

in the early fall. Please keep John and Kathy in your thoughts and prayers as he takes on this incredibly important duty at this difficult time in the war in Afghanistan.

Bill Ostendorff - Bill Ostendorff was sworn in as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on April 1, 2010 for a term ending June 30, 2011. Prior to his appointment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, he served as Director of the Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy at the National Academies. He came to the National Academies after serving as Principal Deputy Administrator at the National Nuclear Security Administration from April 2007 until April 2009. From 2003-2007, he was a member of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee where he served as counsel and staff director for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

That's all for the news. Stay tuned for lots of excitement with the pending 35th reunion and another fall of exciting gridiron action and tailgaters!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 71%

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*"To young men contemplating a voyage,
I'd say go."*

Joshua Slocum

Leading off this month's installment, **Pete Green (17th Co.)** had the honor of attending **Phil Wisecup's (17th Co.)** March change-of command at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Also in attendance were **Skip McVay (17th Co.)**, Phil's roommate for all 4 years of his sentence on the Severn, and **Brendan Gray (28th Co.)**. Skip retired from the Reserves as an O-6, and for the last 25 years has been working for Northrup Grumman in San Diego. Brendan drove down for the festivities from Boston where's he's been swinging in a "golden parachute" since the buyout of his financial IT company. Pete is still residing and working in Southern Maryland where he heads up the Aerospace Group of Wyle.



Phil betrayed his Ohio roots during his portion of the ceremony by using the exclamations like, "Oh heck!" and "Darn", as well as recognizing the presence of his classmates by observing, "There's been a lot of water that's gone under the keel since our Plebe Year." The CNO noted Phil was leaving beautiful Newport to come to Washington as Inspector General, "the conscience of the Navy". Given where our ship-of-state appears to be headed, we need all the conscience we can get, so we can't think of a better man for the job!

Next up, **Mike Canders (10th Co.)** was recently appointed to JPMorgan Chase's 5-member Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Council, where he'll be hobnobbing with such luminaries as Roger Staubach and Stan McChrystal. The purpose of the council is to advise the firm on a comprehensive strategy to design programs and products aimed at serving the unique needs of members of the military, veterans and their families. Mike is currently president of Telephonics' Communication Systems Division, having retired in July 2010 after completing more than eight years of full-time military service in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, including multiple deployments as part of America's ongoing "overseas contingency operations". Haskell credits former roomie **Joe Walsh (10th Co.)** with this and every other success he's ever experienced.

And since we're on the subject of success, an internet search for "Skip McKenzie, Mad Money" will bring up a video clip of **George McKenzie (9th Co.)**, our former LPD-9 Bunkie, giving Jim Kramer the benefit of his vast real estate experience. Atta boy, Skip; another Rat success story!

An April meeting of the Alumni Association's International Chapter Officers Forum saw '77's **Ples Bruce (11th Co.)**, **Harry Rouse (34th Co.)** and **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)** (representing Atlanta, Tulsa and Greater Washington respectively) in Annapolis for

lunch in the Wardroom and a mandatory photo-op in the Yard.



Harry noticed Lee was shocked, *shocked*, to learn Ham Francisco was no longer on the menu cycle.

Speaking of the Left Coast, **Tim Jenks (26th Co.)** checked in from Silicon Valley where he's CEO of NeoPhotonics, a 7-person start-up he joined some 10 years ago and grew into the largest producer of photonic integrated circuit-based modules and subsystems for optical telecommunications network equipment in the world, with over 3,000 employees worldwide. **Ben Sitrler (21st Co.)** is NeoPhotonics' Global VP of Sales & Product Management, and Tim notes it's great having a trusted classmate to work with on a daily basis and help keep the company on course. Tim resides in Menlo Park, CA with his wife, Atsuko, a Stanford B-School classmate, and two high-schooling daughters. P.S. As NeoPhotonics' just completed a successful IPO, come the 35th, drinks are on Jenks and Sitrler!

Finally, **Wally "Gator" Tart (9th Co.)** informed us **Kirk "Buddy" Barker (9th Co.)** is now a grandfather, having just celebrated the birth of Gavin Allen Barker, 22" long and 10 lb. 1 oz. in weight (8 lb. 6 oz. after circumcision, at least according to the proud Grandpa!) Gavin Allen Barker: "Man's Threat, Woman's Pet"...the legend continues!
Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SECY: **Vince Balderrama**

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Since I last wrote there have been a lot of accomplishments and recognitions on the part of classmates and families that give reason to a Big "Bravo Zulo" to many of you!

