

# USS MILLS GAZETTE MARCH 2017



## FROM THE PLANNER

The Myrtle Beach reunion will be the best reunion MILLS family has ever held there. Every evening will be filled with special events exclusively for us.

**Thursday** - Pat and Gary will again treat us her wonderful Kansas City BBQ. Her meal was a Major Highlight of the Branson reunion.

**Friday** - Dinner at "Old Original Benjamins" followed by the "ONE" show at Alabama Theater.

**Saturday** - A Hawaiian Luau "Al Fresco" on the roof at our Hospitality room adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Sunday** - A 2-hour riverboat tour on a paddle wheel steamboat that includes a light supper.

All of this at the best total price we've ever enjoyed in Myrtle Beach.

I have one request that you are used to hearing by now, but this year late reservations could cost the reunion kitty some bucks.

**PLEASE** make reservations at the hotel as soon as possible. I placed a substantial deposit with the Barefoot Princess Steamboat Company, whose sign-up deadline is substantially earlier than we are accustomed to. **Make reservations with the hotel ASAP Please.**

**BBQ** The menu for Thursday night will be **Ribs, Brisket, Pork Butt, and Chicken** all competition style. Sides will be Baked beans and corn. We got permission from the hotel to smoke in the parking lot. Hopefully will be close to the ocean so we can enjoy the view while cooking for you all.

**Original Benjamin's** goes the extra mile in creating a fun and interesting environment in which to dine. The dining rooms are decorated in a nautical theme that fits the food, especially since guests can watch fishing boats float up and down the Intracoastal Waterway through the back windows. The kids are sure to get a kick out of model ships and dry sea aquarium displays.

**The Alabama Theatre's** production of **ONE** the Show DELIVERS AGAIN! Recently voted the #1 Live Entertainment Theatre by Myrtle Beach visitors and locals, the Alabama Theatre introduces ONE The Show - combining extraordinary talent, iconic production numbers, sizzling visual elements and extravagant costuming with hit songs from many exciting musical genres into a production critics are calling "A Mega Hit!" The strength of ONE The Show is the power of its music that carries the audience through the enchanting evening. No audience member will be touched in the same way as ONE weaves a magical musical journey filled with song, dance and laughter. Rest assured that the night would be one of the most enjoyable nights of live entertainment you will ever experience - vigorous, uplifting and even spiritual.



**The Barefoot Princess** is 64 feet long and 24 feet wide, and is a U.S. Coast Guard inspected and approved passenger vessel for 130 passengers. All boarding/disembarking is through the front door of the lower level. The lower level is primarily used as the dining room and also has a restroom and speakers for the narration and music. The second level has a restroom, snack bar, entertainer/narrator, dance floor, outside seating/observation deck. The third level is all open-air with seating.

Attrition is becoming a factor in our attendance. It is God's will and unavoidable. OUR reunion is unique in that we are still growing at our age when many military reunions of our era are dwindling to almost nothing. If you haven't attended a Mills family reunion in some years, or never, please strongly consider Myrtle Beach or one in the near future. Our MILLS family spends unforgettable quality time together. It's a shame for any shipmate to miss sharing a few days with those who served onboard MILLS in any era. Sailor and lady – Come be with your MILLS family

### **BIRTHDAYS**

**MARCH** Ron Donato, Laverne Miltzow, Earl Borman, Dan Murray, Michael Russo, Gary Hlavka, April Crianza, Roger Dereske, Karen Lazzaro, Jerry Wood

**APRIL** John Reed, Ben Laurens, Paula Laurens, Kerry Norris, Ed Potts

**MAY** Irene Norris, Belinda Gray, Trudy Faight, Lawrence Shed, Gary Bridgford, Pat Bridgford, Landon Spurlock, Rick Ormandy

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

**MARCH** Earl & Doris Boreman, Kerry & Irene Norris  
Tom & Belinda Grey Gary & Pat Bridgford

**APRIL** Alan and Lisa Nichols

**MAY** Sherry & John Reed

### **DUES**

The dues remain \$20.00 again this year. As you know, the dues help pay for this newsletter. Please mail payment to Ben separately or mail it along with your venue payment.

Ben Laurens, 192 Hwy 70 East Bettie, Beaufort, NC 28516



*"Just think of it, son! Lolling in the deck chairs - the sun setting behind the tropical island - luscious Wrans bringing iced beer round on trays - the ship's band playing your favourite tune!"*

### **FACEBOOK**

We now have 136 members. Bob Gaboury is the main administrator and wrote these guidelines to assure our site is secure;

This is a US Navy Mills Family Group.

