



'71: (L-R) Pat Kelly, John Ball, Tom Hammons, Bill Nevitt, LTJG Chambers, Bruce Nichols, Vince Zabala and Pat Doyle

Leadership Award ceremony on June 9th. Here's the note from **Tom Hammons**:

✉ "Duke, Attending were seven classmates and many TR officers. The awardee, LTJG Jared Chambers, had not been told he was going to receive the award. The look on his face when the XO announced his name was absolutely priceless. Jared is a Reactor Department LDO who not only qualified for all his engineering watch stations but also found time to become a qualified OOD. The CO was out of town, so the XO presented the award. This was a great way to celebrate the 46th anniversary of our graduation!

It is my sad duty to report the passing of **Val Cushman** on Monday, July 2, 2017, in Ames, Iowa. He attended one year at NAPS and two years at USNA. He then worked as a conductor for several smaller railroads before joining the Chicago North-western Railroad which later became Union Pacific Railroad. Val retired in 2010. Survivors include his three sons, two grandchildren, four sisters, and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held July 15. For online obituaries and condolences visit: [www.carsonstappfuneralhome.com](http://www.carsonstappfuneralhome.com). May Val rest in peace.

Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, and safety in their travels. Life is precious and too short -love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others - as we are richly blessed so may we richly bless others. As much as ever, this is the time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke

# '73

**Life Membership: 64%**  
**Donor Participation: 15.83%**

Pres: **Kevin Callahan**

Sec'y: **CAPT James H. Chapman, USN (Ret.)**  
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Hello everyone, I hope you had a great summer and that it is starting to cool off. As I write this they are predicting 100 degrees in VA Beach. As you read this its Navy Football time so send those pictures and stories in! I have a lot of news to pass on so let's get to it.

First is from **George Watts** and **Dave Stacey**. In early June 28th Company held their annual golf outing at Kiawah Island, SC. Dave told me this was the fourth year for the outing. Here is a great Pic of the participants.

I asked Dave and George what they were doing when not playing golf in South Carolina and received back from Dave; "I retired a year and a half ago from United Air Lines where I was flying B-767's mostly to Europe. Retirement is great but I do miss the flying. Golf, grandchildren,

# '72

**Life Membership: 56%**  
**Donor Participation: 12.79%**

Pres: **CAPT Jim Grover, USN (Ret.)**  
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Sec'y: **CDR Rich Robison, USN (Ret.)**  
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Class Listserv:

**TheGouge-USNA72@googlegroups.com**

Facebook: **USNA Class of 1972**

## CLASS OF 1971

### ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN

# I-Day: 1971-2021

By Duke Longworth '71

The Class of 1971 kicked off its 50th anniversary with Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) and I-Day events on 29 June in Annapolis under the direction of the '71 VP and ALITC Chairman, **Mike McNallen**.

'71 celebrated its 50th I-Day anniversary at the McNallen's (28 June 1967 - 28 June 2017). All present renewed their Oath of Office as Midshipmen followed by short remarks by Perry Martini which included the remarks made by our Superintendent, **RADM Draper Kaufmann '33**.



'71-'21 Honor Coin

On 2021's I-Day, '71 hosted a Parent Picnic and gathering on Hospital Point for the parents and families of '21 who were in Annapolis. Hundreds of parents stopped by to chat with '71ers and their wives as well as view '71 era memorabilia including the 1970 Army-Navy 11-7 Game Day football



Kneeling (L-R) - Bob Capra, Bill Butler, John Martin, John Sattler, Ken Marks, Mike Gaffney, Chris Weaver. Standing (L-R) - Cass Young, Charles Perkins, Al Jacobs, Kevin Green, Jeff Hemler, Greg Harper, Bob Stuart, Mike McNallen, Perry Martini, Pete Zaudtke, Tom Gross, Dan Lyons, Ron Cornelison, Mike Hallahan, and Charles Keating

(shared by our winning QB Mike McNallen). The day was completed when several classmates were hosted by the Superintendent and Commandant at the '21 Oath of Office on T-Court. Senior classmates attending were VADM **Kevin Green**, LtGen **John Sattler**, and RADM **Chris Weaver**. VADM **Ted Carter '81**, Superintendent, recognized the '71 start of ALITC with '21. He described '71 as "the leaders among USNA alumni in support for the success of midshipmen who attend today's Naval Academy."

