

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

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Dear 'mates: Time, tide and formation wait for no man. Before you know it, we will be scratching out "2019" and replacing it with "2020." Next year, we will have a couple of major opportunities for the gathering two or three (or many) classmates and the retelling of old tales. In late August, the Navy and Notre Dame football teams will meet in Dublin, Ireland. Time to make your travel plans! A month later, at the beginning of October, the Class of 1975 will celebrate our 45th Reunion in Annapolis. Check out the nearby reunion advertisement to see what we have planned.

Well, the remainder of this column should be easy! All I have to do this month is cut-and-paste, since classmates did the writing for us. Let's start with **Frank Marano** who is retiring after forty-four years at four different Electric Utilities.



<photo 75#1: Frank Marano passes the "Old Goat" to Mike McLaughlin '81>

"Talent Management Consultant Frank Marano was with APS/Palo Verde for five years before retiring on 3 September. As the oldest Naval Academy graduate with the company, Frank decided to present **Mike McLaughlin '81**, (Vice President, Operations Support) with a replica of the Naval Academy goat mascot. With Frank's retirement, Mike assumed the title "Old Goat." Palo Verde is the largest nuclear generating station in the country. There were six Naval Academy graduates there: In addition to Frank and Mike, **Donnell Williams '97**, **Armando Aviles '99**, **Rob Pierce '99**, and **Joe Stevens '04** serve in Palo Verde. Frank relocated from Arizona to Atlanta, where his daughter Andrea is VP-Graphic Design, and son Michael is Photographic Manager, both working at the fast-growing toy company "Elf on the Shelf." He would like to hear from other Atlanta-based classmates."



<photo 75#2: "Corley, Calland, and Guida">

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Tom Kelley relayed an input from **Wynn Calland**. (Wynn's first one ever?)

“Barb and I hosted the first-ever 25th company mini-reunion at our home in the DFW area in September. **Dave Corley** and **Bob Giuda** visited us. Dave is fully retired but is serving as a medical industry guinea pig in Plano. I retired a couple years ago. I am busy with church activities, three grandchildren (with another on the way), and goofing around with my model train collection and display. Bob is a retired United Airlines pilot, and is still holding the fort in Warren, NH continuing his stellar public service career as a state senator, and caring for his dear wife, Christine. Barb was a trooper. She prepared a wonderful dinner and listened to our endless sea stories. Time in the pool was a welcome relief from the 95 degree heat. None of us wore khakis in the pool. Bob volunteered to show us how he could inflate his newly purchased swim trunks. Dave and I calmed him down—maybe another day!”

Bob and Dave were also with Wynn for the unveiling of a derelict pool table that had been recently retrieved from a field in northeast Texas. When uncovered, there was a black and gold table with a cue ball that was "way behind the eight ball," and two cues with no tips (of course). It had an unmade "rack" with no linen and a whole complement of "deep pockets" with no bottoms. It reminded Wynn of his joint service days. By the way, the sign on the canvas covering it read, “ARMY INTEL CENTER.”

Tom Kelley has a “small world” story for us. His nephew is engaged to **Mike Fackrell**'s niece. The wedding is scheduled for October (after column deadline) in Pasadena, CA. Tom promises a photo or two for the next issue. “Whenever two or three shall meet and old tales be retold . . .”

From **Chris Cikanovich**:

<photo 75#3: “Schoenbauer inurnment at the USNA Columbarium”>



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“On 6 August 2019 we had the inurnment ceremony for **Marty Schoenbauer**. It was a beautiful day and fantastic ceremony. Seventeen classmates and several of our ladies came to say their farewells to Marty and be with his wife Jan. In the above photo are **Steve Labbs, Greg MacDonald, Mark Klett, Don Batze, Jim Jackson, Mike Zeiders, Kate and Craig Galloway, Gary Lundeen; Pam and Rex Estilow, Jan Schoenbauer, George Melnychenko, Amy and Brian Shaw; Raleigh and Larry Weckbaugh, Brian Weaver, Monica and Steve Harmon; Diane and Chris Cikanovich; and Beth and Allen Embert**. Following the inurnment, over 100 folks adjourned to the Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis for a reception and eulogies. Family and friends from around the world attended. Following the reception, Jan reserved the two Woodwind sailboats (the boats in the “Wedding Crashers” movie) for a final evening sail in tribute to Marty. As we sailed up the Severn River and passed the Columbarium we all manned the rails and paid our final respects. We closed out the evening back at the Fleet Reserve Club for retelling of old tales of Marty. My roomie would have been very pleased with his celebration of life.”



<photo 75#4: “Evening sail to remember Marty”>

<photo 75#5: “Chick and Kerwin Miller celebrate the first 100 African American graduates”>

As we all know, **Wesley Brown** was the first African American to graduate from the Naval Academy (in 1949). It wasn’t until the class of 1975 that we reached the 100th African American graduate. **Kerwin Miller** had a hat made up commemorate that notable point in our class history. Chick was involved in the research, so Kerwin had a hat made for him, too. Kerwin is Mr. 85 by the way. **Cleve Cooper**, graduating with 75.5 in the summer, was the actual 100th.

And now (with some trepidation), I turn the keyboard over to **Pat Sloan**. Sloaner writes:

“In Annapolis on 30 August 30, 35th Company initiated a new tradition—saluting brothers of 35 who have gone before us.



