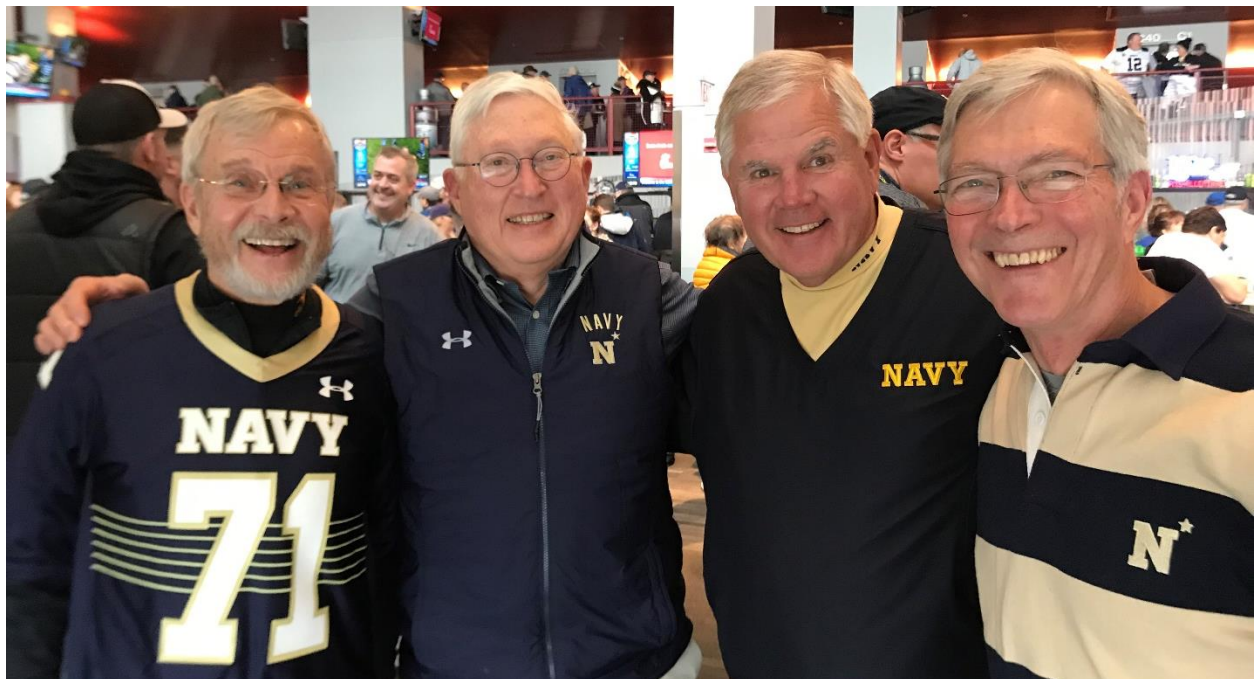


Shipmate March 2020
Duke Longworth
26 December 2019

Spring is just around the corner! Navy defeated Army and possesses the Commander-in-Chief's trophy! Congratulations NAVY! The Navy football team flew to Memphis, TN on the New England Patriots charter aircraft for the Liberty Bowl! Navy faces Kansas State in a sure-to-excite game. As I write this column the game is a few days away! GO NAVY!

Speaking of Army-Navy, I was at the game looking around for meeting classmates and fellow alumni when I saw **Carl Josefson**. He was at the game with his wife and company-mates **Mike Munt-Marks**, and **Dave Whitman**, with their wives. I assured them I would get their photo in this column if I wasn't in the photo with them; however, they insisted I be in the photo! Somewhat coincidentally, this is the third consecutive year I have seen Mike and Carl at A-N. Here's the photo!



(L-R) Carl Josefson, Dave Whitman, Mike Munt-Marks, and yours truly!

Next is a note from **Don Gray**: "Duke, On 16 December 2019 a group of '71ers met at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Center NASA to tour the facility and to meet with KSC Director and classmate, **Bob Cabana**. Classmates attending were Becky and **Tom Bowman**, Lori and **Don Gray**, Debbie and **Jim Gosma**, Erica and **Bill Matz**, Jane and **John Reitz** and Mary and **Jeff Steelman**.

