

Truly, while the bottom photo features the Seithers and McKees.



If memory serves, Bert was the first member of '77 to earn his Naval Aviator wings, and ENS Dorris will be following in his distinguished footsteps later this summer when he reports to Pensacola for Flight Training.

Congratulations to Koz and Bert on both their distinguished careers as death-defying aviators and well-deserved retirements...along with many, many years to enjoy them.

Finally, we regretfully mark the passing of another friend and classmate: **Ples Bruce (11th Co.)** passed away on Sunday, May 12th. Among his other pursuits, Ples was very involved with his family, church and the USNAAA. And as evidenced by the photograph below, he never lost the award-winning smile that immediately came to our mind when we learned he had died.



*Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.*

A number of our classmates were able to pay their last respects to

Ples at his memorial service in Atlanta. Shown below, (l) to (r) are **Mark Jee (11th Co.), Larry Indiviglia (11th Co.), Stratton Hicky (35th Co.), Dan Schenke (11th Co.)** and **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)**.



Ples will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Kameelah, along with his entire family.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 80%
Donor Participation: 16.63%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

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As many of you may know, the Muscular Dystrophy Association has been very important to **Alex "Dog" Callas (26th Co)** and his family. His family has felt the pain these neuro-muscular diseases inflict. This year marks the five-year anniversary of his brother's passing from Muscular Dystrophy. When he was diagnosed back in the early 70's, their father immediately began raising funds for the MDA. When Alex's dad passed away, he picked up his efforts. This year marks the 48th consecutive year that the Callas family has been actively raising funds for the MDA. Many of you have helped Alex and his family over those years by contributing your time and treasure. Alex is the auction Co-Chair for the 4th Annual MDA Gala. The *Toast to Life Gala* will be held on November 21st at the Hilton Inner Harbor in Baltimore. If you can help, please drop him an

e-mail at alex@golfdayformda.org. Alex thanks you for what many of you have been doing over the years. As he put it, "...there are not enough words in the dictionary to express our thanks and appreciation. My family is deeply committed to this battle and we would not have been as successful in our fund-raising campaigns without you. Many thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all. Our family is in this fight until we raise that magic dollar that cures MD." We're behind you Alex and we pray for the day there is a cure.

Brian "Bull" McCormack (29th Co), Delta Airlines Captain extraordinaire, had a flight to Paris just before the D-Day celebrations in Europe. Aboard was a WWII Vet, Tom Rice, 97, who was a member of the 101st Airborne that parachuted in to France that historic day. Tom was heading to participate in the ceremonies and in fact was going to parachute in again! (It was a tandem jump over Carentan, France, not far from the Normandy coast.

A photo of the jump was on the front page of the *Washington Post* on June 6th! Needless to say, Brian and many of the Delta crew gave him the first-class treatment (deservedly so).



If I had to give a theme to the last few months it would be "A Season of Change." I know change is always occurring but for some reason the months between this column and the last seem to have been especially dynamic. During that time, we bid farewell and laid to rest in the Columbarium in the Yard our brothers, **Ty Glasgow (9th Co)** and **Jack Carpenter (36th Co)**. As I poorly recall, '78 who joined Jack's mom, Nena, his kids, Elizabeth and John William, sisters Pilar (who pulled it all together) and Lisa and



Jack Carpenter

their brother Don and all the Carpenters, were 29th Company brothers **Jim Buckley, Brett Ayotte, Mike Fralen, and Mo Tose, Al "Blues" Baker (10th Co), John Rudder (12th Co), Michael Sears (36th Co)**. Joining Missy (Melissa) and their kids Heather, Ryan and Bridget, and Ty's sister Shelly for Ty's inurnment - as well as for a "special" Navy crew race remembrance the next day - were his 9th company brothers **Fred Shutt, Lance Tucker, Marcus Fisk, Lee Yarberry, Tim Arcano, Carl Jensen, and Al Baker (10th Co), Michael Sears, (36th Co), John Rudder (12th**



Bill Girrier

Co), Joel Bohlmann (19th Co) and me. Then in April, we received news of the death due to cancer of **Bill Girrier (22nd Co)**.

