

Shipmate January-February 2016
Duke Longworth
23 November 2015

Each year I am reaffirmed that I thoroughly enjoy the fall. The Yard always looks great with Tecumseh appropriately attired in war paint, march-on at the football stadium and my list goes on! How about the midshipman on the football team! Wow, Navy has built a solid program with lots of depth on both offense and defense. I was pleased that the color commentators during and after the Navy vs. Tulane game were commenting on the outstanding defense as well as the offense! By the time you receive this column we will know the season outcome. Meanwhile, GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

Here's my first note from Cathy Ayers (widow of **Jim Ayers '73**): "Hello Duke, My late husband was class of '73. My husband passed away suddenly in '04 and for the past year I've been prepping the house for sale. For years we've had a class/company large ivory mug which I keep moving around in Jim's closet because I don't want to throw it away. Is this something you could help with? The mug has "Class of '71" with a blonde gal on one side with an '18' above her navel. On the back is the name 'Brase.' So, is there a Brase from 18th company who's missing his mug? Thanks for your help. Warm Regards, Cathy Ayers." Okay, let me know if you can complete the puzzle! I'll make the connection to recover the company mug.

My next note is from Hugh Marcy: "Karen and I were with the crew of CG 71, the USS Cape St George, over the weekend. She did a port visit to Mazatlan, the first by a US warship in 10 years, and we went down for the Port Call. The crew held a 2 day working party at a local orphanage and Karen hosted a dinner Friday night. CAPT Rome Ruiz honored Consul General Karen and her American Citizen Services Officer, CAPT, USN (Ret) Tammy Baker, along with the honorary French Consul, honorary Canadian Consul and me during a ship visit Saturday. We had a golf outing on Sunday. The ship and crew made me very proud of our heritage! She is in good hands!" That sounds like a memorable time with a fine ship!

Next up is an excellent note from **Lee Schierer**: "Duke, my wife and I decided to go to the Navy vs. UCONN game last weekend. We saddled up our travel trailer and took a scenic drive through southern New York and camped south of Hartford. We had contacted our various company members via email when we purchased the tickets. We heard back from **Dave Luengen**, Vonice and **Russ Carr** and **Lew Shatzer**. Dave is retired and still in Hawaii enjoying the island and his grandkids. Russ and Vonice were not going to attend the game as they were leaving the Thursday before on a trip to Europe. Russ has retired from Electric Boat. Lew Shatzer invited us to dinner at the home of his friend Linda Fouche'. We had a very pleasant evening with Linda and Lew sharing sea stories and stories about our kids/grandkids and adventures since we graduated and retired. The evening passed far too quickly. The attached photo was taken just after dinner. The topping to the weekend was the great game that Navy played against UCONN. There was a pretty good Navy crowd on hand and a sizable

group of very enthusiastic Napsters. Beat Army! Lee Schierer '71." Thanks you for the informative note and nice photo! Beat Army, sir!



CAPTION: Linda Fouche' and Lew Shatzer with the Schierer's

Bill Nevitt sent this note: "Duke, Greetings from San Diego. I have joined the ranks of our classmates who are fully retired! On Oct. 19, I retired from the California Superior Court after 20 years, and permanently hung up my black robe. I look forward to attending more USNA events and seeing our classmates more often. Best personal regards, Bill Nevitt." Congratulations! More USNA is a good thing!

I was reviewing my files when I noticed I overlooked the following note from **Jim Gonzales**: "Hope you are well and surviving the brutal winter weather back east. I'm back from my 15th mission trip to Cambodia (25th overall). Great trip with sunny, 85 - 90 degree weather every day. Attached is another photo of the '71 Class Plaque on the wall at the American 'FreeBird' bar and grill, as well as a couple of photos of one of my patients. This 2 1/2 year old, 7 kilogram, boy was discovered to have a significant heart murmur at a Province orphanage. A medical 'work up' diagnosed him as having a VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect) i.e., a malformation resulting in a 'hole' between the two main pumping chambers of the heart. I helped provide the anesthesia for Cambodian surgeons to perform open heart surgery to repair his defect. Without the surgery, this young boy would have died of heart failure at about age 5 or 6. This kid was so stoic that I never heard him cry or even whimper, from the morning we brought him into the O.R. until he was discharged from the Surgical Intensive Care Unit a few days later. The morning after his surgery, the nurses took a photo of us while he was still sleeping. He awoke and the nurses took a second photo. Even at age 2 1/2, this kid projected a

certain 'Gravitas.' As Leonard Nimoy's 'Mr. Spock' would put it, I'm certain this kid will 'Live long and Prosper.' Jim." Wow! You do good work, Doctor! Our class is blessed by you! Please accept my apologies for the delay getting this into the *Shipmate*! Photos below of the *Freebird* plaque and Jim with his patient after surgery.



CAPTION: *Freebird* plaque



CAPTION: Jim Gonzales with Cambodian patient

It is my sad duty to pass to you the news of the death of two of our classmates. John Michael Barrett Jr passed away on October 2, 2015. A graduate and member of the 22nd Company John served for five years with the USN Special Warfare Forces. In that role, he was ultimately responsible for 18 Swift river patrol boats and their crews. John was the eldest of five children of Rear Admiral John M. 'Jack' Barrett Sr., and the former Eda Joan Odem of Sinton, Texas. Throughout his father's naval career, John traveled the world, but he was always determined to return to South Texas. John met and married the former Debra Seal of Sinton, Texas in 1981. Together they reared three sons (all Eagle Scouts) through 34 years of hard-fought harvests in South Texas. John and Debra loved scuba diving, particularly on international trips, with their good and loyal friends. John's underwater photographs were spectacular and adorn many a wall. John is survived by Debra, and by their sons: CAPT John M. Barrett, III (Megan), and their son, John M. Barrett, IV, David Odem Barrett (Miranda), and James Francis Odem Barrett (his fiance, Sara Dehghani). John is also survived by his mother, Eda Barrett, and his four siblings. A burial mass was held at Sacred Heart Church in Sinton (906 E Sinton St) on October 5th. A funeral home guestbook is available at <http://www.resthavenfunerals.com/>.

Greg Maxfield passed away on November 2nd at the age of 66. Greg, born and raised in Burlington, Wisconsin, graduated out of the 14th Company and then spent the next 8 years serving on nuclear submarines. On July 31, 1971 he was united in marriage to Christine E. Robers. They made their home in Maryland, New York, Hawaii, Virginia, South Carolina and Guam while in the Navy. Following his active duty they made their home in Two Rivers, Wisconsin for 17 years before moving to Apple Valley, Minnesota for the past 19 years. He enjoyed camping and vacationing with family; supporting his children and grandchildren in their various activities; traveling across the United States to view Frank Lloyd Wright homes; and various board and card games; as well as art, music and movies. He had a lifelong interest in aviation and automobiles; was a pet lover; was an avid Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Twins fan. Above all, he was a dedicated man who loved his family and his work. Greg is survived by his wife, Chris; children, Teague (Michelle) Maxfield, Hilary (Andrew) Ince; grandchildren, Cadence, Keegan and Braden Maxfield; siblings, LeRoy (Juliette) Maxfield Jr., LuAnn (Richard) Bullyan and father-in-law, Richard Robers. The family asks that memorials go to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation or the Wounded Warrior Project. Services and burial for Greg were held Monday, November 9th.

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