

Charlotte, Spike's widow, at the internment ceremony. Mark led the USNA alums in the first verse of Navy Blue and Gold at the conclusion of the ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, followed, of course, by a boisterous "Beat Army!". Pete noted it was a moving moment which was greatly appreciated by Spike's family.

And lastly, **Jim Gould (18th Co.)** informed us **Ted Brown (16th Co.)** passed away the evening of February 27th from kidney cancer. Ted had been in hospice care in Melbourne, FL.

We know you join us in offering our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for the families, friends and shipmates of both Spike and Ted.

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

**Magoo**

## '78

**Life Membership: 81%**  
**Donor Participation: 2.71%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401  
e: canoe78@aol.com

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

I apologize for the absence of a column in last month's *Shipmate*. "No excuse, sir".

**John "Newk" Newcomb** (4th Co), my helo flight school roomie, sent an update. He reported that he still works for Parsons Engineering supporting the Missile Defense Agency onsite the National Reconnaissance Office. His beautiful bride, Judy, retired from Federal Civil Service and then worked for a couple of years as her own LLC. Now she works for Leidos in Reston, VA where she does Workforce Planning. Newk sent a "Ring Knocker" photo of all the Newcomb Boat School men. It was from the MARSOC Marine Corps Ball in Wilmington, NC this past November. There was a side ceremony where LtCol **Chris Mellon** ('03) presented Newk's youngest, **Charles "Zack" Zachary** ('10) with Newk's set of Navy-Marine Corps Gold Parachute Wings. They are the ones Newk earned while on "Boat School Double-Secret Academic Probation



'78: Newcomb "Ring Knockers"



'78: A Fiorelli Wedding



'78: The Fowlers

back in 1975". During that Brasso and Blood Wings ceremony Zack's brother, Marine aviator, **Thomas** ('08), was sporting dad's Wings of Gold earned in Pensacola back in 1980. Just a few months before, Zack was leading his Marine Raider

Team on the ground near Mosul while his brother Tom was earning a few Air Medals with VMFA-314 flying combat missions over the Levant. "Douche" (Thomas) is now a Major and the X.O. of VMFA-312 out in Beaufort, SC. Zack lives in Brooklyn

with his fiancée, Kelsey Hume.

He recently started a job as the Northeast Director of Operations for Cobalt Robotics headquartered in San Mateo.

**Jim Fiorelli** (2nd Co) reported on the New Year's Eve wedding at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club of his and Jan's youngest, 2/Lt **John Fiorelli** ('19), to 2/Lt **Liza Harris** ('18). What a wonderful way to bring in the New Year! Joining them were family and friends from around the country, including many of John's football and rugby friends, and '78 classmates **Vin Bellezza** (2nd Co.) and **Ray Luevano** (6th Co). Liza is an air intel officer at MCAS Miramar. John selected Marine infantry. After graduation from TBS, he'll start IOC (Infantry Officer's Course) [in April]. After IOC in July, he hopes for orders to Pendleton so he and Liza can be reunited. Jim sent a picture of the newly increased family. Eldest son, Navy pilot, **Mike** ('13) flies F-18s with VFA-2 in Lemoore. He hopes to get selected for TPS in the next year. Middle son (and "Black Sheep Woop") **Matt** (USMA '14) and his wife Andrea are expecting their baby boy in May. Their 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Emmy, was the flower girl. Matt commands an Apache Company at Ft. Campbell. He deploys in June to Poland. Upon return he is slated for grad school (location TBD) and then 3 years as a prof at West Point.

**Jeff Fowler** (12th Co) remains President of American Operations Corporation and some subsidiaries. Katie celebrated a milestone birthday and has two full-time volunteer jobs. Weekdays, she is "Grammie" nanny to Ella while her mommy, daughter Brittany (aka "Britt"), works full time. Her second volunteer job increased as she was selected to be President of the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy and travels with her aide (Jeff) to many ship christenings around the country and other related events. Britt is excited to hang up her lab coat as she transitions to her new position as a Data Support Specialist in Quality Review with her same CRO company, Covance. She'll work in a different

## 78/80 CLASS NEWS

aspect of pharmaceutical drug development, in Chantilly, VA. Granddaughter, 2 ½ year-old Ella, runs around and talks up a storm-bilingually (English and Italian). Daughter, Lynsee, was recently promoted to Director of Communications for the National Fisheries Institute in McLean, VA. Son, Connor, enjoyed his first year as a software engineer for Capital One in Richmond, VA. He also plays drums at weekend "gigs" with a rock band ("Almost Gone.").

Here are a few stray rounds: Mark Fox (18th Co) sent a photo of him and CAPT Sterling "Sterls" Gilliam, Director of the Naval Aviation Museum. They are posed in front of the Hornet that Mark flew on the first day of Desert Storm. The museum will restore and display Mark's and the other Hornet that scored MiG kills on 17 January 1991. The museum plans to create a Desert Storm exhibit, with a roll-out on the 30th anniversary of the conflict. Mark found it hard to believe it's been that long!



Mark Fox and "Sterls" Gilliam

This month I am sad to report the loss of four more of our '78 family.

