

77/78 CLASS NEWS

Three-Mile Beach are Ray, the late, great **Paul Cappelino (24th Co.)**, Yours Truly and **Joe Kernan (19th Co.)**, on just one of what Ray noted were some one hundred fifty straight days we spent waiting for the T-34C's to come on line. Talk about hard times; every weekday... literally every single weekday...saw us checking in at NAS Whiting... followed by a stimulating session on the weights with **Ray "Magoo, are you gonna talk or lift?!"** **Crevier (6th Co.)**, basketball lessons with **Joe Christofferson (4th Co.)**, impromptu SEAL training on the beach with Kernan, all topped off by a liquid dinner with Ray, **Bill Damico (21st Co.)** and **Steve Harper (21st Co.)** at McGuire's. We're lucky to be alive!

Ray and his wife Sue (another Rose of Pensacola!) are finally winding down their days in Clifton, VA, having built a house in Orlando just outside the back gate of EPCOT (they're actually part of Disney's HOA) back in 2013. Now that the kids are grown, it's time to pull chocks and go where it's warm. Ray still has his company in Virginia, but is winding that down as well, replacing his hours in the office with time on the links.

As for the rest of the family, Sue and Ray's oldest son Adam lives in Nokesville, VA with his wife and their three grandkids, daughter Lindsay and her husband, who welcomed the arrival of their first child, Hadley Rae this past January, reside in Richmond, while their two other boys, Sean and Connor, currently reside with them in Orlando. Sean, who was just transferred to Orlando, is getting married in May, and Connor, a recent FSU grad, just went to work with Disney.

Here's wishing Sue and Ray a long and enjoyable retirement...and plenty of additional grandkids they can spoil rotten!

Next up, **Colin Sargent (22nd Co.)** checked in from Portsmouth, VA to inform us his latest novel, *The Boston Castrato* (Barbican Press, London) has hit the streets. Colin says the story was inspired in part by Navy-contract hotels in Italy, including

the Hotel Forum in Rome and Grand Hotel Parker's in Naples, which he first encountered during First Class Cruise. He'd appreciate hearing from anyone who's ever been billeted in either of the two hotels during a detachment or TAD and has some memories to share. Colin's email is portlandmagazine@hotmail.com; and for more information on his book visit www.colinwsargent.com or <http://www.barbicanpress.com/the-boston-castrato-colin-w-sargent/>.

Finally, we regret to inform you our classmate **John Kearney (28th Co.)**, Captain, USN (Ret.) passed away Wednesday, December 7, 2016 in Little Rock, AR.



John Kearney

John went Surface Line, having chosen to follow in the footsteps of his late father, Captain Joseph Kearney, USN. We are all indebted to John for his years of service to our country.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 79%
Donor Participation: 3.92%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401
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Website: usna1978.org

This is short, sweet and sad.

On the sweet side:

✉ **Ty Glasgow** reported that in January he and his 9th Company



'78

roommate, **Lance Tucker**, and their respective beautiful brides, Melissa and Dede, rendezvoused in Aruba for a little R&R winter break. From the pounding of snow the Northeast got around that time it was a great call! The four had a great time in catching up on the "latest". Lance is a 737 Captain for United. He and Dede live in Houston. Ty is with Alliance Data Systems/Epsilon. He and Dede live on the beach in New Harbor, Maine.



Cecil Haney sent a few more photos relating to his change of command and retirement. One is of our then four four-stars taken last year before Cecil retired. It has Cecil, **Harry Harris**, **Kurt Tidd** and **Mark Ferguson**. Mark and Cecil left Harry as the 'Old Goat' (see decanter) and Kurt standing the 4-star watch for our class. Note that the Decanter eventually could have four '78 classmates' initials engraved in succession! The other photo is of the gang I mentioned

last month who attended Cecil's retirement ceremony (except for our early departures.)



As for the sad:

In mid-February **Jack Adolph** posted on Facebook that 8th Company's own **Keith Wray** passed away in late 2016 after a long battle with cancer. Keith served a distinguished thirty-year career in the Surface Warfare Navy and retired as a CAPTAIN. Back in 2011, Keith had updated his profile to say that after the Navy he was "Living in Snow belt Syracuse NY. Teaching anyone that will listen. Beat Army!" I am sure some listened, Keith, and they are better for having known you and gained from your wisdom. As this goes to print, Keith's ashes were to have been laid to rest on March 3rd at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Keith's family, friends

and Shipmates. We'll be seeing you at the Final Class Come-around someday, Keith.

Launchin' Spot Four

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 4.21%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
e: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
42498 Regal Wood Dr., Ashburn, VA 20148
p: 240-556-0637; e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

Social Network Links:

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

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

A couple of quick news items to pass along.

