From: **USNA Class of 1981** <replies@smtp.usna.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 19, 2017 at 6:27 PM
Subject: Pertinent Class News

Good evening ’81,

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring weather and doing well!

As I haven’t sent out a class email in a while, I thought I would take the opportunity pass along some information, some of which you may have seen on Facebook or the Class website (<http://www.usna1981.org/index.html>)

**Sad News – Loss of a classmate: Melissa Matthews**

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the loss of our classmate, Melissa Matthews.  Melissa passed away peacefully on 20 February 2017 after a courageous 6-month battle with cancer.

Melissa will be interred at the USNA Columbarium at 1500 on Fri, 28 Apr. We will then gather at "The Alley" (the Naval Academy Officers Club) at 1600 to celebrate life and share our memories of Melissa.  Please come to either or both events.  Details will be kept up to date on the class website (<http://www.usna1981.org/index.html>).

If anyone wishes to memorialize her with a charitable contribution, the family requests consideration of Holt International Adoptions, the Atlanta Humane Society, or any of the Naval Academy-related or US Naval Institute foundations.

**Tracking Class “Supers”:**

From time to time, your class officers are asked to provide a list of notable classmates. As I am sure you can appreciate, the response to this can be challenging as we feel that our entire class is "notable". Examples we have been asked for include: number of astronauts, number of CEOs, number of Admirals/Generals, etc. We would like your help in taking stock of our class and see if we can't develop a historical list of who and what we consider is "notable". If you are interested, we would appreciate your input (about yourself or another classmate):

a. your name or that of a classmate
b. what is noteworthy – ie. job, title, discovery, societal contribution, military rank, etc.

We will collect, collate, and maintain this info for use when an update is requested by USNA.  Tim Disher has volunteered to head this effort, so please send the information to him at: disher@usna.edu

**DC Area ’81 Luncheon:**

Thanks again to Jim Ahlgrimm for organizing and executing the most recent DC Area ’81 Luncheon on 13 April at the Ft. Meyer O’Club.  Our classmate, RADM Dave Lane, was the guest speaker and provided very informative information on NCR Medical and Navy Medicine.  Thanks Admiral!

Let’s see if we can establish other ’81 centers of excellence for lunch time around the country… let us know how we can help with this.  Volunteers?

**Virginia Run for the Fallen – 4-7 May 2017:**

JP O’Hara continues to organize the annual 250 mile / 4 day Virginia Run for the Fallen honoring the list of fallen Virginians: now at 431 souls.  Again, along the course, JP and Fuzz Harrison will record and post on FB the daily reading of names of our '81 fallen brothers and sisters (unfortunately a couple more have already been added since May 2016).  VADM Jamie Foggo will provide the closing ceremony speech to Gold Star families in Section 60 on Sunday, 7 May, 1330-1430.  Hope to see you all there if you can make it.

Here's the URL for the support page if you want to add your link of remembrance to the chain: <https://www.crowdrise.com/virginia-run-for-the-fallen---2017/fundraiser/jimohara>

**Please help keep Ken Aiman’s Shipmate articles fun and informative:**

I hope you’ll join me in thanking Ken Aiman for all his hard work as Secretary.  He’s done a great job trying to fill the huge shoes left by Steve Colon, but he needs your timely input to keep up the momentum.  Please pass along news to him either directly at classof81scribe@gmail.com or via your Co. Rep (they can be found on the Class Website: <http://www.usna1981.org/Classnews.html>).

**40th Reunion Class Project Status:**

We are about to kick off the 40th Reunion Fundraising effort in earnest.  You should be receiving a letter soon detailing the components of the project, as well as a phone call asking for your help in achieving our goal of raising $1,500,000 over the next 5 years in support of our Naval Academy.  Further details can be found on the website as well (<http://www.usna1981.org/index.html>).  Please give what you can and help us achieve as close to 100% Class participation as possible!  Thank you!

Thanks again for all you do in support of our Class, Naval Academy, Navy and our Nation!

 V/R,

Otto Stutz

’81 Second to None!