

25th. We'll probably go for the week and visit Williamsburg or the DC area as a part of the trip. I get to see **Ben Stein** (landetwins@home.com) more than most of you—we lived in Denver for seven years (where he is assistant treasurer of the state!), and I travel back routinely because of business. We stopped in on Campbell over the holidays last year while doing the tourist thing in Washington, DC (doesn't seem like ten months ago...). We ought to see what we can schedule on our own around the 25th for those coming—maybe spot our own "headquarters" as well. Anybody heard from Corky? He told me about three days before his retirement he was headed to Birmingham to sell for a pharmaceutical firm, but I heard he ended up in NJ in an investment banking firm. What's the straight gouge?

Finally from **Victor M. "Corky" Gardner III** (corky.gardner@gs.com) via **Jim "Cool Breeze" Gould** (gould.james@cnap.navy.mil):

I retired from the Marine Corps last summer. Our Classmate, **Pete Grieve** (peter.grieve@gs.com), told me about Goldman Sachs and I applied. After three rounds of interviews, I was hired for the Philly office. I had been stationed at NAS Willow Grove for three years before my tour, and we had liked the area. I started in August 2000 and went to six months of training on Wall Street and lived in NYC, commuting home on weekends. I started in Philly full time in February 2001. We provide investment advisory services for high networth families. It's a great company and I'm really enjoying the team I'm working with. We meet some interesting people. Renee and I have three daughters. Our twins are high school seniors, and we have looked at a bunch of colleges this summer. Our youngest girl will be in 7th grade. Here's my contact information: Goldman, Sachs & Co., Private Wealth Management; 1735 Market St, 26th Floor; Philadelphia, PA 19103; 215-656-7872/800-832-3130; f: 215-656-7853.

Owen Thorp (thorp@usna.edu) recently determined that the Class of '77 has five sons and daughters belonging to the Class of '05 (that he's aware of). They are **Jason Holloway '05**, son of Deb and **Jeff Holloway** (jlh03@cho.litton-marine.com); **John McCarthy '05**, son of Barbara and **Dan McCarthy**; **Tyler McDonald '05**, son of Kim and **Brad McDonald**; **Rebecca Smith '05**, daughter of Marsha and **Bruce Smith** (bsmith77@erols.com); and **Daniel Tilgner '05**, son of Maura and **Brad Tilgner**. (Owen offered to compile a list of all of our Classmates who have a son or daughter currently attending USNA, so if any of you know of any current Mids with '77 parents, please let Owen know.) Owen also reports that all continues to be well at USNA for him. He was just accepted into the Permanent Military Professor (PMP) program, which allows him to stay at USNA and teach until statutory retirement. In Owen's words, "It is indeed an honor for me to be here teaching Mids, and I really love it. I still live on the yard, so if anyone is in the area, please stop by and say, 'hello'."

Class Communication

Once again (for those of you with short memory spans), here's a brief review of the basic 25th Reunion information. It's scheduled for the weekend of 20-22 September 2002, which is one week before Homecoming weekend. The Dinner Dance is scheduled from 6 p.m.-TBD at the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront on Friday, 20 September 2002, and includes a cocktail hour (with light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar), a buffet dinner (with complementary wine), and dancing (to the music of a DJ). Due to space constraints, this event is limited to Classmates and one guest only. The tailgate party (which is open to Classmates and any number of guests) will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 21 September 2002, and continue until approximately

6 p.m. (broken up intermittently by watching Navy pounce the Northwestern Wildcats, of course!). It will be catered by O'Leary's, and include both a small morning brunch and a full afternoon lunch (with drinks appropriate to each occasion, of course).

As of early December 2001, we've determined that the cost of the complete weekend package for the Dinner Dance and Tailgate Party will be approximately \$150 per person. Also, due to seating limitations, you will not be able to purchase reservations for the dinner dance only; they will only be offered as part the complete weekend package. The cost of the tailgate party only will be approximately \$60 per person (children under 10 years old are free).

We've reserved a block of 200 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights (125 rooms at the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront (410-268-7555) and 75 rooms at the Sheraton Barcelo Annapolis (410-266-3131), which is just outside of town in Parole), and reservations can still be made. I'd also like to remind everyone to please verify their contact information with the Alumni Association, since we plan to use their records for our reunion mailings. To verify and update your listing, simply go to the "Alumni Only" link at www.usna.com, look-up your record, and make any changes that are needed. You don't want to miss out on the fun simply because we didn't know how to contact you!

