

In what is obviously an inside joke, Andy noted "No Boat School officers in knockabouts were reported injured in the maritime firings."

Solemn tribute was also paid to fallen company-mates **Bobby "Bear" Magee (18th Co.)**, **Gene McCarthy (18th Co.)** and Lionel "Bunky" Sanders, who started with '77 but graduated with '78.



The weekend culminated in a Gulf seafood feast at the Indian Pass Raw Bar. The other diners seemed to appreciate a spirited rendition of "Anchors Aweigh", or they at least tolerated it, as no one was asked to vacate the premises. A good time was had by all, and preparations are already under way for the next get-together three years hence. Moving on, **Rick White (8th Co.)** related on September 16th, **Julius Caesar (17th Co.)** and he traveled to Newport, RI for the NAPS Parent's Weekend Pass in Review Parade, in which J.C. was the viewing official. This was the "official" kick-off for 77's Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) program in support of the Class of 2027.



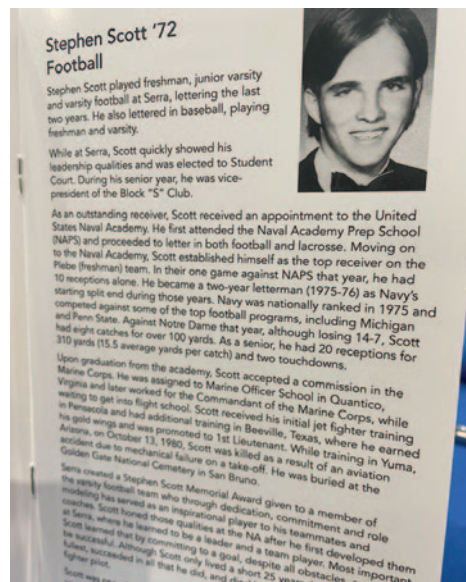
Shown above, left to right are: CMDCS Smith, Command Senior Chief, CO Captain Jim Bahr (USNA '06), Rick, J.C. and XO Major Michael Magyar (USNA '11). Looking Good 77! There will be several other opportunities over the next four years to participate in the ALTIC program, so keep an eye out for information via the class email.

Speaking of looking good, **Jim Bethmann (33rd Co.)** reports **Tom Edwards (34th Co.)** and **Sean O'Brien (18th Co.)** will be...or at this point, were...inducted into the Navy Rugby Hall of Fame on October 7th. O.B. is being recognized for his stellar efforts on the field, while Tom is being honored for his instrumental role in forming the first women's rugby team.



Boys, you've done '77 proud!

Since we're discussing classmates who've done '77 proud, **Jeff Hoobler (29th Co.)** passed the word **Steve Scott (36th Co.)** was recently inducted into the Junipero Serra High School Hall of Champions.



A number of Steve's classmates were on hand to honor him, including **Jim Eberle (24th Co.)**, **Pete Grieve (6th Co.)**, **Craig Turley (36th Co.)**, **Mike Laviano (20th Co.)**, **Mark Jee (11th Co.)**, **Steve Merchant (29th Co.)**, **Jeff Heely (6th Co.)** and **Scott Harper (3rd Co.)**. Video eulogies were delivered by **Pete Caulk (31st Co.)**, **Bert Seither (16th Co.)**, **Hoobs and Kevin Sullivan (14th Co.)**.

This is quite a tribute, as #85 is enshrined with the likes of Barry Bonds, Lynn Swann and Tom Brady. Quite a tribute indeed. Finally, we regret to inform you **Mark Clark (19th Co.)** passed away August 19, 2022.



Mark Clark

After his Naval service, Mark devoted his life to teaching, which not only led to him earning his PhD in English, but allowed him to meet Liz, with whom he shared 31 wonderful years of marriage. We know you join us in extending heartfelt condolences to Liz, their daughter Stephanie and the rest of Mark's family.

*Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.*

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 44.00%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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Tail gate legend, **Mike "Kal" Kalnoske (32nd Co.)** wrote that daughter, Kaitlyn, got married in July. The father of the bride was supported by eight 32nd companymates and their spouses. As Mike put it, "It was wonderful to have so many 32nd Company classmates and their wives for the wedding of my daughter Kaitlyn and new son-in-law Stephen on July 9, 2022. Those supporting Holly, Mike and their daughter and son-in-law were Vicki and **Rhett Oliver**, Pattie and **Rick Martinez**, Pat and **Tim Murphy**, Jean and **JD Oliver**, Mur and **Roy Bookmiller**, Becca and **Ray Kwong**, Steph and **Bill Soer**.

