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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 71%PRES: **Mr. Dan Busch**

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“Men go back to the mountains, as they go back to sailing ships at sea, because in the mountains and on the sea they must face up.”—Henry David Thoreau

Yo ho, me hearties, yo ho! It's seven months to our 35th Reunion and counting, and since time, tide and available hotel rooms wait for no man, make your reservations now. Information on accommodations, transportation and the schedule of events can be found on the Class website at www.usna1977.org/reunion.php. We hope to see you the weekend of September 28-30.

Leading off this month's column, Jim Lare (**35th Co.**) wrote to tell us he recently joined his son Chris ('01) on a Tiger Cruise aboard the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) where Chris, a P-3 pilot, was completing his ship's company tour as Asst. Air Ops.



Jim related Chris, married with three of Jim's five grandchildren (five grandchildren!), is currently on terminal leave as he “decides what he wants to be when he grows up”. Yeah....aren't we **all!**

Everyone, that is, except the subject of our next item. We're pleased and proud to announce Sam Locklear (**7th Co.**) has been nominated for reappointment to the rank of admiral and for assignment as commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Honolulu, Hawaii, replacing Bob Willard. Sam's been serving as commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe/commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa, and commander, Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples, Italy.

Our sincere congratulations to Sam, and best wishes in his new command.

Finally, we'll wrap things up with a brief historical note. The USS Ponce

(LPD-15), which is remembered, if not fondly, by at least one-fourth of our Class, was scheduled to be decommissioned last December. However, she's been given a new lease on life, as the Navy intends to use the venerable vessel as floating base for the SEAL Team operations in the Middle East.

The Duluth (LPD-6) and Shreveport (LPD-12) may be down, and the Denver (LPD-9) (who could really go for a Denver Doggy right about now!?) scheduled for decommissioning in 2013, but at this rate, the old Ponce may well outlive most of us!

— Magoo

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%PRES: **Glen Woods**SECY: **Vince Balderrama**

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Many of you may recall that our class sponsors the USS Porter (DDG 78). It has been a long relationship that has been mutually rewarding. One of the many activities we support for PORTER is the annual Arch Griffin Memorial Leadership awards in which we give recognition to outstanding sailors. These are *peer-nominated* awards where three sailors are nominated in the following categories: E-1 through E-3; E-4; E-5; E-6; E-7 through E-9; and, O-1 through O-3. Each nominee writes an essay on “What Makes a Good Leader” and is required to sit before an oral board with the CO, XO, CMC, various Department Heads, and our Class Rep, **Terry O'Brien**. Our Class gives a small cash award to the winners with the larger amounts going to our youngest Sailors, and the Porter's CO awards each winner a Navy Achievement Medal. By the way, all of last year's awardees advanced. On November 2nd, five classmates participated in presentation of the awards on board PORTER in Norfolk, Virginia. The '78 contingent was led by VADM **Dave Buss** and he was accompanied by 4 “retired guys” — **Glen Woods, Terry O'Brien, Rudy Costanzo, and Mike Moore**. Porter's Captain, CDR Arriola, began the ceremony by explaining to the crew that Arch was our Classmate and former Class President who was instrumental in the creation of these awards. He further explained that '78 supports the awards each year to honor the legacy of leadership that Arch gave us. Dave Buss then gave a great pep talk to the crew (except

the part where he had all those that were not born before 1978 give a show of hands!). The 2011 awardees were: BMSN Shavonne L. Corker, SH3 Katherine Taylor, IT2 Jacqueline R. Latta, IT1 Michelle R. Hunter, DCC Steven W. Tanner, and ENS Sherrie Flippin. Special kudos to **Terry O'Brien** who has been the key for making the awards happen each year. He's the one who makes regular liaison with PORTER's CO, XO and CMC to make sure our class can assist them anyway we can— and then pushes to get it done. Thanks, Terry.

At the end of last year I got a news release that 34th Company's **Scott H. Burns** was awarded a Phoenix Purchases Mastery Award on October 26 by Procter and Gamble. Scott is Purchases Associate Director at Procter & Gamble. The award recognized him for “demonstrating a sustained and exceptional depth of knowledge and mastery of Purchases commercial skills and/or people management/organization development skills, and applied this mastery to deliver significant contribution to the business. The accomplishment is beyond the expectation of the job or experience level in the organization. The award recipient reflects the principles, values and skills we want to reinforce in our top purchasing professionals and demonstrates a passion for our discipline, while collaborating effectively both inside and outside of the Company.” That's very impressive, Scott. Congratulations!! (I hope a nice check came with it!) Hope you and Kay are still doing well in Cincinnati enjoying time alone as empty nesters. Drop us a line with more news.

