



16 May 2026

My Magnificent Classmates!

Lots of words to get out to you. News you can use, news of thanks, news of meeting(s), etc. :

1. Class Meeting, Wednesday 20 May 2026 @ 2000 ET (39th Commissioning Anniversary)
2. Memorial Service for **Mike (Gordo) Gordon** at USNA, Wednesday 15 July @ 1030
3. Great Class Challenge results
4. Reunion dates – the XL
5. Thriving As Leaders (TAL) award submissions due NLT 1 July
6. DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM Memorial
7. Navy LAX Center – raising funds for Class recognition

1. **CELEBRATING 39 - Class Zoom** – this Wednesday, 20 May 2026 at 2000 ET (Zoom)

USNA87's Zoom (& Happy Hour)

Meeting ID: 529 229 7392 / Passcode: 873301

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5292297392?pwd=XPbFm1sqfFMKGDZAmCa0K4bxEw72Q0.1&omn=81903949063>

Call in: +16469313860,,5292297392#,,,,*873301#

Topics: The XL Reunion (September 2-5, 2027); Company Wranglers; Class Philanthropy progress; TAL awards; updated DGA award timeline.

2. **WARNING ORDER** for [Mike \(Gordo\) Gordon](#)'s Memorial Service on Wednesday, 15 July @ 1030 at USNA. As you may remember, Gordo passed away last August after [a tragic airplane crash in Majorca](#). Details about the service, [your rsvp and reception headcount are in this google form \(hyperlink\)](#). Please rsvp NLT 15 June.

3. **THE GREAT CLASS CHALLENGE – Thank you!**

We made a valiant sprint for the finish line in the last 24 hours (but so did the Class of 1978, who just kicked off their 50th Class Gift campaign). We ended the participation challenge in:

- **2nd Place** for total donors (**445**)
(we went from 254 Friday morning to 394 Friday evening and then 445 late Friday night)
- **3rd Place** for participation percentage (**46.9%**)
(27% Friday morning, 41% by evening and finished neck-and-neck with '78 at midnight)

It was quite the effort! **Thank you** for keeping us in the mix. We do need to do better in honoring all [our Fallen and Departed Classmates](#) – I will do better in organizing that next year.

And for those of you still interested in what it would take to break records. We only needed 10 additional people to overtake '78 for 2nd place but would have needed an additional 220 participants to overtake '84 for 1st.

Can we do it? Yes, yes we can - especially next year during the runup to our 40th reunion!

4. [The DRAFT schedule of our 40th Reunion is here \(hyperlink\)](#) (September 2-5, 2027). We are in the middle of getting venues selected and confirmed. The reunion committee will be standing up under the most capable direction of my esteemed Reunion Co-Chair: **Mercedes (Liwski) Welsh**. We will have a room block at the Graduate but if you're thinking of contracting a house, you may want to do it now. Cathy at iTrip Annapolis would be happy to help at 443.995.3352 or cathy.hochman@itrip.net . Of interest: the Class of 1977 just switched their 50th to Labor Day weekend, too.

5. **USNA AA [Thriving as Leaders \(TAL\)](#)** award submissions for this year's cycle are due NLT 1 July. Nominations are submitted by webform. Any Association member in good standing may nominate any other USNA alumni for the AOA award. Self-nominations for these awards are not permitted. There are two TAL award categories:

[Alumni Outstanding Achievement \(AOA\) awards](#) for USNA alumni in athletic (amateur or professional) achievement and professional/non-athletic achievement in paid work.

[Volunteer Leadership and Service \(VLS\) award](#) for Association members (including non-voting members) distinguishing themselves through their donation of time and talent as volunteers in unpaid work.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the exemplars who are "thriving as leaders in and out of uniform" through outstanding achievement, volunteer leadership, and service who inspire others in our community toward greater heights of achievement. Qualifying achievements and volunteer service and leadership for these awards may or may not directly benefit the alumni community, though all qualifying achievements, service and leadership must bring credit upon the alumni community.

6. **DS/DS Memorial Dedication – Rich Vitaro** shared an upcoming event of interest: The Dedication Ceremony for the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 1100 EDT. The ceremony is open to the public and will be held at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW, Washington, D.C. For more information, go to: [Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial](#).

7. **Navy LAX Center Class Dedication – Bobby Wehman** is leading the charge to raise \$150,000 for the new Lacrosse Facility so that our Class can be memorialized in the atrium. As of today, we have currently raised (or have committed) \$60,000 toward the project. The objective is to close the \$90,000 gap. If you are interested, please [fill out the attached form](#) or fill out the form AND contact Bobby @ 410.703.7379 or bobby.wehman@morganstanley.com . This DOES count toward our Class Project totals as this effort is run through the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation.

Hope to see you on [Wednesday night's ZOOM](#).
GO NAVY!



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President, USNA Class of 1987
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