

**MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.**



**SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT**

**December 2013**

**A message from the President**



**Tony LaMorte**

Hello again:

One holiday down and the other right around the corner. Grandchildren are probably driving their parents up the wall as to what Santa is going to bring them for Christmas.

Used to tell mine only coal this year, they would just look at me and say, “Oh yeah, right,” and walk away. One time I did hide their presents on Christmas morning, and they didn’t know what to do. Of course I finally gave in and we did have a happy Christmas.

It’s that time of year when you’re watching your children or grandchildren opening their presents and seeing the smiles and laughter coming from them makes it all worthwhile.

You threaten them as to what is going to be their downfall, but then comes Christmas morning and all those threats just vanish into thin air as if they never existed. Yes, Christmas is for everyone, but to me it’s mostly for the Children. They have a lot of love and laughter to give and not a care in the world. It’s their day and no one should take that away from them.

This Christmas day let’s say a prayer for all our troops that can’t be home with families and loved ones. They’re doing a job that has to be done and they’re doing it without complaining. Say a prayer for their safe return. I know I will.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND I WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.

Tony

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

## **Thank You**

Thank you Jim Smith, U.S. Army WWII veteran, for the detailed model of the submarine USS GATO (SS 212). The USS GATO was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and 13 battle stars for service during WWII.

## **Welcome Aboard New Members**

On 11 November 2013, Louis G. Haskell became a five year member. Louis is a U.S. Navy veteran. He served aboard the USS Lake Champlain (CV 39) and the USS Epperson (DD 719). A true tin can sailor, and a family man. Louis lives in Martinsburg, WV.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest member! 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.

## **Did You Know That**

the first landing of an aircraft on a Navy ship was on 18 January 1911. Eugene Ely landed his Curtiss pusher biplane on a temporary wooden platform built over the after deck and gun turret of the armored cruiser USS PENNSYLVANIA anchored in San Francisco Bay.

Photos from this first landing can be seen on page 6 of 6 in this Scuttlebutt issue.

## **Quotable Quotes**

Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy; its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.---Winston Churchill

The beauty of the second amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.---  
Thomas Jefferson

It is well that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.---Henry Ford

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.  
---Elmer Davis, American Journalist

Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be.---John Wayne

## **Pearl Harbor Ceremony**

A Ceremony to mark the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was held at the Military Sea Services Museum. The WAVES Highlanders Unit 88 and the Highland County Veterans Council hosted the ceremony. The program included a Navy bell tolling ceremony. The guest speaker was Gerry Harvey, retired U.S. Marine Corps master gunnery sergeant and President of the Highlands County Veterans Advisory Board. Special recognition was given to eight World War II veterans, including two lady veterans, in attendance. A moment of silence to honor war heroes, military and civilians who died in the attack or the aftermath. The ceremony honored those who perished at Pearl Harbor 72 years ago when the U.S. was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy in the early hours of 7 Dec 1941. Eight U.S. Navy battleships were damaged with four sinking. The Japanese damaged or sank three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship and one minelayer. About 190 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, most on the ground. More than 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,282 wounded during the attack that lasted two hours.

Most of the 59 people who attended enjoyed refreshments and toured the Museum after the ceremony.

## **Memorial**

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Ted Shoemaker and Ronald Langland on 4 Dec 2013.

Ted was born in Sebring, graduated from Sebring High School, and generously served and supported the city of Sebring, Highlands County, and many cultural and service organizations of the city and county. Ted was a WWII U.S. Coast Guard veteran and had been a member of the Military Sea Services Museum since it first opened for memberships in October 2001.

Ronald is a retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Hospital Corpsman. He was a Vietnam War veteran and a member of the Military Sea Services Museum since 2007. Fair winds and following seas Ted and Ronald. Rest in Peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Shoemaker and Langland families.

## Anniversaries

21 Dec 1861. Congress created Navy Medal of Honor for Sailors and Marines..

13 Dec 1936. U.S. National Guard established.

07 Dec 1941. "A date which will live in infamy." Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, killing 2,403 U.S. citizens.

08 Dec 1941. The U.S. and Allied countries, except the USSR, declared war on Japan.

11 Dec 1941. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

18 Dec 1965. U.S. Navy River Patrol Force, Operation Game Warden, began in Vietnam.

08 Dec 1967. U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps established.

23 Dec 1968. Eighty-two USS PUEBLO crew members released after 11 months imprisonment and torture by the North Koreans.

20 Dec 1989. U.S. invaded Panama in Operation Just Cause.

15 Dec 2011. Iraq War ended.

06 Jan 1942. Eleven U.S. Navy nurses captured when Manila fell to the Japanese. Sixty-seven U.S. Army nurses were captured when Corregidor fell to the Japanese in May 1942. The Navy nurses were liberated on 23 Feb 1945. The Army nurses were liberated on 3 Feb 1945.

01 Jan 1962. U.S. Navy Seal teams established.

23 Jan 1968. USS PUEBLO (AGER-2) captured by North Koreans in international waters in the Sea of Japan. One PUEBLO crew member was killed and seven others sustained shrapnel wounds. The 82 surviving crew members were imprisoned in North Korea.

