

Shipmate Mar-Apr 2022
Duke Longworth
24 January 2022

Winter is giving way to Spring! The Yard will be in full bloom soon! The greenest of grass is growing along the walkways to class. My favorite path, Stribling Walk, leads me to and from Hubbard Hall. Occasionally, a visitor asks for a “typical midshipman” photo, and I oblige them. I have wondered over the years what those photos look like now. Or did they get printed and posted on a refrigerator. I will never know! I hope you have similar remembrances of the Yard!

Did you watch the NAVY WIN on December 11th? What an exciting game! I know there were many Army-Navy football game parties around the nation as we Navy fans cheered for the home team. I must admit that when Army scored after only two minutes of game time, I was certainly hoping for a Navy turnaround, and I was not disappointed! The “fake” punt that kept Navy’s hopes alive in the second half was the precursor to Navy sealing the win! It was good to be at the game with Jean and **Perry Martini**, Peggy and **John “JT” Morris**, Joyce and **Dave Laws**, and Teri and **Dave Vandover** again as we have been for many years! BEAT ARMY again next year!



(Front Row L-R) Peggy, Lisa, Jean, Joyce (Second Row L-R) Dave V and Teri, JT, Perry, Dave L, and yours truly (looking the wrong way!)

Here’s a note from **Stan Szemborski**: “Duke, I recently had the great privilege of donning the uniform twice. I was the commissioning XO of USS Providence (SSN-719). PROVIDENCE was the first Los Angeles class submarine to be equipped with the Tomahawk missile vertical launch system and used the system to destroy Libyan air

defenses as part of OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN. The ship also held the record as the fastest Atlantic Fleet Sub throughout her life. I was the guest speaker at a Groton ceremony as the ship departed for decommissioning. Also, my granddaughter, Daisy, is a Doolie at the Air Force Academy. The Academy invited all retired military to wear the uniform for parents' weekend. My wife, BJ, and I attended as Daisy's parents are on assignment in Okinawa. The Doolies were challenged to try to trade shoulder boards with an upper classman for the football game. Daisy received quite a few amazed looks while wearing my three-star boards! At the game I wore my Navy football gear. The strange looks I received turned to smiles when I pointed to the button that I was wearing which said, 'Beat Army'." Stan, that AFA game sounds like a fun experience. I'm sure your granddaughter relished your being with her while she wore the 3-star shoulder boards!



Stan Daisy with his AFA Dooley granddaughter

Next up is a note from **Dick Enderly**: "On 15 December I attended (as a guest) a Tidewater Section American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) dinner at which our classmate, **David Poyer**, was the speaker. It was a very enjoyable evening during which Dave and I were able to catch up and reminisce; and, as an avid fan of all Dave's books, I also purchased Dave's latest Dan Lenson novel - *ARCTIC SEA*."



Dick Enderly standing alongside Dave Poyer

“In looking at the photo I'm sure you and your readers are wondering what calamity befell Dave that resulted in him showing up outfitted with a shoulder sling; and,

not seen in the photo, he was also sporting a large and bulky brace from knee to ankle on his left leg! Thankfully, he is right-handed! Long story short, a few weeks prior to the ASNE dinner Dave was conducting a writing class in an old building near his home on Virginia's Eastern Shore. As I understood the chain of events, there were two stairways leading downstairs, one of which he had used many times, but another he had not used before. For some reason he decided to take the stairway never traveled, for which there was no light and no handrail. He still might have been OK, but unfortunately there was also either no bottom step, or if there was one, it was less than stable. The resulting tumble did a number on his shoulder/rotator cuff and (OUCH!!) significantly tore the muscle just above his left kneecap. He was transported to a Hampton Roads hospital to get patched up and fitted with the aforementioned braces. Dave is currently on the road to recovery and being helped by PT and his wife, Lenore. For the time being he is moving from point A to point B very slowly and deliberately with the aid of a cane. Best wishes for a quick and full recovery classmate!" Yikes! A new path disaster! Here's to Dave's recovery! Maybe Dan Lenore will have a similar misadventure in Dave's next new book!

Dave Miller sent this update to our 50th Reunion golf outing: "The results of a great and fun day at the Eisenhower Golf Course gave us three groups tied at 64. So as promised the first prize is listing and bragging rights for the next 5 years, well done to all - we were all winners on a glorious day!" The winners are listed below! By the way, have you ever seen so many golf winners in one class! Well done, Classmates!

Dave Miller, Mike Lynch, Oz Fretz, Doug Conklin (with **Chuck Hiles** for the last 7 holes)

Terry Virus, Ron Cornelison, Les Nixon

Dave Leestma, Eric Benson, Bill Long, Ed Bouton

Long Drive - **Ron Cornelison**

Closest to the Pin - **Jim Barron**

I received a note that our class-sponsored Leadership and Ethics and Law Department Distinguished Military Professor (DMP) billet was filled prior to the 21/22 academic year. Our new DMP is retired U. S. Army general officer David Wallace. He is a seasoned lawyer with over twenty years of full-time experience teaching military law and national security topics. Along with his undergraduate work and his Juris Doctorate, in 2008 he graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with Highest Distinction, and received the VADM James H. Doyle, Jr. Military Operations and International Law Award. We wish him the best of success as he guides the midshipman to understand and lead ethical careers.

Here are a couple photos I think you'll enjoy! First is a photo of our Vice President, **Jim Bryant**, and his wife enjoying Hawai'i !



The Bryant's enjoying mai tai's at the Royal Hawai'ian!

Next is our web manager, **Phil Williams**, in front of **Steve Dmetruk's** residence with the Navy flag flying!



Phil Williams at Steve Dmetruk's house on St. Simons Island

With regret I'm passing along to you the news of the passing of two classmates. **Tom Hoffman** passed away on 21 January. Tom was a member of 22nd Company. As I receive more information, I will send it to you.

Ross Dessert passed away on Friday, 21 January at his home in Kirkland, WA surrounded by his family following a long battle with throat cancer. Ross joined us plebe summer June 1967 after spending a year in NROTC at Auburn University. He was well known at USNA as a superior sailor and was Captain of the Varsity Sailing team our senior year.

Graduating out of the 20th Company, Ross was assigned to surface warfare and served in the *USS Higbee* and the *USS Worden*. While serving as the DCA in HIGBEE he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with combat V device for his quick and impressive actions. Near the end of the Vietnam War as the HIGBEE DCA, Ross made decisions that led to saving the ship during General Quarters when she came under

attack by a MiG with a 250 lb. bomb that entered the rear gun turret and into the ammunition storage.

Ross returned to USNA and was an assistant coach of the Navy Sailing team from 1975-1978. He joined the Boeing Company in early 1979 and worked there for over 30 years. Ross then joined Academy Leadership, LLC, where he worked on the leadership consulting team delivering programs in the Northwest USA to aspiring leaders from business and industry. Ross is survived by his wife Terry of 48 years, four children and six grandchildren.

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. **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!

Duke Longworth '71