

Shipmate September 2023
Duke Longworth
26 June 2023

September is the beginning of my favorite season – fall, or autumn as you may prefer! Cooling air temperatures in our northern latitudes, football is getting into full swing, the leaves are turning brown, and at Navy the brigade is re-formed and starting classes. I recall not being too excited about the plebe year fall as Scrapper, Grover than their pals were returning to resume their harassment of plebes. And, then there was the unknown aspect of the Firsties who hopefully were not like the Second Classmen! Ah, those were the days! Subsequent years the fall was only a most pleasant season.

First up is a note from **Charles Quinlan**: “Hi, Duke, Last week, **Don Olsen** visited Ginny and **John Sattler**, and that provided an excuse to get together with eight local 11th CO classmates for an enjoyable dinner at the Eastport Yacht Club. In the photo below are: Back row (L-R) **Don Olsen, Karen Young, Steve Brighton, Susan Brighton, Bill Butler, Bill Hoover, Mike McNallen.** Front row (L-R) **Ginny Sattler, John Sattler, Cathy Butler, Charles Quinlan, Jane Hoover, Pam McNallen, Wendy Quinlan, and Cass Young. Go Navy! Charles.”**



11th Company at the Eastport Yacht Club

That surely was an enjoyable gathering of Annapolis local 11th CO members! Lots of stories to tell!

Tom Hammons sent this note from sunny San Diego: “Duke, A short note to let you know how we celebrated the 52nd anniversary of graduation here in San Diego. Eleven of us got together for lunch at Café Cayote in Old Town San Diego at noon on the 9th (the west coast approximation of graduation) and had a great lunch. Several sea stories were told and retold. Present and pictured in the photo below from the top left: **Steve Comer, Rick Smith, Tom Hammons, Pat Doyle, Jim Bryant, Jim Mendelson, Joe Anthony, Bill Nevitt, Chuck Bongard, Jim Ward, and Russ Stahlak.**



San Diego Lunch – 52nd Graduation Celebration

“Later in the afternoon the guys from 34th Company got together via Zoom for a remote celebration. No picture from this event because I’m not smart enough to capture a screen shot. We had eight company-mates on the call including **Dick Cheliras, Jim Gosma, Randy Harper, Bill Hatcher, Mitch Marich, Kevin O’Connor, Rick Smith,** and me. It was good to catch up and share some memories about June Week and graduation all those years ago. Tom.” Sounds like a busy and most enjoyable USNA ‘71 day! We Norfolk area ‘71ers need to get together for the next anniversary!

Tom Gross sent this note regarding football tailgates: “Are you excited about Navy football? This year brings a new coach, new plays, and who knows what else. One thing you can count on is our class tailgate will be up and operating every home

game. You will find us at our traditional spot on the Blue Side parking lot perimeter, directly out from the press box. We're easy to find, so plan to meet up with your group at the tailgate.

"As usual, the tailgates will start two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. All classmates and guests are welcome. All home games except Air Force and East Carolina are scheduled for 3:30 PM kickoff. The October 21st game with Air Force is scheduled for noon. The East Carolina game on November 18th is to be determined. Nevertheless, we will be open two hours before kickoff whenever it occurs.

"Our menu is largely potluck. Classmates bring dishes, drinks, desserts, or snacks to share; grill space is available for those who want to bring their own tailgate grill specialties. In addition, your tailgate team will be serving up Italian Sausage and burgers as well.

"Coming from out of the area? Don't sweat it if you can't bring something, come anyway. We haven't run out of food yet! See you there! Beat Army! Tom." I am looking forward to seeing classmates this fall as Navy football wins!

It is my sad duty to note the passing of our classmate, **Richard "Rick" Haley Ector**, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Rick was born on September 13, 1949, in West Point, Georgia. Rick's family moved to Atlanta before settling in Greenville, South Carolina. While at Greenville High School, Rick earned Eagle Scout rank and played on the high school baseball team. Rick foreshadowed his future as an engineer by excelling at building model ships and airplanes. Rick entered USNA with us on 28 June 1967. While at Navy he earned a B.S. in math and was introduced to his love of lacrosse and sailing. After commissioning, Rick graduated from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion training program and served as the chief engineer aboard the **USS SHARK**, a fast attack submarine. Rick then worked in the civilian nuclear energy sector in Chattanooga, Tennessee before entering public service. Rick served the federal government for several years, where he met his wife, Beth. In 1998, Rick founded TVIG, an engineering firm that builds large-scale wind turbine and solar panel farms globally.

Rick loved coaching lacrosse and studying history. While honoring his father, who flew P-39 Airacobras during World War II, Rick joined the Peachtree City Commemorative Air Force. There, he commentated on air shows and fulfilled his dream of flying B-22 dive bombers and P-51 Mustangs. He also ushered at Church throughout his life, and in retirement, volunteered in many roles at Dranesville United Methodist Church, Herndon, VA.

Rick is survived by his wife Beth (née Roelfsema); children, Emily, Sam, and Charlotte; sister Helen; and brother Robert. Funeral services were held 9 June at the Adams-Green Funeral Home in Herndon, VA.

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 time and 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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