

and chief pilot for our flight organization (yes, I still get to fly the mighty Orion!). I work for Veridian (formerly known as Veda), and I'm entering my 15th year of supporting the Navy developing and testing systems for the P-3 fleet.

My big news from the immediate past is my marriage to Lynne in May 1999. I was introduced to Lynne at an airline (formerly P-3) pilot's 40th birthday party in downtown Annapolis in 1996. After three years of running up and down Route 2, we've now completed the consolidation of our families. Some of the Blue-and-Gold brethren who attended our wedding were CDR **Steve Wright '84**, **Ray Miskowski '78**, **CAPT Bill Yeager '78**, **LtCol Floyd Houston '77**, **CAPT Jim Small '78**, and **Jeff Pinkel '74**. Also, amongst our kid's guests was **Kristen Davidson '03**.

We're very proud of our three kids in college (a University of Maryland senior, a Towson University freshman, and a Penn State freshman), and our high school sophomore, Jenny, is reluctantly adapting to being at home alone with the 'rents. Lynne and I invite anyone who finds themselves in the Pax River area to stop by and share some of our Southern Maryland hospitality. Beat Army!

From **Michael Brunskill** (brunskill@mail.monmouth.army.mil):

I am currently on "what could turn out to be" 18 months of ADSW at Fort Monmouth, NJ. SpaWar set-up a liaison office here and had difficulty in staffing it, so I agreed to temporarily help since I was in the local area. The timing coincided nicely with the AlliedSignal/Honeywell merger and the impending closure of the Bendix Guidance and Control Systems in Teterboro, NJ, where I was working (not to mention the Army-Navy game!).

While assigned here, I recently received a "coin" from MGEN Nabors for staffing the "Team C4ISR" booth at MILCOM 99 in Atlantic City, NJ. This "token action" is an Army and Air Force tradition that I had never heard of it until I started working here.



MGEN Nabors presenting to Michael Brunskill with "coin" for supporting MILCOM 99

I also saw **Sean Rice** in Atlantic City and learned he is currently working for Boeing.

Retirement

Stratton Hicky reported that he has retired and is currently working at SPARTA as a principal investigator who supports Department of Defense organizations. Ironically, his office is in the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, which is approximately 100 yards from his old office in the Pentagon.

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His girls, Morgan and Dana, are growing up way too fast for him and Bonnie; Morgan, who turned five in January, loves to dress-up as Snow White or Ariel, and Dana, who had her second birthday at the end of December, doesn't let anything or anyone get her down. Bonnie and the girls enjoyed having Stratton spend time with them as a "house husband" immediately after retirement; needless to say, they are not as thrilled with his new working hours.

Closing Remarks

Well, another month, another column. I hope all is well with everyone. Please continue to keep me informed of any news or events that you'd like to circulate to the Class, and don't forget to update your contact information with the Alumni Association (www.usna.com, under "membership"). Also, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about the column, please feel free to drop me a line anytime (keep in mind that this is *your* column!). Until next month! —**Bob Sanderson**

78

Annual Membership: 20%
Life Membership: 68%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: **VBalderrama@Sikorsky.com**

Class Web site: <http://usna1978.org>

79

Annual Membership: 5%
Life Membership: 88%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**

e: **stcate@prodigy.net**

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**

22445 Bluebird Court, Leonardtown, MD 20650

h: 301-997-1980; w: 301-342-4936 ext. 156

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Class Web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, '79!

Already, it's May! Can you believe it? It seems like only yesterday we were discussing Y2K or its distant cousin, "F29." Did you miss that one? You

know, the one where years divisible by 100 are not leap years *unless* they are also divisible by 400, then there is a 29 February. If you're like me, you're glad all that hysteria is over. Now we're back to the more comfortable hysteria, such as that which accompanies a presidential election year.

I always look forward to May. As a kid growing up in Ohio, May meant that the weather was warming, the flowers were out, they were racing at Indy, and my mother *finally* put away my heavy coat. With May comes the Memorial Day Weekend, the unofficial start of the summer season. Our Class ended the month—and Plebe Year—with a near-record time for conquering Herndon. And a mere 21 years ago, '79 participated in the first-ever Commissioning Week and May graduation. (It's sobering to realize that to almost a whole generation of Midshipmen, the term "Dead Week" is just an historical anecdote.) In the not-too-distant future, May will bring the graduation and commissioning of the first son or daughter of a '79er!

Which reminds me: do we have any sons or daughters of Classmates currently attending our alma mater or one of the other Academies? Now trust me, I've done the math, and I know it's possible, although the odds won't favor it for a few more years. But, if anyone falls into that category, please let me know.

First off the press is a 20th Reunion photo of my own 19th Company. As I told you last month, I finally used up that roll of film, and just recently got the photos back. To my knowledge, this is the largest single gathering of our Company since graduation. It certainly was the largest I attended!

Anyway, the players from left to right are **Kevin Derbin, Mark Roberts, Dom Gorie, Roger Mau, Jeff Niner**, yours truly, **Ted Griffith, Kevin Boyd, Dave Bethel, Vince Bousa, Orlando Anzalotta** and **Rick Malone**. It was quite a gathering, and some of us actually made it in to watch the game! All of us were glad to see Vince Bousa up and about. And it was the first chance that many of us had to congratulate Dom Gorie on his astronaut selection. Late last winter, Dom completed a successful mission onboard ENDEAVOR, mapping the earth's surface to a degree never before achieved. Dom, let me know when those maps get published—St. Mary's County hasn't updated its street maps in about 20 years, and I'm tired of not finding my destination! Rick Malone: if you haven't received your copy of this photo by now, call me, because it means I've had an "organizational challenge" (I lost your address).



'79 20th Reunion. L to r: Kevin Derbin, Mark Roberts, Dom Gorie, Roger Mau, Jeff Niner, yours truly, Ted Griffith, Kevin Boyd, Dave Bethel, Vince Bousa, Orlando Anzalotta and Rick Malone