

“Skip” McKenzie (9th Co.), will retire at the end of 2013.



Skip, who joined WRIT in 1996 and was named president and CEO in 2007, and his lovely wife Debbie will be retiring to a life of ease and luxury on the water in Annapolis just as soon as work is completed on their new 20,000 s.f. cottage, as well as a pier large enough to accommodate Skip’s most recent acquisition...



...the SS *Life’s Been Good To Me So Far*. Okay, we made the part up about the yacht and life of luxury, and the house isn’t quite that big. Here’s wishing them both a long and comfortable retirement; it’s well-deserved. As for the boat, as soon as he buys one, we’ll be certain to promulgate Skip’s new address and phone number, as we’re certain he’ll be only too happy to entertain his classmates anytime they’re in town.

And since we’re of the subject on the subject of well-deserved retirements, **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)** wrote the other day to tell us he’ll be leaving DRS after 9 years and heading south to Florida, where Deb and he can enjoy the sun and golf 365 days a year. Though there’s plenty of water in Florida, no word yet on whether Lee’s plans include a boat.

Finally, in closing, we mark the passing of another shipmate: **Dom Baysic (21st Co.)** passed away on Nov. 7, 2012 at the age of 57. Upon graduation, Dom thought Surface Line seemed mighty fine, after which he entered the civilian world, most recently working as a systems engineer for BAE Systems in Mt. Laurel, NJ. Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.



*This sailorman served his country.  
His was the shield of our freedom.  
His was the sacrifice in wartime.  
His is the glory of this nation.*

Magoo

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

PRES: **Glen Woods**  
SEC’Y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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Well, as this comes to your mailboxes we are already a quarter into the New Year and closer to our 35th Reunion (12-14 September). Let me “kick the podium” once more to urge you to go to our class website to find out the details, plans and

activities for our 35th. Please also update your information on the website; go on to the Alumni Association website or call them Alumni Association to make sure your contact information is also up to date; and lastly get a hold of your company rep (their names are also listed on the website). Those are the only sources we have to knowing how to reach you to pass on class news. Reach out to “lost” classmates too. We’d love to make sure we can reach as many of our classmates (both grads and non-grads) as possible – preferable all of us! By the way, calling all “sky pilots”! Any of you who are clergy and wish to help out in our Memorial Service or Prayer Breakfast please contact **Fred Butterfield** (ButterfieldFamily@msn.com) or Kevin **McGhee** (kgmcghee@aol.com). You can also drop me a line.

To amplify an e-mail our Class President, **Glen Woods**, sent out in January, every five years we hold Class Officer Elections in the months prior to our major 5-year reunion. For this year’s election there are some changes in our procedures. In 2012 your Class Officers updated our Class Charter to create a Nominating and Election Committee. The Nominating and Election Committee consists of 3 classmates who are not candidates for Class office. This year’s committee is chaired by **John Rudder** and he is joined by **Bill Burke** and **Glen Ives**. The election will be for all positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members-at-Large. Qualifications to serve as a class officer require a class member to be a graduate member of the Class and a life member of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association. The qualifications and duties of our Class Officers, as well as the procedures for nominating classmates and voting are outlined in our Class Charter which you can read on our website ([www.usna1978.org](http://www.usna1978.org)). Qualified members of the Class wishing to serve in an elected office shall contact a member of the Nominating Committee to place their name in nomination. A member of the Class may also nominate another qualified member of the Class for any elected office. The Committee will determine the eligibility of each candidate, and for those candidates nominated by another, determine if they are willing to serve. Committee members’ names and contact information are posted on our class website. Nominations for Class Officers opened on February 15 and

last for 60 days until April 15. The nominating committee will then determine the eligibility of the nominees and their willingness to serve. Our plan is to post ballots on our website my mid-July and open voting on August 1. Voting will be open until August 31. The results of the voting will be announced at the Class meeting during our Class Reunion in September.

