

The Fort Schuyler Mariner

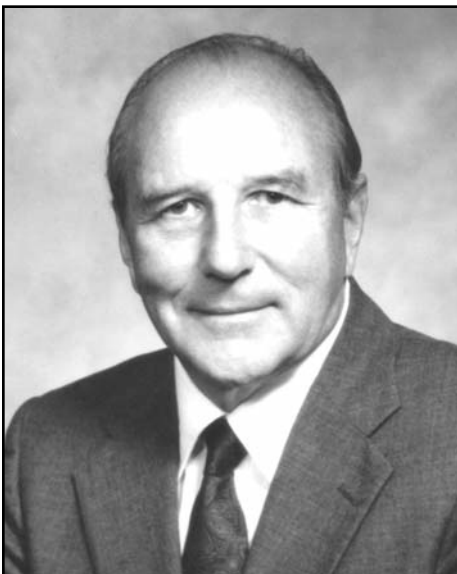
Official Newsletter of the Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association, Inc.

Fall 2009



2010 Alumni of the Year

Trio to Be Honored At Awards Dinner in January



Brian A. McAllister
Class of 1956



Ghulam M. Suhrawardi
Class of 1973



Joseph Byrne
Class of 1989

CAPT. BRIAN A. McALLISTER

BS Marine Engineering (1956)

Captain Brian McAllister is the current President of McAllister Towing, one of the oldest, largest and most prestigious family-owned towing and transportation businesses in the maritime industry. The company was founded by Captain James McAllister upon his arrival in New York from County Antrim, Ireland in 1864. With only one small tug, the “R.W. Burke”, he planted the roots of a company which would grow into today’s fleet of eighty tugs in twelve port cities. His descendants number over 1,000, including Brian’s forty-five first cousins. Amazingly, the McAllister dynasty is the only family-owned tug com-

pany now remaining out of some two-hundred similar companies which existed in New York Harbor in the late 1800’s.

Brian was born and raised in New York City, and after graduating from Fort Schuyler in 1956, served two years as a U.S. Navy officer. Following his military service, he went to sea as a Third Assistant Engineer for American Export Lines before convincing his father to find a slot for him on a McAllister tug. There, despite his engineering license, he spent six years as a Mate, Captain and Docking Pilot, dedicating himself to the handling of almost every tugboat in the fleet. While learning the nuances of the huge, complex New York Harbor, he earned one of the most extensive piloting licenses available for New York, Philadelphia, and Norfolk, and for the company’s ferry operations between Port Jefferson and Bridgeport on Long Island Sound.

Since becoming president of McAllister Towing, Brian has been involved in every aspect of the business that comes with the white-striped, red “Mac Stacks” seen operating in New York Harbor. He has been faced with many challenges, including deeply-discounted competition, an at-times violent strike, a fight for control of the company, and the never-ending struggle to retain talented crew. Yet, thanks to leadership such as his, McAllister Towing not only survives, it thrives. Always loyal, supportive and generous to his alma mater and to the Alumni Association, Brian is now one of New York’s most respected and popular leaders among maritime industry executives. It is worthy of note that among the six hundred employees of McAllister Towing, there are approximately forty of Brian’s fellow Maritime College graduates.

GHULAM M. SUHRAWARDI

BS Marine Transportation (1973)
MS Marine Transportation (1976)

A Maritime College graduate of the Class of 1973, Ghulam Suhrawardi was born and raised in a remote village in what is now Bangladesh. He has lived a life filled with dramatic changes. At a time of political crisis in the late 1960’s, Ghulam joined the Pakistani Merchant Marine as a cadet, subsequently jumping ship in Baltimore as civil war broke out in Pakistan. There, in exchange for a place to stay, he took a job as a church janitor, later working as a spice blender in a Hungarian-run Manhattan factory and a waiter in an Indian restaurant. In 1979 while operations manager for the Iranian-owned Star Lines, the Iranian revolution caused the company to shut down. His responses to those circumstances have undoubtedly helped make Ghulam the successful business owner and man of integrity that he is today.

