

86/87 CLASS NEWS

'86

Life Membership: 99%

Donor Participation: 12.03%

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This month's contribution is courtesy of **Jim Kilby** (aka the Vice Chief of Naval Operations):

Greetings from the Pentagon on our 42nd I-Day anniversary plus 1 day! Today, we held a small reunion and photo opportunity with the Gavel & Sounding Board (G&SB) presented to our class by the class of 1969.

A quick recap of history here – the class of 1939 began a tradition of repurposing wood from the decks of USS CONSTITUTION ("OLD IRONSIDES") and crafted a G&SB for each USNA class president to hold in trust and then pass it onto their succeeding class in 50-year increments. The class of 1969 assumed this responsibility and is filling in gaps for classes who did not receive one and we are part of that grouping.



The Gavel and Sounding Board

Our class officers asked if I would hold the gavel in the Pentagon for the time being – and am happy to do so. Coincidentally, the Navy staff recently remodeled the 6th corridor, 4th deck hallway in the Pentagon where the centerpiece at the E-ring is a helm fashioned from the wood of CONSTITUTION. I put out a call to '86er's in and around the Pentagon and we met for a quick reunion for a photo and coffee!

Standby future class of 2036... we have something for you! If you find yourself in the Pentagon, come on by and see our class G&SB. For the record, **Brad Skillman** is now the man in the actual 2017 CV red Corvette!

Keep the updates coming, '86!

Audemus Esse Magnos



'86: From left to right: Lt. Gen. Matthew Glavy, Mr. Michael Pletke, VADM Brad Skillman, Ms. Sharon Chapman, VADM Gene Black, ADM Jim Kilby, VADM Jimmy Pitts, Mr. Kevin Delamer and Mr. Peter Lynch

'87

Life Membership: 99%

Donor Participation: 48.14%

Pres: **Scott Herbener**

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Hello Classmates,

The tongue in cheek curse, "May you live in interesting times..." seems to be upon us as we certainly live in interesting times. In the 30 days before writing this, we have had an attempted assassination of a former U.S. president, an incumbent president stepping out of the race for reelection, the stock market dropping precipitously, a pregnant pause as we wait to see how Iran will respond to Israel's recent targeting of a Hamas leader in Iran, and so much more. We also find ourselves wondering when astronauts **Suni Williams** and Butch Wilmore will return to earth from the International Space Station now that they are 61 days into their planned 8-day mission.

With all of that going on, I hope this column finds you well, that Suni is home, and at least some of the other issues have found peaceful solutions. So, off to the news!

Kathy Gaffney sent great photos from a Class of '87 mini reunion in Charlottesville, VA with Kathy and **Mike Gaffney**, Shelly and **Marc Ruggiano** and Amy and **Ernie Harper**.



Mike and Kathy Gaffney, Marc and Shelly Ruggiano and Ernie and Amy Harper



(L to R) Mike Gaffney, Marc Ruggiano and Ernie Harper

Alan Hermann announced the tremendous news of his son, Ryan's, wedding. Judging from the big smiles, it looks like everyone had a fantastic time!

✉ "On 16 December '23, **Kara Butler ('87 plus 30)** and **Ryan Herrmann ('17 Marquette NROTC)** were married at the Guild Hotel in San Diego. Although not an "old school" traditional military wedding with all associated protocols, there was an overwhelming number of active-duty members, veterans, and their spouses in attendance at the couple's celebration.

One photo pictures USNA graduates spanning generations, including: **Robert Saunders '21** and **Alexandra (Butler) Saunders '20** (sister of the bride with baby son, Kairo), **John Davin '17**, **Joey Tom '15** and **Megan (Hartman) Tom '17**, **Jeanelle Seals '17**, **James Cullingford '16** and **Katie (Mundo) Cullingford '16**,

Alex Lynch '14, Jude Ampolini '17, Samantha Thomas '16, Natalie Lautrup '19, Brandon Penafiel '19, and the bride, Kara (Butler) Herrmann '17.

Others in attendance with the "youngsters" were **Tina Demarest '98, Alan Herrmann '87** (groom's father), **John Vertel '87, Steve Herrmann '83** (groom's uncle), **Mike Giorgione '81, Peter Andreasen '80, and Mike Keeney '77.**

On the couple's special day, Kara and Ryan were surrounded by former shipmates from the USS JOHN P MURTHA (LPD 26), USS CHOSIN (CG 65), and USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60) along with friends and colleagues from Naval Surface Forces Pacific staff and Naval Post-graduate School as well as friends and family members representing each branch of the armed services and a variety of university ROTC and OCS commissioning programs, which made their wedding union a truly joint military operation!" ~ Alan Herrmann

And lastly, **Art Pruett** led a crew of classmates on an outstanding golf outing in Scotland.

✉ "Beannachdan (Greetings) from Scotland! I am a longtime reader but first-time submitter to our class column in *Shipmate*, so this submission is long overdue. As such, I thought I would drop a line to share some recent excursions that I have been fortunate to participate in with classmates.

My roommate, **Derrick Smith**, and I started planning a joint 60th birthday celebration in the spring of 2023 for a tour of Scotland AND a follow-on golf outing for the summer of 2024. (I mean, we WERE already going to be there, so we just had to play some golf!)

For the first week in Scotland, we had myself and my wife Janice, Derrick, and his wife Anne, along with Debbie and **Tom Bacigalupo**. The one-week tour included tours and stops in Glasgow, Nairn, Culloden, Pitlochry, St. Andrews and finally Edinburgh. Here we are in front of ABC (Another Bloody Castle) called Eilean Donan Castle in Dornie, Kyle of Lochalsh.



