

Shipmate July-August 2020  
Duke Longworth  
26 May 2020

July and it's really hot and humid in Annapolis. And it's really hot in the boiler room of a DDR sailing the Caribbean, too.

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic started grabbing all the headlines I received a note from **Dave Polatty**. Seems Dave's oldest son, also Dave, is the director of Humanitarian Response Program at the Naval War College (NWC). Dave, Jr. was involved with the September 2019 war game, Urban Outbreak 2019. Dave, Jr. spoke with *Military.com* publication for article on Urban Outbreak game.

Next up is a note from **Paul Lindgren**: "Duke, the 17<sup>th</sup> Company reunion was held October 2019 in Napa Valley / Windsor, CA. With the COVID-19 crisis unfolding I thought our Shipmate column could use some good news! The photo includes (L-R back row) **Paul Long, Pete Ibert, Bob Wagoner, Paul Lindgren, Chuck May, Dan Gay, Randy Hartshorn, Phil Keuhlen, and Tom Flanagan**. (L-R front row) **Ron Shuey, Bob Annis, Jim Mendelson, Don Gray, and Bill Matz**." Thank you, Paul (and Lynn!); Yes, good news is always welcome! Excellent photo!



17th Company Reunion - Napa Valley

Next up is a note from **Carl Josefson**: "Duke, I am passing along some info about a memorable ski trip. **Mike O'Rourke** has been enjoying an extended 70th birthday party and ski trip extraordinaire! Mike started his 'Desperado Tour' in mid-January in Washington State. He has now skied at seven resorts between then and mid-March. He has skied for more than five consecutive days. Goes to show he isn't done yet! If it wasn't for the virus, he was going to keep on for another month (or more, snow allowing)! I had the good fortune to join him in Steamboat Springs before the COVID-19

virus really started to become bad. It was a great time to catch up! Duces Virum, Carl.” Wow! What a fun way to vacation, or just to get really good at snow skiing! Sounds like lots of winter fun! NOTE: I offered to join Carl and Mike next winter for a long ski vacation!



Carl Josefson and Mike O'Rourke at Steamboat Springs

Here's an excellent note from **Mitch Marich**: "Duke, Finally, got around to this! Showing the colors on Alpe d'Huez, one of the famous Tour de France bucket list climbs. Valerie and I have gotten into cruising lately and have done several river cruises with Viking. 2017 Grand European Tour [Amsterdam to Budapest], 2018 Waterways of the Tzars [Moscow to St. Petersburg], and last year two in France, Paris-Normandy-Paris and Lyon to Avignon. I mention them because they were all excellent. Decision to stick to the USA this year obviously a good call. About 25 years ago we hosted a French student studying English for nine months and have kept in touch since with her visiting us again. We added a week with our son and daughter with her family in the Alps to our itinerary which gave me the opportunity to rent a bike and climb the 21 switchbacks 3,688 feet to the ski station. [This is not as



Mitch Marich at the top of Alpe d'Huez!



hard as it sounds for an experienced cyclist; unless it is at the end of a hard day of racing like the

pros do it.] Then on to Paris for the two of us via the TGV (high speed train) and joining the first cruise. One highlight was of course the Normandy Beaches and American Cemetery. Then we were 'stuck' in Paris for a week between cruises which was great even though it was the hottest summer ever in Paris. Looking at the forecast, we took an air-conditioned bus tour to Mont Saint-Michel on the hottest day of all, 107 degrees. Heat broke the next day. TGV back to Lyon on July 28th, the last day of the Tour de France, so I could not stay to watch the unusually late in the day finish.

"This was less than three months after I had a heart attack, but I'm not mentioning that as it was as minor as that kind of thing can be and would raise questions I could not cover in a small space. Mitch." Wow! The cruises all sound like fun and climbing the 21 switchbacks sounds difficult! I'll take your word for the "...not as hard as it sounds for an experienced cyclist..." I'm hoping the cruise industry recovers from the COVID-19 so you can do more cruising!



**Jeff Albright** sent this short birthday note: "Celebrating my 71<sup>st</sup> birthday! Note the '7' and the '1' candles in Beth's homemade, gluten free, Italian sausage lasagna! And, NO, I was NOT trying to burn my tie (or my tie clasp)! (NOTE: I just got my annual malpractice insurance premium - \$1971.00. I am not making this up)! Jeff." Excellent birthday "cake!" Beth must be a superb cook! And, the premium is a nice "birthday gift." Looking forward to seeing you and Beth in Annapolis for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion!

Happy Birthday, Jeff!

Next is a remembrance note from **Jim Bryant**: "Classmates **Jim Bryant** and **Jim Stratton** met in the Yellow Sea October 1988. Jim Stratton commanded the guided missile destroyer *USS Cochrane (DDG 21)* home ported in Yokosuka, Japan and Jim Bryant commanded the nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine *USS Guardfish (SSN 612)*. **Guardfish** just arrived in the Western Pacific from San Diego. The day lost crossing the International Date line was Bryant's 40th birthday so it was officially cancelled, and he claimed to remain 39-years old." Well done, Shipmate!



