

From the Mail Bag

Mark Kenny (mcskenney@aol.com) reports that he was out in Hawaii in May moving his family to D.C. after leaving a tour as SUBRON 7. He's been at OpNav (N-87) since March, and has seen a few of our Classmates in D.C., such as **Joe Walsh**, **Bill Millward** (william.h.millward@us.arthurandersen.com), and **Dan Smith** (smithdan@mindspring.com). He also said that he's looking forward to hooking up with some more Classmates after having spent six years in Pearl Harbor.

John Gaillard (gaillardjd@navsea.navy.mil) wrote to say that several Classmates attended **Joe Kovalchik's** (kovalchi@usna.edu) retirement ceremony at Alumni Hall on 26 May 2000. Going from his admittedly shorter memory, and hoping not to leave anyone out, John remembers the following 1st Company Classmates attending the ceremony: **Herb Bracewell** (hbracewell@erols.com), **Dennis Dalton**, **Dave Finley** (DavCFinley@aol.com), **Jess Schrum** (jess.schrum@aditech.com), **Chris Diller**, and **Gary Grice**. He said it was a very nice ceremony that was followed by a barbecue at Joe's house, which was catered by Red Hot and Blue.

John was also in San Diego in early June and had lunch at the San Diego Yacht Club with **Ray Higgins** and **Rob Jenks** (robjenks@nosc.mil) as Ray's guests. John said that lunch was "quite nice," and reports that both Ray and Rob are doing very well for themselves. He also indicated that they were aware of several other 1st Company Classmates in San Diego, but they couldn't get anyone else to join them on short notice.

Dave Jensen (74502.2417@compuserve.com) admits to not having been a regular contributor to *Shipmate* in the past; and since he left active duty in 1985 to pursue an airline career with Northwest Airlines, he's kept a pretty low profile. However, as a proud father he had to come out of seclusion to announce the graduation and commissioning of his son, ENS **Dennis Jensen '00**. As fate would have it, Dennis was presented his diploma by Sam Locklear. Dave says that the four-year experience was even more remarkable the second time around, and it went a lot quicker, too! ENS Jensen starts flight school in the fall.



Proud father Dave Jensen with his son, Dennis, during Commissioning Week 2000

The *Virginian-Pilot* reported on 22 June 2000 that **Charles L. Watkins** (clwatkin@dpcmail.dukepower.com) had been named Vice President of Corporate Development for Landmark Communications Inc. In addition to graduating from our illustrious institution, Charlie received an M.B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and was formerly the president of DukeSolutions in Charlotte, NC. He also held various positions at the Norfolk-based Jonathan Corporation, including chief financial officer, and was president of Epsilon Technologies in Portsmouth, VA. (I realize that Charlie's email address may no longer be correct, but it's the only one in my records, so if anyone has a better one, please let me know.)

Finally, I have some sad news to report. CDR **Kerry Knoizen** died of a heart attack on 17 July

2000 while vacationing in Weirsdale, FL. His most recent duty assignment was as a staff anesthesiologist for the National Naval Medical Center, in Bethesda, MD; he was also a member of the Board of Navy Mutual Aid and served on the Vestry for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, VA, where he lived. **Bob Andersen**, who flew P-3s with Kerry, represented the Class of '77 at the service that was held at St Timothy's on 21 July 2000. Our deepest condolences go out to Kerry's family, especially his wife, Betsy, and their children, Lauren (16) and Christopher (14).

Class Communication

We already have several Classmate volunteers who are working to help locate and verify the email addresses of their missing Companymates and provide the updated information to the Alumni Association.

It seems that John Gaillard has been pretty busy trying to locate all of his 1st Company Classmates. He said that he's found everyone in the company except **Jim Beaver**, but Jess Schrum is reasonably certain that he'll be able to track him down, too. John is even contemplating a search for some of our more celebrated non-graduates, and he'd like to send special kudos to Jess for his efforts in helping track people down.

Bill Frost has volunteered to be the Class contact coordinator for 6th Company, and has sent emails to all of his 6th Company Classmates whose addresses are listed with the Alumni Association. So far, he's only gotten responses from **Jack Gavin** (gav77@msn.com), **Bill Bristow** (wbristow@erols.com), **Hank Brus** (brus@jsc.mil), and **Larry Laughlin** (lkloughlin@aol.com), all of whose information is still good.

