

All '77ers should feel free to attend the reunion, whether you graduated or not! We want everyone here to reminisce about old times, re-discover our alma mater and the changes since our time, and renew those precious friendships that time might have helped slip away. We have reserved a block of 200 rooms at the Annapolis Waterfront Marriott (410-268-7555) and 75 rooms at the Sheraton Barcelo in Parole (410-266-3131). You should call now for reservations (if you haven't already).

The reunion check-in will be taking place all day on Friday at the Marriott Waterfront in downtown Annapolis, and we will also be hosting a Golf Tournament on Friday morning. **Tom McKee** (tmckee@combinednow.com) is coordinating the golf tournament; so please contact him to sign-up for it and obtain the details about the cost and the schedule. Note that you will *not* be able to sign up for the golf tournament using the online registration form, which is described below.

On Friday, 20 September, we will have a dinner dance at the Marriott Waterfront beginning at 7:30 p.m. Due to space limitations, the dinner dance is limited to a total of 600 Class members and guests, so it is only open to the members of the Class of '77 and one adult guest. The tailgate party on Saturday will begin at 10 a.m., and there are no limitations on the number of guests that can attend, but every person over the age of seven must purchase a ticket. The tailgate party will be prepared by a premier Annapolis caterer, Tom O'Leary, who will provide a wonderful spread of food and a truck full of beer. Look for the big tent under the blue USNA '77 helium balloon and you'll find a bunch of partying folks underneath.

There are several packages available for the dinner dance and the tailgate party. The Weekend Package includes the dinner dance and the tailgate party. The cost per person is \$150 until 30 June, after which the price will increase to \$160. The tailgate *only* package price is \$60 per person (under 7 is free) until 30 June, after which the price will increase to \$65 per person. Football tickets for the Navy vs. Northwestern game are purchased separately and can be ordered through the Naval Academy Athletic Association (800-US4-NAVY). Saturday evening is open for company get-togethers, or whatever else you'd like to do, and we've made no "official" plans for Sunday, but encourage everyone to attend the religious service of their choice and possibly hook-up with other Classmates for one of the wonderful brunches in Annapolis.

Registration for the "Great-Class-of-77-25th Year Reunion" can be done *online* in the Alumni Only section of the USNA AA web site (www.usna.com). You must register in two distinct places: The first is to update your profile with the Alumni Association, and the second is to sign-up for your Reunion package. You can also order selected reunion memorabilia *online* through www.usnaclasstore.com/77store.html. Note that all memorabilia and merchandise orders will be mailed directly to you rather than having you pick it up at the reunion. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-293-6368. See you at the reunion!

For those of you who really like Homecoming events and plan to be in Annapolis for the "official" USNA Homecoming Weekend from 27-29 September 2002, which is one week *after* our reunion, you might be interested in attending the All Classes Homecoming Party which will be

held on Friday, 27 September from 5-8 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Believe it or not, you can also sign-up for this event *online* via the USNA AA web site at www.usna.com/Events. If you prefer the old-fashioned methods, you can mail-in one of the forms that are located in *Shipmate* or call the Alumni Association's Events Coordinator, Kathy deCamara at 410-263-4448, ext. 200.

In case you didn't attend last year's party, here are some of the highlights (from the Alumni Association's promotional information, of course): Alumni were welcomed by members of the USNA AA staff, stocked bars, and abundant buffets, and guests enjoyed a slide show highlighting the faces of Midshipmen past and present. The Naval Academy Pipes and Drums Corps kicked-off the evening's program as they proceeded to the stage in full regalia. Alumni Association President and CEO, **George P. Watt Jr. '73** and USNA Commandant, **RADM Samuel Locklear '77** followed, each providing a brief greeting to all assembled. The Barbershop Quartet of the Men's Glee Club, the Sirens of the Women's Glee Club, the Skivs, and the USNA Cheerleaders all gave outstanding performances that were well received by every guest. Surrounded by the banners of the various year groups that were displayed throughout the hall, guests rose from their seats, placed their hands over their hearts and sang *Navy Blue & Gold*, which provided a fitting conclusion to the evening's program. Hope to see you there!

Closing Remarks

Lots of news and information this month, but the big news is still our reunion. Don't forget to sign-up early for all of the events that you'd like to attend, and be prepared to have an enjoyable weekend with lots of good friends. See you next month! —**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

e: VBalderrama@Sikorsky.com

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

This scribe's life is one of feast or famine. Right now it's a feast as you've responded to my pleas for mail with tons of email, phone calls, and yes, even that rare piece of stationary correspondence. All this supplemented with the a few more "running intos." Please bear with me as I chomp my way through this banquet. It'll be a couple of months for me to get most of the news into *Shipmate*. What's say I not waste any more of my limited space and get down to it.

