

our class to review the parade. Continuing bus transportation will be available throughout the day to and from the Westin and the yard.

Friday evening is one of our main events of the weekend. A Reception and Dinner will take place to The Westin Annapolis beginning at 1900 with a cocktail reception in the lobby area with an open bar. At 2000, the ballroom will open for our dinner. The reunion committee has decided to go with a formal sit down dinner. There will be no reserved tables. Later in the evening, a DJ will be cranking up the tunes for dancing. Smaller ballrooms and areas will be available outside the main ballroom for those that just wish to visit in a quieter environment. A photographer will be available for company photos in the lobby area. This is an adults-only event.

### **Saturday, 3 September 2011 Tailgater/ Football Tickets/ Company Parties**

The Reunion Tailgater will take place in the N\* Room at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium beginning at 1300. The N\* Room is located on the Blue Side of the stadium below the press box. The banquet area is temperature controlled with closed circuit televisions and features indoor plumbing, offering many comforts regardless of the weather. There will also be two tented areas outside on the second floor for those that wish to enjoy the fall day. You **MUST** have a game ticket to gain entry into the stadium and the Tailgater. Our featured menu items include: Ice Cold Keg Beer, Assorted Wine, Cash Bar, Assorted Sodas, Bottled Water, Ice Tea, Eastern Shore Herbed Chicken, Hot Pit Beef, Ham, Crab Cakes, Eastern Shore Raw Bar (Maryland Oysters and Clams shucked to order), Maryland Steamed Shrimp, Maryland Crab Soup, Antipasto, Fruit and Vegetable Table, Caesar Salad, Homemade Potato Salad, Homemade Cole Slaw, Assorted Desserts and Bo Brooks' World Famous Nutty Buddies. Food service will conclude at the end of halftime with dessert and beverage service continuing until 1900. **Please note:** Due to the large attendance expected, walk-ups to the tailgater may not be able to be accommodated. Please remember that you **MUST** have a game ticket in order to enter the stadium and access the Tailgater.

Football tickets are available through NAAA and must be purchased separately through their web site. Season ticket

holders do not need a separate ticket. The link with sign-in ID and password can be found on our class web site. Game time is set for 1530.

Saturday evening has been left open for company parties as desired.

### **Sunday 4 September 2011 Company Brunches**

Sunday has been left open for individual companies to organize their own brunches around Annapolis as desired.

### **Reunion Merchandise**

Class apparel and merchandise is available for the 35th Reunion at [www.usnaclasstore.com/76store.html](http://www.usnaclasstore.com/76store.html). Purchases will be mailed directly to your home in time for the reunion. Items will **not** be available for purchase during the reunion.

Be sure to check the class web site frequently for the latest news and information regarding the reunion. Questions can be emailed to Valerie Gerheiser, Reunion Coordinator, at [platweddings@aol.com](mailto:platweddings@aol.com) or Mike Seifert, Reunion Chair, at [vmseifert@gmail.com](mailto:vmseifert@gmail.com). Don't miss out...Register Today, and Go Navy!

**77**

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

**PRES: Mr. Dan Busch**

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**78**

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

**PRES: Glen Woods**

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Congratulations to **Bill Levis**. In early April, Bill was one of two people honored at the 44th Annual Shad Banquet as a 2011 Distinguished Citizen of the Year as part of the Salem County (NJ) Chamber of Commerce's yearly event. Bill was honored for his contributions to the county, and for exemplifying the beauty, community pride, and value of Salem County that Thursday's event celebrated. Bill is the president and chief operating officer for PSEG Power. PSEG Power is a major, unregulated independent power producer in America, with three main subsidiaries: PSEG Nuclear, PSEG Fossil, and PSEG Energy Resources and Trade. Before assuming the job in 2007 Bill served as president and chief nuclear

officer of PSEG Nuclear which operates the Salem 1, Salem 2 and Hope Creek reactors at Artificial Island in Lower Alloways Creek Township. Bill also received additional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, presented by Salem County Freeholder Julie Acton, Third District Legislators, presented by Salem County Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, and the County of Salem, presented by Freeholder Director Lee Ware. Congrats, Bill. You (like many others) makes us proud!

