

# *Scuttlebutt*



***MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.***



**May/June 2022**



**John Cecil**

## ***A message from the President***

The month of May will be busy at the Sea Services Museum. We have already had over 300 guests this year. Our guest speaker for the combined event on 5/30, will be James D. McTigue, CAPT. USN Ret. Captain McTigue is a Veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, and Operation Praying Mantis during the Iran-Iraq conflict that resulted in the damage to the USS Cole DDG67 during refueling operations in Aden, Yemen. Capt. McTigue also saw action during Operation Desert Storm, later called the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Way. Numerous dignitaries from Highlands County have also been invited. Tents and seating will be available. A museum video has been completed and should be on the website shortly. Until next time, “Fair Winds & Following Seas”.



your



## **MUSEUM HAPPENINGS**

On 30 May, the Military Sea Services Museum is honored to host a Memorial Day Celebration, as well as the 24<sup>th</sup> birthday of the MSSM. Master of Ceremonies, Mike Borders, COL USA Ret., will kick off the proceedings promptly at 2pm. Introduction of distinguished guests by MSSM President John Cecil will follow. Our Nations Colors will be paraded by the Sebring High School Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard and Mrs. Becky McIntyre will sing the National Anthem. A Ceremonial Cake Cutting, tours and refreshments will follow.

## **Mason G. Smoak Foundation**

21 sophomores, with Executive Director, Deena Wright, of the Mason G. Smoak Foundation were welcomed into the Military Sea Services Museum on 3/25 by President John Cecil, for a pre-arranged group tour. Following an introduction by Mike Borders, COL USA Ret., the students from all 3 Highlands County H.S.'s were separated, assigned docent's and given personalized tours.

## **FOUNDATION MISSION**

We are a faith-based organization that will **SUPPORT** education **PROMOTE** environmental stewardship and **FOSTER** opportunities for leadership development in a manner reflective of Mason's integrity and character.



Deena Wright accepts a picture of a P38 Lightning.



Eric Heestand presents the history of the USS Highlands APA119.



Mike Borders discusses the wood deck on the model of the USS Worcester CL119, a cruiser involved in WWII.



John Cecil explains examples of navigational aids utilized by the sea services.

The Mason G Smoak Foundation, located in Lake Placid, Florida is a student leadership non-profit organization. These exemplary students displayed a sincere interest in exhibits within the museum. They were courteous, disciplined, and attentive as they questioned the museum docents on specific items. Of interest to the docents were the personal back stories of the students, related to knowledge gained through previous interactions.

The consensus of all volunteers of the museum is “these prospective leaders of our country will always be welcome”. The demeanor of these students was like a breath of fresh air. We are sure they made Mason proud.

For additional information see;

<https://www.masongsmoakfoundation.org>





# **Asian American – Pacific Islander Month**

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The President issues each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, and the chief executive officers of each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau to observe Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month according to the Presidential Proclamation (2015),

During Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we celebrate the accomplishments of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and we reflect on the many ways they have enriched our Nation. Like America itself, the AAPI community draws strength from the diversity of its many distinct cultures. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have helped build, defend, and strengthen our Nation -- as farm workers and railroad laborers, entrepreneurs, and scientists, as artists, activists, and leaders of government. They have gone beyond, embodying the soaring aspirations of the American spirit.

Today there are over 65,000 Asian American and Pacific Islanders serving in active duty in our Armed Forces. The AAPI story follows along with all the stories of minority peoples in our country who have served in our military despite the discrimination that they experienced in our society. AAPI have become the majority minority, displacing Hispanics.

## **The Origin of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

Congress, on 5 October 1978 authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim the 7-day period beginning on 4 May 1979 as “Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.” The week coincides with two dates: 7 May 1869, the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States, and 10 May 1869, the “Golden Spike Day,” the day that the transcontinental railroad was completed. Congress extended this to a month on 14 May 1991. Public Law 102-450 permanently designated May of each year as Asian/Pacific Heritage Month and authorized and requested that the President issue annually a proclamation asking Americans to observe the month.

## **U.S. Military Service of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of various nationalities and ancestry—Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Southeast Asian, Asian Indian, and Polynesian—have a rich legacy of service and sacrifice in the United States Navy dating back to the 19th century. The U.S. Navy had maintained a presence in East Asia since the 1830s to safeguard American interests during the Chinese civil unrest. Ships whose crews’ counted men of Asian descent on the Asiatic Station protected U.S. commerce, missionaries, and diplomats in the region. During the American Civil War, Chinese men served on dozens of Union vessels. The U.S. gunboat *Ashuelot*, part of the Asiatic Fleet, 1883 had a crew that was four-fifths Asian-born from Thailand, Japan, or China. In 1898, the battleship *Maine* exploded and sank in Havana Harbor. The blast, which killed 266 men, including those of Japanese and Chinese extraction, provided the catalyst for a war with Spain that spread to its colonies in the Far East where the U.S. Asiatic Squadron,

commanded by Commodore George Dewey, defeated the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay. As a result of the war, the United States gained the Philippines as a territory as well as other island possessions in the Pacific and the Caribbean. These events enabled large numbers of Filipinos and other Pacific islanders to join the U.S. Navy.

