

Shipmate Member & Services Fall 2015
Duke Longworth
29 June 2015

Fall is here! I always enjoyed fall in Annapolis. The cool, crisp air and leaves turning color always enhanced the beauty of the Yard! Now, I always eagerly look forward to the weekend visits to my favorite places around Mother B, Hubbard Hall, and the opportunity to be with dear classmates and friends. This fall will be no different; however, it will be special and I will cram all my favorite USNA “things” into one or two weekends, and I will look forward hearing “Navy scores” and “Navy WINS” while watching our team play football!

My first note is about a special event that was held in Annapolis on Friday, 29 May honoring our classmate, **Peter de Vos**. Pete was selected as this year's recipient of the “Leadership in Athletic Excellence Award”, an honor bestowed upon an alumnus who exhibited athletic excellence as a midshipman and who has been a continuing influence through support and mentoring of the athletic programs at USNA. The two day event began at the Caves Valley Country Club where members of our class, including teammates from the '71 Baseball Team, played golf at the USNA Golf Course. There were over 120 alumni and staff who joined in recognizing Peter in a shotgun golf match on a spectacular sunny spring day in Annapolis. That evening a reception was held at the new **Akerson '70** Tower on the Gold side of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. The reception was topped off by a special trophy presentation to Class of '71, represented by our Brigade Six Striper, **Mike Hecomovich**, and our Class President, **Perry Martini**, on winning the Alumni Class Challenge and defeating members of the Class of '67 and all other competing classes.



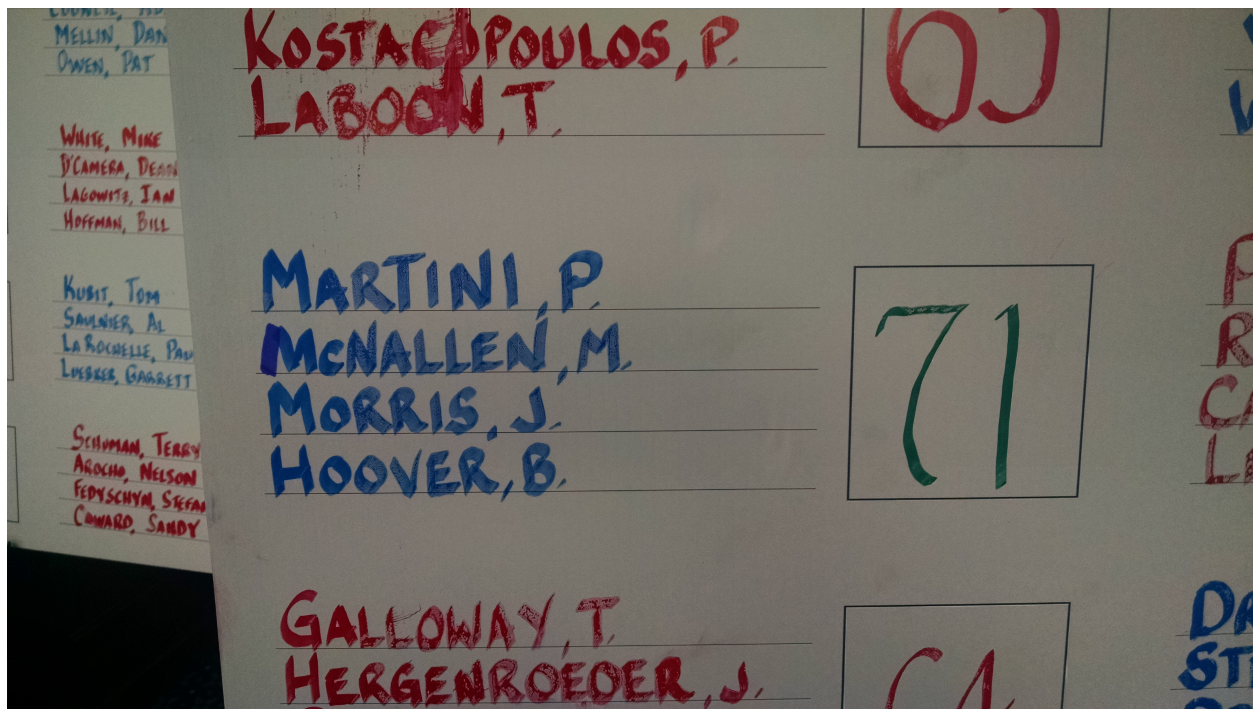
CAPTION: Golfers at Caves Valley: Ron Spratt, Tom Galloway, Bob Pearce, Chuck Bongard, Peter deVos, Perry Martini, Jim Hergenroeder, Mike Hecomovich, Bob Wagoner, and Cass Young.

