

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

October 2016

A message from the President



John Cecil

Greetings,

Summer is over, kids are back in school, Highlands County's winter guests are slowly returning, and visitors to the Museum are increasing.

Great news on the Museum's improvement projects. In the August Scuttlebutt, we reported the start of projects to replace four side doors and to construct an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved bathroom. Sebring Public Works employees completed the installation of four new side doors making the Museum more air tight and secure. Our contractor completed the construction of the ADA bathroom except for a couple of touch up items. The new bathroom is fully functional and an asset to the Museum.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7, 2016. The Museum will host a solemn ceremony to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. This ceremony will be followed by a ribbon cutting, cake cutting, and open house to mark the grand re-opening of the renovated Museum. The Sebring High School AFJROTC unit and the School's Marching Band will participate. Many dignitaries, federal, state, and local officials, have been invited. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and the grand re-opening. All Museum members are encouraged to attend. Following is a preliminary draft of the Sequence of Events.

See you on December 7th.

John

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

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

Sequence of Events

NOTE: H=1300 hours on 7 December

1. H-5 minutes Master of Ceremonies (MC) gives preliminary call to seats
2. H-1 minutes Ladies and Gentlemen, Please take your seats.
3. H Hour Ladies and Gentlemen, please silence all phones, pagers, or other electronic Devices. Please note there is no smoking during the ceremony or inside
4. H+1 minute Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Mike Borders, MC for today's ceremony. Welcome to our celebration and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941—a day that still lives in infamy. As part of today's celebration, we will also "reopen" our Military Sea Services Museum. At this time, it is my honor to introduce our Museum President, Mr. John Cecil.
5. H+3 minutes John moves to the podium: Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for coming today. At this time, it is my honor to introduce our special guests _____
6. H+5 minutes I ask that you please rise for the posting of the colors and the playing of the National Anthem. The colors will be presented by the Sebring High School Air Force Junior ROTC color guard, and the National Anthem is offered by the Sebring High School Marching Band, led by Ms. Colorado Paniagua.
7. H+10 minutes Let's give the color guard and the band a big round of applause. We appreciate the support of Cadet Kaya Hancock and his color guard as well as Ms. Paniagua and all the members of the band.
8. H+11 minutes Invocation given by Pastor Ron Degenaro, St. John's UMC
9. H+12 minutes Taps by Billie Jewett.
10. H+14 minutes John instructs the crowd to take their seats. John introduces any other special Guests.
11. H+16 minutes John gives a quick brief on the museum, our latest ADA improvements, etc.
12. H+19 minutes John introduces our keynote speaker: Ladies and Gentlemen, at this time, it is my honor to introduce our keynote speaker for today's ceremony, _____. If not well known, we'll need to read a brief bio of the person. Once the keynote speaker finishes, John moves forward to give him/her a present/token of appreciation.
13. H+25 minutes John asks Mayor Shoop to make a few remarks (given their support/it is a city Building)
14. H+28 minutes Singing of the Navy Hymn by _____ coral group
15. H+30 minutes John invites keynote speaker and Mayor Shoop to cut the ribbon
16. H+31 minutes Mike invites attendees to go inside for the cake cutting, refreshments, and to tour the museum.

NOTE: we will need a script for John's remarks in Item #10

NOTE: we will also need brief remarks for the cake cutting ceremony



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 navmargrd@gmail.com or mail to the Museum.

Patriotic Poem **America**

I am an American and proud that I am. (And yes, I have some aches and pains.)
I'm not Irish - nor English - nor Scotch-American though blood from these forebears flows through my veins.

This is my country - the place I was born; and though far and wide I have roamed; I've never seen anywhere else in the world that compares to America - my home. The land of the free and home of the brave for which many have fought, bled, and died is God's gift to mankind - a Heaven on Earth; well worth our allegiance and pride. So don't burn Old Glory or destroy our land. Don't slander or put down her worth. Thank God for this wonderful country of ours. America - the greatest on Earth.

Now, if you are disgruntled or unhappy here and filled with a heart full of hate; in America you're free to pack up and leave. There's nobody guarding the gate. We all have our problems and differences too, and things might be better, I guess. But when we're compared to the rest of the world, America stands out as "The Best."

(Editor's note. We do not know who wrote this poem. It was given to Janet Harbaugh, a Museum member, by M. Jacye Lusk. Jacye's husband retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Master Sergeant. Jacye is also an Air Force veteran.---Patriots all!!!)

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 22 Sep 2016 Aloysius and Ann Lee Farrell signed up for an annual membership. Al is a WW II Navy Veteran and worked as a TV/Computer Technician. Al and Ann Lee are retired and live in Avon Park FL.

