

# MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



## SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

June 2014



**Tony LaMorte**

### A message from the President

June has so far been an unusual month at the Museum.

On 13 June, a family of 15 with 13 children ranging in age from 17 or 18 to infant visited the Museum. The family, except for the infant and the youngest boy (who will be old enough to participate next year) were in Sebring to participate in the children and adult Triathlons on 14 and 15 June respectively.

The father related that the family attended a D-Day ceremony in Virginia where they met a group of World War II veterans who were attending the ceremony as part of an Honor Flight group. The family took a real interest in the Veterans and the Veterans reciprocated.

Following the ceremony in Virginia, the veterans went to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial and the family joined them. The veterans intrigued the children with stories and gave the young boys various pins to help them remember their experiences. The Museum volunteer on duty when the family visited stated it was a real pleasure meeting this family. The children were well behaved and interested in the Museum's artifacts. An example, when the mother spotted items in the Museum she wanted to discuss with the boys, she would say "Boys come see this," and within a minute, the five young boys, who reminded the Museum volunteer of steps on a ladder, were at her side.

On 19 June, 20 adults from the Lake Josephine Baptist Church visited. The group included several veterans and all were impressed with the Museum. The group leaders stated that they will encourage other Church members to visit in groups, especially when the folks who are now up North return to Lake Josephine.

Summer is here! Put on the suntan lotion. Have a safe and happy Independence Day Celebration. The children are out of school and playing outside, so please be careful on the roads.

Have a great summer. Stay safe.

Tony

**Military Sea Services Museum**  
1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring,  
Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992  
E-Mail: [navmargrd@gmail.com](mailto:navmargrd@gmail.com)

**Hours of Operation**  
**Open: Wednesday through Saturday**  
**Noon to 4:00 p.m.**  
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

## Binnacle List

The Binnacle list contains reports of our members who are under the weather and could use the prayers of those of us that pray. They might also like a bit of cheering up.

Millie Smith was returning home following the monthly dinner at the Museum on 22 June when she was involved in an auto accident. Millie was taken by helicopter to Bay Shore Hospital in St. Petersburg where she was treated for ruptured vertebrae. Millie is now recuperating at home. She is still in a lot of pain and of course uncomfortable in a neck brace. We wish Millie a speedy recovery.

If you are aware of any of our members who should be included in the Binnacle List, please send us an email at [navmargrd@gmail.com](mailto:navmargrd@gmail.com) or mail the information to the Museum at 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

## All In The Family

Early in the day on November 13, 1942, Adm. D. J. Callahan's Landing Support Group at Guadalcanal ventured forth to engage a vastly superior Japanese surface fleet. In the ensuing battle the American force was badly battered and forced into retirement. During the engagement the Light Cruiser *Juneau* (CL-52) took a torpedo hit at the port side; the resultant damage was extreme. Severe damage in the engine spaces left the vessel on one screw, bow down and barely making a dozen knots.



Description USS Juneau (CL-52) 0405201.jpg

[commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org) 739 x 400 57.1KB

As the battered force shaped up and got underway to safety, repairs and the return to the battle, a third-party, a Japanese submarine *I-26* watched with considerable interest. *Juneau* was screening for the damaged *USS San Francisco*. When the moment seemed right, the sub fired a trio of torpedoes at *San Francisco*, missing with all three. One torpedo, however, continued on and struck *Juneau* in approximately the same location as the previous hit. The resulting explosion that engulfed the entire ship sent her to the bottom within minutes with the ultimate loss of all but 10 of her crew. The crew members that perished also included the five Sullivan Brothers.

The Sullivan saga really failed to gather a tremendous amount of attention until the early 1944 wartime movie, *The Fighting Sullivans*. This insured a spurt in war bond sales, spawned myths that persist until this day and earned a niche in late night TV listings that would endure for half a century.

At this point you have undoubtedly surmised that I am about to wear you down with yet another account of the brothers Sullivan - not so. The following will be a simple accounting of some brothers serving together on U.S. Navy ships.

