

Shipmate September-October 2026
Duke Longworth
29 July 2026

I can smell the fall air now! The colorful leaves are blowing throughout the Yard, and football is in the air! I always enjoy visiting the Yard during football season, and I enjoy the '71 tailgate! I hope to see you there!

First up is a note from **Tom Galloway**: “Duke, On May 2nd, just before the first pitch of the Army-Navy baseball game, four members of the Class of '71 and also members of the baseball team, presented Coach Chuck Ristano with a framed original of the May, 1971 Evening Capital newspaper that headlined Navy's 6 – 5 win against the Detroit Tigers. Also, part of the presentation were two Class of '72 teammates. In the photo below (L-R): **Dan Weaver '72, Bob Pearce, Tom Galloway**, Coach Ristano, **Bruce Aukland '72, Pete Schneider**, and **Pete DeVos**. FYI, Bob Pearce was the HERO in that game, as he drove in the winning run in the bottom of the 7th inning. “I have also attached a close-up picture of the Evening Capital article in case you have room for in in the Shipmate note. Best regards, Tom.” What a great way to remember a “once in a lifetime” victory!



Navy baseball victors presenting plaque
Coach Ristano



Navy over Tigers 6-5 to

Next is a note from **Tom Hammons**: “Duke, To celebrate and commemorate the 55th anniversary of our graduation (or as **Joe Anthony** called it, 55 years ABH (After Bancroft Hall)), 13 San Diego area Classmates got together with their spouses and girlfriend for lunch on Tuesday 9 June. We had a great lunch at Southwestern Yacht Club, and everyone learned something new about someone. Pictured in the first photo are the guys seated (L-R) – **Dave Bloomer, Tom Hammons, Joe Anthony, John Ball**, and **Chuck Bongard**; standing (L-R) – **Ed Hebert, Jim Ward, Rick Smith, Jim Vivoli, Jim Bryant** and **Pat Doyle**. **Jim Smoogen** and **Russ Stahlak** came for lunch but

departed before we took the picture. "Here's the picture of our better halves. Seated (LR) Ticha Hebert, Jeanne Vivoli, Lana Hammons, Denise Bongard; standing (L-R) Elaine

Ward, Ellen Lohre, Brenda Bloomer, and Nancy Smith. "We're all looking forward to the 55th in October. Tom." Excellent work by the San Diego contingent! See you at the 55th!



'71 San Diego celebrating 55 years



'71 better halves!

Next up is **Rex Settlemoir**: "Duke, Each year, the Naval Academy Parents Club of Greater Cincinnati, OH holds a lunch event to welcome new Plebes from the incoming class and congratulate newly commissioned officers from the graduating class. This year's event for the Class of '30 Plebes and Class of '26 graduates was held on June 7th at the Original Montgomery Inn. As the local representative for his class, **CAPT Michael Zieser '80**, USN (Ret), spoke about the Naval Academy's 'Another Link in the Chain' legacy program. Michael was a career submariner and served with many of our '71 classmates in the submarine service over the years. In the attached photo, I am holding my ORIGINAL 'Reef Points' from our 1967-68 Plebe Year, alongside Ronny Spears, President of the local Parents Club. Ronny has a son who graduated with USNA '25 (currently in the Marine Corps) and another son who is a Firstie in the Class of '27. That Reef Points is pretty beat up and has a lot of handwritten notes in it but has somehow survived ever since we started our Naval Academy journey in June of 1967. Best Regards and Beat Army! Rex." Sounds like an excellent luncheon! Great opportunity to see the Navy's future! I hope to see you at the 55th!



Rex holding his original Reef Points

John Ball sent this note: Duke, Thanks to the initiative of **Fred Becker** and **Bob Adkins**, we in the 26th CO held a come-around recently and assembled a quorum of nine friends-for-life. Dialing in were **Tim Gilman** in Oregon, Fred Becker in North Carolina, **John Ball** in San Diego, **David Poyer** on the Eastern Shore, **Steve Dmetruk** in Georgia, **Jeff Hemler** in Redondo Beach, **Randy Wagner** in Charlottesville, and both **Joel Lassman** and **Bob Adkins** in Arizona. We caught up with family life, travel adventures, and discussed plans for the 55th Reunion in October. It will be good to see each other in person soon in Annapolis. John.” I’m sure there were some new sea stories told and more to come at our 55th!

