

# Scuttlebutt

*MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.*



Sep/Oct 2022



**John Cecil**

## *A message from the President*

I hope everyone has kept cool as it's been uncomfortably warm this year. The museum has been busy doing repairs and replacing aging equipment. Bravo Zulu to Fred Carino, Al Whitbeck Jr. and Micah Marsh for performing those needed repairs. We also have had to replace two costly, end of life security cameras. Because of our faithful supporters, we have the finances to repair and replace equipment as needed. The museum's ship builders are busy collecting materials to construct a Coast Guard ship to grow our fleet. Membership has grown by two this month. Miss Baylee Dillmore and

Micah Marsh. We continue to promote the Memory Walk and have installed concrete pans around the cannon static display on the north side of the property. Also, we need to replace wood sheets covering the windows on the south side of the building.

## **Museum Happenings**

Check out the new MSSM video @

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGehKclhcVM>

## **The Fleet's In!**

The museum has received two large donations of model ships, planes, and armored vehicles from two model builders: Halley Wilson (Sebring) and the estate of Bob Sinclair (Deland). About 25 have come from Wilson and 53 from Sinclair. Most of these are now on display in various parts of the museum and accentuate the stories of the events represented. We thank Mr. Wilson for his diverse donation and thanks to Bruce Shannon and the Sinclair family for bringing these to us. When more background is known about Mr. Sinclair, we will caption his collection of 1/350 and 1/700 scale models.





Recently, the US Army celebrated its 247<sup>th</sup> birthday at the MSSM. Numerous guests, retired/active-duty personnel from several military branches were in attendance. The cake and ice-cream social that followed the official cake cutting was enjoyed by all. Abundant War/Sea stories were exchanged by the attendees.



On August 4, 2022, the MSSM celebrated The 232<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the USCG. Aaron Sullivan who hails from St. Albert, Edmonton AB, Canada was the youngest guest present and therefore was awarded honor of cutting the ceremonial cake. Aaron is the grandson of MSSM Curator Fred Carino.

## SHIP LOST – 25 October 1944

**USS *Samuel B. Roberts*** (DE-413) was named after Coxswain Samuel Booker Roberts, Jr., who had been voluntarily steering enemy forces to divert fire from undertaken by other nicknamed the *Buca* (after the *Samuel B.*



***Roberts* (DE-413)** was class destroyer escort of Navy. *Samuel B. Roberts* after Coxswain Samuel a Navy Cross recipient, commended for a Higgins boat towards at Guadalcanal, in order evacuation efforts being friendly vessels. She was "Sammy B" or "Sam popular Italian spirit). *Roberts* was part of a

small force of U.S. ships trying to prevent Imperial Japanese Navy force from attacking the amphibious invasion fleet off the Philippine island of Leyte. She was part "Taffy 3" which was inadvertently left to fend off a fleet of heavily armed Japanese battleships, cruisers, and destroyers at the island of Samar during the Battle of Samar. This was part of up the larger Battle of Leyte Gulf.

The warships were steaming off the eastern coast of Samar when the Japanese Center Force, a 23-ship task force under the command of Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita, appeared on the horizon and opened fire. At 07:35, *Roberts* turned and headed toward the heavy cruiser *Chōkai*.

The commanding officer, Copeland, announced "We're making a torpedo run. The outcome is doubtful, but we will do our duty." With smoke as cover, *Roberts* steamed to within 2.9 mi of *Chōkai*, coming under fire from the cruiser's forward 8" guns.

*Roberts* had moved so close that the enemy guns could not depress enough to hit her and when in torpedo range, *Roberts* launched three Mark 15 torpedoes, with one blowing off *Chōkai*'s stern. *Roberts* fought with the Japanese ships for a further hour, firing more than six hundred 5" (127 mm) shells, and while maneuvering at very close range, hitting *Chōkai*'s superstructure with her 40 mm and 20 mm anti-aircraft guns.

At 08:51, the Japanese landed two hits on Sammy, the second of which damaged the aft 5" gun. This damaged gun suffered a breech explosion shortly thereafter which killed and wounded several crew members. With her remaining 5 inchers, *Roberts* set the bridge of the heavy cruiser *Chikuma* on fire and destroyed the #3 gun turret. *Roberts* was then hit by three 14" (356 mm) shells from the battleship *Kongō*, which tore a hole 40 ft long and 10 ft wide in the port side of her aft engine room.

At 09:35, the order was given to abandon ship. She sank 30 minutes later, with 90 of the crew dying. The 120 survivors of the crew clung to three life rafts for 50 hours before being rescued.

During the battle, *Samuel B. Roberts*, which was designed for 23–24 kn (26–28 mph), managed 28.7 kn (33.0 mph) by raising pressure to 660 pounds per square inch and diverting all available steam to the ship's turbines.

Steaming through incoming shells, *Samuel B. Roberts* scored one torpedo hit and several shell hits on larger enemy warships before she was sunk. After the battle, *Samuel B. Roberts* received the appellation "the destroyer escort that fought like a battleship." As of June 2022, she is the deepest shipwreck discovered. Her last known survivor died on 20 March 2022.

## SHIP FOUND - 22 June 2022

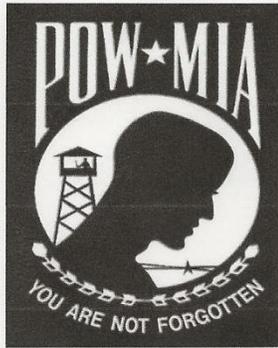


Explorers have found the 2<sup>nd</sup> deepest shipwreck ever identified; a US navy destroyer escort sunk during WWII. The USS Samuel B Roberts went down during the Battle off Samar Island in the Philippine Sea in October 1944. It lies in 6,895m (22,621ft) of water. Texan financier and adventurer Victor Vescovo, who owns a deep-diving submersible, discovered the "Sammy B" battered but largely intact.

