

Shipmate April-May 2019
Duke Longworth
25 February 2019

This has been an interesting winter! Now, the flowers are blooming and the grass is growing! The warm seasons are here and the midshipmen are marching on Farragut field again! Ah, those halcyon days at Navy! Soon, too, the firsties will graduate and a new crop of ensigns and first lieutenants will arrive in the fleet! Time for our news!

In the “it’s a small world” category of things, this afternoon I happened to meet **Joshua Kinnear '97**, son of our late classmate, **Neil Kinnear**, in the passageway outside my office at U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Josh and I chatted for a few minutes. He’s working at Commander Naval Air Forces here in the same building. Josh is uncle of our Link in the Chain '21 **Kinnear**.

Here’s an excellent note from **Carl Josefson**: “Duke, In November, **Lee Burgess**, his daughter Pauline, and I did the Sky Rise Chicago Willis Tower (Sears Tower) climb for the second time. I have attached a picture of the three of us after the completion of 105 floors (and ~2265 steps). Lee continues to be the pace setter for the Class of '71, although Pauline beat both of us. I think Lee finished 21 of 68 in the 60-69 age group (old guys). It was a great experience again this year.



CAPTION: Lee Burgess with daughter Pauline Burgess, and Carl Josefson at the climb finish

“Lee and I are planning on climbing the 1 World Trade Center in early June (dates to be announced). That climb is the same number of floors, but the climbable part of the tower is a bit shorter. I did that last year and really felt it was a great experience.

“So now, to quote you in the July 2017 Shipmate, ‘the gauntlet is laid down’ for others who would like to join the Class of ’71 Tower Climb! The climb is great fun and the companionship is unmatched! Beat Army, Carl Josefson.” Okay! I’m watching for

November airline ticket sales so I can get a jump on the travel! You'll have one more '71er with you next time!

Tom Hammons sent this note: "Duke, this is a late submission but back in September a number of Classmates gathered in Ft Leavenworth, Kansas to say goodbye to LtCol **Mark Beck**, USMC (Ret). Mark passed away on 1 June 2018 and his Memorial service was held on 28 September. Ten Classmates from 34th Company – **Kevin O'Connor, Jim Gosma, Pete Schneider, Bill Hatcher, Randy Harper, Frank Gallagher, Kevin Nicolin, Mike O'Connor, Charlie Keating**, and me - and one – **Mel Demars** - from 33rd attended the service. Mark was 34th Company Commander during both the Fall & Spring sets First Class Year and was a dear friend to all of us. While it was a rather sad occasion, never the less, it was great to get everyone together after many years. The stories flowed and the memories made it bearable. I've included two pictures. The first one is of the 34th Company guys 'up against the wall'. The second picture was taken during the post service reception and included Mark's Widow, Marta and Mel Demars. Thanks. Tom." Thank you for the excellent update! Nice to see so many company-mates with you. Nice for me to see a photo of these battalion-mates of mine!



CAPTION: (L-R) Kevin O'Connor, Jim Gosma, Pete Schneider, Bill Hatcher, Randy

Harper, Frank Gallagher, Kevin Nicolin, Mike O'Connor, Tom Hammons, and Charlie Keating



CAPTION: (L-R) Tom Hammons, Mike O'Connor, Bill Hatcher, Randy Harper, Marta Beck (a rose surrounded by a bunch of thorns), Frank Gallagher, Pete Schneider, Charlie Keating, Kevin Nicolin, Kevin O'Connor, Jim Gosma, and Mel Demars.

On Saturday 23 February, many members of the 1971 Crew Team met on the pier of Hubbard Hall to dedicate two shells. It was a special day for our classmate, the late **Frank "Rocco" Montesano**, and his sisters, brother, and widow, Joanne. Following a warm welcome remarks by current crew coach, Bob Friedrich, and Associate Athletic Director, Mike Paulus, our classmates Dr. **Steve Purdy** and Astronaut **Frank Culbertson** proceeded to memorialize Frank by listing stories of humor, warmth, and how we all as classmates, are connected in so many special ways, in particular those members of Navy Crew that spent hours upon hours at Hubbard Hall Boathouse. Emotional - kind -

