

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN

SEP - OCT 2016

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Dear 'mates: Hey Flower Children, I wanted to pass along a story that was triggered by a milestone noteworthy of some mention. Ten years and \$1,000,000.00. OK, let me explain. Back in May of this year, classmate **George "Goose" Siragusa** (CAPT, USNR) delivered a check for \$101,523 to USNA on behalf of the ExxonMobil Foundation. This year's check, representing 2015-2016 employee donations that are matched 3:1 under the ExxonMobil Educational Grant Matching program, brought the total donated to USNA Foundation by ExxonMobil's Foundation since 2006 to \$1,115,487.54.

"For ExxonMobil employees and retirees like myself, the three to one company matching program has been a terrific way to support our alma mater, and at the same time help develop the next generation of Science and Technology leaders," states Goose. "How? Well some of these funds find their way into

USNA's Science, Technology, Engineering and Match (STEM) camps that run in the yard during the summer." The aim of the program is to encourage underserved 8th through 11th graders to consider pursuing a course of study in engineering and technology throughout high school and college. The program does just that by "lighting that spark" at the world class facilities at the USNA campus. And the "secret sauce" in USNA's STEM program is the leadership and inspiration provided by the mids.

<Photo 75#1: "Byron and George">

Having retired from the Reserve and now

retired from the energy company at the end of 2015, George started a 3rd career gig as a Senior Partner in a Strategy and Marketing Consulting firm. He will now pass the baton of coordination for this Foundation to Foundation liaison to another USNA Graduate that is currently employed by ExxonMobil.

After the check presentation Alumni Association president **Byron Marchant** expressed his gratitude. "Thanks in part to the generosity of the ExxonMobil Educational Grant Matching Gift Program over the past ten years, some of our key programs, like Summer STEM program, can continue to be a huge success." George ended his annual visit with a courtesy call with Vice Admiral Carter. Well done, Goose!

<Photo 75#2: "Visiting the Supe">



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President **Chick Cikanovich** checked in with a report on the actual delivery of the Class of 75 Leadership Swords to the 2014 and 2015 recipients from the USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75).

"After awarding the 2014 and 2015 USNA 75 Leadership Awards to two junior officers via Skype in March 2016, I was finally able to actually have the swords delivered to the recipients. Both of these superb young officers were in the midst of PCS moves during the award ceremony. DDG-75 is homeported in Rota Spain. I was concerned that large packages with swords, plaques, and accoutrements were going to get lost in transit. Not to mention the cost of shipping was fairly high. So, I worked with both recipients to determine how best to deliver in person back in CONUS.



<Photo 75#3: "Class of 75 Leadership Sword">

LT Kaitlin Smith has been assigned to the Pentagon. I met with her at Sine's Irish Pub in Pentagon City while I was in the area for the Navy League Sea Air Space symposium. So in true USNA '75 fashion, we held the shipboard official ceremony in SDB. The actual passing of the sword would be held in...a pub.



<Photo 75#4: "...and the accompanying plaque">

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LT Jonathan Smith is now an ROTC instructor at Carnegie Mellon. He was in transit from Pittsburgh to Norfolk for summer ProDev training for his midshipman. He went via his brother's house in Essex, MD. The obvious answer was for him to visit us in Ocean City en-route from Essex to Norfolk. The unofficial ceremony was held in our living room. We then went out on our boat to dinner and a tour of the area. He got a chance to witness the superior boat handling skills of a naval aviator and enjoyed an Orange Crush and dinner on "The Bridge" of the Sunset Grille over the Ocean City inlet. All very nautical and again in keeping with the USNA '75 heritage."

<Photo 75#5: "Before getting underway">

My thanks to Goose and Chick for making the Scribe's job a piece of cake again this month. Go Navy! '75 Sir! Larry

