



AMS News

AMS website -- www.mappers.org

Association of Mapping Seniors Newsletter



The old school rhyme – April showers bring May flowers results in finally warm weather with a colorful landscape in communities and along roadsides with trees and flowers blooming, birds singing, and even a butterfly comes in view too. We welcome this wonderful change.

As the weather is changing, there are also improvements with U.S. COVID-19. Many people above age 60 have completed their COVID vaccine and are doing well and begin venturing out into the world once again. Unfortunately, the AMS Spring Luncheon will not take place this year during May. The Board continues to follow Maryland and CDC advisory guidance, so, for now we believe the earliest in-person events can safely be held in 2021 is likely late Summer or Fall.

Virtual Events

We are "Keeping in Touch and Having Fun" through hosting two recent Virtual Events. On February 18 folks wore some red and told how they celebrated Valentine's Day and another virtual event was held on March 17 wearing green so not to get pinched. These virtual events were exciting to catch-up on what's happening with each other as well as reporting information from the NGA Director's Call attended by some Board members.

You can find the latest on AMS virtual and other events by regularly visiting our website and Facebook pages or by watching AMS email invite from MappingSeniors@outlook.com

Frederick Gathering

Irv Stephens has announced all former retirees from NGA and predecessor organizations are once again getting together for lunch every month on the 3rd Thursday at 11:00 at the Golden Corral in the Francis Scott Key Mall in Frederick MD.

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. ***That is faith.***
2. When you throw babies in the air they laugh because they know you will catch them. ***That is trust.***
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still set alarms to wake up. ***That is hope.***
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future, ***This is confidence.***
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. ***That is love.***
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." ***That is attitude.***

Have a Happy Day and live your life like these 6 stories. Good friends are the rare jewels in life – difficult to find and impossible to replace!

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AMS PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Spring 2021 in the Washington D.C. area is, as usual, very beautiful. The cherry tree blossoms are long gone now. The migratory birds again passed overhead on their way north. It is always amazing to see (and hear) a large high-flying V of geese

headed north. As I write this column, the redbuds are blooming in our locale as are some scattered dogwoods. And, although we’ve had a few random days of near summer temps, tonight we are dropping into the low 30s. Yes ... 2021 looks like it too will continue to surprise us.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the current thoughts on planning for AMS annual events we think we can safely hold in person later this year. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination situations and adjust the plans as needed to balance member safety and interest in meeting again. Please check out the AMS web page (<https://www.mappers.org>) and/or Facebook page to stay connected and up-to-date.

Take care of yourself and each other. Also, keep watching our online pages and looking for AMS e-mails for ideas and invitations as we explore different ways to keep “*Having fun and keeping in touch*” in 2021.

2021 AMS Executive Board

President – Lon Hamann
 Vice President – Vacant
 Secretary – Jeanne Casamento
 Treasurer – Merle Biggin



**WE DON'T STOP LAUGHING
 BECAUSE WE GROW OLD...**

**WE GROW OLD BECAUSE
 WE STOP LAUGHING!**

AMS Keeping in Touch



If you are not receiving emails from AMS check your “JUNK” mailbox or verify your email address with Merle Biggin at merlebiggin@uwalumni.com. Email is just one method for announcing events, registration forms, death notices, and other pertinent information. Send your AMS info and inquiries to this mailbox address mappingseniors@outlook.com. Greg Cross and Amber Beall monitor this mailbox.



AMS website www.mappers.org is a source of information of current and past AMS events. Check out the many tabs that are filled with a wealth of information about our members and events! Forward your information to our Webmaster, Ralph Mayer at ralphmayer222@outlook.com



AMS is on Facebook and you are invited to join other members there and include your contributions! You can share your vacation and retirement adventures, and other activities you enjoy. Or just read the posts from other members while also keeping current with AMS activities too. Members are permitted to post directly but must keep content appropriate for and consistent with the AMS purpose, membership, by-laws, procedures and guidelines.

If you are not already a friend, go to the search block on Facebook and enter Association of Mapping Seniors or simply AMS and from the drop-down list select **Association of Mapping Seniors**. *Once on the AMS page select “Join”* and answer the 3 pertinent questions for “*Keeping in Touch and Having Fun!*” Pam Troutman is the AMS Facebook custodian!!

[\(15\) Association of Mapping Seniors \(AMS\) | Facebook](#)



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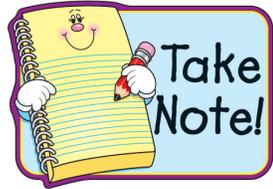
“Keeping in Touch”

Raymond Barbeau

Thank you for your generosity!

Membership

Welcome Gordon Birkhimer our newest AMS member. The members are looking forward to meeting you at an AMS in person or zoom event!!



Remember!!

Keep YOUR contact information - postal address, phone numbers, and email address current with AMS!

