

Shipmate May-June 2024
Duke Longworth
21 March 2024

Spring is quickly transitioning to summer. The midshipmen are making their plans for summer training or the big move to commissioned officer life and responsibilities. I am sure they are very busy and eager to move to the next phase of their Navy careers. And, I am sure the arriving plebes will soon experience with miseries of the high humidity and temperatures. The only benefit of a “red flag day” was no running. I would rather have the running than the heat and humidity!

First up is a note from **Jon Cichucki**: “Duke, The 33rd Company gathered for our 2024 get together on the Riverwalk in San Antonio on Jan. 31st and Feb 1st. The 71/33 Magic renewed our brotherhood bonds with 14 company-mates and 16 spouses/guests for three days in the Alamo City. Individual touring and sampling of Texas hospitality was highlighted by two scheduled dinner events and numerous impromptu gatherings. The Texas hosts were Texas residents, Judy and **Bill Shutt**, and Rachel and **Roland Weibley**. All guests were greeted with welcome bags containing information and handmade sweets and snacks courtesy of Rachel and Judy. The weather was nearly perfect for the mates who traveled from all corners of CONUS. Blue skies and sunshine made it a perfect winter warm up destination. Our dinner speaker on the first night gave a history of our venue, the oldest restaurant in San Antonio, and told us the story of the resident ghosts and their sightings in the establishment. The second event was our annual company meeting highlighted by a superb Tex-Mex buffet dinner and unique entertainment provided by Roland Weibley in which we all had a part. Also, during dinner we toasted our newlyweds Pat and **John Closs**. San Antonio and the Texas hospitality made for a very enjoyable gathering for the 71/33 Magic. 33rd Company-mates in the photo below (L-R): **Mike Riordan, Bill Shutt, Steve Martin, Pete Baker,**



71/33 Magic Classmates

Dan Curry, Mike Ward, Jon Cichucki, John Closs, Jim Bloom, Rolland Weibley, Dave Hackett, Mac Oxford, Buz Dereniuk, Larry Wray.” Sounds like a most enjoyable visit to San Antonio!



Newlyweds Pat and John Closs front and center in San Antonio

Jeff Albright sent this note: “Duke, just a short update from the 16th Company. For those who remember **Mark Macklin** (USMC), we recently learned his widow Tanya Weatherly Macklin passed away on January 5, 2022. Mark and Tanya dated during his USNA days and married in Texas shortly after graduation. We have no other



3rd Company quarterly zoom

information, only that she was living in Springfield, MO before she died and has been laid to rest next to Mark at the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery. Jeff."

Next is a note from **Joe Sheppard**: "Hey Duke, Like 26th and other companies, 3rd Company has a roughly quarterly ZOOM call to catch up on each other. These have been organized by **Joe Anthony**, who sets them up and regularly reminds us of the next one. On the last call we had **Joe Anthony, Brad Closson, Mike O'Rourke, Mike Marks, George Skirm**, me, **Jack Williams, Frank McAfee, Carl Josefson, Mike Kehoe & Henry Buchanan** (aka Santa). We caught up on things and discussed in depth how to fix Navy's football woes. As usual, it was great to see the guys and to find out that we are still around and kicking. We did note that Mike Kehoe is the only one of us without white hair. These calls are a great way to stay in touch and we look forward to the next one. Joe Sheppard Beat Army!" Joe, this is an excellent way to share stores! Please keep posted on the highlights of the calls!

Congratulations are in order for our esteemed board member and classmate, **Frank Culbertson**, for receiving the Buzz Aldrin Award at the Explorers Club Annual Awards Ceremony. Bravo Zulu, Frank!

Like many of you I devote time and energy to staying fit to avoid the doctors. I am a member of CrossFit Oceana just outside Naval Air Station Oceana. There are several active-duty gym attendees. I always

introduce myself and get to know the background of these service men and women. On occasion a member will be an officer, and sometimes they are USNA grads. Since January grads from '19, '20, '21, '22, and '23 have been at the gym. I took the photos



Duke and Kira



(L-R) Jack, Duke, and Cole

below with three of our Another-Link-in-the-Chain grads, **Jack Kinnear '21, Cole Cooper '21, and Kira Willard '21**. All three of these young officers are attached to EOD units. I enjoy meeting the Navy grads as I can keep up to date somewhat with the youth of our Navy!

Perry Martini send the following note to update us on our Distinguished Military Professor

(DMP). “In 2006, our Class kicked off a fundraising campaign for the express purpose of raising necessary funds to establish a Class of 1971 Distinguished Military Professor Billet for the Leadership, Ethics and Law Department (LEL) (Luce Hall). In 2008, we signed a new gift agreement and Memorandum Of Understanding with USNA through the USNA Foundation once we raised a moderate amount to start funding a retired Navy O-5 or O-6 who had the credentials to teach leadership and ethics. USNA eventually hired CDR Kevin Haney, USN (Ret.) '81 to become our first fully-funded DMP.

“When Kevin's contract expired in 2018, the faculty requested a meeting with us, attended by Class Officers and a few members of our class Board of Trustees. We asked one of our board members, **Tom Ledvina**, Captain, USN (Ret) JACG, to be in attendance since we were told that the original MOU was to change with our permission and signature to bring aboard a senior JAG to bolster the expertise in the LEL Department in the legal elective and core courses that were offered to Second and First Class Midshipmen. Although we could not be involved in the actual hiring of a new DMP, we were pleased to be notified that USNA selected a retired Army BG who was leaving West Point as a permanent professional professor. USNA brought onboard BG David Wallace, USA (Ret) JAGC PhD at the start of academic year 2018-19. Since David came aboard, many board members have been fortunate to sit in on his classes and observe this outstanding professional at work. He is a great Distinguished Professor and reflects great credit on the Class of 1971.

“In early March, Tom Ledvina sat in on a Law of Armed Conflict class taught by Professor/General Wallace. He remains convinced that we got an all-star when we hired Dave. According to Tom, ‘Dr. Wallace did a terrific job of marching through the day's objectives, starting a multi-class examination of what sort of place is a ‘lawful target.’ As you might imagine, this is a ‘read it in today's paper’ subject. The class was taught with a lot of energy at a high level - all Socratic - really getting the ~20 mids (mostly firsties) to explore a series of hard questions. The mids were prepared and engaged - much more than I was at any last class before lunch the second semester of my last year. He seemed to know all of them quite well and they knew what he expected from them. They also were allowed to express contrary views and discuss them.’

“Tom concluded that this was simply impressive. In my view, the class's money is being very well invested in the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps.” Thank you, Perry for the update.

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