

age the more moving the moment. Which is why we thought it appropriate to close this column with an observation from **Pete Grieve (6th Co.)** occasioned by him viewing the monument photo: "As tough as it is to read, every time, there is a certain elegance and brightness to it. They will always be locked in our memories as we knew them then — young, fit, handsome and full of life. They never age."

And as long as we keep those memories alive, never truly gone...nor ever forgotten.
Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 44.69%

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Every year, **Jim Shulson (22 Co)** and **Tony Shaddix (24th)** play in an "average Joe" tournament in Laughlin, NV. It is a three-day scramble event where teams change every day (randomly selected). Play was on three



'78 Golfers in Nevada

In the "Whenever two or three shall meet" category, Jaye and **Dave Brown (7th Co)** played host in Palm Harbor, FL, to a couple of 7th Company Sea Dog companions. In April, it was **Charles "Spence" Witten** and Ann Roth who visited. In May, **Jeff Clites** popped in.



'77: Doc, Bruce and Ron with Philly's 2028



Also, back in May, **Ray Kwong (32nd Co)** hosted **Ray Bracy (25th Co)**, **Craig Diffie (10th Co)** and yours truly to the Orioles game against the Yankees. It must have been this lucky mix of '78 that enabled the Os to come away with a win!



Craig and the two Rays

Continuing the "meeting theme," First Company had their semi-annual mini-reunion. This time the gang gathered in Missouri. Attending were: **Doug Grau, Ken Heffernan, Bill Landay, Bruce Carter, Jack McCourt, Warren Krull, Bob Schwaneke, Bill McAlpine, Peter Bannon, Mark Hubal** and **Eric Rosenlof**.



1st Co at Mutleys, St. James, MO



Bruce Carter as Green Acres' Mr. Douglas

Our Another Link in the Chain (ALTIC) activity has been going strong. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to date. After a gang of eleven attended the January NAPS Dining In, our class was invited to attend their graduation ceremonies in May. The honor of being the Graduation Parade speaker and Reviewing Officer went to **Clarke Orzalli (23rd Co)**. Though Clarke was limited in his time to speak, he packed some great wisdom into his five-minute constraint. He linked what we will do as mentors for the Class of 2028 to the expectation and responsibility of NAPSters to be mentors to their classmates. Already having a year – and in some cases more – of military experience under belts, they will be expected to help guide and lead their classmates to

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78/79 CLASS NEWS

Elizabeth and I joined our hosts, our 2016 "Adopted grad" and his lovely bride, **David Johnson** and Jayme Johnson at the Graduation Gala.



Clarke flanked by Coastie Supe and NAPS XO and CO

Many classmates have participated in local Parents Club and Alumni Chapters for their "Welcome Aboard/Sendoff/Recognition" picnics, dinners and receptions for their Class of 2028. Among them, as of the date of this article submission, were: **Chris Dougherty** (14th Co), **Bruce Latta** (25th Co), **Ron Lovelace** (31st Co), addressed the Philadelphia area Parents' Night Dinner. **Dave Balestrieri** (4th Co) addressed the San Diego Alumni Chapter. He was joined by **Rusty Chang** (4th Co) and **John Sturges** (34th Co). **Dave Surgent** (24th Co) and **Dave Bennett** (27th Co) addressed folks in Richmond, VA. **Lee Yarberry** (9th Co) spoke at the Alabama Alumni Chapter. **Tom Martinez** (19th Co) spoke at the Greater Washington, DC Chapter picnic. He was joined by first company's **Doug Grau** and **Ken Heffernan**, as well as yours truly. **Doug Grau** (1st Co) and **Craig Diffie** (10th Co) presented to the Northern Virginia Parents Club. **Ray Luevano** (6th Co) presented to the Sacramento Parents Club. **John Klose** (16th Co) met with folks at the Pensacola Alumni Chapter event. **John Aclin** (27th Co) was with the Parents Club of North Carolina and **Dick Findlay** (15th Co) was at the Central New York Alumni Chapter. **Frank Klepacki** (13th Co) addressed the Western New York Alumni Chapter event in Rochester. **Chris Carlson** (18th Co) was with the Oregon and Southwest Alumni Chapter and Washington Parents Club gathering in Lake Oswego, OR. **Chris May** (15th Co) was also out west and addressed folks in Puget Sound Washington. As this edition of *Shipmate* reaches your homes many other classmates will have briefed other "Plebes-to-be" and their families at Parents Clubs and Alumni Chapters across the nation. We also will have been present "in force" on Induction Day.



79: Cheryl & Ken Vanderhorst and family



Doug and Craig Addressing the NoVA Parents and 2028

Until next month, Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 17.19%

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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings 79ers!

In just another month or so, it will be time for our quinquennial return to where it all started, Crabtown USA. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there on 19-22 September 2024. The reunion committee has put in a lot of work to make this a great weekend.

Of course, the main event is the tailgater while we watch the Mids take on the Memphis Tigers. The game, however, is only part of the fun: the entire reunion schedule can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/xKTV9>.

Sometimes with all the planning and purchasing of airline tickets, hotel rooms and rental cars, one can forget the obvious – you need to register for the reunion itself! You can take care of that little item here: <https://>

shorturl.at/WijPB Also, if your 79 attire needs sprucing up (or it has mysteriously "shrunk" over the last few years), the class store is now open: <http://www.usnaclasstore.com/79store.html>. You can also visit the Alumni Association 79 partner store here: <https://shorturl.at/TweaL>.

If for some reason one of these links doesn't work, shoot me an email and I'll send it to you.

First up this month is a 26th Co. update from that intrepid stargazer **Alan "Doughball" Whiting**:

✉ I periodically keep in touch with most of 26th Co. '79; here are some notes from the New Year's batch of emails (yes, I'm behind; aren't we all?):

Most of us are retired or nearly so nowadays. **Harry Murphy** had **Fish (Kevin Jackson)** as his pilot on a trip from Atlanta to Norfolk a few years ago; photo attached. Fish has since retired at the mandatory age. **Burke Shade** is battling breast cancer, and as of the last note, winning, surrounded by something like 23 grandchildren. **Bob Klocek** went back to work part-time supporting the EDO community. **Steve Kremer** has retired to Smith Mountain Lake in southwest Virginia, an enviable location. **Jon Brazee** continues to write science-fiction books and, more importantly, sell them, while his twin daughters have reached the age of 5 and are growing like weeds. He lives in Colorado Springs and has been known to sponsor Zoomies. **Joel Shugars** has taken to appearing in the community theater; a picture of him as Young Frankenstein is attached. **Moe Montana** will soon retire from COMSUBLANT staff; he visited Joel on a recent Florida trip, picture attached.