

Shipmate March 2017
Duke Longworth
27 December 2016

Winter is nearly over as you read this *Shipmate*. Our football team had another successful season. I was very enthusiastic about the leadership of **Will Worth '17** and his individual record setting year. I was disappointed for him and the team when he suffered the season, and career, ending injury. Army managed to narrowly defeat the midshipmen with a youngster at Navy's helm, so it's back to the competitive A-N series! The shootout at the Armed Forces Bowl was a good indicator that the 2017 football season promises much excitement for Navy fans. Meanwhile, the snow is melting in the Yard and Stribling Walk is ice-free again!

The first report is a real A-N team report: "Duke, attached is a photo of 'a house divided' at the big game. Wendy and I are flanked by Yili, USMA '20 and Charlie, USNA '17. One boy listened to Dad, and one boy lost his mind. I guess I can live with Army winning once every 15 years. Charlie Quinlan." Yes, an occasional Army win is okay! Your photo is a "one of" for sure! GO NAVY!

How about this news! Class of '71 wins Alumni Class Challenge for 7th straight year! Looks like this year we had more classmates donate four or more bowl game tickets to win the challenge. Well done to those that gave us the boost to win again.

Here's an update on Hampton Roads (HR) activities from **Dick Enderly**: "Hi Duke! I am well into my third year as the HR Chapter President, an experience that has been a most interesting and rewarding. I am proud to say that recently some local classmates have found the time in retired life to join me on the Board of Directors! **Ken Marks** is the Chapter Secretary and **Tom Dussman** hit the ground running by orchestrating our annual Army-Navy Party at which about 400 Navy alumni and fans filled Shorebreak Pizza in Virginia Beach to absolute capacity! '71 representatives in the photo!