(L to R) Derrick, Anne, Janice, Art, Debbie and Tom.

As expected, we took in all the local culture and sampled various local scotch whiskies throughout the week. We also stumbled across a unique room at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry and just had to take a quick photo here. Unfortunately, the room was not available for us during our 2-night stay there.



(L to R) (Derrick, Art and Tom in front of Room 87 at the Atholl Palace Hotel

At the end of the week and after our tour of Edinburgh Castle, we said goodbye to our wives and raced back to our hotel to meet two other classmates (**Eric Parker** and **Todd Steggerda**) who joined us for a week of golf in Scotland. Also arriving to round out our golf group was Derrick's sons, Drew and Sam, as well as Todd's son, Connor.



(L to R) (Connor, Todd, Art, Eric, Tom, Derrick, Drew and Sam on the 18th green of St Andrews Old Course

Our golfing excursion started at the birthplace of the Open Championship, Prestwick Golf Club, which proved to be quite "quirky" with several blind shots. After Prestwick, we played a number of excellent courses on our 7-day, 8-course jaunt, including Dundonald Links, Crail (Craighead & Balcomie), St Andrews (New Course & Old Course), and finished at Carnoustie (site of this year's Senior Open Championship).

Each of these links style courses had fairways riddled with pot bunkers with steep faces, rolling mounds in the fairways and on



'87: A big NAVY celebration of the wedding of Ryan Hermann and '87: '87:



'87: Alan Herrmann and the more "seasoned" NAVY wedding guests.

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the greens, and thick wispy grass in the rough – all which made a level of difficulty we had not experienced before. It should be noted however that the most notable bookend came from our former Navy Golf Team Captain, Derrick, who began the trip with an out of bounds shot on the first tee at Prestwick but closed the week by shooting an impressive 75 at Carnoustie, perhaps the most difficult course in the world. BZ Derrick!!! Without a doubt, this was a trip that we will never forget!



(L to R) (Todd, Eric, Tom, Derrick and Art on the 1st tee of St Andrews Old Course

Sadly, **Scott Herbener** has some unfortunate news to share regarding the loss of another classmate.

✉ “Dear Classmates,

It is my sad duty to report that our Classmate, **Jim Morgan**, CAPT, USN (Ret.), passed away Sunday, 07 July after a prolonged and hard-fought illness. Jim hailed from Wooster, OH, was a member of Stalag 17 plebe year, and graduated with the 33rd Herd. At the Academy, Jim studied oceanography and started his storied SWO career as the USNA YP Commodore. A great friend and shipmate, Jim was a SWO's SWO – commanding USS HOWARD (DDG 83), DESRON 7 and the NROTC unit at University of Florida. Please take a moment and join me in remembering Jim. RIP Classmate.”

~Scott Herbener, President,
USNA Class of 1987

Huge thanks to Kathy Gaffney, Alan Hermann, and Art Pruett for generously sending in their news.

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

SEA STORIES

Are you on active duty?
Send your Sea Stories to
seastories@usna.com

'88

Life Membership: 100%
Donor Participation: 15.04%

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myUSNA: **Class of 1988**

Shipmate submissions: shipmate1988@gmail.com

Zoom link posted on all platforms

Here's something worth repeating: Our class has arranged with SoNo 1420, a distillery founded and owned by fellow grad, **Ted Dumbauld**, class of '88-7, to set aside an entire cask of bourbon for 4 ½ years of aging just for our 40th reunion in 2028. Hey, P P P P P P P! Am I right?

This will yield approximately 200 class crest engraved bottles of 88-proof bourbon for those interested. Between now and then, '88 classmates are invited to stop by SoNo1420 in Norwalk for a wee dram from the barrel thief. Let me know with a photo and a quick note if you stop in!

From **Neil Giles (4th co)**

✉ “I'd like to input for Shipmate about classmate **Terry Moran's (30th co)** awesome work leading VetsBoats.org. Here is a photo from a recent sailing excursion in the San Francisco Bay with Terry and me from '88, along with another link in the chain from the

60s, **Ed McCann '65** and his wife.”



L to R, **Neil Giles '88**, **Leslie McCann**, **Ed McCann '65**, and **Terry Moran '88**, founder of VetsBoats

Terry, who says he's breaking his 36-year record of never being in *Shipmate*, explains that VetsBoats' mission is to “provide measurable improvement in health and well-being to military veterans who suffer from PTSD and Traumatic Injuries, using mindfulness-based therapeutic sailing.”

Since 2014, Terry and his team has taken over 1,000 veterans sailing in their network of over 10 boats, and he's extremely grateful for the support of our '88 classmates: **Chad Dorr (17th co)**, **Kevin Kitts (20th co)**, **Paul D'Alessandro (12th co)**, **Neil Giles (4th co)**, and **James Johnson (26th co)**.

You can help, too, by referring a veteran in crisis, volunteering, or providing support to VetsBoats through in-kind, corporate matching or direct donations. They're expecting to take 500 more veterans on calming sails this year before October to expose them to the “joy of sailing and the healing effects of being on the water.”

Terry says his “true calling lies in giving back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country.” With a non-salaried staff of 22, two recreational therapists, and four social



'88: **Terry Moran**, center, leads his VetsBoats team onboard one of their wooden boats.