I heard from my old Plebe summer roommate, **Bart Buechner**. Bart retired from the State of California Department of Veterans Affairs in December and moved to Midland, Michigan. Most of his wife's family reside here. She's happy, so Bart's happy (it usually works that way, right?) Bart figures they made about 6 moves for the Navy in their 24 years of marriage. So that move was for her! (I – and many of our classmates – know what you mean, Bart.). As everyone knows the cost of living in Michigan is lower than Northern CA (well– most places are for that matter). Besides, it's a good place to be a fulltime student so Bart can focus and finish up on that PhD program he started in 2009. That doctorate is all part of his plans for the *next* career – teaching. His dissertation draws on his years with the VA and deals with the adaptation of returning combat veterans to higher education, at universities and community college campuses. Talk about brotherly love – Bart donated a kidney to his younger brother, who was on dialysis. The operation took place at the beginning of this year. –It's taken a couple months, but Bart's just about back to fighting shape. He ran a St. Patrick's Day five miler and is gradually working back to the longer distances. You're an inspiration, Bart.

Small world proved again– while on a trip to New York City to attend some shows with some friends from Syracuse, Elizabeth and I came across **Bob Zalaskus** and his daughter Lauren. It was in Mario Batali's newly opened Italian gourmet marketplace "Eataly". We were standing by some of the many delicacies in the store when I hear this booming announcement of my name "Vince Balderrama!" I turned to see it coming from Bob – easily recognizable himself with that famous Zalaskus smile! Bob was passing through on his way back to Norfolk and dropped in to see his daughter, Lauren, who lives in Manhattan. She works for an advertising firm, DraftFCB. It was Lauren's idea to

treat her dad to Eataly. Good timing Lauren. We couldn't have planned it better- *if* we had planned it! Bob and Jan still live in Norfolk. Bob stayed Navy but as a civilian. He is working as the N6 (director for networks and communications) at SUBLANT. He has Navy Football season tickets as well as seats for Army-Navy so expect to see him and Jan around the tailgater. Here's a great shot of Bob and Lauren. You can see that Zalaskus smile passed on to the next generation!



Bob and Lauren Zalaskus

Elizabeth and I enjoyed dinner at the end of March with **Bob "Bubba" DeStafney** and a mutual friend Paul Gauthier. They were in Annapolis to watch a Navy Rugby game. We also had the pleasure of the company of Rox's cousin Kristin and her boyfriend David. It was good to see them. Paul and I worked for years together when I was at Sikorsky Aircraft. You may recall that Bob had been the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets at the California Maritime Academy. While he's changed coasts he still kept the title "Commandant". He's now Acting Commandant of Midshipmen at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. He was the Deputy under Bill "If" Fell. But "If" is now the Deputy Athletic Director. Hope you get to drop the "Acting" from your title Bubba. Congrat's to Bill on the new job. Hope it tracks to being the AD like you want.

I was in Jacksonville, FL at the end of Feb for some business. Regrettably, I was unable to link up with **Vic Guillory** who is down there as 4th Fleet. We did exchange a couple of e-mails but I never got to drop by his office and try his coffee. Next time, Vic. I did see **Dave Buss** when he stopped by the office for a briefing from our Aero guys. Those of you who braved the cold, wet rain to watch the Army-Navy lacrosse game may have notice number 22 for Army. That's Michele and **Phil Brennan's** son Patrick. He's a second year man at Army.



Greg Billy ('81) Retires as George and Family Gather

I know, I know, you do your best as a parent but sometimes they just go astray. Actually, looks like the Army coaches have done a good job of raiding Navy's backyard for good LAX players. Patrick went to St. Mary's Ryken in St. Mary's County, MD. Well it paid off as Army beat us for the first time since 1997 and Patrick got some playing time.

