

decorum as properly befitted the occasion. These weapons were still “servicing the targets” (or in the vernacular “shooting them”) when Charity and her vehicle finally got hooked by an armored tow truck about 30 minutes later. Post action assessment revealed that, although she had, more or less, gotten her horse blown out from under her, our darlin’ and Samurai, Lt. Charity Winters, was without a scratch. Let’s pray that she stays that way. But, Jumpin’ Jiminy, there’s gotta be a better way for her to spend her break time! ■



1st Lt Charity Winters, USAF, “On location” in Iraq

### 30th Reunion Information:

Please see the big ad about our reunion. Cost details are still being worked out. Also, if you haven’t signed on to receive Class emails; please send an email to [usna76-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:usna76-subscribe@yahoo.com) (please put your name in the body of the email to identify who you are). Update your profile at [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com). Tickets for the game will be sold separately via ‘group sales’ at NAAA - if you haven’t received the info via email yet contact **Kevin Stone**.

Reminder: There will be class elections at the reunion – if any of you want to run for office, you need to toss your hat in the ring.

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

PRES: CAPT **Richard “Rick” White**, USN  
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**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

PRES: **Glen Woods**  
SEC’Y: **Vince Balderrama**  
3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
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WEB SITE: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

Okay, here’s some more stray voltage for which I didn’t have room in previous issues. You may recall news of **Marty Drake** and family in the Dec



Sturge’s Poinsettia Bowl Party

issue, I think. Here’s the photo that should accompanied the article: Marty in the background, his boys Ryan and Jason. The pretty young lady in the foreground is his bride, Leigh. **Loren Divers** had also sent a photo of him, **Cecil Haney** and **Jim “Vandy” Vanderkamp** at the Naval Academy Founders Day Banquet in Hawaii. They all still look trim after all these years.



The Drakes



Vandy, Cecil and Loren



Loren, Cecil and Vandy (far right)

**Jeff Clites** sent news of **Leslie and Lloyd Prince’s** wedding on Oct 29th in Atlanta, GA. Ha Jeong and Jeff attended both the service and the reception.

Among the family and friends in attendance were Ann and **Robert Wittenberg** (’66) and Lloyd’s brother **Theodore Prince** (’90). Robert and Lloyd are captains for Air Trans Airways, Inc. Robert is in the training department while Lloyd is a line pilot. Lloyd followed up to report that he and Leslie honeymooned in Annapolis. Why Annapolis? With the affects of Hurricane Wilma they didn’t want to deal with blown out hotels and restaurants. This also allowed them to have a great time visiting with classmates **Alan “Blues” Baker**, **Steve Petri** and **Miguel Becerril**. I’m sure you all join me in wishing all the best.



Leslie and Lloyd Prince’s Wedding Day

Jean and **John “Sturge” Sturges** hosted a gathering at their San Diego home prior to the Poinsettia Bowl. They were joined by several “east coast brothers” among them, **Sean Coffey**, **Otto Bulich**, **Scott Eckert**, **Jim Degreee**, **Brian McCormick**, **Eddie Reid** and **Bob Schmermund** (is that Fred Butterfield too?). Erin, Jeff, and Jenna Griffin were there as well. Sturge reported a great time that included a good “California meal” of tacos and beer followed by the crushing of Colorado State at Qualcomm Stadium. For those of us east coasters enjoying our winter wonderland (like me in “Siberacuse”) please note Sturge’s comment that their “short sleeved shirts reflects the very nice weather we had—Hey, that’s why we live here!” Let’s look

for more post season bowls in San Diego so we can all join in on the fun.

Katie and **Jeff Fowler's** annual report still finds them well and busy as ever in Millington, Tennessee. Jeff remains in charge of all active and reserve Navy recruiting across the country and is wracking up the frequent flyer miles as he travels every week all over the U.S. and to Guam and Puerto Rico. Katie continues to substitute teach, volunteer in military organizations, and run the household with Jeff on the road. Brittany (18) is an "adult", a senior in high school, varsity cheerleader, and college applicant. She had a non-malignant bone "bump" removed from her left leg this summer and two months with "mono," but she is totally recovered now. She is enjoying her senior year and looking forward to the adventure ahead. Lynsee (16) is a sophomore in high school and just earned her driver's license. She is also a varsity cheerleader and in a school play. She is a text message, cell phone, and "Myspace" expert. She's a regular new high-tech teen. Connor (12) is in sixth grade and a skateboarding enthusiast. He pitched on his baseball team and played soccer, but he really loves turning their driveway into a skate park for his friends and him to practice tricks. They all sound way too busy and it seems their dog, Skipper, is the only one to truly embrace the Southern ways as he *relaxes* and even sleeps outside on the hot, humid days of summer. They're looking forward to the next set of orders this summer. Wherever that may be it will be as a two-star as Jeff was nominated for promotion to Rear Admiral. Joining him on the list were **Rich Cellon** and **Mark Ferguson**. Jeff's 12th Company roommate, **Tim Hanifen**, also joins the flag ranks as he was on this year's Marine Corps Brigadier General list. Tim's the Director of Combat Doctrine Development at MCCDC. Congratulations to all!

