

### **Smoky Mountain Chapter 2015 Fall Frolic**

The Smoky Mountain Chapter of the NCVA met for the 17<sup>th</sup> reunion and the 6<sup>th</sup> Fall Frolic on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> through Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Inn Brevard in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. John and Portia Odell graciously hosted the event. They scheduled tours of the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, Oskar Blues Brewery, Cradle of Forestry in America and the newly built Sierra Nevada Brewery in Mills River, NC.

Thirty attendees from seven states were present and twelve of the thirty were from the great state of North Carolina. Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia were represented by four folks each from these states. Kentucky, Illinois and Florida brought up the rear with two each from their states. Don and Edna Gaylord of Allerton, Illinois came the furthest to partake of fun, food, touring and some foolishness. Don's name will be mentioned later as he was co-winner of a very prestigious award.

After a great Prime Rib and Chicken Marsala banquet Saturday evening at the Etowah Golf Course, the diners returned to the hospitality room in the hotel where, as always, the real entertainment commences! After playing of the National Anthem, host John Odell and President Pete Moore conducted the Two Bell Ceremony in memory of loved ones and shipmates who have gone to the Supreme Commander.

President Pete Moore presented a Certification of Appreciation to John and Portia for hosting the Frolic and the rose used in the Two Bell Ceremony was given to Portia. Master of Ceremonies Dave Fiehtner (MC) announced the resignation of Vice President Jack Lutes (5/15/2004-9/10/2015) and that John Odell had graciously accepted the appointment as the new VP. Joe Bearrentine, host of the 2017 NCVA reunion in Nashville and discussed briefly the importance of volunteers to make it work smoothly. MC Dave reported that the 2016 Fall Frolic will be held in a city near Nashville at a date and place to be determined later. This information will be published at the [www.smokymountainncva.com](http://www.smokymountainncva.com) website when available.

A baseball cap, with the emblem reworded, was won by Joann Vaughn. She was too embarrassed to model the cap when she received the prize! Adult refreshments were won by Patti Moore, Bob Proctor and Floyd Jones. Floyd's name was called again after the prizes were won.

Since Edna Gaylord had demonstrated great talent in previous tastings of home grown products, she volunteered to do wine tasting in order for skilled vintners to receive recognition for their talents. She decided that Hank Kershner should receive the gold, MC Dave the silver and Jim Lindley the bronze. Jim wanted a retake, but Edna declined to be stressed with that formidable task again!

The judges had great difficulty in determining who was deserving of the Ol' Jake Award and decided that Floyd's past duty stations and mid watches were equal to Don Gaylord's hairy TAD aboard carriers stories and NSA assignments. When one spends three evenings in the hospitality room listening to great stories told by heroes, one almost believes that the entire body of male attendees deserves at least some form of recognition!