

USS MILLS GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2011

REUNION 2011 CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE

We arrived at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Thursday October 6th. The lobby of the hotel was the old train station with trains still on the tracks. The grounds were very lush, with rose gardens, fountains and water gardens. Thanks to Ben, most of us were in the same building which made it very convenient. After a very short walk to the reception room, the Mills family was reunited. As the evening grew older, the noise level rose while we caught up on the past years events.

The next day brought us to the incline railroad with a steep ride up the mountain to Point National Park. It was a beautiful clear day, we could see for miles. After a short presentation on the Battles of Chattanooga we visited Point National Park. A presentation by the park rangers was very informative and quite entertaining. By the way, they donated their tips back to the park. Lunch was enjoyed at Wally's Homestead Buffet. Busses picked us up for a guided tour of Lookout Mountain followed by a bus tour of Chattanooga. Dinner was enjoyed on our own.

Saturday was a day off. Many of us went to the Aquarium to enjoy the marine life. The reception room remained open for the family's enjoyment. Later that evening, we gathered in the Roosevelt Room for the dinner and dance. Ben gave a touching dedication to our Skipper Forever Tommy Nichols followed by an impromptu speech by grandson Josh Nichols. There was not a dry eye in the house. The Nichols family dedicated a beautiful plaque to the reunion foundation. After the dance, many of us gathered in the reception room for some more banter. It was a late night, but we only see each other once a year.

On the last day we visited the Grand Junction railroad Station. Ben arranged a charter train to Chicamauga. We ate lunch on the train, which was a treat to be sure. During the stop at the Tower on the Chicamauga Battlefield we took group pictures. I felt sorry for the photographers while they shuffled the cameras. As luck would have it, 1 person fell off the train. Fortunately, he only sustained a scratched knee to take home as a souvenir. The rocking of the train put several of us into a peaceful sleep on the way home. Karaoke was the entertainment of the evening, with pizza being delivered to the reception room for dinner. Of course, adult beverages were also available. The silent auction was brought to an end as well. Again, it was a late evening.

It was sad to say goodbye to everyone on Monday morning. However, we all knew that next year would be here before we knew it. We may be a year older with many changes but the USS MILLS family will always be together. Next year will be in Myrtle Beach with lots of sun and fun on the beach.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2011 REUNION

Ben and Paula Laurens for all your hard work with the reunion.

Tom and Belinda Grey for your expertise on Chattanooga.

John and Kathleen Davenport for all your hard work on the silent auction.

Myron Drinkwater for your help with the silent auction.

Roger Dereske for the work done with the USS MILLS cane.

For all the donations to the silent auction.

I can't forget all the people that helped with the bartending etc. (you know who you are) and last but not least Rick Ormandy for watching over everything...

SILENT AUCTION

We had more donations this year than we have ever had. Please continue to check the garage sales, flea markets, estate sales, etc. The kitty benefited greatly.

FACEBOOK

Bob Gaboury has built the USS MILLS group site. We have 47 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 Facebook 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.

CHATROOM

Bob Gaboury (Gabby) has arranged a chat room Wednesday evening at 5:00 Eastern 6:00 central time. The link is ussmills.net/chat room. It is open to every member of the Mills family and friends. We talk about anything. There is no special equipment necessary. Some of us have web cams; some of us type our answers. Please come and join us.

DUES

For the first time, the dues paid the entire printing costs of the newsletter. A new year is starting and we need to pay for next year's newsletters. Rest assured we are doing everything within our power to keep the costs down. We would appreciate your continued support. See the enclosed form. Thank you in advance.

COOKBOOKS

Loretta Johnson has compiled many of the recipes from the 2 discs that Ben put together back in 2006 and 2007. There are hundreds of great recipes. There are Italian, Polish, German, Kiwi and Cajun recipes to name a few. We sold out of them at the reunion, so Ben is reprinting them. They are \$20.00 which includes shipping. Ben is taking the orders.

HELP

PLEASE HELP ME TO IMPROVE THIS NEWS LETTER BY SENDING THINGS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE PUBLISHED i.e. PICTURES, ARTICLES OR WHATEVER. I WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE,

MYRTLE BEACH INFO AND ITINERARY FOR 2012

INFO

For 2012 our reunion will return to the Landmark Hotel in beautiful Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Address is 1501 South Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach SC 29577. Reservation line 800- 845-0658. Reservation cutoff date is September 7 2012. Please use code USS MILLS to receive reunion pricing. When checking in, the Hotel will place a \$25.00 charge on your room if you wish to activate guest phones in your room to make long distance calls. This charge will be removed if no calls are made from your room phone during your stay. Calls from the outside or throughout the hotel do not incur any charge. Please tell anyone who may call you while at the Landmark to call use 843-448-9441, as calls from the 800 number cannot be transferred to sleeping rooms. The Hotel provides a complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. Please check their requirements before making reservations for the shuttle.

