

USS MILLS GAZZETTE DECEMBER 2014



BRANSON 2014

Another great reunion has come to an end. Day 1 brought spotty weather with the major rain storm coming late in the day. Our welcome BBQ was a big hit. Gary and I would like to say a big thank you to Linda Gaboury for doing the dirty dishes, coordinating the set up and service along with helping heat the corn. Bob Morris for helping Gary getting the meat and sides off the cooker in spite of the torrential rain. (They didn't need a shower that night). Lisa Brandenburg for making sure I didn't burn the onions and peppers for the corn and everyone else that helped with the clean up. We would not have been able to pull it off without you.

Day 2 was a day of adventure. The first stop was at the Ralph Foster museum, the Smithsonian of the Ozarks at college of the Ozarks.



After a glitch with the busses, we went to the Titanic museum while some people went back to the hotel for a much welcomed rest. Dinner was served at the Chicken House followed by the Clay Cooper

show. Debby

Scarborough caught Clay Coopers attention and was part of the show. What a blast!

Day 3 was a day off with most of the family adventuring out on their own.

The annual banquet was held Saturday night with Cassandre' Haygood as our entertainment. Day 4 was another day to catch up with family members that we haven't seen since last years reunion.

Day 5 was the departure day and safe travels home.

SILENT AUCTION

The silent auction was a big success again this year. Thank you Kathleen and John Davenport for running the auction and Wendy Morris for helping them. Please keep the auction in mind when you go shopping this coming year.



FYI....books have not been selling very well.

CALENDARS

We are going to try to do another calendar for 2016. We still need pictures as well. It all depends on the printing expenses. We were very lucky this year with a great deal on printing costs!.

DUES

Yearly dues will remain the same again this year. The \$20.00 you send in helps off set the costs of this newsletter. Please send to Ben.

DC REUNION by Ben

Our home from October 29 until the morning of November 2 2015 will be the Westin Crystal City, Arlington Virginia. We have a rate of 134.47 inclusive. Underground parking is an additional \$5.00 per night. Breakfast will be in our hospitality room from 7:30 'til 9 a.m. Westin Crystal City is a newly remodeled upscale bustling big city chain hotel. The rack rate for our rooms is over \$300.00. Parking is \$24.00 and breakfast begins at \$18.00. There are only 5 rooms guaranteed for 3 nights prior and three after the

reunion dates. If you plan to stay for more than the blocked reunion dates, MAKE YOUR



RESERVATIONS EARLY. A credit card will be needed to guarantee your reservation. To make Reservations please call 1-888-627-8209. Make it clear that you are to be placed in the USS MILLS REUNION BLOCK, and appropriate dates. Please get a confirmation number and keep it. The D.C. Metro station {Crystal City} is less than 100 yards from the hotel. Venues are \$125.00 per person. Our itinerary is still a work in progress. Destinations chosen by our family are first consideration Busses have been booked for 2 days touring. We will travel on Friday Oct 30th and Sunday November 2nd. Please don't plan to miss half of our itinerary by leaving on Sunday. Our annual meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday with dinner and entertainment at 6 pm.

FACEBOOK

As of this writing we have 96 members. Bob Gaboury is the administrator of our site. If you would like to join the family



site, go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) of our site. If you would like to join the family site, go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and create your personal page, if you don't already have one. You can do a search on the top of the page for USS MILLS click on it and ask to join. Either Gabby or I will add you to the family site. It is the best way to keep up with the family news. We also try to do updates on the reunion as they come up as well. You can post what ever you like on this page

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations to the benevolent fund. Those donations helped bring our less fortunate family members to this reunion. Without your help, we would not have the pleasure of their company.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES AS WELL AS EMAILS

Please notify Ben Laurens or Pat Bridgford of any changes. We like to keep our records up to date. Contact info is on the bottom of this newsletter.

ENGAGEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS GUYS

April Crianza and Bobby Mignerey

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Nikki Tichenor gave birth to a baby girl on November 5th. Her name is Jane.

BIRTHDAY'S

DECEMBER Linda Gaboury, Robin Stafford, Ray Latourreau, Patricia Scott

JANUARY Tom Grey, Lisa Nichols, Charlie Hazzard Patty Griffith, Lindsay Schriever, Pat Bass, Larry Bartmass, Myron Drinkwater

FEBRUARY Sharrie Reed, Mary Deresky, Bob Gaboury, Josh Nichols, Lynn Casarini, Phil Fogle

ANNIVERSARY'S

DECEMBER Cheryl & John Nickles Paul & Beth Edwards

JANUARY John & Kathleen Davenport

FEBRUARY Paula & Ben Laurens, Skip & Lexie Amorson, Carol Ann & Shelly Coward

CHAT ROOM

Wednesday evenings at 7 PM Eastern Time Bob Gaboury hosts a chat room. Several of the family members get together every week.



