

'78

Life Membership: 79%**Donor Participation: 3.86%**Pres: **Glen Woods**Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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It's getting closer and closer to our 40th Reunion. By now, you should have been getting a bunch of the gouge from a variety of sources - your company reps, E-mails from our Class Prez, and our social media (website, and Facebook). While we are working hard to get the word out, I know there are those who just won't read all of it (kind of like those assembly instructions for toys and Ikea furniture) or some who just plain fail to the word (Wasn't that in our day a "Deuce" worth 10 demerits?). Just to continue to put out the word, here is another summary reminder. Our reunion weekend is from Thursday, 13 Sep, to Sunday, 16 Sep. Major events are as follows:

- **Thursday, 13 Sep: Class of '78 Golf Tournament** which starts at noon, at the Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville, MD. As this comes to print, your reunion committee is still working on details, but we also expect to hold an informal **Gathering Reception** in the evening with light hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and soft drinks.

- **Friday, 14 Sep: The Memorial Service** in remembrance of those we have lost will be held in the Chapel at 1100. In the evening, we will hold our **Class Social** at the Westin. The Reunion Committee is still working on the details, but to give a hint - there will be music, a magician, a photo booth, USNA and Class trivia, food and drink, and lots of opportunities to connect with friends, old and new.

- **Saturday 15 Sep:** We will hold a **Prayer Breakfast** from 0830 to 0930 at the Westin. Two members of the Class of '78 have agreed to be the speakers at this event, which will include a continental breakfast. The event will end in time for interested classmates to attend the Class Meeting in the hotel. We will

later in the afternoon and through the game hold our **Tailgater** in the N-Star room at the stadium. A reminder to all that a ticket to the game will be required to attend the Tailgater, since it is inside the stadium boundary.

- **Sunday, 16 Sep:** We plan to offer a **Departure Brunch** to give folks an opportunity to get together informally for one last "goodbye". The timing of the brunch will allow people to eat before attending a church service in the Yard, or go to a service and then eat afterwards. If your schedule dictates, you can bring your bags and depart from there.

Stay tuned. If anyone has any questions, call your company rep first or feel free to get a hold of me. My office phone number is on the last page (Staff and Assistance) of *Shipmate*.

I need something from you to help make the socials and tailgaters a little more personal. We'd like to have a "virtual" car show to display those Firstie cars that some of you may still own! through photographs would be enjoyable. So, if you still own your *original* Midshipman car, please send/email a photo of it "from the day" and as it looks now. Along the same lines, we are looking for photographs that span the time from Midshipman Days to the present to be put into a slide show that we can run at the Friday Social and at the Tailgater. With enough input from you, we hope to have some good presentations.

It's also that time when we hold Class elections. In about the mid-July timeframe, you'll get instructions on voting for class officers. Voting will open on Aug first and run through the end of the month. The results will be announced during our Class Meeting at the Reunion.

This year we will also be presenting our Class Gift to the Naval Academy. For the past four years many of you have made contributions to our efforts. Our goal is to present \$1.5 million in support of the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership (CEL), Admissions - STEM Support, Athletic Excellence

and the Annual Fund. As this goes to print we are 87% toward our overall goal with almost \$1.3 million in contributions. While that's great, we are far short in the specific contributions that are intended to help classmates in the Yard and what they do. Sixty percent of that goal of \$1.5 million is intended to help departments headed by our two classmates - **Art Athens** (Director of the Stockdale Center) and **Bruce Latta** (Dean of Admissions)- do the work they do. The Stockdale Center strives to help the Academy educate and graduate leaders of character who can make courageous, moral and ethical decisions in service to our nation. Art's folks do this through a variety of programs and activities that include research, consultation, innovation, dissemination, and facilitation. While at the Academy (and years afterward) many of us were touched by the influence of men like Admiral Stockdale and CAPT Jack Fellows. Their example of moral courage and strength- and the lessons they taught us - are among the roots of what has grown to be the Stockdale Center. Bruce and his Admissions office have the often-thankless job of trying to find the best among our nation's youth to come to the Naval

Academy and pursue a possible career of leadership in our nation or naval service (You know that *regardless* of how well they do it, *someone* gets disappointed or angered). One way Bruce's folks do that is by exposing our nation's young men and women to the Naval Academy through their interest in the science, technology or mathematics. That's what his STEM programs help do. One key program is Summer STEM. This brings rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders from across the nation to Annapolis to participate in a week-long program that engages them in a variety of STEM projects and exposes them to life and opportunities at the Naval Academy. There have been many graduates who have been Summer STEM camp attendees. To date, we are \$136,000 short of our goal to help Art's Stockdale Center and \$179,000 short of what we need to help Bruce's Admissions team. On average, only 168 of the class have contributed to those two areas. If at least another 577 contribute \$78 per month until the end of the year- we will achieve those goals to help our classmates' departments. Moreover, our gift would be even more of a **Class gift** rather than a gift from about a quarter of the class. Come on '78,



'78 Stalwart Basketballers and friends

let's do it! Contact me if you need a pledge form or the gouge on contributing.