Please note: If you are using GPS you must spell out South in the 1501 South Ocean Drive Boulevard or you will be routed approximately 10 miles south to garden city.

For the 9th consecutive year, the cost for the entire itinerary will be \$128.00 per person.

The below prices are blended from weekday and weekend rates. They are based on 2010 rates and are considerably lower than the 2012 rates will be. All additions IE: resort fees and taxes are included in the quoted prices. There is availability of limited number of rooms for Wednesday 10/03/12

AVAILABILITY OF ROOM TYPES ARE FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| INTERIOR ROOMS | \$61.02 |
| OCEANVIEW ROOMS | \$65.54 |
| OCEAN FRONT ROOMS | \$73.45 |
| OCEAN FRONT EFFICENCIES | \$75.71 |
| ANGLE OCEANFRONT SUITES | \$75.71 |
| OCEANFRONT SUITES | \$85.88 |

ITINERARY

THURSDAY 10/4 6 PM WELCOME RECEPTION WITH SNACKS AND BEVERAGES

FRIDAY 10/5 9-10:30 AM BREAKFAST BUFFET AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM

BALANCE OF DAY FREE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| FRIDAY 4:30 P.M. | DEPART HOTEL FOR “OLD ORIGINAL BENJAMINS SEAFOOD BUFFET” |
| | AFTER DINNER BOARD BUSES FOR THE CAROLINA OPRY THEATER TO SEE “GOOD VIBRATIONS” LIVE OLDIES MUSIC STAGE SHOW |
| SATURDAY 10/6 | DAY FREE |
| SATURDAY 6 PM | CREW GATHERS FOR DINNER AND DANCING |
| | MENU – “SOUTHERN BUFFET” FEATURING PRIME RIB MESQUITE GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST AND SMOKED PORK LOIN |
| SUNDAY 10/7 9:30 AM | CHRISTIAN SERVICE WITH TOM LINK, SHIPS CHAPLAIN IN HOSPITALITY ROOM |
| | BALANCE OF DAY FREE |
| MONDAY 10/08 | DEPARTING FOR HOME |

Ben & Pula Laurens, Gary & Pat Bridgford would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

May peace be your gift for this Christmas and the blessing of the Almighty be with you and the world to help us all make this world a better place. To make it a Christmas day everyday of the year. ~Kurt Avish

Executive Board Members



Skipper: The Late Tommy Nichols – Founder and Skipper forever

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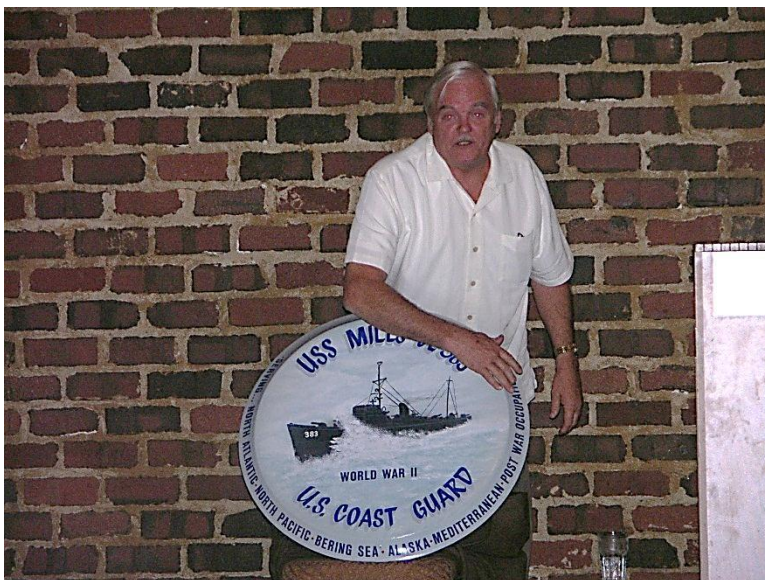
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2011 REUNION

CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO

THE NICHOLS FAMILY AT THE DINNER DANCE



ALAN NICHOLS

PLAQUE THAT THE NICHOLS FAMILY
DONATED TO THE USS MILLS FAMILY
REUNION

ROGER GARNER WILL BE BRINGING IT
TO EACH AND EVERY REUNION



RUBY NICHOLS, JIM HALL, LAVERN MILTZOW

WITH THE PLAQUE

JIM IS A PLANK OWNER

ROGER DERESKE PRESENTING THE CANE TO
ART CROMER



ROGER ANNOUNCED THAT RICK ORMANDY WAS NOT
THE WINNER BECAUSE HE WAS SO POSITIVE THAT HE
HAD WON IT.



LAVERNE MILTZOW AND JIM HALL
ENJOYING A DANCE SATURDAY NIGHT