

The



Pirate

Pride of Service

Duty to God and Country

Pride of Workmanship

Volume 9, Issue 2

March 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



Special Points of Interest

- See what there is to do and see in Nashville for your 2006 reunion. Read the cover article and then fill out the survey on page two.
- Coordinator Jake Jacobs' message is on page three.
- See how to obtain your DD-214 on-line in the article on page four.
- Learn a little about Nashville by reading "Nashville Facts" on page four.
- Important information about how you will receive this newsletter in the future is on page five. Please read it carefully and respond as needed.

COME TO NASHVILLE OCT 5-8, 2006

"Music City USA" or the "Athens of the South" are two appropriate names for this Southern city, home to over 500,000 people. With so much to see and do in Nashville, the city is a great choice for your **October 5-8, 2006** reunion. We will attempt to give you a brief preview of some of the attractions in Nashville, and then ask you to choose which ones will be offered in your reunion package. Read over the descriptions and then fill out and return the survey to us. We will use your responses along with your coordinator's input to design your reunion agenda to those wishes.

ATTRACTIONS

Grand Ole Opry:

Take country music's greatest legends, mix in today's biggest superstars, add the hottest new voices on the charts, and you have the world-famous Grand Ole Opry. Come be part of the live performance and share the music and the memories of country's grandest show—

the Grand Ole Opry. (**Saturday nights only.**)

Country Music Hall of Fame:

See live performances, interactive exhibits and rare costumes, instruments and archival films all in one place. The Country Music Hall of Fame is a must-see for all country music fans.

Jack Daniels Distillery:

The Jack Daniels Distillery is the oldest registered distillery in the United States and among the most prestigious. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors will receive personally guided tours of the distillery and observe the famous whiskey-making process.

Grand Ole Opry Museum:

The museum pays tribute to the longest-running radio show in the country and its yesteryear's stars with exhibits honoring them and their modern-day

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(Continued from page 1)
counterparts.

Military Branch of the Tennessee State Museum:

Located in the War Memorial Building as a tribute to veterans, the museum features exhibits on America's involvement in foreign wars from the Spanish-American War to World War II. Exhibits showcase the weapons, uniforms and battle histories.

General Jackson Showboat:

This \$12 million, four-deck paddle wheeler cruises the Cumberland River as you enjoy strolling the decks and listening to the lively entertainment found throughout the boat. Lunch and dinner cruises are available.

Belle Meade Plantation:

Called the "Queen of the Tennessee Plantations" this 1853 Greek Revival mansion was once home to a thoroughbred stud farm and nursery. Today, docents in period costume guide you through the mansion and impart tales of a slower paced society, when plantations were a way of life for a few select Southerners.

Tour of the City of Nashville:

This fully narrated city tour will give you an overview of the sites around the city, including some of the stars homes, the **Ryman Auditorium** (original home of the Grand Ole Opry), the Parthenon and other places of interest. The tour also includes lunch at **The Hermitage Smorgasbord**, located at the beautifully restored home of President Andrew Jackson. At **The Hermitage** you will see personal belongings and furnishings of the president that reveal Old Hickory's sophistication and stylish tastes that remain elegant today.

We want your reunion in Nashville to be one you will remember, so please help in the planning by returning the survey to Military Locator & Reunion Service promptly. Then we can begin the process of putting together your reunion package to suit your wishes.

2006 USS MISSISSIPPI REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can custom design your reunion to your wishes.

The Reunion

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?
Yes ____ No ____

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? ____
Or only on Sunday morning? ____

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes ____ No ____

Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.

Grand Ole Opry ____

Country Music Hall of Fame ____

Jack Daniels Distillery ____

Grand Ole Opry Museum ____

Military Branch of the TN State Museum ____

General Jackson Showboat ____

Belle Meade Plantation ____

City Tour (including The Hermitage) ____

Return to:
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Or Fax:
828-256-6559

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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 12/05
\$874.04
Funds collected since 12/05
\$210.00
Funds available for 03/06
\$1084.04
Funds expended for 03/06
\$273.09
Balance remaining for 06/06
\$810.95
Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Time sure does fly by fast. It seems that we were just preparing for the December holiday season, when now we're looking forward to Easter and Passover. Thinking about it, it's less than seven months to our reunion in Nashville, from 5 to 8 October.

We'll be at the Embassy Suites and considering the accommodations we had in Tucson, also at the Embassy Suites, it will be a great reunion, along with the side trips that will be available.

