

SACO NEWS



The Sino-American Cooperative Organization Historical Education Society, Inc.
Preserving the Memory of The Rice Paddy Navy
Perpetual Skipper VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles

December 2018

WHAT THE HELL?

Issue No. 49

Inside this issue

Dues notice

In keeping with the new practice begun last year, we've enclosed your dues notice in the newsletter. Please look for the green sheet inside and return your dues to our new treasurer, Dairus Reynnet, right away. Note that this applies to Associate members. Original SACO Veterans are not required to pay dues. Thank you!

SACO governance news

Our organization has made some important changes this year that will allow us to continue as a nonprofit organization. We have a new name, new by-laws, and a new slate of officers. See the complete story on p. 3.

Listen to radio program about SACO Reunion

Interlochen Public Radio interviewed SACO veterans Ken Brown and Jim Kelly and associates Jack Coyle and Charles Miles during the reunion this June. The story is on p. 9. You can listen to it online at: <http://www.interlochenpublicradio.org/post/world-war-ii-vets-gathered-tc-remember-secret-mission-behind-japanese-lines>

SACO Friends Celebrate 62nd Reunion in Michigan

Veterans, family, and friends of SACO celebrated our 62nd Reunion June 13–16, 2018, in Traverse City, Michigan, a beautiful resort community on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan on Traverse Bay.

SACO veterans Ken Brown, Jim Kelly, Jack Peterson, and the late Richard I. Terpstra were among the 80 participants who enjoyed the extended weekend hosted by Lynn Terpstra Grabenstein and Dairus Reynnet. Official representatives from Taiwan were DDG General Sheng, Colonel Tzeng, and Liaison Officers Vience Fu and Mina Juan. Also attending from Taiwan were special guests General and Mrs. Kuo and Colonel Laura Lin, who have attended reunions and maintained friendships with SACO for many years.

The reunion kicked off with a Tea Ceremony Welcome Wednesday evening. On Thursday, the group enjoyed a spectacular cruise in Traverse Bay aboard a tall sailing ship. We could not have asked for better weather or more beautiful scenery.

Friday featured a tour of Black Star Farms winery, where the group sampled wines, followed by lunch in Suttons Bay and a brief visit to the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes.

Saturday began with a meeting of the Board and Trustees and a general meeting for all SACO members, where a new slate of officers was elected. See a summary of the meeting on p. 3.

The Banquet Saturday night was a true celebration of SACO. The men of VFW Post 2780 and American Legion Post 35 made the traditional Presentation of the Colors, followed by an Invocation by Reverend Richard Maurcie.



SACO veterans Richard Terpstra, Jack Peterson, Ken Brown, and Jim Kelly with General Kuo

(continued on p. 4)

SACO Officers 2018

President and Trustee

Chairperson: Lynn Terpstra
Grabenstein
Vice President: James Hunnicutt
Membership Chairman: Jack Coyle
Treasurer: Dairus Reynnet
Assistant Treasurer: Pete Barbieri
Secretary: Judy Barbieri
Assistant Secretary: Penny Coates
Historian: Jack Coyle
Editor SACO News: Linda Kush
Legal Counsel: Jim Hasson

Trustees:

Ken Brown
Robert Coates
Carolyn Inman Arnold
Sue Meier
Jonathan Maurice

SACO Membership

For information about SACO membership, please contact Jack Coyle, membership chairman:
jackwcoyle@bellsouth.net
770-788-2454

SACO Website

www.saconavy.net

THANK YOU

Many thanks to these people for contributing to this issue of *SACO News*:

Special thanks to Ellen Booth for sending this editor a treasure trove of past SACO News issues. Pages are included in this issue and will be published in future issues.

Reunion photos by Jason Gillman
Envelope icon on p. 4 made by OCHA at www.flati-con.com

SACO Annual Dues

Payment is due January 1 each year.

Annual dues: \$35.00

Please remit to:

Dairus Reynnet
c/o SACO
8608 E. Vermontville Hwy
Dimondale, MI 48821

A green membership form is enclosed for your convenience. Please return it to Dairus with your dues today!

SACO News

is published by and for family and friends of SACO Veterans, Sino-American Cooperative Organization (aka U.S. Naval Group China as well as the Rice Paddy Navy). The late Richard Rutan is Our Perpetual Editor-in-Chief. The publication is funded by annual dues of members.

Please send your comments, news, and memories (along with clear pictures, if available) to the Editor:

Linda Kush
57 Brighton Ave. #9
Boston MA 02134
linda.kush@verizon.net

Keep your SACO News coming!

If it has been more than two years since you paid your dues, this is the last issue you will receive, as voted by the Trustees in June 2013. Please keep your dues current to stay on the mailing list. (waived for original SACO vets)

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SACO Governing News

As SACO Veterans enters the group's seventh decade, the organization is making changes, including a new name, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws, effective December 2018. We are now The Sino-American Cooperative Organization Historical Education Society, Inc.

