

this, Mike will have recently returned from a five-day solo trek in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and two weeks of wine and pasta in Italy with Wanda.

Sounds to us like Mike's *already* retired.

Tom Elmore (23rd Co.) is already enjoying retirement outside of Richmond, VA, where his wife Linda stays busy selling real estate. Tom's maintained a life-long interest in the Civil War, and though his particular focus has been the Battle of Gettysburg, when David had some questions about one of his ancestors who was in the New Mexico campaign, Tom was able to provide the answers in short order. The Elmore's like to travel, and have enjoyed cruises to destinations such as Rome, the Amalfi coast, Sicily, Greece, Slovenia and Venice, and were fortunate to have visited Paris and the Cathedral of Notre Dame in 2015. Their daughter lives and works in New York City as an editor for a publishing house, while their son just returned from his second deployment on an SSBN and recently earned his Dolphins qualification. Tom's father, who was a chief gunner's mate in WWII, passed away last October and will be laid to rest in Arlington this summer. The elder Elmore served on an attack transport carrying the Marines and Army on and off Guadalcanal, and later fought off kamikazes while on a destroyer escort during Okinawa. Tom, we celebrate the memory of your dad while sharing your loss.

MJ and **Robin Mickle (23rd Co.)** have a new dog *and* a new daughter-in-law, Runner and Nina respectively. While Runner is their fourth Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Nina is their first daughter-in-law, having married their son Jackson on June 1st. Congratulations to MJ and Robin, as well as the happy couple.

If you didn't know it, **CY Smith (23rd Co.)**, shown below with wife Shelley...



...is into cars; REALLY into cars. Over the years, CY has bought, restored, and sold a number of automobiles, with his latest and greatest being what his son terms a "Frankenvette". Assuming David has this right, it's a Ferrari 365GTS4 replica built on a '77 Corvette chassis, a fuel-injected V12 from a '98 BMW 750iL modified to fit in the Vette, a 6-Speed manual transmission from a '05 BMW 645CSI modified to fit the V12, the body and dash from the Ferrari, seats from a Porsche, interior door mechanisms from a Jaguar, fuel pump drive circuit from a Ford F150, and an engine ECU aftermarket unit called a "Megascruiser MS3Pro". Thus the origin of the name "Frankenvette"! CY's had it for almost 10 years, and says he'll never sell it. For those who Facebook, CY's posted photos of it.

And last, but certainly not least, David himself has been retired for four years, but still keeps busy keeping up the house, walking the dog, volunteering at a local hospital and taking classes at a nearby community college where he just completed a 2nd semester of pottery, a course unavailable to him while matriculating at Canoe U. His wife Karla and he recently returned from visiting their daughter in LA, have scheduled an October trip to Greece and are contemplating a move to Santa Fe, NM. reports David's going to open a pottery shop in the Arts & Crafts capital of the Southwest remain unconfirmed.

We'll have more on the latest doings of 23rd Company after we've confirmed a few facts.

Next up, **John Taylor (8th Co.)** informed us 8th Company now has a northern HQ just outside Bath,

ME. Pictured below during one of their multiple visits to the frozen North are...



...(L-to-R) John (F4s-USMC), **Doug Hannum (8th Co.)**, (P-3s), **Bob Julian (8th Co.)**, (F-14s + North Korea UN liaison) and **Rich Gooner (8th Co.)** (Supply-Subs). The photo was snapped during the Memorial Day weekend while the guys and their wives were touring Doug's old haunt, the former NAS Brunswick. Rich and his wife Christi own a cabin (and bunkhouse) on the coast known as the "Crow's Nest" overlooking one of the inlets off Casco Bay. John noted Rich went Supply thanks to a Navy Football knee injury, and was, to his credit, the only Supply Officer with dolphins to that date. And, owing to multiple back-to-back cruises, he was also fastest to earn them.