Dom Gorie was recently elected President of Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge, Inc. Dom is a member of the Board of Directors, and has led several of the CWVC Challenges, including mountain climbing and backpacking treks in Alaska and Colorado.

The mission of the organization is to improve the lives of our wounded or injured veterans by focusing on education, rehabilitation, research and innovations in field-based assessments and treatment of orthotics & prosthetics, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Challenge expeditions are physically and psychologically demanding, providing sufficiently arduous and extremely motivational experiences. During expeditions the veterans voluntarily participate in case studies and medical research projects that further medical, physiological, biomedical and pathological sciences associated with their injuries. Congrats. Dom!

In other "veterans helping veterans" news, **Mac Silvester** checked in from the DC area with an update on his efforts:

✉ This April 29-30 2017, I will again be riding with Team MOAA in the Face of America - a two-day, 110-mile bicycle and hand cycle ride from the Pentagon in Arlington, VA to the battlefields of Gettysburg, PA. This annual ride put on by national non-profit World T.E.A.M. Sports honors

our injured military veterans and includes more than 170 veterans and active-duty participants with injuries ranging from amputation to paralysis to blindness to post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

This is my 4th consecutive year riding in the Face of America. The Ride is one of the largest non-competitive bicycling events in the Washington, D.C. area. In 2016, over 600 riders participated in the ride - many of whom came from across the United States and Canada.

Please check out my website: <http://bit.ly/2jDfnw5> Any support appreciated either through donation, prayer or positive thoughts! Mahalo!

Good luck, Mac!

In more fundraising news, **Steve Smith** invites interested '79ers to join his team and help raise funds to cure arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation's Walk to Cure Arthritis will start at Nationals Stadium in Washington, DC on 21 May 2017. To participate and/or to donate, please visit Steve's page at <http://bit.ly/2kY1lq5>. Thanks, Steve, for all that you and Liz do for this great cause.

Roger Rose emailed to say he left Lockheed-Martin in December after ten years of international business development work. He recently joined up with **Steve Hogge** at ZeroBase Energy, a small hybrid energy firm. He's staying put in northern VA for now. Good luck, Roger and Steve!

Did you know that, as reunions go, a class's 40th Reunion is typically one of the largest and most well attended reunions? We still have a couple years yet, but now is time to start planning for a trip to Crabtown in 2019. As I mentioned last month, the Reunion Committee is still evaluating options for our 40th, but is working to get some things in place so the planning process can begin in earnest. **Sean Cate** will no doubt have future emails on the subject - and I'll keep you informed of any news as I get it.

Take care, Classmates. And if you have anything interesting going on, please drop me a line - and a photo or two!

See you next month!

**Omnēs Viri,
Wiz...**

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 2.06%

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

Sec'y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR**
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Website: www.USNA1980.org

Greetings Classmates!

Mardi Gras is around the corner, the Dark Ages are in full swing, the Patriots just won their fifth Super Bowl, we have a new Administration, grandchildren, retirement, RV trips and so much more! The Dark Ages are a slow time for the Mailbag as we are still waiting for the furry groundhog to tell us whether we have to go back for a long nap and wait for spring. Here's what I have that's fit to print:

Starting off I received a great photo from one of my fellow Glee Club members, **Bruce Watts**, brucewatts@comcast.net who was in the Yard with his daughter **Caroline** ('18). Bruce was one fantastic piano player and brought a lot of excitement to our shows in the Skiv's and where we sang together in our trio Full Sail.

✉ Hi Joe

Here is a photo of me with my daughter Caroline, Class of 2018, on The Yard last fall. Susan and I have three daughters and Caroline is the youngest. We have loved getting to know her wonderful friends at USNA during our trips to Annapolis, bringing back many warm memories while making new ones. One of her friends is in the men's Glee Club and sings the lead on Rama Lama Ding Dong, a song that we introduced to the repertoire so many years ago and on which I sang lead. That may not be as long a run as Anchors Aweigh or Eternal Father, but it certainly was a small world moment for me! All the best, Joe, and thanks for your faithful service to our class. —**Bruce**

LUCKY BAG OF BOOKS

To check out all the options for your reading pleasure, visit usna.com/LBB



Bruce Watts and his Daughter Caroline 2018

I also received a photo and note from **Dale Lehenbauer** dlehenbauer@carolina.rr.com fulfilling the "whenever two or three shall meet and old tales be retold." Here is a photo of three bubble heads from 2nd Company in one place: **Brice, Lew Thomas** and **Bill Brodhag** who got together over Veteran's Day.



Three Bubble Heads in one place

One of our great contributors, **Alan Wellesley**, alan.wellesley@gmail.com wrote in with an update from the Wildmen:

✉ Dear Joe,

This past year has been a blur for Robin and me. After buying a lake home in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, we conducted a slow move while extricating ourselves from California. This past year has included many trips between CA and AR, and