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Regular Membership: 13%  
Life Membership: 71%

Pres: Arch Griffin  
Sec'y: Vince Balderrama  
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484  
e: CanoeU78@aol.com  
website: http://usna1978.org

79

Regular Membership: 3%  
Life Membership: 90%

Pres: Mike Finley  
Sec'y: Ken Russell  
210 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 380, Arlington, SD 57212  
w: 605-983-3312; e: gone2pot@iw.net  
Class Website: www.usna79.com

In keeping with the new Alumni Association Class column standards, and as an inside joke for editor, **Dave Church '67**, let's grab the old Navy fight songbooks and kick this month's article off correctly, EVERYBODY SING!

*Fight, fight, fight, fight for the NAVY, Da-da-da-da-da-da-da*

*Fight, fight, fight, fight for the Navy, da-da-da-da-da-da-da*

*Fight, fight, fight, fight for the NAVY, da-da-da-da-da-da-da*

*It's the pride of the fleet, it's the team that can't be beat,*

*On to victory, fight for the Navy. Go Navy! Beat Army!*

Well kids, thanks to guys like **Dan Vortherms** and **Tom Gehrki**, the web page is finally up and running and if the Home Office got all the paperwork and signatures put together, they put the web address up in the header. Either way, it's a no brainer at: [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com). The site is really nicely done, so warm up your confusers and log on. Plus, there should be 20th Reunion info up by now so check it out. On it, you'll also get the real and uncut October and December articles (and more than likely, this article) if you find yourselves bored out of your minds. Yeah, the Home Office, after nine years, finally put the kibosh on yours truly's smart alecky personal political views, beginning with last October's article. So, I'll be severely edited for the mag from here on out. Like the editor said, "The article doesn't belong to your Class. It belongs to the CEO of the Alumni Association." He did however, assure me that he's fighting hard to make sure nothing happens to our Class motto. Films at eleven. On that enlightening note, let's get on with the info ploppage, shall we?

The whole deal this month will be coming from AI's creative genius, which of course, would be the info superhighway. And, the first guy up from Tronland is **Pete Husta**. Hit it Pete:

Brief history: punched-out in '87 and went to work as a beltway bandit, spent two years at Kings Bay, GA, Trident base cutting it out of the primordial ooze. Following a few twists and turns, including ODS, took job at Service Marine (now defunct shipyard). Last position was director of sales and marketing. Not with AT&T, they're just my server. Now, I'm with me. Currently doing consulting and building tailored selling and marketing programs for local small to medium businesses. Do pretty well at chapter 11 turn-arounds, too. Navy wise, currently CO MIUW 212, Gulfport. Been in a few positions since leaving active side. Made commander in '95 and have had three CO tours. Married Donna

Marie, better known as "Murphy" to friends. Skipped the kids part and went almost straight to grand-babyhood. Hers (Michael and Sean), have mostly adopted me. Grandson, Sam, intends to make first Mars mission with Senator Glenn's grandson...Class of 2021ish. Got quite a brood of pets, though. Trying to get the NOLA Chapter of the Alum Society moving. Let us know if you brave the trip to the Gulf South. We'll find ya. We currently live smack in the center of Acadiana, for you Yanks, that's Cajun Country. Love it! See 'ya 'round the waterfront. BZ and all that. Cheers/Husta.

Thanks Pete. Next up, and by the way, this article is gonna be longer than a Clinton stonewall, is **Dave Stehlin**. Talk to me Dave:

Ken, I hope this gets to you as I am going through my company email. It has been a very long time, and I actually am not sure if I have ever written in but, with the 20th coming up, I suppose nostalgia is getting the better of me. After my five years as an active duty infantry officer and another seven in the Reserves, I hung up my combat boots and truly joined the landed gentry. Six months of active duty during Desert Storm caused enough pain and suffering to force me to leave the Reserves as my family and civilian career pulled weekends away from the Corps and back to New Jersey. Believe it or not, my wife, Heather, and I have a small farm in New Jersey where we allow the kids (Peter 13, Hannah 10, and Mackie 5), the horses and the goats to get the better of us. I find the gravitational pull of the place a fantastic release from my day job and a great way to raise a family.

I have been with Keptel, a manufacturer of telecommunications interconnect equipment, since late 1990, or three months prior to getting called up. You can imagine the look my new boss gave me when I said I would have to take some time off. In 1994, we merged with a cable TV equipment manufacturer, Antec, but still run our business as a separate company. I have been President of Keptel for about the past four years and we are up to almost \$100 million in sales and have about 850 employees in five locations. Keep up the great work!

