

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

PRES: Glen Woods
SEC'Y: Vince Balderrama
3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com
WEB SITE: usna1978.org

It's been a slow mail month...compounded by a heavy travel schedule in which I really didn't bump into too many folks. So here's what we have so far...

Continuing the retirement trend from last month: **Bob Schwaneke's** retired aboard the Kearsarge in Norfolk in late August. No details yet but I hope **Brice Gearey** or some other attendee will zap me some info on Zool's ceremony. On Sep 1st my roomie **Tom Crowley** retired in an intimate ceremony hosted by classmate **Mark Ferguson** in Fergie's OLA conference room. On hand were Tom's OLA workmates (including some of his old BOXER crew). Besides Fergie, on hand were VADM Edwards, RDML Buzby and one other whom I've just forgotten. Of course the real guests of honor were Tom's family, Gretchen and their kids TD, Kelly and James. It was a touching, emotion-filled ceremony. Tom is now working for LMI, a consulting group located along the beltway. For him it's a closer commute from home to his Tysons Corner office than it was when he was in the Pentagon. Tom's enthused to be getting on with a new facet of his life and even more enthused with the idea of having more time to spend with the family!



Mark, Tom and Vince at Tom's retirement

Faris Farwell had a retirement planned for Oct 27th. So as this comes to delivery it's likely a done deal. I'll probably have more news next month. In other stray



Brian Robey and Bob Laughlin with USNA in IRAQ

voltage: **Bob Novak** told me that the new dentist on the base at Pax River is none other than our own CAPT **Chris Cobb**. **Jock Maloney** forwarded an e-mail from **Brian Robey** that contained a pic of him and **Bob Laughlin** and a lot of other USNA in the Iraq. "**Robes**" is on the far left and Bob is holding up the left side of the banner. Robes is active duty and Bob must be pulling FBI duty out there as the last job in which I had him listed was with the Bureau.

Okay, about to move in the lead in our unofficial "anchor baby" contest are Robin and **Bruce Gearey**. By the time this edition of Shipmate gets delivered to your mailbox, Robin will have delivered a new baby boy. ETA on "baby boy Gearey (BBG)" is Nov 14th. That would make him a potential member of USNA Class of '28. Of course when Robin and Bruce would be celebrating BBG's graduation—we all will *also* be celebrating our **50th Reunion!!!** It all sounds pretty overwhelming. Both Bruce and I agree that we *somehow* don't think he'll be able to hold on to that title—at least not with you guys! By the way Robin and Bruce still live in Smithfield, VA. Bruce is the V.P. Operations for Government Liquidation. He says business is good selling all DOD surpluses and scrap metals. They just went public in Feb. If any classmates want to buy a Capt's gig or 100 canteens, he can hook you up. I've scanned his web site (govliquidation.com) but so far no helos.

Some of you may know, but I wanted to ensure all of you were made aware, that since her commissioning our class has been the proud sponsor of the USS Porter (DDG-78). What that mainly entails is our promoting leadership and professional development through our establishment and funding of a leadership recognition program. Annually, we and the ship recognize and award outstanding enlisted, petty officers and JO's with what are now known as our "Arch Griffin Leadership Awards". For the last few years, **Terry O'Brien** has been spearheading

the selection and recognition along with the ship's command. This year's ceremony was on 27 July. Terry reports that the boards get better each year and the CO/CMC are fully engaged and supportive of our efforts. He emphasized that our class has truly become part of the Porter family. The crew knows who we are and are appreciative of the things we have done for them. In fact, when Terry went aboard one day the Officer of the Deck was a First Class Petty Officer who knew him by name—he had been a winner three years ago! There is a Porter Leadership Passageway as you come aboard the ship. Along the passageway is a commemorative board listing past winners of the Arch Griffin Leadership Award. We also provide warfare pins for all new qualifiers on the ship. This past year - 60 Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Pins and 7 SWO Pins were awarded. Terry calculated that between the pins and awards our contributions directly involved with 25% of the crew each year. Moreover, we directly affect the fleet by promoting high standards of leadership excellence and encouraging professional development in a ship of the line. Even today, we are making an impact. If you're interest in helping out drop us a line.

Well, that's pretty much it for the month. Short and sweet. Navy football is on a roll and I hope to be winning some bets this year! See you around a tailgater or two. Until next month, drop me some mail (not just jokes) and news. Be safe and have fun!

Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)
E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com
SEC'Y: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)
22445 Bluebird Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650
H: 301-997-1980; W: 240-556-0637
E: JDWithers@1979.usna.com
WEB SITE: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

BEAT ARMY!!!

Yeah, I know, Army-Navy doesn't happen until December. So we've got the whole month to get ready! And besides, no matter how many games I've seen since we graduated, I'll always associate Army-Navy with Thanksgiving, with old JFK Stadium in Philadelphia, with heavy - but not warm - overcoats, and with cold feet in plastic corfam shoes.

During Army-Navy second class year, **Tom Wittenschlaeger** and I drew the 0001-0600 duty roving patrol at the Penn