

USS MILLS GAZETTE JUNE 2018



2018 REUNION

MILLS Family reunion is returning to Virginia Beach and our beloved Atlantic Ocean for another year. The hotel is oceanfront, directly in front of the fishing pier.

Home for the 2018 reunion is the Best Western Sandcastle Virginia Beach. Dates are October 25 to October 29. Our room rate is 103.46 inclusive. ALL rooms will be oceanfront facing the concrete boardwalk. Reunion rates will be held for 3 days prior and 3 days after our reunion. Reservation telephone number is 757-428-2828.

Please identify yourselves as attendees of the USS MILLS reunion to be guaranteed the Reunion rate. A deposit of one night's rate will be required when making reservations. We have a wonderful slate of historic tours for 2018. We will visit Jamestown, the first successful English settlement in continental North America. Then we'll proceed to the newly updated and renovated Yorktown museum of the American Revolution. Our annual banquet will be on the Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship. \$350.00 per couple includes all breakfasts, one lunch and most evening meals. Please send funds to me with annual dues and contribution {if included} on Pat's white information slip before Sept 25th, 2018. Include shirt sizes, please.

Attrition is beginning to affect MILLS family far too often. If you have never attended a reunion or it's been a few years, please visit with your MILLS family in Virginia Beach. MILLS family reunion averages almost 100 attendees a year. Our ship is unique among vessels that have been out of commission for almost 50 years.

If you aren't a regular, come see what makes the gathering of your shipmates so special.

Itinerary Va. Beach Reunion October 2018

- Thursday 10/25** Meet in hospitality room adjacent to breakfast dining area. Pick up welcome bags, have a snack and greet shipmates & families
- Friday 10/26** 9:45 AM Annual meeting
We will discuss anything appropriate.
- 12:30 PM Board busses for tour of Va. Beach oceanfront. Cape Henry South.
- 4:30 PM Approx. Return to hotel.
- 6:00 PM Light dinner in hospitality Room
- 7:15 PM Begin evening entertainment "Frank sings Frank"
- Saturday 10/27** 8:30 AM Board busses for tour to Jamestown & Yorktown
- 3:30 PM Board Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship for harbor cruise and dinner.
- 6:30 return to Hotel.
- Sunday 10/28** 9:30 AM Christian prayer meeting with Chaplain Gary Hlavka
Balance of day free
- Monday 10/29** RETURN HOME SAFELY WITH GOD'S BLESSING.

THOUGHTS by Brian Goode KISS

I feel so God blessed this morning as Gigi and I are cruising down the Rhine River. I



awoke at 6am shortly before sunrise to find that we are approaching Kinderdijk, Holland (Netherlands), on the Idi, our Viking Long Ship. She is 443' long, with 95 cabins and can accommodate 195 passengers. She is powered by two 1250 hp Caterpillar engines, 2 electric engines and two huge jet bow thrusters.

As we cruise along, I am very aware at how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy God's awesome creation and the simplicity of its beauty. As we pass one quintessential Middle Age village after another, I am reminded of how simple life had been. The side tours we have enjoyed point to how tightly-knit the communities were and how they cared for one another and shared the joys and trials of life much more so than we seem to do today. Our advanced, technology-driven world has yielded a much more independent and individual-centered life culture.

So how can we find a way today to live life with a greater focus on caring for one another sharing our joys and supporting weakness when we see it? The answer is relatively simple and can be found in the Bible in the two great Commandments: Matthew 22:36-40 New International Version (NIV)

36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'[a] 38 This is the first and

greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

Finally, In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the beloved Beatitudes that give us the ethical guidelines of life that are pleasing to the Lord. They can be found in Matthew 5: 1-12.

God bless,
Brian

FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT "FRANK SINGS FRANK"

Frank Sings Frank is a premiere singing and entertainment act perfect for weddings, anniversary parties, corporate events and more! This one man act starring, Frank Cubillo, will take you back to the grand Sinatra-style age of music! Is that Sinatra or Cubillo? Impersonation so good, sometimes even we can't tell the difference.

A native of Brooklyn NY, Frank Cubillo is the "voice" and "energy" behind Frank Sings Frank, Frank recently retired, as a Colonel, after serving over 37 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He has been singing all his life, is



a cantor and of Ascension Choir in Virginia Beach, and a self taught Frank Sinatra aficionado who has over several years learned to sing and perform over 180 of Sinatra's hits.

