

77/78 CLASS NEWS

From Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Kenston High School class of '73. Kenston Hall of Fame. National Honor Society. Class president. State champion wrestler. All State linebacker. Clearly a superman in high school.

1st company. Econ major. 3 times Supe's list. 4 year starter and 4 N stars wrestling. Co-captain. Two time All American. Graduated holding the record for most wins by a Navy wrestler, all time. USNA athletic hall of fame.

Naval Flight Officer wings '78.

Married Rosemarie (Rory) Roberto of Pennsauken, NJ.

Assigned VF-11 (the famous Red Rippers), NAS Oceana. First deployment on USS FORRESTAL in F-4 Phantoms. Quick trip through the 14 RAG, then another deployment with the Rippers, in Tomcats, on JFK. Left active (but remained in Reserve) in '83.

Back to Chagrin Falls, and Althans Insurance. Principal and co-owner. Understatement - did VERY well in the business world.

Always athletic: lotts golf, paddleball, skiing and snowboarding. Outdoorsy - hunting, biking, ocean swims (at his Outer Banks beachfront home), and walks with labradors Navy and Jett, in the extensive woodlands on and around his property. Hence the call sign "Nature Boy" when he was with the Rippers.

Survived by Rory, daughter Jennifer Althans Iannarino (Kevin), son Johnny, granddaughter Paige, and siblings James Althans (Kammie) and Deborah Evans (David).

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/25224665/john-stanley-althans/chagrin-falls/ohio/stroudlawrence-funeral-home>

"To fly West, my friend, is a flight we all must take for a final check."

BZ, Fang; We know that wasn't easy to write.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of both Dave and John.

Home is the sailor, home from the sea, and the hunter home from the hill.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%

Donor Participation: 42.84%

Pres: Glen Woods

Sec'y: Vince Balderrama

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Not much in the mail bag. So here goes:

As of June **Andy Mohler** (18th Co) is the President of the Florida Region for the Navy League. As the President he coordinates and assists 16 Navy League Councils from Key West to JAX and brings forward best practices to grow the Navy League. He also serves on the National Board of Directors. Andy encourages everyone to also serve consider also joining him in serving the Navy League through your

local Council, no matter what background you have. Thanks for staying engaged, Andy. We need to continue to support our naval service and Navy- especially with the global threats we face.

Mark Miller (2nd Co) wrote that he "managed to shuffle my way onto the podium for my age group at the Atlantic City Olympic Distance Triathlon last weekend. The N* jersey generates lots of support from fellow participants and spectators." Way to go Mark.



Mark Miller on the Podium

I have a few Ring Stories for you: **Ted Null** (18th Co) posted the following on our Class Facebook page: "Lost my USNA 78 class ring 36 years ago at McGhee Tyson airfield in 1986 while flying w the 278th TN Air Calvary...fast forward 36 years. Received a MSG that my class ring had been found in a parking lot in Richmond, VA. The young man returned it to me and said, " thanks for your service, sir". God is soooo good!!" A lot of guys mentioned having their rings lost or stolen, replaced, or repaired. **Scott Stoner** (27th Co) still hopes to have his ring returned. **Rusty Chang** (4th Co) had his ring stolen in a home robbery back in 1985. **Tony Shaddix** (24th Co) "Left mine behind on the nightstand at the Bethesda Marriott some 20+ years ago. Called the hotel but it wasn't found. The good news is that I did replace it some 15 years later." **Jim Shulson** (22nd Co) wrote "I had mine stolen from my bag while playing rugby up at Camp Hansen on Okinawa. It was on base, so it had to have been a barracks thief. Checked many pawn shops but never recovered it. Like Anthony Shaddix my wife replaced it several years later. I still wear it every day". **Bruce Gearey** (30th Co) was fortunate. He left his ring in the glove box of his 1/C car. It was at the dealer for maintenance and got stolen. A few months later, a cop showed up at main office with the ring. They found it on someone they had arrested." Some of us have found that our class rings may have "shrunk" over the years (Who would have thought?) or sustained too much wear and tear. **Rick Reece** (34th Co) told **Neil Kennedy** (12th Co) - and thereby reminds all of us- that Jostens' has a lifetime warranty on our rings and will resize (or refinish and repair) them at no cost. Pogo wrote: "Many years ago, after banging up my ring finger, the class ring would not fit over the knuckle. Someone told me that Jostens had a lifetime policy to re-size rings

