

## Class President Perry Martini's 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Summary Email to the Class

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From: USNA Class of 1971

Sent: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 7:40 am

Subject: USNA '71 - 50th Reunion Summary

Classmates, Widows and Remarried,

What a weekend for the ages – and for those unable to attend, the following “report out” will give you a good idea as to what you missed. We know many could not make it for various good reasons but nevertheless I wanted to share all of this with you.

### Thursday Welcome Reception at the DoubleTree

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion began as check-in opened early on Thursday 30 Sept at the DoubleTree (71's HQ hotel). As time rolled by and 1630 approached many started gathering in the main ballroom for the Welcome Reception. At one point there were large gatherings not only in the ballroom, but also in the adjacent passageways. More than 620 were in attendance at one time or another between 1630 and 1930. A great start to a four day weekend of events.

### Friday Events

#### Friday Class Golf Outing

Early morning risers (92) appeared at the newly minted The Preserve at Eisenhower Golf Club at 0800 for check in, breakfast, and a bit of driving on the range. Rumor has it as the shotgun blasted off on all 18 holes the mild breezy temp was at **71 degrees!**

Winning team(s) – a three-way tie all at 64 (7 under par):

Dave Miller (7<sup>th</sup>)

Oz Fretz (7<sup>th</sup>)

Doug Conklin (7<sup>th</sup>)

Mike Lynch (7<sup>th</sup>)

Chuck Hiles (9<sup>th</sup>) joined for final 7 holes

Dave Leestma (25<sup>th</sup>)

Eric Benson (25<sup>th</sup>)

Bill Long (25<sup>th</sup>)

Ed Bouton (25<sup>th</sup>)

Terry Virus (19<sup>th</sup>)

Ron Cornelison (19<sup>th</sup>)

Les Nixon (19<sup>th</sup>)

Longest drive was Ron Cornelison (19<sup>th</sup>) and closest to the pin was Jim Barron (36<sup>th</sup>).

It was a great time on this recently renovated golf course for our classmate golfers. Another group of 50-60 classmates were given a special tour of the new Hopper Hall Cyber Center at noon.

### Friday Superintendent's Alumni Presentation

About 1,000 alumni from the three reunion classes of 1971, 1976, and 2010 gathered at 1350 for a short ten minute briefing by a member of the Alumni Association staff. Alumni House (Ogle House) on King George Street has been sold and the new Alumni Center will start construction soon. It will be located adjacent to the upper baseball field and Halligan Hall outside the Yard on the west side of King George Street. The briefing was followed by an introduction of the Superintendent, VADM Sean Buck.

The Class of '71 proceeded to make brief remarks and presented a check for **\$4,001,971** to the Supt for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Legacy Gift (Center for Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, and the Annual Fund). This was followed by a presentation of all our gifts since 1976 – the sum total of **\$22,001,971!** The Supt was briefed that '71 made many gifts over the years, but we were most proud of our Distinguished Military Professor for Leadership and Ethics which has essentially been funded since 2007 and will be funded through the 2034 Academic Year. Finally, both the *Academy Stories* and *Sea Stories* books about the Class of 1971 and edited by our own Hank Turowski '71 were formally presented to the Supt for inclusion into the Nimitz Library and Archives. These two outstanding Class of '71 books will remain in the library for perpetuity on the shelf right next to our 1971 Lucky Bag.

Supt. Buck gave a tremendous speech and presentation on current USNA achievements and finished with an explanation of what USNA is NOT doing in regards to Critical Race Theory or any other “woke” activities. He fielded a number of questions and was spot on in the Academy carrying on the tradition of supporting the mission of USNA – to “develop midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically...” and to graduate leaders through the Navy and Marine Corps.

### The Reunion P-rade

Following the Supt's presentation about 600 of us walked to Worden Field to view the Friday P-rade of the Brigade of Midshipmen. Another glorious sunny day on Worden Field – yawls sailing by on the Severn providing a beautiful backdrop to the very sharply dressed midshipmen who marched-on in front of the Class of 1971. The Classes of '71, '76 and '10 were honored in the “Pass in Review.” It was inspiring listening to the Naval Academy Band and Drum and Bugle Corps. Awesome P-rade and we didn't have to march!

