

Shipmate Nov-Dec 2021
Duke Longworth
28 July 2021

Fall is in full “bloom” in the Yard! Yes, my favorite season with the cooler air, football games, and Tecumseh painted in his glory! Our 50th reunion is in the books as are many good tales of us seeing classmates whom we haven’t seen in many years! I’m looking forward to filling our class pages with many photographs and interesting stories, so if you haven’t sent your photos and stories to me, please do so soon! And, speaking of football, here’s to a winning season! GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

NOTE: As promised in my October column we, the Great USNA Class of ’71, have a new Vice President! Please join me in a hearty “Congratulations” to Jim Bryant, our new Vice President!

As I write this column we have 512 Classmates, plus an additional 495 Guests (1,007 total) registered to attend. My January column I will note the exact attendees!

I received this note from **Bob Torres '67**: “Duke, The team of **Bob Torres '67** and **Lynn Walton '71** won a silver medal in the men’s senior division pickleball Olympic event held at the Rolling Green Village retirement community. Lynn started playing pickleball a few months before the event, so it was fortunate that we only had to play against a small number of other teams.” Bob, thank you for the note! Glad our Navy team did well! Here’s to you and Lynn winning gold next year!



(L-R) Bob Torres and Lynn Walton with their silver medals

Rick Loerch sent this note: "Gentlemen, I wanted to take a moment to test my link to you guys via email AND to say thank you for all you have done through the years. I have been missing in action for many of those years, but I am looking forward to seeing you and our 71 classmates at the 50th reunion. After graduation my knee injuries led to a medical discharge before I could enter Sub school. My career has been outside the Navy but my love for USN, USNA and the class of 71 remains. I have re-acquainted myself with the '71 website and the normal USNA sites. If there are any other lists I should be put on please do so or direct me to the sites. Thank you for all you do. Duces Virum, Rick Loerch, 31st Co." Thank for the note! Rick sent a follow-up note shortly before our reunion commenced. Unfortunately, Rick had to cancel. I certainly hope to see him at our next reunion.

Sadly, I report that five classmates have passed away since the October column.

David Edward Polzien of Wake Forest, NC passed away from cancer on September 16, 2021. He was Gun Captain of the Cannoneers for all four years. David graduated with distinction from USNA. He subsequently received his master's degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1972. He served on the *USS Basilone*, and later worked as an instructor at the Department of Defense Computer Institute. After active duty, he lived with his family in North Carolina. He retired from GMAC Insurance in 2014 after a long career as an IT Director and Manager. David is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jay; two children, and two grandsons. There is no memorial service planned at this time. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Transitions LifeCare of Raleigh, NC or Homes For Our Troops.

George Hewes passed away in Oakland Florida on 16 September after a brave battle against brain cancer. George was a proud member of 2nd Company. He is survived by his wife Carol and daughters Suzanne and Francine. Memorial service and funeral arrangements are pending.

Bruce Linder passed away in Coronado, California on 8 September 2021 following a stroke. Graduating from the 27th Company he served for 26 years, retiring as a Captain in 1997. As a Surface Warfare Officer he commanded a Guided Missile Frigate and two Major Shore Installations. A graduate of Coronado High School, Bruce had a B.S. degree in Physics/Oceanography; M.S. in Oceanography from the University of Michigan; and was a Federal Executive Fellow (National Security Affairs) at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Following retirement, he was as a principal with Booz Allen Hamilton (management consulting firm) in San Diego. Additionally, Bruce was well known for his four non-fiction history books—*San Diego's Navy* (2001), *Tidewater's Navy* (2005), *The Navy in San Diego* (2007), and *San Salvador: Cabrillo's Galleon of Discovery* (2011) in addition to over 40 magazine and journal articles, published in the U.S., Europe and Japan. He has also appeared on numerous History Channel, PBS and local radio and television programs and was a noted speaker and lecturer.

Additional information and details to follow on a complete obituary. Funeral services are pending. Bruce is survived by his wife Debbie.

Timothy Earl Poole passed away on May 6, 2021 of cardiac arrest. Graduating out of the 27th company, Tim served a career as a Surface Line Officer. He is survived by his wife, Jane Blocker, who he had known from academy days. They lived in the St. Augustine, Florida area. Additional details will be provided when available. Plans for his internment are still pending.

Richard J. Wilkes passed away 13 April 2020 in Edmond, Oklahoma from congenital heart failure. R.J. was a member of the 15th company and was one of only a few classmates that started for the Navy football team as a Youngster (starting center). A memorial service was held at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on 23 July 2020.

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. The pandemic highlighted that **today** is the gift of “the present” and life is precious and too short! There is not time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. 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