

86/87 CLASS NEWS

stars and it could not have happened to a better person. Hopefully by the time this is printed, he will have been confirmed by the Senate and will be in the job. We all know what a terrific Naval Officer he is, and he will do a great job for our Navy.

Keep that content coming, '86!

Finally, from **Kevin Windbigler**:

✉ Early in 2023, **Mark Johnson** sounded the call: "28, let's meet at my house in Boston, and go to the Army-Navy game". The following families were able to attend: MaryAnne and **Jimmy Pitts**, Jane and **Mark Johnson**, **Jeff Davlia**, **Doug Kibbey**, Deidre and **Bernie Klosowski**, Michele, Allie, and **Mike Lupton**, **Adam Meinrod**, Lupita, Lauren, Amanda, and **Alex Ospina**, Kathy and **Brian Quinlan**, Jeanette and **Nels Swanson**, Karen and **Earl Totty**, and Grace and **Kevin Windbigler**.

The weekend started on Thursday at Mark's house. Jane, Mark's wife, prepared a wonderful dinner for us. Of course, the sea stories began immediately from the classics from our time at the Academy to ones recently created.

On Friday, after breakfast, we went our separate ways to explore downtown Chatham, gathering again for dinner. During dinner, Jane presented each of us a picture book of photos from our days at the Academy. The highlight of the evening was celebrating **VADM Pitts** getting his third star. After dinner, we visited downtown Chatham for the "Christmas by the Sea Stroll."

Gameday started early. Mark rented a bus so that we could travel to the game in style. It proved a sound decision once we saw game-day traffic. We arrived in time to see the pre-game ceremonies, including the march on. While we ended up on the short side of the game, nothing matches the experience of attending an Army-Navy game.

For most of us, Sunday was a day to travel home. We arrived safely home, glad to have spent time with friends and family, and ready to do it all again next year.

Thanks to Mark and Jane for organizing such an incredible weekend and helping live up to the third verse of Navy Blue and Gold.

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CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to: classnews@usna.com

2024

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
May-June '24	21 Mar '24
July-August '24	28 May '24
September-October '24	30 Jul '24
November-December '24	25 Sept '24

'87

Life Membership: 99% Donor Participation: 39.96%

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Hello Classmates,

By the time you receive this, hopefully spring will have sprung, and we will be enjoying a bit warmer weather. Big thanks to Pat Shea, **Dale Szpisjak** and **Ronnie Harris** for making time to share their news with us.

Dale Szpisjak joined the Dublin mission to support Navy's battle against the Fighting Irish and sent a few great photos.



L to R: Dave Biddinger & Dale Szpisjak



L to R: Dale Szpisjak & son, David Szpisjak '24, future submariner

Ronnie Harris had a very successful first year coaching track and shared a few reflections.

✉ "A quick note about my first year of coaching. Although I will never achieve Al Cantello status, my first year coaching at Poway High School was a success. I had over

60 kids come out and we had a spectacular season. Greg Hill '87 took me in when we competed at his High School's Invitational at the end of September, allowing me to camp at his home near the course and to set up our Command Center as the team made their way from San Diego. The highlights of the season were the girls placing third in the Sweepstakes race at the Mt San Antonio College (Mt. Sac Invite) and finishing the season with a seventh-place finish in the CIF Division 1 State Cross Country Championships over Thanksgiving Weekend. With three freshmen and a sophomore returning, I plan to return and coach the girls and the boys again next year.

That is it from Cardiff by The Sea, California! Beat Army!"

~Ronnie Harris

Pat Shea sends his first *Shipmate* contribution with impressive news about another classmate...

✉ "Pat Shea (6th Co.) and **VADM Luis Polar** (4th Co.), PER Head of Navy send these pictures in from a pre-Thanksgiving Peruvian Navy hosted multi-national planning symposium held at the Peru Naval War College in Lima. In August, Luis was appointed Head of the Peruvian Navy and generously offered to host the first USNAVSOUTH UNITAS planning symposium for Western Hemisphere Navies. I serve as the Maritime Operations Executive Director on the NAVSOUTH staff and participated with Naval War College international staff professor, **Ray "Pasta" Tortorelli '90** (USNA) in the symposium. Many congratulations to Luis, as the first USNA graduate to rise to the role of Peru Head of Navy. The symposium reinforced that the bonds formed along the Severn are truly long-lasting."

~Pat Shea



L to R: VADM Luis Polar (Peruvian Navy) and Pat Shea



'87: VADM Luis Polar (Peruvian Navy) and Pat Shea at USNAVSOUTH UNITAS Planning Symposium in Lima, Peru



'87: Coach Ronnie Harris and the Poway Boys & Girls Track Teams



'87: Coach Ronnie Harris and the Poway Girls Track Team

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

2024 NAVY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Follow Navy Football at: navysports.com

31 AUG	vs Bucknell
7 SEPT	vs Temple
21 SEPT	vs Memphis
28 SEPT	@ UAB
5 OCT	@ Air Force
19 OCT	vs Charlotte
26 OCT	vs Notre Dame
2 NOV	East Rutherford, NJ
9 NOV	@ Rice
16 NOV	@ South Florida
30 NOV	vs Tulane
14 DEC	@ East Carolina
	Possible Friday 29 Nov
	Landover, MD

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