## 73/73 CLASS NEWS



'73: Men of the Class of 1973 Annual Golf Invitational, front row: Joe Krisiak, Jim Campbell, Marv Clott, Cal Lassetter; Back Row: Chris Myers, Bruce Hargus, Chuck Stevens, Rod B rotherton, John Ashmore, Don Patton, Dave Stacy, Keith Patten, George Watt, Mike Zimet and Doug Rice

travel and yard work seem to be the dominant time fillers for me and the proverbial adage "I don't how I found time to work" does apply. Mary Anne and I are living in Bucks County, PA just outside Philadelphia." George responded with, "I've accepted an appointment as a Senior Fellow with the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) in DC. I will report to the CEO and work with colleagues around the country who run or are on the volunteer boards of public university Foundations. I intend to "transition" into full retirement state, but for now, I'm just easing off the pedal."

Here is an important message from **Dirk Mosis** who is leading the fund raising effort for the Class's 50th Reunion Gift to the Academy; ✉ "Classmates, As of 18 May 2017, we have raised almost \$379,000 toward of goal of \$3 million. This is due in part to our "73 for 73" (\$73.00 for 73 months) project. Thank you to each and all.

If you did not participate in "73 for 73" in 2016, but donated to one or more of our 50th Reunion Gift funds (1973 Academic Support, 1973 Leadership Support, 1973 Athletic Excellence or the Naval Academy Annual Fund), or if you are contemplating doing so this year, your gift counts towards '73's 50th. If you want to support all four funds, just ensure you note "Class of 1973 50th" on check or other script, and the Foundation will allocate your gift 30/30/25/15%. Thank you.

The gift subcommittee has several ideas, which will be formally shared in 2017-2018 for input from the Class. Said gifts must pass muster with Superintendent and Foundation. We have received ideas, and if you have one leaning towards Academics or Leadership, which are the Class' focus, please send and share. But, in any event, a donor can designate focus on any combination of our four funds as you so deem. Just make your intentions known on a note with your check! Or go to USNA.COM to find a pledge form that you can complete and send to the Foundation. Some of you have asked about planned giving. There will also be information on planned giving beginning in 2018, when the campaign really hits full stride. Thank you, Classmates. Dirk

Dirk, Thank you for all your work for the Class.

I received a note and below pictures from **Leif Hendrickson**. It seems we have a TV star in our class! It is **Tom Storch**! I wrote Tom to get the gouge and he wrote back;

### USNA CANDIDATES

*Start the youngster you know on the road to USNA.*

*To request infor or apply online, visit [usna.edu/Admissions](http://usna.edu/Admissions)*



House of Cards starring Tom Storch, co-starring Kevin Spacey

✉ "A friend of mine told me that the House of Cards TV Series was filming in Maryland and that they were always looking for background extras. Since I am retired and had the time, I thought it would be fun to add another hobby to my retirement routine. The casting company that staffs the show periodically advertises for the positions they need. I decided to apply for background roles as a congressman, a government employee, a billionaire, a veteran, a mourner at a funeral, and a political supporter. Much to my surprise, I was selected for most of the roles. I spent 15 days on the set during the past filming cycle. I was intrigued to watch how the show was put together. Each day would start off with an inspection by the wardrobe crew. Once you passed that wardrobe review, you were escorted to a holding area until you were called to the filming set. Each

scene was shot multiple times from every angle. Hours of filming would usually result in 15 to 20 second segments on the final episodes. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially meeting other background extras. Some of the extras were also retired, but the majority were either serious actors who were networking with the hope of finding larger roles or folks who skipped their day job just for the fun of being a part of the show. It is hard to pick me out on the show since I am usually just a face in the crowd but I have received a number of calls from friends saying that they saw me on a couple of this season's episodes."

Thanks Tom and Leif, that's pretty cool!

Here is a last minute input from the Re-union committee;

✉ "The 45th the reunion will take place from August 23 - August 26, 2018. We will get the official schedule out in the near future, but we anticipate having the Shipwreck Party on Thursday evening in the N\* room, golf on Friday and the dinner/dance at The Westin on Friday night. We will have the tailgate in the N\* room on Saturday."

Thanks to **Doug Rice** and all the members of the reunion committee. I will include more word on the reunions when it gets finalized.

I have several pieces of sad news to pass on.

