



Contents

HNSA 2018 Recap..... 1

AROUND THE FLEET

Constitution Cruise..... 2

Is *Lexington* Haunted?..... 3

Undead Success in Tampa..... 3

Lilac Radio Day..... 4

JOB ALERT in Groton.....5

Swift Boat Receives Honor..... 5

Missouri Prepares for 75th..... 6

Celebrating the *Nautilus*..... 6

Kidd Volunteer Receives Award.....7

Back Matter..... 7

2018 HNSA Conference Recap

■ Dr. Bill Cogar, HNSA Executive Director



This year's Conference in Bremerton, WA, and hosted by the USS *Turner Joy* (DD-951), the Navy Undersea Museum, and the Puget Sound Naval Museum, was an incredible success - the largest number of attendees in HNSA Conference history! Thanks go out to all those who helped make the meeting such a success. Special kudos go to the folks from the *Turner Joy* for their tireless efforts.

This year's presentations were the best and most useful in terms of value to our historic ship museums. We enjoyed a

huge contingent from the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, DC, where several gave excellent presentations on important themes. We were also delighted to have a representative from the American Alliance of Museums speaking on standards of excellence as well as a presentation how museums throughout the nation - including HNSA Fleet Members - serve as economic engines in the local communities.

Everyone had a great time; including a cruise up Puget Sound to the Suquamish Kiana Lodge for a superb and entertaining evening of salmon and lively conversation. Our Banquet speaker was David Reams, Senior Director of Maritime Operations of Vulcan, Inc., who spoke on and showed film highlights

of iconic shipwrecks of World War II, including the *Lexington*, *Indianapolis*, and *Juneau*.

So much of the success goes to our many Sponsors and Exhibitors. A special thanks go to this year's Conference Sponsor, PPG Paints. Chip Belcastro and Marty Greenwell explained to all the new and exciting three-year Partnership that exists between PPG Paints and HNSA.

Next year's conference is scheduled for 17-20 September, 2019, and hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, home of the USS *Cobia*, in Manitowoc, WI. Under the very capable leadership of Rolf Johnson and his team, I am confident that next year's Conference will be another enjoyable and relevant success for our Members.

News Around the Fleet

■ Constitution Honors Gold Star Families and State Educators



Seaman Taylor Ruggle, assigned to USS Constitution, helps to fold the national ensign during an underway demonstration. of (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Joshua Hammond/ Released)

USS Constitution and her crew got underway from the ship's berth in Charlestown, Massachusetts, Sept. 21 to honor Gold Star Families and State Educators.

In coordination with Naval History and Heritage Command and USS Constitution Museum, the crew of USS Constitution hosted Gold Star Families and State Educators as a thank you for their tremendous support of the U.S. Armed Services, Veterans and the Nation.

Slipping her berth at 10:00 a.m. with 344 guests, Constitution navigated down the Charles River Basin out to Boston's Inner Harbor.

"I think it's a real honor that USS Constitution dedicated an entire underway to our organization," said Karen Lounsbury, President of the Boston Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. "I think it's an honor and a privilege to work with the Navy and know that our children are not forgotten. Our biggest disappointment with being Gold Star Mothers is figuring out that life goes on without our children and then people forget their sacrifices. To have the Navy open up Constitution and dedicate the day is an honor and a privilege because it lets us know that the Navy hasn't forgotten."

Constitution fired a 21-gun salute which was returned by the 101st Field Artillery Unit of the Massachusetts National Guard near Fort Independence on Castle Island. Fort Independence is a Massachusetts

Department of Conservation and Recreation site that served as a defensive position for Boston Harbor from 1634 to 1962.

"This has been an unbelievable experience," said Garcia Dalzon, a 9th grade history teacher at East Boston High School. "To be aboard Constitution, a vessel that was created to protect us as a nation, I think was important. Being able to see where the Sailors stayed during the War of 1812 and how the ship is actually run was exciting. What I teach my students about USS Constitution is in a book. They might see something like it in a movie, but to actually have an opportunity to be on Constitution and actually experience the ship was absolutely amazing. I want to bring my class to the ship so they can experience the real thing."

[READ THE FULL STORY AT NAVY.MIL](http://NAVY.MIL)



"I think it's an honor and a privilege to work with the Navy and know that our children are not forgotten."

Karen Lounsbury
President, Boston Chapter
American Gold Star Mothers,
Inc.



■ Is the *Lexington* Haunted?

(Article originally appears courtesy of Meagan Falcoln, *Corpus Christi Caller Times*)

There's a reason why people have called the *Lexington* Museum on the Bay one of the most haunted places in America.

There are things that cannot be explained on the decommissioned World War II aircraft carrier, including ghostly touches and shadowy figures roaming the decks.

