

# '77

**Life Membership: 74%**  
**Donor Participation: 6.60%**

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*"If fear is cultivated it will become stronger, if faith is cultivated it will achieve mastery." - John Paul Jones*

First, our timbers are shivering as we open this rather abbreviated column with the acknowledgement at least ONE member of '77 still knows his morse code, as **Jerry Mathre (18th Co.)** was the first to email an answer to our signals quiz. Not only didn't Jerry need a reference guide, he recognized the dying words of James Lawrence emblazoned on the battle flag Oliver Hazard Perry flew during his decisive victory over the British at the Battle of Lake Erie after only reading the first two words, figuring out the rest based on his extensive schooling in Naval History and many hours poring over *Reef Points*.

BZ, Jerry. And, as promised, the first...and second...libation at the 45th reunion golf dinner is on us.

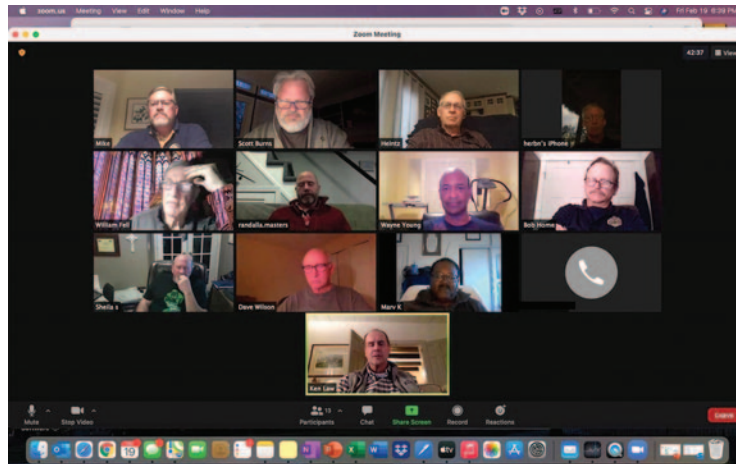
As an aside, we're proud to have a small replica of Perry's battle flag, which still hangs in Memorial Hall, flying over our front door:



Don't Give Up The Ship



'78: 1st Company Zoom Call



'78: "Club 34 Zoom Call"

Second, Kathy Thorp, wife of **Owen Thorp (22nd Co.)** wrote to inform us the Navy Lacrosse staff has announced a formal initiative to name the team's wardroom after Owen, in recognition of "the legacy he left, the impact he made, and the love he had for Navy Lacrosse", all three of which were immeasurable.



Owen Thorp

This will help ensure Owen's contributions not only to the lacrosse program, but the Academy as a whole, are remembered for

generations to come. If all goes to plan, The Thorp Wardroom will likely have been dedicated during the weekend of April 23rd/24th in conjunction with the Army-Navy lax contest.

We're enclosing information for anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile project:

**To Make a Gift:**

**Online:** [usna.com/give](http://usna.com/give). Choose "other" from the designation dropdown menu & write in "MEL Fund in honor of Captain Thorp"

**Check:** remit checks to  
 USNA Foundation  
 274 Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21402

**Contact:** Tim Ford, Sr. Assoc. AD  
 [410] 293-8916 | [tford@usna.edu](mailto:tford@usna.edu)

Contribution Instructions

Go Navy, Beat Army!  
 Magoo

# '78

**Life Membership: 81%**  
**Donor Participation: 5.70%**

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As I wrote in a previous column, a lot of you have found creative ways to stay connected with each other during the "COVID restrictions" - among the ways has been video chat (Zoom, Google, Skype, etc.). Besides the one-on-one chats, some companies have taken to holding regular company calls using the platforms. On Friday, February 19th, First Company held its first virtual Zoom "Happy Hour". I am sure they used someone on the East Coast as "base time zone" to help justify any early West Coast drinks - since we always said, *somewhere the sun is over the Yardarm*".

For that Happy Hour, they had 11 present which included: **Ken Heffernan, Frank Hunt, Ron Robbins, Bruce Carter, Bill McAlpine, Warren Krull, Bill Landay, Peter Bannon, Doug Grau, Gerry Roncolato, and Bob Schwaneke**. Bob reported that they had a "Super good time! **Doug Grau** was the instigator of this event, and **Bruce Carter** hosted on his Zoom account. It was a first for me also, my first ever Zoom meeting! As the other guys will attest, the technology fascinated me! LOL! Best part about it...no one had to take an Uber home!"

"Club 34" also held a Zoom call. **Glen "Wheels" Wheless** commented. " Geez guys, you look like you're checking Wires exam grades." From the faces I could make out attendees were: **Scott Burns, Dave Heintzman, Herb Nyberg, Bill Fell, Randy Masters, Wayne Young, Bob Novak, Ken Law, Marv King, Dave Wilson, Bryan Livingston** and (I think) **Paul Susalla**.

Good Time 10th Co also held a zoom call in early March. I've already written about other companies doing the same. Inspired by those

guys, we 11th Co were planning do to one as well.

