

# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)

## 2012 MEMORY BOOK



# CHOO CHOO HOTEL

## CHATTANOOGA, TN



# CHATTANOOGA, TN

## 2012 USS MULIPHEN WRAP UP

The 2012 USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) reunion was held Monday, May 21st – Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in Chattanooga, TN at the historic Chattanooga Choo Choo! Although the property layout was different than most folks are used to at a reunion, it made for a nice change of pace for the 2012 attendees. Well before noon on Monday there were folks ready and waiting to get into the hospitality room to get the ship's store set up and the reuniting started! The Chattanooga CVC and the Choo Choo provided a variety of items for goody bags for each attendee. As soon as the bags were assembled, reunion registration began. Those in the hospitality room were checked in first, and then registration was moved from Building 1 (where the sleeping rooms and the hospitality room were located) up to the main lobby, a beautifully restored, domed building. It was very easy to imagine days gone by, with the lobby full of bustling travelers, hurrying to get their last minute details taken care of so they could board their train!



The hospitality room was the meeting place for all the attendees after they completed the reservation and check in process. John and Neva Ellas, Jerry and Liz Wotherspoon, William and Alice Christoffersen, and George and Rachel Hollins were among those to arrive first in the hospitality room. Others arrived during the afternoon, and made their way across the gardens to join the rest of the group.

The first function of the reunion was the Welcome Reception, which was held at 6:00 pm.



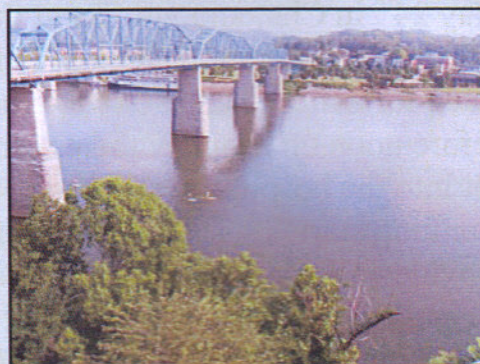
Drinks were available from the hotel bar in the next room, so it was not necessary to have a private bar in the reception room. In addition to the hors d'ouervres provided by the hotel, there was a beautiful sheet cake provided by special friends of the USS MULIPHEN – David and Brenda Baines (Brenda is the niece of Jerry and Liz Wotherspoon). Jerry welcomed everyone to the 2012 reunion, made a few announcements about the timing of the rest of the reunion events,

and had all the crewmembers stand up and introduce themselves and whomever they had brought with them. Following the reception, some folks went back to their rooms to rest, some went out to dinner, some ate in the hotel restaurant, but eventually, everyone wound up back in the hospitality room, glad to be able to spend time together.



Tuesday morning found most of the group in the hotel restaurant enjoying their morning buffet. Since the size of the reunion group didn't justify the cost of a tour bus, everyone was on their own for the day. Chattanooga is an easy city to get around in, and most everyone took advantage of it. When everyone returned to the hotel in the afternoon, it was interesting to hear who found what to get into. Evening dinner plans were made, and once again folks took off in a variety of directions. No matter where they went for dinner, they all returned in time Tuesday evening to join the group in the hospitality room to see the videos that were made of the Muliphen as it was towed out to sea to be sunk as an artificial reef off the coast of Port St Lucie, FL in January of 1989.

Wednesday morning most of the group met in the lobby after breakfast for a short city tour of Chattanooga, and then a luncheon cruise on the Southern Belle. Our very informative tour guide, Hubert, told us a lot about the history of the city, with particular emphasis on the role the area played during the Civil War. A stop was made at the Hunter Museum of Art plaza, where we learned about the arts in the area, the sculptures outside the museum, and the glass sky walk connecting two parts of the city. The horse sculpture that appeared to be made out of driftwood, but was actually made out of cast bronze was particularly interesting. Another stop was made at Ross's Landing in the city, where we learned about the history of the Cherokee Indians. Ross's Landing Plaza includes a timeline of local history containing numerous artifacts and exhibits relating to Chattanooga's rich cultural historical and geographical significance. The design team was mandated to hire both local and national artists to ensure that public art was a major component of the design. The designs help tell the story of the community's evolution with artifacts and text depicting the Trail of Tears, Civil War and railroad heritage.



