



Dave Vail, his wife, Mary, and their children, Sean and Ashley, at the celebration party in honor of Mary receiving the 2001 Nevada Women's Role Model Award

### Class Communication

Just a couple of reminders about our 25th Reunion plans. As I had said last month (and will probably repeat quite often in the months before the reunion), our 25th Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of 20-22 September 2002, which is one week before Homecoming Weekend. Mark your calendars now so you can't possibly forget that it's being held one week before Homecoming Weekend. The last thing that Soup wants you to forget is that all of the festivities for our 25th Reunion will be happening one week before Homecoming Weekend.

Also keep in mind that we have set-up the following five committees (and Committee Chairmen) to help plan and coordinate the reunion activities: Golf Outing—**Thom McKee** (Magoo1310@aol.com; 410-489-5080); Dinner Dance and Music—**Tom "Soup" Campbell** (Tom.Campbell@longandfoster.com; 703-293-6368); Tailgate Party—**Carl Moore** (cmoore7354@aol.com); Memorabilia—**Dave Harding** (dph@arinc.com; 410-266-2249); and Transportation—**Leon Jackson** (leon.jackson@dc.gov or actioneod@aol.com; 703-830-6962, w: 202-727-7664). If you have any specific inputs or suggestions, please send an email directly to the appropriate chairman (you can't complain unless you get involved!).

### Closing Remarks

By the time you read this column, I will have completed the Annapolis-Newport Race with two other Alumni (**Eric Baittinger '71** and **Charlie Kineke '82**), and Michelle will be on her way to merry-old England to attend a three-week course in "Anglican Spirituality and Enculturation" at Canterbury Cathedral. As usual, we'll be attending all of the Navy home games, which begin next month, and we even hope to start flying the '77 Balloon regularly at the games (once the minor repairs are completed, of course). Anyway, I hope everyone's had a great summer and we look forward to running into some familiar faces in Annapolis this fall as we prepare once again to *Beat Army!*  
—**Bob Sanderson**

style. You know if he could've just written the "Laws of the Navy" a lot of us may have had an easier time with that particular rate. However, I digress, on to mail call.

**Matt Elias** (MPGEE@aol.com) is doing well and finds retired life in Dallas to be very good. Dallas has had a very wet spring and things were lush and green. Of course, by now, that's probably not the case and it's 105 and dry. Matt was contemplating aloud how life twists and turns the realities we perceived as youngsters. (People in retirement get to do that a lot you know—contemplate aloud...about life, à la Wilfred Brimley.) Anyway, Matt pondered that no one, least of all he or me, would have thought that I would leave active duty at eight or nine years (It was almost 11, Matt.) and *he* would end up doing 20. Going even further, he queried, "Who would have thought...that, I, the Californian, would end up in New England and Matt, a Cumberland, RI, New Englander, would end up in Texas?" Heck, he even went further on to add that **Phil Winters** is a surprise for having ended up in California and not back in his East Coast (Maryland) roots. Well, Matt, that's life and the military for you; one just never knows what will happen. (And it isn't over yet!) But as I say—Semper Gumby (Always Flexible). Speaking of Phil Winters, Matt wrote that Phil had been with fogdog.com, an Internet athletic sales company. The company struggled like so many Internet companies and then was acquired by someone larger. Phil was one of the few execs they kept but recently he decided to leave them. Phil is supposed to be coming to Dallas in the near future. Matt's pretty psyched about having one of his old roomies nearby. As for our other 11th Company-mates, Matt had not seen **Rusty Cone** since before Christmas and it has been much longer since he saw **Prentiss Hall**. Prentiss was president of Don Pablo's Restaurants but left them to go with someone else. Rusty Cone is president of Alliance Systems, a privately owned telecom company in Plano, TX. Matt came very close to going to work for Rusty last fall? Rusty had been looking for a vice president of human resources. Matt almost accepted the offer but in the end stayed where he was. Looking back, Matt figures it was the right decision. However, he also remarked it still would have been great working for Coach Cone. Yes, Matt, but *when* would work get done?

