

domestic routes, which has provided him a nice way to reconnect with old friends like John and Maureen. Rich and his wife Allison are still in Orlando, along with their son Andrew, who works as a financial analyst for ICC Capital.

And **John Vuolo (12th Co.)** checked in from Wild & Wonderful West Virginia to brag a little about a nice 5-point buck he bagged back on a brisk 16-degree November day.



We've advised John any future trophies should have symmetrical racks of 10-points or more and dress out at a minimum of 185-lbs.

Finally, we'll close with another public service announcement. Following up on the earlier communiqué from **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)** regarding the Class Project, (a) we've already raised over \$320,000 of the 40th Reunion target of \$1,001,977, and (b), 77's 40th Reunion has been scheduled for 28 SEPT-1 OCT 2017, the weekend of Navy-Air Force. So please, mark your calendars. The 35th was great, but we're hoping to make the 40th even better. — Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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Well another year begins- gawd I hope it is a much better year than 2013. In early November I was laid off by my manager. I was among the several hundred released at Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Solutions who found Nov 20th their last date of employment. By the time this finds its way to your doorstep I hope to have accepted an offer from some organization and be back in the workforce- or that it won't be too long from now. I know I am not the only one of us who has undergone such an experience. On the plus side, you and I come to realize at times like this (and in other hardships) what great family, classmates, Shipmates and comrades in arms we have. We *do* take

care of our own. Thanks to everyone for the words of encouragement, the listening ear, shared drink, and the link up with potential employers. I know I am truly blessed to have you in my life; proud and grateful to call you friend and classmate. Another casualty in the layoff was my recent mail file with notes from many of you. All my old news and photos were lost in the "turn in of gear". Consequently, this is a slim column. If you've sent me something that has not yet appeared in *Shipmate* please resend it to my Canoe78@aol.com address. I'll get back on track in the next few editions. That being said, let's see what news I can recall and reclaim.

In early November, **Dave Bruce** wrote that he had "an Olmsted week, participating in two foreign official ceremonies." On a Sunday, he played "Last Post" and "Reveille" at the Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Irchester, UK. On Saturday, he was in uniform for the first time in 10 years to present the sword to a student officer friend of his at St Cyr, France. It was a rare honor for a foreign retired officer to serve as a sponsor. *Dave did say he shaved for the event (How long before the beard comes back, Dave?)*

Congratulations to **Terry O'Brien** on his new position as Vice President of Business Development at Austal USA. Austal USA is the American branch of operations for Australia-based shipbuilder Austal. They are one of the companies building their version of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the US Navy. Congratulations and thanks to **John Semcken** and his partners at Majestic Realty in California (former Marines- Ed Roski and Kent Valley). Their Land of the Free Foundation raised another \$1 Million for veterans programs. Each year, primarily through their Land of the Free Foundation Golf Classic, they corral contributors to raise funds and donate the use of their resort, including the two golf courses, food and banquet facilities to ensure all of the money raised goes directly to programs that support our troops. Among organizations that have been the beneficiary of their generosity and hard work are the Semper Fi Fund, TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), Fisher House, STEP (Support the Enlisted Program), Navy Seal Foundation and many others. As veterans of the Navy and Marine Corps who have been fortunate in their businesses they felt it their duty to help their comrades in arms and their families. Check out <http://www.landofthefreefoundation.com>. You well-heeled golfers may want to see

about playing and/or contributing next year. We salute you, John and Ed and Kent. Semper Fi!

The Navy League Special Topics Breakfast in early November had a few of our class in attendance. Not sure if it was so much to get a morning meal, listen in on *important big* Navy stuff or just to support our classmate and the VCNO, **Mark Ferguson**, who gave the breakfast speech. Having attended those breakfasts before (and the later in the day lunches and rubber chicken dinners) I am sure it was to support Mark and with a *little* interest in hearing Navy gouge. With Mark were **Tom Crowley, Joe Martin, Eddie Reid, Tom Abernathy** and **Sean Tallant**.



'78 Talking Important Navy Stuff

Best wishes for success to **Harry Harris**, now Commander of the Pacific Fleet; his predecessor, **Cecil Haney**, now Commander, Strategic Command, and **John Wissler**, who as Commander III Marine Expeditionary Forces (III MEF) was also tasked to head the U.S. joint task force leading humanitarian operations in the Central Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. We know they'll do great!

Well that's all I got in my cranium. Of course these days there are a lot of thoughts and concerns jumbling around inside. Hope by next edition they've settled down life is now normal. Drop me a line- I need to restock the news and fill the 2000 word limit! Until then, Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Here we are at the beginning of 2014. Time to open those new calendars and begin planning out the year. And while