

Classmates,

First, thank you for your nominations. I am humbled that enough of you felt me worthy to be on the ballot to represent your interests. I consider my time at the Academy with all of you as the single most formative event in my life; everything good that I have in my life today I can tie back to us taking the plunge together on 2 July 1985.

Our unique bond is understood by all of us, but difficult (if not impossible) to explain to outsiders. I would do anything for a classmate, and I know you would do the same for me. Few institutions offer this kind of camaraderie; it's the reason why any of us can show up at a tailgater or a chance airport encounter and pick up right where we left off 30 years ago. I love that.

I've been fortunate to have a successful career in technology after leaving the Navy. I owe that success to the Academy and to all my classmates who I leaned on for support when times got tough. It's the least I can do to accept the nomination, and if elected, give back to all of you.

My involvement with class activities started back in the late 1990s when we had our first class officer elections. I bought our first usna89 URL, built our first website and created an online voting system both for our class bylaws and for our first post-graduation election in 1999 and again in 2004. I served as our first webmaster from around 1999-2006. I enjoyed helping out where I could and would be happy to do so again.

Living out on the West Coast, we are far removed from the epicenter of activities for our class, which understandably revolve around Annapolis, the associated tailgaters and other impromptu get-togethers. If I were elected as a Class Officer, I would work with my colleagues to find ways to build cohesion among our geographically scattered, but concentrated pockets, of classmates. We've been modestly successful since my move to NorCal in 2016, with a Tahoe get-together in January 2018, Army-Navy in Napa in December 2018 and hopefully again this December. I'd love to see more of these activities not only in my area, but in other locales where 89ers have congregated. To accomplish this, I'd like to turn to technology again to put together an interactive map of classmate locations to help 89ers find each other when traveling, moving, etc.

Beyond geographical cohesion, giving back to the Academy would be another focus of my service as a Class Officer. Aside from the obvious financial aspects, I believe we can offer much to current and former midshipmen with our varied experiences both inside and outside the Navy. Thus, I would like to find ways to put the Class of 1989 at the forefront in terms of mentoring, coaching and encouraging those who have come after us.

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, sweat and tears and would be honored to give those all in service of our great class.

Thanks for your consideration and Beat Army!

Tony (Newps) Newpower