**Andy Karakos** (Karakosa@essex.navy.mil) sent an update since his change of command. Now the commodore of ESSEX Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), Andy's command consists of ESSEX (LHD-2), JUNEAU (LPD-10), GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) and FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43). The ARG just completed Exercise Tandem Thrust 2001 inside Australia's Great Barrier Reef. For the exercise, Andy had two Australian ships LPAs, HMAS MANOORA and HMAS KANIMBLA included in his Combined ARG. Of course, when you hear about the great shopping trips and ports of call Andy made (included a tri to the Crocodile Hunter's Zoo in Queensland, Australia, and a chance to see his wife, Karen, you realize that life is not that rough anymore and it is good to be the king-commodore.) As for the family, the queen of the household, Karen, is doing well holding court with the kids. Kevin (12) is starting 7th grade and Krystyna (21) and in the Marine Corps. (Isn't it great to see that our kids turn out smarter than us?) Following graduation from Parris Island, she went on computer school in Athens, GA. Now a lance corporal, she is stationed in dad's backyard in Okinawa. Andy said her graduation was a proud day for her naval family, with her Navy captain dad, master chief ship serviceman (30 years

and retired) paternal grandfather and master gunnery sergeant maternal grandfather (30 years and retired). Surprisingly, her Parris Island CO was one of Andy's Marine captains that had been embarked on GERMANTOWN when he was her CO. I told Andy that if he wanted to keep up the trend of contacts looking after his daughter he should get a hold of Okinawa residents LtCol **Gary Eisenmann** and **Jim Shulson**. Then I thought it over and decided we shouldn't ruin the kid's career so early on. If you want to keep track of Andy, drop him an email or check out the PhibRon Eleven's Web site if you get a chance (<http://www.cpr11.navy.mil/>).

**Dave "Duncan" Heinz's** (dheinz@early.com) wife, Kathy, sent an update. Duncan pinned on eagles on 1 April. He was in the process of checking out of the Pentagon and heading south to Pax River, MD. In typical military logic, Dave, an F-18 bubba, will now be the KC-130 program manager. Go figure. Actually, he's happy with it. He'll mix up being a geo-bachelor with an occasional commute so the kids don't have to leave their good high schools. Kathy will mind the home front and keep busy as an office manager for an orthodontist. Speaking of colonels, the Reserve selection list came out. If my eyes didn't deceive me and my mind didn't escape me, I think I saw that among the selections were: **Steve "Jock" Maloney**, **Marty Thamm**, **Mike Spencer**, and **Tim "Magoo" Murphy**. Congrats to all. If I missed anyone, I'm sure I'll hear about it—especially if you have an alert wife like Kathy Heinz.



"Maverick" Mel



Deadeye Mel

**Cecil Haney** (CHaney718@aol.com) provided proof that **Mel Williams** is having fun on the operational side of things as Chief of Staff for Carrier Group 5 assigned to the KITTY HAWK Battle Group. While Mel is clearly having fun Cecil reports that he is commanding a desk, computer, and telephone in the five-sided wonderland—the Pentagon. Cecil is working for SecDef's Comptroller as a Congressional Appropriations Liaison Action Officer. Cecil was at service selection night for '01. While there, he intruded at a gathering of soon to be submariners. He tried to trade a set of orders with the Mids so he could "start all over again." No such luck, there were no takers. (Well what did you think, Cecil? Remember, those kids are among the smartest in the Class.) Better luck next year and Cecil, thanks for the update.

# 78

Annual Membership: 18%  
Life Membership: 70%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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e: VBalderrama@Sikorsky.com  
Class Web site: <http://usna1978.org>

Lots of news in the mailbag so no clever thoughts or quips—besides, those of you who know my GPA know that it's pretty tough for me to walk and chew gum at the same time, let alone try to create Pulitzer Prize winning literature. Doctor Seuss is more my



Cecil attempting to swap orders

By now **Billy Martin** (BILLUSNA78@aol.com) has finally had that knee replacement surgery he'd been scheduled for. Beforehand, he had a little consult from Classmates Dr. **James Pointer** (a.k.a. CAPT Bulk), CAPT **Drew Nienhaus** (pork chop supreme), CAPT **Bobby Engel**, and Billy's old Plebe and youngster roomie, **Les Burke**. (Billy hadn't seen Les since he left the Academy in March of '76.) Billy's son, Sean, recently won the award as the Inspirational Student Hero from the City of Pensacola and Cox Communications. Sean was recognized for overcoming his stroke and while still excelling in the Classroom (he finished middle school with a perfect 4.0!), participating in music (he plays a mean trombone), and athletics, as a swimmer! He hopes to be an animator at Disney someday. (We look forward to seeing film credits with his name rolling on them someday.) Sean has also been nominated to carry the Olympic torch in 2002! He has really worked hard after his stroke and Billy is rightfully proud of him!

