

Thus why a constant bearing and decreasing range ends well only for missiles...or kamikazes; and why, as Rich noted, we spent countless hours mastering our maneuvering boards. That evening, all the Mids were required to assemble in the wardroom and provide statements detailing what they had witnessed. They were also asked to surrender any photos they might have taken of the incident.

Correctly anticipating his pictures would likely be classified and end up on some Admiral McKee's wall, Yams prudently decided to exercise his right to remain silent and developed his slides back at Boat School. After making copies for himself, he offered a second set to his company officer, LT Maguire; who passed them on to LT Kirk, 14th Co. Officer, and a nuke...who in turn shared them with someone at the DC Navy Yard. Next thing Dave knew he's being asked by the Naval Photographic Center in Wash DC to surrender his original record of the collision. Discretion being the better part of valor, he did; but only after extracting a promise he could keep the copies he'd already made, a promise the Navy surprisingly kept. Three of the slides ended up featured in *Navy Times*, as well as *Proceedings*, with Yams even receiving credit as the photographer. As for the "official" photos Rich Thayer snapped, one was published in the *New York Times*, though without attribution. The United States Naval Academy Class of 1977: not just passing *through* history, but *recording* it as it happens!

Finally, in a follow-up to our note regarding the recent passing of **Jose Galvan (13th Co.)**, we received the following note from his wife Pat we thought deserved dissemination:

■ By now, you've probably received word that my husband, Jose, passed away on 9 February 2013. I've submitted an obituary for inclusion in the Shipmate, but I wanted to pass along a photo of Jose and Kerwin [**Daniel K. Baker (19th Co.)**], who stopped in to visit him last year. What was amazing to me was the friendship made at the Academy transcended time, and the two of them carried on as if they had never stopped seeing each other. He talked about that visit for days.

We had hoped to make the trip for the 35th reunion last year, but the trip would have tested our limits. Type 1 diabetes had already robbed him of much of his vision, destroyed his kidneys, taken one leg and two months later, took the

other leg. We did manage to make our annual car trip to Southern California in June 2012, not an easy task with all the medical equipment we had to take with us. The other photo is from that trip and shows Jose with me on his right and his sister on his left. He had defied the surgeon's prediction that he would not make it out of the hospital let alone walk again. God had other plans for him though and challenged him with crippling gout in his hands, wrists and elbows and made it impossible for him to pull himself up by the end of 2012. ■



We few...we happy few...we band of brothers.

— Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

PRES: **Glen Woods**
SECY: **Vince Balderrama**
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401
E: vince.balderrama@lmco.com
WEBSITE: usna1978.org

Belated Shipmate congratulations to **Joe Schmitz**. On 20 April he was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in ceremonies at The Wyndham Hotel, Virginia Crossing in Glen Allen (Richmond), VA. The National Wrestling Hall of Fame bestows their "Outstanding American" award on leaders who credit

their involvement in the sport of wrestling as contributing to their character development and career success. Their book titled "Glory Beyond the Sport: Wrestling and the Military" includes profiles of Americans with a military connection who engaged in the sport of wrestling. Joe joins the ranks of those profiled to include Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Chief of Naval Operations James L. Holloway III, Commandant of the Marine Corps Charles C. Krulak, and the late Desert Storm hero Norman Schwartzkopf. It's a pretty prestigious group! Joe wrestled all four years at the Academy plus two years while serving as a Surface Warfare Officer, qualifying for the All Navy Camp in 1980. As proof that wrestled didn't jostle his mental faculties he has a Law degree from Stanford and in 2002 he resigned his commission as a CAPTAIN in the Navy Reserve Intelligence community to accept a Senate-confirmed appointment as the Inspector General of the US Department of Defense, for which he was awarded the Defense medal for Distinguished Public Service in 2005. Congratulations Joe and best wishes for success in your law and consulting firm **Joseph E. Schmitz, PLLC** ("JES PLLC")



I got an e-mail from **Steve Koronka**. Steve had been among the attendees at Fuzz Foley's funeral. Steve wrote from Stuttgart, Germany where he has been living and working as a contractor at HQ USEUCOM since mid 2009. He wrote that "Life is good in Deutschland..." He's a well traveled man and has trekked throughout Europe and several times to Africa. Being at EUCOM enabled him to have lunch with "two classmates in local positions of leadership": VADM **Joe Leidig** (Deputy Commander for Military Operations, USAFRICOM) and VADM **Charlie Martoglio** (Deputy Commander, USEUCOM). They ate in the EUCOM commander's mess. Steve wrote that "It was good to step out of the work day and

