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Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum Receives \$11k Bridge Grant



Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum (Patriots Point Photo)

"This virus hit at the busiest time of the year for us. This money will help cover operational costs incurred while we were closed."

Larry Murray
Executive Director
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum received an \$11,000 Bridge Grant from South Carolina Humanities (www.schumanities.org). Funding for Bridge Grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.

"We are very grateful for the needed help," said Patriots Point Executive Director Larry Murray. "This virus hit at the busiest time of the year for us. This money will help cover operational costs incurred while we were closed."

The museum was closed for more than 60 days as a precautionary measure against the spread of COVID-19. It reopened Friday, May 22, with several new health safety measures in place to protect visitors.

The mission of South Caro-

lina Humanities is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians.

This not-for-profit organization presents and/or supports literary initiatives, lectures, exhibits, festivals, publications, oral history projects, videos and other humanities-based experiences that reach more than 250,000 citizens annually. South Carolina Humanities receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as corporate, foundation and individual donors. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of community leaders from throughout the state.

News Around the Fleet



■ Jeremiah O'Brien Shed C Fire Update

Matt Lasher, Executive Director of the National Liberty Ship Memorial, has provided some updates on the recent fire aboard SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* in late May 2020.

Recovery, investigation, and damage assessments have begun at Pier 45. While the *O'Brien* did not receive catastrophic damage in the fire, the organization did. They lost items in storage and other pier side assets. They are working with the Port of San Francisco to identify a new temporary home for the ship.

The "lucky *O'Brien*" has once again escaped certain destruction. Their Captain said, "MIRACLE - and I don't use that term lightly. When you see bent steel girders from the 1,000 degree fire 50 feet from the ship and there appears to be no steel or even external paint damage, it is the way I would describe it."

At the end of May, they moved from their home at Pier 45 to a new temporary home at Pier 35 North. This is for a period of two months while the Port and other agencies clear debris and complete inspections of Pier 45's infrastructure.

"Foss Maritime provided free tug service for the move and many other companies have provided us logistical and material support. Thank you all! The new home berth at 35 North is leased to Metro Cruise via the Port of San Francisco. Both Metro Cruise and the Port worked quickly to accommodate us and we are very grateful for the new temporary space." - Matt Lasher

If you would like to help with recovery efforts, [please click this link](#). For material support contact the National Liberty Ship Memorial



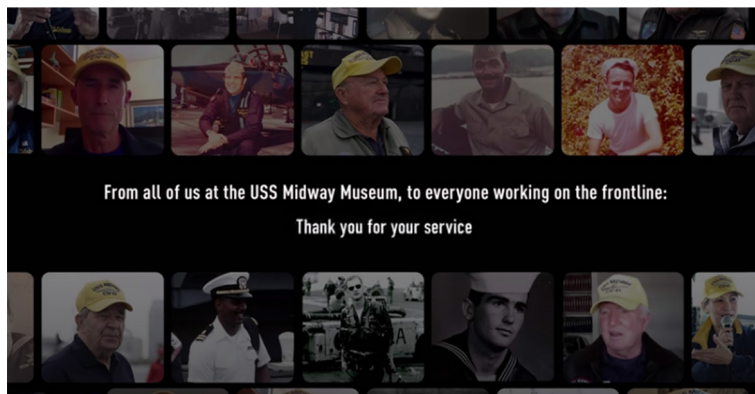
(Photos by National Liberty Ship Memorial)

at liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org. Also located at Pier 45 but at the opposite end from where the fire was, is berthed another HSNA Fleet Member, the USS Pampanito.. Fortunately, she was not endangered by the devastating fire but now faces being at a location closed to the public for an undetermined time.

■ Midway Museum Thanks Covid-19 Frontline Workers

Tom Herskowitz flew 200 combat missions over the skies of Vietnam; Al Hanson took part in World War II combat missions in the Pacific Theater; and Ken Guyer served two tours as a patrol boat gunner during the Vietnam War.

Watch this heartfelt video to witness humble U.S. military heroes, who we also recognize as invaluable volunteers of the *Midway*, send their appreciation to today's frontline heroes in the fight against COVID-19.



■ RV Petrel Addresses COVID Impact

After several years of remarkable discoveries of historic naval ships on the seabeds around the world including many World War II U.S. Navy icons, the following disappointing news from R/V *Petrel* is from a Facebook post on 10 June 2020:

"The impact of the COVID-19 crisis has changed the world for the long term in ways that we never could have imagined.

As a result of operational challenges from the pandemic, R/V Petrel will be placed into long-term moorage and she will not be deployed for the foreseeable future.

We were tasked with a monumental mission - discover, educate, and honor - and we're hopeful we will eventually be back in service."



■ New Associate Member in Sacramento, CA

HNSA is happy to announce a new Associate Member, the Maritime Pastoral Training Foundation, Ltd., headed by the Rev. Kempton D. Baldrige, Senior River Chaplain. After negotiating the eventual transfer of HNSA Fleet Member PTF-26 from Liberty Maritime Museum of Sacramento, CA, to Paducah, KY, the Foundation will continue to preserve, maintain, and exhibit the historic Vietnam War gunboat, "The Last American PT Boat," in tribute to the service and sacrifice of the U.S. Military.

Once the transfer is made, PTF-26 will be rechristened Training Ship *Jessie L. Brown* to provide the training vessel for the region's Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts, and NJROTC Cadets. The PT-Boat will also be used to strengthen and expand the work of maritime chaplaincies throughout North America and by coordinating with The Seamen's Church Institute, and create a maritime chaplains school with a three-week residential course aboard PTF-26. More about the Foundation can be found [HERE](#).