### The MSSM' own "Sammy B".



The Sammy B. parade float was constructed by member/volunteers of the Military Sea Service Museum, under the guidance of Curator F. Carino. It placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2020 Highland County Veterans Day Parade held in Avon Park, FL.



## POW/MIA Day 16 September 2022



Prisoners of war and missing soldiers have always been an unfortunate aspect of major conflicts, and the United States has not been immune. Here is the breakdown of the number of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action for every major U.S. conflict.

American Revolution:

POW: 18,152; MIA: 1,426

Spanish-American War:

POW: 8, MIA: 72

U.S.S. Pueblo:

POW: 83

War of 1812:

POW: 20,000; MIA: 695

World War I:

POW and MIA: 7,470

Persian Gulf War:

POW: 29 – MIA: 21

Mexican War:

POW: 46; - MIA: 238

World War II:

POW: 124,079; MIA -  
30,314

Grenada:

MIA: 4

Indian Wars, American:

POW: 339; MIA: 11

Korean War:

POW: 7,140; - MIA: 8,025

USS Stark

MIA: 1

Indian Wars, Native

American:

POW: 2,958; - MIA: 40

Vietnam War:

POW: 766; MIA: 1,719

Somalia:

POW: 6 – MIA: 2

Civil War, Confederacy:

POW: MIA: 214,865

Cold War Era:

MIA: 343

Yugoslavia:

POW: 3



THE WOMAN BEYOND THE UNIFORM  
**MS. VETERAN AMERICA**

## MS. American Veteran Pageant 30 October 2022, Orlando, FL

The competition highlights more than the strength, courage, and sacrifice of our nation’s military women, but also reminds us that these women are Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, and Wives. Ms. Veteran America is a movement, encouraging women veterans to uplift each other and find their tribe.

### *WOMEN BEHIND THE UNIFORM*

#### Past/Present competitors



Melissa West



Molly May

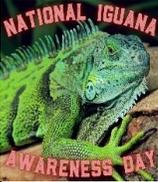
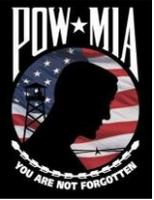


Brandi Sinevish

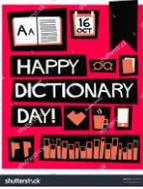
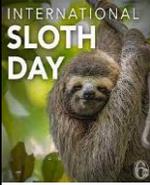


Lindsey Guiterriz

## September 2022

<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THUR</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
	<b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting Next Monday 1800</b>			1	2	3
						
4		6	7	8	9	10
						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			<b>MSSM BOD MTG 1630</b>			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						
M	26	27	28	29	30	
<b>MSSM Dinner</b>						
	<p>On 9/11/01, 19 militant Islamic terrorists network commonly known as al-Qaeda hijacked 4 commercial airliners in mid-flight along the east coast. Their intended targets were the both Twin Towers, heart of US finances, the Pentagon, the heart of the US military, and buildings in D.C., the heart of US government. The latter failed due to a passenger revolt that foiled the attack. The total casualties were 2,977. These include 2,753 at the Pentagon, 40 in Shankstown, PA and 265 passangers/hijackers on the 4 commercial aircraft.</p>					

October 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 
2	3 Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10 	11 MSSM BOD MTG 1630	12 	13 	14	15
16 	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23 MSSM Dinner	24	25	26	27	28	29 
30	31 	<p><b>William Frederick Halsey Jr. (Bull Halsey)</b>  <b>October 30, 1882 – August 16, 1959.</b>                      Halsey was a fleet admiral in the United States during World War II. He was a sailor born and bred. His heart was Navy blue and gold, and it pumped salt water each of his seventy-six years.</p>				

Airman, Soldier, and Marine are sitting around talking about hardships they faced on their last deployment.

Airman: "The worst was when the air conditioner in our tent broke and it was 110 outside!"

Soldier: "What, you had air conditioners?"

Marine: "Wait, stop. You had tents?"

Officer: "Marine, do you have change for a dollar?"

Marine: "Sure, buddy."

Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now, let's try it again!"

Officer: "Marine. Do you have change for a dollar?"

Marine: "No, SIR!"

Army Says: HOOOOOAH!"

Marines Say "OOOOORAH!"

Navy and CG Say "HOOOOOYAH!"

Air Force Says "OKEY DOKEY?"

The sailor serving aboard ship was annoyed and upset when his girl wrote breaking off their engagement and asking for her photograph back. He went out and collected from his friends all the unwanted photographs of women that he could find, bundled them all together and sent them back with a note saying, "I regret to inform you that I cannot remember which one is you — please keep your photo and return the others."

Why do military men often marry lovers from the foreign countries in which they're deployed? When they finally come home, they get to leave their in-laws thousands of miles away.

How can you tell if someone was in the military? Give them 5 minutes and they'll tell you themselves.

They all have different vocabulary. For instance, "Secure that building."

Tell a marine that and he'll go kill everyone inside.

Tell a soldier and he'll put up razor wire, sandbags, and machine gun nests.

Tell a sailor and he'll go in and close and lock all the windows and doors.

Tell an airman and he will take out a lease with an option to buy.

### **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](mailto:navmargrd@gmail.com). You will receive the Scuttlebutt in a timelier manner, and you will save the museum postage and printing costs.

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