On 26 Sep 2016 Thomas and Carol Monteith signed up for an annual membership. Thomas is a WW II Navy Veteran. Thomas worked as a Florida Power and Light Division Load Dispatcher for 41 years. Thomas and Carol are retired and live in Okeechobee, FL.

On 24 Oct 2016, Kenneth Williams and Joyce Bousquet signed up for a five year membership. Kenneth is a retired Navy Chief Machinist Mate. Kenneth and Joyce are retired and live in Lake Placid, FL.

On 25 Oct 2016, Richard Taylor signed up for an annual membership. Richard is a Navy veteran and worked in sales. Richard is retired and lives in Sebring, FL.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.





The Missiles of October

By: Garland Davis

The Missiles of October

by *davisg022*

During a thirteen-day period fifty-three years ago, the U.S. and the Soviet Union came within hours of going to war. The pilot of an American U-2 spy plane making a high-altitude pass over Cuba on October 14, 1962, photographed a Soviet SS-4 medium-range ballistic missile being assembled for installation.

The critical photographs snapped by U-2 reconnaissance planes over Cuba were shipped for analysis to a top-secret CIA facility in a most unlikely location: a building above the Steuart Ford car dealership in a rundown section of Washington, D.C. While used car salesmen were wheeling and dealing downstairs on October 15, 1962, upstairs CIA analysts in the state-of-the-art National Photographic Interpretation Center were working around the clock to scour hundreds of grainy photographs for evidence of a Soviet ballistic missile site under construction.

Two days after the U-2 flight, on the morning of October 16, 1962, National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy informed President John F. Kennedy that U.S. surveillance aircraft had discovered the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles from American soil. It was the start of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Just before noon, Kennedy convened the first meeting of fourteen administration officials and advisers. The group became as the Executive Committee of the National Security Council.

Time was of the essence. Executive Committee members received estimates that the Soviet missiles could be at full operation within fourteen days. Individual missiles could probably be readied within eighteen hours under a crash program. Most of the missiles were determined to be SS-4's with a range of approximately 1,100 nautical miles. This placed major American cities, including Dallas and Washington, DC, within strike range. Later photos showed that SS-5's with a range of 2,200 nautical miles were also included in the arms shipments from the USSR.

For seven days, the Executive Committee debated the merits of three approaches to the developing crisis, while keeping a tight public lid on the Cuban discovery. The first was a surgical air strike targeting as many of the missiles as possible. The second was an air strike followed by a U.S. military invasion of the island. The third was a blockade of Soviet ships thought to be carrying materials in support of the offensive missile systems.

The president opted for the blockade, calling it a termed quarantine so as to avoid warlike connotations. This was to allow diplomatic approaches to work whereas direct military action wouldn't.

On October 22, in anticipation of a military reaction to the quarantine, the Joint Chiefs of Staff placed military forces worldwide on a DEFCON 3 alert. At five that afternoon Kennedy met with the bi-partisan leaders of Congress. At six, the Secretary of state met with the Soviet ambassador and presented him with an advance copy of the Presidents upcoming address to the American Public.

The Missiles of October- continued

by davisg022

In a TV address at seven PM on October 22, 1962, President John Kennedy (1917-63) notified Americans about the presence of the missiles, explained his decision to enact a naval quarantine around Cuba and made it clear the U.S. was prepared to use military force if necessary to neutralize this perceived threat to national security.

By the evening of October 23, Kennedy and the Executive Committee had new worries. Earlier in the day, the Central Intelligence Agency began tracking several Soviet submarines unexpectedly moving toward Cuba. The submarines complicated the Navy's task of conducting the quarantine, as it now had to track the submarines to ensure the safety of the naval units conducting the quarantine. Also, they were tracking nineteen Soviet cargo ships identified as on course for Cuba.

The quarantine, with the unanimous backing of the Organization of American States, went into effect at 10 AM on October 24.

Early intelligence on that day indicated that sixteen of the nineteen Soviet cargo ships bound for Cuba had reversed course. The remaining three were nearing the quarantine line, including the ships Gagarin and Komiles. Naval intelligence reported that a Soviet submarine had taken a position between the two ships. The president though wanting to avoid conflict authorized the USS Essex to take whatever defensive measures against the submarine. This was probably the most dangerous moment of the Cold War, as both nations were within mere moments of turning the war hot.

Khrushchev blinked! Just before armed hostilities, both Soviet ships stopped dead in the water and eventually reversed course.

During the next four days, the diplomats crafted an agreement that would remove Soviet missiles from Cuba in exchange for the United States removal of Jupiter missiles from Turkey and a pledge to not invade Cuba. The situation deteriorated somewhat when a U2 was shot down over Cuba. Sensing that he was losing control of the crisis, Kennedy decided not to retaliate against the anti-aircraft site, much to the consternation of military leaders.