FROM THE PLANNER

As always, your reunion team asks that everyone come to be with your MILLS family in Virginia Beach in October. We have classically historical venues planned, meals, entertainment ... Most of all we have you, our shipmates, families, and special friends. Attrition has not been kind to us this year, so please, attend while we're able. Your MILLS family awaits.

The Sheraton 4 points hotel recently approached us to offer a special rate if we would consider returning at our next open year. Out of curiosity, I posted the question on MILLS FB site. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of our return for 2019. I'm working on a proposal from the hotel, as I write. The rate will be \$99.00 + including their great breakfast. If it all comes together our Family reunion will be back in Ft. Walton in 2019. Responses, pro or con will be appreciated.

Our silent auction is returning this year. There will be some amazing items to bid on, I have advance info on 5 amazing items that will be available. Please bring along your best idea of something a shipmate will be proud to bid on and take home.

Your MILLS reunion team is looking forward to spending time with each of our family members.
God Bless us all.

MORE ITINARY DETAIL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018; 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Aboard the motor coach enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in **Virginia Beach**.

See the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607 prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War.

Enjoy a stop at the **Old Cape Henry Lighthouse**, built in 1792, this lighthouse was active until the late 1800's and is currently a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Guests may choose to climb to the top of the Lighthouse (small admission fee, pay on own) or shop in the gift shop for all things Lighthouse related.

Ride down the resort strip, see the historic Cavalier Hotel as well as the Tidewater Veterans Memorial, a unique structure which pays homage to veterans everywhere.

Next, visit one of Virginia Beach's newest craft breweries, **Young Veterans Brewery**, owned and operated by veterans of the Iraq War. This will be a unique and fun experience for all! Guests will be treated to a private, behind the scenes tour of how these unique beers are brewed and conclude the tour with several craft beer tastings.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018; 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Board the motor coach with your Phillips DMC tour guide and spend the morning at Jamestown Settlement. Established in 1607, this was the first permanent settlement in the New World. Guests will enjoy touring the re-created village of Jamestown which chronicles the nation's 17th century beginnings in Virginia in the context of its Powhatan Indian, English, and western central African cultures. Jamestown represents an enduring legacy of language, culture, and government. Through an introductory film, "1607: A Nation Takes Root," and expansive 30,000 square foot indoor exhibition galleries, guests will discover the political, social and economic factors that led to the colonization of the New World, the culture of the Powhatan Indians of coastal Virginia at the time of the English arrival, and the first century of the Virginia colony when Jamestown served as its capital. Outside, history comes alive in re-creations of a Powhatan Indian village, a colonial fort, and the three ships - Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery - that transported English colonists to Virginia in 1607. Costumed historical interpreters demonstrate work and everyday life of the era and engage visitors in a variety of activities.

A boxed lunch will be enjoyed in the Jamestown Café and there will be time to browse the beautiful gift shop for unique "Made in Virginia" items.

Following lunch, visit The Yorktown revolutionary War Museum.

HATS

Ben has hats for sale, there are solid and mesh hats available. Please contact him if you would like one mailed to you, \$20.00 delivered. They will also be available at the reunion.

SILENT AUCTION

As Ben said earlier, we will have a silent auction this year. Please keep this in mind while shopping. We would like new or gently used items. These items do not have to be navy oriented.

DONATIONS

We always accept donations to help our less fortunate family members attend the reunions.

DUES

Again, this year dues are \$20.00. Please remit to Ben anytime you can or with your reunion reservations. As you know, the donations help pay for the newsletter expenses.

FACEBOOK

As of this writing, we have 158 family members on the page. FB is a great way to keep in touch with one another. Bob Gaboury does a fantastic job keeping the page safe. To join, do a FB search for USS Mills DE-DER 383 Family, answer a couple of questions and Gabby will gladly add you to our group.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

Peggy Marlow, Diane Sonefeld, Claude Scarbrough, Bev Haizel, George Elasco, Wendy Morris, Randy Turner, John Davenport

JULY

Gary Hlavka, Brian Goode, Paula Link, Bobby Herren, Nancy Tomes, Cathy Kofke, Arlon Scott

AUGUST

Lynn Hagan Gentry, Judy Duran, Loertta Johnson Ranck, Felder Frederick, Bob Stafford, Bob Morris, Ken Barton, Alan Nichols

ANNIVERSARY'S

JUNE

Claude & Debbie Scarbrough, Gary & Ginny Hlavka, Charlie & Karen Hazzard, Lawrence & Judith Shea, Art & Ginny Cromer

JULY

Dennis & Jean Loof

AUGUST

Joyce & Felder Fredrick, Bob & Robin Stafford, Bobby and Mary Lou Herren, Bob & Lynn Gentry, Jim & Nancy Tomes, Bob & Mary Ann Foust

SICK BAY

Fred Wedekind had surgery after they found an aneurysm in his leg.

John Nickles is home from the cardiac facility. His atrial fibrillation and a mild heart attack caused the latest medical difficulty.

SHIPMATE THAT MADE HIS LAST VOYAGE

Harold Waddell Dyer



Maynardville, TN
Harold W. Dyer - age 72 of Maynardville, passed away peacefully at his home on May 3, 2018. He was a member of Alder Springs Missionary Baptist Church. Harold was a United States Navy and Vietnam Veteran where he served aboard the U.S.S. Mills #383. He enjoyed his yearly reunion with his Mills Shipmates. He was owner and operator of Dyer's Garage and the original Thunder Road Motor Cars. Harold also enjoyed wood working and being with his family and especially his grandchildren.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek?
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders
and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,"
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills just got too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fears...
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the
throne,

Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

Author Unknown~

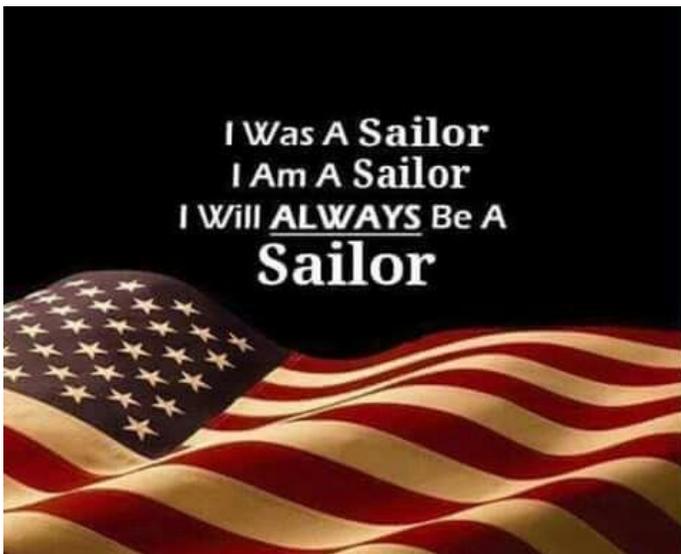
*I believe in the United States of
America as a government of the
people, by the people, and for the
people. I believe it is my duty to my
country to love it, to support it's
constitution, to obey it's laws, to
respect it's flag, and to defend it
against all enemies.*

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Provided by Felder and
Joyce Frederick



GARY'S CORNER by Gary Bridgford

My reunion with our U.S.S Mills family is just special, and as time goes by it becomes more important to me personally. Last night Pat and I attend a viewing and saw some people that I worked with 20 plus years ago. It was the first time in over 20 years we had seen each other! While it was nice, and we enjoyed it....it just was not the same as my Mills family! Why is that? Was it because of my age when I joined the Navy? Was it because we all joined the Navy to be of service to our great nation? Was it because we bonded as a family so many years ago? Was it because of our action as teammates? I do not know. I just know it becomes more special each year. Time is going bye much too soon and I can't wait till I see this family in October!
God Bless you all!



GRILLED SHRIMP

We tried this recipe last week and really enjoyed it

2lbs extra-large, peeled deveined
1 teaspoon paprika
1 tablespoon sliced fresh garlic
1 teaspoon italian seasoning
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon basil
1 tablespoon brown sugar

Mix all ingredient in a bag and marinate for 20 minutes in the refrigerator. Prepare grill to high heat and grill for 5-6 minutes turning to char all sides.



DER-383



DE-383

**The late Tommy Nichols,
Founder and Skipper forever
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\$5.00 each or 5/\$20.

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