

Shipmate April 2017
Duke Longworth
30 January 2017

When you receive this *Shipmate* spring will be here! Although it's not my favorite season, spring was delightful in the Yard – greenest of green grass, flowers lining the walks, and an overflow of tourists watching the midshipmen! My favorite part of spring days was the return from Hubbard Hall walking Stribling Walk. I'm sure you have a favorite memory of those days. There was always expectation in the air as we had a cruise or other summer training to look forward to. I managed to do Plebe detail two summers as well as the aviation training and Mediterranean cruise those summers. So, I had plenty to look forward to doing. And, there were the crew races! Our lightweight crew team did well and we always were hopeful we would go to the Henley races in England. Alas, that didn't happen for us! Surely these were halcyon days!

Here's a nice note from **Dale "Deacon" Peterson**: "Duke, Bummer about the Army game! 'Next year.' It was great to see you at the 45th, great to see everyone! Memory lane is a fun place and I mentioned that I would send a note that has rattled around in my Brain Housing Group for years: The place was the Army Jump School, Ft. Benning, Ga June 1969. The class of '71 was well represented by **Mac Clark, Jackie Crowther, Tom Dale, Chris Gregor, Greg Heath, Dave Knott, Scott McKenzie, Les Nixon, John Porter, Tom Schlax, Scott Seward, Al Whittle**, and me. Also, the class included **Roy Golez '70, Justin Winney '72 and Bob Zimmerman '72**. Hopefully, I did not leave anyone out. Our training company also included some NROTC midshipmen from various units around the country.

"Anyway, the story: It is graduation day, after 3 weeks in the Georgia sun and Army sawdust, we are about to receive our Army Jump Wings. Prior to our turn on the stage the CO of the Jump School, an Army Col, demanded the USNA Mids sing '*Anchors Aweigh*' to the full auditorium. Clearly the man had never listened to the words. We jumped (no pun intended) up and belted out our fight song, finishing up with the loudest 'Beat Army' we could muster. I retain two vivid memories of the event - First, the absolute silence that came over the auditorium. Second, the glare the Army two star gave the Colonel for bringing it up. What a hoot!

"Later that summer most of those listed above participated in a training event with UDT-22 out of NAB Little Creek. Thus, we earned our Gold Naval Jump Wings which we wore with pride. Not much else to report. The Cascades are full of snow and the skiing is great, come see us. Deacon." That's a superb A-N story! Looks like I may

need to defer the invitation to ski in the Cascades for a year! I'll coordinate for a ski trip winter 2018!

By the way, Deacon Peterson "gave" me his basic jet training billet in Pensacola, so I stayed there for four years (basic and advanced jet training followed by a SERGRAD tour instructing in T-2's and the TA-4J). Well, I had to attend the University of West Florida master's program concurrent with flight training. That was a very busy time!

I have another Army-Navy photo for you! At halftime I was getting a drink when I saw **Mike Munt Marks**! I was intently scanning the crowd when I saw Mike. My thoughts must have been of many years ago when I was in Newport, RI as I confused Mike with a war college classmate! Mike was ever the gentleman and after a rather humorous exchange I realized my error! We had a very good laugh over my confusion! Next year I'll be looking for Mike!



CAPTION: Mike Munt Marks, Jean Marks with his wife and friends!

Last December a large number of family and friends gathered in Bethesda, MD in celebration of the late **Ron Spratt's** of life. Many of our classmates were there as well as many of Ron's neighbors and post-service co-workers. The memories of Ron focused on his consummate leadership abilities, good natured humor, and charitable spirit. You may know that Ron was our "Salty Sam" at USNA. Most of the stories had the assembled friends laughing as we remembered him. Attached is a photo of his 36th Company classmates in attendance.



CAPTION: Front row: Rich Connolly, Craig Welling, Bruce Gallemore. Back row: Stu Fisher, Mike Trice, Duke Longworth, Mark Horgan, Jim Barron, Don Beaudette

Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership continue to need our thoughts and prayers, too. For everything there is a season and a purpose. Life is precious and too short –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 gifts of family and of citizenship in our great nation. As much as ever, this is the 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