

'78

Life Membership: 80%
Donor Participation: 32.69%

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This will be a quick column. Just a few comments and pics. I don't know about you but 2018 left me pretty numb after the emotional roller coaster we have all been through and the loss of many friends, classmates and family. I hope 2019 has started off better for you. We could really use a fun year. Regardless of what the year offers, I am resigned to find the sunshine and fun even among the clouds and tedium. I'll try especially hard to be like a duck, let the little things roll off my back like water and try hard to return to the attitude we once had as young Mids when we all learned to say, "If the mast goes, #@^ & it! We'll get another one in Norfolk." But remember, as we get more "senior" with the years, we are *still entitled* to be an occasional curmudgeon.

Had a note from **Bruce "Baja" Bole** (3rd Co). On Dec 7th he attended the VFA-22 "Fighting Redcocks" change of command where CDR **Jeremy "Burns" Shamblee** ('00) was relieved by CDR Bill Frank. Baja was invited as Burns' guest and reported that the '78- '00 class connection remains strong. This was demonstrated by the fact that Burns was Baja's 3rd Battalion Commander as a Mid when Bruce was Third Batt Officer. In fact, Baja pinned on his Wings to Burns in Kingsville 16 years ago. Burns still wears those wings today. Bruce said he couldn't be more proud- and that he even got a "VIP Seat" in the front row. (By the way Burns is going to Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, in Charleston, SC.)



'78: 1st Company's Pre-game Warmup



Burns' Shamblee and Bruce Bole

The Navy men's Rugby Team has been doing very well the last few years. Perhaps we can lay claim that some of that success is due in part to some '78 progeny. **Peter Craig's** (35th Co.) surface warfare bound son, Spencer, is a star play and Vice Captain of the team. Another star is **Jim Fiorelli's** (2nd Co.) Marine ground-bound son, John. John is the Rugby Club President. Also, **Jim De-gree's** son Matt ('05) is one of the Navy Rugby coaches.

If you get a chance, come out to one of the games and cheer them on.



Spencer, Jim, Peter and John

Speaking of athletic support, in late December, some of the 1st Company gang, **Warren Krull, Eric Rosenlof, Ken Heffernan, Mark Hubal, Bruce Carter, Bill Landay, and Dou Grau** were seen in "pre-game prep" before they cheered Navy basketball against GMU.

Many of you from all corners of the world gathered together to watch the Army-Navy game. Among the farthest fans noted so far were **Ed Reid** (21st Co.), **Hank Van Oss** (17th Co.), **Loren Divers** (10th Co.) and **Mark Lindstrom** (35th Co.). They and another grad- a former Navy women's swimmer (a three N-Star winner to boot!) whose name I never got- gathered in Hawaii. All the '78ers, except for Eddie are Hawaii residents.



From Hawaii- Beat Army!

In December, **Luke** (you may remember him as "Chip") **Ridenhour** (6th Co) our class historian, had a book signing of his novel *Over the Horizon* on the USS Midway museum in San Diego. The book is historical fiction focused on the U.S. Navy's unofficial 'foreign legion' and based on several significant, but minimally reported, Cold War events in the western Pacific during 1980-1982. It centers around an A-6 squadron, VA-115. You can find it on Amazon. Among visitors to the book signing were his company mate, **Frank Mattingly**, and one of Luke's former Plebes, **Corey Frank** ('81).



Midway Booksigning



'78 Footballers at our 40th



'78 at the Supe's House

By the way, if you have any interesting tidbits or factoids about the class please pass them on to Luke and copy me so we can retain them. For example, if you commanded a ship, squadron, shore activity or are a school principal at a school or judge or minister, priest. It would be a great way to have a "tail of the tape" of what we have done as a class. We already have stats on the numbers of flags in the class. Wouldn't it be great to know how many of us acquired secondary degrees, started or headed a business, went on to teach, etc. You can also do update your profile on our class website and on your profile in the alumni association website (www.usna.com).

Well that's it for now. Catch you next month. Hope you survive the Dark Ages! I'll end with a couple of random pics- many '78 footballers gathered during our reunion and another of a few who were attending (or snuck in) a Supe's reception in Buchanan House.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 28.41%

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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

Just a couple of items this month. **Charlie Mark** sent a great photo of a '79 wedding party on the

USNA Chapel steps. Congratulations go out to Gloria and **Jim "Bullet" Fawcett** who were married on 29 September 2018. **John Mutch**, Nicole and **Tim Flynn** and Kate and **Phil Perozzi** joined Betty and Charlie in celebrating the happy event. Rumor has it that the ladies lasted far longer than the guys at the post-wedding parties. Congrats again to the happy couple!

Next up is an email from my roomie and fellow Ohio sandblower **Chuck Dixon**:

✉ In the attached photo you will find **Dave Rich** and **Rob Wray** of 13th Company along with yours truly. On Saturday, 13 October, just prior to the Navy-Temple game, we were all in the Minter Pavilion for its official dedication in honor of Vice Admiral **Charles S Minter, Jr. '37**. The dedication was the result of the generosity of Dave Rich and his wife, Susan through the David and Susan Rich Family Foundation. What a great gift and a great story.

Admiral Minter is the only person to ever serve as both Commandant of Midshipmen AND Superintendent of the Naval Academy. And, as luck would have it, early in retirement, Admiral and Mrs. Minter were Dave Rich's sponsor family. The event drew quite a crowd of distinguished alumni including Admiral **Mike Mullen '68**, Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk, Admiral **Tom Lynch '64**, former Superintendent and Captain of the famed '63 football team, which happened to be when Admiral Minter was the Commandant. Other distinguished alumni and many members of the Minter family were in attendance including

CDR **Charles Minter '63**; Admiral Minter's son.

It was a real honor to have Dave and Susan Rich include Rob and I in the dedication event. The legacy of this piece of USNA history and the Rich Family Foundation's generous philanthropy will live on for many, many years to come.

On a personal note, I'm having a blast living in Edgewater and working in Annapolis. As classmates make their way to town for any reason, please let Deb and I know as we'd love to continue eating our way through town with visiting classmates!! Cheers/Chuck



Fawcett wedding. Front: Gloria and Bullet Fawcett. Rear: John Mutch, Charlie & Betty Mark, Tim & Nicole Flynn, Kate & Phil Perozzi



Minter Pavilion Dedication: Rob Wray, Dave Rich, Chuck Dixon

Finally, I received an email from **Steve Walsh**. Last fall Steve received a significant honor, being inducted into the Order of St. Crispin. For those of you not familiar, he explains:

✉ Wiz, I'm sending a photo of myself and **Don Brooks '45** at the Order of St. Crispin meeting in Arling-

ton, VA. Don was in 6th Company and graduated in 3 years in 44. Fought in WW-2 (Okinawa), Korea and Vietnam as an infantry officer and retired as a Colonel.

The Order of St Crispin was formed in 1999 by Marine infantry officers and named after St Crispin, the patron saint of the infantry. Members are less than 100 and the qualification is to have engaged in significant and prolonged direct ground infantry combat. Don has been a member for years and holds both the Silver and Bronze Star.

I was humbled to be inducted on the 18 October 2018, a week before the anniversary of St. Crispin and the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. This battle was immortalized by William Shakespeare in his play, Henry the 5th where during his speech before the battle he said, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers..." SF/OV, Steve



Steve Walsh, Don Brooks '45

Steve, congratulations from all of us on this honor - I know it's well deserved.

And that, classmates, is a wrap. See you next month (and looking forward to spring!).

**Omnes Viri,
Wiz**

BLUE & GOLD OFFICER

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