

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 41.65%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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As this column arrives in your mailbox, we are one month away from our 45th Reunion. Don't forget to register before Oct 10th as late registration will cost you more. You should also be notified soon of the slate of candidates running for our Class Board (4 class officers and 5 Trustees at Large). This year we have competition for some positions which shows increased interest in you getting involved and offering your fresh perspectives, time, and talents to help our class. We'll be looking for that same volunteer spirit as we move forward with our upcoming Link in the Chain activities. It's just around the corner. Yours truly is leading the effort and I'll be looking for regional volunteers before resorting to some of you being "volun-told" or shanghaied.

Before I get to the "mail bag," let me preface them with an apology for having to edit down to make my word limit. I hope I haven't butchered your news too much and at least kept the "heart" of your news.

Kevin McGhee (14th Co) wrote in June that, "It was five years ago ...that I preached my last sermon at Bethany Community Church, and ... began work as a full-time missionary with Converge International Ministries. God has been so good!!! He has given me an absolutely incredible team of friends to work with, including our first ever Deaf global workers. He has placed Ann in a role where she is thriving and making an incredible contribution; and we are seeing the good news of Jesus breaking through the darkness around the globe. We have visited more than a dozen countries and several dozen states across the US." "Padre" McGhee thanked his boss for inviting him on this journey, and to every one of you who has prayed, encouraged, or invested financially. I am deeply grateful."



Sean Coffey (13th Co) allowed me to go public with news of his wife, Anne, and her courageous recovery from a very serious accident last September. As he wrote in an April post on



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of another classmate. **French Caldwell (20th Co.)** passed on 8 June holding hands with Patty, his wife of 48 years. French leaves behind four children and three grandchildren, as well as a legacy of integrity, dedication and kindness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Patty and rest of French's family.

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

Finally, we thought it fitting to close with this photo of Grady Cofield...



...grandson of **Guy Cofield (35th Co.)**.

As **Bert Seither (16th Co.)** recently observed, though most of us still able to make formation may not be in life's two-minute drill, we're definitely in the 4th quarter. By the time this column is published the Class of 2027 will likely have finished Plebe Summer and the 50th anniversary of our I-Day will be some two months in the past.

So as the great circle of life continues to turn, we take this occasion to honor those who've gone before us, and to say to you, Shipmates, it's been an honor to have known and served with you.

Magoo

SEA STORIES

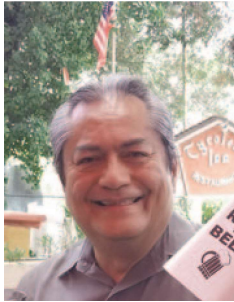
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78/78 CLASS NEWS

our Class Facebook page: "...Anne was in an Uber that was T-boned by a guy going 64 in a 25-mph zone in Queens, NY. The seat belt kept her in place, but the side impact broke her neck at C-2, and she immediately went into cardiac arrest. Miraculously, the FDNY was there within minutes and brought her back to life, although she coded again in the ambulance and several more times at the ICU. They kept bringing her back and she kept fighting to come back. Anne suffered several other broken bones, including broken ribs and sternum from all the CPRs. She had three surgeries (including inserting a screw into her C-2) and was placed on a ventilator for two months. Again miraculously, her spinal cord was badly bruised but not severed and she had been revived so quickly that she suffered no brain injury from oxygen deprivation." During this tough past year, Anne's had some major setbacks but fought through them. As Sean notes, his bride of almost 34 years is "one stubborn gal". [I'd say she also has the toughness and determination to match any SEAL!] Home since February and Anne continues to have physical therapy six days a week and has a nurse and aide providing for her needs, around the clock. She can now move all extremities, albeit very weakly. Her progress is slow but steady. They're optimistic she'll be able to walk in a year or two and hope to be back to tailgating together for the '25 football season. Sean noted that it was the delivery of flowers with an awesome card from some playful, anonymous Classmate (signed as "W.T. Door '78") that finally spurred him to write publicly of the ordeal. Besides causing him to laugh, it reminded him of "the power of nearly five decades of brotherhood." He highlighted that he can't say enough about the near-daily calls, texts, emails, visits, flowers, etc. -exceeded only by the many prayers - as being their important source of support during this awful time. He thanked everyone. You can read more details of Anne's journey to wellness on Sean's April 16th post on our Class Facebook page. As for Sean, he's making things work and working hard. He "loves the job" as Counsel to SECNAV. He's an official "airline shuttle commuter," spending 3-4 days a week in the Pentagon and teleworking the rest from New York. He oversees 850 lawyers helping him handle issues ranging from the routine (personnel and fiscal issues) to the strategic (Ukraine and China). He said SECNAV, **Carlos Del Toro** ('83), has been very supportive of him and enables a workload that allows him the flexibility to maximize time from home to be with Anne. We'll continue sending prayers for Anne's healing and for continued strength and consolation for both her, Sean, and all their family. Here's a pic of Sean when he was the guest of honor at the Marine Corps sunset P-rade at the Iwo Jima Monument last June. He's flanked by **Mark Strasser** (36th Co), **John Semcken** (2nd Co) and **Bob Vogt** (35th Co).



