



'77

Glenn assures us a great time was had by all. Here's hoping Schlaepfer, Christofferson, Haines and Troiani paid for the party out of their ill-gotten golf gains!

And in another '77 first, **Al Lohman (29th Co.)** sent in his first Shipmate submission on the occasion of catching up with classmates **Rob Creamer (18th Co.)** and **Sam Locklear (7th Co.)**, shown in that order left to right below...



...at the Oahu Alumni Chapter's Army-Navy party back in December. Al observed great Hawaii weather and excellent company made for outstanding outdoor viewing, the presence of some 30 West Pointers notwithstanding.

Two thoughts immediately come to mind: (1). Al, we know late is always better than never, but 45+ years is stretching it; and (2). Sam there's no hat like a Tilley! And yes, they do float, even in the Zambezi.

Finally, we regret to report the passing of **John Clement (5th Co.)**...and **Roger Seldon (35th Co.)**:

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and loved ones of both John and Roger, as well as their longtime roommates Carl Moore and Carl Fisher.



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

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 5.96%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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As this edition reaches your doorstep, we are about four months away from our 45th Reunion. You should have received - or very soon will receive - word that our registration website is up and running. You'll see our final schedule and there will also be links where you can buy '78 branded wear and other items. You should see a cut-off time by which to order clothing in time to wear them at the Reunion.

Not much class news has transpired in the last few weeks since my last column. The big

event was the March 24th induction of our classmate, **Cecil Haney (29th Co.)**, as a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval Academy. There were quite a few classmates in attendance to celebrate and support Cecil with many more of you there in spirit. Those who were reported as "present" were: **Bob Schmermund (15th Co.)**, Meg and **Joe Leidig (14th Co.)**, Marla and **Al "Blues" Baker (10th Co.)**, **Ray Luevano (6th Co.)**, **Wayne Young (34th Co.)**, **Joe Alvite (17th Co.)**, Diana and **Walt Brown (11th Co.)**, **Ray Milton (18th Co.)**, **Sean Coffey (13th Co.)**, **Bob Novak (34th Co.)**, **Mark Ferguson (7th Co.)**, **Jeff Fowler (12th Co.)**, **Bruce Latta (25th Co.)**, **Chet Seto (13th Co.)**, **Steve "Jock" Maloney (16th Co.)**, **Tom Crowley (11th Co.)**, **Jeff Ewin (29th Co.)**, **Mel Williams (26th Co.)**, **Harry Harris (15th Co.)**, **Warren Krull (1st Co.)**, **George Billy (11th Co.)**, **Larry Olsen (26th Co.)**, **Mo Tose, Chip Jones (16th Co.)**, **Glen Woods (13th Co.)**, **Fred Webster (14th Co.)**, **Jack Christensen (31st Co.)**, **Byron Marchant (26th Co.)**, and **John Rudder (12th Co.)**.

I echo once more all our congratulations to Cecil on this great honor. Cecil is the first inductee of our class. That said, we are a great class with a record of individuals -who like Cecil - have achieved the pinnacle of success in the military, in commerce and industry, and in our government and communities. Those classmates have also demonstrated a lifetime of commitment and support for the Naval Academy, the Alumni Association and their missions through volunteerism, advocacy, and philanthropy. We would like to see them equally recognized. If you have a recommendation for someone from our class to be nominated as a 2024 DGA candidate, please go to the Alumni Association website where you can find the criteria and process for nominating someone for the distinguished graduate award, and you can determine if they are eligible. Then



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let your Class Officers and your company rep know who you are recommending for consideration. We will pass your recommendation to our Class DGA Nomination Committee, made up of 10-12 Class Officers and other volunteers, who develop the strong nomination packages needed to support having a classmate selected as a Distinguished Graduate.



Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the DGA ceremony as I found myself a guest at the Anne Arundel Medical Center. I had been emergency admitted on the Tuesday before the ceremony and spent almost a week hospitalized. Without going into detail, suffice it to say that I finally acted on some outward signs that I was not well. I sought the medical attention I needed in time and the docs fixed the problem. I am now much better. As this comes to print and I am still conducting some tests to better understand the root cause. The initial remedy/mitigation is to do what I should have been doing years ago- lose weight, exercise regularly and watch my diet. I am doing well so far in that respect and hope to be able to make weight (and work on my outside shot) so **Jock Maloney** (16th Co) will lift my ban from playing in reunion basketball games. Thanks to all the '78 brothers who provided well-wishes, upport, prayers, and encouragement during my stay. It really picked me up and gave me encouragement to get out of the hospital and work to get better. The *real reason* I tell you this is to encourage everyone to heed the signs your body tells you that something isn't quite right. Don't put off recognizing them and, more importantly, seek medical attention. In retrospect, I feel like when I came back from a "touchy" flight and said to myself, "Whew, that

was close." Our body "warranty" has long expired and like with a car- that's when things start breaking down. So please listen to your body and all the "noise" and signs it's giving you; and get yourself to "the shop" to get a "tune up or repair." In my case, I dragged seeking medical attention a little longer than I should have but fortunately I had a good outcome and not the worst one. I also tell you this story for selfish reasons. I don't want to write more notices about losing one of you. Instead, I want to hear about - and write of - your retirement fun, volunteer work, vacation cruise and spoiling of grandkids. I want to see as many of you at our 50th Reunion and even on to our 60th. That's it. I'll now step down from this soap box.

In closing, good luck to one of my roommates, **Walt Brown** (11th Co), as he seeks to win the seat as Director of the Carlisle [PA] School Board. Check him out on Google. I know Walt is not the only classmate who seeks or has sought public office. I'd love to hear from all of you who are making contributions to your communities by tossing your hat in the ring.

Until next month...Launch' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 4.46%

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!

Ah, June. The start of summer. The season of boating, golf, vacations - so many things get packed into a three-month period. Summer is supposedly the season of relaxation - yet for many of us it's the busiest time of the year, at least in our personal lives.

June is also a time of transition. The Class of 2023 is joining the Fleet. The Class of 2027 (gasp!) will soon be "welcomed" aboard. All over the country families will use this period to relocate, start new jobs, and look for new opportunities. Once the weather warms up, so do we.

Here in Atlanta, things are getting more active as well. As I mentioned last month, the Atlanta Chapter of the USNA Alumni Assn. has resumed holding events after a hiatus of almost three years. In March the chapter kicked off 2023 with its first monthly luncheon. Overall the turnout was quite good, all things considered. Four '79ers joined in, the highest participation of any class: **Bob Burell, Mike Leigh, Rick Lopez** and yours truly.



Atlanta Chapter luncheon: Mike Leigh, Rick Lopez, Wiz Withers and Bob Burell

Bob Burell and his wife Coco moved to Atlanta from Chicago several years ago. Bob is, in the vernacular, "retired-retired", taking things easy and enjoying life. Coco is a regional sales manager for a medical supply company. Lori and Mike Leigh reside just north of Atlanta on Lake Lanier. Mike runs his own company, AKT Optimize, which serves DoD customers in the training arena. Lori is a civil servant and is starting to think seriously about retirement. Rick Lopez recently retired as a captain with Delta Air Lines. He's not currently working, but he hasn't ruled it out completely if something interesting comes along.

As you all head out on your summer activities, please remember to check in with your friendly neighborhood class secretary and let us all know what's going on. Safe travels and great adventures. See you next month!

Wiz

'80

Life Membership: 96%

Donor Participation: 4.92%

Pres: **LtCol Tony Verducci USMC (Ret.)**
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Greetings Classmates,

This month we have been very busy with the Class council putting together our strategic plan, our battle rhythm timeline, finding every Classmate that raised their hand on the 6th of July 1976, as well as setting up our Company Rep and communication strategy. We have been extremely active as a group, and with the great efforts of **Tom O'Keefe, Beth Ledbetter Gordon, Bill Personius**, and the rest of the Company Reps, we have narrowed down our missing Classmates whom we have completely lost contact. We have accurate emails for almost everyone. For those we are missing, we are narrowing down that list very quickly. One of the reasons that we are working to do this is so that we can have a solid communication platform that allows us to connect with our Classmates in addition to the Alumni Association which was a request at the last reunion. We are close. Once we have the list, look for a different set of emails from the Class