



'77: Wives - Left to right, front to back above are: Joy Camacho, Laura Miller, Linda Armitage, Barbara Behrle, Carol McGraw, Melinda Christofferson, Annie Wilde, Patty Troiani, Jane Hyers, Kathy Smith, Patty Simon, Diane Thomas, Shantala Gowda, Lynn Beaver, Lauren Beach, Betty White and Karen Sisa. Photobombing the ladies' picture were, left to right, Scott Neidhold, Mac McCarthy and Jim Kelly.

Closest to the Pin: The indomitable **Craig Turley**, with what we're told was an ugly but effective shot. Which is why there are no pictures on score cards, right Craiger?

Putting Contest: The aforementioned **Denny Simon**; Wait a minute, was Ziemba not in the contest?!?

**Pete Sisa** added a nice touch by awarding **Pete Hyers** a Roger Staubach-autographed football (shown in the group photo) as a token of appreciation for all his efforts.

For those wives who opted not to golf, Joy Camacho acted as hostess par excellence for a variety of activities and luncheons in and around Hilton Head and Savannah.

Shown below sharing a weekend of fun and camaraderie are Dave Armitage, Jim Kelly and Jerry Miller...



Dave, Jim & Jerry



Marc and Craig



Tug, Camacho, Joe & Marc

As contributor Christofferson observed, we may not be as young as we once were, but the bonds between us are stronger than ever. Looking good, '77!

Since we're on the subject of bonds which are stronger than ever, shown below is our wife Jenny posing in front of the All Faiths Chapel at NAS Pensacola...



Jenny at the Chapel

...the site of our wedding some 42-1/2 years ago. Shown below acting as sword bearers on that sweltering August afternoon are, from left

to right: the late Eddie Mapes (Class of '80), **Ray Crevier** (6th Co.), **Bill Durbin** (35th Co.), **Paul Croisetiere** (35th Co.), **Joe Christofferson** and **Bill Damico** (21st Co.).



Looking good, Mrs. McKee!

Finally, the amateur golfing world was surprised...his classmates not as much...by the news **Kirk "Buddy" Barker** (9th Co.) has begun identifying as female, as evidenced by the caption accompanying the photo below in which Buddy, or as he now prefers, Louise, is depicted celebrating back-to-back club championships.



Always looking for an edge, Barker says hitting from the red tees leaves her a short wedge into most any Par 4, putting for eagle on every Par 5 and makes almost any Par 3 a Par 2. In addition to her dominance on the links, Louise is also undefeated in the women's division of her club's arm-wrestling competition.

Magoo

# '78

**Life Membership: 81%**  
**Donor Participation: 2.81%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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Clearing out the old Christmas/belated Christmas newsletters and emails still in



## 78/78 CLASS NEWS

queue. There are a lot of “whenever two or three shall meet...” stories. Here we go.

**Al “Blues” Baker** wrote that he and Marla splurged last year on an apartment in midtown Manhattan to be closer to family. Eerdman released Alan’s book entitled *Foundations of Chaplaincy*. Marla organized a bike trip exploring the Erie Canal followed by a family vacation in Maine. Their grandson, William Hugo, celebrated his first birthday coincidental to his sister, Maggie Jane, starting pre-school. Their daughter Hannah & husband Bryan brought home a cute Cavalier King Charles puppy named Lilah. After Thanksgiving, Blues completed his service at the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. Marla enlisted him to join her in classical Pilates following the original apparatus system created in the 1920s. This theme of the Roaring Twenties fits right in with the architecture of their NYC home, also built in the 1920’s.



Katie and **Jeff Fowler (12th Co)** wrote that 2021 ended Jeff’s first year as President of Golden Key Group, in Reston, VA. I bet Katie is probably busier than Jeff as most weekdays she’s watching their granddaughter, Ella, and is Co-chair of the Society of Sponsors Scholarship Committee. (Her two-year term as President of The Society of Sponsors ended in June 2021.) The daughter, Brittany (Ella’s mom), was promoted to Lead Scientist in pharmaceuticals at Labcorp Drug Development (formerly Covance) in Chantilly, VA. Another daughter, Lynsee got married twice! Actually, she and her husband, Gavin, had two ceremonies in ‘21 (first in April then with a full celebration in September). She now works for her Jeff as a marketing/communications manager at GKG. Gavin is Vice President at the National Fisheries Institute. With Gavin, they gained another Granddaughter, Molly, 13. Their son, Connor was promoted to senior software engineer at Capital One in Richmond, VA.