These changes will allow the SACO organization to move forward as we transition from an association by and for veterans to one focused on preserving and spreading the history of SACO, as well as maintaining friendships among the families and friends of the men who served in SACO.

The changes are needed because our legal status has changed from a 501(c)(19) veterans group to a 501c3 non-profit group.

At the June 16, 2018 meeting, the members elected a roster of five Officers and five Trustees:

Lynn Terpstra Grabenstein, President/Trustee
Chairperson

James Hunnicutt, Vice President

Dairus Reynnet, Treasurer

Judy McAfee Barbieri, Secretary

Jack Coyle, Membership/Historian

Trustees:

Ken Brown, of Wyoming

Robert Coats, of North Carolina

Carolyn Inman Arnold, of California

Sue Meier, of Indiana

Jonathan Maurice, of Indiana

In addition, Lynn Grabenstein appointed two

Officers:

Pete Barbieri, Assistant Treasurer

Penny Coates, Assistant Secretary

Linda Kush remains Newsletter editor.

New Legal Counsel is Jim Hasson of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Incorporation of the SACO Historical Education Society is now based in the State of Georgia.

The Officers and Trustees approved the By-Laws on Aug. 22, 2018. They will be published in a future issue of SACO News.

Solomon Ellman, Army Radioman in China

Sol Ellman, age 99, contacted this editor from his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He had read my book about SACO, *The Rice Paddy Navy*, which brought back memories of his service in China in World War II. He was delighted to find Guiyang where he had served on a map in the book.

A Chicago native, Ellman joined the Army in 1942 and was assigned to the 12th Armored Division. For communication, his outfit relied on motorcycles driving around carrying written messages, which was inefficient at best. Clearly, the unit needed a better system, and Ellman was sent to communication school as part of that effort.

But he never returned to the 12th Armored Division. Someone must have liked the way he tapped the telegraph key, because he was reassigned to the Signal Corps and sent to China, totally in the dark about what he would do there.

His long journey followed the path of many SACOs, sailing to India, flying over the Hump to Kunming, and then riding by truck to his assignment in Guiyang. Judging from his account, this may have been Camp 10.

Upon arrival, he was greeted by a tall, blond Navy officer. He doesn't recall the man's name, but he clearly remembers asking the oft-repeated question, "What the hell is the Navy doing in the middle of China?" The officer said he was there to train the local Chinese military recruits.

Ellman's job was simple. He sent out weather reports twice a day by radio in Morse code. While the workload was not demanding, he understood its importance. He knew that the reports provided vital information to U.S. Navy ships at sea.

Having plenty of free time, he explored the area and taught the Chinese soldiers to play softball. They loved the game.

Sol was in China for about a year. When he returned home, he attended the University of Illinois, where he met his wife Una. After they graduated, they moved to her native New York, where they lived for decades and raised a family until retiring to Florida.

(SACO Reunion continued from p. 1)

Dairus Reynnet demonstrated the new SACO website, saconavy.net, designed by PortaVilla Applied Technology in Michigan.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, a sovereign nation of Native Americans in Michigan, honored SACO with a cultural exchange of friendship. They shared their traditions of dance and music in ceremonial attire. Earlier, they had presented the four veterans with handmade beaded medallions of the SACO symbol, a touching surprise gift. Tribal Elder Tom Peters gave a teaching. The presentation was led by Tribal Chairman Thurlow McClellan, the governing body of the Nation, along with the Elders and Veterans of the Eagleton American Legion Post 120. Lynn Grabenstein and Linda Deptro of the Grand Traverse Band exchanged warm emails after the reunion, published below.

Outgoing SACO President Dan Miller gave an address and Charles Miles offered highlights of SACO history, followed by remarks from Adm. Richard P. Terpstra and General Sheng.

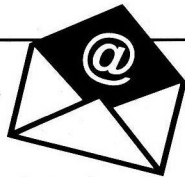
The SACO Medal was presented to the families of Jack Harris, Frazer T. Shortlidge, and Robert S. Halperin, and to Roy Allen Bradford in absentia.

General Sheng presented beautiful plaques to the four veterans present on behalf of the ROC, and many other gifts were exchanged.

Co-host Dairus Reynnet could not have been more pleased with how the reunion turned out.

"We put a lot a work into it and worried a little about the details, but in the end, it all came together perfectly. I give full credit to our vendors, the hotel, the bus company, restaurants, the venues, and everyone else for doing exactly what they said they would and giving us a flawless event," Reynnet said.