Speaking of promotions, **Scott Godfrey** reported on **Deke Philman's** official promotion ceremony in which he pinned on the one-star. It all took place on Jan 12th at Offutt AFB in Nebraska where Deke is Deputy Commander, Joint Functional Command, Space & Global Strike. The date was so oldest daughter, Mallory, could make it (home for Christmas break from St. Mary's University in San Antonio) AND 'cuz Deke didn't want to push his luck by being promoted the next day on Friday the 13th. The whole show was expected to be small, short and sweet with up to 40

or so people in attendance. As they prepared to make the official entrance to the main event the Base Protocol Director apologized for a slight delay because the original venue had to be expanded to allow for an overflow crowd of at least 140 people! Scott reported several "heavy hitters" were on hand: the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, Marine 4-star, Gen Cartwright, the Commander Second Fleet, VADM Mark "Lobster" Fitzgerald (A-7/F18 pilot), and our own RADM **Mel Williams** (2-star) and his wife, Donna. Mel is STRATCOM's Director of Operations (J-3). Of course the *real* VIPs were Deke's family; especially his bride of over 24 yrs, Sylvia and their daughters. Mallory is in her junior year at St. Mary's and is studying International Business & Marketing *plus* Spanish and Portuguese. Bailey is a high school junior. She just passed her first check ride and can now legally drive Deke's Monster Truck anywhere she wants. (or should that be anywhere *he* allows?). The 11th of 12 kids of a prominent farm family in Bell, FL (near Gainesville), Deke's oldest brother, Ed represented the rest of the equally successful clan of siblings.



RDML Deke, Sylvia, Mallory and Bailey

My roommate, **Tom Crowley**, wrapped up his time as Executive Assistant for RADM Edwards in an award ceremony. Unfortunately Gretchen and their daughter, Kelly, were at a school play practice but sons TD and James attended. Tom thinks (or is it *hopes?*) the picture has convinced James that it's time for him to get a hair cut. Tom's moved over to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs. He's been seconded to Sen. Kennedy's office on Capital Hill. Tom's finds the humor in how things come full circle— Kennedy appointed him to the Naval Academy 32 years ago. He'll probably work the position until this summer when, like many of you, he begins the transition to civilian life. He'll likely work in the defense sector there in VA so as to give the kids some school stability, something they (like many military kids) haven't had a lot of in the

last 14 years. Best of luck, Tom, but I wouldn't bet on James getting that haircut—least, not as short as you'd expect.



Tom and boys with RADM Edwards

Well, if I believe the word count, I'm on the hairy edge of the limit so I'll shut down for now and see you next month. —Launchin' Spot Four!

**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79!

I don't know what the exact percentage is, but I think we would all agree that there is only a small portion of the Class of 1979 that is still serving this great country in a military uniform. The number is probably less than 10 percent – I don't know. But however small a percentage, our few active duty classmates are making some HUGE news!

Back in February, just as this column was going to press, I received an email from Class President **Sean Cate** announcing the results of the Navy FY07 O-8 Board. Guys, we now have three classmates selected for two-star flag rank: **RDML Artie Johnson**, **RDML Ray Spicer**, and **RDML Greg Shear**, CEC. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was announcing our first flag officers, and now we have three RADM selectees! And by the way, my wife Karen reminded me that Greg's selection is especially significant as there are only 3-4 two-star admirals in the Civil Engineer Corps. So please join me in congratulating Artie, Ray and Greg on this significant accomplishment. Way to go!

But wait – the news only gets better. If you've been keeping score so far, you know that our Class Flag List contains 16 US Navy Admirals and one Peruvian Navy Admiral. Well, also in February we learned that these distinguished gentlemen