they sold. I went on the website and followed their procedure (including measuring the current size of the ring finger). I shipped the ring. A few weeks later, received an e-mail - bad news, your new ring size is beyond our ability to re-size the ring. However, if you would like, we will keep this ring and make you an exact duplicate in the size that will fit your finger. Today, I have a class ring just like the one I had at Navy, and it fits on my ring finger..

" Thanks to gouge provided by **Ken Heffernan** (1st Co), **Fred Butterfield** (22nd Co) had his ring reworked and "modified". As he wrote, "Six weeks and one day from shipment to receipt — and Jostens did a fantastic job! Brand-new fire blue spinel stone, cleaning, polishing, and antiquing (oxidizing) all covered under warranty repair (free), plus a mere \$50 for gold-encrusting of a cross on the top of the stone." It looks beautiful too. **Charles [aka Spence] Witten** (7th Co) needs to have his ring super glued to him as he has lost- but found- his ring twice. Here's Spence's tale: "I've lost mine twice by stupidly wearing it out in the yard in the winter when my fingers shrink. The first time I found it the next day when I decided it was in one of the eleven trash cans of yard trash from the day before. Turned the first one over and out it bounced. The second time I figured it was at the bottom of a burn pile I had not lit off, waited 'til spring, and disassembled the burn pile branch by branch, burning it 15 feet away. All of a sudden, there it was staring at me when I went back to the original pile". I am sure there are more tales out there. As we get closer to our reunion, if you want to have your ring "spruced up" check with Jostens. You can look up their warranty online and see all they cover. There is a link to the process to return it.



As I mentioned in the last column. The Class 45th Reunion will be here before you know it.

USNA

CLASS OF 1978

45th Reunion

SAVE THE DATE



★ **OCTOBER 19-22, 2023** ★

Reunion Headquarters: Westin Hotel

100 Westgate Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401 • 410-972-4300

Further updates and information will come from the Class Website (www.usna1978.org), direct e-mail, and from your company rep. Update your profile on our class website and at the USNA Alumni Association Website (www.usna.com). You can also update your Alumni Association Information with a Membership Coordinator by phone at: 410-295-4000.

78/80 CLASS NEWS

This year, we are leaving Friday night (Oct 20th) open for companies and groups to have a little private gathering of your own. Feedback from our last reunion indicated that a lot of you did that anyway and many stated a preference to have time to quietly gather in smaller groups. With our reunion, 2023 will also be time for class elections. Every slot is available for someone to run- like this job as Class Scribe. If you are interested in running for any of the four class officer or five Member at Large positions, please toss your hat in the arena. You can read more about the process in our Class By-Laws located on our class website. More will follow.

Well, that's it for now. Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 16.61%

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

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
1886 Woodpoint Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30043
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Social Network Links:

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

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings 79ers!

According to the calendar, we're in the middle of fall. Here in Atlanta, though, it seems like we're still in full summer. After 20 years in the mid-Atlantic, Karen and I are still getting used to the seasons in the southeast. We're close enough to the mountains of north Georgia to see fall color without too much trouble, but we'll have to wait until November to do it. On the plus side, my snow shovel hasn't seen the light of day since we departed Virginia.

This column has a definite theme, but I'm of two minds on what to name it. I could call it "Chance Meetings," since these stories both involve an element of chance. But if I wanted to get more philosophical, I could call it "Law of Attraction" - the idea that classmates and alums seem to find each other even when they're not trying.



Aaron Adams '95 and Bob Dupuis meet up in Ireland

I offer two examples. First is this update from 8th Company's **Bob Dupuis**, describing an event occurring in a different country:

✉ Lois and I were in Ireland last week wandering about the lovely countryside when we visited the Cliffs of Mohar - a beautiful section of the western coast. As we were walking out to the viewing area on a particularly lovely day (light rain and 35 knots of wind), I saw a guy that looked like a member of in our local (Jacksonville, NC) Alumni Chapter. I thought "No way!" But as we passed, I called his name and he spun around - it was **Aaron Adams '95** and his wife Christina.

