



**Joseph Andrew Foy,**  
1954-2018

On a sad final note: we've lost another Classmate.

**Joseph Andrew Foy** (24th Co.)

who passed away on June

20, 2018. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife, Sharon, and his children and extended family. May he find eternal rest in God's loving embrace.

## '77

**Life Membership: 75%**

**Donor Participation: 9.83%**

Pres: **John F. Vuolo**

71 Hidden Gin, Hinton, WV 25951-5184

Sec'y: **Thom McKee**

1202 Shady Creek Rd., Marriottsville, MD 21104

p: 410-489-5080; f: 410-489-5071

c: 202-438-1541; e: magoo1310@verizon.net

## '78

**Life Membership: 80%**

**Donor Participation: 22.60%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401

e: canoe78@aol.com

Website: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

Well, almost 19 years ago when his daughter, Soho, was born, I told **Loren "Muff" Divers** (10th Co) that he would likely *not* be the parent of the '78 "Anchor Baby" (the last child born to a classmate) – despite his pleas. I told him there was likely a "Strom Thurmond" somewhere in our class. For a while it looked like **Jack Christensen** (31st Co) might hold the title, then came **Chris "Dwarf" Nichols**. Well, now that we are having our 40th Reunion, the title passes to **Ben Harris** (15th Co). On Mother's Day, May 13th Victoria and Ben were blessed with a

beautiful and healthy baby girl, Maya Louise, 8 lbs. 6.2 oz. Congratulations to you and Victoria, Ben. You are officially the "Anchor Baby" parents. I think the honor *might hold*, but you never know. By the way, my fellow Varsity Sub-Squad swimming teammate, Ben

### CLASS OF 1976

#### PAT TRACY

## Operation Mobilization (OM)

Pat Tracy has been traveling the world for many years as a Merchant Marine. How did he get this opportunity for a second career after a 20-year career as a Surface Warfare Officer, you might ask? As Pat recounts, "At the 16-year point (time to think about what I was going to do when I grew up), I arrived for Pentagon duty. We found our church by finding a Christian school for our boys; at their Missions conference, I felt God tapping me on the shoulder. My response was, 'All I know about is ships. What could I ever do?' There I learned about Operation Mobilization (OM) and Good Books for All (GBA), partnering to 'bring knowledge, help and hope to the people of the world'. Hearing of the great need, especially for qualified crew, our next step became clear."

Converting Navy qualifications to Merchant Marine certification is no easy task. Pat was required to pass the Chief Mate exam, which he did in two years by leveraging his previous education and experience just in time to transition from the U. S. Navy to his first GBA assignment. His second career began in September 1996, as his wife, three sons, and he joined MV DOULOS (at the time, the oldest ocean-going passenger ship in the world) in Hong Kong. He was initially 2nd Mate (Navigator), then Chief Mate. Since 1996, Pat has sailed around Europe, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean to carry out the GBA mission to thousands of visitors aboard OM vessels, where they see 400 young people from over 60 countries working together to bring good literature, energy and caring to their community. Over the years, it's been Pat's privilege to command DOULOS, LOGOS-II, and his current ship, the 12,500 GRT M/V LOGOS HOPE.

Pat remarks, "It is gratifying to see the changes in the lives of our volunteer crew. Very few come with sea experience, so we teach and train every day, 'building our own' Able Seamen, Motormen, and Lifeboat Crews. In short order, they find themselves excelling at things they never imagined doing. Since I've been both training and now sailing as a reliever (standing in for the C/M or Master for months at a time) it's gratifying to see the growth in confidence, seamanship and life skills. As you may imagine, Port States are intrigued by our all-volunteer and in-house trained crew; they are good at what they do, and like many sailors, enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate what they've learned."

You can find more information about GBA ships at: <https://www.gbaships.org/en> and the OM link is here: <https://www.om.org/us/en>. □

reported that "All those years on sub-squad have finally paid off. My boys can swim."

Heard from two of my post-graduation roommates. The first, from flight school days, was **John "Newk" Newcomb** (4th Co). Newk had checked in about this month's reunion. He also wanted to give a \$1M check toward our class



gift but- like me – he could *write* the check but we couldn't *cash* it. Issued from the "Bank of Wham-O" it would bounce like a superball. Needless to say, he now has the gouge for the reunion *and* our class gift. (You too can still contribute.). His wife, Judy, retired from government service a couple of years ago. As I recall she has her own com-

pany that provides support to the government. Their two Marine sons are doing fine. In May, Thomas ('08) returned with his squadron [VMFA-314] after a short extension in theater for that dust-up in Syria. Also in May, Zack ('10) was still "over there" working with his MARSOC Team out of Erbil. We hope he too is safely home by now. The other roomie contact was my New River NC, fellow Marine and owner-of-our-house, the famous (or infamous) "Chief's Club" in Folkstone NC, **Randy "Dunc" Duncan** (15th Co). Dunc had come out of the cold by responding to a voice mail I left him when I was near his part of Geneva, FL. Years ago, Dunc had worked for the United Space Alliance in support of the Shuttle Program. Once that program was shut down the company wound down until contracts were closed out. Part of that wind down was the release of employees, which included Randy. Afterward, Dunc focused on taking care of his family and his mom. Now he's getting the itch to get back to work. If I am not hoisting a beer with Dunc at the reunion, I'll try to do it when I get to Orlando for the UCF game in November.

We bade farewell at the end of the Academic year to Monique and **Scott Mobley** (3rd Co). Scott's time teaching history as the Class of '57 Naval Heritage Chair came to an end. By the time this comes to print the Mobleys will back to Waunakee, WI. Scott will have assumed the role at the University of Wisconsin's Madison's Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy. He'll also get to teach. Before he left the Yard, Scott had his book *Progressives in Navy Blue* (sub-titled "Maritime Strategy, American Empire And The Transformation Of the U.S. Naval Identity 1873-1898") published by the Naval Institute Press. The book was insured by Scott's doctoral thesis Scott and in that process a discovery of progressivism in the Navy. In an interview with Scott by the *Waunakee Tribune*, "he cautioned that his use of the term "progressivism" is with a lower case "p," differentiating it from the political meaning." Amazon (where you can

## 78/80 CLASS NEWS

get it) summarizes the book as a study that “examines how intellectual and institutional developments transformed the U.S. Navy from 1873 to 1898. The period was a dynamic quarter-century in which Americans witnessed their Navy evolve. Cultures of progress—clusters of ideas, beliefs, values, and practices pertaining to modern warfare and technology—guided the Navy’s transformation. The agents of naval transformation embraced a progressive ideology. They viewed science, technology, and expertise as the best means to effect change in a world contorted by modernizing and globalizing trends. Within the Navy’s progressive movement, two new cultures—Strategy and Mechanism—influenced the course of transformation. Although they shared progressive pedigrees, each culture embodied a distinctive vision for the Navy’s future”. Sounds like a great, well thought-out read. Already a few classmates have bought it and say much the same. Good luck with sales and life back in Waunakee, Scott. While we miss occasionally seeing you and/or Monique walking your dog, Ritz, through our neighborhood. We know you are enjoying life back home in Waunakee. We look forward to seeing more books from Professor Mobley.

**Duane Lafont** (15th Co) and **Sale “Bubba” Lilly** (6th Co) celebrated the 40th anniversary of our graduation by chartering a self-drive narrow boat (52-footer) during our actual June week timeframe and traveled the English Oxford canal system with their wives (Pixie Lafont and Karen Lilly). They had to brush off their motor whale boat skills a bit, as the canals were quite narrow and shallow. The boatswain mates (wives) awarded Duane the “Helmsman of the Week” award, while Bubba was the “Master Lock Engineer.” Of course, the wives were heavily involved in the lock-opening routines, and did great job as forward lookouts. In all, they covered over 60 miles of canals, opened and closed approximately 50 locks and traversed the English country side at a breathtaking speed of 3 miles per hour! The weather was fantastic;

the village pubs- frequent; the people -friendly, and lots of memories were shared. Duane noted that they didn’t dare pass up a single pub along the route. They even found a nautical-themed pub to boot (*The Admiral Nelson*). In all it was quite a unique and rewarding experience, albeit gaining a few pounds from all the good fish and chips and English beer.



