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# THE MULLINNIX TIMES

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## Reunion 2023!!!

2023 Reunion in  
Providence, RI.

Wednesday, May 3rd thru  
Sunday AM, May 7th.

## Good Laughter is Good Medicine:

"A Sunday school Teacher was telling her class of fourth graders the Christmas Story about the Wise Men bringing gifts to the birth of Christ Jesus. A little girl who had recently become the big sister of a brand -new baby brother said: "Well, I guess gold and all that other stuff are all right, but I'll bet Mary really wished somebody had brought some diapers!"

- J. McDonough

"A Sunday school teacher asked his class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. One child replied, "they could not find a baby sitter."

- Catherine Hall

## President's Message

Greetings shipmates, the Holiday season is upon us and by the time you're reading this newsletter, Thanksgiving has passed and you're trying to figure out how to lose those pounds you gain from that great dinner. I hope and pray

each of had a Happy Thanksgiving. Despite the difficult time we're facing with inflation and the economy in general, we can give thanks for living in the greatest nation in the world. I'm confident that God will bring us all through this difficult time.

It's not too early to start planning for the 2023 reunion in Providence, RI. I'm confident that Bob and Mary Jane Houghton will plan a great reunion for this coming year. Check the website for information on the 2023 reunion. My wife and I have never been to Providence, RI and are looking forward to a great time. We hope to see many of you in 2023.

At the Providence reunion we are planning to have a Quilts of Valor Ceremony for five recipient from the USS Mullinnix Association. Accordingly, to be included for selection you must attend the reunion and be registered not later than April 1, 2023.

I'm making every effort to provide the information on our current news page (see below) even though the information is not always recent. Our website (<http://www.usmullinnixassociation.com>) and newsletters are the easiest ways for the Association to communicate to its members. Any concerns, suggestions, or questions relative to the Association, please feel free to send me an email: [muxpresident@gmail.com](mailto:muxpresident@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Roger Bocek, President  
USS Mullinnix DD944, Association, INC

## From the Reunion Planner's Desk...



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Plans for REUNION 2023 in Providence, RI in May have been slow in developing as many of you are aware! The biggest issues have been rising food prices and “yoyo” fuel costs. We FINALLY got our tours under contract this past week and the Registration Form and tours info is soon to be posted on the Association website and are included in this newsletter!

Our host hotel for Reunion 2023 is the Crowne Plaza at 801 Greenwich Avenue in Warwick, RI 02886. Our room block is for rooms with either 2 queen beds or 1 king bed at \$129 + tax (currently 13%) and includes a buffet breakfast in the hospitality room! They also have handicap accessible rooms (at the same price), but you will have to make that reservation by phone. Specify which you want and verify the room rate when you make your reservation. Reservations can be made by dialing 401-732-6000 and asking for a room in the “USS Mullinnix DD944 Reunion 2023 group room block”. The group code is “MUL”. If you prefer to make your reservation online, simply go to the Association website and use the link posted there. The group room rate applies for + or - 3 days if you want to come early or stay longer. All reservations must be made before Monday, April 3rd. Late reservations will be on a space available basis at prevailing rates. Amenities include a refrigerator in each room, complimentary WIFI, free shuttle service to/from the Warwick T.F. Green Airport and free parking. Call the hotel front desk at 401-732-6000 on arrival at the airport to arrange your shuttle transportation to the hotel. Book early to get a better choice of room! If you need to cancel your reservation, do that at least 24 hours before 3 PM on day of scheduled arrival to avoid being charged for the first night as a “no-show”! Please call or text Bob to let him know you had to cancel at 302-650-3042 or email him at [muxassn@hotmail.com](mailto:muxassn@hotmail.com). We may be able to save you some \$\$\$\$. Someone else may want your tour seat and it may not be too late to save you the cost of a meal or two! We can't help if you don't contact him! If for any reason you have difficulty accessing the info on the website, please just email or call Bob and we will be happy to mail you what you need!

The tour company we are using is Experience RI Tours. They are family owned and operated and we met the 2 brothers that operate their coaches and narrate the tours. We took the Newport tour with them in 2019. It is terrific! Their coaches have 25 or 29 seats so the tours are up close and personal. They also do some great tours in Providence every Saturday. Do yourself a favor and research their website at [experienceri.com](http://experienceri.com) to book yourself a tour for a super way to enjoy free time on Saturday during the reunion!! How about their Discover Providence or maybe Taste of Rhode Island tour? If you do book yourself a tour, please let Bob know by email so he can track numbers. If enough of us do book the same tour, they will pick us all up at the Crowne Plaza instead of their downtown location.

