

Shipmate January-February 2020
Duke Longworth
25 November 2019

Winter is here! As I write this note, the Navy football team has an excellent season record and the quarterback, **Malcolm Perry '20**, is setting records! Our Navy football team has made an excellent turnaround from last year! Navy is in contention for the American Conference championship and Army – Navy is next after that! As much as the conference championship would be nice a win over Army would be better! GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

Here's an excellent note from **Mike O'Connor**: "Hi Duke, being slow and the last to 'step back' when **Tom Hammons** asked for a volunteer to write-up our 'Club 34' company mini-reunion in Austin, TX 25 - 27 October at the Granduca Hotel. Attendees were **standing (L o R): Tom Hammons, Kevin Nicolin, Wayne Bacon, Frank Gallagher, Bill Hatcher, Rick Smith, Dan McConnell, Jim Gosma, Dick Cheliras** and **seated (L to R): Mike Trent, Chuck Janes, Randy Harper, Kevin O'Connor, Mike O'Conner**. (Attended reunion but absent from picture: John Jameson.)



Club 34 Mini-reunion #1 attendees

"Company reunions are bigger in Texas! Born out of a cocktail pledge last year during the post-memorial gathering for our late and much-loved **Mark Beck**, fifteen classmates converged for our first 'Club 34' mini-reunion at the Granduca Hotel in Austin (TX) on 25 October. Our Austin host, **Randy Harper**, selected 'Bat City'. The swag and memories were hard to fit in the return baggage. Collateral damage was limited only to the credulity of those who listened (and then joined) into the bar-side bull sessions. The Friday dinner set the tone for a first-rate yet Texas casual weekend. In a

whirlwind Saturday tour to understand why the locals aim to 'keep Austin weird'; we started by sampling Randy's breakfast tacos before heading to the LBJ Library. It was interesting to take in both the major national historical events that were the background of our days by the Bay and flashback exhibits on the cultural mood of those times. None other than **Mike Trent**, **Frank Gallagher** and **Kevin O'Connor** graced the library's special Motown exhibit with a karaoke trio rendition of 'Stop in the Name of Love'. Standing applause (well, there were no seats) by all (even non-71ers) was recorded. A classic Tex-Mex lunch at the Cisco Restaurant on Sixth Street followed. Siesta time was repurposed to check the lounge, catch-up on sea- & family-stories and to will that last second field goal through the uprights for the win over Tulane. While not needing another drop or morsel, the club had to achieve BBQ quals at the County Line on the Lake. The brisket was paraded behind a bagpiper worthy of any Dining-In and once Randy declared 'the brisket is fit for consumption', a solid attempt was made by all to confirm everything on the menu and bar list was that indeed! At Sunday's brunch before departure all agreed that Randy absolutely set the highest bar for any future 34th Company reunion host, but it was muttered 'Semper TRY'; therefore, we intend to muddle forward for a 2020 attempt #2. The weekend was proof-positive that wherever two (or fifteen) are gathered there are no classmates like our classmates!

"P.S. Mike Trent conveyed a good excuse for **Pete Schneider's** absence. During our kick-off dinner, Pete's son, Brian (catcher for the Washington Nationals in their first (and many subsequent) season(s)) was catching the ceremonial first-pitch at the third game of the World Series. Even with our 'no excuse, sir' training that rated as fit and acceptable. Best Regards, Mike O'Connor." This sounds like a company



36th Company 12th Annual reunion attendees in the (L-R) order listed above

There is another SIXTH Battalion company reunion to report! **Bruce Gallemore** sent note: "The 36th Company held its Twelfth Annual Lake Placid come around the second week in September. Attendees were **Robbie Roberson, Lee Burgess, Mark Horgan, Jim Barron, Garry Holmstrom, Sonny Naple, Don Beaudette, Bruce Gallemore, Craig Welling** and **Jan Milligan**. While we have traded the mid-Winter skis and snowshoes for late summer golf, boating and hiking, the friendships and fellowship just get better as the years go by. Hope you can join us in 2020." Thank you for the note! I have my calendar marked and plan to attend! See you there!

Our classmates, **Carl Josefson** and **Lee Burgess**, ran the SkyRise Tower climb in Chicago on November 2nd. This is the second consecutive year they have participated in the climb! Lee has done the climb for many years! My well-intended



Lee Burgess with his daughter and Carl Josefson

plans were kyboshed by higher family priorities! I hope to make the climb with them next year! Well done to Carl, Lee, and Lee's daughter!

Chuck May sent this note: "**Bill Matz** hosted a 17th Company reunion in Windsor, CA. Company mates attending in the photo below (front row L-R): **Ron Shuey, Bob Annis, Jim Mendelson, Don Gray, Bill Matz** ; (back row L-R): **Paul Long, Pete Ibert, Bob Wagoner, Paul Lindgren, Chuck May, Dan Gay, Randy Hartshorn, Phil Keuhlen, and Tom Flanagan**.



17th Company attendees

Here is a superb note from **Don “Rock” Rockwell**: “Duke, attached is a picture from the USNA Alumni chapter of East North Carolina Founders Day Luncheon from this year. Unfortunately, I can only identify myself and **Tom Stevens** (far left). Our speaker was Vice Admiral **John Christenson ‘81**, USN (Ret) on the far right side.



Rock Rockwell & Tom Stevens at the USNA East Carolina Founders Day luncheon

Don included VADM Christenson's comments to alumni as follows: "I've been to 42 countries; rescued Vietnamese refugees from certain death on the high seas; felt the heat on my face from Iraqi oil well fires in Kuwait; was officer of the deck as an A-7 hit the back of nuclear powered aircraft carrier at night 500 yards in front of me; evaded at least five typhoons; been inoculated for anthrax; been educated at Annapolis, Newport, Fletcher, and Harvard; driven across country eleven times on eleven different routes. ... My parents are proud of me; my high school classmates cannot believe I command a US Navy warship. I have had so many euphoric homecomings with my family after being at sea that I am addicted to it. My dad was a dirt poor farm boy, grandson of immigrants. The Navy gave him everything he ever had. Moreover, everything I have in this world the Navy gave me. I love the Navy!" Thank you, Rock for sharing VADM Christenson's comments. I am sure there are many USNA alumni who echo his comments about the opportunities he had because of his Naval Academy education.

Bob Capra sent this note: "Each year the Alumni Association invites families who have lost a Naval Academy alum in an operational loss or who was killed in action



Honor Heroes - Bob Capra with Kathy and David Scott

back to the Academy to honor both their loved ones and the family members who live on. This year the '**Honor Our Fallen Heroes**' ceremony was part of the SMU vs Navy

football game 23 November. **Mike Zurfluh** was one of our classmates who died in an aircraft accident on 2 June 1975. Attending the ceremony this year was Mike's widow, Kathy, and her husband David Scott. Before the game, **Perry Martini** escorted them to the ceremony in the stadium N* room then brought them over to our 1971 tailgate to meet and mingle with our classmates. During a game time-out, honors were given family members on the field.

“Kathy and David have been valued members of our 14th Company. They attended our 45th and 47.5 reunions and plan to attend the Navy vs Notre Dame Football game in Ireland next year as well as our 50th reunion in 2021. Last year many of our classmates had the pleasure of meeting Mike and Kathy's youngest son Karl and his wife Sara who attended the 2018 Honor Our Fallen Heroes ceremony.” Thank you, Bob! Let's organize a larger turnout next year!

The Alumni Association sponsors “Virtual Memorial Hall” online. Here is the link to Mike's page:

https://usnamemorialhall.org/index.php/MICHAEL_T._ZURFLUH,_LT,_USN

Brian Horais sent this note: “Duke, Cathy and I met 8th Company classmate **Dave Storey** and his wife Dona for lunch in Virginia Beach in September. It was a beautiful day at the beach and the FA-18s were flying overhead on approach to NAS Oceana. Dona Dave and live nearby in Virginia Beach where Dave keeps his golf game in fine tune. Cathy and Brian were visiting the area after a trip to Northern Virginia to see their grandkids. For those of you who have not been to Virginia Beach lately, it is one of the nicest beaches on the East Coast.” Let me know next time you are in VB!



Horias Storey at Virginia Beach - (L-R) Brian & Cathy, Dona & Dave

Congratulations are in order for our classmate, **Robert D. “Bob” Cabana**, Colonel USMC (RET), USNA '71, Director of Kennedy Space Center! Bob is a recipient of the 2019 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal. The “**Sammies**” are widely recognized as the “Oscars” of government service. One of only seven recipients for 2019, Bob and the Kennedy Space Center Senior Management Team are the winners in Management Excellence. Bob and his team transformed the historic Kennedy Space Center into a globally distinguished, multiuser launch site for government and commercial space exploration, helping preserve our country’s leadership in this important field. Most excellent work, Bob!

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