

REUNION 2013

Thursday October 3rd thru Monday October 7th

We will be staying at the Surfside Oceanfront Inns and Suites. 1211 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, Va. Phone 757-428-1183 for early reservations. Please mention the USS Mills reunion. The rates are \$85.75 inclusive per night. All rooms are Oceanfront. The venues are 155.00 per person, \$310 per couple.

Day 1 is a Norfolk City tour including MacArthur Memorial Museum – Naval Station Norfolk – Lunch on base – Active Duty ship visit {If possible}

PLEASE NOTE: All passengers visiting any military installation MUST have a picture ID (driver's license, military ID, passport), and no bags other than pocketbooks or camera cases will be allowed on base. Please ask your guests not to bring any pocket knives, scissors, or nail files with them on tour. All persons are subject to personal search.
Due to heightened security measures at all military installations. Phillips DMC must have a list of names with city and state of residence of those going on the tour three weeks prior to tour date. If at all possible we would like early notice if you plan on attending the reunion.

Day 2 Victory Rover Harbor cruise. Boxed Lunch included on cruise –Visit to the Nauticus National Maritime Center followed by a tour of the Battleship Wisconsin.

Dinner Saturday evening – With a short business Meeting and either dancing or Karaoke with Loretta

Sunday AM - Christian Service with Chaplain Tom Link

Rest of the Day Free

See the World's Largest Naval Base Aboard the Victory Rover!



Rover Marine began operating cruises from the Norfolk waterfront aboard the Tall Sailing Ship American Rover in 1986. In 2001 the Victory Rover began operating Naval Base Cruises from Nauticus, Home of the Battleship Wisconsin

The Victory Rover can accommodate up to 149 guests. We have a climate controlled main cabin with large picture windows and ample comfortable seating. More seating is available on our open air bow and top deck. A large portion of our top deck has an awning to provide shade. In our main cabin we offer restrooms as well as a fully stocked ship store and bar with all your favorite refreshments and souvenirs.

We cruise the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River and Hampton Roads Harbor. The Captain provides a fascinating and entertaining commentary over our professional quality sound system.

FROM BEN

Paula and I are still involved with finding the right Hotel to host our 2016 reunion in Cocoa Beach. We're planning to visit down there in the spring and hopefully will get an offer we can't refuse and be able to sign a contract. As hotels are slowly recovering what they call "pricing Authority," rates are rising at approx. 5% per year. By locking rates in several years in advance, we have been successful in saving reunion attendees quite a few bucks.

I'm finding this economy a little troublesome to stay ahead of with gas prices, food costs, taxes Electric rates etc.. etc.. etc.. rising. Most of us are on fixed incomes so I'm sure we aren't alone. This year after 9 straight years of stability, cost for the venues have gone from 128.00 per person to 155.00. Transportation cost and food prices are main culprits.

Would it make covering the venue cost of the reunion easier on some of us if the payments are broken into smaller bites? Records for dues and venues are kept on a ledger as checks are received; therefore it would not be a problem if anyone wishes to send more than 1 payment for venues. If this works for you, please take advantage of the opportunity to break the cost up.

DUES AND DONATIONS

Dues are placed in the general fund, {Kitty}. While not specifically designated, they are used for covering the cost of newsletters. Donations are listed separately and every dollar goes into the fund for helping shipmates attend reunions. Funds from raffles and the silent auction are used for offsetting the cost of reunion expenses. This system has been in effect for quite some time and has served us well. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, give me a call, please.

FACEBOOK

Bob Gaboury has built the USS MILLS group site. We have 61 members at this writing. Facebook allows you to post pictures, chat and post any message you wish to share with the Mills family. You have to register on face book then click groups, type in USS MILLS DER 383 in the search box. Ask to be a friend to have all access to the postings. Please click on "friends only" when setting up your home page. This will give you the security and allow only your friends and shipmates to view your postings.

CHAT ROOM 7PM EASTERN

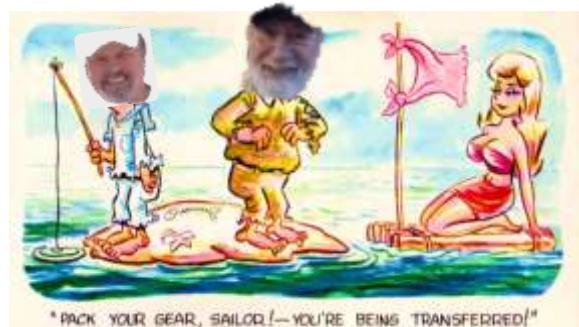
Every Wednesday evening Gabby hosts a chat room for the Mills family and friends. There are usually 5 or 6 people that chat. It is good way to keep in touch with people from different parts of the country. We talk about everything and anything. You do not need any special equipment. We can either type the message or use a web cam. The web site is:

login.meetchap.com/conference,14674616

SICK BAY

Lynn (Hagen) Gentry is recovering from surgery Harold Dyer & Randy Turner are both recovering from knee surgeries

John Kelley is doing fine after a diagnosis of Lung Cancer. He says it is slow growing and Chemo has shrunk the nodules.



"PACK YOUR GEAR, SAILOR!—YOU'RE BEING TRANSFERRED!"