### Friday additional events

The Class of '71 inaugural cycling event was held early morning on Friday, 1 October. Nine '71 classmates and three wives participated in the 11, 20, or 28 mile cycling events. All twelve cyclists rendezvoused at the 11 mile ride turnaround point for crepes and coffee.

Most company parties and dinners were held Friday evening as the nearly 1,000 classmates and guests gathered in the Annapolis area for a great night of fellowship together.

### Saturday Events

#### Saturday Tailgate and Navy Victory over UCF

Nine Class of '71 heavyweight and lightweight crew oarsmen with one '71 coxswain and a '71 team manager were on hand at Hubbard Hall early Saturday morning for the reunion row on College Creek. Rumor has it that all did quite well with a few short stops for breaths and might have had some assistance climbing out of the Navy shells when done.

A group of 40 classmates were given a special tour by AD Chet Gladchuk and members of the NAAA staff of the recently completed 25,000 square foot Terwilliger Center for Student Athletes. This state of the art complex located adjacent to Ricketts Hall and Rip Miller Field has over 1,000 Navy sports Memorabilia, an area dedicated to Distinguished Graduates, as well as a special kiosk that includes members of every class recognized as Sports Legends from the 1940's to present, including 8 classmates.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Tailgate kicked off at 1300 on the North end of the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for yet another sunny day event. The Class of 71 was well represented in that 875 attended a seven hour outdoor party complete with appetizers, multi course food, and free wine/beer/soft drinks. The 71 Tailgate was treated with a visit by the spirit team led by Bill the Goat (#71), who posed for numerous photos and led a few cheers.

The game was another event that couldn't be topped by any old Navy football game. Favored UCF (by 15 points) did not survive the Navy Blue. The Navy team scored an unbelievable 17 unanswered points in the final 10 minutes of the game to come from behind and knock off highly rated UCF! It was the first time in memory we could remember those attending a reunion tailgate inside the stadium watch such an exciting 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. Many pulled chairs over adjacent to the tailgate and watched on the end zone Jumbotron, remaining close to the screaming crowd and very near the bar!

The game even ended right in front of us with Navy's stellar defense intercepting a pass in the north end zone to squelch any chance of a UCF comeback. Navy 34 – UCF 30!

Many of us gathered back at various hotels to continue to celebrate the long day and great Navy victory!

### Sunday Events

#### Class Memorial Service and Celebration

600+ Classmates and Guests gathered at 1600 in the headquarters hotel ballroom at the DoubleTree to attend two very special events; The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of 1971 Memorial Service, and the Class of 1971 Celebration of 50 years. If you did not attend or wish to watch these two events again, herewith is the actual 55 minute link for your watching and listening pleasure:

**<https://vimeo.com/623707172>**

#### The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class Dinner

About 650 classmates and guests arrived in historic Dahlgren Hall about 1730 to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration dinner. Company-mates were seated by company as the committee outdid themselves with a tremendous dinner affair with seating charts and excellent food and service. Beverages and appetizers started the dinner. Most of us did not leave the hall until after 2130.

#### Farewell breakfast

At the end of our long weekend together about 350 classmates and guests met in the DoubleTree Ballroom for a farewell breakfast ...a fitting end to a great 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion weekend in Annapolis!

#### Reunion Committee

With special thanks to all those that made this possible – our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion committee:

Bob & Jona Capra - Registration, Name Tags, Check-in, Saturday Tailgate & Football Tickets, Photography, Website Information, Committee Minutes & Records

Walt & Judy Havenstein - Sunday Class Dinner, Selection & Vendor Coordination of memorabilia gifts for individual Classmate purchase, Check-in.

Jim & Kathi Hergenroeder - Chairman, Schedule, Communications, Budgeting, Pricing, Registration, Memorial Program, Dinner Seating Chart.

Dave & Patty Miller - Friday Golf Match, Sunday Memorial Service, Check-in, Menus, Optional Tours & Activities

Bob & Meg Wagoner - Transportation, Apparel selection, Sunday Class Dinner, Photography, Check-in

Phil & Ann Williams - Class & 50th Website

Jane Wilhelm (Skip) – Check-in, Thursday Welcome Aboard Party, Sunday Class

Dinner, Monday Brunch, Optional Tours & Activities

Cass & Karen Young – Hotel Accommodations & Events, Check-in, Thursday Welcome Aboard Party, Monday Brunch, Apparel Selection & Vendor Coordination