Ten years after graduation, in 1983, Ghulam’s entrepreneurial nature emerged, and he opened the doors of National Maritime Consultants, Inc., with himself as Principal Surveyor and his wife as typist. Today, NMCI has offices in ports across the U.S. and in ten foreign countries. In addition to surveying and commodity inspections, NMCI has created a very profitable division providing oil analysis in laboratories near large port facilities in the U.S. A firm believer in diversification, Ghulam also owns two restaurants in Beijing.

Ghulam attributes a large portion of his success to his Fort Schuyler education, and to the Greyhound bus that got him there. His generosity is broad, including not only the college and the Alumni Association, but a school that he has built and funded in his native country. In addition to his philanthropic actions and business acumen, his warmth, easy-going nature and fine sense of humor have earned him the respect and affection of all who know him.

JOSEPH BYRNE

BE Electrical Engineering, Deck License (1989)

As a member of the Class of 1989, Joe Byrne is most likely the youngest Maritime College graduate yet to be honored by the FSMAA as an Alumnus of the Year. When the Association Board received word that at the age of forty-four, one of our fellow alumni was selected by Turner Construction Company to be Project Executive for the most prestigious project in the country, the decision to honor him was almost automatic. Within twenty years of his graduation from Fort Schuyler, Joe Byrne had risen to the point where the largest general contractor in the United States, and third largest in the world, had picked him to manage the construction of the new \$1.2 billion Yankee Stadium.

Turner’s choice could hardly be more appropriate, not only because Joe earned it, but also because he is a Bronx-born and raised, lifelong, died-in-the-wool, passionate Yankee fan. At school, he played center field for the baseball team and served as First Battalion X.O. He is a stereotypical Fort Schuyler grad, from a working class family, growing up in Throggs Neck and now living in Silver Beach, just outside the gates of the Fort.

Joe joined Turner Construction right out of school, insisting that he wanted to be a Field Engineer... no office job for this kind of energy. By 2001 he had worked his way up through Project Superintendent to Project Manager for 383 Madison Avenue, the Bear Stearns Tower, at forty-five stories, the tenth tallest building in Manhattan. In 2005, his first assignment as Project Executive was the Hearst World Headquarters, a forty-two story, 858,000 s.f. commercial office building at 57th Street and 8th Avenue. It was in 2006 that Turner chose him to build the new Yankee Stadium.

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STAFF

Editor:	Dick Bracken
Asst. Editor:	Bridget Bendo
Production:	Charles Ellwanger
Circulation:	Liset Caban

Joe is now Project Executive for Turner Construction's demolition of the old Yankee Stadium.

In addition to his achievements with Turner, Joe was named 2007 Irish Heritage Leader of the Year by the Bronx Borough President, and in 2008 acclaimed Man of the Year by the Bronx Citizens' Advice Bureau, a community outreach program with which Joe has been involved.

In spite of all of his success at such a young age, Joe remains a real Fort Schuyler guy... down to earth, modest, warm, approachable, and fun.

Note:

Brian McAllister, Ghulam Suhrawardi and Joe Byrne will be honored as 2010 FSMAA Alumni of the Year on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at the FSMAA Awards Dinner at Bridgewaters Restaurant, South Street Seaport in New York City. An insert providing reservation information is enclosed in this issue of the Fort Schuyler Mariner.

From The President's Desk



It is impossible for me to comprehend the fact that, after almost two years, only two months remain in my term of office as President of the FSMAA. On January 28, 2010, at the Awards Dinner, I will hand the gavel over to my successor, whomever that might be.

Some of the dreams and plans I brought with me in January of 2008, as I took the helm, have

come into fruition while others remain unsatisfied. The Association does now have a drastically improved set of By-Laws, enabling it to function in a much more disciplined and effective way. Our events, led by Director Liset Caban, have been very successful, profitable even when planned to break even. An Alumni Association tradition since 1971, our big Annual Awards Dinner is now held in even-numbered years, with conventional Annual Dinner Meetings in odd-numbered years, a system which is proving to be popular and successful with members and staff. If you have not yet attended any of these events, you have missed something special. In 2008, over 350 members and guests attended the Awards Dinner at Bridgewaters Restaurant in South Street; the occasion received unanimous acclaim. In January 2010 we will do it again, and with three more outstanding honorees, you may rest assured that it will once again be a sellout. If you are in the area, do not miss this

great celebration.

