

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
MARCH 2018**

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Dear 'mates: It is my new holiday tradition. I sit by the Christmas tree, grandchildren building new Lego sets nearby, carols playing in the background, and think of all of you of the Class of '75. The class column deadline for the March issue is 27 December. I guess I made the Nice List in 2017, because you filled my stocking with photos and good gouge. That makes the job of your Scribe pretty easy. So thank you, and a belated Merry Christmas!

<photo 75#1: "USNAAA Board of Trustees meeting.">

Craig Quigley sent a picture from the Winter USNAAA Board of Trustees meeting. Having five '75ers there, the occasion demanded a photo! Left to right, **Bill Squires, Kerwin Miller, Steve Hall, Alex Plechash,** and Quigs.

This year's Army game was picturesque, cold, snowy, memorable, hard-fought, thrilling, ... and disappointing.



A number of classmates were in Philadelphia cheering for Navy until the clock struck 0:00 and the long field goal try went just wide left. We'll get 'em next year!

20th Company has an annual Army get-together. Pictured below braving the cold and cheering for Navy are **Tony Barbieri, Tim Harden, Eric Guerrazzi,** and **Bill "Willie" Neill**. Not shown are several of the hard working organizers of 20th's annual Army Navy game event: **Bill Squires,** Laurie Harden, and Linda Gove Barbieri. The Garretts also joined them, along with Bill's son Connor and brother Jim. *[Thanks, Willie for the pics and the info.]*

<photo 75#2: "20th Company in Philly">



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<photo 75#3: “Ruth and Rudy”>



<photo 75#4: “Steve and Nancy”>

We have photographic evidence of several more: **Dan “Rudy” Elins** with Ruth Hasten, and **Steve Laabs** and Nancy Burd Laabs.

Meanwhile, other Army-Navy gatherings were held in more hospitable climates. In Pensacola, we were in a rocking watch party at the Pensacola Ale House. Ran into **Roy Bass**, wearing a gray Navy-issue sweatshirt from the early-70s. Nice job Roy! Just as Navy kicked off in Philadelphia, the NCAA D II semifinal in Indiana, PA ended. Our local school (the University of West Florida Argonauts) beat the #1 ranked Indiana University of Pennsylvania to move on to the D II Championship. The amazing thing about that is the fact that UWF has only fielded a football team for two years. Their 26th game in school history was for the national championship! (The Argos lost — but what an unbelievable season!)

Elizabeth and **Mark Milliken** served as hosts on St. George Island, FL. The Millikens were joined by Debbie and **Phil Troy**, Debbie and **Pat Sloan**, Denise and **Bob Meissner**, and Jeannine and **Rod Repka**.

<photo 75#6: “Army-Navy on St. George Island. By Florida standards, it was cold!”



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And on the east coast of Florida, the St. Augustine crew gathered once again.

<photo 75#6: “In St. Augustine. (I think there must be some truth to those “Fountain of Youth” rumors.)”>

Lorin Fife and **Steve Urich** and their wives got together for a holiday fireworks party at Hermosa Beach, CA on Army-Navy Weekend. Lorin forwarded these “then-and-now” photos from June Week 1975, and December 2017. Lorin says that “of the three of us in both photos, at least my wife **Linda** is still gorgeous. Many thanks to **Steve** and Lisa

Urich for a delightful evening and for sharing so many fun memories!”



<photo 75#7: “Fifes and Urich — then and now”>

Given the 27 December deadline, the football season is not quite complete as of this writing. Navy takes on the Virginia Cavaliers in the Military Bowl at home in Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on Thursday, 28 December. Nancy and I, along with our son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren will be in the second row behind the Navy bench to see which team finishes 7-6 and which one ends up 6-7. As transplants to the Gulf Coast for the last 22 years, Nancy and I had to dig deep into the closet to find our very old heavy coats and vintage ski gloves.

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<photo 75#8: “Zack and Sue Wilhoit off Barbados”>

Closing out the March column, here’s a nice update from **Zack Wilhoit**.

“Sue and I celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary December 23. It's a big deal for us, (although I realize that every one of our classmates that had June Week weddings have been married quite a bit longer). Our three daughters are in three different time zones (CA, CO and NJ) in the U.S. and doing great with their separate careers and families. We are blessed! Most of our outside activities revolve around church. I'm still teaching Sunday School. I believe this year will be my 25th! Sue is in a prayer ministry in which she goes into the jails and prisons in northern NJ to pray with and help women in prison. I'm starting my 12th year as CEO of Ethnic Technologies. We're still growing. Sue and I have been trying to do more traveling — sailing in particular. We were able to do three trips last year, two to the Caribbean and one to the Mediterranean.”

Thanks Zack and all classmates who make my job a piece of cake! ’75 Sir! Larry

