

gave birth to their first child, a beautiful baby girl named Tula, on 30 January. That makes grandchild #4 for Barb and me!



Grandpa holds baby Tula while Matt and Barb look on

Keep the news coming!

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 71%

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We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Frank Greco (3rd Co.)** February 5th after battling pancreatic cancer. Frank, who retired to Pasadena, MD as a Captain, was a decorated SWO who loved his country music. He leaves behind his wife Dorothy and three children. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dorothy and the rest of Frank's family.

*Here he lies where he longed to be;  
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,...*

Next, it's somehow fitting we now turn to witness a passing of the torch of sorts, as what will all too soon be our proud and honored past meets the bright promise of our future! **Owen Thorp (22nd Co.)** forwarded the following photograph showing his daughter Gina with **Mike "Good morning Mrs. Cleaver...good**

**morning Mr. Cleaver!" Canders (9th Co.)** at Colonel Canders' Christmas open house.



Mike and Gina

Eddie and Gina are both stationed at Sather AB, where they work within 50 yards of each other. By the time this article is published, Gina will have only a month or two left in Baghdad, traveling then to Ft. Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska and, ultimately, the Army hospital in El Paso, TX. Though such a series of transfers would normally require a certain amount of acclimation, thanks to anthropogenic global warming, she'll never notice the difference!

Our sincere thanks to both Mike and Gina, as well as their families, for their service and dedication...as well as our continued prayers for their safe return.

**Craig Langman (28th Co.)** and **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)** sent a number of pictures from the Hampton Roads Army-Navy get-together, including this group of salty-looking dudes....



From left to right, we have our old roomie **Guy Cofield (35th Co.)**, **Frank "the Senator" Wagner (24th Co.)**, **Bob, Craig and Dave Paddock (11th Co.)**

Then there's this view of **Craig** and the Senator, either telling fish tales, or....



The Senator and Craig

....we can only hope they're telling fish tales! Either way, they're lying!

Finally, **Bill Herberger (9th Co.)** and **Wally Tart (9th Co.)** uncovered a particularly nefarious attempt by one of our own, **Skip McKenzie (9th Co.)**, the publicity-shy CEO of WRIT, to avoid detection.

Skip, you should know by now once Herb and Gator are on your trail, surrender IS your only option!

Until next time, please, keep those emails and photos coming!

— Magoo

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

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Apologies for the absence of a column last month- and it was a dual-month issue so I am doubly embarrassed. No excuse sirs.

As this hits your mail boxes Elizabeth and I will be showing our house in Baldwinsville, NY (just a few miles north of Syracuse) and hoping to make a quick sale so we can be on our way to Maryland. At the beginning of the year my relocation package was approved. I'll be working out of our offices in Crystal City, VA. We're hoping to find a house in Annapolis. By this time I should also be hobbling less and able to travel on airplanes as I continue to recover from surgery to repair my ACL. Yes, it's the ACL that I hurt over a year ago during the basketball game at our 30th Reunion. Hey, I've already heard all the comments so don't even waste your time calling me a chowder headed, dumb grunt, etc. for having put it off for so long. Spring will soon be upon us and I thought it about time that I finally got back to struggling with golf. Besides, golf was something Elizabeth and I started to do and which we could continue to do together - sports



Closing Bell

wise. We've always been very competitive Mini-golfers but started to hit the big links when we realized that many (if not all) of the weekend golfers were just as crappy as us. So we thought "what the heck, be daring and go play". Elizabeth often says that despite being the child of a physical education teacher she's never been athletic—but golf is a game she's got a better knack for than I seem to do. (Yup, she kicks my butt.) So with my surgery and recovery complete I could soon be digging divots, tossing clubs and telling tales at the 19th hole – just like a lot of you!

For a while it had been the doldrums of news etc. It wasn't helped by the fact that my computer dumped over 600 old messages. On the plus side my Outlook inbox isn't as bad as it once was. On the negative there were some old e-mails that I had meant to save to my Shipmate working file but didn't. I do recall one from **Stephen E. Maloney** who had written with pride about his son completing – I think – Buds or Seal Training –. Steve, mea culpa. Please correct me and I owe you and your son mega beers. Regardless, the chain of Maloney men serving their nation is still strong.

