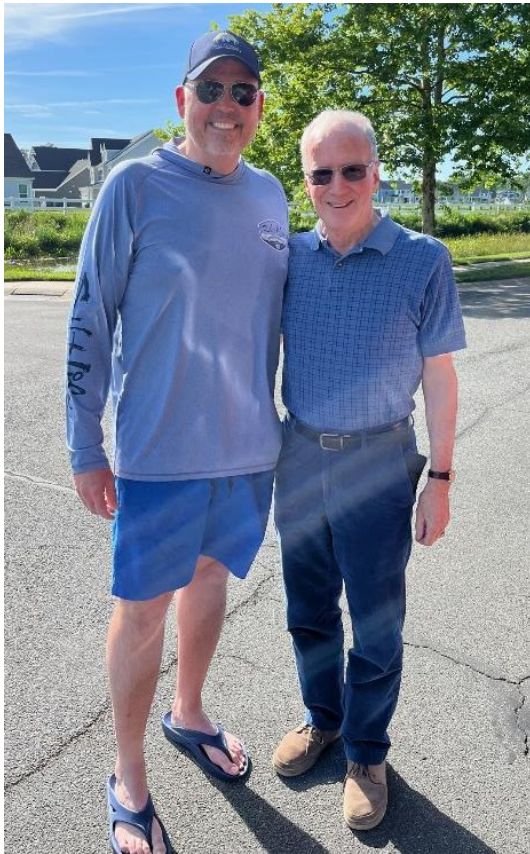


Shipmate September-October 2024
Duke Longworth
30 July 2024

See you in September, see you when the summer is through! I am certain the plebes are happy for the end of the summer sweltering heat and humidity. I am not so certain the plebes are happy for the brigade reforming! I recall the anxiety of the brigade returning en mass. Afterall, if the Segundo's could run me at will, what would life be like when even more upperclassmen were in Mother B and the Yard to harass me? Life was not as miserable as I thought it would be, but it was not a bowl of cherries! On the other hand, I absolutely enjoyed the beauty of fall in Annapolis. I still do enjoy the cool, crisp fall days with the colorful leaves. I was reared in a similar climate, so Annapolis was in that fashion like being home in a familiar environment! Ah, those halcyon days!



Steve Williams and Jeff Albright

First up is a note from **Jeff Albright**, my *O'Hare* shipboard roommate from our ensign cruise: "Duke, No surprise that I would encounter a USNA alumni at the community center food truck on a weekend. However, what was strange was that **Steven Williams '90** was at the condominium two doors away! After about seven years in the Navy, Steve went into the field of finance and worked for Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, and Citizens. In case you could not recognize us - Steve is on the left and I'm about a foot shorter and on the right! Jeff." Seems you and Beth are settling into your new home quite well! Good to know other Navy grads are nearby!

Next is a note from **Jerry Byrnes**: "Duke, The 7th Company held its third annual mid-way before the next full meeting meeting. Whew! In other words, we meet around the 2½ reunions for the third time in Summerville, SC. Hosted by Edie Cole and me, the party included: Cecily and **Ed Kelly, Doug Conklin, Edie Cole and Jerry Byrnes, Tracey and Bill Emslie, Sallie and Bill**

Nold, Patty and Dave Miller, Bob Walter, and Susan Rick Blake. While here, they all enjoyed meals including heavy hors d'oeuvres, an entire evening meal, and a Sunday morning breakfast. No one left hungry or lacking contact with our closest friends. A good time was had by all, and we are looking forward to our 55th reunion in 2026! Thanks! Jerry Byrnes." An excellent update! Sounds like a most enjoyable reunion! Keep up the fellowship!



7th CO at 3rd 2.5 reunion in Summerville, SC

Perry Martini sent me a note regarding our late classmate, **Jim Collins**. Last fall Jim's brother, Richard, visited USNA having heard many years ago that brother Jim was on the Wall of Honor in Memorial Hall. This was a project completed by USNA AA in 2004 where alumni who had perished in operational or training incidents while in service were listed by class. To their disappointment in viewing the wall they noted that Jim's last



Jean & Perry with Barbara & Richard Collins

name was misspelled. They contacted the alumni association as to the error. Perry discovered that there were several errors on the wall that were being corrected on a case-by-case basis by a number of classes. The decision was made by the class executive board to fund the replacement plate on the wall and the new spelling was completed earlier this year. Perry contacted Jim's brother that the wall correction was done and in early May Richard and his wife Barbara made the trip from the Buffalo/Niagara Falls NY area to spend a few days in Annapolis. They met with Perry and Jean at Memorial Hall to revisit the wall and to spend a couple of hours rekindling memories of his late brother, Jim. As classmates will recall, Jim was our Editor-in-Chief of our Class of '71 *Lucky Bag* and a well-liked member of the 2nd Company. Jim was killed in an A-7 accident while on a training flight near Salt Lake City,

Utah on 31 October 1980. Pictured in front of the '71 Memorial Wall are Jean and **Perry Martini**, Richard and Barbara Collins.

