

Shipmate April-May 2018
Duke Longworth
26 February 2018

First up is a note from **John Ball**: “Duke, What a convincing win Navy had over Virginia in the Military Bowl! It’s a nice victory to take into the off season. Just before Christmas, Gay and I were in Virginia on family business and I met up with running mate **John Long**. We toured the nearby National Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport, where we were reunited with rotorcraft that each of us had in our logbook. John flew H-46 BuNo 153369 when he joined squadron HC-6 in 1973 (when the Navy had the aircraft), and I flew the NASA Bell XV-15 tiltrotor in the 1990’s while flying for Bell Helicopter, including a fun time in the 1995 Paris Air Show. Actually John and I spent most of our time together reminiscing about our squadron flying days, including our 1974 good-deal flight together in the Goodyear blimp. Coincidentally, we both showed up wearing Northrop Grumman jackets, souvenirs of our time working for the aerospace giant, albeit on opposite coasts.”



“Linda and John Long are happily living near Dulles Airport and spend lots of time with their seven grandchildren. John still enjoys fishing, especially with his 3-year-old grandson. Kudos to John because he showed me a photo of his colonial house that he decorated for Christmas in spectacular fashion. Linda was under the weather so we’ll see her when we meet up again with them in 2018. Meanwhile out here in San Diego **Tom Hammons** is leading our West Coast Reunion committee in preparation for the camaraderie October 25-28 and the Navy-Notre Dame game. Go Navy, John.” Yes, that bowl victory was sweet! Sounds like you and John had some fun flying NAVY! I’m looking forward to the 47.5 reunion this fall! See you there!

Next is a note from **Eric Benson**: “Duke, Here’s a couple of more pictures from our latest travels. In December we headed to South America for some warmer weather and ran into another grad, **Len Eaton ‘63**, in our small group (14). The highlight of our trip was Iguassu Falls on the Argentina/Brazil border. We got delayed in Buenos Aires for three days due to a general strike that shut down all air and ground travel but the Falls were ready for us when we finally got there. The first pic is of the two of us at the Falls (unfortunately a few days late to deliver the proper Beat Army message before this year’s game). The other two pictures are of a message board at Sugarloaf in Rio de

Janeiro. We couldn't leave before posting the usual message. Len and I had good times swapping the age-old sea stories from USMC (Len) and USN days (me) while the gals just rolled their eyes. Eric." Wherever two or more shall meet the stories start flowing! Sounds like a fun trip!



Here's a note from **Jim Bryant**: Three 71 classmates showed up at the January San Diego Alumni Association luncheon, **Pat Doyle**, Jim (Bear) Bryant and **Mike Hecomovich**. Mike, **RADM Tom Lynch '65** and Chet Gladchuck explained how Navy is going to beat Army this year, which made me happy because I remember that good things happened when we beat Army. After the speeches Pat and I got the below photo with Mike. Jim Bryant." Sounds like Navy will roll this fall!



CAPTION: Pat Doyle, Mike Hecomovich, and Jim Bryant

Mike Marks sent this note: “Duke, **Ted Fischer**, **Brad Clossen**, **Dave Whitman** and I, all of 3rd Company met in New Orleans for Mardi Gras. The photo is of us at Emiril’s Restaurant. The highlight of our visit was the National WWII Museum. It was a memorable trip! We left it all in New Orleans! Mike Marks.” Always good times when company-mates get together for fun! Great place for fun!



CAPTION: Left to right: Ted Fischer, Mike Marks, Jean Marks, Brad Closson, Kathleen Closson, Gay Whitman, Dave Whitman, and Pat Fischer.

Here's a note from **Jerry Geil**: "Duke, **Karl Schwelm** was visiting Pensacola and he stopped by the National Naval Aviation Museum, where I volunteer as a docent. We had a nice lunch and a bottle of San Miguel in the Cubi Café. We never had that opportunity when we were both on active duty in the Marines. I had not seen Karl since the last reunion and it was great catching up on our lives since then. After lunch Karl tracked down a few Cubi O'Club Plaques. Then I gave him a quick tour of my favorite exhibits in the museum. Every time I give a tour of the museum it reminds me how privileged I was to have been a part of Naval Aviation. It is so satisfying to know I share a very small part of a very great heritage. I am humbled knowing I had a common career with the Navy and Marine aviators who served this nation so greatly.

"Karl and I also had a fun time at the local pistol range. I was mediocre, but Karl was absolutely deadly. He knocked the center out of the target with 0.40, 0.38, and 9mm. Plus, they were not his guns; he did it with loners. It was like shooting next to Marshall Matt Dillon. Glad we were not betting. It was bad enough for me just to

compare targets. Jerry Geil.” Sounds like a superb visit by Karl. I share your thoughts on the privilege of serving as a Naval Aviator!



CAPTION: Karl Schwelm and Jerry Geil at the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, FL

Karl added this note: “Jerry gives an inspirational presentation as a docent at the Naval Air Museum! He also still drives a Corvette! Semper Fidelis, Karl!” I look forward to having Jerry as my tour guide!

Tom Hammons sent this important note: “Duke, Here’s an update on our 47.5 Year Reunion in San Diego in October. We have a great Headquarters Hotel lined up at the Marriott Mission Valley, a number of fun events: Thursday Night Welcome Reception, Friday Morning Golf Outing, Friday Night Cocktail Party, Saturday Pre-Game Tailgate Party – a block of tickets to the Navy – Notre Dame Football Game, Saturday Night free time for Company events and a Sunday Morning Farewell Brunch. All the details and registrations are available on-line at <https://signupnow.events/usna1971/default.aspx>. This is going to be a fun weekend and hope to see everyone in San Diego October 25 - 28. Tom Hammons 34th

Company, 47.5 Year Reunion Chairman.” Sounds like a fun time! I’m signed up and my bags are ready to go! I hope to see many classmates there! GO NAVY – BEAT NOTRE DAME!

As USNA graduation nears for '18, thought of plebes climbing Herndon Monument return. With that in mind **Pat Doyle** sent this note: “I've had this picture on my PC slide shows forever. I wanted to get this to you as a reminder of '71's climbing Herndon 50 years ago!” Thank you for the memories Pat!



CAPTION: '68 greasing Herndon for '71! 50 years ago!

It is my sad duty to report the passing of our classmate, **James Alan "Jim" Sand**, 68, of Myersville, MD, who passed away Friday, February 9, 2018 at Doey's House in Hagerstown, MD. Jim joined us on 28 June 1967 as our classmate but unfortunately was medically discharged during plebe year. He continued his education graduating from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, graduating with a degree in Pharmacy.

Born Saturday, June 25, 1949 in Walla Walla, WA, he was the son of Irene (Holm) Sand of Roseau, MN, and the late Kenneth Jerome Sand. Jim spent his childhood years in and graduated from high school in Crosby, ND. He married Deborah Nims on November 28, 1970 in Lisbon, ND. They moved to Maryland where he worked in various pharmacy capacities, the last being a Staff Pharmacist at Frederick Memorial Hospital in Frederick, MD. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Deborah (Nims) Sand, children, Stephanie Garcia and husband David and Jennifer Mays and husband Jeff, grandchildren, Alexander and Daniel Garcia and Madeleine Mays. A memorial

service was held Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 11:00am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 400 Main St. Myersville, MD.

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 leadership as well as those in volunteer organizations need our thoughts and prayers, too. For everything there is a season and a purpose. Today is the gift of "the present." Life is precious and too short –love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others – as we are richly blessed so may we richly bless others. Remember, too, that words have the power to elevate and to destroy, so use your words carefully! Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for 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