Okay, enough of my soapbox. Not much left to add in news. (Okay I'll just jump back on the soap box again to just say- send me some stuff!). In February, while on a business trip to Norfolk, I ran in to **Frank Hunt**. I was waiting to rendezvous with a '71 alumnus in the Seabee Plaza at the Naval Support Activity, Hampton Roads, when who comes out of the Mini-Exchange but Frank. He was working a program on base and just happened to there for the day. These little classmate drive-buys often make my days. Also in February, the '78 boxing fans showed up in the Yard to watch the Brigade Championships. Among those I spotted were: Mary Jane and **Steve "Jock" Maloney**, Karen and **Brett Ayotte**, **Chris Hassler**, **Paul Wiedorn**, **Doug Diehl**, **Charlie (Carlos) Sotomayor**, **John Rudder**, Marla and **Al Baker**, Becca and **Ray Kwong**, Mur and **Roy Bookmiller**, **John Rudzis**, **Gary Vinciguerra**, my wife, Elizabeth and me. The next morning was the annual basketball pick-up game where just a few of the group (**Jock**, **Doug**, **John** and Jock's son, **Chris Maloney ('04)**) showed up. I did not play, because since my injury at our 30th reunion basketball game, I have been banned from the court by Jock. That ban's at least until I lose weight or regain my outside shot, whichever comes first.

In February I also had the privilege of being the guest speaker for the 16th Company "Centurions" Dining Out. It was a special honor since two of the company's Firsties were Mids who Elizabeth and I have sponsored, **Abby Stone ('18)** and **Talen Mores ('18)**- not to mention many of their friends whom we have also come to know. To throw in a little six degrees of Kevin Bacon factor - two of their old Firsties from the Class of 2015 were among Mids we had also "adopted" (**Marc-Antoni Julia** and **David Brainerd**). Moreover, their company officer, LT **Kelsey Cellon ('10)** is the daughter of our friend and classmate, Carmen and **Rich Cellon**. Thanks again to the 16th Company Class of 2018,

Kelsey and her senior enlisted leader, SSgt Joel Moreno and the rest of the Centurions for the honor of being your speaker, your hospitality and the privilege of sharing in the tradition of the dining out and comradery of the evening - not to mention the cool Navy warmup jacket I got as a gift (It's the kind they give the Forrestal Lecturers- I felt so cool!).



Well, that's it for now.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 4.52%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
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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 items about two of our long-serving classmates. After a 4-decade career in military

and government service, Sean Stackley has been appointed corporate vice president for strategic advanced programs and technology at L3 Technologies. According to the wire, he will "oversee growth strategies intended to synchronize the company's technology investments with pursuit planning, mergers and acquisitions efforts."

Additionally, CNA, a nonprofit research and analysis organization located in Arlington, VA, announced that Sean will be joining its Board of Trustees.

Sean previously served as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, and performed as Acting Secretary of the Navy from early 2017 until this year. Congratulations, Sean, on an exceptional career, and we all wish you luck in your next endeavor.

The online magazine *Executive-Biz* published an interview with Ray Spicer, the Director of Defense and Intelligence for IBM U.S. Federal. Ray's job is "delivering cross-brand solutions in hardware, software and services to IBM Federal's Defense and Intelligence Community clients." In the interview Ray touched on several issues facing national security and intelligence agencies, including artificial ("augmented") intelligence and cloud computing. It's too long to print here, but if you're curious visit <http://bit.ly/2oQDTzi>.

That's all I have for now - keep those cards, letters and photos coming! See you next month.

Omnes Viri,
Wiz...

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 4.29%

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

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

Greetings Classmates,

Once again at 35,000 feet heading out to Las Vegas for the HIMMS Conference. A week of all the Health Informatics that you would ever want for a lifetime! Just survived sub-freezing weather and 70 knot winds down the Potomac on the boat - ready for the summer! Hope that everyone is ready to come out from the Dark Ages and enjoy a wonderful spring! On to the Mail Bag!

The first note came in from **Dave Priddy**, DKPriddy@gmail.com, who is also serving as the Secretary for the Upper Midwest Chapter of the Academy Alumni Association.



✉ Joe -

I ran my first marathon, the Disney Marathon with my son, Dean, Sunday, January 7th, had a "stretch" goal of 4 hours,

finished in just over 4:30 and thrilled! Goal met - finish marathon before 60th birthday! Been enjoying our granddaughter - Elowyn Grace Priddy - who will be two in July and who lives close by here in the Twin Cities so loving life! (**SEC NOTE: personal bucket list item - avoid marathons.....**).

Better Dave than me! Congrats! We're all approaching or at that 60 Mark!

Also found a great email in the inbox from **Greg Mislick**, gkmislic@nps.edu, (who happens to be a great runner too):

CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: classnews@usna.com

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
July-Aug 2018	29 May 2018
Sept 2018	25 Jun 2018
Oct 2018	30 July 2018
Nov-Dec 2018	24 Sep 2018