**Brice Zimmerman** (2nd Co) dropped a line as last month's column went out the door. He reported that he is "on final glide slope to retiring with my retired Navy O-6 wife, Valerie." For almost five years he's been running his own consulting company (primarily working in cybersecurity). Brice said the business is in a "good place" so it's time to focus on what matters more than the job. Several years ago, Valerie and he bought a home on Lake Anna in central Virginia. They're looking forward to living out our their lives there. Their primary residence was going on the market in April. Given it's a seller's market these days, I am sure it went fast and for a good price. They spend a lot of time at the lake these days. Tom's boat's is named "Plausible Deniability" and he runs her a lot. While they remain pretty "private people" (Tom opined it's a habit that's hard to break from - both having served 20+ years in the intel community.), he said it's still good to hear from folks from time to time. Of course, *I think* they may have to erase your memory so you might not recall the visit. You know those intel folks. Just kidding. Thanks for the note, Brice.

Here are a few "hit and runs":

Congrats to **Sean McCloskey** (3rd Co) on his - by now, relatively - new job with Imperva a cyber security software and services company. Sean is the Enterprise Accounts Manager. I checked in on some classmates in Texas when the Big Freeze got the state. Fortunately, all were safe. One in San Antonio, TX, was **Dave "Deke" Philman** (24th Co); who hasn't been mentioned in a while. I was surprised to hear that Deke and Sylvia both had contracted COVID at the same time (around the end of the year holidays). Deke's symptoms were not nearly as bad as Sylvia's. Thankfully, they are past that now and are just working on regaining their strength. They - like many of you - should be done with the vaccination protocols. As for the storm impact, Deke wrote that "the good news is that we only lost power for a couple of



'78: The Fiorelli

short intervals, but we were without water pressure from Monday to Friday." They had been boiling the water prior to using it but were glad that at least they had water! Deke said that "you know, the houses in Texas are not built to Montana standards so I was busily installing some insulation to exposed pipes and attic areas before the really cold air arrived." He noted that "folks up in DFW area [like his daughter] got hit pretty hard. In fact, his daughter was without power for a couple of days and had inside the home temperatures of 36 degrees! Glad to see all survived (and the same for everyone whom I was able to check on like 11th classmates, **Matt Elias** and **Rusty Cone**, and **Ken "Sox" Bowersox** (19th Co).)

In mid-March folks got word from **Jeff Ewin** (29th Co) that he was retiring from INPO (Institute of Nuclear Power Operations). Sometime this month my 11th Company roommate, **Tom Crowley** will retire from his second career as a civil servant. Tom's last job was as the deputy director, Fleet Readiness (N83B).

I also checked in with **Roy Cranford** (31st Co) in March. He said the "family is doing well." His son, **Wil** ('15) has been selling orthopedics in hospital settings for 3 years now and doing well. Roy thinks he has the itch to do other things and offered some great fatherly advice, telling him, "you've enhanced your resume, so go look for something that will enhance it further. By Roy and Julie's oldest son and his wife of two years has made them grandparents. (The baby was due in mid-March timeframe.)

Apologies to **Tom Algeo** (31st Co) whose note patiently waited in the queue to make it to this month's column. (Sorry, Tom). He mentioned that Companymate, **Ron Brownley** and he got together for lunch. Ron retired from American Airlines in February. He and Vikki were on a road trip to visit friends and family in Florida. They still live near The Yard, in Chester, MD, on Kent Island. The Algeos and Brownleys met at Port Canaveral for some waterfront dining. Tom wrote that they "had a fun, three-hour lunch. We hadn't seen each other since the reunion, so it was good to catch up on the latest news under the sunny blue skies of Florida. Louise and Tom currently live south of the Cape on Patrick Space Force Base (retirees are now eligible to live in base housing)." Tom works on the Department of State Air Wing support contract, and, when his company relocated to be closer to the customer, Louise and he decided to move on base while they shopped for a house. (I wonder how the house shopping went as it's been a sellers' market.)

Jan and **Jim Fiorelli** (2nd Co) met with Kathy and **Don Beverlin** (14th Co) in Alton, KS (pop. <100). It's Jan's hometown. Don and Kathy had driven three hours across western Kansas to attend the Memorial Services and activities for the passing of Jan's Dad in early January. Jim noted "it was a wonderful blessing and surprise to have such good, longtime friends from '78 with us! It was a difficult but special day, as all 3 sons were able to take leave and join us to speak about their Grandpa." As for the rest of

the Fiorellis, **Mike** ('13) had orders to Oceana as an F-18 RAG instructor for a March reporting; **Matt** (USMA '14) has orders to grad school and followed by 3 years as a prof at West Point. **John** ('19) and his wife, **Liza** ('18) are in Encinitas, CA where John is a Platoon commander with 3/5 at Pendleton. Both Marines will deploy this year. Jim added that he and Jan are "plugging away helping with parents and grandkids". He was thankful they we could all be together for Christmas before all go to the four winds again.



Jim, Don, Kathy and Jan

In closing congratulations to **Mark "Fergie" Ferguson** (7th Co) who will replace **Sam Locklear** ('77) as Chairman of the Board of the Alumni Association. Good luck, Fergie!

Well, that's all she wrote. Until the next column, I'm Launchin' Spot Four.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 6.55%**

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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com)

Greetings from Georgia, 79ers!

Just a short column this month and unfortunately, it's not positive news. One of our class non-grads, **Kenneth "Duff" Lewis** from 30th company, passed away on 24 March in Providence, RI. Born in Michigan, Duff left Navy after Youngster Year and headed to