Our financial support for the cadets, the Summer Sea Term Scholarship program, continues. After a drastic decline in the value of our endowment funds due to the stock market slide in 2008, we were still able, with the membership responding to an emergency appeal, to award \$180,000 to 120 cadets embarking on the SST. I cannot overstate how especially proud I was to be the president of the FSMAA at that time.

Our new format of spring and fall Networking Meetings in midtown Manhattan pubs is drawing more members than ever before, and the Homecoming Dinner Cruises have become a favorite for class reunions. A standing Membership Committee is now functioning, and it is well along in the complex process of creating the first-ever charter for our nineteen coast-to-coast chapters.

Communications have improved, with e-mail blasts going out to all members much more frequently, providing timely information as needed. The Fort Schuyler Mariner has morphed from a glossy, twice-a-year magazine into a quarterly newsletter, saving the Association many thousands of dollars every year and bringing much more current news to the members.

And yet, my one big goal is still to be realized... for the FSMAA to be one with our school again, to be working with the college administration for the good of the school and its students. In this area, it has been a quiet two years since I became president of the FSMAA... no bickering, no contentiousness. I have a cordial relationship with Admiral Craine, but the fact remains that there is no progress. We made a number of moves in 2008 to demonstrate our good will, but there was no response. Some say that SUNY will never accept an independent alumni association, that they will not open the door, even a little, for any possible difference of opinion about the operation of the college. Personally, I believe that one of the duties of an alumni association is to provide respectful dissent. I remember well the words of Board Member Earl Baim at one of my first Board meetings, "If we are to give up our independence and be controlled by SUNY, who is to advocate for the school as we know it?" Who, indeed? On the bright side, for the past few months, I have been quietly consulting with people on both sides of the fence, and ever the optimist, I still believe that it can happen. When? How? Only time will tell, but don't expect anything soon.

In summary, we have the usual "good news and bad news". I prefer to focus on the former, and urge all of you to do the same. As proud Fort Schuyler graduates, enjoy your classmates' and shipmates' company, be grateful for your friends, and support your Alumni Association. It exists to serve you.

Warmest regards to all,

Dick Bracken

\$65,000 DONATION RECEIVED

In late August, Audrey Gerson of Fort Wayne, Indiana, widow of Joe R. Gerson, Class of 1947, continued her strong support of the Alumni Association by sending an unrestricted donation of \$65,000 to the FSMAA office in Parlin, New Jersey. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Gerson provided another \$7,000 to fund three tables for cadets and provide music at the FSMAA Homecoming Dinner Cruise on October 10. Mrs. Gerson, the Gerson family's Valiant Foundation, and Joe's shipmates, the "Scissorbills" of the Class of '47, have been steadfast in their generosity to the Alumni Association which Joe cared so deeply about.

Dick Bracken, President

Class of 1948 60th Class Reunion (delayed report)

At Homecoming Weekend on September 26-27, 2008, the Class of 1948... the last of the two-year classes... celebrated the 60th anniversary of their graduation from the New York State Maritime Academy. On Friday night, the 26th, ten members of the class plus one widow mustered at the Royal Regency Hotel in Yonkers for a nostalgic reception and dinner party.

On Alumni Day, the 27th, the classmates marched into Reisenberg Hall with their class banner followed by the Class of 1958, the 50th anniversary honor class in 2008. Then the 300 plus "Mugs" of the new class of 2012 marched in. They and various other alumni in attendance were the audience for appropriate honors and ceremonies.

The Class of '48 herewith named: Wallace Bade, Joseph Lemaire, John Messersmith, Hap Parnham, Arnold Rothstein, Walter Rucks, Martin Silver, Mortimer Sullivan,



George Taborsky, Richard Van Derzee, and Ms Frances Spicer, widow of Hugh Spicer, along with the Class of '58 were guests at a luncheon in VanderClute Hall.