Moving on, **Bill Frost (6th Co.)** had the pleasure of seeing **Clinton Hallman (8th Co.)** on the occasion of a talk by **David Jones (4th Co.)** at the Blue and Gold Officer info session held on May 2nd at the Goldman Sachs offices in downtown Chicago. Also in the audience was one Scott Jones (USNA Class of '10), Dave's son.

We're told Dave lives in nearby Naperville, IL, while young Scott is pursuing his MBA at Chicago. The twice-retired Clint and his wife Angie are looking forward to a return to their native South Carolina, where they're building a home in Beaufort. Clint stays busy with a part time job in the wine business and the boards of a couple of organizations in Chicago, while Angie works to ease the fears and pain of women undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Clinton said, "She is just amazing", an assessment we've no reason to question.

Finally, The Quantico Area Chapter of the USNAAA dedicated its 2019 Run to Honor Remembrance Run to **Jim Surch (21st Co. by way of 7th Co.)**, who died in 1983 bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut. On hand to honor Jim were, left to right below, '77 Classmates and fellow NAPsters **Dave Sanders (24th Co.)**, **Chris Murray (13th Co.)**, **Dave Murphy (28th Co.)**, and **Greg "Rooster" Reuss (3rd Co.)**:



Rooster said it best: "Jim was a Naval Officer who absolutely epitomized our values of honor, courage and commitment. He was a great friend and an extraordinary shipmate. I was honored to be his wingman."

Semper Fi!

—Mago

'78

Life Membership: 80%
Donor Participation: 25.48%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Where did the summer go?! (Actually, it is *still here* as I write this September column- but let's pretend I am in "future time".) As this reaches your mailboxes, the academic year has begun. The Class of 2023 has finished Plebe summer, had their "Hello Night" and has now added the pressure of academics to their Plebe existence. Ah, the memories and how grateful I am that is looong over for us. Whew! Football season is already upon us and everyone is hoping for a better year. This will be a short column as there was not much in the in-box or mail box.

Quantico Chapter

See page 117
for more information
about the Run to Honor event.

78/79 CLASS NEWS

Ever-faithful correspondent, **Jim Fiorelli** (2nd Co), sent me a quick note and few pics. He was in Springfield, VA for the July 4th celebration on the National Mall. His middle son, Matt, who just took command of an Apache company with the 101st, was one of the pilots flying the Apaches for the Army flyover. While visiting him at his hotel one evening, Jim ran into Angela and **Tom Abernethy** (19th Co), who live nearby. They had a great time catching up, and Jim was excited to introduce Matt to one of his "stud classmates". Jim never realized how tall Tommy was until he looked at the picture he sent. Matt is 6' 1", so that seems to make Tommy about 6'7"! (Welcome to my world, Jim!) By the way, as proud as Jim was of Matt flying one of the Apaches for the President's speech, he said the Navy convincingly won the flyover contest - the F-18/F-35 flyover was tighter and better executed than any of the other services, and the Blues were absolutely perfect! (Gotta agree with that, Jim!)



The second pic Jim sent is him with **Pat McCormick** (6th Co) and my fellow Santa Ana, Californian, **Jim Degree** (33rdCo) at an Italian restaurant (naturally) in Colorado Springs. Jim F was passing through on the front end of a work conference, and had the opportunity to hang out with these two classmates and their sweet wives. He said it was a special evening for all.

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Please keep 30th Company's Robin and **Bruce Geary** in your prayers. **Ray Luevano** (6th Co) passed me news that at the end of June he was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). GBS is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks part of its peripheral nervous system—the network of nerves located outside of the brain and spinal cord. According to by Internet, "Fortunately, most people eventually recover from even the most severe cases of GBS." My son's best friend had it in his early twenties and I think it was almost six months of recovery effort. That said, **Lew Wolfrom** reported that Bruce's doctors said "his prognosis for a speedy recovery is good since Bruce was such a fitness freak before all this happened." Who knows, perhaps Bruce is out of that rehab center by now- or will soon be. I am sure that also helping is the fact that his 30th Company lads and other classmates and friends have rallied around him and Robin.

