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Let me open up by saying I continue to be amazed at the power of prayer and love from family and friends. It seems to have had a tremendously positive effect on the recovery of **Shaun Bradley's** wife, Libby. Since mid-April Libby has been battling from post-op septic shock, Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome and other difficulties that accompanied the septic shock. Shaun, their sons and daughters have been at her constant side since she entered ICU. Their friends and family have been praying and sending good thoughts and wishes via e-mail, calls and FB posts as Shaun has kept us regularly up to date on Libby's recovery. As this goes to print she has left Kennestone ICU and is now in the Windy Hill Acute Long Term Care. I hope by the time this edition reaches you she is out and back home—either way, continue your prayers and best wishes. It can only help. (Shaun, you [like many others out there] are an inspiration as a father and devoted, loving husband!)

*The Bradleys*

Dave Roberts had the pleasure of administering the Oath of Office to both of his sons at their commissioning and graduation ceremonies this year. One was to his son Nolan upon his commissioning as an Ensign after completing OCS. His other son, Aaron, a 2nd Lt in the Air Force at the time, looked on. Nolan will have finished nuclear power training and sub basic school by the time this appears in print in Shipmate and will have his orders to a boat. When Aaron graduated from the George Washington Medical School this May he was jumped in grade from 2nd Lt to Captain and sworn in again—this time by his dad, Dave. Aaron joined the Air Force to pay for medical school, but it will be at least another 5 years before he wears the uniform and fulfills his service obligation. He will first

FYI: Dan & Pete are planning another Bandy Dunes reunion golf event this coming December. Any classmates not attending the Army-Navy game wishing to join in the fun should feel free to contact Dan Beach at beachds77@gmail.com, as there are currently a number of slots available.

Mid-April saw **Mike Kuhn (13th Co.)** join Rick White in on Lake Oconee, GA for the Reynolds Plantation Spring Bass Tournament. In two days, Mike and Rick caught 45 fish, significantly surpassing their previous year's performance. And though their impressive haul failed to place them in the winner's circle, both the Whites and the Kuhns, Betty and Carol included, are already looking forward to next year.

*Mike and Rick's catch*

Brad McDonald (28th Co.) hosted a Class Lunch at his office May 22nd. Attendees included: Mickey McDonald (USNA '49, and Brad's dad), Harry Train (USNA '49), and '77 classmates Dave Paddock (11th Co.), Dan Beach 17th, George Herning (32nd Co.), Craig Langman (28th Co.), Mark Hugel (15th Co.), Snuffy Smith (19th Co.), Bob Goodrum (19th Co.), Brad McDonald (28th Co.), Jim Luehman (26th Co.), and Walt Yourstone (15th Co.). Other classmates present but not accounted for in the photo above were Rick Current (20th Co.), Bill Daniels (32nd Co.), John Read (32nd Co.), Bruce Scott (13th Co.), Bill Stulb (33rd Co.) and Charlie Watkins (26th Co.). Brad stated the Norfolk-area group has been getting together roughly 2-3 times a year for the last six years, enjoying the best in food, camaraderie and outside speakers. The featured guest at this latest get-together was Dr. Tim Orr, a history professor at Old Dominion University. Dr. Orr discussed his on-going research into the life of Captain Jack "Dusty" Kleiss, USNA '38, the last living Dauntless pilot who flew in the Battle of Midway. For the benefit of those who slept through Seapower (i.e., Gator,

Buddy, Bear, McKenzie, Lawlor, Eddie Haskell, Gambarani, Gardner, Hutch, Lamb, Christofferson and Neidhold, just to name a few!), Midway was the turning point in Pacific theater, and thus an event of some importance.

Brad also wanted to express his appreciation to **Jerry Miller (19th Co.)**, who picked up the lunch tab; which apparently means, contrary to the old adage, there **IS** such a thing as a free lunch!

Wrapping up our classmate coverage, **Paul Croisetiere (35th Co.)** wrote to tell us Raytheon recently appointed **Tom Vecchiolla (29th Co.)** president of its International Business group. A hearty BZ to Tom on his new position.

