

Scuttlebutt



MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



March-April 2024



John Cecil

volunteered their time and expertise to the museum. Several have been mentioned in previous issues of the “Scuttlebutt”. Alphabetically, Timothy Cannon, Billie Jewett, Linda Jewett, Jack Moore, Eugene (Doc) Savage, Del Smith, and Joseph Sugg’s. We wish them Fair Winds and Following Seas.

A message from the President

Greetings to all our “Snowbird” members who have arrived before the winter winds blew too hard. Good news: Our museum visitor numbers have grown exponentially since the new year. There has been a noticeably large increase in groups requesting private tours.

Our secretary, Judy Perkins, has again stepped up to fill the position of treasurer for the MSSM. She now wears two hats as do many of our members. Many thanks Judy. On the flip side, Bad news: With heavy hearts we announce the passing of seven of our senior members who had selflessly

Museum Happenings



The history of Black Americans serving in the Armed Forces of the United States was featured in a Special Exhibit in the Flag Room of the Military Sea Services Museum in February. Books, correspondence, photos and videos highlighted the contributions of African

American service men and women in defense of our country, often against the preferences of government officials and military officers. Although black Americans stood shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers and sailors of the Revolutionary War, their acceptance and use in combat units was spotty all through the 18th, 19th and into the 20th centuries. Not until President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 on June 25, 1941, were the Army, Navy and Marine Corps ordered to accept African Americans as recruits. The U.S. Coast Guard accepted African Americans much before this order. Despite this, substandard training, barracks, weapons and duties were doled out to hundreds of thousands of patriotic black men and women who served faithfully, courageously and with dignity in World War II. The Special Exhibit opened on Thursday, February 1, 2024, and concluded on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Members of the Highlands County community were encouraged to share personal memoirs, correspondence, photos and stories of family members who have been veterans of America's many wars. The Military Sea Services Museum is, "Where history comes live!" Bravo Zulu to curator Fred Carino and his crew for their efforts in making this a memorable event.

01/23/2024

Once again, the MSSM had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Mason G. Smoke Foundation. The foundations Youth Leadership students, are selected from all three Highlands County schools at the end of their freshman year, and participate through their sophomore year. Youth Leadership Students meet six times throughout the year to grow as leaders and learn about local leadership by visiting a variety of businesses and community organizations throughout Highlands County. This year docents Fred Carino, Mike Borders, Al Whitbeck and Micah Marsh escorted the students, explained the exhibits, and answered the questions of these superior students.

Fred



Mike



AL



**Ahoy Mateys, it's fish fry time!
01/28/2024**



The MSSM monthly dinner for January looked slightly different from previous ones. The main course was Lake Erie Perch, caught by museum member Erick Heestand during his summer in N.W. Ohio. Above, L – R, Erick mans the fish deep fryer, Keith Braden oversees the French fries and Al Whitbeck ensures everyone gets a heaping serving. The museum provided cold slaw. Members donated assorted salads and waaaaay too many sweets. As usual, members were invited to take home all they wanted, so things were cleaned up well. Thanks to our Chef's for donating their time to make the 1st ever, MSSM Fish Fry a complete success.

March 1946
Westminster College,
Fulton, Missouri

Winston Churchill delivers his “Iron Curtain” speech.

"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an "iron curtain" has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow."



Iron Curtain, the political, military, and ideological barrier erected by the Soviet Union after World War II to seal off itself and its dependent eastern and central European allies from open contact with the West and other noncommunist areas. The term Iron Curtain had been in occasional and varied use as a metaphor since the 19th century, but it came to prominence only after it was used by former British prime minister Winston Churchill. The restrictions and the rigidity of the Iron Curtain were somewhat reduced in the years following Joseph Stalin's death in 1953, although the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 restored them. During the Cold War the Iron Curtain extended to the airwaves. The attempts by the Central Intelligence Agency-funded Radio Free Europe (RFE) to provide listeners behind the Curtain in the Eastern bloc with uncensored news were met with efforts by communist governments to jam RFE's signal. The Iron Curtain largely ceased to exist in 1989–90 with the communists' abandonment of one-party rule in eastern Europe.

