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End of War Ceremony Held at the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial



The 75th WWII Commemoration Ceremony was held on the fantail of the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial on September 2, 2020, the very ship that on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay, General MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz and representatives of the Allied Forces accepted Japan's formal surrender, to bring to an end the bloodiest war in history.

"Salute Their Service, Honor Their Hope" was the theme of the Commemoration in recognition of the veterans and civilians who fought on the battlefield and served on the homefront during WWII. At the 75th WWII Commemoration Ceremony, attended by local Hawaii WWII veterans, Governor David Y. Ige, State of Hawaii, was joined by Dr. Mark T. Esper, Secretary of Defense, Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (via video), Adm. Phil Davidson, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, as well as speakers Captain Steve Colón, USN (Ret), Chairman, USS *Missouri* Memorial Association and Michael Carr, President &

CEO, USS *Missouri* Memorial Association.

"September 2nd, 1945 is the day that the United States and our Allies turned tragedy into triumph, violence into victory, fighting into freedom, loss into liberty, and peril into peace," stated Adm. Davidson. "This day marked the very beginning of the rules-based international order – an order responsible for some 75 years of peace, prosperity, and security that helped not only to liberate hundreds of millions, but to lift billions out of poverty, all to a level of prosperity previously unseen in human history."

A powerful video with vintage footage from the war launched the 75th WWII Commemoration Ceremony, followed by an actual Flyover of WWII Warbirds above the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial and Pearl Harbor, then a Pass In Review by the USS *Michael Murphy*.

The video of the full Commemoration Ceremony is now available to watch [HERE](#).

"Today, at this special Commemoration, we marked the end of a great global war. It was won by a generation defined as the greatest, not only by what they achieved in war, but by the peace and prosperity they created after it ended."

David Ige
Hawaii Governor

News Around the Fleet

■ Battleship Texas Update

There has been a lot happening around and on the ship since the summer.

Effective August 1, 2020, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has transferred operations of the Battleship Texas to the Battleship Texas Foundation (BTF).

In 2019, the BTF and TPWD entered a memorandum of understanding/lease (MOU) whereby the BTF would operate and maintain the Battleship Texas for TPWD and the State of Texas. Under terms of the MOU, the operational control is transferred via a 99-year lease to the Foundation. The Texas has been closed to the public since August of 2019.

Currently, the BTF and TPWD are preparing the ship for transportation to a shipyard where her hull will be replaced from the waterline down and repainted, along with other necessary repairs and improvements. The ship is tentatively scheduled to depart her current berth between November-December 2020 and be in the shipyard for a period of approximately 12 months. Once the battleship leaves the shipyard, she will arrive in a new berth around January-February 2022. Following a period to prepare the ship for reopening, the plan is to have it receiving visitors by 1st Quarter 2022.

The ongoing vessel prep continued into September of this year, despite weather several storms and hurricane in the Houston area. Restoration work continued on the guns, as well as preparing the torpedo blister tanks for foaming (temporarily for structural stability) for the ship's eventual move to a shipyard for hull replacement. In October,



(Photos by Battleship Texas and the Battleship Texas Foundation)

they opened up the breach of a 5" gun that hasn't been opened for over 50 years! Despite being filled with rust and sand, it was in remarkable shape. The first of the 3" guns have been disassembled and sandblasted free of the old paint and will be ready for a new application in the near future.

See all the updates to the ship [HERE](#).

■ Wargaming Laboratory Established at USNA Museum

The U.S. Naval Academy Museum and History Department have partnered to establish the Naval History Wargaming Lab (NHWL). The lab, located at the Museum in Preble Hall, is slated to open in time for the 2021 spring semester.

The purpose of the wargaming lab is to introduce midshipmen, officers and enlisted to components of strategy and decision-making prior to arriving in the fleet.

Marcus Jones, who has a doctorate in history, is an Associate Professor in the History Department and director of the lab. Claude Berube, who has a doctorate in military history, is the director of the Naval Academy Museum and Assistant Professor in the History Department. Jones and Berube have been working to integrate the NHWL into the Naval Academy's curriculum and extracurricular activities program. For the past six months, Jones has worked with the midshipman leaders of the newly-established Naval Academy Wargaming Society to create space for midshipmen to conduct games in the museum. The museum's theater is being converted for use by the Wargaming Society and for a new museum-funded course to be taught in the spring through the History Department.



"A robust wargaming program stands to enhance the readiness of our future officers to understand and solve the hardest challenge confronting the Navy today - namely, how to fight and win against increasingly capable peer competitors - while sharpening the critical thinking of students in our courses," said Jones.

Read the full story [HERE](#).

