

87/87 CLASS NEWS

'87

Life Membership: 99%

Donor Participation: 1.90%

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Hello Classmates,

Our 37th June week since graduation is around the corner! It is hard to believe that all of you have gotten so old! Ahem. With a new crop of freshly commissioned officers and June week weddings, it is a time of new beginnings filled with lifetimes of opportunity. Let us wish them all the best in life!

Congratulations to **Sean Mangan** and wife for raising two Surface Warfare Officers!

✉ "My wife Sue and I have 3 daughters. Two of which are Lieutenants in the US Navy via ROTC. Brigid, our youngest, is a graduate from Penn State and is the Navigator and a plank owner aboard the USS AUGUSTA (LCS-34). Last September, we went up to East Port Maine for the ship's commissioning. My daughter was able to invite one additional person to the Chairman's Reception the night before the Commissioning. To my surprise, I saw that a plebe year company mate, **VADM John Fuller**, was in attendance and would be the Senior Military Officer and the Keynote speaker at Commissioning.


My middle daughter Áine is a graduate from Georgia Tech. She is the Supply officer for HM-15, the remaining active duty squadron for the MH-53E Sea Dragon. She invited me to attend the Supply Corp Ball in Norfolk. A couple of weeks before the event, she texted me that "One of your classmates is going to be the guest speaker." Once again, to my surprise, it was another plebe year company mate! This time a plebe summer squad mate: **Carl Liebert!** Two formal events and 2 company mates! So good to catch up with both of them! Plebe year 2nd company representing!" ~**Sean Mangan**




L to R, VADM John Fuller & Sean Mangan



L to R, LT Brigid Mangan, VADM John Fuller, and Sean Mangan




Anthony A. Cucolo III,
President and CEO
USMA Class of 1979




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L to R, Carl Liebert and Sean Mangan



L to R, Carl Liebert, Sean Mangan, and LT Áine Mangan

Shelley (Laurilla) O'Malley sent news of a great get together of the ladies of '87:

✉ "I hope you are well. We have settled into our new place in Norfolk and are enjoying having a little extra time with our daughter **Lauren '19** and getting a chance to bop up to Annapolis to see our son **Luke '27**.

Being in Norfolk also made it easier for me to join in the Women of '87 reunion out in Virginia Beach this weekend. We had over 30 ladies there and **Trish Burgess** (our fearless leader) found an amazing place for us all to be to share some memories, catch up and generally relax and enjoy the moments. For fear of leaving anyone out, I did want to at least recognize the committee, lead by Trish, who made it happen: **Susanne (Clautice) Openshaw, Suzanne Skelley, Mercedes (Lewiski) Welch, Dawn Driesbach, Kathleen (Buckley) Daniels, and Susan (Davis) Sutter**. Enjoy a "where's Waldo" moment as you search for a face in the crowd. Shout out also to **Kelly (Poetzman) Jefferies** for running a Zumba class for us all and to **Lisa (Rathjen) Avila and Stacey Noem** for some great '87 ladies swag!

I also wanted to shout out **Scot Herbener** and the great class of '87 for the warm wishes for our reunion/retreat! It was a priceless event!" -Shelley (Laurilla) O'Malley

I regret to share that in February we had to bid farewell and following seas to our classmate, Peter Stephen Wilson, who departed too soon. I am sure you join me in offering our deepest condolences to Peter's family and friends.



'87: The Ladies of '87 in Virginia Beach

Obituary: Peter Stephen Wilson (14 October 1963 - 29 February 2024)

Peter Stephen Wilson, lovingly known as Peter to all who knew him, passed away on 29 February 2024, in Cleveland, OH, at the age of 60.

Born on 14 October 1963, in Woodbury, NJ, he was the cherished son of June E. Wilson and the late William E. Wilson, who instilled in him the values of hard work, integrity, faith, and the importance of family. Peter grew up in the church playing the drums and was baptized at a young age. His love for Christ and unwavering faith will continue to live on as Pete is taken home to glory.

Peter's academic journey was as impressive as it was diverse. He graduated from Woodbury High School before proudly serving his country through his attendance at the Naval Academy. His love for learning propelled him to further his education at Lincoln University studying Chemistry and then at Howard University where he earned his Masters of Business Administration.

Peter's professional life was marked by his keen analytical mind and intelligence. Peter's extensive career involved senior leadership in the field of analytical chemistry, Lean Six Sigma and international excellence. A man of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Peter's fraternity brothers will remember him for his commitment to their ideals of scholarship and perseverance.

His work ethic was unparalleled, and his professional achievements were many, but it was his role as a family man that gave Peter the most joy.

Peter's heart belonged to his beloved wife, Nicole R. Wilson, with whom he built a life filled with love and laughter. Together, they

raised a beautiful family. Peter leaves behind his six children; Tia Williams, Garret Faber, Drew Johnson Nwabueze (Jay), Niaree Williams, Peter Wilson II, and Natalie Wilson. He was a doting grandfather to Alaiya Williams, Araia Williams, and Ifeanyi Nwabueze Jr., each of whom brought him immeasurable happiness. In addition, he had the joy of being the God-father to Payton Calloway and Bre'Anna Kidd-Smith. Peter was also an immensely adored son-in-law to Dolores Carter.