Other Classmates who have volunteered to locate and validate email addresses are **Rick "Duke" Snyder** (twamajordad@worldnet.att.net) for 14th Company, and **Tom Osseck** (usna7722co@yahoo.com) for 22nd Company. If anyone is aware of other volunteers, please let me know and I'll get the word out, or if you're a volunteer who is having difficulty locating people, I'll be glad to publish the names of the missing Classmates.

Closing Remarks

In closing, please make sure to note my *newest* email address, which is mbsanderson@earthlink.net. After several recent changes in my work email address, I've finally decided to simply use my home email address for all personal correspondence. I promise that this is the last time I'm going to change it for a while (at least until the Alumni Association establishes lifetime email addresses). Also, if anyone has sent me emails after 7 July 2000 to any of my previous email addresses (i.e., bsanderson@worksmartinc.com, bsanderson@anacomp.com, bsanderson@docHarbor.net), I did not receive them since those addresses are no longer valid, so please resend them to my home email address above. As always, drop me a line and let me know what's happening out there! Until next month. —**Bob Sanderson**

Have YOU signed up
for Life Membership?
410-263-4448

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>

Horace "Matt" Leavitt (leavitt@erols.com) starts out this month's column with some news about '78's progeny entering Mother B with the Class of '04 and following the same course we charted almost 25 years ago. "I-Day" on 30 June was a family reunion for the Leavitts. In Matt's case there is a long history of Leavitts who have passed through the "virgin" canons at T-Court. The senior Leavitt, **Horace Leavitt Jr. '53**, entered with the Class of '53. Then there is our own '78 version of Matt Leavitt (III) who now is followed by his son, **Horace Madison Leavitt IV '04**. Matt '53 came down from New Jersey to join Matts '78 and '04. '78 thought that '04 had a good attitude about the day and seemed to adjust better to the rigors of "I-Day" than he did. Could it have anything to do with that the fact that young "Of Four" had a couple of generations worth of "gouge"?

In further news of "I-day," **Arch Griffin** provided a list of other Classmates with kids who are sharing the Plebe experience including his own son, **Jeff Griffin '04**, who is in India Company (17th Platoon). Should all these pups make it through the next four years they and their '78 parents will be in the unique position of being able to claim common Classmate links. Don't be surprised to see a lot more Mids attending our tailgaters—they'll be our kids.

Here's the list of '78's Plebes and a photo of the Leavitt Navy men: **Bob Novak (Patrick '04)**, Matt Leavitt (Matt '04), **Mike Kalnoske (Justin '04)**, Arch Griffin (Jeff '04), **George Tyree (Michael '04)**, **Kevin White (Kevin '04)** (He's also **John Young's** nephew) and **Mark Fox (Colin '04)**. I also heard that **Jock Maloney's** son, **Christopher '04** got in as well—though that not yet confirmed by Jock. All this news sounds like reason enough for a proud parent or two to drop a line.



Three Generations of Horace Madison Leavitt

Bubba Lilly's wife sent a note about Bubba and their son, **Sale Lilly IV '04**. Talk about your small worlds—he's a 17th Company Plebe with Archie's son. Not only that, but his sponsors are **Cheryl Ridenhour '86** and **Chip Ridenhour**! Sale IV (don't know if that makes him a Dubba Bubba), is a high school state champion wrestler who will now be slamming Woops to the mat for the Blue and Gold. Do we have an NCAA or Olympic hopeful in the works? As for Bubba, he's been working in the telecommunications industry with Motorola. Just recently he transitioned to Giganet Wireless where **Gordon Miller '83** is a vice president. Ahhh, that Navy connection never hurts. Bubba had a treat few of us get, he swore-in his son to the U.S. Navy on I-Day. I suspect some of the aforementioned Plebe dads may also have claim to the same privilege but Bubba claimed it first.

Bryan Livingston (livingston33@earthlink.net) and his wife had those twin girls! To be precise, Audrey Grace, 4 pounds 7 ounces, and her sister, Chloe Rose, 5 pounds 7 ounces, came into the world on Thursday, 13 July 2000 (which would make them the Class of—egad—'22). Thanks for the news, Rich. By now the twins should be keeping mom and dad quite busy with the early a.m. "duets."