Closing Remarks

I hope that everyone's had a safe and happy holiday season and started the new year off with a firm resolve to be more optimistic about Navy athletics. After going 0-10 on the football field, we can only get better, right? Maybe a solid pummeling of Army on the basketball court will provide the right dose of medicine to cure whatever's been ailing us on the field. If you're ever at one of the home basketball games, look for me and Michelle sitting five rows behind the Navy bench. In the meantime, remember the words of that famous Naval hero, "Go Navy!" —**Bob Sanderson**

78

Annual Membership: 16%
Life Membership: 72%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: VBalderrama@Sikorsky.com

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

Here's more on our Class of '78 Ken Waldie Memorial Fund: The Class of '78 has established a fund in honor of **Ken "Waldo" Waldie**. Donations will be used to fund appropriate remembrances of Waldo that are representative of the life he led, fulfill our own needs as a Class and certainly include the wishes of his wife, Carol, and his children. John Ehlers has been in contact with Carol and is working to identify the family's desires while your Class officers are identifying Class objectives. More details will be provided in future Class *Shipmate* columns and the Class Website at usna1978.org. Contribution checks should be made out to "USNA Class of 1978," with "Ken Waldie" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to our Class Treasurer, **Kevin Liddy**, at: Kevin Liddy, 55 Knobb Hill Road, Milford, CT 06460-7244. Additionally, Waldo's employer, Raytheon, has established a Raytheon Scholarship Fund for the children of Raytheon employees who were lost. Should you also desire to send donations to this memorial, they

should be made to: Kovalcin, Waldie, Gay, Hall Education Trust, Mellon Private Asset Management, 1 Boston Place, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02108-4402.

With all that's happened over the last few months, I've had tons of email. Please bear with me over the next couple of months as I sort through it all and separate the wheat from the chaff. If you've sent me something that hasn't appeared by the next couple of columns send me a "sledgehammer email" to awake the cobwebs. On to what I've gleaned so far...

Charlie Love (clove@triton-network.com) sent a quick update. A year after taking a start up company public, he was helping to liquidate it. He admitted it was a "crappy job" he had to do and confessed to his hating to be the guy "left to turn out the lights." Throughout it all, he said he was still working to get the best return for shareholders. He was doing his best despite a horrible telecom market and being saddled with a weak CEO—who he says, obviously wasn't ex-military since he didn't know anything about leadership. (Hmm, Charlie, does the phrase "couldn't lead a pack of cowards down the backslope of a hill, in a full retreat" fit the guy?) Charlie now, has accepted an offer to return to Raytheon in McKinney, TX. After 14 years in the missile business, Charlie will now work quality for ground based (read Army customer) electro-optics with Improved Targeting Acquisition System (ITAS) and TOW fire and forget. He and his family will move back to Texas from their current location—Orlando. While they'll miss Mickey Mouse, Charlie says at least then they can get some good Mexican food! His eldest, Brac (18)—a senior in high school—is okay moving back to his old school to graduate. Tye, 14 years old, is happy since he already got cast as the Nutcracker Prince in Lake Cities Ballet production over the holiday season.

Paul "Rock" Russo (work e: co_rich@cnrc.navy.mil; home: pauljohnrusso@ureach.com) is still working as the CO of Navy Recruiting District Richmond, headquartered in Richmond, VA. His recruiting district's territory includes all of northern Virginia as well as down to the Tidewater area, so he occasionally gets a chance to visit with other USNA graduates (but not as often as he would like). Paul will be in Richmond another year, and then—who knows. Anyone can reach him through his work email address. He'll be even happier if you bring in a potential recruit—you always have to keep thinking about those quotas!

