

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025

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Dear 'mates, This is the last *Shipmate* you will read before we gather for our 50th Reunion. There is still time to register and join us in Annapolis from 23-26 October. Go to SignUpNow/Events/USNA1975 to register. We will use this same website to hold class elections for the next five-year term of office. So, even if you do not plan to attend the reunion, register so you can cast your vote. There is no charge to register and vote.

Our Election Committee — **Roy Hawken**s, **Andy Howard**, and **Steve Hubbard** — has presented this slate of candidates for 2025 to 2030. For President: **Chris Cikanovich** and **Bill Daley**; for Vice President: **Dave Frost**; for Secretary: **Larry Warrenfeltz**; for Treasurer: **Dave Duffie**. Write-in candidates for all offices are welcome. **Bill Squires** is an announced write-in candidate for VP. See the class web page under **THE GOUGE** tab for candidate statements. The election opened in mid-August.

On the 50th anniversary of our graduation on 4 June 1975, classmate gatherings in Annapolis and in San Diego celebrated that momentous occasion. In Annapolis, twenty classmates and



At the Clas of 1975 gate

significant others met at the USNA '75 Gate at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to begin the celebration. The original plan called for them to meet, pop some champagne, and then head out to lunch. Apparently, the stadium folks did not know the Flower Children were coming and they left the gates open and unguarded. The group took advantage of the situation by taking a picture at the 75 gate and moving into the stadium to pop several bottles of champagne to toast



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those no longer with us, those still in play, the great USA, ADM Mack, and yes, even CAPT DK Forbes. With the majority of champagne consumed, they sauntered on down to the big gate in front of the stadium to reconstruct the lineup for the 1975 graduation march-on. Noticing that the big gate was open, and thinking that no one was going to challenge a bunch of gentlemen who looked official, they marched on to the field and took a group picture there as well. Since it was a warm day (reminiscent of that Wednesday 50 years ago) hydration levels were in danger so they advanced to the Fleet Reserve Club for adult beverages and food. Several hours later they adjourned ... for a nap. As an aside, there was discussion of having a separate picture of those who still had all of their original body parts, which devolved into a debate of organs vs. appendages/joints. That used up another bottle of champagne.

Annapolis attendees included Charlyn and **Randy Avers**, **Bob Brown**, **Ron Casey**,





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Diane and Chris Cikanovich, Bill Daley, **Rich Dick**, **John Donnelly**, **Bill Etsweiler**, **Dave Gough**, Mary and **Dave Gray**, **Paul Harar**, **Mark Harper**, **Steve Hill**, **Mike Manfredi**, **Kerwin Miller**, **Craig Rankin**, **Gordon Roesler**, **Mike Thumm**, and **Steve Von Christierson**.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, **Dick Arnold** organized the west coast celebration. Twenty-two classmates, along with many spouses, gathered at the Coronado VFW to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation. They discussed how long we've been in the Navy (All me bloomin' life, me mother was a mermaid ...), prayed together, read the names of our deceased classmates, took a picture for Shipmate, sang Navy Blue and Gold, ate good chow, drank plentiful drinks, and told sea stories. A good time was had by all hands! Go Navy! Dave Duffie emailed a video of the assembly singing Navy Blue and Gold. Bravo Zulu!

San Diego attendees included Jeannette and Dick Arnold, Kaye and **Les Carey**, Peggy and **Ed Casey**, **Bobby Clark**, Alina and **Dan Daniels**, Dave Duffie, Beth and **Brian Flannery**, Jennifer



and **Rob Flick**, Mary and **Dave Frost**, Julie and **Tom Gadzala**, **Tig Krekel** and Sherry Nancy (Burd) and **Steve Laabs**, Joyce and **John McTighe**, Pat and **Guy Mehula**, Susan and **Tim Naple**, Kathleen and **Mark Regn**, Rox and **AJ Ronacher**, Leslie and **Chip Stratmann**, **Jim Tenuto**, Diane and **Joe Willis**, Flossie and **Ed Zapolski**, and Colleen and **Dan Zazworsky**,

The day after the Coronado VFW dinner, AJ Ronacher hosted classmates on a tour of the USS MIDWAY Museum, where AJ is a volunteer docent.

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Sharing the MIDWAY Magic - Dan "Zaz" Zazworsky, Dave "Frosty" Frost, Jim Tenuto, AJ Rochacher, Mary Frost, Guy Medulla, Bobby Clark

36th Company's **Bruce Beemer** died on 22 April. Family and friends gathered for Bruce's celebration of life on 31 May in Griggsville, IL. Susie Beemer hosted the celebration, which was held on the family farm where Bruce was raised. **George Flynn**, Kim and **Jim Gibson**, and **Bill Daley** attended and offered reminiscences about how Bruce changed the life of those around him. Dedicated, quiet and intelligent, Bruce remains in our hearts.

To cap the day on 4 June, the 50th Reunion committee met for a happy hour at Chris and Bill **Daley's** home in Stevensville, MD.



Rest in Peace classmate



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Members in attendance: Diane and Chris Cikanovich, Betty and **Tom Kelley**, **Bob Guida**, Chris and Bill Daley, **Mark Bloomquist**, Raleigh Weckbaugh, and Devon Clouse (our reunion coordinator). Bill Squires did a phone-in to make sure everyone was behaving. Chris Daley



prepared a delicious spread for the committee's eating enjoyment, and Mark Bloomquist provided Blue Shark vodka for liquid refreshment. The entire Committee is looking forward to seeing all of our Classmates at the 50th reunion weekend 23-26 October. SignUpNow Events hosts our registration website — <https://www.signupnow.events>.

There are two great sources for '75 SWAG to proclaim your pride in our great class. Go to Forever Firstie: <https://foreverfirstie.com/collections/1975-reunion> or check out Blue Shark Vodka at <https://seafriends.biz>. Sea Friends is Mark Bloomquist's company. Really cool stuff at both sites.

—75 Sir! Larry