

Scuttlebutt

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



Nov/Dec 2022



John Cecil

A message from the President

It has been a hot summer. The weather people say that cooler temperatures and lower humidity are forthcoming. Time will tell. Visitors to the museum have increased too almost pre-pandemic numbers. Three new members have signed on during the last two months. The museum ship building crew has completed our new addition to the fleet. A Coast Guard Cutter. The maiden voyage of the USCG cutter Munro will be in the 11/11/2022 Veterans Day Parade to be held in Sebring. In October, Hurricane Ian caused only minimal damage to the

museum. One gable end vent, two flags, and one tree will need to be repaired or replaced. The Christmas Buffet will be on December 11th, at 1400 in the museum flag room. The monthly meeting of our board of directors must be changed to 16 November 2022 instead of the 9th due to your president having a prior, out of state commitment. Bravo Zulu to all and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Museum Happenings

Check out the new MSSM video @

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



Due to an “Operator Induced Malfunction” of a basic digital camera, no additional photos are available to commemorate the Air Force Birthday on 9/17/22. Mea culpa. We did have 2 former Airforce personnel present to perform the ceremonial cake cutting.

AWARDS

John Cecil, President, presented Appreciation Awards to members and volunteers of the Museum immediately after the September member/guest dinner.



Mike Borders



Keith Braden



Chris Carino



Fred Carino



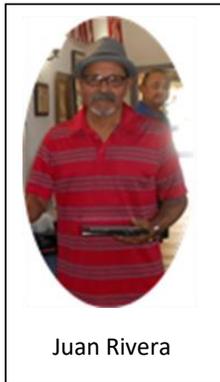
Gene Kissner



Mary Anne La Morte



Micah Marsh



Juan Rivera



Sam Sowers



Joe Suggs



E. M. (Doc) Savage
(in absentia)

Inscription

THIS PLAQUE DOES NOT BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE PUT INTO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MISSION OF THE MUSEUM. THROUGH YOUR LONG TERM CONSISTENT AND UNTIRING DEDICATION, THE MUSEUM HAS EDUCATED AND INFORMED OUR THOUSANDS OF VISITORS ON THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SEA SERVICES, AND ALL THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.



Al Whitbeck



Tim Cannon
(In absentia)

*Thank you and Best Wishes,
John E. Cecil, President*

November Is Native American Heritage Month

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. The event culminated an effort by Red Fox James, a member of the **(Blackfoot)** tribe who rode across the nation on horseback seeking approval from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. More than seven decades later, then-President George H.W. Bush in 1990 signed a joint congressional resolution designating the month of November “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Contributions of the Native Americans in the military conflicts of the U.S. is significant.

Between **3 and 12.5K** Native Americans fought in the **Revolutionary War**. The hit and run tactics perfected by the Native Americans and adopted by the colonists, helped ensure the defeat of the British, who had never encountered this form of warfare.



28,693 Native Americans fought mostly on the Confederate side in the **Civil War**. Ely S Parker **(Seneca)** from the Union side drafted surrender documents for the end of the conflict. Both Lee and Grant signed the documents at Appomattox.

Of the **12K** Native Americans who took part in **WWI** the Code Talkers from the **(Choctaw)** nation were the most famous. Using their native tongue, they developed code, for use in communications that proved to be un-breakable by the enemy.



USMC Major, Gregory (Pappy) Boyington **(Sioux)** was an ace fighter pilot who was awarded the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. Boyington was among the **350K** Native Americans who were involved in **WWII**.

Army Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr (**Ho Chunk**), a part of the Wisconsin Winnebago tribe was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action during **Korean**. Red Cloud Jr had his men tie him to a tree so he could continue fighting as the enemy advanced. His company was part of the **15K** Native Americans in that conflict.



19-year-old Army Ranger, PFC Billy Walkabout (**Cherokee**) was among the **42K** Native Americans fighting in **Vietnam**. Walkabout is thought to be the most highly decorated Native American, having received the Distinguished Service Cross (Upgraded) from the Silver Star, A Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, and Ranger Tab

Lori Ann Piestewa was a United States Army soldier killed during the Iraq War. A member of the Quartermaster Corps, she died in the same Iraqi attack in which fellow soldiers Shoshana Johnson and Piestewa's friend Jessica Lynch were injured. A member of the (**Hopi**) tribe, Piestewa was the first Native American woman to die in combat, and the first woman in the U.S. military killed in the **Iraq War**.



31K Native Americans have fought in **Afghanistan** since October 2001, when fighting commenced. Research has failed to identify any Native American heroes, but with out doubt, there are many.



River Patrol Force Established *18 Dec 1965*



The United States Navy River Rats, some of the most fierce and dedicated US Navy sailors of the **Brown Water Navy**, patrolled and engaged the enemy on the rivers and tributaries of the Mekong River in Vietnam. These Riverine forces manned PBRS, made of fiberglass hulls, fast boats, monitors and their Riverine Squadrons, were essential in combatting the movement of weapons, food and essentials the enemy would need to fight US forces. The densely jungled waterways of South Vietnam were the battlefields of the US Navy Riverine forces, and this is where they battled the enemy. As depicted in movies like “Apocalypse Now”, the role of the River Rats was never easy as they were often outnumbered and frequently ambushed from both sides of a hostile river. Their training, ferociousness and dedication to their fellow sailors often brought them through this mayhem.



