

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

April 2019

A message from the President



John Cecil

Greetings,

A great start to the year. We had 557 visitors during the first four months of the year. Sebring's winter guests are starting to depart for the North consequently we will see the decline in visitors that usually occurs during the summer months. This is an excellent time of the year for groups of school children, scouts, etc. to visit the Museum.

The ceiling and lighting projects mentioned in the February Scuttlebutt have been completed. The WW II era ceiling in the front entrance (quarterdeck) has been replaced with dry wall, textured, and painted. Additional led lighting has been strategically

installed to better light up our artifacts. As predicted, these improvements, along with the new ceiling in the library area, have greatly enhanced the appearance of the Museum and its artifacts.

Many thanks to Kerry Horn from contractor Ted The Painter who did the ceiling work, and to Fred Carino and Steve Safford who installed the lighting. Additionally, Fred Carino his brother Chris, and JROTC Cadet Micah Marsh created several new displays and Steve Safford rehabilitated the Museum's outside sign. Many thanks to Fred, Chris, Micah, and Steve for these improvements.

If you haven't been to the Museum in a while, you need to stop in to appreciate these and many other recent improvements to the building and displays.

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Steve Safford Redid Our Sign

---A Job Well Done---

Thank You Steve



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/>

A message from the President (Cont'd)

Once again the Board of Directors expresses its sincere thank you to Bill Fincke and Gordon White our snow-birds who volunteer at the Museum while in Sebring. Both Bill and Gordon are life members of the Museum. This was the ninth winter for Bill from Bethlehem, PA, and the fifth winter for Gordon from Mount Sydney, VA. The Board also thanks Mike Borders and John and Janet Harbaugh from Sebring. Mike is kept busy as President of the local Chapter of MOAA (the Military Officers Association of America). When he can make time, Mike volunteers at the Museum. John is a MOAA member and the President of the local Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, he and Janet also volunteer at the Museum when they have time. Bill, Gordon, Mike, and the Harbaughs provide welcome relief to me, Fred Carino, Sam Stowers, Tim Cannon, Ken Wells, Betsy Waddell, Joe Suggs, and Gene Kissner who volunteer at the Museum year around. With few permanent local residents volunteering, the Museum Board of Directors is concerned about burn-out, so we thank God for people like Bill, Gordon, Mike, and John and Janet. Of course, it goes without saying, that the Board is very thankful for our year around volunteers.

New membership policy. The Board of Directors adopted a policy to provide free membership to people 90 years old and older. We identified 14 current members who are 90 or older. Because we do not collect dates of birth on members, it is possible we missed some members who are 90 or older. If you received a dues reminder from the Museum and you are 90 or older, please return the reminder with a note that you are 90 or older. You do not have to pay the dues.

John

Memorial Day Observance at the Museum

The Veterans Council of Highlands County will hold a ceremony to observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 27th, at 1400 (2:00 PM) at the Military Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Avenue, one mile east of Sebring High School at the corner of Kenilworth Blvd and Roseland Ave. The ceremony will honor all who died while serving in the nation's armed forces. The guest speaker will be Medal of Honor recipient Major General James E. Livingston, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired. The Museum will offer guided tours immediately following the ceremony. All Museum members and the public are invited and encouraged to attend. The observance will be held outside the Museum and there will be plenty of covered seating available. Call the Museum at 863-385-0992 for additional details.

Quotable Quotes

The Navy is much more than a job; much more than service to country. It is a way of life. It gets in your blood. --- Albert F. Pratt

The United States Navy is the envy of every other navy in the world. They don't want to be like us--they want to be us. --- Leighton Smith

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory. -- General George S. Patton, Jr.

If we maintain our faith in God, love of freedom, and superior global air power, the future looks good.
--- General Curtis LeMay

I will tell you I love this country, I love this country as much as I can love anything; my family, my country, my God. --- Donald J. Trump

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 23 March 2019, Roger and Anna Jayne Feller became annual members of the Museum. Roger is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War and a retired Michigan Gas Company employee. Roger and Anna Jayne live in Sebring, FL.

On 24 March 2019, Karen Fleetwood reinstated her membership. Karen was a member from 2005 through 2011. During the period 2012 to date, Karen continued to support the Museum. Karen helped with Museum functions and attended many of the monthly dinners with her mother Dot Fleetwood (life member) and Sister Maureen (member). Karen is a teacher who lives in Ocala, Florida.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our new and reinstated 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 Museum Still Needs Volunteers

We are very grateful to Betsy Waddell, David Smutnick, and Judy Perkins for recently stepping up and volunteering to take the Vice President, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator positions respectively. Now we need volunteers to step up to prepare our newsletter "Scuttlebutt," and to manage our web site "<http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>." To volunteer and/or to obtain information on these jobs, contact John Cecil, 863-385-2270, or Gene Kissner, 863-382-4047, or the Museum, 863-385-0992. We also need volunteers to become Museum Docents. To volunteer and/or obtain information on the Docent Positions, contact Fred Carino, 863-381-3636, or the Museum 863-385-0992.