patriotic - and conjuring up memories of the kind of man and friend Frank was both in life and love leaving a half century legacy of service to country, Navy, and family. RADM **Dave Polatty**, a squadron-mate of Frank, sent a special message to the family that Frank Culbertson read, "Regarding Rocco Montesano, he was a friend and superstar in the A-6 Intruder community in Virginia Beach. Please tell Joanne that Nancy and I send our deepest condolences to her on his passing. We will never forget his big beaming smile! Nancy used to substitute teach for Joanne's high school Spanish classes. We wish her peace and send our love at this difficult time. We will never forget Rocco. Your USNA crew team remembrance for him is really a class act! Very fitting for a such a dedicated and distinguished Naval Academy graduate and great man! Dave Polatty." Following their remarks, the Montesano family proceeded to the shell named "Frank Montesano '71" to officially christen the boat with water from the Severn. Immediately followed by a similar christening of the "Class of 1971" shell by members of the '71 Heavyweight and Lightweight Crew teams.



CAPTION: Montesano family christens "Frank Montesano '71" shell



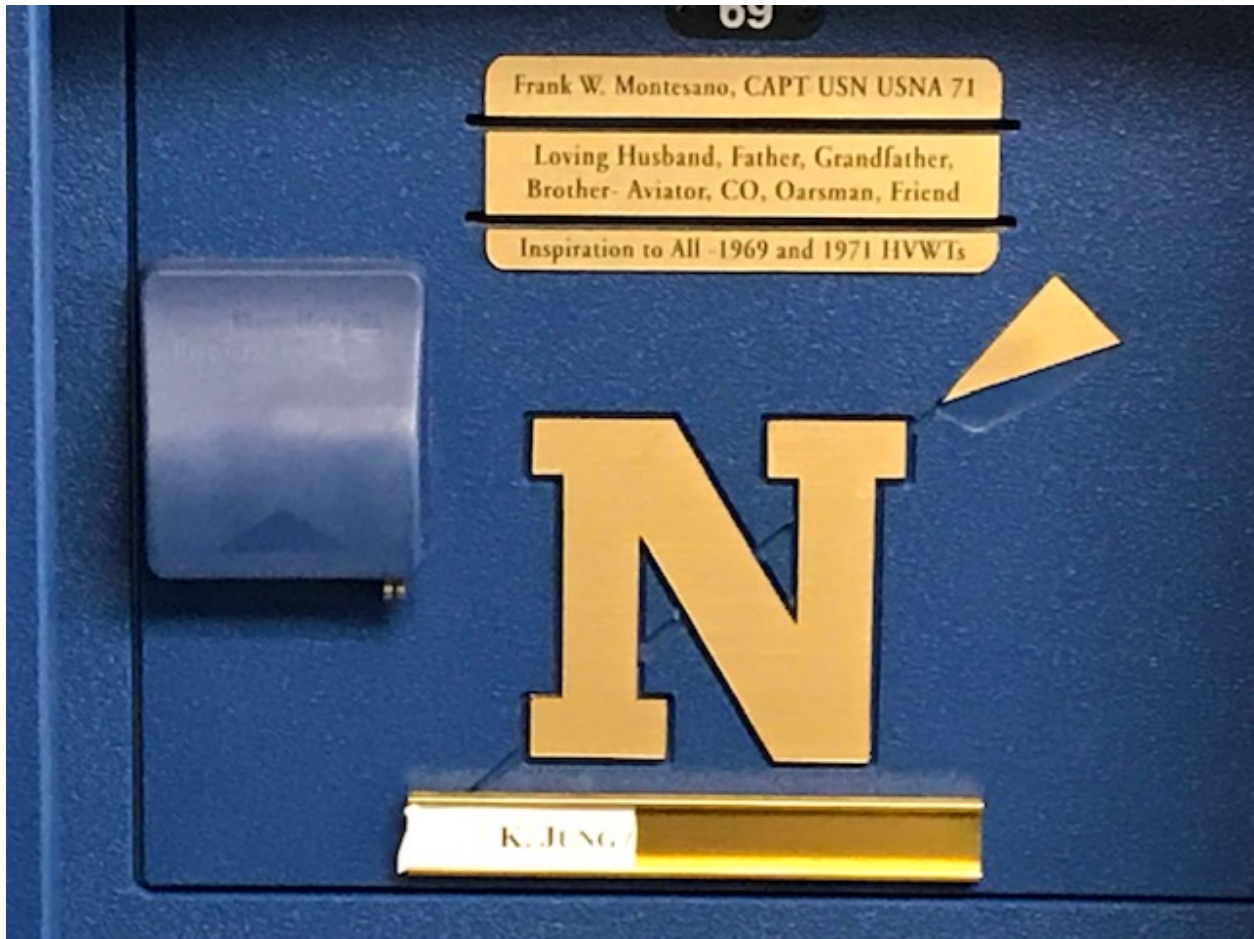
CAPTION: 71'ers christen 'Class of 1971' shell

Many other members of the Class of '71 were in attendance including members of Frank's 26th CO and those who served with Frank during his illustrious 27 year career. A classgroup photo: (L-R) Betsy and **Pete Jouannet**, **Bill Hatcher**, **Perry Martini**, Ginni Scharfe, Joanne Montesano, **Mike McNallen**, **Steve Dmetruk**, **Mark Scharfe**, Coach Ullrich (heavyweight coach in 71), Susie and **Bill Nold**, **Cass Young**, **Steve Purdy**, **Frank Culbertson**, Joyce Purdy, and **Jeff Hemmler**.



CAPTION: See names above

Immediately following the ceremony, the group proceeded into Hubbard Hall to view the 1971 varsity letter winners' plaques for both the Heavyweight and Lightweight crew teams. Everyone then entered the locker room to take photos of the three dedication lockers named after our fallen crew classmates: Frank Montesano, Brett Waterman, and Bob Olson.



CAPTION: Frank's boat house locker



CAPTION: 71 Crew letter winners

Of particular note the Navy '71 Crew "Great 8" was the first crew since the class of '60 Olympic team to win the Eastern Sprints in 1971 - a feat that has not been matched to this day!

It was indeed a great Navy Day and great Class of '71 day and the legacy for years to come (Thanks to our '71 Crew Team) will be the winning shells "Frank Montesano '71" and "Class of '71".

Classmates, I'm sad to report the passing of two fellow classmates and Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) graduates.

Robert “Bob” Lafferty, who left us in November 1967, passed away 22 January 2019. Bob is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Grace Lafferty, and his two children Barbara Ann (Dan) April and Robert J. Lafferty, Jr. He entered the US Navy in 1964 as a Machinist Mate. Subsequently, he attended NAPS in Bainbridge, Maryland and started USNA with us. Returning to the fleet in 1968, he went on numerous tours of duty overseas on the USS Beary and USS John F. Kennedy. He was stationed in Italy, Scotland and Norfolk, VA. He was at sea for 15 nine-month deployments. He retired in as an E-9 Master Chief. As a civilian he was a hospital facilitator and had distinguished career at ServiceMaster and Morris & Crothal. An excellent model ship builder and a master craftsman, he created beautiful 16th through 19th century sailing ships of Europe. He will be remembered for his deep sense of integrity and superb story-telling.

Julius Berky, who departed our ranks in October 1967, died on 11 January 2018 after a long illness. He was born in a refugee camp in American-held West Germany on August 12, 1946. He immigrated with his family to Baltimore in 1956. He was a graduate of McDonough School and attended Cornell University, University of Guam and Towson State University. Julius served in the USN from 1965 - 1972. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Subic Bay, and Guam. He attended both U.S. Naval Prep School as well as USNA. While in the Navy he met Patricia, his wife of 48 years. After discharge from USN, he established Entropy Enterprises in Baltimore, specializing in audio repair. He also had a special love for Corvairs, owning and rebuilding many for personal use and for fellow members of the Baltimore Corvair Club. He had several hobbies including model railroading, building WWI and WWII model air planes, as well as woodworking. He is survived by his wife Patricia of Las Cruces, NM, daughter Louise [Scott], and granddaughters Zoe and Alana, all of Santa Fe, NM; and several other family members.

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