

for former NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe from 2003-2005; and served as NASA’s Associate Administrator for External Relations from 1994-2003. His Naval service includes tours at sea and with both the Joint and Navy staffs. Most recently John was with Whitney, Bradley and Brown, where he was director, Aerospace Science and Technology.

BZ to **Dave Venlet** who is our newest 3-star as he takes over the reins as COMNAVAIR!

My wife and I had the honor of being wined and dined in Florida as participants in the recent Space Flight Awareness (SFA) Honoree event which culminated in the launch of the Space Shuttle, Discovery, on July 4th. I received the recognition for my management of the Lightweight MPESS (Multi-Purpose Experiment Support Structure) Carrier (LMC), which flew on both Return To Flight missions, STS-114 and STS-121. We had the opportunity to meet up with several astronauts, including **Bob Springer ’64, Mike Coats ’68, and Frank Culbertson ’71** on the night of the SFA reception, which was held at the beautiful convention and resort center in Kissimmee, FL, the Gaylord Palms Hotel.



Bob Springer and Mike Coats pose with the Hubbards at the SFA reception



Barb & Mark Hubbard in front of Launch Pad 39B & Discovery

Patty Murphy, wife of **Frank Murphy** provided great news about Frank:

■ Hi Everyone,

We had some fantastic news today. The Doctor told Frank he is in remission. It doesn’t get any better than that!!!! To all who had Frank on their prayer list, which I think was everyone, your prayers were answered. I really don’t know how to say how thankful I am...except...**THANK YOU....** for taking Frank in your hearts and prayers.

Our most sincere thanks to all our family and friends, Frank and Patty Murphy ■

Well, that’s all, folk! I hope to see many of you at the tailgaters this fall – Happy 30th Reunion and GO NAVY!



Cook and Curtis Men



Putting on Shoulder Boards

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

PRES: **CAPT Richard “Rick” White, USN**
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H: 410-295-0089; HE: rick.white@1977.usna.com
SEC’Y: **Thom McKee**
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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

John Curtis [jcurtis@cox.net] sent some pictures of he and his 10th Company roomie **Dan Cook** with their sons **Dan Cook** and **Nathan Cook (’06)** on the Blue Angels demonstration day during commencement week. In two prideful moments of life repeating itself: John noted how just 28 years ago his father was in his Army whites standing next to him for a photo op with his diploma and commissioning certificate and now there he was in his whites with son Nathan in similar pose. Likewise, he recalled his mom and fiancé **Donnarae** putting on his shoulder boards in ’78. Now it was mom, **Donnarae**, with Nathan’s fiancée (now his wife) **Rachael** putting on Nathan’s shoulder boards. Perhaps, 28 years down the line, history will again repeat itself for Nathan and Rachel. What a great story of a proud naval tradition, John. (Sorry I couldn’t print all the pics, John.)

If you blinked while watching the evening news where the President was at the Merchant Marine Academy Commencement then you probably missed **Rand LeBouvier** in service dress standing behind our Commander in Chief. Rand was present commission his son Christopher and seventeen of Christopher’s Kings Point classmates into active duty Naval Reserve. Chris and his classmates got to shake hands, pose (and some hugged) with the President, who delivered a great speech and was extremely congenial. It was a wonderful day for the whole family, but most of all because Chris received his degree, his 3rd mates license, and a commission in the Navy to become a Naval Flight Officer.



Rand Lebouvier swearing in son, Chris

“Disco” **Dean Marzetta** (dean_marzetta@netzero.com) is in Fairfax, VA working on as a consultant on an Army financial management SAP project—as he put it “Long live the consultants.” He and his second wife are

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to the Alma Mater
and its Alumni
USNA Alumni Association

120th
ANNIVERSARY
1886 – 2006

enjoying the new life of empty nesters with all kids grown and gone. **Scott Rodgers** is still flying with American Airlines. He recently had a family gathering of sorts for his daughter's graduation from high school. Joining Scott, the girls and his ex- Pam- were Scott's parents. Everybody looked great!



Rodgers family

Loren "Muff" Divers sent an e-mail reporting on **Al "Blues" Baker's** promotion (to admiral) party on 24 June at Annapolis. Blues' better-half, Marla, had secretly gathered a bunch of Good Time 10 company mates and other 78 cats and dogs and Naval friends to their Quarters in the Yard. The party celebrated not only a watermark for a classmate and friend but also a watermark in Naval History as Al is the first USNA graduate to make flag as a Chaplain! For his party visit accommodations, Marla had registered Muff into the guest suite at USNA BOQ. In reviewing the guest book, Loren noted the previous week's guests were your trusty scribe and his lovely bride of 23 years, Elizabeth! He appreciated the fact that I didn't short sheet the bed in anticipation of his stay. You're welcome. As for the party, Loren reported that it was "wonderful". Both the Commandant of Midshipmen and Superintendent were present and chatted for a LONG time with the Good Time 10 group comprised of Loren, **Craig Diffie**, **Al Nugent**, **John Curtis**, and **Steve Petri**. Muff also observed that **Bob Schmermund** and **Eddie Reid** and, in his words, "a very pregnant" Leslie and **Chris Nichols** were also present. **Kevin Olsen's** subsequent e-mail announcing that Leslie and **Chris Nichols** had a new little girl — Caroline — born June 25th, confirmed just how very pregnant Leslie was at that party! (Congrats guys!). Of course that observation only further dashed Loren's hopes of having the anchor baby of the class (last born). Word

that even **John Young** has "younguns younger than" his own only further depressed Loren. Oh well! Loren's final observation of the night was that Marla was finally calling her husband by his proper name—"Blues". I'm sure if he stuck around long enough he'd also hear her address Blues with other "proper" names — just kidding. Glad to see you father is recovery nicely from apparent pancreatic cancer, Loren. Our prayer and best wishes go out for his continued recovery and good health. By the way, in early July the Commandant, Gen Hagee ('68), officially frocked Blues to RDML. I must say, in shape and with a close haircut Blues looked more like a *Marine General*. What do you think?



Marla, Gen Hagee ('68) and RDML (BrigGen?) Blues Baker

In some stray voltage, Mike **Shinego** dropped a short note to inform us I he left BAE Systems. In mid-August he started his new job in a Director of Programs position with Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems in Portsmouth, RI. **Bob Schwaneke** was retiring at the end of July. **Kurt Tidd** was promoted to RDML on 14 July. **Glen Ives** assumed command of NAS Patuxent River on 20 July. I hope to have more on the latter occasions as I expect to get feedback soon. I'll even get around to putting something about me and my own retirement ceremony that occurred on June 16th in Memorial Hall.

Almost all of us have received an increase in SPAM these days. While SPAM was amusing and fun to sing about for Monty Python, it's not amusing for us. While I also know a lot of you, I admit that— despite having had a Plebe Summer — I may on occasion not remember everyone. (I definitely don't know all your e-mail "handles" (old CB lingo, sorry). So to make sure I allow your e-mail through, if the filters warn of imposing potential SPAM, would you please also note "78 news" or something like that in the subject of your message? That way I'll be able to distin-

guish your mail from the offers of increased male potency, latest stock market tip and request to hold money for a deposed foreign head of state. Thanks. See you at a Tailgater, now that it's the season! Launchin' Spot Four.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

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SEC'Y: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)

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Greetings, 79ers!

Lots of stuff this month ("Yay!"), so let's get started. I received a great email from **Brian Yanagi** (Brian.Yanagi@noaa.gov). Anyone who knows Brian also knows why he deserves the moniker "The Smilin' Hawaiian" — in our four years at Canoe U., I never saw him without that trademark smile. (I had a few high school buddies like that, except theirs were "chemically induced". But, I digress.) Anyway, Brian is an Oceanographer with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Since July 2005 he has served as the Deputy Director of the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) in Honolulu, HI. Interestingly enough, he is considered a "United Nations Tsunami Expert", traveling on tsunami missions all over the world. He conducted Indian Ocean country assessment missions after the devastating 26 December 2004 Indonesia earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunami.

According to Brian, ITIC serves as a United Nations Tsunami Program Office, with a mission to develop a Global Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. Prior to joining ITIC, Brian spent 15 years with the State of Hawaii Civil Defense Emergency Management Office as an Earthquake, Tsunami, and Volcano Specialist. (In case you're wondering, I get bonus points every time I use the word "tsunami"!)

An intel-type in his military career, Brian has since retired from the Naval Reserve. When he's not chasing waves or spending time with his wife, he also is an actor and musician, performing in a half-dozen musical theater productions and playing trombone in a rock and roll band. He sent along a web link for his photo at a talent agency. It's long, so I'll ask the webmaster about getting it posted to the class web site. Thanks, Brian, for the update. "Keep smilin'!"