**Scott Godfrey** wrote of gatherings with his 24th Co gang. In November of last year, he and “four fully retired slackers.” At the time, Gwen and **Jay Bowling** were on a road trip from West Virginia down to their son’s wedding in Orlando. They “green lighted” **Steve Howell** to bunk at Steve’s beautiful brand-new penthouse suite in Roswell, GA. Steve rounded up Robin and **Dan Cannan** from nearby Douglassville.



78

Scott said they needed a “token Devil Dog” for entertainment, so he was summoned from lower ‘bama. They joined up at a local restaurant for a great 24th Company mini reunion. As for the gang: Dan retired a year ago after a worldwide career in logistics for Russell Athletics, Coca-Cola, Tyler Union, and others. (He’d previously retired from the USNR with 30 years of service). Dan and Robin have three generations of family members at home including a son, three grandsons and a granddaughter. Scott added that, “Jay retired as a RADM Naval Aviator in 1910 right after LT Ellyson became the first Naval Aviator (update from Jay...he retired in 2009). Gwen was a dialysis nurse who worked 24/7 taking care of patients. Now they travel the country visiting family, friends and playing golf.” Scott and Steve Howell were part of a reduction in pilot staffing and “early retired” back in the fall of ‘20 from Delta Air Lines. (Steve flew 35 years for Delta and Scott flew 30 years.)



Last October, Beth and **Mike “Crabber” McCrabb** hooked with fellow 8th Company mates **Kevin Walsh, Brian Rochon, Joel Gonzales, John Costello** (aka the 8th Co “DC area Corps”) At the end of last year, Elaine and **Brian Rochon** hosted Beth, Mike, and their son Andrew, for dinner. Brian and Andrew are both University of Michigan postgraduate alumni. Brian’s son, Chris, and his family are stationed in Japan where Chris is in an F-18 squadron. Brian’s daughter is a traveling nurse who’s staying quite busy during the pandemic. In late January, Mike passed through Jacksonville FL and visited Dotty and **Don Boland** for a great lunch and catch-up time. The Boland’s have three sons, one of them in Orlando and the other two in the Navy (stationed in Mayport and Whidbey Island). Also in late January, Crabber traveled through Pensacola to fulfill Beth’s request for him to stop by the “Bodacious Olive” and pick up some special culinary ingredients. While there he had a “classmate chance encounter.” There at the front door of the gourmet shop was **Bob “Bubba” Destafney** (14). They caught-up and Bubba even helped Mike find the items Beth had requested. Crabber added an interesting “sidebar” story: “back in the mid-1960s his [Bubba’s] family and mine lived in the same Pensacola neighborhood where I went to 5th/6th grade with Bob’s brother Tom. Fast forward several years to our Plebe Summer where Bob recognized me from those elementary school days.” Since



78

then, Bob and he will occasionally run into each other.... almost always in Pensacola. Crabber's last classmate rendezvous was with his former Navy squadron mate and civilian co-worker **Dave Babcock** (6th Co). He and Dave cross paths at least a couple of times per year as Dave splits time between Pensacola and DC, most recently in Arlington this past December for dinner. Mike concluded with news that after spending his last three years with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at their DC HQ, he retired at the end of '21. He and Beth moved into their new home in Crossville, TN (about an hour west of Knoxville). They're located in a community called Fairfield Glade, with lots of golf courses and lakes. You District/Marylanders may still see Mike as he will still make several trips back per year to the DC area for family visits and USNA events.

