

USS MILLS GAZETTE DECEMBER 2016



2016 REUNION

THIS REUNION WAS DEDICATED TO RUBY NICHOLS. Her husband Tommy, as everyone knows, was our founder. Ruby passed away August 3 2016.

We had 96 attendees this year. Day 1, First stop on the tour brought us to the Gilfarium where we visited with Dolphin, otters, sea lions, Penguins, and Harbor Seals just to name a few. A historic overview of the Destin Harbor was next on the agenda. At 11:15 the Destin Fishing Museum presented the history of Destin and journey from a small fishing village to a major tourist attraction. Lunch brought everyone to the Fockers Restaurant. After that, we visited the Air Force Aviation Museum. Then on to the Doolittle Raider Exhibit. The last museum on the tour was the Northwest Florida Museum of History. This Museum featured the history of Northwest Florida from Native American culture to 19th century settlements and more. One-of-a-kind collections highlight early economic activities, tourism, and military history.

On Saturday morning Ben conducted the annual meeting and dedicated the reunion to Ruby Nichols memory. The 2018 reunion destination was discussed. It was decided that Ben consider Gettysburg and Charleston as possibilities. The rest of the day was free and the family members explored on their own. Saturday night was our annual dinner and entertainment. **This is when the big surprise happened.** Henry and Iris Napier renewed their wedding vows! It was a very special occasion with Bob Morris giving the bride away (Bob was part of the original wedding) and Tom Link officiating.

Iris was born in England, moved to Australia and then to New Zealand. She considers herself an Aussie and is now a US citizen. She and Henry married while he was on operation deep freeze Aug. 64-65.



The Pensacola tour was a hit. After a quick stop at veteran's memorial we went to the Naval Aviation Museum. It is the world's largest Naval Aviation museum. There were more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Aviation. These historic and one-of-a-kind aircraft are displayed both inside and out. We had a private tour by a retired Navy Pilot. He did a fantastic job! The day ended with a guided tour of historic Pensacola Village.

SATURDAY HAPPENINGS



Lisa Nichols checked parasailing off her bucket list during the Saturday Break. She was accompanied by her daughter Teri Wells. Lisa said that she wants to do it again...

RAFFEL WINNERS

WOODFORD RESERVE BOURBAN John Nichols

MILLS CHEST Ken Barton

CIVIL WAR CERTIFICATE Joyce Rogers

EPHESIANS PLAQUE Earl Borman



Fun at the pool



The reunion awarded John and Kathleen with the last copy of the USS MILLS for their hard work on the Silent auction.



Just hanging out

2017 Myrtle Beach Reunion

Our home for the 2017 reunion is the Sea Mist Hotel & Resort; 305 13th Avenue South, Myrtle Beach S.C. The dates are October 12 thru 16 2017.

Reservation number is 800-732 6478. Please begin making reservations ASAP.

Group Reservation code is 1093768. This number must be used to ensure placement in the MILLS block. There will be a charge of \$100.00 at the time of reservation. All rooms will be Oceanfront and include breakfast. The cutoff date for reservations is September 12, 2017.

Sea Mist purchasing power has afforded us the best cost for a Myrtle Beach Reunion ever. Please use your credit card to pay the hotel directly for everything except bus transportation and incidentals. {see below} Total cost per couple will be \$612.00 inclusive. Room with Breakfast, Friday's activities, Saturday night dinner, and the Sunday outing. Our usual amenities are all included in one price. Cost is for double occupancy only.

Singles cost structure is different as hotel has a set room rate for oceanfront. Single price is \$428.00.

Please let me know if anyone is booking single. I will try to help make up pairings to save shipmates extra cost.

Rooms will be available for 3 days before & after the actual Reunion dates. Cost with breakfast will be \$85.12 per day inclusive.

To cover bus & incidental costs please send Ben \$35.00 per person or \$70.00 per couple when you remit dues & donations.

Come be with us at MILLS favorite destination, Myrtle Beach S.C. Please don't miss an opportunity to share a few days with your shipmates & friends. Our biological clocks are running and for all of us have been for a very long time!

God
Bless us ALL.



WEDDING



Loretta Johnson and Ed Ranck were married at a small intimate wedding with family members only in attendance.

BIRTHDAY'S

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

JANUARY Tom Grey, Lisa Nichols, Charlie Hazzard

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 Amoroson, Carol Ann & Shelly Coward

WELCOME NEW FAMILY MEMBERS THAT ATTENDED THE REUNION

Ken Tingley, Paul Roy, Henry & Iris Napier, Richard & Tina Gierbolini, Gary & Dianne Ross, Lynn & Dino Cesarini

FACEBOOK

We have 124 members as this writing. FB is a good way to keep in touch with family members during the year. Bob Gaboury is the main administrator with me as a backup only.

DUES AND DONATIONS

It is time again to ask for the dreaded dues. They have been unchanged since inception and pays for this newsletter. Donations are always appreciated

to help our less fortunate shipmates and wives attend our reunions.

2017 SILENT AUCTION

Due to space limitations, we will be suspending the auction this year

FAMILY MEMBER THAT MADE HER LAST VOYAGE

Ruby Searcy Nichols, 88, wife for 65 years of the late



Thomas Campbell Nichols, died Wednesday at Baptist Healthcare while surrounded by her family and friends. Born in Harrodsburg, she was a daughter of the late Roy Lee and Trannie Reed Searcy. She graduated

from Versailles High School, raised her children, and then worked as a seamstress at Stewart's Department Store for many years. Ruby was a loving homemaker for her husband and family, and was a long-time member of the Versailles Baptist Church. She had been a 4-H Leader for many generations of children, including for her daughters and granddaughters. She was a member of the Woodford Homemakers and was a Girl Scout leader. Survivors include her four children, Alan (Lisa) Nichols, Susan (Donald) Valentine, Glenn (Vicki) Nichols, Raemel (Stuart) Fanning, all of Versailles, a brother, Roy Lee Searcy Jr. of Lexington, three, Erika Nichols, Joshua Campbell Nichols, Selina (Matt) Britton, Stuart Baker Fanning sisters-in-law, Lillian (Dawson) Craycraft of Slidell, LA, Margaret Nichols Whalen of Versailles, and Jean Nichols of Georgetown, her grandchildren, Michael (Marsheila) Valentine of Frankfort, Mary Beth Kratzer of Versailles, Teri Wells, Lawrenceburg, Alison Valentine (Billy Camper) Cress II, and Sarah Marie Fanning, all of Versailles, twelve Kasi Kratzer, Michael Sue Valentine, Aaron Valentine, Anthony Valentine, Stephen Cress II, Kayleigh Cress, Kira Camper, Chesley Todd, Aden Britton, Amelia Britton, and a great great granddaughter great grandchildren, Kathleen Wells, Ally Wells,, Sky Valentine.

2016 GROUP FAMILY PICTURES



JOHN DAVENPORT



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

