

Shipmate January-February 2025  
Duke Longworth  
26 November 2024

Navy Football continues its winning season this fall; however, after the superb six win start, the team faced challenging times which netted three loses and one more win. Both Navy and Army lost to Notre Dame by comparable margins, so while Army has a better season record I predict a NAVY WIN over Army! GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

There are several notes. First is a note from **Dave Charvat**: “One of our classmates, Ed Reeve, passed away this past May. His wife, Jan, ended up contacting me about the committal service. She wanted a service in the USNA chapel and the columbarium. Since she lives in Florida, she needed help and the help came from our class president, **Perry Martini**. So, over this summer and fall, Perry communicated with Jan and me as well as USNA Memorial Affairs to provide support for Ed’s services. Ed’s service was just held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Perry and his wife, Jean, were there to support Ed’s family at the chapel and columbarium as well as provide transportation for some of our classmates from 35<sup>th</sup> Company. There were over 50 emails that Perry, Jan, and I had leading up to this service. Perry diligently provided us with great advice, maps, contacts, and support over this time. He also set up phone calls as needed. I have no idea of the time and effort he spent on behalf of our classmate, Ed, but it was a huge commitment of time. The bottom line is that our class president deserves a well-deserved BZ. There is no way we can thank him enough for his loving support of our class. For any of you who see Perry in person, please give him a pat on the back and ask him about his connections with Perry Como and Dean Martin. With much gratitude, Dave Charvat.” Perry is certainly very dedicated and knowledgeable about all things USNA! We are blessed to have his leadership and support!

Next is a note from **Eric Benson**: “Duke, Sally and I have resumed our COVID interrupted travel. In August we cruised the Northwest Passage from Resolute Bay, Canada to Greenland. Not the usual entertainment and port visit cruise but lots of history and incredible scenery and animals (we actually got a bit tired of seeing polar bears!). In September we made our fifth trip to Ireland for golf and a mini-25<sup>th</sup> Company reunion in Clifden. For almost 20 years *True North Music* consisting of **Bruce Batten** and spouse Toni London, **Gareth Tabor** and spouse Janet, **Denny Walsh** and a former neighbor (non-USNA) on harmonica have played the Clifden Arts Festival. This was our third time seeing them there. Other Ireland trips have included other company-mates: **Ed Bouton** and Susan Miller, Ann and **Hugh Butt**, **Bill Long**, and **Don Hesse** and Jerilyn Andrews. Unfortunately, we were having too much fun catching up in various Clifden pubs to take time for a picture. After our 24<sup>th</sup> year of heading up a small non-profit and participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (last year our

teams did over 5000 returns), we head off to Morocco, Spain and Provence in April and July. If anyone wants to join us, we can send along the details.” Sounds like a very fun time! I will check the 2025 Clifton dates to see if Lisa and I can join in the fun! Please take a couple photos of your next adventure!

**Rex Settlemoir** sent this note: “Duke, The 27<sup>th</sup> Company Halfway (53rd) Reunion was held at the beautiful waterfront home of Mary Jane & **Jim Metzger**, 24-27 October. Many thanks to Mary Jane and VADM Jim for opening their Suffolk, VA home to host our mini-reunion, and also to **Brent Greene’s** wife Debbie for helping Mary Jane with food and assistance throughout the weekend. Eight 27<sup>th</sup> Company Classmates attended, most with spouses. We enjoyed a special dinner Friday evening with tenderloin and stuffed shrimp (with fresh crabmeat). The dinner began with a toast to our deceased classmates, **Mike Hoert**, **Bruce Linder**, and **Tim Poole**, as well as prayers for **Ernie Morris**, who is suffering from Alzheimer’s. We also had Oysters Rockefeller made with fresh oysters from the Metzger oyster farm (which is flourishing). Some of the crew even enjoyed their first oyster shucking. Amidst the fun, food, camaraderie and (too much) drink, the only down note was Saturday’s watch party with Navy football at the mercy of an overpowering Notre Dame team. In the group photo, front row left to right: **Jim Metzger**, **Rex Settlemoir**, **Brent Greene**, **Dana Roberts**; back row left to right: **Mark Gardner**, **Jim Brick**, **Jeff Loustaunau**, **Bob Agnor**. I snagged our hosts, Jim & Mary Jane Metzger for a photo of the three of us wearing our

### ***27th Company Mini-Reunion on 24-27 Octobert2024***



'71 football jerseys. Best Regards, Rex." Thank you for the excellent note and photos! Sounds like lots of fun, excellent food, great fellowship!

***27th Company Mini-Reunion: Mary Jane, Rex, and Jim***



Sadly, three classmates passed away since my last column.

**Robert "Bob" Michael Flack**, of Tallahassee, FL passed away on Monday, October 14, 2024, due to complications of Lewy body dementia. Bob was born to Roger and Florence Flack on April 18, 1949, in Chicago, IL. Raised in Chicago until moving to St. Petersburg, FL, Bob graduated from Northeast High School in 1967. His college education included USNA and Florida State University before graduating from the University of South Florida. After college, Bob delivered sailboats along the eastern coast of the USA until he joined E-Systems in 1982.



Bob married his wife of 42 years, Kimberly Anderson, in November 1982 in St. Petersburg where they began to raise their three children: Megan, Courtney and Gordon. In 1992, Bob and his family moved to Tallahassee, FL where he worked at General Dynamics until retirement.

Bob was an avid sailor and sailed in regattas with the St. Petersburg Yacht Club and the St. Petersburg Sailing Association. He was also an avid golfer and golfed frequently with the Sunday Swingers at Killlearn Country Club and the Big Bend Senior Golf Association. Bob always looked forward to and enjoyed his summers in Maine with his family. He also greatly enjoyed coaching his children in youth soccer. Bob was well-known for his stories, robust laugh, spirited debates, and love for Florida State football and science fiction.

He will be profoundly missed by his family: wife, Kimberly Flack; daughter Megan Flack; daughter Courtney (Adam) Starling; son Gordon Flack; granddaughter Clarissa Starling whom he called his princess; and several extended family members. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and brother, James "Jim" Flack.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at a later time at his happy place in Maine. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Bob's memory may be directed to the American Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Project.

**Paul Alexander Sonye**, of Avon Lake, Ohio, died peacefully at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland, OH on Friday, November 15, 2024. He was born September 23, 1949, in Cleveland, OH to parents Frank and Virginia (nee Zekany) Sonye.

Paul was a 1967 graduate of Lorain High School, attended USNA until his departure in August 1969 at the end of our Youngster Summer, then attended and graduated from Wright State University. He was a social worker at the VA Medical Center for several years. .Paul formed his own computer software business and worked many years at the Eveready Battery Company writing machine control software for battery assembly equipment. ,He was an avid computer hobbyist and an Amateur Radio Operator with the callsign "KE8HCQ".

Paul was an early member of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, helping it to grow into the active organization it is today. He served as treasurer for many years.

Paul is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Christine Hoss Sonye; and two brothers Daniel Sonye of Las Vegas, NV and Frank Sonye (Susan) of Rochester Hills, MI.

Major **Chris Bennett**, USMC (Ret.), passed away on Sunday, 24 November, in Fredericksburg, VA. Chris had been ill for quite some time afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. Well-loved by his classmates in 5<sup>th</sup> Company, he was a dedicated servant leader in defending our nation while serving in the USMC. Details on any funeral arrangements and an obituary will be published as soon as received.

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. Our training to think critically and to analyze problems is necessary to solve our nation's challenges. 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