



displayed next to the Missing Man table at the wedding reception, in recognition of the impact and legacy Owen left on everyone

who came in contact with him.

We know you join us in wishing Lauren and Robert a long and happy life together...along with more grandchildren on which Kathy can dote.



Moving on, **Marc Troiani (4th Co.)** forwarded a photo of his middle son Joe and himself after winning

their flight at the Maryland Golf & Country Club Member-Member tournament up in Bel Air, MD. Though they eventually lost in a shoot-out (Joe undoubtedly let the side down, 'cause everybody knows Marc's an ace!), Team Troiani was the BIG winner (\$\$\$!!!) in the Calcutta. And as every golfer knows, crystal is nice, but you can't spend it on new clubs!

Speaking of Marc Troiani, he was part of a five-man '77 contingent in attendance at the recent *Gettysburg Leadership Experience*. Shown below in the tall grass where George Pickett's division bivouacked the night before they marched forward into immortality are, left to right, your humble scribe, **Dan Gearing (12th Co.)**, **Jim Lare (35th Co.)** and Marc.



The group is shown below on the steps of the Pennsylvania Monument.



Scott Harding (30th Co.), who coordinates the program on behalf of the Class, was also in attendance and acted as our photographer. More on our experience will be forthcoming in a future column. For now, suffice it to say we highly recommend anyone who can attend the GLE to do so.



And last, but not least, we thought we'd share a somewhat disturbing experience we had upon receiving this picture from **Jeff Johnson (USNA '79)**, who was in the goal our senior year.

So what, inquiring minds might wish to know, would disturb us about a home lacrosse schedule J.J. found in a Delaware second-hand store? The fact that if you'd wagered us \$1,000 we'd played either Dartmouth or Delaware, and double or nothing we'd played both, we'd have taken the bet...and you'd be up two grand! Geezing sucks, but it certainly beats the alternative.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 33.33%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

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

Website: usna1978.org

As you know, in February **Terry O' Brien (10th Co)** left us to be part of that heavenly "Advanced Party". Well, on June 11th, **Wendy O' Brien** and daughter Kristen, hosted a celebration to honor Terry's life at the Army-Navy Country Club in Fairfax VA. Their instructions to all were to "Leave your sadness at the door, but bring your stories, your laughs, and



'78: Celebrating Terry O' Brien's Life

your happiness over a life that was lived to the fullest." That instruction was fully obeyed as the large crowd reminisced about "O-B" and "sea stories" and happy memories of him were regaled. Among friends and classmates who attended were: 10th Companymates and spouses- **Judi** and **Guido Manzo**, **Marla** and **Al Baker**, **Libbie** and **Craig Diffie**, **John Curtis** (Who was travelling about the country, visiting family in his RV.), **Karen Yeager** (who came up from Pace, FL), **Sue** and **Joe Martin**, **Debbie** and **Steve Petri**, and **Bob Gulley**; **Sherry** and **Bill Hession (32nd Co)**, **Karen** and **Bob Schmermund (15th Co)**, **Case Runolfson (15th Co)**, **Steve "Jock" Maloney (16th Co)**, **Ray Kwong (32nd Co)**, **John Rudder (12th Co)**, **Ray Bracy (25th Co)**, **Dan Holloway (27th Co)** who was soon to be retiring from **Huntington Ingalls**), **Bob Vogt (35th Co)**, **John Rudzisz (25th Co)**, **Karen Yeager's brother, Willie Taylor ('81)**, and yours truly.

Many also know that on June 18th, **John Young's (4th Co)** beautiful wife, **Julia "Julie" Gordy Young**, passed away peacefully at their home in Dallas, after a 7-year battle with Metastatic Breast Cancer. She spent her last days surrounded by family, dear friends and her devoted dog, **Ruby**. **John** and **Julie** were married for 20 amazing and have two sons, **Jack** and **Will**. Her obituary noted that "She never missed a chance to celebrate them and their many achievements. Throughout the different places they lived, **Julie** and **John** formed lifelong friendships, which **Julie** deeply cherished. She

forever made you feel special when you were together." **Julie** was engaged in a variety of interests- reading and photography, travel and history, education, and personal growth. She was a passionate advocate for adoption, involved in her church and her children's schools, and volunteered tirelessly for numerous charitable organizations. **Julie** had an infinite love for her family and friends and her strong faith. She had a brilliant smile, calm nature, and heartfelt interest in everyone she knew. In lieu of flowers, **John** asked that donations be made to the **Park Cities Learning Difference Association** (<https://pclda.org/donate/>) or to the **SMU Catholic community** (<https://smucatholic.org/donate>). Our prayers and warm thoughts pour out to **John** and the boys. We are here for them and will chose to remember the happy memories of **Julie's** well-lived life.



