doing. There will be elections soon as we are supposed to have elections every five years. If anyone has ideas about a class project or some ideas about where the Class should be headed, let one of us know. We are going to try to be more active over the next few years. I also asked Pete to summarize the G.I. Bill problem as I get many calls on this. I will close with the letter, and please let me hear from all of you this Summer.

Several Classmates have written me asking whether service academy graduates of 1977 rate G.I. Bill educational benefits. According to the letter of the law, we do not, and I do not expect this to change. I know of several Classmates who have applied for and received the old G.I. Bill. Good luck to those who try.

The remainder of this letter summarizes our Class' efforts to reinstate the G.I. Bill.

In 1979, **Marc Watson** had thoroughly researched our case and submitted an appeal to the Veterans' Administration. His appeal was denied; the VA expressed sympathy for his plight, but its hands were tied by the explicit wording of the law that had terminated the G.I. Bill. We were denied educational benefits by that law, and unless that law was changed, there would be no administrative avenue of redress. We then turned to legislative means.

In December 1980, as that session of Congress was ending, the Class of 1977 of all service academies had a bill in the House of Representatives. Due to our letter-writing campaign and lobbying efforts, 45 Congressmen had agreed to co-sponsor the bill. Despite this significant support, the bill was actively blocked from leaving the Veteran's Affairs Committee.

One week prior to my departure from Washington for an overseas tour, I secured an audience with the man most responsible for the bill's blockage, the chief counsel to the committee. I presented our legal case to him, and he countered with non-legal arguments such as, "Why should the taxpayers provide you with a second free education?" and "The Pentagon fears mass attrition for your Class if the G.I. Bill is granted." I was prepared, and rebutted each one. By the conclusion of our meeting, he conceded that: a) we had a legitimate claim to G.I. Bill educational benefits; b) Congress had inadvertently discriminated against us in drafting the legislation that terminated the G.I. Bill; c) there was indeed an inequity between our ROTC contemporaries and us as a result; and d) he would no longer actively block the bill.

However, he stated that he could not support

the bill either, despite its merits, because of budget constraints. We had won the battle but lost the war. The number of co-sponsors grew to 100 before the end of the session, but the bill never left committee. The bill was reintroduced during the next Congress, but with no Classmate in Washington actively pushing for its passage, the bill died.

Back then, several prospective "new G.I. Bills" were batted around Congress and the Pentagon. Today, because of the recent history of easily-filled enlistment quotas, none is seriously discussed. In this environment (under the current Administration's cutback of the VA budget), returning our case to Congress would be fruitless. Until the current political climate (and the economy) change in our favor, the legislative avenue of redress will not exist for this issue.

While I was working on the legislative angle, **Marc Watson** was pursuing from a legal standpoint. His case bounced back and forth between district court and claims court, because neither one would accept jurisdiction. After several years and substantial cost for trying, he too hit a dead end.

I won't say that our Class will never get the G.I. Bill, but by the time we do, I don't think any of us would need it. I hope this answers your questions. If you have any more, you can write to me at: 20 Harrison Avenue, Monson MA 01057. **Pete Grieve**.

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 At-sea Corr., Lt. (jg) **J.E. McFadden** USN
 USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN-40), FPO NY 09578
Percent Members: 88 Living Grads 913

Dear Sir,

I thought I had better address this letter properly since most of my readers outrank me! Maybe someday the Marines will catch up with the Navy, but it won't be for a long while. Now that I have given all you full lieutenants your due, I don't want to hear any gloating about being senior to us lowly captain selectees.

This was a pretty good month for letters although most of them were fairly short. Before I get started I am putting an APB out on Sharon and **Tom Brandl**. Where are they? By the way, I know you are all anxious to learn how I did at the George Hamilton Suntan Open. Well, I started off doing real well in the preliminaries but lost in the semis when my haircut line showed. The price I pay for being 'FEW AND PROUD.'

Brian Philipp stopped by Camp Lejeune on his way to Newport. He is going to be an instructor at NAPS. He will take it upon himself to fully train our future junior officers. The thought is rather sobering, don't you think? I can't really believe anyone would trust Philo with a young mid! **Tom**