On the morning of October 28, Radio Moscow broadcast a speech by Khrushchev wherein he stated that all Soviet missiles in Cuba would be dismantled and crated. The Cuban Missile crisis was over.

I arrived in North Carolina on October 14 on thirty days leave between NAS Lemoore California and USS Vesuvius. I think I spent a good part of that leave listening to the news waiting for a recall. There was a fear of nuclear war and the idea that it might happen. There was also the thought that I was going to miss the action while on leave. If the Navy had told me to report to Norfolk or Charleston, I would have been on the road immediately.

It was a good time to wear the uniform. The girls were more than willing to comfort a sailor who might have to go to war soon. Of course, I tried to refrain from taking any unfair advantage of the girls, but I just couldn't bring myself to deny them the opportunity to serve their country in some small way during this time of peril.

Contributed by CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret)

Thank You Doc for this great piece of history.

Anniversaries

12 Oct 1492. Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas.

13 Oct 1775. U.S. Navy established. The Continental Congress established the Continental Navy by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning and dispatch of two armed vessels to search for munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. All together the Continental Navy numbered some 50 ships with about 20 warships active at its maximum strength over the course of the War for Independence. Today, the U.S. Navy is the most powerful Navy in the world. Happy 241st birthday U.S. Navy!

1 Oct 1880. John Philip Sousa appointed leader of the Marine Band.

27 Oct 1922. U.S. Navy Day established by the Navy League of the United States. The League selected October 27th to celebrate Navy Day because it was the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, a naval enthusiast.

26 Oct 1944. The U.S. Navy defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese Navy was rendered virtually powerless.

23 Oct 1983. A truck pulled up to the four-story U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Seconds later, the Hezbollah suicide bomber inside the truck detonated explosives equal to 12,000 pounds of TNT. The Marine Barracks collapsed killing 241 Americans, 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers. This was the deadliest terrorist attack on Americans before 11 September 2001, and the deadliest single day for the U.S. Marine Corps since Iwo Jima.

13 Oct 1987. The United States Navy Memorial opened in Washington, DC.

12 October 2000. The USS COLE (DDG-67) attacked by Al Qaeda terrorist using a small boat laden with explosives in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. Seventeen USS COLE crew members were killed and 39 were wounded. The USS COLE was severely damaged, but was repaired.

7 Oct 2001. Afghanistan War began. Operation Enduring Freedom

10 Nov 1775. U.S. Marine Corps established. Captain Samuel Nicholas working out of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia formed two battalions of Continental Marines as Naval infantry. Since then, the U.S. Marine Corps served in every American conflict. Today, the U.S. Marine Corps is the world's dominant practitioner of amphibious warfare. Happy 241st birthday U.S. Marine Corps.

11 Nov 1918. World War I ended at 1100. On the first anniversary of the end of World War I, President Wilson declared November 11th, Armistice Day. However, it wasn't until 1938 that Armistice Day became a federal holiday. At that time the holiday was to promote world peace and to honor the service of members of every military branch. In 1954, Congress, working under President Eisenhower, changed the name of the holiday to Veteran's Day to include soldiers who fought in World War II and the Korean War. Today, Veterans Day is a day to honor all veterans for their patriotism and honorable service.

Anniversaries- continued

12-15 Nov 1942. Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. A Japanese taskforce led by two battleships set out to demolish U.S. Marine held Henderson Field and its aircraft. Two U.S. Navy task groups led by Rear Admiral David Callaghan and Rear Admiral Norman Scott intercepted the Japanese warships before they could range Henderson Field. During three nights and two days of fighting, the Japanese lost 2 battleships, 3 destroyers, 11 transport ships, and 64 aircraft. The U.S. Navy lost 2 light cruisers, 7 destroyers, and 36 planes. The Japanese failure to neutralize Henderson Field and to put appreciable reinforcement troops and supplies ashore was a significant U.S. strategic victory. Within a month, the Japanese Navy and Army abandoned Guadalcanal. Admirals Callaghan and Scott were killed during the battle. They are the only two U.S. Navy Admirals to be killed in a surface engagement.

13 Nov 1942. During the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, the light cruiser USS JUNEAU (CL-52) was hit by a torpedo fired from the Japanese sub I-26. Approximately 115 of USS JUNEAU's crew survived the explosion. Because of uncertainty about the number of Japanese ships in the area, rescue attempts did not begin for several days. Due to losses from exhaustion, exposure, and shark attacks, only ten sailors were rescued from the water eight days after the sinking. The five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa were among the 687 men lost.

Quotable Quotes

Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it has to be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.---Ronald Regan

If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.---General George S. Patton, Jr.

It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.---George Washington

The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.---John Adams

Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic, expression of Americanism. Thus, the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be.---Dwight D. Eisenhower