28 Jan 1980. USCG BLACKTHORN, following an overhaul, was leaving Tampa Bay for her homeport in Galveston, TX, when she collided with SS CAPRICOM, a tanker near the Tampa Bay Sunshine Skyway bridge. Shortly after the collision, BLACKTHORN capsized and sank killing 23 crew members. Twenty-seven crew members survived. BLACKTHORN was raised for investigation, but was scuttled after completion of the investigation. USCG BLACKTHORN now serves as an artificial reef for recreational fishing and diving in the Gulf of Mexico.

17 Jan 1991. Persian Gulf War (Desert Storm) began.

18 Jan 1991. USS NICHOLAS (FFG-47) working with Kuwaiti fast attack craft ISTIQLAL found that nine of the 11 oil platforms in Kuwait's Dorrah oil field about 40 miles off Kuwait's coast were occupied by Iraqi soldiers. Army AHIP Helicopters and SH-60 Helicopters from NICHOLAS, firing guided missiles, neutralized two of the platforms. Shipboard firing from NICHOLAS and ISTIQLAL neutralized the other seven platforms. Teams from NICHOLAS boarded the platforms and destroyed the Iraqi fortifications. Five Iraqi soldiers were killed and 23 were taken prisoner. No U.S. or Kuwait casualties.

## **A Prayer for Sailors**

### **In waters Deep**

In ocean waters no poppies blow,  
No crosses stand in ordered row, There young  
hearts sleep --- beneath the wave ---  
The spirited, the good and the brave.  
But stars a constant vigil keep,  
For them who lie beneath the deep.

Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer  
On certain spot and think, "He's there."  
But you can to the ocean go ---  
See whitecaps marching row on row;  
Know one for him will always ride ---  
In and out --- with every tide.

And when your span of life is passed,  
He'll meet you in the "Captain's Mast'  
And they who mourn on distant shore  
For sailors who come home no more,  
Can dry their tears and pray for these  
Who rest beneath the heaving seas---

For stars that shine and winds that blow  
And white caps marching row on row  
And they can never lonely be  
For when they lived they chose the sea.

By Eileen Mahoney

Submitted by Museum member Jane McDonough  
widow of Marty McDonough, World War II Navy Veteran

Photo # NH 9000 USS Pennsylvania fitted with a temporary aircraft landing deck, Jan. 1911

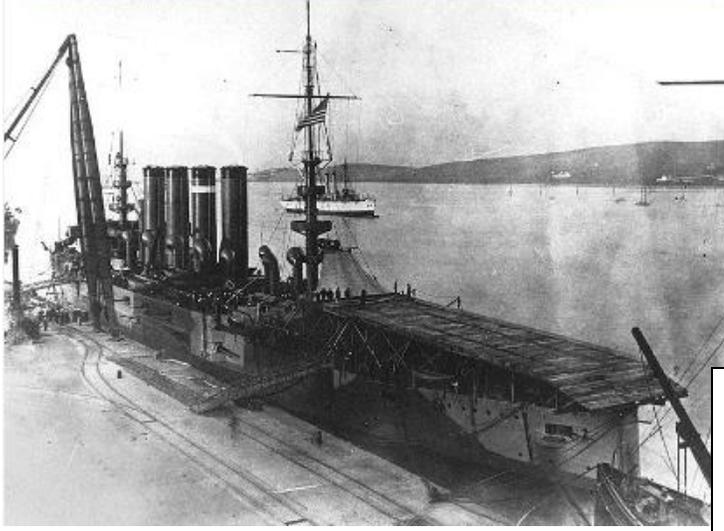


Photo # NH 1385 Eugene Ely landing on board USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay, 18 January 1911

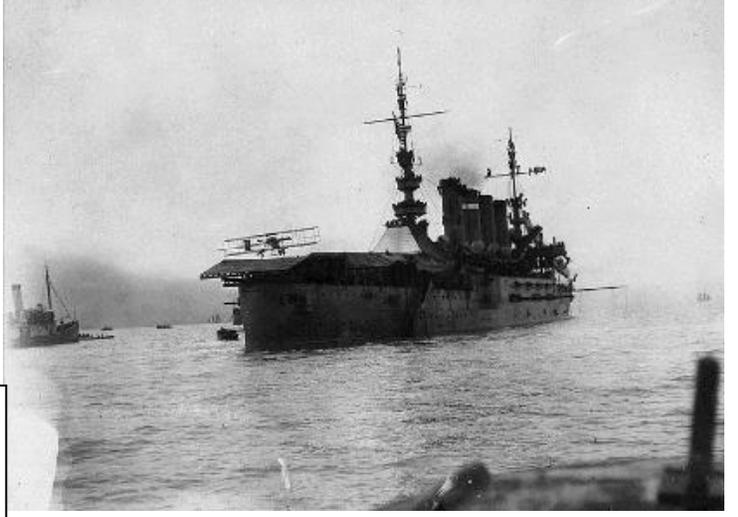


Photo # NH 7008 Eugene Ely takes board USS Pennsylvania, 18 January 1911