Although the location and the hotel are great, the best part of the whole reunion relates to the meeting up with our shipmates from past reunions and always looking forward to renewing friendships with others who will be first time attendees.

So, before you know it, it's time for Nashville. Considering the "great weather" some of us are having, it can't come soon enough.

Regards,
Jake

USS MISSISSIPPI 2006 REUNION

OCTOBER 5-8

NASHVILLE, TN

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL



WELCOME MAT

The USS MISSISSIPPI Association cordially welcomes the following shipmate who has been located since the last newsletter.

We hope to see you at the next reunion, and we hope you will take an active part in the association.

Joseph Portuese (1953)
338 South Elm St
Windsor Locks, CT 06096



TAPS

The Pirate has learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widow, family and friends of the deceased.

Fred Simmons
(1949-53) QM1/QMC
Died November 16, 2005

Eldon Holderness
Date of death not reported

The English Language... How Versatile!

If 'gh' stands for 'p' as you find in the last two letters of hiccough; 'ough' for 'o' as in dough; 'phth' stands for 't' as in phthisic; 'eigh' stands for 'a' as in neighbor; 'tte' stands for 't' as in gazette; and 'eau' stands for 'o' as in beau, then, by golly, 'ghoughphtheightteau' spells "potato."

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PIRATE is the official publication of the USS MISSISSIPPI Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the MISSISSIPPI. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

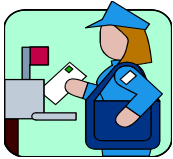
All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to grammar, and/or space limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions.



MAIL CALL

Dear Shipmates,

I am sorry that Bea and I could not make it to this year's reunion, but are looking forward to Nashville.

We were up in NY this past summer so while we were there we went to see Charles Anzalone. He is doing well, but his wife Joan passed away last spring.

Until next year,
Harold Wellington

Fred Robert Simmons, 85

Fred Robert Simmons passed away on November 16, 2005 at the age of 85 in Mesa, Arizona. He was born on August 27, 1920 to Fred Simmons and Marie Jane (Bogle) Simmons Turner in Pacific Junction, Iowa. Fred graduated from Lincoln High School, Lincoln Nebraska in 1939. He attended the University of Nebraska prior to enlisting in the US Navy in 1942. He served in World War II, Korean War and Formosa Crisis. Fred retired as a Senior Chief Quarter Master in 1962. After his Navy career, Fred worked for the State of South Dakota Job Service. During his employment with the State, Fred implemented the Vocational Education Center at Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Fred retired from the State in 1982.

On October 3, 1945, Fred married Martha Louise Klaus. They had two daughters, Lynda Hopkins (James) of Gresham, OR and Elizabeth Simmons (Chris Hoover) of Vermillion, SD. Martha preceded him in death in 1988. Fred married Marilyn Williams in Rapid City, South Dakota on Aug. 27th, 1988. They resided in Mesa, AZ. He is survived by his wife, brother, two daughters, two granddaughters, great grandson, four step children, eleven step grandchildren and three step great grandchildren

and a half sister and brother.

Fred was very active in the Masonic Orders, having achieved his 60-year membership anniversary. He participated as a clown for the Naja Temple Shriners. Fred also assisted in the transportation of patients to the Children's Hospital in Minnesota. He enjoyed working the Shrine circuses for many years. He was also active in many civic organizations: Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Royal Neighbors of America, VFW and Elks. Fred also enjoyed hunting, fishing and the outdoors. He will be missed deeply.

DD-214 NOW AVAILABLE ON -LINE

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214 on-line: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new on-line military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the on-line web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

