



REUNION 2013 (additions in blue)

October 3rd thru Monday October 7th

Thursday October 3rd thru Monday October 7th

We will be staying at the Surfside Oceanfront Inns and Suites. 1211 Atlantic Ave. Virginia Beach, Va. Please call 757-428-1183 for 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 (THURS) meet & greet pick up welcome bags

Day 2 (FRIDAY) is a Norfolk City tour including MacArthur Memorial Museum – Naval Station Norfolk – Lunch on base – Active Duty ship visit {if possible} **Followed by Pizza and Karaoke by Loretta**

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 3 (SATURDAY) 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 then **Sterling Giannotti will show slides of Deep Freeze II in the hospitality room**

Sunday AM - Christian Service with Chaplain Tom Link Rest of the Day is Free

Monday leave for home

USS WISCONSIN

"Wiskey" or "WisKy", is an *Iowa*-class battleship, the second ship of the United States Navy to be named in honor of the U.S. state of Wisconsin. She was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and launched on 7 December 1943 (the second anniversary of the Pearl Harbor raid), sponsored by the wife of Governor of Wisconsin, Walter Goodland.

During her Career, *Wisconsin* served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, where she shelled Japanese fortifications and screened United States aircraft carriers as they conducted air raids against enemy positions. During the Korean War, *Wisconsin* shelled North Korean targets in support of United Nations and South Korean ground operations, after which she was decommissioned. She was reactivated 1 August 1986, modernized and participated in Operation Desert Storm in January and February 1991.

Wisconsin was last decommissioned in September 1991, having earned a total of six battle stars for service in World War II and Korea, as well as a Navy Unit Commendation for service during the January/February 1991 Gulf War. currently functions as a museum ship operated by Nauticus, The National Maritime Center in Norfolk, Virginia. *Wisconsin* was struck from the Naval Vessel Register (NVR) 17 March 2006, and, as of 14 December 2009, has been donated for permanent use as a museum ship. On 15 April 2010, the City of Norfolk officially took over the ship.





SOUVENIR PAINTING OF THE MILLS from Ben

The painting of the USS MILLS underway that Tom link had done many years ago and subsequently donated to the Reunion was in poor condition after the 2012 get together in Myrtle Beach. Original frame was in pieces, there was no glass to protect the painting from stains etc. Something needed to be done to preserve our iconic one of a kind painting. A friend and I made a new frame out of solid Walnut to preserve it for the reunion and all individually.

In the course of this project it struck me that many shipmates would enjoy a copy for their homes. After much floundering we came up the one pictured below. A graphic artist in Roanoke Va. copied the painting on Parchment and did a beautiful job. The frames are made of clear pine molding painted black to enhance the color of the ship and sky. Cost for the reproduction and custom made frame is about \$75.00. I am asking \$150.00 per copy and would like to have orders for at least 10 to deliver to the 2013 Reunion in Va. Beach. This price is less than I found anywhere while researching prices for original reproductions of any Naval vessel. \$75.00 per painting will be donated to the ships kitty to help keep our reunions going in addition to providing a treasure for all who order one. If anyone would like to have just the painting without the frame, a donation of \$75.00 will put \$50.00 in the kitty I have 4 framed paintings available now and hope to make at least 6 more before October. I have not researched the cost of shipping, but we can do that for shipmates or associates who cannot attend the reunion and would like to have one.

Contact Ben through the normal address or email if you would like to have more than just a souvenir of your ship and your service on Mills.

RESERVATIONS FOR VIRGINIA BEACH REUNION

There are a limited number of rooms available for the 2nd of October. A large group checks out one day before we arrive. The hotel will honor requests for reservations early based on availability. Anyone who wishes to come in early please make reservations ASAP. If rooms are not available before the 3rd please let Ben know at 252-504-3733. There is a possibility rooms will open up. We do have rate extension until the 9th or later.

Surfside requires one night credit card guarantee when reservations are made. This has been a part of every contract we have ever had, but is rarely invoked. Payment is due upon check in rather than departure. This policy is in effect because Va. Beach and the hotel are very popular with the younger beach crowd who sometimes slip out without paying for accommodations. As always, please make reservations early, particularly this year as the number of attendees is very important for our day trips and the security precautions related to visiting the naval base.

Original painting with new frame



SILENT AUCTION

Please bring your donations for the silent auction with you to Virginia Beach. The items do not need to be Navy oriented. The more varied the better. Last year we had books, winter jackets, and everything in between.

BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE



JULY: Gary Hlavka, Paula Link, Marcia Littlefield,
AUGUST: Kris Kleener, Loretta Johnson, Skip Amoroson, Sue Burnim , Judy Duran, Janie Tichenor

This is your newsletter! Please help us by giving the info needed to make this the best newsletter ever. We would like birthdays, illnesses, anniversaries etc. Anything that you would like to see published. We will even publish a short article that you write. We are unable to advertise, however, because we are sending the newsletter with nonprofit postage. The post office representative reads the newsletter from time to time to make sure we are compliant. Thanks Gary and Pat Bridgford 913-764-1198 or pat.ussmills@gmail.com



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, please give Ben a call.

FACEBOOK

Bob Gaboury has built the USS MILLS group site. We have 66 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 Hagan Gentry reports she is doing well and even playing golf again. Way to go Lynn

Here is a picture that was taken by a professional photographer in 1967-1968

I believe prior to Deep Freeze, or could have been in New Zealand, not sure anymore.

If anyone remembers the names, that would be great.

I remember some but not all.

After the cruise, most of the ET's, RD's and CT's got out. I was so lucky to get out on Dec 21 of '68 4 days prior to my 4 years. Hope everyone is doing well
Rich Turco ETR2

One day at a time-this is not

enough. Do not look back and grieve

over the past for it is gone. And do not

be troubled about the future, for this

has yet to come. Live in the present,

tomorrow is never promised, so make

it so beautiful it will be worth



remembering. Happiness is a

journey, just as life is. Enjoy the ride.■

Unknown

FOR THE COOKS IN THE FAMILY

Cheesy Corn

4 slices bacon, finely chopped
6 tbsp. unsalted butter, cubed
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
½ cup flour
3 cups milk
4 oz. cream cheese, cubed
2 oz. Velveeta, cubed
2 cups grated extra-sharp cheddar cheese
1 tsp. paprika
3 lb. fresh or frozen corn kernels
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 375°. Heat bacon in a 6-qt. saucepan over medium heat, and cook, stirring, until browned, about 8 minutes. Add butter and garlic, and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add flour, and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Whisk in milk, and bring to a boil; cook, stirring constantly, until thickened, about 2 minutes. Add cream cheese, Velveeta, cheddar, and paprika, and cook until smooth. Remove from heat and stir in corn; season with salt and pepper. Transfer mixture to a 9" x 13" baking dish and bake until top is golden brown and bubbling, about 40 minutes. Let cool before serving.

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 Centavos 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 _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:

GARY BRIDGFORD

14321 S LOCUST ST

OLATHE, KS 66062