

## 77/78 CLASS NEWS

Matt: "The Lord bless you and keep you—the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

We were blessed indeed to call Owen our classmate and friend. Go Owen...



Owen Thumbs Up



Owen Leading

...Beat Army!!!



Rob Lamb & Granddaughter

Next, it's somehow fitting we welcome the newest member of the extended '77 family by introducing Charlotte Kennedy Lamb,

shown below with her proud grandfather **Rob Lamb (6th Co.):**

Charlotte entered the world November 20th with a displacement of 7 lbs. 10z. and measuring 19.1 inches from stem to stern. BZ to mother Nicole and father David, particularly as Charlotte is the first female born on the Lamb side of the family since the 1800's...which really should come as no surprise given the amazing virility always demonstrated by her paternal grandfather!

Lastly, we'll call it a wrap with a message from our new class president, John Vuolo:

✉ By the time everyone gets to read this our 40th reunion will be over, new memories will have been made and we will have shared many old memories again. We as a class owe a great debt of gratitude to the guys that made it happen for us.

A hardy well done to La Selle "Lamborghini" Booker, Bruce "The Skeptic" Campbell, Terry "Hit & Run" Cook, Chris "The Grillinator" Feeney, Pete "Wil E Coyote" Green, Jimmy "Next Year" Kelly, Charles "MGM" Ivey, Thom "Magoo" McKee, Carl "Data-Master" Moore, Rich "Elizabeth" Taylor, Owen "EMF" Thorp, and Lee "Short Final" Geanuleas for their herculean efforts at putting our 40th together.

I especially want to thank our past class president, Lee Geanuleas for his exceptional leadership in providing the guidance and direction our class has taken under his watch. I can only hope to do as well. I am grateful to Thom McKee and Bruce Campbell for volunteering to stay on for another term. I will be leaning on their experience to continue all that has been done so far. I look forward to serving my classmates to the best of my abilities. [vuolo.john@gmail.com](mailto:vuolo.john@gmail.com)  
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We echo John's appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved in making our 40th a truly memorable event. And we'd be remiss if we didn't join him in giving special recognition to Lee's selfless (quite literally, in every sense of the word) work on behalf of the class, as well as that of Jim Kelly. Trust us, it takes a lot of time effort to pull off what we just enjoyed all too briefly, and its in no small part due to Lee's leadership and devotion to duty.

Magoo

# '78

**Life Membership: 80%**  
**Donor Participation: 26.82%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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Well, a new year is upon us, 2018. Need I remind you that this year will mark 40 years since we exuberantly tossed our covers in the air at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium as newly minted Second Lieutenants and

Ensign. Shortly afterward, many of us had beaming smiles as we watched the Academy shrink in our rearview mirrors. This year we'll again find ourselves returning to that place we had once been so anxious to leave. But it is not a place to which we return but to each other - friends, classmates, brothers who have shared so much over the four years at Mother B (some, even before at NAPS), and much more over the years. Just to remind you, our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be the weekend of Sept 14-16, 2018. There **will be** a home game for the reunion. Navy will play Lehigh. Our "head-quarters" hotel will be the Westin Hotel in Annapolis and we'll have rooms blocked off for the class to make reservations. Expect to get some regular e-mail notices about the schedule of events, costs etc. through your company reps, this column and e-mail blasts from our Class Prez, Glen Woods, as well as postings on our website and class social media (like Facebook). We are also trying to update as much information about our class so please help us out. If you haven't done so- update your profile on our website ([www.usna1978.org](http://www.usna1978.org)) and let your company rep know your current contact information. If you know of a classmate who has passed away and is not listed on our Memorials page (or if you have an obituary of someone whose obituary is missing) please let your company rep know. They will get it to me. If you don't know who your company rep is, go to our Class website and find the link in the "Classmates" tab. You'll see the list. If you are surprised to find *your* name on that list; or no longer want to be a company rep, please let us know. If you would like to be your company's rep, let your current rep know you'd love to be their relief and let us know if there is a "Change of Duty". Just please be responsive to your company rep. We want to try and reach as many classmates as possible so please be responsive to your company rep. Hope to see a lot of you at the Reunion.

