

Shipmate Nov-Dec 2020
Duke Longworth
21 September 2020

When you receive this column the fall season will be in full “bloom;” however, as I write this note it is the first day of fall. Here in southeastern Virginia the fall season is starting with cool, windy weather. As this is my favorite season, I declare, “Fall is off to a great start!” Our summer here was blistering, so the cooler weather is great! Speaking of a great start, how about that comeback victory by Navy over Tulane! I plan to make one trip to Annapolis to enjoy the yard, if possible, and see Tecumseh in full war paint!



Here is a cheerful note from Jeff Albright: “Duke, Yesterday, I received this picture – complete with ’71 candles from Pat Minnich in celebration of Jay’s 71st birthday. Pat and **Jay Minnich** visited Albuquerque a few years back when Pat participated in cake decorating competition. Even with the COVID pandemic, Pat has put her talents to excellent use, and for certain, Jay is the main beneficiary of Pat’s expertise. I asked Jay if he is gasping for air after futile attempts to blow out the two candles, but he was so winded that I have not heard back from him. Jeff.” Wow! What a beautiful cake! Pat should have marketed to ’71! I would have bought one and I am sure others would have, too!

71st birthday cake for Jay!

Here’s an excellent note from **Tom Hammons**: “Duke, on Wednesday 2 September we presented the 2019 USNA Class of 1971 Ethical Character in Leadership Award to LT Lauren Yutchishen JAG, USN onboard *USS Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71). Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic only four classmates attended this year’s award presentation which was held on the flight deck under the big 71 on the island. The four Classmates present were **John Ball, Jim Bryant, Pat Doyle** and me. **CAPT Eric Anduze ‘93** presented the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal to LT Yutchishen during the ceremony.



(L-R) Pat Doyle, Tom Hammons, CAPT Anduze, LT Yutchishen, Jim Bryant, and John Ball

“Afterwards, the XO, **CAPT Dan Keeler '98** provided the members of '71 with a tour of the bridge and primary flight control. This marked the 14th annual presentation of the award and the fifth presentation since TR's homeport change to San Diego. As an added bonus, we four classmates received arrival and departure honors via the 1MC as 'Members of the Naval Academy Class of 1971 Arriving / Departing' with accompanying bells. It was a very nice touch for a bunch of old salts. All in all, given the uniqueness of the pandemic world we live in today, this went off better than anyone could have expected.” Tom, sounds like an excellent day onboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT! I am glad to hear the COVID-19 did not preclude the ceremony! The San Diego '71 team is doing an excellent job for our class!

Help wanted! Here is an interesting request from **Larry Poh '68**: “Duke, this is, truly, a strange request. I graduated in '68 and was in 23rd company. My late wife, Sallie Hazard, was the second of two Dental Hygienists in Dental Quarters. On graduation morning, June 5, 1968 I borrowed the white works of one of your classmates in our company for Sallie to wear in order to sneak her into the mess hall graduation morning. The laundry number was either '71-6970' or '71-6972'. I would love to find your classmate who has been missing his white works for 52+ years in order to return them and thank him on behalf of my wife. Thank you, Larry.” Larry, I am in work to find the rightful owner of your white works! If any 23rd / 5th Company classmates recognize this laundry number let me know and I will give you Larry's email address.



Larry Poh '68 with Sallie Hazard

If you haven't already read this, here's the 50th reunion information note: "As we prepare for our 50th Reunion next year, it may be a good time to take a look at our USNA71 Class History website. The website contains a broad range of images and documents from our time at USNA including Liberty Policies, Movement Orders, Room Inspection Reports, etc.

"Classmates provided inputs which were uploaded onto the website by a Class Executive Board member and former Class Secretary, **Brian Horais**. Look at the items on the website, you may find many of them entertaining and full of memories. If you have any other documents or images you think should be included, contact Brian Horais (brian@horais.com) so he can arrange to load them on the site. As an example, , **JT Morris**, recently contributed a number of Salty Sam articles and images from the LOG magazine that are definitely worth a look."

There are logon instructions on the website's main page (the password is our class motto, all in one long word).

Here is the link to our Class History website on USNA71 website on USNA.com:
<http://1971.usnaclasses.net>.

I recommend you bookmark this link for in the coming weeks and months, as we will refer to this '71 website regarding information related to our 50th reunion .

Regretfully, two classmates, **Will Fritchman** and **Bill Matz**, passed away since my last column.

Wilson "Will" Fritchman passed away peacefully, 4 August 2020, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 25 August 1949, and

graduated from USNA with a degree in Oceanography. Following nuclear power training, Will was a career submarine officer who commanded *USS Pasadena* (SSN 752) and *USS Alaska* (SSBN 732). He retired in September 2001 to Henderson, NV where he was a high school science teacher for ten year, with most of those years at a school for troubled youths. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, the former Margaret Louise Shepard; son, Daniel; grandson, Zachary; and twin brother, George. Per his wishes, he was cremated, with a celebration of his life to be held at a later date.

William Paul "Bill" Matz, 71, died peacefully in Santa Rosa, CA on August 18, 2020. Bill was born December 14, 1948 in Eureka, California to Melvin and Margaret Matz. He received a Bachelor's Degree from USNA and then a Master's Law Degree from San Diego State University. Bill served for 16 years in the United States Navy and then founded Master's Touch Mortgage Corp. in Windsor, which he ran until his death. He met and married Erica Jayne Asrican in 1995. He was a faithful member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Healdsburg, and then St. John's Anglican Church in Petaluma. Bill is survived by his loving wife, Erica, and their son, Phillip. A committal service with military honors was held on September 14, 2020 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

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