

Shipmate May-June 2015  
Duke Longworth  
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The heat arrived early this spring after the rather cold, snowy winter. So much for the cold! Now, I'm confident the newly minted ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants are eager to arrive at their first duty station after graduation and some well-deserved leave. The new "firsties" are likely preparing for their new plebes, the new youngsters are embarking on their first shipboard experiences, and the new 2<sup>nd</sup> classmen are taking the various warfare area centers by storm! The cycle continues! Those were the days! As I recall our class managed to run the plebes two summers – not sure exactly why we did that, but we did and I took advantage of the extra summer in Annapolis following my first class Mediterranean cruise onboard ALBANY! That was a superb summer which I will always cherish – Rota, Corsica, Naples, Corfu, and Athens – what a nice view of the U.S. Navy! Here's hoping your memories of those days were memorable!

Can you believe – only three more months until football season! I'm already thinking Navy football and I'm eager to attend a couple home games as well as the annual Army-Navy game! This year is a little different as Navy joins the new American Athletic Conference and with that comes some schedule opportunities. GO NAVY!

My first note is from **Mike Greene**: "**Mike Duncan** and I attended **Tom Ledvina's** retirement from the Department of the Navy as Deputy General Counsel of the Navy yesterday. The MC, **Ron Borro '73** kept saying 47 + years of government service which kind of threw me for a loop. Heck, weren't we ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup> LT's just a couple of years ago? Anyway, the accolades raining down on Tom by the General Counsel of the Navy and Tom's fellow lawyers was impressive. If Tom didn't have an I-love-me wall before this, he's going to need a whole I-love-me room now. Kidding aside, it was quite apparent yesterday that our classmate has done extraordinary work over his career and is deserving of the best of what follows. His service to our sailors and Marines and to the Nation as a whole has been exceptional. He and Pat are headed to their new home in Easton, MD where they'll be adding that needed new room. Mike." Congratulations to Tom! OBTW - Tom has been a loyal classmate and servant leader for our class as he has served faithfully as a member of our Class Board of Trustees since 1995. I know we will continue seeing him around Annapolis and that's a good thing!

Here's the 36<sup>th</sup> Company post-annual reunion report from **Craig Welling**:  
"Thanks again to **Bruce Gallemore** for making the arrangements for another great Lake Placid weekend. Thanks also to **Mike Trice** for his generous selection of wines, **Ron Spratt** for the lasagna, **Don Beaudette** for the lobsters, **Sonny Naple** for the

enchiladas, **Jim Barron** for the pumpkin bread and **Garry Holmstrom** for the pulled pork. I have thanked Carter for the cookies.”

Craig added the following notes: “**Steve Joens** – We send out best wishes for recovery; **Mark Horgan** – We wish you the best with your home repairs; **Robbie Roberson** – Sorry for the flight cancellation; and, **Mike Trice** – It was great to have you join us. Best regards to all, Craig Welling.” Wow, I missed another good reunion! Next year there’s no excuse! All in for the 10<sup>th</sup> reunion!

**Ron Spratt** provided this post-event report: “Company Mates, one full week has passed since we gathered for the Ninth Annual FOOD Lake Placid Weekend and I have finally thawed out and unpacked. Attached is one of the many highlights of what makes this sojourn so very special. I had intended on writing several paragraphs of praise for everyone's contributions, but Mike ‘Arma’ Trice not only established the ‘timed’ 3 minute soliloquy rule but also expects me to limit my email novelettes to no more than 5 lines. Until next year, as we celebrate our 10th with renewed vigor, a few replaced joints, and goodwill for all. Let spring be upon us.” Ron, I’m okay with a longer email report! I cannot miss the 10<sup>th</sup> reunion! It’s a must for me!



Caption (L to R): Back row: Ron Spratt, Garry Holmstrom, Sonny Naple, Lee Burgess, Jim Barron, Don Beaudette. Front row: Craig Welling, Mike Trice, Bruce Gallemore, Jan Milligan.

The Third Annual Athletic Excellence Golf Classic will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Naval Academy Golf Course. This year’s event honors our classmate and Class Board

of Trustees member, **Peter de Vos**. I expect '71 will have several foursomes participating, so next issue I'll have a full report. By the way, proceeds from the event benefit the Fund for Athletic Excellence ensuring the midshipmen continue to excel on the fields of athletic competition as they do in the classroom and in the fleet.

