

Shipmate June 2022
Duke Longworth

The midshipmen are on their 30-day leave period prior to reporting to their first duty station. I am sure we all remember those days as we transitioned from “just a midshipman” to “naval officer” with leadership responsibilities. There was much to do – moving out of Mother B, traveling and celebrating graduation and commissioning, and getting to that first Navy billet. And, finding a place to live at the duty station.

I traveled to New York to see the sites of the big city then on northward to the beautiful NY countryside. Ultimately, I got to Norfolk, located the O'HARE, and found temporary residence near Military Circle.

Jack Boniface was my neighbor at the hotel-looking apartment building. After a rather blistering, hot summer the ship deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. **Jeff Albright** and I were roommates on the ship.

Jeff was assigned to the Engineering Department, and I was assigned as Navigator. I had a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging deployment and considered delaying my flight school reporting date. However, on return to Norfolk, I detached and headed to Pensacola and started my flying career on April 4th. That begins a new story for a later column!

First up is a special note below which I received just prior to submitting this column!

Congratulations to **Peter de Vos** who was selected to receive the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA)! This is a seminal moment for our class, but especially for Pete as we are justifiably proud that he has reached this milestone in a life well-lived by virtue of his exemplary servant leadership. Pete is our 4th DGA recipient following in the footsteps of **Tim Keating**, **Walt Havenstein**, and **Bob Cabana**. Since the inception of the Distinguished Graduate

Award in 1999 there are only four other classes dating back to the earliest recipient in the class of 1931 that have four or more selectees, only one class has five selectees. The Class of 1971 holds second place with two other classes with four selectees! I'm sure you will read more about Pete in the *Shipmate* column that highlights the most recent DGA recipients.

Up next is a note from **Richard “Dick” Cheliris**: “Duke, you asked about a recipe for cannonballs. I had long wanted a recipe myself and saw one in an issue of *Shipmate* a couple of years ago. I don't recall who submitted it, but it served up something that tasted very familiar. I did not do the Hard Sauce--that was a bit much for my blood. And I only made one, not the entire recipe, but that was an easy adjustment. There was not a recipe for the pie crust, so I used one I got from my mother. If you decide to give it a go, enjoy--I did! Dick.” Thank you! I'll see if I can get my daughter to make a few of these to share with my sons and

grandsons. She has some yummy baking recipes for the crust.



Cannonball

Here's the recipe for the eight cannonballs: 8 apples, 2 cups brown sugar, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, 1 cup water. Peel and core the apples. Combine the brown sugar and cinnamon. Fill the centers of the apples. Roll out the pastry dough and cut pieces to cover each apple. Seal pastry with water. Place in an ungreased baking dish. Bake at 425 for 40 minutes until crust is browned. Serve with Hard Sauce.

Here's the Hard Sauce recipe: 2 cups confectioners' sugar, 1 cup butter, 3 teaspoons vanilla, 2 egg whites. Soften butter and mix in the confectioners' sugar. Add the vanilla and beat well until all ingredients are blended. Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the sauce. Chill 2 hours. Enjoy!

I will include a note in the next column regarding how the cannonballs taste!

I was a little late with getting some additional photos of the 36th Company-mate photos in the May column, so they are included in this issue! Also, I will note that Cathy and **Garry Holmstrom** supplied the 36th Company with a plethora of fine wines! Here are the additional 36th CO photos!



Don, Mark (standing), Jim and Jan, Terry, Barb, and Jane



Jan and Shawna, Diana and Mark



Craig and Carter, Yolanda and Stew



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



Lee, Jim, Duke, Craig, Stew, and Jim

Our Class 50th Reunion was a blast! Here's to

another blast at our 55th!

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

Stephen "Steve" Todd Raphael passed away on 28 January 2022 in Houston, TX, of COVID-19 complications just a few days shy of his 73rd birthday. He graduated from Alcolanes High School in Lafayette, CA, where he competed on the springboard diving team. For several years, he and his family raced their sailboat on San Francisco Bay. The Naval Academy recruited Steve for the sailing team. Steve was on the sailing team all four years and was captain of the Shields team. Steve developed a love for flying at USNA, obtained his private pilot's license, and selected Navy Air at service selection. Following graduation, Steve served as navigator on USS SHELTON (DD-790) on Yankee Station, then reported to flight school. While in Pensacola, he took up racing dirt bikes and enjoyed surfing. Steve excelled as a naval aviator and during

his first P-3 tour, was selected early as a patrol plane commander and instructor pilot. Following a tour in the P-3 fleet replacement squadron, he resigned his commission. In October 1977, he was hired by Delta Air Lines. During his nearly 30 years with Delta, he flew almost every Boeing aircraft in the Delta fleet, including the B-767 400ER on international routes, as well as the Lockheed L-1011.

After retiring from Delta in 2004 he flew Gulfstreams for a charter company, then international luxury 757s for EOS Airlines on trans-Atlantic flights. Steve was later hired by Southwest Air Lines where he worked until his passing as a simulator instructor pilot. Steve and his wife, Melinda, lived on a lake where he learned to waterskiing, which became his recreational passion. In the mid-1980s, Steve became involved with competition slalom waterskiing. With a lot of hard work and coaching, Steve won 10 national championships and three world slalom championships

waterskiing for team USA. Steve and Melinda attended our 50th Class Reunion in October 2021, where classmates congratulated him for his impressive waterskiing accomplishments. Steve is survived by his wife, Melinda; son, Scott Raphael (Heather); granddaughter, Sarah Trinity; and his sister, Lesley Raphael, and brother, Martin Raphael (Susan). A funeral mass was held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Ft. Worth, TX. Steve's ashes will be inurned at the U.S. Naval Academy Columbarium in a service on September 30, 2022.

Robert "Bob" Harold Stuhlman passed away Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Virginia Beach at the age of 73. Bob was born Feb 4th, 1949, to Doreen & Harold Stuhlman in Brooklyn, NY. Bob entered USNA after a year at the University of Kansas. He was active in a wide range of intramural sports after receiving a knee injury in plebe football. After graduation Bob went to Pensacola where he completed helicopter pilot training and served a twenty-three-year career. His

time flying helicopters brought him great joy. His career in education began as an instructor at the United States Air Force Academy. Upon retiring from the Navy, he taught in the Virginia Beach School Division for 23 years. Bob enjoyed participating in the lives of his two sons by coaching every single sport they played. After retiring from his teaching career, he spent many years fishing with his friends in the Virginia Beach Anglers Club. Bob is survived by his wife of 45 years, Susan; his sons: Brett and his wife Michelle of Virginia Beach; Gregory and his wife Madeleine of Atlanta; his grandchildren Carter, Avery, and Hayes; his sister Leslie and her husband Jerry. A memorial service is planned for early summer.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to one of his favorite charities: The Naval Academy Alumni Association, Toys for Tots, or the Virginia Beach ASPCA. Condolences may be expressed to the family by visiting www.vacremationsociety.com.

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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