

Shipmate Jan-Feb 2015
Duke Longworth
24 November 2014

It will be the dead of winter when you receive this column. The “dark ages” will be upon our alma mater and it will likely be very cold and white. Winter memories of Bancroft Hall are as dim as the lighting often seemed! And, as cold as Philadelphia was every Army – Navy game day, I don’t recall being so cold I couldn’t quickly get warm. Walking across the yard to the boat house was most often a brisk trip with the reefer collar turned up and buttoned! I recall the radiator heat in Mahan and Dahlgren. I imagine today’s midshipmen are doing much the same as we did. Those were the halcyon days!

It’s been a slow month for missives from classmates, so the column will be short! I’m hoping to receive lots of notes from the Army – Navy game. I’ve been watching the Army games this year and I think the Army team is looking better under the guidance of the new coach. However, my prediction is for another close game with a Navy WIN! So, now I’m on record! GO NAVY!

My first note is from **Phil Williams**: “Duke, Each year as I get older, it becomes a real test of ‘will power - portion control’ - to keep my weight down so I can get into my dress blues for November and July. To put it mildly though 2014 has been kind to my waist it does not want to stay at its 1971 size. But, with success again this year I was able to attend a Veterans Day program with my grandnieces and nephew wearing my Dress Blues at their school. With the big game in Baltimore, Ann and I are looking forward to seeing folks at Army-Navy this year. I was also able to see Army defeated at the Wake Forest-Army game. Our son and his wife graduated from WFU. I note that Navy will be back on their schedule soon. I did pull for Army against Air Force. I hope everyone had a terrific Veterans Day. Here’s a belated birthday wish and Semper Fi to all Marines! GO NAVY! Beat Army! Have a GREAT day, Phil Williams, 28th Company.” Nice note Phil and most excellent photos! Next reunion I’ll wear my marching blues if they still fit!



Caption: Phil Williams in dress blues.



Caption: Phil Williams – Semper Fidelis!

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. Love, give and share your blessings generously with 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