Shipmate March - April 2025
Duke Longworth
22 January 2025

The dark ages are upon the Yard as I write this column. Although the daylight increases with each passing day, the cold days prevail. The good news - NAVY BEAT ARMY in a decisive victory! The future is bright for Navy Football as the team has many starters returning! Hopefully, Navy Football will dominate Army and Air Force for a few years and retain the Commander-in-Chief's trophy!

First up is a note from our prolific author, **Dave Poyer**! "In November I transferred notes and manuscripts/typescripts of the 22 Dan Lenson (Tales of the Modern Navy) novels to the U.S. Naval Academy Nimitz Library. This included notes on *THE COMMAND – TOMAHAWK – THE THREAT – CHINA SEA – THE CIRCLE – THE GULF – BLACK STORM – THE PASSAGE – RETURN OF PHILO MCGIFFEN – KOREA STRAIT - THE WEAPON* – DEEP WAR - HUNTER KILLER - THE TOWERS- TIPPING POINT - ONSLAUGHT – and reference materials accumulated for his various articles for *Shipmate* over the years. Included were the following original manuscripts or typescripts: *THE COMMAND, THE MED, TOMAHAWK, CHINA SEA, THE CIRCLE, THE PASSAGE, RETURN OF PHILO MCGIFFEN, THE GULF. DEEP WAR*. In the photo below I am with Dr. Jennifer Bryan of the Special Collections & Archives Division, doing the turnover on the shipping dock!" Well done, Dave!

***Dave with Dr. Bryan on the shipping dock***

Next is a note from **Wayne Peters**: "Duke, A small world story takes place at The Baldwin in Londonderry, NH. Four USNA graduates who did not know each other are now residents of a new continuing care retirement community. Pat and **Bill Jarvis '64** and Pat and **Bob Henderson '64** were newly arrived at their just completed apartments when at dinner they discovered both Bill and Bob are USNA graduates, but even more remarkable, they are classmates. Gail and Wayne Peters met Kims and **Bill Bringhurst '60** at a church service in Londonderry when they learned that both Bill and Wayne graduated from USNA. Neither the Brenthurst's nor the Peters had moved in when they met. Both couples were waiting for their apartments to be ready. However, another small world story was yet to unfold. When the Peters learned that their apartment would not be ready until May, they were able to switch to a different apartment that allowed them to move in on 1 March 2024. They knew that Bill and Kims wanted a different apartment, so a quick phone call enabled Bill and Kims to switch to the apartment that Wayne and Gail were previously scheduled to occupy. The four couples have become friends and share in many of *The Baldwin's* activities. The picture below was taken at the holiday extravaganza on the evening before Navy's spectacular 31 to 13 win over Army. Needless to say, all four couples were overjoyed with the Navy victory. However, with

over 30 veterans among 240 residents, many others were not thrilled. A little fun spirited ribbing was certainly in order. The picture below (L-R) Kims and Bill (15th CO), Pat and Bob (20th CO), Pat and Bill (16th CO), and Gail and Wayne (5th CO)." Sure seems like a small world! Nice to have fellow alumni as neighbors and friends!

*Kims & Bill, Pat & Bob, Pat & Bill, Gail & Wayne*

Next is a note from my *USS O'Hare* shipmate, **Jeff Albright**: "Duke, I received the attached picture from **Mike Bluestein**, 16th CO. Worthy of inclusion in our Shipmate Class News!"

"Mike, aka Blue, received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award this past September. The award was presented by the FAA for 50 years of piloting and aviation experience. The award ceremony was held at the Delta Airlines training center in Atlanta where Blue is currently an instructor on the Airbus A350. An additional note on Blue's aviation exploits. After he left active duty in 1977, in 1978 he flew for Southern Cross Aviation. In that part of his aviation career, he ferried general aviation planes to Australia. The initial leg was from Santa Barbara to Honolulu. Total flight time was about 20 hours, although one flight was over 24 hours due to higher-than-normal winds. Blue was solo in the plane, with no autopilot, and he was part of a formation of 4-5 planes. This was before any type of satellite navigation -- all dead reckoning. Blue describes it as 'fun' times!" That's an awesome story! I will ask Blue how he managed to stay in formation that long – no easy feat!

*Mike Bluestein receiving the FAA Master Pilot Award*

**Jim Waddell** send this A-N game note: "Duke, What a great A-N game! I attended an A-N watch party sponsored by the National Veterans Memorial and Museum here in Columbus. We had just over 100 in attendance with Navy outnumbering Army by a small margin. But we beat Army in pushups by a large margin. In the attached photo (on the left from top to bottom) **Justin**

**Shineman ’91**, **Wayne Hallenbeck ’71**, me, and **Dan Wagner ’91**. On the upper right (below the screen) is **Elizabeth Clifton ’82** matching the guys one-for-one in pushups. Wayne and I both are wearing our ’71 jerseys and Wayne has his gold ‘Beat Army’ shorts.

“If anyone is in Columbus I would recommend a visit to the NVMM. In addition to the permanent exhibits, they have special exhibits from time to time. The USNA and Navy paintings of **Kristen Cronic ’11** were displayed in a prior exhibit. Last fall they had one on the ‘Ghost Solders’ of WWII Europe which was quite interesting.

***Army-Navy game in Columbus***

“It was great to see the USNA Glee Club singing the Navy Hymn in the Capitol Rotunda honoring President Carter. They represented USNA and the Navy well.

“Stay warm as we enter some rather snowy Dark Ages! Jim.” Thank you for your superb game day story!

**Perry Martini** sent the note below:
“It is my distinct honor and pleasure to announce that one of four Astronauts and Distinguished Graduates has been awarded the Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Award. This is a great honor that few Americans have received, and our good friend and classmate is more than deserving of this distinction. Congratulations, Bob - well done! Perry.”

I’m including a portion of the press release below:

“Robert Cabana, who served as a NASA associate administrator, astronaut, and a colonel in the United States Marine Corps, received the President’s Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, recognizing his exceptional achievements and public service to the nation. *The award, signed by President Biden, is the highest honor the federal government can grant to a federal civilian employee*.

“NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy presented Cabana with the award during a ceremony at NASA Headquarters in Washington on Jan. 10. Cabana most recently served as NASA’s associate administrator, which is the agency’s highest ranking civil servant, from 2021 until he retired from the agency at the end of 2023.”

**Tom Hammons** sent this note: “The 2023 USNA Class of 1971 Ethical Character in Leadership award was presented to LTJG Cody Crane, USN onboard *USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)* on 24 October 2024 . LTJG Crane is assigned as the Assistant Security Officer and Junior Officer of the Watch underway.

***’71 Ethical Character Award recipient with ‘71ers***

“Pictured in the photo above (L-R): Tom Hammons (34), Captain **Brian Schrum ‘96,** Commanding Officer, **Steve Comer** (31), **Jim Bryant** (20), LTJG Cody Crane, USN, **Russ Stahlak** (12), and **Ed Hebert** (10).” Excellent photo! I hope to attend one of the award ceremonies in San Diego!

Sadly, three classmates passed away since my last column. **NOTE**: Full obituaries will be in *Shipmate Last Call*.

**Philip Joseph Paul III** of Easthampton, MA, died peacefully at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, on December 27, 2024, following a recurrence of leukemia. He is survived by his beloved wife, Margarita Sejas Paul, and his brother Michael

(Elizabeth Lynch) Paul of Greenville, RI, and his sisters Dawn (Marilyn McCrory) Paul of Beverly, MA, and Sandra (Thomas) DiRaimo of Foster, RI. Funeral services were held on January 5th in Easthampton, MA.

**Geoffrey L. McMullin** of Pensacola, FL, died peacefully at his home on 2 January, following a two-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his four grandchildren: Madison McMullin, Shelby McMullin, Lily McMullin, Grayson McMullin and his daughter-in-law Kelli McMullin. His son, Michael, passed away November 27, 2024. He is also survived by his caring, loving neighbor Diane Bender. A private memorial for Geoff will be held in the future.

**Scott W. McKenzie** of Henderson, NV passed away following a life-ending battle with melanoma cancer on Thursday, January 9th. He is survived by his wife, Marie-Therese, daughter Kathleen, grandchildren and extended family. He was a proud retired Marine veteran, who served honorably in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. A military honors service and committal was held Tuesday, January 28, at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, NV.

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