

Shipmate May 2022
Duke Longworth
22 February 2022

May Week is here soon! Seems that as the years pass, May Week never replaces June Week in my thoughts. I have adjusted to the Memorial Day weekend event, but not the name! Many memories are still fresh of our day, tossing hats into the air, cheering our end at USNA. And, if you are like me, there are many small parts of the day that are no longer remembered! Mostly, those things are not remembered as there were so many adventures to embrace. Regardless, about 1000 midshipmen are eagerly awaiting graduation and the commencement of their naval service. I hope the Class of 2022 has fulfilling, meaningful careers!

In the October 2021 column I mentioned I was hopeful a 36th Company classmate whom I had not seen in 50 years would show at the 50th Reunion. I will admit I was very pleased that **William “Biz” Bizjak** was there! Biz was much loved by his company-mates, and others I suspect, during his time as a midshipman. We 36th Company members often reminisce about the “good old days” and the most hilarious events involving Biz, especially when he gave Girl Scout “Thin Mint cookies” to a Segundo who liked to harass us plebes. To a man, we all hoped he would be at the reunion! I am happy to report that after leaving USNA mid-youngster year, Biz completed his college education in mechanical engineering and developed a very successful manufacturer’s representative business. Also, he received a direct USNR commission in 1981 as an Engineering Duty Officer and subsequently retired as a 36th



Company 50th reunion attendees: Front row (L-R) Stu, Biz, Bruce, Craig, Back rows (L-R) Duke, Jan, Jim, Don, Lee, Mark, Sonny

LCDR in 2001. USNA sailing experiences were surely in his blood as he has owned sailed a 40-foot Hinckley since 1996! Biz recently retired from his business and is enjoying Tricare-for-Life in Delaware. The good news for 36th CO - he's close enough to join us in future reunions! I surely hope he does!

Speaking of the 36th Company, here's an excellent note from **Craig Welling**: "Many of our company-mates enjoyed the wonderful 50th reunion. Highlights included a reception on Thursday night, our company dinner on Friday night, sitting as a company at the football game and tailgate on Saturday, a memorial service for fallen classmates and Dahlgren Hall dinner on Sunday and a farewell breakfast on Monday. Company-mates attending one or more of these events included **Jim Barron** and Jan Cockerille, Jane and **Don Beaudette**, Beverly and **Bill Bizjak**, Hollis and **Lee Burgess**, Yolanda and **Stew Fisher**, Terry and **Bruce Gallemore**, Diana and **Mark Horgan**, Lisa and **Duke Longworth**, Shauna and **Jan Milligan**, Barb and **Rich Naple**, and Carter and **Craig Welling**. The company dinner was hosted by Jane and Don, Barb and Sonny, Terry and Bruce, Carter and Craig, Cathy and **Garry Holmstrom**, and Diana and Mark in Eastport. During the reunion we were fortunate to have great weather and see a win by Navy over the University of Central Florida. The reunion weekend was certainly a great time to renew old friendships. Thanks to all who made the trip to Annapolis. Best regards, Craig." Thank you for the superb summary, Craig! I note that Carter and Craig contributed significantly to the dinner with tables, chairs, and delicious food! Also, due to a last-minute health issue Cathy and Garry could not attend; however, they



Don, Mark, Jim and Jan, Terry, Barb, and Jane

contributed to the rental of the Eastport house and supplied us with a plethora of fine wines! They were sorely missed! Many stories were told and re-told, and plans were set in motion for our annual Fraternal Order of the Disorder, aka FOOD, at either Lake Placid or Annapolis this coming fall. I am ready for our next reunion! I know I will be there! Here a few more 36th Company-mate photos!



Jan and Shawna, Diana and Mark



Craig and Carter, Yolanda and Stew



Beverly and Biz, Duke, Lee, Bruce, Lisa standing, and Hollis seated



(L-R) Lee, Jim, Duke, Craig, Stew, and Jim

As I noted in the March-April column, here is additional information regarding the passing of **Thomas “Tom” Lewis Hoffman**. Tom passed away just after midnight on

January 8th in Pensacola, FL with his wife, Terry, by his side. Tom graduated from Bloomsburg High School in 1966. He retired from the Navy after 20 years. A celebration of Tom's life was held January 23rd at Blue Wahoos Stadium in Pensacola.

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, safety in travels, and strength to meet every challenge. **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!

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