

July 29, 2017

The Honorable Gary D. Knight
46141 Seabiscuit Court
Lexington Park, MD 2A653



Dear Gary:

It is with pleasure and a tinge of sadness that I enclose my Grandmother's miniature to use in the Bonds of Gold program at the Naval Academy for the class of 2020. Although we've exchanged emails and I've shared some information about my Grandparents with you, I thought I might more formally do so in this letter.

My Grandfather, Capt. Bailey Connelly (USN-Ret.) (1896-1979), grew up in Waverly, TN so poor that at 4 years of age he had to go to work to help support his widowed mother and sisters. He worked and studied hard and was privileged to earn entry to the Naval Academy in 1917 as a member of the war shortened class of 1920.

He met my Grandmother, Evelyn Connelly nee Coloney (1900-1975) after graduation and they were married in 1924. Her miniature was her engagement ring and she wore it until she died.

My Grandfather served on submarines, battleships and destroyers. During World War II, he served in the Pacific theater commanding the USS Dauphin and was anchored in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the instrument of surrender.

My Dad, Capt. Robert Bailey Connelly (USN-Ret.) (1930-2010), class of 1952, was Bailey and Evelyn's only child and followed my Grandfather to the Academy. Dad was a submariner.

My Grandparents retired in Annapolis. My Grandmother was a passionate supporter of the Academy. As a child in the 1960s, I recall attending rallies with her at the Academy the night before football games and hearing her root and cheer for the Midshipman at games. She could be mischievous and I remember that she taught me the Navy fight song and made sure that I sang it to my maternal Grandparents. Mischievous because my mother's brother was a West Point graduate and career Army officer. She made sure that I knew to sing "Beat Army" loudly.

I include a photo of my Grandparents taken not too long after they were married, which I've also sent to you by email. It is somewhat difficult to see, but she is wearing the miniature in the picture. I know that my Grandparents would be so proud to contribute her ring to the Class of 2020. I trust that this is the path meant for it, to become part of the class that graduates 100 years after my Grandfather's. I believe this is a way that the memories of my grandparents live on and I appreciate the Bonds of Gold Program, which makes it possible. On behalf of my entire family, thank you for giving us this opportunity to remember and honor Bailey and Evelyn Connelly.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Connelly
4348 Warren St, NW
Washington, DC 20016



Captain Bailey and Evelyn Connelly, USNA Class of 1920



Midshipman 1/C Bailey Connelly, USNA Class of 1920 Lucky Bag Entry



BAILEY CONNELLY

WAVERLY, TENN.

"Bill," "Cawny," "Wooden"

BAILEY hails from Waverly, Humphreys County, Tennessee, and is, as you will gather, a true Southerner—so much so that you get it in his speech, see it in his actions, and find it deeply imbedded in his soul.

¶ Connelly has two characteristics that strike you forcibly when first you meet him. First come his baby blue eyes, and second his quaint (very quaint) sense of humor. In fact, every day or so he digs up some joke that was on the shelf when Louis Quatorze was in his prime.

¶ Academic work has been anything but easy sailing for "Bill." His was about the only room both Plebe and Youngster years in which a real wooden man could feel savvy. First Class year, however, he exhibited a practical knowledge of juice, nav. and seamanship that made the course much easier.

¶ Parlor activities began for him early Youngster year, and thereafter his weekly theme was, "Well, just wait 'til you see the queen I'm dragging Saturday." Sad to relate in place of the expected 4.0 he frequently fools 'em all and wheels in one of the paving block variety.

¶ Taking "Bill" all the way 'round, however, he is a sample of the kind of man you'd like to have for a friend and shipmate in the years to come.