A casual glance tells us that in the years prior to World War II, the Navy encouraged family members to serve together on board. The USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 affords some rather striking notes. The National Parks Service (US Department of the Interior) has provided the information that we will use here.



Description [Uss arizona.jpg](#)

[fr.wikipedia.org](http://fr.wikipedia.org) 710 x 606 112.6KB

USS Arizona (BB-39)

At the time of the Japanese attack, 38 sets of brothers served on USS *Arizona*. The sinking of the ship killed 23 sets of brothers. At the time of the attack a total of 79 brothers were serving aboard and of these, 63 were killed and of these only four were recovered and identified. The remaining 59 brothers remain “missing”. There were three sets of three brothers with one survivor from each set. In all of the group of brothers there was but one set of twins and both were KIA. As a result of this and other similar tragedies, the Navy issued a bulletin discouraging the practice but apparently no legislation or executive directive to this date has prohibited brothers serving on the same ship.

#### NOTES

- (1) In addition to the sets of brothers noted above, a father and son combination also served on *Arizona* and both were killed.
- (2) Having nothing to do with *Arizona* we can also note that on D Day, June 6, 1944 33 sets of brothers are interred in the National Cemetery at Normandy, France.

**Contributed by Allie Ryan**

## Anniversaries

14 June 1777. U.S. Flag adopted by the Second Continental Congress. In 1916, President Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day.

10 June 1854. U.S. Naval Academy holds its first graduation in Annapolis, Md.

17 June 1898. Navy Hospital Corps established.

4-7 June 1942. Battle of Midway. U.S. Navy decisively defeated the Japanese Navy inflicting irreparable damage on the Japanese fleet. The battle of Midway coupled with the earlier Japanese defeat in the battle of the Coral Sea was a major turning point in the war in the Pacific.

6 June 1944. D-Day. The Allied invasion of German occupied Western Europe (Operations Neptune and Overload) began on the beaches of Normandy, France.

15 June 1944. Battle of Saipan.

19-20 June 1944. Battle of the Philippine Sea. The Japanese lost three carriers, two oilers and approximately 600 aircraft. The devastation the American pilots inflicted on the Japanese fleet led to the aerial fight earning the name "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot."

10 June 1967. President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act --- equal pay for those doing equal work.

8 June 1967. USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) was suddenly and without warning attacked in international waters by air and naval forces of Israel. Thirty four Americans were killed and 174 wounded.

12 June 1987. President Reagan demands, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

4 July 1776. The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence written largely by Thomas Jefferson.

3 July 1898. U.S. Fleet destroyed the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Santiago de Cuba.

28 July 1914. World War I began.

30 July 1942. WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy established.

5 July 1945. Philippines liberated.

14 July 1945. First U.S. Navy bombardment of Japanese home islands began with the bombardment of the Japan Iron and Steel Company in Kamaishi on Honshu, one of Japan's main islands.

16 July 1945. First atomic bomb successfully tested in New Mexico.

29 July 1945. USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) enroute to Leyte Gulf was sunk by a Japanese submarine resulting in the loss of 881 crewmen. Only 316 crewmen were alive when they were rescued from the water almost five days later. The sinking of the USS INDIANAPOLIS was the worst U.S. Navy disaster of World War II.

27 July 1953. Korean War Armistice signed at Panmunjom.

## **Quotable Quotes**

"The Ten Cannots" from the pen of Reverend William J.H. Boetcher in 1916:

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatreds.

You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

## **Did You Know That**

nuclear power plants have been around for 60 years. The world's first nuclear power plant was opened on 27 June 1954 in Obninsk, Soviet Union, about 68 miles southwest of Moscow..

## **Sometimes Visitors Could Use Assistance**

The Museum now has two wheel chairs, two walkers, and one walker with a seat for use by Museum visitors. These items may also be loaned out to Museum members who have a short term need.

## **Stories Wanted**

We would like to publish in the Scuttlebutt short stories of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personal experiences, and/or short stories of sea services historical events. We are sure there are plenty of stories out there that would be of interest to Scuttlebutt readers. Please email your stories to [nvmargrd@gmail.com](mailto:nvmargrd@gmail.com) or mail to the Museum.