Post-reunion emails between Lynn and Linda



Good Morning Linda,

Thank you for the impressive program the Tribe presented. Everyone was entranced! Tom Peters was informative and Sam McClellan was an excellent representative. I am honored to have met them and so happy you were able to be on site. The medallions are beautifully hand-crafted and priceless! My father loved every minute. Please advise where to send a token of our appreciation.

I just got back home last night after hosting some of the SACO members and a few of the Taiwanese delegation at our cabin. I am now ready to enjoy the rest of the summer:) Hope you get to do the same!

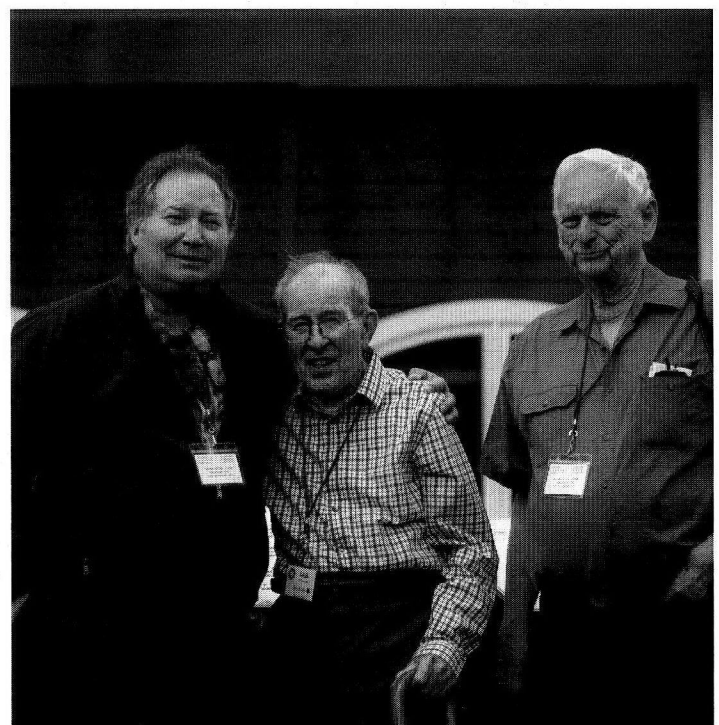
Every Blessing,

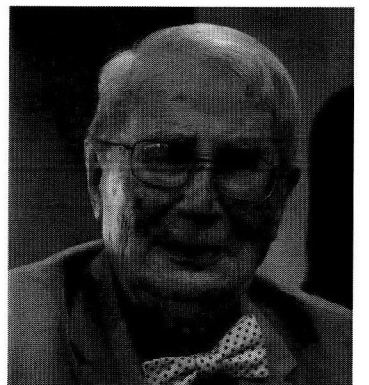
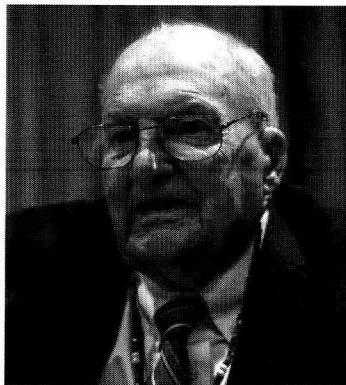
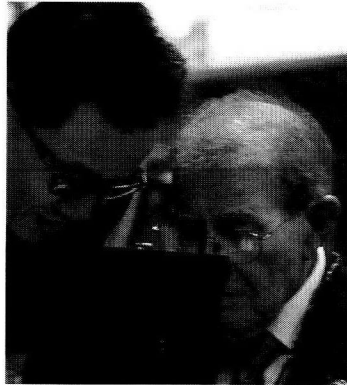
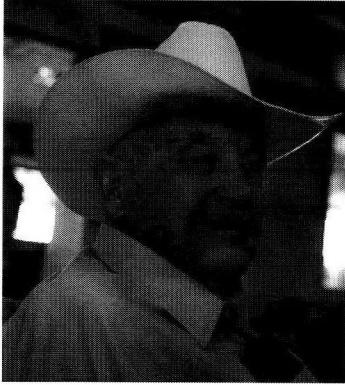
Lynn Grabenstein
SACO Reunion host and President/Trustee Chairperson