I got an update from **H Scott Rodgers**. He's been living in the panhandle of Florida for almost a year now and commutes from Ft. Walton t Dallas-Ft. Worth. I told you last time that Scott and his first wife **Pam [Wacek] Svendsen ('80)** had been dating again. Well during their October trip together to Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic Pam proposed to Scott. Almost thirty years from when he first proposed to Pam the shoe was on the other foot as Pam proposed to Scott. He said yes of course. **John Semcken's** wife, Mee Hae, will officiate the ceremony that will take sometime this summer. Congratulations and best wishes this second time around.

Speaking of congrats—congratulations to **Rich Cellon**. On Oct 23rd Rich relinquished command as Commander, First Naval Construction Division (the Navy Seabees) in ceremony that was also his retirement. Thirteen classmates were in attendance. Shown in the photo he sent below are: Front row L-R **Scott Eckert** (22nd Co), **Clark Orzalli** (23rd Co), **Rich Cellon** (6th Co), **Mark Boensel** (21st Co), **Joe Peterson** (6th Co); Back row L-R **Ed Reid** (21st Co), **Steve Maloney** (16th Co), **Dennis Reilly** (22nd Co), **Kurt Stein** (6th Co), **Glenn Flanagan** (22nd Co), **Pat McCormick**



'78 at Rich Cellon's Retirement

(6th Co), **Otto Bulich** (21st Co), **J.D. Oliver** (32nd Co), and **Jim Degree** (33rd Co). Rich is now with the Willbros Group as President of their Government Services. Willbros provides services to the government sector, to include general construction and operations and maintenance. We all wish you success in this second career, Rich.

**John Casey** got back from Baghdad in November. John works for Stanley Baker Hill and had been doing contractor support in Iraq. Welcome home, John. It almost appears that any of you have spent more time "deployed" in your civilian jobs than on active duty. Well, at least it seems as if it is to more interesting places.

Our class Vice President, **Sean Coffey**, recently retired from his law firm (Bernstein Litowitz, Berger & Grossman LLP). Sean's had a very successful 11 year career at BLB&G that John Grisham would label as "Rainmaker"-like. While there, Sean was a leading securities litigator and played a leading role in cases including a \$217 million settlement from former Baptist Foundation of Arizona auditor Arthur Andersen LLP, and the landmark WorldCom Securities Litigation in which BLB&G recovered over \$6 billion for investors. But the call to return to public service (he was a former Assistant U.S. Attorney) has been too great for Sean. He is exploring a run for election as New York Attorney General. He conditions its dependency on our current AG, Andrew Cuomo, running for New York Governor. We New York residents believe that will certainly happen so we could just have our classmate being a candidate for Attorney General and a strong advocate for us! Good luck, Sean.

We also have another three star-congratulations to **Bill Burke**. In November Bill was nominated to Vice Admiral and assignment as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4). Bill was serving as Director of the Navy Quadrennial

Defense Review (N09B). Congrats also to our Marine Corps two-stars. The day before our Marine Corps Birthday, **John Wissler** was promoted to Major General. John recently returned from Iraq where he was the Deputy Commanding General, Multi-national Forces West (MN-F) and the Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Corps Expeditionary Force (II MEF).

**Maurice "Mo" Tose** has been selected to serve on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC). As a member of the CSRIC, Mo joins a prestigious group of communications industry leaders who will provide recommendations to the Commission regarding best practices and actions to ensure optimal security, reliability and interoperability of communications systems, including public safety, telecommunications and media communications. Okay, Mo I think you'll have to do more research than reviewing Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words You Can Never Say on Television". Besides, Carlin didn't have cable when he first created the list. **Tim McGee** was nominated by the President for Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Observation and Prediction), Department of Commerce. FirstEnergy Corporation announced that effective in April, **Charles E. Jones**, senior vice president, Energy Delivery and Customer Service will be the senior vice president and president FirstEnergy Utilities. Chuck will lead FirstEnergy's seven regulated electric utility operating companies in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The utilities comprise the nation's fifth largest investor-owned electric system, based on 4.5 million customers served. Upon leaving the Academy after Youngster year, Chuck went on to get a double-E degree from the University of Akron. Congratulations also go to **Don Hamblen** who in early January was promoted to Senior Vice President – Customer Marketing for

Family Dollar Stores. Don began his marketing career as a brand manager with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. Prior to joining Family Dollar, he served as Chief Marketing Officer for Sears and before that he headed the marketing department at Payless Shoesource.

