

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MARCH-APRIL 2023

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Dear 'mates, In December, the Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award Selection Panel chaired by Admiral **Harry Harris ('78)** announced the 2023 class of DGs. Congratulations **Ron Nicol!** Yet another Flower Child who distinguished himself in his career and his dedication to the Naval Academy. Well done Ron. You deserve the recognition by the Naval Academy, the Alumni Association, the Foundation and your classmates.

Here's a nice photo from **Jim Bellard**. Jim's wife Pat and **Howard Gutzman's** wife Mary are sisters. The photo was taken during the Gutzman's annual Christmas visit to Brooklyn from their home in Endwell, NY. The Bellards and Gutzmans are all healthy and thriving. Mary and Howard are retired, but Pat and Jim both continue to work at St.



Bernard Catholic Academy. Pat is the Coordinator of Social Studies and Jim is the Security Officer.

In more news from the month of December, **Gary Miller** accomplished a personal goal that has been a decade in the making. He won his tenth consecutive gold medal at 800m in the Florida Senior Games. As far as Gary knows, no one else has done this, certainly not in the last 25 years. As a bonus, his time qualified him as a 2022 Masters All American. Gary maintains that this achievement was not the result of exceptional talent. Rather it was a combination of perseverance, hard work and more than a little luck. He credits USNA and the Marine Corps for

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building that mindset. Gary's lovely spouse won the 5000m in her age group the day before his gold. It was definitely Miller Time at the Florida Senior Games! [Thanks to **JJ Cuff** for the report.]

Hampton Roads Five Star Luncheon



Dave Duffie joined several other grads at the Hampton Roads Five-Star Luncheon. It is an annual event put on by the local chapter of the Armed Services YMCA (a non-profit whose mission is to support enlisted families). **Mike Groothousen** got Dave involved with the ASYMCA on the Board of Directors about six years ago. Dave is now the Treasurer for the Hampton Roads Chapter. As a group,

USNA 75 is one of the sponsors of the event. **Mark Klett** and **Mike Zeiders** individually sponsor each year. For the event, the chapter solicited one enlisted individual from five services (Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) to be recognized for their outstanding achievements in community volunteering. In addition to the recognition for themselves and their families at the luncheon, the awardees received a slew of gifts from various sponsors. It is a great organization to be a part of and a heartwarming event where you get to see the volunteering efforts of these super-star enlisted personnel. In the photo, you can find **Dave Penman**, **George Mayer**, **Frank Murphy** ('74), **Jim Thoms**, Dave, and **Mike Zeiders**.

Diane and **Chris Cikanovich** made it to Key West with a few stops along the way. First they enjoyed a great lunch with Julie and **Mike Langley**. Then they had a superb dinner and overnight stop with **Tig Krekel**. As always, the best part of travel is catching up with wonderful lifelong

Cikanoviches and Langleys



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Tig and Chick

Type to you in March — but since you'll read it
in May — enjoy Spring! 75 Sir! Larry

friends. The USNA RV group was also on the way down for their annual Key West Come-around. Hopefully we'll get some photographic evidence for the next *Shipmate*.

Living close to that Federal School on the Hudson gives **Zach Wilhoit** the chance to attend Army-Navy sporting events on “enemy” territory. As the first Army basketball doubleheader of 2023 was on Zach's birthday, he was treated to court-side seats. After a tough loss for the very young Navy women's team, he was an eye-witness to an outstanding game from the Navy men's team! The guys erased a 12-point deficit (down by eight at half time) to take a very hard-fought and physical 77-71 victory. Zach can say he was there when Navy's **Daniel Deaver '23** earned the #2 spot on ESPN's Play of the Day with an emphatic block of an attempted Army dunk.



Sing Second