You know you are getting old when you are asked to be a guest speaker at your Plebe's retirement ceremony. I had the honor to be the speaker at **Greg Billy's ('81)** retirement in March. Besides being a good friend, Greg was also one of my Foxtrot Company Plebes (12th Company) when I had detail. He's also the younger brother of our classmate and one of my roommates, **George Billy**. Greg, Janell and their daughter, Adelaide, live in Pittsburgh, PA. Greg finished his [their] nuke submariner career at Carnegie Mellon University where Greg was the Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science for the University's NROTC Unit. Typical Navy story - numerous moves to and from overseas (many done solely by Janell), separations, living abroad, experiences not many kids get (Adelaide got to meet the Pope!), and of course command- you finally get to sink some roots down. For the Pittsburgh "3B's" (Billys not Balderramas) it looks like that'll remain home for some time. Greg is now the Director of Major Business Delivery at Westinghouse Electric Company in Pittsburgh. As for George, he and Thelma live in Fairfax, VA. George is a Senior Systems Engineer for Northrop Grumman Undersea Systems

in Annapolis. (Looks like our commutes are 180 out George!). Their daughter, Elizabeth lives at home and works in Day Care. Son, George, is still slogging it in College. You may catch George and Thelma zipping around the country on their Harley. They'll be easy to spot- there'll be a goggled Chihuahua in a harness riding with them. Honest.

Thank for the honor, Greg. It was great seeing the whole family again. Welcome to civilian life!

On the home front, my goal of going through and clearing the moving boxes from *my side* of the garage has shifted from spring to end of summer and now to *maybe* by the first tailgater. We had a good spurt of box clearing when we first moved in and then work, travels and other priorities kind of set in. Since this is our *last move* I guess one could say we have all the time in the world; but I would still love to have my car "housed" by winter 2011! Our son Michael returns early May from his studies at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. It's part of his Masters Program in museum management at Georgetown. A couple of more weeks of class in the States, thesis and then he'll have the sheepskin. Whoa! I just realized, it was 15 years ago that I got *my* Masters degree (MBA). Elizabeth keeps busy- between working as a recreational therapist at an assisted living home, doing her quilt business with a friend from Connecticut (design quilt patterns under the name Seams Like a Dream Quilts) and looking after and enjoying our recent addition to the family- our cat Stanley. He's a fun furball that by his behavior and disposition

makes me think he *really* is a dog in cat disguise.

Well that's about it for now. Drop me a line, a card, a call. For now I'll be Launchin' Spot Four.

**79**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Let's get off to a quick start with the 79er Flag Update:

**RADM Ted "Twig" Branch** relieved **RADM Richard J. O'Hanlon '76** as Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (COMNAVAIRLANT) on 25 February 2011 aboard HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) in Norfolk, VA.

**RADM Rob Wray** will be taking over as president, Board of Inspection and Survey, Norfolk, VA. Rob had been serving as vice commander, Navy Forces Europe/Africa, US Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy.

**RDML Dan "Traps" Cloyd** will be assigned as commander, Navy Region Japan / commander, US Naval Forces, Japan / commander, Naval Component, US Forces, Japan, Yokosuka, Japan. By the way, Traps joins C7F, **VADM Scott Van Buskirk** out in Yokosuka. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they deal with our Japanese friends who are suffering so much.

**RADM Artie Johnson** will be assigned as director, Assessment Division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC. Artie had been the commander, Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, VA.

While we were all still Firsties in the Hall, several of us in 19th Co. wondered aloud who would be the last man of "Cloud 19" to leave active duty. Well, the answer to that trivia question is **COL John Holden**, who had his USMC retirement ceremony on 1 April. I know what you're thinking – really? April Fool's Day? But yes, the ceremony was actually held, and John is retired (technically I think he's on terminal leave). John and Lisa will be relocating to the east coast. **Dave Bethel, Vince Bousa** and others are currently discussing plans for a post-active-duty company party.