They cuss and discuss current events, family events etc. Everyone is welcome..no holes bared. Just family getting together to chat. It usually only lasts 30

minutes. Come and join the fun. You don't need any special equipment other than a computer. You can type your message if you do not have a camera

The link is <http://fuze.me/24250391>

OBITUARY'S

Delbert A. 'Lucky' Weets



July 25, 1946 - Aug. 16, 2014
CLINTON - Delbert A. "Lucky" Weets, age 68, of Clinton, passed away Saturday, August 16, 2014 at the Alverno Health Care Facility.

Delbert was born in Clinton on July 25, 1946. He attended Morrison and Fulton Schools. He

married Diane Thomas on December 2, 1967 in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Delbert served with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He served aboard the USS Thomas J. Gary and the USS Mills. He was involved in Operation Deep Freeze from 1966 - 1968 off the South Pole and in New Zealand. He was later stationed in Key West, Florida until he was discharged.

Delbert had worked at several car dealerships as a mechanic and later with Long Manufacturing before owning and operating Del's 76 from 1984 to 1990. He retired from IBP. Delbert enjoyed spending time with and following his

grandchildren's activities, bowling and drag racing at Cordova and Byron, IL. He had umpired baseball for many years.

Delbert is survived by his wife Diane; four children, Norm (Cindy) Weets of Clinton, Andy (Christine) Weets of New Liberty, Corey (Tera) Weets of Camanche and Kim Schroeder (Scott Whitmore) of Albany; seven grandchildren, Shelby, Evan, Brennan, Austin, Karlie, Dalton and Lukas; two great-grandchildren, Kristionna and Jeremiah; five brothers, Gary (Ann) Weets of Cantonment, FL, Mike (Rita) Weets of Clinton, Ed Weets (Sherry Price), Jeff (Risa) Weets and Scott (Linda) Weets all of Morrison; a sister, Julie (Tim) Warkins of Tampico and many nieces and nephews.

Betty E Murrel, Delton Mi. Betty passed away November 25, 2014. Betty was born April 6, 1937 in Bellevue, the daughter of Marion and Thelma (Tobias) Schyler. A graduate of Nazareth College,



Betty was an archivist at Kellogg's. Betty was an avid reader and she enjoyed the outdoors, the birds and the animals. Always staying physically fit, Betty worked out regularly at Sherman Lake YMCA, and she enjoyed cross country skiing, bike riding, swimming, boating and bowling. Betty was a former member of a

photography and writing club, where she pursued her dream of writing children's books. On November 23, 1990, Betty married Michael Murrel who survives. Betty is also survived by her mother: Thelma Schyler; a son: John Crilly; a daughter: Jill Sterling; brothers: Rodney (Sue) Schyler, Eddie Schyler, Marion (Carol) Schyler, and Gary (Judy) Schyler; sisters: Lorraine Jones and Beverly (Dr. David) Holland; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Betty was preceded in death by her father, a grandson: Cameron Crilly, and a sister: Delores.



(Paul) Johnson of Diamondhead; son, Bradley Johnson of Ocean Springs; grandchildren, Jessica and James; sisters, Lorena (Bill) Johnson and Katheren Reese of Thomson, GA, and numerous nephews and nieces.

1940 ~ 2014 CWO4 (Ret. USN) Bobby Gene Johnson, 73, of Vancleave, MS died peacefully on Thursday, October 2, 2014 in Ocean Springs Hospital after a long illness. Bobby was a native of Stapleton, Georgia but had been a long time resident of the MS Gulf Coast. He began his Naval career in 1959 at NTC, Great Lakes, IL. Bobby rose through the enlisted ranks to E-9 and in 1976 was commissioned Warrant Officer. During the next 26 years he was stationed aboard naval ships USS Mills, USS Mataco, USS Sperry, USS Grapple, USS Conserver, and USS Mount Baker on both the east and west coasts and Hawaii. He served one tour of duty in Vietnam on Swift boat patrol and shore duty in Great Lakes, IL, Corpus Christi, TX, and Charleston, SC. While stationed aboard the USS Mills in 1962, he took part in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bobby and his wife particularly enjoyed attending the USS Mills reunions each year. Upon retirement from the Navy in 1986, he moved to Ocean Springs, MS working for Raytheon Corporation. He later became employed with SUPSHIP Gulf Coast and retired from Civil Service in 2009. Bobby graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He was a 33rd degree Mason affiliated with the Goose Creek SC Lodge and a member of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs. He is preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Lillian Johnson and his brother, Fay Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Loretta; daughter, Renee

