

Editor's Closing Thoughts & Reflections of Reunion 47

The forecast for Reunion 47 called for fun and boy did it deliver! From the moment of being warmly welcomed aboard by the hospitality team and the meet and greet in the Rendezvous Lounge, I knew our group was in for an amazing time together.

It goes without saying that Key West and Nassau had an amazing variety of historical, fun, and exciting things to see and do during our time ashore. But some of my favorite and most treasured times were spent onboard the Summit with the shipmates, family, and friends of our great association. And they came in a variety of ways, ranging from scheduled events and meetings, to unexpected encounters. Moments such as:

- Wonderfully long evening dinners in the Cosmopolitan Room where friendships were celebrated and sea stories told, where laughter flowed freely and life experiences were shared, much to the chagrin of crewmembers who were probably hoping for an earlier departure.
- Important Executive and General Board meetings held in the Gamma Room where a variety of matters were thoughtfully and passionately discussed, including the current state and future course of the NWSA.
- The awesome tour of the Celebrity's bridge where 2nd Officer Irem (from Turkey) not only gave us great insight into the ship's operational and engineering capabilities, but cheerfully and professionally answered a variety of questions from a bunch of inquisitive retired sailors.
- Richard and Flo McKay being honored by Captain Dimitris Petras & crew in the Sky Lounge as the most traveled cruisers with 143!
- Celebrating Nadine Mullen's 90th birthday along with Nancy Warrenfeltz's....well, she wasn't saying, ha!

And then there were the more casual and intimate conversations held over cocktails, in passageways, or out on the balconies of adjoining staterooms, one of which I'd like to share with you. My stateroom adjoined Nadine Mullen's and as the ship was pulling into Nassau I went out on the balcony and noticed Nadine and her son Jeffrey enjoying the view. The refreshing breeze made for very pleasant conditions and it didn't take long for a delightful conversation to begin. I mainly listened as Nadine, with a lovely smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes, shared beautiful memories of the many reunions and trips she and Moon have taken over the course of their long (closing in on 70 years) wonderful marriage. It was one of those conversations that I wished could have lasted just a little longer, but surely, was the better for it.

I've often felt that beautiful memories are one of God's many gifts, and those from Reunion 47 are a wonderful addition to my ever-expanding basket of them. So, until next time, I'd like to leave you with an Irish blessing (I know you're smiling Richard!) and heartwarming tale of two horses.

Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.