**Tony "The Shad" Shaddix** (Ashaddix@brinks.com) broke a 23-year silence when he sent an email "Cliff Notes" version of what's been going on in his life. Paraphrasing Mark Twain he wrote that "the rumors of his death are untrue." In fact, he is alive and well in San Diego. He recently ran into **Kevin "Grinch" Lynch** in Las Vegas as both work for major security installation companies (Brink's and ADT, respectively). But he had an expectation of seeing many more Classmates at **Alex Callas'** annual charity gold (golf) event. Shad boasted to the world that Grinch and Schmerm could expect to continue to donate to the Shad team again this year, "especially as the Shad has his game better than ever!" We'll see how true his boast became when I get a written report from Alex of what I expect was another successful golf tournament for MS. Like me, Tony hasn't been in the cockpit in a lo-o-o-o-ng time. The last time for him was at his last NATOPS check in an H-46 back in Guam. He recalled he did his last fleet tour in Singapore but it was so-o-o-o long he could only remember it was either flying or something related to flying. The rest of the details had been lost in a "senior moment." After active duty, Tony ended up with Brink's Home Security, revamping and standardizing their safety and training program, inventing operational policies and motivating the tech force. He says the job isn't bad but he'll always long for the old times. He ended his email with a vow to try and check in sooner than every 23 or so years. Please do, Tony or you'll be writing to the *Shipmate* staff because I'll be taking a dirt nap.

Dr. (PhD) **Bob McMasters** (mcmaste7@msu.edu) attached a photo of he and Mary Lynn with their oldest son, Robert L. McMasters V (i.e. the 5th). The picture was taken at their son's graduation from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO. The local U.S. Congressman, a Wentworth graduate himself, was the keynote speaker, as well as a four-star Army general. The

general commissioned the new Army 2nd Lts in Bob V's Class. Since Bob V was not on an ROTC scholarship, he wasn't commissioned. Despite not being ROTC he still enjoyed all the "good deals" that a military academy such as Wentworth had to offer—much like our experiences at USNA! (A little character building never hurt anyone.) Since Wentworth is a junior college, Bob's son has an associate degree. Bob believes this makes his son the first of the '78 offspring to hold a post-secondary diploma. Unless there any counter-claims, he holds the distinction. Of course Bob, the younger, will continue to go on to get the bachelor's degree (in elementary education at Central Missouri State University), as will his 2nd Lt Classmates. Still, don't you guys find it interesting that the Army commissions 2nd Lts without bachelor's degrees? Of course, they can't be any worse than those with the four-year certificates of attendance at that Trade School on the Hudson. Thanks for the update, Doctor Bob.



A McMasters graduation

**George Tryee** (TGeorge678@aol.com) sent a Herndon photo that'll bring back some memories. In this case it's he that caught his son, **Michael Tryee '04**, and his '04 Classmates after Herndon was over. George may just have caught somebody else's son or daughter too (so look closely). If you have a kid in this '04 group but weren't able to make it to Herndon, George also has a bunch of other digital shots that he offers to send you. Just drop him an email. George says that the cool, wet weather was probably a blessing for the Class of '04 as there was still enough heat being generated at the bottom of the pile to have steam rising from the water the upper-Class were spraying on them to try and keep them cool! Michael spent most of his time at the bottom helping to anchor the pile. He had a nice red welt come up on the right side of his face from being kicked; along with being bruised all over the next day; but he enjoyed earning them on his way to being no longer a Plebe.



Michael Tyree '04 Herndon

**Cammy and Loren Divers** (lorendd@yahoo.com) and their infant son, Soho, send "Aloha" to Classmates and friends. They recently acquired several properties that are in the "turn-around" phase. They have begun to concentrate on affordable housing for first time homebuyers. (Something desperately needed in Hawaii!) One site has 14 homes that are condo units. They'll resell them on lease option agreements so buyers have

time to qualify for their financing. Some buyers will need help. The general idea is to help them break the rental cycle and convert to ownership. Several of their other tenants are contract service providers for the State Hospital offering in and outpatient mental and addiction services. Loren says that's convenient 'cuz if he ever goes off the deep end Cammy knows who to call.



Cammy and Loren

Also out in Hawaii is **Jim VanDerKamp** (Vandy@hawaii.rr.com). Vandy says everything is just fine there in paradise. The boys are getting big. Nicholas, who Vandy says I reported in a previous column as being a girl, is six now. Vandy says Nicholas is probably taller than me (not much of a boast) and is going up for his green belt in Tae Kwon Do. Despite the claim that I said he was a girl, Nicholas still wants to meet me. I hope that's not to make me take back that "girl" description with a can of Ninja wupa\*\*! I can only hope Vandy was in error or I can claim the cite was probably based on an extract from somebody else's letter! As for the others, Cameron (13) is quite the jock (soccer, track, surfing). He and his dad just ran the Maui Marathon together. Spencer (3 going on 6) is going to be another athlete. He always wants to play ball—any kind as long as it's rough and tumble. And he's been swimming like a fish since he turned 2 years old. Barb's fine and is doing her best to keep ahead of the crowd in a testosterone filled house. (Jim even reported that my buddy, his mom, is doing well too.—Hi, "Mom"! ) Jim was treated to a surprise when STENNIS pulled in to Pearl Harbor. **Wade Tallman** is the XO! Having been "running mates" at the Academy it was a pleasant surprise to find out. Not having heard their names together on any police reports I take it they hadn't exactly linked up (yet).

Speaking of linking up—Mr. Steve Zahm (szahm2@home.com) is searching for his former JFK High School Class of '74 Classmate (and our Classmate) **Tom Miller**. Tom wherever you are, drop Steve and another buddy Jim Cunningham a line. Following that same "hit and run" theme, I came across 12th Company's **Jim Rennie**. In doing some business type Web surfing, I noted that Jim is the XO and Chief of Staff for the Mine Warfare Command in Corpus Christi. A quick call to Jim revealed he is alive and well. My sister-in-law also provided an au pair for a Classmate, **Kurt Tidd**. Seems Kurt and his family are heading to Annapolis. Kurt's wife will be finishing up her final four years in the Navy as a doctor at the Naval Academy Hospital. Kurt, what will you be doing? Fill me in on the details. I guess we can count on you as another tailgate volunteer. Just report to **Ed Reid**. He'll get you started.

**Jim "Tall Daddy" Shulson** (jimvickof@momo2000.com) wasn't able to attend the recent D.C. '78 luncheon that **Fred Butterfield** coordinates. Writing from Okinawa, Jim gave some lame excuse that he only gets 30 minutes for lunch. Due to a few time zone differences (13) he just didn't

think he could influence the time any more than he could the tide and formation! He sure wished he could be with everybody but geography is a real bear to beat. Jim sent his best to all '78ers. When he wrote it was "Live from Okinawa, it's Friday afternoon happy hour!" He boasted that that's one of the benefits of living in Japan—his happy hour comes well before ours on a Friday afternoon/evening! Of course, when did he ever have to wait for 5 p.m. local time when he could declare that *somewhere* the sun was setting on the yardarm.

Well that's a load for this combined month column. In closing here's some proof of my January visit with **Ray Luevano** that I spoke of in a previous column. (I'm the good-looking guy sitting down!). Keep those cards and letters (and emails) coming in. Until next month, Launchin' Spot 4.



Me and Ray

# 79

**Annual Membership: 4%**  
**Life Membership: 88%**

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

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Class Web site: [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com)

Greetings, '79!

And a happy summer to all! Here's hoping you're taking the time to enjoy those back yard barbecues, family vacations, twilight rounds of golf, bike rides, etc. Last fall, Karen and I started talking about how we weren't going to let *this* summer get away from us. We discussed weekend trips to Maryland's Eastern Shore, hiking in the Shenandoahs, visiting family in the Midwest/California, and even a week's visit to rural Vermont. But now, with my recent travel schedule, I find it very easy to put off doing those things until "next week." Even as I sit here in the middle seat on the flight home after another business trip, I realize I'm in danger of "next-weeking" myself out of another summer.

Let's face it—there's no such thing as "finding time" to do the things we want to do. We have to "make time" for them, carving out slices of busy schedules for actually doing those things we keep talking about. OK, OK, sorry about the use of the plural. I'll put that mouse back in my pocket and begin carving some slices of this column for the things you really want to see!

We are fortunate to start off this month with the following message from our fearless leader and all-around good guy, Class President **Sean Cate**:

By now you all should have received my USNA Foundation fund-raising solicitation letter and had a chance to think about supporting the many programs for which these funds are earmarked. IDC, the company conducting this solicitation for the Foundation, has reported to me that our Class is

off to a good start—over \$10,500 pledged as of 17 April. Let's keep it up. By the way, in this campaign, all classes are trying to raise a total of \$175M by the end of 2005. Some recent gifts from well-to-do Alumni have made a dent in that total, so the entire campaign is already doing well.

On 3 April, I attended the Class President's meeting at USNA. **George Watt '73** addressed us on Alumni Association growth. There are 49,000 living grads of USNA. The Alumni Association has 45,000 members (non-grads and associates can also be members). They are looking to grow the membership to 60,000 by 2005. At the same time, member benefits and services will grow—check *Shipmate* periodically for updates.

We also need to help identify worthy candidates (take my son and daughter—*please*) to be the Midshipmen of the future. A concerted campaign is being established through the various local association chapters to assist with recruitment. If you haven't checked out your local Alumni Chapter lately, give it a look.

