

Shipmate July-August 2016
Duke Longworth
31 May 2016

Summer is here! The newly minted youngsters are off to their new naval adventures aboard ships. I recall the summer of '68 when I was assigned to the USS Goodrich (DDR 833) homeported out of Mayport. **Duane Brown** and **Joe Enright** were on the ship, too. My berthing was under the aft gun mount as the ship cruised the Caribbean. "Hot racking" in that heat guaranteed a damp bunk for sleeping! I learned about the operation of a steam driven ship and about people. While we were aboard GOODRICH stopped in San Juan and Houston. I recall us middies made the most of the shore time, especially in Houston. My other recollection is of standing in the chow line reading James Bond stories. I always carried a book to read during those idle minutes. Fond, fun memories for which I'll always be grateful for the learning experience.

My first note: The Class of '71 Baseball team under the leadership of **Peter de Vos** recently made a large contribution to the Navy Baseball program for Athletic Excellence. This donation was made to upgrade and completely renovate the home and visiting dugouts at Bishop Stadium. A special ceremony was held on April 23rd just prior to the Army-Navy Baseball doubleheader. The ceremonial first pitch was made by Pete de Vos - it was a strike and an omen of the eventual sweep of the doubleheader by Navy over Army (3-2 and 6-2) and the N Star. Pictured left to right: Chet Gladchuk (AD), **Bob Pearce**, **VADM Ted Carter '81**, **Peter deVos**, **Ted Snoots**, **Tom Galloway**, and **Pete Schneider**. Perry



Next note is an annual favorite! “Hi Duke! Herewith is the report on this year's Test Fest! The annual 16th Company Test Fest was again held on Figure Eight Island near Wilmington, NC the weekend of May 5-8. The usual 6 attendees were present: **Paul McIntire, Mike (Blue) Bluestein, Roger Young (14th Co.), Bill Luckey, Steve Ayers** and **Paul Timmins**. We stayed at our usual digs, a very nice house near the beach, and consumed a feast of good food and beverages, all provided by our cruise director, Rog Young. The conversations were wide-ranging and fun, as always. This year was a bit different, however. One day, we took a boat ride in Blue's boat up the Intracoastal Waterway to have lunch at Sears Landing in Surf City. As you can see from the photo, a couple of us were dressed in Navy/USNA regalia. While we were having lunch, a very nice young man from the restaurant's staff approached our table and asked if we had gone to the Naval Academy. When we answered in the affirmative, he announced proudly that he had been accepted into the Class of 2020 and would be inducted this July. Of course we all applauded and congratulated him. We got a photo of Midshipman-to-be **Derek Bryant '20** with some of us - see attached. Pretty cool! Hope all is well with you. Some of us will see you at the 45th reunion in September. Cheers. Steve.” I look forward to seeing all of you at the 45th!



CAPTION: Front row - Paul McIntire, Blue Bluestein, Roger Young, back row – Bill Luckey, Steve Ayers, Paul Timmons with Blue's boat in the background



CAPTION: Testfest crew with Derek Bryant USNA 2020

Sankey Blanton sent this note: “Having been encouraged by a San Diego classmate, I'm forwarding this photo from early January when I enjoyed the Operation Deep Freeze 2016 cruise of the USCGC Polar Star (WAGB-10) out of Seattle (and back). If I promise to teach Oceanography and some Algebra, I get to go out into areas of my bucket list and just cruise along. This was my fourth adventure of this nature and, as per the old Chinese 'wish', I had an 'interesting' time. I'm now trying to convince my wife of at least one social event during the Reunion weekend - wish me luck! Needless to say the 'Honey Dew' list is pretty long after 4-and-a-half months, and I technically owe her faithful service until after the New Year. Since it was summer in Antarctica, I had 24/7 daylight for about six weeks - boring! Your Classmate, Sankey.” I'm jealous! I reckon I need to get into the teaching mode so I can make that cruise! I'm guessing you took much to read! I hope to see you in Annapolis this fall.



CAPTION: Sankey with the POLAR STAR

Here's an important class reunion note: Our class invited a special guest to join us for our 45th reunion celebration in Annapolis this fall. The 12th company is hosting April Stevens as an honored guest of our Class, along with her husband Bill Perman, for the entire weekend. Many will remember April's playful, sensual voice which filled the halls of Bancroft during plebe summer 1967. Although we were not permitted to listen to radios, some of our detailers played their stereos enough where we were able to enjoy her music.

Many of you will recall her hits such as Teach Me Tiger, Do It Again and Love Kitten, and that she was very popular in the '50's, 60's, as a recording star, a radio and TV personality, and Grammy award winner for Deep Purple. What many of you may not know, April and her brother Nino entertained American Servicemen starting near the end of World War II, during the Korean War and until the end of the Vietnam War. April comforted many war-wounded vets in hospitals across the country as well as performing at a number of military bases and certainly many years of incoming plebe classes at USNA. She frequently reminded us of the reasons why men fight and of the sweet memories of our sweethearts back home while we were away. These are just a few of the reasons we chose to honor April at our reunion this year.

April is thrilled to be among us at the reunion and she and her husband will be hard to miss while proudly wearing their '71 Jerseys. If you would like to have a signed

CD personalized by April and receive it at the Class Party on Friday night - please send Jim Yeakley an email as soon as possible so she can start signing. April would prefer have them all signed and have them ready to go when she and Bill depart their home for Crabtown.

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. 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 gift of citizenship in our great nation. Now 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