Charles "Rusty" Reustle, director of operations and exhibits, said the museum receives hundreds of reports of "supernatural" activity each year.

Among the most famous sightings are a sailor dressed in uniform helping lost guests find their way back to the deck and a sailor in the engine room giving a lecture on how the turbines work



Steve Banta, the executive director of the Lexington Museum on the Bay, said there's been "too many accounts" about paranormal activity aboard the decommissioned aircraft carrier to not have "something to it." (Photo: Rachel Denny Clow/ Caller-Times)

before vanishing into thin air.

Reustle said he has experienced several supernatural occurrences during his 26 years of working on the ship.

"I've always been a skeptic, but there's some things I've seen you just can't explain," he said.

The museum official said one of this best ghost stories involved losing six pen caps over the course of five weeks.

"I always use a ballpoint pen

and over the course of a few weeks I lost about six pen caps off my desk," he said. "The day I lost the sixth pen cap, I turned over my office looking for them. My office was spotless by the time I was through and I never found them.

"It wasn't until I returned to my office the next morning that I found all six pen caps laying side by side right in front of my computer keyboard."

READ THE FULL STORY



A zombie outbreak has swept across Tampa Bay. Legions of ravenous undead are infecting and contaminating the innocent. The only way out from this battle of humanity is to escape aboard the American Victory Ship. Will you survive?

Bill Kuzmick, Director at the SS *American Victory*, wanted to pass along a new and successful program they are doing at their historic ship. According to Kuzmick, they have "found their niche" in the very lucrative Halloween market in Tampa with "Undead in the Water." Over the last two years, they have conducted the event

with a third party. This year (2018) was the first year they are running the event alone. Click **THIS** link to go to their website for the event, "Undead in the Water."

Click **this link** to watch a video they produced for the ship regarding the recent efforts of the *American Victory Ship*.

Tampa Undead Finds Success

■ U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary holds “Radio Day” on the *Lilac*



As part of Radio Day and the 79th Anniversary celebration of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Auxiliarists Stephen Harwood and Jose Colon set up a radio station on the *Lilac*, a retired Coast Guard Cutter at Pier 25 in New York City. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Aries Dela Cruz (014-05-03)



Mary Habstritt, Museum Director and president of the *Lilac* Preservation Project, and Barry Greene, a volunteer for the *Lilac*, stand inside the ship's pilot house with Auxiliarists James Lewis, Jose Colon, and Stephen Harwood as part of Radio Day. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Aries Dela Cruz (014-05-03)

(Original press release courtesy of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary)

On 20 October, members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary conducted radio operations aboard the retired U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Lilac*, America's only surviving steam-powered lighthouse tender, on Pier 25 in Hudson River Park. Radio Day also serves as a celebration of the 79th Anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the largest marine safety volunteer organization in the world.

“Radio Day is a great example of the critical role of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's volunteer radio telecommunications operators in safeguarding the safety and security of our communities,” Communications Staff Officer Stephen Harwood, who led the Lower Manhattan Flotilla's Radio Day operations aboard the *Lilac*, said. “Auxiliarists are honored to be able to provide their own equipment and thousands of hours of volunteer service for the common good and welfare of our communities, and for our country in times of need. Whenever there

is a need for our service in emergency operations, disaster relief, or public events, qualified Auxiliarists will dutifully answer the call.”

The special event station established by the Lower Manhattan Flotilla on the bridge of the *Lilac* operated under the special event call sign K02 and communicated with other amateur radio stations. Today's Radio Day exercises demonstrated how the Auxiliary's telecommunications operators are always practicing and refining their communications skills, equipment, and knowledge so that they are always ready to assist national, state and local officials in times of need.

Throughout the day, members of the public interacted with Coast Guard Auxiliarists and received free tours of the *Lilac*. For the young people who attended, Radio Day served to encourage their pursuit of educational, career and volunteer opportunities in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, particularly in the United States Coast Guard Aux-

iliary, as well as the United States Coast Guard Academy.

“We are honored to participate in the celebration of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's 79th Anniversary,” said Mary Habstritt, Museum Director and President of the *Lilac* Preservation Project. “*Lilac* embodies the proud legacy of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Coast Guard and its dedication to helping mariners and boaters navigate safely through our waters. Our mission is to educate visitors about the important job of tending aids to navigation and understanding the technology, like the radio communications demonstrated today, that facilitate waterborne commerce and recreation. It's really exciting to have the Auxiliary on board for Radio Day and we look forward to more such collaborations.”

