

Shipmate November - December 2023
Duke Longworth
26 September 2023

The Army-Navy game is almost here! The mids are preparing for the big game, and classes are almost over for the semester. The new head football coach has shown us an on-fire team. By the way, GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY! I will be there!

First up is a note from **Bob Wagoner**: "Duke, I recently came across the attached picture of six classmates (five submarine COs and one Nuclear Repair Officer) whose duties landed us in Norfolk Naval Shipyard in November 1989. From left to right: **Bruce Lemkin**, CO *USS Hyman G. Rickover*, **Mike Feeley**, CO *USS Phoenix*, **Bob Wagoner**, CO *USS Atlanta*, **Mike Duncan**, CO *USS Finback*, **Dana Roberts**, CO *USS Sunfish*, and **Bill Nold**, Nuclear Repair Officer. Our boats were all in various stages of repair and upkeep overseen by Bill and his Repair Department. Since moving to Annapolis two years ago, Meg and I have enjoyed living next door to another classmate, **Bob Capra**, photo below, and down the Magothy River from two more, **Cass Young** and **Brent Greene**. Bob and I frequently get out on our boat to explore the Bay. We look forward to seeing classmates at the fall tailgates where Meg and I support **Tom Gross**, **Bill Butler**, **Bob Capra**, and their wives with setup and take down. See you in October, Bob." Excellent photos! I'm looking forward to seeing some of our fellow nuclear power classmates and Bob Capra at the Air Force-Navy game! **GO NAVY!**



1971 Classmates in Norfolk in 1989



Bob Wagoner and Bob Capra

Here's a note from our webmaster, **Phil Williams**: "Duke, After the Navy-Notre Dame game in Dublin we moved on to London for a visit. One spot we visited was the Crypt in St. Paul's Cathedral. Unlike USNA, St Paul's is a collection of famous English people including Wellington, Christopher Wren, and Florence Nightingale among others.

While I did not see any monuments or memorials to American naval heroes, I did find the grave site/memorial for a British Naval hero - Admiral Horatio Nelson. A good spot for a photo. I am holding my Marine hat in honor of the Admiral. Semper Fi / Duces Virum, and **GO NAVY**, Phil." Glad to hear you



Phil Williams at St. Paul's Cathedral in London

attended the game! This is an excellent photo of you in London!

Next is a note from **Lee Schierer**: “Hello Duke. My wife, Sue, and I recently completed an alumni trip to Switzerland, France, Germany, and Netherlands including a river boat trip on the Rhine and Mosel rivers. There were five alumnus with their wives: Teresa and **VADM Dirk Debbink '77**; classmate **RADM Christopher Weaver** and Christine; Jasmine and **LT Jacob Cohen '66**; Patricia and **LT David Sharp '74**. We started out in Zurich and were taken by bus to Interlaken where we spent 2-1/3 days. From there we were transported across Lake Brienz by boat and then by bus to Basel where we boarded the *Amadeus Imperial* for the Rhine River cruise. We had stops at Strasbourg, Mannheim, Cologne, Heidelberg, Koblenz, and Cochem. From Cochem we cruised through the Rhine Gorge, a winding stretch renowned for its castles and vineyards, and final stop in Amsterdam. It was a very enjoyable trip arranged by USNA Alumni Travel.

“The photo below was taken on the observation platform of Schilthorn summit. We had lunch in the revolving restaurant. The summit was featured in the James Bond Movie ‘On Her Majesty’s Secret Service.’ In the photo (L-R) David Sharpe, Dirk Debbink, Jasmine Sharpe, Teresa Debbink, James Bond 007, Susan Schierer, Christopher Weaver, Lee Schierer.

River cruisers at the Schilthorn summit



“In the second cruise photo below (L-R) Dirk and Teresa Debbink, James and Susan Aluisi, Lee and Susan Schierer, Jasmine and David Sharpe, Christine and Christopher Weaver, Patricia and Jacob Cohen.



Alumni and wives aboard the ship

BEAT ARMY! Lee, "Excellent" photos! I am certain the sea stories were bountiful!



Bob, Peter, Bruce

Bob Wagoner sent a second note: "Duke. I was able to get out recently at the Army-Navy Country Club with **Peter de Vos** and **Bruce Gallemore**. Included is a photo taken on the green of Red #9 with the Washington Monument in the background. It was a great chance to catch up with classmates. Bob." A most fitting background for classmates having fun on the links! Thank you!



Bob and Tom with Marie and Sherri in Memphis

Next up is a note from **Tom Laboon**: “Duke, Marie and I visited Sherri and **Bob Chimenti** in Memphis for the Navy-Memphis game. They are wonderful hosts, and we always travel there for the Navy game. Wouldn't miss it.

“On our way into the stadium we happened upon Chet Gladchuck all by himself. He stopped and gave us the lowdown for the game and graciously took a picture with us! Turns out he later stopped in our box with the new Superintendent, so we got to meet him as well! Those



Tom, Chet and Bob at Navy vs Memphis

It was a close game with the wrong score, but we were glad to be among the few Navy fans!! Go Navy!! Tom, “excellent” photos! The fourth quarter was quite a roller coaster ride SUPs look soooo young!”



Bob, Marie, CJ, Tom, Sherri at the USNA truck

“Bob and I took this picture with CJ, the USNA truck driver. We knew CJ through Bob Parsons when Bob worked at USNA.” Tom, thank you for the story and the photos!”

Here’s note from Perry Martini: “Duke, Jean and I made a quick trip over to the



Perry and JT at the Fluegel Alumni Center after Brian’s memorial

new Alumni Center following the inurnment memorial ceremony of our dear friend and longtime Class Secretary and Board member, Brian Horais. After touring the center with Peggy and JT Morris we noticed the center was flying class flags below the national ensign in honor of Brian and a member of the Class of 67 who had a funeral earlier in the day. Nice touch! It was a wonderful send-off for Brian and Cathy, their two daughters, many friends and family members in addition to the 25 classmates present to honor the Horais family. *Duces Virum, Perry.* That is a most fitting tribute!

Sadly, we lost three classmates who passed away since my last column.

Gerald “Gerry” Pickett, Major, USMC (Ret.) passed away in his sleep Sunday, 30 July. He had been suffering from Alzheimer the past few years. Gerry, “The Wizard” as he was affectionally known in 29th Company, served in the U.S. Marine Corps flying A-4s before retiring in 1991. Gerry is survived by his wife, Kathy. When known an announcement will be made regarding final services.

Vince Zabala suddenly died of cardiac arrest on Friday morning 28 July. Vince was born February 14th, 1947, to Sgt Vincent and Asuncion Zabala. His father was a WWII veteran who served in New Guinea and Philippine Liberation Campaign. Vince competed and

received a Presidential appointment from Louisiana to both West Point and Annapolis. As a midshipman his hobby was photography which then became his lifetime passion. As such he helped photograph life at the Naval Academy as a member of the *Lucky Bag* and Trident Calendar staffs, providing Christmas gifts for classmates, friends, and relatives. For summer deployments he was on a diesel-powered WWII LST in the western Caribbean and on the *USS Moana Loa (AE8)* in the Mediterranean Sea. Vince graduated from the 1st Company with a BS in Analytical Management and was stationed on the *USS Truxtun (CGN 35)* homeported in Long Beach, CA. Deploying to WESTPAC and Subic Bay he was on station during the Vietnam War during his five years of active service. After his active duty, he spent the next 15 years in the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1991 as a LCDR.

After retiring from the USN Vince was the owner of Zabala Holdings for 46 years, then worked eight years for Coldwell Banking Realtor, and was Executive Vice-President of Integrated Sports Media West Coast for 5 years.

Vince was especially proud of his two sons who attended and graduated from West Point and the Air Force Academy. He always said that he won the Commander-in-Chief trophy every year! He was also an active member of the USNA Alumni Association San Diego Chapter for several years. He is survived by his sons LTCOL

Vincent Zabala III, USAFA '98, and John Zabala, USMA '05, and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Miramar National Cemetery on Wednesday, August 8th.

Bill, Jim and Joe at Vince's Memorial



Jim Bryant sent this photo with classmates Bill Nevitt and Joe Anthony at Vince's memorial.

Rob Ferguson died in the hospital on Tuesday 23 August from complications during abdominal surgery. Rob entered the Naval Academy with his classmates that would graduate from the 7th company. He was active as a midshipman participating in the Drum and Bugle Corps until he left during the 1st semester Youngster year. He has been very supportive of Navy sports over the years, including playing on our Alumni Hockey Team. He is survived by his widow, Janet. Memorial service details will be sent when finalized.

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!

Duke Longworth