BM1 James E. (Willy) Williams

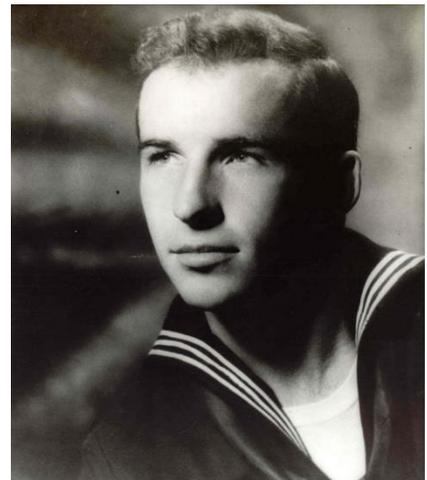
River Rat



While commanding PBR 105 in the Mekong Delta, 2 Viet Cong manned sampans opened fire on the Americans. After neutralizing one, PBR 105 pursued the second into a nearby canal. It was an ambush. A beehive of enemy activity erupted as the VC opened fire on them with rocket propelled grenades & small arms from fortified riverbank positions. Willy repeatedly called for air support as more junks and sampans joined the fray. With the support of UH-1B Huey helicopters from HA(L)-3 (Helicopter Attack-Light Squadron 3), the tide started to turn. After fighting for over 3 hours the U.S. naval force killed 1,000 Viet Cong guerrillas, destroyed over fifty vessels, and disrupted a major enemy logistic operation. For his actions on that date, he was awarded the **Medal of Honor**. Other awards earned by BM1 Williams during his career include the Navy Cross, Silver Star (2) Legion of Merit, Navy and Marine Corps Medal (2), Bronze Star (3), Purple Heart (3), plus the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2).

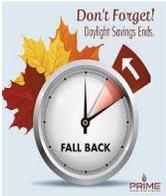
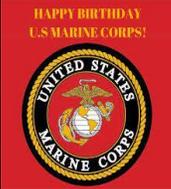


As the forward machine gunner on PBR 124, Seaman Ouellet observed suspicious activity near a riverbank and alerted his boat captain. While the PBR was making a high-speed run along the riverbank, Ouellet spotted a grenade falling toward the boat. He ran the full length of the speeding boat shouting for his fellow crew members to take cover. Bounding over the engine cover, he pushed his boat commander to safety while at the same instant he absorbed most of the blast fragments with his body in order to protect his shipmates. His extraordinary heroism and selfless and courageous actions on behalf of his comrades at the expense of his were in the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. Seaman Ouellet was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor**.

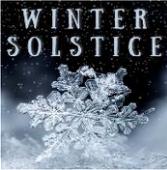


Seaman David G. Ouellet
River Rat

November 2022

<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THUR</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
		1	2	3	4	5 Sebing Arts & Crafts Festival on the circle
6 	7 Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	8 	9 	10 	11 	12
13	14 	15	16 MSSM Board Mtg 1630	17 DAV Meeting @ 6pm Call 863 464-1881	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>Marine Corps Recruit Depot, designated on 1 Nov 1915. The Marines train about 17,000 recruits at Parris Island each year. Recruit training for those enlisted in the United States Marine Corps includes a thirteen-week process during which the recruit becomes cut off from the civilian world and must adapt to a Marine Corps lifestyle. During training, the drill instructors train recruits in a wide variety of subjects including weapons training, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, personal hygiene and cleanliness, close order drill, and Marine Corps History. They must also complete a 54-hour simulated combat exercise known as "The Crucible".</p>						

December 2022

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25	26	27	28	29	30	
<p><u>Wreaths Across America</u> is an American nonprofit organization established in 2007 by wreath producer Morrill Worcester, assisted by veterans and truckers. Its primary activity is distributing Veteran's wreaths for placement on graves in military cemeteries. In December 2008, the United States Senate agreed to a resolution that designated December 13, 2008, as Wreaths Across America Day. Subsequent National Wreaths Across America Days have been designated on the second or third Saturday of December.</p>						



The Best Girls on the Towrope = Old Navy slang for “Fair weather and easy going on the homeward passage.

Dandy funk = A messy concoction of broken ship biscuits smeared with molasses. A dessert to look forward to, (Ya think)!

Holy Joe = The traditional shipboard name for a preacher.

Turnpike Sailor = Slang term for beggars who bum a hand-out on the false assertion that they’re old seaman.

Irish Hurricane = Just old Navy slang for a dead calm.

On the Beach = A simple but wonderfully descriptive way in which a sailor man voice's the fact that he is not only out of his element, but worse, out of a job.

White Rats = Slang term in the old Navy for men who would endeavor to curry favor with the officers by carrying tales aft.

Cumshaw = This is the international sea-going term for petty graft or secret commissions.

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