

Shipmate July-August 2021
Duke Longworth
24 May 2021

Lots to report this column. Graduation for our Another Link in the Chain (ALITC) class of 2021 was in person; however, the numbers were limited as was the interaction with '21. I will have a full report of all the graduation and ALITC interactions in the September column. It's hot along the mid-Atlantic and this season does not look to be any different! Summer in the Yard was always hot and humid! This summer will be no different! I did enjoy the summers of '69 and '70 in the Yard while on Plebe detail. But, the summer of '67 was no fun for any of us!

First up is a note from **Dennis Downs**: "Hello Duke, I am a classmate from so many years ago. I was in 30th Company until my discharge, 28 Dec 1968. I foolishly played Plebe football and lacrosse, succumbing to injuries and surgeries. I am the son of a career Naval Aviator and aspired to do the same. I am a lifetime *Shipmate* reader and just today decided to correspond with you. I have many good friends (**Chuck Bongard, Jim Yeakley, Dave Bolduc, Ted Snoots, Russ Stahlak**, to name a few!) in our class and we see each other regularly. I made the 45th with our San Diego gang and hope to see you this fall. Thank you, Dennis." Sounds like you are well-connected to the class! I will look for you at the 50th!

Next is a brief note from **Rex Ector**: "Duke! My wife, daughter and I are planning a trip to see our son Sam in June. He is a helicopter pilot on the *USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)*, although he just got his orders to transition to Ospreys, which are what he has wanted. Let me know if you have any questions. Regards, Rex." See you in June! I hope to have a report on Rex's visit for the next column. Meanwhile, the coffee is brewing, and I am preparing for some sea stories.

Dave Laws sent a screen shot of the '71 Class Officers and Trustees



Board of Trustees Zoom meeting!

participating in our spring meeting. “It took me a while to get back to it, but I final put together two screen shots in order to get everyone in. Here is the photo. Serve now, serve all, serve together, David Laws.” Thank you for the work Dave! I hope to see all at our 50th reunion!

Next up is a note from **Frank Wnek** along with a photo of his son: “Just wondering if you were thinking about putting together a boat of lightweight crew members to get out on the water again at the 50th reunion. If so count me in. And maybe we could challenge one of the women’s crews to a race? Friday or Saturday morning perhaps?” Good to hear from you. YES! I am coordinating a boat for the reunion. It may be a mixed heavyweight and lightweight boat. There are enough volunteers for a boat with half heavyweight and half lightweight with **Frank Culbertson** as coxswain! I will see if we can race a midshipman crew! That would be challenging!

Frank’s note continued: “And, in the old man department, my younger son Drew will be retiring from the Maine Air National Guard this June! A LtCol pilot flying the KC-



Wnek’s son Drew with daughters Amelia and Audrey

135 tankers, he has done three or four deployments to the Middle East, flying out of Turkey, Kurdistan and Qatar. Here is a photo of Drew with daughters Amelia and Audrey. Frank.” Nice to see your grand-one’s! I am looking forward to seeing you at the 50th!

The ever cheerful 36th Company banter regarding the 50th reunion golf event included this note from **Jim Barron**: “For many golfers, playing Saint Andrews in Scotland is on the bucket list. I had a great vacation in Scotland in 2017 with Jan and a hometown friend and his wife. Attached is a picture of me playing Saint Andrews.”



Jim Barron on a St. Andrews green

“Now for the rest of the story. Not exactly...You need a certified handicap to play at Saint Andrews. They would not accept my deep knowledge of woods (where my ball mostly ends up). So, our only recourse was to play on the Ladies putting green. I mean, the putting green was like a miniature golf course as you can see in the picture. But we had to get a picture of the club house in the background to make it seem like we actually played Saint Andrews. Stay safe. Jim.” Sweet! Where there is a will there is a way!

The 36th Company banter included this note from **Bruce Gallemore**: “I am interested in a golf foursome. By the way, I shot a hole-in-one yesterday!” Well, Bruce did not say if that was on a golf course or at putt-putt golf! But, I’m sure he scored a hole-in-one!



