

Shipmate July-August 2022
Duke Longworth
26 May 2022

Summer is here! It's hot just about everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere, but it seems especially so along the mid-Atlantic coast in locations like Annapolis. I do not remember a single day that was not hot and humid. Okay, there were some rainy days, but the rain did not mitigate the sweating we plebes did those days! I remember wondering if the summer would ever end. I am not too sure that the end of summer meant anything other than cooler temperatures as when the brigade returned, we were promised more upperclassmen who would gleefully add to our harassment! There was the promised Christmas vacation but counting the days did not seem to make the daily grind any easier. I strongly suspect today's plebes are not so much harassed. That's a good thing as the hazing did not make me more professional, but it did make me determined to not be like my antagonist or other upperclassmen who made my life miserable. It also steeled my determination to not quit just because life was difficult. I suppose there's some of the "what doesn't break you makes you stronger" in that, and I agree. The hazing reinforced what I learned as a youth working on the farm – don't give up! I suspect Captain James Lawrence's dying words to Oliver Hazard Perry, "Don't Give Up the Ship!" were influencing me! I will add that I had two outstanding classmates during the academic year, **Lew Mason** and **Rich Connelly**. They helped me a great deal when I had one minute to shower and change out of sweat gear into SDB's. I am forever grateful for their help!

First up is a note from **Rex Settlemoir**: "Duke, Following my retirement from the Navy in 1998, I spent the next 16 years teaching Navy JROTC in Ohio. High School JROTC programs from all the service branches often participate in a sport called Orienteering. Although our USMC and Army brethren are familiar with it, Orienteering was a new experience for me, and I quickly became hooked on it. Since my 'full' retirement from teaching in the high schools, I have continued to enjoy the sport on a regular basis and belong to the Orienteering Club of Cincinnati (OCIN). Each year, our club sponsors a sanctioned National Orienteering Meet, which includes the Orienteering USA Junior Nationals. Because of COVID, we did not have the meet in 2020 or 2021, but the 2022 meet took place as scheduled on 1-3 April at East Fork State Park, east of Cincinnati. We had over 300 entrants for an intense 3-day competition, including a highly motivated team from West Point. The Cadets' scheduled flight was cancelled because of weather on the East Coast, but exercising true West Point determination, they rented vehicles and made a 10-hour drive to Cincinnati to compete in the OUSA Junior Nationals. As expected, the USMA Cadets won the Intercollegiate Varsity and Junior Varsity categories of the competition, but that didn't prevent me from having some fun with them.

"Navy/USNA apparently does not have an Orienteering team, so I had to take advantage of the tailwinds from Navy's upset win over Army last December. As each USMA Cadet approached the starting line, I handed them their orienteering map for that day's course, along with a folded slip of paper, and told them that it was a special clue

they would need when running the course. As they started to run, and unfolded the paper, each of the Cadets were treated to 'GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY' in big letters. They



Rex with LCOL Heidi Demarest

took it in the expected spirit of Army-Navy competition and had some fun with me as well. Cadet Gregory Kies wrote 'BEAT NAVY' on the back of his map and held it up to me at the starting line. Also, they invited me to stand with them for a team photo, and they let out a collective 'Beat Navy' as we stood for the photo. Also, their team coach COL Heidi Demarest, was great to meet; she is a 2001 USMA graduate and is on the teaching staff at West Point (she also holds a PhD from Harvard University).



Gregory Kies Cadet, USMA with Rex

As our club was hosting the event, I didn't run any of the orienteering courses, but it would have been fun to



Rex with the USMA cadet orienteering team members

run against their coach (even though she is 30 years younger)! Best Regards, Rex, 27th CO.” Surely sounds like a lot of fun, especially the A-N competition! I’m wondering if you can get a ’71 team together for next year’s competition!

Next up is a note from **Perry Martini**: “While Jean and I were checking in to the Bavarian Inn during a recent visit to Shepherdstown, WV, I pointed out to Jean that there was a car in the parking lot with license number the same format as mine – NA 71; however, this was with West Virginia plates instead of Maryland plates. We proceeded to check in and I wrote a note to be placed on our assumed classmate’s window, to tell him to give me a call so we could meet. When I went back out to the parking lot the WV car was gone. Later that day, I looked in my class files and found three classmates that lived in WV. I sent them all an email and got a response from classmate **Fred Klein**. Fred and his wife, Irene, lived right up the road from the Bavarian Inn and were attending a Mother’s Day brunch. We all met for drinks at the Bavarian that evening and thoroughly enjoyed catching up on old times.” It’s a small world when you travel!



