

'73

Life Membership: 63%
Donor Participation: 14.10%

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Hi everyone, Susie and I hope you had a great Holidays. I received some great updates and have a lot of pictures so let's get to it. The first is from **Dave Smith**;

✉ Jim, It's been a while since I've checked in with you so I thought I'd send you an update. I am now fully retired. My final class at Aiken High School was last June. To celebrate my retirement, Janet and I took a two-week coach bus tour of Ireland. We flew in to Dublin, spent a couple of days there, and then went all around the country. The scenery was beautiful, and the weather was good. It's hard to say what our favorite part of the tour was, though I think our two days in Galway were really nice. We went into Derry and Belfast in Northern Ireland before returning to Dublin and flying home. The attached picture is Janet and me in Dublin on our final touring day. It was a great tour, but the frequent changes of hotels and the long drives in the coach bus were physically stressful. I think we'll stick with cruises for future vacation trips - our hotel will move with us.

I have been busier than I thought since I retired, but it's pretty much "stuff I want to do" busy. All in all, this retirement gig is pretty much what it's cracked up to be! Semper Fi! Dave



Dave and Janet traveling in Ireland. Luv the hat!

I asked Dave what he was going to do now and got back;



'73: Tom Kilcline and Frank Coleman before the Navy Birthday cake cutting.



'73: Happy Birthday Marine Corp!

✉ "Janet and I hope to travel - while the kids are in school. And I'm playing golf a lot more than I used to. I'll be more active in the Marine Corps League. And I'll be doing some substitute teaching after Christmas. I've also gotten back in contact with our local Alumni Association chapter."

Dave, Thanks. Enjoy retirement and happy to hear you have learned what us SWOs always knew, being on a ship is like being home!

Paul Ryan reports on the second two tailgates of the season:

✉ Jim, The Navy-Houston game was a rainy Saturday afternoon, classmates and guests were huddled under the class tent trying to stay dry, and the uniform for the first half for mids and fans was "wear rain gear." The faithful put up with the rain to see an exciting Navy victory.

The fourth game of the season was against the Memphis Tigers. The class Aviators and SWOs hosted the tailgate, which included a celebration of the Navy Birthday, with a birthday cake and a keg of Oktoberfest beer. The Mids came through again and moved their national ranking to 22.



A soggy victory over Houston!

Navy was not the only service having a birthday. Here are a couple of pics of '73 at the Tulsa game celebrating the Marine Corp Birthday.



Steve Ritacco and an unnamed Marine at the Marine Corp Birthday celebration.

Just like the last edition you are in for a special treat. Another picture and story of the Hampton Roads 9th Company contingent! **Bob Hartling, Dave O'Connor**, me, and Chad (a neighbor and friend) went dove hunting in September at **Mark Golay's** farm in Suffolk, Va. As back-ground Mark has gone back to his "roots" and is a gentleman farmer. He has an 80+ acre farm with a small vegetable garden and the main fields were corn this year. We tried for almost a month to get everybody together and finally were able in late September to go. We had a great time; great weather and good friends but unfortunately no doves! Not sure how the doves got the word but they avoided us. Mark was a perfect host and hopefully we will do it again next year.



Bob, me, Mark, Dave and Chad Ready for the Hunt!

That's all for this edition. As I have said before, the only thing better than a picture and story of me is a picture and story of you! So please forward. If you would like to help our wounded service members I encourage you to check out Operation Mend at UCLA. As always, Go Navy and Semper Fi! General

ALUMNI HOUSE

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 Host your special event at Ogle Hall.
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