

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN**  
**APRIL - MAY 2019**

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

([chicke975@gmail.com](mailto:chicke975@gmail.com))  
([usna75scribe@hotmail.com](mailto:usna75scribe@hotmail.com))  
850-525-8727

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

Dear 'mates: This issue's deadline snuck up on your scribe — and I guess it snuck up on you too, since the gouge locker is looking rather bare. But have no fear, Classmates! **Marc Siedband** came through with a short note and a photo. We shall not go unrepresented. Here's Marc:

"Two days each week, I have the honor and pleasure of serving as a volunteer at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, CA. On Saturday 16 Feb while supporting the ribbon-cutting for the new Fisher House, I got to meet General **Peter Pace**, USMC (Ret), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Class of '67. (His wife, Lynne is a senior trustee for Fisher House.) He took the time to have a conversation with me and graciously posed for the attached photo. One of the many perks of being a volunteer as well as a big lift for my morale. Semper Fi!"



<Photo 75#1: "General Pace with Marc">

Time for some *long-range planning*. The 2020 football season will present two big opportunities to have quality time with your classmates ... and to spend some of your kid's inheritance. The Class of 1975's 45th Reunion will be held in Annapolis on the first weekend of October. As you know, that is the traditional date of the Navy-Air Force game ... and yes, the game is in Colorado in even-numbered years. After a survey of classmates, the officers and reunion committee decided to have our reunion on a NON-football weekend. One thing is for certain — your hotel rooms will cost much less! We will still have a great football tailgate at the stadium and will see the game on TV (and possibly on the stadium big screens).

Five weeks prior to our big 45th, on 29 August 2020, Navy will take on Notre Dame in the Aer Lingus College Football Classic at Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland to kick off the 2020 season. [*We play the Fighting Irish in Ireland ... and it's a home game for us??*] So far, two classmates are organizing travel packages that are (in your scribe's humble opinion) far superior to the standard tour packages that will be out there. Since both of these trips will be focused on the Flower Children of the Brigade, there's no doubt they will be great. **Berny Foerster** <[baronfoer@aol.com](mailto:baronfoer@aol.com)> is planning a 7-day tour that will include the game, followed by a tour of Northern Ireland. **Chuck Geyer** <[cegeyer@gmail.com](mailto:cegeyer@gmail.com)> is arranging a flexible package centered around the game. His travel company will work with individuals or groups to make your personal plans. Contact Berny or Chuck directly to get on their planning lists.

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Debbie and **Pat Sloan** tried out the Snowbird lifestyle this winter, making a long visit to Gulf Shores AL. Nancy and I met them for lunch in Pensacola on a cold day (for us). Pat said that even 50 degrees on the Gulf Coast was approximately 70 degrees warmer than their home-town temperature, so it was definitely the right decision.

<Photo 75#2: “Sloans and Warrenfeltzes at the New Yorker Deli in Pensacola”>

Winter 2019 proved to be exceptionally cold, wet, snowy, and icy for much of the country. In other words — it was winter! Nancy and I made a two-week trip north to Maryland and Pennsylvania in February. That’s not something we would normally choose to do. It was a “Circle of Life” trip. My father’s funeral, a nephew’s wedding, and two brand new grandchildren for my youngest brother. My dad had a very long, very happy life. Even the funeral was more a celebration of a life well lived. Nevertheless, I’ve had enough snow and ice to last for, ohh ... the next 40 years ... at least! There is a good reason we decided to retire in Florida.

<photo 75#3: “At the Krewe of Les Gals Mardi Gras Ball”>

Now we are safely back home, enjoying Mardi Gras and the beginning of the 2019 softball season. Nancy was the president of the Krewe of Les Gals this year and Melinda Connell (wife of **Royal Connell** — 70’s Scribe) was the creative genius behind the Emerald City decorations for their 2019 Mardi Gras Ball.

OK, by now you have certainly had enough of the pictures of me. And enough of my personal memoirs. So help your classmates out and refill the Gouge Locker! ’75 Sir! Larry

