

Shipmate Mar/Apr 2010
Duke Longworth
1 February 2010

What a great Army – Navy football game! Nice to see Army improving and providing a more competitive game. Nice, too, that Navy surged in the second half to win. The weather was clear, crisp and just right for a December game. Navy won the party after the game, too!

No game would be complete without the after game festivities. A group of classmates rendezvoused at La Forno in downtown Philly to enjoy a warm fire, great conversation and an excellent dinner. In the photo below you'll see: front row - Peggy and **JT Morris**, Lisa Longworth, Jean Martini, second and third rows – Terri and **Dave Vandover**, Martha and **Mike Gaffney**, Joyce and **Dave Laws**, unknown, **Karl Schwelm**, **Duke Longworth**, **Jeff Hemler**, Suzy and **Steve Dmetruk**, USMA couple, Phil Dow, and **Perry Martini**. I cannot clearly recall the last time I saw Karl. He looks great and he is just as active as when he was at USNA. Karl's high school friend, Phil Dow, is a great story teller. We chatted about his Viet Nam experience as a platoon leader and the work he is doing in Northern California supporting veteran's organizations.



Next is a note which **Ken Marks** shared and is about our four star classmate: "As the clock ticks toward the final bell of a brilliant and rewarding career, please reflect upon the hour you first appeared upon the scene. Recall if you will the sights and sounds of Bancroft Hall, and feel again the baking sun in Tecumseh Court as you raised your right hand to support and defend the Constitution of this great nation. Recall the lines, the noise, the anticipation, and measure of trepidation as you faced an uncertain yet challenging and sure to be exciting future. And yes, the heat! As you sit waiting for that first haircut or standing in line to receive the initial issue replete with working whites and a distinctive blue-rimmed cover, your nose is deeply buried in the 1967 - 1968 edition of Reef Points as to not waste a single moment, an army of second-classmen stands seemingly everywhere, each carefully monitoring your every move while kindly correcting even the slightest sideways glance. Close your eyes and imagine if you can the faces of those around as each man contemplates inwardly that which lies ahead. Many would fall by the wayside, their names and faces long since forgotten; but others would stay the course and share in the remarkable journey. Surely, in your wildest dreams you could not have known then or wish it so; but in the end there would be one left standing, and you should be that man.

"Among the countless expressions of appreciation for service to country and the many kind words spoken of your achievements, there remains that which you cannot hear or hold but deserve to know and cherish; i.e., the heartfelt admiration of every single classmate who lives vicariously through you this day as you answer the final bell. You're a good man, **Tim Keating**. You served well your country and the cause of freedom. You did us proud! Ken Marks."

Ken added a note regarding his retirement ten years earlier: "For my part, it was my honor to retire from active duty as a captain in the summer of 1999. As my wife chose not to join me in London for my final posting, I would be alone during the closing days of a career that began 2 February 1965 as an E-1 (USNR) on a delayed deferment. I would enter the Naval Academy via NAPS, that small fraternity within a fraternity and a quiet but lingering point of pride. With no family to share those last days, there would be no ceremony. I would simply get up morning, pack my bags, turn-in my room key, and catch the tube to Heathrow. Some days later as the calendar approached the administrative end date, I thought to call upon a colleague stationed on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, then port-side to pier 12, to ask if I could come aboard for one last walkabout the flight deck, the hangar bay, and the passageways I had come to know so well with time served on four Nimitz Class carriers: Nimitz, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. I donned a uniform for the last time, fired up the 1971 yellow Super Beetle, the same machine I drove away from Annapolis lo those many years ago, and headed to the carrier piers. It was 31 August 1999. Following a quiet lunch in the wardroom, strangely this time as a guest, I approached the quarterdeck only to hear, 'Captain, U.S. Navy departing.' And it was finished." Thanks for the memories, Ken.

Next is an update from **Jeff Albright**: “Duke - Happy New Year! A couple of quick 16th Company updates for you. A bit of sad news is that ‘**Buddy**’ **Gillis** who was with us during Plebe year passed away. Although I retired after having had command of a DD, I have temporarily turned to the ‘other side’ and am on the Commissioning Committee from New Mexico for SSN 779 - USS New Mexico. Beth and I will be traveling to Norfolk for the Commissioning activities - including the Commissioning itself, which, ironically, is scheduled on my birthday - March 27, 2010! Duces Virum, Jeff Albright.” Here’s my note to Jeff: “Great to hear from you. I always remember our times on the O’HARE and at war college. Perhaps your schedule will permit a brief visit over the NEW MEXICO commissioning. I work at the Fleet Forces Compound, so getting to NOB is a breeze. Please give Beth my best regards. Duke”

Here’s an update from **John Ball**: “Duke, greetings from sunny/rainy San Diego. First of all, here is a photo - thanks to Tom Hammons - of the San Diego stalwarts who gathered last December to watch Navy beat Army again.



