

...to compete in the 2017 Under Armour All America Games held in Towson, Maryland June 29th.

And another hearty BZ to Morgan Fay Hicky, daughter of our old roommate **Stratton Hicky (35th Co.)**, upon the occasion of her graduation from Georgia Tech.



Morgan's headed to Redmond, WA to work in Microsoft's supply chain department, which given Stratton's service in the Supply Corps, makes Morgan a chip off the old block! We're just glad she got her mother's look!

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 79%
Donor Participation: 22.30%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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I open the column with sadness on the loss of two more of our '78 family, 25th Company's **David "Kersh" Mclsaac** and 20th Company's **Leroy Bramlett**. On Saturday, April 8, 2017, David and his wife, Dana Lynn, were killed in a motorcycle accident not far from their home in Kershaw, SC. After leaving the Academy,



David Mclsaac

Kersh graduated from the University of South Carolina, despite his love for the Clemson Tigers. He had a career in the textile industry working at Springs Industries in S.C., Alabama., and Brazil, before joining Walmart in Arkansas, and was currently employed by Jay Franco and Sons of N.Y. David was an avid community servant, loved people of all ages and was a lifetime blood donor. He coached baseball, football and soccer and also volunteered at Heath Springs Elementary School. He was a member of Frontline Biker Church in Kershaw. He and Dana leave four children, Joseph "Joe" Mclsaac (Nikki) of Rock Hill, Matthew "Matt" Kennington (Jessica) of Fort Mill, Samantha Kennington Dutton (Kenny) and Cole Mclsaac of Kershaw and seven grandchildren, Knox Allen Mclsaac and Josie Nicole Mclsaac, Ava Grace, Lillie and Noah Kennington and Nathan Dutton and his little sister, Caroline, who was due September of 2017. The family suggested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Second Baptist Church, 1426 Great Falls Highway, Lancaster, SC 29720; or Frontline Biker Church, 8617 Kershaw Camden Highway, Kershaw, SC 29067. **Leroy Bramlett** died suddenly on Friday evening July 14th of natural causes. It was



Leroy Bramlett

believed that he died in his car after work that day at Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis, IN. Leroy had been an engineer at Rolls Royce. His work security had noted his car during their sweeps of the parking lot but did not go over to inspect it. Apparently he was slumped over on the front seat of his car and couldn't be seen. He was found a couple of days later on Monday morning when someone parked next to his car and noticed him. His services and burial were in Meriden, MS. Our thoughts and prayers go out the families and loved ones of David and Dana, and Leroy. We'll miss them greatly. We'll keep them in our thoughts - not

only now - but when we also gather for our 40th and remember them and all the others who have become our heavenly "advanced party".

Joe Stanik (23rd Co.) made his 15-20 years check-in. On May 20th, he and his wife, Julie, attended their niece Lori Bjork's graduation from the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in Rochester, MN. After the ceremony, he had the great honor of administering Lori's oath as a Lieutenant, Medical Corps, USN. Her first duty station is Balboa in San Diego. She is also one heck of a basketball player, having played for the Universities of Illinois and Maryland and on a professional team in Europe. The Navy landed a great one.



Joe Stanik swearing in Lori

Got a note from **Mike Shumaker** (13th Co). He and his wife, Donna Lynn, had the joy of seeing their 23-year old son, Paul, marry Colleen Riggins in a nuptial Mass at historic St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, VA. It definitely was a family affair in the wedding party with their daughter, Rachael, who served as a bride's maid and sons, Michael II and Gregory who served as groomsmen. Dr. **Sean Donovan's** (31st Co) wife and daughter- Jenny and Marie Donovan, respectively, also came from out of town to attend. Before the wedding, Mike enjoyed accompanying Paul to the gym and sharing Dom Mazzetti YouTube videos. Sean is a MD and in practice in West Bend, WI as a Diagnostic Radiology specialist. At the end of May, Mike was at the Coast Guard (CG) STA New London, CT. He was with a group examining where vendors can put prototypes to counter unmanned aircraft systems. He represented the Office of Maritime Security Response Policy (CG-MSR) at Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ). While in New

London he got to be aboard a Coast Guard 45 foot response boat. He said he was able to act as the coxswain and drive the boat at about 40 kts offshore for about 10 minutes. They also got underway on an 87' patrol boat. During his visit he stayed on the grounds of the USCGA, which he found "interesting". Since it was after graduation the place was very quiet. September marked 15 years that Mike has been working on anti-terrorism policy at CGHQ with the last three as a GS14. At the end of June he and his wife, Donna Lynn, spent a week exploring the Houston-Galveston area as a place to retire. He said torrential rain precluded a tour of USS TEXAS (BB 35). But we hope it didn't inhibit their search for that perfect final home.



Mike Shumaker (2d from left) and his team

Ray Kempisty dropped me a note that highlighted his '78 Facebook page announcement of his son Mitch's ('14) wedding. Like a lot of you with USNA graduated children (or current Mids), Ray said he has a "very hard time controlling my envy as he [Mitch] experiences new to him - but familiar to me- new and exciting SWO experiences on a nearly daily frequency." Ray was preparing to retire this year when he got promoted to COO for VHA's Procurement and Logistics Office in February. Now he needs to stick around and enjoy it for a while. His wife, Annette, retired from NASA last fall, so has strong pulls in opposite directions. He said he hasn't been this excited since he almost won a 7-Eleven franchise. On a mid-July Friday Ray and his family met Laure' and **Mark Ferguson** at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. Mitch and Mark are members. All were waiting out a strong thunderstorm in the snack bar when Laure' noticed Ray's Class of '78 t-shirt. Ray said that Laure' was very, very

nice to his new daughter-in-law Nikki, and told her how she had toured the school in Bahrain where Nikki's been hired to teach 3rd grade starting mid-August. Nikki will be working there while Mitch is OPS in USS MONSOON (PC-4).



