

our writings), we'll buy a drink at the 45th Reunion golf dinner for the first classmate who emails us the correct number of feet in a fathom without the aid of either the internet or Reefpoints.

Next, **Vince Tsai (9th Co.)** sent us the following flyer for an upcoming Variations reunion scheduled for Friday April 29th at Alumni Hall.

Other '77ers who'll be performing include **Keith Lockett (19th Co.)** and **Greg Sawyer (29th Co.)**. The music starts at 2000, so mark your calendars for an enjoyable trip down Memory Lane.

We close with the bitter, as we regretfully report **Jeff Reinhart (25th Co.)** passed away January 20th after a long battle with brain cancer.



Jeff Reinhart

Jeff's wife Stephanie wrote, "He was resting peacefully as he moved on to glory this morning just after 5 a.m. He is rejoicing before the Lord Jesus now. Though we grieve our loss deeply, we rejoice at heaven's gain." Our thoughts and prayers go out to Stephanie and Jeff's family.

Home is the sailor, home from the sea, and the hunter home from the hill. Rest in peace, shipmate.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 39.68%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401
e: canoeu78@aol.com

Website: **usna1978.org**

Running very late so this will be a short teaser with probably more to follow in the next column.

To continue with a theme from last month, there were more mini-reunions over the last few months.

I guess a lot of you guys are starting to prep up for our 45th in 2023.

I was zoom-called to join 21st Company in a little reunion they had going on at Carol and **Steve Sutton's** home in Johns Island, SC. **Scott Provow** dialed me in, and I was able to see the 21st Company gang and their brides. As best I can now recall there were: Carol and **Steve Sutton**, Cathy and **Otto Bulich**, Caroline and **Jeff Carpenter**, Leslie and **Scott Provow**, Maria and **Jerry Swartz**, Susan and **John Wissler**, and Marianne and **Paul Lynch**. I know I forgot someone, so I apologize in advance. I know I will get an earful if I have. Since I was in a zoom-call and technically challenged, I didn't get a screen shot photo. I will tell you the ladies looked much better than the men and the scan of the bar showed that they all were outnumbered. Of course, I know they were up to the challenge to defeat those bottles. Thanks, gang, for dialing me in.

I was also invited to take the place of Cheryl and **Ken Colby** at a 4th Company weekend reunion in Annapolis. The December 3rd-5th was organized by **Dave "Bal" Balestrieri**. Bal called me the week before and asked Elizabeth and me to join them since I was local, the Class Scribe and familiar - if not very familiar - with that 4th Company Gang. It was a grand weekend that began with a cocktail reception on Friday at the O-Club. They had lunch in King Hall on Saturday and then went to a dinner prior to seeing the performance of *The Messiah*. I was greatly impressed by the turnout that included from 4th Company: Anne Marie and **Tim Sprague**, Monica and **Terry Dailey** ('70-their Company Officer), Carol Lee and **Russ Gordon**, **John Young**, Barbara and **Paul Mansfield**, Judy and **John Newcomb**, **John Casey**, Becky and **John Gardiner**, **Dave Mercer**, Kirsten and **Steve Bartie**, Shannon Vanderhei and **Dave Balestrieri**, Flora and **John Woodward**, and **Stan Labak**. Krisan and **Mike Murphy** were last minute cancellations as "Murph" took sick. At the dinner they included Elizabeth and me and the current 4th Company Officer and his wife Carter and

Jake Hilliard ('16) and the Company Commander **Sheryl "Sam" McGowan ('22)**. Some current 4th Company Mids shared in the reception and they roared at the retelling of sea stories and tall tales! Among the takeaways for the Mids was that you can do crazy stuff, still graduate

(in some cases, by the skin of our nose) and do very well afterward. The best lesson was to see the embodiment of lasting comradery, brotherhood and love shared among companymates. While (yes, John) I know I was not in 4th Company, I was honored and grateful to



'78: 4th Company then and now



'78: 4th Company on Sturday morning



'78: 4th Company's King Hall lunch



'78: Corner reunion

be included for two "mini-reunion events" with my classmates, teammates, squadronmates and flight school roommates. Bravo Zulu, Bal- great job in organizing the events. More to follow....