All new membership requests must hit the request to join button and message an administrator and state their relationship with the Mills Family.

If a member request to add new members to the group, you must PM an admin and vouch for that new member.

All new members must read the group description which include the rules that should be adhered to.

All new members should expect to get introduced to the group.

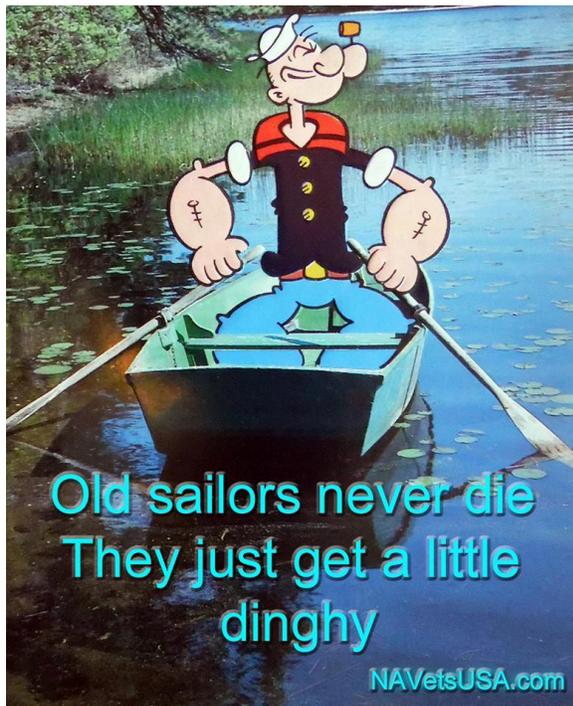
Posts that violate Facebook Community Standards are prohibited. We must uphold the FB standards to prevent the group from showing up on FB police radar. Under no circumstances are members allowed to block an admin or moderator. Political posts are prohibited. Bring that stuff to the politics group. Please feel free to join our group and enjoy the family happenings.

### **DONATIONS**

All donations are appreciated. It will help Mills family members enjoy the reunions who otherwise may not be able to attend.

### **SILENT AUCTION**

Just a reminder, No silent auction this year.



### **FABULOUS PENNE A LA VODKA**

#### **Ingredients**

1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 onion, chopped  
1 (28 ounce) cans crushed tomatoes  
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano  
6 -8 fresh basil leaves, chopped or 1/8 teaspoon dried basil leaves  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pepper  
8 tablespoons butter, divided  
12 ounces fresh white mushrooms, quartered, about 3 cups  
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes ( to taste)  
1/2 cup vodka  
3 cups heavy cream  
1 tablespoon kosher salt  
1 1/2 lbs rigatoni pasta or 1 1/2 lbs penne  
1/4 cup dry parmesan cheese, plus additional for the table

#### **Directions**

Heat the oil in a large saucepan; when hot, saute the onions until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Add crushed tomatoes to the saucepan.

Stir in the oregano, basil, salt and pepper and simmer 1 hour to concentrate flavors.

While the sauce is cooking, heat 4 T of the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Saute the mushrooms and hot pepper flakes until the mushrooms are golden.

Carefully add the vodka and simmer for 5 minutes to cook off the alcohol.

**Add the heavy cream and bring to a simmer; pour the cream mixture into the tomato puree; stir to mix. Keep the sauce warm while cooking the pasta.**

**Add the kosher salt to 6 quarts of water. Bring to a rolling boil. Add pasta to boiling water; cook uncovered until pasta is al dente, about 12 minutes. Drain well.**

Melt the remaining 4 T of butter in a large skillet. Stir in pasta to glaze, then add Parmesan cheese and mix thoroughly. Stir in 1/3 of the sauce and mix with the pasta; divide among plates. Top each plate with some additional sauce; pass remaining sauce and additional cheese at the table.

