



Dear Classmate:

Greetings from Annapolis—the quiet little town on the banks of the Naval Academy!

It does not seem like 36 years since we received our diplomas, listened to President Nixon and began our naval service careers. That day was truly “the first day of the rest of our lives.” Think of where you would be today, were it not for that day that found us all under a hot, sunny June sky, amid a sea of white on the green football field with cheering and tearful families and friends watching from the stands. Without the hard lessons of our four years by the Bay, would you be the leader, spouse or parent that you are today? Would you have achieved the same level of personal and professional success? Would you have the tight bonds with the people you went to college with? I know my life would have been profoundly different without the Academy and that I can credit my experiences in Mother B, on the athletic fields and in the classrooms with shaping me into the person I am today. I suspect most of you feel the same. It is good to reflect on the positive influence on our lives that the Academy has had as we approach our 40th Reunion in 2014, and to consider what we can do to give back to the Academy to ensure it continues to produce leaders of the highest caliber.

The Academy, just like the Navy and Marine Corps that we all served, or are still serving, is in a constant state of change. We may not agree with all the changes, but I can tell you that from my vantage point as your Class President, and as someone who lives just “over the wall,” the Academy is doing an excellent job of preparing young men and women to lead sailors and Marines in what is probably the most technologically and geopolitically challenging time since the founding of the Naval Academy. And I can also tell you that private gifts from many alumni and friends, including over \$1.8 million from our classmates, have elevated the Academy from being good to being truly great. We now have the opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our classmate Mike Miller, the new Superintendent, to help maintain this greatness as we mount a 40th Reunion Class Gift fundraising drive to support three worthy causes.

Our overall **Class Gift goal is to raise \$800,000** between now and December 31, 2014 to support three areas: **\$480,000 for International Program support (60%), \$120,000 for Athletic Excellence (15%), and \$200,000 for the Naval Academy Annual Fund (25%).**

Today’s midshipmen graduate into a geopolitical world that is much more complex than the one facing us in 1974. In my job as Vice President for Academic Affairs at National Defense University, I am constantly responding to Combatant Commanders requirements to produce graduates who are more culturally aware. Our students are 0-5 through 0-7 and in some respects this is too late in their careers. In response, the Academy has instituted a comprehensive program of **international study and travel opportunities** designed to acquaint midshipmen with other cultures and points of view. In accepting command Mike pointed out the institution is about developing leaders; successful leadership requires establishing trust; establishing trust requires understanding other cultures and points of view. Please take a few moments to read the *Case for Support of International Education Excellence* about this exciting and extremely important program. Make sure to read the testimonials at the end from five midshipmen who have personally benefited from this gift-funded program.

As you all recall, the mission of the Naval Academy is “To develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically...” Our support of International Programs addresses both the moral and mental aspects of midshipman development. Our gift to the **Athletic Excellence** fund will address the physical aspect. This fund supports all levels of athletics at the Academy including varsity, club and intramural teams. Please read the short *Case for Athletic Excellence* to discover how our gift to this fund will benefit all midshipmen.

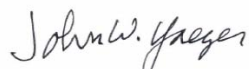
Finally our Class Gift will also support the **Naval Academy Annual Fund**. As we are all well aware, today’s midshipmen graduate into a much more complicated and rapidly changing world than most of their predecessors. Given the government’s budgeting process, sometimes appropriated funds aren’t available for emerging needs until much after the needs arise. The Superintendent uses the Annual Fund to jump-start, and in some cases, sustain, programs that prepare our midshipmen to face this more complicated world. It is this flexibility that makes the Annual Fund the Superintendent’s number one priority for private gift support. The Annual Fund also supports mission-critical functions of our Alumni Association & Foundation. Alumni associations and foundations at most colleges and universities are at least partially funded by the institution. By law, our alma mater cannot do this. Without the Annual Fund we would not enjoy the many services offered to alumni such as Class Reunion support, career services, *Shipmate* magazine, WaveTops, the information and video packed www.usna.com, and many other services that we often take for granted.

The members of the Class of ’74 have always been leaders. The Academy was our crucible – the place where we were exposed to the leadership traits and skills we have honed to be successful in life. Many of us share a sense of gratitude, knowing our years at the Academy were the foundation upon which so many of our personal and professional successes were built. We can continue to demonstrate this leadership by joining together to make this class project successful. We have reaped many benefits from our time at the Academy. Let’s acknowledge that debt by contributing something meaningful!

If you have any questions about our 40th Reunion Class Gift project, please contact me. Or if you would like to make a commitment to the class project, use the form below or contact: Heather B. Lancaster, Assistant Director for Annual Giving Programs, Naval Academy Foundation at (410) 295-4188 or heather.lancaster@usna.com

The class and the Academy are counting on your participation in this important philanthropic effort. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request and for helping us to achieve our ambitious goal.

Sincerely,



John Yaeger
Class President
Yaegerj@ndu.edu
(202) 685-1330



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION

To assist the Class of 1974 Legacy Gift Project, through the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, and in consideration of the class project goals, I hereby pledge the amount of \$ _____, effective this date.

I wish to spread this pledge over: ___ 1 year, ___ 2 years, ___ 3 years, ___ 4 years, or ___ 5 years. Please send me a pledge payment reminder: ___ annually (or ___ quarterly), beginning in the month of _____.

I wish to split my pledge contribution and/or gift as follows:

Please split my pledge 60% /15%/ 25% to meet overall project goal

OR... split my pledge as follows:

The Class of 1974 International Programs Office (IPO) Support (667401/Y10CG) _____%

The Class of 1974 Athletic Excellence Support (515000/Y10CG) _____%

Naval Academy Annual Fund (690000/Y10CG) _____%

Please note:

- Many companies will match, double, or even triple the amount of gifts through their matching gift program. If appropriate, I will check my company's policy and obtain a matching gift form.
- This gift is being made with the understanding that I will make the pledge payments on a scheduled basis dependent upon personal circumstances. My payment need not be in solely cash, but may also be in the various forms permissible (credit card payment, transfer of appreciated securities¹, etc.) in accordance with approved tax statutes at the time of transfer.

I would like to make my gift (or initial pledge payment) now by (choose one):

Credit Card Check Enclosed (make checks payable to the "Naval Academy Foundation")

MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Amount of gift or initial pledge payment: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

I would like to pay all future installments of this pledge on a recurring basis via Credit Card

*Return this form to: The Naval Academy Foundation, Attn: Heather Lancaster
291 Wood Road – Beach Hall, Annapolis, MD 21402-1254.

Sincerely,

Signature

Date

Print Name

Phone Number

Email

¹ If transferring stock or appreciated securities, contact Dawn Beach (410) 295-4115 or e-mail: Dawn.Beach@usna.com in advance of your stock transfer