

The Sturms reside in Indiana, where Mike recently took a job as the Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Indiana.

Speaking of new jobs, **Ev McNair (34th Co.)** wrote to note he just accepted a position as Vice President of Corporate Support with IOMAX in Mooresville, NC, a private company that provides value-add wireless communications solutions. Ev, best of luck in the new job.

Moving from 8-3 to 8-4, **Jim Rowan (33rd Co.)** emailed to let us know he'd been thinking of us...which was deeply disturbing until we learned the circumstances! Seems Jim spent a week in the bountiful bosom of Mother B while coaching a Navy LAX camp with his son, JJ.



Jim and JJ Rowan

Jim's been going back to Navy regularly to help coach programs held each summer by Richie Meade, but this year was special, as JJ spent the week working alongside the old man. JJ plays goalie at Belmont Abbey College outside of Charlotte, and attended the same program 5 previous years as a camper. The picture above was taken alongside the 8th wing, and though you can't see Jim's old company spaces on 8-3, if you look closely, the far-left window on 8-1 was our abode 1st-class year. Jim remains in Houston with his wife Marian, where he's a principal in a consulting company.

On a side note, I mentioned to Jim the rooms in Bancroft must be far more comfortable these days than when we last called the Hall home. He replied that while they are indeed air-conditioned, the thermostat, which sits behind a metal plate, seemed to be set rather high, likely in the interests of energy conservation. In the best tradition of the USMC, a little improvisation and seat-of-the-pants engineering enabled Jim to determine a plastic bag filled with hot water from the sink hung over the plate with a push pin

caused the thermostat to crank on the air. As the water cooled, Jim simply repeated the process as necessary until the desired temperature was achieved! Amazing to think, after all these years, Thermo finally paid off! Semper Fi, baby!

Finally, we were honored to attend the May 7th retirement ceremony for **Kevin Quinn (16th Co.)** aboard the USS *Iwo Jima* at the Norfolk Naval Base.



Kevin Quinn Retirement

Pictured above are '77 attendees **Bill Daniels (32nd Co.)**, **John Read (32nd Co.)**, **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)**, the retiree, **Jerry Miller (19th Co.)**, **Craig Langman (28th Co.)** and yours truly. It was a fitting end to a very successful career...that almost wasn't, as **Skip McKenzie (9th Co.)** informed us, and Akbar the Magnificent confirmed. Seems way back when, Quinny was enjoying Plebe Year so much he determined to get himself kicked out. Giving the situation his customary thorough analysis, Kevin decided the surest path to freedom required he remain AWOL for 24 hours. And where better to while away the allotted time than in the comfortable environs of Navy-Marine Corps Stadium! So after spending the night memorizing all the battles listed in the stands, Kevin returned to face the music...only the song wasn't the one he expected to hear.

The rest, after endless hours of ED and restriction, and some 36 years later, is, as they say, history! The "world's" loss was the Navy's gain. So on behalf of the entire Class of '77, our sincere thanks to Kevin for his dedication, sacrifice and service. And to both Barbara and Kevin, fair winds and following seas; enjoy the fruits of your long labor.

Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

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Gosh these "seasonal" issues on the heels of a dual month issue have really thrown

me off! Besides, I really have to scrap the brain to recall some news- so *pah-leeez-* send me some news!

Kim Ewin dropped a note because her husband **Jeff Ewin** never does. (Kinda like a lot of you). She wrote that Barb and **Jon Sears** once again had hosted a Fourth of July "mini-reunion" at their beach house in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Attending was Denise and **Mike Fralen**, Judi and **Faris Farwell**, & Kim and **Jeff Ewin**. Conversation, beverages and food were abundant as the saying goes "a good time was had by all". A highlight was watching the guys help each other into the Kayaks. They all hope to get together again for a Navy football game! (Thanks, Kim.)



Our best wishes go to **Bill Dunkin** for a continued recovery from his July triple bypass heart surgery at Washington Hospital Center in Washington DC. By now Pam may have revoked his "Excuse Chit" and put him back on full duty (if not "light duty"). Best wishes also go to **Mark "Bunts" Bunting** as he continues to fight the fight with cancer. Last I checked, he's hanging in there. He has his up days and down days. He did say that the last med was had some of his extremities a little numb. He felt a little nauseous and tired. I reminded him that being numb, nauseous and tired sounded a lot Plebe summer. Hang in there Bunts. We are all behind you.

Been meaning to check out my Foxtrot Company mate (12th Company's) **Fred Sheehan's** blog at www.aucontrarian.com. Fred's also the author of *Panderer to Power: The Untold Story of How Alan Greenspan Enriched Wall Street and Left a Legacy of Recession* (McGraw-Hill, November 2009). Fred's been the Director of Asset Allocation Services at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston where he set investment policy and asset allocation for institutional pension plans. For more than a decade, he wrote the monthly "Market Outlook" and quarterly "Market Review" for clients. Fred's also a frequent contributor to Marc Faber's "Gloom, Boom & Doom Report." He's also written articles for "Whiskey & Gunpowder" and the *Prudent Bear* website,

among others. Fred currently serves as an advisor to an investment firm and a non-profit foundation. He's a Chartered Financial Analyst and a graduate of Columbia Business School. I love reading the blurbs you've sent me, Fred (even though it sometimes hurts my brain)!