■ Freedom Park Update

Omaha's Freedom Park is one step closer to reopening after last year's historic flooding. FEMA recently approved funding for cleanup.

"They're digging out the big anchor chains that we had stretched out on the turf close to the (Missouri) river, which in some cases are under probably 9 or 12 inches of silt," said Dennis Bryers, of the Omaha Parks & Recreation Department.

The flood's aftermath is still visible and so too are the towering navy and air force artifacts.

"Cleanup is moving a lot of tree debris, shrubs and branches that floated down and were deposited here and there's a lot of silt that has to be cleaned up," said Bryers, noting it's been a long time coming, as the city's been waiting for FEMA to approve funding to take care of the mess.

With everyone else that was impacted by flooding," said Bryers, "FEMA was dealing with a lot of those priorities first and didn't get to the city's park department."



Duane Gallagher's been volunteering at the Park for decades; he knows a lot about its main attraction, the USS *Hazard*.

"The *Hazard's* been through a very great deal since she was in WWII," said Gallagher. "She actually had a torpedo go right underneath her in Okinawa and bump the bottom of the ship twice."

The *Hazard's* also seen its share of floodwaters; in 2011 the

city went so far as to throw down its anchors.

Read the Full Story [HERE](#).

View the recent efforts to clear debris on the Park's Facebook page [HERE](#).

■ Historic *Nantucket Lightship* Heads to Dry-Dock for Restoration

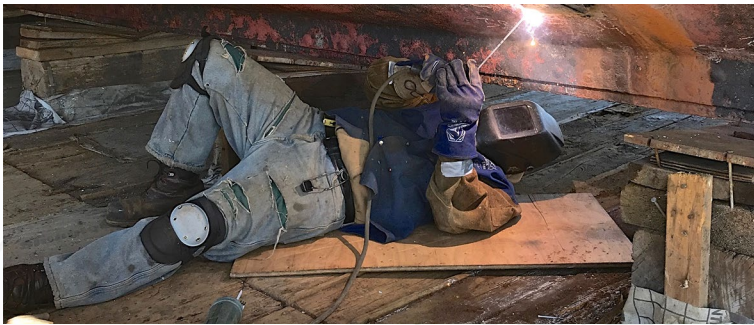


Photo Captions: (Top) LV-112 being towed to the Fitzgerald Shipyard, for dry-docking in Chelsea, MA (Boston Harbor), August 2020; (Middle) LV-112 in dry-dock; (Bottom) A shipyard worker prepares shell plating surfaces for clad welding restoration of some of the ship's hull rivets. In addition, a structural marine survey is being performed in conjunction to non-destructive Ultrasonic Testing (UT) of the ship's shell plating below the waterline to examine the plating for acceptable density. All Photos Credit to USLCM.

Nantucket Lightship/LV-112, a floating lighthouse, National Historic Landmark and museum berthed in its homeport of Boston Harbor, was transported via tugboat from East Boston to the Fitzgerald Shipyard located in Chelsea, MA, for its next phase of restoration in August 2020. This dry-dock phase is a critical juncture in the lightship's preservation, focused on restoring internal structural components critical to maintaining the integrity of the ship's hull.

Since 2009, the lightship has been owned and operated by the U.S. Lightship Museum (USLM), an all-volunteer nonprofit organization based in East Boston. In 2019, the USLM received two transformational grants to fund this key phase of *Nantucket/LV 112's* restoration: a \$575,000 Community Preservation Act grant from the City of Boston, and a \$487,500 Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant from the National Park Service. The restoration will allow the 150-foot ship – the largest U.S. lightship ever built – to remain open to the general public for decades to come. The last time the *Nantucket/LV-112* was in dry-dock was in 2011-12 at the Fitzgerald Shipyard.

The restoration involves the replacement of 84-year-old deteriorated interior structural steel hull frames and plating in *LV-112's* forward ballast tanks and forward lower hold, plus restoration of other important areas of the historic ship. Routine maintenance also will be done, such as cleaning marine growth off the hull below the waterline, a marine survey/inspection, application of new protective coatings and replacement of sacrificial zinc anodes to help prevent corrosion to the hull's shell-plating. The work is expected to take up to three months.

■ Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park Debut

New Video

"We are all one when it comes to the United States of America."

The Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park supports respect, tolerance, collaboration and understanding. They recently unveiled their new short film, "What Does it Mean to be an American?" The film highlights the qualities that unite us as Americans - commonalities that bridge geography, gender, occupation, race, and religion. It is our intention to focus on what connects us as Americans - as human beings - and not to divide us.