Job Alert

Executive Director
Submarine Force Library and Museum
Association



Independent of museum operations, and not affiliated with The Department of the Navy, the privately operated Submarine Force Library and Museum Association (SFLMA) serves as the marketing/development arm of the historic Submarine Force Library & Museum. SFLMA is a non-profit 501(c)3, directed by an independent leadership team comprised of dedicated volunteers, and a team of paid employees involved in gift shop operations, educational programming, and fundraising. Currently the SFLMA is seeking a full-time Executive Director, answerable to the Executive Board, responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives and to devise methodologies which will result in a vibrant and growing organization.

[GO TO FULL DESCRIPTION](#)

■ Swift Boat Named to National Register of Historic Places

The Maritime Museum of San Diego, home to one of the world's finest collections of historic vessels, from sail to steam to submarine, is proud to announce that the *PCF 816* (patrol craft fast) is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and California Historical Resources. This honor includes *PCF 816* Swift Boat in the official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

The notice of the National Register of Historic Places announcement was presented to the Maritime Museum of San Diego by the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation on July 27, 2018.

According to Dr. Kevin Sheehan, Manager of Collections and Librarian of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, "*PCF 816* is a tangible reminder of the service and dedication of so many Swift Boat sailors and allows visitors the opportunity to better understand what they sacrificed." The Swift Boat Sailors Association brought the *PCF 816* Swift Boat to the Maritime Museum of San Diego to be restored and operated on San Diego Bay. Museum visitors now can experience the sound and throbbing vibration from two V12 diesels delivering 980 horsepower

for high speed runs through the Bay while retired Swift Boat Sailors and docents talk about what it was like to be a crewman in Vietnam, serving as a Quartermaster, Gunner's Mate, Engineman, Radarman, Bosun's Mate or Skipper.

The Navy first used them on coastal patrol as a part of Operation Market Time to interdict sea-borne supplies on their way to the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army in South Vietnam. Later, the boats moved into the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta and the Ca Mau peninsula to conduct special operations: gunfire support, troop insertion and evacuation, and raids into enemy territory. To the U.S. Navy, Swift Boats were weapons of war.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego now has four vessels of historic distinction on the National Register – *PCF 816* Swift Boat, 1914 Pilot boat, the world's oldest active sailing ship *Star of India*, and the 1898 steam ferry boat *Berkeley* – listed as National Historic Landmarks.

Visitors interested in naval history bay cruises aboard *PCF 816* Swift Boat can purchase tickets by [CLICKING HERE](#).





Mike Carr of the USS Missouri Memorial Association holds a commemorative coin surrounded by part of the ship's teak deck. (Evie Hemphill, St. Louis Public Radio)

■ Missouri Prepares for 75th

The USS *Missouri* has played a role in history that is likely equal to its heft. *Missouri's* namesake vessel is three football fields long, 20 stories high, 45,000 tons and once housed a crew of 2,400 sailors. The famous battleship was the site of the Japanese surrender during World War II and was a favorite of President Harry Truman, a native Missourian.

"There's always a lot of renovation," explained Mike Carr, president and CEO of the USS *Missouri* Memorial Association and Vice President of HNSA, who joined St. Louis on the Air host Don Marsh on Thursday. "It always takes a lot of effort and money to support 45,000 tons of steel."

Beginning in 2019, the association will begin commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. In addition, the U.S. Navy recently granted the USS *Missouri* a 25-year lease on the pier in Pearl Harbor and numerous renovations are underway.

"I get to work very early every day, and it's such a special time of day to watch the sun coming up, as Pearl Harbor comes alive," Carr said. "We're the only battleship that actually sits in the middle of an active-duty Navy base."

Listen to the audio to hear more about the USS *Missouri's* role in U.S. history.

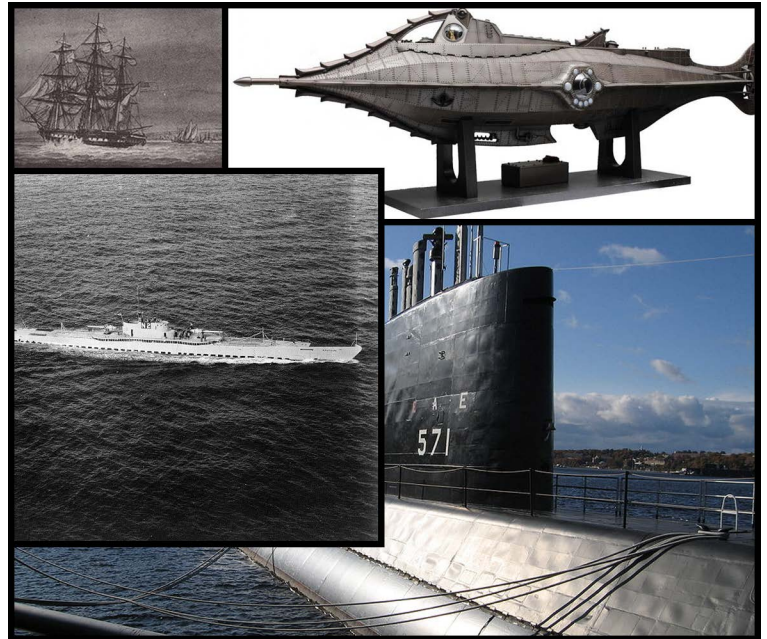
[LISTEN ON ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO](#)