NASHVILLE FACTS

- Nicknames: "Music City USA" and "Athens of the South."
- Nashville was named one of the 15 best U.S. cities for work and family by Fortune Magazine.
- Nashville has 54,890 jobs directly related to hospitality.
- Nashville hosted more than 10 million visitors in 1999, resulting in over \$2.7 billion in revenues for the city.
- Nashville has 32,699 hotel rooms in the city.
- Opryland Hotel is now the largest non-gaming hotel property in the U.S., with 2,884 rooms and 288,000 square feet of exhibit space.
- Iroquois, bred at Nashville's Belle Meade Plantation, was the first American winner of the English Derby in 1881. Such modern thoroughbreds as Secretariat trace their bloodlines to Iroquois.
- Tennessee won its nickname as The Volunteer State during the War of 1812 when volunteer soldiers from Tennessee displayed marked valor in the Battle of New Orleans.
- Nashville's Grand Ole Opry is the longest continuously running live radio program in the world. It has broadcast every Friday and Saturday night since 1925.
- A replica of The Parthenon, the famous ancient Greek building in Athens, Greece, stands in Nashville's Centennial Park.
- Jubilee Singers of Fisk University in Nashville introduced to the world the plaintive beauty and tradition of the Negro spiritual, which became the basis for other genres of African-American music. It was because their successful tours to raise money for the university during the 1870s that Nashville first became known for its music.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information contained in this letter is very important! Please read it very carefully and respond as necessary! **You must respond as indicated in this message to continue receiving information about your reunion through the US Postal mail!**

Big changes are going on here at ML&RS, Inc! They're not going to happen overnight, but the process has begun. As you are certainly aware, rising costs for hotel rooms, meal prices and fuel for autos and tour buses makes for a more expensive reunion! We are doing everything we can to keep our costs to a minimum. However, prices continue to rise, including postage (which has gone up again the first of this year). In an effort to offer you and your fellow attendees the lowest possible cost, we are going to make some changes to the way things have been done in the past. We hope you will work with us to implement these changes as smoothly as possible!

Due to the multitude of requests we have received over the last few years, we are going to now upgrade our web site to include a variety of information pertaining to your reunion. There will be a small web site within our company's web site for each of the reunion groups we work with. The main page for each group will contain basic information about the upcoming reunion, as well as links to several other pages, including but not limited to lists of those who have signed up, the actual registration packet as a web page, a link to the profiles that were previously printed in the Sentimental Journal, newsletters, and after the reunion a link that can be used to order copies of the memory books that will now be included as part of the reunion package. Also, we will not duplicate anything your group already has on their web page. We will do our best to keep personal information secure. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will only be published with permission.

Beginning with the 2006 reunions, we will be discontinuing our memorabilia sales, including the Sentimental Journal. There are so many web sites out there now where hats, t-shirts, etc can be ordered, and the turn-around time is just a matter of days. When we first started this business, this was not the case. We

began offering these items as a service to the reunion groups who didn't know where else to order items. Due to the increased availability of memorabilia, our sales have declined over the last few years, and it is no longer cost effective for us to continue offering these items. Also, there are a lot of groups who prefer to sell the items themselves as a fund raiser for the association. We certainly do not wish to compete with your association sales!

In place of the Sentimental Journal, we will begin including a 2006 Memory Book as the memorabilia item given away at the reunion. This will replace the note cards, clocks, pens, etc that have been given in the past. However, they will not be given at the reunion, they will be sent to each attendee (who signs up for one of the Option Packages or orders one as part of their Individual Option) following the reunion. The 2006 Memory Book will contain photos from the reunion and "then and now" photos that have been submitted prior to the reunion each year. The very popular profiles will now be accessible from the web site.

Now that the group's web site is up and running we will discontinue the majority of the paper mailings we sent out. Newsletters, Surveys, Introductory Letters and Questionnaires, and the Registration Material will all be available on the web site. Your group's web site is www.mlrsinc.com/eag128. Be sure to visit the site frequently and take advantage of the information that will be/is available there. If your profile is not listed in the Crew Profiles, then be sure to sub-

mit yours via www.mlrsinc.com/questionnaire.htm.

We do realize that there are still some people who do not have or do not want internet access. Because of this, we will continue paper mailings to those who let us know they want their info via the postal mail. **You must return the "coupon" at the end of this letter if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the various materials we send out—newsletters, registration packets, surveys, etc.** If you do not mail in this coupon, we are assuming you have internet access and can obtain all the necessary reunion information off your group's web site.

At some point in the near future, we plan to add on-line registration capabilities to each group's web site. That probably won't happen this year, but I do foresee it happening soon. That is another feature we got a lot of requests for.

As we strive to provide you and your reunion group with the best possible value for your reunion dollar, it is sometimes necessary to change the way some things are done. Our ultimate goal is to offer each and every reunion attendee a great reunion at a reasonable price. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Respectfully,
Dina Coffey
Office Manager
M L&RS, Inc

Return this coupon if you want to receive all future mailings from us on paper via US Postal Mail:

Reunion Group: _____
(ship or unit name)

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Return this coupon to:
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