

Shipmate June / July 2008  
9 June 2008  
Duke Longworth

Yikes. The days of the wet bulb globe thermometer are here! Those hazy, hot, sweat dripping days of summer are surely stifling the midshipmen now. Too easily I recall changing out of double sweat gear into a freshly washed and pressed set of TWL's. Sweat would be dripping from head to toe and soon the entire uniform was drenched. The starch soon was out of that fresh uniform and I was wondering if I had enough uniforms to last until the next laundry day. Ah, those lovely summer days where the Severn River joins the Chesapeake Bay. On the other hand, the sailing wasn't so bad in August if there was a breeze to propel a knockabout. Well, those days are in the past and are just fond memories. Some of our legacy midshipmen are enjoying the heat and humidity now! I don't envy them that part of our USNA experience.

Now for the news! On June 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa and I met Jean and **Perry Martini** along with Jean's sister, Joan and husband Mike Duvall, for dinner at McCormick and Schmidt's restaurant in Town Center Virginia Beach. As we were departing, Perry struck up a conversation with someone. I introduced myself and to my surprise I met a classmate, **Paul Smith**. Paul and his family are in Virginia Beach now. Reckon I need to add his name to my list of local classmate! Sure was nice to meet you, Paul!

The purpose of meeting with Perry for dinner on June 1<sup>st</sup> was to plan our participation in the "Ethical Character in Leadership" Award ceremony onboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT CVN 71 the following day. This was the third annual award ceremony held in the wardroom which was filled to maximum capacity. The Executive Officer, CAPT **Greg Fenton '86**, was master of ceremonies and the ship's CO, CAPT Ladd Wheeler, was the award presenter. This year's award recognized LT Timothy Kelly for his superior leadership and his resolute integrity as an inspiring model for his shipmates. CAPT Wheeler awarded LT Kelly the Navy Achievement Medal. Additionally, the captain noted that the officers highly regard the award and work to be worthy of the award, which focuses on doing the right thing. On behalf of the class board leadership, I presented LT Kelly a copy of "*Inspiring Leadership*", written by **Perry Martini** and **Stew Fisher**. **Gary Reese** and **Dick Cheliras** assisted in the ceremony, presenting LT Kelly with a ship's plaque. LT Kelly's name was added to the permanent award display.

The class representatives were provided a tour of the flight deck followed by a visit to the ship's museum. Please note in your 2009 calendar that the next award ceremony is planned for the last week in May. If you plan to be in the Norfolk area I will ensure you are invited.

Here's a great photo of the award ceremony party (from left to right: CAPT Wheeler, Dick Cheliras, Mike and Joan Duvall, Lisa and **Duke Longworth**, LT Kelly, Jean Martini, Peggy and **John Morris**, Kate Morris, Gary Reese and CAPT Fenton.



Just in time for the column, I received the following note from **Don Jenkins**: “Classmates, Good morning to one and all. 37 years ago we became the Brotherhood known as the Class of 1971. God's blessings to each of you and your families. Please continue to pray for our troops overseas...especially my boy, 1LT Matt, USMC. Happy New Year! Don.” We can certainly keep Matt in our prayers!

Perry Martini sent the following noting our 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary: “Today marks thirty-seven years since we tossed our hats in the air for those we left behind as 875 of us graduated and received our commissions in the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps! It was a day like today, a warm and sunny day, and it was fitting that one of our last men standing, LtGen **John Sattler** spoke of this day a few hours ago on the parade grounds at 8th and I in Washington DC

and retired from the Corps. His retirement ceremony was magnificent and his emotional farewell apropos as John spoke of his fond days at boat school and his love for his fellow classmates. It was also fitting that the Marine Corps D&B performed two songs from their repertoire: Ellis Island march and America the Beautiful for today my thoughts are filled with all our family ancestors who had the courage to get on a boat and to make their voyage to this country, many through Ellis Island, and to allow us to live and fulfill their American dream. For nearly all of us who descended from these visionaries, we had the opportunity to meet and have life-long friends for we are truly blessed to be one of the last of the real band of brothers; moreover, we had a chance to accomplish something greater than most in this life by giving back to our country our commitment to serve under the mantra of "Courage - Honor – Commitment". Proud to be your classmate, friend and fellow alum of our great alma mater, and congratulations again on 37 years of continued friendship. Duces Virum, Perry Martini President '71."

June 9<sup>th</sup> will live in our memories for many more years. As noted above, John Sattler retired in a ceremony held at Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. John invited the entire 11<sup>th</sup> along with many other notable classmates to the ceremony. As I understand, General Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired John and in his remarks he included humorous vignettes of events during John's career. Perhaps that was just stories of John's adventures? Anyway, I need a good photo and some details from the event for the column. Any 11<sup>th</sup> Company classmates have the gouge? Standing by, Duke.

Just barely making the late deadline, I received the photo and note below from **Steve Brighton**. "On 8 June, the 11th Company gave a party for John and Ginny at the home of Karen and **Cass Young**. 18 members of 11<sup>th</sup> Co. attended the event. They were: Cass Young, Steve Brighton, **Finley Foster**, **Bill Butler**, **Mike McNallen**, **Mike Bilecky**, **Bill Hoover**, **Mike Scherr**, **Charlie Quinlan**, **Pete Flannery**, **Don Olsen**, **Lynn Walton**, **Wally Poleshaj**, **Tom Wiles**, **Bill Brown**, **Bruce Nichols**, **Fred Nelson**, and **Harry Sheffield**.



Just as timely, I received the below photo on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a superb photo of Chris Weaver and John Sattler. They attended a reception in Washington, DC together.



Finally, Perry Martini sent this note: "It is my sad duty to pass along the news of the passing of one of our classmates, Gordon Wayne McCabe who died on April 24, 2008. He was born to Frank and Bernice McCabe and raised in Tacoma with his two sisters Carol and Bev and his brother Gary. Gordon attended the U.S. Naval Academy but did not graduate. He is survived by his two sons, Daniel and Matthew, one grandson, Logan, as well as his parents. Gordon spent his career in technology, of which he spent nearly 19 years working for the Boeing Company. Services and burial were held at Trinity Lutheran Chapel in Parkland, Washington April 29, 2008." May Gordon rest in peace.

Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man. Now the silly season in politics is upon us again. And, the struggle to maintain our republic continues. I'm glad this happens only every four years. It is a great time to renew the close friendships we had at USNA. Take time to visit or call a classmate. Please pray for wisdom for our nation's leaders, especially for our classmates in national military, civilian and commercial leadership billets. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Duces Virum, Duke