Michael "Mike" Slein grew up in Worcester, MA in a neighborhood full of Irish friends. To this day, his "WOOSTA" group and their families, now scattered around New England, gather many times each year to share their ever-growing sea stories. Mike served for more than 20 years in the US Navy as a Naval Aviator, flying from the decks of aircraft carriers to include USS John F Kennedy, USS Independence, USS America and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. After his Naval Service, Chapter Two saw him joining Raytheon Co. as an International Business Development and Strategic Planning Director. The Navy was kind enough to locate Mike in Newport as a student, and later, on the staff, of the Naval War College for his final assignment. Raytheon Company was equally generous to move him and his wife Bonnie back to Aquidneck Island in 1998 where he served as Director, Congressional Relations for New England, retiring in 2005.

Mike was educated at the College of the Holy Cross and earned graduate degrees at the Naval War College and Salve Regina University. After retirement, while serving as head of the Newport Council Navy League. A fellow Navy League Board Member, Vince Arnold, asked Mike to join him in the Museum of Newport Irish History to help establish and operate the Interpretive Center, which opened to the public in June 2011. Mike, among many, was an avid disciple of Vince and his vision to memorialize the contributions of the Irish in building Newport County. After Vince's passing, in 2014, Mike served as President of the Museum for eight years. He has a zeal for, and deep appreciation of, Irish culture, Newport history and its culture and enjoys "connecting the dots." Mike has traveled through every county in Ireland on more than 20 extended visits with his family and friends and intends more, God willing.

He and his wife Bonnie are residents of Newport (third time) and proud parents of their daughter Margaret Caitlin Slein (Arizona) and son, Kevin Michael Slein (deceased).

Photo by Jennifer Carter   February 2023