

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

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Dear 'mates: Lots of great stuff to share with all of you as we wrap up the year 2016. To begin, let me go back in time to share a couple of pictures that mysteriously appeared in my Facebook message feed months after they were sent. Must have something to do with those periodic iPhone updates.



<Photo 75#1: "Rudy, Joe, and Ruth">

Ruth Hasten forwarded several photos. The first is one of her with **Dan "Rudy" Elins** and **Joe Bertalan**. They were at a restaurant in Crystal City back in February. It was the first time Joe and Dan had seen each other in more than 20 years. The second picture was taken at an 18th Company mini-reunion hosted by Elaine and **Bill Weyand** near Cincinnati in June.



<Photo 75#2: "18th Company mini-reunion">



<Photo 75#3: "The Harpers on I-Day. '75 and '20">

Mark Harper returned to Annapolis long enough to see his son inducted into the USNA Class of '20 on 30 June 2016. Mark sent a note after he was back overseas.

"I'm still living in Vienna, working at the IAEA to

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promote atomic power worldwide for peace, health, and prosperity. Although I'll be here until 2017, the family Harper has returned to Annapolis after five memorable years abroad. We repatriated in June, just in time to deliver Patrick, our fourth child of five, to the Naval Academy for Induction to the class of 2020. Coincidentally(?) his I-day was 30 June, exactly 45 years after we raised our right hands and took the same oath. Another link in the chain, and the legacy continues. Stay tuned for stories from '20, hopefully not as eventful as any of mine that involved a certain D.K.Forbes..."

After **Tom Donaldson**, **Kerwin Miller**, **George Tusing** (and all of our Brigade Boxing champions) did such a terrific job putting together a great 75th Brigade Boxing championship evening, President **Chick Cikanovich** received a nice note from USNA Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk:

"A belated expression of appreciation for the generosity extended by the Class in support of the boxing program. My understanding is the silent auction was a terrific success and resulting in generating over \$6K for the boxing program. I am pleased that the NAAA was able to support your efforts by contributing an item for the event, and I understand it was not only well received, but resulted in a notable donation in support of your cause.

Honoring Coach McNally on his 30th Anniversary at Navy made this entire effort even that much more appreciated and noteworthy. The Class of '75 has truly stepped up in a manner that reflects a genuine and sincere commitment to your alma mater. As the Athletic Director who oversees the Club Programs, I can't thank you enough for this wonderful contribution. Please express my gratitude to all members of the Class, and know it brought a wonderful sense of enthusiasm to everyone at Brigade Boxing to know that the Class of '75 is truly comprised of proven leaders.

Warmest regards and best wishes, Chet Gladchuk"

<Photo 75#4: "New Airbus Captain Berny Foerster and his Qual Flight crew">

Bernd Foerster says that 22 years in the Navy only got him to commander, so he was very pleased to finally make captain. He is now an Airbus Captain at United, if only for one more year until he retires at 65. It'll be fun.

We also got a nice note from **Bob Davis** on the occasion of his retirement after forty years of government service.

"I retired in May after five years in subs and 35 years working for DOE contractors at Hanford and Idaho National Labs. Two days later, my wife Terrie and I were on our way to Rome. Standing in line to board the aircraft in Salt Lake City I noticed just a few feet in front of me my 14th Company mate **Tom Brasco**. We were all on our way to JFK, Tom returning home from a business trip and us for a six week



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European excursion. It was great to catch up with Tom. Then in the waiting lounge at JFK I saw another familiar face. Father **Rick Gribble** was also on his way to Rome. The most recent of many visits for him, the first for us. So great to see two classmates in such a serendipitous fashion. Besides Rome, we also visited Tuscany, Siena, Florence, Cinque Terre in Italy and Annecy, Carcassonne, and Provence in France and Barcelona and the Pyrenees in Spain. It was a great way to start retirement!"

Tina and **Andy Howard** have temporarily relocated to Jacksonville FL so they can be close to the Jax Mayo Clinic. The Mayo Clinic is Andy's most likely hope for a liver transplant sooner, rather than later. Best of luck to our class webmaster and Tina in their planned one-year sojourn to Florida.



<Photo 75#5: "Joanne Lingerfelt with the Snyders and the Gabors">

Fourteenth Company has been active this summer. Deb and **Jim Gabor** hosted Faye and **Rick "Duke" Snyder** at the Gabor home in Woolwich, ME. Joanne Lingerfelt (Mike's widow) also joined the fun. They enjoyed some "lobstah" and steamers. The Class of '75 Lucky Bag was broken out as memories and good times were shared. This recollection led to a lighthearted FaceTime call to company mate and close friends Monica and **Al Eaton** in New York.

Speaking of Al and Monica, they represented 14th Company—along with Sue and **Mike Cecere**, Sandy and **Ken Hart**, and Karen and **Randy Jencks**—in Santa Rosa, CA on 3 September. The occasion was **Dan Vilotti's** Ordination to the Permanent

Diaconate at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Dan and fourteen other Deacon candidates were ordained after six years of intensive training. The classmates spent several days together enjoying each other's company and touring some of the local sites, including the redwoods, Pacific coast and a few wineries. Congratulations Dan and Mary!!

<Photo 75#6: "Ken, Al, Dan, Mike, and Randy">

The Lovely Nurse Nancy and I wish you the Merriest of Christmases and a wonderful 2017. Let's make it a great year for the Flower Children!
'75 Sir! Larry