As lunch time drew near, the bus made its way over to the waterfront area. Everyone deboarded the bus and walked across the highway to the pier to board the Southern Belle. As the riverboat departed for a cruise along the Tennessee River, a private deli lunch was served to the USS MULIPHEN group. It's a good thing too, that it was a private lunch, because once the

meal was over and everyone was allowed free access to the upper deck, we discovered a whole lot of fifth graders on a school field trip. They were fairly well behaved, and didn't cause any problems, and they seemed to enjoy the ride as well (particularly the ones who found the concession stand that sold energy drinks! (Dad-Chaperones, what were you thinking????) Once the cruise was over, the group reboarded the tour bus, and returned to the hotel for a few hours of resting before the banquet began.





The grande finale of the reunion is always the banquet the last evening. Pictures for the memory book were made as everyone arrived, there was a time for socializing, and then the formalities began. The singers from the Station House Restaurant (on site restaurant at the Choo Choo) started off the program with an a cappella version of our National Anthem. They did a magnificent version that made everyone in the room proud to be an American. After the invocation by Herman Autry, the memorial service was held. Service participants were Jerry Wotherspoon and John Ellas. Then dinner was served! The dinner was very good, but the most frequent comment heard was about the quality of the dessert (a very generous portion of cheesecake) compared to the very small unknown dessert from the year before. After dinner, a presentation was given by Ranger James Ogden III from the National Park Service. He gave a very interesting talk about the Civil War battles held in the Chattanooga area – the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. The group showed their appreciation to Ranger Ogden at the end of the evening, and then the banquet was over. Some folks retired to their rooms, and some made their way back to the hospitality room to clean up and pack away all the ship's store items.

Most folks met again Thursday morning in the hotel restaurant for breakfast, and then said their good byes for this year. Plans were made for "everyone to bring one" and meet again next year for a Carnival cruise!





## USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



**Autry, Herman & Nancy**



**Baines, David & Brenda**



**Casey, Robert & Karen Robertson**



**Christoffersen, William & Alice**



**Ellas, John & Neva**



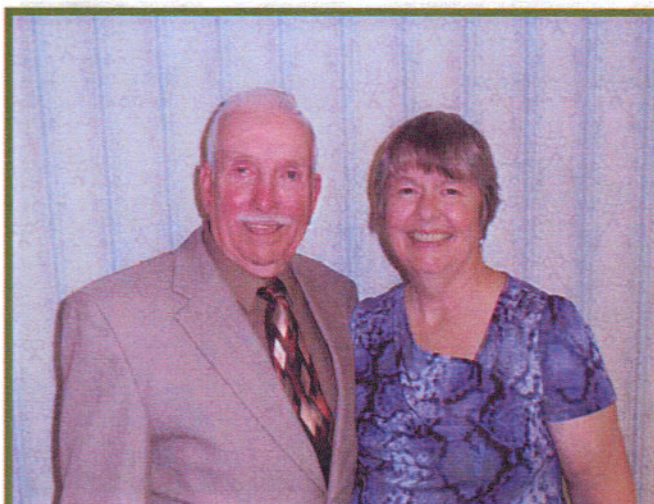
**Finley, James & Billie Jo**



## USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



Gross, Louis & Connie



Hollins, George & Rachel



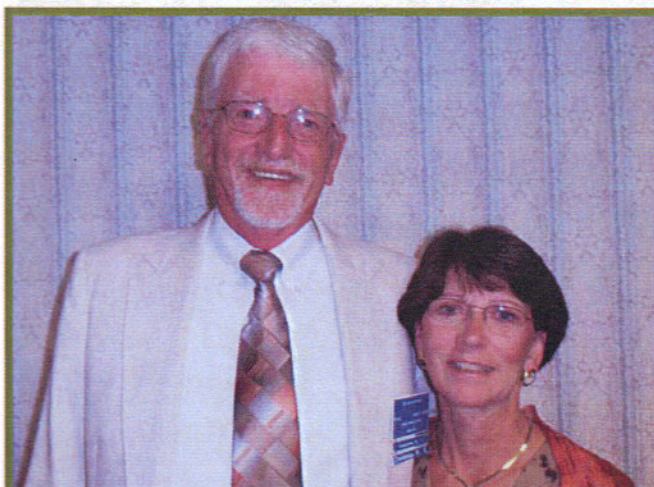
Lyles, Thomas & Linda



Markley, Richard & Faith



Martin, Edward & Louise



McCaffrey, Edward & Theresa



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



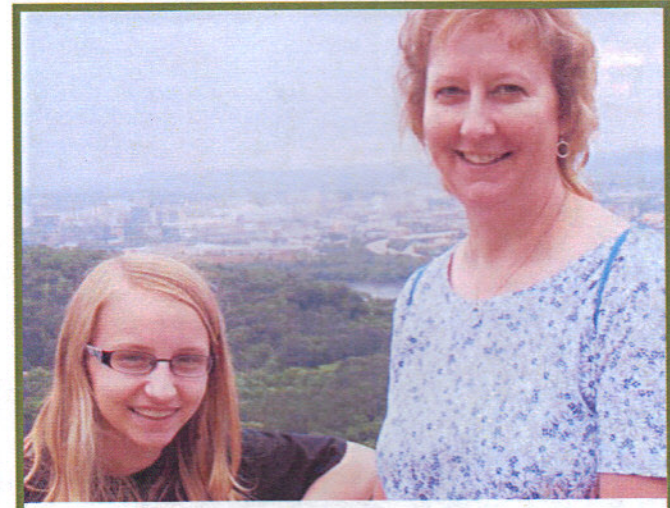
Senior, George & Joseph Pinter



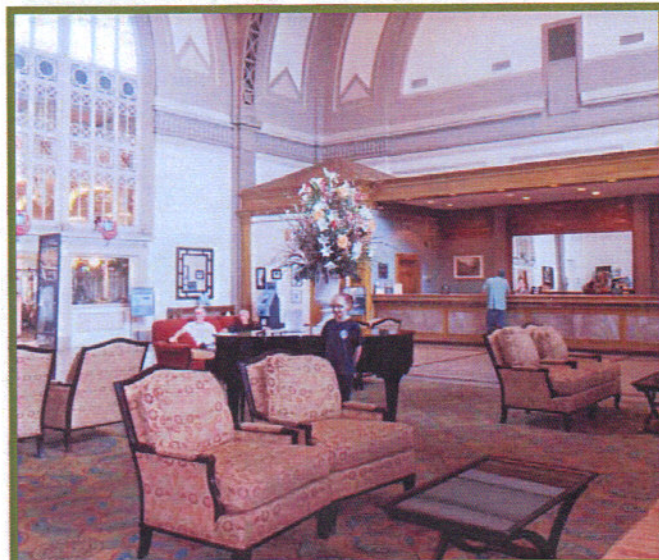
Spencer, John



Wotherspoon, Gerald & Elizabeth



Dina Eckard Coffey & Erin Coffey





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



**Gerald & Elizabeth Wotherspoon**



**Hospitality Room**



**Alice & William Christoffersen**



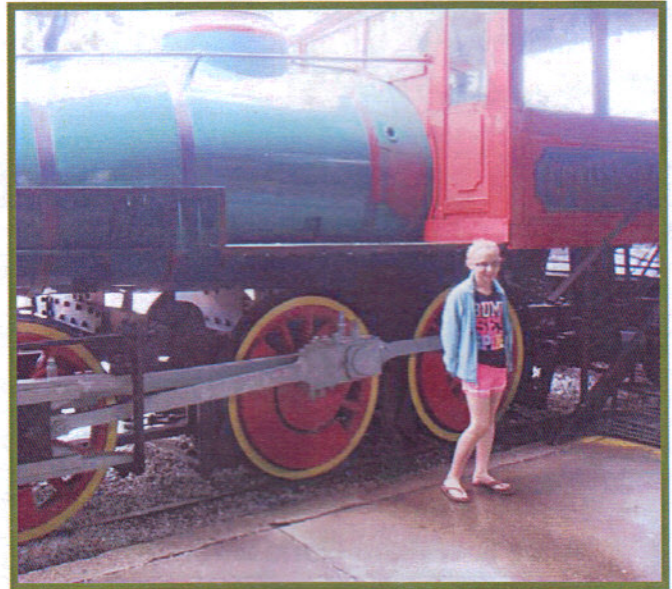
**George Hollins**



**Neva & John Ellas**



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)- Hotel





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)-Reception





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



**Louis & Connie Gross & Markleys**



**William & Alice Christoffersen**



**Karen Robertson & Robert Casey**



**David & Brenda Baines**



**Herman & Nancy Autry**



**Louis & Connie Gross**



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)



