

Shipmate May-June 2026
Duke Longworth
27 March 2026

Summer is upon the midshipmen. The midshipmen are looking forward to the various summer activities. I didn't so much look forward to the Youngster summer cruise, but I sure did look forward to Pensacola our Segundo summer. Turns out I thoroughly enjoyed the Youngster cruise onboard *USS Goodrich (DDR-833)*. I learned a great deal about the average sailor's life onboard the destroyer! – "hot racking" in a compartment with no air condition right under the helo deck, the relentless heat in the boiler rooms, the long lines for the mess deck meals, and looking at the stars waiting for the nighttime underway replenishment. Ah, those were the days!

First up is a note from **Lee Schierer** which I will break into two parts. Part I.

"Duke, my wife Sue and I were looking for a cruise this past August to celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. We looked at quite a few cruises to various locations and cruise companies. The one we settled upon was a 22-day Holland America Cruise that started in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 18, 2025 and ended in Santiago, Chile on January 9, 2026. This cruise had a number of stops: Buenos Aires; Montevideo and Punta del Este, Uruguay; Puerto Madryn, Argentina; Stanley, Falkland Islands; five points off the Antarctic Peninsula; Ushuaia, Argentina; passing through Cockburn & Beagle Channels, Glacier Alley, Cape Horn & Drake passage, Punta Arenas, Strait of Magellan, Sarmiento Channel, Amalia/Brujo Glaciers, Chilean Fjords, Puerto Chacabuco, Chile, Puerto Montt, Chile ending in San Antonio, Chile and returning from Santiago, Chile.

"From there we headed to Antarctica. We spent five days exploring the Antarctic peninsula from the ship. There are significant restrictions and costs for going ashore! Even so, we saw several research stations, lots of glaciers and ice. We saw many whales with some very close to the ship. The ship stopped very close to a medium sized iceberg for nearly an hour letting everyone on board congregate on the bow and forward open deck areas to view it up close. This iceberg was taller than the 11th deck of the ship and 90% is below the water.

"In Madryn the ship needed to tie up stern toward the land. About two to three miles from shore the captain turned the ship 180 degrees and backed the ship with a 35-40 knot crosswind to dock very gently alongside the pier. The bow thrusters and Azipod propulsion system sure makes ship handling a lot easier. We saw Magellanic Penguins and Guanacos in Madryn. The weather we had on this trip was exceptional as there was only one moderately rough day at sea.

“We stopped at Deception Island where we saw a huge Chinstrap penguin colony. The penguins climb up the very steep incline to the top of the hill.

“The weather while in Antarctica was exceptional. Daytime temperatures were in the low to middle 30's and the seas were very calm.

“Flat Bill traveled with us but was camera shy most of the trip. :). Go Navy, Beat Army.” What a fascinating trip! Part II will be in the July-August issue! EDITOR's NOTE: I would enjoy this cruise! Looks and sounds most memorable!

Lee & Sue Schierer Antartic Cruise with Flat Bill



Next is a note from **Ken Marks**:
“Duke, Among the athletes representing the United States at the 2026 Winter Games in Milano Cortina will be fifteen-year-old Abby Winterberger, granddaughter of Mary and **Bruce Lemkin**. Abby is heading to Italy as the Freeski Halfpipe U.S National Champion and the youngest athlete on the U.S. Olympic Team.

“Bruce and Mary have every right to be proud of their granddaughter. As classmates, we have ever more reason to stand with our brother in cheering Abby on to victory. Ken.” WOW! This is an awesome athletic achievement! NOTE: Abby did not achieve a podium finish, but I am betting she does in 2030!

Frank Culbertson attended the annual “Pull for Navy Banquet” February 23rd. He sent this note: “This was a fun event with a lot of great people and good friends in attendance. In the photo I am with **Dom Gorie's '79** son, **Andrew Gorie '12**, who I remember as being about eight years old. He is now a LCDR and a leadership professor! And rower, Class of '12! Dom was the CDR of our trip home in 2001, STS-108, for those who don't remember!



Frank with Andrew Gorie

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

Thomas “Tom” D. Adams, Jr. passed away on Thursday, 26 February 2026 in Rocky Mount, NC. Tom joined us in 1967 and graduated from the 6th Company in June 1971, majoring in Foreign Affairs. His full obituary is in this *Shipmate Last Call*.

Paul Simpson passed away on Friday, 20 March after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Paul graduated with the 33rd Company in June 1971. Following graduation, he joined the Amphibious Navy as CIC Officer on the *USS Ogden (LPD 5)* where his six-month deployment was extended to eleven months, as the *Ogden* carried mine clearing helicopters into Vietnam coastal waters. Subsequent tours were as CIC Officer on the *USS Jouett (CG 29)*, and a tour in Coastal River Squadron One, where he was Operations Officer, providing support for the SEALs.

