

Ride-2-Remember Rider

Doug Leland

I was born September 21, 1951 in Burlington, Vermont. Following moves to Connecticut, Pennsylvania and back to New England, I received my appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Graduating with the 15th Company I served five years as a Surface Warfare Officer where my 31½ year sea tour aboard USS Mississinewa remains a highlight of my more than four decades of professional pursuits. After receiving an MBA degree from Northeastern University I devoted almost 20 years to the healthcare field and an additional 20 years as a Master Certified Executive Coach.

Following 45 years as a runner, I was introduced to the ElliptiGO bike (stand-up bike, no seat) in 2010. Six weeks after the bike arrived (and 35 years since last riding a bike) I rode the ElliptiGO from Canada to Mexico, and have been riding it ever since.

I currently live in Freeport, ME with my wife of almost 50 years, the former Sally Elizabeth Johnson, who is also one half of the Ride-2-Remember support team. We have a grown daughter and son, both living in Maine as well.

In mid 2019 when conversations regarding our 50th Reunion began surfacing, class officers were informed of interest in creating a cross country bike ride to symbolically gather our deceased classmates back to Annapolis, with each day of the ride dedicated to one or more of our fallen classmates. Thus, the Class of 1973 Ride-2-Remember was launched.

I have a stronger bond with the Naval Academy because of this ride and in particular with those for whom we ride. This is especially true for my deceased 15th Company classmates, Fred Minier, Bob Nestlerode, and John Dailey.

I truly hope many will visit our Ride-2-Remember Facebook page each day of our journey and add memories, comments, and photographs that honor those in our class who ride with us in spirit ... and who will always remain with us as 'links in our chain'. Your support is greatly appreciated.

