

Tennessee. I was an engineer for 25 years after leaving USN, then last fall became a high school math/physics teacher at an urban/inner city school here in Knoxville...More later, and I'd love to hear from the guys.

Joe Foy, 9407 Edenshire Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922 ■

From the files of Classmates who you might have seen on TV but didn't realize it, Dave Fleischman writes:

■ I have probably the best part-time job imaginable....I'm on the San Diego Chargers chain crew. You cannot appreciate how big and fast and talented NFL players are until you witness the action from the sideline...Chargers offensive line coach Hal Hunter's son, Hal IV, is a member of the Class of 2012. On Friday nights, I officiate high school football...[pictured is] former 11th Company-mate and fellow football official, Ed "Zap" Zapolski '75, and me at a semi-final playoff game recently. I still teach physics at Torrey Pines High School here in San Diego. Go Navy, beat Wake Forest! ■



Ed Zapolski '75 and Dave Fleischman in zebra stripes

Carrie and Carl Butler are wintering over in Annapolis this year at a slip on Ego Alley aboard their sailboat Sanctuary. They intended to head south after the Boat Shows in October with the rest of the cruising fleet but Carrie was diagnosed with Stage 0 Breast Cancer in September. She has successfully completed 2 lumpectomy surgeries at Anne Arundel Medical Center and is presently undergoing radiation treatment, well on her way to a full recovery in time to head out for more adventures in the spring. They welcome classmates to stop by and say hello if they're in downtown Annapolis.

Kevin Stone has some final words:

■ As I write this Navy is just coming off a resounding thumping of Army in Philadelphia and gearing up for a frigid re-match with Wake Forest in the Eagle Bank Bowl in DC. I personally would

have preferred to be basking in the warmth at the Orange Bowl but that will just have to wait for another day!

So where does the Class of 76 stand in December 2008? All in all, I'd say we're in pretty good shape; every year the class is coming together more and more. Using the nationally known Navy Class of 1976 Tailgate Index we're on a roll: we averaged over 85 persons at home game tailgates and hit nearly 150 at the 2nd Annual Mini-Reunion. This is way up from the previous years and your tailgate volunteers deserve a round of applause: Rivers & Barbara Cleveland, Randy & Lynn Goff, Larry & Barb Jones, Craig & April McDonald, Dave & Kate Papak, Craig & Judith Ann Scott, Peter & Karen Varsanyi, and last but not least the tent-meisters, JD & Craven Engels and Mark & Sally Moore. A special round goes to our mini-reunion honchos: Andy Bushak, Russ Lett and Craig Scott. And lest I not forget, a special thank you to my wife Barbara without whom we'd all still be hanging around the trunk of car having warm beer and soggy sandwiches.

In addition to the tailgates in the fall, every month Chuck Litz organizes a class luncheon in Arlington. It has grown to 12-20 classmates around the table at any given month. We swap stories about our kids and families but also conduct serious business; it is a great resource for networking and job searches.

So how do tailgate attendance and luncheons serve as a barometer of class cohesiveness? It has been my impression that as the number of classmates attending these events goes up I have seen a corresponding increase in the number of classmates who step up and volunteer. Last year the Poinsettia Bowl tailgate organized by classmates in San Diego was a great success; your donation of tickets to the game for the USS HIGGINS crew was truly gratifying.

On a more mundane, but nonetheless important note, your Class funds held and administered by the Alumni Association, are as follows as of 11/30/2208:

- General class fund - \$45,431
- USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) fund - \$17,297
- Undesignated project fund* - \$12,070

(*The 'undesignated project fund' is left from the Alumni Hall construction project in the early 90's, it cannot be used for our benefit. We have used it for special requests from the Academy or Alumni Association.)

A final round of applause goes to your other class officers, VP Peter Varsanyi, Treasurer Scott Jenkins, and (standing ovation, please) Mark Hubbard, our faithful secretary.

