

GRAND MEMORIES AND A MEMORABLE 50 th REUNION AT ANNAPOLIS

Tom Meyer

OMG, how great it was to get together with almost 400 classmates, widows, and wives of 54 years ago when we entered the gates of USNA, most of us right out of high school to begin the path to become military officers. It brought back memories of unbelievable hazing during plebe year as we were pushed to our limits with hazing by upper class-men and academic standards that many of my classmates had never encountered or even had to do nightly homework in high school. I remember the end of plebe year when four of us wrapped up in a blanket threw the worst senior hazer in the river at 4 AM in the morning and were put on serious class A offense report by him which was subsequently dismissed with a laugh by our Company Commander. I remembered marching in John F Kennedy's Inaugural parade, and I remember LBJ giving me my diploma. 50 years later it was incredible sharing those memories plus stories of our lives and looking at how good must of us looked and still think for age 72+. We agreed that we need to keep learning faster because we are forgetting so fast. We learned that USNA is ranked as one of the top 10 public universities in the nation; had 12 amazing scholarships awarded to graduates of the class of 2013; and thanks to the Center for Academic Excellence tutoring and assistance, the academic attrition rate is down to 3% over 4 years vs 20-30% in our years. Our class donated \$6.3 Million to the the CAE this weekend and over 50 years contributed an additional \$16.9M to the Academy. AND we even beat Pitt for the homecoming game by 3 points in the last minute. It doesn't get much better than that!