

Shipmate April-May 2020
Duke Longworth
26 February 2020

Spring is here! Spring in the Yard is always a refreshing time as the vestiges of winter wash away! I always enjoyed walking through the Yard in the spring along Stribing Walk after a vigorous workout at Hubbard Hall! I'm sure many of you have fond remembrances of the Yard in the spring, too!

When I prepared the March column the winner of the **Liberty Bowl** was not decided; however, now we know **NAVY WON!** Congratulations to the 2019 team for the 11 – 2 season winning record.

Here's a newsy note from our Class President, Perry Martini: "Duke, As you know I announced my retirement as Program Director at *Academy Leadership* effective 31 December 2019. Jean and I embarked on a 17-day road trip to Jupiter Beach, FL to attend my final *Academy Leadership* Annual Conference. It was a fond farewell to a team of service academy graduates with whom I have been working. Our team conducted many leadership workshops and seminars to help leaders in business and industry to become more effective. When the conference was over we traveled up the east coast and visited a number of friends and classmates to including: Marie and **Tom Laboon** (Jupiter, FL); Sybil and **Bill 'Pappy' Yocum** (Melbourne, FL - a lifetime member of the Dirty Dozen of old 29th Company); Tamara and **Don (Hawk) Brewer** (Pawleys Island, SC - another lifetime member of the Dirty Dozen of old 29th); Pam and **Bob Walter** (New Bern, NC) and Joyce and **David Laws** (Lake Wylie, NC). In addition to squeezing in four rounds of golf we made two side trips to Charleston, SC (with USMA '67 friends) and High Point, NC (furnitureland!).



(L-R) Jean and Perry with Pappy and Sybil in Melbourne, FL



(L_R) Tamara and Hawk with Perry and Jean at dinner on Pawley's Island

One of the highlights was our visit to Melbourne. We were able to visit Cape Canaveral and meet with the Director of Kennedy Space Center since 2008, classmate and our Class of '71 newly minted Distinguished Graduate Award winner (DGA), **Bob Cabana**. Bob gave us the VIP treatment for over 3 hours which included a walk-through of the Shuttle Atlantis, the rocket vehicle assembly building (massive!), various space launch pads, and, a special visit to a highly secure building where we were up



Perry with Bob at KSC for the grand tour!

close to the next (2022 launch) lunar space module. One area we were not permitted to enter is where they are building the modules that will eventually go to Mars in 2030 (unmanned) and 2034 (manned).

"We finally arrived home to begin a couple months long project of preparing our Annapolis home for sale and downsizing in the process. We are building our new final home on the eastern shore just over the other side of the Bay Bridge so we won't be far from Annapolis or Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. I am working on being in retirement mode and have actually slept passed 0600 (reveille in the old days) twice this month! After being tied to a schedule for 54 years, it is a pleasure to be on my own for the near and distant future. Turning the magical '71' last year helped me understand that there are not many calendars left where quality time remaining becomes the priority. Jean and I plan to make it happen. Looking forward to our 50th Reunion in 2021!" Superb note with excellent photos! Thank you! Sounds like a most enjoyable and relaxing visit! Here's to many happy years in your retirement adventure!

Jack Balcom sent this short note with a photo: "Hi Duke, This is a picture of 1st Co. classmates Jack Balcom from New Hampshire stopping by to see Marie and **Dan Rowe** at their home in Pensacola, FL." Thank you, Jack! Hope to see you at our 50th reunion!



(L-R)

Dan Rowe with Marie and Jack Balcom

Tom Laboon sent this short note with a photo: "Duke, Marie and I spent New Year's Eve in Memphis with Sherry and **Bob Chimenti** watching Navy beat Kansas State! Through Bob's connections, we were in the Stadium Club box with mostly KS

fans. They were pretty quiet; we were not so quiet. Go Navy!! Tom Laboon.” Thank you! I haven’t seen Bob in many years! He’s looking good! Bob and I were replacement pilots in VA-174 44 years ago this month! I hope to see him at our 50th!



(L-R) Tom and Marie with Sherry and Bob at the Liberty Bowl watching Navy defeat Kansas State!

Lisa and I attended the retirement ceremony of **VADM Bruce “Birdie” Lindsey ‘82**. Birdie and I were shipmates aboard MIDWAY during Desert Shield / Desert Storm. I’ve had the pleasure of watching Birdie’s success over the years. Birdie helped our class initiate the “Ethical Character in Leadership Award” on THEODORE ROOSEVELT. If the name Lindsey rings a bell for you that is because Bruce’s dad was a Battalion Commander during our years at USNA. Both Bruce and his late brother, **Scott Lindsey ‘75**, graduated from USNA. Birdie has been a key thought leader for our Navy since his graduation. Our nation and our Navy have benefitted greatly from his leadership. Fair winds and following seas, shipmate!



Lisa and Duke with VADM Bruce “Birdie” Lindsey

I am sad to note the passing of our classmate, **Michael H. Beelby**, on 30 December 2019. A true patriot, Mike was born in Holly, Michigan on the 4th of July 1949. Mike joined us on 28 June 1967, was a member of the 29th Company, and graduated with distinction on 9 June 1971. Mike graduated from Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and served as a surface warfare officer for 24 years retiring in 1995. He and his wife of 21 years, Rebecca, move and settled in Wisconsin following his naval career. At his request no funeral plans or services were made.

As a follow up to the sad note about, I received this from **Paul Smith**. "Duke, in perusing my hometown (Superior, Wisconsin) newspaper. I discovered the obituary of our classmate (and fellow aero major) Mike Beelby (29th Company). I did not realize that he taught math at my old high school after retiring from the Navy and still lived in the area. We go back there every year to visit family and hang out at our timeshare but was unaware I had a classmate in the area. *Duces virum* and Beat Army! Paul Smith." Thank you! Surely is a small world. See you at the 50th in 18 months!

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, and safety in their travels. Today is the gift of "the present." Life is precious and too short – love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others – as we are richly blessed so may we richly bless others. Our leadership at home, in our social circles, and in daily routines is vital to our nation. Now is the time to shape 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