A few of you sent in emails saying we should offer congratulations to Mike Moore (moorem@dg.navy.mil) for his assumption of command as Commodore of Maritime Pre-positioning Ship Squadron Two, aka CoMPSron TWO. I guess we should also offer condolences 'cuz his command is in DIEGO GARCIA. Mike also sent me an email to provide clarification on the "good deal." He wrote that he actually relieved fellow Classmate **Tom McKeon** on 25 September. Tom is headed back to JTASC in Norfolk VA. Mike's new command is the largest squadron in the Navy, with 12 merchant ships loaded with USMC equipment and other war supplies and permanently forward deployed to DIEGO GARCIA in the Indian Ocean. Mike claim "It's luxurious sea duty in a beautiful location" (sure, and I'm a 6' 8" forward trapped in a 5' 4" body, but I'll believe you if you believe me). The only unfortunate thing about he claims is that it's a one year unaccompanied tour. There aren't any Classmates out there, but Mike does have a great time swapping Classmate stories with one of his merchant

ship captains, Walter Purio (Kings Point '78). Wally was a ringleader in their infamous Baby SWOS Class in Coronado. He's now captain of the CAPE JACOB. Mike says DIEGO GARCIA used to be a quiet place, but it's not so anymore with the war on terrorism. But he says it still remains one of the safest places on earth to live. So if there are any paranoid Classmates who are looking for a safer PCS, you just might want to be Mike's relief next year. He encourages you to "call your detailer"! While he's not sure what the record is for consecutive Classmates relieving Classmates, he says he's willing to try to break—further incentive he says for you to call that detailer! Any takers out there? Anyone off course and passing by feel free to look him up.

Back in the beginning of October, Anne Scaffidi wrote to say that her husband **Ralph Scaffidi** (ScaffidiRP@phdnswc.navy.mil) was among those recalled to active duty. At the time she said that he would be gone for one to two years. I hope it runs out to be less time. Rumor control also says that **Jock Maloney**, **Tim "McGoo" Murphy** and **Bill Hession** were also among those recalled to active duty.

On some other stray hits...CAPT **Tom Trudell** is at N78WF, Aviation Safety and Aviation Plans and Policy, in Crystal City. CAPT **Jim Carr** (RO@enterprise.navy.mil) is the Reactor Officer aboard ENTERPRISE (the salt water ship *not* the star ship). **Rick Wren** is CO of CARL VINSON. **Rick Martinez** is the naval attaché in Jakarta. **Dave Ireland** wants to get onto the email train. His address is: FiveIrelands@aol.com. In September, Vance Moore (CNRSEMooreV@CNRSE.NAVY.MIL) moved from San Diego to Jacksonville. He started a job there at Information Network Systems. The "Seventh Sign" has finally arrived—**John Young** finally got married on 2 June 2001. No details, no spouse name—must be SECRET NOFORN (but I have my spies looking into it.).

Chuck Lowther (CLowther@hawaii.rr.com or clowther@stanfordalumni.org) got in his first *Shipmate* update in 23 years. After graduation he got married, went to TBS, then IOC and headed out to 3/5 at Camp Pendleton. He did the usual grunt routine—Platoon Commander, etc. He "suffered" as the Guard Officer, then XO of the Barracks in Bermuda between '81-'84. His daughter, Claire, was born during their tour there. In '86 he paid penance as the Combat Cargo Officer for Phibron 5 in San Diego. In '86 he went out to Hawaii. He also went solo in the pattern that year (divorced). A couple of company commander tours, a couple of O-4 passovers, then a short tour in Desert Storm ensued. That was followed by 15 months off in CIVDIV where he traveled around the world (Africa, Asia, Europe and New Zealand). He says he spent most of his severance pay but had a fantastic year! Once back home to Hawaii, Chuck took a few classes at University of Hawaii before he got a fellowship to Stanford. He graduated from Stanford in June '93 with a masters in structural engineering. He went into the construction field. Two years was spent in SoCal building pump stations, before Healy Tibbitts Builders in Hawaii hired him. (It's a marine construction company (piers, wharves, outfalls, etc.)) He was the project manager for three projects in Pearl Harbor totaling \$57 million, but now he's an active duty LtCol at MARFORPAC. He too was among the involuntarily activated. In his case, he's not unhappy about it. He'd like to hear from Classmates who are in Hawaii or just passing through. Thanks for the update, Chuck, and don't wait another 23 years to give us another one!

Charlene and **Skip Bayes** finally sold their house in Florida. Since 1 March of 2001, the house had been empty while it underwent renter damage repairs. They put it on the market 1 May, had two closings fall through due to buyer's problems, but on 23 October, the third closing went through! Needless to say, they were thrilled! They were happily looking for a new house in Prince William County.

