



'77: Chris Spada Memorial

adlibbed the “fuggedaboutit”. Regardless, George W. got a good laugh out of it.

When youngest brother Dan had occasion to introduce Mom to B. Hussein, she said, “You know you’re the fourth President that I’ve met?” To which Barry laconically replied, “Well, that’s more than I’ve met”. Joe adds, “She’s a great lady, now 84, as is my Dad now 86...but we never know what’s going to come out of her mouth.” [Editor’s note: we assume Joe means his Dad is a great *guy*, versus a great *lady* like his Mom. Then again, Joe was an engineering whiz, not an English major!]

Joe, first, thanks for getting Canders, Vieten, Holst and Buck through four years of rigorous Boat School academics. Second, thanks for sharing this little bit of memorable military lore.

Next, **Ev McNair (34th Co.)** reported he rode up from North Carolina to Washington, D.C. over the Memorial Day weekend as part of Rolling Thunder. Ev is shown below just before saddling up in a photo taken by his wife Dietra:



Ev “Rolling Thunder” McNair

Ev last participated in Rolling Thunder back in 2010, and though he enjoyed cruising up Rt. 29 through rural North Carolina and Virginia, he notes the Beltway bites on a bike. Ride safe, Ev; remember, like take-offs and landings, saddle-ups and dismounts should always equal out!

Finally, as is seemingly so often the case these days, we close this column on a sad note. A number of 12th Company class-

mates met in Norfolk, VA Saturday, May 21st to mark not only the passing, but to celebrate the life of **Chris Spada (12th Co.)**. The ceremony was attended not only by Chris’ 12th Co. shipmates, but a number of his former squadron-mates, neighbors, relatives and friends as well. Chris was truly loved, and he’ll always be missed.

Shown below, left to right are: **Denny Simon (12th Co.)**, **Fred Kinkin (12th Co.)**, **Ron Brinkley (12th Co.)**, **Steve Weingart (12th Co.)**, **Jeff Weddle (12th Co.)**, **Dave Skocik (12th Co.)**, **John Vuolo (12th Co.)**, **Scott “Mizzou” Thomas (12th Co.)**, **Dan Gearing (12th Co.)** and **“Jolly” John Sill (12th Co.)**.

John V. is holding a photo of Chris from our days as “midsheeps”...as in, “No mo’ meelk for midsheeps!”

Rest in peace, Spud:

“...Home is the sailor, home from the sea,  
And the hunter home from the hill.”

— Magoo

80

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 96%

PRES: **Tim Kobosko**

SEC’Y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR**

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Greetings Classmates,

Today is the 6th of July – “I” Day— What a day that was—remember...hot, confusing, stressful-lots of people we didn’t know that have now become a part of our lives and family. We now call them Shipmates – and we started on this wild ride 40 years ago today. How amazing!

It is always a very special day in my memory – as it was also my 18th Birthday – and amazingly – it is still my birthday! What a great way to start off the day with a note to the Class.

On to the mailbag: It was great to get a note from **Tom Ryan**, tryan80@sbcglobal.net. He sent in a few photos that were taken in Hawaii with our Classmates and **Wendel Elento** (who keeps the Hawaiian connection alive – (*Secretary’s Note*: According to Tom – it is MANDATORY to have your picture taken with Wendel):



78

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC’Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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79

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 91%

PRES: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**

E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

SEC’Y: **LCDR John “Wiz” Withers, USN (Ret.)**

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

Facebook Group: USNA Class of 1979

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

40 Years of Women  
REUNION WEEKEND

8-10 September 2016

HONORING  
ALL Women