The mission of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park is to PRESERVE the military arti-



facts entrusted to our care; HONOR Veterans, military, and military families; EDUCATE about the values of service and sacrifice in defense of freedom; and INSPIRE a sense of patriotism and a desire to serve one's country in protect-

ing the right to liberty and justice for all.

Watch the video on their YouTube page [HERE](#).

■ Friends of LA Maritime Museum Receives Grant



The Friends of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum has received a \$10,000 grant from the Port of Los Angeles Community Investment Program to create a digital timeline of port history. The timeline will be available on the museum's website, lamaritimuseum.org, and will feature images and artifacts from the museum's vast collections.

"With the museum's temporary closure, the website has become a critical educational tool" said museum Director Marifrances Trivelli. "A digital timeline will provide a dynamic overview of port history, and another way to share the museum's collections with the public. We are grateful to the Port of Los Angeles for providing the necessary funding."

■ USS Slater Returns to Albany After Shipyard Overhaul

USS Slater, the last Destroyer Escort afloat in the United States, departed Staten Island in New York via tugboats on 26 August for her voyage back to Albany following repairs on her mast at Caddell's Shipyard for six weeks. They were in sight of Albany by 10:00 am. Fans, volunteers, and news crews were waiting in the parking lot for her return.

You can see the entire progress from shipyard to return home on their website [HERE](#). Jaquie Slater of News Channel 13 did a nice feature story of the return trip.



You can watch the video [HERE](#).



HAIL AND FAREWELL

■ New Executive Director at USS *Hornet* Museum

Mark Epperson was born in Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato, California. He graduated from Fresno State College and entered Naval Aviator Flight training, receiving his wings in 1972. He was assigned to Patrol Squadron 11 in Brunswick, Maine, and after completion of his tour was transferred to Patrol Squadron 91 at Moffett Field, California.

Mark left active duty to join American Airlines while remaining in the Naval Air Reserves. He served as the Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron 91 in 1991-1992 and his squadron participated in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then served as Reserve P3 program manager at the Pentagon and his last tour before retirement was Reserve Deputy, Chief of Naval Air Warfare.

He retired from the Naval Reserves in 1999.

At American Airlines, he served as a Captain and flew both International and Domestic routes. He served as the Chief Pilot of the American Airlines crew base in San Francisco and was in that capacity on September 11, 2001. After leaving the Flight Office he was the Domicile Chairman for the Allied Pilots



Association until his retirement from American Airlines in 2008.

Mark has been active in community affairs and has served as a PTA president, coached basketball, baseball and soccer, president of Loudoun Soccer Association and founder of High Desert Aviators Experimental Aircraft Association. He served as the Corporate Development Officer for the USS *Hornet* Museum from 2017-2019.

Mark and his wife, Joanne, reside in Pleasant Hill, California.



■ Independence Seaport Museum's President & CEO to Retire at the End of the Year

John Brady recently announced that he plans to retire as President & CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum at the end of the year.

"It has been an honor to work with great staff, volunteers, board members, and Philadelphia's cultural community to transform the Seaport Museum into a vibrant institution. The Museum strives to feature every aspect of our region's waterways, and features the significance of those waterways to all people in the region," says Brady. "I am proud of the work we have done to help raise awareness of the waterways, and the industries associated with them, while emphasizing the importance of water quality."

Before taking on the leadership role, Brady was director of the Museum's Workshop on the Water, which he brought to national prominence in the world of traditional boat building. That experience led the Museum to an investment in hands-on learning as a way to fully engage high school students. "One of the great joys of the CEO position is learning more about the waterways in the realms of history, science, and art from very talented people with expertise in each of these fields. Their talents are front and center in the galleries. Tides of Freedom, Patriots and Pirates, and River Alive!, are the three permanent exhibits created on my watch by the leaders at the cutting edge of the areas of study encountered in each exhibition. It has also been a real pleasure to see Philadelphia and Camden embrace their waterfronts and to play a role in that effort."



Accomplishments in John Brady's ten-year term include doubling attendance as well as doubling the endowment. Building renovations have included opening the structure to Penn's Landing and the Delaware River, on the ground level and renovating the galleries. Outdoor docks were expanded to accommodate the 15,000 people a year who enjoyed the Museum's small boat rentals before the shut-down. The Museum's two National Historic Landmark ships have been reinterpreted, and extensive work has been done to secure the *Olympia* - the world's oldest steel warship.

John Brady has served as ISM's President & CEO since 2011.

Read the Full Press Release [HERE](#).

■ Passing of Mike Kegley



The Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum USS *Edson* (DD-946) announced the death of Chief Mike Kegley. According to the museum, Chief Kegley died on Thursday, September 3.