26th Company USNA 1971

June 29, 2026



26th CO Zoom attendees

Tom Laboon sent this note: “Hi, Duke! Marie and I were in NYC for the July 4th holiday. Went to the 9/11 memorial and found **CAPT Chic Burlingame's** name carved in the pool wall and his picture on the wall with all those who died that day and who continue to die from exposure. Awesome memorial and highly recommend it if you have not been there. Take the guided tours outside and in the museum. They are superb. Chic is looking pretty good in his Navy uniform! Go Navy! Tom.” Thanks for the gouge on the best places to visit at the memorial. See you at the 55th!



Tom & Marie at the 9/11 memorial



Chic's photo at the 9/11 memorial

Tom added this important note: “Duke, **Frank Culbertson** is also included in the museum playing Taps from the space station. A VERY moving experience not to be missed. Tom.” A must see!

What I like about the gym I go to for physical exercise – I often meet young naval officers, some are USNA grads! Recently, I met **Joe Heinlein '22** at the gym.



With fellow USNA grad Joe Heinlein

'71 Tailgate info: Tom Gross sent this important note: "This year, our stalwart Reunion Committee has scheduled a mega- tailgate in the N* room at the stadium for the home game on 10 October. I highly recommend your attendance. **For all other** home games, the '71 Tailgate will once again welcome classmates and guests at our usual location. The tent will open two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. The format for dining is potluck, augmented with an assortment of petite sandwiches. Bottled water will be available. If you are unable to bring food or libation, fear not, there is always plenty to go around, and nobody has ever gone away hungry. You will find us in our usual spot on the blue side parking lot perimeter, straight out from the press box. Come on out and reconnect with friends and classmates while enjoying our outstanding tailgate cuisine." See you there!

Sadly, two classmates have passed away since my last column.

Guy B. Snodgrass passed away peacefully on June 3rd in Arlington, TX after a seven-month battle from complications of Triple M Syndrome for treatment of melanoma. He graduated from USNA with a BS in Oceanography. After graduation, Guy received his wings in Pensacola and later became Assistant Operations Officer for Navy Test Pilot training school. He was stationed in Jacksonville, FL as a VA-66-Carrier based Naval Aviator flying the A-7E and completing four carrier deployments. Guy was a designated squadron section leader while completing 210 carrier landings; and twice awarded COMNAVAIRLANT "E" for weapons delivery.

After completing his military obligation, Guy was a pilot for Delta Airlines over the next three decades. He later became a personal jet pilot for executives of the Shell Oil Company. During his personal life in Arlington, Texas, he was reelected 12 times to City Council; and, at the time of his passing, Guy was Mayor pro-temp of Dalworthington Gardens, Texas. Not one to sit around during his spare time, Guy also started and owned two businesses, Fatso's Burger & Blues and Southwest Redwood Decks.

Guy is survived by his wife, Kathleen, his daughter Julia, and son Kevin, a USNA graduate, his brother, John, and sister, Jo Ann, and numerous grandchildren. will be greatly missed by his wonderful family. Funeral services were held at the National Cemetery in Dallas, TX on June 19th.

Guy's USNA roommate, **Steve Penner**, sent the following condolences for the loss of a classmate and dear friend. "The Penner family and Snodgrass family spent many vacations together, and visits together in both Texas and California. I loved Guy like a brother and will greatly miss this stubborn Texan who gave so much of himself to everyone he knew and loved. Guy is now high in the sky where he once flew jet fighter planes."

Pat Kelly: This obituary comes to us over two years late and was recently discovered by a 26th Company classmate. Patrick Kelly passed away on May 27, 2024, in Meridian, Idaho, at the age of 75. Pat played on the varsity football team for three years. After graduation he served 21 years as a Surface Warfare Officer. A service was held at Idaho State Veterans Cemetery on June 18th, 2024, where Pat is interned. Pat's full obituary is in this *Shipmate Last Call*.

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