

Scuttlebutt



MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



Jan-Feb 2024



John Cecil

A message from the President

Season's Greetings! On 12/10/2023, the MSSM held it's annual Christmas Buffet, and had 43 members/guests in attendance. Our membership continues to grow, as does the visitor numbers. As of 30 November, the museum has had 1,510 visitors this year. This is due in part, to our talented speaker/presenters, Fred Carino and Micah Marsh, who conduct commemorative events at the museum. This year's Pearl Harbor Day had more than 50 people in attendance. Groups, such as the Mason G. Smoak Foundation, local member of county and state

government, as well as area veterans, attend these presentations. Our presenters are available to speak at a function if the lead time is sufficient to conduct proper research on the requested topic. The museum fleet flew its colors again this year in the Sebring Christmas parade.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and the best to all in the New Year.

Museum Happenings!



The MSSM fleet was queued up for the Veterans Day Parade, held on 11/11/23. From Left To right are the USCGC Munroe, USS Enterprise, and the USS Samuel B. Roberts. Tow operators were Chris Carino, Al Whitbeck, and Fred Carino. Passengers included LtCol. Sue Johnson, USAF Ret., MCPO Gene Kissner, USN Ret., Mrs. Mary Price and Micah Marsh. Paul Manrique and CDR Steve Albert, USN Ret., assisted in the loading and preparation of the floats. Anchors Aweigh.



CDR. Ken Steel, USN Ret., a former F4 Phantom pilot who flew off the USS Enterprise during the Vietnam War, stands beside his somewhat slower BMW prior to the parade. Check out the patriotic flags adorning the vehicle. Ken, a member of the MSSM, is a former race car driver and presently, a Meals on Wheels driver. A complete 180. Ken manned the display booth after the parade.

Veterans Council of Highlands County
Awards Luncheon

October 17, 2023

The Veterans Council of Highlands County held its 1st annual awards presentation for Veteran and non-Veteran nominees from just under 20 organizations within Highland County.

After a meal of spaghetti and meatballs, hot garlic bread and a salad, provided by the host, American Legion Post 25, in Lake Placid FL, Glenn West and Mike Borders kicked off the presentation of plaques created by Bill Reschke.

Micah Marsh won the MSSM' Non-Veteran 2023 award, for his contributions to the Military Sea Services Museum. Micah serves as a docent, display modeler, historian, and all-around repair man for most of the museum's displays. Micah assisted the museum curator during the clothing of our mannequins. It's been said that he has a favorite but will not divulge its identity.



Peter Goss accepts the MSSM' award for Veteran of the Year, 2023. He was nominated for researching and writing the bi-monthly museum newsletter, "The Scuttlebutt".



Apparently, Micah did not get the memo.

Near the end of the presentations, Micah was recalled by the emcees to accept the award for the Highlands County Non-Veteran of the Year, 2023. Congratulations.





12 Jan 1923 - - 24 Jan 1955

Ira Hamilton Hayes was an Akimel O’odham Indigenous American and a United States Marine during World War II. Hayes was an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community, located in Pinal and Maricopa counties in Arizona.

Hayes enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on August 26, 1942 He completed recruit training in Platoon 701 at Marine Corps Base, San Diego (renamed in 1948 to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego) and in October volunteered for Marine paratrooper (Paramarine) training at the Marine Parachute School at Camp Gillespie located east of San Diego. Ira Hayes became the first Pima in history to receive his paratrooper wings, to which he received the codename of Chief Falling Cloud. On November 30, he graduated from the Parachute Training School and received his silver "jump wings". On December 1, he was promoted to private first class.