Ann and **Kevin McGhee** (14th Co) kept with tradition and sent out their annual Christmas Letter over Valentine's Day (Don't be embarrassed, Kevin, I still have my 2010 Christmas newsletter in DRAFT form.). It's been 2 ½ years since Kevin and Ann moved into their home on Merritt Island, Florida, the first week of December 2020. That same day, Ann tested positive for the "Rona" and felt absolutely, awful. (She's much better now.) Their home is on a pond and replete with all forms of wildlife around it -manatees visit all summer; they see dolphins routinely and gators every day. A national wildlife refuge is right up the road, as is Kennedy Space Center. The move was precipitated by a desire to have more time with the leadership in Converge International Ministries headquarters near Orlando. Kevin thrives as its Director of U.S. Engagement; preaching in many different churches, mentoring his remarkable team, and attacking some of the big challenges rapidly growing organizations face. He has especially enjoyed partnering with Deaf leaders from across the U.S. and around the world. Ann serves as the Director of Training for Converge. She also continues as affiliate professor/ faculty mentor for several students through Sioux Falls Seminary/ Kairos University. Their daughter, Bryden, is a pastoral trainer at Hillsong College in Mesa, AZ, and teaches courses in Bible and leadership. Daughter, Kelsey, continues to serve as the "W15H" (wish) coordinator for the Tim Tebow Foundation (providing special care to families whose children have life threatening illnesses). She was tapped to help coordinate the Foundation's new efforts to put an end to human trafficking. She lives near the beach in Jacksonville. Kevin traveled so much in 2021 that he earned a companion pass for Ann - so they hope to see many friends in 2022 as they crisscross the nation for ministry gatherings.



That's it for this month. Launchin' Spot Four.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**

**Donor Participation: 2.70%**

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, USN (Ret.)**

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Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**

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Social Network Links:

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

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

Greetings 79ers!

Summer is here. OK, almost. But the "official" start of the summer season is fast approaching. I'm really looking forward to it - after a couple years of work-related craziness (to say nothing of other global "events" we've been through) I'm very much looking forward to a return to something resembling normalcy. And I know you're all looking forward to seeing those names in bold print. So let's get started.



**Tony Konecny with new recruit Blake Horvath**

I start this month by ringing the "first time writer" bell. **Tony Konecny** (10th Co.) checked in from my home state of Ohio with this

update from the Midwest:

✉ Hello from Columbus, OH from a long-time reader, first-time writer. I'm guessing that is not the first time you heard that cliché, but I had to open with something somewhat clever.

I have been trying to keep active in my retirement, filling it with as much alumni activity as possible. I have been President of the Columbus Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association since 2017. Because of some great volunteers in central Ohio, the Columbus Chapter has been recognized as a Distinguished Chapter for two years running and has about 70 active members.

Last year, I gained a seat on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees. It has been a rewarding experience and I have realized there is an exceptional group of people working extremely hard to make our Alumni Association one of the best in the country.

Finally, I had the great fortune to attend a College Commitment Signing Ceremony in Columbus on 2 February 2022. Blake Horvath committed to attend USNA - he was recruited as a quarterback by Coach Niumatalolo. Blake is one impressive individual and should be a great addition to USNA.

That's all I have for now. The 79ers of Tenth Company are meeting in Las Vegas in March for a mid-term reunion. I hope to have more input after our get together.

Thanks, Tony, for your note. Congrats on your accomplishments with the Columbus chapter. Now that more venues are opening up, we hope to get some more activity in the Atlanta chapter. Looking forward to hearing about your mini-reunion!

Next up is an update from one of a pair of regular 9th Company contributors. Long time readers of this column have seen many updates over the years from **Bill Toti** and **Parks Stephenson**. Well now, for the first time since 30 May 1979, the two company-mates are teaming up on a project. Bill explains:

✉ Parks and I are two of the "talking heads" in a docuseries we are doing for Fox, titled "The Lost Ships of World War II." Amazing that after all these years, we two 9th Company '79ers are together again working on this 8-episode documentary to talk about the sacrifices of our naval heroes in the Pacific war.

Note my Class of 1979 sweater in the attached photo: I wore it on set for several of the episodes. The series is set to premiere on Memorial Day this year. I'll provide more info when we get it.

As we were filming this, I kept reflecting back on Professor E. B. Potter's "History of Seapower" classes Plebe year. Glad I paid attention. Cheers, Bill