



JULY 2021

USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization 3-Minute Update: Reunion Edition!

Hello again, Indy Family!

Welcome to the *3-Minute Update*, 2021 Reunion Edition. This entire issue is focused on all things Reunion.

But first, a brief appeal:

If You Are a Legacy Member and Haven't Voted...

...we *really, really* need your vote in our 2021 election of new officers! The USS *Indianapolis* Legacy Organization honors the CA-35 final sailing crew and is the only auxiliary group recognized by the Survivors Organization. Your participation is important in order to sustain Legacy and further our mission of keeping alive the story of this valiant ship and the men who sailed her.

Voting will take you less time than reading this email and it's so, so, so easy! Just click on the link below, tick a few online boxes, and you're done.

ONLINE BALLOT: [Click here to vote.](#)

Make your voice heard! Voting deadline is **tomorrow**, July 15, 2021. [Current Legacy members only, please.]

We now return to our regularly scheduled newsletter...

2021 Virtual Reunion

The 76th anniversary commemorating USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) is just over two weeks away. All events will be held on our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube). Content will be shared over several days beginning on Saturday, July 24. The schedule of video and live events is evolving, so be sure to check our website, ussindianapolis.com, for the latest schedule updates and direct links to online events.

Tune in for the main events on Friday, July 30. One highlight will be our virtual memorial service, which this year will be a tribute to the entire final sailing crew. Also, hang out with us later in the day on July 30 for a virtual "holding court," when we will reminisce about fun stories from past reunions. (Time to be announced.) Finally, be sure to join us for the annual Legacy Organization membership meeting on Saturday, July 31. (More on that below.)

Why You Should Attend Our Member Meeting, Even If You're Not a Member

There are boring, parliamentary-type meetings...and then there is the Legacy membership meeting—and we swear to Bob it will *not* be boring. Check out this fun agenda:

1. **The 2021 Legacy Bravo Zulu Awards:** At this year's membership meeting, we are launching Legacy's new volunteer recognition program, named in honor of the U.S. Navy signal flag message that means, "Well done!" The Legacy Bravo Zulu Awards will recognize individuals, Legacy committees, and outside organizations that demonstrate exemplary service through leadership, support, or a specific project that honors USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), furthers her story, and reflects great credit upon her crew and upon the Legacy Organization.
2. **Meet Your New Officers:** Nominating Committee Chair Doug Sinclair will introduce Legacy's new Vice Chair and Secretary, and we will also bid "Fair winds and following seas" to departing board members, Jane Gwinn Goodall and Sara Vladic.

3. **Students in Action:** Our meeting will also feature a special photo presentation by the Legacy Student Membership, showing what our inaugural group of students has accomplished over the past year.

4. **Wheel of Fortune:** Everyone who attends the meeting will be entered in our door prize drawing. Merchandise co-chair Karen Thelen Corby will spin our Wheel of Fortune to choose the winners.

5. **Fredericksburg Sneak Peek:** Last but not least, this year's meeting will feature a video preview of what's in store for those who attend our 2022 regional event in



Fredericksburg, Texas. Come check it out, y'all! (See what I did there?)

The Legacy member meeting will take place on Saturday, July 31, at 10am Pacific/1pm Eastern. Look for a link that day on our online platforms, or save this link and click it to

join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84633016922?pwd=R09sdzdEUXM2NWI5NG1BZkk5YTdYZz09>

Top Secret Auction Item Unveiled

Last month, I mentioned that Legacy's student members would be offering a "Top Secret" item at this year's Virtual Auction. Today, I am thrilled to unveil this beautiful item: a unique stained-glass work of art representing the crew of USS *Indianapolis* CA-35. I have attached to this email a photo of this incredible work of art, which includes ten stars representing the WWII battles in which Indy fought.

This piece was inspired by founding student member Shea Haas, whose great uncle, Radioman 2c Robert Rutherford, boarded Indy in October 1942 and was lost at sea after the ship's tragic sinking. Shea had the vision to raise money for the Legacy Organization by commissioning an art piece that anyone connected to the story would absolutely treasure. She worked with her cousin, artist Jeff Rutherford, to design the piece.

Our Virtual Auction will open on July 28 and close on July 31, 2021. All proceeds will benefit the Legacy Organization programs.

Never Give Up!: The Encore

This year's reunion will feature an encore presentation of the Legacy webinar, *Never Give Up!*, which was first presented by Legacy Education Committee earlier this year. Hosted by Jim Belcher, Jr., this two-part event covers the history of USS *Indianapolis*, including new and personal insights from Indy Survivor Dick Thelen, Survivor and Lost-at-Sea family members, and guest presenters. If you missed *Never Give Up!* The first time around, the reunion is a great time to see it.

Online Store

Honor your heroes with Indy gear! Our online store opens on July 24. All proceeds benefit Legacy programs.

Honor Watch

Commencing at sunrise on Friday, July 30th, Indy family members will report for our sixth annual Honor Watch at the CA-35 monument in the City of Indianapolis. The Honor Watch was created in 2015 to honor the 879 Indy crew who did not come home, as well as the nine Indy sailors killed when a kamikaze plane struck the ship off Okinawa in March 1945. Families of Survivors and Lost at Sea, along with Honorary Survivors and friends will be joining us to stand watch, and also to share Indy's story and incredible legacy with monument visitors. Brigadier General (and Honorary Survivor) Stewart Goodwin, USAF (Ret), will make a special presentation in the afternoon. The Honor Watch is open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

2 Don'ts

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I would like to conclude this edition of the *3-Minute Update* with 2 Don'ts:

1. Don't forget to check out the attached photo.
2. Don't forget to vote.

Many blessings,

Lynn 😊

Honorary Survivor

Legacy Chair