Ray Kempisty's son, Mitch, is among this Plebe Class ('14). Just like dad he is a member of "Golf" Company – except the 14th Company side and not dad's Lucky 13! Now how Ray managed to arrange that I'll never know! Ray and Annette live in Laurel so with a Plebe son they'll be reconnecting with Mother B and finding the 28 mile distance a very short trip. Mitch's first letter home brought back memories of our days at Mother B (was that *really* a letter or an *e-mail*?!). In it he commented that he the place..um, "vacuumed what we used to shine on Bill the Goat" (Okay I cleaned it up a little for you Ray, but I think our classmates will get the gist of it!) When Ray told his sister **Judy Kempisty** ('88), her comment was "tell me something I don't know." Ah, some things never change. Ray is a lawyer and currently an editor for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. His wife, Annette is a manager at NASA Headquarters. Their other son, Steve, is a junior at the University of Maryland majoring in mechanical engineering. Hmm, that should make the Navy-Maryland game *very interesting* for mom and dad! (BEAT THE TERPS).

Fair Winds and Following Seas to Katie and **Jeff Fowler** and the Fowler family. As this goes to print, they are now in CIVDIV. On August 3rd Mike Miller ('74) became the 61st Superintendent in relieve of Jeff. The event was well attended by '78. Look for more news on it next time.

Gotta run! Launchin' Spot Four! (And hoping to return with a full mail bag!)

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Rain. We're finally getting some rain. After months of trying to keep the plants and shrubs alive, we're finally getting help from Mother Nature.

It's also raining news about **VADM Bob Harward**. Literally. Every time I turn around there's another news article, email or photo featuring Bob in one of his many capacities. So let's bring you up to date.

As you may remember, Bob had been serving as deputy commander, US Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA. In November, Bob became commander, Joint Task Force 435 in Kabul. Under the auspices on US Central Command, JTF 435 is responsible for US detention operations in that country. This includes the care and custody of detainees at the Detention Facility in Parwan, oversight of detainee review processes, programs for the peaceful reintegration of detainees into society, and coordination with other agencies and partners for the promotion of the rule of law in Afghanistan.

As part of its mission, JTF 435 will train and mentor the Afghan government to help improve detention operations throughout Afghanistan so these operations can be transitioned back to the Afghan government in accordance with all applicable international and national laws. The command also coordinates with other agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and coalition partners.

On 31 July, CENTCOM issued a press release stating that Bob "assumes command, control, oversight, and responsibility for US detention and correction operations in Afghanistan and - with policy guidance from US Embassy and in cooperation with Afghan, interagency, coalition, and international counterparts - prepares to build capacity in and transition to the (Afghani government) for self-sustaining Afghan National Detention and Rule of Law institutions that are compliant with Afghan and international law."

What's not clear to me is if this represents any change in Bob's assignment, or if this is just an official acknowledgment of what he and his command are doing. Regardless, it's a sure bet that Bob has an extremely important assignment, and we wish him all success in his mission. As **Bill Toti** once told me, "when the history of this war is written, Bob Harward's name will figure prominently." Of that I have no doubt.

As busy as he is, Bob always finds the time for other important things. In July, Bob's nephew Ian Kriegish graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Ensign. Thanks to modern technology, CENTCOM set up

a video teleconference from Kabul, and "Uncle Bob" administered the oath of office to his nephew. How cool is that?



Two '79er "Giants" (l-r): Bob Harward and Phil McConkey

Wrapping up the "Bob Harward issue" is an email from **Phil McConkey**:

■ Attached is a photo of myself and VADM Bob Harward, our classmate and head of the SEALs (I'm not sure of his official title). We had an intense workout in Coronado last time he was in town, but next time it's my workout on my turf! ■

Thanks to Phil for the note and photo.

In other Flag news, I received an interesting email from **RADM Mike Shatynski** (michael.shatynski@navy.mil):

■ Wiz, thought I should let you and our classmates know that I recently won the National Off Road Racing Association (NORRA) Mexican 1000 off-road race. Over 1000 miles of racing on dirt over 3 days. Quite an accomplishment and also lots of work. My Navy background - people, equipment, & mission - served me and my team well. Off-road racing was my hobby and passion before 9/11. I've got to give lots of credit to my wife who confronted me a couple months prior and told me she was going to sell my old off-road race buggy if I didn't get it out of the garage and back into the desert for this race.

This is the first time in 40 years that this off-road race has run the length of the Baja peninsula. My co-driver in the single-seat racer, George Erl, is a Marine Corps vet who missed the first two races in 1967 and 1968 because he was deployed to Viet Nam. A true hero.

Old guys rule! Mike ■

I went on the website and checked this out - the race ran the entire length of the Baja peninsula, from the US border down to La Paz, near the southern tip. Mike and his copilot completed the race in a little over two days, with a lot of logistical help. And the best part about this is - Mike wouldn't have done this if his wife hadn't threatened to sell his ride! Congrats, Mike! Some day, when I get to be your age, I'll also say "Old Guys rule!"