Asian Americans continued to turn up on the rolls of U.S. warships. Navy Fireman First Class Teleflora de la Cruze Trinidad, a Filipino, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing two men after a boiler exploded on board *San Diego* on 21 January 1915. The destroyer USS *Rizal*, newly commissioned in 1919, was donated to the U.S. Navy by the Philippine legislature and named in honor of the martyred Philippine patriot Dr. Jose Rizal (1861–1996). Her crew was predominantly Filipino American.

Although barred from the naval service and interned by the U.S. government following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans fought in some of the Army's most decorated units. Filipino Americans, Korean Americans and Asian Americans served as nurses and as linguists in the Navy's female reserve program. Chinese American Hazel Ying Lee a Women Air Force Service Pilots died in the line of duty. Maggie Gee gave pilots their qualifying flights and flew planes for artillery exercises. The three Ahn siblings, Ralph, Philip and Susan, from one of California's first Korean immigrant families, enlisted in the U.S. military in 1942. Lieutenant Susan Ahn Cuddy was the first Korean American woman in the U.S. military and the first female Navy gunnery officer.

Among the many Asian Pacific Americans who distinguished themselves during World War II was Daniel K. Inouye, a Hawaiian native, fought in France's Rhone valley when he received a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant. Injured and under enemy fire, destroyed three German bunkers that allowed his unit to seize the ridge guarding a critical road near San Terenzo, Italy. His right arm had to be amputated. After a reevaluation of the military accomplishments of Asian Americans in World War II, President Bill Clinton presented Senator Inouye with the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Italy. In 1954, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Hawaii, the first Asian American member of Congress. Eight years later he continued representing his state as a Senator and held that position until his death in 2012.

Commander Gordon Chung-Hoon, a Chinese-Hawaiian and a 1934 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, commanded the destroyer USS *Sigsbee* (DD-502) in the Pacific Theater, which earned him the Silver Star. On 14 April 1945, when kamikazes attacked *Sigsbee* and five other destroyers off Okinawa, one plane crashed *Sigsbee*'s stern. Chung-Hoon received the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest medal and the nation's second highest combat decoration for his actions. He retired in 1959 as a two-star admiral and the nation's first Asian Pacific American flag officer. The 1965 Immigration Act which lifted the heavy restrictions on Asian immigration that prevailed throughout most of the 20th century.

Commander Gordon Ross Nakagawa flew 185 combat missions in the A-6 intruder during deployments to Vietnam. He was the Executive Officer of Attack Squadron 196 flying from USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) when his A6A intruder was shot down during a single plan low level night strike against Haiphong. He was a Prisoner of War at the infamous Hanoi Hilton from 15 months. Nakagawa continued his service until his retirement in the rank of captain. His son, Navy Captain Steven Nakagawa, also flew the A-6. On 1 June 2012, he took command of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division.

Jim Huen's father enlisted in the Navy in 1932 and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. After Congress passed an act allowing veterans with honorable discharges to get their American citizenship, his father became a U.S. citizen. Jim Huen joined the Navy. He completed supply officer school in Athens, Georgia in 1965. He completed a western Pacific deployment as a food service officer. The ship had 520 crew members. Huen was one of five supply corps officers and the only Chinese American on his ship.

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka, a California native, witnessed the government evicting her family and relocating them in an internment camp, in Arizona, after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This memory did not deter her family from joining the military. Her older brother was a Korean War veteran and her two youngest brothers enlisted in the Army. She was an emergency room nurse when she decided to join them. She served as the Head Nurse at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Bin in 1967. She received the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Robert K. U. Kihune, a 1959 Naval Academy graduate, had an outstanding 35-year career. He commanded two carrier battle groups, participated in the Navy's response to the Lebanon crisis, the capture of terrorists in the Achille Lauro hijacking, and the antiterrorism air strikes against Libya. His promotion to Vice Admiral in 1988 made him the first Asian American to reach that rank. As the Commander of the Pacific Fleet Naval Surface Forces, he provided half of the naval forces in support of the First Gulf War. Captain Tem E. Bugarin, the son of a retired senior chief radioman, was the first Filipino to command a surface combatant ship, USS *Saginaw* (LST-1188) in August 1989. Rear Admiral Eleanor Concepcion Mariano continued her family's legacy of naval service. Her father, a Filipino master chief petty officer, served 29 years in the Navy's steward's branch. Rear Admiral Mariano was the attending physician to the President at the White House for President Clinton and President George W. Bush. President Clinton promoted her to flag rank in 2000, making her the first Filipino American to reach flag rank.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Sailors continue to excel in the 21st century. CAPT David Yoshihara commanded Destroyer Squadron 9 in 2003. His father, retired Navy CAPT Takeshi Yoshihara, was the first Japanese American to attend the Naval Academy. LTJG Jeanette Gracie Shin, the first Buddhist chaplain in the Armed Forces, signed her oath of office in the Pentagon in July 2004. ADM Harry B. Harris Jr. was assigned as the assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2011. His former commands include the Sixth Fleet, command of the U.S. Pacific Command. VADM Raquel C. Bono, Medical Corps, of Asian American and Hispanic Heritage, served as the command surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command, from November 2011 to June 2013 and was then selected as Director, Defense Health Agency.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Sailors also participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mass Communication Specialist First Class Kenneth Takada, a Japanese American, completed four deployments in the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility and earned five Navy Achievement Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was the combat photographer for a special operations unit for one of his tours, which supports naval forces in the Middle East. *Naval*

