

Those interested in participating can pledge whatever amount per mile you desire via email at [replies@smtp.usna.com](mailto:replies@smtp.usna.com). For example, assuming the Vuolos complete the entire 2215 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine, a pledge of 25 cents per mile would raise \$553.75 for the cause.

The ultimate impact of their gesture will of course depend on how far John and Beth travel (the entire trip should take six months to complete) and how many classmates participate. To date we've raised almost \$550K in donations and pledges, putting us roughly halfway to the goal of raising \$1,001,977 by our 40th. If you haven't yet pledged, this would be a novel way of getting involved in the class project, and we know Beth and John would appreciate the support.

And since we're on the subject of our next reunion, if you've already marked your calendars for the 40th, we hope you did it with pencil, as we need to move it to the weekend of October 21st. Stay tuned for further details.

Finally, we regret to announce **Stu Elwing (15th Co.)** passed away on Wednesday, January 15th in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Finding Surface Line to be mighty fine, Stu served aboard the USS *Connole* (FF-1056), as well as a shore tour as an instructor at SWO School before being discharged for service-related injuries.

Stu was accomplished hunter and shooter, an avid sailor and very involved in his community.



Stu Elwing on ORION

Robert Louis Stevenson had men like Stu in mind when he penned his *Requiem*: home is the sailor, home from the sea, and the hunter home from the hill.

Magoo

Remember or Honor a loved one in Alumni Hall. Call 410-295-4100 for more information.

Honor Chairs

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

PRES: **Glen Woods**  
SECY: **Vince Balderrama**  
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401  
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Once again, **Jock Maloney** coordinated a great gathering of '78 for the Brigade Boxing Finals (aka- the Boxing Smoker) at the end of February. Many got together before at McGarvey's or Galway Bay for a little pre-boxing snack and drink. Besides Jock, classmates, spouses and family spotted were his son **Chris ('04)**, Karen and **Brett Ayotte**, Gretchen and **Tom Crowley**, **Rusty Cone**, **Doug Diehl**, **Craig Diffie**, **Eddie Reid**, **Bob DeStafney**, **Roy Cranford**, **Rich Cellon**, **Ray Kwong**, **Will Kramer**, **Bob Novak**, **Alex Dimitrew**, **Mike Brown**, **Gary Vinciguerra**, **Tom Dannessa**, **Duke Reilly ('79)**, and **Dennis Reilly**, **Dennis Reilly**, **Dennis Reilly**- oh and **Dennis Reilly!** (Okay, Dennis I think I have mentioned you a lot in the column now. So that'll do until-hmm - maybe the 40th? Just kidding.)

The morning after the Smoker some of the round ball stalwarts of the class got up to play basketball. According to Rusty his team was able to defeat the "Philly Boys" that Jock always brings down. It would've been more dramatic a victory had I been able to play. But of course I am banned from the court by Jock since my unfortunate accident during our 30th Reunion Game. Of course- should I lose weight, get in shape and get my shot back maybe I can get back on the court. That being said I vowed during the 35th Reunion to work at getting ready to play by our 40th (and I also *may* have conned **Tom Abernathy** and **Roosevelt "Rosie" Bynum** to be there with me too - over the vigorous skepticism of our wives!). It was great seeing everyone in particular those non-grads who stay connected to classmates and the Academy. Rusty and Tom Crowley hadn't seen our 11th Company mate, Tom **Dannessa** since he left as a Youngster and went to the University of Maryland. Tom is a local and lives in Severna Park, MD. **Mike Brown** has owned a financial services company for almost 20 years (MJB & Associates). **Gary Vinciguerra** owns a formal wear and tuxedo store- Tuxedo Junction in Oaklyn NJ.



I heard a great story from **Ray Luevano** that I had to have verified by **Ty Glasgow**. It was about our final P-rade during June week '78. The story ranks among the top in the category of "they could never do that today at the Academy". One reason is because the Reflection Pool is no longer. Anyway, the story is that a newly-minted, Zoomie grad 2/Lt marched in that final (Color P-rade) with 9th Company. The Zoomie, Paul Medera (USAFA '78) was a high school friend of **Lance Tucker's**. In '78, USAFA graduated the week before us so Paul was able to make Lance's (and our) graduation. Needless to say, Lance put Paul in a P-rade uniform (borrowing from his closet and Ty's) then -aided by his company mates (and perhaps with a little "coercion" by 9th Company strong '78 leadership) he

was inserted into their company formation! He even joined in the dash and dive into the Reflection Pool.