(L-R) Fred and Irene, Jean and Perry

Here’s a note from **Dave Leestma** with some good news: “Duke, I want to share the excitement and honor of joining the rest of my fellow '71 astronaut classmates in the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame. I will be inducted this June and will be included with **Bob Cabana, Frank Culbertson** and **Bill Shepherd** (all previously inducted) to complete the Class of 1971 inclusion in the Hall of Fame. 1971 has more astronauts than any other USNA class, and I am delighted to complete the selection of all of us. I have included a picture of the four of us in front of the Space Shuttle Atlantis taken a few years ago. *Duces Virum, Dave.*” What an honor!



(L-R) USNA '71 Astronauts - Bill, Dave, Bob, Frank

I’m confident our entire class is honored to have all our astronaut classmates in the Hall of Fame! BZ!

Dave Laws sent this note: “Hey Duke, It’s great when you can be traveling to see grandkids and remember that your company mate, **Jim Elfelt**, lives on the way. After a visit to the Palo Duro Canyon, highly recommended, Joyce and I stopped in Amarillo to see Jim. Since the loss of his beloved Betty, Jim has spent a lot of time with his two daughters, his son and their families. His home is a museum of over 250 vacuum tube radios, some dating back to the early 1900s. We enjoyed a terrific dinner at his favorite “I have company’ restaurant. He encourages any classmate traveling across I-40 to stop and see him. Just check first, because he participates in a lot of military honors at veteran funerals, including the recent service for our company mate, **Steve “Mongo” Raphael**. We look forward to seeing him again at the Academy as Steve is laid to rest in the columbarium.” Sounds like an excellent visit!



(L-R) Dave and Jim in Amarillo

With regret I’m passing along to you the news of the passing of two classmates.

Theodore Balk, affectionately known as Ted or Teddie, died peacefully on April 12. He was born in Columbia, SC, August 17, 1949, and grew up in Blackville, SC. After graduating from Blackville High School, he was appointed to the US Naval Academy, from which he resigned to join the US Army. He served in Viet Nam with the Army Signal Corps. From there he landed in a commune in Belgium, traveled through Europe with his sister on his 750 BMW, then returned home. He graduated from Clemson University, had a lengthy career as a registered civil engineer, and spent most

of his adult life in the Clemson area. His love of music began with his baritone horn in the Blackville High School marching band and led him to become the drum major of a Scottish marching band in the upstate, performing at Scottish games and festivals throughout the South. Ted was a contributor and editor for the international literary journal *Weekly Hubris*. As one of the founders of the Spittoono Music Festival in Central, SC, a devoted Clemson sports fan, and a barbecue pit master, Ted was most beloved and recognized for his laugh. For the last ten years, he found a spiritual home and a beloved second family with his friends at Greenville Yoga. Funeral arrangements will be held at a later date. For more information visit RobinsonFuneralHomes.com or Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home & Cremations,

Terry Virus passed away unexpectedly following back surgery on May 3rd in San Clemente, CA. Hailing from Grand Island, Nebraska, he joined us on 28 June 1967. Graduating out of the 19th Company, Terry will always be remembered for his active participation in serving us most notably on the Class Hop Committee and Lucky Bag photo staff. After graduation Terry pursued his dream of becoming a Naval Aviator and flew for many years with Delta Airlines until his retirement. A lifelong bachelor, Terry enjoyed life to the fullest and was active in the local community and a member of the local golf club. Those who met him remember his friendly personality, keen sense of humor and someone they could always call a good friend.

Dave Hackett sent this timely note: "Hi Duke, The Class of '71 was well represented at Terry Virus' Celebration of Life on May 10. Terry's neighbors at the Sea Point Estates community in San Clemente hosted the Celebration. More than 100 people attended, including neighbors, classmates, and golfing buddies. All came to pay their respects to the nice guy, Terry Virus. Classmates attending included **Dan Nelson, Don Gunther, Dave Bolduc, Fred Mallgrave**, and me. Dan flew in from Arizona and spoke about how he and Terry had been friends since high school and had driven together on leave from Annapolis to their home state of Nebraska, only stopping to fill up the car and hit the head. Dan said that Terry had been a nice guy for as long as he has known him.

"Terry flew P3s on active duty and then had a career with Delta Airlines. Terry was passionate about golf and was one of the cofounders of a golf club without a course the 'Downhill Liars'. Terry was always busy organizing golf events and trips to Hawaii, Bandon Dunes, and Great Britain. Best regards, Dave."

I recently received the following information on two classmates who passed away in 2020. Their services were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A memorial service and internment for **Vince Esposito** was held at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday 16 May at 1445. Vince passed away May 1st, 2020.

A celebration of life was held for Wilson "Will" Fritchman Saturday, June 11th at the San Jose Country Club in Jacksonville, FL. Will passed away August 4th, 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, 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!

Duke Longworth