

After a drive through and by many of the beautiful colleges and districts of the City, and an informative narrative by our tour guide of the numerous characters from Country Music, we were treated to a RCA Victor Studio B orientation. Since the mid-1950s, a long roster of folks used this room to record what became American standards, with names like Orbison, Presley, etc. Over 1,000 hit records in all!! This included Orbison having to record one of his most famous ones under a coat rack covered by a bed sheet to avoid feedback. Unawed by the environment and the famous blue spot on the floor for the best acoustics, the sailors of the Keith made a robust recording from that hallowed ground of Anchors Aweigh - you may have heard our version recently broadcast on a country station in your area. If so, have your hearing checked!

By 1115 that day, the Anchor Bus dropped us at the Country Music Hall of Fame for tours on our own. Broad Street is adjacent to it and is the main drag for Nashville country music, bars, honky tonks, souvenir shops, and entertainment as it ambles downhill toward the Cumberland River. That day, many of us used it for lunch. Back at the hotel, the annual business meeting was held by the attendees, and the ladies could visit the nearby Opry Mills shops.

At 1900, the entire group had assembled for a catered Banquet Dinner in our hotel for entrees of prime rib, salmon, or pork. Organized by member Mike McHenry, who was responsible for virtually all of the above, the featured speaker was Victor Smith, a Command Master Chief for the recruiting district for this part of the USA. This rank did not exist when most of us served, but this E-9 [enlisted rates go from E-1 to E-9] renders, with special schooling and assignment, assistance to a senior officer, in this case a Rear Admiral. The Chief was supposed to talk for about 20 minutes after the Dinner, but there were so many questions that we kept him talking for a total of 90. He was gracious enough to hang around with his wife for small talk with those of us who had more to ask. Fabulous guy with a lot of information - probably the type of person that we should ask for in the future. Thereafter, it was time for "Sweepers, sweepers, man your brooms. Give the ship a clean sweep down fore and aft. Sweep down all decks, ladders, and passageways. Dump all trash and garbage over the fantail [not in today's Navy!]. Now, sweepers."

On the morning of Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>, it became the time to weigh up 15 anchor chains through the hawse pipe and proceed on mission assigned, back to our individual home ports. Although we departed Music City with our next destination undetermined, we have since designated the Providence / Newport area of Rhode Island as the locus for the 2018 Reunion, with special visits to Battleship Cove and the Newport Naval Station, plus a Newport mansion [that the wealthy called a "cottage"]. The Cove has the battleship USS Massachusetts (BB-59), the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., (DD-850) [a longer and overhauled Gearing class destroyer, which is a modification of the Sumner class to which the Keith belonged], and several other vessels of sub, corvette, PT boat, and other types. Don't miss this one: from Sunday October 14, to Wednesday October 17, 2018!!!