

Shipmate Jan-Feb 2014
Duke Longworth
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Fall is turning into winter – my two favorite seasons! So far, we're having a cool fall which promises a cold winter! Good for snow skiing, if you're so inclined! There's good news regarding Navy football – Navy had a winning season with the new winningest coach in Navy football history! Navy overcame a sluggish start to handily defeat Air Force and nearly defeat Notre Dame! By now you already know who won the Army-Navy game – my bet is Navy rolled over the Army mule! And, there's Christmas and New Year's - hope you had a blessed, family-filled Christmas! Happy New Year, too! My first note is from Eric Benson: "Duke, our music and golf mini reunion of the 25th Company happened 71 in Clifden, Ireland in September. True North, a band consisting of Bruce Batten, Gareth Tabor, Denny Walsh and a few others, has played at the Clifden Arts Festival for 10+ years. Golfers, Ed Bouton, Hugh Butt, Bill Long and I had beautiful weather then retired to local pubs to hear the music and tip a pint or two. Here are photos of the guys and the gals in Ireland." n That sounds like a most excellent adventure – music, golf and local pubs in Ireland! I need to get started on a company mini-reunion, there, too! Here's a superb note from Steve Dmetruk: "Duke, Here's the note about our trip May 2013 to Spain. A group of '71 football teammates started to get together to play golf every year after 9-11. We realized how fragile life could be after that tragic day and we cherish the times that we are together. Every other year we go to Ireland, Scotland, Portugal or Spain to play golf and to spend time together. In the off years we gather somewhere in the States with our wives. Three years ago, we started a golf match with our Plebe coaches—'67 grads and that has evolved into an annual event that has developed new and close friendships with the '67ers and their wives. This past May we enjoyed a week in Southern Spain together playing golf and eating good Spanish cuisine! '71 Golfers included Dan Nelson, Tom O'Brien, Oz Fretz, Mike McNallen, Mike Hecomovich, David Howe, and yours truly. The highlight of all of our trips is the Awards Dinner where our esteemed Commissioner, Oz Fretz, regals us with his comments on everyone's '71: In front: Bruce Batten and Bill Long; in back: Ed Bouton, Gareth Tabor, Denny Walsh, Eric Benson and Hugh Butt. January-February 2014 107 71•72 CLASS NEWS 108 SHIPMATE golfing abilities (or lack thereof) and his awarding of "unique" prizes! After the golfing adventure Pam McNallen and Suzy met Mike and me and we spent a fun week together in Granada, Seville, Ronda, and Barcelona." n 'Left to right: Mike and Pam McNallen, Suzy and Steve Dmetruk Next up is Jan Milligan with a heads up on the upcoming 36th Company reunion in Lake Placid, NY: "Hello men, it is once again time to start talking about the next Fraternal Order of Disorder. The Big House is open for the weekend of Feb. 27 – March 2nd, which is virtually the same weekend we used last year. Let me know if you plan to attend so we can determine if the Big House is enough, or if we should also get the former condo, or if the condo will be enough. Last year the Big House seemed to work quite well and most thought we should return, but I'll leave that up to ya'll. Last year three stayed in hotels, so let me know if you plan to do that again. That seemed to work pretty-well also. My best from Sunny Florida, Jan." Ron Spratt was quick to provide his reply: "Gentlemen of the Disorder, I humbly accept the invitation to join FOOD for the 2014 Lake Placid Weekend. Although wanting to avoid special attention, I recently realized that my Lake Placid perfect attendance sets me apart and perhaps should be appropriately recognized this year. Speaking of food, Anne looks forward to preparing her classic combination of both chili and lasagna. And yes, chocolate sheet cake for the moments of temptation. Most of all, let us always remember...all for one, one for all. Another great weekend on the horizon. Until February, Ron." n I hope to join in the reindeer fun again this year! Here's a short note from Chuck May: "Duke, Nancy and I just got back from Princess Cruise's

Veterans' Cruising for a Cause, to benefit Operation Homefront and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. It was great to be under way again with whitecaps in the pool, but not in my coffee cup. We sailed from Houston to Progreso, Mexico, with over 1,700 veterans and their families, representing conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan. A highlight was the presence of all the most currently retired Joint Chiefs and their spouses. At the Navy breakout session (i.e. splicing the mainbrace) I '71: Left to right - Janet Tabor, Sally Benson, Susan Miller (Bouton), Charli Meacham (True North fiddler), Ann Butt and Toni London (Batten). '71: Left to right: Dan Nelson, Tom O'Brien, Oz Fretz, Mike McNallen, Steve Dmetruk, Greg Barber (Honorary Classmate), Mike Hecomovich, and David Howe called for any fellow Alums to gather for a photo op. Unfortunately, Mike Mullen '68 had to leave to officiate at another gathering, but here is a photo of Gary Roughead '73, Bill Massicot '66 and me. "It was a short cruise but an excellent chance to connect with veterans of all services across several generations, and all for a good cause. Since this is my first Shipmate submission in 42 years, a brief summary may be in order. I left active duty in 1976 and retired from the Reserves in 1993. Most of my civilian career has been in support of Navy programs in the Washington, DC, area though we lived in Gettysburg, PA for eight years. Nancy and I moved to Pittsfield, MA, (in the beautiful Berkshires) in 2009 so I could work on the General Dynamics Variant of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems (GD-AIS). We have a son, daughter-in-law, three step-grand-daughters, and a step-great-grand-daughter who live in Columbia, MD, and a grand-daughter in Perry, GA." n Sounds like a most enjoyable cruise! More of us should join you on the next one! And your post Navy career sounds superb! Left - right: Gary Roughead, Bill Massicot, Chuck May I'm including this note in hope of finding a classmate: "Duke, I just read your '71 column in 'Shipmate' and hope you can help me contact John Dalkowski. John is a Pope John XXIII High School graduate and followed my brother, Ed Banat '69, and me to USNA in 1967. I do not think he graduated but I hope he remains in contact with his class. The last info I had is that he is in the financial world in NY. If you have any contact information, I would appreciate it. On a different note, it looks like you had a ball at Philmont! Never went but my youngest son lists that as one of the highlights of his youth! Thanks, Steve Banat '70." n Can anyone assist me with Steve's request? And, yes, I had a blast at Philmont with my niece and grandnephew! January-February 2014 109 Unfortunately, I received the following note from our class president: "It is my sad duty to pass along to you the news of the passing of our classmate, William Henry "Bill" Crowe. Bill died in Fort Worth Texas on November 7th. Originally from Newton, NJ, he came to us in June 1967 as a member of our class and although he did not graduate with us, he went on to attend and graduate from the University of Florida and entered the U.S. Army serving until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Valerie, and daughters Kristin and Jeanne and three grandchildren." May Bill rest in peace. Look in the obituary section for more info about Bill. Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership can use our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is fragile, and too often, it seems too short. Love, give and share your bounty generously with others. Now is a good time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. There is plenty of work remaining for us as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man! Duces Virum, — Duke