Skip accepted a better employment offer for the family as a whole with the Marine Corps Systems Command (MarCorSysCom) in Quantico. His last day at Dynetics, Inc in Crystal City was Friday, 2 November. He's now a civil servant. He'll be working for a Colonel who is the program manager for the Marine Air Ground Task Force Expeditionary Family of Fighting Vehicles (MEFFV). It's responsible for the research, development, and procurement of the replacement (2018-2022 timeframe) for the Marine Corps' family of Light Armored Vehicles (LAV) and the M1A1 Common Main Battle Tank (MBT). His new position is assisting science and technology applications, plus congressional work. It's the type of work he did during his last Navy tour. Needless to say Skip was really excited about the new job! No more "slugging" to Arlington—the commute to Q-town is just 15 minutes with no traffic! Plus, being with Marines, you know what his lunchtime routine will be—PT. He'll be in the best shape he's ever been. Who knows maybe a new higher and tighter haircut might be in the works—okay, let's not get too carried away here. Reality check—a new job as a civil servant with Marines won't necessarily mean a *complete* makeover from 27 years of Navy habits! (Especially 20 years plus as a Naval Aviator). As for the rest of the clan, all is well. Their son, Ken, is pursuing college fulltime and daughter, Angela, had started modeling classes with Casablancas in Alexandria.

Chris "Dwarf" Nichols (ctn@CG58.Navy.mil) sent a "thanks" for the print on his and Leslie's nuptials. He had a "footnote" to that article—about a week before he left to pick up his ship on deployment (PHILIPPINE SEA), Leslie took a pregnancy test. Well, she passed with flying colors. The baby is due in March. Of course as Dwarf puts it—"All my esteemed companymates can't stop laughing." "What's up wit dat?" he asked. Well...perhaps it's because most of us are just starting to get giddy with the possibility that soon (if not already) we'll be empty nesters and back to a duo act on the home. Heck, diapers are the furthest things from our minds (while on the other hand it could be around the corner—for us.) Perhaps, they also find a certain irony in the fact that you'll be eligible for Social Security benefits before the kid graduates from college! But seriously, we're all happy for you and Leslie. Besides, you can now join a unique group of the chronologically dyslexic (umm, marry, career, retire, kids) along with **Jack Christensen**, **Rich Polek** and **Strom Thurmond**. As for all the ribbing—hey, that's what Classmates are for. If we didn't luv ya' we wouldn't do it. (Well yeah, we still would, but it wouldn't be that funny.) I'm sure everyone saw the picture on the front page of about every newspaper in the U.S. and Europe of a ship launching cruise missiles at the start of our war on the Taliban. That was Chris' ship. While he says they "were a very small part of a very, very large strike" that day, he added that they "were proud to be one of the leaders." He's proud of his ship and Helo Det team and said it's populated by some of the finest Blue Jackets with whom he's had the pleasure to serve. He's got a number of Alumni among the wardroom: **Andrew Lynch '00** is his MPA division officer, **Syl Joseph '97** is Navigator, **Ryan**

Posey '99 is new onboard, **John Chavous '00** is First Lieutenant, **Jason Vogt '91** has one of the toughest jobs in the world—being Dwarf's OPS Officer, **Tiff Landis '96** and **Ingrid Muller '97** fly the SH-60's in his Helo Det, (HSL-48 det 9). He had tremendous things to say about each and everyone of them but I'll pass them on to their own Class secretaries so they can get kudos in their columns. Like any CO with a good crew, Chris added that he, "could say good things about every one of my officers, chiefs, and crew." He echoed when he wrote what we have all known, and what has been a reason why we serve and served (and what the rest of America is coming to learn again), "I wish all of America could meet and talk to all of them—they are my inspiration every day and the reason I thank God I'm in the Navy." Truer words were never spoken. Unfortunately, he needs to find better inspiration and incentive for his crew—he had told them that they get Monday off after every Navy victory. While they are appreciative of the thought, most asked, "Why can't you be a Florida fan?"

Well, you all know how many Mondays they had off! (Should've used the point-spread plan, Chris.) With college basketball season underway, try it again—but I hope (and so does your crew, I'm sure) you are a UCONN Women's fan. Hurry home, Pops.