On December 2, 1942, he joined Company B, 3rd Parachute Battalion, Divisional Special Troops, 3rd Marine Division, at Camp Elliott, California. On March 14, 1943, Hayes sailed for New Caledonia with the 3rd Parachute Battalion, which was assigned to Camp Kiser there on March 25 until September 26; the unit was redesignated in April as Company K, 3rd Parachute Battalion, 1st Marine Parachute Regiment of the I Marine Amphibious Corps. The 3rd Parachute Battalion was shipped to Guadalcanal and remained there until it was sent to Vella Lavella, arriving on October 14 for occupational duty. On December 4, Hayes landed with the 3rd Parachute Battalion on Bougainville and fought against the Japanese as a platoon automatic rifleman (BAR man) with Company K during the Bougainville Campaign. The 3rd Parachute Battalion was shipped back to Guadalcanal, and he stayed there until sometime in February, when the Paramarines were sent back to California. The 1st Parachute Regiment was officially disbanded at Camp Pendleton, California, in February 1944.

Hayes was transferred to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment of the newly activated 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. Hayes sailed to Hawaii with his company in September for continued training with the 5th division at Camp Tarawa as it trained for the invasion and capture of Iwo Jima.

Hayes was generally known as one of the six men who appeared in the iconic photograph Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima by photographer Joe Rosenthal. The first flag raised over Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945 at the south end of Iwo Jima, was deemed too small and replaced the same day by a larger flag. A photo of the second flag-

raising, which included Hayes in it, became famous and was widely reproduced. After the battle, Hayes and two other men were identified as surviving second flag-raisers and were reassigned to help raise funds for the Seventh War Loan drive. In 1946, after his service in the Marine Corps, he was instrumental in revealing the correct identity of one of the Marines in the photograph. Hayes was commemorated in art and film, before and after his death. In 1949, he portrayed himself raising the flag in the movie Sands of Iwo Jima, starring John Wayne. He was the subject of an article by journalist William Bradford Huie, which was adapted for the feature film The Outsider (1961), starring Tony Curtis as Hayes. The movie inspired songwriter Peter La Farge to write "The Ballad of Ira Hayes," which became popular nationwide in 1964 after being recorded by Johnny Cash. In 2006, Hayes was portrayed by Adam Beach in the World War II movie Flags of Our Fathers, directed by Clint Eastwood.

On November 10, 1954, he attended the dedication of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, which was modeled after the photograph of Hayes and five other Marines raising the second flag on Iwo Jima. After the war, Hayes suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and descended into alcoholism. After a night of heavy drinking on January 24, 1955, he died of exposure to cold and alcohol poisoning. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on February 2, 1955.

Hayes' Navy Commendation Ribbon was updated to the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for meritorious service. He rates the Navy Combat Action Ribbon for combat participation in World War II. The $\frac{5}{16}$ " silver star on his Navy Presidential Unit Citation ribbon was a Marine Corps, World War II, campaign participation star (discontinued) for Iwo Jima, not a second Presidential Unit Citation award ($\frac{3}{16}$ " bronze star). Hayes did not meet the Marine Corps four-year (48 months) service requirement in World War II for the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.



Site of Hayes Funeral, Sacaton, AZ



Headstone in Arlington VA



USMC War Memorial



Army Jump Wings

The Immortal's
aka, The Dorchester Chaplains, The 4 Chaplains

3 February 1943



George L. Fox



Clark V. Poling



Alexander D. Goode



John P. Washington

The stark vision of the Four Chaplains with linked arms praying while their ship sank 81 years ago, lives on. We honor their courage, devotion, and ultimate sacrifice.

It was two years after the United States entered into World War II. The Four Chaplains boarded the SS Dorchester. They would leave an extraordinary legacy. All came from completely different backgrounds but stood united in a commitment to bring spiritual comfort to their men.

Chaplain George Fox was a veteran of World War I, having served as a medic. He was highly decorated, having received the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his service. Fox had lied about his age and was just 17 years old when he left for war. When he returned, he finished high school and went to college. He was eventually ordained a Methodist minister in 1934. When war came calling, he volunteered to become an Army Chaplain. On the day he was commissioned, his son enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Chaplain Clark Poling was the son of a minister and was ordained as one for the Reformed Church in the late 1930s. After war broke out, he was called to serve. His own father had served as a Chaplain during World War I. He headed to the Army Chaplains School at Harvard.

