

Shipmate March-April 2023
Duke Longworth
23 January 2023

Spring is here! The “dark ages” are behind the mids. The Yard has very green grass and colorful flowers are along Stribling Walk. There’s a buzz in the air as the Firsties are eagerly anticipating their escape to the fleet where they will assume leadership billets and see the world! The Segundos are eager to be Firsties and lead the Brigade. Those were the halcyon days for us and I expect are so for our current midshipmen!

Army-Navy football game did not work out the way I predicted! I do think our Midshipmen played a good game; however, the Army Knights had two key defensive plays that ruled the game. So, we are on to next year in Boston! I am sure most all know there is new leadership at the football helm. I am looking forward to witnessing the “new” team and watching Navy BEAT ARMY!



Lisa and Duke at the Salzburg fortress

Salzburg, a photo of Joyce and Dave at home, and a photo of our cheering section teammates at the game!

Speaking of the Army-Navy game, Lisa and I missed the game for the first time in eight years, not counting the 2020 C19 game at Michie Stadium. We were in Salzburg, Austria helping Lisa’s sister, so a quick trip to Philadelphia was out of the question. Our usual cheering section of Jean and **Perry Martini**, Peggy and **John Morris**, and Teri and **Dave Vandover** were there! I note that Joyce and **Dave Laws** were also absent from our usual cheering section! Below is a photo of Lisa and me at the fortress overlooking



Joyce and Dave cheering for Navy from home



Teri Vandover, Jean Martini, Peggy & John Morris, Perry Martini, Dave Vandover cheering for NAVY

Here's a note from **Phil Williams**, our webmaster: "Duke, today (17 December 2022) at the Gainesville, GA cemetery was our 'Wreaths Across America' celebration, I was honored to represent the Marines. I mounted the Wreath for the Marine Corps.



"I always must plan when I am going to wear my Dress Blues (bought these Blues at TBS in 1971) and get my weight down to 165. Semper Fi / Duces Virum, Phil." That's an excellent photo of one of our Marines! Most excellent Marine representation!

Lisa and my trip to Salzburg with Lisa's sister, Valerie, reinforced my closing paragraph below. Now is the time to ensure your loved ones and those close to you know you love them. Now is the time to mend fences, clear accounts, heal old wounds, and generally not have lingering questions or doubts!

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!

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