## SICK BAY

### By "Drink" (Myron) Captain Drinkwater

Consult today with Dr. Oh (Head & Neck) - Full Nine Yards - Outcome:

Received Three Options: 1. Do Nothing / 2. Remove Tissue from Melanoma area / 3. Remove Tissue plus inject area with solution and check lymph nodes in the neck (for information ONLY with no treatment regardless of findings). Opted for the Second Choice and will have Out Patient procedure next Wednesday (3/8/17) afternoon to remove tissue about the size of a silver dollar (remember those?) down to the skull from the area on top back of my head where the original Melanoma nodule was located. It will be done in the local facility and take about 15 minutes after prep and I'll go home immediately after the procedure. The area of removal will require NO sutures (stitches) and the tissue will regenerate over time. Daily change of dressing will be required for however long is necessary (doctor didn't elaborate on this).

The option to check the lymph nodes would have been a higher priority for selection however with the requirement for hospitalization to perform this procedure coupled with the removal of the tissue with no following treatment potential was ruled out based on the possible negative results (heart attack, stroke, breathing difficulty (more than presently encountering)) was reason(s) enough to rule out. Since there would be NO TREATMENT based on whatever the findings revealed the option was considered to be of no real benefit. Hopefully this is a wise choice. I consider today's consult and decisions to be a positive step and look forward to getting the procedure behind me - as soon as possible.

The total experience from this ordeal is proof positive that Prayer Does Work and I give Thanks to the Lord for keeping me in His hands.

Well I now have another hole in my head....The preparation took MUCH longer than the actual procedure. After shaving a small patch of hair the doctor started by marking/drawing (I could feel him drawing a small circle at the top back of my head). He then started injecting the numbing solution around where he had drawn the circle and then he did that two more times. Then he said: "See you later - after the numbing agent has a time to soak in". When he came in he excused the technician who was assisting him and told her to go remove the stitches from the patient in room 11.....He proceeded to then cut the tissue from the marked and prepared area - took probably 10 minutes or less. Then another assistant came in the room and cleaned up the area and put a bandage over it.

I return tomorrow to have the technician/assistant change the bandage while Joy watches to see if she will be comfortable doing it for the next 10 days or more at home. I could probably do it myself if I could see what I was doing LOL...

All in all it was another easy out patient procedure. My hope is that God put the skills in the doctor's hands to get

ALL of any remnants of the Melanoma cells removed/cut out. I guess only time and more tests will let me know how successful today's procedure was.

Thank all of you for your concern and any prayers sent my way. You are all very important people in my life and I love you very much.

## OBITUARIES



**LaVerne H. (Vern - "Skipper") Jensen**, age 89, passed peacefully on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at Symphony of Joliet surrounded by his family. He was born September 25, 1927 to the late Margaret (nee Hampson) and Herman Jensen in Dwight, IL but Joliet was his lifetime home.

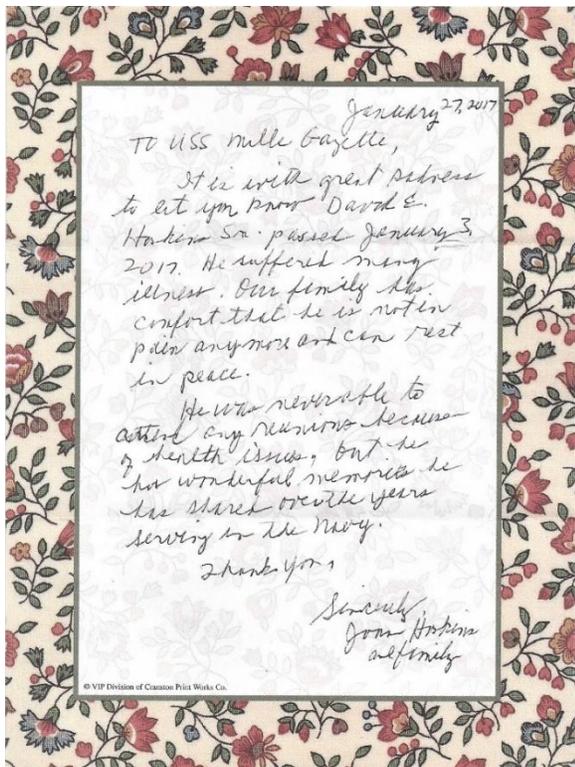
Vern was a graduate of

Joliet Central, class of 2001 since he left high school to enlist in the United States Coast Guard, serving on the USS Mills Destroyer Escort in World War II.

Vern met the love of his life, Marjorie Bell, at the Rialto Square Theatre where she sold war bonds in the lobby and he was an usher. They married on November 26, 1950 at Ingalls Park Methodist Church. Throughout his life, Vern worked in sales throughout the greater Joliet area including Pearson Construction & K&W Lumber. He retired from Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210. After retirement, Vern & Marge were active in the SCCA & CART where they both served as track officials and enjoyed camping at various racetracks in the Midwest while following their favorite drivers. In addition, Vern was Past Commander of Harwood Post #5, a member of Cantigny [VFW](#) Post #367, plus very proud member of the local Destroyer Escort Group which he co-founded with Marge.

Vern is survived by his children, Sandra Lu (Frank) Gunter of Normal, William H (Kimberly) Jensen of Joliet, & Anton E (Sue) Jensen of Island Lake. Six grandchildren, Eric (Sofija) Gunter, Kevin (Alexandra) Gunter, Jennifer (Scott) Bartnik, Brent (Kelsey Lexow) Jensen, Shannell (Rico) Reed & Jordan Jensen; 7 great-grandchildren; plus two sisters, Mary Jean White & Karen Jensen; nieces & great nieces & great nephews survive.

Preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie (nee Bell) Jensen (2015); his parents, son, Keith Jensen at birth; and grand-daughters, Heather L. Gunter & Lindsey E Jensen.



**David E. Hoskins, Sr.**, 72, of Overland Park, KS passed Jan. 3, 2017. A celebration of David's life will be Sat. Jan. 7 from 3-5 at Signature Funerals, 8019 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114. Memorial contributions may be made to City Union Mission, 1700 E. 8th St., Kansas City, MO

64106. David Hoskins Sr was born March 3, 1944 in Auburn New York. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1961-65 and travelled the world. David was married to Joan E Herrick December 10, 1966 and had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Hoskins moved to Kansas City in 1972 and it's been home ever since. David was involved in sales for his entire working career ran his own company, David Associates Inc, until his retirement five years ago. He is survived by his loving wife Joan, sons David(Adriana) and Tim, and daughters Kim(David) and Tammy and grandchildren Layne, Julian, Coral, Sierra, Aliyah, Jackson and brother William, nephew Jesse, and niece Amalia. David left a lasting impression on everyone he met. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to all. He will be missed.



**Thomas Hanselman "Tom" Link** of Tallahassee,

FL joined his Lord in eternal glory at the age of 76 at Tallahassee, FL on the 15th of January, 2017 as a result of complications from a lengthy illness.

He was born in New London, CT to Thomas Livingston Link and Emma Margaret Hanselman Link on August 29, 1940. He served in the United States Navy on the ground crew of the famous Hurricane Hunters, as a supply officer aboard the USS Mills on Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica and as commissary store officer in Tapei, Tiawan. He received a BS degree from the University of Southern California, where he was a member of Pi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and the Spirit of Troy marching band. Tom began his career with Publix Supermarkets in 1956 at 16 years old and retired in 2001, having worked his way through the ranks and eventually serving as

Store Manager in stores in Jacksonville, Ormond Beach, Palm Coast, and Tallahassee as well as positions in the Training and Human Resources Departments in Lakeland. Through the years, he mentored scores of young men and women, serving as an outstanding model of compassion, wisdom, and exemplary customer service. In addition to being selected to receive a scholarship to USC by Publix, Tom also achieved many corporate recognitions in his 45-year career.

Tom, was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his first wife and the mother of his oldest son, Mary Jane Joiner Link. He is survived by Paula Waters Link, his wife of 35 years; 2 sons, Thomas Joiner "Jay" Link of Anthioch, TN and Charles "Chuck" Thomas Link (Meghan) of Malvern, AL; one daughter, Jennifer Lynn Link of Tallahassee; a sister, Mary "Emmie" Phillips of Orlando; 2 grandchildren, Thomas Aedhan Link and Mackenzie Lynn Link; 2 nephews, James "Jim" Matthew Phillips of Orlando and Jesse Bryan Jones of Ozark, AL; and one niece, Pattie Lynn Cole (Paul) of Ozark, AL all of whom will miss him dearly.

**HARRY CUERDEN PASSED AWAY AFTER ALONG ILLNESS 12/14/2016**

## Warm memories of Deep Freeze

Provided by Skip Amorson

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PARDON the pun, but it can be fairly said yesterday's Wash column about Operation Deep Freeze and the Dunedin connection "thawed" a lot of memories among readers about 12 years of American ship visits to the city.

