

Shipmate March-April 2016
Duke Longworth
21 January 2016

As I write this note a winter storm is bearing down on the Mid-Atlantic States promising lots of snow! For some of us this is good news as the nearby ski slopes will be covered with fresh snow! This may be my best opportunity to ski this season, so I'll have to oblige the forces of nature! On the other hand, as you read this winter is in the rear view mirror and the flowers and leaves are in bud! Winter turns to spring and spring was a favorite season at Navy for many of us. The hours spent in the pleasant afternoon at Hubbard Hall, or in a shell on the Severn, were what made the time at Navy special for me. I'm sure for many of us the spring sports season left many happy memories.

Here's a nice Army-Navy party note from **Pete Zaudtke**: "Duke, while there were several potential heart attack moments in the Army game, no CPR was necessary for any of the attendees at a party at the home of Kathi and **Jim Hergenroeder**. In attendance were Diane and **Brian Finegold**, Patty and **Dave Miller**, Jonah and **Bob Capra**, Jane Wilhelm, and Chickie and me. My 'ever present' camera, as you once called it, captured the attached photo. BEAT ARMY! Pete." Most excellent photo! Thank you! GO NAVY!



CAPTION: Chickie and Pete, Diane and Brian, Patty and Dave, Jonah and Bob, and Jane.

How about that NAVY football! What a tremendous season for the team! Navy defeated Army for the 14th consecutive time and won a record third consecutive bowl game. I managed to be in the stands again for the Navy victory! That was quite the thriller and very competitive! Below is photographic proof!



CAPTION: Back row: Duke Longworth, JT Morris, Perry Martini, Dave Laws. Front row: Michael Longworth, Lisa Longworth, Peggy Morris, Jean Martini, and Joyce Laws.

First up is a superb note from **Dale “Deacon” Peterson**: “Duke, Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. I had the honor to join my son on board THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) for the Tiger Cruise from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. The cruise marked the end of an around the world deployment by TR and CVW 1 of which my son’s squadron, VMFA-251, is a part. The cruise was punctuated by operations in support of the effort known as *Inherent Resolve* with missions flown (as near as I can tell) in Iraq and Syria. In keeping with today’s theme, I am thankful for the young men and women who stand tall in the defense of our nation and way of life. If anything gives me hope for the future it was the professionalism and commitment of the Sailors and Marines that I observed every day of the cruise. Should anyone reading this encounter one of those folks please shake their hand and give them a hearty ‘Bravo Zulu.’ They earned it.

“The photo accompanying this letter was taken in Pearl the morning we set out. My son, Major Erik Peterson, is the squadron OpsO currently flying the F/A-18C. The Thunderbolts of 251 are the only Marine Squadron in the Wing. They closed out the

cruise with a fly-off to a trans-continental flight home to MCAS Beaufort, SC. As I write this everyone is home; safe, sound, and enjoying some well-earned time off.



“On a personal note: the first night underway I heard the pipes and a call that caused me to burst out laughing - I had not heard ‘Sweepers’ in a long time! We are about to tuck in to a delicious Thanksgiving dinner so the only task I set for myself today is get this letter and photo on their way. Mission accomplished. Snow is falling in the mountains and we may ski soon! If our paths do not cross sooner, I will see you at the 45th. Best Wishes, Beat Army and Happy Holidays! Deacon.” Thank you for the photo and update! You look as though retirement is suiting you well! Deacon and I were trainees at VT-4 many moons ago. That was an interesting time for sure. Perhaps next year I can join him on the western ski slopes!

Next is a note from **Phil Williams**: “Duke, I just saw that **Terry Tonkin** was living in Hawaii, wish I had known, we just spent 2 weeks there. Ann and I visited our old haunts on Oahu which brought back many memories from when we lived at the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station (1972-75) after The Basic School. I was with 3rd Amtracs as a ship-to-shore taxi service for the infantry and enjoyed the landings we did on the beaches of Molokai, Oahu and Kauai. This time the ‘excuse’ for our trip was the Maui Invitational Basketball Tournament. Our son and his wife are both Wake Forest University (WFU) graduates so we had to make the trip to support the WFU Demon Deacons. (I give the Deacons my support as long as they do not play Navy - we went to West Point for the WFU vs Army game in the fall.) Before Navy joined the AAC they had tentative plans to play Hawaii the Saturday after Thanksgiving which gave me a double reason to plan a visit to the land of Aloha. Visiting Hawaii again also gave us the opportunity to repeat special things like seeing the sunrise at the top of Haleakala on Maui and the waves breaking on the North Shore of Oahu. When I received my Medical Discharge in 1977, we gave serious thought to having the Marine Corps move us back to Hawaii but family ties moved us to Georgia instead.

“The Pearl Harbor Visitors Center has changed a great deal from when we were first there, but if anyone ever visits Hawaii make sure they add the USS Missouri, the Pacific Aviation Museum and the BLOWFISH to their itinerary along with the USS Arizona. Being on board the USS Missouri took me back to my Third Class cruise aboard the USS Randolph (CVA-15) and my First Class cruise when I was attached to the USS Little Rock (CG-4)....no matter how old a ship is the ‘familiar smells’ remain the same. Also, if you have transportation, go to the Punchbowl National Cemetery. Like Arlington National Cemetery it is a very sobering experience. I could go on and on about Hawaii, it is a wonderful place (and I am sure Terry can give anyone up-to-date visitor information) but I’ll close with a Go NAVY Beat ARMY....again! Semper Fi, Phil Williams.” Thanks for the note, Phil! Terry has been there awhile, so I’m sure he has Oahu mapped out well! Sounds like a most enjoyable trip!



CAPTION: Williams family enjoying Maui!

Here's a short note from **Mario Summa**: "Duke, This is my first time writing to you. Sarasota is a nice place to be for the winter. I guess our classmate **Jim Garrow** thinks so too. He and Barb moved here full time a few months ago. I'm retired from UPS and the Marine Corps Reserves. Please keep me posted of anything that I can do for the class from down here. Semper Fi, Mario.10th Co." Mario, please give my best regards to Barb and Jim. They were most hospitable when I visited Meridian, MS many moons ago! And, thank you for the note. Please do send the golf photo when available – I'll ensure it is published!

Mike Hagy sent this note: "Duke, a few months back we traded emails about our continued thirst for learning and pursuing advanced degrees. For those who might remember my less than stellar educational efforts at USNA, time has been most forgiving. After earning my MS from the University of Southern California, I managed to graduate 'with distinction' from the US Naval War College. The last few years I have been teaching at Temple University and Philadelphia University in Masters and undergraduate management, marketing, and engineering courses. (Yes, me—engineering!). To add a touch of humor to my life, I was accepted into Temple's 2018 Cohort for the Fox School of Business to pursue an Doctorate of Business Administration. Well, I just finished the first semester, and am now seeking a rendezvous with my 'pad monster' for a few days of recuperation. Three photos attached - one from the past and one in the present. Duces Virum, Mike." Wow, time has a way of bringing out the best in all of us! I suspect you're not the only classmate

who struggle to graduate, then subsequently did well at the Naval War College. I know you'll hit a home run with the doctorate! Please send me an invitation to your graduation!

Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership continue to need our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and too short –love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others – we are richly blessed – may we richly bless others. Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for the gift of citizenship in our great nation. Now is the time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke