

ejection fraction (blood leaving the heart) fell from 55 to 37. I was in heart failure, speech unintelligible and delirious. I'm not sure what miracles God did to fix me but some time later I had a tube inserted above my right lung to release any air build up.

"So, at this point it's hard to find my chest. I have 3 drainage tubes going up to around my heart, pace maker wires set to trigger only if my heart beat goes below 50, the air release tube and lots of outer wires to monitor everything my body does. The process of removing them on the weekend was my path to freedom.

"Karen was awesome - the calm, ever-present, ever-watchful Marine on guard duty taking care of me every day. Even as we are at home now, she makes sure I do everything I'm supposed to do and don't do anything I'm not supposed to.

"The nursing staff, except for one guy were all women, young and cute. I swear they must have to pass the "cute-test" to be a nurse. That said, professional, watchful, detail focused. The exceeded my expectations.

"My doc finally let me out on Sunday. Karen drove me home the 90 miles from Charleston to Bluffton SC. I was sore, tired soooo happy to be home.

"Monday I took my first shower in a week, bandages gone - freedom at last! Sitting on my back porch with first coffee cup in hand, I wept. I don't fear death but want to spend so much more time with family and friends.

"Tuesday - I now have a bunch of meds, exercises to do and 3 x 10-minute walks, which I find very taxing at this point. I'm seeing daily improvement and lot of food in the frig from kind neighbors.

"So thank you my dear friends for your prayer cover and kind thoughts."

Scribe's correction: Last month we reported that Jim Hines passed away; however, his wife's name is Jean, not Carrie. My sincerest apologies for the error.

So, dear readers, here we are at the end of another year. To be certain,

it's been no ordinary year...but what year can be called "ordinary"? As we head into the Holiday season, let's give thanks for the blessings we have, remember those who sacrifice daily by placing themselves in harm's way in the service of our country, and may we all remain vigilant against those who would undermine or corrupt it.

More to come...next year. D. O.

Tried and True with '72.

'73

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 28%

Pres: **Mr. Dirk P. D. Mosis III**

Sec'y: **CAPT James H. Chapman, USN (Ret.)**
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Happy holidays! Susie and I hope you are all well and have great Holidays this year. I will send my annual reminder to not forget that special ex- roommate at this time of year (hint JJ). I am sure many of you are like me and will be happy when 2020 is over. Hopefully 2021 will be less challenging. I have not heard of anyone getting COVID 19, which is great. Keep it up!

You know I love photos and stories from our time at the Academy. I received a great picture of some class parachutists from **Steve Ritacco**, fellow 9th Company mate. I do not have much information on the photo but everybody is smiling and looks happy!



'73's Parachute Club L to R back Roger Lanning, Jim Snead, Steve Ritacco, Jump Master (?) front Vic Cronaur, Eric Olson



'73: Claude and Mike chowing down on some great looking cannonballs!

My thanks to Steve and if anyone has photos of our time at the Academy please send them on.

I heard from one classmate about the recipe for cannon balls that was published in a recent *Shipmate* edition. **Mike Curreri** wrote;

✉ "Dear Jim, After all of these years I am finally writing an update —with visuals— for you to share with our classmates. The first picture is of one of the many memorable occasions during Renee and my visit with four-year roommate **Claude Lamar** and his lovely wife, Debbie. They have spent the last six years or so on a secluded mountain top thirty minutes out of Helena, MT, where they are living an idyllic lifestyle with three dogs and a cat and neighbors only far, far away. It is truly an

adventure every day. Their house is heated only with wood chopped by Claude and even walking the dogs has to be done with snowshoes about nine months of the year. Claude has given up his pediatric practice, now only providing sage advice about COVID medical literature to his many friends on FaceBook. The picture referred to is of course Claude and I getting ready to devour several freshly made cannonballs with hard rum sauce. Having seen a recipe for them in a recent *Shipmate* edition, my wife Renee has been perfecting the process with an eye to our Montana reunion with Claude and Debbie. She definitely succeeded. The other picture is from the swim platform on the stern of our roving home, a 75' Marlow motor vessel, that along with its 64' predecessor have been our primary homes for at least nine months of each of the last eleven years. We have cruised from North of Nova Scotia to below the Bahamas, and nearly everywhere in between. I just wish I had paid more attention to the knot tying lessons during Plebe Summer. That cruising followed several years as an entrepreneur, forming and selling a few technology companies, the last one to Microsoft; a decade or so of private law practice in a national litigation firm; and many happy years as a SWO and a JAGC before the first retirement. Best of all was the chance to run most