Terry Dailey's Sea Story

Stephen "Jock" Maloney (16th Co) dropped a note about a "mini-reunion" of companymates Boat Schoolers bubbas, family, and buddies he had in Buffalo at the end of January. He included a pic that shows (left to right) classmates- **Kevin D'Amour**, **Frank Behm** (16th Co); Boat School pals- **John Green** ('79) and **Duke Reilly** ('79); and brothers (literally) and buds- **T. Maloney** (Gas Station U '79), **D. Casserly** (Penn State '79). He also noted the two photo bombers from Philadelphia in the background, and himself. Jock said the USNA gang had all lived on the seaward corner portion of 7-2 with great views of the Bay. (and I am sure far away from Main O and Form 2s). Jock wrote that unfortunately they were missing **Peter Craig** (35th Co) and several other notorious members of that small section of Bancroft Hall in the Fall 76 - Spring 78 timeframe. I am sure a good time was had by all- but not too good a time as their names were absent from any Buffalo PD Blotter and I received no requests for bail assistance.

That's all for now...dashing to make the very last flight! Launchin' Spot Four

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 24.27%

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!

One of our regular contributors, **Bob Tata**, checked in not long after we beat Army last fall. First in his news list was announcing that his wife, **Anne Ferrell Tata**, was recently elected to the Virginia General Assembly. Given the current state of politics in Virginia and in the US in general, I don't envy the challenges in front of her. But it's great to hear that there is now at least one rational voice in that government body. Congrats, Anne Ferrell!

No email from Bob is complete without a football update, and this was no exception. He explains:

✉ I just attended my FIRST Army-Navy game since playing one in 1978! My wife and I got a last-minute invitation and decided to go. So glad we did!

Before the game we had the solemn privilege of joining the "Legacies Alive" tailgater which supports Gold Star families and met the family of the recently passed Virginia Beach SEAL **Brian Bourgeois '01**. During the game, we saw classmates Academy Securities' President **Phil McConkey** and board member Lieutenant General (Ret.) **Bob Walsh** in Phil's suite and later visited with USNAAA President (and fellow UVA Law grad) **Byron Marchant '78**.

The game was awesome, particularly for this former kicker. The game-changing unplanned "fake" punt run for a first down by **Diego Fagot '22** and ensuing win! It's so fun to sing second!

In a new twist, Bob closed his email with this **Trivia Challenge** to all classmates:

Bob Walsh was one of seven (7) quarterbacks recruited in the Class of '79. Can you name them all?

The first classmate (excluding football team members) that can correctly name the other 6 will receive a "valuable prize". So send me your answers (multiple entries allowed), and Bob and I will notify the winner.



Army-Navy 2021: Bob and Anne Ferrell Tata.



Army-Navy 2021: Bob Tata, Bob Walsh and Phil McConkey

After a very long delay due to COVID, the plans for the inurnment of **Tom Herrmann** (18) have been finalized. The ceremony will take place at the USNA Columbarium on Friday, 13 May 2022 at 10:30 AM. It will last about 20 minutes and will be followed by a reception/ luncheon at the Naval Academy Club, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. All classmates are invited to attend both events.

Tom's wife Betsy has also requested that everyone try to remember a funny or thoughtful story about Tom that they would be comfortable sharing with the large group, because there will probably

be an opportunity to do so at the reception. On Sunday 15 May everyone is invited to join the family in attending Catholic Mass in the Chapel at 9am. These are the only events scheduled for the weekend. If you're interested in attending, please let **Paul Price** know by 15 April. His email address is pprice510@aol.com.

From Betsy and her family: "We hope many of you can attend this final ceremony honoring Tom, our husband, son, dad, brother, and exceptional human being."

Mac Silvester took a brief pause from his retirement to relay that his roommate **Lou Larragoite** was recently featured on the "DIA Connections" podcast, sharing his experience as a JO on a ballistic missile submarine. Visit <https://bit.ly/3GkZW5W> for the podcast (Lou's segment starts at approx 9:30 into the recording).

Right as I was about to send this off to Alumni House, we received a double dose of disappointing news. **Ralph Quarles** contacted us to let the class know that **Pat Wasilewski** (14) passed away on 11 January 2022. As of this writing, an obituary has not been published. Pat emailed me a couple of years ago (which I posted in this column) about his battle with cancer and how he wasn't keeping him from skiing and doing the other things he loved. Married in 1982, Pat and Darlene have been residing in Utah where he worked for L3Harris Technologies. He will be inurned at USNA on 18 July. I'll pass on more details as I receive them.

We then got word from Nick Harris that **Steve Schemmel** (23) passed away on 27 January. After graduation Steve was commissioned in the USMC as a Supply Corps officer, serving in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm during the Gulf War. Earning a Master's in Finance from Duke University in 1987, he went on to enjoy a meaningful and successful career in the financial industry. At one point Steve spearheaded efforts to help grow affordable housing opportunities and support small business development in the state of Wisconsin for several years.