

Shipmate June-July 2017
Duke Longworth
24 April 2017

Summertime on the Severn is here! The midshipmen are likely not enjoying the heat and humidity! My recollections of Plebe Summer are mostly of being hot and having an upperclassman making life miserable! The cooler moments were in Professor Saslaw's fundamentals of calculus class in the mid-afternoon. After a hot, sweaty morning and early afternoon the cool air in his classroom made for the perfect siesta! Unfortunately, the professor didn't allow sleep in class. Surely makes for a memory! I'm sure many of you have similar summer stories, so please share them with us!

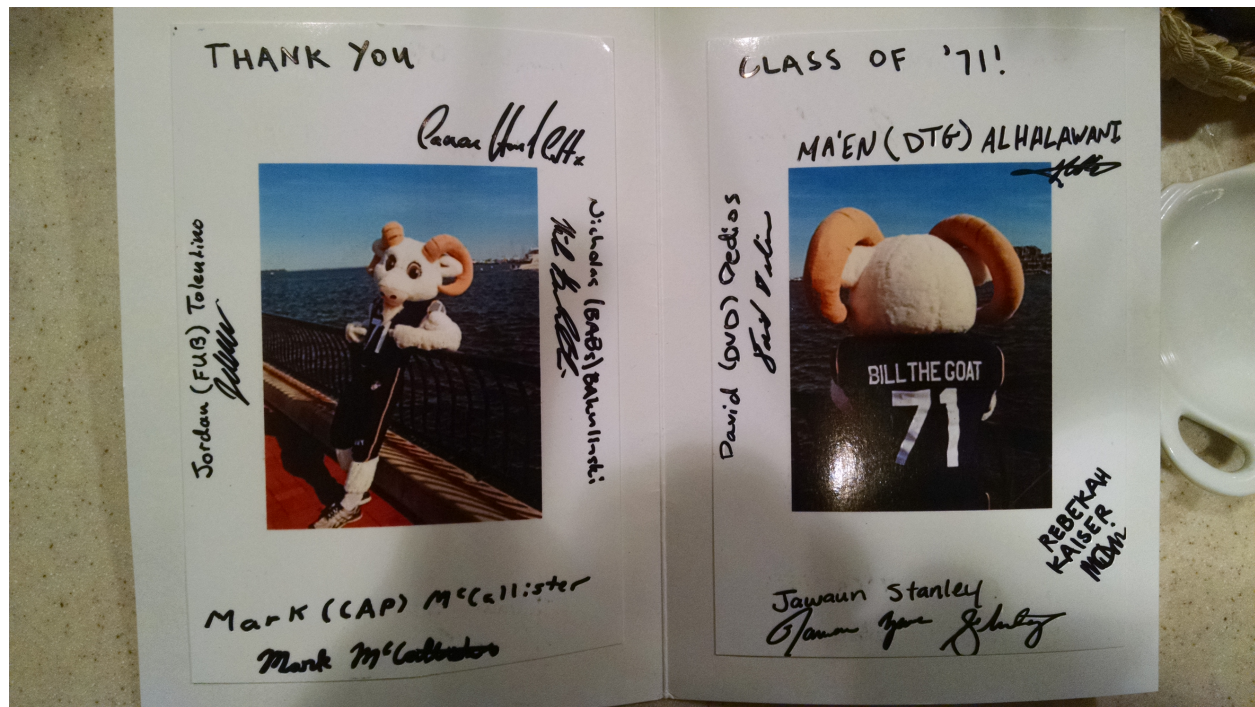
My first note is a reminder from my company-mate **Lee Burgess**: "Duke, you left out a very important point in your write-up about the 36th Company 11th Annual FOOD: you committed to me you would come out to Chicago to take part with me in the Willis Tower Sky Rise Challenge - the tallest stair climb in North America, a brutal event that attracts athletes internationally. In fact, let's challenge other classmates to make it a 71 tribute to honor Heinz Lenz." Great idea Lee! So, the gauntlet is laid down! Let's see how many classmates will join Lee and me as we race to the top of the Willis tower in 2017! Send me an email if you are interested and willing to take the challenge!

Jan Milligan asked about the Willis Tower Sky Rise Challenge. Here's Lee's response: "Jan, there is an elevator on the 103rd floor that will whisk you down to ground level where you will face the most challenging event of the day - navigating your way through the gift shop without being conned into buying a bunch of cheap, over-priced, Chicago-themed souvenirs."

Jan's reply: "Game on, Lee! I get all my cheap, over-priced Chicago-themed souvenirs on-line any more. Free shipping." Somehow I suspect Jan isn't doing the Sky Rise Challenge!

The Naval Academy Mascot Spirit Team, led by our class sponsored Two-Legged Goat, recently sent a letter to the class thanking us for the continued support for the "71 Jersey" and Bill the Goat costume worn by the mascot since September 1996. Here's the note from **MIDN Mark McCallister '19**: "Good morning, sir. I am the current Captain of the Bill the Goat Mascot team. I would like to take this time to thank you for your class sponsorship, and continuing support, of our team. It means very much to my team, and me, that we have a group of people committed to looking out for us. We are very proud to wear the number 71 every time we put on the uniform for an event. I would like to send a small token of our thanks to you and your class for your continued

support. Thank you again, and have a great day! Very Respectfully, Mark McCallister MIDN, USN." Wow, that's one squared-away midshipman!



CAPTION: Mascot Spirit Team thank you card

Our reply to MIDN McCallister: "Very much appreciate your feedback. We are proud to provide and support the Two-Legged Goat Mascot at USNA. As you might be aware, we have been doing so since 1996 when we first sponsored the Mascot. Our class Executive Board which includes our Class Officers and our class Board of Trustees plan to continue to support you and your team in the coming years. Thanks for doing such a great job cheering on and supporting our great Navy sports teams!"

By now you have received a letter from classmates **Peter de Vos** and **Perry Martini** regarding our 50th Reunion Legacy Gift Campaign. Our final gift campaign went public on 1 May as calls were made by representatives of the class through the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. Our stated overall goal is to raise \$1,971, 050 between now and our 50th reunion in 2021. The fund raising is broken down into three categories: a restricted gift of \$1.5M for the Center of Academic Excellence specifically targeted for the Class of 1971 Writing Center; and, two unrestricted gifts of \$400K for the annual fund and \$71K for Athletic Excellence. Over the years of our class giving, the Class of 1971 has always been generous in our support for the United States Naval Academy and for the Midshipmen. We have consistently led the way in class participation rates and by making and far exceeded all of our goals. More to follow in this column as to how we are doing in the coming months and years.

I'm regretfully passing along the following information: **Mike Howell** recently passed away. Mike departed USNA after plebe year. He was in 33rd Company. I will pass along any additional information I receive. 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 business and government 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 – we are richly blessed – may we richly bless others. 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