The basketball players – Andy and Bill

Next is a note from **Bill Lukens**: “Duke, Last week I played in the Master Basketball Association National Championships (MBANC) and on the drive there I stayed with Jeri and **Andy Reuss** at their retirement beach house in NC. They are wonderful and happy. I then stayed at **Bob Cabana's** in Florida. Bob does not plan to retire anytime soon. He is busy moving our space travel to the commercial sector as head of Kennedy Space Center. He is still having fun with his acrobatic airplane, multi-man sailboat, son, and 10-year-old granddaughter. I have included a photo of Andy and me. I was going to send one of Bob from History Channel's ‘Ancient Aliens’ but it got deleted. Unlike Andy and me, Bob has never seen a UFO (a man who has seen more sky than almost anyone) but he will assure you that there has to be someone else out there. My Leftover basketball team placed third (out of four) in our age group. Respectfully, Bill Lukens.” Sounds like a superb trip! Some air-time on the court and some space time with Bob! Here’s to a win at next year’s MBANC! I surely hope to get to the Cape before Bob retires!

I received this nice note from **John Ball**: “Good news about **Bob Cabana!** Bob is a great guy, former jet Marine NFO and pilot. He has done a remarkable job in a big assignment at Kennedy. He’ll need to handle the politics in DC. He was in the TPS class behind me, circa 1981, and we would see him with his family at the Pax River Chapel on Sundays at Mass. I hope he will be at our 50th Reunion. I am planning on being there.

“Last week our older son visited from Colorado with our older grandson. We ate well, went surfing, played, hiked, had seven for a family cookout, and they did some helpful chores. Nice to have good energy in the house.” I, too, am glad Bob continues to



Marie and Tom with Mick and Linda

lead Kennedy Space Center! Sounds like fun in San Diego with the boys! I look forward to seeing you this fall!

Here's note from **Tom Laboon**: "Linda and **Mick Brown** visited us in Jupiter on Monday, May 24. We had not visited together since our San Diego reunion, so it was great to see them again. They are avid travelers and somehow found Jupiter to be a great place! After living here for six years, Marie and I heartily agree!! We will meet again at our 50th!! Tom." Sounds like a nice visit! Will see you all in September!

Since my last column I received the sad news of three classmates passing away.

The Rev. Dr. **James Barrett Miller**, an Episcopal Church priest. Jim died on 24 December 2019 after complications from lymphoma and suffering a stroke. He entered USNA with our class as a member of the 21st company plebe summer and departed during plebe year. He went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in religious science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1971. After attending the Virginia Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1975. He then earned his doctorate from the Fuller Seminary in Pasadena in 1980.

Mitch Rowland passed away on May 18th in Peachtree, Georgia from a long-fought battle with pancreatic cancer. Mitch graduated out of the 30th Company. Prior to starting flight school, Mitch was assigned to the *USS Robert A. Owens* (DD827) as the ship's Intelligence Officer and Postal Officer. After his deployment on the destroyer, he accepted orders to Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida. While stationed in Pensacola he met his wife of 48 years, Carole, a Navy nurse. Mitch received his Wings of Gold in 1973 and flew the F-4 Phantom in San Diego, California, and the TA-4 Skyhawk as an instructor in Beeville, Texas. After separating from the Navy, he flew with Delta Airlines and retired as a Senior Captain. Mitch is survived by his wife, Carole, and two sons.

Robert Warren Lucy passed away on 14 April 2021 in Houston, TX. Warren graduated out of the 36th company. He just turned 71 this past March. No details are known of his passing. Editor's note: At USNA he preferred to be called "Warren." I lived with Warren all of youngster year and the first set of Segundo year. We were lightweight crew teammates. I rowed and Warren was a coxswain. Warren had a superb stereo system and always purchased the soundtrack albums to the latest and best musicals on Broadway. He tolerated my *Iron Butterfly* music, and I thoroughly enjoyed his musical albums. Another 15/36 Company-mate, **Karl Athow**, would often join Warren and me as we returned from Hubbard Hall after an arduous workout. I was hoping to see Warren at our 50th this fall. However, none of us from 36th knew his whereabouts. I pray Warren is resting peacefully now.

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, especially continuing protection from the COVID-19 virus, healing when needed, and safety in travels. I am most thankful the pandemic environment is abating. The pandemic highlighted that **today** is the gift of "the present"

and 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