

# U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

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Dear 'Mates - You are reading this column early in 2020 ... but the deadline was Thanksgiving week. Nancy and I have just cleaned up from our first Thanksgiving feast (a good year will have at least three). Before I slip into a turkey coma, let me give heartfelt thanks to my classmates, who have provided a true **feast** of gouge for this column!

Before we hear the good stuff, let's have a moment of silence to honor the life of **Bill Dixon**—a fine friend, a classmate, a great Marine, and a true American. Bill died peacefully in his sleep while on yet another overseas tour—working to rebuild war-torn Afghanistan. A dozen of Bill's 20th company mates gathered in November for the warrior's funeral in Oak Ridge, NC. See the March issue for some great memories of Bill, courtesy of **Dean Lahren**. Shown in the photo are **Dave Niedermaier, Tony Barbieri, Deb and Trent Powers, Greg Hoffman, Deb Shaw, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Bill Neill, Dick Shaw, AB Johnson, Rose Dixon, Debie Johnson, Nancy Niedermaier, Tim Harden, Bob Meissner, Denise Meissner, Jim Sander, Robin Sander and Bill Squires**. Not shown are **Jerry Graham** and **Maria and Larry Britt**.



<photo 75#1: "At Bill Dixon's funeral">

A couple of stories from the *"It's a Small World"* department. Betty and **Tom Kelley** attended the wedding of Tom's nephew in Arcadia, CA. One of the bride's uncles is **Mike Fackrell**, Mike and Tom were both in 25th company, and were track teammates for four years (Tom—distance, Mike—weight and

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hammer throws). They had not seen each other in at least 25 years. Tom's wife Betty continues to be amazed at the stories that USNA grads tell. It's tradition, Betty ... and some of them are true!

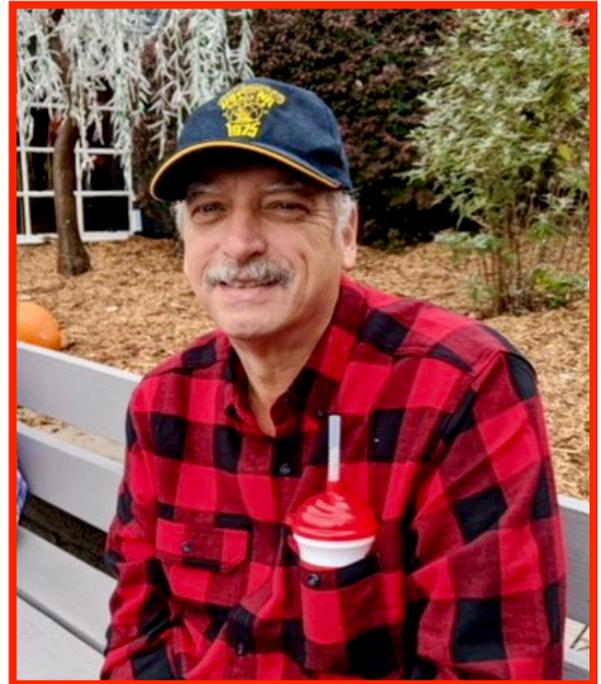
<photo 75#2: "Jackie and Mike Fackrell and Tom and Betty Kelley">



Small world #2. Charlie "Pink" Floyd was setting up at a flea market in North Wilkesboro, NC, and yes—he was wearing a '75 hat and USNA Sailing jacket. His daughter Linda and two young grandsons went to ride the train "Tweetsie" in nearby Blowing Rock. There, they spotted another guy in a USNA '75 hat. It was Harry Selsor from 28th Company. (Charlie says that

while his daughter met Harry, he just met the same 'ol MAGA-hatted locals that he expected.)

<<<photo 75#3: "Charles in NC ...">



<photo 75#4: "... while Harry was just a few miles away">>>

Stephen Stanley has been appointed Chairman of the governing board of

the Father Vincent Capodanno Guild. The Guild promotes the Cause for Canonization of Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM, Servant of God. Father Capodanno, a U.S. Navy lieutenant chaplain, was killed in action in Vietnam while anointing and aiding U.S. Marines in combat. (Thanks to **Steve Hubbard** for the lead.)

<photo 75#5: "Mike Lilek at the end of the journey">

Mike Lilek—henceforth to be known as "Iron Mike"—completed a 3346 mile bike ride from Bethesda to San Diego in just under 60 days. (Mike says that next time he'll fly.)



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<photo 75#6: “Gary Miller (right) jams with Dave Muse of the Marshall Tucker Band”>

**JJ Cuff** forwarded a quick note from **Gary Miller**. During one of Gary’s Wednesday night jams at the Thirsty Marlin in Florida, Dave Muse of Firefall and the Marshall Tucker Band unexpectedly showed up and played a couple of songs with Gary and the band.



<photo 75#7: “Five Star Luncheon”>

**Dave Duffie** reported on the 2019 Five Star Luncheon sponsored by the Hampton Roads Armed Services YMCA to recognize outstanding Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine enlisted for their efforts in their commands and for the volunteer support they and their families provide their communities. The class of

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'75 has been sponsoring a table for the past three years, and the guys got together for the annual photo. **Rick Schwarting, Groot Groothousen, Jim Thoms, Pete Squicciarini, Mike Zeiders, Craig Quigley, Van Rose, Dave Duffié, Dave Pruett, Bill McGlooin, and Clay Absher.**

<photo 75#8: "Tulane Tailgate— counter-clockwise from far right: Rod, Mark, Kerwin, Larry, Steve, Steve, Steve, ... and Steve">

Two (of many) tailgate photos to wrap the column for this issue. With three games left, the 2019 season could rank anywhere from "Good" to "OUTSTANDING." Go NAVY!

A late addition. If you haven't done so already, please go to <https://surveys.max.gov/index.php/289441?lang=en> to complete an important, USNA blessed survey.

'75 Sir! Larry



<photo 75#9: "A much colder night at UConn. Bob and Kristi Burns and Zach and Sue Wilhoit.">