Do You Remember This WW II Medal of Honor Recipient?

LT John J. Powers, USN. Naval aviators played a pivotal role in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Perhaps no other pilot showed as much courage while facing the Japanese fleet as LT Powers. To ensure he sunk as many enemy ships as possible, LT Powers would dive his plane to within feet of the deck of a Japanese ship before releasing his payload. He knew flying that low was suicide -- but he also knew that winning this battle was more important than his own life. LT Powers was last seen recovering from a dive at the extremely low altitude of 200 feet to ensure a direct hit on a Japanese carrier. LT John James Powers, USN, was Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for distinguished and conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while Pilot of an airplane of Bombing Squadron FIVE (VB-5) attached to the USS YORKTOWN (CV-5). Lieutenant Powers participated, with his squadron, in five engagements with Japanese forces in the Coral Sea Area during the period 4 to 8 May 1942.

Did You Know That

the "Great Mariana Turkey Shoot" took place in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Saipan, one of the Mariana Islands. During the battle on 19 and 20 June 1944, the Japanese lost about 433 carrier based aircraft and around 200 land based aircraft. The Japanese also lost three aircraft carriers, two sunk by U.S. Navy submarines and one sunk by Navy aircraft. By the time the Japanese fleet escaped to Okinawa, it had only 35 carrier based aircraft remaining. The U.S. lost 123 aircraft, most resulting from night landings.

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[Kamikaze, April 11, 1945](#)

by [davisg022](#)

On April 11, 1945, ten days into the Battle for Okinawa, sixteen Tokkō Tai (Kamikaze) pilots take off from their base at Kanoya, Japan.

At noon, Battleship USS Missouri is northeast of Okinawa.

"Air Defense" is sounded at approx. 1430 as an incoming "bogey" is picked up on radar and spotted by binoculars 7500 yards out.



(Photo taken by the Ship's baker "Buster" Campbell)

Anti-aircraft fire commences immediately and hits are observed, the "Zeke" (Mitsubishi A6M Zero) is smoking and losing altitude.

At 4000 yards the incoming aircraft is hit again, losing altitude rapidly and appears about to splash.

The pilot fights to regain altitude and keeps coming through the hail of anti-aircraft fire.

Missouri's gun crews stand their ground, continuing to fire as the low-flying 'Zeke' bears down upon the ship, the Japanese pilot fighting to maintain control and lift his damaged aircraft.

At 1443 the left wing of the 'Zeke' strikes Missouri barely inches below the main deck, deflecting the nose hard into the steel hull of the ship at frame 160, the propeller cutting the main deck heading as wreckage is strewn on deck.

Upon impact, the right wing is torn loose and catapults forward, landing on the 01 level above the starboard boat davit where fire erupts.

The Damage Control crew rushes to extinguish the flames as billowing black smoke is drawn into engineering spaces below.

The fire is quickly put out and no serious injuries are reported.

After the attack, as the crew hoses down the deck and sweeps debris from the ship, the pilot's remains are discovered among the wreckage.

Missouri's commanding officer, Captain William M. Callaghan, is notified and issues orders for the ship's medical personnel to receive and prepare the body for burial at sea.

Missouri remains on alert, steaming as before.

A Burial At Sea

At 0900 on April 12, 1945 in waters northeast of Okinawa, as the last major battle of World War II rages at sea and ashore, the body of a Japanese pilot, who attacked the battleship USS Missouri the day prior, is readied for burial at sea.

Tales of an Asia Sailor



(Continued)



[Kamikaze, April 11, 1945](#)
by [davisg022](#)

The pilot's body is placed in a canvas shroud and draped with a Japanese flag sewn by Missouri crew. Members of the ship's company stand by as the flag-draped body is brought on deck from sickbay and carried by a 6-man burial detail toward the rail near to the point of impact.

Those present come to attention and offer a hand-salute as the Marine rifle detail aims their weapons skyward to render a three-volley salute over the remains.

As the battleship USS Missouri continues on through gentle swells, a bandsman steps forward, his bugle raised and the lingering notes of "Taps" drift out across the sea.