In a recent update to the class email list, **Sean Cate** passed along a note from **Jack Bruno**. Many of you may not know (I didn't), but Jack has had surgery for pheochromocytoma, which are rare tumors that typically arise from the adrenal gland. He participates in a study by the National Institute of Health (NIH) which is looking for a cure. The pho group, however, has such a small budget that they combine with other groups and solicit donations. One such instance is the 2011 Pheo Para Alliance Cancer Benefit, to be held 18 May at The Four Seasons, Georgetown, Washington, DC. For ticket information, or to donate items to the silent auction, please contact Mame Reiley at [mame@thereileygroup.com](mailto:mame@thereileygroup.com). (Note: I know most of you will read this column after the 18 May date. However, if you'd like to do something to help, you can donate directly to the study at <http://pheo.nichd.nih.gov/contact.html>.)

Taking a glance at *BUSINESS WIRE*, I learned that **Dave Stehlin** was appointed to the position of Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Optical Communications Systems (OCS) division of MRV Communications, Inc. Dave is now responsible for leading the global sales and marketing functions of the company. A 20+ year veteran of the telecommunications industry, Dave has held senior leadership positions in several companies prior to his current position. These include president/CEO of Valo, Inc.; president/CEO of Ceterus Networks; and president of Overture Networks. Congrats, Dave, and best wishes in your new assignment.

Another press release I saw announced that **Richard Hayes** was recently appointed president of Ultraviolet Devices Inc. (UVDI), a provider of air, surface, and water ultraviolet-C-disinfection and activated-carbon-filtration solutions for the residential, commercial, institutional, and healthcare markets. He had been the company's vice president of sales and marketing. Prior to joining UVDI, Richard had held senior sales, marketing, and general-management positions in the automotive industry. Congrats, Richard!

**Scott Pursley** alerted me to an article in the April 2011 issue of *SEAPOW* magazine (Navy League of the United States publication). Entitled "A Watchful Eye", the article is an interview with **Sean Stackley**, the current Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. Sean discusses some of the major challenges the

service faces in developing and procuring new ships, submarines and aircraft. The article can currently be found online at <http://www.seapower-digital.com/seapower/201104?pg=72#pg72>.

A very proud **Mike Kennedy** emailed to say that his daughter, ENS Veronica Kennedy, was recently recognized by Commander, Seventh Fleet **VADM Scott Van Buskirk**. ENS Kennedy is stationed aboard TORTUGA (LSD 46), and she was recognized for her efforts in support of Operation Tomodachi, the US response and aid to Japan after the earthquake/tsunami.

I saw on LinkedIn that **Ken Panos** had a new position. I emailed him about it, and he replied:

■ Hi Wiz, Great to hear from you! Yes, I moved from WBB over here to Aerojet a little over 2 years ago. A nice opportunity came my way so made the jump. Job is Director, Congressional Relations in the Washington office for Aerojet. Small Washington Ops office of about 8 folks doing Hill work, Pentagon and NASA BD — the pulse of the company here on the east coast (HQ is Sacramento, CA). Aerojet is a rocket propulsion, warheads and armaments company. Our stuff flies on everything from Space Shuttle (and whatever NASA finally decides will follow it) to satellites of every flavor to tactical rockets and missiles – mostly for Army, Navy and Missile Defense Agency. Very interesting stuff to say the least. Who'd a thunk...rocket science?!

Speaking of *SHIPMATE*, ran into **Rob Wray** and **Tim Moon** at an Association of the US Navy (AUSN) event on Capitol Hill back in February, as I recall. Tim is the National President of AUSN (the old Naval Reserve Association) now that he's retired from USN Reserve Component. Rob's on active duty (again/still) and just took orders to be INSURV for a few years. Thought I had a photo of the 3 of us at that event but can't seem to put my hands on it right now. I'll see if Tim or one of the guys at AUSN can get it to me and forward.

Was over at the annual Navy League US Sea-Air-Space symposium yesterday at the Gaylord National Harbor and it was a 79er-rich environment. Were you there? Ran into **Jon Bayless** (now retired and working for an electronics outfit, Sypris, down in Tampa); and **Rocky Kropp** who's working for General Atomics out of San Diego these days. Saw **Chuck Dixon** and **Jeff Niner** go buzzin' by but didn't have a chance to chat. Best, Ken ■