Peter's interests were as eclectic as his talents. DJ Pete Smooth was a maestro behind the DJ booth, where he shared his love for music with others. From DJ'ing in the family sunroom to high school proms, Peter's love for music was always apparent. Along with music, Peter was an avid enthusiast of model trains, he could often be found at the train tracks. Peter also took pleasure in coaching Peter and Natalie's basketball games from the sidelines, golfing, traveling, and making spontaneous purchases, hence big buddy the RV. A true globetrotter, Peter's wanderlust led him to explore the world, each journey adding to the tapestry of stories he so loved to share. Back at home, he was the undisputed king of the grill, delighting family and friends with his culinary expertise, particularly when using his smoker to perfect various dishes. Peter's legacy is one of a man who was not only intelligent and analytical but also incredibly handy. He could fix anything he put his hands on, and his practical skills were a testament to his resourceful and inventive nature.

His departure leaves a void in the lives of those who knew him, but his spirit lives on in the memories he created and the wisdom he

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imparted. Peter Stephen Wilson will be deeply missed, but his light will continue to shine in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to have been touched by his presence. As we say farewell to a man of great character and warmth, we celebrate a life well-lived, a life filled with purpose, and a life that was a blessing to many. Peter's story does not end here; it is carried forward in the lives of those he loved and those who loved him. Rest in peace, Warden Peter Wilson, your journey has been remarkable, and your impact, everlasting.

<https://www.gainesfuneralhome.com/obituary/Peter-Wilson>

Please send your news to rpinatoro87@gmail.com with "Shipmate" in the subject line.

'88

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 2.08%

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Shipmate submissions: shipmate1988@gmail.com

Zoom link posted on all platforms

Hello to all, '88! We'd love to hear from you, so send in your news and photos to Shipmate and our Facebook group. Your news does not have to be work related. Our greatest achievements are the graduations, new grandbabies, retirement fishing trips, classmate meet-ups, and travel stories.

If you haven't joined the '88 Facebook group yet, now's a perfect time to get in on the conversation there and also on myusna.com, the central location online for all USNA happenings, including our private '88 group! You'll also find links to our Wardroom Happy Hour Zoom on all '88 social platforms, including LinkedIn.

From **Scott Evans** (5th co):

✉ My wife, Donna, and I headed up to Greenville, SC, this past weekend to be Dave's first official visitors since he relocated to Greenville from San Diego. Happy to have a fellow 5th Company Shipmate and Marine in my backyard (Atlanta). Celebration beers were flowing all weekend! Excited for **Dave Bass** (5th co) and his new East Coast restart. Next big 5th Company reunion event is Army-Navy in WDC. Looking to add **Harry Demir** (5th co) and **Keith Miller** (5th co) to the December party! Beat Army!"



Two lazy goats! Dave Bass with Scott Evans in Greenville, SC.

From **Matt Aaron** (14th co), President and CEO, Special Olympics Pennsylvania:



Matt Aaron cannonballs into the freezing pool for the Special Olympics PA Polar Plunge event. What an epic photo!

✉ "Thank you, '88! On February 9th, the "USNA'88 Cares" team with me, **Chris Mosher** (14th co), **Dave Cleary** (26th co) and his son Michael, a Special Olympics athlete, were "freezin' for a reason" at the Philadelphia Polar Plunge. The plunge was held at Citizens Bank Park, right across the street from Lincoln Financial Field, the real home of Army-Navy. We plunged into a pool down on the 3rd base line with our Class of '88 crest proudly displayed up on the Phanavision [for data geeks: this scoreboard is 152 feet wide by 86 feet tall, and at 11.6 million pixels, can display 516 life-sized

fans at one time!] behind us to raise funds to support the 15,000 athletes of Special Olympics PA (SOPA). Numerous donors, including many classmates, contributed almost \$12,000 to our team and helped SOPA raise nearly \$500,000! Next year, we hope to have even more classmates join our team to plunge with us."

Thanks, Matt, for leading this fine organization that truly makes a difference in the lives of the athletes. Make a note in your calendars now for next year's event, '88! If you can't plunge in person, a donation of any amount is greatly appreciated! If you're interested, please contact Matt at matt.aaron@aya.yale.edu. BZ, Matt!

We're so very proud of our own **Matice Wright-Springer** (10th co) for being named this year's Pioneer Award winner for the Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) which celebrates exceptional Black engineers who have made significant contributions in their respective STEM fields and honors leaders, like Matice, who demonstrate outstanding performance and who will shape the future of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Matice was formally recognized at the 38th Annual BEYA STEM conference and gala on Saturday, February 17th, 2024 in Baltimore. Bravo Zulu, classmate, on this well-deserved national honor!

We'd also like to congratulate **Cassandra Preer Taylor** (29th co) who was elected to the USNA Women's SIG Board and began her service at the WSIG Annual Gathering in April. '88 is proud of all of your many achievements, Candy, and we thank you for representing us on this important board.

Would you like to have one place online to find all the news and events related to USNA and '88? You've got three. Join our private '88 Facebook or '88 LinkedIn groups, and while I know it can be frustrating to keep USNAAA up to date, please head over to myusna.com to activate your account. You might need a new password, but it doesn't take long, and then you'll be back in the loop. Once you're in, you can locate our private '88 group, your local alumni chapter, and any Special Interest Group ("SIG") that appeals to you.

Can we truly believe that '88 took our Oath of Office on I-Day, July 5th, 1984, **FORTY years ago**?! To help us celebrate this milestone, we want to gather your I-Day stories, memories that flash in your head when something triggers them, or anything unique that you can recall, old letters home, etc., along with any photos of I-Day or Plebe Summer that you might be lucky enough to have. Please send to me directly or post in our '88 Facebook group on July 5th, 2024.

Find our '88 Wardroom Happy Hour Zoom links on all '88 social media platforms.

Remember to "be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder." You matter to more people than you may realize. LL 88