Senior Chaplain, Commander Roland Faulk, steps to the head of the burial detail and concludes, saying simply: "We commit his body to the deep."

The burial detail tilts the flag-draped body, the weighted white canvas shroud slipping over the side, disappearing into ocean depths below.

As Missouri continues on course, the burial detail gathers and folds the Japanese flag.

It was concluded that 19-year old, former railroad worker, Petty Officer 2nd class, Setsuo Ishino from the squadron that attacked the American task force on April 11, was very likely, the pilot of the Zeke who crashed Missouri.

[davisg022](#) | April 18, 2019

Thank you CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret) for this interesting piece of history.

Museum Will Participate in International Museum Day

Sebring—The Military Sea Services Museum will be open on extended hours from Wednesday, May 15 through Saturday, May 18, 2019. The museum will be open from noon until 5:00 p.m. on these dates. Guides will bring visitors through the 4,000 square foot building which houses hundreds of artifacts, mementos and exhibits on the history, culture and traditions of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. A special exhibit will feature information about the upcoming 75th Anniversary of D-Day - The Allied Invasion at Normandy, France which occurred on June 6, 1944.

The Military Sea Services Museum is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the customs and traditions of the three military sea services: the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the waterborne branches of the Army, Air Force, Merchant Marine and NOAA. The museum is a 501 (c)(3) entity and is staffed entirely by volunteers.

The museum is located at the corner of Kenilworth and Roseland avenues, about a mile east of Sebring High School. Admission is always free. Donations are gladly accepted. For more information, contact the museum at 863-385-0992.

Thank You Fred Carino, Museum Curator for the information on this important event.

A U.S. Coast Guard World War II Hero Few Know About



Charles Walter David Jr., who served as a Steward's Mate in the United States Coast Guard, died on 29 March 1943 of pneumonia after rescuing other sailors from the frigid North Atlantic. He was assigned to the USCGC Comanche during World War II, which was assigned to escort a convoy that included the Dorchester, a troop transport, when it was torpedoed by a U-boat off Greenland. David volunteered to dive into the frigid waters to rescue exhausted crew and passengers from the Dorchester. David also rescued several other Comanche crew members, who grew exhausted. Tragically, David came down with pneumonia after the exertion of the rescue, dying a few days later. He was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Thank you CDR Fred Carino, USN (Ret), Museum Curator for this piece of history

[Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial Foundation](#)
March 29 at 6:06 PM ·

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[Captain's Mast Afloat](#)
by [davisq022](#)



RM1 Jernigan (I know, he wouldn't mind me using his real name for this story) was my friend. I was a twenty-three old kid, way too young to be a First Class Petty Officer and Claude was a thirty-five old First Class Radioman looking forward to retirement in a couple of years. What the hell, the best way I can explain our friendship, I was a cook and he liked to eat. I'll tell the story the way he told it to me.

"It was 1949 and I was on a Fletcher Class Tin Can rocking and rolling between Taiwan and China. We had been doing the Formosa Straits patrol for a month before we were relieved. After we took on chow from a stores ship and fuel from a tanker, we departed the area for five days in Hong Kong.

Tales of an Asia Sailor

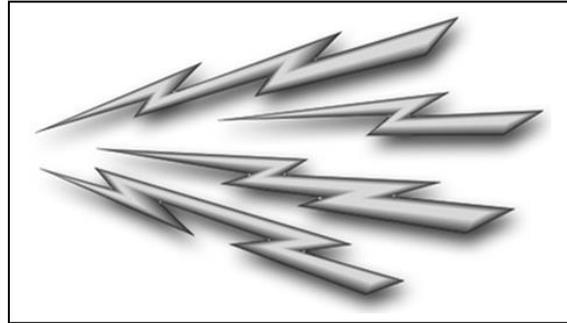


(Continued)



[Captain's Mast Afloat](#)

by [davisg022](#)



The day we pulled in to Hong Kong was a good day for me. I made RM3 for the first time that day, I had a forty-eight, duty the third day, another forty-eight, and almost three paydays in my pocket.

After the first two days, I stood a duty day and then had another forty-eight. I got my days mixed up and missed ship's movement. As soon as I realized it, I turned myself into the Station ship which was getting underway that morning.

I rode them for a couple of days until we rendezvoused with my ship and I was high lined across. As soon as I stepped on deck and started taking off the life jacket so it could be sent back across, the word was passed over the 1MC, 'RMSN Jernigan lay to the bridge.'

That was all the formality of my C.O.'s Mast and the first time I made and lost Third...
...but not the last time."

[davisg022](#) | January 25, 2019

Thank You CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret) for this story of quick justice.