catch up on life and what's going on in our worlds. It is a busy time in each AOR and both Joe and Charlie are in the thick of things, doing USNA '78 very proud." Steve and his girlfriend, Carolyn attended the Officer's Ball in Vienna this January (Carolyn is assigned with the Department of Energy to US AFRICOM.). That annual event brings officers, active and retired from throughout Europe, ministers of defense, and those who enjoy honoring the armed forces, to a festive occasion to dine and dance. Despite a foot and a half of snow and frigid temperatures outside they joined the group of 3,000 at the Hofburg Palace to revel in old-world elegance and waltz until 0400 the following day. (The place sounds much more elegant than the Hangar in New River where we once had a Marine Corps Ball.) As if having a beautiful woman as his date, in an ornate and historical setting wasn't enough of a "brag factor" Steve added insult to injury to some of us when he boasted – "I still fit into my *original* Jacob Reed's Sons mess dress uniform." Okay where are my sweats? One of the ways he's enjoyed his time abroad has been to hike and climb mountains in Europe that don't require technical skills. He and Carolyn have twice climbed Zugspitze, tallest in Germany, and have hiked several times in Chamonix-Mont Blanc, France. This was to train and climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, tallest mountain in Africa at 19,341 feet. He climbed to the summit last October with a group of 24 Brits. (My nephew Ken Huston climb Kilimanjaro too, Steve.)



I hope to be seeing my Plebe summer roommate, **Bart Buechner**, next month. He'll be around town (Alexandria) in July for the Fielding University summer conference. He's still doing research on how universities and colleges are handling the influx of nearly a million returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. He'll be presenting his findings at several workshops this summer, and HOPEFULLY be done with the dissertation in time to take a break for our 35th reunion and homecoming this fall!

I got a quick note from **Ken "Sox" Bowersox**. He's no longer with SpaceX. He had been in charge of their astronaut training program but left about a year or so ago and is now doing some consulting. Our own Class Vice President **Sean Coffey** was recently in London for a Georgetown Law School Board of Visitors Meeting. (Besides being on the Board of Visitors he also teaches a litigation class.) Hey, Sean I thought you guys were supposed to visit *Georgetown*? That's in D.C. *not* London. Still, he did stay true to his naval roots as he visited the statue of that great British Naval Officer Lord Nelson.



In other "stray rounds" congrats to new (recent) grandparents Lita and **Lee Yarberry**.

We also have announced retirements. After almost 35 years of Naval service VADM **Bill Burke** retired on 20 May in a ceremony in the Navy Yard. MajGen **Tim Hanifen** is scheduled to retire – but remains *always a Marine* – on 12 July. LtGen **John Wissler** is slated to leave Headquarters Marine Corps as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources and take become commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force; commander, Marine Forces Japan. VADM **Bill Landay** will be relieved as Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) by **Joe Rixey** ('83). I haven't heard specifically if Bill has orders or will retire so I *won't* spread rumors about him. The same goes for the rest of you as well

as our remaining active duty three and four stars. But you better drop me a line with some updated news on what you've been up to or I just might make stuff up.

To beat on the reunion drum once more– by now you are all signed up, right? Well if you aren't, go on to our website and follow the links to the Reunion and register. The weekend (12-15 Sept) will be packed with fun-filled activities that provide ample opportunities to reminisce and tell tall tales and sea stories aplenty at events such as the Friday night Class Kickoff Reception, Casino Night and Raffle, Saturday morning Golf Tournament and Basketball Games and the afternoon Football Game and tailgater. (Remember, you have to have a ticket for the game to enter the Stadium where for the N banquet room tailgater is.) The weekend also affords us moments of reflection and memorial with the Friday Memorial Service and Saturday Prayer Breakfast. Please check the "Memorial" section of our class website and let us know if there is a deceased classmate of whom we may not be aware. We'd like to make sure capture all in our Memorial. Any other information you can provide such as an obituary or photo would also be appreciated. Hotel central is the Loews Annapolis on West Street. Make your reservations and make sure you ask for the Class of '78 block of rooms set aside for the reunion and the discounted rate.

That's it for now. Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

E: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

SEC'Y: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)

22445 Bluebird Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

P: 301-997-1980; W: 240-556-0637

E: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

SOCIAL NETWORK LINKS:

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

<http://www.facebook.com/wizwithers>

WEBSITE: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

Mike Finley was going through some old files, and came across a photo taken at **Artie Johnson's** retirement last summer. Three 36th Co. 79ers – Artie, Mike and **Emilio Abordo** – with their USNA sons: **Eric Abordo '14**, **Patrick Finley '15** and **Alex Johnson '15**. As Mike said, "it shows the continuity of life." Thanks for sending!