Larry Galvin (15th Co) dropped me a line with some quick news. In March, he was elected as the Counsel for the Naval Submarine League. He doesn't have a vote but he can influence with his counsel! In February, his and Atti's eldest son, LT **Andy (09)**, transferred from HT-18 in P-Cola to my roommate, **Tom Crowley's**, old command, USS Boxer (LHD-4). Andy is the "Mini Boss". Andy had also been named the Chief of Naval Air Training ("CNATRA") Flight Instructor of the Year for 2018 for that HT-18 tour. The Galvin middle son, Danny, continues his hedge-fund work. Last summer, their youngest son, LT Timmy, transferred

from USS Annapolis (SSN-760) to Annapolis, where he teaches in USNA's Cyber Science Department.

Our class webmaster and my 11th Companymate, **Matt Elias**, has been working to upgrade and update our Class Website. With it we have been trying to get information updated. If you haven't already done so, please go there (usna1978.org) and update your profile and maybe add a pic or two. As you know we still have company reps who help us get the word out. As this goes to print 27 of the current 36 Company Reps have committed to serve until the 45th Reunion. (Check with your current rep if you want be "their relief" or serve after the 45th.) Matt is also working hard to find Company Designation for our non-grads and widows. As this goes to print, we are down to 279 from the 532 non-grads and widows who didn't have their company in their record. Thanks to all of you [Company Reps] who have already submitted your non-grads and widows. If you know of someone in those categories, please let Matt and your company rep know. We don't want to "leave anyone behind". Well that's my pitch for class biz.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 29.74%

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!

This column should be reaching your mailbox within a few days of our upcoming class reunion on the banks of the Severn. The Reunion Committee has put in a lot of effort to make this one of our most memorable get-togethers. Lots of events are on tap, including the crab feast, activities in The Yard, company parties, and of course the big football game

and tailgater on Saturday. Be sure to bookmark www.usna79.com on your phone: all the latest gouge can be had by clicking on the "40th Reunion" link there.

Unfortunately, I have to temper the excitement and anticipation of the reunion with some disappointing news. In early June **Jack Bruno** (13th Co.) lost his battle with ALS. An avid baseball fan, Jack co-founded the American Legion Post 1776 baseball team in the Williamsburg/Yorktown, Virginia area. He was also an active member of St. Olaf Catholic Church in Williamsburg, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, sacristan, liturgical reader, a Cursillo Rector, and spiritual director.

Jack is survived by his wife Susan; son Evan Anthony; stepsons Jeffrey, Ryan, and Michael; and stepdaughter Jennifer; two grandchildren, and an extended family of nieces and nephews. Chris Brehany was one of several classmates who attended the funeral, and he passed along this update:

✉ It was an honor and privilege to attend Jack's Funeral Mass (& post-Mass reception) at St. Olaf Catholic Church, in Williamsburg. Multiple 13th Company classmates were there, including Lorna & **Steve Hanson**, Nancy & **Joe Fallone**, **Roger Sassman & Trinora Pinto-Sassman '81**, **Mike Davis**, **Pete Kurzenhauser**, **Steve Weis**, and **Kyle Kaker** (6th Co).

Phil Jolly was able to attend the visitation but unable to make the funeral/reception. Although we all regret the gathering circumstance, it was good to reconnect with them, in some cases after many years.

The primary purpose of this e-mail is to notify you of the online ALS donation site in Jack's memory, which is "up & running" with Susan Bruno's review & approval. Here's the link: <https://bit.ly/2XrGdiX>. OV, Chris

(Note from Wiz: I used a "link shortener" to make it easier to print the link to Jack's donation page. If anyone has any trouble accessing the page, email me and I'll send you the full (long) link.)