

Shipmate October 2020
Duke Longworth
27 July 2020

October! Fall is in full swing now! I have only fond memories of the Yard in October – the cool air, the leaves, football season! Only this year I'm not so sure about football. As I write this column, the Navy vs. Notre Dame football game will be at our Navy Memorial stadium; however, with the COVID-19 issue still with us there may be only a partially filled stadium for social distancing. Regardless, I hope the game is played and that NAVY WINS!

First up is a note from **Randy Hartshorn**: “Duke, here are some notes from my ‘come around’ log of September 1967. Date and to whom the come around is owed: 7 September – a. eyes not in the boat – twice from Mr. Bradford, b. not filling glasses fast enough – Mr. Green; 9 September – not having liquid on the table – Mr. Green; 10 September – reporting to battalion office in improper uniform – Mr. Green.” This is excellent Randy! There are plenty more entries in Randy’s log. It is prime material for our 50th reunion! I sent it to the reunion committee!

Mike Cavell (McDanold) sent this note from his home in Australia: “Duke, I heard from **Jan Milligan** and **Bruce Gallemore** about the recent passing of **Mike Trice**. I am pleased to hear that Mike had a successful career after USNA. Given that Australia has closed its borders for the foreseeable future, I will not be able to go to Lake Placid this year; however, I will make an effort to get back to the USA for a future 36th Company reunion in Lake Placid when the pandemic is over. In addition, as our 50th reunion is next year it is possible I can attend! I am sorry I missed the chance to spend more time with **Ron Spratt** by going earlier, and it would have been good to see Mike again.

“Both Wendy and I are doing fine. Australia has largely been unaffected by the virus because it is easy to close our borders, although the economic fallout has yet to be fully understood. Because I have so much family in the US, I feel very cut off and I hope the world regains its senses soon. I think the economic consequences of the virus will far exceed the health consequences. Anyway, glad to hear you and Lisa are doing well. Focus on your family, mate - they are the most important thing in our lives. Take good care of yourself, and hopefully, we will all get through this so we can get together again. Cheers, Mac.” Mac, thank you for the update! We are doing fine navigating the COVID-19 while thoroughly enjoying our two grandsons! I am glad to hear you and Wendy are fine, and I most certainly look forward to seeing you in Lake Placid once life returns to a more normal situation! I hope your plans work out to attend the 50th! Cheers Mate!

Next is an update regarding the Distinguish Graduate Award (DGA) ceremony for Bob **Cabana**. Due to the COVID-19 implications, the celebration for the 2020 DGA recipients is delayed until spring of 2021. As noted in an earlier column, Bob is the Director, Kennedy Space Center. His continued leadership in this billet assures our nation is in the forefront of space! I look forward to seeing Bob next spring at NAVY!

Speaking of our 50th Reunion, please ensure you have marked your calendars for Wednesday, September 29th to Monday, October 4th (Wednesday and Monday are travel days) to be with classmates as we celebrate our 50th reunion!

Also, in preparation for our 50th Reunion, did you know **the USNA Class of 1971 Academy Stories** is at the publisher! Over 250 classmates submitted stories for this two-volume set with **Hank Turowski**, as editor, added the finishing touches. **Perry Martini** commented, "Having read much of this outstanding book (pictures and color pages included) and series of sea stories about our four years by the Bay, I can attest that these missives about life in Bancroft will serve as a great 'sea story sneak preview' for our soon to be celebrated 50th reunion in October 2021! Thanks to Hank for his hard work and literary masterpiece!" I hope you ordered your copy!

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, especially protection from the COVID-19 virus, 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 maintaining our nation's constitutional republic. Now is the time to shape the future of our great nation as we strive for a more perfect union. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke