

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

June 2016



John Cecil

A message from the President

Greetings,

It has been very hot, rainy, and humid the past couple of weeks here in Sebring. Summer has definitely arrived. I hope our Northern members are enjoying a bit cooler and drier air. Summer is the time when we see a decrease in visitors. It is a great time for groups to visit. In fact, on 7 June, 24 people with the Ship and Shore Travel Group out of Sarasota, FL visited. They had the Museum to themselves with four Museum volunteers to assist them. Members of the group were very interested in the various displays and were impressed with the Museum. They were a great group who

enjoyed their time at the Museum. The Museum volunteers definitely enjoyed interacting with them. Hopefully, we will see more group visits this Summer.

At last, the Museum front entrance project is completed. The last remaining items, stripping of the parking area, installation of new parking signs, and landscaping of the front of building are complete. We now have a front entrance that provides easy access for the disabled and does justice to the displays inside the Museum. Museum members and friends, the City of Sebring, the Museum's neighbors, and all of Highlands County can be justifiably proud of this Museum. Now we are on to figuring out how we can get the funds to construct an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant bathroom and expand the building to accommodate an ever increasing number of historical artifacts.

Have a great summer. Stay safe!

John



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

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 10 May 2016, Maureen Fulginiti became an annual member of the Museum. Maureen is the lady that painted the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard logos and symbols on the front of the building, and the two anchors on the front porch stanchions. Maureen lives in Sebring, FL.

On 17 May 2016, Aaron and Judy Perkins signed up for an annual membership. Aaron and Judy are retired. Aaron, a U.S. Navy Veteran worked in Indiana law enforcement and as Director of Safety/Security at St. Vincent, Indian Mercy Hospital. Judy worked as a Secretary. Aaron and Judy live in Sebring, Florida, and spent a couple of months in Indiana during the summer..

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.

Memoriam

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Aviation Ordnanceman First Class Russell W. Soop, Jr., USN (Ret) on 15 June 2016. Russ was a long time member of the Military Sea Services Museum and the Fleet Reserve Association. Russ resided in Ducla, Georgia.

Fair winds and following seas Russ. Rest in Peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Soop family.

Thank You Rebecca

For the second school year in a row, the Museum was fortunate to have the assistance of a very fine young student. Rebecca Spencer, a Senior at Sebring High School and a student at South Florida State College earned extra credit by volunteering afternoons at the Museum. Rebecca graduated on 28 May and will be heading off in the fall to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to pursue a four-year degree in Recreational Therapy. In addition to volunteering at the Museum, Rebecca volunteers at The Palms Assisted Living facility in Sebring where she is learning what a Recreational Therapist does.

During her first year at the Museum, Rebecca quickly learned the history behind most of the artifacts in the Museum and gained a good understanding of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard history. Her knowledge and value to the Museum greatly increased during her second year. Rebecca was a big help in researching information on donated artifacts and organizing displays. She was not afraid to get her hands dirty tackling some of the heavier tasks. Her help and can do attitude will be missed at the Museum.

We know Rebecca as a hardworking, intelligent, personable young lady. We are confident she will do well at Calvin College. The Museum Board of Directors deeply appreciates all she has done for the Museum and we wish Rebecca all the best the World can offer as she enters the next stage of her life.



Ed Wolfe - YMS 288 - WW II

Ed Wolfe says;

We on the YMS 288 were lost for 3 days down there in the South Pacific somewhere once upon a time. Our 90 day wonder nervous Skipper could not get a Sextant sun sign for navigation because of inclement weather, I mean a heavy overcast was all, over us. The word got out that we were lost which became a big joke. I was a Gunners Mate and knew nothing about navigation but all you had to do was take the last quadrant fix on the sun, locate the ship on the map, get a direction and ship speed and find a close present position. We all had a big laugh for 3 days but finally that Lieutenant found the YMS 288 when the sun came out from the overcast and it was always exciting and kept us alive and kicking. Yes that 90 day wonder was a pistol.

Ed Wolfe says,

I was wounded in WW 11 in the South Pacific on YMS 288. The ship was in dry dock and I decided to go over the side the easy way which turned out to be the hard way. I took a 2 fold Purchase and anchored one end with that rope real tight over the edge and climbed up on the edge, put my foot in the hook at the end of the line and slowly began to lower myself down to the dry dock deck. It was all going well and I had lowered myself 3 quarters of the way down when I became very confident of speed and my hand over hand let down really let me down fast when I missed the rope on a overhand and there I went, falling on my upper back right shoulder on a short angle iron leaving a bleeding gash on the upper back side of my shoulder and I still carry the scar of that wound from WW II.

Ed Wolfe did this,

YMS 288 swept for mines at Eniwetok Island in the South Pacific for three months straight and in that time we cut one mine, and it was a big one which we sank with the 20 mm gun.