Kevin Carmody (kevin_carmody@spacesaver.com) was among those at the little mini-reunion party known as Chris and Leslie's wedding. You may have noticed him in the second row of the photo in the October *Shipmate*. Kevin and his family live in Madison, WI. He's part owner and sales VP of Spacesaver Corporation (they make high density mobile storage). He invites any Classmate who makes it to Dairyland to "give a shout." You can reach him at his email address or at Spacesaver Corporation, in Fort Atkinson, WI; 920-563-0502

Bob Schwaneke (c6fn4@c6f.navy.mil) also sent "float email." He included a picture of himself (Sixth Fleet Suppo/N4) and fellow captain Classmates, **Charlie Hautau** (CO, LASALLE, AGF 3 and Sixth Fleet Flagship), **Mark Ferguson** (DESRON 18 at the time) taken on about 14 September onboard LASALLE. They were all out at sea at the same time in the Med. Fergy had come over for some meetings at Sixth Fleet when the photo was taken. On 7 October, **Dan Holloway** relieved Mark. Charlie was also there, and took some pics of the three of them. Mark is now in DC as the head Navy dude in the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA). Charlie and Bob both leave the LASALLE this summer ('02). It looks like Bob will return to Norfolk, but at the time he sent the email he hadn't any info from the detailers (at least nothing I can publish...not announced yet). As for the picture, Bob explained that they decided to take it without "hats (that's "covers," Bob), so all could see we still had hair..." We follically-challenged appreciate your boast.



Bob, Charlie and Mark on LASALLE

Matt Elias (MPGEE@aol.com) wrote that **John Kurovski** is still at Morgan Stanley in Tallahassee and doing well. Sadly, John's father passed away the Sunday before the World Trade Center attacks. Either one of those would be tough enough but both two days apart was incredibly traumatic. (Our belated sympathies, John). John retired from the Reserve a year or two ago and it's a good thing he did. He was an intelligence officer and his last drill assignment was in an anti-terrorist cell at CentCom. Of course, with retirees also being subject to recall he (and many us) are never really too far from the loong reach of the Navy! (Just keep brushed up on those moves, John, so you can evade like you used to do those tacklers [the Plebe year Michigan game excepted]). John and Trish have one daughter, Annie (8). Matt said it was quite obvious from his conversation with John that "she is the apple of her Dad's eye" (but then aren't all daughters?). John and Trish are also in the middle of the one-year process of adopting a daughter from China. John told Matt that **Rodger Welch** is the CAG on TEDDY ROOSEVELT. Actually, Rodger sent an email that lays the record straight that '78 is half of all the carrier aviation leadership. Here's the tally: Commander, Carrier Air Wing 2 (CONSTELLATION); **Mark Fox**; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 3 (HARRY S. TRUMAN); **Dave "Deke" Philman**; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 5 (KITTY HAWK); **Mike "Flex" Galpin**; Commander Carrier Air Wing 8 (ENTERPRISE); **Dave Mercer**; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 17 (GEORGE WASHINGTON); Rodger Welch. Wow, half of the deployed Naval Air Power is our hands—well, Arch, you're the president, what do you want to do with it?—Oops, wrong chain of command. But think of the possibilities... Rodge' is right when he wrote, "Each Air Wing is comprised of 72 aircraft (50 strike fighters +/-) and 1900 folks. Not a bad showing—and to me—gives us confident knowledge that Naval Aviation and our Nation's "From the sea" striking power and strike warfare is in good hands."

Anne Rentz (arentz@san.rr.com) sent an update on her hubby, Classmate **Tom Rentz**. Tom retired on 1 September 2001, and lives and works in San Diego. He now works for EG&G—the company that installs wireless communications. By the way, following one of those Navy traditions of marrying into Shipmate families—Anne is the sister of Tom's roommate—**John O'Dwyer**. (John now works in DC as the commanding officer of NIWA whatever that acronym means.) By the way, Anne added that Tom's dad, is also graduate of Annapolis as well. Somewhere in there is also some connection with Kevin Bacon, but she only took me two degrees into it. Anne and Tom have six children. Thanks for the update, Anne.



Scott and Monique Mobley with Sean and Anne McCloskey

I know it is hard to believe. After almost 25 years, **Joe Peterson** (JoePete@aol.com) is giving up his first-class Class car, the 1978-minus-one, Datsun 280z. In its place is a 1978-plus-17 Honda Del Sol. It is hard for him to look at the "FOR SALE" sign in the car window. It was circumstance dictated Joe sell her. The problem was it didn't pass the Virginia inspection because it was rusting under the floor panel and the frame in a couple of spots. Then they looked at the rest of the underside of the car. The doors and hatchback are rusted as well—hidden rust, but it's there. Whoever gets her needs to be ready for a restoration project (which Joe's wallet wasn't ready for). There's a place in either Alexandria or Vienna that will refurbish the car for \$25K—but again, not his wallet right now (nor mine, though I figure if Michael's willing to go to public school and forego a year of college maybe I could swing it). He reported that the rust finally won the battle, and it was time to give it up to a person that can restore her or use it for parts. I'm sure we can find a "good home" for her, Joe. One that will love her as much as you, preferably one that's still in the '78 family.

Scott Mobley (asmobley@earthlink.net) finished up as Reactor Officer in HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) last August. (**Blues Baker** and he were shipmates. Blues is the Senior Chaplain.) Monique, the kids and Scott promptly packed up the mini-van and headed west from Norfolk (via Newport) for CAMDEN (AOE 2) in Bremerton, WA. Scott was scheduled to assume command of CAMDEN in December '01. On the way the Mobleys stopped in Denver to visit with Anne and **Sean McCloskey** and their clan. Scott said they had a great time savoring the legendary Wild West and enjoying the legendary McCloskey hospitality! You may recall Sean and Scott were roommates for most of their time at the Boat School, and their friendship (like all of ours) continues to run deep. Scott said it's more than a coincidence that his first-born is named Sean and his second son is Riley Scott (Hey—I know where some of you are going with that, but hit *all stop!*). Along with Sean and Riley are their siblings Lauren Mobley, Owen McCloskey and Maeve McCloskey.



Sean and Scott with the boys

Sorry about the missing girls' photo, Scott, but one of you guys had to be in the picture—*Shipmate* rules.

In closing, a little bit of Class business...here's an open letter to you from our Reunion Committee Chairman, **Glen Woods** (Gowoods@aol.com)

Dear Classmates,

Although 2003 may still seem far off in the future, it is time to begin planning for our 25 homecoming. I know what "they" say about volunteering, but I have volunteered to be the coordinator for the big event in 2003. (NAVY: Never Again...)

I want to let you know what has already been planned, seek your inputs, and ask for volunteers that might be interested in teaming with us. Our 20th was a great event, thanks to **Mark Hubal** and the team he pulled together. Some on that team have already volunteered to help again, and I appreciate their willingness to be involved. So, if you have the time and are interested, drop me a line at the email address below, or give me a call.

Two of the long-lead items needed to make a successful reunion have already been secured—a date and hotel rooms. A look at the home football schedule for 2003 shows one game in September (9/20), two games in October (10/4 and 10/25), and two games in November (11/1 and 11/22). The 4 October game is against Air Force and will be played at Redskin stadium and the 25 October game combines Navy's Homecoming and the Annapolis boat show. The planning committee has chosen 20 September 2003 for our 25th Reunion to avoid the crowds associated with the Annapolis boat show and the competition for hotel space on 25 October. Likewise, we wanted to avoid the possibility of cold, rainy weather in November. With that date in mind, a search for hotel rooms is being conducted. Only one hotel in Annapolis so far will give us reserved rooms with only a two-night minimum stay. All other hotels require a minimum of three nights. We will continue to search for a hotel in Annapolis that will reserve rooms with only a two-night minimum, but to be on the safe side, we have already booked a block of rooms at the Radisson in Annapolis. It's the same hotel we were in at the 20th reunion, but back then it was a Holiday Inn.

Unfortunately, the Pavilion will not be available for our tailgater on Saturday. The Class of '53 is having their reunion the same weekend, and they have invoked their right of first refusal. We are in the process of reserving a corner of the parking lot where we will have tents set up for the big party.

I have one request to all company reps. We need to update our Class roster on our Class Web site. Any information you can provide would be very helpful in getting out the word concerning the events for Homecoming 2003. For the rest of you, call your company rep and let him know where you are and how we can reach you!

This is all for now. I will keep you updated as things change. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes and *Beat Army!*

Glen Woods, h: 703-764-8089; w: 703-415-0344; m: 703-851-2156.

Thanks for volunteering, Glenn. Besides the reservations for the hotel—I've reserved a quiet room (okay, padded room) for you at the "Severn Happy House and Sanitarium." It's just for the much-needed rest you'll require after it's all done. The Purple Heart citation is also in draft. As for the updating Class rosters, I've hit upon some folks to volunteer for Class reps. Look for their names in the next column and soon on the Website. I've also asked you in previous columns to get on the Website and update your email address and other pertinent info. We'll be using that for sending out information on the reunion and other hot topics as they arise. To further facilitate things **Rob Cloutier** has set up a mail group address that we will use to

further help zap out news. It'll be a one way distribution of Class news (general stuff, emergent news and reunion information) from your Class officers and committees. We wish it to be an instrument of "good" and not evolve into an instrument of spam, AMWAY or other inscrutable purpose. While we support doing business with and for Classmates, we want to be mindful of the integrity of our good intent for setting up the newsgroup and be respectful of some privacy. Besides, Mr. Gore did create the World Wide Web only for good. That's why the site is "voluntary" and subscriber based. To join you have to subscribe to the list by sending a message (leave the subject blank) to: usna78-subscribe@calimar.com. That's it. You'll get a notice that you were successful and further guidance (like how to unsubscribe—if you want.). As for general emails, I now have an excel spreadsheet that contains 590 email addresses of Classmates. Some of you have more than one address, so I guess that means I have at least half the Class covered. So—Help!—Please zap me your new address(es) and anyone else you may have. This is not to subscribe to anything, but just to update my list and the Alumni Associations list and help facilitate our communications.

Well, this is pretty much loaded with info so I better put an end to the column. I think I'm pushing the envelope on my word limit. So I'm outta here—Launchin' Spot Four (but not before I thank **Byron Marchant** for letting me crash his BET Christmas party at my recent stay at the Army Navy Club in DC. Well, actually, Byron's assistant let me crash it (I claimed Classmate privilege.) Byron wasn't even there! He got called away to New York and missed his own party! Oh well, I hope you made your New Year's Eve Party—if not I hope you called me to stand in for you!—Happy New Year, y'all.

palindrome years will be so close together will be 1000 years from now. Is that cosmic or what?

My New Year's resolution for this column was to do something I had never done before. I didn't really specify anything, only that it had to be something "different." Well, I succeeded beyond my wildest expectations, because I'm typing this while sitting here on the balcony of my 18th floor hotel room, looking over surf, beach, and downtown Waikiki. Yep, I'm in Hawaii (on business, so unfortunately Karen isn't here too). I have never composed this column in Hawaii before, so I definitely met my resolution. So why am I writing this now instead of *before* my trip like any normal person? Well, I would then have had to submit the column way too early. My editor is used to me getting this at around 11:15 p.m. on deadline day. If I submitted this ten days early, she'd probably go into shock, and I just didn't want that on my conscience. (Actually, I saved this for something to do on the plane,

but I got involved with a good book and never opened the laptop case!)

Because of the extraordinary nature of the events of last September, I am way behind in publishing all sorts of emails, letters and other anecdotes from Classmates around the world. I'm not going to get completely caught up this month, but I'll put a sizeable dent in the pile.

Let's do the really important one first. On a warm, sunny day early last November, a group of about 40-50 members of the Class of '79 attended the funeral Mass and burial of **Gerry DeConto**. The funeral Mass was held at the Naval Academy chapel, after which most of us drove over to Arlington National Cemetery for the burial. **Carl Rehling** and a number of other Classmates from 7th Company were the pallbearers. It was a very bittersweet occasion: there were a number of guys I hadn't seen in quite some time, and I was genuinely happy to get caught up with them. And yet,



'79: Herb Wilson's retirement



'79: Phil McConkery and Erin entertain the Tata kids



'79: Herb Wilson and Bob Tata "interviewing job candidates"

79

Annual Membership: 4%
Life Membership: 89%

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Greetings, 79!

Can you believe it? The year 2002! It's hard for me to imagine that the "Great Y2K Scare" was over two years ago (although my government computer at work still has a "Y2K OK" sticker firmly affixed to the cabinet). I still remember CNN's 24-hour coverage of the arrival of the Year 2000, time zone by time zone. Sure, they were showing how different cultures celebrated the event, but admit it: we all tuned in to see if the Y2K bug was going to bite. You could almost feel the disappointment of the CNN news anchors as the world kept spinning, and things continued to hum right along with only a couple of minor hiccups.

But this year is a palindrome which, according to Wiz's PMA Dictionary ("Pretty Much Accurate"), is a year in which the digits read the same forward and backward. The last time that happened was 11 years ago, which is significant: the next time two