**John Ellas & John Spencer**



**James & Billie Jo Finley**



**Edward McCaffrey**



**John & Neva Ellas**



**George & Rachael Hollins**



**Herman Autry won cap**



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)-Ship Store



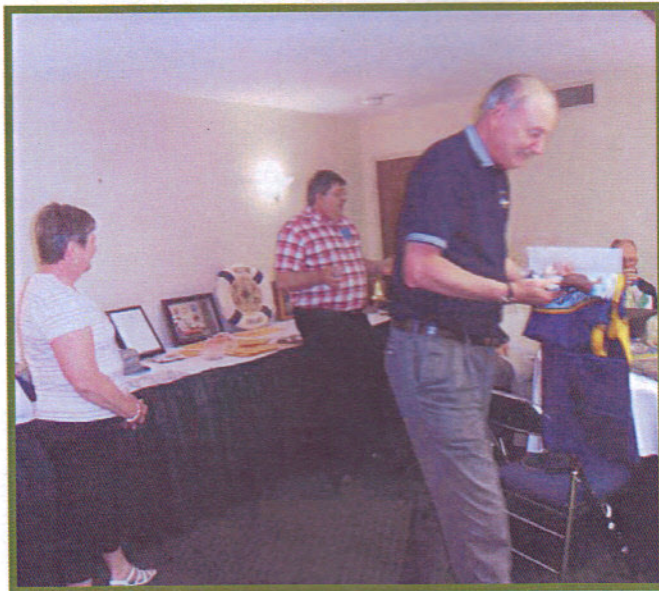


# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)-Raffle





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) Raffle





# USS MULIPHEN-Wed Breakfast



**James & Billie Jo Finley**



**Lyles, Ellas & Finley**



**Wotherspoons & Autrys**



**Martin, John & Neva Ellas**



**David & Brenda Baines**



**Chattanooga Choo Choo**

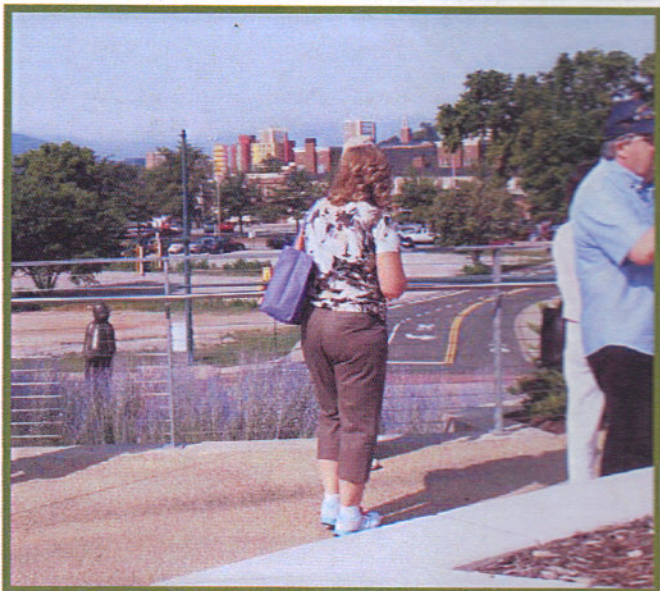


# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) - Wed Tour





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) - City Tour





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) - Tour



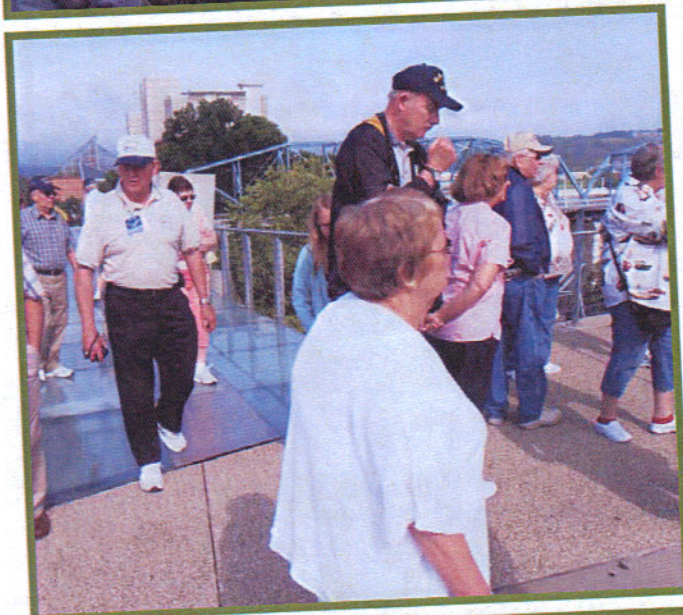
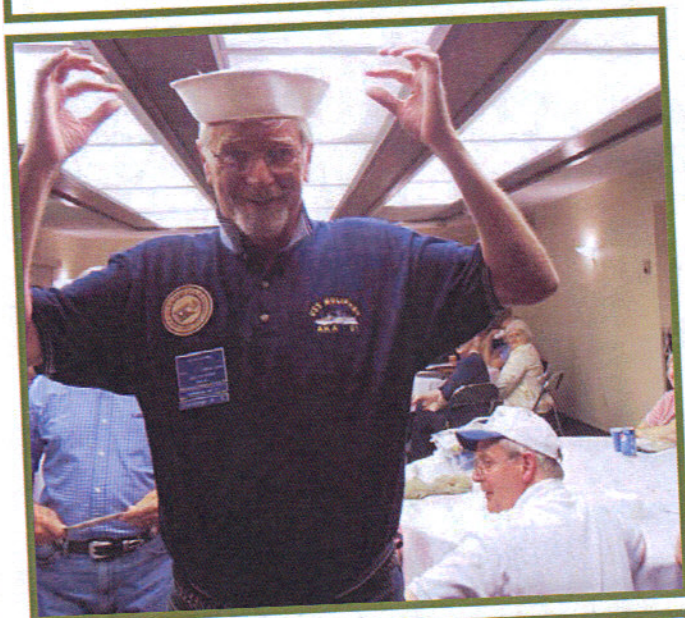


# USS MULIPHEN-Southern Belle Tour





# USS MULIPHEN Southern Belle Tour





# USS MULIPHEN Southern Belle Tour





# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)-Banquet



**Gerald "Jerry" Wotherspoon**



**Memorial Service**



**Richard & Faith Markley**



**John & Neva Ellas**



**Karen Robertson & Robert Casey**



**Louis & Connie Gross**



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)-Banquet



**Nancy & Herman Autry**



**James & Billie Jo Finley & Linda Lyles**



**Edward & Theresa McCaffrey**



**George Senior & Joseph Pinter**



**John Spencer, James & Billie Jo Finley**



**Autry & Gross**



# USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) Banquet



Alice & William Christoffersen



