

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
JULY - AUGUST 2019

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Dear 'mates: In the June issue, we briefly mentioned that **Kerwin Miller** was inducted into the Washington DC Hall of Fame. Here's a picture from the evening. From the left: **Rick Davis '75, Cecil Haney '78, Kerwin, Kevin Edwards '11, and Ron Casey '75**. A well-deserved honor, Kerwin!

<photo 75#1: "USNA grads at the Washington DC Hall of Fame Induction Dinner">

Caryn and **Dave Mears** are the proud parents of two daughters who are stationed in Japan on Navy active duty. They made the trip to Japan in April to visit both daughters and their families. LT Jillian Mears, DPT has been stationed in Yokosuka since she graduated from OCS in Newport in November 2017. Dave and Caryn's first week was spent visiting her, checking out the Fish Market in Tokyo, learning the train system, visiting a shrine and shopping in Kamakura, as well as eating at several restaurants.

The next week, they visited CDR **Mollie Mears Bily '03** and her family in Sasebo, Japan. Mollie is in charge of the Sasebo Repair Facility. She and her husband, along with two daughters, showed off the site of the opening scene from the movie *The Last Samurai* where the 99 islands are located, along with life in Sasebo.

David is enjoying his retirement from Bechtel Corp and is busy training dogs for Field Trial Competitions. Caryn is glad to have left her teaching career behind to oversee her mother's care and follow their grandchildren's adventures.



<photo 75#2: "Dave Mears and granddaughter in Japan">

Zach Wilhoit had a conference at MIT in April. He was able to meet up with Kristi and **Bob Burns** for dinner. It was a great to do some catching up. The Burns and the Wilhoits are planning to go to the Navy—UCONN game on November 1st.

The passing of **Jim Crowley** brought together many classmates— most from 18th company—for the funeral at the USNA Chapel, inurnment in the Naval Academy Columbarium, and a celebration of life reception at the Naval Academy Club. **Dan "Rudy" Elins**, with the able help of Ruth, did the heavy lifting in organizing our class gathering to remember Jim. In all, twenty-five

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classmates and spouses were in Annapolis at the end of May. **Randy Avers** hosted an evening of fellowship and remembrance for the group.

A group of classmates from 11th Company have been going to the Indianapolis 500 every year since 1980. This year was their 40th consecutive race. The Indy 500 is all about honoring service men and women and veterans. Race officials set up something to acknowledge our classmates' service and their 40 years of attendance. They got to meet with three-time Indy 500 winner (and former Marine) Johnny Rutherford. His third win was our classmates' first race in 1980. Rutherford was engaging and funny. He told a couple of Indy 500 "sea stories."

In the picture (from left) are Justin Monger (UCLA), **Jack Monger**, **Don Moorehead**, **Frank Kearney**, **Les Ryan**, Johnny Rutherford, **Pete Ortiz**, **Mark Disney**, and **Mark Lambright**. Usual participant **Marc Joseph** (31st Company) missed this year's race. All of the crew missed founding member **Will Merrell** (RIP Classmate).

<photo 75#3: "Forty years at the Indianapolis 500">

Thanks to the contributors above, I was not forced to fill our column with the details of all 27 softball games at the Florida High School State Finals. I did have a wonderful week at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach. My position as umpire-in-chief is quite rewarding. It's also cool to watch players who will be in ESPN next year!



'75 Sir! Larry