In promotions, **Rich Cellon** is joined in this year's flag selections by **Jeff Fowler**, **Mel Williams**, and **Bill Timme**. One of our Class Chaplains—Reverend, CDR Al "Blues" Baker, is now, Reverend, CAPT Al. **Rudy Escher** also picked up captain on the '03 Reserve list. Rudy drills as the CO of NR CSS Det 408 in Atlanta. **Drew Mulhare's** Annual Class of '78 Golf Tournament and Barbeque at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg was another success. Cheri and

Drew again graciously opened their home to Classmates and family and did another wonderful job hosting the event. Among the attendees were **Ray Luevano**, **Dennis Reilly**, **Scott Eckert**, **Wendy** and **Terry O'Brien**, **Mark James**, **Jim Degree**, **Arch Griffin**, **Sue** and **Joe Martin**, **Gina** and **Steve Ferree**. Arch's son, **Jeff Griffin '04**, **Gini King** and her friend, **Jim McKinney** also attended. Terry is commanding Amphib Squadron TWO. As for RADM (sel) Rich, his change of command at Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston was 15 July. The next month he was to attend a New Flag Officers Conference (knife and fork stuff) in Washington before he heads to Hawaii and a 23 August CoC out there at Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. **Ray Luevano** (raymoon@mirapoint.com) spotted a vehicle with USNA ego-plates "DM 78" but it couldn't have been Drew's with the "I love the Army" and "Go Army" posters taped to the rear of the car. (Sorry, Ray, but the image didn't come out as well in resolution so it looks like Drew may have lucked out, um, if that *was* his car.) While in Williamsburg, Ray attended **Jim Fiorelli's** graduation and retirement ceremonies. Yes, that wasn't a typo. Jim finished number one in both the Regent University School of Government and Law School. Jim will be clerking for Justice Haskell, a Virginia Supreme Court Justice for a year in Richmond. Jan and the boys will be following to there once they rent the house in Virginia Beach. If anyone knows of someone who'd like to rent five-bedroom, two and a half bath brick ranch on a half acre in Virginia Beach, fully furnished, give them a call (I mean, zap me an email and I'll pass out their phone number). On the other hand, if you know anyone who has a furnished place to rent in Richmond that would be helpful too. The retirement was from the Navy. Besides Ray, **George Altamero** (left USNA but retired from USN), **Ray "Uncle Toad" Milton**, and **Vince Belleza** were also there. He added that VADM and Mrs. Holder joined the grad party and retirement ceremony. Admiral Holder was 2nd Co Company Officer during our stay at USNA. He's currently J-4 on the JCS staff. His presence was very classy move.



Ray and Jim



Ray, George Altamero and Ray Milt



RADM (select) Cellon and caddy (Ray)

On 7 June, **Andy Mohler** (MohlerRA@navair.navy.mil) flected up and took command of Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, Orlando, FL. The command is the principle Navy R&D and acquisition command for all training systems (air, surface, and subsurface). They are also the Human Performance Cell for the CNO's Task Force Excel. Even better, **Larry McCracken**, is Andy's new XO. That's a one-two punch if ever I saw one!



Andy Mohler and Larry McCracken

Bob Schwaneke transferred from ComSixthFlt in June to be Commanding Officer of NavTrans—Naval Transportation Support Center in Norfolk, VA. It's one of those Pork Chop commands. The CoC was scheduled for 19 July. Another interesting factoid Bob passed on was that **Larry Price** recently retired. Larry is currently the acting executive director at NavTrans. So like Andy and Larry in Orlando, there'll be another Navy site with '78 at the one-two slots.

Dennis Reilly (SMTP: dreilly@backweb.com) has been working diligently to keep tabs and update the whereabouts of 22nd Company. He's been getting some help from everyone in response to plea for "steers." **Jorge Ortega** (jbortega@prodigy.net) clarified that **Tony Balestrini** (tbalestrini@barrick.com) is alive and well. Tony is now retired from the Navy. Jorge believed he was putting all of his anti-terrorism experience to good use as a security expert for a mining company in Peru named Barrick. It was thought **Chuck Bouquardez** was flying for a government agency in Florida, **Ken Green** might be at Calvert Cliffs; **Clark Goodlett's** last known fix was in California; **Tom Johnson's** was at NavAir (circa five years ago), **Bill Larimore** was flying for FedEx out of Florida, **Earl Mosely** was working for Hallmark Cards and living in New Jersey, **John Whatley** was believed to be living in Carey and flying for American Airlines; **Bill Terry** (Must be in Michigan). Dennis had two email addresses for **Eric Nelson**, but wasn't sure they were still valid. He recalled that the last time he saw Eric, he and his wife, Anita, played golf

at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg in May 1999. They were in the final stages of training in DC, before heading to India where Eric was slated to be the Naval Attaché in Delhi. **Glenn Flanagan** assumed command on 10 May in Norfolk. **Cindy and Chuck Hefren** and their only child, **Isabella**, live in Tallahassee, FL. (It's Cindy's hometown.) Chuck works for the Florida Legislature as a Senior Auditor Supervisor. In recent years he's picked up the tennis racket again. Nowadays he's playing competitive tennis in several adult leagues. Chuck sent in a photo of **Isabella** and himself taken at Disney World this spring. He looks pretty fit to me so **Isabella's** future suitors better beware—the old man can still run a court and he swings a mean racket!



