

Greetings Classmates from Joe Grace 22 April Update,

This is an update to my previous message.

Bob indicated that for those who wish to may gather at the mausoleum around 1:00 PM. He will be there, however, there will be no formal service at the Highview Cemetery. The Main Service and event will be at the Jarrettsville firehall from 2:00 – 6:00 PM, which is approximately 15 minutes away. There should be no urgency to be at the Cemetery at 1:00.

Here is the last message send to the Class:

Back in early January I sent out a note to the Class (note listed below) letting you know that our Classmate Bob Berkebile tragically lost three members of his family, his wife, Lisa, and his two sons Matt and Ryan, to Covid-19. Bob fortunately survived this devastating illness and is now preparing to celebrate their lives and hold services.

Here are the details:

Service: Join in a Celebration of Remembrance for Lisa, Matthew and Ryan, Saturday, May 14, 2022, 1:00 PM EST

Location: Highview Memorial Gardens, 3433 Fallston Road, Fallston, MD 21047

Reception to follow: Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company Hall, 3825 Federal Hill Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Please RSVP to Bob at megaberkebob@yahoo.com

Any Classmates who are going to be in the area or can be there to support Bob and his family are highly encouraged to attend. Also, Bob would welcome any notes from Classmates as well during this very difficult time. His contact information is listed below.

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For reference, here is a copy of the 3 January 2022 email that went out to the Class:

Greetings Classmates,

This evening I received a very sobering note from Andy Barton, 6th Company, letting me know that one of our Shipmates, Bob Berkebile, lost his two sons, Matt and Ryan, and his wife, Lisa, to COVID-19, all in the last month. Bob just returned home from the Hospital himself having survived the illness and is recovering. .

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to Bob that he might find the strength to make it through this tragedy. I just spoke with him on the phone and I asked Bob if it would be ok for me to share his email and address with the Class so that we might reach out and let him know that we are here for him in every way.

Here is his contact information:

Bob Berkebile

3965 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

megaberkebob@yahoo.com

Bob is not only recovering from this terrible illness himself, he is also dealing with all of the sorrow and complications of such a tremendous loss. He would welcome notes from the Class and will be open to talking with Classmates in a few weeks.

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In closing, I hope that this note finds each of you healthy, happy and wiser today than yesterday. Please take a few minutes to renew a friendship. Call / zoom / teams / visit a Classmate and take care of each other. You never know what a difference you can make. Our hearts and prayers are with Bob at this difficult time. Please send him a note and let him know that the Class is here for him!

As always, BEAT ARMY,

Joe

Joe Grace

Class Secretary, USNA Class of 1980

Joe.Grace@1980.usna.com (504) 915-6711