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## CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN OCTOBER 2007

*Editor's note:* The Alumni Association received word that Commander **Sumner K. Moore** had passed away on 2 September 2007. His commitment to the Class of 1948 as secretary for 42 years is a true testament to his dedication. He will be sorely missed.

**Dave Carruth** stepped up in the recent months to keep the 1948 class column going and will be continuing as the class secretary for the foreseeable future. Please see the contact information at the top of the column and send him your news to be shared in *Shipmate*.

### *1948 Class news*

This is being written on 5 August '07. Getting used to the publishing time lag is in some ways difficult. You can't write in "real" time since much of what you report will be overtaken by events by the time it is read.

Anyway, July was a busy month. The reunion committee, after missing our first deadline, finally will put the reunion letter in for mailing next Mon. I have been working to update the email addresses of classmates and, for those of you with computers, to supply the latest information on each company's surviving members and their email addresses. That effort led to the following from **Vic Sharpe**:

The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated!!! I have not even been ill and am in excellent health. I plan to be at the Naval Academy for the Duke football game on September 22 and also next June for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. Please update your list and remove the deceased notation by my name. ----- I would hate to be mourned by my friends; also they might think they are seeing a ghost when I appear in Annapolis.

Info from **Rich Bates**:

Patrick W. Bates, grandson of Capt. Patrick H. Rupertus, USMC '62 and CAPT Richard W. Bates, '48 will enter the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as an NROTC Midshipman on August 11, 2007. As a member of the Corps he will continue his musical career playing Sousaphone in their Marching band; The Highty Tights. As an honors program student he will be majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Leadership and is working towards an Active Duty Commission as a Surface Warfare Officer, upon graduation, in 2011. On July 27 he was confirmed by The National Council, BSA, as having earned his Eagle Scout Rank.

This from **Ty Dedman**:

An e-mail from Dave Carruth advises that he is filling in for Sumner, and desperately needs to hear from us to fill the column. Since Dave and I were shipmates on

USS OAKLAND (CLAA-95) on our first sea duty assignment over 60 years ago, how can I not provide a few lines?

Dave suggested that I share Bettye's and my involvement over the past 15 years with a medical-dental mission to Honduras. Although neither of us had any background in planning or providing medical care, in 1992 we found ourselves working with a small group of good friends putting together a medical-dental mission to a small village in mountain valley of northeastern Honduras. The previous year, Bettye and I had been involved in building a church in the village at the request of the Bishop of Honduras. Our first mission team consisted of about 19, including two doctors and two dentists, and in one week we saw almost 1000 patients, most of whom had never before seen a physician. Bettye's role was to administer worming medicine, and later, to provide eye exams, and mine was to set up and operate our first pharmacy, where we dispensed over 2300 prescriptions in our first week-long mission... On two of our missions, when our ophthalmologist didn't come, "Doctor Bettye" soldiered on alone with her eye examinations, and fit over 500 pair of glasses each year. For the last several years, Bettye has taken on leading a very popular week-long Vacation Bible School for about 200 Honduran children. For our early missions, we brought all of our medicines with us in our luggage, but in recent years, we have been able to purchase most of our medicines in Honduras. Within five years, our mission team had expanded to over 80 from the USA, and was augmented by 15-20 teen-aged translators from the American school in San Pedro Sula, and by another 20-30 local Hondurans who we had trained during previous missions. Our team members were responsible for providing funding for their own transportation, lodging, and meals.

By the end of our fourth or fifth mission, two things had become evident: (1) The greatest single threat to the health of the villagers was the poor quality of the water available to them, and (2) The needs for medical care in the area could not be met by an annual one-week medical dental mission, but required a full time medical-dental clinic.

To deal with the water problem, we began a program of well-digging in the area, in coordination with Rotary International. Although our first wells were manually operated, we gradually electrified all wells in our area, first through solar-voltaic power panels, and later with electricity from a government electrification program. Two years ago, we took almost three miles of PVC pipe with us, and installed a water distribution system for two adjacent villages, providing safe water directly to over 100 homes.

In 1998, a small group of our regular volunteers with the mission formed and incorporated The Mountain of Hope as a charitable, non-profit IRS 501c3 organization with a mission of raising the funds and providing the leadership needed to construct, equip, staff, and operate a 4000 square foot medical-dental clinic in the village of Quince De Enero. In 2001, The Mountain of Hope completed construction of La Clinica Montana de Esperanza, and the new clinic began operation on a seven day a week basis. In the coming year, the clinic is expected to provide medical and dental services to nearly 10, 000 patients. At the clinic, we have a staff of 14, which includes two doctors and dentist, all Honduran nationals. Many of you have operated your own companies, and I am told by those who have "been there" that nothing concentrates your attention quite like having to meet a weekly payroll. Having had to raise the funds to meet our payroll and medicine costs of about \$12,000 per month for the past five years, I can certainly relate to that statement! We have found that whereas a foundation or other large donor

will occasionally provide a grant for a special project, very few wish to donate to just ordinary operation expenses, such as salaries or utilities.

Our principal vision for The Mountain of Hope continues to be the provision of basic medical and dental services to an impoverished region of north-eastern Honduras. At the time, we have sought opportunities to expand on that vision by adding other critically needed medically-related functions and capabilities to Clinica Montana de Esperanza. As an example, The Mountain of Hope has recently begun a program for training and equipping local midwives, and the Clinica Montana de Esperanza has provided the leadership for a program to fluoride the teeth of all school aged children in the region. Finally, the vision of The Mountain of Hope has come to encompass the storage, shipping and delivery of large quantities of donated medical equipment and supplies to other hospitals and clinics in the northeast region of Honduras. We began collecting and sending down medical equipment and supplies when one of our surgical teams volunteering to provide surgical services in a hospital in San Pedro Sula reported to us that although there were 18 doctors in the hospital, they had only one blood pressure cuff, and had to share it around! In the coming year, we will be writing grant proposals to aid in our plans to prepare, ship and operate two ambulances for the clinic, and also to repair, ship, and operate a well-digging truck, and a water delivery truck to provide water to nearby village without well.

In June this year, our youngest granddaughter accompanied us on the mission trip, so we have now had all of our grandchildren there with us in the village, some twice. With them, as with so many others, it has been wonderful to see them arrive prepared to change many lives, and then to leave, realizing that it has been their own lives that have been changed the most.

Ty Dedman [www.mountainofhope.com](http://www.mountainofhope.com) ■

Ty, you and Bettye have indeed shown that the Class of '48 is made up of great people.

Finally, in the month of July we lost some friends, **Chuck Gonia** on 7/14 and **Reed Grady** on 7/8.