

Shipmate May 2023
Duke Longworth
21 February 2023

Graduation Week is just around the corner for the Firsties! The Yard is in full bloom in preparation for graduation and the multitude of visitors who will visit to watch the caps be thrown skyward! June Week sounds better, or perhaps it is just the familiar that conjures up the fond memories! I know some of you must think I am crazy to have fond memories of USNA! I managed to make it a fun-filled last three years. The first year was certainly a time to steel my determination to complete the course. I am so thankful I started lightweight crew the winter set plebe year. The hours away from Mother B were invaluable as time to refresh my attitude! This year plans are in place for

a visit to the Yard so I can take a stroll along Stribling Walk. I will enjoy as I can! I hope your spring season 2023 is filled with family and friends!



Peggy and Greg with grandson Cullen

First up is a note from **Greg Harper**: "Duke, It is with great pride that Peggy and I share this wonderful picture of us with our grandson, **Cullen Harper '19**, who received his 'Wings of Gold' at Pensacola in August. Cullen left directly for Camp Pendleton to report to his squadron and chosen aircraft, the Viper. It was truly a memorable and wonderful day for the entire Harper family! Best Regards, Greg." **AWESOME!** I can only imagine the pride Peggy and you have for Cullen! You are blessed. Here's to a successful Marine career for Cullen!



Next is a note from **John Ball**:
“Duke, not sure if you already knew this: Our **Bob Cabana** was recognized by the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) at its Annual Symposium last September. He was awarded the prestigious James Doolittle Award for his technical accomplishments while Director of Kennedy Space Center. Bob and I go way back to Pax River days. I had a nice chat with him at our 50th reunion and he had just moved up to NASA Headquarters in the DC area. He is a Fellow in SETP, the most respected level, for his flying at Pax and in space. I think of him as still one of the good guys, despite his recent positions in big government bureaucracy. All is well here in San Diego. It’s been a chilly wet winter.

Bob Cabana recipient of the Doolittle Award All the best, John.” Thank you! Bob has served our very nation well! He is currently NASA’s associate administrator, the agency’s highest-ranking civil servant and third highest-ranking executive.

Next is a note from **Perry Martini**: “Classmates, It is my distinct pleasure to announce the results of our post 50th reunion fundraising campaign for the world class U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Center that is currently under construction. Led by our Class Vice President, **Jim Bryant**, over 50 of you came forward to donate over \$400K far surpassing our goal of \$250K. If you recall, we decided following our reunion that we would jump on the bandwagon to gain name recognition for the class as the new Alumni Center completes the building project for the new center – which plans to open in fall of 2023. The final results are highlighted by 25 of you who have decided to donate at or above the level of \$12,500 over a five-year period to become plank owners for the new center. As a class I am always impressed that we rally to the cause and exceed expectations on our support for our alma mater. Well done and a special thanks to those that made these special and heartfelt contributions! *Duces Virum!* Perry.” WOW! ’71 continues to deliver for NAVY! I am looking forward to seeing the new Alumni Center. It will be on the property where the laundry was during our time at USNA.

Not sure if this *Shipmate* will have the 2023 football schedule which NAAA just announced, so it's below for your planning! I hope to see many of you this fall as Navy WINS!

26 August	Navy vs. Notre Dame	Dublin, Ireland
9 September	Wagner College	Annapolis, MD
14 September	University of Memphis	Memphis, TN
30 September	University of South Florida	Annapolis, MD
7 October	University of North Texas	Annapolis, MD
14 October	Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
21 October	U.S. Air Force Academy	Annapolis, MD
4 November	Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
11 November	University of Alabama Birmingham	Annapolis, MD
18 November	East Carolina University	Annapolis, MD
25 November	Southern Methodist University	Dallas, TX
9 December	Army vs. Navy	Foxborough, MA

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