

# '73

**Life Membership: 65%**  
**Donor Participation: 17.95%**

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Hello All, I hope you had a Great Holiday! Now that the Holidays are over its time to prep for the Dark Ages and those great Dark Ages parties! I am looking forward to the annual Ninth Company Hampton Roads Dark Ages Party. I have a lot of news to pass on so let's get to it!

The first item is our last classmate on active duty has retired! I received the following from Mark Kohring.

✉ On September 20, 2019, Captain Scott "Squat" Haney, DC, USN was the last member of the USNA Class of 1973 to retire from active duty after 42 years of service. If you include his four years at USNA and another four in dental school, Scott served our country proudly for the last 50 years. A reception at the Naval Academy O-Club followed his retirement ceremony which was held in the upper deck of Dahlgren Hall. Congratulations to Scott and Jackie! They will be looking for a retirement home on the east coast as soon as possible.

Scott, Congratulations and on behalf of the Class thank you for your 50 years of service to our Navy and Nation.

After my call for inputs for our 50th I received some great photos and input from Mike Harris.

✉ Jim, These days keeping up with 9 grandchildren and serving the church as a Catholic Deacon gives me plenty to do. My wife Mary and I were blessed with 4 children who have given us some incredible in-laws and "beaucoup" grandchildren. I was ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church about 2 months after I retired from the Naval Research Laboratory at Stennis Space Center, MS. Having worked as an Ocean Engineer most of my career, ministry has given me a completely different perspective from the relatively focused life of an engineer. Now I get an end to end look at important events in people's lives; performing baptisms, marriages and funerals. I also go to jail twice a week to do prison ministry and fortunately I have gotten out of jail twice a week too! It reminds me of the old submarine days. It was important to surface as many times as we submerged! Recently our bishop asked me to serve as the Director of the Diaconate for the diocese. The deacons are an exceptional group of men and it is a privilege to serve them as well as the diocese. Outside of the above I enjoy hiking in National Parks, gardening, and for fun I have 6 chickens and 2 rabbits.



Mike's mother putting on his shoulder boards.



'73: Mike and Mary Harris and their 9 grandchildren.

Mike thanks for the great pictures and great input!

Larry Myers sent the following:

✉ "Jim, The 19th annual 22nd Company reunion was hosted by Chip and Lynne Keener for the 4th year in a row at their home in Houston on Lake Conroe. Company mates attending were Bill and Mary Doherty, Nick Griffith (1st time), Dick and Nancy Hoover (1st time), Bill and Linda Kordis, Larry and Carol Myers, John Stevens, and Jim and Marilyn Van Sickle. Ron and Terri Whisenhunt were turned back to home because of severe thunderstorms and tornados. Dan and BJ Thigpen ('73), who are neighbors, provided a wonderful smoked brisket dinner the first night. Honorary company mates Howard and Keri Orban (USAF) also attended and were head chefs. Activities included golfing, boating, SeaDoo rides, swimming, eating, and drinking. On Saturday the ladies, wearing there pearls, visited the George Bush Presidential library at Texas A&M. The weekend ended Sunday evening with a picnic at the local winery and listening to music. We were happy to see our first time visitors and are hoping to see more

22nd Co. next year. Thanks Chip & Lynne

John Bedker send an update on our classmates in Bluffton, SC.

✉ "Jim, Nick Smilari, Dave Smith and our wives had a very nice dinner together recently. My wife, Linda, and I had just returned from Minsk, Belarus where I was the 2018-2019 Fulbright Scholar. It was a transformative experience and our evening together was an opportunity to share our experiences. The Fulbright was my transition to retirement. My time in Belarus was divided between US Embassy Minsk leadership support, consultative support and advisory services to start-ups, growing businesses and institutions seeking to transition to being part of a westernized economy, and being the Fulbright Professor of Labor, Management and Leadership at the Belarus State Economic University. I had a very busy professional life. My time at USNA was a springboard to life-long learning and service. I received my Masters from Harvard and my PhD from Henley Business School in England. My professional life was varied, challenging and always interesting. I was the CEO of the Loudoun



'73: Ron Scudder, Mark Kohring, Kevin Foskett, Jerry Purciarello, Hank Thompson, Scott Haney and Bruce Hargus at Scott's retirement



'73: Front row: Nancy Hoover, Dick Hoover, Mary Doherty, Bill Doherty, Lynne Keener, Chip Keener, John Stevens, and Bill Kordis Back row: Larry Myers, Carol Myers, Jim Van Sickle, Marilyn Van Sickle and Linda Kordis

Consulting Group, an international leadership and management development boutique consulting firm, an airline pilot with Trans World Airlines (TWA), then American and a Naval Reservist. I was fortunate to have several leadership opportunities as a Naval Reservist. I concluded my Naval Reserve service as the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Unit, Force Protection and Security, Atlantic."

I asked Dave, Nick and John what they were doing these days and got back between, golf, fishing, travel and grandkids life was good in Bluffton!



Sue and Nick Smilari, David and Patty Smith, John and Linda Bedker.

