

Shipmate Member Services Fall 2010
Duke Longworth
8 July 2010

Summer is nearing its end. I've been keeping tabs on the new plebes via Facebook. Interesting to see a new class experience some of the same drills we had. That reminds me, I was in remedial calculus with Professor Saslaw. That was a very interesting class indeed. As I was usually lost in trying to figure out this new-to-me math and anxious about the plebe rates I wasn't learning, I often dozed off to a short nap. His wake up technique was the chalk eraser thrown at me, the sleeping midshipman. It always worked! No need to wonder why anyone would sleep during calculus on a hot summer afternoon.

Our classmates have provided plenty of good material for this column. Here's the first note from **Harry Sheffield**: "Duke, 11th Company classmates **Mike Bilecky**, **Loren Shim** and I got together in sunny and hot Florida for some stories and golf last month. Loren is in the hotel business in Hawaii, but had a convention in Orlando. Mike flew down from DC to take our money on the golf course. We got 36 holes in on the first day, and then played the Disney Magnolia course on the next day with my wife, Dee Dee. Pictorial evidence is attached. We live in Cocoa Beach and welcome any classmates, especially those golfers. Just bring money. Aloha, Dee and Harry." Perhaps a winter golf outing is in store. I'll bring lots of dough!



As a follow up to a brief note in my last column, **Steve Hudson** sent this note: "9 June 1971 may have been one of the happiest days of my life but 28 May 2010 was one of my proudest as I watched my daughter, **Elizabeth Hudson '10**, graduate and be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. I was so choked up that I could barely sing Navy Blue and Gold but I'm sure that my Dad, an enlisted man who served over 3 years in the Pacific on a DE, could hear me. Of course, I was wearing a khaki belt with Gold dolphins on the buckle to graduation.

"Beth was chosen as one of the first 11 women to serve on subs. The sub selection was held on May 3. Prior to this, her service selection was Marine ground. She was scheduled to attend TBS in September. Now she has orders to nuclear power school in October.

"At graduation, the Sr. Chief assigned to her company distributed the new ID cards to all the grads and sure enough hers' says 2nd LT, USMC and it sports a red and gold EGA. It took admin over a week to issue a new ID card so she was driving onto the Yard in NAVY khakis with a USMC ID card. (She is TAD to the Engineering Dept over the summer).

"It has been quite a ride these last 39 years. Back then none of us ever dreamed that our daughters would follow in our wake and live in Bancroft Hall. None of us dreamed that they would go down to sea in ships designed to sink. GO NAVY! SEMPER PARVUS. Duces Virum, Steve." You are justifiably proud, classmate. Beth has all our best wishes for a highly successful career as she breaks new ground!

My next note is from Dan "Mac" McConnell: "Duke, just wanted to pass along that my roommate, **Mike O'Connor**, has completed his PhD in Biomedical Technology and is Dr. Michael Joseph O'Connor with all the rights, privileges, responsibilities thereunto appertaining. He's accepted a position in nuclear medicine at UMass Med School. (I don't know if he had to have a "Rickover" interview). I'm proud of Mike; finally someone out of our room has made something of himself. Dan." Way to go Mike! The class has another doctorate!

Perry Martini sent this note about two of our revered USNA coaches: "Duke, this past month brought the passing of two Naval Academy sports legends who in one form or another impacted all of us in the class of 1971 during our early days as midshipmen. Many of our classmates will have stories about each man but I have been most privileged to know each of them through special relationships forged when I was Deputy Director of Athletics at Navy in the '90s.

"Some of our classmates will remember the late Coach Ed Peery as their wrestling coach and few realized in the late '60s that he would become the most successful wrestling coach in Navy history. But for so many others we will remember him as I did from our first meeting when he appeared in one of our self defense PE classes as plebes. My first encounter with Coach Peery was typical for I had no idea who he was that fall 1967 when he sauntered into Macdonough Hall upper gym and pronounced himself as our instructor for the next hour in the art of self-defense. He asked for volunteers to help him demonstrate how to

defend oneself and he must have caught my nervous smile (I did not want to volunteer!). He looked over at me and sneered, 'What's your name plebe and where are you from?' I quickly answered, 'Midshipmen Martini and I'm from Warren, Ohio.' He answered 'how close is that to Pittsburgh?' When I told him he quickly gestured towards me and said, 'Get here Italian boy – move!' What followed was about a 5 second demonstration in how to put this Italian boy on his back! I am sure I was one of 100's over the years that Ed did that to and I must admit it was something I never forgot.

"When I checked in as Head of Physical Education at USNA in 1994, I discovered that he was to be *my* deputy and as we went through the ritualistic greetings and checking aboard, he said he faintly remembered me as a midshipmen but wasn't certain. I proceeded to lie on the deck on my back and look up at Ed upside down and he said "oh yeh –now I remember – that Italian boy from Ohio!' A few months later, Ed invited me to attend Bible Study Fellowship where he was a team leader. I attended for the next seven years and I have him to thank for leading me down a walk that I thought I would never take. He died last week at the age of 75.

"Some of us knew Coach Jack Cloud at USNA as the mountain of a man who coached the 150 pound football team but nearly all of us will remember him as either Coach Emerson Smith's or Coach Steve Belichick's co-instructor in boxing classes. As a matter of fact, when we were plebes, many of us witnessed an historic boxing match between **Ollie North '68** and **Jim Webb '68** – Coach Cloud was the referee! I met Jack Cloud upon my return to USNA as he was ever present around the Yard mentoring young midshipmen even in his retired years. Jack and I joined Mariners Church virtually on the same day – a church founded by our classmate Bill McKinney. I learned so much about the 'Chief' over the years for he was a steadfast Christian man who's appearance made him appear larger than life, but he had the gentle spirit of someone who cared about you and most importantly about your salvation. How fortunate we were to have in our midst not only one of the greatest athletes of the 20th Century (according to the Sports Illustrated special 20th Century edition in 2001), a member of the greatest generation as a bombardier in the Army Air Corps during World War II, but also a man who was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He died last week at the age of 85. Two men, two coaches, and to many of us great mentors in life." *Duces Virum, Perry.*" Knowing more about these two giants adds more credibility to the value of our USNA education and training. We were trained by the best!

On June 29th ADM **Timbo Keating**, Perry Martini and I presented the annual Ethical Character of Leadership Award to LT Jack Morris. This award is sponsored by our class through funds given by the Board of Trustees. The USS ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) selects the officer LCDR and below who in the past year has best demonstrated ethical character in the performance of duties. The award is NOT for the number one junior officer; rather, the award focuses on ethical behavior. Timbo did a great job as our speaker and he pinned a Navy Achievement Medal on LT Morris.

{Ethical Character Award_29June10.jpg}

Here's another reminder about our tailgates: The home game tailgates are as follows: 9/11 (Georgia Southern); 10/16 (SMU); 10/30 (Duke); 11/13 (Central Michigan; 11/20 (Arkansas State). All tailgates start at 1330 and all kickoffs are at 1530. Join your classmates for great camaraderie and delicious food.

Too soon it's time to close. I hope your summer was a "best ever!" Just over a year until our reunion, October 2011. I made my hotel reservation at the Westin this morning, so if you're planning to attend make your reservation now! The reunion committee will more details out soon. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for safe travel and good health. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as for our classmates in business and government leadership. Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke