

From: Gosnell, Jim

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 7:17 PM

Subject: Skip Anderson Update

Importance: High

Greetings Classmates and Friends,

Nancy and I had the honor of visiting with Skip, Susan, Kate (his daughter and her puppy Cash), Steve and Tiffany (Susan's brother and his wife) and we brought our two French bulldogs-Libby (girl) and Remy (boy). We had a fantastic happy hour, sharing delicious shrimp, cold drinks, laughing at three dogs running around having a blast and enjoying the company of a great man Skip and his family!

Skip is slowing down more, resting more and gracefully enjoying his time with all of us. His mind is sharp as ever. He kept us laughing at a few of his comments and is in the highest of spirits. Keep the prayers and thoughts coming. Through it all he maintains a grateful and positive attitude, an example of the fine Officer and Gentleman that he has always been!

A few photos to share:

Skip, Susan, Kate and Nick (his son is back from travel now)



Dogs in play (Cash-larger, Remy-beige, Libby-spotted)



Cash on Guard Duty at the feet of Skip!



Just a couple of young midshipmen sharing a cold beer and talking about those “Glory Days” from the U.S. Naval Academy years of 1976-1980! Go Navy! Beat Army!



Time, tide, and formation wait for no man....

Sir, you now have limited minutes until the sunset formation. Formation goes in Heaven at your appointed time. The uniform for final formation is Renegade Sierra Hotel Flight Suit. The menu for evening meal is shrimp, salad, potatoes, steak, salmon, cold beer, and good company with ice cream for dessert. The officers of the watch are: the officer of the watch is CDR Peter “Pi” Andreasen, lifelong Friend Extraordinaire. The midshipman officer of the watch is CDR Brian “Woodie” Wood, 12th Company Commander. All hands are reminded to shut off all lights, running water, and electrical appliances, lock all confidential lockers, and open all doors. Time, tide, and formation wait for no one. I am now shoving off. You now have a limited number of minutes, sir!

One of the things that Skip has done so well in his life is "If you do the right thing next and the next thing right, you will build a great life for yourself and those around you." Jim Stovall writes about that below:

A Letter to Myself
by Jim Stovall

Recently, I heard about people undertaking the exercise of drafting a letter they would send to the person they were as a teenager or young adult. Obviously, the concept of sending a letter to oneself decades in the past is absurd and fanciful, but it makes some powerful points and reveals some deep truths. While we are the same person, the ensuing years have hopefully brought us wisdom, experience, perspective, and the elusive element we call maturity.

One of the biggest elements I would write about to my teenage self involves priorities. Things that I knew were important, even critical, when I was a teenager, have proven to matter very little, if at all, in the world I live in today. As a teenager, it's hard to see beyond winning the big game, going on the right date, or being considered cool among all of your friends.

Today, as I look back on those issues, it's hard to remember the big game, the dating drama, and trying to be cool—which I gave up on a long time ago. Once I looked beyond my main priorities as a teenager, I had to consider the aspects of life I overlooked at that time that have proven to be critical throughout the ensuing years and up to this very day.

As a teenager, I was certain I would be healthy and live forever regardless of what I did. I was an athlete at the time and was convinced that I could abuse my body without long-term consequences. I think about those decisions, or lack of decisions, on cold mornings when I try to get up and get going through the lingering aches and pains of middle age.

While it's fascinating to consider the things I know now that I wish I'd known as a teenager, the real imperative today is to consider what priorities I'm emphasizing now that may not matter in the future. What aspects of life am I overlooking that will make a difference down the road?

Life is a marathon and not a sprint. We want immediate results regarding things that matter to us, and we want to ignore consequences in areas we believe are insignificant. For better or for worse, the way we do anything is the way we do everything. If you do the right thing next and the next thing right, you will build a great life for yourself and those around you. If you only look at the things that matter to you in the here and now, you are ignoring the inevitable truth that someday you will live in a different time and place.

As you go through your day today, take actions now that will make you happy later.

Today's the day!

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One day we will all be where Skip is today, we will look back and remember our families, our friends, our classmates, our shipmates, our good times, and be grateful that God has provided us with so many blessings to take care of the ones we love, as we cherish the precious time, we have left on this planet earth. May God Bless each of You and Your Families.

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