To update your contact information or provide information/status for the missing members listed below inform:

Merle Biggin, AMS Membership Chairman,
Address: 4808 Walbridge Street,
 Rockville, MD 20853

Phone: 301-946-4485 or

Email: merlebiggin@uwalumni.com



The Membership Chair needs your assistance in locating these missing persons. Forward any info

you have for these **Missing Persons** to Merle Biggin.

Missing Persons	
Frances A Davis III	Ruth C Leonard
Gladys Dossi	Frank R Walden
Phyllis Evans	Joanne L. Weber

AMS Directory

The AMS Directory is updated as of **April 25, 2021** is only available online via a password protected link from the AMS website. If you do not know the password, contact our webmaster, Ralph Mayer at ralphmayer222@outlook.com who provides the password to AMS members only!

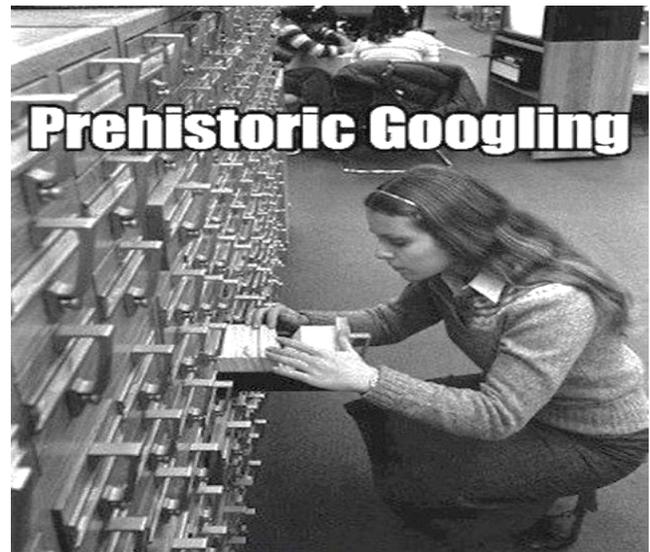
Surf 'n Turf

Travel down memory lane as you browse through some of former DMAHTC's *Surf 'n Turf* newspapers. You can find scanned copies of several *Surf 'n Turf* issues on the AMS website www.mappers.org under the “*What's New*” tab. Thanks to Pete Alvestad for taking time to scan these newspapers and passing them along to AMS. Lots of memories in these old issues. After browsing, send your thoughts/comments to mappingseniors@outlook.com

AMS will celebrate its golden anniversary during 2024. Association of Mapping Seniors was organized in 1974 just two years after the formulation of Defense Mapping Agency in 1972. Although it seems like a long way away, the Board is asking for volunteers to form a team in preparing for this awesome event. If you are interested in helping with the anniversary celebration, forward an email to AMS at mappingseniors@outlook.com



Please consider volunteering for either position of AMS Vice-President or Secretary. Meetings are conducted virtually through modern technology. Support for these positions is provided by current Board Members. If interested, please forward an email to mappingseniors@outlook.com



I thought I was losing weight, but it turned out my sweatpants had come untied.



Your New Visa® Credit Card Arrives Soon

Important Dates & What You Need to Know

As a follow up to last month's communication, we'll soon be making the transition to new Visa® cards for our members. This change impacts Northwest Federal NOW REWARDS Mastercard® and FirstCard Visa® credit cards and comes with exciting new benefits.

Our transition to Visa® cards brings you:

- **Access to leading technology** such as Northwest Federal's new CardControl+ app with enhanced features
- **Access to the newest card programs** like Pay with Points for NOW REWARDS credit cardholders, and contactless transactions on all cards
- **Additional Visa® credit cardholder benefits** including porch piracy protection, NortonLifeLock Identity Theft Protection, and Ride Share Protection.

See below for details on these new benefits.

You will be receiving your new Visa® credit card within the next 3 weeks. Beginning May 17, you will be able to start using your new card and enjoy its valuable cardholder benefits. Refer to the timetables below for **critical dates that impact your card accounts over the next 2 months.**

April 24 - May 7

- Your new Visa® credit card will arrive.
- **DO NOT DESTROY your current Northwest Federal credit card yet!**
- **YOU WILL NOT be able to use your new credit card until May 17.**
- **YOU CAN PRE-ACTIVATE AND SET A PIN on your new credit card once received, so it will be ready to use on May 17.**

May 17

- **[Begin using your new Visa® credit card on May 17.](#)**
- Begin using Online Banking to manage your credit card account online, transfer balances, view credit card eStatements, set travel memos & more.
- **[The MyCardInfo site will no longer be available.](#)**
- Update your card on file with merchants for online subscriptions and recurring payments with your new credit card information by updating the payment method on your accounts.
- **[If mailing your credit card payments, use our new payment address:](#)**
Northwest Federal Credit Union, PO Box 4200, Woburn MA 01888-4196
- Destroy your old card on May 17 - it will no longer function.
- The new CardControl+ app is coming June 21, offering you more card management features, making your credit card even easier to use. Unfortunately, our **[current CardControl app will no longer work after May 14 for your credit card.](#)**

June 21

- **[Download our new CardControl+ app](#)** from Google Play or the App Store.
- **[Enroll your card and begin using our new CardControl+ app.](#)**

Contact our Member Service Center
844-709-8900
M-F: 7AM - 7PM ET Sat: 8AM - 1PM ET



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May 9, 2021

The modern Mother's Day began in the United States, at the initiative of Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century. In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday (the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910). In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.



Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. **Memorial Day 2021** will occur on **Monday, May 31**.

This day of remembrance, originally known as Decoration Day, began the years following the Civil War. Memorial Day was officially declared a national holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials or placing an American flag on graves of military personnel in national cemeteries, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.



On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

The **United States Army** also celebrates the U.S. Army birthday on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.



June 20, 2021

Father's Day is a day of honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds, as well as the influence of fathers in society. In America, Father's Day was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd and celebrated on the third Sunday of June for the first time in 1910.



IN REMEMBRANCE



Kenneth C. Barnes, Jr., known as "Ken" to friends and "Tuck" to family, age 83, went home to Jesus on March 26, 2021. He passed away at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown with his beloved wife, daughter, and son at his side. He was the loving husband of 56 years to Anne

Elizabeth (Betty) Barnes.

Ken entered this world on November 7, 1937, the oldest of three children, to Kenneth Christian Barnes, Sr. and Lena Mae (Goss) Barnes. Born at a doctor's office in Bethesda, MD, he grew up in Glen Echo, MD with his parents and two younger sisters, Verna and Shirley. Baptized into the Episcopal Church and raised with a combination of both Baptist and Episcopal Christian traditions, Ken was drawn to the Catholic faith at a young age while attending Catholic Mass and playing basketball after church on Sundays with friends.

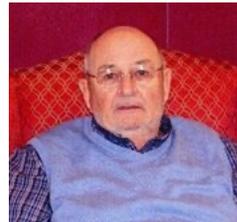
Graduating from Montgomery College with an electrical engineering degree and later from the University of Maryland with a degree in Business Administration, Ken also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. While working as a defense contractor for Melpar, he designed and built an antenna for his team that was installed in the Mercury capsules. One of those capsules is in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum today. Afterwards, he spent the next 30 years working for the Army Map Service (also known as Defense Mapping Agency, NIMA, and most recently, NGA) with some interesting jobs, one of the most rewarding being the Department Chief of Graphic Arts for the Hydrographic/Topographic Center. He received many awards during his time at DMA, including the Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the Meritorious Civilian Service award, the highest two awards the agency could bestow on civilians.

Upon retirement, Ken enjoyed golfing and fishing, traveling with Betty with friends and family, and spending winters in Dunedin, Florida. He lived a full life and is survived by his beloved wife, Betty, their children, Brent (Jeanette) Barnes, Melanie (Dan) Goggin; six grandchildren; his sisters, Verna (John) Barnwell, Shirley (Ed) Parsons; and many nieces, nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews. Private Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD.



*Thank you sincerely for your
kind expression of
sympathy and thoughtfulness.
It is deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered by the*

Kenneth Barnes Family



Leslie "Lynn" Hardin, 76, Elizabethton, passed away Thursday, October 29, 2020 after a brief illness. A native of Carter County, he was a son of the late Ottie & Hildred Clemons Hardin. Lynn was a 1962 graduate of

Hampton High School. He also attended George Washington University. Lynn was a Cartographer, and he worked for the US Army Map Service in Washington, D.C. during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. He worked on the Moon project in the 1960's and mapped the first lunar landing for the Apollo XI space mission. After returning to Elizabethton, he was employed for a time with the Elizabethton Police Department and the Carter County Sheriff's Department. He retired from Kennametal, Inc. in Johnson City. Lynn was a 32nd Degree Mason. He was a member of Siam Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers: Larry and Garry Hardin.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years: Linda Combs Hardin. Two Daughters: Tammie (Tony) Harmon, Bristol, TN. and Sheri (Gary) Nelson, Bluff City, TN. Five Grandchildren and his Brother: Eddie (Jackie) Hardin. Several Nieces & Nephews.

https://www.memorialfelizabethton.com/index.cfm/obituary/leslie-hardin?browse_on=desktop



Michael (Mikie) John Kavcsak passed away Nov 15, 2020 in The Villages, FL. Born July 7, 1933, he was one of twelve children born to the late John and Mary (Macosko) Kavcsak in Erie, PA. Mike began his journey of faith with his family at St. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic

Church. He continued that faith journey while living in our nation’s capital, where he met and married the love of his life. Mike honorably served our country in the Navy during the Korean War and retired from the Defense Mapping Agency. In addition to involvement in his church, Mike was an American Legion member for over 50 years. Mike is survived by his wife, Dorothy (Dottie) Smith Kavcsak, sister Helen (Kavcsak) Law, and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and grand nephews. His devoted wife and family’s memories of loving support and laughter are eternal. Mike has been laid to rest in the Mount Saint Macrina Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Mount Saint Macrina Convent, 500 W. Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ocala-fl/michael-kavcsak-9903816>

Hugh F. McGowan was born on November 2, 1921 and passed away on January 25, 2021 in Ellenton, Florida. Donations in Hugh F. McGowan's memory can be made to TideWell Hospice, Inc.

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/fl/ellenton/hugh-f-mcgowan-12194451>



Justinia “Sue” Payne (nee Dupnock), 108, of West Chester, PA passed away on Thursday April 15, 2021 at the Arbor Square in West Chester. Mrs. Payne was born & raised in Millville, NJ and was a longtime resident of Bethesda, MD prior to moving their retirement home in

Annapolis, MD which her late husband built. She has resided in PA for the past 10 yrs. She was the oldest of 11 children born to the late Tatiana (Wercholyk) & Theodor Dupnock. Sue was predeceased by her husband Denzel W. Payne in 2007.

Sue was a talented seamstress and had worked for several clothing companies as well as being self-employed. Sue loved to dance and she and her late husband enjoyed ballroom dancing.

Sue is survived by her daughter & son in-law; Julia & Lou Browne, Downingtown, PA 3 grandchildren; Dave & wife Phyllis Browne, Susan DiRosario, Greg & wife Sherri Browne, 8 great grandchildren, 1 great great-grandchildren, 1 sister; Mary Beck as well as many nieces & nephews.

For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 and Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 28 West 44th St Suite 609 New York, NY 10036. To e-mail condolences & or tributes, please visit www.pancoastfuneralhome.com

Tommy Gene Thacker, Commander, USN (Ret), 81 of Swansea, IL, made his final flight to the Lord Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Born in Poplar Bluff, MO on May 17, 1939, he was the dutiful son of a baker and the owner of a hair salon.

After attending Poplar Bluff High School, and Westminster College, he enlisted in the US Navy in 1961 entering the flight training program, serving on active duty for years, and in the reserve until retirement in 1989, rising to the rank of Commander. He continued the service to his country working at the National Geospatial – Intelligence Agency ultimately retiring as a Quality Systems Manager – Aeronautical Division.

Tommy retired to Swansea, IL, in an active homeowner’s association community enjoying many friends and activities.

He was an admired Patriot and father of two sons, Tom G. Thacker II and wife Dr. Holly Thacker of Valley View, OH and Jonathan T. Thacker and wife Beth Thacker of Estero, FL. He is survived also by his brother Harry Thacker of which they maintained a close family bond; grandfather to three impressive young men, Stetson T. Thacker and wife Laura Thacker, Emerson T. Thacker and Grayson T. Thacker; and great-grandfather to Artemis Vera Thacker. He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Lee Thacker and his mother Arthurine (Rainwater) Thacker.

His wish was to be honored in life by internment at Arlington National Cemetery with full Military Honors.

<https://www.cotrellfuneralservice.com/obituary/Tommy-ThackerCommander>

View entire obituaries on AMS website at www.mappers.org

“What was once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose. For all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”
Helen Keller

FROM: ASSOCIATION OF MAPPING SENIORS – MAY 2021

Merle Biggin
4808 Walbridge St
Rockville MD 20853

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NW NORTHWEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

These events are sponsored by NWFCU hosted by Knowledge of Financial Education (KOFE) from the comforts of your home. Unless otherwise stated, start time is 1:00 PM. Registration is at <https://www.nwfcu.org/about/events> or clicking the link.

MAY12 [Webinar: The Weather and Your Wallet](#)

Don't let natural disasters destroy your life or your finances!

JUN03 [Webinar: Financial Health Checkup: How am I doing?](#)

Thu, Jun 3, 2021 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM EDT In this brief webinar, Financial Advisor Kim Heffernan will talk about the importance of checking up on your financial health with a qualified financial advisor.

JUN09 [Webinar: Buy or Refi: Which Is Best for You?](#)

This is your biggest financial decision, so listen to the experts.

JUL14 [Webinar: Free Yourself from Student Loans Debt](#)

Don't let college costs from long ago ruin your future.

AUG11 [Webinar: How to Avoid the 5 Most Common Money Mistakes](#)

You can save big by doing very little — and sometimes nothing.

SEP08 [Webinar: Marriage and Money: Till Debt Do Us Part](#)

Learn how to say "I do" to saving as a couple.



NMLS# 411458