

site (<https://www.signupnow.events/usna1977/>) and git 'er done!

Now, on with the show!

First up, since we're on the subject of reunions, **Greg Reuss (3rd Co.)** wrote to request we post notice announcing a "warning order" for The Basic School, Golf Company-77 40th Reunion to be held 22 SEP 2017 - 23 SEP 2017 in Quantico.

**Break**

Those interested in participating are should forward their contact information to Greg at: reussohana@aol.com

**Break**

Much more to follow; however, we're at the IP inbound. Greg suggests this be considered a warm-up for the main event in October; Beat Army and Semper Fi!

**Out**

Next, **Bill Hartmann (34th Co.)** checked in from beautiful Albuquerque, NM (by the way, we spelled that out without any external assistance!) where he's heading a medical start-up (Ion Linac Systems) and Annie...



Annie and Bill Adaptive

...still his OAO, is a part-time nurse and full-time grandmother to their two grandsons...



Annie and George



John Denlinger Fountain

...George (top) and John (bottom). Bill inserted the term "incredible" before "grandsons" in his email, but we consider any superlative even **remotely** associated with the words "grandson(s)", "granddaughter(s)" or "grandchildren" redundant! As Bill's unquestionably incredible grandsons reside in The Big Apple, Annie and he spend a fair amount of time there. We're also informed John sings a great rendition of The Star Spangled Banner...including a hearty "BEAT ARMY!!!" at the end. Bill is shown below with his son Will when The Black Knights of the Hudson finally broke The Streak:



Bill and Will Army Navy

And Bill, no; your attendance at the game was NOT responsible for the Navy loss.

When not running his medical start-up, Bill is active as a volunteer ski instructor for the disabled, including disabled vets. No Gator; the inability to float does not constitute a legitimate handicap.

Almost as importantly, **Harry Rouse (34th Co.)** and Bill are coordinating a block of rooms and get-togethers for our rapidly approaching 40th, while **Ken Shearer (34th Co.)** is working on football tickets for the group. Bill reports Club 34 currently claims a count 13

attendees, and requests anyone else, whether attending or not, to please drop him a line at: **billhartman77@aol.com**.

Finally, TLJ and we recently enjoyed the company of Laura and **Jerry Miller (19th Co.)** at dinner in Annapolis, which is always a special treat. If anyone's looking for an excellent restaurant in Crabtown, we can highly recommend Osteria, which occupies what most of us remember as the Main Street Burger King.

As Porky Pig would say...



That's All Folks

In conclusion, if this column seems a little skimpy, remember, we can only print what you send. So, now that Jerry's sold Earl Industries and Dirk, Sam and Skip are retired, unless you want to read stories about Andy Bushak literally ripping off our t-shirt and boxers while chasing us down the passageway on 8-1 past Herr and Jonesy's room (yes, we outran him!), Buddy Barker's sexual conquests, Herb's encounters with Smalley, Wally Tart's drowning lessons or questionable accounts of Christofferson's golf skills, we strongly suggest you forward something for us to publish.

And remember, spare neither the details nor photographs; we can always edit what you submit.

One more thing. As we've aged, we've discovered, though we sometimes cannot remember our thoughts of only moments ago, when we received Greg Reuss' email, we instantly recalled his face, voice and mannerisms.

Then we recalled the '77 version of Henry V's Saint Crispin's Day speech:

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that endures Heinz Lenz with me*

*Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition;  
And gentlemen elsewhere in America  
now a-bed*

*Shall think themselves accurs'd they  
were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap  
whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Induction  
Day 1973!*

—Magoo

'78

**Life Membership: 80%**  
**Donor Participation: 11.52%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401

e: canoeu78@aol.com

Website: **usna1978.org**

This is a very short column. Not a lot of things going on.

On Commissioning Day the torch passed to the Class of 2017 to lead our young Sailors and Marines. Among those who watched and celebrated was **Bob McMasters (12th Co)**. Bob's nephew was among the graduates.



Vince and Bob McMasters

**Rusty Cone (11th Co)** ran into **Chris Jensen (13th Co)** at a networking event in DC yesterday! "Whenever 2 or 3 shall meet!" As Rusty was not familiar with Chris from school days, he said it was great to catch up on his career and family as well to know they are working in the same markets! Small world for sure!

