

## Overview

This journal catalogs my seven years along the Severn River watching our USNA daughters, ('19) and ('22), become imbued "with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty."

Midshipmen accept their Naval Academy appointments, not with hesitation or coercion, but with purpose, to be better leaders and ready to fight when ill winds wish them harm. This book celebrates not only their achievements, but also highlights their resilience to overcome challenges inherent to life on the Yard.

Doing hard things well is the unfettered fabric that weaves these kids together. The Brigade of Midshipmen said, "I DO!" on I-Day, knowing the risk and sacrifice required to become Navy and Marine Corps officers.

Although the port from which midshipmen sail will forever welcome them home, they make a personal choice to moor their lives in Annapolis. They are our heroes and ones we will forever cherish.

This book is an insightful compilation of Steve Wade's humorous insights and heart piercing stories told from a USNA parent's perspective. You will find inner truth in Steve's writing which will bring water balloon tears of hope and joy as you reflect on your own future Naval or Marine Corps officer.

There is one prevailing theme in this compilation of journal entries I hope will create a wake of introspection for anyone who has ever loved a midshipman or strolled Stribling in summer whites. Our nation's finest young people, who have been invited to sit at *the Naval Academy's* grand table, are worthy. They possess the unique gifts needed to succeed, not only while along the Severn, but also long after they have received their commission.

The skills they bring with them on I-Day, as wide as they are deep, will be opened wider and dredged deeper during their time under the watchful eye of "Mother B". Our Navy kids amaze us with their accomplishments, but we are rarely surprised with their success. These young people are our nation's future and for that, they deserve to be celebrated.

*"Chills, tears, and my heart swells with love and pride every time I read your words. Thank you for expressing what the rest of us feel."* - **Shannon Peitzman**

*"My husband and I are both USNA grads and our son is a 2/C. Your writing genuinely touches our hearts and reminds us how special Annapolis is."* - **Raquel Gladieux**