

Discretion being the better part of valor, John took a badly needed 24-hrs. off after nine days of particularly tough going to prepare for the final stretch of the Appalachian Trail. 233 miles later, he was atop Mt. Katahdin.



John Vuolo Contemplates Nature

John and his wife Beth, without whose help and support he couldn't have made it, are now looking forward to getting home and concentrating on their two Fall fancies: Navy football and hunting season. Not to mention Autumn in West Virginia is warmer than Summer in Maine. BZ to Beth and John, along with everyone who supported him along the way.

Finally, **Craig Turley (36th Co.)** wrote to tell us **Dave Ziemba (19th Co.)** and his wife Janice recently stopped by the Turley residence in sunny San Diego. Craiger had a blast catching up since the last time he saw Z on the '77 golf trip to Bandon Dunes:



Turley & Ziemba Bandon Dunes

As we said, short column this month. Remember, we can't publish what you don't send, so don't hesitate to write. Photos are particularly appreciated.

P.S. Are we the only one finding ourselves almost ("almost", mind you!) hoping Army pulls out a win this year?!?

**78**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401

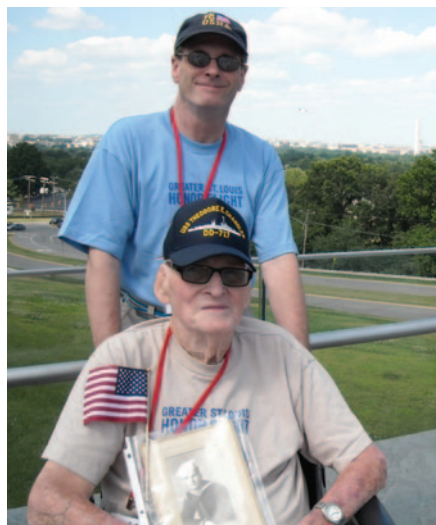
E: canoe78@aol.com

WEBSITE: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

Here are a couple of "saved rounds" from the old mail- with apologies. **Larry Easton** is now in retired mode. He probably has a long list of "honey-do" that he is working

off these days. His son, Kevin landed a great new job at a private school, St. Andrews in Edgewater, MD. Kevin is their IT guy and is doing some teaching as well. The school had been without real IT help for a while and Kevin says they regard him as "Gandalf" whenever he solves an issue for them.

Sounds like a great job but does this mean we could see more of Larry and Cindy at Navy games? On June 24th, **Kevin Liddy** had the honor of escorting his dad, a WW II Navy Veteran, on the St. Louis Honor Flight. Honor Flight is a program that flies WW II veterans from anywhere in the country for free to Washington, DC, to see "their monument." It's a fantastic program and while it is exhausting travel, it is also a moving experience for the "Greatest Generation" Veteran and their escort. Kevin recommends that if any of our classmates have dads who served in WWII they should take advantage of the program. It is national in scope. I would add that if you would like to be an escort for someone to also check out the program. As I recall that is what **Brad (J.B.) Richardson** did a couple of years ago.



Kevin Liddy and his Hero

**Alan Jaquith** provided some update to what he's been up to and of his humanitarian trips south. Lately he's been taking a little time each year to try and make a difference for the less fortunate, mostly assisting with construction projects in Central and South America. When not off traveling, Alan provides financial planning and investment advice for clients of a large mutual fund company. He and his wife live in Charlotte, NC and have two kids in college. Last year for something very different, Alan went to the Dominican Republic as a wheelchair mechanic with Wheels for the World.

They had several teams of physical therapists and wheelchair mechanics. They individually fitted wheelchairs for disabled poor people, giving out about 300 wheelchairs in two cities in a week. In early February '14, he went to Honduras with Living Water to drill a well to provide clean water for an entire village that had electricity and dirty water, but no clean water. Before he left for Honduras, Finish the Wall, the organization that he had traveled with for construction projects in Costa Rica, contacted him about going with them in March as translator to help enlarge a medical facility for the poor in another part of Honduras. He really wanted to go, but the second trip was not in the budget. He prayed, submitted a deposit and then posted a plea for help on Facebook. His prayer was answered by **Jack Fernandez**. Alan wanted to thank Jack once again for helping out a classmate. By the way, both those projects were successful. They completed the well, so the village has clean water and the other town now has a great medical clinic with plenty of room for visiting medical teams. Thanks for all you are doing to make a difference in peoples' lives, Alan. Bravo Zulu to Jack showing how we help our classmates.



Alan Jaquith on Right after digging

**Bob Novak** attended Tailhook '14. It seems he wasn't the only one from '78 in attendance. Ten classmates were also present. Bob provide some proof with the picture below: at the top are **Wade Tallman, Dave Buss, Carl Abelein, Tim Hanifen, Deke Philman** and **Roger Welch**; at the bottom are **Bob Novak, Brian Roby, Charlie Hautau** and **Alex Hnarakis**. Dave did a great job overseeing Hook – great panels and information and sea stories (some even true!) At Tailhook it was announced that it was VADM **Dave Buss'** last Hook as Commander Naval Air Forces/Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific — the Navy's "Air Boss". Dave will retire this January. When he does that will leave only two '78 Naval Aviators on active duty, **Harry Harris** and **Mark Fox**. Harry is currently the four-star Commander,

Pacific Fleet and Mark is the three-star Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command. Neither of them made Tailhook despite the fact that we who watch the drive-by media know that *nothing* is going on in their AORs! Yeah, *sure*.

Dave followed up with an update about his impending retirement:

■ “I’ll finish up a richly rewarding 36-and-a-half year active career on 22 Jan 2015 with my Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony here in San Diego after more than two years as Commander, Naval Air Forces, the Navy’s “Air Boss”. Donna and I are excited about all the personal and professional opportunities that lay ahead. Of note, I’ll be passing the torch to the next generation of Naval Aviation soon as our son, LTjg Matt Buss (USNA ’12), earns his wings of Gold in Oct in VT-22 at NAS Kingsville, TX. Matt has been selected to be either an FA-18E/F or EA-18G pilot (we’ll know after he CQs later this month [Sept]...” ■

Post retirement sounds filled with promise for you and Donna. Perhaps we’ll get to see more of you at ’78 Tailgates in the fall of 2015. That being said, you still have a couple of months left on the job and I don’t want to jinx you with Bravo Zulus just yet. We’ll wait until **Jan 23rd**.

Additional updates that came from Alex and Wade: **Alex “Yogi” Hnarakis** is a Program Manager with Meggitt in Simi Valley, CA. The company is focused on aviation fire/smoke detectors and installed extinguishing systems for airplane engines, APU’s and cargo compartments for Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Learjet, Embraer, etc. **Wade Tallman** retired in 2005. He stayed in China Lake chasing contracts and is now supporting the Navy and VX-9 (his last command) and doing operational testing on weapons and aircraft. He works for Compute Sciences Corporation. He also keeps busy riding his Harley all over the Western states, water skiing, supporting the local town as Planning Commissioner, and serving on many boards ad Rotary. He says it’s “never a dull” moment. I’ll say! I thought retirement was supposed to be relaxing and incorporating a lot of rack time! You amaze me. Finally, congrats go to **Harry Harris** on being nominated to relieve **Sam Locklear** (’77) as the next Commander, Pacific Forces Command.

Like many of you I attended my 40th high school reunion. I also got to visit family. Among them was my cousin,



’78 at Tailhook 2014

Fernando Rico, whose wife, Patty, we find is a Saddleback High School classmate of one of our own ’78ers. It is a certain individual whose family lived in Santa Ana just down the block from my high school (Mater Dei). He’s former SWO and retired “Sky Pilot” who is not bad on the harmonica. Here’s what he looked like in 1974. Can you guess who it is? ... Yup, our own



Blues Baker

**Al “Blues” Baker!** Talk about your small world.

Well that’s all I have for now. If I have forgotten something (which I likely have) I’ll catch up in the next issue. Belated Happy Birthday to the finest fighting forces in the world—the United States Marines (and continued best wishes to our last active duty ’78 Devil Dog, LtGen **John Wissler** out in Japan as CG III MEF with Susan). Merry Christmas to all. May none of you find a lump of coal in your stocking— you deserve far better.

Launchin’ Spot Four outbound to 2015!

**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.)

22445 Bluebird Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

P: 301-997-1980; W: 240-556-0637

E: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

SOCIAL NETWORK LINKS:

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

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

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

Greetings, 79ers!

Quite literally, I have just returned from our big 35th Reunion. It was an absolutely terrific weekend. Other than

the final score of the game (and the golf washout), the weekend went off without a hitch. All in all about 530 people (270 classmates) were on hand. The Westin was a great dinner venue, and the N-Star Room at the stadium was the perfect spot for the tailgater.

I actually never made it to my seat for the game, as I spent the whole afternoon chatting with classmates in air-conditioned tailgating comfort, including never-ending food and drinks, plus large flat screen TVs for game watching. All in all, reunion coordinator Valerie Gerheiser and her team of ’79er volunteers outdid themselves.

I’ll have more reunion updates in future columns, but let’s get to the stack of stuff I have on my desk. First up is **Greg Reinhardt**, who took a few moments away from his third career to send the following:



At the Reinhardt-Ellington wedding: Jay Munoz, Greg Reinhardt and Mike Hecker

■ My daughter Libby was married on 28 December 2013 and had a few classmates come down to Louisville to attend the Big Event and indulge in some KY bourbon. Joining Luly and me at the wedding were Cindy and **Jay Munoz** and **Mike Hecker**. Marsha and **Mike Parrott** were on their way but got diverted while enroute due to family emergency. My brother, **Randy Reinhardt** ’73 was the minister that married off my daughter.

I retired from UPS on 28 February 2014 after 27 years with the company.