



Donald Rumsfeld pins the Captain Bars on Matt Freeman

I received a MV Doulos (mvdoulos.org) update from **Pat Tracy**—he asks for daily prayers while he is on his world travels:

■ Ken Kirk (a brother from our church here) and I are headed East, by going westward, this Saturday. We will visit OM work in Shanghai and Hong Kong from the 14th-20th of January, then meet MV Doulos in Manila. Ken will sail with the ship to Cebu, Philippines, and I will fly ahead to teach shipboard safety to a few dozen new recruits who will join the ship in Cebu. We plan to return home on February 5th. Please also remember our wives and school-age children who will be minding the fires at home while we're away. ■

As a final note, **Kevin Stone** wanted me to mention that we're looking at having a 'Class tailgate' at the Army-Navy lacrosse game in Annapolis on Saturday, 14 April. The A-N track meet is the same day as well. Look for more info in Shipmate and via email.

By the way, I've noticed that many of our Classmate's profiles at usna.com are in serious need of updating. So, when you get an opportunity, please update your profile as soon as possible. It makes my job easier when researching information about my Classmates!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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First up this month, **Pete Green** wrote to say hello. Lynne and he are enjoying the good life in sunny southern Maryland, feasting on crabs and undoubtedly consuming vast quantities of Natty Bo! Pete heads up business development for his company, having hung up his flight

suit some five years ago, so the only seat he occupies these days is 24E.

January 25th marked the retirement of Colonel **Paul Croisietiere**, USMC at NAS Pax River. Your humble scribe will have been in attendance, so details and photographs will be certain to follow. We'll also be handicapping the odds his wife Sue thinks having Gross around the house 24/7 is a positive or negative development! We see civilian employment in Paul's future!

While we're on the subject of lucrative civilian employment, remember those huge bonus checks Goldman Sachs handed out this past year? So we called **Pete Grieve** to remind him who it was that suggested he seek employment with GS in the first place. Strangely, Pete had absolutely no recollection of our conversation whatsoever, but his assistant *did* want to know "What's a Magoo?" Pete was actually heading for the west coast for business and a possible dinner rendezvous with **Rob Lamb**, but had a moment to tell us another small world story. Pete was recently watching his son play indoor lacrosse (it's obvious he's given the boy a proper upbringing!), and noticed another player sporting a jersey with the name "Chanenchuk". It turned out the young man is the nephew of Navy's own **Mike Chanenchuk** ('79) and is following in his uncle's illustrious footsteps.

Bill Hartman received Christmas greetings from **Dave Armitage**. Dave, his wife Linda and daughter Emily are living in Mechanicsburg, PA. Dave retires in June '07, and is contemplating a second career as a school teacher and coach; no surprise there. Linda works at a local hospital.

We close this month's column on a sad note, marking with regret the passing of another classmate. **Herb Bracewell**, 1st Company, died Saturday, December 30th. He had worked the past 10 years at SMS in McLean, Virginia as a Program Manager and Sales Engineer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Herb's wife Cheryle and the rest of his family. He will be laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Regarding our 30th reunion, the USNAAA website is preparing our class site <http://www.usna.com/classes/1977/> for on line registration. It may not be ready to go until late March. Any questions or comments should be directed to either Rick or me. Please keep in mind, sign up on the USNAAA website is for Friday and Saturday events only. Those

interested in golf and dinner on Thursday should contact me directly.

Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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This month kicks off with a little class business update: As many of you know from your generous contributions and pledges, we are in the midst of fundraising for our five year Class Project. Working with significant input from our Classmates on duty in the Yard, we pledged to raise \$780,000 (about 50% above the "fleet average" for a class of our longevity) to fund four discrete pillars of support for the Academy: the renovation of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (a \$250k contribution); the Admissions Office (specifically, support for the new recruiting videos); the Leadership Department (specifically, 100% funding of a new book of biographies entitled "Leadership Embodied" that is given to all plebes); and support of the "undesignated funds" that the Supe uses to satisfy short-fuse demands. We are roughly halfway through the term of the project and Class Vice President **Sean Coffey** (who is heading the effort) is delighted to report that '78 had just recently exceeded the goal! We are well over \$800k and Sean is now aiming for the million dollar mark. Thanks to all for the robust response!