In 1974 he met and married the love of his life, Ruth Daugherty. They were married for 51 years. She preceded him in death in 2025. Paul’s active-duty career was cut short due to a medical condition, but he managed to finish out as a Reservist working with the Fleet Intelligence Unit in San Diego.

His next career began as an engineer with Honeywell Display Systems and Hughes Corporation working on advanced systems for Navy ships. Paul worked for ten years on Design Guidance Notebooks for the Advanced Combat Direction System (ACDS). He also worked with Raytheon and Navionics developing the Shipboard Training Systems for the fleet.

Paul volunteered and was very active with Turn Around for Veterans (TAV) from 2010 until shortly before his death. He taught lathe and woodworking to wounded warriors serving as the Chairman of TAV from October ‘20 until November ‘23.

Paul was an avid fly fisherman, loved playing the guitar and travelling. He is survived by sons Brian and Matt, his daughters-in-law Peris and Lindsey, and his four grandchildren, Rory, Abigail, Jake, and Finnley.

James “Yeaks” Yeakley, passed away on Saturday, 31 January. Jim arrived in Annapolis in June 1967 from Oregon and was a member of the 12th company upon graduation.

Jim thrived at our alma mater spreading the country culture of his upbringing with a great sense of humor and intellect second to none. He was well known throughout our class, especially during our plebe year, as the “Pink Panther” and “The Fly”. He was immortalized in the book about the Naval Academy, authored by one of our first classmen, **Jim Webb ’68**, *A Sense of Honor*. In Webb’s book, he recalls witnessing Jim’s demonstrated and unmatched ability to contort his body into depictions of “The Pink Panther” and “The Fly.” He was also known widely throughout the Brigade for his

rousing rendition of "I've Been Everywhere." And his ability to spout endless limericks which helped earn him the nickname "Mister Amazing."

Jim never lost his appreciation for April Stevens, the voice of the song "Teach Me Tiger" which motivated many classmates during our plebe year. As many of you who were in attendance may recall, Jim hosted April and her husband at our 45th class reunion in 2016. He established a long friendship with April and her husband until her passing in 2023.

Upon graduation in 1971, he first served aboard the *USS Fox (DLG 33)* as Weapons Control Officer and later aboard the *USS Chicago (CG 1)1* as CIC Officer. Both tours were served off the coast of Viet Nam.

Jim settled in San Diego in 1976 after finishing his active-duty obligation. He married Mary Anne "Annie" the love of his life on October 23, 1981. As a civilian Jim was an Aerospace Engineer at Honeywell for its evolution through Hughes and subsequently, Raytheon. In his later years he was always the cornerstone for pulling together classmates and friends to celebrate holidays and Navy broadcasts.

Jim is survived by his wife, Annie, his sister, Mary Ann Kooning. Funeral services are pending

Vincent Ardizzone passed away on February 24th. He was born on February 14, 1947, in Hoboken, New Jersey. Vincent's life was characterized by an unwavering commitment to family, country, and a professional career with remarkable achievements.

Vincent joined us on 28 June 1967 as a member of the 28th Company. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Later in his career, he attained a Master of Technology from Polytechnic University in 1994, followed by a Master of Business Administration from New York University in 2011. This relentless quest for knowledge reflected his belief that education should be cherished and pursued throughout one's life.

Vincent's exemplary service in the United States Navy for nine years saw him rise to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, serving notably during the Vietnam War and during his assignments throughout Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He took part in significant military operations that shaped the course of history, including the "Easter Offensive," which resulted in a major turning point in the Vietnam War.

After his active-duty Vincent worked for esteemed companies such as Worthington Pumps, Dresser Industries, Warren Pumps and Filtration Solutions. His contributions included pivotal roles in developing the Marine Corps M-1 Main Battle Tank, designing noise-quiet components for naval submarines, and the construction of

flood control stations with the Army Corps of Engineers. Notably, he also engaged with the U.S. Marshals Service to combat contractor fraud, displaying the same diligence and integrity in his professional duties that characterized his military service.

After the September 11th terror attacks, Vincent was asked to participate in a series of forums at the Naval War College to draft a new strategic doctrine for the Navy, considering terrorism as a prime Naval threat.

Later in life, he served as a Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer, mentoring, guiding and interviewing applicants for appointments.

Vincent was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. He held dear the moments spent with his family, particularly finding pride and joy in mentoring his grandchildren, sharing with them his love of history, reading, Navy football, and Duke basketball. He was a prolific reader and a great conversationalist. Together with his beloved wife, Barbara, Vincent reveled in their travel adventures, to destinations such as Hawaii, Italy and Ireland.

Vincent is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara; his two daughters, Karen and Stephanie; his son-in-law, Patrick Chevalier; and his three grandchildren, Dylan, Derrick, and Avery. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Patricia Affuso; brother-in-law, George Affuso; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Vagge; and several beloved nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 5th at St. John R.C. Church in Leonia, NJ, with interment at Madonna Cemetery in Fort Lee, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks you consider a donation to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

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!

Duces Virum, Duke