## “On Eternal Patrol”



USS SCORPION SSN589



SHIPS EMBLEM

1958 - - 1968

### *“There are 2 types of vessels at Sea, “Submarines and Targets”*

*Scorpion*, a Skipjack-class attack submarine, was laid down on 20 August 1958 by the Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 19 December 1959. Between 1961 and 1968, *Scorpion* took part in U.S. and NATO operations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, contributed to the development of nuclear submarine warfare tactics, and deployed for special operations. On 15 February 1968, following an extended overhaul in Norfolk, VA., her homeport, *Scorpion* again headed for the Mediterranean, where she operated with Sixth Fleet. In May, her deployment ended, the submarine headed west for Norfolk. On 21 ay, *Scorpion* indicated her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Six days later, she was reported overdue. A search was initiated, but *Scorpion* and her crew were declared "presumed lost" on 5 June. Her name was struck from the Navy list on 30 June 1968. However, the search continued and, at the end of October, the Navy's oceanographic research ship, *Mizar* (T-AGOR-11), located sections of *Scorpion*'s hull in more than 10,000 feet of water about 400 miles southwest of the Azores. Subsequently, the court of inquiry was reconvened and other vessels, including the submersible *Trieste* (DSV0) were dispatched to the scene. The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's submersible *Alvin* (DSV2) surveyed the wreck site in 1986.

The only other U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine, lost at sea, is the USS *Thresher* SSN 593 in April of 1963.

*May 2022*

<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THUR</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
1	2 <b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800 Call (860) 480-2550</b>	3	4	5 	6	7
8 	9	10	11 BOD Meeting 1630	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 	19	20	21 
22 MSSM Dinner	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30 	31				
<p>May 11, 1969 - during the Vietnam War, the Battle of "Hamburger Hill" began. While attempting to seize the Dong Ap Bia Mountain, U.S. troops repeatedly scaled the hill over a 10-day period and engaged in bloody hand-to-hand combat with the North Vietnamese. After finally securing the objective, American military staff decided to abandon the position, which the North Vietnamese retook shortly thereafter. The battle highlighted the futility of the overall American military strategy.</p>						



## June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	<b>Vietnam Veterans ASSN Mtg Next Monday 1800</b>		1 	2	3	4
5		7	8 BOD MTG 1630	9	10	11
12	13		15	16	 Established 1898	18
	20		22	23	24	25
26	27	28	 National Camera Day	30		
American military hero and actor Audie Murphy was born in Kingston, Texas on June 20, 1925. He was the most decorated American Soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank and firing its .50cal. machine gun killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films, including the "The Red Badge of Courage". He died May 28 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.						

## Did I hear that correctly?

1. **Dance with the Gray Lady.** Coined for the image portrayed when the CO or OOD, drapes their arms over the submarine's periscope handles and rotates the scope to verify the presence or absence of surface contacts.
2. **Show ones True Colors.** It was once common practice for ships to hoist their national flags before commencing battle. Some ships would carry flags from many countries and hoist "false flags" to confuse or mislead their enemies at sea. A practice that was especially common among Spanish ships in the 17th century. This practice also introduced the term "bamboozle" into our language.
3. **Binnacle List.** A ship's sick list. A binnacle was the stand on which the ship's compass was mounted. In the eighteenth century and probably before, a list was given to the officer or mate of the watch, containing the names of men unable to report for duty. The list was kept at the binnacle.
4. **Piping.** Boatswains have been in charge of the deck force since the days of sail. Setting sails, heaving lines, and hosting anchors required coordinated team effort and boatswains used whistle signals to order the coordinated actions. When visitors were hoisted aboard or over the side, the pipe was used to order "Hoist Away" or "Avast heaving." In time, piping became a naval honor on shore as well as at sea.
5. **In the Doldrums.** The "doldrums" refers to the belt around the Earth near the equator. Because there is often little surface wind for ships' sails to use in this geographic location, sailing ships got stuck on its windless waters. Over time, people equated the calmness of the doldrums with being listless or depressed.
6. **Booby.** Here is perfectly legitimate dictionary word used to describe a foolish person. It gets its meaning from the crazy antics of the booby bird. i.e. Albatross.

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