



The Deals and McGowans in Breckenridge.

On a sad note, I pass on the news of the passing of a Classmate, **David Cartwright**, who died of complications from pancreatic cancer. David, a running back on the Navy football team, left after Youngster year due to a neck injury and went on to play tight end for Georgia Tech.

Well I'm running into the limit again, so, I will have to continue in the next issue. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the 30th Reunion!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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Duane Lafont (dmlafont@firstcommand.com) checked in to say that he is still alive and well in Bay Saint Louis, MS. He is living the local motto of "Renew. Rebuild. Restore." as he and others still recover from Hurricane Katrina. By May he hadn't yet had a roof on his house but he was confident that "time heals all." His, Douglas, was commissioned a 2/LT in the Army on May 6th upon his graduation from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Duane was proud and privileged to administer the commissioning oath to Douglas. Douglas' was going into the Quartermaster Corps. After six months of training he'll be shipped out to the "big sandbox." We wish him (and all those deployed) safe-keeping.

Steve "Suttie" Sutton sent a bunch of info. For the past 14 years, he's been in Washington D.C. working as the Chief

of Staff to several Members of Congress. Currently his boss is Congressman John Klein (a retired Marine helo bubba from the southern suburbs of Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota). Steve and Carol have 3 children - Eliana (age 11), Jenelise (age 8) and Gabriel (age 6). He and Carol had been a match long in the making as they have known each other as children. In fact, their parents were best friends when they were growing up and their fathers were each other's best men at each other's weddings! Being on the hill does have its perks. One was Steve's being able to attend the presentation of the Commander in Chief's trophy by President Bush to our Navy football team at the White House. Recently appointed to the USNA Board of Visitors, Rep. Klein was invited as one of the front row dignitaries. As his Chief of Staff and a grad, Steve, as well as their Military Legislative Assistant (MLA)

Jeff McNichols ('99) were also invited. A member of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Kline went to Iraq to visit the troops from Minnesota. One constituent of particular interest to '78 was our own Brigadier General **John Wissler, USMC**. At the time he was the Commanding General of the 2d Marine Logistics Group. John is back now in DC as the Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Of course, since his boss was in Iraq Suttie had to stand in for him at one of his first USNA Board of Visitors meetings. He reported that the morning briefings were pretty routine but it was when they broke for lunch on the Supe's barge that things got *ironically* interesting. As Steve put it "So there I am, standing next to the Supe as he's steering around Annapolis harbor and the Severn River, pointing out landmarks and places of interest and explaining what plans the Academy has in the future for various sites as I'm slamming corn chips and guzzling drinks. What do you think any of us would have said if 30 years ago someone had said, 'Suttie, in 30 years, I predict you'll be on the Supe's barge'? I think the general consensus reply would have been 'Handling the lines fore or aft?' After the boat ride, we went into the bridge simulator in Luce Hall (very cool) and finally had another brief by the Supe and Dant with just the 3 new members of the Board of Visitors, where I was really able to ask a bunch of questions

about what's going on... And the entire day's events were surreal...I mean, the last time I was in the same room with the Supe, the Dant, the assistant Dean, etc. I wasn't the one asking the questions!" Ah yes, life has its amazing twists! Suttie and his family live near Mount Vernon and would love to host any classmates who want to visit our nation's Capital. (I hear he gives a great insider's tour of the Capitol building too!)



Suttie in shades, THE Trophy, Jeff, Rep Klein



John Wissler explains things to Rep Klein

Jerry Katilius [gerard.katilius@hp.com] just popped onto the screen. Jerry's still in the "-burg", as in Pittsburgh. He works for Hewlett-Packard as an enterprise account manager of FedEx. He said he occasionally gets to talk with **Danny Cook**, who is still flying for FedEx. Jerry and Karen recently saw their son, Daniel, promoted to black belt. It was especially prideful as it's another example of Daniel's success at overcoming learning disabilities and is the culmination of 12 years of his hard work. Jerry got to be Daniel's "partner" in the black belt exam - aka punching and throwing dummy. Ouch! I hope he went easy on the old man as Jerry says Daniel is "bigger and better" than he is at American Aikido and the Fighting Arts. Congrats to Daniel, best wishes for recovery from the bruises to Jerry, and lots of luck handling two "boys" with black belts in the house, Karen! (of course we all know mom can kick both their butts on any day!) Don't be a stranger, Jerry.



Daniel and Jerry Katilius with their Black Belts

John Gardiner [John_Gardiner@lord.com] doing well. He and Becky have been living in Cary (Raleigh), NC for a little over twelve years. John was with MCI for 16 years and had some good times and a good move to Cary. He left them for the consulting world in 1999 just *after* the WorldCom buyout but *before* all the scandal broke with accounting and executive fraud – the case that made **Sean Coffey** famous. In any event, after consulting in the engineering and facilities world John took a job at Lord Corporation four years ago. He manages the facilities, corporate services, and aviation departments and enjoys the company immensely. (He also noted that my 11th Company-mate, **Vince Sadd** ('77) also works at Lord. He's their marketing and sales guy for aerospace and defense) He and Becky have been married for over 25 years and have three "kids." Geoff (22) just received his BSBA from Wake Forest University and will go back in the fall for his MS in accounting. He's accepted a job in Charlotte with KPMG. Elizabeth (20) will be a junior at Wake Forest in the fall although she will be studying abroad in Spain first semester. Their youngest, Matthew, finished up his sophomore year in high school. John's kept in touch with some folks. He says **Tim Sprague** is doing homeland stuff in an O6 twilight tour in the Pentagon. Tim's a geographic bachelor during the week and commutes out to Virginia Beach to see the family on weekends. **Dave Mercer** is still awaiting the Senate confirmation on his RDML selection. **John Young** is in Chicago as the CEO of Exelon.

Here are some stray rounds— Kevin **Liddy** received his Republican Party nomination to run for Connecticut State Representative from the 119th District (which represents about 1/2 of Milford). It'll be a really tough battle as he faces a 5-term incumbent. **Kurt Tidd** is waiting

to see what the new job will be once he pins on the RDML star. Currently he works in Counterterrorism at the NSC. Someone who already knows what job he'll have is RDML(select) **Alan "Blues" Baker**. Blues is being assigned as the Chaplain of the Marine Corps/Deputy Chief of Chaplains/Deputy Director of Religious Ministries. It's the *first* part of that multi-billeted assignment to which you have to pay attention—Chaplain of the *Marine Corps*. I'll take some credit for that assignment as I was talking to the then-current Chaplain to the Corps at a MCAA dinner a few months ago. It was then I suggested to him that Blues would make a *great replacement* for him when he flected up to be Chief of Chaplains of the Navy. Guess he took my recommendation to heart. **Fred Butterfield** reported that Rev. **Kevin McGhee** seems to be on the recovery from his bout of Lyme Disease. Heard **Craig Cowen** continues to do very well. The last two MRI's have shown continued shrinkage in the volume/area of the Tumor.

Latest retirements: **Paul Russo** had his ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, DC on May 26th. As this goes to print I don't have details yet or photos but I do know that **John "Newk" Newcomb** was among our classmates who attended. I found that out when I attended Newk's retirement on June 9th at Memorial Hall in Bancroft. The Supe, Vice Admiral Rempt was the officiating officer. Attending from '78 were **Russ Gordon, John Casey, Frank Schraml, Tim Sprague, Glen Ives** (Master of Ceremonies), and yours truly. Newk and Judi's children played a big role in the ceremony, as side boys, ushers and presenters of gifts to mom and dad. Their daughter Consuelo (Epi) flew in from Stuttgart with her husband and the son Enrique was there in uniform. Enrique is an Airman first class in the Air Force working on F-16s in Italy. Son, Tommy ('08), a 2/C Midshipman, was in "choker" whites and showed his brother Zach how it's done. As this goes to print Zach will be among the new Plebes of 2010 sweating out rates this summer in hot and humid Annapolis and eventually being fitted for his own set of whites.

Well, I am at the end of my word count and have to shutdown the 'puter. More to come next month—even news of my own reserve retirement! Until then, launchin' Spot 4.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

If you've had the chance to read last month's column, you may remember that it was very different from most of my previous postings, for a couple of reasons. First, I had to send it to Alumni House before I had finished. I had a couple of very important – and unexpected – personal "situations" which could not be delayed. Karen and I, and everyone around us, are fine: and I appreciate hearing from those who checked on us! The way my note was written conveyed a higher degree of seriousness than I intended. Anyway, life has returned to its normal blend of routine and surprise, order and chaos (Karen usually brings about the order, I'm sorta the cause for the other three!).

Secondly, last month was a major *mea culpa* (that's Latin for "the dude messed up") to all of you for my complacency in putting these columns together over the last several months. I won't go through it all again, but I did promise I would clean up my act, and give these columns the effort they deserve. I also promised to keep better track of all the inputs I had received, so that I wouldn't misplace any in that great black hole known as "my inbox". I figured I had confessed, I had come clean with you. And so, with several lessons learned, I was ready to put that whole sordid episode behind me. The only thing remaining was to clean out my files.

Then, I made a few more unwanted discoveries – a couple of "snail mail" pieces in the bottom of a drawer, and a couple misfiled emails, each several months old, and none of them ever appearing in this magazine. In a situation like that, the military teaches us that the only thing we can really do is get a complete picture of where we currently are, take responsibility for it, put a plan together to get where we want to go, and immediately begin implementing the plan. And so, with that in mind, I'll open with several admittedly dated entries. And once again, so I don't have to do it after every entry, I apologize to all those who sent contributions that, through errors on