Finally, we'll close with a couple administrative notes. **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)** informs us nearly 200 classmates have contributed some \$619,795 towards the 40th Reunion class gift project. This puts us at over 60% of our goal of \$1,001,977 by 2017 with only 22% of our surviving classmates having participated. Assuming only 400 more of us pledged \$1000 over the next five years (just \$200/year), we'll achieve our goal with a little room to spare; sorta like Barker's final QPR!

Lastly, we're going to be publishing an updated Lucky Bag in conjunction with our 40th Reunion, and need volunteers from the Annapolis area to join the 40th Reunion Lucky Bag Committee. The committee will scan original Lucky Bag photos, gather inputs from classmates, format/layout the new Lucky Bag and facilitate its distribution at the 40th Reunion. If you and/or your spouse/significant other would like to pitch-in and help, please contact Lee at lee.geanuleas@gmail.com.

Magoo

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do his residency in Orthopedic Surgery as a civilian at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. Dave says he now knows “a great doc who will give [him] a family discount when [he] needs that knee or hip replacement!” Dave, does that discount apply to the *larger '78 family*? With my track record of basketball injuries I too may need a good “bone cruncher doc”!



79: The Quinn Clan celebrates Don's retirement in Pensacola.



Don Urquidez was in uniform for the commissioning of his youngest –daughter, Sasha Barnett. Newly minted Ensign Barnett was graduated from the California Maritime Academy with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. By the way, I think California Maritime was where **Bubba DeStafney** was Commandant of Midshipmen before he went to the Merchant Marine Academy.



CDR Don and ENS Sasha

As I mentioned in the last column '78 saw a few of our sons and daughters graduate from the Naval Academy and commissioned Ensigns in the Navy: **Tom Rentz's**

son, **Conor ('14)**, **Ray Kempisty's** son, **Mitchell ('14)**, and **Tom McElwee's** son, **Tom Jr. ('14)**; and a Second Lieutenant of Marines: **John Rudzis' daughter, Britta ('14)**. For the first time in four years the Blues Angels flew over Annapolis during graduation week. It was great to see them – as one of my old flight instructors used to say – “reefing and zorching” across the sky. Observing the demonstration from Naval Academy Foundation's reception tent at Hospital Point were **Bob Schmermund** and his son **Richie ('11)**; **Ray Kempisty, Byron Marchant, John Rudder, Mike Dinn** and yours truly. Schmerm's American Bankers Association was a corporate sponsor of the event. Byron, John and I of course were working it and Ray and Mike were among the other guests. Ray of course was there for Mitchell's grad week. Mike was there with his girlfriend whose son was graduating. Mike has a consultant company Dinn Focused Marketing which specializes in residential housing and marketplace analyses as well as housing market counseling (development, financing and marketing).



John, Ray and Mike at Blues Angels Demo

Just a reminder that we have kicked off our drive for our 40th Reunion Class gift so you may be getting calls soliciting your contribution from a classmate or a professional call service on our behalf. This go-around we are focusing our Class Gift on four key elements- Naval Academy Annual Fund (that supports the Superintendent's strategic priorities and supports operations of the Alumni Association); Athletic Excellence (that provides support for USNA mission to prepare Midshipmen physically - including all sports (Varsity, sports, and intramurals) and physical fitness programs); Supporting the Center for Ethical Leadership (led by classmate, **Art Athens**); and STEM Support (Support to Candidate Guidance under our classmate Dean **Bruce Latta's** oversight). These are great opportunities to show our support for the Academy, its mission and to leave a further legacy for our Class! Our class website (www.usna1978.org) has been updated to provide a link to 40th Reunion Class Gift instructions so you can easily make a gift pledge directly online.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to report the loss of another classmate, 13th

HOMECOMING

2014
Thursday, 23 October
 through
Saturday, 25 October

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE
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 to update your profile when you visit.

