

Shipmate July-Aug 2015
Duke Longworth
26 May 2015

There are several notes this month, so I'll keep my comments short. July and August in Annapolis is always hot and humid. I suspect it's no different for the middies who are participating in plebe detail as plebes or detail! I'm sure none of us would say we enjoyed plebe summer; however, working the detail Segundo and First Class summers was enjoyable – there was time to sail, ski the Severn, and generally enjoy the area. Surely, there are middies enjoying or enduring the same this summer! On to several good notes!

Our first note is from **John Closs**: “Duke, attached is a photo of **Bob Cabana** and me at a recent space-related event in Minnesota. Bob, the current Director of The Kennedy Space Center, returned to his home state to deliver the keynote address at a meeting of AirSpace MN. I was among the local USNA alumni who co-sponsored the event. During a conversation between the two of us, the age-old topic of Navy-Marine Corps Service Selection was broached. During Bob's presentation, he had said that the Cream-of-the-Crop from each class chose to serve in the Corps; however, several attendees held different opinions. When Bob & I were able to have our own one-on-one conversation, I was quick to point out that Famous Naval Saying: “The only good Marine is a Submarine!” We both shared a laugh about career choices. John.” Well, I'm sure there is plenty of argument on the topic of service selection, so I'm not going there other than to say there were about 857 members of the “crème of the crop!”



CAPTION: (L-R) Bob Cabana with John Closs

And, here's a note from **Bob Cabana**: "Duke, Just wanted to share a picture from the 2015 Rotary National Achievements in Space Awards banquet in Houston this year. Since there are two members of the class of 71 in the picture, I figured it appropriate that it end up under our class news in *Shipmate*. It was a great evening. My son, Jeff Cabana '96, will soon be the CO of VMM-263. His change of command is May 7th and I intend to be at MCAS New River in Jacksonville, NC, for it. NASA and Kennedy Space Center continue to move forward as we enable commercial space operations and prepare the launch site for the Space Launch System and the Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle that will once again take us beyond planet Earth. **Frank Culbertson** continues to move up in Orbital ATK and is now President of Orbital ATK's Space Systems Group. Hope you are doing well. Semper Fi and God Bless, Bob." Nice photo, Bob! Thank you for the update! I'm looking for a MCV ride! Let me know if there's an opportunity!



CAPTION: (L-R) Mike Coats '68, Mike Foreman '79, Tom Stafford '52, George Abbey '54, Bob Cabana, Lt Col Jeff Cabana 96, Frank Culbertson, with other USNA grads

Bob added: "Tom Stafford, George Abbey, and Mike Coats are all former winners of the National Space Trophy. I was there to receive the award this year but didn't want to brag on myself. Five of the 29 awardees are Naval Academy graduates." That's not bragging, Bob, that's just keeping us up to date on our astronaut classmates! For you interested readers there is more about the award here: <http://www.rnasa.org/trophy.html>. It's worth the time to read about the trophy!

Next is a superb note from **Steve Dmetruk**: "Hi Duke, I hope all is well with you. Suzy and I had the honor of being Guardians for a WWII Veteran and a Vietnam Veteran who is terminally ill. It was quite an experience and one that we will forever cherish. We had 44 WWII Vets, Korean War Vets, and Vietnam Vets on the Golden Isles Honor Flight to Washington DC on May 2. We left Brunswick at 6:30am and returned at 10:15pm. It was a very long but very rewarding day for the Vets.

“They visited the WWII Memorial where Senator Bob Dole greeted them, the Air Force Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, and the changing of the Guard at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We had vets who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Korea, Vietnam and numerous other theaters in WWII. There were over 200 people and a band waiting at the airport with signs and banners to welcome home the vets—it was a very touching experience. My Vet, by pure coincidence, lived near my hometown and two of his children went to the same high school I did and were in my sister’s class—small world! We knew a lot of the same people and that tie-in made the trip even more rewarding. Suzy’s Vet is a terminally ill Vietnam Vet who was a POW for 6 1/2 months. As you can imagine there were a lot of war stories being told by all of these vets.

“Being a Guardian to a member of ‘The Greatest Generation’ is an honor and privilege that neither Suzy nor I will ever forget. It was so refreshing to see people--adults, teenagers, and young children stop and shake a veteran’s hand and tell them, ‘thank you for your service and for your sacrifice’. It gives you pride and hope for this great country of ours. I highly recommend that anyone who wants to have a very rewarding experience volunteer to be a Guardian on an Honor Flight in your area. BEAT ARMY!” Thank you for sharing this with us, Steve! I’m glad you and Suzy were part of this so you could share. Perhaps more of us can participate in future Honor Flight events!



CAPTION: Suzy with honoree

For those of us waiting, here's the annual note from **Steve Ayers**: "The 29th (yes - 29th!) annual 16th Company (and one guy from 14th – **Roger Young**) Testosterone Festival, better known as T-Fest, was held for the fifth straight year at Figure 8 Island in Wilmington, NC the weekend of April 30-May 3. In attendance was the usual sextet - minus one. **Mike (Blue) Bluestein, Paul McIntire, Paul Timmins**, Roger and I were there, but unfortunately **Bill Luckey** was unable to make it for the first time ever after all these years. He was sorely missed, needless to say.



CAPTION: Left to right: Ayers, Young, Blue, Timmins and McIntire.

