

Shipmate July-August 2023
Duke Longworth
25 May 2023

The hot summer days are here! Annapolis is muggy, there is no place to get cool, perspiration is always on the forehead, it seems there is no end to the heat and humidity! Ah, those were the days! I recall being very happy when Plebe Summer ended, and the dreaded return of the brigade occurred! I say the dreaded return of the brigade as the Segundos running 15th Company plebes painted picture of Firsties and Second Classmen running us plebes to no end! Hard to make the summer seem pleasant! But, now the plebes of '27 are enjoying life in Annapolis much as we did so long ago! On to more recent activities and pleasant memories!

First up is a note from **John Ball**: “Duke, Another short note from San Diego! Recently Mary and **Jeff Hemler**, who have been nomads for about two years, were in Coronado visiting family. Jeff Hemler and I had a wonderful visit over lunch, catching up on family and classmates. Longtime Coronado residents Sherrie and **Pat Kelly** have moved to the Boise, Idaho area to be near their family. Jeff and Mary plan to settle down soon in the Northern Virginia area. As for me, I'll be traveling a lot this year. In May I'll visit my son and family in Colorado to celebrate two graduations - my older grandson will graduate from University of Colorado and the younger from high school. Then I'll travel to Italy to practice my Italian, then England to spend time with a former Royal Navy friend. In September it's a COVID-postponed cruise in Polynesia with a dear couple and my older son who enjoys surfing and diving. Finally, it's Italy again with a side trip to join a tour group in Egypt for nine days including a Nile River cruise. I'm busier than ever in retirement and enjoying each day. John Ball.” Wow, a busy time with classmates, family and friends! We all need a travel agent such as you have!

Here's a most informative note from **John Massie**: “Good morning, Duke! Just scanning the latest issue of *Shipmate*, and I saw the photo of you and Lisa in Salzburg. I hope you enjoyed your visit to Austria. Linda and I lived in Perchtoldsdorf (a suburb of Vienna) for 8 years. It was a wonderful experience for us and our family, and we hope your experiences were as delightful as we could expect them to be.

“One minor factoid which you may find interesting, given your visit to Salt City. Stiegl beer is from Salzburg, and was reputedly Mozart's favorite beer - it's good, and one of my favorites. Stiegl means 'little stair' in Austrian - which is not always the same as German, and the label on the beer shows a stylized staircase. It refers to the spiral staircase outside one of the towers in the fortress. You and Lisa might have seen it - Linda and I didn't take it; as I recall, it was exposed without a banister. Yikes! You may also find it interesting to note that ending a word in Austrian with 'l' or 'el' or 'erl' means that the word is small and beautiful - often referring to children (Hansel and Gretel). It has the same connotation as 'chen' in German (maderl versus madchen, for example). Hence, Stiegl.

"My best wishes to you and Lisa. Alles Gute und Auf Wiedersehen! John Massie" John, thank you for the language lesson and especially for the beer lesson! I prefer dark beers such as stouts and porters, so I was surprised how much I liked the Weissbier in Germany and Austria. I keep some in stock and will look for Stiegl! Yes, Alles Gute! Auf Wiedersehen! Lisa and I did not take the spiral staircase, but I will next visit! Before we return to Austria, I will get the gouge on Vienna from you!

Jon Cichucki sent this superb note about the recent '71/33 gathering: "Duke, Just a note and a couple of pictures from the 33rd CO get together in Bellaire, FL on May 17th. The 71/33 Magic had a strong showing with 16 of our 24 available company mates and their mates for a total of 31 attending our three-day get together hosted by our Florida mates, **Barry Griffin**, **Steve Martin** and **Mike Ward**. Superior accommodation at the 150 year-old Belleview Inn and meals at the historic Carouel Yacht Club including a special evening for dinner and drinks at Pam and Mike Ward's waterfront home. That evening was highlighted with a raucous group sing-along of Navy favorites accompanied by Steve Martin at the piano. **Larry Wray** gifted each of the mates with a reprint of his original artwork and **Buz Dereniuk** provided wine from his California vineyard. **Mike Riordan** provided special craft libations from Colorado craft distilleries. The 71/33 mates came from the West and East coasts and enjoyed renewing our lifelong bonds formed almost 56 years ago in June 1967. It is truly a pleasure to be associated with these, 'Boat School Boys'." Sounds like great fun!

Members of the 71/33 MAGIC at the Florida May Madness from left to right in the photo below: **Buz Dereniuk**, **Barry Griffin**, **Gary Bakken**, **Bill Shutt**, **Pete Baker**, **Mike Riordan**, **John Closs**, **Jack Boniface**, **Mike Ward**, **Dan Curry**, **Mel DeMars**, **Larry Wray**, **Steve Martin**, **Jon Cichucki**, **Mike Miernicki** and **Mac Oxford**.





