



17 September 2022

Hello Friends,

I can't believe it's been two weeks since the Reunion! I hope this email finds you safe and healthy, especially those who journeyed to Annapolis for what was, by all reports, an EPIC reunion. I finally found my voice recovered and myself fully rehydrated (because it was so hot in Annapolis) to get back to my normal routine (I'm sure I don't know why that seems to take progressively longer with each reunion). It was wonderful to watch so many friends reconnect, and some new bonds forged amongst our great 1987 community. It continues to amaze me that we're still making new classmate connections even after all these years. For those who couldn't join us – YOU WERE MISSED – and we hope to see you for the 40th (and perhaps sooner!)

This letter is information dense, please refer to the hyperlinks for additional video and picture content:

REUNION ROUNDUP: So many classmates shared how much they enjoyed the weekend (and that's really the point, isn't it?) and how much the Reunion positively impacted them. I couldn't agree more. All of the events were very well done and you have your Spectacular Reunion Committee to thank. You'll find their names in the Class Meeting brief and in this month's *Shipmate*. The centerpiece of our Reunion was the Memorial Service with a stirring tribute to our Fallen Classmates. Father Pucciarelli's (gwpucci@comcast.net) moving reflection during the Memorial Service was a particular highlight. He's keen to stay connected with the Class, so feel free to drop him a line.

Jim Matheson's sendoff (and peaceful transition of power) during our Class Meeting marked another Class milestone as we celebrated his Leadership through words (and pictures). BZ and thank you, Jim! One of the items Jim reflected on was how we as a Class might amplify our impact and influence, to engage not only other classes but every graduating midshipman as a force multiplier. More on that later as we collectively ponder what that could look like and how to execute that vision. I look forward to capitalizing on your energy and ideas!

Speaking of force multipliers, during the Class Meeting we also thanked our incredibly generous Classmate Sponsors who made many of the "extras" that we enjoyed over the weekend possible. Thanks again to: Adrienne (Marks) Griffen, Stephen & Rachel Giannone, Phil Corcoran, Rich & Jackie Vitaro, Paul Rayhill, Gabriel Gomez, Tom Bacigalupo, and Tony Klimas. Of special note, Tony (tklimas@horvath-partners.com) shared an opportunity to get involved in USO leadership – please contact Tony for more info.

Tim Wolf wrapped up the Class meeting with a short preview on our upcoming Class Fundraising Project, which will culminate during our 40th Reunion. We will be kicking off this Project in the next few months as we facilitate the selection of initiatives that the Class is passionate about, and which the Academy has identified as furthering the Margin of Excellence. For now, know that Tim will chair the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) of Len LaPorta, Ed Magee, and Mary McElroy to shape and plan this effort. Jim has agreed to serve in an ex-officio capacity to assist and advise the ESC through the process. Thank you in advance for YOUR input and consideration of your valued philanthropic support.

REUNION CLOSE-OUT:

1. Continuing on the idea of soliciting input, please be on the lookout in the not-too-distant future for a “*What I Thought about the Reunion*” poll to capture feedback on all our Reunion “must repeats” and “must improves”. If you’re interested in getting in on the real fun and co-chairing the 40th, it’s not too early to let me know!
2. “Surplus” SWAG – once we tally the late registrants and apparent no-shows and reconcile those people who were owed SWAG against our inventory of remaining reunion stock (and make arrangements to get it all to the rightful owners), any “leftover” SWAG will be announced on sale. More details to follow as we resolve the “We Owe” list.
3. Pictures and Photos: We plan on providing a repository for your (publishable) photos from the 35th, just working out some details. In the meantime, the Class Photos are [here](#) and the link to the Friday Night TapSnap photos is [here](#). The password is that favorite Navy cheer: USNA21412

FOOTBALL SEASON and even more TAILGATING:

1. At Home: Rob Shepherd, Rick Dau, and Jason Cronin are on point for the home tailgaters and are always on the lookout for talent and assistance to continue making our tailgaters world class. Having a venue to facilitate class bonding is as important (and appreciated) as ever. Navy is hosting Tulsa (8 Oct), Houston (22 Oct), and Temple (29 Oct). Please contact Rob (robshepherd@yahoo.com or 302.222.6973) or any member of the home guard for opportunities to serve.
2. Away Games: If you are in the vicinity of any of this season’s away games and desire to get the word out on a Class get-together in your area, please contact me to facilitate any announcements/coordination. Navy is away at East Carolina (9/24), at Air Force (10/1) (Zap the Zoomies), at SMU (Friday, 10/14), at Cincinnati (11/5) and at UCF (11/19). GO NAVY!
3. The Specials:
 - [USNA Tailgater](#) at Air Force (sponsored by Parents Club) just announced – ticket deadline is 9/21.
 - Notre Dame comes to Baltimore at Raven’s Stadium on 12 Nov. For those closer to the action, please reach out with any special tailgate gathering announcements and plans. We’re looking for a Tailgate Captain and Crew here.
 - Army-Navy returns to Philly on 10 Dec (before going on an extended road show for the next few years). Plans are in the works to get the EM-87 underway for another monster tailgater effort in Philly. Details to follow but if you’re of the mind to get “underway” with the Army-Navy tailgate crew, please contact me. If you’d like to lead that effort (or co-lead), REALLY REALLY contact me.
 - It is not too early to start thinking about taking the party overseas when Navy opens against Notre Dame in Dublin on 26 Aug 2023. The Alumni Association has the info you need at www.Navy2Ireland.com.

OTHER NEWS TO USE/ACTION ITEMS:

There are two possible action items for you that have a short turnaround **DEADLINE OF FRIDAY 9/23**

1. Our very own Joe Buenavista has been selected for the 2022 Navy Rugby Hall of Fame. What a well-deserved honor! The Navy Rugby Hall of Fame [Induction Ceremony and "With You" Dinner](#) will be held on Friday, October 7, 2022, at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. The HOF Induction Ceremony will begin at 1630 at the North Bridge Wing Tent, with the Navy Rugby Dinner to follow in the N*Star Room, cocktails start at 1800. If interested in attending, please contact Joe (**before 9/23**) at: jcbuenavista7@yahoo.com or via cell 209.346.0856. [Ticket sales are here](#).
2. Rob Pinataro would very much appreciate your *Shipmate* fodder no later than Friday, 9/23 for inclusion in the Nov/Dec issue. There's got to be at least a few tales that we can go public with! Contact Rob at rpinataro87@gmail.com and include *Shipmate* in the subject line.

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM: On behalf of the entire leadership team, we are thrilled, honored, and proud to be of service to the Class. Thank you for your trust and confidence. Please reach out to any of us with your recommendations or concerns at:

- Scott Herbener, 410.703.3519, president@usna87.net
- Tim Wolf, 612.655.9823, vp@usna87.net
- Chris Dunphy, 617.750.9953, finance@usna87.net
- Steve Rowe, 757.676.9159, comms@usna87.net
- Jason Hardebeck, 410.417.8787, tech@usna87.net

Finally, as we turn the corner on our first 35 years and after the last 2+ years of coping with the consequences of COVID, I'd like to recognize the incredibly special bonds we share. We have incredible people who we all get to call Classmates. Let's take advantage of this moment to actively encourage and support one other, to create opportunities to welcome those who may have "gone adrift" back into the fold, to CONNECT. If you're thinking of "just touching base" or sending an email, do it. If you're pondering making a phone call, dial the number. Our time together is precious – make the most of it.

Go Navy!



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