

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

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President: **Chris Cikanovich**
Sec'y: **CAPT Larry Warrenfeltz, USN (Ret.)**
5732 Tamarack Drive, Pace FL 32571

(chicke975@gmail.com)
(usna75scribe@hotmail.com)
850-525-8727

Web Page: <http://1975.usnaclasses.net>

Dear 'mates: At deadline time for this column (late November of 2018) there is just one more slim chance to make the 2018 football season a success. As we all know, any year we beat Army is a successful year. This year it would be quite an accomplishment, as Army is really good! So BEAT ARMY and make 2018 a success.

But win or lose, Navy fans enjoy football games. There was a great contingent in San Diego for the Notre Dame game. Julie and **Tom Gadzala** hosted a party for classmates on the evening before the game. **AJ Ronacher** helped out by coordinating publicity and RSVPs. A month later, Nancy and I made the short drive to New Orleans for the Tulane game on Thanksgiving Saturday. We made our way to our seats to find **John Nawrocki** and Rae right behind us and **Steve Andriko** a few rows farther back. One lousy half and one pretty good half seemed to be the story line of the year. It was no different in New Orleans. Trailing 21-3 at halftime, Navy actually took a 28-21 lead late in the fourth quarter ... but couldn't hold on.

Every year our Tidewater area classmates sponsor a table at the Five Star Luncheon for the Armed Services YMCA where the ASYMCA recognizes enlisted from Army, Navy, AF, Coast Guard, and Marines for outstanding community service and volunteer efforts. In the picture below you'll recognize (L to R) **Gary "Yags" Yagiello, George "Rico" Mayer, Mike "Groot" Groothousen, Mike Zeiders, Mark Klett, Craig Quigley, Dave Pruitt, and Dave "Duff" Duffié.** **Jim Thoms** and **Mike Tracy** were placed on report for missing the photo opportunity.

<photo 75#1: "Norfolk area classmates support the YMCA">



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We received a nice update from Terrie and **Bob Davis**, now serving in the Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“I retired in 2016 from a post-submarine career in nuclear waste and spent fuel management, mostly at the Idaho National Lab. Since 2017, my wife Terrie and I have been living in the Congo (DRC) as missionaries for our church. We teach English lessons (in French) and music lessons to anyone who is interested. We support the local members of our church, teach on Sundays, help out at some of the orphanages, and spend time proselyting with our young missionaries.

Lots of the USNA and Navy training I experienced has been quite useful here—electrical engineering, collision avoidance (cars not ships), personnel management, and scrubbing decks! Many people here wear second-hand clothes. We saw one guy with a plebe issue Navy sweatshirt and another with a Navy Lacrosse shirt. Small world. It made me think about how we all left Annapolis all those years ago and have now been all over the world (no exaggeration, I think) serving God and Country. We’ll be home in January 2019 to see kids and grandkids. Should be great.”

<photo 75#2: “**Terrie and Bob Davis with one of their English students**”>

And a long-overdue check-in from **Mike Lord**:

“I’m attaching a photo of **Jay Donnelly** and me after we completed the Lifeline 100—a 100 mile (actually more like 104 mile) bike ride throughout Anne Arundel County, in the Annapolis area. We also did the ride last year. The proceeds from the ride support various non-profit organizations in Anne Arundel County. It’s a great event, and other than my bike getting a flat tire around 75 miles, all went well for both of us! I turned to biking a few years ago after my knees helped me decide it was time to stop running. So far biking has been great. Not quite as portable as running (it’s much harder to pack a bike than running clothes when you travel) and not quite as easy to ride as it is to run in rain and snow. But it’s still a great workout. A big shout-out to all my 19th company classmates!”



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<photo 75#3: “Jay and Mike after the Lifeline 100”>

Here’s a fun little tidbit, thanks to Debbie Donaldson. The photo of Jay Donnelly, **Tom Donaldson**, and **Kirk Donald** was taken at the 2018 Naval Submarine League symposium. Forty-seven years ago Donald, Donaldson, and Donnelly were getting their laundry confused in Bancroft Hall. Now all three are retired admirals. Looking good, guys!

<photo 75#4: “Donnelly, Donaldson, Donald”>



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Nancy and I enjoyed an evening with Marlene and **Doug Michalke** when they spent Thanksgiving week in Gulf Shores AL. As always, getting together with classmates makes for a great meal and terrific conversation!



<photo 75#5: "Michalkes and Warrenfeltzes">

I hope your Christmas was wonderful. Survive the Dark Ages and send some good gouge to your classmates! '75 Sir! Larry