

for our 30th. Mike hit upon the idea of capitalizing upon the lofty rank of some of our classmates, and suggested the Admirals **Walsh (Pat and Joe)** utilize their not-insignificant influence to arrange for a carrier battle group and a couple of subs to provide some fun in the sun on the Chesapeake. Sure, a bunch of drunk 50-somethings cruising the bay might pose a hazard to navigation and would certainly require a Circle William or two. But as MOST of us (Gator and Hithon, are you reading this?!) passed the swim test, and being as Colonel Canders runs an Air Force SAR wing, Eddie can provide air assets for the man-overboard drills! Pat and Joe: whadda ya say? Time to use those stars for something other than better parking spaces and preferred seating for Midrats!



*l to r, Leon, KT, JC, Greg and Hi-Lo (can you recognize Hithon without the omnipresent toothpick!?!)*



*Dinner pic seating: JC, Nikki Jackson, Karen Caesar, Sherry Hithon, Wanda Byrd, Greg, KT, Cary and Leon*

Next, **Julius "JC" Caesar** wrote to say Wanda and **Greg Byrd** had visited Karen and him over the President's Day weekend. Greg was recently hired as Director of Economic Development for the City of Suffolk, VA after working various municipal government positions in the Hampton Roads area since his retirement some seven years ago. The Caesars and Byrds were joined for dinner in Old Town Alexandria by Nikki and **Leon Jackson**, Sherry and **Cary Hithon** and **Ken Trass**. Leon is IT Director for the District of Columbia, Cary is a Program Director at Computer Science

Corporation and Ken is CO of an NJROTC unit at Kennedy High School in Gaithersburg, MD, providing, as JC so aptly put it "leadership to our next generation of leaders".

JC went on to relay news regarding a number of other classmates, including:

**Bill Millward** is doing great as the President & CEO of his own firm, Addx Corporation. The company continues to grow its high-technology and consulting business, with Bill's wife Jane providing encouragement and support.

**Shelton Lee**, who JC recently saw at the DC National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Esther Boone Scholarship Banquet at Andrew AFB. Shelton is a certified IT professional and manager at Lockheed Martin, where he remains active in encouraging our nations youth.

**Jerry Miller**, who continues to do well as Chairman, President, CEO (and Chief Bottle Washer!) of Earl Industries, and remains an ardent supporter of Navy Football.

**Dan McCarthy**, with who JC had a "very serious" meeting at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Jacksonville, FL, where Dan works as the Director of Military Affairs for the mayor of Jacksonville. Dan's better half, Barb, was on business travel for the Mayo Clinic and unable to attend.

**Dave Comis**, with apologies for missing his retirement ceremony. Dave recently stood down from his post as CO of an Office of Naval Research Detachment in London, UK after thirty years of honorable service. We join JC in wishing Dave fair winds, following seas and well-deserved retirement.

**Joe Kernan**, who treated (this *can't* be the same Joe Kernan *we* used to know!) JC to a nice dinner during a recent visit to Coronado. Our special congratulations to Joe on achieving two stars and the title of King of *real* Ultimate Fighters!

And speaking of stars, JC concludes his letter by mentioning classmates with whom he was able to hobnob during an All Flag Officer's Training Conference at USNA. They included the likes of the aforementioned Admirals Walsh (Pat, VCNO and Joe, COMSUBPAC), **Sam Locklear** (Commander 3rd Fleet), **Mark Kenney** (Commander, Center for Counter-Terrorism) **Phil Wisecup** (COMNAVFOR Korea) **Gar Wright** (Reserve Deputy Commander 3rd Fleet under Sam) **Dirk Debbink** (Reserve

Deputy Commander, COMPACFLT, and who, incidentally, and rather inexplicably, gets to commute between Pearl Harbor and Okonomowoc, Wisconsin!) and **Mike Frick** (PEO Integrated Warfare Systems.

Keep those emails coming, and please remember to include photographs and captions whenever possible.

Magoo

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com

WEB SITE: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

**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](http://www.usna79.com)

Greetings, 79ers!

Lots of Flag news to report this month. First off, we have a new 2-star nominee in the class: **RDML Scott Van Buskirk** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Scott will be visiting the uniform shop in Everett, Washington to pick up the new shoulder boards, because he is currently serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine. Also on the Flag list is **CAPT Ted "Twig" Branch**, who was nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). The Branch Family is living out in the San Diego area, where Ted has been serving as special assistant to the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. As I reported in the last issue, Ted just recently gave up command of NIMITZ, and he's been hanging around the CNAP staff awaiting reassignment. So congratulations to Scott and Ted!

From the West Coast we head over to Corpus Christi, TX, where **RDML Don Quinn** has been ably commanding all budding Naval Aviators as the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA). Later this year Don will be heading off to Norfolk, VA, where he will take over as Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic. As described in the official DoD blurb, Don "...will be responsible for the integrated and advanced training of deployable carrier and expeditionary