

(11th Co.), **Shelton Lee (1st Co.)**, **Dan Thompson (21st Co.)**, **Pierre Thuot (11th Co.)** and **Al Tobin (16th Co.)**. Jay also mentioned that anyone interested in getting more information on the DC chapter's monthly events should contact Lee Geanuleas at leejgeanuleas@drs.com.

Finally, Brendan Gray (28th Co.) recently joined the Advisory Board of Air Patrol Corporation, a mobile and wireless threat management solutions company. Brendan, who retired after 30 years of service to his country and Naval Aviation, is vice president of operations for Interactive Data Corporation.

Congratulations to Brendan on his appointment!
Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**
SECY: **Vince Balderrama**
3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com
WEB SITE: usna1978.org

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com
SECY: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
22445 Bluebird Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650
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Greetings, 79ers!

We begin this month with a message from our recently re-elected Class President **Sean Cate**:

■ Classmates, we had a tremendous 30-year Reunion. There are many people to thank who made this Reunion a resounding success, and in fear of missing even one name, I will just put out this blanket Thanks!!! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard for their classmates to ensure a good time was had by all. Throughout the weekend I was the recipient of many thank-yous from classmates, and I hope everyone knows my small role in this was assisted by many classmates and many spouses who gave their time and talents to make our Reunion a success.

I will single out Valerie Gerheiser, our Reunion Coordinator, for special recognition. She brought sound recommendations to the Reunion Committee, did all of the leg work, fought all of our vendors for best prices and support, and assured all of us a smooth weekend. Thanks Valerie!

For everyone who attended – about 355 classmates and over 700 people total – I hope you had a great time. If you have any constructive feedback, please feel free to pass it along to me. We try to make each Reunion a little better than the one before, and it isn't too early to start thinking and planning for 2014.

The same goes for everyone who could not attend. You missed out on a great weekend, and we all hope you'll join us next time. What can we do to get you to come to the next Reunion? Let me know. The more people who attend the Reunion, the better it is for everyone.

At our Class Meeting the results of the Class Officer elections were announced, and with little drama since all were unopposed, your class officers are back, this time for ten year terms. I want to welcome **Chad Sain (21st Company)** as the new 4th Battalion Representative, and thank the outgoing Rep, **Kirk Michealson**, for his strong support over the years. I also want to thank all of the incumbent officers who serve their classmates so well.

If you missed the Class Meeting, please read the minutes when they are posted on the Class Website. There is a lot of good gouge that everyone should know. Also, if you want to share Reunion Pictures with others, please send them to the Class Webmaster per directions on the website. Stan will be posting pictures soon – on a new website layout.

First up on our agenda, and this will apply to all classmates, is closing the gap on the Class MIA's. I want each Company to identify a Company Representative and report that to your Battalion Representative. I will download a fresh database soon and sort it by Company so that I can pass the latest Contact information to the Company reps. We will spend some time trying to locate those who are missing, including non-grads and widows.

Finally, I am most humbled by your trust and confidence in letting me continue as Class President. It is an honor for me to support my classmates. BEAT ARMY! Sean ■

I have a couple of Flag Updates to pass along. **RADM John Messerschmidt** was received his second star in a ceremony at Navy Reserve Force headquarters in Norfolk, VA on 1 October 2009. He took command of Navy Reserve Forces Command in November 2008.



RADM John Messerschmidt's Promotion

Our own **VADM Bob Harward Jr**, deputy, Commander U.S. Joint Forces Command was the guest speaker at John's promotion. Shortly after the ceremony, Bob was assigned by Defense Secretary Gates as commander, Joint Task Force 435, Afghanistan. *With our **BGEN Bob Walsh** also over in that part of the world, don't you almost feel sorry for the Taliban now? Me neither!* Congrats to both John and Bob!

I also heard from **Jon Bayless**, who as you may recall is the very first 79er to be selected for Flag rank. Jon let me know that he retired from the Navy last October at the Washington Navy Yard. The weather was beautiful (always a risk!), and about people attended. Eight classmates attended: **Rusty Mirick, Drew Brugal, RDML Tim Moon, RADM John Messerschmidt, RADM Nevin Carr, Ed Obrien, and Dave Jackson**. John and Tim participated in the ceremony as side boys. Jon says he's planning to take some time off to visit family and friends as well as search for the next career opportunity – probably in the DC area. Congrats, Jon, on your retirement and highly successful career.



Bayless Retirement (l-r): **Rusty Mirick, Drew Brugal, RDML Tim Moon, RADM John Messerschmidt, RADM Jon Bayless, RADM Nevin Carr, Ed Obrien, Dave Jackson**

Our first post-reunion update comes from someone who wasn't there! **Tom Smith** (tomnvickie@yahoo.com) checked in with the following email:

■ Having missed the reunion due to work got me thinking I ought to send in