One day a shipmate said Ed can you cut hair and I said well I never did, he handed me a pair if scissors and I gave it a try, when I finished his hair in the back looked like a staircase but it was shorter so he was happy, he thanked me and that was enough for me.

After that I did cut many heads of hair for those three months. One day the executive officer a JG said Ed can you cut my hair and I said sure, by then we had been alongside a Tender so I bought a pair of hand clippers, a barbers comb and a pair of barber shears. I took a tall chair out of the wheel house and parked it on the port side of the flying bridge and sat him down, everything went well cause by then my haircuts were looking like a pro did them.

The sea was calm with a big slow roll and I was almost finished when a roll moved that chair and that JG with it, I was trimming just above his ear and the scissors got loose in my right hand and I clipped the top of his ear off just enough for it to bleed big, well that 90 Day Wonder grabbed his ear with a yell and left in a hurry, I was pretty embarrassed but didn't say a word, by the way he never ask me to cut his hair again.

Thank you Ed for these entertaining stories. (Editor's note: Ed was also a Gunners Mate aboard the USS TERROR and survived a Kamikaze attack on the TERROR.)

President Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest-until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return, Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home - fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas - whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them - help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too - strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace what will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

The American Soldier
ALWAYS READY. ALWAYS LEADING



“Full victory -
nothing else.”

-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower



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Anniversaries

14 June 1773. U.S. Flag adopted by the Second Continental Congress. In 1916, President Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 of each year as Flag Day.

14 June 1775. Continental Army established. --- 2016 Happy 241st Birthday to the U.S. Army.

18 June 1812. U.S. declares war on Great Britain.

10 June 1854. U.S. Naval Academy holds its first graduation in Annapolis, MD.

17 June 1898. Navy Hospital Corps established.

4-7 June 1942. Battle of Midway. U.S. Navy decisively defeated the Japanese Navy inflicting irreparable damage on the Japanese fleet. The battle of Midway coupled with the earlier Japanese defeat in the battle of the Coral Sea was a major turning point in the war in the Pacific.

6 June 1944. D-Day. The Allied invasion of German occupied Western Europe (Operations Neptune and Overload) began on the beaches of Normandy, France.

22 June 1942. Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress.

15 June 1944. Battle of Saipan.

19-20 June 1944. Battle of the Philippine Sea. The Japanese lost three carriers, two oilers and approximately 600 aircraft. The devastation the American pilots inflicted on the Japanese fleet led to the aerial fight earning the name "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot."

25 June 1950. Korean War began.

8 June 1967. USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) was suddenly and without warning attacked in international waters by air and naval forces of Israel. Thirty four Americans were killed and 174 wounded.

10 June 1963. President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act --- equal pay for those doing equal work.

12 June 1987. President Ronald Reagan demands, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

4 July 1776. The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence written largely by Thomas Jefferson.

3 July 1898. U.S. Fleet destroyed by Spanish fleet in the Battle of Santiago de Cuba.

28 July 1914. World War I began.

30 July 1942. WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) established. The Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy established.

Anniversaries continued

5 July 1945. Philippines liberated.

14 July 1945. First U.S. Navy bombardment of Japanese home islands began with the bombardment of the Japan Iron and Steel Company in Kiamichi on Honshu, one of Japan's main islands.

16 July 1945. First atomic bomb successfully tested in New Mexico.

29 July 1945. USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) enroute to Leyte Gulf was sunk by a Japanese submarine resulting in the loss of 881 crewmen. Only 316 crewmen were alive when they were rescued from the water almost five days later. The sinking of the USS INDIANAPOLIS was the worst U.S. Navy disaster of World War II.

27 July 1953. Korean War Armistice signed at Panmunjom. Korean War ended.

Did You Know That

the Navy Seal Trident is sometimes called the "Budweiser. The trident worn on the uniforms of Navy Seals is officially designated the "Special Warfare Insignia," but it is sometimes called the "Budweiser," named in part for the Basic Underwater Demolition/Seal (BUD/S) course, the grueling twenty-five week special warfare school. The trident also has an uncanny resemblance to the Anheuser-Busch logo.

Quotable Quotes

We must reject the idea that every time a laws broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.

---Ronald Reagan

There are no extraordinary men...just extraordinary circumstances that ordinary men are forced to deal with.

---Admiral William (Bull) Halsey, Jr.

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear.

---Mark Twain

I am the son and grandson of Navy admirals, and I was born into America's service. It wasn't until I was deprived of her company that I fell in love with America.

---John McCain (Vietnam POW)

Of the Marines on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue.

---Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

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.

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 more timely manner and you will save the Museum postage and printing costs.

19 June 2016

To all Dads

Happy
Father's
Day