

Shipmate June 2023
Duke Longworth
27 March 2023

Summer is here! The heat and humidity in Crabtown is ramping up for the new plebes! The climate changes for many midshipsmen is surely quite the shock to the system. Alas, the sweating is just part of the Navy experience we don't soon forget!



Carl and Dick at Bubba's

First up is a note from, **Dick Enderly**: "Hey Duke! I hope this finds you doing well! We haven't touched base in quite a while, so I thought I'd pass along a short update and the attached photo of me and our classmate and my 2nd Company-mate, **Carl Inskeep**. On March 15th I had the pleasure of a lunch get together with Carl and his wife, Martha, at Bubba's Crabhouse in Virginia Beach. Carl and Martha, who live in Houston, were passing through Hampton Roads on a cross country car trip. As always, it was great to catch up and reminisce with classmates!

"As for me, I am doing well, enjoying good health, and more than ready for the 2023 baseball season to get into full swing! Many a summer night will find me glued to the tube watching the Yankees, or parked in a seat at Harbor Park to watch the Baltimore Orioles Triple-A affiliate Norfolk Tides play! I am also still very involved with the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) of the USNA Alumni Association as the 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair. We continue to be one of the largest and most active Chapters in the country; and if or when the opportunity presents itself, we would love to have classmates, living locally or just passing through, join us at some of our events! And finally, after pretty much laying low for quite some time, my wife, Pat, and I are planning to do some traveling this coming year. All the best, Dick." Sounds like the traveling will give you a nice break for all the work! Enjoy! Thank you for your work with HRC!

Next is a note from **John Ball**: "Hello Duke! This week the 26th Company met via Zoom, with ten of our 20 grads online. Attending were **Bob Adkins, Randy Wagner, Steve Dmetruk, Mike Hichak, Ed Kaiser, Fred Becker, Joel Lassman, Tim Gilman, Jeff Hemler** and me. It had been quite a while, so it was a hearty group, and it was nice that we each focused on our family.

"On a personal note, recently I traveled to NAS North Island to brief a group of 50 naval aviators who are flying the Navy's new CMV-22B Osprey that is replacing the venerable C-2 Greyhound as the COD aboard carriers. The President of the Naval Helicopter Association, **CDR Stellpflug '05**, CO of training squadron VRM-50, had invited me following my articles in *The Hook* and *Rotor Review* magazines that described the history of tiltrotor aircraft, the origins of the Osprey, and my experience flying the NASA/Bell XV-15 Tiltrotor Research Aircraft and making the first shipboard

landing of a tiltrotor on *USS Tripoli (LPH 10)* in 1982. During my conversations I was impressed with the sharp young pilots - they're all young! Some aircrew are former helicopter pilots while some flew the C-2, with nuggets training as well now. Last year marked the first deployment of the Navy's Osprey aboard *USS Carl Vinson* supporting the new 'Air Wing of The Future' with its F-35 fighter. The Osprey can carry the big engine of the F-35, something the C-2 cannot do. I visited the squadron's hangar and had a brief tour of the CMV-22B. It was a thrill to be near a flight line again. As the C-2 is retired, the Navy VRM community is growing - an exciting time to be there. John." Wow! That was an exciting time to be a test pilot! You were certainly a brave soul to make that first V-22 landing on a ship underway!

Navy test pilot LCDR John Ball with Bell pilot Dorman Cannon and the NASA/Bell XV-15 Tiltrotor in 1982.



CDR Stellpflug with John in his original flight jacket



I received this note from O'Hare (DD-889) shipmate and cabin-mate, **Jeff Albright**: "Duke, Just a quick note to let you know that we FINALLY relocated (sort of) to Rehoboth Beach. Beth and I drove across country, we closed on the 7th of March, movers delivered our household goods on the 8th, and after moving about 200 boxes around, I flew back to Albuquerque and will be here for a few more months before driving BACK across country with Beth's Dad. Still have some legal work to finish up out here in NM (and my license is good through the end of the year).

"It will be a while before we settle in completely, but we are pleased – and looking

forward to our NEXT adventure - - and we have extra storage space for JB if he needs a place to park some of his papers! Hope you are doing well and that we get to join you for USNA adventures before TOO long. Jeff and Beth." I'm looking forward to seeing you and Beth at USNA this fall! We can share more sea stories!

Frank Culbertson attended the 2023 annual Navy crew banquet. This year long-time coach Rick Clothier was honored with a shell dedicated in his name. Frank's note to fellow '71 oarsmen: "Hi! I'm at the shell dedication for Coach Rick Clothier. Our shells are still up front and used! Wish you all were here... Frank." Frank sent a photo

of Coach Clothier's shell and a photo of our Class of 1971 and **Frank W. Montesano '71** shells! Many thanks to you, Frank!

Class of 1971 and Frank W. Montesano crew shells



"Jean and **Perry Martini** recently visited Suzy and me and we had a fun get together. Perry and I go back to 1966 when we first met. Actually it was 1964 but we didn't realize it until later—Perry's high school and my high school scrimmaged against each other. Perry said he remembers running right by me for a TD and I remember knocking him flat on his back!!!! BTW, neither memory is probably true!!! We formally met at Bordentown Military Institute where we attended prep school together along with **Mike McNallen**.

"Suzy had a special treat for Jean and Perry and a few of our neighbors. An artist friend of Suzy's and her husband cater authentic Italian dinners (Stefano, the husband grew up in Italy and his wife, Cullen, spent 10 years in Italy). They prepared the meal in our kitchen and shared what each course was and how they were preparing

Perry and Jean with Suzy and Steve



it. Dinner was delicious! Perry spent most of the evening talking to Stefano in Italian. The pic of us is at Coastal Kitchen where we enjoyed fresh seafood dinners and a few libations where we told more stories which

"Perry and I played a round of golf, and I have to give him a shout out for hitting the longest drive on the 18th hole that I have ever seen at my course! And it was right down the middle of the fairway!

Steve Dmetruk sent this note:

"Duke, Suzy and I recently toured the *USS Orleck (DD886)* Museum in Jacksonville. The *USS Orleck* was a sister ship to the *USS Rogers DD876*, which I was on from 1972-1974 as Supply Officer. It brought back many memories from joining the ship in overhaul, REFTRA, deployment to Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, transferring to the Reserve Fleet and changing homeport from San Diego to Portland, OR. It was a trip down memory lane!

Suzy and Steve



"I look forward to this coming football season and to seeing many classmates at the class tailgate. I have high hopes that Coach Newberry will instill an aggressive mindset in the offense as he has done with the defense, and we will have an exciting and successful season. Maybe Navy can even sneak up on the Irish in Dublin and pull off an upset. Steve." Excellent note – sounds like a most enjoyable time! NOTE: I questioned the longest drive note; however, Steve gave his sworn testimony and Perry noted that on a cold January day earlier this year he scored his age! I share Steve's hopes for the success of Coach Newberry and NAVY football!

Perry Martini sent this note: "Duke, Jean and I spent two weeks on a recent southern swing through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, visiting friends and classmates in late February in a more comfortable climate than the gloomy 'dark ages' of winter in Annapolis. During their trip we had a chance to catch up with company-mates and wives with two surviving members of the old 29th 'Dirty Dozen', Sybil and **Bill "Pappy" Yocum** and Tamara and. **Don "Hawk" Brewer.**" Sounds like a most enjoyable snowbird vacation with classmates!

Bill and Sybil with Jean and Perry in Melbourne, FL



Don and Perry in Pawleys Island, SC

T.K Pyle doing pushups during the UCF-Navy game



I was reviewing some of our 50th reunion photos when I noticed I had not posted a photo **Ken Jordan** sent me. Below you will see **Troy "T.K." Pyles** of 35th Company doing pushups after each Navy score during the UCF-Navy game. Many thanks to Ken for the photo! That was a fun reunion and a superb NAVY WIN!

It is my sad duty to note the passing of our classmate, **Bruce E. Nichols**, who died 24 February 2023 of complications from

dementia. He was born 14 Jan 1948 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. During his childhood Bruce's family lived in Peru for nearly 10 years where he became fluent in Spanish. They subsequently moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he graduated from St. Francis High School in Mountain View. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1965 and attended Foothill College before obtaining a SecNav appointment to USNA. As a Midshipman, he was on the Plebe and JV Heavy Weight Crew teams before focusing on company and battalion sports. He was President of the Spanish Club. As a firstie he was named 2nd Battalion Commander, graduating with the 11th Company. After graduation his first duty assignment was DCA on the *USS Bradley DE-1045* homeported in San Diego. His subsequent tours included instructor at the SWO school at NAB Coronado, CA, and Flag LT/Aide to RADM George S. Morrison, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. He separated from the Navy and joined Hilton International in San Juan, PR where he met the love of his life, Barbara, in 1979. He relocated to San Diego and married Barbara in 1981. He started his own consulting company specializing in leadership and managerial development. While doing contract work for a failing company, Fomulabs which specialized in writing inks, he and his business partner recognized it as an investment opportunity and negotiated a buy-out. They transformed how the business was operated and soon Formulabs was profitable and growing. Business exploded when ink-jet printers came into wide use. Bruce became President/CEO and was also President of the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association, serving for 3 years. In 1998 Bruce sold the company to Kimberly-Clark. He then joined the faculty of Cal-State University San Marcos where he taught business/ethics/leadership courses for 10 years. He was a Blue and Gold Officer and was among the first classmates in 1994 to serve on the Class Executive Board as a Trustee. Bruce served for the next 24 years and was a strong advocate for class projects as well as our *USS Roosevelt (CVN 71)* - Class of 1971 Ethical Character of Leadership Award. He was a long serving supporter of the Class of 71 fund raising efforts through the USNA Foundation and its Legacy Gifting program. Bruce is survived by his wife Barbara, sons Bryan and **Brandon Nichols '09**, and four grandchildren. Bruce's ashes will be scattered in the Pacific Ocean near San Diego.

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