

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

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

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

([chicke975@gmail.com](mailto:chicke975@gmail.com))

([usna75scribe@hotmail.com](mailto:usna75scribe@hotmail.com))

850-525-8727

Dear 'mates, Lots to report this month, Classmates! It was a busy summer in Annapolis, followed by a superb 45+1 reunion in early November. Let me turn the keyboard over to our Annapolis correspondent—Chick Cikanovich.

The 1975-2025 Link in the Chain started early in the spring. **Steve Hubbard**, Chairman of our Link in the Chain Committee, wrangled classmates to respond to events welcoming 2025 across the country. I followed approximately one million emails between Steve and Classmates and organizers as we responded to last minute invitations for 1975 to welcome 2025 prior to I Day. I-Days (there were two induction days) arrived at the end of June. We manned an Alumni Association tent — welcoming parents and some mids from 2025 as they started Indoctrination to USNA. As in all things COVID, we went from “*We don't need you there,*” to “*Please man the*



*booth for two days and, oh by the way, can the class president speak to the parents four times over the two days?”* It was a great time meeting parents and relating what life was like in the



## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

good old days. So many parents remembered our classmates who briefed the various groups around the world, and thanked Steve for organizing the welcoming briefs. The parents appeared to appreciate '75 and were generally amazed that we were able to be in the tent all day without our personal care nurses and EMTs. (When you meet a grandmother of one of the new plebes and find out she is two years younger than we are, you start to wonder about many things.)

A special visit happened when Tara Blake Crenshaw (daughter of Nan and **Terry Blake** and wife of Congressman Dan Crenshaw) came to visit us in the '75 tent. Tara was at I-Day checking on the new plebes nominated by Dan. She came by to also check on her “uncles” from '75. One of the highlights of our day.



Tara Crenshaw checks in with her “uncles” on I-Day

We were honored to be on the dais for the Oath of Officer ceremony. The guys represented '75 by attending in the correct uniform for men of distinction — Blue blazer and tie. Unfortunately, we underestimated the typical June evening in Annapolis. The wet bulb globe temperature said we should have remained in the bar (or showed up in shorts and a tee shirt) but we pressed on with our ladies and weathered the evening soaked to the bone in sweat. In the end, we carried out our Flower Child traditions by letting the mids without family present use our phones to call

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

home and talk to their families one last time. Nancy Laabs continued her tradition of bringing homemade cookies for the mids to enjoy one last time before the big bronze doors of Mother B slammed shut.

On 19 July, forty members of '75 met with the class of '25 to distribute the Honor Coins our committee designed and purchased. VADM **Jay Donnelly** spoke to 2025 on the Honor Concept and we all got a chance to meet with various groups as they passed through to accept their coins. Parent's Weekend arrived, and we once again manned a booth representing '75. Many parents stopped by to discuss the Link in the Chain relationship, buy Honor Coins, and express their gratitude for our efforts with their plebes. As the summer progressed, Steve Hubbard and I met with the Commandant, the Superintendent, and the Brigade Honor Officer to present the 1975 / 2025 Honor Coins.

Honor Coin presenters



Later in the summer, several of us met at the stadium to watch **Mike Langley's** induction into the Rugby Hall of Fame. (See the Nov-Dec *Shipmate* for more details.) It was great to see Mike recognized for his commitment to USNA Rugby and his influence in creating the great Rugby program we know today. We managed to form a scrum around the bar several times and came out winners on every occasion.

In a brief ceremony prior to the Langley induction, Roy Hawkens presented the Class Gavel to Chick. Roy was one of our early presidents and was able to locate the long-lost gavel and striking board. The gavel and striking board are made of wood that was once part of the USS CONSTITUTION. They were presented to us by the class of 1939 in May of 1975.

We kicked off the Class Gift program when **Tig Krekel**, Class gift co-chairs **Bill Squires** and **Eric Guerrazzi**, and I presented a check to Bill O'Connor (USNA Foundation EVP) and **Dan Quatrini '81** from Foundation Development. Tig is donating the Admin Wing of the new



## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

Alumni Center. Eric and Chick became two of the first plank owners in the new facility. Eric followed later that day with an eye-watering donation to the Class Gift. We challenge the class to step up and make a donation to the Class Gift — which will be presented at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

As the summer drew to a close, we were proud to be included as witnesses to the Distinguished Graduate Award Ceremony for Admiral **Kirk Donald**. It was a well-deserved honor. When your nomination package includes a letter from the Queen of England thanking you for saving the UK Nuclear Submarine program, you should probably become a distinguished graduate. I remember the awe and fear inspired by ADM Rickover. Now here we were, honoring Kirk, who held that seat as Navy Nuclear Reactors. He is much taller, and a lot better looking than his infamous predecessor.



Classmates witness Kirk Donald's Distinguished Graduate Award

It took awhile, but Chick finally received this photo from the DGA event. A 2/c midshipman volunteered to take it, but then disappeared. Later in the semester, Chick gave a lecture to some segundos on International Protocol. At the end, he mentioned the missing picture. Sure enough, the Mid was in the course and sent along the photo.

The 45+1 Reunion was absolutely fabulous! Classmates had obviously missed the chance to get together and share the unmatched camaraderie of the Flower Children of the Brigade. Thursday's golf tournament was followed by a crab feast in the N\* Room at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Friday we met on the Yard for our class meeting, a very moving Memorial Service in the Chapel, and a brief by the Supe. Friday evening we got all dressed up for a terrific banquet at The Graduate Hotel. Saturday afternoon we enjoyed the Akerson Tower at the stadium while

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

watching Navy take on Notre Dame on the many TVs in the club. The Irish may have won the game in South Bend, but '75 won the party in Annapolis. Go to the class webpage to see the hundreds of photos from reunion weekend. The class can't thank Diane and Chick Cikanovich enough for all the work they did in planning and re-planning a superb reunion. Plan now to join your classmates in 2025 for the 50th. '75 Sir! Larry

