

## '73

**Life Membership: 65%****Donor Participation: 33.64%**Pres: **Mr. Dirk P. D. Mosis III**Sec'y: **CAPT James H. Chapman, USN (Ret.)**  
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Hello everybody, I hope you are doing well and enjoying spring. I do not have much news which is not surprising since the Dark Ages are typically slow. Unfortunately 9th Company was not able to have its annual Dark Ages Party at the **Golay's** due to COVID restrictions and concerns. Hopefully by the time you read this the vaccination program will be in "High Gear" and folks will be able to get the vaccine and return to what they like doing. I do have some news to pass on.

The first is an announcement from **Max Lindner, Mike Zimet, Mark Kohring, George Watts** and **Dirk Mosis**, our 50th Reunion Leadership Council;

✉ "Greetings Classmates! As we continue to sail toward our 50th Reunion gathering in Fall of 2023, I am taking this opportunity to update everyone on where we are with our 50th Reunion Gift Campaign and to announce an innovative intra-Company level competition. As I write this, we are enjoying remarkable progress against our Campaign project goal of \$2 million, as well as our over-arching goal of raising (or exceeding) \$7.3 million in all time class giving (since graduation). Additionally, through the generosity of over 300 Classmates thus far, we've been able to establish two significant opportunities for excellence at the Naval Academy: 1) The Heinz Lenz Fellow in Physical Mission; and 2) The recently announced Fred Minier Ethics Fellow position in the Stockdale Ethics Center. Therefore, I am confident our Class will rise to the occasion and meet or exceed our financial goals in academic, athletics and leadership/character excellence. That said, we are well short of our stretch goal of 73% of overall Classmate participation. Of all of our campaign objectives, this one

best epitomizes our motto of Non Sibi and reminds us of the bonds that unite us all. With that, your 50th Reunion Campaign Leadership Council is launching the 50th Reunion Campaign Color Company Competition to help boost the participation in all of our 36 Companies. Scoring metrics and reunion recognition details will be forthcoming, but the ultimate goal is to increase campaign participation while having some fun. The Company achieving the highest percentage of participants in our 50th Reunion Campaign will be declared the Class of 1973 50th Reunion Color Company, and be recognized as such when "two or three shall meet" in October 2023. So, no marching...no Class standing...no Order of Merit...no grease. Just participate and give your Company a shot at the most unique Color Company Competition in 175 years of Naval Academy history!

George Watt, Campaign Chair, and I want to thank Classmates Mark Kohring, Max Lindner and Mike Zimet for their innovative thought leadership and willingness to run with the Competition, coordinating with Company Reps, to further evidence that '73 cares and supports our alma mater! Thanks CLASSSSSSMAAAATES and remember: Every Gift Counts ... Every Classmate Matters!"

In other news I received a "Bucket List" input from **Art Kuehne** who wrote;

✉ "A couple of years ago, my ex-roommate, **Dan Thigpen**, and I spent a couple of days together at Dan's deer hunting lease in south Texas. As is to be expected, we spent many hours together in a hunting blind discussing the world situation, children and grandchildren, cars, careers, etc. Somewhere in the discussions we also discovered that both of us dreamed of someday going on an elk hunt in the Western U.S., and we resolved to make it happen before we got too old! After two years of planning, scheming, and repeated frustrations, Dan and I were able to make our dream a reality this past October. With the help of our wives, B.J. Thigpen and

Linda Kuehne, we each made the long drive to Bozeman, Montana, where we had rented a cabin where they would stay while Dan and I were on our elk hunt. Our elk hunt was to be from a tent basecamp deep in the Snowcrest Range of southwest Montana. To get to the camp required a two hour drive in a 4WD truck over progressively worse roads to the trailhead where we picked up our horses for the three hour ride to basecamp. For the remainder of our time in camp we would be riding horses, with only an occasional short hike. As Dan would later characterize it, the riding was "varsity level" on steep and narrow forest trails, often covered with snow and ice, and navigated in the dark. On a number of occasions our travels took us to altitudes above 9,000 feet. Unfortunately for us, weather turned out to be a major negative factor during our hunt. On the first day of the hunt, we awoke to a temperature of -6 F. The second day was worse, -16 F. Although the weather warmed during the remainder of our stay, the initial cold weather significantly disrupted the elk movement patterns. We did see a number of elk, but they were always either already too far away or moving quickly as they fled. Although we did not harvest an elk during our hunt, it was nonetheless an epic adventure and a once in a lifetime experience. Dan and I would especially like to thank our wives for their support and understanding in our pursuit of youthful dreams."