Chuck and Isabella Hefren

On a sadder note, in April, 22nd Company was hit especially hard by the loss of two fine men **Bill "Wild Bill" Terry** and **Tom "TJ" Harper**. Bill Terry had suffered a head injury in an accident several years ago. Around March of this year he suffered a stroke which affected his left side—but he had been improving and coming along well according to his wife, Janet. As they were leaving some friends' house on Thursday evening, 25 April, Bill collapsed. He never regained consciousness. The funeral was held Wednesday, 1 May, in Bill's hometown of Traverse City, MI. Bill and Janet were relatively newlyweds having gotten married about two years ago. Bill and Janet have a 5-year-old daughter, **Jordan**, from Janet's first marriage, and their little boy, **Jacob**, was just born last August. Janet was compiling an album of photos and memories of Bill. I'm sure she and his children would appreciate any memories you may want to add. **Carol and Mike Duncan** met Janet last year. That was when she and Bill were in OKC for medical care for Janet's daughter, **Jordan** (5). Mike had been impressed by Janet—and wrote that he found her "a sweet lady—just right for Wild Bill. It was really nice to see him in love." Many of you will smile as you reflect on Mike's comment that "as characters go they didn't get much more interesting than Bill." That same smile will remain as you likely are nodding in affirmation of Mike's last comment that "As much as Bill I loved Traverse City, MI, I know he'll love heaven more." Later tonight, I'll follow **Dave Schuman's** recommendation that in memory of Bill, instead of raising a toast to him, I'll have a nice big bowl of ice cream! Won't you have a scoop or two with me? Yes, Bill would really appreciate that.

Earlier that month, on 12 April, at 11:45 a.m., **Tom Harper** passed away after a long and valiant fight with various health complications from his heart surgery three years ago. Anyone wanting to know more can drop me an email and I'll forward explanations from **Phil Nelson '77**.

Suffice it to say that TJ died peacefully and that his life was one of victory. Tom lived all his life as his entitled book, *I Choose to Fight*. The challenges that life presented him, from his testicular cancer during Plebe Year, to his heart attack in '89 and later pulmonary complications, operations and illnesses, were always met with courage, strength, and resolve. Life to Tom was something to savor and nothing was to deny him of the chance to sample every morsel—from success in business and involvement in community, to that most delectable fruits of life—his family. Tom left behind his wife, **Lynn**, and their four boys. (**Bill** a Navy Dentist (LT) stationed at MCAS Cherry Point. (Bill and his wife, **Lori**, were expecting their first child in June or July.) **Adam** (12th grade) (Adam, a very good athlete, will attend JMU next fall and has aspirations to play football.) **Nathan** (10th grade), and **Phillip** (8th grade). (Nathan and Phillip are also both very good athletes and are active in football, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and golf.) They didn't have a funeral for Tom. Instead, a week later they had, as Lynn put it bravely, "a Celebration of his life." She went on to say what she envisioned when Tom walked through those gates of heaven. "He was greeted by Steve Scott, with football in hand, an Academy friend of Tom's who was killed in a Navy airplane accident many years ago. Tom stood tall, spread his arms out, took one heck of a deep breath and then said, 'Let's play.' After the football game and a great meal, they headed for the basketball court."

It sounds cliché, and it probably is, but then again I guess all clichés are based on the realities of life. But the cliché and the reality of life is that it continues on, doors close, doors open, life begets death and vice versa, there's constantly a renewal. It's that circle and balance thing. Our retirements give way to new commissions, like **Bob Fallon's** newly graduated and commissioned twin daughters, **ENS Lauren Fallon '02** and **ENS Keely Fallon '02**. And the void of our passing is filled with new life, like the 19 April birth of **Abigail Grace** to **Anne and Tim Hanifen** and the 8 May birth of **Olivia Grace** to **Pam and Rudy Escher**.

Whew...I'll just reflect a little and just let the simplicity and the profundity of that reality speak for itself. I gotta go. I have a bowl of ice cream I have to go get, remember?

Launchin' Spot Four



New ensigns Lauren and Keely Fallon

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