

Classmates from the Great Class of 1985,

This email has a lot of important info, so I will dive right in. For years, I tried to get by using volunteer help to maintain our Class website and although that work well during reunion weeks, we did not do the best to keep the website up to date and user friendly. I hired a professional website manager who has helped re-design, update and now maintain the Class website. We will use as our primary means of communicating to the Class. You will find information about Tailgating, the Class Reunion (35th and soon the upcoming 40th), the Class Project and Class Giving, A Gallery of photos and contacts for your Class Leadership and Company Reps. Please bookmark this site and use it as your new place for all things '85. I will keep an up to date archive of all my emails for easy reference.

Take a look: <http://1985.usnaclases.net>

One exciting update coming soon is an interactive map of Classmates around the Country/ World. We will ask Classmates, who are interested, to add their contact information and location to our map so that Classmates who are out on the road (as many are now as we enter those retirement or near retirement years or are just able to work remotely) to find a classmate during their travels to meet up for a Happy Hour or dinner or to get information on local "places to see". This is something I have wanted to do for a while and finally found a person who can help me make this dream come to life. Stay tuned on this, but it is my hope that many of you will put yourselves on our travel map as you set on travel adventures, or just hope a random Classmate emails you to have meet for lunch or dinner or a cold beer.

Fundraising Update:

In the words of the USNAA Major Gift Officer, "Class of '85 is kicking A\$\$". Here is where we stand on the Class project to date:

\$570,000 or 57% of our total goal of \$1,000,000

I cannot tell you all how proud I am of this Class and generosity and I look forward to crushing the remaining 43% of the goal well ahead of our 40th Reunion. We will party like its 2025 and celebrate at our 40th Reunion. (well, because it will be 2025). Here is the link with information to make your pledge. We had one Classmate who donated \$50,000 and will recognize him at the 40th Reunion dinner for this gift. I am not asking for this level of donation, it is GREAT if you want to make this level of donation, but even \$85 or \$185 per year for the next 4 years will make a difference. At the Class Business meeting at our Reunion, we will have representatives from USNAA and the USNA Foundation join us to give and give a more thorough brief on our project and the overall importance of gift giving to the mission of USNA and the support of our midshipmen.

Class of '85 35th Reunion:

Let's talk Class Reunion! As of today, we have 337 registered Classmates and Guests. I am giving your company Reps a breakdown of company by company attendees. For the dinner, we are over 200 attending and for the tailgate, just about everyone attending. It is my hope that in this last month as we close out registration by September 1st, we will pick up another 100 to 200 Classmates and guests. I need to have my final numbers for catering the dinner and tailgate by early September. The cutoff for the Westin hotel group rates for rooms is August 20th, and it is September 1st at the Springhill Suites. For those who have registered, you will

soon receive an email regarding the tee shirt style and size you want (men or women's style and sizing). Each person that registered will get a Hat and Tee Shirt (we have Men's and Women's tees to choose from) and of course some nice Reunion "Swag". We will also be opening sites for additional Class Apparel and other Class items such as Glasses and Yeti Cups with our Class of '85 Crest. Check out the Master Schedule on our USNA 85 Website or on the Registration Website. I will have Annapolis Bus Shuttles running all day Friday and on Saturday until 1200 going from the Westin and Springhill Suites to and from the Yard. Friday evening we will have shuttles to and from the dinner which starts at 1800 and Saturday to the Tailgate which starts at 1330 at NMC Stadium. As we get closer to the Reunion, I will publish a Shuttle Schedule. So, NOW is the time to register if you plan on attending. I need the final names for Name tags by the middle of August (if after that, you will get a blank name tag and can add your name(s) with a Sharpie). I will publish any updates as they come in, for now we are FULL SPEED AHEAD '85!!

This email has a lot of good information and I will start publishing the emails under "Class Blasts" on the '85 website. Bookmark our site because we have full time support to make real time updates and I commit to making our Class website full of content and functionality now that we have made the investment to update it.

For those who have contacted me about cancelling, I will approve all of those until September 1st. The offer I am making is a \$100 donation taken from your refund that goes to the Class of '85 operating fund and I will ship you the giveaway items: A hat, tee shirt and a few other '85 trinkets we have selected. Just email me and I will take care of this. Your refund will be processed by September 1st and your items will be shipped shortly after the Reunion. Rumor has it that our Classmate and CNO, Admiral Mike Gilday is planning on attending some of our Reunion Events. We hope his schedule allows for this and that have a chance to welcome Mike back and recognize his continued service to the men and women of the Fleet as our current CNO.

Golf Outing on Friday:

There are some slots available for the Bianchi Memorial Golf Outing, run by Frank Proctor at the Bulle Rock Golf Club in Havre de Grace, Maryland on September 24th. Contact Frank for details at: fproctor@connerstrong.com or on his cell at: (215) 837-8183. We will run shuttles to and from our Reunion hotels for this event departing at 0700 and returning by 1630 on Friday, September 24th. Looks like a lot of fun!

Covid Protocols and Restrictions:

As of this morning, indoor events in the Yard (not the Stadium or Hotel or in the city of Annapolis) fall under a mask restriction. This would only affect the Memorial Service, Class Meeting, shopping in the mid-store or use of any indoor facilities in the Yard. It will NOT affect any events in Annapolis or at NMC Stadium, Fado's or the Westin. If we need to, I can move the dinner outdoors on Friday and the Tailgate is already an outdoor event. It is highly unlikely that outdoor restrictions will be put into place. In fact, it is my sincere hope that with vaccinations on the rise and other mitigations in progress, that things will get better and current restrictions will be eased rather than increased. I will keep the Class up to date on any new news, so PLEASE bookmark our Class of '85 Website and stay tuned to class emails and the Facebook Group for updates as the Reunion nears.

Here is the Reunion Registration Link:

<https://signupnow.events/Default.aspx?OrgId=1033&eid=1050&OrgName=USNA1985>

Football Season Tailgating:

Navy opens the 2021 Football Season with a home game against The Marshall Thundering Herd with a 1230 and a 1530 Kickoff on September 4th. Charlie Smith and the tailgate crew will have the '85 tent set up and be ready to kick off with a BBQ themed event. There will be a SignUpGenius link coming out soon via email and posted on the Class website. This game is followed up with a home game the following week vs. the Air Force Academy, that sign up will be out around September 1st. Each week, we will update the Tailgate section of the Class Website so you know where to go for details for the upcoming games. The theme changes for each tailgate.

Going forward, I will have all my emails archived on the Class website for easy access and reference. I know this was a long email, but it has been a while and there was lots of info to cover. If you have not attended a Company video meeting yet, I am encouraging each of the Co Reps to have one soon, so go ahead and contact them or stay tuned and they will contact you. We have not done the best job of maintaining our USNA '85 Website in the past and this is on me. I am always available for questions, but I encourage you to use the website and also take advantage of the Company Rep Program.

I hope I have answered questions I know are out there and have also given some great news about all things '85 in this email. I will look forward to seeing many of you either at a home tailgate or at the Class Reunion. We have hired an Events Coordinator to run the Reunion Registration desk for us, so I encourage anyone who wanted to volunteer to help, just go and enjoy some extra time in the Yard or out in town having lunch and a cold drink downtown. If I find out that I do need a few volunteers, just email me your name and contact info and I will start a list of standby volunteers and I appreciate your offering. Take care, enjoy the rest of your summer and Go Navy, BEAT EVERYONE, especially Army!

Regards,

Bob Smith '85