

Shipmate January-February 2023
Duke Longworth
26 October 2022

Hello Winter! The cold has returned and the “dark ages” loom over Mother Bancroft. The mids are doing whatever we did during the cold winter months! But I digress! I cannot report the outcome of Army-Navy 2022; however, I am certain it was a well-played game and I am confident Navy won! Navy went into the game having defeated the #17-ranked UCF and nearly defeated #20 Notre Dame! GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

First up is a note from Jeanne (**Dan Hickey**): “Duke, We’ve often remarked that the 18th Company has a pretty strong record when it comes to marriages, with many classmates having celebrated almost/or over 50 years of wedded bliss! Perhaps disciplined training, deployments and long separations make for stronger ties! I must admit that when I first met 2nd Class Midshipman Hickey, I told him that I would never marry anyone in the Navy because they moved too much, yet our relationship survived the test!

“Subsequent to ’71 graduation, we attended several June Week weddings, but ours was delayed a year by Dan’s selection for an immediate master’s program at MIT. Once Dan was awarded that degree, and before meeting the *USS Charles F Adams*, DDG-2 in Mayport, we decided to elope! Though the elopement attempt, for various reasons, failed, we were indeed married that week by the grace of God and Dan’s hometown priest (a former Navy chaplain) in Rochester, NY. Two weeks later, Dan joined the ADAMS and we embarked on a long and happy career and marriage full of deployments, children, friends, adventures and moves across the U.S. and around the world!

“In 1998, when our sons were grown and Dan retired, we took another leap of faith and bought a marina in Virginia, one mile from the Chesapeake Bay, where it all started for us. Since then, boats, weather, fish, crabs, oysters, dolphins, ospreys and eagles have been our main topics of conversation and our ‘Rivah life!’ This second career has lasted almost as long as the Navy one and, from my perspective, has taken as much commitment as a couple, as the first one. It has been a beautiful season and our six grandchildren would, we think, agree!

“To celebrate our milestone wedding anniversary and to confirm that ‘we still do,’ we invited family and friends, old and new, to join us on the banks of the Little Wicomico River. We were particularly delighted that 18th Company classmates Neil and **Mike Greene**, **Tom Ledvina**, and **Andy Mazzara** made the trip and were witnesses to Dan’s sabering of the champagne cork! We’re

not sure, but they may have come to see Dan's 1990 Captain's Gig that once served the *USS Seattle*! Someday soon, we hope to have the time to sail her further out and about the Chesapeake! If you know of anyone young and imaginative enough to enjoy a second career of a different sort, put them in touch with us! Jeanne and Dan Hickey." What a terrific story! I thoroughly enjoyed your story! Now, I must drive up to your marina to visit you two!

Next is a note from **Bob Capra**: "Hi Duke, On Friday, 30 September 2022, many of our 14th Company-mates and other classmates and spouses gathered at the USNA Columbarium to celebrate the life of one of our most colorful, fun loving and accomplished company-mates and life-long friend, **Stephen Raphael**. The inurnment was a superb and moving ceremony made extra special by the military honors and the very heartfelt tributes to Steve made by **Perry Martini, Bill Williams, Ruben Torres, Doug Bailey**, Scott Raphael, and Sara Raphael.

"Steve's widow, Melinda, did an amazing job hosting a wonderful post-



inurnment reception at the Naval Academy Club. The pictures of Steve and his family that Melinda brought with her along with the video tribute that played during the reception brought back such great memories of the wonderful man we all knew. Steve was not only a Navy P-3 pilot but also a very accomplished airline

Champion skier Steve Raphael

Co-pilot and simulator instructor for Delta, EOS and Southwest Airlines as well as a competitive slalom water-skier winning 10 national championships and three world slalom championships skiing for Team USA.

"Later that evening many of us staying in Annapolis got together at the Italian Market for dinner. It was a perfect way to end a remarkable day filled with all kinds of emotions. I know it meant a lot to Melinda to see so many company-mates and classmates of Steve's at the service. It was great to share our friendship and love with Steve and Melinda. Company-mates and classmates in attendance: Helen Laird & **Jim Elfelt, Ted Grell, Walt Havenstein, Dave Laws, Micajah Newman, Bill Organek**, Elaine & **Ruben Torres**, Karen & **Bill Williams**, Jean & **Perry Martini**, Lori

& **Don Gray**, Karen & **Kirk Boyd** and me. In addition, there were many of Steve & Melinda's family members and friends including son, Scott, and his wife Heather and their daughter Sara.” Thank you, Bob! Steve left a noble legacy for his family and friends.

Next is a note from **Jon Cichucki**: “Duke, Thanks for printing the 71/33 Magic 50th Reunion account. The 71/33 Magic show represented '71 at the Air Force game in Colorado Springs last weekend. 12 mates and their mates and guests gathered for the game and evening meals on Friday and Saturday hosted by Colorado resident **Mike Riordan**. An outstanding time was had by all. The 33rd Company mates enjoy lifelong bonds and friendship with each other and will use any reason for a group get together. In the photo below (L-R) **Mel DeMars, Gary Bakken, John Closs, Larry Wray, Roland Weibley, Jack Boniface, Bill Shutt, Mike Riordan, Dan Curry, Jon Cichucki, Dave Hackett, and Jim Bloom**.

33 Company - Magic Show at Navy-Air Force game



Frank Culbertson sent a Navy -Air Force game photo, too! “Duke, I ran into Shutt and DeMars at Air Force game. Unfortunately, AF scored about ten seconds after this shot!”