Company's **Chris Serio**. Chris' death came in May. It was sudden and completely unexpected. He was retired and had been living alone in Owens Mills, MD. Chris left active duty in '83. As he



Chris Serio

wrote in his 2011 update to his profile on our Class website "Back to school to pursue my calling to become a high school math teacher — but soon found out that wasn't my calling after all! Went into Purchasing as a career, and was a Buyer/ Purchasing Agent for several companies. Downsized in '97 from TCOM, L.P. in Columbia, MD, where I'd been for 9 years. I temped for a while: places like Hughes Network Systems (DirecTV), MedImmune, (pharmaceuticals). Taught math at the local community college in Columbia, MD for a while." He began coming out of isolation at the time and was renewing some old friendships especially "from any Academy buddies who still remember me (especially Officers Christian Fellowship friends and 13-ers)!" In 2013 Chris was part of our 35th Reunion Committee and an occasional visitor to Navy football tailgaters. His Facebook page reflected his renewed engagement with classmates and friends, his love for classical music and deep abiding faith. We'll remember his great smile. Rest in peace, Chris.

*And when at length her course is run,
Her work for home and country done,
Of all the souls that in her sailed
Let not one life in thee have failed;
But hear from heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on high*

Launchin' Spot Four with a prayer.

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Classmates:

Greetings from somewhere over the Midwest US. I'm heading out to the west coast for a few days, flying at about 30,000 feet. Which means that I'm about 29,600 feet higher than I ever got during my Navy helicopter career.

Jean and **Don Quinn** wrote to update the class on Don's retirement earlier this year. Almost the entire Quinn clan gathered in Pensacola, FL to celebrate Don's career, and later sent the couple off on a Caribbean cruise. The Quinns will continue to call Pensacola home for a while — although with all the traveling Jean is planning, they may not be spending much time there for a while. Congrats to you both, and best of luck as you begin the next chapter.

Bill Corkill (corkman4@gmail.com) emailed a photo taken with his fellow 9th Co. classmate (and boss) **Bill Toti**. Although they only had a few minutes to chat, Bill "C" mentioned that Bill "T" is Vice President and Navy Account Rep at HP in Virginia and is in overall charge of the Navy's NGEN contract, probably better known by its earlier moniker NMCI (the communications firewall). Thanks for the update, Bill!



Bill Corkill and Bill Toti in snowy Herndon, VA.

Dave Bethel checked in from just up the road in Baltimore:

■ Hope all is well. Wanted to share a picture of **Nick Mygas** and myself taken this past weekend at Dahlgren Hall as we attended the Naval Academy Foundation's Athletics and Scholarship Program gala. We were fortunate enough to spend some time with Mrs. Diane Lawrence which

made the evening even more special. Mrs. Lawrence lives near the Academy in Crownsville and is a fixture at these events, representing our Supt, Admiral Lawrence, in her typical gracious fashion. It was, as always, just great to see Mrs. Lawrence as well as so many other classmates, teammates and friends at our semiannual meeting.

Nick continues to teach and coach football in the Virginia Beach area and I am still with Lockheed Martin. Like all of '79, we are looking forward to our reunion weekend in September. I remain... Semper Fi, Big Dave ■



Dave Bethel and Nick Mygas, with Mrs. Diane Lawrence.

And that, of course, leads us to the big topic of conversation — the 35th Reunion is only a couple of months away. If you're still debating, there's still time to join in the fun. I haven't seen the numbers yet, but I'm assured that registration has been proceeding at a "brisk" pace, so it's looking like a big turnout. There's way too much gouge to pass along here, so head over to the class website www.usna79.com and click on the big "35th Reunion" section.

Finally, I recently received the news that **Rusty Lee** passed away last April in Laughlin, NV. After graduating from USNA and serving his 5 years in the Navy, Rusty attended the Colorado School of Mines and subsequently worked for the US Department of the Interior. Our condolences go out to the Lee family and to all of Rusty's 7th Co. classmates.

And with that, I'll just say — see you next month. Literally. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

Omnes Viri,

Wiz...

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