On Feb 4th at Naval Station Norfolk, the USS Porter (DDG-78) presented the Class of 1978 Arch Griffin Leadership Awards. **Terry O'Brien** has been spearheading this annual event. Our Class has sponsored PORTER since the ship was commissioned. Through the efforts of many this sponsorship has evolved into the Class of 1978 Arch Griffin Leadership Awards which have been presented over the last decade. The award is named after our late Class President **Arch Griffin** who was instrumental in setting up this program. The awards are presented to Sailors (E3 below, E-4, E-5, E-6, Chief Petty Officer and Junior Officer) who are nominated by their peers for their leadership abilities and performance. The program has been embraced by every Commanding Officer and is a vital part of the Leadership Continuum for PORTER with the winners receiving Navy Achievement Medals. This year's winners were: CSSN Gerald Laborce (E3 and below), DC3 Jacob St. Romain (E4), ET2 Adam Tieskotter (E5), ET1 Christopher Hatem (E6), FCC Douglas Hancock (E7) and ENS Jeff Steiner (JO).

**Pat McCormick** sent a quick note that he and Meegan moved to Colorado Springs, CO. As he put it, he "got to pick where we lived the first 33 years ... she gets to pick the next 33". They are quite conscious of the difference in seasonal changes from their last residence as Pat noted, "left Phoenix on January 8th ... it was 70 degrees ... arrived in Colorado Springs on the 10th ... unloaded 26' Penske truck in snow flurry and high winds ... Guess I will learn how to layer". I know what you mean, Pat. When Elizabeth and moved to Syracuse a few years ago we became well familiar with the changes of seasons (reduced to what seemed like two - winter - and something else). We also learned that the lake effect snow meant- expect a lot of snow! Enjoy the skiing, PJ.

As this goes to print, it is with great sadness that I report the loss of Roxie Royster DeStafney, beloved wife of **Bob "Bubba" DeStafney** and mother to

Kelly DeStafney, Mark DeStafney, and Zoey DeStafney Meneses. Roxie passed away early morning on 26 January after a week-long battle with the after effects of a traffic accident on Long Island. Throughout, she was surrounded by her loving family and close friends and had been nurtured by their love as well as by prayers from you, their extended family of classmates, teammates, Shipmates, friends and fellow Marines. Roxie and Bob were high school sweethearts and married for over 33 years. While her loss is what **John Wissler** described as, "another visceral example of the unfairness of life"; her life - and their marriage and devotion to one another - is an example and inspiration to us all of the enduring and fulfilling nature of unconditional love. Moreover, in such tragedy we again see evidence of the deep bond and caring nature of the special brotherhood we share among us as many of you came to offer comfort, aid and prayers to Bubba, Roxie and their family.

Please continue to remember Roxie, Bob and their family in your prayers - and our other 78 family we have lost over the years.

#### Launchin' Spot Four.

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

PRES: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**

E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

SECY: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**

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<http://www.facebook.com/wizwithers>

WEBSITE: [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com)

Greetings, 79ers!

As most of you are aware, the Class of '79 has been raising funds for the **CAPT Gerald F. DeConto, USN** Veterans Memorial Stadium. Well, I'm proud to report that '79ers from all over jumped on board, and we were able to present the committee a check for \$22,000 at a football game last fall. **Jon Jaques** was on hand to represent the class, and physically hand the oversized check to Dave DeConto, President of the stadium committee. '79's support will be prominently noted at the new stadium's entrance. Great job, guys!

For spouses of Alumni  
Life Members.  
For information go to  
[usna.com](http://usna.com)

**JOINT  
MEMBERSHIP**



Jon Jaques (right) presents the Class of '79's contribution for the CAPT Gerald F. DeConto USN Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Now let's get to the (electronic) mail bag. First up is this note from proud dad **Mike "Stew" Stewart** (oceano79@aol.com):

■ **Wiz:** Hope all is good with you. I have been remiss in communicating with my Classmates - this is my first note to Shipmate. The photo is of my two sons, Specialist Patrick Stewart and 2nd LT Christopher Stewart with some old retreat swabbie. The picture was taken at Patrick's graduation from Infantry School, one week after Christopher's graduation from The Ohio State University and commissioning ceremony. It was a busy week. Pat is assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Ft Drum, NY. Chris will attend TBS in April on an aviation contract. Their Mom, Carol is working on a PhD in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola University focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder with the military. I am a PM with BAE Systems in Northern Virginia. Thanks, Mike ■



The Stewarts: Mike with sons Patrick and Christopher

Mike - it's never too late to start a new tradition of sending news to your friendly class secretary. Congrats - and thanks for the update.

His dad may not be Mario, but this "Michael" could possibly be an Andretti. **RADM Mike Shatynski** (Ret.) sent along some news about his new "career" in racing:

■ **Wiz,** Hard to believe we put the uniform on 37 years ago. It's even harder to believe that I am the Reserve Bull