



August 29, 2024

Hey'87!

As we all prepare for the Labor Day weekend and squeeze what's left out of the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of pumpkin spice season (for some), I wanted to share some timely information this you:

1. SPACE CALL:

For those of you counting, this Saturday will be **87 days** since **Suni Williams** left Florida for her new summer, fall and winter villa, the ISS. To celebrate her space station warming, there will be another **Class Space Call with Suni!**

SPACE JAM, part deux this **SATURDAY, 8/31 @ 1530 ET/1430CT/1330MT/1230PT**

NASA is giving us a power block of almost 90 minutes. You can join up to 10 minutes prior to the call. A NASA host will admit you. There will be two satellite handovers at 1607 & 1626 ET where we will have a brief LOS and then get readmitted after the LOS. The call is limited to about 87 people, so everyone share nice. Link here: [Suni Call in Space - LIVE FROM ISS](#)

Meeting ID: 239 243 889 064 ; Passcode: NVbYVt

2. HOME TAILGATERS:

There will **NOT** be an official home tailgater this weekend for 8/31 v.Bucknell nor on 9/7 v.Temple. The Goat trailer needs some additional love and care (and probably some new tires) and quite frankly, our beloved Home Tailgating Crew (HTC) isn't getting the support from us that they need and deserve. We have been relying on a devoted band of **Rob Shepherd** and **Jason Cronin** and **Rick Dau** and their families (as well as some very dedicated guest players) but we need to step up our support.

If there is to be a sustained future for what I feel is part of our Class' heart and soul, then we need to get some additional labor support (think mini-watchbill) to get us through this year. I'm asking for Classmates (particularly locals) to give us one game each year that they can support from set-up to breakdown under the direction of our HTC Czars. If the support is numerous and overwhelming (many hands make light work), we can break assignments into shorter blocks (think micro-watchbill).

The home games that we are planning to have Class Tailgaters for are:

- Saturday, September 21 @1530 vs. Memphis
- Saturday, October 19 @1530 vs. Charlotte
- Saturday, November 16 @1200 vs. Tulane

We are contemplating other hybrid approaches, such as contracting out some hired help, partnering up with another class, or maybe sponsoring a company of Mids (if the Dant approves that program again). I'd be happy to discuss with anyone who would like to constructively help solve this challenge. If you would like to volunteer *before* I call you, please call Jason (831.236.4639) or me.

3. DGA COMMITTEE:

The Class' Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA) Committee, chaired by **Adrienne (Marks) Griffen**, has begun meeting weekly. The team includes: **Jim Byrne**, **Joe de Leon**, **Scott McFarlane**, and **Joyce (Robinson) Saunders**. Their charter is to create a sustainable process to [identify DGA candidates](#) from within the Class that is inclusive, open and transparent, and to create nomination packages for candidates.

Successful DGA candidates will have:

- made a distinctive contribution to his or her field or community with a discernible embodiment of the Naval Academy mission;
- demonstrate the utmost integrity in their chosen fields; and
- should be able to demonstrate sustained, active support for the Naval Academy mission through volunteer activities or active engagements with the Naval Academy, Naval Academy Alumni Association, Naval Academy Foundation, or other supporting entities within the Naval Academy community.

Expect to hear more about DGA nominations in upcoming Class Blasts.

4. COLUMBARIUM ACCESS RESTRICTIONS (RAMSAY ROAD CLOSURE):

"This past spring, the Navy Facilities team discovered that Ramsay Road, the road in front of the Columbarium, had eroded to a point that required partial closure to ensure the safety of motorists. *Leadership at the Naval Academy, in coordination with Navy Facilities has determined that immediate repairs to Ramsay Road and installation of a seawall are required to protect against future flooding. To allow for these necessary repairs, **the Columbarium and the surrounding areas will be closed beginning August 30, 2024 for a period of time lasting approximately 18 months.*** During this period of construction, Ramsay Road will be closed to all foot and vehicular traffic; however, we are currently looking at options to provide a safe walking path for visitors to access the niches."

See usna.edu/cemetery for a message from the Memorial Affairs staff.

Committal Services will continue to occur; however, these services will take place across College Creek near Alumni Hall and the Saluting Battery. Following the service, family and friends may accompany the chaplain and Memorial Affairs representative, via the temporary walking path, to place the urn in the niche. Flower deliveries will still occur for any special occasion. These deliveries will come to the Memorial Affairs Office and will be delivered to the niche where your loved one rests by the Memorial Staff. If you have any questions or need further information regarding the closure or alternative arrangements for memorial services, please do not hesitate to reach out to memorialaffairs-group@USNA.edu with any questions.

That's all for now – hope to see you on Space Zoom on Saturday.

Go Navy!



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YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM: Reach out to any of us with your recommendations or concerns:

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