

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MAY-JUNE 2025

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, I passed some bum gouge in the last issue. *[No excuse Sir!]* **Jon Greenert** has not yet been inducted into the ranks of Distinguished Graduates. The ceremony was rescheduled from March because fellow DG **Sunita "Suni" Williams '87** was stuck aboard the International Space Station. It will now take place early in the Academic year.



The 2025 Pull for Navy rowing event in February was notable for our class. Led by **Dave Frost**, who was recognized with the Craig Thrasher Service to Rowing Award, '75 donated more than \$275,000 to the Navy Crew Excellence Fund — the largest donation made by any class. Some of that money was used to completely refurbish and remodel what is now known as the Class of '75 Ergometer Room.

The USNA RV Club had their annual winter come around in Key West. **Kirk Daniels**, **Bob Brown**, and **Dave Penman** enjoyed the warmth at the end of the Overseas Highway.

The Men's Gymnastics teams from Army, Navy, and Air Force came to Fort Worth TX for the All-Academy Championship on 15 February. The local alumni chapters put together a dinner for

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MAY-JUNE 2025

### CLASS OF 1975 ERG ROOM



TO HONOR OUR COACHES WHO  
IMBUED US WITH THE HIGHEST  
IDEALS OF TEAMWORK,  
PERSEVERANCE, AND LEADERSHIP

Andy Parrish  
Carl Ullrich  
Rick Clothier

ENS Bob Blakely  
Phil Dales  
LT Jon Eric Van Amringe

From their Coxswains and Oarsmen

Stephen W. Andriko	David E. Frost	Gary Arthur Lundeen	Ed Seibel
Bob Brown	John Ginn	Frank B. Marano	David A. Smith*
Keith Carl	Steve Clark Hall	Marty McDonough	Michael Stevens
William Daley	Marc Joseph	Christian R. Nielsen	Dennis D. Sane
William H. Dixon*	Carl (Junebug) June	D.K. (Ollie) Oliveria	David Durazo Thompson
Bill A. (Ets) Etsweiler	Kim R. Loll	Pete Ortiz	Philip (Garby) Toy
Lorin Fife	Richard Luke	Rob (Rocket) Reed	

\*In memoriam by classmates

The Class of 1975 --- The Flower Children of the Brigade



all three teams, coaches, parents and alums the night before the championship meet. **Mark Lambright** was our Navy team captain in 1975. Mark presented a crystal memento inscribed with the '75 and '25 class crests as a "Captain to Captain" Link in the Chain to this year's captain, **Vishal Mandava**. He also gave Link in the Chain mementos to all of the class of '25 members of the Navy team. Excellent job, Classmate!

**Steve Stanley, Brian Schires, Dick Arnold, Tim Harden, Mark Morrison, Chip Stratmann, and Tony Barbieri** gathered at **Don Garrett's** Celebration of Life.

**Peter Damisch** continues his adventures all over the world. The latest chapter is from a trip to Egypt.

"It is pitch dark with illumination only from my flashlight. It's also desert hot with no air movement. I am alone, 89' below ground with 454 feet and six million tons of stone on top of the Subterranean Chamber of Egypt's Great Pyramid (a location off limits to the public). For the next few hours the Giza plateau is closed, except to our small group with special permission to explore this wonder of the Ancient

Mock up of the plaque that will hang in the Erg Room. The final brass version may have another name or two

World. The Grand Gallery, King's and Queen's Chambers require climbing through long narrow passageways, most about 3' high. Through a quirk of timing, I enjoyed unprecedented 'alone time' with the King's sarcophagus.