First off- congratulations to the newly minted Ensigns and Second Lieutenants

with the Class of 2011. Class of 78 has quite a few proud parents among those who snapped on shoulder boards and pinned on "Butter Bars" on Commissioning Day. They were: **Will Kramer (Andy)**, **Dave Price (David)**, **Mark Munson (Mark Jr.)**, **Tom Rentz (Kate)**, **Jonathan Will (Graham)**, **Bob Schmermund (Ritchie)** and **Paul Wiedorn (Patrick)**. Sorry I don't know any more details but I suspect I'll start getting some more pics and other correspondence over the next few weeks. I also know many of you have sons and daughters who've gotten degrees and – we hope – are headed off to new jobs and off the "parental payroll". One such example is Sara and **Jon Kutler**. Their daughter, Caroline, graduated Harvard this year. Jon reported that it was "very exciting — the only school with "almost" as much pageantry and as long a graduation week as Navy". I think I recall Caroline will be interning with some media relations firm in New York while she still searches for that "right" job in Sports that's more in-line with her education and heart. (Media relations, team management, etc.). Good luck, Caroline— some of old guys are *still* searching for just such a job— well, the one aligned with our heart. For now, here's a representative example of graduates and newly Commissioned Officers taken from Facebook. It's of **Will Kramer** and his wife Siri snapping Ensign Boards on Andy.



Speaking of congratulations, there were quite a few notable accomplishments: **Maurice Tose** was selected by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce as one of this year inductees to the Maryland Business hall of Fame. Mo was recognized his accomplishments with TeleCommunication Systems (TCS) which he and Teri founded in Annapolis in 1987. Beginning as a small, IT-related business, the TCS is now a publicly traded, high-technology innovator with offices in North America and abroad, specializing in wireless messaging software and data systems and precise-location

technology, including E911 call routing. Mo is also serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, and is a member of the Federal Communications Commission's Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council. He is also a board member of CTIA-The Wireless Association, and a member of the Maryland Governor's International Advisory Council. Since being created in 2000 there are now only 35 inductees in the Hall of Fame, including Mo. By the way, in the small world department- I got a Facebook note from **Guido Manzo**. He happened to be in Shanghai on business. Guess who he bumps into in the elevator of his hotel- Mo! Yup, we men of '78 get around.

In April, twenty-second company's **Mike Duncan** was appointed president and chief executive officer by the Chester County Hospital and Health System. Mike's been in the health care industry for over 24 years. Before the appointment he served as chief executive officer and executive director of ColumbiaDoctors, a 1200 physician medical group faculty practice plan at Columbia University in New York City. Prior to joining Columbia in 2006, he was the chief executive officer of Temple University Physicians and vice dean for Clinical Operations at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Mike also has held executive positions at the University of Oklahoma, PacifiCare, and Prudential Health Care. He and Carol live in the Big Apple. Congrats, Mike—looks like you are the man for any physician referrals!

Shawn Tallant has left Raytheon after six years. He is now Vice President of Business Development & Strategy, Gibbs & Cox. The good news is this change keeps me in the greater Washington DC area – ensuring his wife, Joanne, can stay connected with her parents – and Shawn can continue to enjoy classmate comradery at USNA football games and tailgaters.

Rick Wren relinquished his triple-hatted command as U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ), Commander, Navy Region Japan (CNRJ) and Commander, Naval Component, U.S. Forces to Rear Adm. **Dan Cloyd** [USNA]. The Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, Vice Admiral **Scott Van Buskirk** ('79), presided over the ceremony. Rick has had a busy command tour most notably its recent large contribution to Operation Tomodachi – the U.S. relief effort after the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami

that struck Japan in March. Rick will retire from the Navy. He and Diane plan to settle down in Colorado. We wish him the well and a *relaxing* retirement— but something tells me he is too young to spend all day at home doing "honey-do's". Besides, as most of our wives know, we'd drive them nuts being at home 24/7, 365 so I expect to be hearing something about a job, or a seat on a board or consulting. Regardless, we send our best to him and Diane as they transition to civilian life.

Belated congrats go to **Mark Ferguson** for completing the 2011 Boston Marathon this April. His wife, Laure', was his cheering section and urged him on at Heartbreak Hill. Mark reported it was a beautiful day for the race – "perfect weather, amazing crowds, and a tail wind all the way". While the tail wind prevented the winner from having a sanctioned World Record I am sure it helped to sweep Fergie along the course to complete in almost four and a half hours. I know I couldn't even do the 26 plus miles in that time in my car—no...seriously...ever drive in Boston traffic?! (Of course, on foot it would take me *days!*) Way to make us feel young again, Mark!



A Boston Marathon Victory Hug- Mark and Laure Ferguson

I heard that **Billy Martin** got married in early June. No new word on the nuptials or the party afterward. Then again, it *could still be going on!* We wish him and his new bride all the happiness in the world. Give my regards to the Chief, Billy!

