

Shipmate November-December 2016  
Duke Longworth  
26 Sep 2016

What a superb 45<sup>th</sup> reunion! The reunion committee led by Jim Hergenroeder did a superb job with the festivities including the football game win over UCONN! GO NAVY! I'll admit I'm already looking forward to the next big reunion. The opportunity to visit with longtime friends just doesn't occur often enough! My hunch is that most of us feel the same way, especially regarding our company mates! Lots of news to report, so on with the column!

First up is a very brief note from **Jim Gozma**: "Duke, Here is this year's RAGBRAI finish at the Mississippi River in Muscatine, Iowa with **Kevin O'Connor**, me and **Ray Mckown '72**. Goz." Nice photo! Jim shared some stories of the ride with me at the reunion. Seems that the bike ride has many perils beyond simple bicycle rashes!



CAPTION: Kevin, Jim and Ray '72 at the mighty Mississippi

Next is a nice note from **Troy Pyles**: “**Steve Bruce** and I recently returned from a Bucket List week at the Experimental Aircraft Association annual AirVenture, more commonly called the Oshkosh Fly-in. Anyone remotely interested in aircraft would enjoy seeing 10,000 airplanes of every description in one place. Our favorites were the hundreds of Warbirds. It’s great to see them flying rather than just on static display in museums. There were lectures, demonstrations, training sessions and airshows every day. The traditional Wednesday night airshow took place after dark and was very unusual.

“We particularly enjoyed the talks given by pilots that flew the Warbirds in combat and a very interesting talk by an Air America pilot who flew for the CIA in SE Asia for eight years. Any classmate interested in going can contact me for lessons learned. This adventure sells out all the local lodging spaces early. So, nail down accommodations eight to 12 months in advance.” Thank you, Troy! Sounds like a good bucket list item for our aviator classmates!



CAPTION: L-R Steve Bruce and Troy Pyles with a Corsair.)

Troy has another tale: “Over the years of many moves, registering many cars, I’ve had an interest in getting a USNA 71 personalized license plate. While in states with lots of classmates like California and Washington I figured that plate was probably already taken. But, while registering a new car here in Utah I checked and was pleased to see that plate was available, so now I proudly display our class on the road.



CAPTION: Troy with his toys!

When on the golf course I try to get cart 71. In my cars I set the HVAC control digital read out to 71 degrees. While on the highway I set my cruise control to get a big 71 showing in the heads up display. See you at the 45th. Speaking of reunions and the number 71, I wonder how many of us will be there for the 71st reunion in 2042? Troy Pyles, 35th Co, Saint George, UT.” Wow! Lots of 71! Hopefully, many of us will be at the 71<sup>st</sup> reunion!

Here’s an interesting note from **Russ Carr**: “Duke, Vonice and I are looking forward to the reunion next month. After that we will be back in Annapolis for the November 9<sup>th</sup> premier of ‘The Last Ring Home’ in Memorial Hall. This is a 30 minute documentary biographical documentary of LCDR **Nathaniel Minter Dial**, ‘32. Without giving too much away, it is primarily the story about LCDR Dial’s experience and captivity in the Philippines during World War II. The central piece of this remarkable story is his class ring and the efforts taken to prevent his Japanese captors from finding and taking the ring. In the end, the ring is lost only to turn up again in a most unusual way. The recovery of his class ring, years later, is a testimony of what Annapolis means to all those who wear a class ring.

“My connection with this story is through the marriage of my son Shamus to LCDR Dial’s granddaughter Elisabeth. Elisabeth’s brother, Minter, has personally researched the topic in the Philippines and Korea. I’m told the final version is quite good and is scheduled for broadcast on public television later this year. The entire Dial family will be there including those related through marriage. Russ 2<sup>nd</sup> Company.” I had the pleasure of meeting Elisabeth, Shamus and their son at the reunion hotel! I look forward to seeing the movie!

Here's a short note from **Mike Hecomovich**: "**Frank Culberson** and I were at the Fiesta Bowl Kickoff Luncheon where Lou Holtz was the guest speaker at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix Arizona on 31 August. I am Chairing the Fiesta Bowl this year. Frank brought some of his key executives to hear Lou Holtz. We had no idea we would both be there, and met in the lobby. Big surprise! Great to see him and meet Michelle. Best, HECO."





CAPTION: Mike Hecomovich and Frank Culberson at the Phoenix Biltmore Hotel

**Dave Miller** sent this note about the 45<sup>th</sup> reunion golf outing: “Everyone mustered at the Eisenhower Golf Course on time! At 7:30 the staff there was ready for us and had the check-in desk running smoothly. Also, the Donuts, Bagels and Fruit with juice and coffee were deployed and consumed almost to a complete clean plate. The staff from check-in to cart girl were friendly and professional – made for a great atmosphere. Everyone had a good time, and made the best of a brutal 96 degree with high humidity day. From a scoring point of view the scores were magnificent – there were a host of under par teams which shows we can still ‘bring it’ as well as a couple of even par 71’s! The winning score was an awesome 59, yes fifty-nine, no typo, turned in by **Hugh Butt**, **Ed Bouton** and **Eric Benson**. They all passed the mandatory urinalysis with flying colors – way to go guys.”



CAPTION: Two of the winners: Ed Bouton and Hugh Butt.

Here’s a nice note from **Pat Doyle**: “Duke, Sorry that it took this long to get this to you, but I really enjoyed your comments about 3/C cruise in the July/August Shipmate. I realized that this must have come up before and I had sent in something a while back about that cruise. I found that input from September 2005. Attached are two photos from that time that I thought were interesting: me in that aft berthing compartment aboard TURNER; interesting thing is not so much that it proves that I once worked hard in a dirty environment (the firebox of a D-type boiler on a WWII FRAM DD), but now I appreciate it more for the background picture of an enlisted berthing area on a WWII ship in 1968. The second photo is the covers of an LCVP's worth of us heading out from USNA to what I remember as USS TELFAIR (APA-210) on the morning that we left on 3/C cruise (and the morning after RFK was shot).



CAPTION: Pat Doyle onboard TURNER 1968

“OBTW, my son the Army Captain in 2005 is now a Major coming off a Brigade XO tour with the 1st Infantry Division at Ft Riley, KS. He's now the Professor of Military Science - Army ROTC at Claremont-McKenna College in the LA area. He and his wife graduated from Gonzaga U and Army ROTC in 2001; both served 3 tours in Iraq, then Michael got a bonus 8 month tour in Afghanistan 2012-2013. Mandy is now an LTC selectee in the Washington (State) Army National Guard, and they have 3 daughters. Pat.”

“PS - Seems like the ships in LANTMIDTRARON '68 may have been on their last legs. I didn't check on GOODRICH, but TURNER was decommissioned in 1969, and TELFAIR shortly after getting us to Norfolk: She was normally engaged in amphibious exercises with Marines from Camp Lejeune, though she also conducted summer training cruises for USNA midshipmen. On 31 October 1968, TELFAIR was decommissioned for the third and final time at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA. On the following day, her name was struck from the Navy list.” Really nice update Pat! Thank you! Regarding our 3/C cruise, **Joe Enright** and I had a nice conversation about that cruise during our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion. That was a most enjoyable “cruise!”

Okay, there's some extra space for me to share Lisa and my new adventure – we're now grandparents! Our daughter gave birth to Maverick Jesse Hayes on 23 September. The family resides in the Shenandoah Valley, so we will be driving there often to see the baby!





CAPTION: Duke and Lisa with baby, Maverick!



It's my sad duty to relay the following from the Star Ledger on 23 August 2016: "**Francis Barrett 'Barry' Kaverick**, a lifelong Kenilworth, N.J., resident, passed away on Monday, Aug. 22, 2016, at his home, surrounded by his family. A Funeral Mass was offered at St. Theresa Church, Kenilworth, N.J., on Wednesday 24 August. For online condolences to the family, please go to [www.mastapeterfuneralhome.com](http://www.mastapeterfuneralhome.com). Barry attended Roselle Catholic High School and USNA, where he was known for his athletic prowess. He was a first team all state/all groups baseball player in 1967 and was recently inducted into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame. Barry worked for the United States Postal Service in Linden, N.J., for 25 years before retiring in 2008. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Marlene (Callahan) Kaverick; two sons, three grandchildren, and three siblings.

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