Periscope Photo of USS Cochrane (DDG 21) by USS Guardfish (SSN 612), Yellow Sea October 1988

Here's a newsy note from **Dick Enderly**: "Greetings Duke! After our Hampton Roads Chapter election in March, after sitting at the head of the table as the Hampton Roads Chapter President for most of the last six years, I stepped down and was properly relieved. It was a lengthy, overall tour indeed; but I was pleased and honored to serve and found it very rewarding. Ours is a dynamic and forward-leaning Chapter with over 900 members (by far the largest Chapter in the country) that have enthusiastically supported our numerous events and efforts to fulfill our mission to support USNA, the Midshipmen, and our local alumni and their families. As the saying goes, 'we did something right' because we earned recognition as one of USNAAA's Most Distinguished Chapters in 2017, the inaugural year of the award; and again in 2019.

"Regarding the afore mentioned Chapter events, our overall success would not have been possible without the dedicated and tireless efforts of our classmate **Ken Marks** and his service on the Board of Directors for the last four years - the first two as Secretary and the last two as the Events Chair. Whether recording minutes, maintaining the schedule at meetings and keeping me from running afoul of Robert's Rules, or tracking and orchestrating an ambitious and ever-growing lineup of new and recurring events, Ken has literally 'always been there!' He most definitely earned a heartfelt BZ from me and the entire Chapter!!!

"Ken has stepped away from the Board; but will no doubt remain very much engaged when we emerge on the other side of the pandemic. I am continuing on the Board as the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Membership Chair; and as of March, the Class of '71 has also been represented on that leadership body by **Bob Stuhlman**. Bob has been an active participant in many Chapter events for several years, and his enthusiasm and experience are sure to serve the Chapter well going forward.

"As I close this out, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge those local classmates that have popped up from time to time and contributed to the Hampton Roads Chapter's success. Along with yourself, they include **Steve Butkus, Joe Wargo, Mike Cohen, Dave Storey, David Poyer, Jerry Padgett, Pete Flannery, Terry Foust, Tom Dussman**, and **Mark Hess** (now relocated to

Louisiana). If there are more 71ers out there that want to be involved, by all means - come and join the party!

“Here's hoping all our classmates are staying safe and healthy!”



Ken Marks, Dave Poyer Dick Enderly

Quite sadly three of our classmates passed-away in May. I'm including notes about each one. Details of funeral arrangements will be sent to all via email when known.

**Louis “Lou” Hirsh** passed-away in his sleep on Friday, 1 May. Lou came to us from Williamsport, PA. Following graduation from the 28<sup>th</sup> Company, he joined the Surface Navy and after his active duty stint remained on duty with the reserves retiring as an O-6. His passing was a shock to his family, and he will be sadly missed. As his death occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic there is no announcement of his pending funeral or burial in Dixon, CA.

Lou attended an Annapolis “Another Link in the Chain (ALITC)” event in 2017. He commented that he was very much looking forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2021. Lou spoke of his love for many of his classmates and considered those close to him to be his best lifelong friends. May he now rest in peace.

**Richard “Rich” S. Fletcher** passed-away peacefully on May 5th. Rich was at his home in Livermore California with his beloved wife, Linda, at his side. Over the prior two days, he had been visited by immediate family members. Rich had been very

healthy until he contracted Valley Fever on a hunting trip in late 2019. The Valley Fever seriously damaged his lungs requiring the aid of a ventilator to breathe. He had been hospitalized at Stanford Medical for most of the prior six months.

Rich came to USNA from Livermore California, where he had starred at Livermore H.S. on the stage and athletic fields. With his good-natured manner, infectious smile and natural leadership skills, Rich made friends easily. A member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Company, he excelled in numerous intramural sports including soccer, football, softball and handball.

After graduation Rich attended and graduated from Nuclear Power School and then served in nuclear submarines for five years. After leaving the Navy, Rich returned to his hometown of Livermore and made his living in the real estate business, starting his own firm, *Rich Fletcher Real Estate Broker*. He had a lifelong love of hunting, served on the Board of the Mule Deer Foundation, and authored books about hunting.

Rich is survived by his wife Linda, his father, C. Nelson Fletcher, his brother Rob, his daughter Betsy, and two grandchildren. May he now rest in peace.

**Michael "Mike" D. Trice**, 36<sup>th</sup> Company, passed-away in Houston, TX on May 14 after battling cancer for several years. He was affectionately known as "Arma" to his company-mates for his short, but very tough stature. Mike was the 36<sup>th</sup> Company second set company commander, played intramural rugby, and was always on the Dean's List.

Mike worked many years for Schlumberger, an international oilfield services company. He lived for a time in Sumatra, Paris, and Houston. He was ultimately promoted as Schlumberger VP of Integrated Oilfield Services for the territories of North and South America, and Europe and Africa, and eastern hemisphere and Latin America. He later moved more to the business end and was VP/Global Sales Director and VP Global Sales and Account Management. Mike retired from Schlumberger and became a consultant in the field of oil exploration, and later he started his own very successful oil consulting business.

Mike is survived by his wife, Gail, and his son, Brandon. May he now rest in peace.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, especially for protection from the Corona Virus COVID-19, for healing when needed, and safety in their travels. Today is the gift of "the present." Certainly, this pandemic highlights how 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