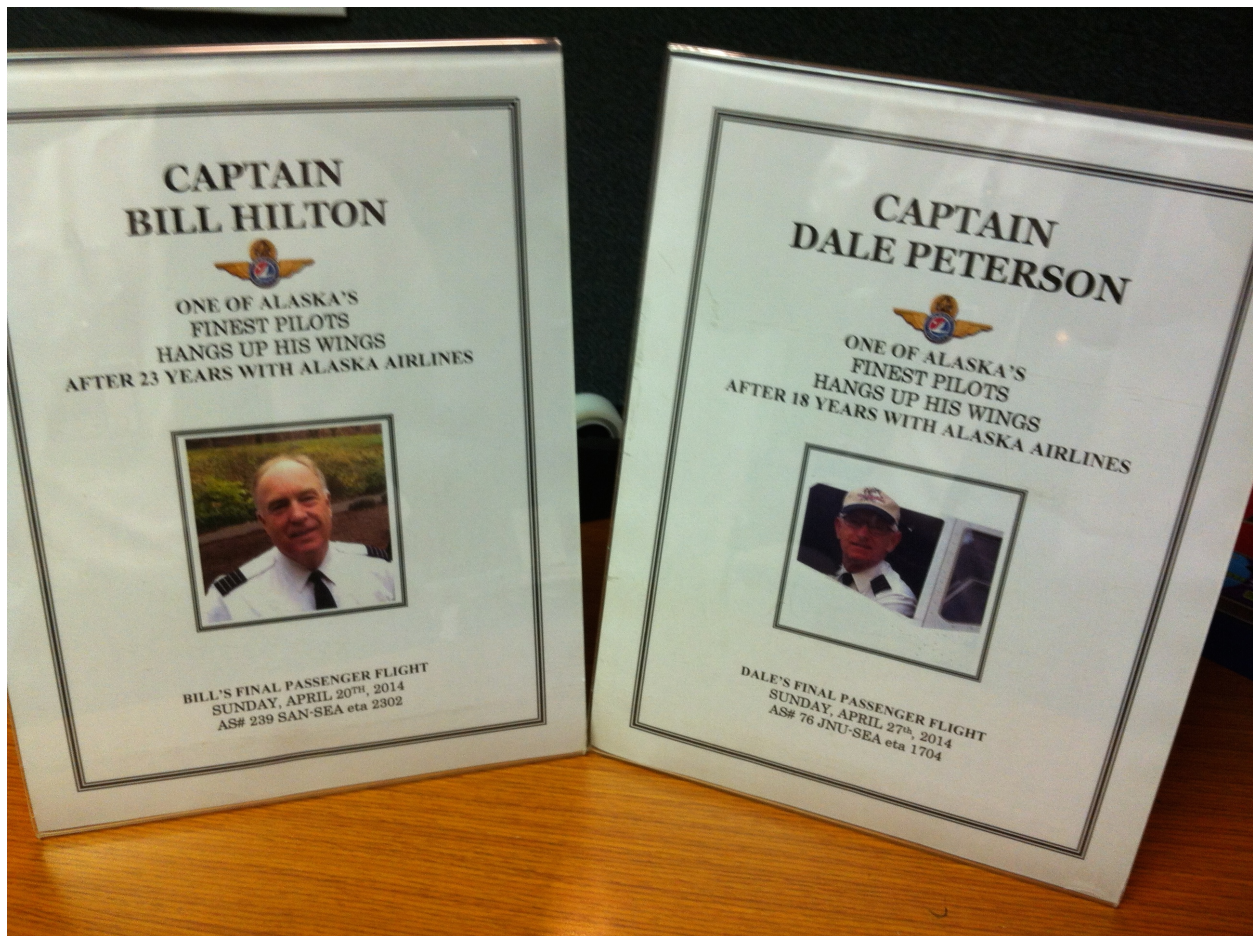


Shipmate July-August 2014  
Duke Longworth  
27 May 2014

Okay, I'll admit when preparing the summer column I always remember the hot plebe summer we experienced. There's just no way to overlook the heat and humidity, the sweat and looking forward to the "Black Flag" notice so we could knock off exercising! No air conditioning in Mother B and not much wind either. If you have a plebe summer story to share please send it to me!