Congratulations to **Dana Sales** (27th Co) for selection as the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture's 2023 "Man of The Year". Living in the Pajaro Valley for 43 years, Dana served for decades as a school board

Trustee and was instrumental in creating and leading a number of non-profit organizations benefiting children and schools. He's held leadership positions in numerous professional and civic organizations. For 28 years he was a Trustee on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education representing the southern portion of Santa Cruz County and the northern portion of Monterey County. He was a Trustee on the Pajaro Valley Unified School District for seven years, making it the first time a person of Filipino heritage had been elected to public office in the history of Santa Cruz County. He also served as Chair of the Education and Ambassadors Committees of the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce. Dana's classmates may remember that he was nominated for appointment by Shirley Chisholm of New York and participated in intramural track and squash. Others will remember him from the Academy's Drum and Bugle Corps. He is still involved with music. In fact, he and his wife, Lynn, have been part of the Watsonville Community band for over 27 years. He has served as President of the Band, Master of Ceremonies, and announcer. He's also been a member of the Pacific Brass Band and the Thirsty Nine German Band. For over 20 years, Dana has been the bilingual choir director and lead Cantor for Saint Patrick's Catholic Church. He's been President of Watsonville's Board of Realtors and the Pajaro Valley Association of Realtors; and twice recognized as Realtor of the Year. There are tons of other things Dana has done and been involved with, but I am running out of space. Suffice it to say, like many of you, he has done much good for his community, made a difference, and led by his engagement, example and from the front.

Alan Jaquith (3rd Co) -like a lot of you- continues to help make life better for others. He does it with a tool belt, his own sweat and hard work, and that of his teammates. In late June, his Apex Baptist Missions Team was in Cleveland, TN at Ocoee Outreach (a community ministry that provides free home repair to low-income homeowners living in Southeast Tennessee). While rain was forecasted for the week of work, he credited God with parting "the clouds for the team for the first 3 days so they could complete a handicap ramp for an older gentleman." Though they eventually got a good soaking, he said they pushed on and also did a ramp repair for another man in the area. He said he is looking forward to next year!



As this goes to print, we mourn more classmates lost since the last column was submitted: **Greg Smith** (29th Co non-grad), **Vachel "Pat" Dowler** (34th Co) and **Kevin Hannan** (13th Co). Greg and Kevin succumbed to cancer and Vach - Pat- died unexpectedly due to some medical issues he never let on to anyone. You can read their obituaries in the "Memorials" section of our Class website. **Scott Burns** (34th Co) wrote a touching tribute to his Club 34 roommate and groomsman. A few excerpts of Scott's letter highlight Pat's dry humor and inviting personality. As Scott noted, "At 6'7" and much less than a full head of hair, Vachel was always easy to spot in a crowd. 34th Company never needed a guidon. We had Pat. Vachel was smarter than he was tall. Majored in Naval Architecture, went nuclear power. He told the story after his Rickover interview that Rickover told him to go stand in the closet, so that people wouldn't think there was a radiation leak." Scott continued, "When we returned to Bancroft Hall from Youngster Cruise, Major Jeff Gaugush was waiting for us with a hats-off haircut inspection. Everyone got fried, including Vachel, who had just a wisp of a hairline. Four hours of marching finally convinced him to shave his head. After graduation we caravanned to Chicago where he stayed with me a few days. My sisters loved him. He was a groomsman in my wedding a year later and managed to get my grandmother on the dance floor. As a strict Baptist, it was her very first

dance. But you could not say no to Vachel." Scott closed with very wise words for all of us to heed and something I have often referred to in these columns. He wrote, "the message I would share is that as classmates and company mates, don't be shy about asking for help or in sharing what's happening in your life. Don't leave anyone behind. As we head to this reunion, I hope '78 (and 34) have the greatest attendance ever." Amen, brother.

Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 16.77%

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, 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

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 20.14%

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

We just Celebrated the 47th Anniversary of I-Day – which means I turned 65! Where did the time go you might ask? How is it even possible that we are almost all now on Medicare. Some say we're only getting better with age...but it sure seems like every warranty on our bodies expired at the same time.... Oh well, now the stories we share are about our medications, aches and pains and our portfolio (or lack thereof) a whole new meaning of "whenever two or more shall meet and new woes be retold...."

One of the big events of the summer was the Commissioning of the USS CARL M. LEVIN, DDG-120. Our Class was actively involved in the process. Here is a note from our **RADM USN (Ret.), Vic See**, vic.see2@gmail.com, about the event.

✉ Joe,

We had a fundraiser in Annapolis on May 11 for the commissioning of the USS CARL M. LEVIN, DDG-120. We had a great '80 turnout.

For the commissioning committee, I was the Co-Chairman with BGen Joe Nattans, President of Navy League Baltimore. **Mark White** was the Chief of Staff and **Nick Katsiotis**, **Steve Benson**, and **RADM USN**



'80: Women of 80 at CONSTITUTION

(Ret.) **Joe Horn** were the prime movers, and **VADM USN (Ret.) Frank Pandolf** was an advisor. I invited **Mike Lopez-Alegria** to



Mike Lopez-Alegria gives a great talk about Space at the Chairman's Banquet

be the guest speaker for the Chairman's banquet, and after SECNAV **Carlos Del Toro** spoke, LA gave a fantastic talk about all the great stuff going on in space today and in the future. LA covered his Axiom 1 mission from May 2022 to the Space

Station and finished with a wonderful video. The CO of the ship and some of the crew were in attendance. '80 classmates **RADM USN (Ret.) Sam Cox** and **Harry Coker** also joined us for the banquet.

Happy to be completed with the commissioning task and everything the committee did was for the crew. We all wish the CO and crew of the USS Levin Fair Winds and Following Seas. The ship left Baltimore on Sunday 25 June, and is headed to her home port of Pearl Harbor and should arrive in early August. Vic



Mark White, Nick Katsiotis, Bill Sizemore, Steve Benson, Pres Tony Verducci, Jerry Connolly and Vic See. Rob Blunt attended but had to leave.



What a great effort for '80. More to come in the next year with the launching of CVN-80. Standby. Well done to all who assisted in the process.

Susan Stapler Cabral, dansusan85@gmail.com sent in a short note and photo. She volunteers every other Saturday at the Dallas USO. **Joe Crabbe** and his wife stopped by.



Susan and Joe

JJ Stenzoski, jjstenzoski@netscape.net, one of the few from our Russian class at Navy who learned the language is still playing music with Irina. For the past 12 years, he's been putting on a free, 4-act music show every month for the community.

On the 9 June, 15 of our women of '80 and **RADM USN (Ret.) Sam Cox** were onboard the USS CONSTITUTION for a turnaround cruise honoring women Navy Vets. The current CO of CONSTITUTION is the first woman CO and is a USNA grad.

John Elnitsky, jelnitsky@att.net, had visitors from 21st Company who helped him "Dress" his pier on the ICW, marker 41, to show some submarine and Navy pride. He was joined by **Win Everett** who was gracious enough to handle the piling adornment.



Mary Jo and Dave Ray davidray58@gmail.com, (13th) did a mini-road trip from