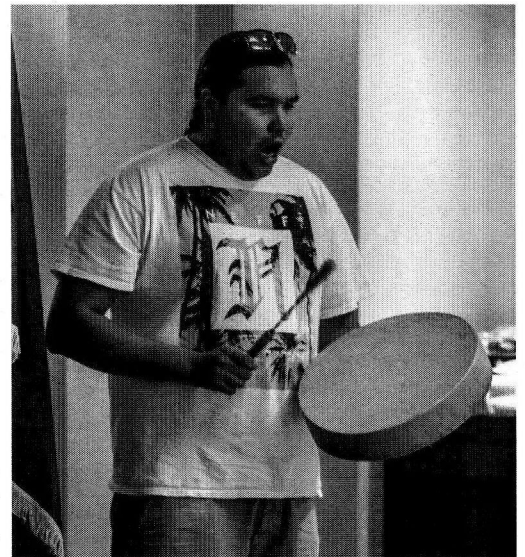
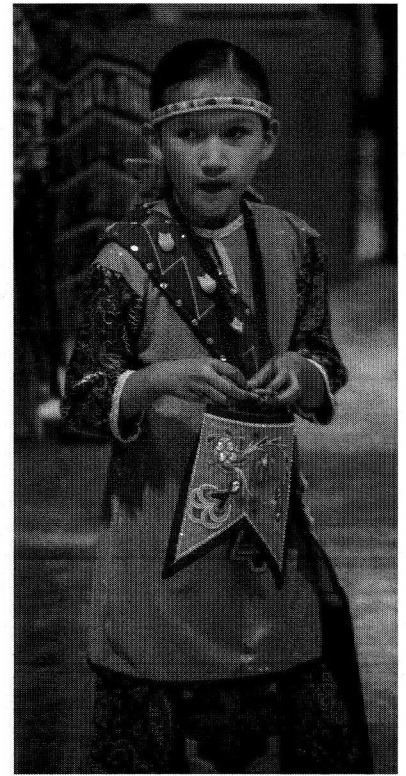
Good Morning:

Commendations to you and all those who put the "love" in that annual event. It is very obvious and there is a "sense" of family that was mentioned. Good Job and you are very welcome. Just send the check to my attention and I will forward personally to make sure there is proper acknowledgement of receipt. I wish all of you as new friends the very best in life, health and well being and I have valued this opportunity more than I can say.

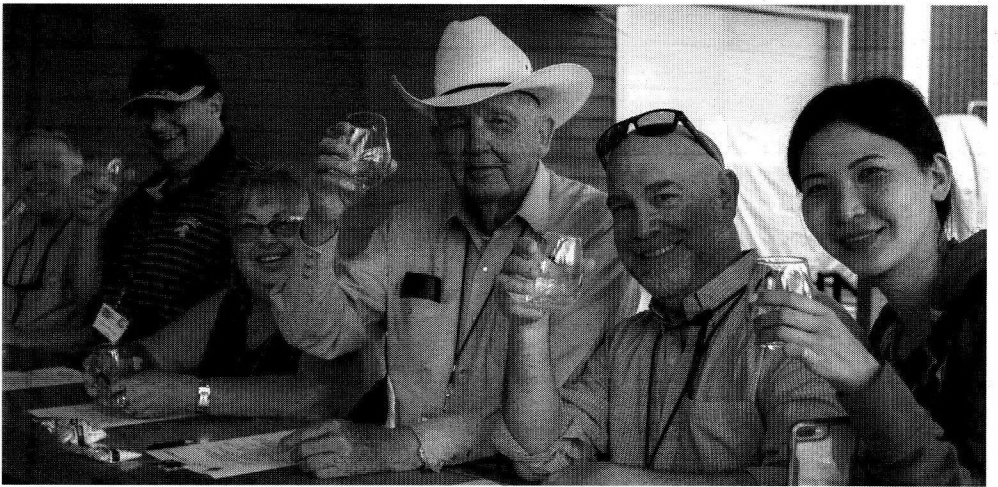
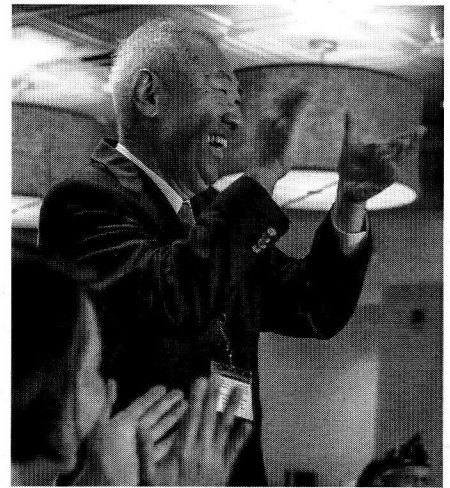
Linda Deptro
Veterans Service Officer
The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians











WWII Vets Gather in Traverse City, Remember Secret Mission Behind Japanese Lines in China

By Caroline MacGregor
Interlochen Public Radio
June 20, 2018

This story was published and broadcast by Interlochen Public Radio, the NPR network for northern Michigan.
—Editor

A group of veterans who took part in a secret military operation in China during WWII were in Traverse City last week, celebrating their 62nd reunion.

The men were part of SACO - the Sino-American Cooperative Organization. It was an effort between the U.S. Navy and the National Military Council of China put together just weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Nearly 2,500 Navy servicemen were embedded in units stationed all over China in an operation known as "Project Friendship."