As they say - 5 minutes either way and it wouldn't have happened. The funny part was that Aaron & I sat together in the April chapter meeting but apparently didn't get around to upcoming trips.

So, is it chance, or some sort of universal magnetic attraction? Whatever the label, it's quite the interesting story. Thanks, Bob, for the update and photo.



Jeff Bontrager and Joe Mulloy in Silicon Valley

Example #2 comes from the west coast of the US, this one featuring 18th Company's **Joe Mulloy**:

✉ Hope you are well. Just a quick photo to share of two classmates both serving our post-Navy lives in Silicon Valley.

I am with Northrop-Grumman in Marine Systems in Sunnyvale, CA and **Jeff Bontrager** works for the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). Jeff flew P-3's out of Hawaii, came to a shore job at nearby Moffett Field in Mountain View and then got out. He worked a number of places after that but stayed local.

Turns out we both live in the same area called Willow Glen in southwest San Jose. Jeff was on site to say hello. DCMA periodically inspects my products and they have a small office on our site. A few months ago Jeff was in a meeting with my Launcher Team and **Andy Jarrett '89** my Launcher OU Senior Director mentioned that he was '89 and I was Class of '79. Jeff said he was '79 too and would try to find me. It took a few months but we both ended up in my office and my EA grabbed a quick photo. Life goes on.

Thanks, Joe! Glad you and Jeff were able to connect, and I really appreciate the note and photo.

Classmates, that's all I have for this month. Please keep a lookout for those "chance meetings" with fellow classmates. And when they occur - as I know they will - please drop me a line and tell me about it!

Enjoy fall, and I'll see you next month.

Wiz...

'80

Life Membership: 96%

Donor Participation: 18.30%

Pres: **LtCol Tony Verducci USMC (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USN (Ret.)**

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Website: <http://1980.usnaclass.net>

Greetings Classmates,

This month has been full of activity for the Class. Our newly minted Class Council has been busy reviewing data, setting up committees, migrating our website, setting up for DGA nominations, working with **RADM Sam Cox** on potentially sponsoring the new carrier, CVN-80, setting up CACO committee and supporting loss within our '80 family.

It was with great sadness that several Classmates met in Tucson, AZ, to support Netia and **Joe Hayden**, JosephChayden@msn.com, my 33rd Herd roommate, as they dealt with the death of their son Sean. Lisa and **Mike Grieco**, mgrieco2@verizon.net, **Ray Farmer**, res0m67c@verizon.net, and I were able to be there with the family. It was a beautiful ceremony and a constant reminder to hug your kids every day and let them know how much you love them! In Joe's eulogy for his son, he shared thoughts on mental illness, something that Sean had to deal with much of his adult life. I shared it in the Class email and felt that it was important enough to share again as we all age and deal with afflictions and challenges in our lives. He has openly offered to speak with anyone suffering with the same issues in their family or lives. Here is his note:

✉ Over the past 12 years or so Sean has faced a most unfair illness. Mental illness, specifically Schizophrenia and other related diagnoses. For those of you who are unsure of what this means I'll tell you in Sean's own words: "I have demons that have possessed my brain. They are voices that are always there and never go away. They say the most terrible things. Sometimes they take control of me. Nothing helps. Sometimes they are not so loud, and I can focus on other things, but they are always there." I would encourage you to look up the more comprehensive and technical descriptions that are easily found with a quick Google search. Schizophrenia begins in males early in life, usually between the age of 16 and 30. There is no cure, and it can only be "managed" with drugs and therapy. Sean faced this unfair condition with all the determination and effort he could muster. It continuously knocked him down, but he never gave up. Please remember this when you see someone affected by mental illness, or learn of a friend or family member whose loved-one has been afflicted by this terrible disease. Show them compassion, mercy, and love.

Thanks Joe - for sharing such a personal message and we are here for you and Netia and Mo.