On December 20th, non-grad, **Michael Sean Grimes**, passed away. Mike came to the Naval Academy via Fork Union Military Academy. He was a starter as a Plebe on the varsity football team. He would leave Navy and finish his football career as a Cincinnati Bearcat. He

earned his Juris Doctorate at Ohio Northern University. He and Mary Anne Frericks were married in 1982. They had three children (Katie, John and Kelly), and remained committed to each other until his death. Mike gave his all to his adopted hometown of Marion. He operated two businesses, coached the Harding High School freshman football team; was an adjunct professor of business; gave time and energy to numerous charitable and fraternal organizations, and sponsored numerous local sports teams. He was elected to public office and was a JAG in Army National Guard.

On 10 February, **Melissa "Missy" Glasgow**, left us to be reunited in Heaven with the love her life, our classmate **Ty Glasgow**, who went ahead in October of 2018. Missy died peacefully in her sleep at their home in New Harbor, ME. She leaves behind their two daughters, Heather and Bridget and son Ryan Glasgow; as well as families and countless friends.

Also, at the end of 2019, **Rich Link** (1st CO) informed us of the passing of his son, Jason, of natural causes at his home in El Paso, TX. Jason was one of our nation's finest, having enlisted in the Army and volunteered for two combat tours in Iraq. "Big Sarge" - as he was known to those with whom he served - led from the front. He was fearless, vigilant, and selfless; willing to sacrifice himself to keep his men safe. Diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), he was widely known within the community as a trusted resource to talk to in times of crisis. He also leaves behind four siblings (Emily Litten, Rachel Dillon Adam Link and Sarah Schaefer) and hundreds of friends across the world, and numerous lives positively impacted, all of whom he loved deeply.

Lastly, it was with great sadness that I report the passing of another of our Class of '78 children. On February 22nd, Julie and **Rand LeBouvier's** (32nd CO) only son, Chris, died unexpectedly. He was a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy, former Navy MH-60S helicopter pilot, fun-loving guy, and loving son, brother to Tara and Julia

and uncle to Tara's children. A light in the world dimmed with his passing but is rekindled with the memory of good times and his great smile and laughter. The family was buoyed by Rand's 32nd Companymates and '78 classmates, family and friends. As this goes to print relatives and friends were planning to gather for a wake and funeral to celebrate his life.

To help with the sad news I share a story from plebe year when I helped teach Sunday School. I and a classmate, Wesley, were talking about God's love to our class of six-year old students. Suddenly one of them hit us with a BIG question. He asked, "Well, if God loves us, then why do we die?" I turned the question back to the class and asked for their thoughts. Little Sarah was the only one to raise a hand to answer. "Well, Sarah what do you think?", I asked. Looking at me with her brown eyes and mustering all the pure wisdom of a child, she said, "Well, maybe He loves us so much that He just wants us to come home with Him." I was floored with the faithful profundity of her answer. I looked at the class and asked, "So what do you think? Is that good for you?" They all shook the heads and matter-of-factly acknowledged that it was good enough for them. It remains good enough for me and helps me to cope with news like I just gave you. So too does the knowledge that all of us are buoyed by the love from our '78 family and the understanding that we are here for each other.

Launchin' Spot Four; once more with the "Sky Pilot". And this time, with a full manifest and former MH-60S pilot Chris, at the controls.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 1.85%**

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, USN (Ret.)**  
e: djackson@usna.edu

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)

## '80

**Life Membership: 96%**  
**Donor Participation: 1.90%**

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: <http://1980.usnaclass.net>

Greetings Classmates,

I am flying home to New Orleans after having attended the final Celebration of Life for our fellow 33rd Herd Member and Classmate **Charlie "Dr. Bogard" Meyers** at the Naval Academy. The night before the ceremony a group from the Herd got together for dinner and ended up at **Pete "Rat" Stanford's** house in Annapolis. Pete and I were roommates for two years at Navy, it was great to catch up. **Kathy Slevin Clore** came up from near St. Louis, **Brian Kosinski** and **Bill Killea** came in from California and **Sharon Hanley Disher** lives in the Annapolis area. Pete's wife Laurie was good enough to let us descend upon her home. It was great to tell old sea stories and share our experience of our Classmate. Everyone has a "Bogard" story to tell and tell them we did. The next day more members of the Herd came in, including **Rich Springman**, **Dale Lumme** (who helped Charlie's family so much in his final days), **Pat Lefler**, down from near Princeton, NJ, **Mike Loman** and **Jeff Mertens**, local to Virginia and Baltimore, **Joel Ross**, from Florida, (Jeff and Joel left the Academy early for family reasons but remain integral members of the Class), **Russ Averill** (also came in from California), **Tom Bennet** (local to Virginia) and me - up from New Orleans. I could not help but think how amazing it is that after 40 years, that many people would fly/drive/ make their way to Annapolis for their Shipmate's celebration. We took a picture of the group at the Ceremony - and were fortunate enough to have a similar photo brought in by Mike Loman of our same group 40 years ago at Pete's parents' house. Charlie helped to bring us closer as a Company and as a Class - this was a testimony to