There aren't many vets from "Project Friendship" left these days but last week, some of them were hanging out, enjoying cocktails on the rooftop at Hotel Indigo.

Ninety-seven-year-old Jim Kelly served as a meteorologist.

"This is the last one for this organization. That's why I'm here," says Kelly. "I hadn't gone for a number of years. We're dying out."

Kelly attended the reunion with his family - the next generation of sons and daughters, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, grandchildren. They gathered to remember and honor the men of SACO.

SACO's mission provided training and equipment for the Chinese. It also provided weather forecasts and radio intelligence from inside Japanese controlled territory. The secrecy of the mission was vital to protect the men, who often operated just hundreds of yards from the enemy.

Historian Jack Coyle says SACO conducted regular search and rescue missions for crews shot down over China.

"A lot of times the local population of China would find them and bring them back into areas that were occupied by Americans and get them back through headquarters," says Coyle.

Coyle says the U.S. Navy, in cooperation with China's military leaders, developed the plans with US Commander Milton E. "Mary" Miles, the leader of SACO.

Charles Miles is the son of Commander Miles. He says SACO soldiers lived with - and relied upon - their Chinese counterparts for survival.

"The American and Chinese counterparts worked side by side, ate meals together. They didn't sleep together, they just depended on each other," says Miles.

Miles says at the time most of the Americans had an "unseen" Chinese protector.

"None of the men knew it at the time. That there was a Chinese assigned to make sure nothing happened to them," he says. "They were responsible from their ancestral standpoint. It would bring dishonor to their family if something happened. They didn't realize they were being protected."

During the entire operation, only three Americans were captured and five killed. Seventy-one-thousand Japanese military personnel died during the SACO mission.

Radioman 1st Class Kenneth U. Brown, now 95 years old, remembers his mission.

"I was sent behind Japanese lines with radio transmitters and direction finders to track Japanese ships," says Brown. "It was relayed to 14th Air Force. We sunk a lot of subs and ships that way."

Decades later, Brown finds himself in Traverse City with the some of the last remaining SACO vets, enjoying a sail on one of Traverse City's tall ships and sharing cocktails at Hotel Indigo.

It's a nostalgic moment for WWII navy veterans. A few veterans are aware they may perhaps be gathered together for one last time. It's hard to know how many vets are left.

Before the reunion in Traverse City, Jack Coyle reached out to one of them - an author who was living in England.

"I tried to track him down through the publisher and found out he'd passed away right after the book was published," says Coyle. "He didn't even know there was an organization called SACO."

There are tentative plans for another reunion next year in Taipei.

Flashback: Cover of SACO News from June 2011. Many thanks to Ellen Booth

JUNE 2011

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

ISSUE NO. 40

SACO VETERANS OF THE RICE PADDY NAVY CHINA

永年

Perpetual Skipper

THE

HELL

VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles



永年

*Our "Father" in SACO who left us 50 years ago this past March.
Adm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles holds one of his little girl friends in China in WWII*

From October 2000 issue of SACO News



SACO Christmas Party 1944 Commodore Miles Captain Beverly and General Tai Li

DAY IS DONE ... GONE THE SUN...
FROM THE LAKES, FROM THE HILLS,
FROM THE SKIES.
ALL IS WELL ... SAFELY REST.
GOD IS NIGH.

Taps

Membership Chairman Jack Coyle regrets to report the following deaths recorded since SACO News Issue 48, December 2017, as of Dec. 1, 2018. Locations of service are in chronological order.

John Peter Bleclie
September 4, 2018
Chungking

Robert "Buck" Halperin
May 8, 1985
Chungking, Kunming, Camp 6, Hwaan, Changchow,
Kulangsu, Shanghai

Donald E. Huber
August 28, 2018
Chungking

Cecil Davis Johnson
April 24, 2018
Calcutta, Chungking

Frank F. Lawson
March 15, 1992
Calcutta, Kunming, Chungking

Malcolm Lovell
October 26, 2018
Calcutta, Jorhat, Camp 6, Hwaan, Changchow,
Kulangsu

Richard I. Terpstra
October 14, 2018
Calcutta, Kunming, Foochow

Robert Traurig
July 17, 2018
Calcutta, Chungking, Shanghai

Marcel Wagner
February 2015
Chungking

Friend James Whitlock
May 15, 2011
Calcutta, Kunming, Foochow

Marlyn Dale Wilcox
April 25, 2018
Kanchow, Kienyang, Camp 8, Yu Ou, Shanghai,
Wenchow

John Peter Bleclie

John P. Bleclie, 97, of Centerton, OH peacefully passed away September 4, 2018 at his home in Spotsylvania, VA. He was born July 12, 1921, to Croatian immigrants, Josip and Helena Bajkovec.

John and his siblings grew up in a Catholic orphanage in Ohio. He attended St. Paul High School in Norwalk, OH, and in his senior year, received his letter for football. After graduation, he joined the US Navy as a weatherman and traveled the world setting foot in all but one continent. He was part of the Sino-American Cooperative Organization during WWII in the "Rice Paddy Navy" in China. The movie Destination Gobi is loosely based on this; however, author Linda Kush has published "The Ride Paddy Navy; U.S. Sailors Undercover in China" which offers a more accurate picture of his mission there.

He made three trips to the Antarctic on the USS Glacier, and two Antarctic peaks are named after him. During his younger years, he was an avid sportsman, playing football, boxing, golf, bowling, track, and baseball having turned down an offer to pitch for the Detroit Tigers.

John retired from the USN as a Chief Petty Officer and then went to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Suitland, MD while raising three of his daughters. Upon his govern-

ment retirement, he moved to Rutherfordton, NC, where he enjoyed many years gardening, wine making, delivering newspapers, remodeling his farmhouse, fishing, making football bets, and helping others. He eventually returned to Maryland and finally Virginia where he enjoyed his last years gardening, sneaking snacks to his dogs, helping his great-grandkids with their homework, and having lunch dates with his special girl Ally.

John was a hard working, fearless, and seemingly indestructible man, who held on to his faith throughout his life and passed that on to his family. He loved his cigars, sweet wine, spicy food, crab cakes, Reeses' Peanut Butter Cups, Rocky Road ice cream, Washington Redskins, betting the ponies, and never turned down an opportunity to have fun. His life was full and well lived; and he was well loved.

John is predeceased by his daughter, Patricia Ann Bleclie Lanier; son, Joseph J. Bleclie; and daughter, Theresa Marie Bleclie.

He is survived by his sister, Emilie Heabler of Akron, OH; daughters, Joan M. Posey (Don) of Indian Head, MD, Mary B. Frazier (Glenn Anderson) of St. Petersburg, FL, and Kathy B. Symborski (Sean) of Spotsylvania, VA; 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Donald E. Huber

Donald Edward Huber, a lifelong resident of Gladwin, Michigan, passed away peacefully at The Brook of Gladwin on August 28, 2018. Don was born on November 7, 1922 to Maude and Mathia Huber in Grout Township. Don was the youngest of 11 children. Growing up, Don helped with the family farm, and according to his sisters, was often mischievous and the recipient of many spankings for his pranks. Don graduated from Gladwin High School in 1940 and then helped his father at the Huber Dairy in downtown Gladwin. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 12, 1942. After completing boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Station in North Chicago, IL, Don was sent to radio school for 4 months and was offered a volunteer position for "long and hazardous duty in a foreign land," which he immediately accepted. After further training in Washington D.C., Don left for San Pedro, CA to board the SS Mark Hopkins to start his journey to China. After a sea 30 days to Australia and another 28 to India, Don began the long overland

journey to their base camp affectionately called "Happy Valley," located outside of Chungking. His secret assignment was called the Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO). Don transmitted weather reports that helped stage invasions and raids on Japan, gather intelligence on Japanese ships, troops, and supplies, and rescue downed American flyers. One memory Don often shared with his children was his dislike of Chinese food and how he ate a lot of eggs because they were "safe." Don was Honorably Discharged on January 19, 1946, with a Radioman First Class rating and four ribbons. After finishing his service in the war, Don returned to the States and attended Michigan State College, completing a course in Dairy Manufacturing in 1948. Don then returned to Gladwin and purchased the dairy business in 1949 so his father could retire. He later turned the dairy and ice cream parlor into Huber's Restaurant. In 1974, Don sold the restaurant, which was later renamed the Peppermill. Don was also a well-known dairy inspector for the State of Michigan for several years. In 1951, Don went on a blind date where he met Mary Paxton. They were married on February 16, 1952. In 1956, after having four of their seven children, Don helped build their dream home in the Woods subdivision which led to a lifetime friendship with the family of Jack and MaryLiz Woods, as well as the family of Joe and Doris Mehl. Don and Mary had recently celebrated their 66th Wedding anniversary in February 2018. During their marriage, Don and Mary had an active social life playing in bridge clubs, hosting parties, and traveling to the British Isles, Ireland, France, Spain, Mexico, Alaska, and even going back to China. Don was also involved and served on many committees such as Rotary, the Centennial Committee, and helping with the 1960 Census. He was also on the Vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and served for several years on the Gladwin School Board, some as president. He was preceded in death by his spouse, Mary Ellen Huber, in February 2018. He leaves behind his loving children, Luann Udell (Jon), Sue VanDeventer (Tom), Mathias Huber (Cindy Porrett), Amy Eagan (Mike), Jane Wetmore, Jennifer King, and Andy Huber (Marcy). He was a loving grandfather of 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He also leaves his sisters Maxine Young and Patricia Priemer. Don's family and friends have many fond memories of his playfulness and witty remarks, but one will always stay in our hearts: "See you later, alligator!" He will be greatly missed.