"Nothing really new to report except that Blue retired this month as a four-striper from American Airlines. He's already picked up a new gig as an Instructor for Delta in Atlanta. Everyone else has been retired for awhile now, and we continue to enjoy goofing off with the taxpayers' money. All are healthy except for the usual complaints of old guys on Medicare. Maybe we shouldn't call it the T-Fest anymore. As usual, the weekend was all about the food, wine, golf, talking politics and betting on the Kentucky Derby. Rog did another superb Navy Supply Corps job of renting the house at a big discount and providing for everything we needed, especially the custom-cut steaks and French wine. Blue and Timmins each brought a bottle of good old bourbon to sip on during the race, and Mac brought some amazing hotdogs from Buffalo that we grilled...twice. (I didn't bring jack.). The weekend went as planned except that the Friday Intercoastal Waterway trip on Blue's boat got rained out. We did have a great Italian dinner that night at Roko Italian Cuisine in Wilmington. If you're ever down that way give it a try...great food and a superb wine list! That's about it. See everyone at the 45th next year. Steve." Wow! 16th Company has set a very high bar! The rest of us are following suit, trying to catch up with 16th Company!

Mike Bluestein followed up with a short note: "Duke, This is my crew in the Tel Aviv hotel presenting me with a picture of our A330. My last leg was TLV-PHL that

evening. I think I'm the last of our class to leave an airline cockpit. My wife, Debbie, on my right, joined me on the trip. Blue.” Congratulations on the short retirement and on your new instructor job! Nice photo!



CAPTION: Mike and Debbie Bluestein with A330 crew

Nice note from **John “JT” Morris**: “As we were walking down a small, back street in the Marais district of Paris in early May, Peggy and I walked into Catharine and **Garry Holmstrom**. We had just completed a Viking River cruise to see the tulips and windmills in The Netherlands and Belgium, and Gary and Catharine were just embarking on a Viking River cruise from Paris to Normandy. Literally, we were the only ones on the street at that time. Gary was wearing his USNA polo shirt - luckily for recognition purposes! We exchanged greetings and did a quick catch-up on each other. Garry mentioned he had recently retired from Raytheon and they had three sons who graduated from USNA. They are currently living in Bristol, RI. In all the surprise, neither of us thought of getting a photo. You never know who you may run into around the world...but a USNA polo shirt does help with instant recognition. John T Morris.” Thank you, JT! That’s a good lesson for all of us – wear something with USNA and take a photo!

John Ball sent this note: “Duke, Gay and I enjoyed a most relaxing trip through the Caribbean out of St. Maarten, visiting 12 ports in January aboard Wind Surf, the world's largest sailing yacht. With both the weather and ocean warm, it was a delight in winter. I met my goal of swimming in salt water every day, either snorkeling, swimming in the ship's pool, sailing a small Hobie cat from the ship's watersports deck aft, and even getting on a standup paddle board for the first time. Now, we anticipate our next adventure with a trip through northern Italy followed by a cruise from Venice to the coasts and islands of Croatia, Greece and Turkey. We have even been learning Italian!

“It is with sadness that I mention the passing of Jim Loiselle on April 14th. Jim and I go way back to Aero classes at USNA, studied together at PG School and TPS, and flew together at North Island. Jim was a brilliant, fun-loving, optimistic, loving father and husband, and a good guy with whom to car-pool. Jim and Marilyn had joined us recently for lunches where we four had such fun comparing travel notes. We have helped Marilyn as best we can, but Jim's loss is a shock to all his friends, especially here in San Diego. Jim's memorial service was on May 1st at Miramar National Cemetery. The following classmates were in attendance: **Bill Nevitt, Joe Anthony, Pat Doyle, Pat Kelly, Tom Hammons**, and me. We were told it was one of the most well-attended services ever at the cemetery. After a brief ceremony, a splendid Navy honor guard fired a 21-gun salute, folded our nation's flag, presented it to Marilyn, and concluded with the playing of ‘Taps’. Jim's ashes are now in a columbarium right under the flight path of MCAS Miramar. Rest he in peace.” Thank you for the update! I know the attendance of our classmates at Jim's memorial service was helpful for Marilyn. Jim was a really good guy.

This note from **Rex Ector** is hot off the press: “Duke, Beth and I had the great pleasure to attend the USNA 2015 graduation to see our son, **Sam Ector'15**, cross the stage and receive his commission and diploma. He's headed to flight school in August after a few months doing Plebe Summer detail. You can decide which side his good looks come from.



“As a general update, after retiring as a CIA Ops Officer I started a company that builds wind farms all across the country. **Peter deVos** joined me in that venture in 2009, which he’s now running. I’m semi-retired again, working with other National Security community alumni in a non-profit developing a comprehensive digital library and archive on the history of World War II for use by universities. The library uses an advanced software developed to track and target bad guys; it gives students a visual experience we never would have dreamed of in our Sea Power courses! I see the names of many of our classmates’ fathers every day as I work with college students from across the country. If any of our classmates have papers, diaries, photos, etc. from their families during the war that they would like to (digitally) contribute, please

contact me at rick.ector@envisioninghistory.org. Regards, Rex Ector.” Thank you, Rex! Nice photo!

Too soon it’s time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership continue to need our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and too short – seems we too often are reminded of life’s brevity. Love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others – we are richly blessed – may we richly bless others. Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for the gift of citizenship in our great nation. Now is a good time for us to be actively shaping 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