



Turley Clan

...who's playing so well, rumor has it he can beat **Joe Christofferson (4th Co.)** straight-up like a drum! Sorry Jose; just repeating what **Rob Lamb (6th Co.)** told me.

In another golf-related item, we recently enjoyed the company of **Jerry Miller (19th Co.)** and **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)** on the links at Bayville in Virginia Beach. Nothing like playing a great course in the company of greatness!

Finally, our old roommate **Stratton Hicky (35th Co.)** sent us a graduation announcement for his daughter Dana, who, like her sister Morgan three years prior, graduated valedictorian from Morgan County High School in Madison, GA. Below is photo of Dana on her first day of school, along with her senior portrait:



Dana Hicky First Day of School



Dana Hicky Senior Portrait

Upon graduation, Dana will join her sister at Georgia Tech. It's worth noting while the two girls graduated from the same high school as their father, they obviously got their brains from their mother! BZ Dana, and congrats to Stratton and Bonnie.

Mago

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%

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Jan and **Jim Fiorelli (2nd Co)** sent an update on the Fiorellis and the Bellezzas. The fall presented them with many home game opportunities to meet several classmates, among them, Marla and **Al Baker (10th Co)**. They saw **Harry Harris (15th Co)** and **Rudy Costanzo (16th Co)** at the USF tailgate. The Fiorellis' youngest, John, was a plebe football player – one of 190 on the roster! While he got to suit up for that USF game I am not sure he will be playing next year as Rugby might beckon. The day after New Year's, Jan 2nd, Barb and **Vinnie Bellezza's (2nd Co)** youngest son, LT (j.g) John Bellezza, married Pauline in Newark, NJ. Jim reported they had a great time catching up with all Vin's family, whom they've known since Plebe Summer, 1974. John is a P-8 NFO stationed in JAX. One highlight of the fall for Jan and Jim was spending ten days in Israel to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. It was the trip of a lifetime! They were looking forward to attending some wingings late spring and early summer as their other sons complete flight training. Their eldest, Mike ('13) finishing up Naval Aviator training and middle son, Matt, finishing up Army Aviation training at FT. Rucker. I share Jim's longing to once be a young aviator – just like his sons.



This February, marked the 75th Anniversary of Boxing at Navy. There were many Brigade Champions present to watch the finals not to mention our own Champions like **Steve "Jock" Maloney (16th Co)**, **Doug Diehl (25th Co)**, and **Will Ervin (7th Co)**. To the best of my recollection, also present were Mary Jane Maloney, Karen and **Brett Ayotte (29th Co)**, Marla and **Al "Blues" Baker (10th Co)**, Gretchen and **Tom Crowley (11th Co)**, **Gary Vincinguerra, Mike Sears (36th Co)**, **Glen Ives (10th Co)**, **Craig Diffie (10th Co)**, **Rusty Cone (11th Co)**, **Bruce Latta (25th Co)**, Susan and **Chris Hassler (17th Co)**, Doug's brother, Kurt Diehl, and **Kevin "Duke" Reilly ('79)**. The next morning was the traditional pickup basketball game. **Al Baker** was there to cheer - and perhaps administer last rites to - the intrepid hoopsters- Kurt and **Doug Diehl**,



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Rusty Cone, Glen Ives, Greg Reuss ('77), Craig Diffie and Jock Maloney.

Congratulations to you new (relatively recent) grandparents like, **Earl Mosely** (22nd Co), **Vinny DiGirolamo** (26th Co), and **Mike Dasovich** (33rd Co). Best birthday wishes for those who this year hit the big Six Oh, or as **Mark Peterson** (28th) refers to it as “2 times 30.” Continuing the Bravo Zulus—congrats to new PhD “doctors”, **Walt Brown** (11th Co) and **Scott Mobley** (3rd Co). In February, Walt earned his DBA in Finance from Anderson University in Indiana. He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled *ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCE: ANALYZING THE DEMAND FOR THE PERSONAL GUARANTEE*. Scott finished of his doctorate of history in Wisconsin. Starting this fall he will be joining the Naval Academy faculty and teach Naval History. This April his wife, Monique, and their dog, Ritz (who is a dead ringer for Toto) was the “advanced party” and prepared their rental home until Scott arrived in May. Congrats also to **James Gafford** (36th Co) and his new bride, the former Gretchen Summer who were married on May 12th. They had planned a two week honeymoon in Scotland before returning to their home in San Francisco.



Congratulations to my roommate, **Tom Crowley** (11th Co), for becoming a flag-equivalent member of the Senior Executive Service (SES). Tom moved from the Department of the Navy where for years he had been Director, Navy Programs Division, Office of Legislative

Affairs (OLA) to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs at the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. He essentially manages programs, people and resources for NOAA's (small) fleet of ships and aircraft. The office is in downtown Silver Spring, MD. It's a bit of commute but I am sure his cell phone doesn't buzz all evening or weekend anymore. Tom's DON farewell was hosted by ASN(RDA) **Sean Stackley '79** and Chief of Legislative Affairs RADM **Craig Fowler '83**. They awarded him the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award. Gretchen and their twins, James and Kelly, were present. Joining them were many of the Secretariat and OPNAV folks that Tom had worked with for the past seven years. VADM (Ret) **Terry Blake '75**, DCNO (N8) when I joined OLA and an old friend from Joint Staff days was also able to make it which meant a lot. Seven years is a long time to do any job, but Tom said that every day he looked forward to working with the best mid-grade officers in the Navy, the ones assigned to the Navy Programs team. As he says, he's now “enjoying working with a new team from the NOAA Corps, the seventh (and smallest) uniformed service, and their civilian counterparts – ships, planes, people and a great mission... what could be better.”



A lot of people ask me if I play golf. I can honestly say that I am more of an “excavator” (missing the ball but making ground contact) and a “land navigator” (searching for the ball in woods). Given that, I *might* just be able to make a game of it with **John Cohoon** (16th Co). I only say this as John mentioned playing with his father **John Sr ('47)** up in Lakewood NJ during a visit in November. The 92 year old John Senior beat Junior. Given that I just have a shot at beating you, John, so maybe we'll play

one day—but I ain't playing your dad! As Dirty Harry used to say, “A man has to know his limitations”. Then again, maybe I won't play you as you still might be good. I know those retirees play daily so all that practice just might have made your dad perfect. Maybe I'll stick to driving the cart.



Ray Luevano (6th Co) informed me of the sad news that Marilyn and **Tom Grodek's** (6th Co) eldest, Maureen “Moey” - died on 2 March. She may have been one of the first children born to our '78 family. We mourn her loss and pray for consolation and healing for Marilyn and Tom.

Launchin' Spot 4, with a “rotary” wing and a prayer.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 91%

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Greetings, 79ers!

I am nearly a week late getting this column submitted. So if you are indeed reading these words in the May/June issue, then it's because of the graciousness of my wonderful editors at *SHIPMATE*. OK, that was a blatant grovel. However, in all seriousness, the folks at Alumni House with whom I work are some of the most talented and dedicated people you could ever hope to find. And the fact that they put up with me is proof they are blessed with an abundance of patience – as my wife Karen will attest!

Some serious news to start. Back in October, **Mac Sylvester** sent an email