

Scuttlebutt



MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



Nov/Dec 2023



John Cecil

A message from the President

The MSSM staff have been busy getting the fleet ready to sail. The upcoming cruise schedule includes St. John Methodist of Sebring Rummage Sale, 11/3-4; Sebring Arts and Crafts Festival, 11/4; Veterans Day Parade, 11/11; Sebring Christmas Parade 12/02; and the Avon Park, FL American Legion Expo, 01/06. Come out & visit us. The Highlands County Veterans Council held an awards event at the American Legion Post 25 in Lake Placid, FL. on 10/17/2023 to recognize veteran and non-veteran members of organizations within the County. The Military non-veteran nominated by the MSSM, Micah Marsh, was selected as the Highlands County non-veteran of the year. Our Sunday dinners have been well attended. Suggestions are solicited for future menu ideas & can be left at the MSSM by calling 863-385-0992 or use the email navmargrd@gmail.com. Bravo Zulu to our volunteers and I wish all a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Museum Happenings



On Sept 19th the United States Air Force celebrated it's 76th birthday. At right, Phyllis Taylor, originally from Saco, Maine and former Airman 1st class, with Robert Brooks, Col. USAF Ret, originally from Wauchula, Florida cut the ceremonial cake. Phyllis spent her 3 year tour of duty, beginning in 1951 in Washington DC. Col. Brooks spent 24 years in the Air Force, retiring from the position of head Pharmacist, at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL



L to R, Joe Fiorello, oldest and Steve Safford, youngest sailors present, cut the ceremonial cake for the Navy's 248th Birthday, celebrated on 10/13/2023.



Sam Stowers, OSCS USN Ret., put on the 3rd hat as newly elected Vice President on the BOD. Sam is a long-standing docent at the museum as well as lead librarian. Many thanks go out to Sam for stepping up. Sam replaces Tim Cannon who has resigned due to medical issues. We wish Tim the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his service.

Judy Perkins, spouse of the late Aaron Perkins has volunteered to fill the position of Secretary/Bookkeeper on the MSSM board of directors. A gracious thank you is extended to Judy from the board that is comprised of members who are admittedly not very proficient administration types.



From left to right, Vicki Zamora, Kati Pippen, Madeleine Leonhardt, Chantel Parris, and Liz Prendergast, staff members for the Champion for Children Foundation in Sebring, Fl., conducted a scavenger hunt at the MSSM as a team building exercise on 10/09/2023. The ladies were successful in locating 20 of 21 items on their list within the 15 minutes allotted time. It is unknown if #21 was extremely well hidden or not there at all. Research continues.

The Military Sea Services Museum opened its doors to a special group of retired missionaries who had served in various areas around the world. Set up and led by Curator, Fred Carino, all guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Reunification

East German officials open the Berlin Wall on **November 9, 1989**, allowing travel from East to West Berlin. The following day, celebrating Germans began to tear the wall down.

One of the ugliest and most infamous symbols of the Cold War was soon reduced to rubble that was quickly snatched up by souvenir hunters. The East German action followed a decision by Hungarian officials a few weeks earlier to open the border between Hungary and Austria. This effectively ended the purpose of the Berlin Wall, since East German citizens could now circumvent it by going through Hungary, into Austria, and thence into West Germany.

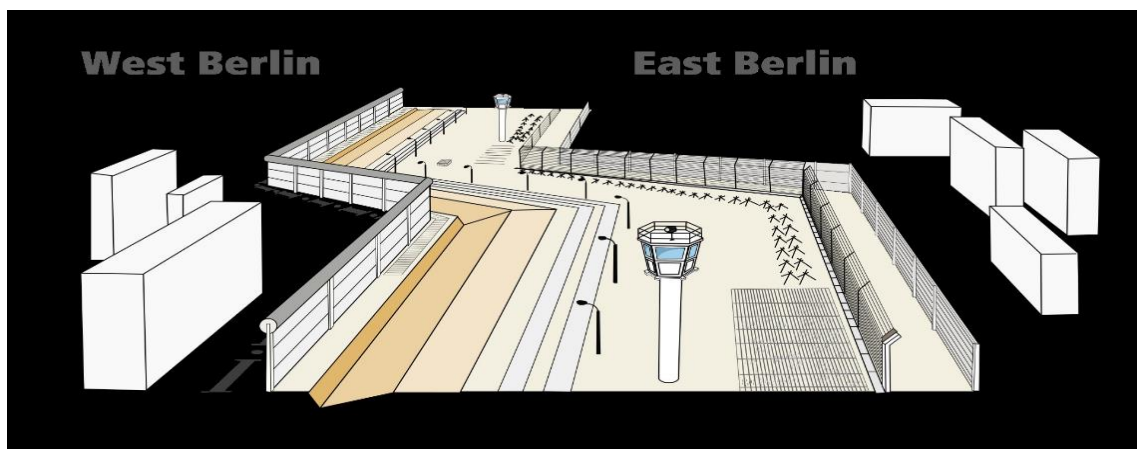
The decision to open the wall was also a reflection of the immense political changes taking place in East Germany, where the old communist leadership was rapidly losing power and the populace was demanding free elections and movement toward a free market system. The action also had an impact on President George Bush and his advisors. After watching television coverage of the delirious German crowds demolishing the wall, many in the Bush administration became more convinced than ever that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's statements about desiring a new relationship with the West must be taken more seriously. Unlike 1956 and 1968, when Soviet forces ruthlessly crushed protests in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, respectively, Gorbachev actually encouraged the East German action. As such, the destruction of the Berlin Wall was one of the most significant actions leading to the end of the Cold War.



