

Scuttlebutt



MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



Jan/Feb 2021

A message from the President



John Cecil

I hope everyone enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and had a Happy New Year.

The museum was awarded a trophy for the best float in the Veterans Day parade on Veterans Day, 11/11/20. See below.

Kudos to curator Fred Carino and thanks to all who donated time and money to produce the Big "E" model in such great detail.

We look forward to 2021 as we will be celebrating the Museum's 23rd birthday on Memorial Day and honoring those who gave all. A public ceremony is planned to honor the fallen, but realize, all plans are COVID driven. Museum tours will continue to be conducted. The museum continues to grow, and I thank all members for their support.

Happenings!



Fred Carino, Curator of the MSSM, accepts the Eagle Trophy for the Best Float during the 2020 Veterans Day Parade in Avon Park. Harry Marsh, President of the Highlands Veterans Council was the presenter.

Capt. K. Collins, Commander of the U.S. Navy Band presents John & Sandy Cecil a signed portrait after a performance at the S.F.S.C Campus earlier this year.



Many members of the MSSM attended this excellent, memorable, concert.

Dr. MLK Jr
Birthday 1/15/2020



The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. (born **Michael King Jr.**; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

King led the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he led an unsuccessful 1962 struggle against segregation in Albany, Georgia, and helped organize the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. King helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance. In 1965, he helped organize the Selma to Montgomery marches. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty, capitalism, and the Vietnam War. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover considered him a radical and made him an object of COINTELPRO from 1963 on. FBI agents investigated him for possible communist ties, recorded his extramarital liaisons and reported on them to government officials, and, in 1964, mailed King a threatening anonymous letter, which he interpreted as an attempt to make him commit suicide.

King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. Allegations that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King, had been framed or acted in concert with government agents persisted for decades after the shooting. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a holiday in cities and states throughout the United States beginning in 1971; the holiday was enacted at the federal level by legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, and a county in Washington was rededicated for him. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.

February is Black History Month



Frank E. Peterson Jr. 1st African American Marine Corps Aviator

Peterson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June 1950 as a seaman apprentice and served as an electronics technician. When Petersen aced the Navy's entrance exam, the recruiter told him he would make a "great steward." However, being motivated by the recent Korean War combat death of the Navy's first black aviator Jesse L. Brown in December, Petersen vowed to be a combat pilot.

In 1951, he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program. In October 1952, he completed flight training and accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Petersen served a combat tour in the Korean War (1953) and in the Vietnam War (1968). His first tactical assignment was with Marine Fighter Squadron 212 during the Korean War. He would fly over 350 combat missions and had over 4,000 hours in various fighter/attack aircraft. He held command positions at all levels of Marine Corps aviation, commanding a Marine Fighter Squadron, a Marine Aircraft Group and a Marine Aircraft Wing. He was also the first African American to command a fighter squadron, a fighter air group, an air wing and a major base.

On February 23, 1979, he was promoted to brigadier general, becoming the first African American general in the Marine Corps. In May 1983, he advanced to the rank of major general and on 12 June 1986, he was promoted to lieutenant general. Upon his retirement, he was presented the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia, from June 1986 to July 1988. On Feb 21, 2017, the keel was laid for the future guided-missile destroyer USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121) at Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Remembering Pearl Harbor



The Flag room of the MSSM was converted to a Pearl Harbor memorial on December 7, 2020. Displays commemorating the “*day of infamy*” were set up as a walking tour with the uniform of Army Private 1st Class Caesar Turchirelli holding a prominent position. Turchirelli fought at the Battle of Schofield Barracks as part of the 15th Infantry Division. The division nicknamed, Tropic Lightning, had only been activated one month prior to the attack. The uniform was donated to the museum by the Turchirelli family. The 79th anniversary display was in remembrance of the 2,400 US citizens who lost their lives, and 1,200 people who were injured. It is estimated that over 300 Imperial Japanese Navy warplanes participated in the surprise attack on that peaceful morning in Oahu, Hawaii.

The following day, the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan.

Many thanks to Fred Carino, Curator of the MSSM and his assistants.

IT NEVER ENTERED MY MIND

Mounted Coasties patrolling the beaches of Oregon. Come on man!

Introducing:

“The Sand Pounders “



After Pearl Harbor, the security of our beaches became a concern. However, even before Pearl Harbor, the beach patrol was set into motion. On Feb. 3, 1941, all coastal areas of the United States were organized into defense divisions known as Naval Coastal Frontiers. The on Nov. 1, 1941 under Executive Order No. 8929, the Coast Guard was transferred to the Navy for the duration of what would soon become, for the U.S., World War II. The Army handled land defense, the Navy would handle the offshore patrols, and the Coast Guard would handle beach patrol.

