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The "All Academy Challenge" is a friendly contest between graduates of five service academies—United States Naval Academy, United States Military Academy, United States Air Force Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy and United States Merchant Marine Academy—to see who can attract gifts from the largest percentage of their alumni community. Our class is participating in this challenge and has designated that any money raised by our class during 16-20 May will be allocated to our Class Bench Conservation project (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class benches next to Tecumseh).

The real goal of the All Academy Challenge is to drive broad PARTICIPATION from the active classes. Last year we had 96-2 classmates participate by given a minimum gift of at least \$5. Please consider giving during this, our 25<sup>th</sup> reunion year, by going to <https://navy.allacademychallenge.com/pages/usna-home> . Please select the "Other Causes" button and select the "Class of 1996" to support our class gift. Additionally, if you set up a recurring pledge during 16-20 May it will "count" towards the All Academy Challenge totals.

### **Break – Break**

Below is the update of our Class Project that I sent out earlier this year. Your class officers have worked hard with the Foundation to set up a program that emphasizes broad participation of the class rather than just relying on a few generous classmates. To those able to give large gifts, we are very thankful! The Academy and the midshipmen rely heavily on large donors to cover the costs of those programs that really enhance the USNA experience but are not covered by Navy budget. Our class, with broad participation, can make a very real difference. If you aren't a regular donor, please take the time during this 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion year to start giving through monthly deductions, even a small amount, and help us cement our long term legacy as a class!

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In the spirit of #GivingTuesday, I'm taking the opportunity to update you on our Class Project. You may recall that we are concentrating on 4 initiatives with the goal of raising \$600k by our 30th reunion. Those initiatives are:

1. 1996 Bench Conservation (1st and 2nd class benches next to Tecumseh)
2. 1996 Project Based Learning
3. 1996 Athletic Excellence
4. The Naval Academy Fund

When you give to our Class Project, your funds are spread across these initiatives. If you want to focus on one over the others, you can call Clay Evans ([clay.evans@usna.com](mailto:clay.evans@usna.com)) 410-295-4034 and ask him to limit your gift to one or more of these initiatives that mean the most to you.

To date we have raised \$261K or 43.5% of our \$600k goal. About 20% of the class has participated in the Class Project either through recurring pledges or a one-time gift.

Since graduation, a total of 588 classmates have given at least \$1 to the Foundation (includes our Class Project and all other Foundation categories – does not include Blue & Gold donations to NAAA). This chart shows how many lifetime gifts have been given by individual. For example, 89 individuals have given between \$1-\$99 since graduation.

\$25,000/3

\$10,000/11

\$5,000/17

\$2,500/54

\$1,000/109

\$500/126

\$250/94

\$100/85

\$1/89 Our class project has received the most individual donations (173).

### **How to Give:**

The easiest way to give is to visit [www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give), select the gold “Other Donation Options” button, and select “Support my Class Project”. You can also call 410-295-4034 to speak with Clay Evans or you can fill out any of the paper donation forms that the foundation sends out periodically and designate/write in “1996 Class Project” on the form.

A number of you give recurring gifts to the Naval Academy Fund through other programs such as being a trustee. Please consider contacting Clay Evans at 410-295-4034/[clay.evans@usna.com](mailto:clay.evans@usna.com) and let him know that you would like your recurring gift to be given through the Class of 1996 Project. In this way, you can meet your obligations to the Foundation and help our Class totals.

Corporate matching is huge! If you have any questions about how to ensure that your corporate match is counted towards the Class Project, please contact Clay Evans at 410-295-4034/[clay.evans@usna.com](mailto:clay.evans@usna.com).

I sincerely appreciate every donation and pledge that has been received to date. If you haven't participated yet, I'd ask you to please consider making a recurring donation of \$30, \$96, or \$19.96 a month over the next 5 years. It has been a challenging year in many ways, but as I finished up a 24 year Naval career and started civilian life in 2020, I've reflected a great deal on what USNA has meant to my career, my family, and have come to the conclusion that it is worth chipping in to support it's future.

Beat Army,  
Brian

[Brian.reardon@1996.usna.com](mailto:Brian.reardon@1996.usna.com)

Ps. Please reach out with any question, concerns, or complaints. I'd be happy to help you figure things out or put you in touch with the right person.

Go to [www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)

1. Select the gold "Other Donation Options" button
2. Select "Support my Class Project"
3. Select "1996"
4. All gifts of all sizes are very welcome. Your class officers, in order to show broad participation, have asked each classmate to consider a recurring pledge of \$30 a month for 5 years.