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Chris Jensen and Rusty Cone

Speaking of small worlds- in June, Sue and **John Wissler** attended the Norfolk Harborfest and Mayor's Reception. During the evening they met the artist of this year's commemorative poster, LCDR **Matt DeGree** ('05). Yup, he's the son of Tracy and **Jim DeGree** (33rd Co). Sue noted the DeGrees were the Wissler's first neighbors after graduation! Sue mentioned that if you were able to look closely at the original painting for the poster, you will see an N-Star flag, Matt's son's initials spelled out in signal flags and a couple of stray F-18's, Matt's airframe of choice in the US Navy.



Matt Degree and John Wissler

**Mark Boensel** (21st Co), **Don Aiken** (3rd Co) and **Bruce Bole**



'78

(3rd Co) recently got together at an S3-B reunion at NAS Jacksonville. Much hand flying and many lies were exchanged.

Congrats to **Terry O'Brien** (10th Co) who is now the Vice Chairman for the Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA). The SCA is the national trade association representing the U.S. shipyard industry. **Dan Topolewski** (8th Co) passed on some gouge. He put forward that there are those of us who have made a career in one aspect or another with the DoD and have probably accumulated a significant "Professional Library" along the way. He found that as he is nearing my retirement as a weapons engineer - currently for the Air Force, he doesn't need all those weapons manuals, training books, and technical references he's used along the way. (I bet his wife asked him - "Do you *really* need to keep all these books?" Translation- "get rid of this stuff". Well, that's what Elizabeth has asked me for years.) Dan said that the Systems Engineering Department has been kind enough to take them off his hands. He was able to let THEM determine which ones are valuable enough to put in the library. All he had to do to get out of all that work was to pay the price of shipping. "What a deal!" he said. But before you all start inundating the various departments on the Yard with books, check first to see if they need any, also check your local schools or libraries for their needs as well. Good idea, Topy.

There was an annual summer gathering of '78 for basketball.



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Here are the stalworths who made it for some "round ball": **Mike Sears** (36th Co), **Glen Ives** (10th Co), **John Rudzis** (25th Co), **Craig Diffie** (10th Co), **Ed Reid** (21st Co) and **Al "Blues" Baker** (10th Co).

In closing, I have to issue a retraction for an error I made in an earlier column. I mistyped the company to which **Loren Divers (10th COMPANY!)** belonged. I wrote 9th Company- but he really was in Good Time Ten (10 Co). Muff asked me to help him out by clarifying the issue as he wrote "This has put me on the horns of a dilemma. All my Good Time 10 classmates are demanding a permanent transfer. All the 9th Company classmates are demanding an immediate retraction. I'm starting to feel like an orphan. Do you know of a company with an extra spot?" Sorry, Loren, I surveyed the companies, they weren't taking any "transfers". Sorry Good Time Ten, you are stuck with him. I'll have to print the retraction and let the chips fall where they may.

That's it—send me some news or I am gonna start making up stuff again!

**Launchin' Spot Four.**

## CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to [classnews@usna.com](mailto:classnews@usna.com)

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
Nov-Dec 2017	25 Sept 2017
Jan-Feb 2018	27 Nov 2017
March 2018	27 Dec 2018
April-May 2018	26 Feb 2018
June 2018	26 Mar 2018
July-Aug 2018	29 May 2018
Sept 2018	25 Jun 2018

# '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 8.03%**

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

Social Network Links:

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

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

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

Greetings, 79ers!

Summer is heating up - as is the '79 mailbag. A few things to pass on:

**Mike Pedersen** sent along an update from the hot part of Florida:

✉ I'm now working for Pfizer down in SW Florida (Naples up to Sarasota). Am also still the main Blue & Gold Officer for the SW Florida area with 10 other BGO's helping me out. As if I'm not busy enough, I fill in any spare time coaching youth and high school wrestling. Had one high school State Champ this past season along with a few middle school State Champs and one National Champ 6th grader who I am nudging towards the Naval Academy!

**"Big Dave" Bethel** joined my wife and I recently at our youngest son's wedding in Linden, VA. Lost a few of my remaining brain cells at the reception and I'll blame it all on Big Dave. Lots of stories re-told that night! Yes, Big Dave did in fact do a Neil Diamond karaoke song during the reception!

On a side note, check ESPN for a one-hour true documentary called "Pin Kings." The story is about my brother **Kevin Pedersen USMA '80,**