In May, **Lee Yarberry** lost his sister, Marsha, in a tragic car accident; and **Dick Boehme (35th Co)** bid his mother farewell. To all, we give our sympathies and prayers for solace. The "Season of Change" was also a time of grieving and remembering for our '78 family.



But there was also joyful change in that "season". Retired Navy CAPTAIN **Bob Engel (36th Co)** was able to see his niece, Shannon Robinson, promoted to Army Captain, Medical Corps at a promotion ceremony following her graduation from Thomas Jefferson Medical school in Philadelphia.



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Peter Craig's (35th Co) son, Spencer, and **Jim Fiorelli's** (2nd Co) son, John, were "promoted" from Midshipman to Ensign and Second Lieutenant, respectively, as they were commissioned and graduated with the Class of 2019. A few of us gathered at the house Peter was renting in Annapolis for graduation week. We were there to celebrate, tell sea stories, and look in amazement at Spencer, John and their classmates, wondering if we were ever that young. At the party were Peter's brother Jasper ('80), **Jock Maloney** (16th Co), Julie and **Michael Sears** (36th Co), me, **Mo Tose** (17th Co), Nancy and **Tim McGee** (15th Co), **Ray Kwong** (32nd Co), Soo Mi and **Chip Jones** (16th Co), Elizabeth and me. The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 was especially moving. The class officially recognized and acknowledged Julie and Michael Sears; and paid tribute to their late classmate, Julie and Michael's son,

Matthew.

In his honor, and on his behalf, his Company-mates tossed a cover into the air at the last "Hurray".

Charlie Pangburn (31st Co) experienced a change in life as he retired in March from UC Health in Cincinnati. Connie and he now spend most of their time in Ocean Isle Beach, NC. They spend that time with Finlay, a miniature bull terrier who was Charlie's early retirement present. Charlie and Connie are learning to sail. He said the training is a *little* different from what he recalls from our plebe summer. I am sure there are plenty of experienced sailors out there who wouldn't mind stopping by and helping him out with "sailing EI".



In April, **Joe Stanik** (23rd Co) spent two incredible weeks visiting Cuba under the auspices of a people-to-people program organized by Road Scholar. That's not a typo. It's an American not-for-profit organization that provides educational travel tours primarily geared to "mature" adults. Joe's group traveled the entire island, explored eleven cities and soaked in Cuban culture, history, and cuisine. He said the Cubans are very talented and



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hospitable people and reported that "The colonial architecture and countryside are extremely beautiful, and zipping around Havana in classic American car is great fun." Among the sites he visited was the USS *Maine* memorial on the Malecón, Havana's fabulous waterfront. Below you'll see him in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana. Over his shoulder you'll see depictions of two iconic leaders of the 1959 Revolution, Ché Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos.



In the last few months I too experienced change. In May, I resigned from the Naval Academy Foundation, so if you look at the list of names in the back you'll no longer see mine. In fact, Elizabeth noted it came off pretty quickly with the June issue since my last day was commencement day. Pretty efficient. It was with mixed emotion that I departed- but the camel's back broke and it was definitely time to go. If you have any questions, drop me a line. I was the last of the "old salts" and with my departure - and as this goes to print - there are no alumni Major Gift Officers. I hope one of you (I am speaking to all grads) will find an interest in applying for the job and I hope you get it. We could always use some

balance. That said, I have already begun a new chapter. I am the Director of Major Gifts for the Coast Guard Museum Association. Our goal is to generate the balance of private funding needed to be able to build a *national* Coast Guard Museum in New London, CT dedicated to the men and women and mission of the Coast Guard. I'm pretty excited about it. The Coast Guard is the only service without a national museum and their story needs to be told. No, I am not moving. When not on the road, I get to work remotely from home. So you'll still see me around Annapolis. I also intend to remain an active part in our Alumni Association and organizations as a volunteer; and I encourage everyone to be engaged in some fashion. They need your representation, engagement, support, criticism and activism.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 18.41%

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Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

"Time, tide and formation wait for no man. I am now shoving off. One minute, SIR!"