

77/79 CLASS NEWS

sending in his first-ever contribution to Shipmate. Deb and Bob started their 8-day excursion in Paris, cruised up the Seine and ended their journey in Normandy, where they toured the D-Day landing sites. Deb and Bob are pictured enjoying the beauty of Monet's garden (Claude was unavailable for the photograph)...



...and touring a German gun emplacement (the former occupants of which were also absent!)...



...while Bob is pictured here debating the relative merits of the Army and Navy football programs with a pair of West Point alum:



Deb and Bob so enjoyed cruising France, they've already registered for another USNAAA Travel trip next June, when they'll circumnavigate Iceland. For those who didn't pay as close attention in Sea Power as others (Buddy!), that means they'll sail around the island.

Bob, shown below with fellow '70s porn star and Cleveland sports legend **John "Aero", aka "Otto" Graham (7th Co.) ...**



...Also requested we mention he's training for the 2020 Boston Marathon, when he'll be running for the Semper Fi Fund, and would appreciate any and all donations to help him reach his goal of \$10,000 (as of the date of this submission, January 6, 2020, he's at just over \$2,500). In 2010, Barnsey participated in the Run To Honor Marine Corps Marathon in memory **Steve Burley (30th Co.)**. Bob reached out to Steve's brother Lew, asking for his approval to reference Steve again in his fundraising letter, and Lew readily agreed. So please, check out Bob's web site at www.bobrunsboston.com. He doesn't know how many marathons are left in his body but continues to draw motivation from the inspiring words of the late, great Heinz Lenz: Looking good, '77!!!

Finally, on a more somber note, **John Vuolo (12th Co.)** forwarded this all-hands bulletin for publication:

✉ It's Christmas Eve, and I'm writing to you about Ensign Joshua Watson, killed at NAS Pensacola during a terrorist attack. His actions speak highly of himself and the institution from which he graduated and represented so valiantly. Two of our classmates, **Ken Shearer (34th Co.)** and **Mike McCarthy (19th Co.)**, had the opportunity to meet Josh at a recent GLE. I wanted to share their thoughts with the Class. Please remember Ensign Watson's family during this holiday season. As written by Ken:

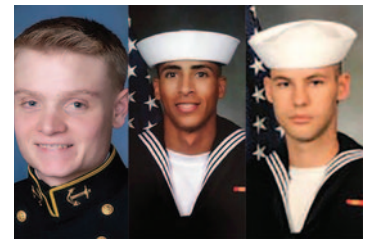


Our Class first met Joshua Kaleb Watson at the Gettysburg Leadership Experience in June 2018, before he was posthumously introduced to the world this past December. Participating in the GLE program '77 sponsors, Mike McCarthy and I had the honor and privilege to meet and engage with Josh over the course of the two-day event. All of the participants embodied the values of fidelity, honor and discipline instilled in us at the Naval Academy. Mike and I were proud to observe and get to meet the future leaders of our Navy and Marine Corp, including Josh, who captained the Navy rifle team. Little did we realize he would be put to the ultimate test a short 18 months later at the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

As many of you now know, Josh was killed in the line of duty on December 6th. What's striking is, while all of us were exposed to the concepts of leadership by example, self-sacrifice and courage under fire, most of us never faced the crucible of combat, and thus have wondered since how we would react. There was no question on that day for Josh. He immediately sprang into action, first attempting to disarm the gunman; then, despite having been shot 5 times, still managed to exit the building and provide authorities with details crucial to limiting the loss of life and bringing the incident to a quick conclusion. Many more members of our Military would have been injured or killed without his rapid response.

The Class of 1977 would like to recognize his heroism, sacrifice and commitment to duty by sharing this posting with the entire Naval Academy family and all the men and women of America's Armed Forces.

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends; or...



...his shipmates.
Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 32.51%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401
e: canoew78@aol.com

Website: usna1978.org

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 34.15%

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



Fall 1978, first set Brigade Staff



September 2019, first set Brigade Staff:
seated: Mike Welch, Russ Keller, Matt Coleman; standing: Don Barber, Mark Dancer, Ken Gray and Peter Johnstone