**Death leaves a heartache no
one can heal, love
leaves a memory no one
can steal. ~ Unknown**

*To my dear Mills family,
I don't thank you all enough for all the love
and concern you have shown to me and my family during
this very trying time. I appreciate so much the plat
the memorial gift to the Navy Relief Society, your cards
and emails, and of course, your prayers. I was so
touch'd when Ben told me the reunion had been
dedicated to Bob. He loved coming every year, so I
know he was rejoicing even more with the words
in heaven knowing you were thinking of him.
Thank you again, and God bless you all,
Loretta,
Loretta*



NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203-1767 | www.nmcrs.org | (800) 654-8364

November 4, 2014

51581
American Military Reunion Foundation
USS Mills Reunion
192 Hwy 70E. Bette
Beaufort, NC 28516

Dear Friends;

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, thank you for your thoughtful and generous donation. Your gift will help provide financial assistance to Sailors, Marines, and their families—active duty and retired.

The Society provides emergency financial assistance, distributes layettes to new families, offers low-cost uniforms, clothing and household items through our Thrift Shops, and sends Combat Casualty Registered Nurses to homes of our men and women who were wounded in combat.

Because of patriotic and caring people like you, and the dedicated efforts of our 3,500 volunteers, the Society is able to respond with enthusiastic, effective, and timely support to the distress calls of our shipmates and fellow Marines.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (EIN 53-0204618) is a non-profit, charitable organization incorporated in the District of Columbia and declared tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service. No goods or services were provided to you in return for your gift. Please retain this receipt for your records.

Donation Receipt

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>
10/31/2014	\$100.00	General Fund

You have made a difference!

Sincerely,

CAPT Shelley S. Marshall, USN (Ret)
Vice President, Chief Development and Communications Officer

*Thank you for choosing
the Society to honor the
life and memory of
Bobby Johnson. May he
rest in peace -
S*

P.S. Another way to ensure future Sailors, Marines, and their families receive emergency assistance is a charitable bequest. Please consider including the Society in your will or living trust.

FOR THE COOKS IN THE FAMILY

SALTED CARAMEL-CHOCOLATE DUMPCAKE

1 small (3.9 ounce) package instant chocolate pudding
1 1/2 cups cold milk
1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist Devil's Food cake mix
1 1/2 cups chopped caramels
coarse sea salt for sprinkling
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
whipped cream, for serving (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch pan and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together chocolate pudding and milk for one minute to combine.

Add cake mix ONLY and stir until thoroughly combined.

Spread batter evenly into bottom of prepared pan (batter will be thick). Sprinkle with chopped caramels. Sprinkle with sea salt to taste (remember: A little bit goes a long way).

Bake cake 30-40 minutes or until edges pull away from sides and a toothpick inserted in the cake portion comes out clean.

Remove cake from oven and let cool on a cooling rack.

Pour chocolate chips into a medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 2-3 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until chocolate is fully melted. Using a spoon, drizzle chocolate over cooled cake.



Serve cake with a dollop of whipped cream, if desired.



Skipper: The Late Tommy Nichols
Founder and Skipper forever

Reunion Planner: Ben Laurens

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66062

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Milton C. Asmine Jr. CMA
as Santa Claus

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH, Tuesday, 25 December, 1962.

U.S. Sailors Entertained Children



TWENTY children from Craigieknowes School will long remember Christmas 1962, for yesterday they were the guests of officers and crew of the American radar picket ship Mills at Customhouse Quay for almost three hours.

Immediately on leaving their bus on the quayside, the children were welcomed by Lt.-Cdr. R. D. Hoffman, and then taken on a tour of inspection of the ship.

Thereafter they gathered in the gaily decorated messroom, where a programme of films was then shown, followed by a party.

Then came the big moment of the afternoon, the arrival of Santa Claus, who distributed gifts to every child.

After some of the young guests had sung and given readings, Chief Electrician Richard Paschke, from Detroit, took over as compere, and in addition to encouraging the children to contribute, he told some charming Christmas stories.

Concluding item on the entertainment, conjuring tricks by Mr William Given, of Gourcock, brought a happy day to an end.

Santa Claus gives a kiss to one of the Christmas Eve guests aboard the U.S.S. Mills at Customhouse Quay.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



JOHN DAVENNPORNT AND CUTIE



FUN ON THE BUS WITH ED POTTS AND
SISTER



BOB MORRIS AND GARY BRIDGFORD
CATCHING UP