Station House Restaurant Singers



Gerald & Elizabeth Wotherspoon



Rachel Hollins having fun



Park Ranger telling of Civil War Battles



Park Ranger James Ogden & J Wotherspoon



# USS MULIPHEN-Thursday Morning



**Edward & Theresa McCaffrey**



**Markleys having breakfast**



**Hollins & Wotherspoon**



**Erin Coffey ready for breakfast!**



**John & Neva Ellas & John Spencer**



## Honor Roll

# USS Muliphen AKA-67 2012 Honor Roll



*"On Guard" photo by Frank Glick taken at Ft Snelling, MN National Cemetery and published in Minneapolis Star Tribune in June 2011, from an article written by Jon Tevlin.*

*Capt Donald Anderson  
Date Unknown*

*John Suits  
01/18/2001*

*Ronald Wiant  
02/20/2012*

**We who remain to carry on, should not  
Think of our shipmates as departed from us  
But rather as having been transferred to a ship  
Where we hope all of us will be reunited again**





Gerald "Jerry" Wotherspoon

A Special "THANK YOU" to your  
Reunion Coordinator  
Jerry Wotherspoon

*In appreciation of the dedication and service you have shown in working with us to bring together the USS MULIPHEN Reunion, we want to extend to you a hearty "Thank You". Being a part of your reunion this year has been a pleasure and we look forward to working with you in the future.*

*Premier Reunion Services, LLC*





**Premier Reunion Services  
On-Site Manager  
Dina Coffey**



**USS MULIPHEN REUNION web site  
[www.mlrsinc.com/muliphen](http://www.mlrsinc.com/muliphen)**