Submitted by Harold A. 'Hap' Parnham

2010 CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

BRADLEY, ALBINO, MUNSCH NOMINATED TO TOP POSTS

Seventy members of the FSMAA gathered at The Perfect Pint, a midtown Manhattan pub, on Thursday, September 17, for the Association's Fall Membership and Nominating Meeting. President Dick Bracken announced the 2010 nominees, chosen by the Nominating Committee of Chairman/Board Member Frank Ragonese, Past President Steve Gulotta, and Board Member Bridget Bendo. The nominees presented are:

Officers (1-year term)

President	John Bradley '83
1st V.P.	John Albino '56
2nd V.P.	Charles Munsch '73
Secretary	Earl Baim '80
Treasurer	Kevin Comerford '83
Asst. Treasurer	Ted Mason '57

Board of Directors (3-year term)

3 seats available

Pat Dempsey '92
Carl Hausheer '79
Jim Maloney '80
Martin McCluney '83
Gopi Om Raju '98
Eric Sawinsky '04

There were no nominations from the floor for any position. According to the corporate by-laws, nominations in writing, accompanied by the signatures of fifteen Members in good standing, may be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than October 30. Subsequent to that date, the committee shall meet for its final selection of nominees, to be presented to the Board of Directors for its approval at its November meeting.

Elections will be held in November via electronic ballot. See the FSMAA website for details.

J. R. Bracken
FSMAA President

PLEASE VOTE

Details will appear on the FSMAA web site
in late November

www.fsmaa.org

Alumni News

Caroline Brock, Class of 2027, is shown here at Citi-field supporting her future alma mater. She is the daughter of Brannen & Margo Brock (Bransfield) '95.



Congratulations to the McCarthy family for the arrival of their latest edition Megan. She joins Andrew McCarthy '96 and Elizabeth Provensen McCarthy '96 and their two sons Jack and Quinn.

Congratulations to the Johnson family for the arrival of their latest edition Brendan. He joins Jay Johnson '96, his wife Jennifer and their son Ryan.

Peter Saitta '07 is happy to report he is currently sailing 2nd mate with Moran Transportation on the ATB "Pati R. Moran".

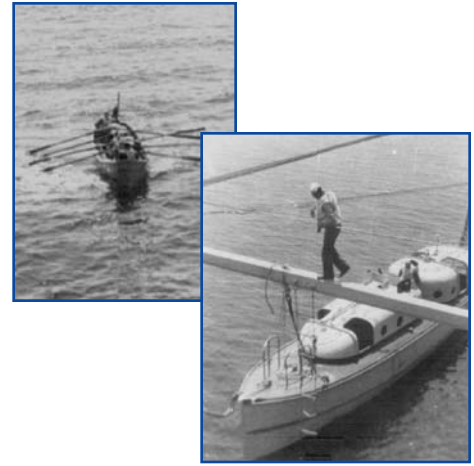
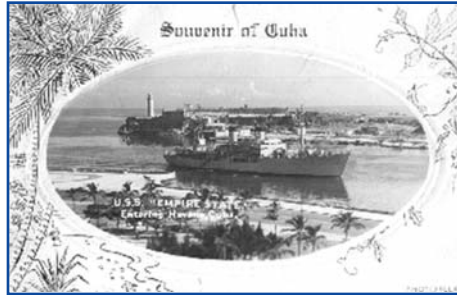
Mark Sal Patricola '96 is currently working for Shaw GBB Inc. as a Field Services Engineer located in One Penn Plaza. His office number is 212 290 6632 and enjoys keeping in touch.

Bob Preston '47 was reminiscing when he found several photos of their Mug training cruise of 1946 from Ft. Schuyler thru the Panama Canal to Callao (Lima) Peru, and home via Havana and other ports.



Picture Shellback caption: One of the highlights was the SHELLBACK ceremony when we crossed the Equator.

Another surprise was securing to the dock in Havana, and one of the first to board was a vendor who had photographed and made post cards of the EMPIRE STATE, in the time it took to clear customs and immigration. That was WAAAAAY before digital photography.



The others are lifeboat drill in Long Island Sound on our way out to first port Bermuda, and the Admiral's Barge ready to carry him back to the Fort.

I was too busy chipping decks and painting overheads to take a lot of pictures HAR.

The picture on the left is of Gatun Lake shows us washing our clothes in the first fresh water we had seen in weeks. Making fresh water was a constant problem on that first cruise, so all our personal cleaning (and usually showers) were in salt water. That's when MEN WAS MEN, AND MUGS KNEW IT.