Bruce Gallemore sent along this note:
 “Hi Duke, Many of us shared a memorable and heartwarming send off for **Steve Bruce** in Burke, VA May 7-8. Nineteen Classmates came from far and wide (Utah, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland) to attend Steve’s wake and Mass of Christian Burial. (See photo below). The many lives that Steve touched were in evidence at his services: company-mates, squadron-mates, fellow ’71 board members, business colleagues, reunion committee friends, neighbors, fellow parishioners, extended family, and his dear grandson Finn. Steve was a proud USNA grad and Naval Aviator, but most of all a man of God, deeply spiritual and able to share his faith with his friends in an easy way that drew us in his direction. Conni hosted all of us for a beautiful reception after Mass; it was a very special ’71 mini-reunion, centered on our mutual good memories of Steve. He would have loved it. An event like this is a reminder of how much our lives are enriched by staying connected. Best, Bruce.”

Stephan R. Bruce passed away unexpectedly of a pulmonary embolism at his home in Fairfax, VA on April 23 at the age of 73. Steve was born in Seattle, WA on 14 July 1949, son of Gail and Mary Patricia Bruce and the oldest of five children including his brother Dana, his sisters Elizabeth and Robin and his late brother Kevin, who preceded him in death by four days. Steve graduated from St. Francis High School in 1967 where he played football and helped his team win the 1964 California Interscholastic Federation Championship in football. He also played baseball and was drafted in high school by the Houston Astros.

'71 attendees at the wake and Mass of Christian Burial for Steve Bruce:

Front row left to right: **Perry Martini, Tim Burns, Greg Heath, Wayne Hallenbeck, Bruce Gallemore**, Connie Bruce and Finn, **Dave Charvat, Bill Butler, Troy Pyles** (kneeling), **Bill McKinney, Bob Gallagher**, Stephanie Bruce.

Back row left to right: **Scott Stahler, George Vassos, Hugh Strain, Mike McNallen, Brian Robertson, Sankey Blanton, Tom Gross, Cass Young, Bob Capra**. Not in photo: **Bill Hoover**



Attendees at Steve Bruce's Memorial

Steve entered USNA with us on 27 June 1968. Graduating out of the 35th Company, where he was affectionally known as 'Rickles', Steve majored in Aerospace Engineering to prepare for a career as a Naval Aviator. He was frequently on the Superintendent's and Dean's Lists. As a gifted athlete, Steve played on the Plebe football team and after sustaining injuries while on the junior varsity, decided to play company soccer, helping the 35th CO soccer team win the Brigade Championship in our second-class year. After graduation and a short stint at sea, Steve entered flight training in Pensacola, FL, was designated a Naval Aviator in 1973, and served in the fleet with HS-7 flying the HC-60. Following a tour at the Navy Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, MD where he was designated a test pilot, he returned to Pensacola serving out his active-duty time with VT-6 at Whiting Field. During his time as an aviator, Steve experienced two severe aircraft accidents caused by mechanical failures. In one accident as pilot in command, he heroically and safely landed his aircraft but suffered serious injuries. After recovering from his injuries, he completed his active-duty service then transferred into the Naval Reserves as an AEDO. He retired as a Captain after a 30-year career on 1 July 2001.

After completing his active duty, he earned an MBA from UVA. He worked as the president for several companies, such as Bruegger's Bagels, three divisions within Kraft

Foods and CNA Insurance. He semi-retired to the D.C. area in Virginia, joining his former classmates at two defense contractors.

Steve was an active member of our class serving as one of the original Class of '71 Board of Trustees established in 1994, serving in that capacity until his passing. Active on numerous committees, he was someone who could always be counted on for his serving heart and concern for others above self – the epitome of our class motto, *Duces Virum*, and our USNA mantra of Ship, Shipmate, Self. Steve will certainly be sadly missed by those of us who met him over the years and especially by his family and close friends.

Steve loved his family above all else. As a devout Catholic, and church leader, he led a weekly Bible study for over 20 years. He fostered a love of science and reading throughout his daughter's childhood, as well as his grandson's. Every night, without fail, Steve said bedtime prayers with his grandson Finn.

Steve is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Conni; his daughter Stephanie, her husband Darin, his grandson Finn; his sisters Elizabeth and Robin; his brother Dana; his brothers-in-law Bill and Brad, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Steve's Inurement at the USNA Columbarium was held on Monday, 5 June.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, safety in travels, and strength to meet every challenge. **Today** is a gift - 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 maintaining our nation's constitutional republic. Now is the time to shape the future of our great nation as we strive for a more perfect union. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide, and column due dates wait for no man!

Duke Longworth