“We received a behind the scenes tour of the enormous Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) for payload and rocket assembly. Next, we saw an empty, missile crawler-transporter relocating at one mph from the VAB to the launch pads. It can carry a 13-million-pound rocket. We then had the opportunity to inspect a second behemoth transporter built in 1965 that was receiving routine maintenance. It weighs 6.6 million pounds. We had access to the Operations and Checkout (O&C) Building. We saw firsthand the Artemis capsules that are destined to land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

“We then traveled to the launch pads for Space X and Boeing’s Starliner. We returned to the NASA KSC Visitor Center where we met Bob Cabana, a veteran of four Space Shuttle flights. Bob approved our visit and gave us a personal tour of the Space Shuttle Atlantis® inside the Visitor Center.

“The tour was fantastic. We all enjoyed seeing the details that make space flight possible. A special thanks to Bill Matz, Don Gray and Bob Cabana for making the visit possible. Thanks, Don.” Wow, sounds like a superb tour! I look forward to touring KSC with Bob, date TBD!”



**Lori & Don
Dray**

**Tom & Becky
Bowman**

Bob Cabana

**Debbie &
Jim Gosma**

**Jane & John
Reitz**

**Jeff & Mary
Steelman**

**Bill & Erica
Matz**

USNA 71'ers with Bob Cabana at NASA

Here's some exciting news for USNA '71: **COL Robert Cabana, USMC (Ret)**, was selected as a U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate (DGA) Award

recipient. As noted in the above note, Bob is currently serving as the Director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center. Bob is a former NASA astronaut and a veteran of four Space Shuttle flights. He served as a Naval Aviator in the United States Marine Corps for many years prior to his entry into the space program. This is the third year in a row that USNA AA has chosen a DGA from our Great Class of 1971. Bob follows in the footsteps of Admiral **Tim Keating**, USN (Ret.) - 2018 and COL **Walt Havenstein**, USMC, (Ret.) - 2019.

I am sure you're reading about the following in this month's *Shipmate*, but I wanted to include a brief note about the Hampton Roads Chapter. **Dick Enderly**, the chapter president sent this note: "I am extremely pleased and proud to announce that we have earned one of seven Distinguished Chapter Awards for 2019!" Bravo Zulu, Dick!

Our 50th reunion committee recently released the tentative schedule of events for our grand celebration in 2021. Hard to believe it's only two years away and yet our committee already has a final draft of the schedule. The committee is planning next year to fine-tune this schedule, if necessary. Following the Class Executive Board Meeting in fall of 2020, the reunion committee will announce the plan and timeline for registration, hotel reservations, and other details. Additional details of the below events details were sent to your email; however, if you need more info just let me know!

Key events for our 50th reunion include:

Thursday, September 30th, 2021: registration and welcome aboard cocktail party at the reunion headquarters (HQ) hotel.

Friday, October 1st: golf scramble at the USNA course, continuing registration at HQ hotel, Superintendent's address at USNA prior to the formal parade to honor our class, and individual and/or company activities.

Saturday, October 2nd: continuing registration at HQ hotel, and stadium tailgate with buses continuously looping between the hotel and the stadium. Tailgate at the stadium – NOTE: attendees must have a football ticket to enter the tailgate. Air Force vs. Navy football game – BEAT AIR FORCE! Post-game individual or company activities.

Sunday, October 3rd: mid-afternoon memorial service at the USNA chapel, immediately followed by USNA '71 class celebration at the chapel. Following the chapel events, our class will have dinner in Dahlgren Hall.

Monday, October 4th is the farewell brunch at HQ hotel.

NOTE: above events/dates could be modified dependent upon USNA schedule & venue availability.

Our class stalwart San Diego correspondent, **John Ball**, sent this note: “Duke, attached is a photo of Gay and me in Bora Bora August 2017. Gay and I were married 19 March 1972. Gay was the daughter of **Jack Howell** '40. I was the luckiest guy when we married and for the next 47 years. Gay said she was most proud when I told her I married her because she ‘was squared away.’ Gay went to Heaven peacefully on October 27th after a year-long illness. She was an inspiration to everyone she met, a bright light on this earth. She relished her role as ‘Mom’ and later as ‘Nana’ to our four grandchildren.” John, I am sorry for your loss. May you be strengthened by the fond memories of your many years together.



John and Gay Ball in Bora Bora

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