At the end of last year **David Bruce** sent greetings from across the pond in England. He first had updated his profile on our class web site (something we all should do— I am guilty). After five wonderful years of training African deploying staffs with the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program on a part-time basis with Northrop Grumman, but with a very thin 2009 with only 12 weeks of work instead of the previous 22-26 and the obvious negative impact on the family finances, Dave accepted an offer of a full-time position at the Regional Joint Intelligence Training Facility at RAF Molesworth, UK. He's still with Northrop Grumman, but on a DOD contract instead of State Department. He thought it funny to be back in the military world and in-processing at a base six years after retiring. He now has one of those "new-fangled Common Access Cards with a chip". The job still involves training in Africa, as we are responsible for a Military Intelligence Basic Officer's Course and a Security Manager's Course. They also do training in Eastern Europe. The family is still in France and Dave gets home at least one four-day weekend per month.

The beginning of the year brought more sadness to our '78 family with the sudden loss of classmates, parents and

children. On New Year's Day, **Barth Doroshuk** ended the pain of his battle with cancer and of the disconnection the deafness it created had caused him. The next day, **Kurt Maszun** died of a sudden heart attack. At the time of his heart attack he was doing something he loved— golfing. It happened on the 1st hole and was quick, so no suffering. Around the same time **George Billy's** mother, Dolores, lost her struggle with congestive heart failure. Just before Christmas, Sara and **Jon Kutler's** 17 year old son, Brendan, died unexpectedly in his sleep. In mid-January, **Jim Reilly's** 14 year old daughter Katie finally succumbed after her three-year battle with cancer. I suspect there may be more stories out there as well. Each death sends a ripple through our collective hearts, fills us with grief and anger at the loss and unfulfilled promise. At moments like these it's tough being your scribe. But I take comfort— and I know you will as well— by recalling the memories and holding on to the time and moments we *did share* with those friends and classmates. I chuckle and smile at the fun times and the "sea story" events replayed in my head, I consider them not gone but rather the "advanced party" prepping things for us, for when we meet up again. And I get by.

Well, in closing here's a group shot of the '78 stalwarts who braved the cold to see our Navy football team beat Army once again! Brrrr...it looked cold but I am certain some good drink and great camaraderie helped warm the day! It's another memory to retain when the times get tough. Launchin' Spot Four.



'78 Tailgaters at Army-Navy '09

## 79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Classmates,

As this issue deadline hits, I find myself involved in a huge project taking just about all of my time. Although I've heard from several 79ers and have some good inputs, I just haven't yet put them all together into a column. And I didn't want to just hurriedly cobble together a few sentences— you all deserve better than that.

So I ask your indulgence in not having a column for this issue. I promise I'll have everything put together for the next one. Take care, stay safe, and enjoy the arrival of spring.

See you next month— promise!

—Wiz

## 80 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 96%

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Greetings Classmates—WHO DAT!!! In case you are wondering— Hell Froze Over last night— and the Saints won the Super Bowl. I have been in the French Quarter for just about every event I can imagine and last night after the victory over the Colts was the wildest, most incredible gathering of happy people that I have ever seen in my life. It's now 10 am the day afterwards when the rest of the country is hard at work— and the festivities have not yet wrapped up! WHO DAT!! It was a great day for New Orleans. For all of you Indianapolis Fans, sorry about that! We're huge Payton Manning fans down here since he is one of the local favorites along with Archie and Eli. However, today is the day of the WHO DAT Nation! WHO DAT SAY GONNA BEAT 'DEM SAINTS? It's also the day that we voted our past Mayor out of office for hopefully some great recovery initiatives that will come through for our City of New Orleans.

Just prior to the game I received a call from Melanie and **Mike Matson**, Michael.Matson@ngc.com, who are living in Ocean Springs, MS. They came over to watch the game with us here in