Mailed Copies

If you are receiving the Scuttlebutt via U.S. Postal Service, we do not have a current email address for you. If you have email, please forward your email address to navmargrd@gmail.com. You will receive the Scuttlebutt in a more timely manner and you will save the Museum postage and printing costs.

Anniversaries

30 April 1789. George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

15 April 1865. President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington. Andrew Johnson became the 17th President of the United States.

Anniversaries (Cont'd.)

1 April 1893. U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer rating established. Happy 126th birthday Chiefs. Throughout the years, the Chiefs have been known at the backbone of the U.S. Navy.

25 April 1898. U.S. Congress declared war with Spain. The Spanish-American War lasted 10 weeks and resulted in an American victory.

11 April 1900. Navy buys submarine Holland VI. - - - U.S. Navy Submarine Force born.

14 April 1912. The British liner RMS Titanic struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland at 11:40 p.m. ship's time and began sinking. Titanic went under two hours and 40 minutes later with the loss of 1,514 people while less than half as many survived.

6 April 1917. U.S. enters World War I.

21 April 1918 German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Baron," is shot down and killed at age 25 over Vaux-sur-Somme, France. He had 80 confirmed kills.

10 April 1942. Bataan Death March begins.

18 April 1942. The Doolittle Raiders, used B-25 bombers launched from the USS Hornet (CV-8) to strike Tokyo.

18 April 1943. U.S. Army P-38 fighter planes shoot down the airplane carrying Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto over Bougainville Island in the Solomon Islands..

7 April 1945. U.S. Navy carrier based planes sink the Japanese battleship Yamato as it heads for Okinawa.

30 April 1945. Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide in a Berlin bunker as Soviet troops advance through the city.

3 April 1949. NATO founded.

9 April 1959. NASA introduced the first seven U.S. Astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glen, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Donald Slayton. Unfortunately, with the death of John Glen in 2017, all seven of these American Heroes are dead.

10 April 1963. USS THRESHER (SSN 593) the worlds most advanced attack submarine of the time was lost in the Gulf of Maine during a post overhaul test dive. The entire 129 member crew was lost in the world's worst submarine disaster ever. This tragedy led directly to significant changes in the Navy's submarine safety programs that have kept the U.S. Navy submarines safe ever since.

15 April 1969. U.S. Navy EC-121 belonging to VQ-1 was shot down by two North Korean MIG-17s while on a reconnaissance mission over the Sea of Japan. The EC-121 crashed 90 nautical miles off the North Korean coast. All 31 Americans aboard were killed. The U.S. did not retaliate against North Korea other than a naval demonstration in the Sea of Japan a few days later and resumption of reconnaissance flights.

30 April 1975. Saigon fell to North Vietnamese troops. One day after the largest helicopter evacuation in history where 7000 Americans and South Vietnamese were evacuated.

12 April 1981. First U.S. space shuttle launched.

Anniversaries (Cont'd.)

11 April 1991. Persian Gulf War official cease fire.

19 April 1995. Oklahoma City federal building bombed in a domestic terrorist attack by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. The attack killed 168 people and injured 680 others. McVeigh was executed 11 June 2001, Nichols was sentenced to life in prison.

1 May 1898. Admiral Dewey's squadron destroys Spanish squadron in Manila Bay.

13 May 1908. Navy Nurse Corps established.

4-8 May 1942. Battle of the Coral Sea. U.S. Navy repels the Japanese. This helps save Australia and blocks the Japanese juggernaut in the Pacific.

7 May 1941. Bob Hope's first USO show, March Field Air Base, California.

5 May 1945. Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain near Bly, Oregon, killing Elsie Mitchell (pregnant wife of Pastor Alfred Mitchell and five children ranging in age from 11 to 14. This was the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II in the continental U.S. The Mitchell Monument marks the spot of the explosion.

7 May 1945. Unconditional surrender of all German forces signed.

8 May 1945. Victory in Europe (V-E Day) is declared.

10 May 1925. U.S. Coast Guard Band Established.

1 May 1960. The Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

2 May 2011. U.S. Navy SEALs kill Al-Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden in his compound in Bilal Town, Abbottabad, Pakistan. Seal Team Six, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) "Night Stalkers," and CIA's Special Activities Division participated in the raid on Bin Laden's compound.

