

87/88 CLASS NEWS

'87

Life Membership: 99% Donor Participation: 48.14%

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Hello Classmates,

Happy Holidays! I hope this column finds you, your families, and your friends healthy, happy, and enjoying the season.

Mike Cantwell attended the July USNA Entrepreneurs Summit and shared this report.

Our class was well represented at the inaugural USNA Entrepreneurs Summit in Annapolis on 24-25 July. **Jim Matheson**, our classmate, and Harvard Business School faculty member, kicked off the summit by leading a workshop on the entrepreneur's journey. Jim later hosted a panel discussion with **Michael Stewart** who is currently leading the Navy's Disruptive Capabilities Office. The previous week, Michael and Jim spoke with Reserve Flag Officers and stressed the importance of innovation and disruptive technologies in Ukraine and the South China Sea. Others in attendance included Mike Cantwell, **Tom Schwab**, **Rich Vitaro**, and **Wes Huey**.

Go Navy! Beat Army!
~Mike Cantwell



L to R: Mike Cantwell and Jim Matheson, sporting a debonair Navy '87 Blazer

A sad note from **Scott Herbener**, President of our Class:

Dear Classmates,

It is my sad duty to report that our Classmate, **Brett Pierson**, CAPT, USN (Ret.),



'87: Brett Pierson Celebration of Life with 29th Company. Attendees included Sylvia Pierson, Lou Gregus, Scott Herbener, Chris Hodges, Jeff Colwell, Eric Holloway, Mike Bell, Steve Sisney, Steve Meyer, Devon Marsh, Mile Lombardo, Keith Peden, Mike Sheerin, Dave Quint, Tom Schwab, Greg Harris, Rob Hallawell, Dan Sammons, Roy Ledesma, Mike D'Ambra, Al Desmarais, Ron Higgs, Walter Sechriest, Paul Lewis, and Scott Herbener.

passed away Sunday, 18 August at home in Kansas, after a bravely fought battle with cancer.

Brett was born in Anchorage, AK, and grew up in South Florida. He was a 24th company plebe and graduated with 29th Company, with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He later earned a master's in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee and an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology. Brett served over 30 years in the Navy, with command tours both at sea and ashore, including command of the Strike Fighter Squadron 147 (VFA-147) Argonauts and the Air Test & Evaluation Squadron 9 (VX-9) Vampires, as well the assignment of Commodore at the Naval Test Wing Atlantic at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland. After the Navy, Brett joined Textron Aviation Defense in 2017 and rose to become its CEO in 2022.

Brett is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Sylvia, his sisters, Heather Hrvnak and Nicki Pierson; and Duffy, a rescued Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever mix from Tortola, British Virgin Islands. CAPT Pierson was predeceased in death by his parents, William and Judith Pierson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Brett's name may be made to the following organizations:

Pilots N Paws®, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to facilitating an environment in which volunteer pilots and aircraft owners organize to schedule rescue flights, overnight foster care or shelter and other related activities to support adopting animals; Compassion International, a Christian charity dedicated to liberating children from poverty in Jesus' name through sponsorships and donations aimed at empowering local churches to provide individualized and holistic care, so children are free to learn, grow, play and dream; and the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships and

other forms of educational assistance to children of deceased or disabled Society members.

A funeral service at USNA and a reception are being planned for the fall. Details will be shared as they become available.

Please take a moment and join me in remembering Brett. RIP Classmate.

~Scott Herbener

Chris Hodges sent photos from 29th Company's Celebration of Life Zoom call in honor of Brett. Special guests were Sylvia Pierson, Brett's wife of 37 years and Scott Herbener, who closed the night with a toast wishing Brett, "Fair winds and following seas!"

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

'88

Life Membership: 100% Donor Participation: 15.15%

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Shipmate submissions: shipmate1988@gmail.com

Zoom link posted on all platforms

Got a note and a great photo from **Jim Bartlett (33rd co.)**

Hey, classmates, my wife and I recently had a chance to go to Düsseldorf, Germany to visit with **Dan Begeman (33rd co.)** and his wife,