

profession; and an expectation to win on the field and in life." Yep, he was all those things. Congratulations to Gavin Hickie, the Director of Rugby, who was selected as the initial recipient of that award.

As many of you already know, we have lost several Classmates in the past few months.

Chuck Petrusch died peacefully at home on 23 September 2020 in Marietta, GA. He was born in Pittsburgh and was the oldest of four kids. Chuck had a one-of-kind personality appreciated by those who knew him best. If you could sneak a couple of drinks in him or catch him in the right mood, he would regale you with childhood stories of his athletic prowess including how he "went yard" on the baseball field, deer hunting, and motorcycle riding. He came to the Academy from NAPS and, after graduating with us as a member of the 13th Company, became a Marine helicopter pilot. He went on to have a long and successful career in the automotive industry, including Ford Motor Corporation, Volkswagen, and Nissan North America. In his retirement he couldn't sit still, so he started ushering for the Atlanta Braves at Turner Field, then moved to SunTrust Stadium as a supervisor and also worked as an usher at the new Mercedes Benz Stadium. Additional details and a Tribute Wall can be found at: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/18436764/Charles-Chuck-Petrusch>. The Class extends its deepest sympathy to Suzie and their family.

Paul James "PJ" Lewis, of Waverly, TN, passed away on 17 September 2020. Growing up with four brothers and sisters, he came to the Academy from Youngstown, OH, where he was a member of the 2nd Company. He left prior to graduation in 1971 and joined the Naval Reserves while finishing college in the Midwest. He worked for IBM in mainframe and software sales and development, and subsequently moved back to Annapolis to start a family. He worked at the State Department where he remotely assisted Embassy personnel in

Tanzania and Kenya after the 1998 Embassy bombings, which earned him a special commendation from former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. He also worked at the National Security Agency following the 9/11 attacks. Paul started his own company, Topsail Software, and did his own contracting and consulting up until his death. The Class extends its deepest sympathy to Paul's family.

Guy Carrier, of Charlottesville, baker of the best chocolate chip cookies the world has ever known, passed away on 30 September 2020. He was born in Plattsburgh, NY and came to the Academy from Anderson, CA, where he graduated with us as a member of the 19th Company. Guy retired from the Navy as a Commander after 20 years on active duty and spent the remainder of his career with The Mitre Corporation, where he retired in 2013. Guy was preceded in death by his best friend and love of his life, his wife of 40 years, Jacquelyn Carrier. Their passion for scuba diving and all things tropical led them on adventures to places like Mexico, Honduras, and the Galapagos Islands. The Class extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

Tom Rodjom, of Murrysville, PA, passed away on 24 November 2020 from leukemia. Tom was born in Washington, PA, and graduated with us from the Academy as a member of the 11th Company. He retired from the Navy as a Captain with 30 years of dedicated service. He also worked for 30 years as a Professional Engineer for ALCOA Technical Center, retiring in 2009. He was a beloved husband and father, a devout Catholic and member of Mother of Sorrows Church, and an active member in his community. He served on the board of MASA and FAST, was instrumental in building several of the soccer fields throughout Murrysville and served on the Parish Council and Financial Council at Mother of Sorrows Church. He loved sports, especially when he was coaching or cheering on his sons, and enjoyed his time fishing and boating with family and friends at his second home in Deep Creek, MD. The Class

extends its deepest sympathy to Deborah and their family.

Please keep the families of all of our deceased Classmates in your thoughts and prayers.

Well, that's it for this month. Stay safe and stay in touch. More to come. D. O.

Tried and True with '72.

'73

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 30.12%

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

Sec'y: **CAPT James H. Chapman, USN (Ret.)**
769 Largo Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464-2417
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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!

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,



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

73/73 CLASS NEWS

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 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"



Claude and Mike chowing down on some great looking cannonballs!

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 1-1/2 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."



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 Ungvasky, 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



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

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 send me the following:

✉ "Jim, 1973 is honoring our two Distinguished Graduates and our 24 Flag Ranks with Honor Chairs. The US 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 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.

Shipmate editor's note:

In the November-December 2020 issue page 72, we mistakenly placed the wrong photo in the column submission from Mike Curreri. We regret the error and the intended photo appears below.



Renee and Mike Curreri on their new boat

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

'74

Life Membership: 59%

Donor Participation: 33.99%

Pres: **John Yaeger**

Corr Sec'y: **Roger McEvoy 745677**

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December 2, 2020

We were all very fortunate to form the class of 1974 at one of the most prestigious undergraduate institutions in the nation. Obviously, an institution such as USNA attracts an incredible number of highly qualified and extremely motivated candidates. As expected, many go on to great careers that would be considered highly successful by virtually any observer. So many, in fact, that we tend to take it for granted, and the truly great producers, contributors, achievers, leaders start to blend into the group as just another classmate. By "just another" I mean that the very special bond we all share, a bond I have spoken of in this column on numerous occasions, means we tend to value the class as a whole on a level plain, with a few individuals with which we have individually become especially close.

But every once in a while, we stop and recognize an individual

who truly stands above. A brother whose personal example of what at school we called The Whole Man Concept goes beyond the esteem in which we hold our classmates. Unfortunately, far too often, it is bad news that has us focus on the uniqueness and greatness (and I use that word with conscious knowledge of its true meaning) to which I refer. On October 6, **Travis Brannon** (34th Co.) passed away after a tenacious battle with pancreatic cancer. It was my responsibility to trim Trav's obituary from the nearly 1000 words he himself penned shortly before his death, to the 409 word maximum allowed by *Shipmate*. But I found it impossible to due him justice in 409 words. And so, contrary to my routine habit of relating the passing of a classmate at the end of these columns, I begin this one with my personal tribute to Trav.

I didn't know Trav when we were midshipmen. We were paired together at the class golf tournament at our 30th reunion. I did not remember that he had been our Spring Set Brigade Sub Commander. I didn't know of his exemplary career as a fighter pilot: a career that included attending Top Gun and a tour at TPS in PAX River, being one of the first Naval Aviators to fly the F/A-18 Hornet. I didn't know he had flown over 4000 hours in 30 different aircraft types during that time. I didn't know about his riding an F-4, during an inflight emergency, well past the point when he should have ejected, because he was confident he could recover the aircraft from its fatal malfunction, finally ejecting when he was sure death was the only foreseeable outcome of his efforts. It wasn't, and years later, when he recalled that incident to me, he laughed about that decision. What I learned that day on the golf course in 2004 was that Trav was as man of quiet confidence, high intelligence, an astute observer of people, and a natural empathy to see the whole person before his eyes. A lesson that was to be reinforced numerous times over the past 16 years.

Success was not something to which Travis aspired. But living life

to the fullest every day rendered it inevitable for him. He left the Navy to attend medical school, graduating with a specialty in anesthesiology. He subsequently established a very successful pain management practice in Nashville. When I was diagnosed with cancer 2 ½ years ago, Trav became both a trusted adviser and supporter through that ordeal. In a situation where no one can really do anything to make things better, he actually did. His optimism was more than reassuring. In the times I spent with him over the past 16 years I repeatedly witnessed his ability to improve the whole of any group he was in, without making himself the center of the group. THAT is true leadership. And when he lost his son, Travis, in a Marine helicopter accident in early 2019, he was open about the experience and the grief, without making it a burden to others. THAT is true strength.

I had the pleasure of spending a night with him and Susie at their home in Nashville last year on my way to our 45 reunion. I was included in a group dinner with several of their friends. The respect Travis had for his fellow man was certainly not bound by our Academy fraternity. He cultivated genuine affection and respect with everyone he met. It was a joy to witness, and a joy to receive.

Those of you who did not know Trav personally, you have my deepest sympathy. In a group that contains many people of greatness, Trav stood head and shoulders above the whole. But on an individual basis, you never felt he looked down

upon you, or anyone else. We have lost an extraordinary brother. But he left us with an example of just how powerful the ideas upon which the Academy is based are when incorporated every day of our lives. The final words he wrote in his obituary were: "Go Navy, beat Army".

I got a note from **Lew Allman** (25th Co.) recalling his efforts to touch base with everyone in his company. It was that effort that lead to his learning about Ken McBrayer being killed at the World Trade Center on 9-11. Out of that effort, 25th Co. has established a company get-together 2 to 4 times annually and they have named their activity: 25th Company's Most Honorable Older Gentlemen's Society (Class of '74 Old Farts Branch). They meet at the TAP Sports Bar at National Harbor, and their last meeting included **Tom Horrigan**, **Lew Alleman**, **John Yaeger** (our esteemed Class President), **David Teply**, **Terry Krummel**, **Tim Foresman**, **John (JJ) Waickwicz**, **Dave Leon**, **Tom Tiffany**, and **Ed Steiner**.

I also got a note from **Bud Sawyer** (17th Co.) telling me that **George Corrigan** (27th Co.) recently received PCS orders to Saint Francis of Assisi Church in the Quantico/Triangle area. After leaving the Navy George became a Franciscan Priest. He had been at Sacred Heart in the Tampa area for the past 13 years. Bud writes a very nice note about being their when George came to town. I won't change his words:

✉ Over ten years ago, I had the privilege of announcing to the class of "change of command" at my



'74: 25th Company Get-together