



NOVEMBER 2021

USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization 3-Minute Update: Veterans Day Edition

Hello again, Indy Family!

November is a very special month because we have a special opportunity to honor our Armed Forces Veterans. The Legacy Organization is proud to honor our USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) veterans and their families. Indy's final mission ranks among the most consequential in the history of U.S. naval warfare, and her crew's heroic sacrifice echoes down to the present day.

A Little History

The roots of our Veterans Day celebrations stretch back more than a century. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 Armistice Day, a time to pause and reflect on world peace in the wake of World War I. It wasn't until 1954, the year after the Korean War ended, that Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a day to honor all our nation's veterans.

The History Channel has done a brief and engaging video with some really interesting details about the origins of Veterans Day. You can check that out [here](#).

Project 888 Connects Long Lost Family

When Carole Raley was a child, she remembers not being able to talk about her great-uncle Buddy, because his sisters—Carole's great-aunts—would cry at the mention of his name. Now, more than three-quarters of a century later, Carole is on a quest to learn more about Signalman 2c Carl M. “Buddy” Smith, her great uncle.

Carole's journey is reconnecting her with cousins she hasn't seen in 20 years—and also with cousins she has never met. A gathering is planned this spring in Arkansas to share stories, look through scrapbooks, and explore a family gravesite. In anticipation of this family reunion, Carole is compiling a biography of her great uncle by searching the internet and family documents.

She has learned, for example, that no one will admit to signing enlistment papers that gave Smith permission to join the Navy at the age of 14. But that’s exactly when he enlisted, still two months shy of his 15th birthday. He died when Indy sank on July 30, 1945. He was only 17.

Carole plans to submit photos of Smith, along with his completed biography, to Project 888, a new Legacy education project that aims to document the history of Indy's lost-at-sea. To learn more about Project 888, please visit the [Project 888 page](#) at USSIndianapolis.org.

Mark Your Calendars for Fredericksburg!

Our May 2022 in-person reunion in Fredericksburg, Texas, is guaranteed to be fun and memorable for all ages! We are partnering with the National Museum of the Pacific War to share more of the history of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35.)

If you’re wondering about our destination, here’s what people are saying:

About the Museum: “This is a first-class museum of the sort you'd expect to see in D.C. “

About Fredericksburg: “Great place to explore food, drinks, snacks, art and so much more...so many different places there is something for everyone!”

[Click here for a quick video overview.](#)

To save on postage costs, we will soon be sending out the reunion invitations by email. If you are receiving our *3-Minute Update*, you are already on the invitation list! If you would prefer to receive a hard copy by U.S. mail, please send us a request at admin@ussindianapolis.com.

Nominating Committee Gearing Up

Legacy’s nominating committee is beginning its talent search! The election for the offices of Legacy chairperson and treasurer will take place in July 2022. The nominating committee is researching candidates from member and board inputs. For more information, please email our committee chair, Doug Sinclair: doug.sinclair@comcast.net

October Membership Winners

Legacy would like to welcome and thank our new members! As a Legacy member, you are now on the access list for a special members-only VIP event slated for our Fredericksburg regional reunion.

Our newest members are:

- Carol Burnside
- Barry Buckett
- Michele Buckett
- Bob Dudenhofer
- Eric Lawrence
- Jonathan Smith
- Jason Narvy

As you may recall, we put a new spin on membership last month. If you joined Legacy or renewed your membership in October, we added your name to the “Indy Spin Wheel.” This month’s prizes included a special-edition WWII challenge coin and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Indy crew.

And the winners are...Drum roll, please!....

Ellen Trick (Knowling) and Raymond Heerdt

Congratulations, Ellen and Raymond! Your prizes are on the way!

We will spin the wheel again for anyone who joins or renews in November. To join or renew online, [please visit the membership page](#) at USSIndianapolis.org. You can also email Julie Haas: Julie.Haas@bruceoakley.com

Student Members Want to Know “YOUR” Story

Our student members and their mentors are moving full-speed ahead on their “YOUR Story” project, and they need your help! The Indy family is big and eclectic, and includes everyone from relatives of the CA-35 final sailing crew to a submarine driver and even a world-famous racecar driver!

Our students want to know how *you* are connected to Indy. Here’s the info they’re looking for:

- Your name and where you’re from
- Your connection to Indy
- Any family connections you’d like to share, such as children and grandchildren
- Any Indy-related photos you’d like to share

To share your story, please email Julie Rutherford

Haas: julie.haas@bruceoakley.com, or send your story to Julie via U.S. mail:

10445 Adrian Road

Mascoutah, Illinois 62258

POW/MIA Remembrance Day

In September, Michael Emery, nephew of USS *Indianapolis* lost-at-sea crewmember William Friend Emery, along with Indy family members Dale and Susie Ankrom, participated in the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day at the Indiana War Memorial (IWM) in the City of Indianapolis. In several ceremonies over two days, the Legacy Organization represented the 879 lost Indy heroes, as well as the 1,700 Indiana POW/MIA patriots who never returned to their families' loving embrace.

Michael Emery spoke during the event. On behalf of Legacy, he thanked numerous people who work and volunteer at the IWM and who have been very supportive of Legacy's mission: Elaine Sholty, president of the Indianapolis POW/MIA Council; Linda Jeffrey, past president of the Indianapolis POW/MIA Council; Debby Bartley, director of administration at the IWM (Debby has also been an incredible help with our Legacy Flag Program); Hallie Frenzel, social media director at the IWM; Peg Glover, IWM media consultant; and of course, IWM executive director, Brigadier General Stewart Goodwin USAF (Ret).

Said Michael, "Without the IWM's support, we wouldn't have our USS *Indianapolis* museum, our annual Honor Watch at the CA-35 Memorial, or our Legacy Flag Program."

Michael is absolutely right...IWM, we can never thank you enough!

That's it for our Veterans Day Edition of the *3-Minute Update*. See you next month!

Lynn :-)

Lynn Vincent

Honorary Survivor

Legacy Chair

