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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 73%PRES: **Lee Geanuleas**

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78

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%PRES: **Glen Woods**SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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It's been a long time since **Andy Mohler** (18th) checked in. But he did in early May. He's been very involved in the Navy League since retiring in 2004. He served as Central Florida Council President for 3 years. It's a very active council supporting 13 NJROTCs, two Sea Cadet units, active duty Coast Guard and Navy units, and work with many different veterans' organizations (www.cfnavyleague.org). One of the big projects they took on was to design, fund, construct, and donate a Lone Sailor Navy Memorial on the site of the former Recruit Training Center (RTC Orlando) and Nuclear Power School. The base was closed in a BRAC, demolished in '99, and redeveloped into a very nice Park - Bluejacket Park to be exact. This was the site of the famous (to locals and RTC grads at least) wooden destroyer training ship called USS Bluejacket. Aside from a small plaque there was no acknowledgement of the long Navy history in Orlando. After seven years of fundraising for more than \$450K, design, running a construction competition, negotiating with the City of Orlando and finally construction, they just dedicated phase one. This made their site the 14th Lone Sailor Memorial in the United States. Their Memorial contains some unique design elements apart from the bronze statue, such as a sea services compass rose, a wood grained pier structure, a paver walkway (300+ sold and yes you can still buy one!). They are going to finish the memorial wall by the Navy Birthday. This will be a storyboard telling the history of what went on at the site for more than 30 years. They also plan to design a female bronze Sailor, using the local Orlando arts community, to complement our Lone Sailor. This is in acknowledgement of the fact that Orlando RTC was the first coed boot camp. Here are some pics during design, and the final product. Andy also had the

pleasure of reconnecting with **Dave Buss** (34th) at the NAWCTSD Change of Command in April. Dave and Andy were in Airwing Seven many years back. They have hardly seen each other since then. They t was great fun catching up. They were laughing at the recent Russian fly-by, thinking back to how much better (and lower!) VA-65 performed those maneuvers back in the day around the Soviet Fleet with their mighty A-6E. The maneuver was usually preceded by an enthusiastic "watch this!!".



Andy Mohler and Dave Buss

Ken "Sox" Bowersox (19th) and I exchanged a few e-mails. Sox is still in Houston. Life after retiring from the Navy and the NASA space program - and then a stint with SpaceX - now finds him enjoying the family, doing lots of personal projects and doing the occasional technical/management consulting job. He and Ann will have their three sons all in college next year- one at Texas A&M, one at Baylor and the third at the Colorado School of Mines.

I had the honor of attending a New York Council of the Navy League's Annual Banquet in April. I was the guest of Anne and **Sean Coffey** (13th) who had hosted a table. We were joined by a few hundred folks in attendance to honor some folks for their service to our Navy and nation- one whom we had particular interest, our own ADM **Cecil Haney** (29th). Also attending at one of the other tables was **Dan Holloway** (27th). Sean talked about his getting together in Texas with one of his old bosses- President George H.W. Bush - aka "Bush 41" this winter. Sean had been his junior Aide. He said that was a very special day. There were about a dozen former personal aides gathered in Houston to surprise that very special American. Sean wrote that, "No surprise, he was gracious, inquisitive about what we're all up to, and generous with his time (as was Mrs. B, who helped organize the event). A gift, and a reminder that one can attain the highest office in

the land while maintaining class, dignity, and integrity."