The painting above was made by a Navy crew member on the USS HYDRUS, AKA 28 under Kamakazi attack at Okinawa in November 1944. HYDRUS became EMPIRE STATE II in January 1946.

Shown below is a picture from **Bob Gruffi's '75** daughter Colleen's wedding on August 22, 2009. Rick Walter is the maternal uncle of Bill and Bob and great uncle to Robert. Phil is the brother-in-law of Bill and Bob Gruffi and Robert's godfather.



L to R: Rick Walter ('46), Bill Gruffi ('77), Phil Hans ('71), Robert Gruffi ('07) and Bob Gruffi ('75).

Vic Virgen, Oct '44, executor of **Paul Lewin's, Oct '44**, estate, informed us that his classmate Paul left, in his will, \$5,000 towards the support of Cadets on the SST cruise.

Congratulations to **Lloyd Luke Reinhold '94** who, after 14 years of active duty in the USN, will be promoted to the next CO of the prestigious *USS NEW YORK*. The ship was named in honor of the 911 victims, and 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center rubble were used in her construction, causing the shipyard workers in Louisiana to treat her with reverence. We are proud to have our alumnus in charge. Lloyd hails from Long Island.



USS New York LPD-21

SUNY Maritime College 2009 Summer Sea Term

Officers & Crew	48
Food Service	28
Supernumerary.....	13
Deck Cadets	403
Engine Cadets	190
Total	682

Doug Buell '00 married Joanna Keohane in Buffalo, NY on July 6, 2007 and spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. They currently live on Grand Island, NY and Doug works in the HR Dept at American Steamship Company on the Great Lakes, which boasts a fleet of 18 self-unloaders ranging in size from 634' to 1004'.

John Krousouloudis '76 keeps in touch and is working in London as General Manager, Ship Management, for Shell International Trading and Shipping Company Limited.

Paul Kalapodas '00, Chapter President of the SE Florida Chapter, joined Carrie B Cruises to become the Company Security Officer. Paul will work at the Fort Lauderdale location. The company is a cruise/charter business with locations in Norfolk, and Fort Lauderdale. Before accepting the post, Paul was the Captain of the 300 passenger cruise boat, Carrie B.

The **Class of 1984** celebrated its 25th anniversary on the FSMAA Dinner cruise on October 10. They had a great time and will be back for the 30th reunion. Photo below.



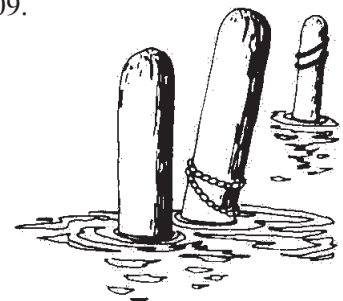
Class of 1984 (left to right): Anthony Palma, Dan Palino, Chris Craft, Kevin O'Neill, Shannon Smith, Dan Chertok, Paul Bellantoni, Dave Paffrath, Andy Golembeski, Joe Uhl, Scott Munker, John Gibson, Geoff Guido, John Marriott, Matt Filardi. Missing from the picture (but somewhere on the boat): Jerry Denegal, Dave Gilbert.



"Awww, Wes, we've all had days like this as cadets! It gets better..."

Future Cadet Wesley is the youngest of **Sean Perreault '94** and **Mariya Perreault (nee Bazzicalupo) '96**.

Steve Bendo, Class of 1994 and **Bridget Meenaghan Bendo, Class of 1996**, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Sabrina Kathleen Bendo, 8 pounds, 12 ounces, at 0149 on Tuesday morning, October 20, 2009.



Ebb Tide

DONALD E. "WOODY" FAL-LON, Class of 1991, passed away on October 7, 2008. After graduation from the New York Maritime College, with a Degree in Marine Engineering he devoted his life to the Maritime Industry both at sea and ashore, most recently as a Harbor Tug Master in Bayonne, NJ. Donald's abounding love of life was apparent to all who knew and loved him. His jocular sense of humor and rapier wit was, and is, a continuing source of joyful conversation among his family and his many friends. He was active in local softball leagues in N.J. and was an avid fan of the New York Islanders and New England Patriots. But his single greatest joy came from being "Uncle Don-Don" to his three beautiful nieces, Devin, Avery, and Maerin Lyon. He epitomized the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "...to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived".