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of the private ventures with my wife Renee at my side as the very capable and watchful CFO for the companies. We are now living in our new home in Jacksonville, still cruising some, but planning lots more international land travel as soon as it is allowed. Our on-line Italian lessons are continuing, now at a streak of 244 days! Ciao! Non sibi, Mike"



Renee and Mike Curreri on their new boat

I wrote Claude and asked what he had been doing and received back; ✉ "Jim, Here's my short history after the Naval Academy. My naval career consisted of 2 years aboard the USS KAWISHIWI AO-146 as CIC officer, 1½ years on USS SOMERS DDG-34 as Navigator and then on to the Pentagon for another 1½ years assigned to the Command and Control Technical Center of the DCA. I then decided to go to medical school, but first spent 2 years at the University of Alabama taking biology and organic chemistry courses and meeting and marrying my wife Debbie. I spent the next 4 years in Medical School, while Debbie and I added 2 daughters to our family. Next, it was 3 years as a Pediatric resident at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, where we added another daughter and then spent 30 years as a Pediatrician, just west of Atlanta. I mostly retired in 2016 and Debbie and I moved to a gulch in the mountains north-west of Helena, MT, where we currently happily reside and occasionally entertain friends, relatives, daughters and grandchildren. In addition, we like to travel around the west seeing the sights in our camper."

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'73 Power Prayer Team. I hope it displays well.



Debbie and Claude Lamar

Mike and Claude, thanks for the great updates and letting us know how the cannonballs turned out.

I received a great input from **David Hoagland** on the '73 Power Prayer Team.

✉ "General, A quick update from the other side of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT). Today the '73 Power Prayer Team met for the tenth time under the leadership of Bill Short and Tim Ellis. The group today was 16 strong from all parts of the country and has been meeting via Zoom since shortly after the pandemic began. Twice a month we meet for fellowship and prayer, lifting up our classmates, family, friends, shipmates, the Academy leadership, and our nation's leaders. We have classmates who have recently passed away and those who are going through health challenges. They are all remembered. Today's participants included: **Tim Ellis, David Hoagland, Kai Repsholdt,**

Wes Bergazzi, Brian Young, Bill Short, Doc Hemberger, Jim Garban, Dirk Mosis, Pete Hansen, Rock Hamrick, Bob Shary, Harry Siegel, Bill Ungvarsky, Randy Reinhardt and Tom Simmonds. I have attached in power point a photo from today's Zoom meeting. Prayer requests can be sent to 73ppt@earthlink.net. Hope all is well on the southside in Virginia Beach! Semper Fi! David"

David, Thanks for the update and the Prayer Team's efforts.

I have more big news to share. Dirk Mosis sent me the following;

✉ "Jim, 1973 is honoring our two Distinguished Graduates and our 24 Flag Ranks with Honor Chairs. The U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation Honor Chair program allows the permanent placement of an engraved brass plate to a seat in Alumni Hall. The Class of 1973 chairs are located in rows 20 and 21 in Section N. If and when USS Bancroft Hall pulls into port, and visitors are allowed in the Yard, we can see how proud '73 is of our Flag Officers! Honorees are; **VADM David Architzel, RADM Hugo G. Blackwood, VADM Evan M. Chanik Jr., VADM John G. Cotton, RADM Dennis M. Dwyer, RADM Rand H. Fisher, ADM John C. Harvey, Jr., BGen Leif H. Hendrickson, RDML Steven W. Horton, RADM James D. Kelly, RADM John M. Kelly, VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, LtGen Richard S. Kramlich, RADM Steven A. Kunkle, RADM James M. McGarrah, VADM Charles L. Munns,**

RADM Roger T. Nolan, Admiral Eric T. Olson, RADM Stephen S. Oswald, Admiral Gary Roughead, RADM Paul J. Ryan, MajGen Douglas M. Stone, ADM Robert F. Willard, RDML Thomas J. Wilson III, RDML Mark A. Young, VADM James M. Zortman. "

Congratulations to all.



I have several pieces of sad news to share. **Steven (Steve) R. Nichols**, (21st Company) passed away on August 8, 2020, in Norfolk, VA. After serving 20 years as an F-14 pilot, Steve retired and flew as a commercial pilot with Southwest Airlines. A family inurnment ceremony will be held at the US Naval Academy Columbarium in Annapolis, MD at a future date.

Charles Bradley (Brad) Knutson (30th Company) passed away on May 10, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, a small family graveside service was held in Hoover, Alabama.

Look for more information on Steve and Brad's lives in an upcoming Last Call and please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

That's all the news. Please remember our service members who are away from home. Again, we hope you have great Holidays and are safe and in good health. Thanks and as always; Go Navy! and Semper Fi! General