Alumni communications were also discussed. The Association has about 23,000 email addresses in its database—if they don't have yours, please let them know. (If you have not received email from the Alumni Association in the past three months, they probably don't have your address.) Everyone should check out the Alumni Association Web site, [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com), at least once a month to find out the new things they (we) are doing. *Shipmate* is also a valuable tool for communications—read more of it than your Class column.

One more thing, it is never too early to start planning for our next big party—the 25-year reunion of the Class of '79 in 2004. If anyone has ideas, please let me know. I need someone to coordinate this event—whoever does will earn the eternal gratitude of your Classmates! I need immediate input on when we should gather—options include Homecoming, another football weekend, a spring weekend, other. Also, where should we hold the reunion—in Annapolis, Washington, D.C., South Dakota (for **Ken Russell**), or even San Diego? Nothing is written in stone at this point, and all suggestions will be considered. Please let me know your thoughts. Omnes Viri '79.

Thanks, Sean, for all the updates. What about it, gang? Should we have our next big reunion on a weekend other than Homecoming? Or do we want to gather somewhere else besides Annapolis? Or is the traditional USNA Homecoming the way to go? Send those emails in to Sean—operators are standing by!

You know, I never cease to be amazed at the sacrifices some of us make for our Classmates. Whenever I hear the word "sacrifice," I immediately think of **Russell Nevitt** (70224.1271 @compuserve.com). Here's a guy who, in the midst of the "Worst Energy Crisis To Ever Hit The State of California," spends part of his 30-minute allotment of electricity just to send an email with Classmate news. **Russell** writes:

Hope this finds you happy and healthy. Yeah, we are all still alive and in the dark out in Southern California. I can barely see by the light of the flickering candle, and concentration is difficult as Heidi swears while pedaling furiously to maintain an even current flow to power the desktop. Still, I wanted to pass along a few pics from **Ted Branch's** recent change of command.

Ted just turned over as XO of STENNIS, and assumed command of CORONADO. CORONADO is a converted LPD, serving as flagship and sea-based Battle Lab for 3RD FLT. Only reason I know all that is my Reserve unit works in support of 3rd FLT, aboard Ted's ship. If nothing else, I should get a cup of hot coffee once in awhile. Ted should serve as CO for about 18 months, and look for selection as CVN CO. It was a great COC, and Ted gave a very nice speech. His whole family came out, and it was a good homecoming for a few 22nd CO '79ers as well.



Change of command: Pat Temple, Ted Branch, Russell Nevitt, and John Ziegler

The first picture is **Pat Temple**, Ted Branch, myself, and **John Ziegler**. John left after Plebe Year, became a SEAL, and now does stuff we can't talk about here. Suffice to say he still carries a gun to work. The other shows all of us a few hours later, enjoying Ted's hospitality. Ted's mom, Jackie, and his wife, Jodie, are pictured up front. **Mike Muldoon**, another 22nd Company '79er is in the back with Pat. Mike could not make the ceremony; he was busy as one of the lead joint replacement orthopedic surgeons up at Balboa. Heidi can no longer stand up, so she is on the floor with John Z. Her sister is married to John, who first met through one of Dan Bursch's shuttle launches last year, but that is another story.



Mike Muldoon joins the group at the Branch Ranch

**Rob Sterling** had passed through a few days before, qualifying in the C-12 before he goes to Japan to assume command as ComFAirWestPac. Don't ask what it stands for (Humble Sec'y note: If memory serves, that's Commander Fleet Air, Western Pacific). Uncle Bud (Dan) will come out to visit in June with his family and swear to his wife that the weather really isn't that much different than Houston.

Heidi is starting to falter, so I better sign off. Please give my regards to all you happen to meet. To paraphrase that quote, "whenever two shall meet, lies will be told, liquor will be consumed, and the tales will grow taller with the telling." Omnes Viri.

Thanks, Russ, for that great update and the photos. My final item this month, just barely under the deadline wire, comes to us courtesy of CAPT **Gordon Peterson '68, USN (Ret.)**, senior editor, *Sea Power* magazine and Class of '68s Corresponding Secretary:

I want to alert you to a "page one" article on **Mark Lange** that will appear in our June "Naval Aviation" issue of *Sea Power* magazine, the Navy League's official monthly publication. Our *Sea Power* article describes the Navy League Foundation's award of a \$2,500 college scholarship to Mark's daughter, Jamie. You may know that she was six months old when Mark was killed in Lebanon and, as Mark was divorced, his grandparents raised her. The text of the article will appear under our *Sea Power* icon on our Navy League homepage ([www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)) without the two photos in the magazine.

For those of you who didn't know him, **Mark Lange**, 34th Company, was killed in action on