Bill Shutt, Frank Culbertson, and Mel DeMars

Next is a note from **Mike McCuddin**: “The annual Ethical Character in Leadership Award presentation was held October 24th onboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT in Bremerton, WA. In addition to the class leadership book and gift, I gave the awardee, LTJG Jason Rynkiewicz, **Hank Turowski’s** *Class of 1971 Sea*



CAPT Eric Anduze (CO), LTJG Jason Rynkiewicz, Mike McCuddin

Stories book. The ship’s CO, CAPT **Eric Anduze ’93**, and I agreed having the *Sea Stories* book available to all hands would be a good addition to the ship’s reading material and would strengthen the bonds that have been building between the ship(CVN-71) and our Class for the last 16 years.

At the end of the ceremony Jason the book to Captain Anduze for inclusion in the ship's library. Go Navy, Mike."

Next is a note from **Rex Settlemoir**: "Duke, Those of us living in the Upper Midwest don't often get the chance to see Navy athletics locally. This past weekend was an exception, when USNA played the University of Cincinnati at Nippert Stadium. The local Alumni Association and Parents Club combined to put on a terrific USNA Tailgate Party at the UC Tangeman Center, with over 400 Alumni, parents, and guests attending. Although Navy lost the football game, there can be no doubt that we won the Tailgate Party in a resounding fashion. Over 100 Midshipmen journeyed to Cincinnati and joined us prior to the game at the Tailgate. Superintendent VADM **Sean Buck '83** gave a rousing talk to our group, followed by AD Chet Gladchuck, and USNA Alumni Association & Foundation President/CEO **Jeff Webb '95**. I managed to get a minute or so with the Supe and grabbed a Midshipman for a 'Target of Opportunity' photo. Jeff Webb brought along three of the young ladies who work in the Alumni Association & Foundation offices in Annapolis, so upholding the best traditions of '71, I skipped a photo with Jeff so I could hug the ladies! Rex." Excellent photo! Well done, Classmate!



Rex Settlemoir with AF staff

:



Rex with VADM Buck

Next is a note from **Pat Doyle**: “Duke, On Veterans' Day, our oldest son and I attended the ‘Armed Forces Classic - Carrier Edition’ basketball game (Gonzaga University vs Michigan State University) aboard ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) berthed at NAS North Island. The only way that the day could have been better was if the game had been played aboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71); the weather was beautiful (typical for San Diego), the Navy and Marine Corps looked good for ESPN and for the country, and the #2 Zags won, 64-63.

"Our son Michael (LTC, US Army (ret)) and his wife Amanda ((Gerding) Colonel selectee, WA State Army National Guard) are Gonzaga alumni (2001) and met in the ROTC program at GU, and they still have connections there. Michael was offered two tickets to the game and said something like 'heck, yes,' then came down from Ft Lewis, WA, for the weekend. We both wore our respective conflict veteran covers for the game hoping for a quick shot on TV, but we weren't picked up by ESPN. Have softened my feelings about ROTC somewhat, too; for Michael's four-year education at GU, I paid 25% and our rich Uncle paid for the other 75%. Duces Virum, Pat. PS - speaking of a 'perfect' day, my seat number was 71!" Well done, Classmate!



Pat Doyle with son Michael
Stahlak (12); Jim Bryant (20); Tom Hammons (34); Jim Ward (7); Steve Pelstring (8); John Ball (26); Pat Doyle (23); Steve Comer (31). Go Navy! John Ball."

Here's a note from **John Ball**: "Hi Duke, 10 of us gathered on November 16th at Cafe Coyote for a splendid luncheon on a gorgeous San Diego autumn day. Arranged as usual by **Tom Hammons**, we renewed friendships before the holiday hubbub began. Yes, a few margaritas were seen. Our local Class Trustees, Tom and **Pat Doyle**, briefed us on the recent Class Officer and Trustee meeting where it was decided to forego another San Diego reunion and focus on our 55th. '71 VP **Jim Bryant** explained and promoted the class fundraiser to support the new Alumni Center in Annapolis. Each of us enjoyed the warm camaraderie, and for me, it was a good reason to wear my class ring and favorite Navy sweatshirt. In the photo below (Bottom L-R) **Vince Zabala (2);**

Fred Mallgrave (22); Russ

It is my sad duty to announce the passing of three classmates:.

William “Bill” Edward Zapf passed away October 26th at his home in Cumberland, Maryland. Bill joined us June ‘67 following a year at NAPS. Originally from Cumberland, MD he was a member of our Plebe football team and played one year on the JV team. Graduating from the 35th Company he entered the Surface



San Diego ‘71ers at Café Coyote

Warfare Navy. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Peter and St. Paul Church on Saturday, November 5. Military honors will be accorded by Ft. Cumberland Post 13 Honor Guard. A December ceremony is being planned at the Naval Academy.

Duane James Jones passed away unexpectedly November 10th. Duane was a multiple sport athlete at Arrowhead High School in Hartland, WI. Duane joined ‘71 on 28 June 1967 but separated during the fall. He subsequently graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Lacrosse with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education Teaching and Coaching. Duane began his professional career as a teacher before establishing a long and successful career in Sales and Recruiting.

Robert Lewis Hindman passed away June 6, 2022 at home after battling throat cancer. Robert was a patriot, teacher, poet, scholar, and Mensa member. He graduated from Linsly Military Institute in West Virginia, was accepted to NAPS (Naval Academy Preparatory School), and joined our class in June 1967. After departing October of our Plebe year, he joined and served 12 years in the United States Marine Corps, serving two tours of Vietnam. He earned a bachelor's degree from West Texas State University and a Master's Degree in International Business Management from University of Texas in Dallas. After 9/11 he joined the Military Sealift Command (MSC).

Too soon, it is time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health, healing when needed, safety in travels, and strength to meet every challenge. **Today** is a gift - 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