Lance Tucker, drag date and Paul Medera

**Ray Kempisty's** son Mitch chose USS Truxtun out of Norfolk at ship selection night January 30. Mitch and his wife Annette were in attendance at Mahan Hall for the event and the after parties in Mahan, then at the O-Club, where the ship selection celebration and Firstie Club merged. He said it was great to have had the opportunity to be there for this important event in his son's budding career. Mitch noted it was much different than when he chose a Mayport-based frigate back in the day. He was pretty sure he just went back to his room, without a new ball cap. He thinks he probably called home *after* waiting for a phone then went to bed (Remember when we had those pay phone booths in Mother B?). In February Mitch marked one year with the Veterans Health Administration – his second gig with the VA. He adds further “measurements” of the job by saying “this time with a fresh job series classification, his fifth or so career remake, and his third pension.



Midn Kempisty (2nd from Left) Selects TRUXTON



John Fiorelli commits to play football at Navy

Congrats to Jan and **Jim Fiorelli**, whose youngest son, **John**, committed to play football at Navy. John is a 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior at St. Christopher's School and was named all-Prep League and second-team all-state [VA] after registering 82 tackles, seven tackles for loss, a sack and an interception last season. He holds his school's record for career tackles. Army, Princeton and Davidson also recruited him but Navy won out! Sounds like our defense will be strengthened next year! Congrats to **Deke Philman** who is now President of The Taurean Corp in San Antonio. Taurean is a small, veteran owned business providing quality Computer Network Defense (CND) services and general support to defense and intelligence operations in the field of cyber security. Belated congrats to our Class VP, **Sean Coffey**, who in December became a Partner and Chair of Complex Litigation at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP. Sean got the urge to get back into litigation when he gave up an almost four year hiatus this past summer to defend Fabrice Tourre, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. vice president perhaps best known for memorably describing himself as “the Fabulous Fab.” Mr. Tourre was charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission for misleading investors 2007. Being back in the courtroom just got those juices flowing again and Sean knew he wanted to get back in the game for real.

Best wishes to **Bill “If” Fell** on a speedy and complete recovery. Bill had a knee replacement at the beginning of February. He should be good now to play hoops, run, kick and disco Dahlgren! Of course for the rest of his life he'll also be setting off detectors at every airport he ever visits. **John G. Rogers** broke a 35+ years silence with a quick note. Last year he ran the Michael McCaffrey Hope Challenge. It's been on for four years now and is a non-profit 5K Road Race/Fun Run to support the Dana Farber Cancer Institute benefiting the Claudia Adams Barr Program for Innovative Basic Cancer Research. 100% of all profits collected go directly to Dana Farber. Named in honor of our late classmate the hope is to fund

the researcher holding the test tube or slide that bears a life-saving breakthrough in the battle against all forms of cancer. According to John it's a really nice 5K. Mike's widow, Pat, and son Ryan and daughter Meghan put together a very nice event. Last year the weather didn't cooperate (about a foot of snow the previous night). After a brief postponement, things went off with nary a hitch. At race time, it was about 45 degrees F, very nice. A couple of weeks later, Mike's son Ryan ran the Boston Marathon. John checked the results, and found that he came through the finish area about an hour before the tragedy struck (Thank God)! John was planning to run in *this* year's event held March 8th. He had 10 USNA grads at Millstone Power Station where he works geared up to run. I hope the weather was kinder. Here's the link to the Run so you can add it to your list of charities and events that do great work in honor of our classmates- <http://www.teammccaffrey5k.org/> Best wishes for continued success and prayers for a cure to Pat, Ryan and Meghan. As for John, he is still in the Nuke Power Business. He and Julie have been married for over 30 years and have three daughters (two of whom are now married). Thanks for the news, John, and don't be another 35 year absentee correspondent!

Well that's all the room I have. Mea culpas for missed news. Send me a nasty-gram and I'll make up for it in the next edition.

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.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

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

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

Classmates:

Not much to report this month – except to remind you of our upcoming 35th Reunion in Annapolis. Two things you can do right now:

1) Mark the dates of 25-28 September 2014 in your calendar;

2) Log in to your account in [usna.com](http://usna.com) and make sure your contact information and email address are correct and current. In addition to being on the

**JointMembership**

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

