

Shipmate June 2020  
Duke Longworth  
23 March 2020

Spring arrived early this year – March 19<sup>th</sup>! The early arrival is a once-in-a-hundred years occurrence! Therefore, we will not see this again. Spring, as you likely recall, was a favorite season for me during my years in the Yard. I especially enjoyed the walk from Hubbard Hall to Bancroft Hall after a good workout on the Severn River. The blooming flowers and the cool spring air were the ingredients for calming moments! This year the Yard is empty. The midshipmen departed on spring break and were due to return to complete the semester when the Corona Virus COVID-19 pandemic changed conditions in the United States of America. This is another once-in-a-hundred year's occurrence! We now practice "social distancing" and "self-quarantine" to reduce the spread of the deadly virus. I am hopeful that when you receive this column that we citizens of this great nation have returned to a more normal condition. My prayer is for minimal loss of life as we "combat" this pandemic.

First up is an excellent and informative note from my O'HARE shipmate, **Jeff Albright**: "Duke, Beth and I recently returned from a long-planned trip to Cartegena, Columbia and ABC (Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire) island cruise. We determined that only in Cartegena could one find 300 street vendors willing to sell hats, a hundred thousand magnets, or to shoe polish our Docksidors (had we been wearing them)! One pleasant surprise was finding that our cabin matched our class and company - 7116 (although I believe Beth had something to do with that). Another surprise was sampling the drink of the day in Aruba - which turned out to be an Aruba Ariba! And yes, there really is a Juan Valdez coffee shop in old downtown Cartegena.

"Our biggest surprise was running into Irene and **Fred Klein** (1<sup>st</sup> CO) at the motel we were staying prior to embarkation - and finding out that they were going on the same cruise. We managed to spend many hours together and compared our separate, but parallel career paths. Fred's initial deployment was onboard the USS Davidson (FF-1045) to Vietnam. Mine was onboard USS O'Hare (DD-889) to the gunline. Our paths crossed again at Monterey where Fred got his advanced degree in Oceanography while I got mine in EE. Also, we managed to play a fair amount of golf there, although Fred's game is a level above mine.

"However, for those who encounter Fred between now and our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, you have to ask him (or Irene) about the time at Monterey when he contemplated breaching a convoy of Army tanks at Fort Ord - in a VW bug - enroute to the delivery room with Irene riding shotgun! Unfortunately, that story and his later cold weather/Northern European warfare plan exercise were inadvertently omitted from Hank Turowski's 50th reunion project."

"Too soon we returned to Fort Lauderdale, and despite the problems many people had on cruises, all of us returned without being quarantined, with an uneventful

transit through customs, and more stories to share when we next encounter other classmates.” What a nice surprise for you and Jeff! Jeff and I were O’HARE shipmates immediately after graduation. Together we deployed the Mediterranean Sea six months then returned to Norfolk. NOTE: O’HARE was scheduled to return to the Mediterranean; however, schedules changed, and she deployed nine months later to the gun line. I did not want to do another Med deployment; however, I would have stayed with O’HARE had I know she would travel to Viet Nam. So, transferred to Pensacola to start my flight training!

Jeff also received a note in mid-March from **Richard Fisher** and his wife Missy. “Jeff, we are fortunately not on a cruise – just hopping between lodges in New Zealand. Just had an incredibly beautiful four days at Wharekauhau [pronounced “forry-co-ho” (honestly} where we were the only ones there (and with complete staff) and are now at Cape Kidnappers to play golf. Our biggest concern is whether we will be able to fly back to the U.S. on the 23rd?” Jeff had not heard back from Richard and Missy by the time this went to press, but he hopes that Richard and Missy are fine and that any delay only resulted in additional rounds of golf and a lowering of Richard’s handicap. Richard was with us through 1969 and then entered Harvard. After getting degree(s) from Harvard in 1971 and later at Stanford and serving as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative under President Clinton, Richard was President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 2005-2015. He also served on the Harvard Board of Overseers.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, especially protection from the Corona Virus COVID-19, healing when needed, and safety in their travels. Today is the gift of “the present.” Certainly, this pandemic highlights how 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