"Julie" Young

Congrats to **Patty Babcock**. In early June, the Florida Bar Foundation announced she was appointed as a

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public member to serve a three-year term on the board of The Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization whose mission is to “provide greater access to justice”. **Dave Babcock’s** (6th Co) better half is a licensed clinical social worker with a PhD in social work from Florida State University. Recently, she served as the deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, where she oversaw policy and operations for family safety, substance abuse and mental health, and economic self-sufficiency. Prior to that, she was the inaugural director of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare at FSU’s College of Social Work and had been co-director at FSU College of Medicine’s Center for Behavioral Health Integration from 2016 to 2019. She also sits on the Florida Dependency Court Improvement Panel.



Patty Babcock

On 12 June, **Charlie Dawson** (23rd Co) posted to Facebook “Thanks to my Naval Academy roommate **James Butler**, for sharing the moment of winning his Fantasy Basketball League Championship trophy.” Charlie sent a photo of him hoisting it with Jim observing. Charlie added that “...okay this isn’t exactly the Stanley Cup - but, as a “Pensioner,” my “moments of glory,” are limited. [In the photo] Jim, behind his beard, is trying to keep a straight face. My league, mainly, just a couple Navy civilian lawyers, nerds, that focus on pro basketball, was dumped, upside down, with Covid. I couldn’t pick an NBA superstar out of a police lineup, but treated fantasy basketball, as a bunch of multi-lateral equations.



'78: Tom Trudell's Ordination

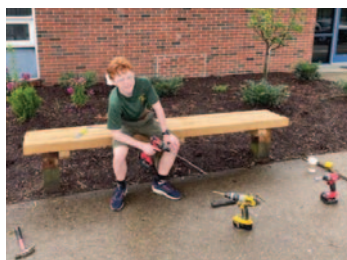
It was the closest to my Operations Analysis, Naval Academy major, as I’ve done in decades. Our playoffs, coincided with the end of the NBA season, where teams rested their superstars. I worked the waiver wire, to get the most players, playing each day; so although, I had the third best regular record, I came out on top in the playoffs.” Charlie noted that “55 years ago he won a Port Washington Youth Activity (PYA), basketball trophy that a brother threw into the fireplace. *This time*, he said he will guard this trophy to present to the next champion.



Jim observes Charlie's Championship Season

Bruce Gearey (30th Co) had a “good news” story about his son Noah completing his Eagle Scout project to replace the old wooden carpool benches at his school with composite material. Noah raised \$6000 by washing cars and getting some fundraising help from friends, family, local businesses, and some of our classmates. His *real* goal was to beat his dad’s time to make Eagle - which he did. Noah just finished

8th grade and Bruce got his in early 9th grade. Bruce noted that Noah laughs when he sees which President signed Bruce’s card, adding “No it wasn’t Abe Lincoln, but it was Richard Nixon”. Noah’s reward was to get an iPhone. Before you go high and to the right, Bruce highlighted that it meant Noah is now the *last one* in his class to get one. Congrats Noah!



Noah and his Eagle Project

Kim Tageson (36th Co) posted on his Facebook page and his companymate, **Jim Gafford**, sent in a bunch of photos about **Tom Trudell’s** (36th Co), “3rd career” as an ordained Catholic Deacon. On the weekend of June 26th, Tom was ordained at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Friends, and Companymates and spouses from 36th, joined in the weekend of events (ordination, Mass the next day and other “mini-reunion” activities). The “gang” included: **Tom Grodek** (6th Co and also an ordained Roman Catholic Deacon.); and from 36th Co- **Jim Gafford**, **Ann & Ralph Scaffidi**, **Julie & Mike Sears**, **Drew Nienhaus**, **Jim Pointer**,

Jennifer and **Paul Ross**, Tammy and **Les Wallace**, Dee and **Tom Trudell**, **Jim Carr**, **Bob Engel**, **Walt Haberland**, Carol and **Mike Moore**, Cindy and **Reny Pili**, **Kim Tageson**, Mary Jane and **Kevin Walsh** (8th Co. Kevin is a parishioner in Tom’s “home church” in Great Mills, MD.), Jane Tageson.

In closing, we wish the best of luck to **John Storvick** (21st Co) who in mid-June was awaiting a good match for a kidney transplant. Hope all went well, John.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 18.52%

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

Sec'y: **LCDR John “Wiz” Withers, USN (Ret.)**
1886 Woodpoint CT, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
p: 240-298-1006; e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

Social Network Links:
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings 79ers!

This has been quite a summer! After 2020 put everything “on hold”, there are lots of positive signs: things are opening up, mask mandates are being lifted, people are taking vacations, and (hopefully) kids will be back in the classroom. My next-door neighbor has resumed business travel with a vengeance - his company is sending