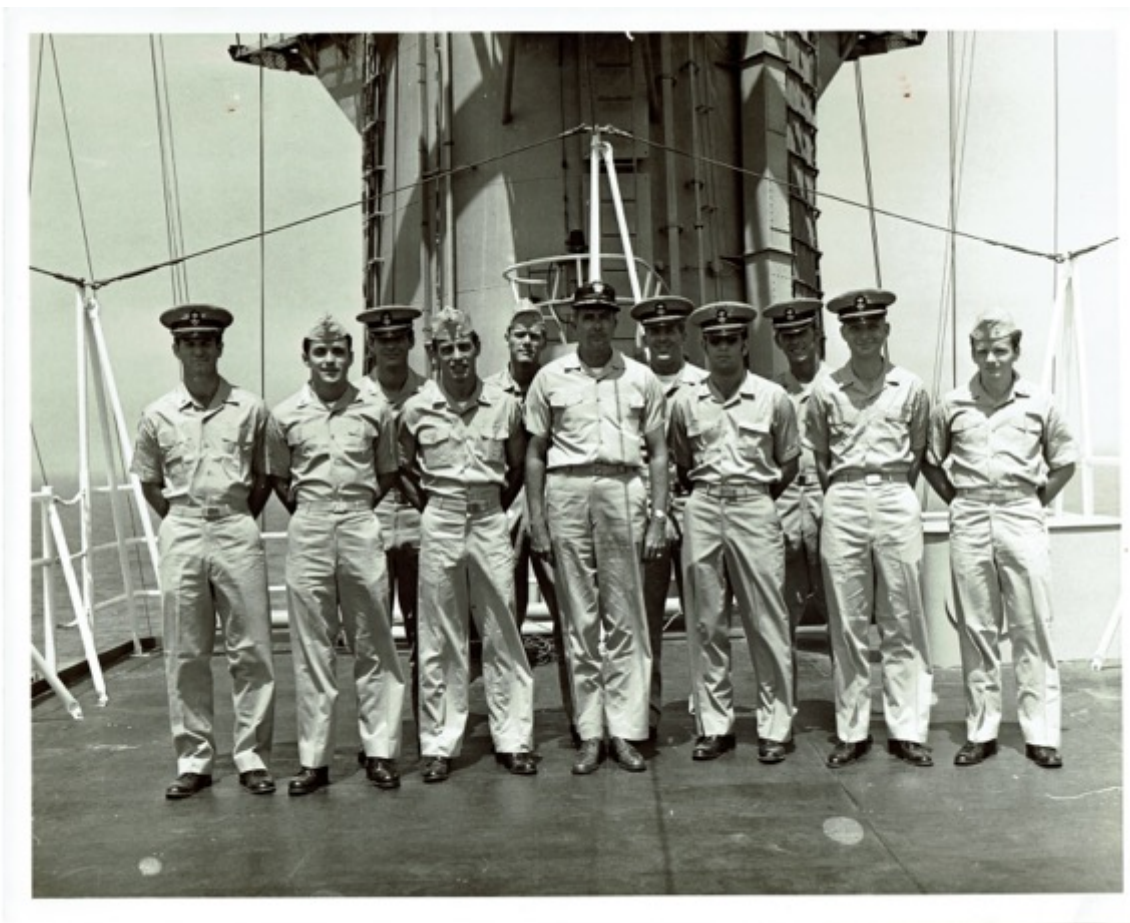


CAPTION: Steve Butkus, Ken Marks, Dick Enderly, Tom Dussman, and Bob Stuhlman

“Each year the HR Chapter earmarks travel and tuition funds to help students attend USNA’s NASS and STEM programs; we donate tickets to Navy bowl games; and we have helped fund the participation of Midshipmen in the International Studies Program. 2017 will mark our 24th consecutive Plebe Recognition Dinner and this year our ’71 classmates will introduce local prospective Class of 2021 members to the Another Link in the Chain Program - yikes! 50 years! We will again partner with South Hampton Roads Habitat for Humanity to host the 4th Annual Habitat for Heroes Golf Tournament, an event that in the past three years has raised over \$80,000 to help build homes for local veteran families. Finally, I am pleased to report that our signature 2016 event was a 12 October ‘Dinner with the Super!’ 260 alumni and local Navy supporters attended a gala affair highlighted by a terrific presentation by **VADM Ted Carter ’81** that also included a celebration of USNA Founder’s Day, the Navy’s birthday, and 40 Years of Women at the Naval Academy. Along with the five classmates mentioned above, other ’71ers in the house that night were **Joe Wargo**, **Mark Hess**, and **Jim Bolcar**. I encourage Hampton Roads area classmates who are not regular players to make every effort to get involved in the action!” Thank you for the superb HR Chapter update! I’ll see you there!

John Ball sent me a follow up note after an email exchange about the Jan-Feb column entry: “Duke, I found a packrat file of my mid cruise on ALBANY, the 3rd set of mids. I even found a wonderful monthly newsletter that has the 2nd and 3rd sets of mid - names and photos. It describes the port calls and ship news from summer 1970. Your photo must be in the July issue. I, too, was on the detail, but I must have gone first, then on cruise in August. We boarded the ship at anchorage at Alghero, Sardinia, then spent time in Malta and Athens, then left the ship before she left there. I even

walked around inside the Parthenon, something you can't do today, and have a great photo of that too.



CAPTION: Summer of 1970 – MIDN John Ball

John, thank you for the memories! The ALBANY in the Mediterranean summer of '70 was a blast! I recall trop whites were the required watch standing uniform on the bridge. Our midshipman staterooms were larger than any I was ever assigned as a commissioned officer! Walking around the Parthenon was fantastic as were the visits to Corfu and Naples! Those were the days!

Here's a nice note from my lightweight crew team member, **Steve Pelstring**:
"Hey, Duke, Sorry I missed seeing you at the 45th reunion, but I'll make sure we get together for the 50th. We'll definitely get a crew of classmates together to go for a row.

"I'd like to relate the story of a personal adventure I had last summer which was several years in the making. For about ten years I had been talking to my family about how I would like to conduct a cross country bicycle trip, though I never gave it a lot of serious thought. Then earlier this year my 24 year old son Kevin told me that he had

time to join me on my cross country bike trip as he had time-off before he and his wife entered the Peace Corps in late August. Since I had recently retired, I didn't have a reason not to go, so I accepted (with some reluctance). Although neither of us had experience on a long bicycle trip, on June 5, 2016 with a little preparation and great trepidation, Kevin and I got on our bicycles and set out from the Golden Gate Bridge headed for Yorktown, VA. After 3700 fun filled miles, that included 10 states, 30 mountain passes, 6 flat tires, and a couple dozen angry dogs, we arrived at the Revolutionary War Victory Monument in Yorktown, VA on 6 August. No one was more surprised than me.

“Any success on my part in this adventure was due entirely to my road mate, Kevin, who kept me going day to day, my brother Bernie, who drove our support vehicle, and the dozens of friends, classmates, and relatives who encouraged and supported us throughout the trip. Some of the high points of the adventure were the opportunities to meet friends and relatives who lived ‘near’ our track’. This included an evening we spent with Cathy and **Brian Horais** who met us in the metropolis of Berea, KY for dinner.



