



FEBRUARY 2021

USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization 3-Minute Update: February 2021 Edition

Hello Indy Family!

There's a lot of important Legacy news this month, so strap in for three minutes and get caught up...

It's Here! Our Two-Part Webinar is Set to Launch and You're Invited...

This coming week, Legacy's Education Committee will host the first session of a two-part live webinar to present the history of Indianapolis centered on the message that has become synonymous with the Indy story: "Never give up!"

Guest presenters will include *Indianapolis* survivors Dick Thelen and Edgar Harrell; lost-at-sea family members Earl Henry and Michael William Emery; Jane Goodall, daughter of rescue pilot Chuck Gwinn; Captain Bill Toti, retired skipper of Indy's namesake submarine (SSN-697); and Sara Vladic and Lynn Vincent, authors of the 2018 NYT bestselling book, *Indianapolis*.

Part I: Thursday, March 4th from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. EST

Focus: 1932 launch, World War II missions, and the ship's tragic sinking

Part II: Thursday, March 18 from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. EST

Focus: Survival, rescue, and the trial and exoneration of Captain Charles B. McVay III

If you are receiving this newsletter, you will also receive an invitation on March 2nd with a Zoom link to Part I. You will also receive an invitation on March 16th with a link to Part II.

This is a great opportunity to invite your children or grandchildren to join us and hear this inspiring story of heroism, perseverance, and survival. For more information on this live, two-part event, please contact Marilyn Henry: bmcp56@att.net

Speaking of Webinars...

A huge thank you to all who stepped up to underwrite Legacy's Zoom webinars. We've so far raised \$1270 to fund this key outreach effort. The good news is, we can turn Zoom's webinar capability on and off, only paying for it during the months when webinars are planned. That will really help us be good stewards of your donations. Again, thank you to those whose generosity is making this important outreach possible! To learn more about this underwriting opportunity, please contact Bonnie Buckett: dockjock@aol.com

Election Bylaws

Bonnie Buckett and Legacy's Bylaws Committee identified an issue with the initial terms of office for board members that was written into Legacy's bylaws at the group's founding in 2018. According to the initial bylaws, the terms of three of five board members would expire every four years.

In order to promote better continuity of leadership, the Bylaws Committee is proposing changes to the terms of office for two board members, Vice Chair and Member at Large. Under the current bylaws, the Vice Chair serves for three years and the Member at Large for two. Under the proposed change, the Vice Chair's term would be reduced to two years and would match the existing two-year term for the Chair.

In this way, the terms of the Chair and Vice Chair would expire in alternating years, providing for greater continuity. Additionally, the proposed change would extend the term of office for the Member at Large from two years to three. By making these two changes, the number of new board members whose terms expire simultaneously would be reduced from three to two for each election cycle. Because this proposal would alter the bylaws, the entire Legacy membership must vote on the change.

If you are a Legacy member, keep an eye on your in-box for a forthcoming proxy ballot. For more information on Legacy bylaws, please contact Bonnie Buckett: dockjock@aol.com

Speaking of Elections...

A huge thank you to Bill Toti and Kim Roller, who have agreed to join the Legacy Nominating Committee. This critical committee will begin work in March to nominate candidates for Vice Chair and Secretary, the two board positions whose terms will expire this July (pending the membership's vote on the proposed bylaws change above.)

If you feel called to leadership and are interested in serving as Vice Chair or Secretary, please contact the Nominating Committee chair, Jim Belcher: jimbelcherjr@gmail.com

Student Membership

This is one of my favorite pieces of news this edition: our Student Members have been very busy! Not only did they add a new Student Member (welcome, Gunner Barr!), but the students also chose a book about the Indy story to read and discuss. *And* they've written autobiographies explaining their own connections to the Indy story, which they will present to their fellow student members and to the Membership Team on March 11. *And* the students chose to send birthday cards and care box to each living survivor. (Cletus Lebow received the first of these, and Dick Thelen is up next on March 14.)

Finally, the students have been working on USS *Indianapolis* binders, complete with cover art and the Student Member Mission Statement. **See attached photos for examples of their fantastic artwork honoring USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35.)** Wow! Thanks to Julie Haas and team for raising up this new generation to carry on the Indy legacy. For more information on the Student Membership, please contact Julie: julie.haas@bruceoakly.com

Speaking of Membership...

Here's the latest snapshot of Legacy's membership:

Total members: 139

Membership includes:

- 43 Lifetime (same as before)
- 89 General Member renewed (up from 50 at end of December)
- 7 Student Members

Zooming with Survivors

Our Zoom sessions with Survivors are still going strong! Each week, Survivor Dick Thelen pulls unique photos from the Thelen Archives and shares stories about them. Past weeks have included photos from his trip to Missouri for the Rescue and Recovery Reunion in 2002 and a group photo from the very first USS *Indianapolis* reunion in 1960.

Zoom participant Maggie, whose great-great uncle was Lost at Sea, created beautiful stained glass art related to the ship and gifted the pieces to our Zooming survivors, Harold Bray, James Smith and Dick Thelen.

Meanwhile, Survivor James Smith reluctantly shared that he went AWOL three times before he was caught and sent to the brig after returning late from a date with a young lady. ("It was worth it," James said.)

For more information on Zooming with Survivors, please contact Jennifer Brunson: WeR5Bs@hotmail.com

Speaking of Surviving...

Our Strategic Advisory Group will help the Indy story *survive* (...see what I did there? 😊) long into the future by analyzing Legacy's existing policies and programs with a view toward optimizing our efforts. The group last month identified 20 areas of focus, then narrowed those to a handful of top priorities. Among these are Legacy's education programs and how to get members more actively involved. In addition, the Strategic Advisory Group will be reviewing Legacy's newly created Policy and Procedures Manual, providing input prior to publication. For information on the Strategic Advisory Group, please contact Ray Wilson: ray557@comcast.net

Last But Not Least: Angel Scholarship Deadline Approaching

What better way to earn money for college than by telling your family's story? The application period for the USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship is now open through March 31, 2021. Applications are available at <https://gtrcf.academicworks.com/opportunities/895>.

Requirements include:

- Applicant must be a descendant (including stepchildren) of a survivor, honorary survivor, lost at sea (LAS) or rescue crew.
- Attend or be a prospective full-time attendee of an accredited 2 or 4-year college or university.
- Academic performance – including GPA – will be considered. A GPA of 3.0 and above is preferred.
- A copy of your most recent transcripts.
- Two essays are required for this scholarship.

That's it for this edition of the 3-Minute Update. See you next month!

Lynn 😊

Lynn Vincent

Legacy Chair

Honorary Survivor

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