



Deborah & Martin Brittingham at Goldstar Peak in Alaska

That's it for now – hope to see you at the 45th! BEAT UCF!

# '77

**Life Membership: 74%**  
**Donor Participation: 15.25%**

Pres: **John F. Vuolo**  
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*"People who live in glass houses shouldn't spot naval gunfire support."*  
– Jim Surch, in a classic one-liner courtesy of **John "Amazing" Grace (7th Co.)**.

Now, attention to a rather brief but important brief:

First up, **Mike "Ducky" Laviano (20th Co.)** recently had the occasion to get together with Mike Scott, the older brother of our classmate **Steve Scott (36th)**, who was lost in the crash of a TA-4J he was piloting at NAS Beeville back in February of 1980. Mike is a retired police lieutenant whose former partner, one Don McCarthy, is a very good friend of Ducky's, the two having been together on an "old man" baseball team for some 20 years. Small world! The three of them played golf together recently, and while enjoying a libation (or two...or three) at the 19th hole, Ducky presented Mike a USNA challenge coin formed from the copper sheathing of the recently-renovated Chapel dome on behalf of the class:



Ducky and Mike

Steve's brother was "overwhelmed" with appreciation and requested Ducky express his sincere thanks to '77 in its entirety. Ducky, that's a helluva gesture, as we know that coin 'tweren't cheap.

Second, we regret to inform you **Ray Bozman (33rd Co.)** passed away on June 23, 2021. Ray, a native of Baltimore, received his MD in 1981 from the George Washington University School of Medicine, after which he served 30 years in the Navy Medical Corps specializing in radiology, retiring as an O-6 in 2007.

Immediately upon retirement from active duty, Ray began his second government career as a civilian diagnostic radiologist at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth where he served as Program Director for Radiology Graduate Medical Education from 2007-2012 and continued as a senior member of the teaching faculty. He was elected to Fellowship in the American College of Physician Executives and the American College of Radiology.

Ray is survived by Patti, his kindergarten classmate and wife of 44 years, who he married at the Chapel in 1977 and his son Jeff, who emulated his father's example of service by entering The Corps following his 2005 graduation from Princeton. Ray was honored to administer Jeff the Oath of Office during his commissioning. Shown left to right below are Patti, Jeff and the proud father:



Patti, Jeff and Ray

We know you join us in extending heartfelt condolences to Patti, Jeff and the rest of Ray's extended family.

Home is the sailor, home from sea,

And the hunter home from the hill.

Magoo

# '78

**Life Membership: 81%**  
**Donor Participation: 33.53%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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This is a short column as it was a slow month and not many sightings. I also guess for a while that many people were getting back to their lives and some semblance of "normalcy", enjoying life and not banging away on a keyboard or iPhone. But as this goes to print, it seems that many are once more being directed to, as the Mids say, ROM (restricted overall movement) and mask. The Dark Ages return. By the time this *Shipmate* edition comes to your house, I hope the cycle has changed again and we once more are out and about moving freely.

Since we could all use some good news- how about some Bravo Zulus?

The first is to **Charlie Pangburn (31st Co.)**. After decades as a Marine, Charlie is still wearing a uniform. This time it is that of a volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Still looking trim and like a "300 PFT-er" he joins the many selfless volunteers who contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways, and

coastal regions with the main goal of recreational boating safety and education. Thanks for your continued service, Charlie.



Coastie- Charlie Pangburn

Bravo Zulu to **Leviticus Lewis (25th Co.)**. He celebrated a work anniversary at FEMA (15 years?). The last couple of years he was FEMA's liaison to the DHS Joint Incident Advisory Group. That tour ended and he is now serving as a NASA Planetary Defense Program Officer in the NASA Planetary Defense Coordination Office. That makes him the first FEMA detailee to that office and he will report to the NASA Planetary Defense Officer. Guess we can now call Levi the "Defender of the World"- you are like Superman! I will now sleep well at night knowing you have the watch against Armageddon-like asteroids, Alf, Mork and the Great Kazoo. Seriously though, it sounds like a *very interesting* role and mission. I'd love to hear more about it one day over cold beers. We wish you well in this new "adventure". . .