A good part of my day was spent dealing with a flood of responses to our attempt, on behalf of former USS Calcaterra sailor Bill Simms, to track down the man who "dipped" his flag whenever the ships sailed past Roseneath or St Leonards back in the late 1960s.

As I expected, a lot of the feedback was on the wider topic of Operation Deep Freeze and the interaction of locals with the numerous sailors who came ashore between the first visit, by USS Brough in March 1956, and the last, in 1968, by both the Calcaterra and USS Mills.

By "interaction" I am talking not just about home visits, hunting trips into the hinterland, farm-stays, school speeches and open days on the ships, but also the social side of everyday life, the gatherings in coffee bars and/or hotels, which led to many romances and, ultimately, marriages.

But I propose to deal more fully with the weddings in a future column and concentrate today on other aspects of this subject, starting with the search for the "flag dipper", although, inevitably, there is some "crossover".

There are at least two likely flag-waving candidates so far. Lindsay Bryant, of Calton Hill, writes: 'Hi Dave. I was born and bred in Ravensbourne and remember these ships calling into Dunedin. My father, Palmer Bryant, had a flagpole at the back of the garden and would dip the New Zealand flag to visiting ships. If he was not available, one of us boys would take over for him.'

"Also another resident at the northern end of Ravensbourne or possibly Maia would do the same, Dad carried on this tradition until his death in 2006. One of my brothers became friends with a sailor from the USS Brough during its visits and when in port he was a regular at our meal table."

Keith Henderson, of Abbotsford, rang to say he could also recall a chap who lived in the northern end of Ravensbourne, possibly a Norwegian, who always used to fly his flag whenever an American ship was going up or down the harbour past his home. Keith can't recall the fellow's name though — can anyone else help on this score?

Then there was "sheet waving", according to Ros, another reader who rang to relate how her brother-in-law, Jon Brewster, was a helmsman on USS Hissem, which was based in Dunedin in 1963-64.

Whenever the ship sailed into port, Ros' family would grab a large white bed sheet and stand on the lawn at their St Leonards home and wave a welcoming "hello" to the man steering the ship.

Eventually, Jon married Ros' 17-year-old sister, Karen, and the couple settled in Albany, in New York state. These days they live in Sydney, having celebrated their 50th wedding

anniversary.

And how did they meet? Well, Karen worked at Nevill Studios, a photography business then based in the Exchange (these days in Crawford St), and like many other American sailors, Jon popped in to get pictures taken to send back home. The rest is history.

Heather Payne, of Alexandra, is another reader with links to USS Hissem. She writes:

Where do I start?—so many memories of the visits from the Hissem in 1964 and the Mills the following year. I was brought up on a farm in South Otago and we used to host four sailors at a time when they were in port. My dad would take them hunting and fishing and they generally 'hung out' with us.

"My mum kept in touch with one in particular and he came from New Orleans and has kept in touch with my sister since our mum passed away. I can still remember the pecan pralines he brought us when they spent a Christmas with us. I also remember visiting the ship while it was in port and getting star treatment.

"Memories are so precious and a little piece in your column has brought so many flooding back and I thank you for that!"

Í Phillip de Wattignar, of Dunedin, emailed to say he remembers "with great affection" the US Navy ships docking at both the harbour basin and oil wharves.

"In 1967 I was a 13-year-old sea cadet at TS Waireka and, along with TS Nimrod from Port Chalmers, I was part of a contingent of cadets fortunate to be selected to be paired off with a crew member of USS Calcaterra for a one-day exercise off the Otago coast.

"I have fond memories of the kind 'big brother' American seaman who treated us with respect and showed us inside their world aboard. I remember the privilege of seeing the electronic gear in use when ushered into the silent and dark world of 'Operations', the high security nerve centre of the warship."

That's all we have room for today regarding Operation Deep Freeze but I'm sure we will return to the popular topic. Thanks to everyone who got in touch.



*The Late Tommy Nichols Founder and Skipper forever*

**DER-383**

**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**

**DE-383**

**ph: 913-707-826**

## 2017 ANNUAL RAFFEL



Navy theme wall clock. Donated by Loretta Johnson.

We are gathering additional unique items hoping for a Super Drawing that will offset the cancelation of the Silent Auction.

We will ship to the winner at no extra cost to you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 each or 5/\$20.

Please mail to:  
Gary Bridgford  
14321 s Locust st  
Olathe, Ks 66062