15 May 2019. Peace Officers Memorial Day observed. U.S. flag half-staff sunrise to sunset.

18 May 2019. Armed Forces Day celebrated. Fly the U.S. flag.

27 May 2019. Memorial Day observed. U.S. flag half-staff sunrise to noon.

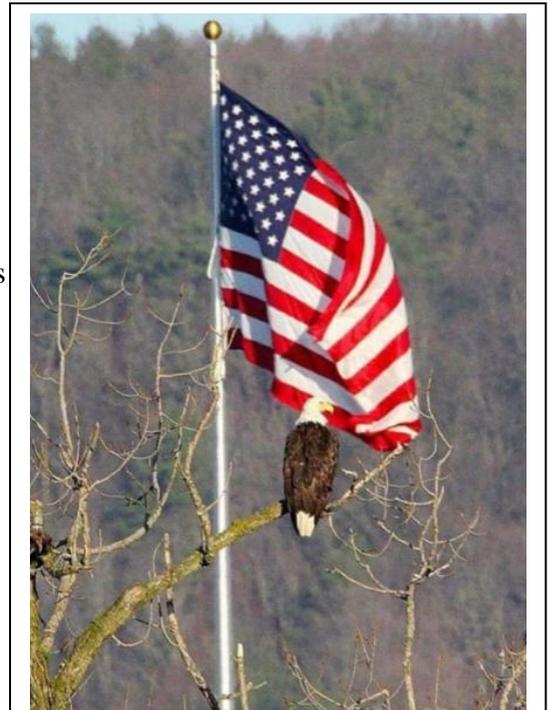


Photo by James Cobos

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.

One of Fred's Sea Stories

This was sent to an ole Destroyer School classmate some years ago.

Did 24 months as Cheng (Chief Engineer) in Meyerkord FF-1058 then 18 months as Cheng in Horne CG-30 where this story takes place.

It's summer 1983 and we're westbound nearing the Philippines with the USS Ranger BG. Lynde McCormick DDG-8 is out to the northwest about 100 miles on picket. We roll up to change stations with her on one of those clear, smooth almost glassy days in the deep blue Pacific. I was on my way to the bridge by way of the signal bridge for some reason or other, in my snipe green coveralls, when I spotted LM off the port side. I coaxed the signal man to send them a Cheng to Cheng flashing light message, "I can blow your doors for a bottle of Scotch." Shortly a flashing light message came back with, "LM to Horne for a bottle of Scotch you can eat my dust!" Whereupon I chopped on over to the port bridge wing and handed this signal (and not the one I had sent) to Captain Brenton P. Hardy. "Does this mean they want to race?" he asked. I innocently responded, "Sure sounds like it to me." Off a flashing light goes back and now the COs are on VHF setting it up. We each had 2 boilers on line, but of course McCormick was only half the displacement of Horne with the same shaft horsepower. It was agreed that we would start stems abreast, with 500 yards separation on parallel courses. Captain Hardy brought up a crewman with a bugle. When he sounded the cavalry charge we would go to full speed. Whichever ship was ahead at the end of 30 minutes would be the winner. In the meantime, I had growled up my senior Chief Boiler Tech who was Engineer Officer of the Watch in main control and told him to crank off the overspeed governors on the forced draft blowers. He complied with a cheery, "Aye, aye." As the bugle blared CHARGE! we began cranking on turns. We were immediately and always ahead of McCormick and as her stem fell abaft our stern we observed a long puff of white smoke coming out of her after stack. They were trying to light off a third boiler. Meanwhile we kept moving ahead. At the end of 30 minutes we were more than 5 miles ahead of our erstwhile mates. Fast forward to Subic Bay a week later. We had been moored at SRF for a day and hadn't heard from the Lynde McCormick. Next morning, I made my way onto the LM's quarterdeck and asked to see their Cheng. He came on deck in greasy coveralls and brought me to his cabin. There, he admitted trying to bring a 3rd boiler on and in the process lost the 2nd boiler. He opened his safe and brought out a fifth of Chivas Regal. I thanked him and returned to Horne. With my MPA, two Boiler Chiefs and Machinist Chiefs in tow we knocked on Captain Hardy's stateroom door and when all were admitted handed him his Scotch on which hung an engraved brass plate etched with, "Winner of the 1983 Great North Pacific Race USS Horne CG-30". This episode cost a little fuel but did wonders for our crew's morale. Incidentally, during passage through the San Bernardino Straits, on the way to Subic Bay, we received the message from Naval Surface Forces Pacific that Horne had won the Engineering red "E". So steaming along at 20 knots, each of my division officers, NCOs and myself in turn was hoisted aloft in a bosun's chair to get in our brush strokes as we painted the big red "E" on the smokestack. What a great bunch of guys.

Thank you CDR Fred Carino, USN (Ret), Museum Curator for your interesting sea story.