Congratulations to **Jeff Fowler** who, exactly two months after taking over as Senior VP of University Admissions for Strayer University, has been moved to be the Senior VP of their 22 campuses in the Mid-Atlantic region including VA, WV, NC, and SC. Jeff is responsible for 35% of the company's revenue in this P&L role. He says, “Similar to the recruiting command days, now all I have to do is deliver! Always easier said, than done”. Jeff was looking forward to the challenge and continues to enjoy the leadership team at Strayer.

Congrats also to **Cecil Haney** who now commands the Pacific Fleet as their four star admiral. The promotion ceremony and Change of Command took place in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Bonnie and their daughter did the honors in snapping on the new shoulder boards. 29th Company classmates, **Rick Hiel** and

Brett Ayotte were present. Rick lives out there in and is the Crisis Operations Manager at COMPACFLT N35 DSCA. Brett flew all the way out from Edgewater, MD. Everyone looked great with the gorgeous Hawaiian leis and cool Hawaiian shirts. Cecil's new four star boards certainly shone but not as brightly as their smiles! We wish him the best of luck as he takes command in an era of renewed strategic importance and interest for his region. We know he's up to the challenge!



Rick Hiel, Bonnie and Cecil Haney and Brett Ayotte

Speaking of new jobs, we wish **John Rudder** good luck in his new position. John accepted a position at the USNA Alumni Association and Foundation to be the next Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations (He heads up corporate fund-raising). He was very excited and hoped it will be the last job he ever has. While he loved working with Hire Velocity, a talent acquisition company, he just couldn't pass up an opportunity to work and raise money for Navy! I know what you mean John. I'd probably drop my job in a heartbeat if one opened up at Navy. Besides, the commute would be a helluva lot better! Good luck!

Best wishes for announced retirees received just as this edition is about to go to print! The first is Dave "Deke" Philman. By the time you get this magazine, Deke will have had his retirement ceremony at Memorial Hall in Bancroft on February 10th. (I hope to have more on this in the next column.). Deke leaves after serving as the two-star Director, Warfare Integration/Senior National Representative (OPNAV N8F). The second is the announced retirement of Clarke Orzalli. Clarke's request to retire was approved by SECNAV and on 1 July he'll enter the retired ranks after 34 years of commissioned service. Clarke will retire as the two-star Vice Commander at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). More to follow.

Well, it is 2012. Next year is our 35th Reunion year. Over the next year or so

you'll start getting heads up and trickles of information on the arrangements through a variety of forums. One of course is this column, the others are our Class Website (www.usna1978.org), our LinkedIn class group site (U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1978), some direct letters or e-mails from our Class President, **Glen Woods**, and via your company reps (you can find out who they are on our website). Those currently serving as company reps, please let us know if you wish to continue in this voluntary position; or if you pass the baton on to another company mate. While you are on the website take a look around. Also posted there is an update to our Class Bylaws. Over the last several months your Class Board of Directors (the 4 Class Officers and 5 Members-at-Large) have reviewed and updated our Class Bylaws – the first update since graduation. It was an attempt to bring us into the "21st Century" and put us in line with the way we operate today (like using electronic voting and teleconferencing for examples). Our Bylaws allow amendments to be made when approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Anyway, go to the left-hand menu on our website and click on the "Class Policies/Bylaws" tab. Our Class Charter is also in need of some minor changes and grammatical corrections but those amendments will require a Class vote. The Board plans to recommend to the Class minor modifications to the Charter and hold a vote at our Thirty-fifth reunion in 2013. So just another reason to be there! By the way, also take a few minutes to update your personal profile too. (I know, I also have to do it!).

Well that's all there is for now. **Send me some news** (or I'll just make it up). Launchin' Spot Four.

Time to VOTE BOT
Visit usna.com
for more information

Sec'y Column Deadlines

(send columns to classnews@usna.com)

ISSUE	DATE DUE:
May-June '12	19 April 2012
July-August '12	29 May 2012
Mmbr.Serv./Fall '12	3 July 2012
Sept.-Oct.'12	31 July 2012
Nov.-Dec.'12	1 October 2012

2012 Shipmate Deadlines to note...

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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SEC'Y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**

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WEBSITE: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

One of our regular inside-the-Beltway sources, **Mike Kennedy** (michael.kennedy@1979.usna.com), paused long enough from his busy duties to send the following:



The Honorable James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, presents the Presidential Rank Award to Nick Harris

I have some good news to pass along to you about our classmate **Nick Harris**. He is doing great with the Program Manager – Information Sharing Environment. The PM-ISE has dual reporting direct to the Director of National Intelligence and the Executive Office of the President. Nick has been with the PM-ISE since its founding in 2005.

In fact Nick is doing more than great. Nick was recently honored with the Presidential Rank Award, an extremely prestigious award presented personally on behalf of the President by the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper.

Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career Senior Executives and senior career employees with the Presidential Rank Award. Recipients of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. The Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive is the second-highest annual award given to selected career SES members. The award may be given to no more than 5% of the members of the SES in any given year.