



'77: French's Internment

## '78

**Life Membership: 81%**

**Donor Participation: 43.27%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401

e: canoeu78@aol.com

Website: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

Happy New Year!!! Is everyone sitting down? I have some news for you that may cause you to feel faint. While our 50th Reunion is four years away, the time is *now* that we will be engaging with our link in the chain, the Class of 2028. Yikes! Yes, shortly chapters across the nation will be having events to recognize those young men and women who received and accepted an appointment. This summer will be their I-day, Plebe summer and Plebe Parents Weekend. Over the next four years we will be interacting and engaging with them across a variety of opportunities and events. By now you should have received some information about those events and a request for volunteers. I make that request once more. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

Okay, now that you've recovered from the realization that we are approaching the half-century mark since we graduated, here are some quick news flashes that got sidelined with all our news that was in the queue and reunion info.

As many of you know, **Alex Callas** (26th Co) has for decades been in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy by raising funds with his family golf tournament. At the end of September they held the 52nd Annual Callas

Family Fund Raiser for Muscular Dystrophy at Queenstown Harbor Golf Links in Queenstown, MD. Alex noted that our class continued its unwavering support of his Family's Cause with participation and contributions. (He wrote that **Bob Schmermund** (15th Co) and **Eddie Reid** (21st Co) were there and so too was Bob's son - "Young Schmerm".) This year they raised \$103,000 for the MDA. To date their collective efforts have raised just under \$1.5M in 52 years. Alex wrote that such success could not be attained without support from so many of you. He is already pressing on and started planning the 53rd Annual Tournament. His dedication is unwavering, and he professed that the fight would continue until they raise "that magic dollar that will cure neuromuscular disease."



Callas Golf Tournament

Like many of you, **Bob Engel** (36th Co), experienced one of those river cruises. His was on the Rhine River aboard Viking ALURNA

from Basil, Switzerland to Amsterdam. While on the cruise he met up with **Dan Brown** ('71).



Bob, Dan and ALURNA's Captain

In mid-November, Janet and **Fred Butterfield** (22nd Co) were serving at a FamilyLife "Weekend to Remember" marriage conference in Williamsburg. While there, they had dinner with our great friends, "Commodore" Terry Lackey (CAPT, USN, Ret.) and his lovely wife (of 52+ years) Barbara. Terry was 21st Company Officer during our Plebe year — and he was made an Honorary Member of the Class of 1975 a few years back.



Fred and Terry Lackey

Yolinde and **Chet Seto** (13th Co) held a Navy versus SMU viewing party at their lovely home. Among '78 present were Gaye and **Gene** (aka- Clarence) **Moore** (13th Co), Susan and **Chris Hassler** (17th Co), Elizabeth and yours truly. We also celebrated Chet's birthday that day. We only wish we could have celebrated a Navy victory but instead the cake and comradery had to offset one of the worst shellackings we've seen in a while. As usual, Yolinde was the hostess with the moistest and prepared a feast of a wide variety of delicious foods and snacks that far exceeded my capacity.

In closing, here are a few pics from the Reunion weekend and includes the four of the six brave souls who played the pickup basketball game before our tailgater (**Doug Diehl** (25th Co), **Rusty Cone** (11th Co), **Jock Maloney** (16th Co) and **Pat McCormick** (6th Co), **Tim Golden** (35th Co) and **Scott Darling** (12th Co)).





'78 Reunion Golfers



'78 Reunion Class



Reunion Basketballers

**Launchin' Spot Four.**

## BLUE & GOLD OFFICER

Would you like to mentor interested students about the opportunities at USNA? Become a Blue & Gold Officer and contact USNA Admissions at 410-293-1813.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 18.76%**

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, USN (Ret.)**  
e: [dajaxn79@gmail.com](mailto:dajaxn79@gmail.com)

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**  
1886 Woodpoint Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
p: 240-298-1006; e: [JDWithers@1979.usna.com](mailto:JDWithers@1979.usna.com)

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!

Welcome to 2024! We've got a number of things to cover, so I'll dispense with the pleasantries and get right to it. We begin this month - indeed, this year - with an email from **Mike Davis**:

✉ Hi, Wiz. As Judy and I were enjoying the sites at the Biltmore in Ashville, NC with friends on 9/12/23, I heard John Messerschmidt say, "Hi Mike Davis, how are you?" I haven't seen John, except perhaps on passing at a reunion since boat school, so this chance meeting was a real treat! By the way, although it's a bit off the beaten track, the Biltmore makes for a fantastic visit in Ashville.

Judy and I are doing well. We recently swung by Halsey Field House, where men's gymnastics is doing their thing while McDonough Hall sees another multiyear

renovation. While there, we touched base with head coach, Kip Simons, and assistant, Craig Holt. There was a group of alumni watching practice, mostly because Peter DeTullio '83, who was a gymnastics All-American, was honored and (belatedly) added to the USNA Hall of Fame on Saturday. The old guy photo added is Peter (left) and me - not at all ready to mix it up with today's team. I'm pleased to have had a small part to play in convincing Peter to come to Navy instead of that school on the Hudson!

Hope all is well with you and family and looking forward to seeing you all at the next reunion!



John Messerschmidt and Mike Davis at the Biltmore