**Art and Linda Kuehne****Dan and B.J. Thigpen****Dan and Art high in the Snowcrest Range of Montana**

I asked Art what he was doing now and received back;

✉ "I retired from the Navy in 1994, and then from the State Department in 2015. My wife and I decided to move out of Northern Virginia as soon as we could after I retired. We found a great property here in Lexington, VA. We have 19 acres, an apple orchard and a trout pond. I spend most of my time doing various jobs and projects here on the property. I am active in our church, Timber Ridge Presbyterian, but I also belong to the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America where I've helped with the various fundraising projects, etc. I've also helped with the VMI fishing club but they haven't been active this past year because of the COVID. I've also gotten back into shooting skeet here. We have a private shooting range I belong to where we shoot trap once a week, and a friend has an informal "sporting clays" range on his property where we also shoot once a week, weather permitting. It's funny that some days it seems you just can't miss, and the next day you can't hit anything.



'73 Looking sharp!

Art, Thanks for the news. That sounds like a fantastic and really cold adventure. I go skeet shooting most every week with some 9th company friends. I seem to have a lot of days not hitting much!

I thought I would pass on this picture from our plebe summer I received from **Bruce Hargus**. It's hard to believe we looked so young.

As a reminder if you want to send on some memories and possibly a picture of your "midshipman car" that would be super! Also what you are doing to stay active and have fun during the pandemic.

That's all the news I have. The good news is I still have not heard of anyone getting COVID 19. Keep it up! And stay safe. As always, Go Navy! And Semper Fi! General

**Shipmate editor's note:** In the January-February '21 issue the '73 class column from November-December '20 was inadvertently repeated and published. Please look for the January-February '21 '73 class news in the May 2021 issue. *Shipmate* staff apologizes for the oversight.

# '74

**Life Membership: 59%**

**Donor Participation: 37.22%**

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Oh boy. 2021. A new year. A new start. Still, more of the same issues, experiences and bad news that

seemed to permeate every small crevice in the landscape of 2020.

My year started by informing my (8th) company that one of our brothers was entering hospice. On January 8, 2021 Don Hagerling passed away from cancer. The next day, we lost Bob VerSchure (11th Co.) also as a result from cancer.

And the beat goes on...



Don Hagerling

By the very nature of the profession for which we were trained, many of our classmates ended up doing work that cannot be talked about in social settings, or even at reunions between classmates. We may have some idea of the general subject matter of a particular individual's work, but not the details. And so often, it is those individuals who are quietly making

the most significant contributions to our nation. Such is the case of Don Hagerling. I will not go into detail here. Please read his obituary in the *Last Call* section of this or a future issue for those details. But I cannot submit this column without sharing the knowledge that Don was truly the father of computer/cyber security measures for the Navy, and for the US Government in general. He was a quiet man of good humor. He was loyal to his associates. And in the face of adversity, he never resulted to passing blame, or degrading those who opposed him. His strength of character and his stamina to persevere is what we remember most about the man. And in his dying days, he prayed for his company mates. Every one of my 8th Co. brothers is better for having Don as one of our numbers, and the nation should be grateful for his service.

I spoke with Doug Bloomquist (13th Co.) a couple of days ago, and learned that he and his significant other, Lynn, recorded/released their first album and a single late last year. In case you don't remember, plebe summer, Doug was one of the founders of the band that played all the 60's music (including the *Rice Krispy's* theme song) at the talent show on parent's weekend, at numerous hops through our four years, and, under the name *Danforth*, has been playing at our reunions since graduation. A couple of years ago, I had the pleasure to sit in on a practice session of *Danforth West* at Doug's house in Los Gatos, California, as he and Pat Haney (7th Co.) were getting ready for their next gig. With the covid-19 pandemic getting in the way of routine practice, and shutting down of group gatherings where they would normally perform, Doug and Lynn started spending time writing their own songs this past year. With their first album now available through most of the mainstream streaming services, they are working on their second album. They perform under the name of *Second Story Duo*, and you can access their work by googling @secondstoryduo | linktree. There

is a personal story that Doug shares on the site that needs to be read, and the related song needs to be listened to. I won't go into more here. Just go to the link, and explore what Doug and Lynn have put together.



Doug &amp; Lynn Bloomquist

I also got a note from Rick Vizzier (17th Co.) last week. Viz was actively encouraging those of us on his USNA e-mail list to not hesitate to get our covid-19 shots. He reported that Tom Lozier (19th Co.) got his shot a couple of days earlier and was doing fine. But then I received a note from John Branchflower (also 19th Co.) relating that Loz woke up that morning with hair growing on his tongue, so I'll leave you all to your own judgment here.

I'm sure you all recognize that when I resort to including a note like this from Branch, I am out of current info to pass on. The pandemic has certainly curtailed social gatherings, limited travel and confined many of us to our homes. So it is understandable that I've heard little from the class these past two months. But there is more than just hope on the way. By the time you read this I suspect that hospitalizations and deaths from the virus will be considerably lower than in recent days. Like Viz, I also encourage you all to get your vaccinations. I have it on good authority that, despite what you read on the internet, it will not sterilize all the woman in our country, and there really isn't a trackable chip included in each inoculation. (Unfortunately, I can't be so sure about your cell phone.)

Stay healthy.

Roger