Dave, thanks for the update. Let's see, who's up next? That would be **Steve Heida**:

Hey Ken, yes, retirement is still great after a few years. I am hearing of more and more '79ers who will be joining the ranks of USN(R) this next fiscal year. Makes sense, since we are all looking forward to our 20th Reunion. Yeah, FD, Fish, et al! Spent some time with the **Kurt Albers** family up in Rochester, NY, this summer, and he and his stopped here in Springfield on their way back from Nebraska for a few days too. He is the XO of the NROTC unit at the University of Rochester and he has dropped his papers for a September (?) retirement. His two boys and my two girls got along famously. We are planning some family hiking together for next summer. I need to pass on to **Steve Smith** that **Dana Swenson** has a daughter who is looking at USNA as a college choice too. There may be more than one '79 offspring in that Class. We'll spend some time with the Swensons over the Christmas holidays, so I'll get a feel for how seriously Jessica Swenson is then. I'm a little more than halfway through my teaching certification program. With my youngest now in kindergarten, I am anticipating picking up the pace. I should practice teach in the spring or maybe the fall of 2000. The program I'm in, at Wittenberg University, where my wife is the Dean of Students, has me becoming a math major and an education minor to be a high school math teacher. Price is right, so I am not complaining too much about all the extra math that I'm taking. Who knows there may be some high school student somewhere who cares about Theoretical Matrix Algebra? Anyway, my latest and hopefully semi-permanent email address is: [heidapad@main-net.com](mailto:heidapad@main-net.com), and I hope to hear from you, Ken (Got any snow yet? South Dakota was a great place to grow up, but...) and a ton of other '79ers. Beat Army!

Next up, is a guy who has been vilified in the name of pathetic stabs at comedy. Well, uh-uh, no more, because it might look like this article's not reaching way deep down and grabbin' up guts for Ronbo, because after all, it's his. **Vince Bousa**, for all the past wrongs that you've had to endure and on behalf of the whole Class, *I Am Sorry* (I'm even biting my lower lip as I'm typing). And now kids, here's Vince:

Hello Ken-neth, I was truly disappointed in the last two *Shipmate* issues when I failed to detect any Bousa Bashing. It really hurt, and made me feel as if you don't care anymore. Do you still love me (a statement I am now comfortable with after extensive sensitivity training in the new killer Corps).

Recently took a job in "almost heaven," West Virginia, flying for a construction company who specializes in heavy construction on the east coast and other ventures out west. I'll be their chief pilot and will operate jets and helos. Best of both worlds. Located in Beckley, some of the prettiest country I have seen. All mountains, with a ski resort for my snow boarding 11 miles south of the house, and the New River gorge 20 miles north, for some of the best white water rafting and kayaking this side of you. They just had their annual bridge jump over the New River Gorge where daredevils jump off the bridge and parachute to the bottom. It is the largest single span bridge in the world. Quite a site. I know you would like the place. As a note, the "Beaver" State Park is a hundred yards down the road.

Bought a home in the country and I am concerned about our neighbors. The husband could not decide whether he was introducing his wife or his daughter or his grandmother when we happened to run into them while walking in the woods out back! He truly wasn't sure! I still think the barrels, with the fire under them, were for making whiskey, but Mary Ann still believes the guy when he said he was formulating flea repellent for his dogs. Guess I'll give him the benefit of the doubt, I'm more concerned about the family lineage! Go on terminal leave around the 28 November to 1 December. Close and move into the new homestead on 18 December. Be sure to let everyone know so that they can just combine a house warming gift with a Christmas present. Better yet, just send money. Of course I expect a custom, Ken Russell, one-of-a-kind clay bank! If you don't come through, I will tell everyone about your little episode back at NAPS in 1975!

Stopped over to see **Gary Herbold** the other day and found him in his shop, busy with his after-Corps job of furniture repair. Had plenty of work on his hands, but was smiling the whole time I was there. I knew he was busy because he did not offer me a beer, which is the norm. Will write again later when I have a good address/phone number/email address. Say hello to mom. Take care, and stay safe. By the way, glad to hear about the new shop. Put a picture of the place in the next issue, I would like to see it.

Thanks VB, good to see you're finally getting in touch with your feminine self, plus I'm green with envy about your new job. And, about that NAPS episode, let me say this one more time, I-did-not-have-an-inappropriate-relationship-with-that-woman, Ms. Salva-Regina. I never told anyone to lie, not once, never. All righty, now that we can move forward and get on with the business of writing the article, next up is former Sec'y of '79, **Larry Kihlstedius**. Here goes:

Ken, well at long last I have decided to cybergig your butt! What's up with the blank column? Too much snow already? Hey, I'm just kidding. You rarely miss a deadline. If you do ever need help, let me know and I will rattle something off and email it to you. As far as Club Kihlstedius, we are doing very well. Ronnie, CEO of Club Kihlstedius, is busy with Evan (2) and Sierra (5). I am a vice president of operations for a company called Randstad Staffing, which is the third largest staffing company in the world. We just acquired a company called AccuStaff in the