



12 June 2020

Esteemed Classmates:

We trust this communique finds you and yours safe and healthy. There is an old Chinese proverb that translates to “May you live in interesting times”. Considering the events of the past few months, many of us may opt for less interesting going forward! In our Dark Ages ALLCLASS communique, we promised to be back to you after the Class of 2023 conquered the Herndon Monument. Little did we know that there would be no Herndon Climb for our 50 year “Link in the Chain” successors, and that the Naval Academy would conduct its [first ever virtual graduation and commissioning ceremony](#). Despite the many challenges of 2020, with an eye toward continuity of mission and commitment to purpose the United States Naval Academy continues to provide [Leaders for the Nation](#).

This edition’s banner photo takes us back 50 years to the end of our first and excessively long academic year and the beginning of Youngster Cruise. Whether you embarked on CLEVELAND, VANCOUVER, SPIEGEL GROVE or the venerable GUADALCANAL, you are likely to still hold fond memories of meeting new Classmates and – for most of us anyway – the first introduction to life at sea on a U.S. Navy gray hull. Those ships have gone the way of the scrap yard and today’s newest Youngsters will be afforded other opportunities for summer training and forming their own life-long bonds. And, speaking of summer training, in partnership with Naval Academy Leadership and the Naval Academy Foundation, we are pleased to announce a series of upcoming webinars oriented toward strategic Margin of Excellence initiatives. We also plan to provide the opportunity to learn more about [estate planning and legacy gifts](#). Our hope is to raise awareness regarding today’s Naval Academy and motivate and inspire each and every Classmate to participate.

On that note, we are inspired by your many gifts and pledges of the past several months. Despite suspending all Classmate solicitations in early March due to the many COVID-19 related challenges facing families and friends, we have made considerable progress toward our Class of 1973 campaign goals. Thus far, over 300 Classmates have given and/or pledged a total of \$2.2 million, with \$1.6 million of that directed to our strategic campaign pillars: [The Center for Academic Excellence](#); [Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership](#); [The Coach Heinz Lenz Fellowship](#); [The Naval Academy Fund](#). And, the final “good news” item is that since our graduation 47 years ago, we as a Class have raised/given nearly \$5.6 million in support of our alma mater. Therefore, we have the potential to reach or exceed **\$7.3 million** all time giving by the time we gather together in Annapolis in Fall of 2023!

Despite the progress, just over 40% of us have found a way to participate in our 50th Reunion Campaign toward our stretch goal of reaching 73% Classmate participation. Although this is a target never achieved by any 50th Reunion Class, your Class Officers and Campaign Leadership Council believed strongly in setting a bar higher than any Naval Academy Class who went before us. If you have made your campaign gift/pledge, we Thank You! If you are still working on that gift or pledge, please consider getting started by simply pledging \$73 per month, for the next five years. This “73 to 73” initiative has proven to be popular (and affordable) for hundreds of Classmates. In this Campaign “*Every Gift Counts...Every Classmate Matters!*” Just as we stood shoulder to shoulder on June 30, 1969 and first called each other “Classmate,” we stand shoulder to shoulder now in assuring the legacy of the GREAT Class of 1973 will continue.

Please watch for an announcement on the schedule of the aforementioned “summer webinars.” We look forward to sharing another exciting campaign update sometime after The Brigade re-forms.

Until then ... **GO NAVY! Non Sibi,**

[Editor’s Note: If you recognize and can name the two Classmates featured in the banner above, please send an email to either dmosis@aol.com or to GPWATT@1973.usna.com . The first to submit the correct names will be duly recognized in a future communique]



Dirk Mosis
Class President



George Watt
Fundraising Chair

Your Campaign Leadership Council –
Bookie Boland, Jim Brill, Ed Cotter, Ross
Harding, Bruce Hargus, John Harvey, Don
Jefferson, Craig Kissel, Tom Kiernan, Mark
Kohring, Rich Kramlich, Max Lindner, Dirk
Mosis, Chuck Munns, Steve Ogden, Eric

Olson, Jack Owen, Tom Storch, George Watt, Bob Willard

WAYS TO GIVE

Every Gift Counts ... Every Classmate Matters!

Donate to the Class of 1973 Campaign

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Email Preferences](#)