■ Celebrating the *Nautilus*

On September 30, 1954, the first-ever nuclear powered submarine was commissioned. This was not however the first submarine to be named *Nautilus*. In 1870, Captain Nemo commanded his "*Nautilus*" in Jules Verne's classic science fiction novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," and during World War II the Navy's third vessel named USS *Nautilus* (SF-9/SS-168) was a Narwhal-class submarine commissioned on July 1, 1930 and commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Doyle, Jr.

The first of the U.S. Navy ships named *Nautilus* was a schooner that launched in 1799, and the Navy bought it for \$16,763 in 1803, also the date she was commissioned (and renamed USS *Nautilus*). She was captured by the Royal Navy in July of 1812. The second ship named *Nautilus* was a 76-foot schooner commissioned into the Navy in 1847 for service in the Mexican-American War and commanded by Lt. G. M. Bache. It was returned to the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Captain Hyman Rickover had the idea of a nuclear Navy, and guided the project from 1951 when Congress authorized the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine, and Capt. Rickover became known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy." It was on Dec 12, 1951, that the Navy Department announced that the submarine would be the fourth



vessel to be called *Nautilus*, and her 1st Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Eugene P. Wilkinson, ordered "all lines cast off, Underway on Nuclear Power" on January 17, 1955.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE \(Argus Observer\)](#)

■ Louisiana Association of Museum Honors *Kidd* Volunteer

The Louisiana Association of Museums has presented its Lois W. Bannon Heart and Soul Award to Garrett C. Lynch Sr., the longest-serving volunteer with the USS *Kidd*.

The award was presented during the association's annual awards luncheon Sept. 10.

The award recognizes "an individual who has contributed significant time and expertise in support of a Louisiana institution, or institutions, enabling the institution(s) to prosper in the local community," according to a news release. Lynch has volunteered aboard the former Navy destroyer for 34 years, almost the entire length of its service as a museum vessel in downtown Baton Rouge.

A veteran of World War II who served aboard the USS *Fullam* (DD-474), a destroyer of identical design to the *Kidd*, Lynch has been invaluable to the ship's restoration. An electrician by trade, he has saved the nonprofit hundreds of thousands of dollars in skilled labor for the past three decades. He and other veterans contributed to the curriculum still in use to train the museum's tour guides.

In addition to traveling to shipyards and salvage yards to rescue rare equipment from the cutting torch to remount aboard the *Kidd*,



Volunteer Garrett C. Lynch, left, accepts the Lois Wyatt Bannon Heart and Soul Service Award from Tim NesSmith, ship superintendent of the USS *Kidd*, at the Louisiana Association of Museums' conference in Baton Rouge on Sept. 10. (Nicholas BeJeaux)

Lynch has also served as a mentor to museum staff. Many of those he has mentored have gone on to prestigious careers: teaching at West Point, the Army General Staff College and the Air Force Academy, and museum work at locations such as the National World War II Museum, the Statue of Liberty, and George Washington's home at Mount Vernon.

Lynch has even ventured into the film world by providing expertise to History Channel documentaries, the video game "World of Warships" and a movie that was recently filmed aboard the *Kidd*. Sharp-eyed viewers can catch him

in a small role in the 2012 film "Battleship," where he and two fellow volunteers shared screen time with singer-actress Rihanna.

"To say that Garrett's 'ripple effect' is immense is an understatement," said Tim NesSmith, ship superintendent of the USS *Kidd*. "Through the people he has mentored and through the films, documentaries, and video games he has been involved with, he has quite literally imparted his knowledge to millions of people worldwide."

Historic Naval Ships Association

To Support the Preservation of Historic Naval Vessels &
To Honor Those Who Serve at Sea



Dr. William B. Cogar
Executive Director

626-C Admiral Drive
Box 320
Annapolis, MD 21401

443-949-8341

ExecutiveDirector@
HNSA.org

Layout: Matthew T. Eng

Jonathan Williams
USS *Iowa*
President

Mike Carr
USS *Missouri*
Vice-President

John Elliker
USS *Wisconsin*
Treasurer