“Second is a photo of our own **Fred Becker**, President and CEO of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU) in Arlington, VA. This appeared in the association’s newsletter prior to the big game, with Fred showing off his Navy spirit and N-Star sweater he earned in 150-lb Football. Nice smile, Fred!



“Since I volunteered to be our 26th Company Rep for the 40th Reunion, and have had some success in locating guys, with accurate info now for 15 of 22 in our company. In the course, I received some updates, here in their own words. **Frank Montesano:** ‘I retired in 1998 but was out for two years flying with Continental. Came back in 1981 and stayed. Took the job as director of the Lexington Museum [in Corpus Christi] when I retired. If you want an update on how time has aged me dial up www.usslexington.com on your computer and take the ship tour. Joanne and I have two kids, no grandkids. I did 3 years on Midway in Japan flying A-6’s. Rocco is a nickname I picked up.’ **Mike French:** ‘In 2008 Norma & I found the house of our dreams on a local golf course. My backyard is on the 16th hole tee box. I haven’t played a round of golf since 1979 but looking forward to resuming soon.’ **Mike Rohrbaugh:** ‘After 3 cruises flying A-7’s, 30 years with American Airlines, now retired, 2 wives, 4 children, 3 who are way too young, 1 who may enter the class of 2014, most of my hair, though gray, I have enjoyed a great life.’ **Bob Adkins:** ‘I’m between Ohio and Arizona, spending a bit more time in Arizona, especially winters!’ **Jeff Hemler:** ‘I am living

in Virginia and should be starting a new job in the next two weeks. For the last five years I have been a research fellow at a think tank aboard the Marine Base at Quantico; think tank was called the Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities. Within two weeks I am scheduled to become a Program Manager in the Research Directorate in the Office of the Director, Defense Research and Engineering. I will have program management oversight for some tactical communications and command and control programs. My son, Matthew, lives in San Diego and does program analysis support for the USMC aboard Camp Pendleton. My daughter, **Joslyn, '04**, is a Marine Corps Captain who has just recently been assigned duties as a USMC Congressional Fellow. **Steve Dmetruk**: 'Suzy and I spent about 4 days over Christmas at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic and had a wonderful time. It was hard to come back to 38 degree weather last night!' **Mike Stephens**: 'Steff & I have two grown kids, a boy and a girl, and a 6 year old grandson. I'm retired (out of work) and plan to move to the Chesapeake in Virginia this Spring. Sailing and golf are my passions outside the family.' Sherrie and **Pat Kelly** are settled in Coronado, where they celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary on November 11th. Son **Robert '10** is a firstie. Pat's roommate Jeff Hemler and his wife Mary, of Virginia, have adopted young Robert, providing advice, beer, and cookies. **Dave Poyer** had a 60th birthday bash at his home in Franktown, VA. He and Lenore continue to write, with David's latest book being The Crisis. I just heard from Jackie Gessis that her husband **Scott Gessis** suffered a stroke recently and is recovering in a hospital near his home in New Hampshire. We wish Scott a full and speedy recovery.

"As for me, Gay and I enjoy life here in San Diego where I work for Northrop Grumman Unmanned Systems as Flight Test Manager. Attached is a photo of me and one of our company-owned Fire Scout UAVs during demonstrations to the Army at Fort Benning, Georgia. Ironically, I was there over Army weekend and missed our annual gathering in San Diego. Pat Kelly was also out of town then supporting a joint/combined modeling and simulation exercise not far from Sapporo, Japan. What a memorable season for Navy Football! Take care, John." Nice update! Hope more company reps follow your lead!



Somehow, my 36th Company-mate **Karl Athow** and I managed to connect via email: "Duke, sorry it took so long to reply. Computer malfunction (actually, an old guy deleted the modem and severed my internet capability.) I am now up and wired from Mt Dora, FL where we are building our latest dream home. Saw **Lew Mason** last year when he flew through Wisconsin. He stayed the night with us at our cabin before continuing on to the east coast. Karl." Karl and I enjoyed a couple years flying together (along with Mike Rohrbaugh) in VA-87. That was a fun tour!

With sadness I send along this note from the Mountain City, TN *The Times News*: "**Mack Nave** passed away unexpectedly on Sunday morning December 13, 2009 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was a son of the late John Hal Nave Sr. and Mary Davis Nave. Mack loved fishing, spending time in Florida, loved his cats and loved rescuing cats. He was a lieutenant in the United States Navy having served during the Vietnam era as a naval pilot." Online condolences may be sent to the family and viewed at www.huxlipfordteaguefh.com. Mack is survived by his wife Janet.

Too soon it is time to close. I hope the "dark ages" were not so dark for you! It's been a fun, white winter in Virginia Beach. Spring is just around the corner. 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 the sunrise wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke