

Shipmate March-April 2026– Part 2  
Duke Longworth  
24 January 2026

**Pat Doyle** is up next with this note: “Hey, Duke, I just wanted to share that my “my kids and I completed a ‘bucket list’ type event in December, when the four of us



The Doyle's: Mike (LTC, USA (retired)), Pat '71, Tom & Kate

traveled to the East Coast for the 126<sup>th</sup> Army-Navy game. We based ourselves in Annapolis and visited the Yard, and the Mid Store (more than once), participated in the bus trip and the great tailgate in B-more, and thoroughly enjoyed the ensuing football game. This was my fifth bus ride from Annapolis to the Army-Navy game, and it felt a bit off because it's the first time that nobody told me what to wear. Luckily, I had lots of Navy swag to layer up in.

“Best Regards, Mike O'Connor.” Sounds like a most excellent adventure. Hope to see many of you at our 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion!

“On the first evening of our visit, we joined Company mates Sandra and **Mike Hallahan**, Kathi and **Jim Hergenroeder**, and **Tom Gross** for a great meal at the Lodge. We wrapped up the visit with Mass in the Chapel on Sunday, followed by a run to the airport; the snow overnight had us Californians a bit spooked. It brought back memories of that very light snowfall just before Thanksgiving 1967 that shut down the Annapolis area for most of a day or two just as the days ‘... until we beat Army’ were in the low single digits.” Nice bucket list task completed! That was an excellent game to share with your Army family members! Down to the wire! See you at the 55<sup>th</sup>!

**Dave Vandover** sent this A-N note: "Terry and I attended the Army-Navy game in Baltimore. Unfortunately, our seats were in the nosebleed section only two rows away from the very top row. We were bundled up and enjoyed another Navy win although this one was too close for comfort. We missed seeing everyone after the game.

"Our hotel was next door to McCormick & Schmidt's Seafood Restaurant, so we



*Dave & Terry Vandover at 2025 Army-Navy game*

enjoyed a great meal after the game. I wore my 'Win first Sing Second, Brat Army' t-shirt for the benefit of the Army fans having dinner!"

Hopefully, the wind was at your back! So sorry we missed the game this year! We will see you at the 55<sup>th</sup>!

Here's a note from **Tom Laboon**: "Duke, Happy New Year! As you know, Sherry and **Bob Chimenti** live in Memphis and have for

eons. Marie and I went to visit them for the New Year and attend the Liberty Bowl. We all went to Navy's practice on Jan 1 and Bob and I were lucky enough to get our picture taken with **MIDN 1/C Alex Texca** after practice. I had my Mt Lebanon ball cap on which caught Texca's attention. so he stopped us. Bob and Alex talked about knowing some of Alex's relatives in Erie, PA! Small world stuff!!

"We attended the game until halftime. It was just too cold and wet to stay any longer. But what a great victory!! I was really glad to see Texca and **MIDN 1/C Heidenreich** score TDs in their last game together. Now, I have to find someone else to brag about on the team next year! Go Navy! Tom." Glad you and Bob connected for the game! I hope to see you and Bob at our 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion this fall!





Bob, MIDN Texa and Tom prior to Navy Bowl game

Cris Farley chimed in with this note: "I was pleasantly surprised this past October when I got an email from Jon Perry, the new Navy men's head basketball coach, who found and emailed over 300 former players, even bench sitters like me, and invited them to 'join the family,' so I went to a practice and saw a game now played at a speed none of us are familiar with from our days as Mids. They have a great point guard and even a 6' 11" center who is a national leader. So, I got some tickets and

started going to games in Alumni Hall, and when the Army game was coming up I decided we needed a banner from our class for that game. So, with Perry's help I got our crest art and had a banner made up which I hung behind the Navy bench for the Army game. It was cool to see our crest there in Alumni Hall and it reminded me of the big grey blimp we blew up and flew in the Rotunda before the Army game Plebe year! The team crushed Army 84-56. It really is a new age in Navy basketball, maybe the best team since David Robinson. Here's where our banner was hung right behind the bench. Go Navy! Thanks, Duke, take care, keep writing." Excellent banner, Cris! GO NAVY!

Sadly, six classmates have passed away since the last column.

**Michael McGrath Duran, Sr.**, died on September 5, 2022. He attended the Naval Academy entering with the now 3<sup>rd</sup> Company and left at the end of our first



*'71 banner at Army-Navy basketball game*

semester.

**Bruce Towne** passed away December 11th in Colchester, Vermont after a 22-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Bruce was a member of the 19<sup>th</sup> Company and since he excelled academically was easily selected into the Nuclear Power Program, achieving the distinction of being the first Foreign Affairs major ever selected for that program. He proudly served on the *USS John Adams (SSBN-620)*. After leaving the Navy, he attended Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont and began his career as a Certified Public Accountant. Bruce's full obituary is this issue of *Shipmate Last Call*.

**Henry "Buck" Buchanan** passed away in Friendswood, Texas on 8 September 2025. Buck, (known as Hank after he left USNA) and his wife, Denice, caught the flu and, although she survived, he died about a month later of pneumonia.

Buck left USNA in December 1968 at the end of our first semester youngster year and would have graduated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company. He is survived by his wife,

Denice of 55 years. Hank and Denice attended one of our class reunions and classmates were happy to see them.

**Douglas (Doug) Colin Lockwood** was born February 13, 1949 in Mason City, Iowa. He died of cancer on January 9, 2026 at Saint Luke's Hospice House in Kansas City, Missouri. Doug spent his childhood in Texarkana, Arkansas, graduating from Arkansas High School in 1967. He spent one year at USNA and time at sea, where he determined that was not life for him. He then joined the Air Force and spent some time in the Philippines determining weather conditions for flights into Vietnam. His first marriage gave him his wonderful son, Kevin.

**George Perkins** passed away this January in Linthicum Heights, Maryland from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 78 years old.

George graduated out of 24<sup>th</sup> Company where he was not only known as "Bubba" but also for his prowess on the soccer field playing in the Brigade Championship game and victory. He was not only the Company Honor rep but also the Vice Chairman of the Brigade Honor Board.

Following graduation, George entered the Surface Navy, retiring as a CDR in 1992. A 21-year veteran, with service in Vietnam, he was diagnosed with heart disease, dementia and Parkinsons which resulted in his becoming a VA 100% disabled Vet due to his exposure to agent orange.

He is survived by his widow, Ruth, and their two children and five grandchildren. A celebration of life or other services may be held this spring. Also, the family is planning on cremation and inurnment at Arlington Cemetery. You will be notified when these dates are confirmed.

**William G. Nielsen**, of Glen Allen VA, passed away on January 16, 2026. He was born on April 15, 1948 in New York and he grew up in Rutherford, New Jersey. Bill attended Bullis Prep before becoming our classmate on 28 June 1967. He was a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Company and the chairman of the Honor Board. He was awarded the Brainerd Award for making the greatest contribution to the Honor Concept. Following graduation, Bill entered flight training and was awarded his Wings as a Naval Flight Officer.

He received his MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Bill held management positions in a variety of companies (Command Airlines, Philip Morris, Bethlehem Steel, and Capital One) and was an author, with several articles appearing in local Richmond magazines.

Survivors include his wife Judie, daughter Robyn, son Christopher, stepdaughters Stephanie and Sarah, sister Kirsten and brother Eric. He was pre-

deceased by his parents and four sisters, Karen, Jane, Jacqueline and Trine. A Celebration of life will be held at Bliley's Funeral Home, Augusta Avenue, Richmond, at a date to be determined.

So 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!

Duces Virum, Duke