Once back in the sun, we spent two hours between the paws of

### Dinner at Latitudes in Sunset Key

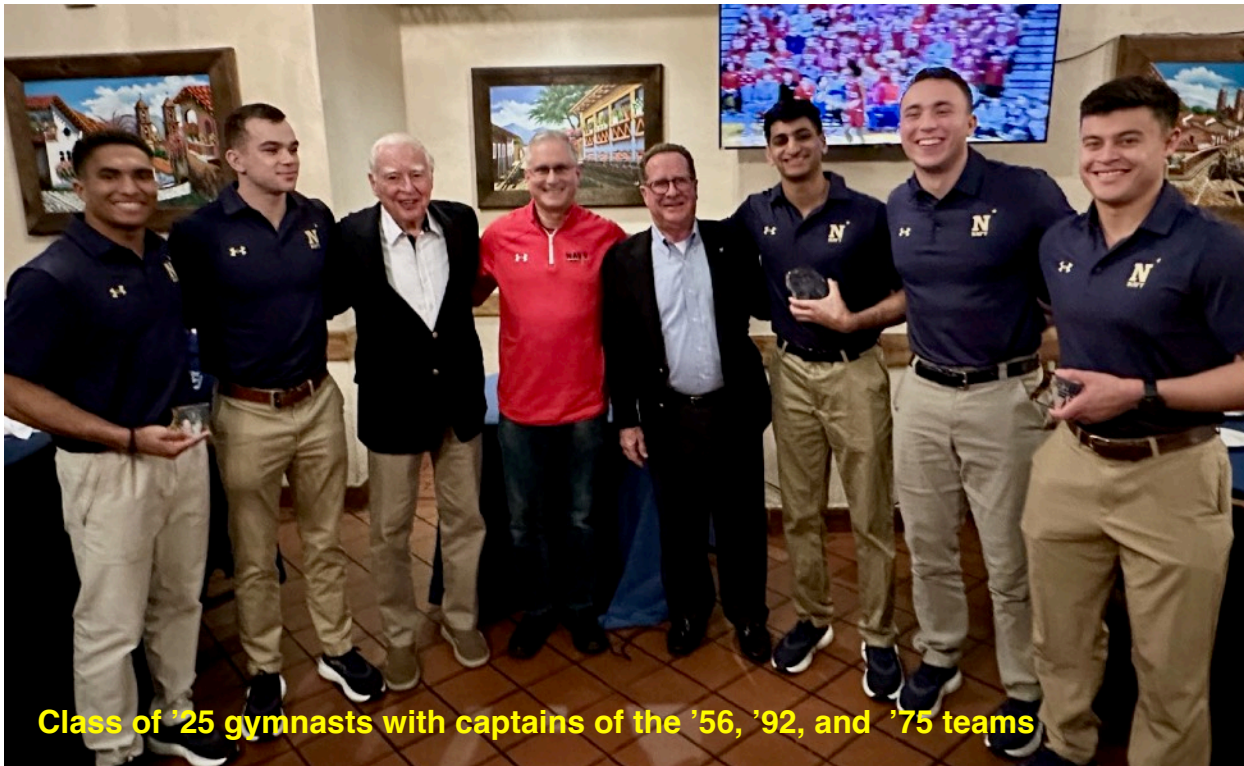




## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MAY-JUNE 2025

the Sphinx, absorbing one of many outstanding discussions with Dr. Zahi Hawass, former Director of Egyptian Antiquities. Over the next few weeks he guided us through multiple closed sites, including the pyramid workers' village and cemetery. We had dinner with Dr. H. on several occasions; once just before a stunning nighttime exploration of the magnificent Luxor Temple.

We next hiked Saqqara's extensive tomb and archeological complex centered on the 4,700 year old Step Pyramid; the oldest stone structure in Egypt, built a century before the Giza Pyramids. The interior is only open by special access. We maneuvered into a structure with several miles of rocky tunnels. After some time, our small group reached the 92' high underground tomb chamber. Just as we began to admire this marvel, the minimal





**U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column  
MAY-JUNE 2025**



lighting system winked out and did not return, leaving us in the definition of complete darkness. Fortunately, my flashlight helped guide us back up to the surface, past pottery, construction debris, false doors and some beautiful faience tiling.

The rarely visited pyramid at Hawara and collapsed Meidum pyramid also provided amazing solo time inside to admire their genius design, fabrication and decoration. Original pigments can be found on many areas throughout an immense wealth of archeological treasures. Mastaba Tomb # 17 at Dashur offered one big challenge as it is a long, hot, very dusty set of tunnels that must be traversed on hands and knees, but well worth the trip!

We also entered the huge but obscure Red and Bent Pyramids located far out in the desert. Before climbing through the stone arch, I learned from our excellent local guide that the passageways were so long, narrow and steep that he had only traversed



## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MAY-JUNE 2025



Lunch at New York Deli

them once in the past 20 years! It was a great effort, but it was thrilling to travel through the small, sometimes twisty, rock channels into a wondrous world of art and history (plus some bat guano). Each of the seven pyramid interiors visited provided amazement along with hunched backs and bumped heads. While leaving us hot, sweating and out of breath.

At Luxor, we had the privilege of visiting Karnak Temple and enjoyed several hours of instructional time with Dr. Mostafa Waziri, another former Director of Antiquities who is working this extensive site. He followed up with a private tour of the exquisite Khonsu and Opet Temples which are closed, but undergoing restoration, in hopes of future opening. Overall, we were able to explore seven pyramids, thirteen archaeological temples, and fifteen tombs (ten of which are closed or rarely seen). During an evening back in Cairo, we met Dr. Khaled El Enany, former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. He provided a comprehensive presentation to our small group, then we continued the conversation at a private dinner. Dr. El Enany is a brilliant, imaginative individual who is Africa's candidate to be the next Director General of UNESCO.

I'm looking forward to 2025 work across the West Coast of Africa followed by an expedition to the North Pole. If you find a job you love, you'll never work a day in your life!"



## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column MAY-JUNE 2025



It is always a pleasure to break bread with classmates passing through Pensacola. This winter we were able to have lunch with Diane and **Chris Cikanovich**, and enjoyed breakfast with Dawn Crowley and **Bill Weyand**.

The class web page (see the column header) has the latest and greatest on the 50th Reunion plans. The FAQ section under the 50TH REUNION tab is especially helpful. See you in October!

75 Sir! Larry