CARL "BIG OLIE" OLSON, Class of 1956, recently passed away and will be cremated in CA.

JOHN O'SULLIVAN, Class of 1956, passed away on July 16, 2009

The death of **CHARLES M. TRISCRITTI**, Class of October 1946, on August 13, 2009 was reported by his classmate, Everett Rosenblum.

According to the biographical profile he submitted for the 'Career Album, Class of October 1946', after Charlie graduated from Brooklyn Tech, he and his high school classmate, Everett, entered the New York Maritime Academy where they ended up in 'Engine A'. Following graduation from Fort Schuyler, Charlie sailed for Moore-McCormack as a 4th and 3rd Assistant Engineer. "Finally I came ashore and was employed by the New York Telephone Company [Verizon]. I spent the next 37 years in many differ-

ent craft and management positions until retirement. While ashore, I became an active member of the United States Naval Reserve Submarine Division, later transferring to the Surface Division. During this time I served aboard various types of ships and attended different schools, at times crossing paths with some old classmates on my yearly tour of active duty. I finally retired with the rank of LCDR-USNR R."

Obituary provided by Richard Corson.

Founding partner of Legge, Farrow, Kimmitt, McGrath & Brown, **CHRIS J. McGRATH**, Class of 1982, died suddenly on August 12, 2009 at the age of 49.

After graduation from Fort Schuyler, Chris sailed as a deck officer on vessels conducting marine seismic surveys. He attended law school at Tulane University, where he specialized in maritime and admiralty law. As a lawyer, his practice focused on maritime and offshore oil and gas litigation on behalf of ship owners, operators, vessel charterers, plus the representation of pilots and other mariners in Coast Guard proceedings and civil litigation. Chris was also a computer maven who acted as the firm's system administrator and webmaster. According to a press release from Legge, Farrow: "Chris leaves behind his loving spouse, Michelle, and their children Corinne, Collin and Lauren."

Thanks to Richard Scricca, Class of 1979, for this notification.

Obituary provided by Richard Corson.

CHRISTOPHER J. CONBOY, Class of 1952 passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2009.

Chris had undergone what appeared to have been successful arterial surgery in his leg on Monday, August 10th, and was discharged from the hospital on Friday, August 14th. Chris had referred on e-mail to the surgery

as "redoing a plumbing repair" that had been done several years earlier. On Saturday, at home, Chris began to feel weak, decided to take a shower, collapsed, and did not recover.

Chris was a Veteran of the US Navy, Retired Mechanical Engineer from LILCO, Grumman, and Babcock & Wilcox. He was a beloved husband of Barbara A., as well as a loving father, dear brother and cherished grandfather.

THOMAS J. HAUGHTON JR., Class of 1959, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at the Harris Health Care Center at Bristol Glen in Newton.

Born in New York City, NY, Mr. Haughton lived in Brooklyn, NY before moving to Hampton Township in 1978. He was a graduate of Fort Schuyler Merchant Marine Academy in The Bronx and spent all of his working life in the maritime industry. He was vice president of operations for T.F.L. Freight in Wayne, then was the owner/operator of Seacrest, Inc., in Hampton Township. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Haughton served in the Congo as a Merchant Mariner.

Mr. Haughton was a member of Hampton Township Seniors and the American Merchant Marine Veterans. Active in the Boy Scouts, he was a Troop 96 committee chairman, chairman of the International Boy Scout Committee Council and was awarded the Silver Beaver, which is the highest Boy Scout volunteer award. Mr. Haughton was a former member of the Board of Directors for Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, a former school board member at Mary McKeown School in Hampton Township, and a former board member of Fort Schuyler College Maritime Museum. Mr. Haughton was also the recipient of the Bay Ridge Brooklyn Unsung Hero Award.

Cdr. **MARK EDWARD MUZII**, Class of 1988, retired USN, passed away Tuesday, August 25, 2009. Mark

died in an airplane accident where he was flying as a passenger.