FOR THE COOKS IN THE FAMILY

Here is my grape salad recipe

4-5 lbs seedless grapes(usually 2 bags)
1 8oz cream cheese, softened
1 8oz sour cream
1 tsp vanilla
Wash and dry grapes well
Mix cream cheese, sour cream & vanilla till smooth.
Add grapes. Toss till covered.
Refrigerate overnight.
Topping
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
Add topping before serving

BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE

JANUARY-Larry Bartmess, Tom Grey,
Captain Drinkwater, Lisa Brandesburg, Lindsay
Brook Schreiver

FEBRUARY-Lynne Cesarini, Josh Nichols, Phil Fogle,
Pat Bass, Bob Gaboury

March-Dan Murray, Judy Duran, Ron Donato,
Michael Russo, Roger Dereske, Laverne Miltzow

April-Jerry Wood, Ben Laurens, Paula Laurens,
Ed Potts

May-Belinda Grey, Rick Ormandy, Michael Murrel,
Landon Spurlock, Gary Bridgford, Pat Bridgford

DUES

This is the business part of the newsletter. Thank you for sending in your dues for last year. We have covered the cost of this newsletter again last year. As you are aware the dues are \$20.00 per year. Please continue to support our newsletter. We appreciate your help.

OBITUARY

Pat Duran (Laverne Miltzow's son-in-law)



It is with great sadness that the family of Pat Duran reports his passing on Jan. 23 from heart failure.

Pat and his wife Judy's biggest joys were their sons, Patrick and Michael. Both were constant sources of pride, especially the way Michael meets and overcomes the daily challenges of his significant cognitive disabilities. Pat was Mike's biggest supporter and they were best buddies.

Pat was a decorated veteran of the US Army serving in Vietnam.

Until We Again Rendezvous

This life has now passed away
They are with the Lord today
Enjoying a better life anew
Their memory shall we carry through
Until we again rendezvous
(Psalm 23: 1-6, Eccl 12: 7,1Cor 15: 42-55

SAILOR KISSING NURSE



Greta Friedman & George Mendonsa reunited



Both are now 89 years young

On the day World War II ended, so their story goes, George Mendonsa, a Navy sailor from Newport, R.I., and his girlfriend (whom he later married) were making their way through the crowds in Times Square when he was seized by a desire to kiss a woman dressed in white. Her uniform evoked in him an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the nurses who had ministered to his wounded buddies during the war. He did not know that the woman he embraced, Greta Zimmer, was not a nurse, but a dental assistant.

Greta Friedman: I was working in a dental office on Lexington Ave. for two brothers, JD and JL Burke. All morning long people would come in and say there seems to be rumors that the war with Japan was ending. Since I wasn't very far from Time's Square, I could just walk over there and see for myself. After my bosses came back at 1:00 from their lunch hour, I went straight to Time's Square where I saw, on the lighted bill board that goes around the building... 'V-J Day, V-J Day!' That really confirmed what the people had said in the office. Suddenly, I was grabbed by a sailor. It wasn't that much of a kiss. It was more of a jubilant act that he didn't have to go back. I found out later he was so happy that he didn't have to go back to the Pacific where they had already been through the war. The reason he grabbed somebody dressed like a nurse, that he felt so very grateful to the nurses who took care of the wounded. I had to go back to the office, and I told my bosses what I had seen. They said to cancel all the appointments, we're closing the office. They left, and so I cancelled all the appointments and went home." She was just 21 at the time.



DE-383



DER-383

Skipper: The Late Tommy Nichols –
Founder and Skipper forever

Reunion Planner: Ben Laurens – 192
Highway 70 East Bettie, Beaufort, NC
28516

Ph: 252-504-3733, Email:
nriver@ec.rr.com

Administrative Secretary: Pat
Bridgford- 14321 S. Locust St., Olathe, KS 66062

Ph: 913-764-1198, Email: pat.ussmills@gmail.com

Financial Advisory Officer: Robert Foust – 15402
Clearview Lane, Urbandale, IA 50323

Ph: 515-978-4046, Email: rfoust15402@mchsi.com

USS MILLS ANNUAL RAFFLE



Captain Drinkwater donated a unique piece of trench art. This ashtray was made from a shell casing that was actually shot from the Mills and made in the ship fitter shop aboard the Mills. Captain Drinkwater hammered the cannon to more resemble the real thing. The three coins that hold the cigarettes say Republica De Cuba Cinco Cintavos and the pennies are British/English dated 1922, 1938 and 1945. This is one of a kind and unique to the Mills. It is approximately 4 ¼ inches in diameter, 4 ½ inch high and weighs 2 ¾ pounds. It is easy to put in your suitcase as well.

History of Trench Art:

Soldiers have always made decorative or souvenir objects in their spare time. During the Napoleonic Wars, French prisoners of war interned in British prison camps created a variety of elaborate boxes, models and other pieces made from soup bones as well as marquetry boxes and similar items using plaited straw. The Crimean War produced interesting souvenirs such as inkwells made from cannon balls. Soldiers in the American Civil War decorated powder horns, canteens and snuffboxes with personal and patriotic

engravings and fabricated game pieces from bone and spent bullets. Sailors also have rich traditions of creating scrimshaw and needlework pieces. Projectiles with brass casings first produced in 1857, replaced cannon balls and other artillery ammunition as the century progressed. The Spanish-American War and the Boer War were the first wars in which this type of ammunition



was widely used. Typical shell casing souvenirs from this period were engraved with the details of battles or inscribed as 'souvenir of the war' or merely shaped into vases to be kept as decorative mementoes.



**Drawing to be held at the silent auction during the
reunion. Do not need to be present to win. We will ship
to the winner. \$5.00 PER ENTRY OR 5 ENTRIES FOR
\$20.00**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:

GARY BRIDGFORD

14321 S LOCUST ST

OLATHE, KS 66062

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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PHONE _____