Got an e-mail from my Plebe Summer roomie, **Bart Buechner**, way out in Yountville; CA that chronicled the last year in the Buechner household:

■ "In January, we returned to Yountville, delayed a bit by the New Year's Eve flood. We sold the house in Vacaville, so we are now truly back "home". We have enjoyed putting the finishing touches our house. Angel (three years old this month) loves it here, especially enjoys watching the deer, squirrels and birds in her yard. Pat's son Paul coached the Meridian Mustangs football team again for another winning season. He also ran for Michigan State Senate, earning 39,000 votes. Not enough to win this time, but in four years maybe a different story. Grandson John is at the Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps base, preparing for a third tour in Iraq. Please keep him in your prayers, as we do, daily. Granddaughter Ashley is expecting

her second child in March. Pat is losing track of how many great-grandchildren are out there, but proud of all (just ask her). Bart has a new Navy Reserve assignment with the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs in Washington DC. This will involve a bit more air travel time, but should be interesting. The last assignment ended with a detail as military attaché to the German delegation (Baron von Steuben) to the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown. He also has a new vehicle (Harley-Davidson), which he rode to the "Iron Warriors" Veterans Day run on November 11th. (This has nothing to do with turning 50 last year.) He is otherwise staying busy with "God's House Band" and is working on establishing a program here at the Veterans Home to assist veterans of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan with transition issues. Despite all that's going on, we think we may have a bit more time to travel next year, and so hope to be able to visit with friends we have not seen lately. More to the point, we are now settled enough to have visitors, so if you are thinking about making a trip to Wine Country in 2007, let us know!" ■

Just a couple of months away from **Alex Callas'** annual Peter G. Callas Golf for MDA Day at Andrews Air Force Base. The event goes off on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at the Andrews Air Force Base Golf Course, Andrews AFB, MD. As always the format is a Scramble – Captains Choice with Shot Gun Start from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Golf Carts are included in the entry fee as well as meals for all and dinner for afternoon players), beverages and snacks. For more detailed information call MDA at (703) 476-5780 or go online at www.golfdayformda.com

Andy Mohler sent proof that Army-Navy service rivalry hijinks don't end with age – especially in the corporate world as he and his boss, Jeff Jancek (a Woop and former Captain of the USMA football team) threaten each other's mascots. I say Bill looks unphased but that mule (piñata) was so scared he turned striped multi-colors!

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Who looks threatened?

I heard that after retiring from the Navy, **Faris Farwell** now works for Northrop Grumman. Guess he'll have to find a service rival to "abuse" for next year's Army-Navy game too! By the way, among those present at Faris' retirement were **Jon Sears, Jeff Ewin** and **Joe Lynch**. Welcome to civilian life, Faris!



Faris, Jon, Jeff and Joe

Congratulations to **Charlie Martoglio** on his assumption of command of the Reagan Carrier Strike Group (Carrier Strike Group Seven) out of North Island, CA. Charlie turned his collar and leash as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Navy over to someone else. He's now back where even as Plebe he always knew he was meant to be—at sea, driving ships. As this goes to print the change of command was scheduled for Feb 7th in flag spaces aboard Reagan. This was to facilitate their early deployment in support of the CENTCOM AOR surge effort. Also deploying quickly was **Tim "BT" Hanifen**. In mid-Jan he headed to Al Anbar Province with his Marine Aircraft Wing in support of US/Coalition and Iraqi forces directly fighting Al Qaeda Insurgents along with some smaller anti-government Sunni Insurgent movements there. He'll be there a year. He asked that friends just keep him and his Marines in your prayers and thoughts. Will do, Tim—as we also

will do for all our men and women in arms. Keep your turns up!

Well that's it—a very short month, not a lot of news or pics. That's why you got the print you did, Bart—it's not because you check cleared—I mean, not 'cuz you were my roommate that summer. Until next month—Launchin' Spot Four (with the hopes of a brimming in-box when I burn off this bag of gas.)

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Looking at the calendar, we should be deep into the Dark Ages here in the land of the Chesapeake. Instead, we've had 70-degree temperatures in January, and an interesting February as well. The weather seems to be dominating conversation as of late. And sooner or later, someone will bring up the hot-potato term "global warming", and then all heck breaks loose. There are a lot of "reasons" being bandied about regarding why our recent weather has been like it is – some scientific, some not. My own theory is there's just too much hot air being developed inside the Washington Beltway! My brother lives in Denver, and he's already suffered through at least two major snowstorms there. Clearly, he is far enough removed from the "hot air generators" to not be affected by them. That's my theory, anyway – and I'm sticking to it!

One thing that's NOT theory – but fact – is that this year is the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas: Jamestown, VA. Checking in from this historic location is our own Jack Bruno (burgbruno@verizon.net):

■ Wiz, you inspired me to write a short note (both fingers get tired if I type a long note). My wife, Karla and I are enjoying life at the center of America's 400th Anniversary (the landing at Jamestown). We live a short way from Jamestown Island outside Williamsburg, VA. Karla volunteers at Historic Jamestown (the actual site) and I volunteer at nearby "Jamestown Settlement" (living museum run by Virginia Department of Education).