- Bob and Mary Jane Houghton

## Reunion 2023 Tours

### Thursday, May 4th...

**Come away with us for a whale of a time in the city that once lit the world!** Today, the #1 fishing port in America, **New Bedford** has a rich history. On this trip you will explore a fascinating military museum, learn about the commercial fishing industry, and discover this unique town that was the setting of the famous novel, *Moby Dick*, and was once the wealthiest city in America. Tour is 9 AM to 5 PM with pick up at and return to the Crowne Plaza hotel in Warwick, RI. We will visit Fort Taber Military Museum 9:45-11:00 am, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center 11:15am - 12:30pm, enjoy lunch at The Black Whale 12:45 - 2:00pm, tour the port of New Bedford + Seamen's Bethel + Ben Franklin Five and Dime 2:00 -3:00pm and then the New Bedford Whaling Museum 3:00 - 4:15pm. **Tour cost is \$60 and includes all admission prices and transportation with lunch on your own. This price requires a minimum of 20 participants and is limited to the first 29 to sign up. Some walking on uneven ground and cobblestone streets will be required.**

### Friday, May 5th...

**Newport: Rhode Island's Spectacular City by the Sea, one of America's most special places!** On this tour your host will take you on a journey through early American history and stunning wealth unlike anything you've ever seen. You will travel by tour bus along breathtaking Ocean Drive, see and hear the stories behind the marvelous summer homes of many famous Americans, including the Kennedys, Vanderbilts, and modern-day celebrities such as Jay Leno and Judge Judy, explore the cobblestone streets of colonial America, enjoy the picturesque inner harbor of the sailing capital of the United States, visit the famous Cliff Walk, and much more. Tour is 9:30 AM to 4 PM with pick up at and return to the Crowne Plaza hotel in Warwick, RI filled with interesting stories, and fantastic sights, and including a stop for lunch and time exploring downtown on your own. There is no better way to experience Rhode Island's spectacular city by the sea! We will visit Beavertail State Park & Lighthouse 10:10 - 10:45am then enjoy a narrated driving tour of Newport, including Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue 11:00am - 12:30pm before a stop for lunch at Sweet Berry Farm from 12:45 - 1:30pm. We will then proceed downtown for time to shop and sightsee on your own in colonial Newport harbor 1:50 - 3:15pm. **Tour cost is \$60 and includes lunch. Participation is limited to the first 54 to sign up.**

# REUNION 2023

**\*IMPORTANT\***

If you want to attend these events, tours and meals, your full payment **must be received by Monday, April 3, 2023**

**USS MULLINNIX DD944 ASSOCIATION**  
**2023 REUNION**  
**MAY 3rd thru May 7th**  
 (starts Wednesday – ends Sunday)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

How are you traveling to **Providence**? Please circle one choice.

**Car?                  Plane?                  Train?                  Bus?                  Other?**

	COST PER PERSON	NUMBER ATTENDING	TOTAL LINE ITEM COST				
<b>Make checks payable to: Mullinnix Association</b>							
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">                     Mail this form &amp; check to:                      Bob Houghton                      145 Pier View St. #210                      Charleston SC 29492                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>REGISTRATION FEE</b>                      (Helps cover the cost of meeting space rental, name tags, T-shirts, liability insurance and enhancements, etc.)                 </td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"> <b>\$50.00</b>                      (per shipmate only)                 </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"> <b>\$50.00</b> </td> </tr> </table>	Mail this form & check to: Bob Houghton 145 Pier View St. #210 Charleston SC 29492	<b>REGISTRATION FEE</b> (Helps cover the cost of meeting space rental, name tags, T-shirts, liability insurance and enhancements, etc.)	<b>\$50.00</b> (per shipmate only)	<b>\$50.00</b>			
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<b>Wed. Reception (meal) &amp; Opening Ceremony (6:30 PM)</b>	<b>\$20</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Thursday Tour to New Bedford, MA (9 AM to 5 PM)</b>	<b>\$60</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Friday Tour to Newport, RI (9:30 AM to 4 PM)</b>	<b>\$60</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Friday Night Buffet and Annual Auction (6:30PM)</b>	<b>\$25</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Association Annual Business Meeting (Saturday 9 AM)</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>ONE (1)</b>	<b>FREE</b>				
<b>ANNUAL DUES ...Unless paid earlier...</b>	<b>\$10</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Annual Saturday Night Buffet Banquet</b>	<b>\$40</b>		<b>\$</b>				
<b>Reunion Tee Shirts. <u>One for Shipmate is FREE!</u> Extras are \$10 each.</b>	S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___ (Enter quantity of each size you want on the blank)		<b>\$</b>				

Registrations (w/checks) received before March 1st will be entered in the Early Bird Raffle! The winners each get a free night at the host hotel during the reunion. **Be an Early Bird!!!**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$**



Do you or any of your guests have a disability, special concern or dietary need that requires special attention? If so, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Keeper of the Spring

The Keeper of the Spring was a quiet forest dweller who lived high above an Austrian village along the eastern slopes of the Alps. The gentleman had been hired by the town council to clear away the debris from the pools of water up in the mountain crevices that fed the lovely spring flowing through their town. With faithful, silent regularity, he patrolled the hills, removing the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt that would otherwise choke and contaminate the fresh flow of water. By and by, the village became a popular attraction for vacationers. Graceful swans floated along the crystal clear spring, the mill wheels of various businesses located near the water turned day and night. Farmlands were naturally irrigated, and the view from restaurants was picturesque beyond description. Years passed. One evening the town council met for its semi-annual meeting. As they reviewed the budget, one man's eye caught the salary figure being paid the obscure keeper of the spring. The keeper of the purse said, "who is this man? Why do we keep him year after year? No one ever sees him. For all we know the strange ranger of the hills is doing us no good. He isn't necessary any longer!" By an unanimous vote, they dispensed with the keeper of the spring's services. For several weeks nothing changed. By early autumn the trees began to

shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools, hindering the rushing flow of sparkling water. One afternoon someone noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the spring. A couple days later the water was much darker. Within another week, a slimy film covered sections of the water along the banks and a foul odor was soon detected. The mill wheels moved slower, some finally ground to a stop. Swans left and so did the tourists. Clammy fingers of disease and sickness reached deeply into the village. Quickly, the embarrassed council called a special meeting. Realizing their gross error in judgment, they hired back the keeper of the spring...and within a few weeks the veritable river of life began to clear up. The wheels started to turn, and new life returned to the hamlet in the Alps once again.

It is Christmas season, it is the perfect time to give yourself to God, your spouse, your family, and to serving your neighbor. Merry Christmas shipmates!

- David Mansberger RM2 '78-'82



## Story From Arlington National Cemetery



"Wreaths Across America" started with the vision of one person, Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. As a child, Morrill and his family made a trip to Washington, DC

and one of the places he visited was Arlington National Cemetery. The impact of that visit stayed with him his whole life. He believed his success was in part due to the sacrifices made by the veterans resting at Arlington. In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company had a surplus of wreaths towards the end of the holiday season, so Morrill worked with Maine Senator Olympia Snow to bring those wreaths down to Arlington to the older and less visited sections of the cemetery as a way to remember the veterans resting in those sections. As this project was coming together, others offered to lend support. A local trucking company volunteered to drive the wreaths to Virginia, members of the local VFW and American Legion posts in Harrington volunteered to decorate each wreath with a handtied red bow. The Maine State Society in DC volunteered to lay the wreaths at Arlington. In 2007, this seedling project officially became "Wreaths Across America" (WAA). The 501(c)(3) organization grew from 60,000 volunteers laying over 100,000 wreaths in 300 cemeteries located in the 50 US states, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas in 2008 to two million volunteers laying 2.4 million wreaths in 3,137 participating locations in 2021. 250,000 of those wreaths were laid at Arlington by 38,000 volunteers. Over 525 volunteer trucks now deliver the wreaths across the country. The "Wreaths Across America" mission is simple and very important - "Remember. Honor. Teach." While the wreath laying is the central event of the WAA, the organization conducts various programs throughout the year honoring our veterans and teaching younger generations about the importance of honoring those who have made our freedom possible. Wreath laying is now an annual event that occurs on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of December. This year's wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery will happen on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

## More Good Laughter is Good Medicine:

While he was Soviet General Secretary, Mikhail Gorbachev was late for a meeting and told his chauffeur to step on it. The chauffeur refused, on the grounds that it would be breaking the speeding laws. Gorbachev ordered him into the back seat and got behind the wheel. After a few miles, a police patrol stopped the car. The senior officer sent his subordinate to arrest the offender. A moment later, the officer returned, saying that the person was much too important to prosecute. "Who is it?", demanded the police chief. "I am not sure, sir," replied the officer, "but Comrade Gorbachev is his chauffeur."

- L. Streiker

Visit our Current News page at <http://www.ussmullinnixassociation.com/MullinnixAssociationCurrent%20News.html> We communicate to shipmates via the Current News page on the USS Mullinnix website. This includes information relative to the Mullinnix Association, Reunion Updates, Hospitalized Shipmates, Funerals, Holiday greetings, and maybe a few jokes here and there. This Current News page will be used to keep you informed of recent activities and events for Shipmates!



## A Few Good Books for 2023 to read:

- "Bibi: My Story" a book about the man who now leads Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu
- "To Try Men's Souls" by N. Gingrich & W. Forstchen, a novel about the Revolutionary War
- "Grant: Memoirs and Selected Letters" by Ulysses S. Grant, provides a great view of his life and the heart decisions he had to make.



## Executive Board Officers

### President

Roger Bocek  
129 Timber Meadows Drive  
O'Fallon, MO 63368  
314-435-4672  
[muxpresident@gmail.com](mailto:muxpresident@gmail.com)

### Vice President

William Petras  
5 Butler Lane  
Portland, CT 06480  
[muxsonargang@gmail.com](mailto:muxsonargang@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Steve Hanyok  
33 Elkmore Rd  
Elkton, MD 21921-7226  
410-398-7367  
[usnfss67@gmail.com](mailto:usnfss67@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Joseph Spowls  
11922 Tee Time Circle  
New Port Richie, FL 34654  
[joesprowls@aol.com](mailto:joesprowls@aol.com)

### Chaplain

Jimmy Carter  
17545 Brinson St  
Riverview, MI 48193  
[jannjimm@hotmail.com](mailto:jannjimm@hotmail.com)

## Were You Exposed to Burn Pits or Other Toxins During Military Service?

New legislation expands presumptive disabilities, VA care, and benefits to Veterans suffering from more than 20 toxic exposure-related conditions. Learn more by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411.

If you have any medical, dental, emotional traumas, please contact your nearest Veterans Association facility! They will help you!