People that worked closely with Kegley said he worked tirelessly to bring the USS *Edson* to Bay City as a museum ship and he devoted much of his life to

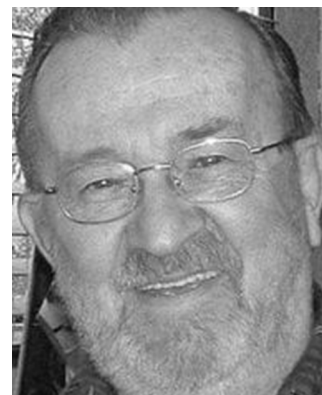
making thing happen at the museum over the past 23 years.

You can see the full story on the USS *Edson* Facebook page [HERE](#).

■ Frank M. Hemrich

We received from the USS *Cod* the sad news of the passing of Frank M. Hemrich, better known to most of us as Fritz. A submarine veteran and man of many talents, Fritz has a galaxy of friends across the world who are saddened at their loss but happy that he has been freed from his long battle with cancer.

Fritz was an avid HAM radio enthusiast, a member of a barbershop harmony group, and when his health allowed, he was head of the *Cod* HAM radio group. At our memorial events he was always present to lend a hand and greet visitors.



■ Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association Operations Manager Position

Responsible for the day-to-day management of Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association's (PSMA's) Albacore Park located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Performance of the duties of this Operations Manager include:

General:

- a. Facility Management
- b. Retail Operations
- c. Maintenance and Repair
- d. Public Safety
- e. Volunteer Cultivation
- f. Vendor Cultivation
- g. Event Set-Ups

Facility Management:

- Buildings and Grounds
 - a. Supervision and execution of physical maintenance of Albacore Park including daily tasks such as bathroom maintenance, lighting throughout facility, vacuuming, trash removal, and exhibit case cleaning to ensure a welcoming visitor experience.
 - b. Conduct regular inspections of buildings including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, pest control and security system functions.
- Museum Exhibits
 - a. Work with the Executive Director to assist in exhibit execution in moving cases or other items in the collection to the gallery.

Retail Operations:

- Visitor Center
 - a. General oversight of all operations including approving stock orders, assisting on POS system, making bank deposits, general cleanliness of center
- Staff Supervision
 - a. Responsible for scheduling staff to work in the Visitor Center. Ensure a safe environment for staff. Work with Executive Director with any Human Resources challenges.

Preservation, Maintenance and Repair

Reports to Maintenance Supervisor and Executive Director

- General Submarine Maintenance and Preservation
- NAVSEA's Biennial Ship Donation Inspection Plan (SDIP) Inspection
- Campus and Buildings Repairs
 - a. Responsible for reporting large repairs to Executive Director and Maintenance Supervisor and taking care of daily smaller repairs



Public Safety:

- Staff Emergency Reaction Proficiency
 - In collaboration with the Executive Director and the PSMA Board of Directors, the Operations Manager will promote Staff's knowledge of and compliance with the provisions of PSMA's Standard Operating Procedures including, but not limited to, proper procedures for notifying First Responders and the function and operation of the Portable Defibrillator).

Volunteer Cultivation:

- Regular Volunteers
- Special Volunteers

Vendor/Contractor Cultivation:

- Repair/Maintenance
- Event Set-Up and Coordination

Required Strengths and Skills:

- Positive attitude, team leader
- Able to work 32 - 36 hours per week
- Strong management skills with an ability to motivate staff and volunteers.
- Able to learn military history and develop a basic understanding of the features within the USS Albacore story.
- Experience with POS systems (recommended) or ability to learn.
- Fluency and understanding of Microsoft Office Suite.
- QuickBooks experience a plus.
- Able to lift 30 lbs. frequently due to stock arriving.
- Higher education is preferred or equivalent in experience

Salary commensurate with experience. Military experienced candidates are encouraged to apply.

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Patricia Violette, Executive Director at: executivedirector@ussalbacore.org. No telephone calls please.

■ Floating Dry-Dock for Sale

Marine surveyor and long-time friend of HNSA Joe Lombardi informs us of a floating dry-dock for any HNSA ships that may need it for a period of dry-docking. The dry-dock is currently located in Newport News, Virginia. According to Lombardi, she can accommodate a diesel-electric submarine, destroyer escort or small destroyer. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Lombardi at (508) 958-1299.



■ Fleet News Wants your Feedback!

We are eager to find out what recipients of "Fleet News" think of the publication and how we can improve it in order to better serve our readers and the historic naval ship museum community. What should we include? What should we leave out?

Please send all responses to Executive Director Bill Cogar [HERE](#).



Historic Naval Ships Association

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

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