## USNA Shipmate Article\_Mar-Apr 2022 (due 24 Jan 2022)

Classmates.

Happy New Year! The officers for the Class of 2006 have had a busy start to 2022 and we are excited to focus our efforts on some unique opportunities to better serve you.

We have a few initiatives already lined up for 2022, including the development and launching of a class website which will include our class bylaws, budget and forecasted spending reports, contact directory, job postings, alumni information, and various volunteer opportunities.

As the newly elected class officers, it is very important to us that we keep the lines of communication open to each and every one of you. With that, please know that we will be sharing the minutes from each of our meetings to ensure maximum transparency and welcome feedback from the class!

Until the class website is live, please continue to communicate with us via our class email address at usnaclassof2006@gmail.com. Thank you, in advance, and we look forward to hearing from you!

## **Class Reunion Survey**

In early February, the officers will initiate our 15 Year Class Reunion survey. Your feedback is important to us, so we would appreciate your cooperation and participation.

Please ensure you are registered with your updated email address via the USNA Alumni site at <a href="https://www.usna.com">www.usna.com</a>.

The class officers will compile the feedback and use this as a baseline as we begin to move forward with our planning efforts for our 20 Year Class Reunion (yes, our brainstorming efforts will start soon!) Remember, this is the big one and all feedback is crucial to making it the most successful reunion yet!

## **Reunion Swag Resale**

For those of you who attended our 15 Year Class Reunion in October, you were able to see all the reunion swag items, including Class of 2006 tailgating bags/backpacks (adults & kids), '06 necklaces, 2006 blue and gold sunglasses, and some other misc. items in person. We are happy to announce that we still have some amazing swag items remaining or purchase!

If you are interested in purchasing any items ahead of the 2022 Navy football season, please email usnaclassof2006@gmail.com.

## Class of 2006 Distinguished Graduate Brad Synder Info

Class of 2006 USNA graduate Brad Synder, 13<sup>th</sup> Company, won gold for swimming at the 2020 Paralympics. In 2021, Brad competed in the Tokyo Paralympics as a member of the USA triathlon team and with his guide, Colin Riley, won gold (again)! Brad is currently going to graduate school and lives in New Jersey with his wife Sara (who is expecting their first daughter) and dog Mr. T. You can follow more of Brad's adventures via IG @bradsynderusa.

Additionally, Brad was selected as one of the 2021 USNA Distinguished Graduates Award Recipients along with other notable alum like Kevin W. Sharer '70, General John R. Allen '76, USMC (Ret.), Vice Admiral Derwood "DC" Curtis '76, USN (Ret.), and Janie L. Mines '80. The medal ceremony will take place on Friday, 25 March 2022 at the Naval Academy.

The class officers plan to reserve a small block of rooms in downtown Annapolis at a discounted rate for any 2006 classmates who wish to attend the distinguished grad event to represent Brad. More information will be sent via the alumni email distro list, on Facebook and IG @usnaclassof2006. Please email usnaclassof2006@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

-Your 2006 Class Officers