Doug Meyer (14th Co.) wrote that he and Ginger were on a cruise to New England and the Atlantic Region of Canada at the beginning of September. On one of the early "excursions" to Peggy's Cove in Halifax he was wearing his USNA '78 ball cap. Because, as he put it, "you can see, there ain't a lot up top anymore." Anyway, while they were enjoying the scenery - and standing in line for the rest room- a "young man" walked up and introduced himself. The "young man" was **Doug Ray (2nd Co.)**. Doug R and his wife, Kathy happened to be on the same cruise and on the same excursion bus. While the "two Dougs" had never met, "whenever two or three shall meet", they quickly became friends. As Doug M wrote, "we know each other now and I'm better for it." A couple of days after first meeting all four were together for dinner. Doug M reaffirmed what many of us have come to experience that it "was fun to run into and enjoy the company of a fellow '78er." Glad you four had a great time- but please no slide show or power point. Doug, Ginger and their daughter Erin and son-in-law, Rob, had planned to be in Crabtown to join other 14 Company brothers for the Houston game.



'78: Kalnoske Wedding



In mid-Sept, **Kevin Cheezum** (28th Co) provided a follow-up on 28th Company's Mini-Reunion in August in Dollywood's backyard- Sevierville, TN. Kevin thought that might have been their 9th one since 2004. Those attending included: Patti and **Chuck Behrend**, Jamie and **Tom Bond**, Lynn and **Russ Brewer**, Virginia and **Kevin Cheezum**, **Dan Fanelli**, **Stef Fedyschyn**, Vivian and **Dave Hampshire**, Beth and **Jim Harbison**, Judy and **Dan Mori**, Eileen Johnson and **Scott Strommer**, Olwynne and **Barry Pochron**, and Michelle and **Brian Villalobos**. They kicked off things with a mock "R-Day" Registration, followed up with daily events (Dollywood, Gatlinburg, and other activities in the area), dinners at their VRBO, and sharing lots of sea stories and family

updates. Kevin and the rest of the game are looking forward to the 45th Reunion with other classmates next October.

Congrats to **Alex "Dog" Callas** (26th Co), for another successful "Muscle Classic Golf Tournament in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Held on Sept 26th at Queenstown Harbor Golf Course in Queenstown Harbor, Maryland, this year marked the 51st year for the Callas Family and their quest to help the MDA find cures to neuromuscular disease. This year was another banner year as they raised over \$121,000. Alex thanks all who continue to support their efforts. Look to make next year's tournament even more successful and to one day having a cure!



Herb Nyberg (34th Co) posted on our Class FB page about a 10-day backpack trip in the Sierra Nevada. He was joined by **Brent Obenour** (33rd Co), his cousin, Peter Economou, and Dr. Wayne Kramer (a retired entomologist/botanist/biologist LSU professor etc., who made all the plans). As Herb wrote, "The entire trek was somewhere about 55 miles starting and ending at the Pine Creek Trail. Most elevation was 10K '+ with much higher passes one over 12k'." He noted that, "Well you know when you are old when you have not run out of sea stories even after 10 days!" I don't know, Herb, with a hike like that you, Brent and your comrades proved you ain't too old. I needed oxygen just reading your "travel log on the Class FB page.



35th Company had some folks cycling the Rhone, well "sort of". It was more like- travel- ing. Among the gang were **Tim Golden**, **Mark Lindstrom**, **Rob Blandford**, **Richard Jesmonth**, **Bob Vogt** and **Marty Thamm**. The class FB

post showed all the gang less Bob and Marty who were around somewhere (probably looking for some wine).

Do you ever go to pro sports games and see the team mascots running around the field- like the "Presidents" at National's Park in DC? Ever wonder what that would be like? Well our own **Chip Walston** (10th



Co) got to experience it. Chip and his brother-in-law, Sean Reilly, decided to work as ushers for the Royals this season. He said it was "awesome- like having free season tickets and getting paid for it." At the end of season, there was a Royals employee party. Chip and Sean got to wear the hotdog outfit and run around the outfield, as he put it, "like the knuckleheads we are." Looks like they had fun. If you can't figure it out- Chip is "with relish" and Sean is "with ketchup".



'78: 28th Mini Reunion



That's all for this edition. Seeing as it's a double month issue (Nov-Dec), here's wishing a belated Happy Birthday wishes to all my Marine Corps brothers and a belated Happy Thanksgiving to all you still snoozing after the tryptophan packed turkey dinner. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all who celebrate in December and Happy New Year!! Until 2023, Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 18.57%

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings 79ers!

