

Shipmate September 2019
Duke Longworth
24 June 2019

September! For those of us who like the fall, September is a good month! You know it is a favorite time of the year for yours truly. There are so many good memories of September – “see you in September”, the beginning of football season with all the camaraderie, and the changing colors of the leaves in the Yard! Well, here’s to a most successful Navy football season! And, to many reunions of family, friends and classmates!

Speaking of reunions, first up is this note from **Al Lowe** with an excellent photo: “Members of the class of 1971, 35th Company celebrated with an impromptu reunion in Las Vegas, June 4, 2019. **Dave Charvett, Ed Reeves, Troy Pyles, Bill Nevitt** and I enjoyed the weekend events which included the Shin Lim show, Brad Garrett’s comedy club, and a private showing by the infamous ‘Amazing Splendini’ and his assistant, Deena, interspersed with PMWs.” Sounds like a very busy and fun company reunion! Surely an excellent place to rendezvous with classmates for fun!



CAPTION (L-R): Bill Nevitt, Ed Reeves, Dave Charvat, Troy Pyles, and Aljurnel (Al) Lowe in Las Vegas!

Next is a note from my Commander Carrier Group FIVE shipmate, **Don “Rock” Rockwell**: “Duke, I sailed from Beaufort, NC to Bermuda with a friend and after we were checked in at St. Georges the wives flew in to join us. While we were there a full rigged tall ship from Denmark checked in, the *Danmark*. We went by in our dinghy, hailed the OOD, and asked if we could have a tour. She said sure and we climbed up the rope ladder to the main deck.



CAPTION: Danmark is the white ship

“The *Danmark* was built in 1933 to provide training of young people seeking a career at sea. The ship carries 80 trainees at a time with 15 full-time crew. The spoken language on board is English and our tour guide spoke it very well. On this particular trip there were 60 men and 20 women, all sleeping in hammocks, and each storing their gear in a small locker.

“One of the pictures I am enclosing is of the plaque which states that during WWII the *Danmark* was used to provide training to USNA midshipmen from 1942 to 1945. That was while my father was at Navy (USNA ‘45). We were very impressed with the ship and with Bermuda in general. However, the sail back from Bermuda was either right into the wind or no wind so we used the iron jenny a lot! Rock Rockwell.” Sounds like a great adventure! The open ocean sailing sounds challenging and fun! Nice to make a connection to your dad’s training when he was at Navy.



Dub Hay sent this note: “Tired of hearing from Air Force and Army speakers on Memorial Day, last year I asked ADM **Tim Keating** if he would fly cross country to Sonoma, CA and give the keynote for our small town Memorial Day celebration at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. To my delight and the 1,000 plus who attended, Timbo did exactly that and delivered a magnificent speech about China and September 11. He then patiently received the well-deserved kudos from many veterans, spending time with each one and hearing their stories. Two other ‘71ers came to hear Tim - **Bill Matz** and **Dennis Viglienzone** and his wife, who are gold star parents.

“We got to spend some time that afternoon in a more casual setting (bourbon was involved) to tell stories and catch up. It was very generous of Tim to do this and take time away from his family on Memorial Day weekend.” Timbo is a superb speaker! Glad he was able to speak to your veterans!



CAPTION: Dub Hay, Tim Keating, Lyn Hay in Sonoma, CA for Memorial Day

Many of you received an email near Memorial Day this year with a link to website created by Mel DeMars. Mel's memorial site lists our classmates who died during operational or training. Here's the link:

<https://usnamemorialhall.org/index.php/Category:1971>

I am receiving notes about the 36th Company annual reunion in Lake Placid. You may recall this was a mid-winter event for many years; however, the dates have changed to mid-September. I will miss again this year as our second grandson is on track to enter our world during that time! So, here's the a most successful reunion! I hope to be there next year!

Too soon, it is 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. Give thanks for family and citizenship in our great nation. Now is the time to shape 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