

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
MAR - APR STEWARDSHIP 2017

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Dear 'mates: As the Dark Ages draw to a close in Annapolis, the mids, along with graduates around the northern hemisphere, look forward to another Spring. Here in Pensacola, we look forward to hosting the Superintendent at our annual Blue and Gold Alumni banquet (it was scheduled to have been held in late March). So what's happening in the class?

President **Chris "Chick" Cikanovich** is working with an ad hoc group to design a reunion-planning survey. By canvassing has many classmates who can weigh in, we will try to make the 45th as much high-quality fun as possible.

Bob Giuda was elected to the New Hampshire State Senate in November 2016 for a two-year term. The New Hampshire State Senate was founded in 1784. It is comprised of twenty-four members. Bob, a Republican, represents District 2, which includes 27 towns spanning three counties and two Congressional districts. The job pays well: \$100/year plus mileage to/from the State House! The current composition of the State Senate is fourteen Republicans and ten Democrats (eight women and sixteen men).

Bob was a member of the 25th Company. He was commissioned in the Marine Corps and flew EA-6s. Bob joined United Airlines as a pilot in 1986, retiring as an international Boeing 777 Captain. Bob had previous experience in the New Hampshire political arena having served as a Selectman for four years and a State Representative for six. Bob had no intention of running for higher office (he wanted to enjoy retirement), but when the State Senate seat came open, Bob received a call from the Senate President who asked Bob to enter the race. Bob won the primary by 10 points and the general election by nine points. Bob was sworn in on December 7th. He was appointed to three committees: Finance, Ways and Means, and Education (Vice Chairman of the latter two). These are full-time committees. So much for retirement! Congratulations Bob!

On January 19, Bob's new Senate duties and his retirement planning were pushed far into the background when his wife Christine suffered a massive sub-arachnoid hemorrhage caused by a brain aneurysm. As of this writing (30 January), Chris remains in a coma at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. The superb hospital staff and neurological team are doing everything they can. She is responding to some external stimuli, and is showing some small improvements in her body's return to normal functions. God only knows what the situation will be when you read this *Shipmate*, but your Scribe is certain that the class joins the world-wide prayer team that is praying continually for Bob, Chris, their children, and the entire Giuda family.

<Photo 75#1: "Senator Giuda">



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While in Kailua on Oahu for Christmas with their kids, Jan and **Deke Ahle** had a chance to catch up with Barbara and **Bill Hicks**. They had a great meal at Bill and Barbara's and caught up on each others' lives. The Hicks want the Ahles to return when they go back to the 50th state to visit their son Eric, who is now serving with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Deke also spent a lot of his vacation under water, diving with his children. He plans to do a lot more diving now that retirement is here.

<Photo 75#2: "Hicks and Ahles">

<Photo 75#3: "Deke is behind the Buddha, wearing the hood">



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Ed “Zap” Zapolski had a great 2016 high school football season. Zap is the crew chief and referee (the White Hat) for his crew.



His playoff crew’s last two assignments for the season were at the CIF Division 1 Section Final in San Diego and then on to the California HS Open Division Finals in Sacramento. Congratulations to you and your crew, Zap on a truly rare and notable achievement!

<Photo 75#4: “A Super Crew with Zap Zapolski as the Referee”>

Seventh Company classmates **Dave Wood**

and **Dan Phillips** shared a most unusual brothers-in-arms experience recently. Dave baptized his long-time friend at a ceremony at the Crestwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem NC in December. The idea for the baptism came about when Dave and Claudette were visiting Dan in Fredericksburg and during a trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico. This most unusual spiritual bonding aside, it occurred to Dan (SWO) just after being immersed that Dave (USMC engineer) may have taken a little extra pleasure in dunking a swabbie below the water. Although Dave claims to be semi-retired from the ministry, he and Claudette still live in Winston-Salem and remain very active in the church. Dan works full time as a Senior Systems Engineer for Basic Commerce and Industries supporting the Navy at NSWC Dahlgren. Another classmate, **Steve Harmon**, recently joined BCI as a Sr. Sys. Eng. supporting Dahlgren, as well.



<Photo 75#5: “Dan Phillips ready for baptism by Dave Wood”>

So endeth another chapter in the glorious and long (and rapidly growing longer) story of the Flower Children of the Brigade. Keep those cards and letters coming in! Well, make that emails and Facebook posts. (Other than Christmas, I rarely see a card or letter anymore.) '75 Sir!

Larry