

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the Kaiser Co. in Vancouver, Washington constructed a victory ship of the Haskell class—named for a small county in Kentucky, the USS Meniffee was launched October 15, 1944, under the command of Paul P. Spaulding, Comdr USNR; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 1945, the Meniffee arrived at Guadalcanal to prepare for the upcoming invasion of Okinawa—on April 1, 1945, she landed units of the 6th Marine division and the next two days off-loaded cargo and supplies—after completing this task successfully, returned to San Francisco, having earned her first battle star; and

WHEREAS, during the time frame of May 11, 1945, through August 2, 1945, the Meniffee shuttled troops and cargo to and from such places as the Philippines, Letye, New Guinea, the Netherlands and the East Indies—when the hostilities were over in the Pacific, the ship was assigned to and became a part of the Magic carpet fleet bringing war-weary veterans home and taking occupation troops to Japan—when this mission was completed on July 31, 1946, she was decommissioned at Stockton, California; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 1950, the Meniffee was recommissioned to the amphibious force Pacific fleet under the command of Captain J.K. Wells—two extended tours of duty in the western Pacific, including operations above and below the 38th parallel, were successful and earned her two more battle stars; and

WHEREAS, she served as flag ship for operation Big Lift, which was the transfer of Indian troops to the peace conference at Panmunjom and was also instrumental in training the Korean Marines in amphibious warfare—on June 29, 1955, the Meniffee was placed out of commission and assigned to San Francisco group Pacific reserve fleet, her last commanding officer was Parker K. Smith CLTJG—the last crew member to leave the ship while flying the Union Jack; and

WHEREAS, tribute must be paid to the men and women at Kaiser Co. who put together a ship for one trip that lasted two wars and earned three battle stars—tribute must also be paid to the fine officers and crew that sailed and maintained her through her life—she was truly a grand old ship manned by the best officers and crew, all of which can be proud that she never missed an assignment or failed to get under when ordered to do so:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 12 through October 16, 2002, as

USS MENIFEE REUNION DAYS

in the State of Mississippi, and encourage all Mississippians to welcome these heroes with great appreciation for their sacrifices for our state and nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, October 3, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR