

Shipmate October 2019
Duke Longworth
23 July 2019

Fall in the Yard and across most of the USA is perhaps the best weather month of the year. The leaves in the Yard have turned color and the air is getting cool and crisp. Football season is in high gear and by now we should know how our team is doing. It's a month that I look forward to each year as I make time to travel to Annapolis to watch a game and visit classmates whom I have known for many years. I am eager to see how Navy football does this year, and I have high hopes that NAVY will BEAT ARMY! On to the notes!

First up is a note from **Greg Harper**: "Duke, It is with great pride that Peggy and



Greg, Cullen, and Peggy Harper at the USNA 2019 Graduation

I share this wonderful picture of us with our grandson, Cullen, after his graduation with USNA Class of 2019 on May 24th. Cullen graduated and was commissioned as a 2nd LT USMC and chose Marine Air as his service selection. It was a truly memorable and wonderful day for all the Harper family! Best Regards, Greg." Congratulations to your family! I can only imagine the

pride you feel in Cullen's accomplishment! I'm looking forward to seeing another photo when he completes flight training!

Next is a note from **Steve Ayers**: "Hey Duke, This past June, **Jim Barron, Paul Timmons, Mike Bluestein**, and I, along with wives and significant others, spent a week sailing and snorkeling in the British Virgin Islands. The mission was led by Skipper Jim Barron, who is a salty veteran of sailing in that part of the world. To say we had a great time is an understatement. Below is a pic from the deck of our catamaran.



(L-R) Jim Barron, Paul Timmins, Steve Ayers, Mike (Blue) Bluestein.

"We took some of Bill **Luckey's** ashes with us, and the three of us from Bill's Company (16th) scattered them at sea in Bill's honor. We are all planning to attend the 50th. Cheers, Steve Ayers." Sounds like an enjoyable and memorable trip! I look forward to sailing one day with Skipper Barron! And, to seeing all of you at the 50th!

Next is a note regarding our classmate, **Mike Hagy**: "On 28 June, the Manheim Township Educational Foundation presented its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards to three Township alumni." One of the awardees was our classmate Mike Hagy! Congratulations, Mike!



Mike HAGY with other awardees (far right)

Mike was a designated naval aviator and flew P-3 Orion's (A, B and C models). He served as an instructor at VP-31 and in active VP squadrons. Additionally, he was Navigator of *USS Tarawa* (LHA-1) where he earned his Surface Warfare Officer qualification and was dual-designated. Mike also served on *USS Chandler* (DD-717) and *USS Cleveland* (LPD-7).

July was a very busy month for **Bob Cabana**! Bob was busy hosting activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 launch for the moon landing! Below, in the photo below made available by NASA from Tuesday, July 16, 2019, astronaut Michael Collins, right, speaks to Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana at Launch Complex 39A, about the moments leading up to launch at 9:32 a.m. on July 16, 1969, and what it was like to be part of the first mission to land on the moon. I am sure most all of us can recall where we were when we watched the moon landing! That was an exciting time!

Here is a note from **Tom Gross** for those traveling the Annapolis for the home games: "Our class tailgate is up and operating every home game. You will find us at our traditional spot on the Blue Side parking lot perimeter, directly out from the press box. The site easy to find, so plan to rendezvous with your group at the tailgate."

“The tailgates start two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. All classmates and guests are welcome. All home games start at 3:30 PM. We plan to invite members of our Link-in-the-Chain class, 2021, to join us, so come and meet some these impressive young people.

“The menu is largely pot luck. Classmates bring dishes, drinks, desserts, or snacks to share. Grill space is available for those who want to bring their own tailgate grill specialties; however, Chef **Bob Capra** will be serving up Brats and burgers as well. If you are coming from out of the area, don't sweat it if you don't have a chance to pick up something, come anyway. We haven't run out of food yet! See you there! Beat Army!

Dave Miller sent this from *Amazon* regarding **Dave Poyer's** newest must read book! “David Poyer is a Naval Academy graduate, retired naval officer, and Distinguished Visiting Writer at USNA. His novels have been required reading in the Literature of the Sea course there, along with those of Joseph Conrad and Herman Melville. Poyer has spent thousands of hours researching articles for Shipmate, the U.S. Naval Academy's magazine, of which he is the contributing editor. Extensively footnoted, these extraordinary stories of adventure and courage span American history from the Civil War to the War on Terror. This book sheds light on corners of history that still affect us today. For example, our huge

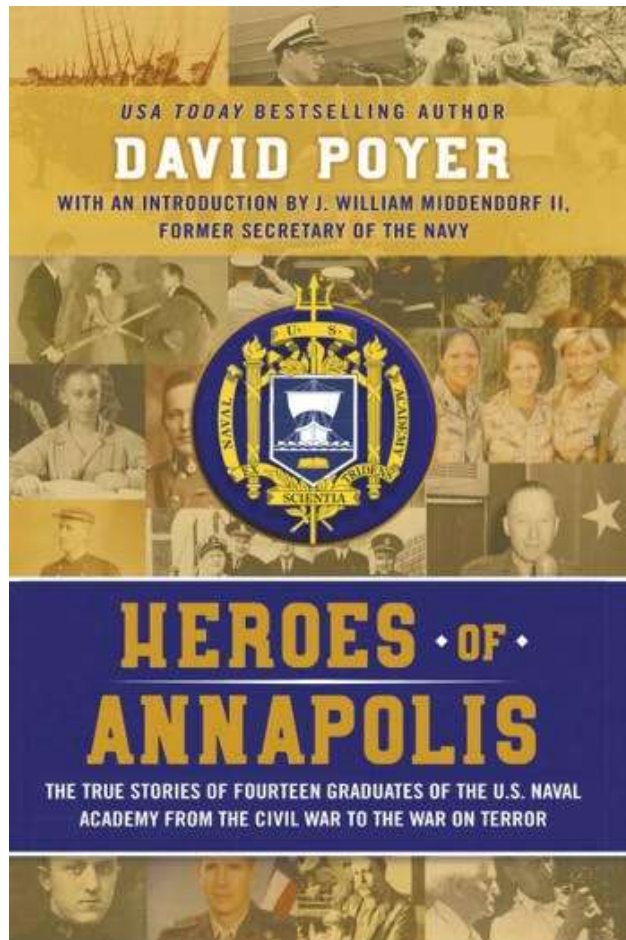


Bob Cabana with astronaut Michael Collin

prison population can be traced to Richmond P. Hobson, the force behind today's draconian drug sentences. Merian C. Cooper was both an air ace in World War

One and the director of the iconic KING KONG. Philo McGiffin, a prankster at the Academy, became a high-ranking officer in the Imperial Chinese Navy, surveying many of the islands China claims today. Other graduates held bridges under fire, sacrificed their lives to save shipmates, shot down snipers with pistols, rescued fellow aviators on enemy territory, advised presidents, led Iraqi militias . . . and much, much more. But Poyer tries not to engage in hero worship. Some of his subjects weren't good fathers, sons, or family men. Others didn't always act as nobly later in life as they once had. Still, for at least one shining moment, each of the men and women profiled stood on the mountaintop, and made the difficult choice: To risk it all, for flag, country, honor, and those they led into battle.” Sounds like a must read book for me!

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