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From: USNA Class of 1971

Sent: Thursday, Dec 23, 2021

Subject: Class of '71 - Gratitude and Hope

Classmates:

I come to you during this special season with a message of gratitude, optimism and hope.

First in gratitude – I most grateful for the abundant life we have all shared these past 54+ years since we met on the hot summer day in June 1967. We were granted an opportunity to attend an institution that has stood the test of time since its humble beginnings on Fort Severn in 1845. We were able to spend up to four years together in our home by the bay and through thick and thin and a lot of perseverance some of us were able to graduate and go on to further service in the fleet and corps. This year we celebrated our half century since graduation and what was undoubtedly our finest hour together as we commemorated and memorialized those who have gone before us and celebrated together those still standing and for our many successes and accomplishments in service, family and fellowship. The October 50th Reunion weekend could not have been more complete with so many attending, especially at our tailgate and class dinner -- and to put the icing on the cake -- Navy's come from behind victory on the gridiron over a highly favored conference opponent.

This is also the Year of Gratitude from our Alumni Association and Foundation for the many of you that have contributed to the latest campaign in raising over \$540M to so many great enhancements to our alma mater and in tremendous support for the Brigade of Midshipmen. To that end, the great Class of 1971 raised over \$4M during this campaign as we contributed to Athletic Excellence, the Center of Academic Excellence and to the general fund. Bravo Zulu!

We look forward with optimism to the coming year and many years together as we draw closer to our family, friends, and classmates. The message of hope is all around us during this Christmas Season as we stand firm as Americans to remain bonded together as a nation and to forever live and abide by our esteemed values of freedom and liberty.

I wish you health and safety as we move forward to what has to be a better 2022!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; and Duces Virum

Perry Martini

President Class of 1971