

Shipmate November-December 2012
Duke Longworth
1 Oct 2012

What a beautiful fall! The weather is ideal for football! I just returned from a weekend visit to the Yard. It is just as nice as ever! I hope to get another visit to Annapolis this season. You should be reading this as our team prepares for the Army – Navy game. I'm hopeful the mids will defeat the Black Knights once again! Several notes from classmates attending the Navy – Notre Dame game in Dublin follow! Sounds like Ireland was lots of fun and a most enjoyable trip.

My first note is from **Perry Martini**: "Duke, here's a list of classmates I either saw at the game in Ireland or who sent me an email stating they made the trip: **Perry Martini, David Laws, Brian Finegold, Dan Nelson, Chris Weaver, JT Morris, Mike Hecomovich, Ed Bouton, Eric Benson, Jim Davis, Bill Donges, Jack Boniface, Larry Wray, Greg Engel, Mike Greene, Ted Fischer, Brad Closson, Dave Whitman, Hugh Darcy, Mike Marks, Mike Morrell, Tom Hammons, Rick Smith, Al Jacobs, and Fred Mallgrave**. Attached are two photos: one taken at the Guinness Storehouse Factory at the huge Anthony Travel sponsored party and another at the Barking Dog pub. Editor's Note: I am sure more classmates made the trip so send me stories and photos.



Photo caption: "Dinner party at the 'Barking Dog' Belfast –Joyce and Dave Laws, Jean and Perry Martini, Peggy and JT Morris"

Mike Marks sent this note about his Ireland adventures: "Duke, our group, Pat and **Ted Fischer**, Kathleen and **Brad Closson**, Gay and **Dave Whitman**, and Jean and Mike Marks, had a great time in Ireland. We spent ten days touring the Emerald Isle.

The Navy pep rally gave us an opportunity to have a photo taken with Bill the Goat. Game day did not go our way but did not dampen our Navy spirit. It was a trip that made the bonds we have even stronger. Go Navy, Beat Army!"



Photo caption: "Left to right: Ted Fischer, Mike Marks, Jean Marks, Bill, Gay Whitman, Dave Whitman, Pat Fischer, Brad Closson, and Kathleen Closson"

Eric Benson sent the following note: "The weekend before the game Sally and I met Susan and **Ed Bouton** at Doonbeg for two rounds of golf amid atypical Irish weather (warm and not too windy). We continued to work our way to Dublin with daily rounds of golf at Tralee, Ballybunion and Old Head (a must play course for any golfers in the crowd!). On Friday we ran into the CNO en route to the pep rally (see attached photo). At the pep rally we ran into Susan and **Bill Donges**. Also saw **Perry Martini** and **Dave Laws** before we hit the Alumni Association Come Around aka mini-pub crawl.

"Post-game Saturday was time for a couple of more pubs with the Boutons and Diane and **Brian Finegold**. Sunday afternoon we saw them again before we got in two last days of golf at Druid's Glen and The European Club (a course to avoid for all but the best golfers).



Photo caption: "Diane and Brian Finegold, and Susan and Ed Bouton played Doonbeg Golf Club."



Photo caption: "Diane and Brian Finegold."

"During the long trip home we were hit with the death of my plebe summer roommate, **Bob Beckman**. I'm sure most of us remember the summer of '67 with

mixed memories but a common theme was the friendship and support of that first roommate during a very trying time. Bob and I often told others that each other's support made that summer almost tolerable. I cannot remember ever telling each other that directly. If others out there have not said 'Thanks' to your plebe summer roomie, now might be a good time to do so in honor of my good friend Bob Beckman. Eric."

Here's a note from **Chris Weaver**: "Duke, I was one of the 'Wild Geese' (Irish slang for Irish foreign mercenary) from '71 that went to Dublin for the Navy – ND game. As has been recorded abundantly, it was not good football but it was a great time. I heartily recommend it to everyone, with or without Irish heritage, to go to visit Dublin in particular and Ireland in general. This was a chance for our entire family (3 grown children plus two sons in law) to do something special together. Would go back this week if I could. Both wife, Chris, and I have Irish roots so it truly was a return home.

"A couple of minimum recommendations to anyone who goes to Dublin: Do the Guinness tour, the Jameson tour, the Irish national museum and the old General Post Office. Watering hole of choice is 'Sackville', just off O'Connell Street on Sackville St. (Absolutely unassuming and authentic Irish pub with terrific folks.) For places to eat I have two: 'Romano', near the Four Courts on the north side of the Liffey River in downtown, had possibly the best Italian food ever. The second is 'The Green Hen' on Exchequer St in heart of Dublin on south side of Liffey. Paul Rooney, the proprietor, became an instant friend. He will look after you in grand style. Terrific Irish and continental food, and great ambience.)

"I recommend a day trip up to Belfast to the recently-opened Titanic Museum there. Extremely well done. City is beautiful too. And it's a very pretty drive up there. Anyway, it was a great week that we had in Dublin. I was over there last year on business so we had intel of where to go and what to do. Second time was even better than first. Chris." Great gouge! Thank you!

Greg Engel sent this note: "Duke, we flew to Dublin and enjoyed the game, city and country. We went a couple of days early to sight see - castle at Kilkenny, Waterford glass plant (not big enough to be a factory), Riverdance, and the like. Both Donna and I were impressed with how clean the country and cities were, and the friendliness of the natives. As for the game, it was like the old days where Navy just seemed to be there to help other teams move up in the rankings. I did note, however, that there were a lot of underclassmen on the starting team so as they get more experience, there may be hope for the remainder of the season. Cheers, Greg Engel." Thanks, Shipmate!

Jim Davis sent this photos from the trip to Ireland: . Jim Davis



Photo caption: "At Hondo's pre-game party: Howard Mayo (2014 parent) and **Jim Davis** 28th company '71, bottom row Nancy Mayo, De Medford (Jim's wife).

John Ball sent this note: "Hi Duke, on July 22nd, ten San Diego classmates gathered at a local Padres' game for traditional baseball food, sun, and general camaraderie. Organized by our very own pork chop, **Tom Hammons**, we spent a warm afternoon watching the Padres win while discussing family, grandchildren, careers, retirement, and baseball. Attendees included **Jim Ward, Rick Smith, Pat Doyle, Joe Anthony, Jim Carlin, John Ball, Pat Kelly, Lana and Tom Hammons, Hugh Butt,** and Marilyn and **Jim Loiselle**. We look forward to our traditional Army game get-together here in San Diego." Thanks John!



Photo caption: "San Diego Classmates Celebrate a rare Padres victory in July 2012. L-R; Joe Anthony, Jim Carlin (kneeling), Rick Smith, Pat Doyle, Jim Ward, John Ball, Pat Kelly, Tom Hammons, and Hugh Butt

Nice note from my fellow Missourian, **Mike Gaffney**: "Duke, last month, after I retired from the commercial nuclear industry after 15 years and 26 years of the Navy, Martha and I embarked on our first adventure using the great privilege of Space A travel

with the Air Mobility Command. We traveled from Norfolk to Lemoore, Ca, visited my daughter, Maria in San Francisco, and then returned from Travis AFB in a C-17. It was a great adventure and we look forward to our next Space A trip." Sounds like you and Martha will have a fun retirement! I look forward to your visits to the Beach!

I received this note from Perry Martini: "It is my sad duty to report the loss of our dear friend and classmate, **Bob Beckman** who died suddenly at his home in Arlington, Virginia. Although the official cause of death has not yet been determined it is suspected that he died of a heart attack.

"Bob grew up in Ashtabula, Ohio, an only child raised by his mother after his father died suddenly as a young boy. Bob excelled in sports, especially football, where he played halfback and defensive back. Academically, he was a National Merit Scholar, and was elected and served as the president of his student council his senior year.

"Bob had multiple college scholarship options, but chose to come to Annapolis as a principal appointee of his Congressman. At USNA, Bob was the extrovert's extrovert, never without multiple jokes or stories to tell. Athletically, he rowed crew plebe year and played intramural sports such as company football and field ball. An Economics major, he managed to win an Immediate Graduate Education Program (IGEP) scholarship to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Monterey and completed a master's degree in less than one year at NPS prior to sea duty. Some of Bob's fondest memories after graduation and NPS (and the sources of most of his "top ten" sea stories) involved his service as a junior combat systems officer in USS TOWERS (DDG 9); and (after transferring to Supply Corps) as the Supply Dept Head in USS KINKAID (DD 965). Both ships were homeported in San Diego and both deployed to the Western Pacific. TOWERS had "gun line" duty during the Vietnam War.

"After sea duty Bob served in the Pentagon in Washington, DC and despite his deep selection to LCDR, he decided to leave active duty for a position with Lockheed Martin. Bob's Lockheed tenure saw him rise quickly to vice president, in charge of a geographic region in the company's emerging information technology business. But this wasn't enough challenge, either, so after several years he struck out on his own and began a management consulting practice, 'In Perspective, LLC', which he successfully operated until the time of his death.

"A truly outstanding classmate and a proud member of 25th Company, shipmate, officer, gentleman and husband, he is survived by his wife of 29 years, Jan Fleming. Their 30th wedding anniversary would have been on September 21st. Bob was 63."

Regretfully, I received another note from Perry: "It is my sad duty to report the unexpected passing of our dear friend and classmate, **Frank Edgerton**, who recently died while hiking with his family and friends in Moab, Utah. Although it was not

determined as to cause of death it was suspected to be a heart attack. Born and raised in Red Springs, North Carolina, Frank graduated from the 28th company and was currently living in Albany, California. Condolences can be sent to his widow, Anothia, at 555 Pierce St, Gateway 609, Albany, CA 94706. A 'Celebration of Life' was held for Frank in Albany. A burial of his ashes will take place in Red Springs, NC."

Too soon it's time to close. Life is short, so love with all your heart, give generously to those whom you love, and speak words of peace and life to all. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in summer travels. Pray, too, that our mission in Afghanistan will achieve success and our work in Iraq does produce an ally in the Middle East. We have several classmates in business and government leadership who can use our thoughts and prayers, too. There is plenty of work remaining for us as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke