

It should be noted Hods the Elder, in addition to assuming the duties of fatherhood later in life than most, has frequently opted for the road less traveled. Having attended USNA, he chose to serve on active duty in the Army. Upon assuming civilian status, he entered veterinary school; and having graduated as a fully qualified vet, Hods re-entered government service as a USDA poultry inspector! Which is only fitting; after all, with those massive pecs, washboard-abs and bulging biceps, Frank always was a chick magnet!

Congratulations Frank and Kristy! May Lil' Hods be as smart as Uncle Dan, as personable as Uncle Skip, as strong as Uncle Buddy, have the vertical leap of Uncle Herb...and swim FAR better than Uncle Gator!

Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com

WEB SITE: usna1978.org

Congratulations to **Al Nugent** on his retirement from active duty. As Al put it "after 31 years I have been asked by the Navy to step aside so younger folks can have their chance too. (Actually they answered no to my 'final offer' retire retain request)". On the 26th of June he was piped ashore in a ceremony at Little Creek Virginia. It looked to be well attended by Good Time Ten company mates and classmates. (Hope **Sam Sowell's** wife has fully recovered from her back surgery. It precluded Sam's being there. (Hey, Sam, any truth to the rumor she claimed it was needed because she's been carrying you all these years?). **Mark Nault** and his 16th Company mates played the ponies in May for the Preakness. Attendant were Susie and **Damian Bonvouloir**, Barb and **John Cohoon**, **Todd Hirt** ('79) and Ann and Mark. Mark said some of them did pick the Preakness winner! John Cohoon even picked the 1st three in exact order! Ann and Mark sold their restaurant, *Taste* last year so the post race dinner was at someone else's eatery in Baltimore. Ann and Mark are "moving the flag" to Charleston, SC. Mark will still be working in northern VA and flying most weekends. He plans to make it to several Navy football games so him around the keg.



Post Preakness party

Jim Fiorelli provided some quick news. Their Richmond Chapter of the Alumni Association is very active chapter and had conducted a reception honoring and welcoming the local Class of 2013 appointees this spring. Among '78 present were **Connie and Mark James**, Gina and **Steve Ferree** with their daughter Jillian, Jan and **Jim Fiorelli** with his son Michael (now a Plebe with the Class of 13), and Debra and **Vance Berry** with their daughter Elizabeth. Jim said it was great to catch up with everyone and they all lead far more exciting lives than his at the Attorney General's office. (**Steve Ferree** later wrote that he and his family moved to the Richmond area after he retired in 1998. He works for a "great company" - MeadWestvaco - as their Logistics Manager.). Jim sent along a picture that did not include their wives (They were probably on the working end of the camera or recharging the wine glasses- smart women!) As for Plebes of 2013, Jim also forwarded a few pics from Michael's I-Day. Of course many classmates were present, from the yard- **Jeff "the Supe" Fowler**, **Bruce "Dean" Latta**, and **Art Athens**; from the outside, **Tim McGee** and **Jay Bowling**. Jim later administered the Oath to Michael.



Class of 78- Richmond Chapter

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I-Day for the Fiorellis

In some older news- **Larry Easton** is leading a Lockheed Martin new *Ventures* organization. As the Director of Ventures organization Larry is responsible for the "nurturing and growth" of Lockheed Martin IS&GS's innovations like the energy "smart grid" business into profitable businesses. Okay, in plain English- that means more pay and more stuff for which to be responsible and blamed. He and Cindy are planning to make a job related move to the Valley Forge, PA area. **GOOD LUCK LARRY**. Also in the upward mobility lane is **Bill "If" Fell**. At the end of June, "If" was selected as the Assistant Superintendent for Regimental/ Student Affairs/Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Prior to this selection, "If" was the Assistant Director of Athletics for Physical Fitness and Club Sports, with additional duties as Assistant Football and Boxing coach. In 2007 he was assigned as the Deputy Commandant and had been the Acting Commandant since July 2008. Bill and Deborah's three kids are doing well. Kimberly is the Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Athens, Ohio. Their two sons (who by the way set some mean picks in b-ball) are still in college. Billy is a junior at Ohio State University. Jeffrey is a sophomore at Yale University. With the selection, Bill was appointed a **CAPTAIN** in the U.S. Merchant Marine Service. He and Deborah have moved into the Commandant's quarter on the campus. Bill tells me that **Bob "Bubba" Destafney** is the Commandant at the Marine Military Academy in California. Congratulations, guys!

In June, **Ken "Sox" Bowersox** was named Vice President, Astronaut Safety and Mission Assurance, for SpaceX. SpaceX is one of the private commercial space ventures. They are developing their own manned space program and like others (Scaled Composites and Virgin Galactic) are forming their own Astronaut Corps. Sox brings his astronaut expertise and credibility to the job. The family

won't be moving to LA where SpaceX is headquartered. Instead, Sox will be collecting some frequent flyer miles as he commutes from there to home in Houston. **Jay DeLoach** is a member of the congressionally mandated Military Leadership Diversity Commission. The commission's task is to review and recommend changes to DOD policies and practices to enhance the diversity of our workforce to reflect the face of America.

On 1 July 2009 **Clarke Orzalli** was promoted to Rear Admiral on board our class sponsored ship, USS Porter DDG 78. The ship did a great job supporting the event with all the bells and whistles. Classmate **VADM Mel Williams** officiated at the ceremony where my Clarke's dad, CAPT John B. Orzalli USN (ret) administered the oath of office. His son Robert and daughter Sarah sang the National Anthem, and son Ian with fiancée Megan Horn removed the one star boards so Clarke's wife, Dale, and Mel could put on the two star boards. Clarke said he was doing ok until Mel read his Lucky Bag bio. Little did he think that the quip written at the end of a green light at the company officer's house would come back to haunt him (You'll have to read it yourselves.). Besides Mel, other classmates attending included **RADM Mark Boensel, Tim Stark, and Rob Zalaskus.**



CAPT Orzalli administers oath to son RADM Orzalli



Clarke Orzalli's Promotion

It's with great sadness that I close with news that **Craig Cowen** passed away on 10 August after a long and valiant fight with cancer. While it may have succeeded in taking his life, it never succeeded in

taking his spirit. I will forever remember and be inspired by that indomitable spirit, his positivity and beaming - and seemingly always present - smile. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation - Cancer Research, 1251 Waterfront Place, Floor 5, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4209. I will also be inspired and proud of Dave's 20th company mates and classmates who were supportive of Lisa and Craig and their children Rachel, Brian and Meghan- most especially Kathy and **Dave Surgent** for their tireless and dedicated efforts to provide Craig with unlimited heartfelt and caring support when he needed it most. Lisa and Craig and their children; and Dave and Kathy are a genuine reflection of our entire class, courageous in the face of adversity, a loving, devoted family and the best friends you could ever have and upon whom one can depend on for any and every circumstance. I know there are countless other examples among you in every way and every day.

Laumchin' Spot Four with the "sky pilot" and prayers for Lisa, Craig and their family; thanks for Kathy and Dave and other similar stories and examples among you, and with pride and gratefulness to be one of *The Great '78*. Semper Fidelis.

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

Greetings, 79ers!

Well, classmates, by the time you read this column, the "Official Countdown to the 30th Reunion of the Class of 1979" will have expired. Yep, the quinquennial gathering of 79ers on the Severn will have just occurred, and everyone will be talking about who was there - and who wasn't. Obviously, I don't have any reunion news to print here, but I do have some items of note to pass on.

First up is some big news from our "Little Rock Correspondent," **Scott Pursley** (spursley@aol.com).

■ On Friday, 19 June 2009, ten members of our class celebrated their retirement after 30 years in a group ceremony at USNA. In addition to Scott, the other retirees were **Walt Ballard, Jonathan Brazee, Denny Fox, Mike Johnson, Ron Kim, Gary LaBuda,**

Mike Van Horn, Ron Rahall, and Fernando Ruiz. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was **Chuck Dixon**, with Chaplain **Roger VanDerWerken** giving the invocation and benediction. **RADM Jeff Lemmons** and Class President **Sean Cate** were the two speakers. Sean's speech covered the group's years at USNA, while Jeff covered their time in the USN/USMC. All in all, there were 40 classmates in attendance. ■

Scott closed by saying he was looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. Congratulations and best wishes to all the retirees on the close of their remarkable military careers.

In other active duty news, fellow 19th Co. bubba **Gary Rossi** (twoaichs@pacbell.net) sent along a couple of photos from **Mark Heinrich's** change of command last summer. After receiving his second star, Mark took over as Commander of the Fleet Industrial Supply Center in San Diego, CA. Other classmates attending the ceremony were **RADM "Fozzie" Miller, Simon Boocock, Jeff Summerour and Chuck Wright.** Once again we congratulate Mark on his new command. And thanks also to Gary for the photos.



FISC Change of Command (l-r): Gary Rossi, Simon Boocock, RADM Mark Heinrich, Chuck Wright, RADM John "Fozzie" Miller, Jeff Summerour

Speaking of 19th Co., **Dave Bethel** (david.a.bethel@lmco.com) checked in a few days ago, fresh off the completion of his annual bike ride for multiple sclerosis. "Big Dave" and his team participated in the 150-mile ride, and in the process raised \$10,300 for the Maryland chapter of the National MS Society. He thanks all those who supported him, financially and otherwise, and vows he will once again ride next year. Congrats, Dave!

In a sure sign that the global economy will soon turn around, **Doug Foreman** recently joined the investment firm HighMark Capital Management, Inc. as senior vice president and director of equities. He will be providing management and oversight of the equity division, including