

and blushing bride, and the lovely Mrs. Vail:



Vail Wedding

We know all of '77 joins us in wishing Ashley and Lee a long and happy marriage...along with many grandchildren for Mary and Dave! Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 28.08%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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It's been a long time between columns. Much has happened in many households and lives.

As another year passed, we again reflect on the loss of another classmate and a loved one.

Early October, we lost **Jim**



Jim Anderson

Anderson (6th Company) to cancer. His roommate and fellow Mech E major, **Ray Luevano**, passed me the sad news. The

son of a GI dad and his Japanese bride, he hailed from El Paso, TX. After completing his Nuke Sub active duty obligation, he continued in the Naval Reserves. His last reserve duty was as XO of an amphibious squadron in San Diego, CA. In his civilian life, he held a variety of technical and senior management positions in high technology companies; founded

and operated two companies; and served on the Board of Directors of multiple national companies and trade organizations. Jim held seven US patents and authored or co-authored numerous articles in leading oil industry magazines. He was a loving husband to Christina, good father to his children; and a great friend to many. We'll miss that beaming smile of his. We send our prayers and thoughts to his family.

On Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we mourned the loss of Bob Vogt's (35th Co) wife, June, to multiple myeloma. She'd been fighting valiantly and had recently endured "Descartes 8" Clinical Trial treatment in the hope of defeating it. Sadly, it did not provide a cure. June fought with determination, humor, grace and style. Her favorite garnish for her chemo "cocktail"? She wrote "limes", of course. What to wear for treatments- she prescribed "leggings, jeggings or sweats" (just think "convenience"). To appropriate a line from a friend of hers, "She was so strong, so fun, so loving and so kind." Future football game tailgates might seem less bright without her - but only if you forget about her smile and her outlook that "The glass is always half full." I'd say that her glass was always overflowing. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider donating to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.



Bob and June Cheering Navy

It's tough transitioning from writing of grief and loss to everyday events. As more waters have washed across our hulls, more bells have chimed the passing of time - and I hear of more of us reporting to the heavenly "advanced party" it becomes a more frequent dilemma. I like to think that those watching over us are just as curious as we are

about what our '78 family is doing; moreover, since they never really leave us, I feel I am also keeping them in the loop. It helps... so here I go.

One of the tighter groups among us, 1st Company, held another semi-annual outing. At the end of September/beginning of October they rented a large beach house in Sandbridge Beach, VA. Among those spending time there were: **Ken Heffernan, Bob Schwaneke, Jack McCourt, Doug Grau, Eric Rosenlof, Bill McAlpine, Peter Bannon, Bruce Carter, Warren Krull, John Day, Bill Landay and Frank Hunt.** Highlights of the week included a golf outing and sailing on Frank's sailboat. Bob added that "The water this year was excellent (meaning warm enough to swim!), so much time was spent on the beach and in the pool and hot tub! Food was overwhelming, with the prime rib dinner voted best overall!!" I include a photo from the deck of their house but will spare you from their beach pics (We're not young Mids anymore.)

Kiel Norris (25TH Co) had two big events in October. First was the VFA-14 "Tophatter" Centennial black-tie event at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. There were several other USNA alumni present, including classmate **John Skogsberg** and **Rich Donofrio** ('80). Like Kiel, "Skogs" and Rich are Delta Airline pilots. The evening's guest speaker was recently retired Supe, and former Tophatter CO, **Ted Carter** ('81). The second, BIGGER black-tie event for Kiel was his marriage to Lisa Labriola. **John Rudzis** (25th Co) - Kiel's best man for his two previous marriages- attended. Kiel fired him this time

for "obviously doing such a poor job". Instead, Kiel's 91-year-old father served as best man. As Kiel wrote "THIS time things are going MUCH better!!" Father knows best!!" (Well, here's hoping the third time is the charm, Kiel!) John and Kiel are both still with Delta. John flies routes to Asia and Australia on the Boeing 777 and Kiel flies Europe, South America and Africa routes on the Airbus 330. They both have less than two years remaining until the airline's age 65 mandatory retirement. Congrats, Lisa and Kiel!



