

The Navy – Notre Dame game proved to be too good an excuse to not get together in San Diego. So, the Class of 1971 gathered in “America’s Finest City” to enjoy four days of great weather and camaraderie. We decided to call this get together our 47.5 Year Reunion because all great events need a name. The weekend started off with a Welcome Cocktail Reception at our Headquarters hotel, the Marriott Mission Valley, with over 150 Classmates, family and friends participating. We held the Reception on the hotel West Lawn, what better way to take advantage of San Diego’s great weather. The weekend was off to a rousing start. Friday was a free day, which included a Class team scramble golf outing, visits to various local tourist attractions including Coronado and the beach. Going to the beach in late October was a real treat for our East Coast Classmates. Friday night was the occasion of the main Class event at the Marriott for a more substantial cocktail party with nearly 200 in attendance. Saturday was the football game preceded by a very extensive Alumni Association Tailgate party. One of the highlights of the Tailgate were the opportunity for today’s Midshipmen who came to San Diego to have the opportunity to meet and interact with past graduates. “Bill The Goat” stopped by in his 71 Jersey for a series of photo ops. This was a very nice touch. While the game didn’t turn out the way we would have liked, the atmosphere in SDCCU Stadium was electric for the sellout crowd of over 63,000. The festivities began with an FA-18 diamond flyover and a halftime performance by the Naval Academy Drum & Bugle Corps. The “Beaters & Blowers” put on a great show. But the real highlight of the halftime was a performance of the Navy Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs. They crushed it. Sunday, we marked the final day of our unique mid-cycle reunion with an informal Farewell Brunch at the Marriott. Throughout the weekend various Companies held individual events to relive old memories and create new ones. For our first class-wide organized get together outside of Annapolis and the 5-year reunion cycle, our 47.5<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Worthy of doing it again.