

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
SEPTEMBER 2019

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Dear 'mates: In the June *Shipmate*, **Bill Chimiak** reported his successful try-out for the chorus in the Chattanooga Opera's performance of *Carmen*. He played two roles in addition to singing in the chorus—a

gypsy pirate, and as one of the townsmen. As the townsman, he got to flirt with Carmen. (He nearly kissed her before she smilingly—but abruptly—pushed him away.) Carmen obviously liked Bill better than the others because he possesses the charisma of '75.

<photo 75#1: "Bill as a gypsy pirate">

<photo 75#2: "... and as a townsman">

On Wednesday 29 May, memorial services for **Jim Crowley** were held at the USNA Chapel. Inurnment at the Columbarium was followed by a reception at the USNA Club. A nice gathering of Jim's 18th Company Classmates attended—**Randy Avers, Jim Bobenage, Dan Elins, Ken Hamernik, Bill Hicks, Don Jensen, Larry Kloth, Dan Martin, Tony Russell, John Stuffbeem, Bill Weyand, and Bob Young**. Also representing the class were **Chris Cikanovich, Jon Greenert, Steve Howse, Steve Laabs, Mike Lord, Brent Wham, and Zach Wilhoit**.

After graduation Jim spent five years in Admiral Rickover's nuclear navy,

serving on the USS NATHANIEL GREENE (SSBN 636). He then enjoyed an engineering career with General Electric—overseeing many power plant installations across the country. An avid cyclist, Jim was an ambassador for the Virginia Capital Bike Trail, a 52-mile multi-use trail connecting Richmond and Williamsburg.

Special thanks to Rudy Elins and Ruth Hasten for coordinating all the activities surrounding the services and reunion of 18th company mates.



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<photo 75#3:
"Class of '75
celebrating Jim
Crowley's life"

Lorin Fife and Linda, his wife of 44 years, traveled with friends to South America to visit Machu Picchu, its neighboring peak Wayna Picchu, Cusco and the Sacred Valley of the Incas. They continued the trip with a visit to the beautiful Galapagos Islands. Highlights included hiking and climbing to the top of Wayna Picchu, sightings of the Southern



Cross, snorkeling and kayaking with sharks, penguins, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, flightless cormorants, albatrosses, marine iguanas, and sea turtles. Crossings back and forth across the equator, and seeing all of the wonders of unique volcanic islands fed by six different ocean currents made for memories that will last a lifetime. Lorin reports the Silverseas Silver Galapagos suite was a heck of a lot more comfortable than a big gray ship.

<photo 75#4: "Fifes at Machu Picchu">

<photo 75#5: "At the top of Wayna Picchu">

<photo 75#6: "Galapagos Islands">

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In his own words, this is a “very long overdue” note from **Ed Cheeseman**.

“I have been meaning to write for some time now. I have been a lurker of the class news column these past 44 years, but have never made a written contribution. My wife Kris and I reside in Charleston, SC and have been here for about seven years. I work at

the Medical University of South Carolina as a Pediatric Ophthalmologist. I retired from the Navy back in 2003. I see several classmates and grads who are in the area pretty regularly. I play golf with **Bill Konrad** and **Joe Delpino** several times a month. (Actually, they play and I try not to hurt anybody.) I also see **Keith Weaver '76** on a regular basis.

The main reason that I am writing today is to share a couple of small world stories. The first relates to my old roommate, **Bob Hyer**. Bob tragically passed away in October of 2016 shortly after retiring from a very successful career as an investment banker. He was out jogging early in the morning and was struck by a car sustaining mortal injuries. His son, **Gregory Hyer** graduated from the Naval Academy with the class of 2018, second in his class in a challenging Physics major.

Gregory was a Trident scholar. He is now completing a graduate degree at Stanford University, then will be off to train as a Naval Aviator. While at USNA, he was a member of the varsity squash team, playing for Craig Dawson for four years. Just as Gregory was graduating, Bob's



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younger son William entered the Naval Academy, and has just completed his plebe year. He is also a member of the squash team. Bob and Andrea also have a daughter, Caroline, who is now entering her third year at Georgetown University. She has recently done some studies abroad and is a member of the crew team. I know that Bob is extremely proud of his family and likely smiling ear-to-ear with both of his sons choosing to attend USNA and achieving significant things.

The second small world story involves my oldest daughter, Katie, who is now married with three children. After she had been dating her husband John in the New York City area for awhile, I asked her, "Does this guy have a last name?" She told me, "His last name is Lawlor." I said to her just by chance, that I went to school with a guy named **John "Jake" Lawlor**, who was an outstanding lacrosse player. "Why don't you ask him if he is related in any way." It turns out that my daughter's father-in-law is Jake Lawlor!"

Another long-overdue note arrived from **Gary Swift** in western Nevada. He finally decided to join the USNA Alumni Association. He was feeling nostalgic and decided to get back in touch while he still can. Gary is semi-retired and am working three days per week at a guitar repair and custom building shop—mostly repairing vintage vacuum tube amplifiers. (Blowing off cobwebs from his wires classes of more than 44 years ago.)

Another fine job by the Flower Children of the Brigade! As your loyal Scribe, I sincerely thank all the contributors. '75 Sir! Larry