

USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61)
April 30-May 3, 2015 Reunion
Holiday Inn Opryland, Nashville, TN



Old Glory at Half Dome

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USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) 2015 Reunion

The USS MULIPHEN (AKA-61) 2015 Reunion got off to a great start before noon on Thursday, April 30 as several of our members and guests gathered in the Hospitality Room to set up items from the ship's store and for the Silent Auction. This was the place to gather, reminisce and catch up on news from last year's reunion.

Handshakes and hugs were plenty as members arrived and reported in at the Registration table located downstairs in the lobby of the Nashville Opryland/Airport Hotel in Nashville, TN. Jerry Wotherspoon and Julie Baker, On-Site Manager from Premier Reunions, welcomed each member and guest as they arrived.

Most of the thirty-nine members and guests had arrived in time for the Welcome Reception that was held in the hotel's restaurant that evening. As we dined on pizza, salad and sipped on iced tea and drinks from the cash bar, Jerry Wotherspoon welcomed everyone and asked each member to introduce themselves and tell a bit about their life. Later we enjoyed tales from shipmates being onboard the USS MULIPHEN. One of the best stories was told by Douglas Johnson and how the ship almost sank. The best part of his story was when he illustrated the swaying of the ship. He said that he had told the commanding officer several times that the ship was taking on water, but nothing was done. It was quite a while before anything was done to prevent the ship from sinking, but with quick thinking and actions "The Mighty Mule" was saved. Other stories were of experiences, some funny and some touching. Many were of the friendships that were made while serving onboard. Afterwards we were free to do whatever we wanted. Some gathered again in the Hospitality Room while others retired to their rooms.

After filling up on breakfast at the hotel's buffet twenty-one of us boarded the bus for the tour of Nashville. Our first stop was at the Bi-Centennial Capital Mall State Park where we visited the WWII Memorial which includes a revolving 4,000 pound granite globe. After riding past some of the other sights, such as the State Capital Building, The Nashville Sounds Guitar shaped scoreboard and Tootsies, we arrived at the Country Music Hall of Fame Museum. We were free to wonder through the museum at our own pace and enjoy the many exhibits throughout the building. Some of the sights and sounds we experienced were the Kenny Rogers Exhibit, the car from Smokey and the Bandit movie, guitars of all shapes and sizes. One of the exhibits brought back memories of TV shows such as "Hee Haw", "The Glen Campbell Show" and "The Tennessee Ernie Ford Show". We also enjoyed outfits and scenes from years of concerts by Country Music's greatest and finest, from the beginning of bluegrass to today's new sensations.



Our next stop was at the Ryman Auditorium —The Mother Church of Country Music. The building was originally built as a church in 1892 by Thomas Ryman and hosted the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 until 1974. We enjoyed the short film about it's history and then wondered around looking at the showcases filled with memorabilia from the Opry. One of the showcases was Minnie Pearl's outfit. Minnie was a big part of the Grand Ole Opry, and many of us remember her infectious laughter and country cousin routine.

Our last stop of the day was lunch at the Hermitage House Smorgasbord, where we filled up on the delicious belly busting buffet. The Hermitage House is a local Nashville favorite and offers a fresh fruit and vegetable bar, several choices of meat and vegetables, homemade rolls and desserts. After lunch we lazily headed out to the bus for our return trip to the hotel.

At 6:30 we gathered in banquet room to have our photos taken and enjoy each other's company be-

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fore the Memorial Service and Banquet started. At 7:30 we started the Memorial Service, led by Jerry Wotherspoon. As each name was called, representing those that had passed away during the previous year, Herman Autry tolled the bell twice. It was a somber time of remembrance.

Following the Memorial Service we honored George Hollins with a plaque for his many years of service with the ship's store. George did a great job, but he was ready to pass the duty onto Robert Casey.

Our Banquet meal consisted of salad, freshly baked rolls, Prime Rib, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florettes with Julienne Carrots, and Lemon Layer Cake. After we finished our dinner the entertainment began! We are privileged to have Ryan Wotherspoon (Jerry's nephew) sing and his friend, Casey, accompany him on guitar. Both young men were talented and kept us entertained until Jerry's brother, Bob, took over the microphone and sang some Frank Sinatra tunes. It was an enjoyable evening filled with song, laughter and friendship.



After eating Friday breakfast we held our business meeting and silent auction. The decision was made that the 2016 Reunion will be on a Cruise. More details will follow throughout the coming year.

Tickets were drawn for the Silent Auction. There was a great variety of items to choose from. One of the most popular ones was the USS Muliphen

quilt, which was won by Sharon Rothlingshofer. Other prizes included a ship model kit, paintings of the ship, flower prints, a bird feeder and the novel "Trident Deception". The funds from the Silent Auction went into the Association Funds.

Afterwards twenty-three members and guests loaded up on the tour bus and headed over to the General Jackson Showboat for an afternoon of entertainment and more good food. We enjoyed exploring the boat and each other's company as we dined on the delicious buffet. The entertainment group was as good, or better, than any you would see throughout Nashville.

It seemed like we had just returned to the hotel when forty-one of us gathered for the Pre-Opry Soup and Sandwich Meal. After enjoying the light meal we, once again, hopped on the bus and were on the way to the Grand Ole Opry. The Opry offered the many facets of the Country Music Scene. Some of the entertainers, such as Larry Gatlin, John Conlee and Connie Smith have been around for many years, while others like Canaan Smith and Lauren Alaina, have come on to the scene recently. The last entertain of the night was the one most people came to see—Reba! She wowed us for thirty minutes with some of her older music and introduced us to some of her newer songs. Everyone enjoyed the entire show. Upon our return to the hotel we met in the banquet room for some warm cobbler and hot coffee. It was a wonderful way to end the day.

Our final event was the buffet breakfast on our own. Those of us that could met up one last time and said our goodbyes until we meet again on the 2016 Cruise.



*Quilt Donated by
David and Pat Means*



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Autry, Herman and Nancy



Bieler, Alan and Laura



Casey, Robert and Karen



Christoffersen, William



Elder, David and Ruth



Ellas, John and Neva

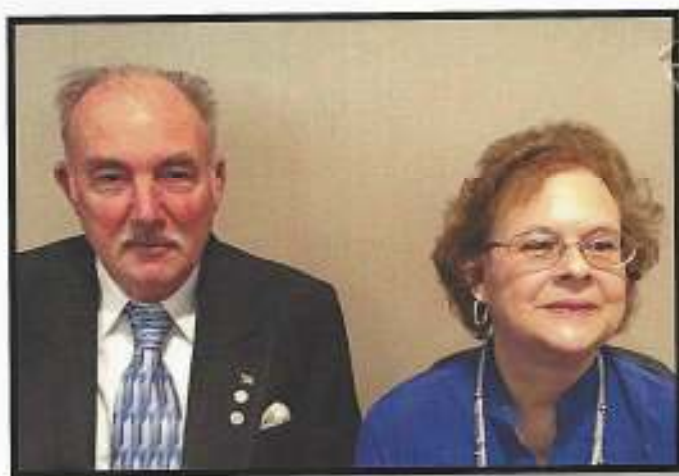
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Hollins, George and Rachel



Johnson, Douglas and Jane



Markley, Richard and Faith



Martin, Edward and Louise



McCaffrey, Edward and Theresa



Means, David and Pat

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Miller, Vernon



Murray, Kevin and Kathy



Robards, Thomas



Rothlingshofer, Charles and Sharon



Sharp III, James and Linda



Tittle, Jerry

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White, Jack and Gerri



Wotherspoon, Gerald and Elizabeth



Wotherspoon, Robert and Margaret



Wotherspoon, Ryan

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Putting on City tags



Linda Sharp and Jerry Wotherspoon



John Ellas looking over memories



← David and Pat Means

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Vernon Miller—trip down Memory Lane



Bill Christoffersen and David Means



Alan Bieler wears his "Mighty Mule" hat he won for traveling the furthest—all the way from Long Island, NY



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Welcome Reception



Tom Robards



George and Rachel Hollins



Douglas Johnson telling how the ship almost sunk.

