

Shipmate September-October 2015  
Duke Longworth  
28 July 2015

Fall is here! After plebe year I enjoyed fall in Annapolis. The cool, crisp air and leaves turning color enhanced the beauty of the Yard! Now, I 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! On to the notes!

First up is an excellent follow-up note from **Fred Klein**: “Duke, Remember when in the Spring Shipmate we had a note about the Low-country Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes (LFWMH) Golf tournament to benefit the “Birdies for the Brave.” I want everyone to know we were very successful. In fact, **Steve Dmetruk** came up from St. Simon Island as part of a foursome and played the tournament.

“For the last 5 years, our community has supported the LFWMH, a 501(c)(3) program through its annual Golf Classic, raffle, and both silent and live auctions. In these first 5 years, the Foundation has raised \$500,000 to directly support wounded military heroes through charitable programs reviewed, approved, and recommended by the “Birdies for the Brave” – a PGA Tour Charities Inc. affiliate. To date, charities benefitting from the Foundation’s contributions have included: *Operation Homefront*, *K9s for Warriors*, *Special Operations Warrior Foundation*, *Military Warriors Support Foundation*, *Troops First*, *Green Beret Foundation*, and *Navy Seals Foundation*. These programs are designed specifically for the individual needs of our wounded heroes and/or their families as they assimilate back into the civilian population.

The Foundation has raised these funds primarily through the tireless efforts of its uncompensated, 100% volunteer Board, Committee leaders, and volunteers and through our local communities and businesses. Now, they’d like to reach out across the United States in hopes of exponentially growing the impact they can have on the lives of our wounded military heroes and their families. There are a few simple things I’d like you to do for them and me:

1. Visit their website at [www.woundedmilitaryheroes.org](http://www.woundedmilitaryheroes.org) to read more about what we do and the charities we support.
2. If you’re a Facebook user, please go to and “Like” the Lowcountry Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes page.

3. If you're a Facebook user, please cut, paste, and share this message with all of your Facebook friends. Or, if you're not a Facebook user, email this (or similar) message to your personal contacts.

"We are preparing for next year's tournament on 18 May 2016. I'll be looking for our wounded heroes to join us again as honored guests, and even join in on the golf. Otherwise, this summer and fall I'll be trying to improve my golf game, even though it's just about having fun. All the best, Fred Klein." Thank you for the update! LFWMH is a superb organization

Next is a note from **Sankey Blanton**: "Duke, I'm sending this photo (JAN2013) of an item I found at the Kennedy Center Museum in Florida called 'Orion' for my friend **Bob Cabana**. The recent May-June *Shipmate* column forgot to mention that the Class of '71 had more astronauts than any other USNA year group or from any other institution. I thought about Bob and NASA and the end of manned space exploration when I asked a passer-by to take the photo. The last Saturn rocket was hanging in another building. Robots and drones, programmable of course, are the future in space."



CAPTION: Sankey Blanton

"If we expect to recreate glories of the past – always an idea which has significant problems – we will have to accept the failures of the past. I think NASA has a place in coordinating scientific exploration with telescopes to search the heavens and orbiting platforms to investigate and understand the Earth with its Atmosphere and

Ocean, as well as the changing climate. There is not enough political or fiscal 'energy' to support 'man-in-space' in significant numbers to be anything but short term voyages of discovery between Earth and the Moon. Respectfully, your classmate – Sankey Blanton.” Thank you! I’m encouraged by the commercial space exploration, so I think we will continue with manned space flight! Where do I sign up?

Here’s a breaking note from Peggy and **Greg Harper**: “Hi, Duke! Hope this message finds you doing well! We wanted to share our wonderful news and send you a picture for the *Shipmate*! Our Grandson ~ **Cullen Harper ‘19**~ is a Plebe and a member of the Class of 2019! Cullen is the son of our oldest son, Brendon, Lt Col USMC and currently a student at the Inter-American Defense College. We are looking forward to seeing Cullen on Parent's Weekend! Go Navy! Greg & Peggy Harper.” Congratulations! I know you are very proud to have a grandson at Navy! We wish him the best of success throughout his midshipman experience!



CAPTION: Peggy & Greg Harper with Cullen

**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! 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!

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 above 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.

It is my sad duty to pass along to you the death of our classmate, **JT Hines**, who attended USNA during our plebe year as one of the members of the 29th company. JT left USNA during our plebe year and he is remembered by his family and friends in the following obituary: John Thomas "J.T." Hines, Jr., 67, passed away July 8, 2015 at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. The son of John (Sr.) and Jan Hines, he was born January 9, 1948 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was the owner of J. T. Hines Plumbing, Inc. and most recently was a home improvement contractor.

JT graduated as a member of the Class of '66 of Central High School in Sioux City, Iowa, where he was also a four year member of a winning football team. He then attended the Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS) prior to joining the Class of '71 USNA. Besides having a passion for acting and writing, he was a diehard Nebraska Cornhuskers football fan. He was master baker, winning several Kansas State Fair blue ribbons for his specialties, bread and cinnamon rolls. He loved to spend time in his yard with his trusty companion, Tucker. He had a deep love for his family and loved to give them creative and fun nicknames. He enjoyed a good cup of coffee or breakfast and conversation with his many friends almost daily. He is survived by his wife, Karen, a son, and two daughters, two sisters, and three grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Jeff Hines. An informal celebration of life was held on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at his home. In lieu of flowers the family has established a memorial fund where gifts may be made to the John Thomas "J.T." Hines, Jr. Family Memorial Fund in care of the Old Mission - Heritage Funeral Home, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Additionally, JT was a good friend and very much liked by his Napster classmates before joining our class June '67. Numerous emails (including one from **Bob Capra**) were received in which his Napster classmates talked about all their Napster day memories. May JT rest in peace.

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