Newlyweds Kiel and Lisa



Kiel, Lisa and JR



Skogs, Rich and Kiel



'78: 1st Co Sandbridge Reunion

78/79 CLASS NEWS

Years ago, Scott Provow (21st Co) went from airline captain to Charter Captain. Since he and Leslie both were carrier pilots their boat is fittingly named, *The Tailhooker*. Scott also runs his own Real Estate Brokerage, Scott Provow Realty. This summer he took some days off to travel with his favorite United Air Lines Boeing 787 Dreamliner Captain (Leslie of course!). Having flown to Paris and Amsterdam for a few days and then Tahiti, he admits getting over being a "kept man". (He drank champagne in business class while Leslie worked/flew!) Let's just say, being younger than we, she has a *little* longer to keep flying Scott around the world before she must retire. Until then, she (and Scott) will have fun seeing the world.



Scott and Leslie Provow

Congratulations and thanks to **John Semcken** (2nd Co), his Land of the Free Foundation and his Foundation co-founders, Ed Roski and Kent Valley (both Marines by the way) for another highly successful Golf Classic. Since 2007, they have annually netted at least \$1M dollars to distribute to organizations that help

veterans, wounded veterans, active duty and military families. The programs supported "help our armed service personnel and their families and will ensure that the commitment of our nation's heroes will never be taken for granted..." You guys are doing great work, John. (Judging from the pic below of you and Kent being bookends for some honorees, you still look pretty good doing it!)

Sheri and Ray Luevano uprooted from Palo Alto last year. They settled on a small farm in Auburn, just north of Sacramento. There Sheri operates her Rock and Roll School; teaching drums to a variety of students from kids to adults (even some retired engineers and professors!). Ray's self-imposed little sabbatical to help get them resettled will probably end early this year. He'll probably do some consulting - perhaps to tech start-ups. Sheri and Ray invite everyone to stop by the farm. This past summer, they had Barbara and Scott Eckert (22nd Co) as their first visitors. One thing about having property like theirs - they got to cut their Christmas tree from among their own trees!



Luevanos and Eckerts



Sheri Supervising Ray's Tree Cutting

Between the pics and prose I am getting to my limit. I wish a full and rapid recovery to those of you on the mend from operations, like my 11th Companymates, **Prentiss Hall** (heart bypass this fall) and **Phil Winters** (rotator cuff repair) and to **Chet Seto** (13th Co (also bypass surgery)). I offer continued prayers for a cure or full remission to those being treated for cancer or other malignant illness. Finally, I hope 2020 brings us more success, better health, joy and time to share with family, friends and loved ones. Stay well!



Phil on the mend and looking good

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 31.87%

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Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

The post-reunion reports are starting to come in, and I have a

number of items to start this new year. So let's get right to it. First up this month is our Baja-racing surface warrior **Mike Shatynski**, who checks in from the west coast:

✉ I was elected Chairman of the Board of the Battleship Iowa Museum in the Port of Los Angeles in January 2018. According to TripAdvisor, Iowa is now the 5th most popular tourist attraction (out of about 650) and 5th most popular museum (out of about 150) in Los Angeles. IOWA is not just a ship museum, her integral programs focus on three pillars; education, veterans, and community.

The big news - In January 2019, we were licensed by the Naval History and Heritage Command to become the National Museum of the Surface Navy. As of a few months ago, I became the Chairman of the Board of the National Museum of the Surface Navy at the Battleship Iowa.

We will build the museum aboard the ship so no need for a "brick and mortar" building. As a proof of concept, we have already cleared 7,000 sq. ft. of racks to install a new exhibit called "Lost at Sea" about Dr Bob Ballard's underwater discoveries. We will be clearing a total of 30,000 sq. ft. on the 2nd and 3rd decks of IOWA for the Surface Navy Museum.

We are building in 3 phases. Phase I is a move to a new slip as "anchor" for a redeveloped LA Waterfront in 2022, Phase II is the opening aboard IOWA in 2025, and Phase III will be a conference center ashore in 2030. We start our capital campaign next month to raise \$60M. We already have \$17M contributed to be a matching donation to get us to Phase I.

That is terrific news, Mike! Congratulations to you and your team on this accomplishment. I'll definitely look you up next time I'm in SoCal.

In other Surface line news, **Nevin Carr** was featured in a short blurb about Sea Hunter, an unmanned surface ship created by Leidos. Sea Hunter was recently featured in a major demonstration using an advanced sensor less than a year



'78: Land of the Free Foundation