I received the following news from Dan Stover.

✉ "Jim, The 18th Company held its first annual mini-reunion from June 4th to June 7th at Dan and Pat's home in Beaufort SC. Attending were Dan & Pat Stover (hosts), Mike and Carol Peal, Randy and Linda Wight (and their dog, Neo), Pete and Rose Scala, Chuck McKeone, Tom White, Eva Dwyer (Denny's wife) and Karen Kerlek-Miller (George Kerlek's sister). We all had great fun re-living all the good and

not-so-good times from our 4 years together by the bay. Our cake summed it up perfectly - "Fifty Year Friends." Everyone agreed that we haven't laughed so much in a long time! The ladies enjoyed shopping in Charleston and Bluffton and the guys went sailing on Dan's sailboat and to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. Pat treated us to delicious homemade Tennessee ribs with all the fixings and a traditional Low Country Boil. We enjoyed local seafood at a waterside restaurant the last night and a farewell breakfast the final morning. What a wonderful opportunity to get together on the off-reunion years. Those who were unable to attend missed a great time together with company-mates. It was agreed that this would be an annual event for everyone in the 18th company and that we would have it around the same time each year (near graduation day). So 18th Company-mates, mark your calendars for the next few years. Randy and Linda Wight will host the next mini-reunion in beautiful Monterey California from June 4th to June 7th again in 2020. They are already making plans."

I have some sad news to pass on. Mary Bergazzi, wife of Wesley Bergazzi passed away on Saturday, November 2, 2019. An inurnment will take place at the Naval Academy at an unspecified date. In lieu of flowers, Mary requested donations be made to the cancer programs at Carteret Hospital: <https://www.carterethealth.org/Giving/Donate-Now>. Please keep

Wes and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

I am getting to my limit and will stop. Please pass on your company's events and news. I appreciate all the great inputs and I am sorry it's taken so long to publish some of them. As always, Go Navy and Semper Fi! General

## '74

**Life Membership: 58%**  
**Donor Participation: 19.84%**

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Thursday, October 10, 2019 - The 45th reunion ended Sunday (four days ago) and I just got home late Tuesday. This column will not be submitted for another six and a half weeks. But the reunion is very much on my mind, so I want to write a few things down while they are fresh in my mind.

I'm not going into specifics here. There were far too many events during our three days together to put them down in a 2000-word essay. And I'm not inserting photos, as there are hundreds that will be posted elsewhere for all to review. If you were there, you don't need to read about it here. And if you weren't, then I can't really tell you what you missed. But the bonds that we established 45 to 49 years ago seem to strengthen over time, and that needs to be documented for all to consider.

My company (8th Co.) had 22 grads in attendance last weekend, plus two other members that opted out before the beginning of Second Class year. We've had a very tight relationship for many years, and we're always looking to find excuses to get together. Our every fifth-year reunions are looked forward to with great anticipation. But I saw several other companies that had extremely large turnouts also. It is not a coincidence that the companies with a high percentage of attendees at our reunions also have routine communications between themselves. I talked to several classmates that told me that they were only

having a few company mates in attendance, but they had no idea why the rest of the guys weren't coming. It only takes one guy in each company to start the communication tree before most of the guys start communicating on a frequent and regular basis.

The three day-long reunions go by very quickly. And most of the time is spent with your closest friends, usually company mates. For this reason, I tried to stretch the reunion experience by visiting classmates along the way as I drive from California to Annapolis. A special thanx to **John** and **Joletha Sturdy** (8th Co.) in Albuquerque, **Travis** and **Suze Brannon** (34th Co.) in Nashville and **Fred** and **Linda Stuvek** (26th Co.) in Knoxville for hosting me as I made my way east. Having one-on-one time apart from the reunion is very special, and I treasure the time we could spend together. I also spent a couple of days in Memphis. **Mike Carnes** (8th Co.) drove down for the Navy-Memphis football game, and to play golf for two days. We enjoyed two rounds of golf in fantastic weather and enjoyed watching Navy kick Memphis around the football field for half a game. Unfortunately, Memphis reversed the tables in the second half and handed Navy their first loss of the season. But nine days later we witnessed one of the best Navy victories of all time in defeating Air Force while we were celebrating our 45th reunion.

Reunions also mark the transition from the previous class officers to newly elected ones. This year, our only change was class Vice President. **Skip Stocknick** (31st Co.) stepped down after serving in that office for 15 years. In case you missed the presentation our President, **John Yaeger** (25th Co.), made Friday night at the class party, Skip has not only been a tireless force in working on behalf of all of us during that tenure, he has also been serving our class without title for about 20 years before being elected as Vice President as the main, and sometime only, force in organizing and preparing our class tailgates at home football games. John presented Skip with a plaque to commemorate



'73: 18th Company Reunion, Front Row: Dan Stover. Second Row: Carol Peal, Pat Stover, Rose Scala, Tom White. Third Row: Eva Dwyer, Pete Scala, Mike Peal. Back Row: Chuck McKeone, Linda Wight and Randy Wight