Sadly, I must tell you that we have lost one of our own, **Pat Curtis** (17th Company), on November 17th in Virginia Beach. Pat was surrounded by his loving family; his wife, Winifred, two sons James Curtis and his wife Heather and Benjamin Curtis and his wife Michelle. Claire McNally, Brian Millar. He also left behind three siblings; G. Michael Curtis, Julie Danenberger and her husband Steven, Jill Heick and her husband Martin. He will also be missed by 13 grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and co-workers and of course, his '78 family. Pat had spent 30 years in the Navy. During that time, he earned his Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College; was XO of the USS Mount Whitney and Commanding Officer of the USS Trenton; Commander, Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron ONE; Commander, Military Sealift Command, Atlantic/Commander, Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force East and, subsequently, as the director, Ship Support, Sealift Logistics Command, Atlantic. After he retired from active duty in April 2006 he was employed the defense contractor, CSRA. Pat was a loving and supportive father, husband, and grandfather. He will be remembered for his craftsmanship, love of travel, and lifelong love of sports - especially his St. Louis Cardinals Baseball. He was buried in the Phoebus Section, of Hampton Nation Cemetery, located on W. County St. Hampton Virginia. A Celebration of Life Gathering in his hometown of Decatur, IL was planned for a future date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Foundation, <https://www.themmrff.org/donate-to-mmrf/> or donor's choice. Please keep Pat and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Where there is sadness one can always count on some joy - or joyful news - to follow. For us -and especially Pat's 17th company classmates that joyful news is of a wedding. **Allan Kowadla** (17th Co) reported he may be the "Last Man to Fall". That is to say he is the last man in the class to be married- for



'78: Repel All Wedding Crashers



'78: A fun Wedding pic

the first time. Actually, it is a first for Allan and his bride the former Christine Coppinger (Staten Island, NY). They were married on October 21st on a houseboat in Atlanta, GA. It was a military wedding because - as Allan wrote - she "wanted a military wedding. Saw too many 'Lady Di' clips in the '80s." Present for the wedding were Jackie and **Steve Gahan** (17th) - who by the way have been married since '79. Also present were CAPT **Steve Nichols** ('76) and CAPT **Mike Leigh** ('79). Allan sent some pics of the day so you can share in the happy day. Congratulations Allan and welcome to the '78 family, Christine.



Lined Up to Take Vows



Jackie and Steve Gahan

transit to and from Bangor, WA. They love to fish, crab, and travel and are really enjoying the retirement life. Bill



Bill Corkill & John Albiso

Well, there is too short a column. A lot was going on when it was due. I'll make it up next go around - especially if you send me more stuff. Until then, Launchin' Spot Four

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 19.90%**

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

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

Greetings, 79ers!

I recently realized I've experienced "Einstein's Theory of Christmas Relativity", which states that the time it takes for Christmas to arrive is inversely proportional to one's age. Case in point - it seems like we just opened presents yesterday, when we're already almost a month down into 2018. So before next Christmas gets here, let's get into the bold print.

Last fall **Bill Corkill** took a few minutes to update us on his travels, and I recently received another note from the road:

✉ Here's another note for *SHIPMATE*: My wife and I are traveling in our RV throughout this great country of ours and stopped by Port Angeles, Washington to see **John Albiso** (26) and his lovely wife Sally. John and Sally have a nice place overlooking the Straits of Juan de Fuca, where they can see the submarines

Thanks, Bill, for the update. Sounds like you're really "living the life!"

I didn't get wind of this next item to give you a head's up on it, but last September **Bill Toti** was on live PBS television. He was co-hosting a live streaming of images from the recently-discovered wreckage of World War II cruiser *USS INDIANAPOLIS* (CA 35) from the Philippine Sea. As many of you are aware, Bill is a former CO of the most recent *USS INDIANAPOLIS* (SSN 697), and as such got to know some family members and survivors of the WWII-era vessel. The event will likely be re-broadcast, so check your local television or on-demand schedules for more info.

Once a year (at least) I hear from our Little Rock, AR correspondent **Scott Pursley**, who checks in with an update on 9th Company:

✉ All is well here in Little Rock. Beth and I have now lived here for more than 20 years now, hard to believe. We spend our vacation time visiting our four girls spread all over the world, with one in San Diego, one in Chicago, one in DC, and one deployed on *USS NIMITZ* (CVN 68) in the Arabian Sea. I am now teaching chemistry, physics, robotics and engineering at a local Charter High School here in Little Rock. I just started my third year there; it is a lot of fun - very rewarding.

Beth and I just got back from a great 9th Company reunion last weekend. A bunch of 9th Company's 79ers & their spouses gathered at Terry & **Doug Patton's** lake house in Heber Springs, Arkansas for four fun days of boating, fine dining, and a lot of laughter.

**SHIPMATE** More than 75 years are available online to all Alumni Association members. Visit [usna.com/shipmate](http://usna.com/shipmate).