Nikki and Mitch Kempisty

Speaking of **Mark Ferguson**, he dropped me a short note saying that on July 7th he and his two kids, Andrew and Elaine, climbed Mt. Fuji and watched the sunrise. The trek fulfilled Fergie's ten-year old promise to Elaine to take her there. While Lauré was with them in Japan, she was unable to come on the climb. She was still recovering from a foot injury which kept her from the hike—instead she got to enjoy the sights of Tokyo. Mark sent photographic proof of their excursion and wanted everyone one to not the Naval Academy headgear. Mark reported that his first year in retirement is going well. He is still a senior advisor to McKinsey and on the Board at the Center for Naval Analyses. He, Laure' and the kids are also enjoying travel and the ability to spend time as a family. That being said he suspect Lauré is getting tired of him "hanging around the house", so he guessed he should now have to start looking for work!

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Mark, Elaine and Andrew atop Mt. Fuji

We'll end this month's column on that note of triumph. Until next month- Launchin' Spot Four!

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 17.15%

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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

I hope everyone is enjoying the waning days of summer. Let's bring you up to speed in the World of '79.

On 30 May 2017 (yep, the 38th anniversary of our graduation) at the Washington Navy Yard, **VADM Joe Mulloy** was piped over the side. Joe was our last USN classmate on active duty. Mission BBQ put together a very nice tribute to Joe and his extended family - check it out at Mission-BBQ.com/stories-of-service. Congratulations to Joe and Beth as they begin their next chapter of service.

With Joe's retirement, the Class of '79 has one lone member remaining on active duty - **LtGen Bob Walsh**. Bob currently serves as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration.

And while we're on the subject of graduation, I received a note from "proud uncle" **John Kaiser**:

✉ I just wanted to let you know that I and my family had the high honor of attending the graduation of my

niece **2Lt Tori Sharpe '17** from USNA. An amazing weekend, capped by listening to fellow '79 classmates the **Honorable Sean Stackley** and **LtGen Bob Walsh** both give outstanding speeches, as did the Vice President! My sister and her husband had adopted Tori from China as a 3-month old. She did very well for herself!

Congrats John! And congrats Tori!

Just a few miles southwest of Annapolis, **Tom Hicks** formally announced his candidacy for Congress in the 2018 elections. Tom hopes to be the next representative for Virginia's 1st Congressional District. More info can be found on his web page: TomHicks4Congress.org. Good luck, Tom!

Wrapping up, we travel a couple thousand miles westward. **Bill Corkill** took a few minutes out of his travels to send a quick '79er update:

✉ My wife Teresa and I are in the process of taking a 5-month trip across the U.S. in our RV. We were on a little 2-lane road near the western Colorado/eastern Utah border (Hwy 141) when we turned off at a scenic overlook. After about 5-10 min who walks up to me but none other than **Kennon (Patrick) Temple** (22 company) and his lovely wife Marianne. Apparently, he saw my 79 USNA license plate and figured there must be someone in the crowd that was his classmate. We chatted for a while then continued our journeys. I really regret that I didn't get a picture of us at this spectacular view point.

On a side note, I have noticed, via Facebook, that several of our classmates are traveling the Utah/Colorado/New Mexico/Arizona area this summer. Perhaps I'll run in to others during our travels. If anyone is interested, they can follow my wife and I on Facebook.

All the best, Bill Corkill

Thanks, Bill! Enjoy your continued travels!

The coming of fall heralds the coming of football and associated festivities. This is your invitation to join us at the '79 tailgaters at all

home games. If you plan to attend, in addition to your own food and drinks, please bring a dish to share, if possible. There will be grills going, and generators for plugging in those crock pots. However, if you happen to come to a game and you're empty-handed, don't let that stop you: please join us anyway. Just look for the '79 flag flying.

Speaking of football - the planning process for the 40th (*gasp!*) reunion in 2019 has begun. **Sean Cate** sent out a class-wide email back in June, but if you missed that (check your spam filters), the bottom line is that **** NOTHING **** has been decided yet. As I outlined a few columns back, now that Navy is part of the AAC, long term planning for reunions is a bit problematic. Everything currently is written in very light pencil, from the date (likely Homecoming Weekend, 26 October 2019), to the HQ hotel (perhaps the Westin), to the schedule of events.

To that end, Sean is soliciting volunteers for the Reunion Committee. With apps like Skype and other video conferencing options, you don't need to reside in the Annapolis/DC Metro area. So please consider helping to make the 40th our best reunion ever. Drop me a line if you're interested in joining the committee.

Historically, the 40th Reunion is the most-attended reunion of any class. Our reunions typically bring in about 350 classmates - we could see 500 or more at the 40th. So even if you've never attended a reunion before (*or especially if you've never attended one*), please consider adding this one to your calendar now. Look for more email updates from Sean in the coming months, and I'll make sure to keep you informed in these pages as well.

Well, classmates, that's all I have for now. Feel free to drop me a line with an update and your selfie photos at any time. Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming tailgater.

Back with you next month. Until then...

**Omnes Viri,
Wiz...**