Radio Free Europe, radio broadcasting organization created by the United States government in 1950 to provide information and political commentary to the people of communist eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In the absence of unbiased media in the communist countries, Radio Free Europe provided its estimated 35 million listeners,

with news from around the world and, more important, from their own countries. Because of its largely successful efforts to outwit communist censors and reach its listeners on a daily basis, Radio Free Europe is credited with having contributed significantly to the demise of communist regimes throughout eastern Europe. Radio Free Europe first began transmitting from its headquarters in Munich, West Germany, on July 4, 1950, to Czechoslovakia. Soon it was transmitting to most of the Soviet-dominated countries and in 15 languages. The station was funded by the U.S. Congress through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). However, CIA involvement was kept secret until the late 1960s for fear of Soviet retaliation. The CIA ended its involvement in Radio Free Europe's financing and operation in 1971, and control was transferred to a Board for International Broadcasting appointed by the U.S. president. Radio Free Europe was merged with a similar broadcasting organization named Radio Liberty in 1976, creating what is still called Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). Despite the termination of CIA involvement in Radio Free Europe, the Soviet Union continued its attempts to jam the station until 1988.

During the Cold War, communist governments attempted to prevent information broadcast by RFE/RL from reaching listeners in their countries. They routinely jammed the radio signal or created interference by broadcasting noise over the same frequency. In addition, some RFE/RL staffers died under mysterious circumstances, the most famous being Bulgarian writer Georgi Markov, who died in London in 1978 after being stabbed with an umbrella that inserted a poisonous ricin-laced platinum pellet into his leg. RFE/RL headquarters in Munich was bombed in 1981 by terrorists underwritten by the Romanian government and headed by Venezuelan militant Carlos the Jackal.

Following the end of the Cold War in 1989, the role of RFE/RL changed in many of its target countries. The station was officially allowed to operate in most of the states it broadcasts to, with the exception of Belarus, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Iran. In 1995 its headquarters moved to Prague. With developments in the Middle East capturing American attention throughout the 1990s, RFE/RL initiated a program to reach out to the people in Iraq and Iran, and the first broadcasts to those countries began in 1998.

By the early 21st century RFE/RL had bureaus throughout eastern Europe, the former Soviet republics, and the Middle East producing radio, television, and Internet content in roughly 20 countries and in approximately 30 different languages, including lesser-known tongues such as Bashkir, Circassian, Tatar, and Chechen (all spoken in the Russian Federation). It does not broadcast in English at all, and 19 of the languages in which it broadcasts are spoken by Muslim communities ranging from Kosovo (in the Balkans) to Pakistan (in South Asia). After an absence of more than a decade, RFE/RL restarted its Dari and Pashto language broadcasts to Afghanistan in 2002. By 2010 RFE/RL programming broadcast in various Pashto dialects reached the tribal areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. In addition to providing its listeners, viewers, and readers with local news and information, RFE/RL aims to assist countries that are in transition in developing their civil societies (including the media) and guarding against the resumption of totalitarian rule.

“Dive, dive, dive”.

“Pressure in the boat, green board”.

April 11, 1900. The U.S. Navy officially joined the undersea world, acquiring its first modern commissioned submarine. This boat was the Holland VI, invented by John Phillip Holland. It was purchased for the sum of \$150,000 and became the USS Holland SS1. It was commissioned on 12 Oct 1900. She was used for experimental purposes during her 10-year career.

The history of submarines is a fascinating one. The first combat submarine was invented by David Bushnell during the American Revolution as a means of breaking the British blockade of Boston Harbor. The “Turtle” was unsuccessful on multiple attempts.

During World War II, the diesel submarine force became the workhorse of the U.S. Navy. Assessments indicated that U.S. submarines sank 540,192 tons of Japanese naval vessels, and 4,779,902 tons of merchant shipping during the course of the war, accounting for 54.6 percent of all Japanese vessel losses. Today’s submarine force is the most capable force in the world and the history of the U.S. Navy. The composition of the current force consists of Los Angeles, Ohio, Seawolf, and Virginia class submarines. All of these utilize nuclear propulsion.

With respect to the U.S. Navy’s submarine service, it was a half-century old when the first nuclear submarine joined it. Predecessors of today’s Nuc’s were the diesel boats. It’s said that diesel submarines were in fact, surface vessels that could submerge for a period of time. Nuclear boats of today fit the bill of submersibles, having been designed to stay submerged, with the only requirement to surface being, to replenish the food supply for the crew.

The diesels, which ran on battery power while submerged, had to surface to run their diesel engines to recharge. In later boats, a “Snorkel” was used to recharge. A pipe could be extended from the sail of the boat, while at periscope depth, and air would be sucked in to run the engines. This operation reduced the radar image of the boat. The diesel engines would run generators, which charged the batteries. The boat ran on their recharged batteries while submerged. Fairbanks Morse 10 cylinder and General Motors V16 cylinder engines were the primary engines utilized.

“Underway on Nuclear Power” With the launching of the USS Nautilus SSN 571 on 15 January 1955, the U.S. Submarine Service entered the atomic age. Under the rigid guidance of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the submarine service was transformed completely. Nuclear boats could supply their own power without the use of a snorkel. This decreased the boats radar return to zero. Oxygen, potable water, electricity, air conditioning, lighting, and any other need of the boat, received power from the nuclear reactors. Now the Navy had a true submersible. Without the noise of a diesel engine, running at high RPM, the nuclear boats became almost completely silent. Research into noise dampening equipment mountings and sound deadening hull coatings continues to this day.

At the end of WWII, in 1944, and the beginning of the “Cold War”, the nuclear submarine came into prominence. The U.S. Nuclear Submarine force consist of 3 classes of boats. SSN, SSGN, and SSBN.

Attack submarines (SSN) are designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and Special Operation Forces (SOF); carry out Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare.

Guided-missile submarines (SSGN) provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealth, clandestine platform. Armed with tactical missiles and equipped with superior communications capabilities, SSGNs are capable of directly supporting Combatant Commander's strike and Special Operation Forces (SOF) requirements.

Ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) often referred to as "boomers," serve as an undetectable launch platform for intercontinental missiles. They are designed specifically for stealth and the precise delivery of nuclear warheads.

The published compliment of U.S. Nuclear Submarines is 53 SSN’s, 14 SSBN’s, and 4 SSGN’s.

SSN’s have a distinctive tear-drop shaped hull, enabling them to move at higher speeds, without increasing noise.

SSGN’s are converted Ohio class SSBN’s which have been reconfigured to carry guided missiles and special ops personnel.

SSBN’s carry up to 24 Trident II SLBM’s (Submerged Launched Ballistic) missiles and are part of the U.S. Nuclear Triad.

SSN



SSGN



SSBN



Pride Runs Deep

U.S. Submarine Force



March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Navy Civil Engineer Corps Est. 1867 
3 Navy Medical Corps Est. 1871 	4 Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	5 Seabees Est. 1942 	6	7	8  International Women's Day	9 1st Battle of Ironclads USS Monitor VS CSS Virginia 1862
10 		12	13 MSSM BOD MTG 1630	14	15	16
17 	18	19 	20 Operation Iraqi Freedom Starts 2003	21	22	23
24  MSSM Dinner 1430	25 	26	27	28	29 	30
31 	Telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Bell and his father were involved in teaching deaf persons to speak. Bell developed an interest in the vibrating membrane as a method of electrically transmitting sounds. His very first sentence spoken on the newly invented telepone on March 10, 1876, was to his assistant, "Mister Watson, come here, I want you."					

Apr 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800 Tomorrow Call (860) 480-2550</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>CPO 131st</p>  <p>Birthday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Falklands War Starts 1982</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">United States enters WWI</p>
7	8	9	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MSSM BOD Mtg 1630</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> 	12	13
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>  <p>107th Birthday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> 	16	17	18	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> 	20
21	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>  <p>116th Birthday</p>	24	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> 	0	27
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>MSSM Dinner 1430</p>	29	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> 				
	<p>April 11, 1970 - Apollo 13 was launched from Cape Kennedy at 2:13 p.m. Fifty-six hours into the flight an oxygen tank exploded in the service module. Astronaut John L. Swigert saw a warning light that accompanied the bang and said, "Houston, we've had a problem here." Swigert, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise then transferred into the lunar module, using it as a "lifeboat" and began a perilous return trip to Earth, splashing down safely on April 17th.</p>					

Think about it.

It's not my age that bothers me, it's the side effects.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of...it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've spent my day in the Produce Department at the grocers trying to open those stupid plastic bags.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

Apparently, RSVP-ING to a wedding invitation:" Maybe next time" isn't acceptable.

So, you've been eating hot dogs and chicken nuggets all your life, but won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it.

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars and four U.S. Presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed.

What does the word Army stand for? Aren't Ready for Marines Yet"

What did the Navy dentist put on his license plate? TOP GUM

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