Chaplain and Rabbi Alexander Goode earned his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 1940, while finishing his studies to become a Rabbi - like his father before him. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he applied to the Army to become a Chaplain. In 1942, he was selected for Chaplains School at Harvard.

Chaplain John Washington was ordained as a Catholic Priest in 1935, having served the church all his life in some form or another. When the war began, he received his appointment as an Army Chaplain.

As the SS Dorchester left New York for an Army base in Greenland, the Coast Guard alerted the captain that U-Boats had been sighted and the captain ordered the crew to sleep in their clothes and life jackets. Most of them ignored it though, because it was either so hot down below or they couldn't sleep well with their life jackets on.

At 12:55am, a German torpedo from U233 struck their ship. Many men were killed instantly from the blast and many more critically injured. It knocked their power and communications out, leaving them unable to radio the other ships for support. By some miracle, the CGC Comanche saw the flash of light from the explosion and headed their way to help. They had radioed the Escanaba for added support, while the Tampa continued its escort of the fleet.

According to records, panic and chaos had quickly set in. Men began throwing rafts over and overcrowding soon set in, causing capsizing into the frigid waters. But four Chaplains became a light in the dark for the terrified men. They spread out throughout the ship comforting the soldiers and civilians, bringing order to the frenzy. As the life jackets were being passed out, they ran out. The Four Chaplains took theirs off, giving them to the men.

Engineer Grady Clark witnessed the whole thing. Each Chaplain was of a different faith but worked in unison to serve and save the men. Despite their orderly work, the ship continued to sink. They helped as many men as they could. When it was obvious the ship was going down, the Chaplains linked arms and began praying together. Survivors would later report hearing a mix of Hebrew and Latin prayers, melding together in a beautiful harmony as they went under, giving their lives to save the rest.

Although many fought for these brave men to receive the Medal of Honor for their bravery and heroism, the stringent requirements prevented it from happening. They all received the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross. In 1961, Congress created the Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains Medal. It was given to them and them only, never to be awarded again.

On this Four Chaplains Day, we remember.



SS Dorchester



Chaplains Medal



U233

Jan 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg Tomorrow @ 1800	1962 Seal Team 1 established				Happy National Whipped Cream Day 	1962 Seal Team 2 established
7	8	9 POTUS 37  1913	10 MSSM BOD MTG 1630	11	12	13 NATIONAL RUBBER DUCKY DAY 
14	15  1929	16	17 THE GREATEST  1942	18	19	20
21 Siege on Khe Sanh begins 1968	22	23	24	25	26	27 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DAY Jan 27th 
28 MSSM Dinner 1400	29 INTERNATIONAL GUIDE DOG DAY 	30	31			
	<p align="center">January 5, 1976</p> <p>In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot announced a new constitution which legalized the Communist government and renamed the country as Kampuchea. During the reign of Pol Pot, over 1 million persons died in "the killing fields" as he forced people out of the cities into the countryside to create an idyllic agrarian society. Educated and professional city people were especially targeted for murder and were almost completely annihilated. In January of 1979 Pol Pot was overthrown by Cambodian rebels and Vietnamese troops.</p>					

Feb 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
 1941	Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	 1911				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			MSSM BOD MTG 1630	1898 USS Maine sunk in Havana Harbor		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	1945 U.S. Forces Land on Iwo Jima				1795 Navy Supply Corps established	
25	26	27	28	29		
MSSM Dinner 1430						



Coker continues to donate fuel to the Military Sea Services Museum. This contribution is greatly appreciated and is a perfect example of a local business, assisting a non-profit. Please accept our heart felt thank you.



Musings

It's easy to understand UP meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but peruse the list below.

We lock UP the house and have someone fix UP the old jalopy.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We warm UP leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, and work UP an appetite.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

Why do we speak UP and why are officials UP for reelection?

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

If it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP.

When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about the word UP.

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so I guess I'll simply, shut UP.

Thanks Lou

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 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

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