

86/89 CLASS NEWS

'86

Life Membership: 99% Donor Participation: 13.64%

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'87

Life Membership: 100% Donor Participation: 17.72%

Pres: Jim Matheson
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Hello Classmates,

By the time you receive this, our reunion will have already happened, so, please send your photos and news updates from the big event!

This month we sadly bid farewell and following seas to three classmates whose departures from this life came all too soon. **Jim Matheson** thoughtfully wrote the note below, which you may also have seen via class email.

✉ Dear Classmates,

It is always with a heavy heart that I share news about the passing of a Classmate and so this feeling is amplified manyfold in this message as I inform you that we lost three members of our Class in the past few weeks.

Andrew "Drew" Vuillemot passed way at Bethesda Naval Hospital late last Thursday, 7 July after a prolonged battle with cancer. Drew was in 6th Batt his entire USNA career - first in 33rd Company as a Plebe and then in 36th company. Drew came to USNA from Saginaw, MI and was a rabid U of M Wolverines fan. On a personal note, a handful of our group of 6th Batt friends are from Ohio and avid Ohio State Buckeyes fans and Drew never missed a chance to sing/hum "Hail to the Victors" loudly in our vicinity.

Drew left USNA as a 2nd LT in the US Marine Corps and retired 20+ years later before getting into the government tech and IT business. He deeply adored his wife Julie and kids, James and Jen and was an active '87 Classmate at many events and part of our Tailgate Volunteer crew. Drew was an avid sports fan, especially Navy football and anything to do with baseball and hockey, and he coached kids hockey and played in the beer hockey leagues for many years.

Julie plans to honor Drew with a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery as soon as is possible (likely several months out) and we will share details of this ceremony when they become available.

Charles "Charlie" Lane died in a traffic accident in Michigan on 28 June 2022. Charlie was in 15th Company and also came to USNA from Michigan and commissioned into the Marine Corps upon graduation. He was an infantry officer and served as a forward observer with the decorated 10th Marines Artillery Regiment in the First Persian Gulf War. He then served with 1st Anglico at Camp Pendleton before leaving active duty after nearly 10 years returning to his first love - tending to his land in Michigan as a gentleman farmer. He enjoyed writing with a specialty in military strategy, and additional interest in WW2 history.

In the words of Charlie's USNA & TBS roomie, John Kyle: "Charlie was what we want our Marines to be - smart, tough, loyal, and dependable".

Charlie's Service will be held this Saturday, 16 July at 1 PM at the Borek Jennings' Funeral Home located at 7425 East M-36, Hamburg Township, Michigan 48139. A follow on ceremony spreading Charlie's ashes on the Severn River will be planned and published separately.

<https://www.borekjemmings.com/obituary/Charles-Lane>

Finally, **Charles "Chuck" Little** passed away at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem on 20 June. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, 26 June 2022 at the Jamestown NC United Methodist Church. While Chuck began his journey at USNA, he did not graduate with the Class, instead gaining a degree in logistics from NC A&T State. Chuck is survived by his wife Tammy of 27 years and two sons, Colton "Reed" and Christian Little.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/greensboro-nc/charles-chuck-little-10801703>

The Class will make a donation in honor of each of these Classmates to the charities they each cared deeply about.

Reminders that life is short abound, but few more poignant than losing three members of our Class in such a short time. At the upcoming reunion we'll honor these Classmates and the too many others that we have lost in the last 39 years.

Please look for another email tomorrow about our Class Officer Election Slate and later this week about the reunion details and more SWAG.

For now, please join me in remembering Chuck, Charlie and Drew...RIP dear friends and Classmates.

Jim

Jim Matheson
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Please send your news to rpinataro87@gmail.com with "SHIPMATE" in the subject line.

'88

Life Membership: 100% Donor Participation: 13.24%

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'89

Life Membership: 100% Donor Participation: 24.16%

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To Post a Message: write your message and send it to usna89@yahoogroups.com
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Greetings, 89ers! Happy Halloween!
Our class president **Denise (Shorey) Willert** reports in with some sad news:

✉ Dear friends,

I would love to write a happy column this month, but my heart is heavy. Should you not be aware, we sadly lost two beloved classmates earlier this summer — **Jim Berg** (19th Company) in June, and **Tim (TO) O'Rourke** (14th Company) in July. There are few words to express how hard these losses hit us, and the grief they bring for the loved ones left behind. As a class, we do the best we can to support the families of our Shipmates. I thank you all for being there for each other.

To this end, in loving memory of the six classmates we've lost during operations, as well as the two classmates who passed away during our time at the Academy, a drive is currently underway to fundraise in their names for the new Alumni Center. Our goal is to raise an additional \$100K, adding on to our spring total of approximately \$120K, which would cover the cost of memorializing these classmates as Alumni Center Plankowners. (If you're not familiar, any individual giving \$12.5K to this effort will have his or her name permanently engraved on the Plankowner wall in the new building.) Should we not reach the 100K goal to recognize all of these great warriors by name,