First note is from **Dale "Deacon" Peterson**: "Duke, Here's an update about the classmates flying for Alaska Airlines. **Bill Hilton** flew his final flight April 20th. I will fly mine on the 27th. The photo is of the 'adios' posters in the crewroom in Seattle. I hope you can make out some of the details. Bill finished up with 23 years at Alaska, I logged 18. We are both going out per the age 65 rule that moved from age 60 in time to give us a few more years. I trust all is well with you and yours. We hope to see you at homecoming. Beat Army, Deacon." Thanks Deacon! I'll be looking for you at a football game! Deacon isn't in full retirement as he is now a simulator instructor for Alaska Airlines!



Caption: Alaska Airlines farewells Deacon and Bill.

Here's a superb note from **Dan Rowe**: "Duke, Want to pass along to you news of my recent retirement from flying the T-39 Sabreliner with the Gray Eagles in Pensacola. The Gray Eagles (mostly retired Navy and Marine aviators) have provided pilot support for the training of Student NFOs at NAS Pensacola for many years. The T-39 is being replaced by the T-45 along with expanded simulators. After retiring with 20 years active duty I flew with American Airlines for 16 years, and have been with the Gray Eagles for the past 6 years. I suspect I may be the last of our class to have been flying Navy airplanes and getting paid for it!

"Attached is a picture of the conclusion of my last flight on April 29th, 2014. With me is my wonderful wife of 36 years, Marie, and my son, Brad. My daughter, Emily, lives in Princeton, N.J. and was not able to attend. Dan." Sounds like lots of fun! I'm sure many of us pilots would have enjoyed flying with you in Pensacola!

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Caption: Dan Rowe with Marie and Brad

Next note is from **Alan Ptak**: "Duke, on April 26th weekend, we had a '71 Navy baseball mini-reunion attending the Army-Navy baseball games in Annapolis.

Attendees were **Ted Snoots**, **Tom Galloway**, **Pete deVos** and yours truly. Great games, great weather, great stories, and most importantly, great comraderie. Best, Alan.” Sounds like a good time for you! Superb weather this past weekend!



Caption: Ted Snoots, Tom Galloway, Alan Ptak

Alan sent another note: “Duke, **Steve Bruce**, **Brian Horais**, and I, plus wives had brunch at Clydes at Tysons Corner Virginia. A great time was had by all. Duces Virum, Alan.” Nice photo! Bet that was a good lunch, too!



Caption: Alan Ptak, Steve Bruce, Brian Horias

Here's a nice note from **Ric Travis**: "Duke, attached is a photo taken on our recent 'Mini Reunion Cruise' in April of this year. The photo was taken in Lyn and **Ron Wnek's** stateroom aboard Enchantment of the Seas in the Caribbean. Attending were, from left, Sue and **Frank Fuchs**, Linda and **Ric Travis**, Susan and **John Hubbard** and Lyn and **Ron Wnek**. It was a great time and welcome escape from our past horrible winter. Thank you, Ric Travis." Know you enjoyed the pleasant relief from the winter as well as an enjoyable cruise with good friends! There's bound to be another cruise in my future!



Caption: Sue and Frank Fuchs, Ric and Linda Travis, Susan and John Hubbard, Lyn and Ron Wnek

I was wondering if I'd hear from **Steve Ayers** this year! Here's his note: "Hey Duke, Here is the report for the 28th Annual 16th Company Testosterone Festival (T-Fest), held the weekend of May 1-4 2014 on Figure Eight Island near Wilmington, NC. Sorry I didn't write last year, but I just got lazy, I guess; plus we didn't take a photo for some reason.



Caption: Bottom row left to right: **Paul McIntire, Mike Bluestein, Bill Luckey**. Top row: **Steve Ayers, Roger Young, Paul Timmins**.

“It was another grand weekend. Everybody was able to show up on Thursday evening for grilled burgers and dogs for dinner at the great house near the beach that Rog has arranged the last 4 years. Unfortunately, Blue had chosen to sacrifice the rest of the weekend for a two-week trip to Israel with his wife beginning that Friday. Talk about mixed up priorities. I wish I could honestly say he was missed.