Duane and Bubba Manning the Albion

Now to have the *real* 40th Graduation Anniversary celebration at our reunion!

See you there.

### Launchin’ Spot Four.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 23.43%**

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

Greetings, 79ers!

Sorry about missing last month – I had a business trip that got extended, and by the time I got back, I had missed the deadline. I know, I know, NOT one of the 5 basic responses. “No excuse, sir!”

Let’s get caught up. Received a Christmas card from B-J and **Bill Jones**. They mailed in in December – I received it in April. Go figure. Anyway, Bill is still flying 767’s with Delta, spending quite a bit of time traveling to/from Nigeria. B-J is, as she calls it: “an elementary school

library clerk”, which means lots of dressing up in characters.

Bill evidently spends time offshore fishing, as the card included him holding a “big honkin’ fish” on the dock. I’m assuming he caught it (just kidding, I know he did).

**Dan Chang** sent me the following note:

✉ At the funeral of my father, RADM Ming Chang at Arlington National Cemetery March 7, we had a mini class reunion. It was a sad and solemn ceremony, but I was honored to have classmates attend and pay their respects to my father’s life and career. We had dinner at the Chart House in Old Town Alexandria to tell sea stories. Pictured is Dave Yoshihara, Dana Swenson, Tom Warren, me, Steve Squires, Scott Whitney, Scott Bruce and Steve Brooks.



Dave Yoshihara, Dana Swenson, Tom Warren, Dan Chang, Steve Squires, Scott Whitney, Scott Bruce and Steve Brooks

Another note – this time from Second Company’s own **Ken Ritz**:

✉ Dan – please accept my personal condolences on the loss of your father. Glad you had a number of classmates with you during this time.

Another note – this time from Second Company’s own **Ken Ritz**:

✉ Hi Wiz: I’ve attached a picture of myself and my wife Kathy, and **Pat Dennis** (4th company) with his wife Cindy. The four of us just got back from a River Cruise down the Danube River starting in Passau, Germany, ending in Budapest. What a great time!

Pat and I have something else in common... in our part time (i.e., it’s not our real job), we’re both Adjunct Professors at Liberty University – Pat teaches Law and I teach Corporate Finance. Ken



Kathy & Ken Ritz, Cindy & Pat Dennis - on the Danube

Thanks, Ken, for the note. Karen has been researching that very same cruise for our upcoming anniversary – I may end up reaching out to talk more about it.

Finally, I apologize for getting this out so late. But for those of you that weren’t aware, we lost Wiley Utterback last March due to complications from lung cancer. Wiley leaves behind is beloved wife Maggie (Margaret Utterback ’87), daughter Katie and son David. If you would like to send condolences to the family, let me know and I’ll put you in touch.

Heading out on another trip. Enjoy fall – and I’ll be back next month. “Aye, aye, sir!”

**Omnes Viri,**  
Wiz...

### UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Log into **Online Community at usna.com** to update your profile.

## '80

**Life Membership: 96%**  
**Donor Participation: 14.62%**

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

Sec’y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR**  
15 Allard Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70119  
p: 504-915-6711; e: joe.grace@1980.usna.com

Website: [www.USNA1980.org](http://www.USNA1980.org)

Greetings Classmates,

Heading into the fourth of July week and turning 60 on the 6th! Just had the new Class arrive at Mother B! Another Induction Day – Remember ours 42 years ago – turned 18 that day – where did the time go? I know that all of us are either there or will be shortly! Happy 60th Class of ’80! It’s good to be on this side of the grass! On to the mail bag!

This note is way overdue in print. I received a great update from **Rick China** writing in for “Cloud 19” that was missed in previous submissions: