

# U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JULY - AUGUST 2021

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Dear 'mates, Plans are proceeding for Reunion 45 MOD 1. Come to Annapolis for Notre Dame weekend (4-7 November). The football team may be in South Bend, but the Flower Children will be in Crabtown. Get vaccinated if you haven't already, and prepare to enjoy a great time with the friends of your youth.

With our "Another Link in the Chain" class of 2025 in the middle of plebe summer, here's a neat story from **Mike Stevens**.

Planting the seeds of "possibilities" can be eye opening. Eight years ago I gave my oldest granddaughter and grandson a tour of the Academy grounds and passed on some of the experiences of what it was like to be a midshipman and Naval Officer. My granddaughter, Kayla Sim, was ten at the time. She declared right then and there that she was going to be a Midshipman. That was followed by eight years of hard, dedicated effort to achieve her dream. After attending the Academy summer seminar in 2019 (which she said was fantastic—BZ to the Summer programs they have now), she knew for sure that was path she wanted to travel. In



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high school, Kayla applied for both an Academy nomination and for the national NROTC scholarship. She received a full four year NROTC scholarship to Marquette University, but the hoped-for Academy appointment did not materialize. Not to be deterred, she immediately began working towards a Class of 2025 appointment while a Midshipman at Marquette. The motto, "Don't Give Up The Ship" will have special meaning to her as she memorizes *Reef Points*. Kayla hopes to major in Ocean Engineering and then go on to earn her dolphins. I could not be happier that she will become Another Link In The Chain with the class of 2025. Fifty years, quite a ride and adventure. 1975-2025!

According to an April press release from the University of Pennsylvania, "World renowned cancer cell therapy pioneer **Carl June**, the Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy in the department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center, received the \$1 million Sanford Lorraine Cross Award for his groundbreaking work in developing chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy. Sanford Health, the only health system in the country to award a \$1 million prize for achievements in the medical sciences, announced the award on April 13 at a special ceremony in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The biennial award recognizes life-changing breakthroughs and bringing emerging transformative medical innovations to patients." Bravo Zulu once again, Classmate!

**Gary Jones** provided an update on the activities of the First Company Golf Gang.



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“The Gang is made up of golfers (and non-golfers) from First Company. We’ve been getting together for golf (and other adventures) for 10+ years now. Previous golf outings were conducted in California, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, Oregon, South Carolina and Scotland. Our most recent adventure was at Myrtle Beach in early May, and marked the third time we’ve gathered in Myrtle. With COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards in hand, we assembled for three days of golf that included the reciting of previous golf exploits. The *Gang’s* Golf Commissioner, **Doug “Rhino” Ayars**, outdid himself yet again with arrangements, formats, detailed spreadsheets, etc. As Commissioner, Doug is authorized to provide “amplification” and on-course rulings that oft times seem to benefit the “non-aviators” in the *Gang*. Other members of the *Gang* include Doug’s fellow Seabee, **Bob Phillips, Rob Reed** and Gary Jones (the “Flyboys”), plus **Jimmy Miller** and **Terry Blake** (the Old Salts). For this outing, Terry’s brother Tom and Bob’s brother Wayne joined us. Tom retired from the USNR as an EP-3 pilot, while Wayne is a retired USMC O-6. While this trip did not include wives, our brides often accompany us to ensure adult supervision. Their general observations often include comments like “... why do they always laugh so hard at the same ol’ ridiculous stories ...” and “... there they go, acting like juveniles again ...”



The group photo shows us just prior to our second 18 holes on Day 2. Note the forced smiles as we prepare for additional muscle aches and pains that evening. Left to right: Gary, Terry, Tom Blake, Jimmy, Bob, Doug, Rob, and Wayne Phillips. The other photo is proof that history was made during this Myrtle Beach outing as I was finally able to win \$\$ for what seemed like the first time in ten years. I am standing next to Rob proudly displaying our \$20 winnings from the final match. I was able to get the Commissioner to sign and date the \$20 bill to officially document the historic occasion.

We count it as a blessing that most First Company classmates still enjoy good health and are able to share in the special bonds of friendship, laughter and camaraderie that USNA ’75 formed 45+ years ago. Plans are already in work for the next *FIRST COMPANY GOLF GANG* outing later in 2021.”

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you in Annapolis in November! ’75 Sir! Larry