The Berlin Wall (German: *Die Berliner Mauer*), was a guarded concrete barrier that encircled West Berlin of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) from 1961 to 1989, separating it from East Berlin and the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Construction of the Berlin Wall was commenced by the government of the GDR on 13 August 1961. It included guard towers placed along large concrete walls, accompanied by a wide area (later known as the "death strip") that contained anti-vehicle trenches, beds of nails and other defenses. The primary intention for the Wall's construction was to prevent East German citizens from fleeing to the West. The Soviet Bloc propaganda portrayed the Wall as protecting its population from "fascist elements conspiring to prevent the will of the people" from building a communist state in the GDR. The authorities officially referred to the Berlin Wall as the *Anti-Fascist Protection Rampart*, (German: *Antifaschistischer Schutzwall*). The West Berlin city government sometimes referred to it as the "Wall of Shame", a term coined by mayor Willy Brandt in reference to the Wall's restriction on freedom of movement. Along with the separate and much longer inner German border, which demarcated the border between East and West Germany, it came to symbolize physically the Iron Curtain that separated the Western Bloc and Soviet satellite states of the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War.

Before the Wall's erection, 3.5 million East Germans circumvented Eastern Bloc emigration restrictions and defected from the GDR, many by crossing over the border from East Berlin into West Berlin; from there they could then travel to West Germany and to other Western European countries. Between 1961 and 1989, the Wall prevented almost all such emigration. During this period, over 100,000 people attempted to escape, and over 5,000 people succeeded in escaping over the Wall, with an estimated death toll of those murdered by East German authorities ranging from 136 to more than 200 in and around Berlin.

In 1989, a series of revolutions in nearby Eastern Bloc countries—in Poland and Hungary in particular—caused a chain reaction in East Germany. In particular, the Pan-European Picnic in August 1989 set in motion a peaceful development during which the Iron Curtain largely broke, the rulers in the East came under pressure to cease their repressive policies, the Berlin Wall fell and finally the Eastern Bloc collapsed. After several weeks of civil unrest, the East German government announced on 9 November 1989 that all GDR citizens could visit the FRG and West Berlin. Crowds of East Germans crossed and climbed onto the Wall, joined by West Germans on the other side in a celebratory atmosphere. Over the next few weeks, souvenir hunters chipped away parts of the Wall. The Brandenburg Gate, a few meters from the Berlin Wall, was opened on 22 December 1989. The demolition of the Wall officially began on 13 June 1990 and was completed in 1994. The fall of the Berlin Wall paved the way for German reunification, which formally took place on 3 October 1990.



It happened on Christmas!

1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware

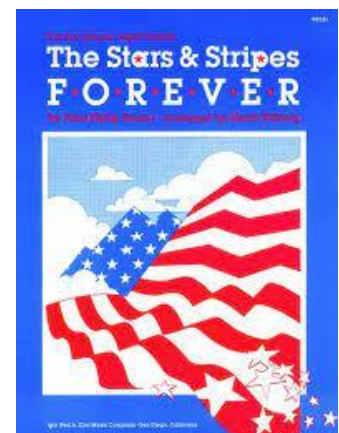


The winter of 1776 didn't start as a good one for Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. They suffered many defeats in the first few months of the American Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. For the troops, morale was low. Washington needed

to renew faith in the battle for independence, so he decided to surprise the Hessians — German troops hired by the British — who were stationed in Trenton, New Jersey. He figured that doing so after the enemy's Christmas celebrations would find them groggy and unprepared for a fight, especially as a terrible winter storm was brewing. So late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory — and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half. The mission, which became known as the Battle of Trenton, was of huge significance to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise the troops' spirits, but it revived the hope of the colonists, who were beginning to think their battle for independence wasn't feasible.