One of our "class explorers", namely **Parks Stephenson**, now goes by a new title. In an earlier column I wrote about Parks' experience as part of the team that discovered the wreck of USS JOHNSTON, a destroyer lost in the brave defense against overwhelming odds as part of the Battle off Samar in WWII. As an unintended result of his participation, Parks was offered and accepted the post of Executive Director of the USS KIDD Veterans Museum in Baton Rouge, LA. He summed it up this way:

✉ "It took a while, but I finally got my first command: JOHNSTON's sister ship. Right when the majority of our class is entering retirement, I am starting a whole new career. I never seem to get the memo."

Congrats, Parks, on your "command", and best of luck in your new position.

Last March there were several feature articles written to celebrate the 80th birthday of **Roger Staubach '64**. Although he graduated 15 years before we did, **Jim "Bullet" Fawcett** was a "teammate" of Roger's at the annual Army-Navy flag football game. He was asked to provide a story about Roger for one of the articles. As we're currently in the middle of football season, Bullet thought it would be a good time to share this with the class:

✉ "I had the honor of playing on Navy's Alumni flag football team with Roger for 20 years. We played the Army-Navy flag game every year the weekend before Thanksgiving.

In 1988 we were losing to Army in the first half by a score of 20-7. Roger was late that day, but he came in for the second half. As he entered to huddle, he said "we're not losing to these guys!" As you can imagine Army was playing furiously, of course they wanted to beat Roger Staubach! We came back to within six points 20-14. We had 4 plays left and Roger was drawing plays in the dirt. We got down to the 7-yard line with one play left. Army was cocky as they thought they had us beat!

As we huddled up for the last play and Roger looked at our center **Val Smith '51**. Val was the oldest player on our team, and a former Marine. Roger asked him "Val, can you catch?" Val replied, "Sure I can!" Roger said. "Go ten yards across the goal line and turn around." Val caught the pass and we beat Army on the last play of the game 21-20. It was a great feeling watching Army walk off dejected and wondering how the heck they could have lost!

After every game, Roger always signed autographs and posed for photos with all the Navy, Army and Air Force players and families. He always played every flag game like it was a Super Bowl. I am honored to have been his teammate and to be considered one of his friends. He is one of the humblest and kindest men I have ever known."

Awesome story, Bullet! Thanks for sharing it!

Unfortunately, I must now report the loss of another classmate. **Terry "Flex" Druffel** (24th Co.) was killed in September when the small aircraft he was copiloting crashed near Myrtle Beach, SC. The aircraft apparently suffered an engine failure shortly after takeoff, but the specific cause of the accident remains unknown. A memorial service was held on September 13 near his North Carolina home.

Terry had served as a sailor for a year before attending NAPs. He was the Brigade Vice Honor Chairman (3-striper) our first class year. Flex flew the SH-2F/G LAMPS helicopter and had various flying and staff tours before retiring after 21 years of service. Upon retirement, he worked as a consultant for several defense contractors in Crystal City, VA and at NAS Patuxent River, MD. He finally retired to Ocean Isle Beach, NC, where he and Linda split

their time between home there and a cabin in the Shenandoah Valley.

Although Flex and I were never in the same squadron together, we flew in the same community and our paths crossed many times, both at home and on deployments. He was one of those guys who I could go without seeing for several years, but when we reconnected it seemed like no time had passed. He was passionate about aviation, becoming a certified flight instructor and staying active in flying long after leaving the Navy. He was a true friend to many of us in LAMPS, and is greatly missed. If any of you would like to leave a note of condolence to Linda and the family, let me know and I'll connect you. Many thanks also to **Dave Green** who has been with the family throughout this tragedy.

Classmates, once again we bring another year to a close. For many of you, this is a time of gathering with family and friends, reflecting on the past year and planning for the next. It's been an "interesting" couple of years, to say the least. Yet we adapt, we persevere, and we thrive, because that's how we are: classmates, alumni, and citizens (and supporters) of this great country.

Karen and I wish all of you a joyful and blessed holiday season. Enjoy this time, and I'll check back in with you in January. See you then!

Wiz

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 19.98%

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Greetings Classmates,
 Yesterday, Navy destroyed Tulsa and finally emerged from their slump. It was a great day! Kathy and Ed Dempsey sent in this great photo of the gang at the Tailgater. If you're in the area (not many more home games...) you should stop by! Thanks to all who make these events so fun for everyone.



Navy vs Tulsa tailgater