

Shipmate January-February 2024  
Duke Longworth  
27 November 2023

The Dark Ages are here again! The Army-Navy game 2023 is in the history books, and I am hopeful NAVY WINS! But, two weeks prior to the game it is anyone's guess regarding the outcome. Army has done well again this year, but we know that is not the determining factor. Navy Football has steadily improved with its formidable defense and a maturing offense! I will have a report in the March column written while in Boston! **GO NAVY!**



*36th CO enjoying a festive dinner at the Crab Claw*

First up is a note from **Craig Welling**: "Duke, 36<sup>th</sup> Company held their annual get-together in late September. This time we met on the Eastern Shore of Maryland rather than at our normal venue of Lake Placid. We stayed at a fabulous house near St. Michaels on a creek with access to the Chesapeake Bay. Activities included golf, a 22-mile bike trip to Tilghman Island, a visit to the Naval Academy Museum, attendance at the South Florida - Navy football

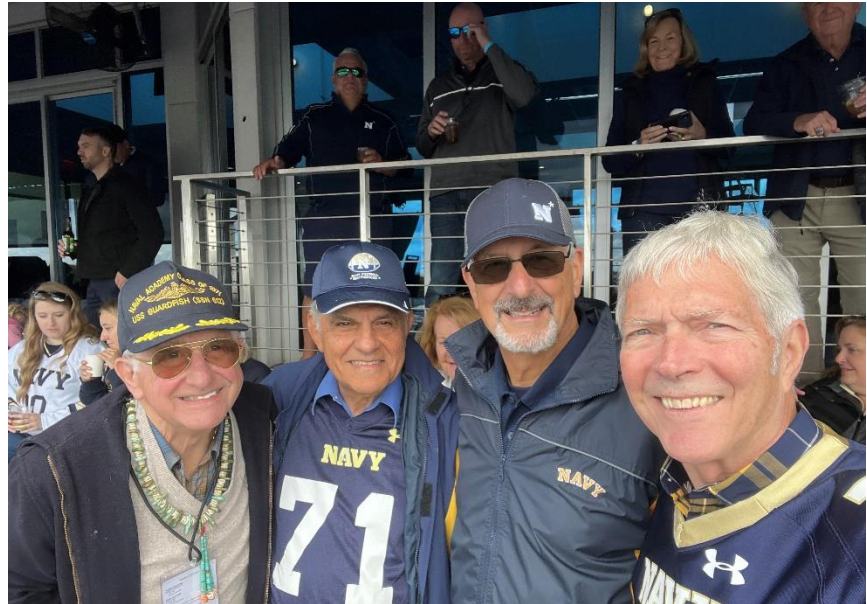
game, and a St. Michaels harbor cruise. We enjoyed lasagna from **Carter Welling**, muffins from **Jim Barron**, wine from **Bruce Gallemore**, and dining at the Crab Claw restaurant. 36<sup>th</sup> Company-mates in the picture above (L-R): **Robbie Roberson, Bruce Gallemore, Don Beaudette, Garry Holmstrom, Mark Horgan, Sonny Naple, Lee Burgess, Craig Welling** and **Jim Barron**.

Here's a short note from **Wally Poleshaj**: "Duke, here is a picture of a small contingent of NAPTERS from our class (NAPS'67) that showed up at our tailgate tent during the Air Force-Navy game. (L-R): **Wally Poleshaj, Bob Annis, Bob Capra, Paul Cuddy, Dave Howe** and **Mike Trent**. In attendance but not in the picture was **Tom Bjerke**. Wally. Excellent photo! I'm sure there were many stories retold! **BEAT ARMY!**



*NAPS '67 at Air Force-Navy*

Here's a photo of your '71 Class Officers taken at the Air Force-Navy game. Not often do we get-together so we seized the moment for a photo! All agreed Navy must win next year! (L-R) **Jim Bryant, Perry Martini, Dave Laws, Duke Longworth**



*Class Officers at the Air Force – Navy game*

**Tom Hammons** sent this report: “Duke, we made the 2022 USNA Class of 1971 Ethical Character in Leadership Award presentation

onboard *USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)* on Monday, 23 October. The award was presented to LTJG Samuel Norgaisse, USN. He is the Combat Systems Maintenance Division Officer (CS8) and one of only five underway OODs.



*USNA71\_EthicalCharacterAward - USNA '71 onboard CVN-71!*  
(L-R) John Ball, Bill Nevitt, and Tom Hammons



Click this link "[wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/12/LTJG-Norgaisse-NAM-Citation.pdf](https://www.wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/12/LTJG-Norgaisse-NAM-Citation.pdf)" to view the attached copy of the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal award citation. I've been waiting for a photo of the actual presentation taken by the ship's media representative, but I haven't received one yet. However, we know that John Ball, Bill Nevitt, and Tom Hammons were representing the Class of 1971 in the attached photo taken on the flight deck. This is an excellent photo! Thank you for representing '71!

The TR went to sea first thing the next day, so I assume they're busy doing other 'stuff.' As soon as I get a photo, I'll forward it to you.

"As a rare coincidence, when I showed **Perry Martini's** book to the TR CO, **CAPT Brian Schrum '95**, he said, 'I know CAPT Martini. He signed my first FITREP. After graduation, I was assigned to the Athletic Department while awaiting flight school and CAPT Martini was the Deputy Athletic Director.' It's a small world and another indication that we've been around a long time. I'm sure Perry remembers him. Tom." Perry remembers Brian as "a helluva punter" who kept Navy in the Army-Navy game by pinning Army deep in their territory. Army had a game-winning 99 yard drive to end the game at a 14-13 Army win!

Next is a note from one of our international travelers, **John Ball**: "Duke, the 26<sup>th</sup> Company held a periodic come-around on Zoom, and it was nice to see 12 of our 18 living grads online. Present were **John Ball, Bob Adkins, Fred Becker, Joel Lassman, Mike Hichak, Ed Kaiser, Jeff Hemler, Steve Dmetruk, Tim Gilman, Scott Gessis, Mike French, and Mike Stephens**. Someone suggested that next time we call it Happy Hour, and bring our favorite beverage, a motion that was heartily supported. Discussion included news about USNA, Navy Football, and personal updates. Steve Dmetruk, just back from the Class Trustees meeting, provided the date for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion!"



*26th Company Zooming!*



“As for me, I returned from 33 days traveling abroad, a record for non-Navy trips. I traveled three weeks in Italy and then joined a ten-day tour in Egypt, which was fascinating. Again, it was fun and rewarding to speak Italian to everyone in Italy. I spent time in Roma, Napoli, Amalfi, Bari on the Adriatic, traveling by train. I spent a day with my friendly tour guide, Marcello, in Napoli and Herculaneum, a different perspective from the Navy port of Naples in the 1970s. I have SO many photos and experiences from Italy, and I always enjoy the history, friendly people, vino, gelato, caffe, and practicing my Italiano.

“In Egypt our tour group fortunately numbered only six, so it was nearly a private tour. In fact, we six became good friends. We had so many incredible experiences, like climbing inside three pyramids (not for the faint of heart), descending into three tombs in the Valley of the Kings, cruising the Nile for four days in luxury (an experience in itself), and visiting the impressive temples at Abu Simbel. I strongly recommend a tour in Egypt.



*John and David cruising*

“In September my older son, David, and I went to Tahiti for a delightful cruise there with a dear couple. We went snorkeling every day and even swam near the southern humpback whales that migrate to Tahiti in summer. The colors, the food, the pristine waters, the unspoiled islands, the sunsets - Polynesia is a true paradise. It's another recommended trip.

“It has been a bit of a shock returning to domestic reality, but I do like my bed and pillow. Here at home, both of my grandsons are now in California, at UCLA School of Law, and near me at UC San Diego. The whole family will be here for Thanksgiving - and I'm not cooking! Best to all! Take care, John.” WOW! That sounds like a fantastic trip! I am not sure which area to travel first, but Tahiti surely sounds nice! And, the “happy hour” on Zoom would surely liven up the conversation and storytelling! I hope your Thanksgiving was blessed!

Next up is a note from our webmaster, **Phil Williams**: “Happy Veterans Day to the USNA Class of 1971. I got into my Dress Blues yesterday to visit an elementary school that our community supports to celebrate Veterans Day. We had several Veterans from our community go into classrooms and speak with the kids and answer questions. The principal has three brothers who were in the Marines. And I got back in



*Our webmaster looking good in his Dress Blues*

my Blues today for our community's Veterans Day celebration. Semper Fi /Duces Virum, Phil." Nice photo! Looking good in those Blues!

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

**Robert Stephen "Steve" Ayers**

passed away on Saturday, October 21 at his home in New York City with his wife, Elizabeth, by his side. He had been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and succumbed quickly. A full obituary is in the "Last Call" section of this *Shipmate*.

**Frank Wnek** passed away on

Saturday, 11 November. He was diagnosed with melanoma last August. His wife, Meredith, passed away February 2023. A full obituary is in the "Last Call" section of this *Shipmate*.

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