1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" is Written

While this wasn't exactly a military action, it's definitely a symbol of America's military might. John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892. On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for "Stars and Stripes Forever" were



born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader. The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987. So, this holiday season, while you're enjoying leave, family, friends and feasts, think of some of your fellow troops, past and present, who had to forgo their holidays for the greater good of the country. While you're at it, you might even want to put on "Stars and Stripes Forever" in their honor.

1972: Operation Linebacker II in North Vietnam

American troops were in the middle of the biggest bombing mission in military history during the Christmas season of 1972. The air campaign, called Operation Linebacker II,



has largely been considered the action that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. President Richard Nixon ordered the bombings to begin on Dec. 18 after North Vietnamese delegates walked out on peace talks. Nicknamed the "11 Days of Christmas," the operation consisted of 11 successive days of raids by B-52

Stratofortress bombers flown in from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. The only day that both sides got a reprieve was Christmas, when troops were given a 36-hour break to celebrate. During that time, Nixon ordered the North Vietnamese to return to the bargaining table. The North Vietnamese refused, so the bombings continued until Dec. 29, when they agreed to resume peace talks. In 11 days, Linebacker II dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 U.S. Air Force sorties involving about 12,000 airmen. Defense Department records show the raids destroyed or damaged 1,600 structures, 500 rail targets, 10 airfields and 80 percent of North Vietnam's electric-generating capacity. Fifteen U.S. B-52s were also destroyed in the process, killing 35 men and leading to the capture of nearly 40 American prisoners of war. The resumed peace talks that came from the campaign led to the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973.

Have a great holiday season, everybody!

NOV 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 
5 	6 Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	7	8 MSSM BOD MTG 1630	9	10 245th MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023 	11 HONORING ALL WHO SERVED 
12	13	14	15	16 	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25
26 National flossing Day 	27	28 Est.  1775	29	30 National Mason Jar Day 		
	November is Warrior Care Month "Putting a Spotlight on Non-Medical Veteran Care" Wounded Warrior programs are typically non-medical in nature, and are designed to provide support for sick and injured service members in ways that other programs don't help directly. A 2017 Wounded Warrior Project survey results revealed that four of the most commonly self-reported issues for wounded service members included: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Sleep Apnea, Back, neck, or shoulder problems, & Depression. The major services programs are, Navy/Coast Guard Wounded Warrior/Safe Harbor; Army Wounded Warrior/Warrior Care And Transition; Air Force/Space Force Wounded Warrior Program; Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment. The United States Special Operations Command offers its own version of <u>Warrior Care Program</u> which is command specific.					

Dec 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
4	5 Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	6	7 	8 Est.  1967	9	10
11  MSSM Christmas Bufett 1400	12	13	14 MSSM BOD MTG 1630	15	16 	17
18	19	20	21 Created for  USN/USMC 1861	22	23	24 
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 
	<p>12/20/1989 "Opertion Just Cause" the invasion of Panama.</p> <p>The United States invasion of Panama, codenamed Operation Just Cause, began in mid-December 1989 during the presidency of <u>George H. W. Bush</u>. The primary purpose of the invasion was to depose the <i>de facto</i> ruler of <u>Panama</u>, General <u>Manuel Noriega</u>, who was wanted by U.S. authorities for <u>racketeering</u> and <u>drug trafficking</u>. The operation concluded in late January 1990 with the surrender of Noriega. The <u>Panama Defense Forces</u> (PDF) were dissolved, and President-elect <u>Guillermo Endara</u> was sworn into office.</p>					



Nyuk, Nyuk, Nyuk

Never criticize your girlfriends' choices, Your one of them.

I married my wife for her looks, but not the ones she's been giving me lately.

My wife and I were happy for 20+ years. Then we got married.

Girls are like microwaves, No one knows how they work.

How do you know when you've met the perfect man? Don't worry, he'll tell you.

There is no key to a woman's heart. There's only a password that changes regularly.

We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person, perfectly.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

I told my girlfriend to text me when she got home... she must be homeless.

What's the difference between In-laws and outlaws. Outlaws are wanted.

A man is incomplete until he's married. Then he's finished.

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