They had three basic functions:

- To detect and observe enemy vessels in coastal waters and to transmit information on these craft to the appropriate Navy and Army commands.
- To report attempts of landings by the enemy and to assist in preventing landings.
- To prevent communications between persons on shore and the enemy at sea.

In the first months of the war, partols were handled much as they were during peacetime, one man armed with flares. Warnings about enemy landings from the FBI were issued, but weren't taken seriously.

One incident in June of 1942 changed the Coast Guard's thinking. On June 13, 1942 the U-202 surfaced off the coast of Long Island, N.Y. Four Nazi agents came ashore in a rubber raft with the intention of striking key U.S. factories and railroads, They changed from their uniforms into civilian clothing. While making his six-mile patrol, 21-year-old John Cullen, Seaman 2nd Class saw someone walk out of the fog. He ordered the man to identify himself, the stranger said he was George Davis and that their fishing boat had run aground. Cullen could see the other agents dimly in the fog. One called out something in a foreign language. Suspicious, Cullen suggested they accompany him to the Coast Guard station. Davis then offered Cullen \$300 to forget he had seen anything. At the station, Boatswain's Mate Carl R. Jenette listened incredulously to the story. They returned to the scene to find the agents were gone, but they could smell diesel oil offshore and hear the throbbing of an engine. The U-202 was trying to free itself. They could also see a blinker light. They hid behind a dune to prevent being shelled. The next morning, they returned to find buried explosives and incendiary devices. The beach patrol served as a coastal information system.

Certain areas of the beach were dangerous to walk so boat and motor patrols were established. Foot patrols required men to travel in pairs. They carried rifles, or sidearms and flare pistols. Distances covered were usually two miles or less as they had to report in by telephone boxes placed three quarter miles apart.









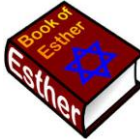

In 1942, dogs were added to beach patrols. Their keen sense of smell and ability to guard made them valuable additions. The dogs were fitted with canvas boots to protect their paws from sea coral and seashells. When the dogs came into use, the two-man teams were replaced with canine patrols. The length of their patrol was about a mile. The dogs saved their handlers lives on numerous occasions. One guardsman almost walked off a cliff, another passed out. His dog ran for help and saved him from hypothermia.

By late 1942, horses began to arrive. "...recruits were drawn largely from the Midwest and from east of the Cascades- -Horse country." Oregon beaches were not easy to cover by walking. "Pairs of Coast Guard guys, both packing .38 revolvers and Raising M50 submachine guns, usually mounted, one with a backpack radio transmitter — doggedly making their way along the beach in the teeth of every kind of weather the Oregon Coast can supply, eyes peeled for any sign of Japanese marauders." As to the **Sand Pounders** success, it is hard to say. Though they never stopped an invasion, the people of Oregon were comforted by their presence as people in other areas of the U.S. were also. "But it's possible that the **Sand Pounders** had won their fight before they even suited up." The incident mentioned earlier about the Nazi saboteurs on Long Island, their capture and convictions must have sent a loud message back to the Axis Powers. "The American home front was not going to be an easy target."

January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					2	 <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p>
3	4	 <p>Bird Day</p>	6	7	9	 <p>Earth Rotation Day</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<p>Alexander Hamilton B-Day 1757</p>		<p>MSSM Board Meeting</p>	<p>Benedict Arnold B-Day 1741</p>		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	 <p>MLK Jr. Birthday</p>					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>MSSM Dinner</p>			 <p>Holocaust Remembrance Day</p>			
31		 <p>The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars. William Westmoreland</p>				

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
	1	2 	3	4	5	6	
7 	8	9	10 MSSM Board Meeting	11	12	13	
14 	15	16  Mardi Gras	17  ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19 USCG RESERVES  Birthday	20 Presidents  Day	
21	22  Margarita Day	23	24		26  Purmin	27	
28 MSSM Dinner							
						<p>A heartfelt Thank You to COKER FUEL for providing the Museum with a tank and Propane for the 5th consecutive year. We appreciate their support of the museum. We urge our local members to refill their propane tanks at COKER, conveniently located @ 3515 U.S. 27S, Sebring FL.</p>	

Quotable Quotes

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure."

Colin Powell

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Within the soul of each Vietnam veteran there is probably something that says, 'Bad war, good soldier.' Only now are Americans beginning to separate the war from the warrior."

Max Cleland

Wanted!

The Military Sea Services Museum needs to fill 2 positions on its board of directors.

1. Treasurer. Member applicants should know basic bookkeeping & accounting principles and be attentive to details.
2. Special events coordinator. Member applicants would be responsible for setting up special events, notifying the local media and coordinating all aspects of an event.

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Hours of Operation
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