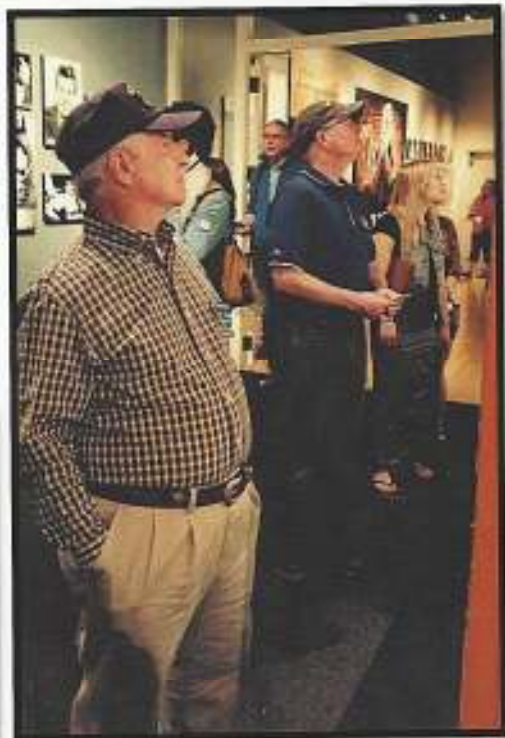
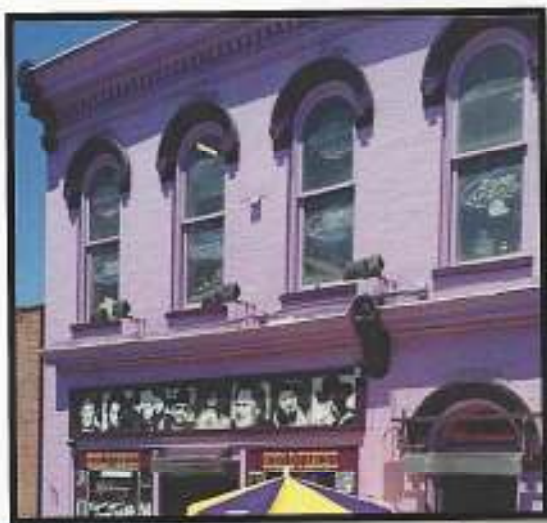


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Country Music Hall of Fame and Nashville City Tour



Robert and Karen Casey hanging out with Bill Christoffersen, George and Rachel Hollins



Herman Autry



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Ryman Auditorium



Herman and Nancy Autry—Nashville's newest duo!



Minnie Pearl's Dress



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Hermitage House Smorgasbord



One of the delicious cobblers



Our last stop of the day was Hermitage House Smorgasbord where we filled up on delicious home cooked food.



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Banquet and Memorial Service



Jerry Wotherspoon leads the Memorial Service as
Herman Autry tolls the bell



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Banquet and Memorial Service



Jerry Wotherspoon presents George Hollins with a plaque for his many years of faithful service with the ship's store.

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Banquet Entertainment



Ryan Wotherspoon and
guitarist Casey



Bob Wotherspoon
AKA Frank Sinatra



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John Ellas, David Means, and
Douglas Johnson

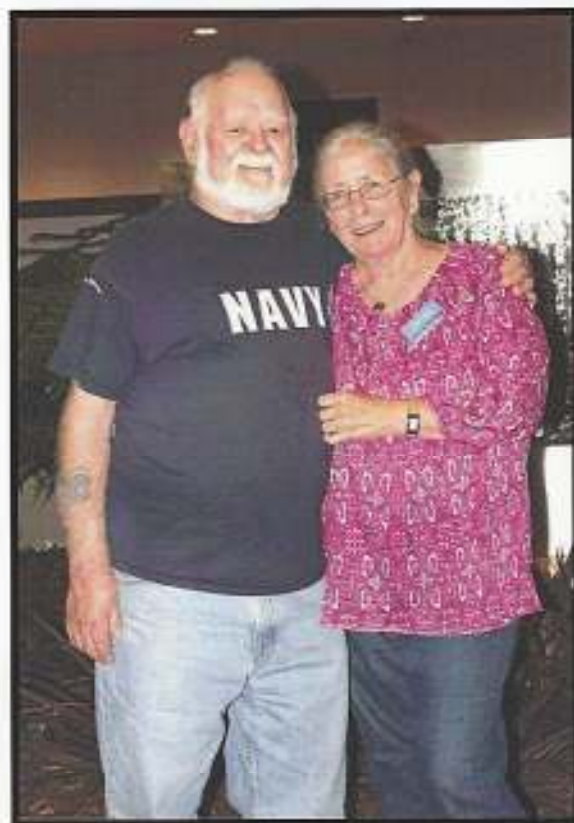
Served on the USS MULIPHEN
during the 1950's



Nancy and Herman Autry with Pat and David Means



Jack and Gerri White



Rachel and George Hollins



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Silent Auction



Several of the Reunion Attendees with some of the treasures from the Silent Auction.