“So the rest of us made do with a very nice lunch of fresh seafood and beers at a great oyster bar in downtown Wilmington, followed by a fun and informative cruise up and down the Cape Fear River. After the requisite naps, that evening we grilled enormous and delicious steaks back at the house, and polished off a few bottles of superb French wine that Rog was able to dig up somewhere in Wilmington. He certainly must have been an outstanding Supply Officer. Where do we get such men?

“Saturday was golf for Rog, Timo and me at Porter’s Neck Country Club where Rog has a membership. His house is adjacent to the 3rd green. The weather cooperated and once again Rog kicked our butts...glad we don’t lay down any bets when we play. On the way back to the house, we picked up some tasty East Carolina Barbeque and feasted on that for dinner. Lively political conversation ensued and continued until absolutely nothing was resolved.

“Alas, Sunday came all too soon and it was time to wrap up another T-Fest and head back to our real lives. We shall return at this time next year to Figure Eight Island, and plan to do so until we all take the dirt nap. All the best, Steve.” Most excellent report, sir! Glad to see the T-Fest continues!

I received this superb update on **Jim Gonzales**, “Duke, I received this e-mail from Valerie Ross concerning the Universal Anesthesia Machine our class donated to

Mugonero Hospital in Rwanda. Thought you might want to see these photos. Be well, jg.”

Here’s the note: “Hi Dr. Gonzales, I am thrilled to finally share these photos with you! The Universal Anesthesia Machines were assembled this week at Mugonero Hospital in Rwanda. The beautiful dedication plaque has been hung near the nurse’s station. Thank you again for making this possible! You are hugely impacting on our hospital there, as well as helping many patients in the months and years to come. Bless you! Warm regards, Valerie Ross, CFRE, Development Officer, Global Health Initiatives, Rocky Mountain Adventist Healthcare Foundation.”

More from Jim Gonzales: “Duke, Here’s the photo with the physicians and O.R. staff holding the plaque in front of our new anesthesia machine. The brass plate reads: ‘To Mugonero Hospital from USNA Class of 1971.’



Jim continues, “Here’s a photo me (aka ‘Baldie’) standing next to Lee, the manager, with our plaque in the background on the wall at Freebird, the only American owned bar and grill in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (The owner is a retired U.S. Army EOD ‘Hurtlocker’ veteran who worked in Cambodia for 12 years clearing land mines placed

by the Khmer Rouge). The plaque inscription reads 'To Freebird from USNA '71.' Ours is the only military academy class in the world honored to have a plaque hanging on the 'Wall of Distinction.' In part, this is due to our class having 14 years of missionary presence in Cambodia. Be well, jg." Jim, you're doing some great work! These are storybook photos!



Caption: Jim Gonzales with Lee at Freebird in Phnom Penh

When Jim met a monk professor and his students outside the Monk University in Phnom Penh they initially thought he was a retired monk from the "West" visiting the University. I suspect his hairdo might have influenced them a bit. Jim, your work is genuinely "priceless!" Thank you for all you do in behalf of our class!

**Tom Gross** sent this note about Class of '71 tailgates at the home games this year: "Hi Duke, Now that the season tickets are secured, it's time to turn to the more serious matter of tailgating! Please pass on to your readers that our class tailgate will be up and operating each and every home game in our traditional spot on the parking lot perimeter, directly out from the press box. So make it your rendezvous point, we're easy to find.

The tailgates start two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. All classmates and guests are welcome. The format is decidedly informal. The menu is pot luck. Classmates bring dishes and snacks to share; some even bring brats or burgers to burn on the grill. All food and beverage contributions are gratefully accepted.



Coming from out of town? Don't sweat it. If don't have a chance to pick up something, come anyway. We haven't run out of food yet! See you there! Beat Army...again! Tom Gross.”

As I'm completing this column just after Memorial Day and want to remember those who are no longer with us who made the ultimate sacrifice to their country. Although we had a number of our classmates die while on active duty or reserves, I remember our classmate, Al Schaufelberger, who was killed in action in San Salvador on May 25, 1983 - 31 years ago.

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 can use our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and often too short. Love, give and share your blessings generously with others. 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