



Holly Patterson/R-A

THE MEN OF THE 'DAISY MAE'

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP — Nearly 100 of the Marines and U.S. Navy sailors who served aboard the U.S.S. Des Moines gathered at the home of Paul Overly (kneeling center left) from Thursday until Sunday for the 36th annual reunion. Currently enlisted in the U.S. Navy is Matthew Rotz (kneeling center right), 22, of Alabama, who has been to five previous reunions with this grandfather Billy Chandler. Rotz will return to his station at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. but plans to attend the reunions as long as they happen. The U.S.S. Des Moines was commissioned in November 1948, and decommissioned in 1961. After an unsuccessful attempt to convert the U.S.S. Des Moines into a museum, the Des Moines was scrapped in 2007 and no longer exists.