

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column APRIL - MAY 2020

75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75

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

(chicke975@gmail.com)
(usna75scribe@hotmail.com)
850-525-8727

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

Dear 'mates, A treasure trove of gouge to share this month! Hang on, here we go!

Bill Squires would like to serve as the Eastern Region Representative on the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees for a final three-year term. He would sincerely appreciate the support of the members of the great class of 1975 who live in the Eastern Region. The election opened on 2 March and closes on 17 April. Please see the email notifications from Election America. Interestingly, there are four Region Representatives on the Board of Trustees. Two of them are "Flower Children" — Bill and **Steve Hall** of the Western Region.

Dan "Rudy" Elins retired from federal civil service at the end of 2019 after 48 years of government service, primarily supporting the Fleet Ballistic Missile program working for Navy's Strategic Systems Programs. Only ten days into retirement, Dan was preparing to head out to the local Planet Fitness. While heading up the stairs, he unintentionally performed a "high platform" dive, sailing over the stair bannister (reminiscent of plebe summer "carrier landings"). He incorporated a half twist, a bounce off of a wing back chair some six feet below, and failed to stick the landing. He banged the backside of his left rib cage, fracturing some six ribs, several in multiple places. (Despite this maneuver having an extremely high degree of technical difficulty, the "Russian judge" gave him low marks for artistic performance.) As of late January, Rudy was beginning to navigate and maneuver around the house, thanks to a good dosage of high power narcotics (better living through chemistry), and was starting a regime of physical and occupational therapy. Recovery will take several months, but he and Ruth are looking forward to seeing all of us at our 45th Reunion in October. A number of 18th Company classmates willingly stepped forward to support Dan and Ruth during the ordeal. BZ Classmates!

<photo 75#1: "Commander Mel">

Deke Ahle had a couple of significant events in 2019 and provided us with an update. His Navy daughter, Mel, is one of the military aides to Vice President Mike Pence. In May, Deke was honored to be present for her promotion to commander by the VP in the Roosevelt Room in the White House. She has subsequently screened for command and is slated to take over an E-2 squadron following her current tour. In July, Deke's son Eric married his long time girl friend Maggie Hines at MCAS Kaneohe Bay. Just before Christmas, Deke swore him in as a major in the U.S. Army (just before his graduation from the Army Command and General Staff College at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville AL).



U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column APRIL - MAY 2020

<photo 75#2: "Major Eric">



Mark Klett hosted his annual Klett Consulting Group holiday party. Thanks to **Craig Quigley** for the note and the photo. Mark (of course), **Gary Jones** and **Bill McGlooin** are all affiliated with KCG. Mark was kind to invite Jacalyn and Craig to join them.



<photo 75#3: "Mark, Jacalyn and Craig, Bill and Beth, Gary and Tammy">

17th Company in Scottsdale



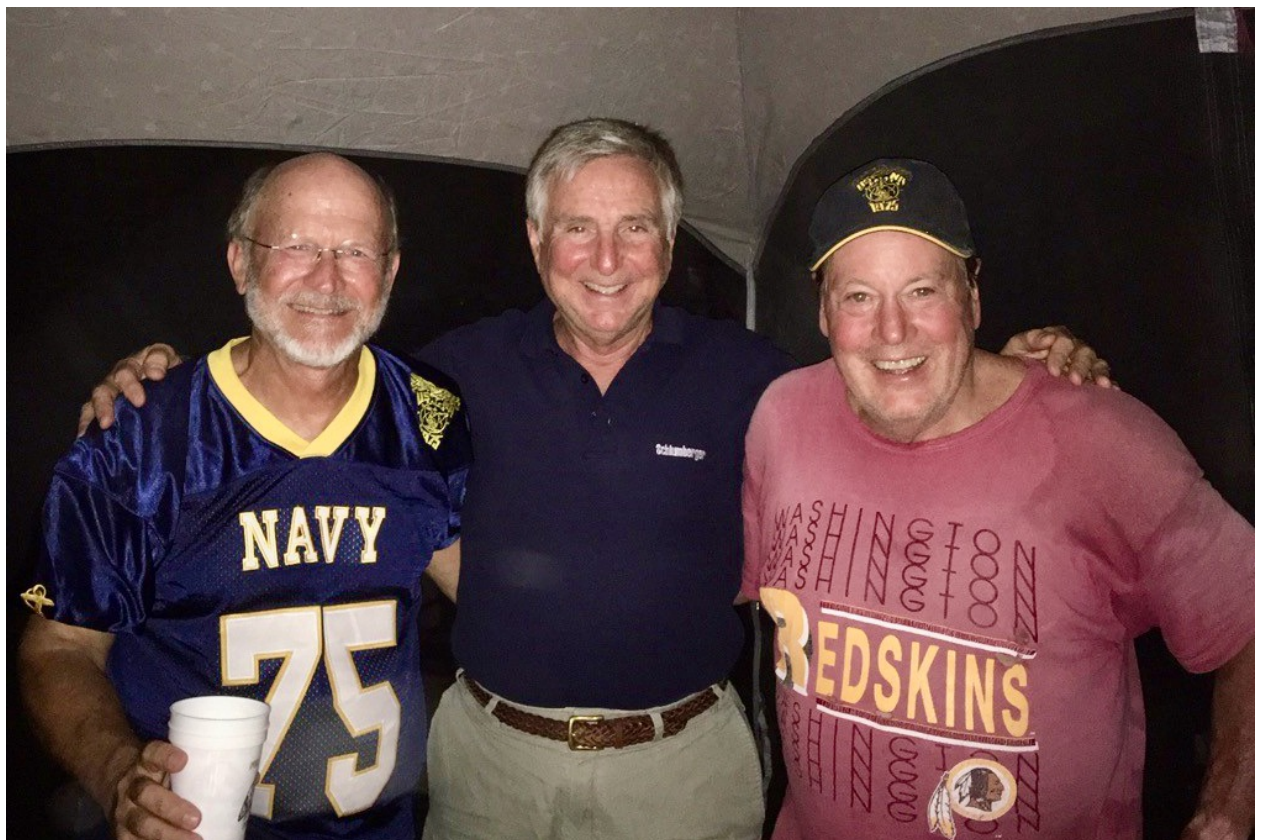
U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column APRIL - MAY 2020

Many thanks to **Chris Foley** for a report on the 4-6 October (Air Force weekend) 17th company reunion, hosted by Sherre and **Bill Sichko**. They included a few classmates who departed USNA prior to 2nd class year. The remarkably wonderful event took place at the Sichko's lovely home in the hills overlooking their hometown of Scottsdale, AZ. The reunion was especially blessed by the attendance of Kathy Moody and Ann-Marie Waechter, whose husbands, John and Tom (former roommates at USNA) have passed. Also poignant was the opportunity for attendees to speak by phone with Roberta Becker, **Chris Becker's** wife of 44 years. Roberta died following a longstanding illness a few weeks after the reunion. The Sichko home is a lovely and spacious Italian style villa with every amenity, including pool, hot tub, and a patio with a 40-50 mile view. Bill and Sherre left no stone unturned in hosting this tremendous event. Indeed, all attendees left with a '75 shirt and, most importantly, memories that will last forever. In the attached photo, you will find Bill and Sherre in front. Row 2— Elizabeth and **Mark Peifer**, **Forrest Murphy**, Sherry Neff, **Tim Warren**, and **Jim McConnell**. Row 3—Kathy Moody, **Ernie Carson**, **Steve Cassin**, **Bruce Buckiewicz**, Patrice Isley, Sara Jinnett, **Chris Foley**, and Ann-Marie Waechter. The remaining contingent includes Kathy Warfle, Joanne Makelky, Kim Cassin, **Mark Makelky**, Cindy Brewer, **Tom Dillon**, **Dayton Warfle** (center-back), **Neal Guernsey**, **Dave Isley**, **Mike Jinnett**, Colleen and **Chris Mortonson**, and Brenda and **Pat Mangan**.

A note and photo from **Steve Ferguson**. [I can't write it any better, so I'll just quote Fergs.]

"Yet another rendezvous of the DelMarVa reprobates: DelFerg, MarCik, and VaDuff. T'was a fun gathering under the canvas at the Duffie family campsite at Fort Whaley on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Once again, Dave outdid himself as Chef du Camp and we regaled Dave's just-turned 18-year-old son Jay (and each other) with sea stories that spanned more than half a century. By the way, and speaking of the passage of time, none of us is really as wide nor as old as we appear. There's some technical term for it but I'll just blame it on "photo transmission pixel spread." I have no idea what that means but that's my story and I'm sticking to it!"

<photo 75#5: "Ferguson, Cikanovich, and Duffie at the camp">



U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column APRIL - MAY 2020

Condolences to the family of **Jim Connell**, who succumbed to a brain tumor. The wonderful lead sentence in Jim's obituary: "*When Jim Connell enrolled in the United States Naval Academy, he had never seen the ocean; however, he knew from a young age he wanted to serve his country.*" Rest in peace, Classmate.

Our condolences as well to the family of **CAPT Donald K. "Deke" Forbes, '50** — the 65th Commandant of Midshipmen — who passed early in January. Many memories on social media sparked comments from the class of '75. We shared a special bond with the 'Dant. After all — he gave us our nickname and our everlasting identity! Two special memories deserve to be preserved in *Shipmate*. From the "Flower Children of the Brigade" with love and respect, Sir!

Mark Lamboni actually lived in same neighborhood with the Forbes family for almost twenty years. They had mutual friends and saw each other off and on. Mark says that the captain remembered the Class of '75 very clearly. Mark's personal remembrance: "Deke's parting words to me on 2 Jun 75 as I faced my final conduct review board were, "Do not make me regret not throwing you out when you've given me more than enough reason to do so." I reminded him of those encouraging words during one of our get-togethers at my church years later, and we had a good laugh about it. I was very fortunate that Deke and Coach Duff were very good friends."

And a final one from **Pat Sloan**: "My contact with CAPT Forbes was at my Black N review. And it was literally two-inches from actual contact. Deke kicked off the interview with, "What do you want to be IF we let you graduate Mr. Sloan?" Comfortably seated across from him, I answered, "NFO, Sir." He lunged across his desk yelling, "I WOULDN'T WANT YOU IN MY SQUADRON!!!" He stuck the landing! I found myself staring at his wings which were two-inches from my face. I was cursing myself for not saying, "Marine Corps, sir." Or better yet, "Cross-deck to the Army, sir." Then I could have responded to his attack with, "Woah, sir I did NOT say cross-dress to the Army, did I?" (So easy to be witty 40-years-after-the-fact.) As I sat there with his shiny wings in my eyes, it occurred to me ... not only did I not flinch at his attack, I didn't even blink. I just sat there stupidly staring at those wings with an "aww shucks" look on my face. On further review, his shock and my weak "aww" was probably due to my still being drunk. But at the time I chalked it up to the previous night's gorilla attack, which scared me to within two-inches of my life. As he returned to his seat I was thinking, "Is that all you got? No gorilla roar?" The gorilla shock apparently induced permanent amnesia in my steaming buddy, **John Nawrocki** (yes, the USS IWO JIMA plank-owning Skipper). JT continues to deny any memory of a gorilla. (Teflon John didn't get class-A'd.)

Great job classmates! You make the Scribe's job easy and fun. Type to you again next month.

'75 Sir! Larry