Not surprisingly, PTF-26's trans-shipment from Northern California to the Ohio River had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. But the



(Photo Credit: Jim West, Liberty Maritime Museum)

plans call for PTF-26 to be moored at the former Jeffboat Shipyard as a temporary exhibit at the Louisville Naval Museum in Jeffersonville, IN, while a new dock is built for her in Paducah, KY, the city having received a considerable BUILD grant to include a 1000' excursion dock."

Two recent articles by Shelley Byrne have been written about PTF-26 in *The Waterways Journal*. [Article 1](#) | [Article 2](#)

■ Highlighting Historic Ships for WWII's 75th Commemoration



This year marks seventy-five years since the end of World War II. Highlighting the commemoration will be a series of events in Hawai'i culminating on September 2 in a ceremony in Pearl Harbor, marking the allies' signing of the instrument of surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* (BB 63) in Tokyo Bay in 1945. More information about commemoration events and a calendar of activities are on the website www.75thwwiicommemoration.org.

While the Mighty Mo will be in the spotlight this September, there are lots of opportunities for other historic ships to participate in the commemoration.

- The September 2 event will be live streamed. Find out how your historic ship can carry the live stream at a local event or on your website. Consider putting together a watch party of the event as a fundraiser.
- Is your ship a WWII veteran? Feed us stories about its record and crew that can be posted on social media platforms about the commemoration.
- Follow the stories about the war and the Greatest Generation on the commemoration social media sites - spread the word and ask your members to follow the 75th WWII Commemoration on the following platforms:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#)

- Let us know of any WWII veterans in your area that may be able to travel to Hawai'i for the commemoration events. We will be hosting veterans and a family member or aide. We can also arrange to (virtually) interview veterans to record their stories.

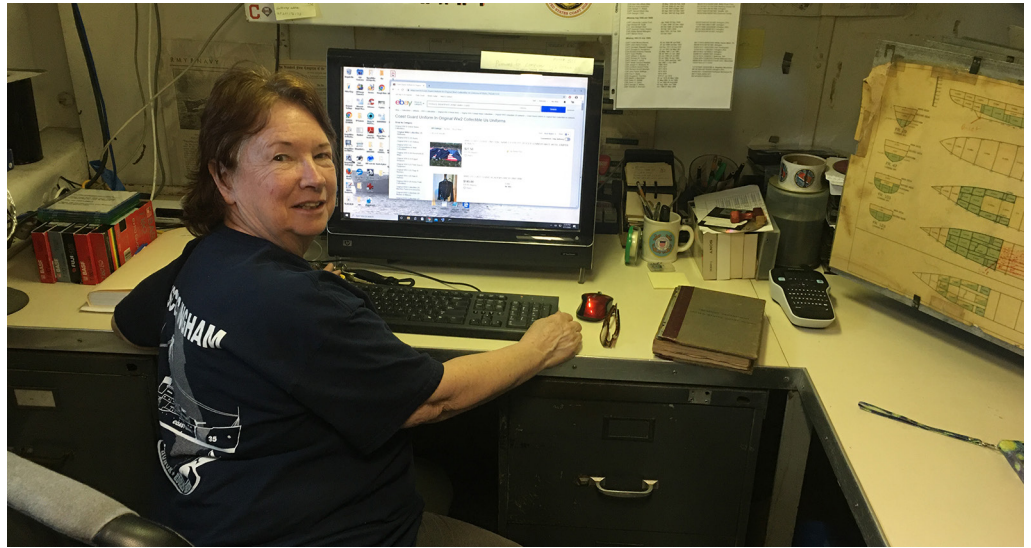
The contact for all of these opportunities is info@75thwwiicommemoration.org or call Toll-Free: 877-589-8898 or 808-589-5592. This is a moment in history to honor the last remaining veterans of the war that engulfed - and changed - the whole world.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

■ USCGC *INGHAM* Museum Historian Appointed

At the suggestion of Bill Verge of the USCGC *Ingham* Museum in Key West, Florida, Lynn Conley was appointed Historian of the Association by President, Dean Beach. Lynn was appointed on December 7, 2019, to fill the vacancy of the office left by the passing of Dick Booth. The appointment was made in accordance with the by-laws of the association which states "In the event of a vacancy caused by resignation, illness, death or removal for "cause," a replacement shall be appointed by the President to complete the term of that member."

Lynn has become an asset to the USCGC *Ingham* Association since joining in 2010. She attended her first meeting in 2004 at the request of her Father-In-Law, Thaddeus Krainski, Chief Electrician Mate who was on the ship from 1942-1946. Lynn has been an active participant becoming the editor of the association newsletter "Scuttlebutt" in 2014. Lynn also became instrumental in planning the biannual reunions and in 2016 she received the *John M. Waters Medal* which is given to those who perform outstanding works for the organization.



As a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in education, her commitment to preserving the history of the Cutter *Ingham* can be seen in her annual trips to the ship to provide archiving services, a program she started in 2017 with Alex Appel and Bill Verge. Lynn also provided the data and material for the USCGC *Ingham* Association website [HERE](#). Her desire to preserve and disseminate the history of "MIGHTY I" made her an excellent choice for the position of Historian.

■ USS *Virgil* (AGR-12) Guns Looking for a New Home

John Holmes, commander of American Legion Post 15 (Greenwich, Rhode Island), is in the process of selling their property and have two cannons that were donated to the post in 1965. The cannons came from USS *Virgil*. They must dispose of these cannons and have been working with Dan Caughey at the Naval History and Heritage Command, who says they are not property of the command.

For more information on these cannons contact Mr. Holmes at jholmes41@verizon.net or by phone [H-401-884-0914, C-401-374-1805].



■ 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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