

On the personal front, Spike is still married to the former Charlotte Tracy '80 (non-grad) and they have two grown kids (well, Vogs, it looks like we lost that bet big time since it's been 23 years and they're still counting!). Their oldest child, Stephanie, graduated from William and Mary last spring (Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude) and now works as a research assistant at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD (Spike thought he'd brag a little since she did much better in college than he did). Their son, Matthew, is a sophomore at Penn State and seems to be doing fine so far. As he is blind, his social security helps offset the out-of-state tuition that they have to pay. Which leaves Spike and Charlotte lots of time to enjoy life.

They both have become involved in local theater companies doing lights, sets, and costumes (which seems natural to Spike since they met in Masqueraders and got Class A'd together at a Masqueraders party). Spike does the heavy construction and electrical work, and Charlotte is the creative force. As Spike puts it, "She gets awards, and I bask in her reflected glory." One of Charlotte's continuing gigs is at St. Albans High School in Washington, DC, and one of their graduates last spring was going to USNA. They keep meaning to take the long trip up Route 50 to reminisce and give the young man a care package, but they don't know if it will happen soon or not. Spike sums things up with, "I still have fond memories of Mahan Hall, sitting on a bench along Chapel Walk, and reading a book on pleasant sunny afternoons. I'd also like to have a foot-long with Texas sauce, but I'll bet that the food isn't nearly as good as it was, and you can't get into the mess hall for a meal when you visit." Well, Spike, believe it or not, the food may not meet your expectations (the z-burgers just aren't exactly what I remember), but if you really want to check it out yourself, let me know and I'll see what can be arranged for you.

Looks like **Dave Vail** was quite busy during his last "summer vacation." In May, Dave had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit with a renowned WWII aviator, COL Robert Morgan, who was in Las Vegas for a book signing, "The Man Who Flew the Memphis Bell." Morgan's quick wit, humorous anecdotes, and stories of his missions made Dave and others feel incredible pride for the man who made such a significant mark in world history (he was the pilot of the first heavy bomber to achieve 25 missions over Europe, and was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters). Dave, a former Naval Aviator who flew F-4s, F-86s, and A4s, exchanged aviation stories with COL Morgan, while his son, Sean, looked on.



Dave Vail, Col Robert Morgan, and Sean Vail during a book signing in Las Vegas

Dave's next escapade was when he was invited to be a special guest on the nationally syndicated radio talk show, "Winning in Life with Rudy Ruettiger and Jack London." For those of you who may not know this, Rudy is the real-life persona depicted in the movie, "Rudy," and Jack is an award-winning radio and TV personality. They host a live, call-in inspirational talk show in Las Vegas, and Rudy, who served time as a yeoman on NORTHAMPTON (CC-1) before his Notre Dame college days, invited Dave to speak on his military training and academy experience, and how they influenced and prepared him for his life and career in both the service and the civilian world.



Dave Vail, Jack London, and Rudy Ruettiger "ham it up" during their nationally syndicated radio talk show

Dave's final event of the summer was the 1st Annual Napoleon McCallum Celebrity Golf Tournament held in Henderson, NV, to benefit the American Diabetes Association. Dave worked with fellow Alumnus, none other than **Napoleon McCallum '85** himself, by gathering supporters, sponsors, and donations, acting as a volunteer during the event, and recruiting his wife, Mary, to take care of the publicity (naturally). Besides playing golf, Dave also recruited his employer, Perini Building Company, to be a major sponsor for the event. Some of Napoleon's former NFL stars were around to add to the celebrity status, and Dave even managed to rub elbows with a few of them.

Class Communication

Since we're now less than 12 months away from our 25th Reunion, it's time for a few reminders

about our plans and arrangements. I know I've said it before, but it's definitely worth repeating: our 25th Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of 20-22 September 2002, which is *one week before Homecoming Weekend*. We still have 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 actioned@aol.com; 703-830-6962, w: 202-727-7664). Please be sure to contact these Classmates directly if you have any specific inputs or suggestions (and remember that the earlier that you let them know what you'd like to have happen, the greater the likelihood of making it so).

Closing Remarks

It's nearing turkey time and you know what that means, don't you? We're gearing up to kick a little a** (or Mule for those of you who may be a little more conservative)! Yep, it's time once again for that classic gridiron battle between the long gray line and the boys in blue. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to watch Navy march up and down the field leaving mangled mule carcasses in their dust. I can't wait and I'm sure you can't either, so until next month...*Go Navy!* —**Bob Sanderson**

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Annual Membership: 18%
Life Membership: 70%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

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

79

Annual Membership: 4%
Life Membership: 88%

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

e: scate79@home.com

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

22445 Bluebird Court, Leonardtown, MD 20650

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Class Web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, '79!

We start off this month with a major announcement: In a first for our Class (and maybe a first for any USNA Class), two '79ers will be on the same upcoming space shuttle mission. **Dom Gorie** (19th Company) will be the mission commander of STS-108 onboard Endeavour, which is scheduled to launch at the end of November for a ten day mission. Also aboard will be **Dan Bursch** (22nd Company), who will begin a four month stay aboard the International Space Station as part of the Expedition Four Crew. **Kirk Michealson** reports that Jodi and **Ted Branch**, Kim and **Wayne Elmer**, Jeannie and **Mike Muldoon**, and Heidi and **Russ Nevitt** are all planning to attend the launch at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Congratulations to Dom



'77: Former NFL greats Anthony Miller, Christian Okoye, Eric Dickerson, Sean Salisbury, and Napoleon McCallum with tournament players Keith Schacherbauer and Dave Vail at the 1st Annual Napoleon McCallum Celebrity Golf Tournament