

April 2022

## **Hello again, Indy family!**

We are keeping this email short and sweet as we are ramping up on our Reunion plans. Make sure to grab a glass of sweet tea, find a cozy place to read, and catch up on all things USS *Indianapolis*.

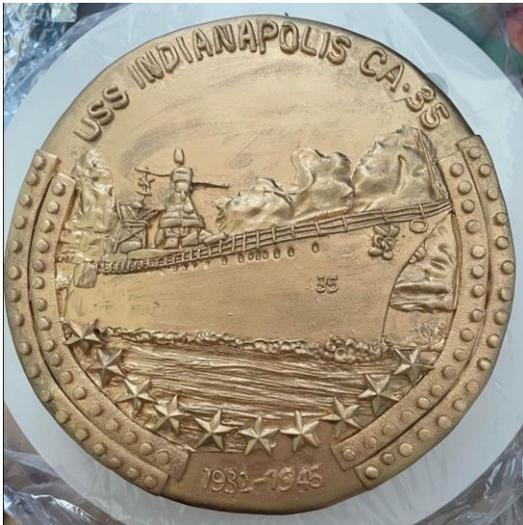
### **Epic Cake to Honor the Indy Story**

The Fredericksburg Reunion is all about honoring Indy and her final sailing crew. To that end, Legacy is blessed to be working with baker extraordinaire, Grace Goodwin. I don't mean that Grace is just an excellent home baker. I mean, she's competition-level, move-over-Food-Network, can't-believe-that's-a-cake baker!

As the centerpiece of our "Denim and Diamonds" reunion barbecue, Grace has designed a three-tier cake that honors the Indy story. One tier will *defy gravity*, balancing on the edges of four big medallions—including two that depict the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Indy's final sailing crew.

When I saw these, I was amazed! I thought, *Grace, how are you even doing this?*

I thought you'd like to see these works of art, too.



Best of all, Grace is the daughter of rescuer Earle Houghtaling, who was a sailor aboard the USS *Bassett*. When *Bassett* arrived and dispatched her men to begin picking up Indy survivors, the first man Earle pulled out of the water was none other than Harold Bray, who today, of course, chairs the USS *Indianapolis* Survivors Organization. Earle was a *Bassett* cook. Once the survivors were aboard, he went to the galley and began cutting up oranges for them. I am told that many survivors remember Earle's oranges—given to them immediately after they had just spent five nights and four days marooned at sea—as the best thing they had ever tasted.

And so, it's not just the *outside* of Grace's epic reunion cake that will tell the Indy story. In a special touch, at least one tier will be made of orange cake—in honor of Earle's kindness and the survivors' treasured memory of it.

### **Reunion Deadlines are Here!**

Okay: this is the last call for reunion registrations. Seriously. The deadline to register is April 15, so if you've been putting that off, you have less than a week to git her done. Also, as I've mentioned many times, lodging in Fredericksburg is in high demand. You can book at either the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites or the Inn on Baron's Creek, both of which are the hotels closest to our reunion venue, the National Museum of the Pacific War. However, you can still

book *discounted* rooms at the Inn on Baron's Creek until April 17. That's when our remaining room block expires.

Remember: if you miss the deadline, you can still book a room at either hotel, if there's one available—you'll just forego the special Indy discount. For more information on hotels and registration, click [here](#).

### **In Memory of Theodore Ott**

Way back in the 1930s, a boy named Theodore Gene Ott fell in love with a girl named Peggy. Each day, he would watch her walk by on the way to their elementary school, dreaming that someday he would marry her. He also dreamed of becoming a sailor one day. Affectionately called "Deanie," Theodore was born on March 19, 1923, in Eddyville, Iowa. He reported aboard USS *Indianapolis* in September 1943. Theodore and Peggy *did* get married. But while home on leave from Mare Island in 1945, Theodore told Peggy that he was worried about going back to the ship...

Legacy's Project 888 team has researched and written a wonderful mini-bio of Theodore Ott, including vintage photos...Click [here](#) to read it! (If the file does not open in another browser tab, please check for it in your computer's Downloads folder.)

If you have a story about an Indy final sailing crew member who's dear to your heart, please contact Marilyn Henry: [Project888@ussindianapolis.org](mailto:Project888@ussindianapolis.org)

### **Captain Bill Toti to lead a special midget-sub tour in F'Burg**

On December 7th, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, five Japanese mother submarines— I-16, I-18, I-20, I-22, and I-24 — each launched one midget submarine. These submarines were supposed to enter the harbor and lie in wait until they heard the air attack commence, then rise to the surface and launch their powerful Type 95 torpedoes into the American fleet.

Only one of those midgets still exists today, the one launched by the I-24. And

who was the torpedo officer on I-24 who helped launch this midget, sometimes referred to as the HA-19? None other than Lieutenant Mochitsura Hashimoto, later captain of *I-58*, the sub that sank USS *Indianapolis*.

And where can you find this midget? At our reunion venue, the National Museum of the Pacific War. Join Captain Bill Toti for a discussion of “The Midget Submarines of Pearl Harbor” in the midget submarine exhibit. For more information, contact Jane Gwinn Goodall: [janegwinngoodall@gmail.com](mailto:janegwinngoodall@gmail.com)

### **Speaking of the Reunion...**

We look forward to seeing you at these additional Fredericksburg events:

- Tuesday, May 17: Informal Welcome Reception
- Wednesday, May 18: VIP 2-day museum pass; a special re-enactment at the Museum’s Combat Zone of the Battle at Okinawa; Finish off a great day with a special Dessert Get-together
- Thursday, May 19: Special pre-BBQ event for Legacy Organization current members
- Thursday, May 19: Featured rescue presentation at the Memorial Wall; “A Denim and Diamond Celebration” themed Texas-style BBQ with Games, Music & Dancing
- Plus, free time for exploring Fredericksburg’s unique opportunities in a group or on your own

**Did I mention that all the reunion deadlines are here? [Register](#) for the reunion and [book your hotel](#) now!**

### **Friendly Reminder**

Earlier this week, an email containing information on two bylaw changes was send out to current Legacy Members. It included a link to vote on the proposed changes. The deadline to vote is next Wednesday, April 13th, but we urge you to vote as soon as possible (so you don't forget!).

*That's it for this month's Update. See you in May.*

Blessings,

Lynn :-)

Lynn Vincent  
Honorary Survivor  
Legacy Chair