This caught my eye the other day as I read *Wavetops*, so I wanted to ensure it got wide distribution and appropriate notice: "USNA Hosts Astronaut Convocation" - POSTED ON: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 The United States Naval Academy (USNA) hosted its annual Astronaut Convocation, Mar. 9th in Mitscher Auditorium.

"The Convocation was an opportunity for the Brigade of Midshipmen to learn about the future of space flight and exploration from leaders in the field, as well as current and former astronauts. 'There is a future for all of you in technology, medicine, science, aerospace and teaching,' said **Frank Culbertson, Jr.**, panelist and Naval Academy Class of 1971 graduate. 'I encourage all of you to think about how you are going to make a difference and what you are going to say when you get up here 20 or 40 years from now.'

"USNA Superintendent, Vice Adm. **Ted Carter '81**, spoke to the deep heritage the Academy has with aerospace. 'This is something that doesn't really happen anywhere in the country. We have produced more NASA astronauts than any other institution. The very first American in space was a USNA graduate,' said Carter. 'We bring phenomenal people back that have graduated from this institution and we have current access to faculty members that are astronauts. USNA has a great history involving aerospace.'"

"The foundations of the careers the astronauts have built started with their time at USNA. **Robert Cabana**, the director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center and Naval Academy Class of 1971 graduate, explained the hardest lessons are the ones you learn from the most. 'I wasn't able to be a pilot when I first tried, but with time, I was able to do so and more,' said Cabana. 'I learned an awful lot at USNA. I grew a lot here. I learned to keep trying. There are things that I didn't want to do and assignments that I later didn't want to take, but some of those ended up being the best experiences of my life. Everything is what you make of it.'" Nice to know our astronaut classmates are still making a difference for Navy and our nation!

The annual Ethical Character in Leadership award ceremony was held onboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT on March 5<sup>th</sup>. VADM (Ret) **Jim Metzger** was our only representative this year. The award recipient was LT Michael Wolfe, a P3 NFO, who is serving as the Arresting Gear Officer. LT Wolfe is the third P-3 community awardee for our annual award. He started his career as an Aviation Electricians Mate in the VP

community then earned his bachelor of science degree and applied to OCS. VADM Metzger spoke to the wardroom about ethical character in leadership.



CAPTION: VADM Jim Metzger, LT Wolfe, CAPT Dan Grieco '86

Some of you may have noticed that our own **Dave Poyer** was at the Annapolis Mid Store in early April promoting his new book, *THE CRUISER.* Nice to see our author classmate is still active writing!

Regretfully, I'm sending along the following note: It is with sadness I pass on the news of the passing of our classmate, **Gordon Frank Harris**, age 65, resident of Grand Junction, and serving in the United States Armed forces (Army and Navy). Gordy was a true friend, classmate, and member of the 18<sup>th</sup> Company. Gordy eventually retired as pilot for Federal Express. He died of a sudden heart attack at his home in Somerville, Tennessee on Sunday March 22nd. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Morgan Harris. Services of Remembrance for Gordy were held Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction, TN. May Gordy rest in peace.

I just received word as I wrote this column, and I regret to send this along: It is my sad duty to pass on the news of the untimely death of our classmate and friend, Jim

Loiselle '71. Jim passed away on 15 April from severe head injuries after falling from a ladder outside his home. Jim is survived by his wife Marilyn who he married on 9 June 1971 at the USNA Chapel. They have two grown children and a number of grandchildren. Jim graduated out of the 23rd Company as an Aero major as one of our distinguished graduates. He earned his Wings of Gold and settled in San Diego flying Navy helicopters. He was also a distinguished graduate of NPGS Monterey and the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and flew over 52 different types of aircraft. During his nearly three decades on active duty, Jim was a U.S. Navy selectee and NASA finalist for the Astronaut program, and he received an additional master's degree from the University of Southern California. Following retirement from the Navy, Jim served as the Vice President of Maxim Systems, a successful small to mid-size Defense Industry Company, and subsequently as Vice President and Managing Director of the San Diego office for Accenture. Fully retiring in 2014 Jim and Marilyn spent the last year enjoying retired life, travelling to Hawaii and cruising around Tahiti. Memorial Services were held Friday, May 1st at the Miramar National Cemetery. May Jim rest in peace.

Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing, 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