



May 9, 2024

Magnificent Classmates!

1. **Suni in Space** (work in progress) – The latest date on the NASA website is a launch NET 17 May at 1816 ET. As that solidifies (or changes), I'll send an update. We are still planning a space bound Class call (pending NASA scheduling) once Suni gets up there, hacks into and hotwires a passing Starlink satellite.

2. The **GREAT CLASS CHALLENGE** ([hyperlink](#)) update –

At Day 4, with only 38 hours left in the Challenge, the Class is surging! We are:

2th in total number of donors (269) – only our 1984 Firsties stand in our way with 446, and
5th in Class Participation (28.41%). We need just over 200 more participants to break 50%
(changing the numerator in this equation sure beats adjusting the denominator)

To those who have already participated – **THANK YOU!**

To those of you who haven't yet – **it's not too late** – please consider taking five minutes and \$10 to propel us to the finish line.

At this point, you might be asking why we put this much energy into the Class Challenge? I'll share my reasons (and you may have some more of your own, which may include how to shut me up 😊):

- **I love our Class.** I want us to be shining examples for others to recognize just how special and wonderful we are as a Class. I want us to be inspirational and aspirational examples to classes that have come after us and help raise their bar. We are Fried, Scrambled, but Never Broken!
- I want us to win. We are tenacious winners. I see it daily in news clippings and our class history updates and in the phone calls and emails I receive from Classmates. **WE WIN** and we help each other win!
- I want to especially **beat our Firsties**. This may be the most ego part of this effort but I'd like to womp our Firsties just for the sheer fun of it! Just think back to Plebe Summer for any necessary motivation.
- I (personally) use this as an opportunity to **honor both Fallen Classmates and Classmates Who Have Gone Before Us**. (see more on that below).
- I enjoy the **Chris Dunphy ravings** on Facebook. This is self-explanatory but if you aren't tuned in to the Dunphy Comedy Hour on Facebook, you're missing something.
- **I love the Naval Academy...** and this is a great opportunity (and a relatively cheap one at that) for us as a Class to show a bit of love for a place that helped shape us in our formative years (except for **Ken Dunn** and **Matt Sampson**, who were fully formed in utero)
- I see what our funding does **impacting the lives of Mids**. The "Margin of Excellence" truly does exist. Our focus fund for GCC24 1987 Class Project is the **Midshipman Development Center** which promotes and enhances the professional development of mids and provides individual counseling in a non-attributable way (talk to **Len Laporta** sometime of the great impact this program has).
- It's a twofer! Any contributions until our 40th Reunion **count towards our 1987 Class Project** totals.

Please go NOW to your favorite browser to www.navalacademychallenge.com and select: "1987 Class Project - Midn. Development Center Fund"! or any other fund that floats your boat.

Let me now address my unintended (mis)use of "**Fallen Classmates**" (and I meant no offense). Someone wisely counseled me that I should reserve "Fallen" for our Classmates who died in the line of duty. Roger that, message received and acknowledged! I will make the distinction going forward to describe Departed Classmates or Classmates Who Have Gone Before Us. In that vein, we are making a concerted effort to honor all of our Departed Classmates. I will append a list at the end of the letter to note who has been already covered and who still needs coverage. My only ask is please contact me so I can coordinate this effort and make sure everyone gets accounted. The specific GCC website nuance is, you have to use a dummy email when you donate on a Classmate's behalf to make it count in the GCC numbers. If you'd like to help in the effort, please contact me.

Go Navy! Beat Army, The Class of 1984, and the Great Class Challenge!



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Honoring Departed Classmates

Name	Deceased	CO	GCC24
Mark D. Hamilton	03/21/1991	5	covered
Ronald E. Prass	01/05/2017	6	
Glen S. Campbell	04/25/1993	7	covered
William R. Muscha	05/08/2002	7	
Dana Ruge	04/20/2022	7	
John D. Titus	06/14/2019	7	
James A. Henderson	11/09/1998	9	
Donald Lamar Griffin II	10/15/2022	10	
Dennis C. Mollon	12/28/2009	10	
Lee A. Lambert	07/03/2002	11	
Ned W. Metcalf	03/21/1991	11	
David A. Ogden	08/01/2007	11	
John JJ Adams	10/07/2021	12	
George F. Cox Jr.	05/13/2019	13	
John G. Rowan	08/05/2003	13	
Jason K. Skubi	06/22/1990	13	
Daniel J. Aldridge	07/26/2016	14	
John T. Flansburg	01/09/2019	15	
Charles Lane	06/28/2022	15	
James Money	10/19/2020	15	
Mark Gibson	11/08/2020	16	
Frederick W. Smith	03/18/2014	16	
Peter Wilson	03/29/2024	16	
David A. Hemela	08/24/2001	18	covered
David R. Marsh	10/10/1987	18	covered

Martin E. Brandle	07/28/1997	21	
Christopher T. Fay	08/26/1993	21	covered
David M. Orans	12/15/2002	22	
John S. Hayden	06/15/2005	23	
John M. Baldwin	11/21/2011	24	covered
Gary C. Kirkland	12/15/2007	24	covered
Ronald J. Vauk	09/11/2001	24	covered
Michael J. Carroll	01/17/2013	25	
Thomas E. Adams	02/09/1988	27	
Joe Eversole	09/10/2021	27	
Pat Hagerty	01/23/2024	27	
John Wells	01/29/2018	29	
Leonard H. Borgdorff	12/23/2012	31	
Gregory R. Zymbaluk	09/06/2012	32	covered
Rob "Race" Roberson	12/19/2022	34	
Richard Galvan	07/17/2009	35	covered
Wesley J. Mumm	04/20/2011	35	
Andrew Ricciuti	11/07/2008	35	
Daniel Shaffer	02/23/2018	35	
Owen E. Duke	07/15/1996	36	covered
Andrew Vuillemot	07/07/2022	36	
Andrew P. Coffey	10/04/1986		covered
Kenneth R. Cundiff	02/16/1986		covered
Hans C. Graverholt	08/17/1986		covered
Charles Little	06/20/2022		covered
Christopher P. Long	11/06/1983		covered