CAPTION: Kevin, Steve and Brian Horias

“Finally, to commemorate the adventure, during an October get-together of '71 8th Company shipmates, I was presented a beautiful wooden plaque, which features a functional chrome bicycle bell, that was appropriately called ‘The Iron Butt’ award. The trip was a great adventure and I learned a lot. Mostly, I confirmed what I already knew about the support of friends and family. One of the key lessons for me was that I will be more careful what things I tell my children that I want to do. Steve.” What an adventure! That sounds like something I would do and may well do in retirement! Your trip doesn’t surprise me as we crew jocks like to exercise all day long!



CAPTION: Iron Butt Award

Here's a note from **John Conkey** to follow up on the obit in the January *Shipmate* regarding **Steve Carro** and his connection to the movie, *Top Gun*: "Steve was awarded his wings in Kingsville, TX in September 1973. His first aviation assignment was VC-2 in Oceana flying training and support missions for the fleet. After completing this tour, Steve attended Navy Post Graduate School in Monterrey. I think he was awarded a Masters in Computer Science. He subsequently was assigned to VF-124 to transition to the F-14 Tomcat. Due to diagnosed astigmatism, he failed to carrier qualify. He subsequently was assigned to the Targets Division at NAS Pt. Mugu, CA where he qualified in QF-86 and QF-4 Aircraft as a chase pilot for target aircraft. He was designated an Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer (AEDO), and spent two years at NAVAIRSYSCOM in Crystal City VA assigned to PMA-200. He was next assigned to Naval Air Rework Facility North Island as a Program Manager for the Navy F-16 program. During this time he was qualified as a Post Maintenance Checkflight Pilot for the F-14A Tomcat. He was on a checkflight when his horizontal stabilator failed full nose down and he and his radar officer ejected. Unfortunately, the radar officer died as a result of injuries suffered during the ejection. This was the accident in *Top Gun* when 'Goose' hit the stabilizer after ejecting and was killed. Steve finished his career at North Island as an AEDO and retired around October 1993.

"That is all from memory, so some of the dates may be inaccurate. Steve and I went thru aviation training together, and the first six years are accurate. He was going through F-14 training in 1978 when I left for Japan, and I lost track of his career. I saw him in DC shortly after his mishap when he was in a body cast. Send any questions or corrections to me at conkey71@comcast.net. John Conkey." Wow, the tales that we find out about later! 30 years ago the movie *Top Gun* was released and most of us are just learning the "rest of the story!" Fortunately, Steve survived the accident.

Here's some news regarding recent books published by two of our classmates. **David Poyer's** new release, *ONSLAUGHT: The War with China* is out as an eBook, in hardcover and is available at book stores or online booksellers through Amazon.

Here's the publisher's initial review: "The latest novel by Poyer to feature Captain Dan Lenson is also the second in the War with China series. Lenson stopped a potential nuclear war between India and Pakistan, but now China is making moves to take over the entire Pacific region of Asia. Lenson and his commanders have to tread a thin line between staying neutral and defending themselves from an enemy that wants to start WWII. Poyer does an admirable job balancing between war scenarios while also showcasing life aboard a navy vessel with a crew dealing with stress and potential sabotage. The realistic nature of the novel will impress those who enjoy their naval fiction, but readers unfamiliar with the previous books might at least want to start with the author's previous installment, *Tipping Point*, to get the full enjoyment of the tale.

There are two more books coming in this battle, so the non-ending makes complete sense.”

Our classmate and author, **Hank Turowski**, just had his Trilogy republished as separate books: *Plebe Summer*, *The Brigade*, and *The Hundredth Night*, and also again as a combined *Plebe Trilogy*.

Here’s the review: “Are you at the age where you are starting to forget all the fun you had Plebe Year? Does family or colleagues need a primer on what a real Plebe Year was all about? Do you need some semi-authentic and somewhat humorous documentation of the countless tortures and those humiliations galore? The *Plebe Trilogy* is now available at reduced rates on the Amazon web site under ‘Books’. Nowhere else, and for no other class at Annapolis, have the experiences of Plebe Year been depicted in such graphic and compelling detail. This is the story of the beginnings of the **great Class of 1971**. The pressures and the politics. The sadness and the triumphs. It’s all here.” Our own Hank Turowski, has graciously offered to donate 20% of the profits from the sale of these books to the Class of 1971 Fund. Please contact Hank at hankturowski@hotmail.com if you have questions. These books are also available in Kindle format from Amazon.

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 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 gifts of 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