The final award was presented to Pete by Navy Athletic Director, Chet Gladchuk, honoring Pete as the third annual Athletic Excellence Award recipient. Pete gave heartfelt remarks and how proud he was to have attended USNA, and that he will always remember his classmates for their long-sustaining loyalty and camaraderie which has made a significant difference in his life. At the conclusion of his remarks, on behalf of the USNA '71 baseball team, he presented a check to the NAAA and the Baseball Team to support the renovation of the Navy baseball stadium dugouts.



CAPTION: Chet Gladchuk, Chuck Bongard, Tom Galloway, Bob Pearce, Pete de Vos, Tede Snoots, John Sheldon, and Navy Baseball Coach Paul Kostacopoulos

Classmates in attendance were: Baseball team members, **Peter deVos, Ted Snoots, Bob Pearce, Tom Galloway, Chuck Bongard, and John Shelton**. Other classmates attending the two day event: **Perry Martini, Mike McNallen, Mike Hecomovich, Cass Young, Ron Spratt, Bill Hoover, JT Morris, Bill Hoover, Jim Hergenroeder, and Bob Waggoner**. Of note, the foursome of Martini/McNallen/Hoover/Morris came in with even par and ironically a great score of 71!



CAPTION: '71 wins with a 71!

Next is a note from **Tom Laboon**: “Duke, here is a photo of a few 18th Co guys who attended the celebration of Gordy Harris' life at his home in Grand Junction, Tennessee on April 11th. Gordy died suddenly at his home on March 22nd. This was a fitting tribute to Gordy who did not graduate with us but still joined the Navy where he flew A4's and A5's and retired as a FEDEX pilot.”



CAPTION: (L to R) Tom Laboon, **Pat Dunford**, **Bob Chimenti** and **Bob Nelson**.

Tom Gross sent this note about Class of '71 tailgates at the home games this year: "Hi Duke! Now that the season football 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." I'll be there! I hope you're there, too!

I'm submitting this column shortly after marking the 48th year since we entered USNA. As I reflected on those many years, I received this note from **Perry Martini**: "Classmates, I had the opportunity this morning to take a stroll down Stribling walk at USNA. As I approached Tecumseh, I paused and gazed at the bricks that encompass the panoramic view of the massive steps and main entrance to Bancroft Hall. Memories flooded my reflection and I remembered that 48 years ago to the day, June 28, 1967, that we stood tall, raised our hands taking an oath that placed us on a long journey

together in friendship and service. It was on T-Court where we started to understand the words of our very first oath of office; and the importance of Ship, Shipmate, and Self. *Duces Virum!*”

Start spreading the news! Now, it is time to begin preparing for our next reunion in Annapolis and the following information is passed to you from our 45th Reunion Committee regarding plans for our next gathering in 2016.

Bottom line – we ask that you hold these weekend dates in 2016: September 24 / September 17 / September 10. Here’s why: Navy Football joined the American Athletic Conference (AAC) this year. This is the beginning of a new era, which brings excitement and a challenge or two. The AAC is not expected to announce the fall 2016 Football schedule until late February 2016. This includes most of Navy’s home game schedule.

As many of you know, following our 40th reunion, a class survey was conducted. The survey results overwhelmingly favored holding our 45th in Annapolis on a non-homecoming football weekend in September 2016. The results of this survey also dictated that the 45th would focus on a more relaxed weekend and to include more casual class events.

We are aware of home games on Sep 3rd and Oct 22nd; however, we decided against Sep 3rd (Labor Day weekend), as well as the weekend of Oct 22 (homecoming weekend). The good news - our Reunion Committee has made arrangements with one of the larger hotels in Annapolis during the last three weekends of September 2016. The hotel has guaranteed to hold and lock in rooms as well as establishing our reunion headquarters hotel. A tentative outline of the reunion schedule:

- Thursday: arrivals, with reception in HQ hotel
- Friday: golf, tours, Superintendent’s briefing, evening cocktail party
- Saturday: class tailgate, football game, company parties
- Sunday: brunch, memorial service (tentative), company parties, open
- Monday: departures

Please keep the following dates in mind for planning purposes. As soon as the entire home Football schedule is announced in early 2016 and Reunion dates are chosen we will let you know so we can all begin the registration process.

**** Save these dates: 22-26 Sep 2016 / 15-19 Sep 2016 / 08-12 Sep 2016

Duces Virum and Go Navy!!

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. Life is precious and too short – seems we too often are reminded of life's brevity. 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