Mark was born in Oceanside, NY, on Oct. 11, 1966, to Mario and Shirley LeVan Muzii. Mark graduated from Douglas McArthur High School in Levittown, NY, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology/oceanography from SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx. Mark then went on to attain two Master's degrees, one from Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, AL and also from Central Michigan University. Mark was a highly decorated helicopter pilot with the USN. He served during Desert Storm, Iraq War and was the recipient of the following honors from the USN: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy Achievement Medal (four awards), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (four awards), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia/Kuwait) and other unit awards and citations. Mark leaves behind his wife, Michelle Ann (Thomas) Muzii of Bloomington; his daughters, Megan Elizabeth and Mikayla Leigh Muzii; his parents, Mario and Shirley Muzii of Salem, S. C.; his brother, Karl Muzii of Salem, S. C.; his brother, David Muzii of Westfield, N. J.; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, David and Gladys Thomas of Washington.

ERIC H. SVAIGSEN, Class of Oct. 1944, passed away on March 24, 2009. He was a resident of Astoria, Queens, beloved husband to Frances, NY Rep for Nicoverken Ship Repair Group for 30 years, taught at the Maine Maritime Academy in the mid-50s. He was a retired lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserves in the early-80s.

ROBERT H. JAHN, Class of Oct. 1944, passed away on August 11, 2009.

JOSEPH S. ORLANDO, Class of Oct. 1944, passed away on August 16, 2009.

Jim Vatis, friend and former colleague from Fairfield Bulk Carriers reports that **VERNER B. UNGER**, Class of 1961, passed away on August 28, 2009. He was struggling with prostate cancer for the last 3 years or so and lost the battle.

Ed Arndt, Class of 1950, notified us that **WILLIAM E. RYAN**, Class of 1945, passed away on May 24, 2009 from lung cancer complications. Mr. Ryan was a past President (1957-1958) of the Alumni Association and past Chairman of the SUNY Maritime College Council.

LEONARD L. SUTTER, Class of 1953, died of pancreatic cancer September 21, 2009 at his home in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County.

Mr. Sutter joined the Maritime Administration in 1981 and in his most recent job was responsible for compiling and editing its annual publication of U.S. maritime laws.

Early in his career, he worked in New York and Pittsburgh as a labor relations manager for Gulf Oil. He settled in the Washington area in 1967 to start his federal career. He spent several years as counsel to the U.S. House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Leonard was born in Staten Island, NY, and served in the Navy from 1953 to 1956. He was a graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College and Columbia University law school.

He enjoyed sailing. At the time of his death, he was writing a history of the U.S. maritime industry in the 20th century.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Anne Hoyt Sutter of the Alexandria section of Fairfax; two daughters, Amy D'Amico of Dallas and Pamela Cleary of Fairfax Station; and three granddaughters.

RONALD JAMES PECK, Class of 1959, died in his Baltimore apartment on September 21, 2009 from natural causes.

Born October 12, 1937 in Easton PA, to Robert and Mary Peck, he was raised on his family farm in Richmond PA, working at the neighboring Ott's Dairy Farm. He was the first in his family to attend college, winning a full scholarship from NROTC and graduating from SUNY Maritime College with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1959. Ron served in the United States Navy. During his Navy and Engineering careers he was fortunate to enjoy a lifetime of travel to exotic and unique countries. He has visited all 7 continents and sailed all 4 major oceans. Through his travels and experiences he has maintained his family roots, his home, in the Lehigh Valley.

Ron is survived by his 4 children Christopher, Jeffery, Allison, Jennifer and 3 grandchildren Megan, Carter and Evan. A memorial service was held on October 12, 2009 at SUNY Maritime. Please submit any contributions and condolences in the form of donations to Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association. 236 Ernston Road, Parlin, NJ 08859 with the notation "In memory of Ronald Peck, Class of 1959".

On September 18, another totally unexpected death occurred, this time on campus. Student-athlete **BEN-JAMIN BRAGG, 2/C**, was crushed to death when his jack failed while he was changing the oil in his car. Benjamin, who came from Mandeville, LA, was a member of the Maritime College rugby team. He was remembered in ceremonies before and after the rugby match with Drew University on September 20. According to the college website "Ben Bragg's family and teammates shared time in remembrance of Ben and dedicated themselves to Ben's spirit and his enthusiasm for the game."