**George Kerlek** passed away this July. Please look for more information on George's life in an upcoming Last Call.

From **Kevin Callahan**;

✉ "Sadly I have to relate the passing of **Scott Krajnik's** "best friend", Barb, after more than 4 years fighting the brain cancer with which she was afflicted. For all who knew her, Barb's smile was magnetic and ever-present, and she always had time for a caring, personal talk. The funeral hall was packed with her many friends, of whom many she'd grown up with in Severna Park. Additionally, '73 was well represented with almost 30 classmates and wives: (I apologize if I missed

someone in the crowd) Carol Peal, Larry and Carol Myers, Dan Stover, John Yackus, George and Peggy Watt, Tom and Mary Storch, Jere and Debra Carroll, Ken and Maureen Reightler, Paul and Laura Ryan, Leif and Karen Hendrickson, Mike Ellison, Ken Johnson, Jim and Rhonda Hamlin, Dan Simpson, John Ashmore, Bruce Hargus, Doug and Char Rice, Tim McClay, Howard Hempenius, Bob VanDine, Bob Barnes, Denny and Joyce Grabulis, Marty Deafenbaugh, Ted Turnblacer, Don Patton, Bill Montgomery, Keith Patten and Judy and Kevin Callahan."

I will stop now. Please remember the families of those we lost. If you are looking for a way to help our injured service members I encourage you to check out Operation Mend run by UCLA. Thanks and as always, Go Navy and Semper Fi! General

## '74

**Life Membership: 57%**  
**Donor Participation: 12.89%**

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### **The Idiot and the Odyssey tour, 2017** Part II

It hardly seems possible. More than 9 weeks on the road. Approximately 12,063 miles. Thirty-seven states (plus one Canadian province). Twenty-seven 8th company mates (plus another nearly three dozen '74 classmates) visited. Four months ago The Idiot and the Odyssey title seemed very appropriate. Now, four weeks after returning home, having time to reflect on two months of enjoying the ties that bind us all together, I wonder why it took over 40 years to make a trip such as this.

As I mentioned in Part I, there is not enough space allowed in this column to begin to cover my visits with my company mates from 8th Company. But there are moments that illustrate why this trip was so important, and why each of us should take the energy and time to enjoy the brotherhood we all share. *The Brotherhood* has become a somewhat over-used expression,

especially since our football team has adopted it to represent their united effort as perhaps the most visible representation of our Academy. But the expression implies a family relationship, and the history and knowledge company mates share after four years together, and the impact we each had upon the development of every other member of the company, bind us together as a family as much as shared blood can. And while it is easy to say such things, especially when trying to fill 2000 words of column inches in Shipmate each month, after two months of visiting my brothers around the country, I can write them proudly without exaggeration or embellishment.

On June 5th your class officers met in Annapolis to discuss the 45th reunion (a mere 24 months away). John Yaeger lives next door to the USNA Alumni Association offices, which is incredibly convenient (unless of course you are looking for a parking spot). In addition to your class officers, (for those of you who do not know who they are, that's **John Yaeger** - President, **Skip Stocknick** - Vice President and **Earl Babcock** - Treasurer), **Rusty Yeiser** also attended. Rusty is the Senior Director - Annual Programs for the USNA Foundation. In this role, he

makes a great advisor to the class, and he's free!

Putting on a reunion is not a simple, or easy task. It only looks that way from the outside looking in. Earle and I support the efforts as we can, but being local, the majority of the work falls on John and Skip's shoulders. We are all fortunate that they are there to carry the burden.

Shortly after leaving the Annapolis area I headed north to Boston. Which took me through Newport, RI. We actually have several classmates in that area, and **Charley Collins** and **John Odegaard** set up a very nice dinner at the New York Yacht Club [and yes, the New York Yacht Club has a *club house* (which is damning with faint praise) in Newport]. **John Meyer** was able to make it, but unfortunately **Jim Fitzsimmons** was away on travel. We had a fantastic dinner (it was *Lobster Night*) and it was great to be able to spend a few hours with classmates while passing through town. The NYYC has some serious restrictions on taking photographs at the club, so we clandestinely shot the attached photo before the dogs attacked.

A couple of weeks later I was in Kansas City (both MO and KS) Visiting **Jeff & Ann Kranz** and **Keith** and **Jean Mercer**. Jeff and Ann held

a dinner my first night there and in addition to Keith and Jean, **Eric** and **Debra Carlson** and **Bob** and **Elaine Culler** joined us. And of course, in keeping with the theme of my trip (which was really a golf vacation disguised as a reunion trip) Jeff, Bob and I got in a round of golf the next day.



Carlsons, Cullers, Mercers & Kranz's

I am not injecting much of our 8th company reunions from this trip. But as a result of the general joy and comradery experienced, my cup truly runneth over. Attached are some photos that illustrate the welcome I received as I rambled from company mate to company mate.



Standing in the Embrace of Friends



'74: Class Officers plus Rusty



'74: John Odegaard, Charlie Collins and John Meyer



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