

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

April 2014



Tony LaMorte

A message from the President

The Museum's yard sale on 11 and 12 April netted \$240.00. Not quite as good as previous yard sales, but is \$240 more than we had before the sale. Many thanks to those members and friends who donated items for the sale and to those members who worked the sale.

Once again the Board of Directors expresses its sincere thank you to Bill Fincke and Bud Farmer. Bill and Bud are snow-birds who volunteer to stand duty at the Museum while in Sebring. This was the fourth winter for Bill who hails from Bethlehem, PA, and the third winter for Bud who hails from Bassett, VA. These two men provide a welcome relief to me, John Cecil, Gene Kissner, and Roy Fairfield who stand duty at the Museum year around. A special thank you to new Member, Gordon White. Gordon is familiarizing himself with Museum contents and operations and volunteered to stand duty when in Sebring. With so few permanent local residents who volunteer to stand duty at the Museum, the Board is always concerned about burn-out, so we thank God for men like Bill, Bud and Gordon.

Tony

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 12 March 2014, Gordon and Linda White became life members of the Museum. Gordon and Linda are Snowbirds from Virginia. Gordon is a retired neurologist and a lifetime member of the Navy League. Linda is a retired nurse. Gordon was a General Medical Officer (GMO) for a Navy SeaBee battalion in Vietnam. His father was a GMO for the SeaBees in the South Pacific during World War II.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.

Military Sea Services Museum
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Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992
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Hours of Operation
Open: Wednesday through Saturday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

Did You Know That

the top speed the Navy's Blue Angels reach during an air show is 700 MPH. Although the FA-18 Hornet can reach speeds of 1400 MPH (just under MACH-2), the fastest speed in an air show is about 700MPH. It is achieved by the solo pilots during the sneak attack performance.

Quotable Quotes

The secret to getting ahead is getting started.---Mark Twain

It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop. ---Confucius

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress. ---John Adams

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.
---George Bernard Shaw

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have. ---Thomas Jefferson



Lest We Forget

Son Travels to Misawa to Honor Father's Sacrifice.

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By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Erin Devenberg, Naval Air Facility Misawa Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (NNS) -- Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72 and Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Misawa hosted a remembrance ceremony and dinner in honor of the crew of the EC-121, call sign Deep Sea 129, April 15.

This is the 45th year that NIOC Misawa has conducted this remembrance since two North Korean MIG-17s shot down Deep Sea 129 over Japanese national waters, April 15, 1969. However, this year the ceremony had a notable attendee: Cmdr. Joe V. Overstreet, the son of Deep Sea 129's plane commander, Lt. Cmdr. James Overstreet.

"I first learned of the remembrance ceremony in 1999," said Cmdr. Overstreet, Navy Region Hawaii Air Operations program manager, and originally from Hattiesburg, Miss. "I was stationed at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi and I ran into a crew from Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One (VQ-1) at the Atsugi Air Show who told me about it. Then I saw a little article from Public Affairs here at NAF Misawa, saying the ceremony had been occurring every year since the incident, and I thought to myself that that's something I'd like to attend someday, so I finally got here."

Overstreet, with wife Julie and daughter Sydney, attended the two bell ceremony at Misawa Air Base's Chapel where the congregation stood to honor the 31 service members who were on board EC-121. Each crew member received two strikes from the bell when their name was read aloud.

"I think it's very important that we pause to remember the contribution and extraordinary heroism of our service members that made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country," said Capt. Sean P. Kelley, NIOC Misawa commanding officer.. "Together with our VQ shipmates, NIOC is proud to sponsor the annual Two Bell Ceremony that memorializes the events of that tragic day."

In a solemn march across the pier at Misawa Beach, the Overstreet family was able to witness a flowered wreath cast out to sea as they stood for a moment of silence to remember their missing family member and his crew.

"It's important to remember the lives of all of our service members," said Overstreet. "Especially this group, who were a part of that fraternity of Cold War intelligence gatherers, and who all gave the ultimate sacrifice. Due to the nature of their missions, there are a lot of heroic people and actions whose stories haven't been told."

Later that evening Overstreet was the guest speaker during a dinner to honor the 30 Sailors and one Marine who lost their lives 45 years ago. Overstreet shared his recollections as a six year old boy at the time of the incident and his thoughts based on research he has conducted about the incident over the past 20 years. Sailors from CTF-72, NIOC Misawa and VQ-1 participated in the dinner which also featured a table setting for 31 to commemorate the lost servicemen. VQ-1 also conducted a static display on an EP-3 for the Overstreet family. To honor the crew, the EP-3 is marked with "LCDR OVERSTREET; 15 APR 1969" painted under the pilot window.

"I think as naval officers and professionals, it's important to take any opportunity to honor those who have gone before us and remember them for the sacrifices that they've made," said Capt. David Wright, CTF-72 deputy commander. "They paved the way for us and it's important that their sacrifice does not go unnoticed."

Stories Wanted

We would like to publish in the Scuttlebutt short stories of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personal experiences, and/or short stories of sea services historical events. We are sure there are plenty of stories out there that would be of interest to Scuttlebutt readers. Please email your stories to navmargrd@gmail.com or mail to the Museum.

Anniversaries

1 April 1893. U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer rating established. Happy 121st birthday Chiefs.

25 April 1898. Spanish-American War begins.

11 April 1900. Navy buys submarine Holland VI - - U.S. Navy Submarine Force born.

6 April 1917. U.S. enters World War I.

10 April 1942. Bataan Death March begins.

18 April 1942. The Doolittle Raiders, using B-25 bombers launched from the USS Hornet (CV 8) to strike Tokyo.

18 April 1943. U.S. Army P-38 fighter planes shoot down the airplane carrying Japanese Admiral Yamamoto over Bougainville.

7 April 1945. U.S. Navy carrier based planes sink the Japanese battleship Yamato as it heads for Okinawa.

30 April 1945. Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide in a Berlin bunker as Soviet troops advance through the city.

3 April 1949. NATO founded.

15 April 1969. U. S. Navy EC-121 belonging to VQ-1 was shot down by two North Korean MIG-17s while on a reconnaissance mission over the Sea of Japan. The EC-121 crashed 90 nautical miles off the North Korean coast. All 31 Americans aboard were killed. The U.S. did not retaliate against North Korea other than a naval demonstration in the Sea of Japan a few days later and resumption of reconnaissance flights.

10 April 1963. USS THRESHER (SSN 593) the worlds most advanced attack submarine of the time was lost in Gulf of Maine during a post overhaul test dive. The entire 129 member crew was lost in the world's worst submarine disaster ever. This tragedy led directly to significant changes in the Navy's submarine safety programs that have kept the U.S. Navy submarines safe ever since.

30 April 1975. Saigon fell to North Vietnamese troops. One day after the largest helicopter evacuation in history where 7000 Americans and South Vietnamese were evacuated.

12 April 1981. First U.S. space shuttle launched.

11 April 1991. Persian Gulf War official cease fire.

1 May 1898. Admiral Dewey's squadron destroys Spanish squadron in Manila Bay.

4- 8 May 1942. Battle of the Coral Sea. U.S. Navy repels the Japanese. This helps save Australia and blocks the Japanese juggernaut in the Pacific.

13 May 1908. Navy Nurse Corps established.

6 May 1941. Bob Hope's first USO show, March Field Air Base, California.

8 May 1945. Victory in Europe (V-E Day) is declared.

2 May 2011. U.S. Navy SEALs kill al-Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

17 May 2014. Armed Forces Day celebrated.

26 May 2014. Memorial Day celebrated.