

Shipmate August 2017
Duke Longworth
30 May 2017

August is here! Most likely the WGBT is in the black range giving the midshipmen a relief from strenuous exercise in the heat and humid of Annapolis. Those hot, humid days remain a not-so-fond memory! For the most part after plebe summer I managed to be elsewhere!

The 50th anniversary of our induction has past and now we're on to the "Another Link in the Chain" (ALITC) events. I expect to have reports from the area chapters which conduct the "Welcome Aboard" ALITC events as well as induction day stories. If all goes well I'll attend the USNA Hampton Roads Plebe Recognition Dinner. The local chapter president, **Dick Enderly**, along with **Ken Marks** will provide the soon-to-report plebes and parents with an introduction to ALITC. Photos and report to follow next column!

On to the news! First up is a superb note from **Steve Ayers**: "Hey Duke, The weekend of April 27-30, 2017 commemorated the 30th observance of the 16th Company Testosterone Festival, better known as T-Fest. This year's event was hosted by **Paul Timmins** at his gracious home in Greensboro, NC. Speaking of gracious, his wonderful wife Robin cleared out for the weekend to visit their daughter's family in NYC. Not only was this weekend special because of T-Fest 30, but it also marks the fact that we all met almost 50 years ago (June 1967) in Annapolis. Can you believe that? In attendance was the usual bunch.



CAPTION: Left to Right - Paul McIntire, Mike (Blue) Bluestein, Paul Timmins, Steve Ayers, Roger Young (14th Co.) and Bill Luckey.

“Timo planned the whole weekend to within an inch of its life. I won’t bore you with every detail, but it was a REAL Carolina adventure through and through. Highlights included a Thursday round of golf at Sedgefield Country Club (home of the PGA’s Wyndham Championship – the greens are just mean-spirited!), Friday breakfast at the Smith Street Café in Greensboro (never order more than one biscuit; they are as big as footballs), a pontoon boat fishing trip on Belews Lake (Mac caught the one and only fish), and the usual steak-a-thon that evening.

“Saturday’s activities began with a trip down memory lane in Carrboro, where the first T-Fest was held at Luckey’s house. It still looks like a frat house! There was an empty beer bottle and a jar of peanut butter on the front porch that I think we left there 30 years ago. We took in a Lacrosse game in Durham (Penn vs. UVA) followed by real Carolina BBQ at Bullock’s. After naps, we went to a NASCAR evening at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem. We packed baloney sandwiches with Mountain Dew and some Cheerwine to consume between races.

“We talked about plans for next year, and we’re thinking of adding a visit to San Diego for the 47½ year reunion in addition to the usual spring T-Fest. Hope all is well with you, Duke. Cheers, Steve.” Wow! That sounds like a mega-fun weekend! The T-Fest sets a high bar for other companies to follow! I look forward to seeing you this fall at a Navy football game! And, at our 47½ reunion in San Diego!

Here’s a note from **Perry Martini** about our next fund raising effort: “As a class we are approaching a few major milestones. As we all know and remember, it was a sunny and humid day a half century ago on 28 June 1967 when we raised our hands and pledged in unison our oath of allegiance to each other, USNA, USN and our country. We soon learned that the reverse was to be our mantra in Ship, Shipmate, Self.

“One day after marking this milestone, the Great Class of 1971 will be joining the Class of 2021 on their I-Day --- 29 June 2017 --- we will forge ahead with Another Link in the Chain (ALITC). It will be the beginning of a four year journey with 2021 ending at their May 2021 graduation. 2021 will indeed be big year for us as we celebrate together our 50th Reunion.

“By now you should have received a personalized letter officially announcing that we are entering the public phase of our 50th Reunion Legacy Gift Campaign. A representative of our class and/or the Naval Academy Foundation should have called you in May. I ask that you let us know if you are willing and able to join us in our final official fund raising effort and gift to our alma mater. As you will note in this letter that I co-signed with our Campaign Chairmen, **Peter de Vos** --- we are establishing a fund raising goal of \$1,971,050 broken down into three areas: Academic Excellence (the Class of 1971 Writing Center), Athletic Excellence (unrestricted) and the Annual Fund (unrestricted).

“As a class we broke all records in raising nearly \$4.0 million for our 40th Reunion Legacy Gift – an amount total that no other 40th reunion class had ever before accomplished. Our Class Executive Board and Fund Raising Committee decided to go out over the top at our 50th as we add one last final class gift for the benefit of USNA and the Brigade of Midshipmen. We are indeed one of the top classes in supporting USNA; and I ask that for this final push we continue to lead the way. *Duces Virum, Perry Martini '71.*” Many thanks to Perry and Peter for leading this effort. I will support this effort. I trust you will, too!

It is once again my sad duty to report the loss of another classmate. **Robert "Bru" Brubaker** passed away Sunday 30 April at Anderson Hospital in Meridian, MS. He arrived in Annapolis following graduation from high school in Bellville, Illinois. A graduating member of the 36th company, he was an avid sportsman involved in a

number of club and intramural sports including company softball and volleyball. After receiving his Wings of Gold in 1973, he was assigned as a Jet Flight Instructor at NAS Meridian with the VT-9 Tigers. In 1976, he was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone as the Officer in Charge of the Patrol Boat School. In 1979, he served his final three years on active duty as NAS Meridian. Finally in 1981, Bru began his new career as a flight simulator instructor and retired after 33 years in order to pursue his life-long interest as an avid gun collector. Bob is survived by his wife of 46 years, Paula; brother, William, four children, and four grandchildren. Graveside services were held on Friday, May 5, 2017 at Forest Lawn. May he rest in peace.

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 leadership as well as those in volunteer organizations need our thoughts and prayers, too. For everything there is a season and a purpose. 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. Remember, too, that words have the power to elevate and to destroy, so use your words carefully! Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for 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