So where do we go in 2009? I look to you the class to make that call! Is there a cluster of classmates in Oshkosh Wisconsin? Do you want to get together more often? Do you need help? Speak up and call/email me or the class officers and tell us what you want to do - it is all about classmates helping each other.

A special thanks to Lee Erdman and Peter Varsanyi for arranging the A-N victory dinner at the cozy La Locanda Del Ghiottone in Philadelphia (and thanks to Peter for coordinating the tailgater at Roosevelt Park (aka "Hubbard's Park"))! Check out the pictures from Army-Navy 2008 at usna76.com!

Wishing all of you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! ■

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 70%

PRES: CAPT Richard "Rick" White, USN

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: Glen Woods

SEC'Y: Vince Balderrama

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Looking back at the 30th Reunion we can all agree it was a rousing success. If you just look at the numbers, we had 507 Classmates and guests registered and attended; 754 were at the Supe's Garden Reception; 193 attended the Prayer Breakfast and 977 were at the Tailgate! That outcome was due the hard work and efforts of several key classmates and many others behind the scenes. As usual, the unsung heroes of the event are the wives (and kids) who put up with the meetings, assembling welcome bags, tying up the printer with 900 nametags, and the entire general manic that arises. Special Bravo Zulus go out to them and to the following folks: **Glen Woods** ("Head Potentate"), **Brett Ayotte** (Overall Coordinator), **John Rudder**, **Terry O'Brien**, **Joe Martin**, and **Pete Flynn** (Golf Tournament Team), **Shawn Tallant** and **Chris Hassler** (Tailgate Party Team),

Paul Wiedorn and **Steve Petri** (Garden Reception Team), **Fred Butterfield** (Prayer Breakfast –, assisted at the breakfast by **Steve Petri**, **David Schuman**, **Mike Kozlarek**, and **Art Athens**; **Kevin McGhee** (Memorial Service – assisted at the service by **Ray Milton**, **Glen Woods**, **Robert Guy**, **Jim Fiorelli**, **Mark Fox**, **Alan “Blues” Baker**, and **Dusty Gray**); **John Cooke** (Registration and Check In – assisted by Maura and **John Rudder** and who cajoled a number of freebies out of the local establishments and assembled the welcome bags, not to mention the ‘78 kids who helped); **Debbi Latta** (Photography); **John Rudder** again for Transportation; **Steve “Jock” Maloney** (Quintennial Pick Up Basketball Game), and **Bob Schmermund** (Mementos and Football Ticket Coordination). On a sad note, **Shawn Tallant** was unable to participate in the reunion after doing so much work to prepare for it. His mother was very ill and placed into hospice, literally as we were checking people in. He was one of the driving forces behind the Tailgater. We hope things have stabilized with his mom. The pictures that **Debbi Latta** took during the reunion are available for download at NO CHARGE. They pictures can be viewed and retrieved from: <http://gallery.mac.com/dlatta>. (By the way, they look great and we can certainly judge some golf strokes!) Like all good military events, the reunion committee planned to compile some “lessons learned”. Part of that effort was to have included a survey on the Class website. Check it out. Like all things, you can’t please *everyone* with everything. I am certain there may have one or two glitches, or one or two things over which some of you may not have been satisfied or “wouldn’t done differently”. Please comment, but try and give *solutions too*—moreover, think about *volunteering* to help with the *35th Reunion* when the time comes. Regardless, you have to admit there were a few once in a lifetime events—the P-Rade in our honor with our Classmate **Supe**, Class Pres and three, three-star classmates among the reviewer and all of ‘78 in the “good seats” and the reception in the **Supe’s Garden** overlooked by the glow off the Chapel dome. But let me allow our Reunion Chair, **Brett Ayotte**, to have the last word: “My final thought on the reunion is that, when all is said and done, we could build a perfect plan and flawlessly execute – but, if the Classmates didn’t come, it would be failure. Thus, in my rarely

humble opinion, the real success of this reunion rests with our Classmates who took the time and effort to travel, some from tremendous distances, to Annapolis for no other reason than to spend a couple of days reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Based on the numbers, over half of the Class was able to be here. I can think of no better testament to the greatness of our Class than the continued fellowship and brotherhood that is so strong after 30 years. I am proud and honored to have been able to have a role in making that opportunity a reality.”



Honored at the P-Rade



Supe's Garden Reception

Jim Fiorelli sent in a great pic from the 1st Annual FIOFEST Golf Tournament, Dinner and Auction held on Columbus Day. Jim established the event in honor of his youngest brother, Michael. Mike passed away in June 2007, at age 43, just 3 months after learning he had esophageal cancer. As Jim described it, Mike “had been the epitome of health, but had had acid reflux which he had treated with only TUMS for several years. Esophageal cancer has become increasingly prevalent recently, especially in white males over 40. The only real warning sign is acid reflux, although it isn’t an indicator of EC. The only way to know for sure that one is free of EC is having an endoscopy every so often.” Heed that warning those of you who *may* have similar symptoms or just as a general warning. Anyway, the Michael A. Fiorelli Foundation for Esophageal Cancer Awareness was established in Mike’s honor to educate and promote

awareness of EC, and on Columbus Day (fitting for a paisano) the Foundation hosted a golf tournament, Jimmy Buffet Dinner, and auction – with outstanding success. The weather at TurfValley in Baltimore was absolutely fabulous – high 70s with the leaves turning colors. Mike had worked in the front office for both the Orioles and then the Ravens, and had been the GM of the Baltimore Major League Lacrosse team, so the turnout and support from the sports community was excellent and the sports memorabilia auctioned off was first class. Everyone had a great time and they raised over \$62,000. **ALERT**- this is an *annual* event, so stand by – ‘78 to get an invitation next year! I’m sure you would all love to give it the support to make it just as successful as Alex Callas’ Golf Tournament for Muscular Dystrophy.



1st Annual FIOFEST Golf Tournament

Kevin Liddy’s run for office in Connecticut fell a little short. As he put it – “Although the outcome was not as I would have liked, considering all the clamoring for ‘change’ as I ran against an 8 term incumbent, at least *‘We, the People’* had a choice, considering that 40% of incumbents in the CT General Assembly run unopposed. It’s comforting to know that 37% disapprove of my opponent’s record.” The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Foundation appointed **Glen Ives** to its board of directors. The CSM Board provides support to the college and its students through the funding of scholarships, technology and arts, health/wellness and educational opportunities. Speaking of appointments—congratulations to **Byron Marchant**, who in early January relieved George Watt (‘73) as President and CEO of our Naval Academy Alumni Association and the Naval Academy Foundation. Before the appointment, Byron was Executive Vice President, General Counsel, & Chief Administrative Officer for Black Entertainment Television, Washington, DC. Rear Adm. (lower half) **Mark Fox**,

who is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, Norfolk, Va., has been selected for the rank of rear admiral and is being assigned as commander, Naval Strike and Warfare Center, Fallon, NV. (RDML, retired) **Bill Timme** has been with IBM for about 20 months now. Bill is in the Co-Leader of the GBS Navy/USMC Account. **Jim**

VanDerKamp's son, Cameron is a newly minted SEAL. He got his SEAL Trident in May '09 and then finished off joint forces medic school in Ft. Bragg. Wherever he is we hope he is safe — but then we are safe in the knowledge that well, *he's a SEAL*, and they can handle anything!

