

Shipmate Sep-Oct 2014
Duke Longworth
29 July 2014

What a interesting, fun summer. I enjoy fall and winter, so looking at summer in the rear view mirror is a pleasant thing! Fall means football, and that means a trip or two to Annapolis to be with classmates cheering for our football team! Back to summer – I made another trip to the Midwest to be with a niece and her son at the same Boy Scout camp I attended as a youth. That was fun and meaningful – my son didn't attend the same summer camp as I did; however, the tradition continues through the family. That's a small, but significant tradition for me. Well, enough of "me." I do hope you had a good summer with family and friends as you were rejuvenated! And, I hope to see many of you at the '71 tailgate during our home games! On with the column!

First up is a nice short note with photos from **John "Ollie" North**: "Hey Duke, this is a little late as I've been busy completing an almost 30 year career with FedEx. Now that I'm retired, no excuses! In December I was proud to administer the oath of office to my son. He graduated Cum Laude in mechanical engineering at the University of Florida. Presently, he is completing API in Pensacola and will start 'primary' flight training in Corpus after 4 July. It's not Marine Aviation, but it is the next best thing! Ollie." That's exciting! Here's a photo of Ollie with his mate in the cockpit and a photo Ollie delivering the Oath of Office to his son!



Caption: Ollie and his First Officer!



Caption: Ollie and son

Next is a note from fellow Missourian, **Mike Gaffney**: “Duke, Martha and I have been here in Virginia Beach for about a month. Donna and **John Meister** and Martha and I hosted Sue and **Steve DiAntonio** last weekend. We played golf, dined and visited. We had a great time. (Something of a mini-31st Company reunion!). Attached are pictures of our dinner at Eurasia at the Beach. Hope to see you and Lisa soon! Mike Gaffney.” Thank you for the superb photo! Sounds like a fun time!



Caption: Steve and Sue DiAntonio, Mike and Martha Gaffney, John and Donna Meister

Sadly, another classmate, **Robert E Madden**, passed away unexpectedly on July 4th. Bob attended USNA with our class, but departed at the end of Youngster Year. He attended and graduated in 1972 from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH. Bob was President and CEO of Diversified Investors Services, Inc. of Huntington, N.Y. for the past 36 years, and attained the designations CLU, CHFC. He was one of the top ten producers for The Travelers Life Insurance Company and one of the top twenty producers for METLIFE for many years. Robert was also a Registered Investment Advisor with Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.

Here a reminder of the note **Tom Gross** sent about Class of '71 tailgates at the home games this year: "Hi Duke, now that the season 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 Gross.”

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. Love, give and share your blessings generously with others. 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