Sean and President George H.W. Bush

On April 22nd we bade "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to Priscilla and **Mark Fox** (18th) as they retired from his 38 year career in the Navy. Mark had an illustrious career in which - among other things - he commanded a squadron, a carrier air wing, the 5th Fleet and Navy CENTCOM; was a the Head of the White House Military Office and served major Joint Tours, the last as Deputy CENTCOM. He was also the last Navy pilot on active duty to have shot down an enemy fighter in aerial combat. The ceremony was held in Mahan Hall where Mark in his remarks reminded we grads that some of our "best sleep was taken in Mahan". Besides daughter, Abigail and her brothers, sisters-in-law and the Fox grandchildren, Mark had distant family and friends from all over the world- even friend from way back in elementary school- in visiting. He also had more braid and brass in attendance than the Mids could salute in passing (including the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the CNO who was his Master of Ceremonies). Mark and Priscilla's three sons were among his side boys: William, **Mason ('04)** and **Collin ('07)**. Of course there was a pretty good attendance from '78. I recall seeing: **Marty Drake** (11th), **Ray Milton** (18th), **Mo Tose** (17th), **Chris Powers** (23rd), **Kurt Tidd** (36th), **John Kovalcik** (16th), **Kevin McGhee** (14th), **Chris Hassler** (17th), **John Rudder** (12th), **Art Athens** (18th), **Jim Fiorelli** (2nd) and **George Koucheravy** (18th). Someone said they saw **Don Schneider** (18th). **Tim Stark** (8th) stopped by the reception at the O'Club. As fate would have it Tim and his family were on the Yard for the inurnment of his mother's ashes in the Columbarium. They were having a post-inurnment reception in the room next to Mark's retirement reception. Tim's mom had passed away a while ago and the



'78 at Mark Fox's Retirement

schedule date was just a coincidence. Tim stopped in to say hi to everyone and in fact made balloon animals and swords for Mark and Priscilla's grandchildren and all the others kids. (Mark has been doing clowning and entertaining of kids for years. He is never without his balloons.) The kids loved it and tuckered out poor Tim with all that balloon blowing. (He vows to *not* forget his pump again!). Mark and Priscilla were living in Clarendon after retirement until he figures out what he wants to do next. Mark, we wish you and Priscilla the best!



Chris Powers, Tim Stark and Kevin McGhee

Congrats go to some members of the '78 family: In May, **Fred Butterfield** (22nd) completed his 11 year journey and received his Master in Divinity from Capital Seminary and Graduate School. It seems like almost all the family was in attendance. **Welling Clark** (5th) was recently inducted into his High School's Hall of Fame. **Jim Shulson** (22nd) helped coach the Green Valley Gators to their third in a row Southern Nevada Lacrosse Association Championship. Also in May, **Stephen Jones'** (27th) son, Jeremy, and **Bob Tuohy's** (3rd) son (and the maker of all those great Navy Spirit videos), Rylan, were among the newly commissioned officers and graduates from

the Naval Academy Class of 2016. I saw Sofia and Stephen at the Blue Angels show but missed catching up with Bob. Congrats to **Jim Fiorelli's** (2nd) son, **Michael ('13)**, who got his wings of gold in May. His nice white choker looks spotless so I suspect dad *did not* make them "blood wings". We are hoping for that beer at a belated wetting down as Cindy and **John Rudzis's**, (25th) daughter, **Britta Vivaldi** ('14) pinned on the silver bars of a 1st Lieutenant of Marines. Bravo Zulu also to **Will Kramer's** (2nd) son **Andy ('11)** who was named as a Burke Scholar.



Most of the Butterfields at Graduation



Sofia and Stephen Jones with Elizabeth Beedenbender



Winging of Michael Fiorelli

Well, that's it for now.
Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 91%

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Greetings, 79ers!

As I write I'm winging my way home from yet another trip. It's been a busy couple of months for me – and it must be busy for everyone else as well, because I don't have much to pass on this month.

First things first. Last fall I was copied on an email from **Kevin "Sully" O'Sullivan**, a non-grad from 10th Co. I filed the email for the next issue – and I filed it so well that, well, you can guess the rest. So with profuse apologies for the delay, here's Sully:

■ I was on an East Coast solo road trip and saw Herb Wilson at his home in VA Beach. Bob Tata came over, stories were told, some were true...Herb is in good enough shape that he could still play on Saturday if Navy needed him. I retired in January '15 as President and CEO of MIRATECH. I am riding my bicycle a lot – I have more miles on it than on my car this year. Karren, my wife of 32 years, and I live in Tulsa. Peace – Sully ■



Bob Tata, Kevin O'Sullivan, Herb Wilson