Malcolm Read Lovell Jr.

Malcolm Read Lovell Jr., known to all as Mac, passed away in his sleep on October 26, 2018. Mac was the only child of Malcolm Read Lovell and Emily Monihan Lovell.

Mac was born on January 1, 1921, and thrived at school, attending Lawrenceville at which he was an enthusiastic house team football player, Brown University, and Harvard Business School. His education was interrupted by World War II during which he served in the Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO), a US Navy intelligence unit, and was stationed in the small town of Hua'an, China. There the three officers and a small group of enlisted men ran guerilla networks and provided weather information for US fleet operations. His many adventures and misadventures all ended well.

Mac's service in China was a highlight of his life. He carried with him a love of China and the Chinese people throughout his life and became widely famous for his translation of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" into Chinese. Through the rest of his life he led friends and business associates in singing the song in Chinese, dividing them up into groups of ducks, chickens and pigs, celebrating Mr. Wong and his farm.

His career ranged from private business (Ford Motor Company and American Motors) to state government (head of the Michigan Employment Security Commission under Gov. George Romney). Mac then moved to Washington, DC, in 1970 where he served as Assistant Secretary for Manpower in the Department of Labor under President Nixon, President of the Rubber Manufacturers Association, Undersecretary of Labor under President Reagan, President of the National Planning Association and finally as a professor at the George Washington School of Business. The common theme throughout his career was a passion for bringing organized labor and management together.

His marriages to the former Cary Sheldon and Beatrice Sweeney ended in divorce. Mac is survived by his wife of 40 years, Celia Coghlan Lovell and his four daughters, Lucie Lovell Tillson (Steve); Sara Lovell Birkhead (Elliott); Annette Lovell Nathan; and Caroline Lovell (Mark Malmberg) as well as by eleven grandchildren. Their love and admiration travel with him.

Richard I. Terpstra

September 5, 1926–October 14, 2018. Richard (Dick) Terpstra, aged 92, died on October 14, 2018, and is now with his Lord. Preceded in passing by his loving wife, Martha, of 66 years, Dick was a WWII Navy Veteran, Michigan State Policeman, avid outdoorsman, and successful businessman. Dad (Grandpa, Papa, Dick, and Terp) was beloved by his four children—Lynn Grabenstein, Richard P., Lee, and Blake, 14 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, family, and numerous friends. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. Dick graduated from Union High School in Grand Rapids and at the age of 17, left to join the Navy. He served during WWII in China as a member of a US Navy team charged with supporting Chinese resistance to Japanese occupation in Manchuria. Following the war, he attended Central Michigan University studying business, playing football, and discovering Martha June Moore from Dearborn, MI. Dick married Marty and joined the Michigan State Police and was stationed in the Upper Peninsula. His love of hunting, fishing, and outdoor sports was cemented there. Throughout his life he passed on this love to his family, friends, and anyone he met. With new opportunities and a growing family, he reluctantly left the State Police and relocated to his hometown of Grand Rapids, "The Furniture City." From 1970 until his retirement in 1991, Dick began a career which involved many facets of the office furniture business. From starting his own manufacturing representative company to supporting and joining numerous corporations such as Stevenson & Lawyer, Steelcase, G & T, Cascade Woolen, and Berg Industries, he set high standards for performance and trust with his customers. It was one of Terp's highest priorities to pass on key skills, mentoring his younger team members. In retirement Dick and Marty settled in Baldwin, MI, at their cabin on the Baldwin River. His optimism, charity, sense of humor, and community involvement amplified. Faith and membership in the Baldwin Congregational Church sustained them through Marty's illness and passing. Later, AMVETS of Baldwin, SACO (Navy China Veterans), friends, and his family supported him through his bereavement. Dick helped many throughout life and he will be remembered as a friend, sage, and positive influence on anyone he met. It was commonly known that he never met a stranger. He was nourished by his faith in God and his connections to others. We will miss him every day.

Robert Traurig

Robert Traurig helped build one of the largest law firms in the world and, in so doing, swept Miami-Dade County upward. He was the expert zoning lawyer to whom developers turned when they knew that they would be facing opposition.

Traurig, 93, died on July 17, 2018, in Miami, his home since he was a teenager, leaving a legacy of law smarts and community leadership.

He founded the law firm of Greenberg Traurig in 1967 with Melvin Greenberg and Larry Hoffman. The firm now numbers more than 2,000 attorneys and lobbyists in 38 locations worldwide, including 29 in the United States. The firm also has branches in Europe, Israel, Latin America and Asia.