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We hoisted engraved shot glasses charged with Macallan 12 (courtesy of **Steve Ferguson**) to our brothers, **William Halverson** and **Frank McKeone**. We will down shots in future toasts until the last man standing salutes us all. (If this doesn't sound tremendous, you're not a true Flower Child.) Hal's ashes were graciously provided by Allison Halverson to be returned to Davey Jones locker in Viking tradition. Members of 35th on-hand included: Annie and **Chris Benigno**, Beth and **Paul Bowles**, **Dave Duffie**, Heidi and **Steve Ferguson**, Allison Halverson, Maggie and **Steve Hubbard**, Janey Mangat-McKeone, Elizabeth and **Mark Milliken**, Jeanine and **Rod Repka**, Debbie and **Pat Sloan**, and Debbie and **Phil Troy**. Janey brought her 10-Terawatt smile and 1000-Gig laugh, which always adds a quantum leap of joy to our gatherings. 1st company—our brothers by another Mother B—were represented by Gertie and **Mike "G2" Meier** and Liane and **Ron "Pony" Nicol**. Nancy and **Steve Laabs** accompanied the Millikens. Dick, Lee and other new additions were welcomed into our family with the gusto of a Heinz Lentz PEP workout. We topped off the weekend at the Laabs' tailgater and celebrated a NAVY victory over a team we didn't used to play, back when ARMY *lost* to them and we sang about it.

ATTENTION lurkers and shirkers, who read *Shipmate* but don't join our 75 family at games, reunions or minis. You're not just missing great fun, but also the embellishments of old tales that make our Academy misadventures legend! (Note to **Mark Harper**: **Steve Curley's** cop-car version of your *Black N Chronicle* beats yours, but your **Rickover** finale is PRICELESS.)"

[Sloaner notes that the tone and content of the above paragraphs are on him and that the Scribe had nothing to do with it.]

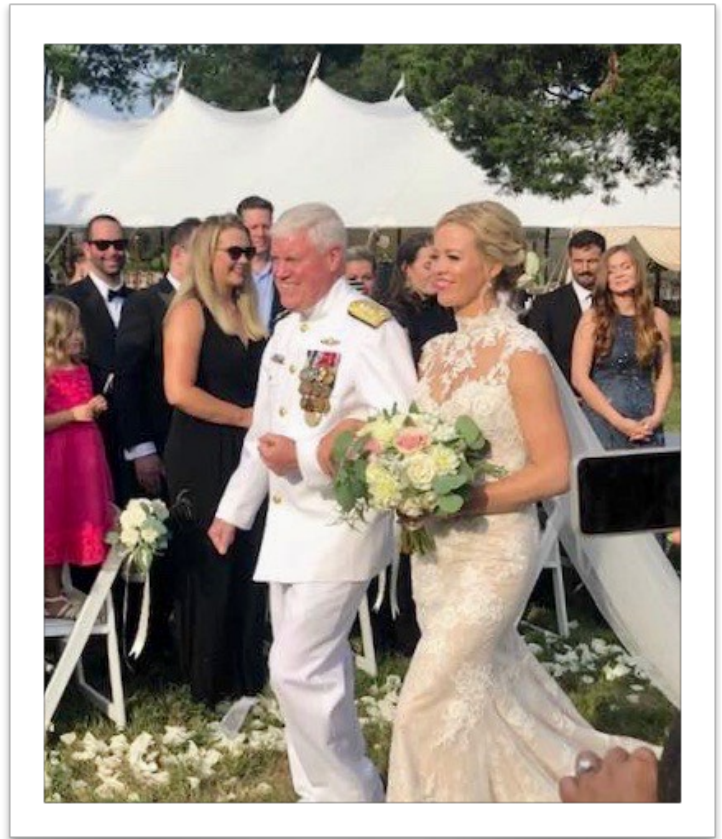
<photo 75#6: "Terry escorts Erin down the aisle">

<photo 75#7: "Fun One cleans up nicely!">

Finally, a great note from VP **Gary Jones**:

While some might say **Terry Blake** had a fleeting lapse in judgement, most would cite Terry's gracious and generous nature. More likely than not it was Nan's kind heart that allowed Terry to invite nine of his fellow FIRST COMPANY Classmates to the wedding of Nan and Terry's daughter Erin. The wedding was held at Kirkland Manor in Easton, MD. Kirkland Manor was the site for filming of the 2005 movie "Wedding Crashers" which was eerily appropriate given the cast of characters in attendance from First Company. *[Scribe's note: Two Wedding Crashers mentions in one column! Maybe Vince Vaughn or Owen Wilson will send us a note.]*

Erin, a Penn State and Georgetown Law School grad, is currently practicing law at a firm in San Francisco. The groom, Tim Duran, is a USC grad and manages an international



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beverage distribution business. It was a beautiful wedding, and as the picture illustrates, Erin was a stunning bride and the center of attention as the proud father-of-the-bride escorted her down the aisle. The wedding was a formal affair, so tuxedo was the uniform of the day. The second photos shows that we can clean up nicely. Left to right are **Ron Nicol, Jeff Bust, Bob Phillips, Gary Jones, Mike Meier, VADM Terry, Jim Miller, Dan Murphy, Dr. Mike Maynard, and Mike McDermott** on the far right. With the exception of the formal attire, the photo could have been from plebe year as it clearly shows no one from the company has aged a day! Terry and Nan were exquisite hosts to all who were fortunate to attend this amazing celebration. Given Terry's dedication to his company mates, we were seated with our brides at a table right next to the bar and buffet line—great planning by a great Classmate. Nan and Terry have another beautiful daughter, Tara, who is married to Congressman Dan Crenshaw (R-TX). Nan and Terry's son Lt. J. **Terence Blake '10** is an active duty naval aviator. Terry and Nan reside in Crofton, MD and are regulars at Navy home football games.



<photo 75#7: "Fun One cleans up nicely!">

Thanks to Gary, Sloaner, Tom, Wynn, Frank, Chick, and Kerwin for making your Scribe's job a piece of cake for the November-December issue! '75 Sir! Larry