Just in time for this column, I received this note: Special news from the Naval Academy Golf Course! Classmates **Cass Young** and **Bob Wagoner** playing together each had a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at the golf course in July one week apart. Since no records are kept regarding USNA classes scoring a hole-in-one on the same hole and in the same month - we are declaring this a *USNA Alumni* record. Congratulations to Cass and Bob! Two awesome classmates playing awesome rounds of golf! Keep playing!

Another late entry! While camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains at Camp Powhatan, I had the pleasure of sharing a camp site with our classmate, **Michael "Mike" Stewart**! Mike and I had several conversations where we shared stories of our time at USNA as well as stories of how we got to USNA and our careers after Navy. Mike and I also worked together in Suffolk,



Mike Stewart and Duke in our shared Scout Troops' 28 and 408 campsite

VA at Joint Forces Command in the early 2000's. (An interesting note is that Mike Stewart attended New Mexico Military Institute with **Mike Hecomovich**!) Mike attained his Wings of Gold as a helicopter pilot. He separated from active duty in 1975 and entered the Naval Reserve where he served until 1993. He worked for several years as an electronics and computer science contractor before entering government service where he served as an electronics engineer until his retirement in 2010. I expect Mike and I will coordinate a few Scouting adventures with our troops!

Tom Gross sent this note: "Are you ready for some football? With 17 returning starters, Navy Football is determined to put the lie to the preseason poll that put them at 11 out of 15 teams in the AAC. That's in addition to the perennial goals of BEAT Air Force and BEAT Army.

"No matter how it works out, one thing you can count on is our class tailgate will be up and operating for every home game. You will find us at our traditional spot on the Blue Side parking lot perimeter, directly across from the press box. We're easy to find, so plan to meet up with your group at the tailgate.

"As usual, the tailgates will start two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. All classmates and guests are welcome. All home games except

Bucknell (Aug 31) and Tulane (Nov 16) are scheduled for 3:30 PM. Those games are scheduled for noon kickoff.

“Our menu is largely potluck. Noon games will lean toward breakfast while 3:30 games will feature lunch cuisine. Classmates bring dishes, drinks, desserts, or snacks to share, grill space is also available for those who want to bring their own tailgate grill specialties. In addition, your tailgate team will be serving up pancakes, bacon, and sausage for breakfast, and Italian sausage and burgers at lunch.

“Coming from out of the area? Don’t worry if you can’t bring something, come anyway. We haven’t run out of food yet! See you there! Beat Army! Tom Gross.” I know I am looking forward to the ’71 tailgate!

Sadly, two classmates passed away since my last column, both on July 4th.

Richard “Ric” Freeman Travis passed away on July 4, 2024. He was born May 7, 1948, to Fred and Bernice Travis in Nashville, TN. He graduated from Hillsboro High School in Nashville. Upon his graduation from the Naval Academy, Ric was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Ric and Linda Schmidt were married in 1971 and they began the journey of moving often to different states as his Marine Corps career required. Ric’s career as a fighter pilot in the regular Marine Corps ended in Beaufort, SC. After his active duty, the family returned to Nashville where Ric was a corporate pilot. He remained active as a pilot flying for the Marine Corps Reserves, based in Millington, TN

After four years in Nashville, the family moved to Clinton, NJ where Ric became a pilot for People Express. He continued to serve in the nearby Marine Corps Reserve unit. From there the family moved to Germantown, TN when Ric began his flying career with FedEx, where he worked from 1986 to 2012. At FedEx Ric was a captain and flight standards check airman on the Boeing 727, the DC-10, and the MD-11. While living in Germantown, Ric continued his military career in the Marine Corps Reserves at Millington until his retirement as a Lt. Colonel. He was the last commanding officer of the last Marine Corps Reserve jet squadron based at Millington.

A Celebration of Life Service was held in Ric’s memory on August 10th at the Germantown Church of Christ where he was a member. The family requests memorial gifts be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Richard “Rich” B. Lane Sr. passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on July 4. He was born on December 11th, 1948. Rich entered the Naval Academy with us in 1967; however, he was with us only a short time during which he played in an Army-Navy game. He subsequently attended and graduated from the University of West Virginia. He continued his education at Dickinson Law School where he earned his J.D. He practiced law for several years. However, the law profession was too rigid for his free spirit, so he started a leasing company, then he opened an arcade and vending business, then a state job from which he retired.

Rich married the love of his life, his wife and partner of nearly 20 years, Carol Smith in 1994. Rich is survived by his brother Louis Lane, his son and namesake, Richard Berlin Lane, Jr. his daughter Amy Lane Singh, and his five grandchildren: Ashlyn Carst, Caroline Carst, Jesse Berlin Carst, Evelyn Lane, and Wheeler Lane. He was predeceased by his wife, Carol Ann Smith. A celebration of life was held for Rich at Duke's Riverside Bar and Grille on Thursday, July 11th.

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 time and 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. Our training to think critically and to analyze problems is necessary to solve our nation's challenges. 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!