

The Naval Academy Alumni Association sponsors a program called **“Another Link in the Chain”**. It’s purpose is to link together the two classes 50 years apart as each new class proceeds through its four years in Annapolis. One aspect of the program in the end of the second year is a “Bonds of Gold” ceremony in Memorial Hall attended by the entire class and by about 50-60 members and spouses of the linked class.. In this ceremony, some members of the 50 year class (in this case the Class of 1968 linked with the Class of 2018) voluntarily donate their Naval Academy rings and/or the miniature rings of their spouses to be melted down into the gold that will be used to make the new class rings - - forging the “Bonds of Gold”. In the ceremony for the Class of 2018, Martha Pickett and I assembled 5 rings from 3 generations of the Lewis-Pickett family, spanning 100 years of service from RADM Mays Lewis (Class of 1918) to RADM Ben Pickett (Class of 1938) and LT Ludwell Pickett (Class of 1968) - - remarkable symmetry. It was the very first ceremony in which a ring from a 100 year earlier class was presented.

It was an honor for me to deliver the remarks on behalf of Martha Pickett and to honor the Lewis-Pickett family’s service.

Capt Ralph H. Stoll USN (ret)