

Shipmate November-December 2019
Duke Longworth
21 September 2019

The transition in the Yard from early fall to winter is nearing completion. The leaves are off the trees, damp, cold days predominate the weather and the midshipmen early count down the days until Christmas break! As you read this column, we will know the bulk of Navy's success on the gridiron! Navy is off to a good start so I am hopeful our team will have a winning season. BEAT ARMY!

*First up is a note from **Tom Hammons**: "Duke, We presented the USNA 71 Ethical Character in Leadership award to LTJG Drew Martzall on Thursday afternoon. We had five classmates in attendance: me (34th CO), **Pat Doyle** (23th CO), **Bill Nevitt** (35th CO), **Steve Comer** (31st CO), and **Jim Bryant** (20th CO). The presentation went well and I think we have developed the kind of connection with TR that our '71 classmates in Norfolk had when she was homeported there. Tom Hammons." Nice photo! Great way to keep up with the operational fleet! BZ for your efforts to keep '71 connected to **THEODORE ROOSEVELT!***



(L-R) Pat, Jim, LTJG Martzall, Bill, Tom, and Steve

Members of the Class of 71 joined the entire Class of 2021, Our "Link in the Chain" (ALITC) Class, for an evening celebration of the special ceremony now called,



Happy 2/c Midshipmen toasting apple cider bubbly to "2 for 7"

"2 for 7". This tradition for rising 2/c midshipmen occurs as the Brigade reforms in the fall. The Class of 2021 entered Memorial Hall by Battalion and personally retook their oath of office by signing a document agreeing to a commitment for two more years at USNA to graduation followed by a required minimum of 5 years of Naval Service, thus "2 for 7" years of service.

Tim Keating with Commandant CAPT T.R. Buchanan '92



Select members of the Class of '21 hosted about twenty-five '71 classmates, several classmate spouses, and special guests at a special welcoming reception in Dahlgren Hall. The '21 midshipmen hosts then escorted the '71ers and guests to King Hall for a special dinner with the entire Class of '21. After dinner, **ADM Tim Keating** gave a stirring speech on making a total commitment to serve. He spoke with authority as our longest serving classmate (40 plus years). The evening concluded with

the new Commandant giving the midshipmen oath of office again to the entire class of '21.



Our VP Mike McNallen telling "sea stories" in King Hall

It is my sad duty to announce the passing of our classmate, **Bill Carter**, who passed away Sunday, 8 September in Denver, Colorado surrounded by his loving wife, Dale, and son, Chris. Bill came to USNA in June '67 from NAPS as an enlisted Marine. He was an active member of the 33rd Company who made it known that he was a Marine from the start. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second LT in the USMC. Bill served until resigning his commission as a Captain, USMC. A "committal of ashes" memorial service with military honors was held at the Naval Academy cemetery columbarium on 25 September.

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. 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. Our leadership at home, in our social circles, and in daily routines is vital to our 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