Congrats also goes to **Bob "Bubba" Destafney (14th Co)** for being named "Military Hero of the Month" for July by the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, Columbia Southern University, and Leidos. The Blue Wahoos are a Minor League Baseball team of the Double-A South and the Double-A affiliate of the Miami Marlins. Each month, the team and their co-sponsors honor local military heroes in their game day program. Although they're not playing games at the moment, they



'78: Bubba is Military Hero of the Month



'78: Laurie, Russ and their wedding Family

emphasize that “our military servicemen and women deserve recognition each and every day”. BZ, Bubba. I know you well-deserved the recognition; but I also know you would be the first to say you represent *all* our Military heroes. That’s just how you are.

Congrats also to Laurie (nee Tawney) and **Russ Dedrickson (29th Co)** who were surrounded by family when they tied the knot on August 8th. It goes without saying that your family, friends and classmates wish you both all the happiness in the world. We look forward to seeing you at tailgaters this year where we’ll be able to toast you.



Laurie and Russ on wedding day

Final Bravo Zulus go to **Terry Crawford (24th Co)** who started a new position. He’s now as Insurance Agent at New York Life Insurance Company. Congrats also to our Class VP, **Sean Coffey (13th Co)** who was nominated by the President to be the Chief Counsel for the Department of the Navy. We know they both will do very well. In particular, when appointed, Sean will give great advice to our new **78th** Secretary of the Navy – and fellow NAMA buddy – Carlos Del Toro ('83). Of course, Sean, you need to advise Carlos to say *not* say he is the 83-5 SECNAV! Ha, ha! Best to all.

Well, that’s the short of it. Until next time, Launchin’ Spot Four.

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Support the Annual Fund, visit [usna.com](http://usna.com) and click **Give Online**.

# '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 19.13%**

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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

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

Greetings 79ers!

My recent move to Georgia prompted **Phil Renaud (15th Co.)** to reach out and welcome Karen and me to the state. Because he’s a great guy, he also had the foresight to provide this update:

✉ I live on a mountaintop in Ellijay, Georgia. Most of my close neighbors are Black Bears. Here’s a short story of my journey here:

After retiring in 2004 (last posting was CO, Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center, MS), I became the Executive Director of the Living Oceans Foundation. My boss was a Saudi Prince who bankrolled the private operating foundation. I lived in Annapolis for 15 years while periodically running one of the prince’s ships around the world with a team of coral reef scientists. The highlight of that job was leading the “Global Reef Expedition”; a 5-year, round-the-world survey and multispectral mapping of many of the most endangered and amazing coral reefs on the planet.

In 2018, I transferred to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod and became the Program Manager of a TED Audacious Project called the Ocean Twilight Zone Project. The Twilight Zone is the mid-water (aka mesopelagic) - it’s too dark for photosynthesis but is home to about 10x the biomass of the surface layer. The creatures down there are small, but toothy and fierce looking. If you want to see what twilight zone creature your personality matches best, take our creature-pairing quiz at: [www.keepitweird.org](http://www.keepitweird.org).

There’s a Navy connection with the twilight zone. When sonar first came into use, the signals showed a false bottom due to the massive layers of twilight zone fish (scattering layers).

During the pandemic, we missed seeing our daughters (both in Atlanta) and we found this mountain top home to settle in. The only good thing about the pandemic was remote work becoming the norm so I’m still working full time for Woods Hole even though I’m far from the sea. Best Regards, Phil

Thanks, Phil, for reaching out, and really appreciate your note. Looking forward to getting up your way soon.

I also received an email from another Georgia resident, **Mike Leigh**, formerly of 8th Company. Mike left Navy after Youngster year, but still went on to have a 30-year Navy career as an aviation maintenance officer (AMO). He currently is the CEO of AKTOptimize, a communications company supporting DoD.

Mike and his wife Lori live on Lake Lanier, which is just north of Atlanta. Lori telecommutes as the program manager of the Science Technology and Research Lab in Port Hueneme, CA. She is also a competitive Masters rower with the Atlanta Rowing Club, and recently medaled in three events at a regatta in Tennessee.

On a recent west coast visit Mike caught up with his Youngster Year roommate **Lee Bond**. Lee is enjoying an active retirement which includes a lot of cycling.



8th Co. roommates Mike Leigh and Lee Bond

As most of you are aware, Class President **Dave Jackson** sends out a monthly (or as needed) “Pres Sez” email to all ‘79ers, including updates on class projects and other