Donna Buss dropped a note to bring us up to speed on hubby **Dave Buss** and the rest of the family. Dave is half way through a one year deployment to MNF-Iraq. He served under General Petraeus and now with General Odierno as Director, CJ-5 (Donna thinks that's policy and strategy). She said Dave reported he has the most fascinating job, but she can't begin to describe his job title or requirements. They are both proud parents of two. Son, Matt is plebe with the Class of 2012. He is doing very well at the USNA, loves the obstacle course, boxing and wrestling and football games. He is part of the skydiving club and took his first tandem jump with an instructor, his company officer and shipmates. Matt said it the highlight of his time at the USNA. (I should say that is *so far*, Donna.). Their daughter, Erin has them equally proud. Erin is a senior at Boston College where she majors in International relations with a concentration in Economics and minor in Spanish. She spent her junior fall semester abroad in Madrid and is tracking to graduate in May 2009. Donna has her own remote software trainer business—*Donna Buss, Inc.*



Donna, Matt ('12) and Erin Buss

Well, that's it. Until next month—I'm "**Chocked and chained**" on Spot 4 with the bum knee.

79 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!

Welcome to 2009! I heard from a number of you over the holidays and I have a bunch of photos to share. But first I wanted to congratulate the 2008 Navy Football team on their outstanding season. I remember all the jitters and grumblings after Coach Paul Johnson's abrupt departure, yet the team went right on clicking. It was fun to watch.

As I watched the Army-Navy game on TV, I heard analyst Boomer Esiason mention that this was the first shutout since 1978, when a 79er-led squad blanked the Woops 28-0. Well, it just so happens I received an email from a member of that squad, placekicker Bob Tata (btata@hunton.com), who sent along the following news:



1978 Holiday Bowl Reunion (l-r): Herb Wilson, Coach George Welsh, Phil McConkey, Bob Tata and Bob Leszczynski

■ **Wiz:** Greetings. I thought I'd drop you a note regarding the "1978 Holiday Bowl Reunion" recently held at Navy. During the weekend of 25 October (SMU game), Navy hosted a reunion weekend for our 1978 Holiday Bowl team. As you may recall, 1978 was our last football season at Navy, and the team ended up with a 9-3 record and ranked 17th in the country. We beat a Jim McMahon-led BYU in the Holiday Bowl by a final score of 23-16. Overall, something like 55 of the 63 players on the team made the reunion event including eleven of our classmates (Co-Captains Phil McConkey and Nick Mygas, and Bob Leszczynski, Herb Wilson, Mark Stephens, Steve Kramer, Sandy Jones, Dana Martinez, Art O'Hanian, Abe Ellis & me). In addition

to the players, Hall-of-Fame Coach George Welsh '56, and most of his former assistants were there including current North Carolina State head coach Tom O'Brien. Other luminaries in attendance included ADM Kinnaird McKee '51, Bo Coppedge '47, legendary "Crabwrapper" sports writer Joe Gross, Holiday Bowl Executive Director Bruce Binkowski, and one of the team's local Annapolis "sponsors," McGarvey's owner Mike Ashford.

The NAAA threw a first class party. On Friday night there was a reception (including a greatly appreciated "open bar") at the new "N* Club" (which is now a beautiful facility with large bar, dance floor, TV's, etc., right under the stadium) where we had about 150 in attendance. Coach Welsh and Phil shared remarks, and Herb and I did a PowerPoint "Season in Review" where we greatly exaggerated everyone's accomplishments and showed photos of about 20 of Bob Leszczynski's old girlfriends. It was lots of fun seeing everyone, some of whom we hadn't seen in 30 years, and meeting everyone's wives. On Saturday, despite a downpour, the fun continued with tailgater at the 1953 Pavilion and recognition of the team on the field. That night groups hit the town including Rusty Romo's (our old trainer Red Romo's son) restaurant, Harry Browne's, and, of course, McGarvey's, before retiring at our headquarters hotel's (Sheraton) hospitality suite. A great time was had by all! Bob. ■

Thanks, Bob, for the update. I remember celebrating that victory and how it capped a near-perfect football season. Glad to hear you were able to coax Bob Leszczynski into a rare public appearance. And with photographic evidence to boot!



Top "Freedom Ride" Fundraisers (l-r): Andy Payne '94, Marty Sullivan, Mark Shell

Mark Shell (mdshell@trane.com) took time out from his cross-country trekking to update us on the progress of Team USNA at the 8th Annual Ride Allegheny. Last October Mark teamed up with