Paul Mansfield (PMansf9676@cs.com) sent greetings from Ellicott City, MD. On 9 June, he and his wife, Barb, had a baby boy, Mark Andrew. Mark Andrew joins his older brother, Jack, to round up the Mansfield foursome. The Mansfields have been living up in Ellicott City for three years and love the area. Paul passed on the following news on other Classmates: This February our '78 Webmaster, **Mike Holden**, retired as did **Jack Christensen**. **Al Gonzalez** is in Hawaii, enjoying life at ComSubPac and dealing with personnel issues. **Dirk Stanley** moved to Arlington, TX, where he now works for Pratt & Whitney. **Stan Labak** moved to Annandale, VA, after his company closed down their Rhode Island operation. **Ken Colby** moved from Singapore to London. (Though Paul has a feeling that Ken's probably moved again.) **John Woodward** now works as a civilian for the HH-1 program at NavAir in Patuxent River. Woody also is involved with the USNA Alumni Rowing Club. My recent excursion in Turkey reminded Paul that he, Mike Holden, Ken Colby, and Stan Labak had agreed to meet at the Straits of Bosphorus on our fifth year anniversary. The closest anyone got to that was Ken, who sailed through it on our fourth year anniversary.

These days **Jeff Fowler** (fowlernavy@aol.com) and his family are learning how to say "Howdy" instead of "Aloha." Jeff will soon get orders to be executive assistant for U.S. Strategic Command (ADM Mies, the four-star commander) at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE. Before heading out, Jeff passed command of Submarine Squadron Three on Tuesday, 8 August the Submarine Base Pearl Harbor.

Fred Butterfield (Fred.Butterfield@EM.DOE.GOV) and our Washington, D.C., area contingency held another '78 informal gathering at the Pentagon City Mall food court (above the Metro station). Like the last time, the event was intentionally low-tech and low-maintenance. There was no fee, no speaker and no agenda. It was a buy your own chow (lots of good choices around the fast food smorgasbord), stake out a table together (in the vicinity of the movie theatre), and enjoy the camaraderie and sea stories. Fred passed on that, for planning purposes, they'd be holding these luncheons on the last Wednesday of every other month, i.e., April, June, August, October, etc. They'll obviously have to play it by ear in December.) He's not a proponent of "spam mail" and doesn't intend to send a shotgun blast of info. So if you really want to be advised of when exactly these things will be held, drop him a line and ask him to add you to his mailing list. (You know that means you'll have to attend some of them.)

In closing, your Class officers have been doing some reflecting on our 25th Reunion (it's just around the corner from a planning perspective). With that in mind, here's an open letter from our Vice President, **Bob Novak** (w: 703-601-5578; w: novakre@jast.mil), with an advance planning request:

Hey '78! It's been almost two years since our 20th, some of us now have USNA Grads and Midshipmen as our children and nine more '78 children were inducted on 30 June 2000, as the members of the Class of 2004. Lots of us are enjoying our "second careers" and none of us could fit into

our issue WUBA if our lives depended on it. Additionally, we as a Class are sponsoring PORTER (DDG-78), have bought a room at the USNA Robert Crown Sailing Center and continue to support and affect USNA directly thru the likes of CAPT **Bruce "Baja" Bole**, who is running the Plebe Detail, and CAPT **Chris Wode**, as a BATTO. As the Class VP, I recognize that everyone is busy, but we need to start to re-engage and build up steam to plan for the 25th Reunion. Arch Griffin (agriffin@xla.com), as your Class Prez, and **Ron McNeal** (mcneal@novell.nadn.navy.mil), have already done a lot of leg work in that arena, and now, we are in the process of starting to again get updates on email addresses, current bios, etc. We plan to use the Class Web page as the primary—if not only—venue for information for the 25th. If you have not visited it recently, please do so at <http://www.usna1978.org/>. Mike Holden has done a great job of making it a Class act and a great tool for us to do business. Please log on to it and check it out and update your bios. Also, please send this note to any other Classmate you keep on your email list and get them back in the loop. I recognize that we are three years away, but, as the past two years have flown by, so will the next three. We also need to get Classmates interested in helping to plan and execute the 25th—if you want to help out, please give Arch or me a call. I am also interested in just getting us in the habit of hitting our Web page on a regular basis to be able to confidently use it as the best method of getting the word out. It saves the Class lots of cash over mass mailings and is in keeping with one of the goals of Arch and me. Hope you all had a good 4th of July and hope to see lots of activity on the Web page in the coming months. *Beat Army!* '78, Sir!