Tim Sawyer sent word that he is "alive and still breathing, thank God." He retired from a 25 year retail management career, the end of which was with Wal-Mart, last year. (Hey that's where **Ray Bracy** works too!) In that time, Tim never married but did manage to have two dogs, two cats. Wouldn't you know it-

fate steps in and during the last six years he was lucky to find his better half, Bette. He now divides his time between the house in the Pocono Mountains, PA and the house in Melbourne FL. Tim plans to attend this year's Homecoming and looks forward to seeing "some of the best friends of [his] life." So all you 6th Company guys make some room around the tailgater grill for your companymate. Hey Tim, do you think you can put a good word for me in on Wal-Mart? It just could be my *fourth career* after Lockheed Martin. How's this sound? "Welcome to Wal-Mart. Grab your 'shtuff" and go!"— Hmm, maybe that's not right.... See you around the tailgater!

Elizabeth and I had a pleasant dinner at Mike's Crab House with **Mike Sears** and his son, Matthew, during Commissioning Week. They had flown in on a Red Eye from California *just* to see the Blue Angels and the Marine Corps Silent Precision Drill Team perform. (Matthew is an aspiring future Naval Aviator!) Unfortunately the Blues were canceled but they persevered anyway. Being a former Marine, Mike knows our *other* motto is "Semper Gumby" (Always Flexible) so he made adjustments to their schedule to instead take in the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico with an attempt at the Air and Space Museum. Matthew's already been to the Naval Academy's STEM program and at fourteen he's got a couple of years to go before applying to summer session but I think we have on the path to being Class of 2019(?). Hey, Coach Kostacopoulos! He's already pitched a game with a 4 pitch inning. Of course being tall- I have my eyes on him for Navy Crew. Either way Matthew may be at Hubbard Hall and a potential Balderrama sponsored Mid! It was great seeing Mike and we're glad he could make it to the "right" coast. He's a pretty busy guy. He's served as a member of Innovative Solution for Energy's (ISE) board of directors since July 2009 and since 2008 has served as a Vice President and Investment Partner for Siemens Venture Capital, Inc. Before that Mike was a Managing Partner at Atrium Capital for a couple of years and before then a The Reticle Group and a Vice President of Digeo, Inc. Something I *didn't know* before was that not only does Mike have an MBA from Stanford but *also* a J.D. (Yup, I checked a bio, Mike). Well, I am impressed—but not so much as by the fact you are a Devil Dog (and former

Sniper Company Platoon Commander). Semper Fi, brother.

Well, that's all there is to print. Send in those cards and letters and e-mails. Elizabeth and I have our Sponsor Training at the end of July. We get our "issued" Midshipman in August- and No, Ray Kwong, I will *not* be chauffeuring them about at Oh-dark thirty for a last minute ride to Bancroft! *Our* Mid will be better trained. Until next month- Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Right after last month's column went to press, I received another email from **Mike Kennedy**, who sent me an update for when I had "a slow month for SHIPMATE input." As I quickly scanned the rest of his note, I realized what he sent was a big deal: he had just accepted the National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction from Director of National Intelligence, the Honorable James Clapper. Mike received the award on behalf of the Protected Internet eXchange (PIX) system Team. PIX is a private, US government-sponsored online community where professionals working on stability and development efforts in Afghanistan connect and share information within a secure unclassified environment.



Hon. James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, presents the National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction to Mike Kennedy.

Mike is currently the Director of the Intelink Enterprise Collaboration Center (Intelink for short) for the Director of National Intelligence and IC CIO. As part of his role, he directed the program that

included professionals from across multiple government agencies worldwide. Says Mike: "The Team resolved numerous technical challenges to deliver the system on time - 79 days (no coincidence) from signed contract to initial operating capability and 125 days to full operating capability." Congratulations, Mike, on this significant achievement!

Dana Martinez (dmartinez@projectconsult.us) sent in a brief update on what's happening in 28th Co:

■ A short update from a few of us from 28th company. The attached picture is from the Navy ND game at the New Meadowlands Stadium last fall: **Ken Panos**, myself, **Dale Nees** and **Rusty Mirick**. We were fortunate to be able to watch the game from the newly completed MetLife Suite at the stadium, which made the victory even more enjoyable. I live in New Jersey and I am the Executive VP of a small Construction Consulting firm in New York. My firm (ProjectConsult) was MetLife's Construction Manager for the construction of the suite at the new stadium. I also recently completed my role as Program Manager for JetBlue's new terminal at JFK. I have been in the Construction Management Business since I resigned my commission back in 1990.

Rusty retired (from active duty) about 3 years ago and lives in Virginia and is currently a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in Virginia. Ken also lives in Virginia. He retired about 6 years ago and is the Director for Congressional Relations for Aerojet, an aerospace and defense propulsion company. Dale currently lives in South Bend, Indiana. Dale is still on active duty (retired retained) and is currently the Commanding Officer at the Navy ROTC unit at Notre Dame. ■



Navy/ND 2010 (l-r): Ken Panos, Dana Martinez, Dale Nees and Rusty Mirick.

Thanks, Dana, for the update. What I can't figure out is how you guys in 28th Co. never age!