Three Jewish men who felt they didn't fit in with Miami's corporate law practices built a firm renowned for its diversity. The firm placed No 1 among Am-Law100 firms based on the number of Hispanic-American attorneys and African-American partners on The American Lawyer 2018 Diversity Scorecard for fiscal year 2017.

If late band manager Brian Epstein was considered the "fifth Beatle" by some for his guidance of the British pop music band, then the Waterbury, Conn.-born Traurig was the "14th Miami-Dade Commissioner." His impact as a land-use attorney earned him the moniker "father of Miami land use law."

In 1983, Traurig battled the Miami Planning Advisory Board to increase the building density along northern Brickell Avenue — a move the board said would "change essentially the character of Brickell." The change set the stage for Miami's cosmopolitan transformation; the National Law Journal named Traurig as one of the nation's 100 most powerful attorneys in 1985.

Traurig was often called "the soul of the firm" by Hoffman and current Executive Chairman Richard Rosenbaum, but Rosenbaum said that his legacy will be in a spirit of charity.

Honors included the 1997 Sand in My Shoes Award for community service from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the National Conference of Christians and Jews' Silver Medallion award. He was named to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation's Commerce and Professions Hall of Fame and recognized by Miami Business magazine as one of the "100 Most Powerful People in Miami."

He got there, in part, for his many civic activi-

ties. Traurig chaired the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce from 1991 to 1992, and guided the organization as a director for 11 years. He led the Florida Grand Opera, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Performing Arts Center Foundation, the University of Miami's Citizens Board and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. And he was a trustee of his synagogue, Beth David Congregation.

Traurig's survivors include his wife of 65 years, Jacqueline Traurig; daughters Madeline Sackel and Wendy Traurig; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Marlyn Dale Wilcox

Marlyn Dale Wilcox, 92, of Pilot Point, Texas, passed away April 25, 2018.

He was born on Feb. 8, 1926, in Gibbon to Chester M. and Norma J. (Omey) Wilcox.

Marlyn married Beverly Meller on Oct. 7, 1962, in Gering.

Marlyn was in the U.S. Navy and served in China. He was a member of SACO, the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, which was approved by both the Chinese and U.S. governments. SACO trained Chinese troops and gathered intelligence, and coast-watchers reported enemy movement. They also set up weather stations throughout China to produce weather reports for the Pacific Fleet. At the end of World War II, SACO included 97,000 organized Chinese guerrillas and 20,000 saboteurs and pirates. For 40 years, Marlyn worked for Union Pacific Railroad as a conductor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Norma; two sons, Stephan and Charles Wilcox; and brother and sister-in-law, Clayton and June Wilcox.

Marlyn is survived by his wife, Beverly of Pilot Point; three sons, Stanton (Brenda) Wilcox of Brunswick, Ohio, Marlyn Dee (Ellen) Wilcox of Alliance, and Danny (Un Chu) Wilcox of Lakewood, Washington; daughters, Ronda Schultz of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Judith (Clarence) Schanfish of Pilot Point; daughter-in-law, Marilyn Wilcox of North Platte; several grandchildren; a great-grandson; several great-great-grandkids; two cousins, Terry Baum of Wichita, Kansas, and Bob Thompson of Lincoln; niece, Jane (Don) Baker of Denver; and nephew, Jon (Ann) Wilcox.

SACO NEWS

Sino-American Cooperative Organization

Historical Education Society, Inc.

Linda Kush

57 Brighton Ave. #9

Boston MA 02134

Address correction requested

SACO History

SACO (pronounced “Socko”), the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, officially started in May 1942 in a rice paddy near Pucheng, 130 miles from the China coast; the formal SACO agreement was approved by both the Chinese and United States governments April 15, 1943. The Directors of SACO were General Tai Li, head of the Chinese Secret Service, and Commander (later, Rear Admiral) Milton Edward “Mary” Miles. This was a land-locked U.S. Naval unit of almost 2,700 Americans who fought the Japanese in China during WWII. The men became known as “SACO Tigers” and the outfit, “The Rice Paddy Navy.”

The center of operations, named Happy Valley, was

built eight miles west of Chungking. Fourteen additional camps were established. All of these units trained Chinese troops and gathered intelligence. At war’s end SACO included 97,000 organized Chinese guerrillas and 20,000 saboteurs and pirates.

SACO set up weather stations throughout China as far north as the Gobi Desert and by the end of 1943 began producing weather reports for the Pacific Fleet. Coast-watchers reported on enemy shipping and furnished targets for U.S. submarines as well as the 14th Air Force and Naval aviators.

The activities of SACO remain little-known at home; but these men and their deeds continue to be remembered, studied, and honored in China.