



FEBRUARY 2016



Calling all Sixth Fleet sailors stationed in Villefranche sur Mer from 1948 to 1967

The French Riviera-Monaco Council based in Cannes France, has formed a partnership with " **Les Américains et la 6ème Flotte à Villefranche sur Mer**" this association was founded in 2014 by Valerie Blouin, granddaughter of "Mom", Mere Germaine, (pictures here greeting sailors in front of her restaurant "La Mere Germaine") whose reputation is renowned throughout the 6th Fleet for her kindness towards the young sailors stationed at U.S. Navy headquarters in Villefranche .

(Mom Germaine died in 1959 and the restaurant is operated today by Valérie's brother Thierry, both Thierry and Valérie are Navy League members as well)

Our objective is to commemorate and celebrate the 50 year anniversary (in Jan.2017) on the date the U.S. Sixth Fleet moved it's Head Quarters from Villefranche sur Mer to Gaeta Italy and primarily to educate the young and old about this wonderful period when the Sixth Fleet made their home port in Villefranche just after WW II until January 20 1967. This event has the full support of VADM James G. Foggo Commander U.S. Sixth fleet and from the Mayor of Villefranche sur Mer, Prof. Christian Trojani and of course from all the local population as well, who were very saddened when Sixth Fleet departed, as many young sailors had married local young ladies, most eventually moved to the U.S but several sailors remained in the area with their French wives. It is not surprising then that we already have a big interest from ex shipmates from the Flagships, USS. Salem, Des Moines, Newport News, Little Rock and USS Springfield, the last ship to depart 20 Jan. 1967. Many have visited Villefranche over the years and more are already planning to attend the 4 day event with their families in 2017. Among them RADM James Lyons (ret) who served on USS Salem in 1956, RADM Philip DUR, who served on the Little Rock and later as CO of USS Comte de Grasse DD-974.

Our Program will start on Jan 19, 2017 with a welcome reception for ex shipmates, and crew members of a DDG that will be present for the occasion, compliments of VADM Foggo who has also promised the presence of the Sixth fleet Band and Color Guard. On 20/01/17, a protocol visit at the Mayors office located inside of the citadel and followed by the un-veiling of a new Bronze plaque in memory of the U.S Sixth fleet and numerous other activities, a ship visits of the DDG and venues for the shipmates to get together.

A farewell Gala evening dinner with guest speakers will be held inside of the old fortification (Citadel) In between all this events there will be several excursions and venues including an exhibition of 6th fleet memorabilia in the local museum.

We are reaching out to everyone that has served in the Sixth Fleet during this period as well as USMC members, friends and relatives.

For more detailed information, contact :
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Junior Officers USS Springfield 1966



With Mom” Germaine in front of her Restaurant (Nineteen Fifties)



In front of Mom’s 2014 during Navy League hosted lunch with officers and sailors of USS Truxtun DDG 103