

NAPS CLASSES OF 1967, 1977, 1987 AND 1997

NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Multi Class Reunion

By CAPT Kenneth A. Marks '71, USN (Ret.), NAPS '67

As the sun rose on a beautiful Saturday morning in September, a cool, crisp breeze off the Narragansett Bay served to heighten the anticipation of a long-awaited return to NAPS. A year and a half in the making, the first ever (as far as we know) multi-class reunion would bring the NAPS classes of '67, '77, '87, & '97 face-to-face with future leaders of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The formal assembly of NAPSters past and present offered class spokesmen and panel members a unique opportunity to reflect upon the past while encouraging and embracing today's candidates. Listening intently, tomorrow's leaders heard much about the role NAPS played in the personal growth and impact upon the professional lives of those having gone before them. Through it all common themes emerge — opportunity, education, teamwork, rewarding careers — and at the top of the list, life-long friendships.

Looking upon the NAPS class of 2018, the old NAPS grads saw themselves those many years ago while wondering where the time went! NAPS was a great place to be in our day, and so was the Naval Academy; but it was universally agreed and openly underscored that both institutions and both programs are far better today as they reflect a more diverse representation of our nation's youth and prepare men and women to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government. The message imparted was loud and clear; i.e., the opportunity they have been given is golden beyond measure. The NAPS experience, the unbreakable bonds, the life-long friendships, and the springboard to opportunities to take their place and to do their part

for a cause far greater than their own cannot be matched. They could see it in our eyes and hear it from our hearts — we would do it all again if we could!

Once newly reported NAPSters with our lives ahead of us, we harbored the same apprehensions and nourished the same hopes and dreams. Recognizing our time has passed and acknowledging the notion we are yesterday's news, it was heartening to catch a glimpse of the future in the youthful excitement and no-nonsense commitment of the NAPS class of 2018. We departed knowing the future of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard to be in good hands. ♦



Certificate of Appreciation - CAPT Marks '67, Jim Houston '87, CAPT Howes NAPS CO, LCDR Jose Jimenez '97 and CAPT Jaime Navarro '77

Photo by Midshipman Candidate Najee Jenkins



NAPS Alumni, Spouses & Guests - Classes of '67, '77, '87 & '97

Photo by CDR Wally Poleshaj '71 & NAPS '67