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General Jackson



Filling up on some good ole
Southern food



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MAY 2, 2015 SATURDAY NIGHT OPRY	
7:00 - 7:30 PM	8:00 - 8:30 PM
John Cooker NEW	Shirley Bassey NEW
Ray Scott	Old Country Store
The Whines	Larry Giffin NEW
	Bobby Osborne &
7:30 - 8:00 PM	The Rocky Top X-Press
Sponsored by DOLLAR GENERAL	Canaan Smith
Connie Smith NEW	Opry Square Dancers
Mike Snider	
Lauren Alaina	8:30 - 9:00 PM
	Sponsored by HUSANA
	Reba NEW



Waiting for the show to begin.

George & Rachel Hollins, Gerri & Jack White, Ruth & David Elder, Charles & Sharon Rothlinshofer



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After Opry Dessert

Alan and Linda Bieler with Linda Sharp



Edward Martin with Donna Earl and
Vernon Miller



Edward McCaffrey, Kathy and Kevin Murray,
Theresa McCaffrey



Charles Rothlingshofer, Louise and Edward Martin



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After Opry Dessert



(L-R) Brenda and David Baines, Elizabeth, Jerry and Bob Wotherspoon



Richard Markley



George and Rachel Hollins,
David Elder



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It's a Family Event



Jerry Wotherspoon's Brother and Sister-in-Law, Bob and Margaret attended the 2015 Reunion. Their son, Ryan, was our Guest Singer. Jerry's niece and her husband, David and Brenda Baines, also attended the Reunion. (photo unavailable)



Kathy and Kevin Murray, Ed McCaffrey's sister and brother-in-law, had a great time at the Reunion.



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Our Departed Shipmates

They Served with Honor
They Lived with Honor
They Died with Honor
They are Remembered with Honor



The USS Muliphen Reunion Association
Memorial Service
Nashville, TN
May, 2015
Memorial Service

Invocation

It is fitting and proper that we gather today at this time and place to pay our heartfelt homage to all of our departed shipmates. We especially honor and pray for those whose names we will read today, and for the others who gave their lives in the service of us and their country.

Prayer

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm doth calm the restless wave... We pray that our departed shipmates will rest in peace and have glory in eternal life. We pray for long and happy lives for all of those here today, and for all those absent due to death, illness, or other reasons unknown to us. Grant that we may never forget them. Amen.

Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rise in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul not free?
Miss me a little - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me - but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me - but let me go

These are the USS Muliphen shipmates who have died since our last memorial service. We honor their lives and

memories by reading their names here today in Nashville, TN.

Reading of the names and tolling of the bell described herein.

- 1955 RCV J. W. "Harry" Wilkins, Salem, FL, died 01/02/14
- 1950 EN2c Stanton R. "Skip" Price, Bridgewater, NJ died 01/07/14
- 1944 MM2c Edward George "Tim" O'Brien, Wakefield, HI died 01/08/14
- 1944 S1c Joseph Martin Kretzner, Carlisle, PA died 01/28/14
- 1945 YN3c Raymond Roth Evans, Houston, OH died 02/06/14
- 1944 S1c Richard Louis Charles, North Baltimore, OH died 04/15/2014
- 1953 MR3c Aloysius V. "Al" Trojchel, Erie, PA died 04/19/14
- 1956 CAPT James "Jim" Hoge, Moundsville, WV died 06/02/14
- 1954 HT1 Eugene L. "Snuffy" Mandfield, Bedford, PA died 07/02/14
- 1944 ENS John L. "Logan" Rogers, Sr. Spokane, WA died 08/11/2014
- 1944 S1c James Davidson, Toledo, OH died 08/26/14
- 1959 JC3c John Spencer, Louisville, KY died 09/17/14
- 1944 MM1c Linde Gustave Lash, Montgomery, OH died 10/20/14
- 1960 LTJg Joseph Lee "Joe" Combs, Fenns, MO died 10/28/14
- 1956 HMC Bobbie Floyd Cook, Haines City, FL died 11/25/14
- 1958 RM2 Carl L. Blanton, Jr. Coal City, IL died 12/09/14
- 1951 HT2 Joseph W. Michalski, Baltimore, MD died 12/13/14
- 1954 RD3 Donald W. Williams, Evansville, IN died 12/26/14

Taps

Please honor our deceased friends and their families with a moment of silence.

This concludes the memorial service for the USS Muliphen AKA-61

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