



St. Patrick's Day

Wally "Gator" Tart (9th) forwarded a press release on the recent appointment of George "Skip" McKenzie (9th) as CEO of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (WRIT). Having been privileged to personally follow his storied career in real estate career, we congratulate Skip on a well-deserved promotion. Most importantly, Kirk "Buddy" Barker, Bill Herberger (9th) and I trust this means George can manipulate his schedule to allow him to participate in the annual Homecoming golf event! Then again,

Speaking of golf, Jim Kelly (11th) sends his best along with news his son Ryan ('07) and he recently competed in a rather unique father-son golf tournament in Scotland. They played a Stableford format for four rounds, teeing it up on a different course each day. After a slow start on the New Course (they were 17th out of 20 teams), Jim and Ryan finished strong on the Old Course at St. Andrews with a round that included six pars from Ryan and two consecutive birdies from Dad, including a miracle 153' putt on the double green at 10. Jim finished with a stellar 74 and Team Kelly took home 2nd place. Bravo Zulu to both of Kellys and a question for Ryan: Dad's 74 didn't include any...you know...foot wedges?



St. Andrews

Finally, congratulations to Jim Coulson (12th) on his recent retirement. Jim, wife Maggie and daughters Deidre and Jamie reside in Hudson, WI, where Jim's last posting was with the NROTC detachment at the University of Minnesota. At his change of command, Jim's staff

presented him an 1893 officer's cutlass engraved with his dates of service, which, as Jim put it, isn't a bad way for an old seadog to go out. Former roommate, Mark Tierney, was in attendance, along with other notables, including keynote speaker Barry McCullough ('75). Jim and Maggie are pictured below with Phil Wisecup (17th) at a recent joint-service review and awards ceremony. While plans for a second career remain unclear, Jim's looking forward to a well-earned retirement, a little yard work and some long-overdue fishing. Here's to fair winds and following seas!



Wisecup and Coulson

—Magoo

78

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

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79

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

It seems like every month I have news about our class flag officers. In honor of that, I'm instituting a new feature section in this and future Class Columns, devoted solely to flag news. The challenge was what to call it. In my Navy career, about the closest I ever came to a "flag" is when I would set up my chaise lounge on the signal bridge of a Knox class frigate. Then it hit me: there is a key component of every signal bridge – without this, it wouldn't be a "signal" bridge. So this month I'm inaugurating our new feature: the '79 "Flag Bag". Let's begin.

The FY08 O8 Reserve Selection Board results were posted on the BUPERS website in May, and among the

names listed was our own **RDML Jeff Lemmons**. Jeff – it's a cliché to say that your promotion is well deserved, but it certainly is "well deserved"! Our heartiest congratulations on this new accomplishment in an impressive military career.

Also in May BUPERS published another round of flag assignments, where we learned that **RDML Steve Voetsch** left his "cushy job" as deputy chief of staff for operations, training and readiness, N3/N7, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Steve is now in Norfolk, VA, where he took over as Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force. His full bio is posted at <http://www.cotf.navy.mil/bios/00bio.htm>. Congratulations, Steve!

After I wrote last month's column (*but before I came up with the snappy "Flag Bag" descriptor*) I received some follow-up gouge from a couple of the guys. The Navy put out a great press release on **RDML Scott Van Buskirk**, who commands Carrier Strike Group 9 aboard ABRAHAM LINCOLN. In that role he coordinates operations conducted by Destroyer Squadron 9 and Carrier Air Wing 2. I liked this line: "With eight ships and 10 aircraft squadrons spread out over a wide geographical area – from Oceana, VA to Pearl Harbor – this is no small task." No kidding! I had forgotten that Scott is a submariner, having had tours as executive officer of GEORGIA (SSBN 729) and as commanding officer of PASADENA (SSN 752). And if that wasn't enough, prior to his current tour Scott was the senior naval officer on the Multi-National Force-Iraq staff. If that doesn't define a "well-rounded Naval Officer", then nothing does. Congratulations, Scott! And best of luck as you lead your strike group in these troubled times.

Alert readers of this column will also remember from last month that **CAPT Ted Branch** selected for O7. In an email to **Kirk Michealson**, Ted updates us on his status:

Looks like DC is in our future with a job for me as OPNAV N3 IPS. We intend to live in the Fairfax area so Austin can attend Woodson High School, and will likely move in the July timeframe. We've loved Coronado and it will be hard to leave (as always), but we are excited about renewing our relationships with all our east coast friends. Again, thanks for the kind words from everyone.

Welcome back to the East Coast, Ted! Looking forward to seeing you at the '79 tailgaters this fall!