I reinforce Bob's request for email updates and news. It certainly helps us all out. I also would add another request: If you aren't already a lifetime member of the Alumni Association stop paying the annual membership rate and get on board as a lifetime member while it's economical (you still have enough "life" to make the amortized cost worth it). If you know of a Classmate who keeps bumming your *Shipmate*, get them to join the Alumni Association and get one of their own. Come on, you're making the *big bucks* now and can afford it.

Well, that's it for now—Oh, one more thing. Here's the Web site for our sponsored ship, PORTER: <http://www.spear.navy.mil/ships/ddg78/>. Check it out. Okay, gotta go now—Launchin' Spot Four from Homeport USA (Yup, I'm back from Turkey. If anybody wants to hear some doing business-in-Turkey sea stories he can buy me a beer!).

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

e: (h) WithersJ7@starpower.net;

(w) WithersJD@navair.navy.mil

Class Web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, '79! And welcome to the October edition of YNIB (**Your Name In Bold**). It's been a fairly active month in the Classmate information library, so let's get right to the bolded names.

This month starts off with the following update from our Class President, **Sean Cate**:

Greetings, Classmates! In late June I received an urgent program-funding request from the Naval Academy Foundation. For those of you who

don't know, the Foundation is the money-arm of the Alumni Association, using your contributions to support USNA and Alumni programs.

The funding request was based on programs identified by the superintendent to support the Academy's strategic initiatives. Like all of you still serving in the military, and many of us serving elsewhere, the Naval Academy is faced with "doing more with less." Renovations of many of the 19th century buildings, including Bancroft Hall, take a big bite of the available funds for special projects. These special projects are important for attracting quality recruits to the Academy, as well as maintaining the existing infrastructure.

While there are numerous programs that the Alumni are asked to support, the Foundation asked for our help on any of three specific programs. We were asked to channel some of our Visitor's Center Bridge Wing account funds towards any or all of these three programs: the Volunteer Graduate Education Program (VGEPE), a program that provides top Midshipmen with an opportunity to pursue master's level courses at local colleges; an orthopedic medical study that is conducting an experimental but promising orthopedic rehabilitation study; and funding for a master plan study for the Academy Cemetery and Columbarium.

Since the request was presented as "urgent" I wanted to act quickly, but on your behalf. I asked our other Class officers, **Mike Parrott**, **Jeff Johnson**, and **Wiz Withers** for their thoughts on this. **Kirk Michealson** left an active classmate association in the D.C. area before he departed for Richmond, VA, and a civilian career and I tapped into that resource as well. I was very gratified with the many replies I received, as well as the generosity of spirit they conveyed.

A consensus formed around our Class supporting the Master Plan Study for the Academy Cemetery and Columbarium. As several Classmates pointed out, the debt we owe to the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam era veterans, who are passing on to their final reward, is well worth our consideration. The Master Plan will identify new gravesites for a nearly full historic cemetery. It will also plan for memorial gardens and a small chapel, among other things. I have thus granted the Foundation \$12,000 from the Bridge Wing fund to fully support this project. I have been promised that this memorial work will benefit the Academy and provide significant impact with our Alumni.

I also noted a great deal of interest in supporting the medical study. While there was some interest also in the VGEPE program, it did not rise to the level of either the Cemetery Plan or the Medical Study. The medical study directly supports the recovery of 25 Midshipmen who may otherwise have been medically discharged for such things as blowing out a knee. On your behalf, I pledged \$3,000 for support of this project. Our total contribution of \$15,000 towards these urgent projects still leaves us with sufficient funds to spend as we best see fit.

My thanks to all of those who responded. For those of you who raised questions or concerns, I have relayed them to the Foundation where they will be reviewed and answered. Thanks to the following for participating: **Mike Parrott**, **David Pryde**, **Matt Coleman**, **Mac Sylvester**, **Joe Ciano**, **Grant Thorton**, and a few others he relayed the message to, **Craig Grabowsky**, **Tom Joyce**, **Charles Gittins**, **Tom Herrmann**, **Chris Wenz**, **Kirk Michealson** and others in 22nd Company, **John Counts**, **Rick Lopez**, **Jeff Johnson**, **Ohlen Hunt**, **Frank Dombrowski**, **Mark Edwards**, **Ed O'Brien**, and **Ray Spicer**.

We are looking at various other causes, including improvements to the Bridge Wing, for our remaining funds. In the near future you may also receive a letter from me requesting further donations to the Foundation to support myriad worthy causes that will continue to make the U.S. Naval Academy the premiere Service Academy.