



## OCTOBER 2020

### October 2020: USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization Three-Minute Update

Hello again, Indy Family!

Time again for the latest on Legacy. Speed-read through this email for up-to-the-minute news on Legacy in three minutes or less...(okay, maybe four minutes this time!)

#### **With Love, from Memphis**

Great news: Legacy has received a very generous donation from Paul Sax, race director for the annual Memorial Day Run in Memphis, Tennessee. After becoming acquainted with fellow Tennesseans, Survivor Edgar Harrell and Earl Henry, Jr., son of Lieutenant Commander Earl Henry, Sr., who was lost at sea, Paul wanted to do his part to help keep the Indy story alive. He planned to donate to Legacy the proceeds from this year's Memorial Day Race, however the race was canceled due to COVID. But, like the Survivors, Paul is not a man to give up. He was able to organize a smaller race on August 15, in conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII. In September, Paul presented Legacy with a check for \$1,000. Thank you, Paul!



#### **New Perk for Legacy Members**

Our commemorative book, *USS Indianapolis (CA-35) Commemorating Seventy-Five Years (1945-2020)*, has recently been updated, and is now available to Legacy members at a 15% discount for a limited time. Commemorating the 75th anniversary

of the sinking and the loss of 879 Sailors and Marines, this book features a detailed 60-page section devoted to the CA-35 final sailing crew and also provides a unique pictorial journey through the ship's history.

Priced at \$40, all proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization's programs and services. Current Legacy members are eligible for a 15% discount on books purchased between November 1-December 25, 2020.

Current members can grab that discount code by contacting Membership Chair, Julie Haas (Illinois): [Julie.Haas@bruceoakley.com](mailto:Julie.Haas@bruceoakley.com)

People wishing to join Legacy or renew may visit [www.USSIndianapolis.org/membership](http://www.USSIndianapolis.org/membership), or email Julie. Your discount code will be emailed with your membership receipt.

### **Membership on the Rise**

Speaking of membership, a big thank you to Legacy Membership Chair Julie Haas, who hit the ground running last month and is doing a fantastic job. Here's Legacy's current membership by the numbers:

- 40 = Lifetime members prior to 2020-21
- 3 = New Lifetime members in 2020-21
- 33 = General Membership renewals from 2019-2020
- 1 = General Membership renewal from 2018-2019
- 27 = New General Memberships for 2020-2021
- 1 = Prepaid General Membership for 2021-2022

Folks, we still have 40 people who have not yet renewed from 2019-2020, probably because we held the reunion online this year instead of live in Indianapolis. We're counting on all of you to re-up!

To renew via credit/debit card or PayPal, please visit [www.USSIndianapolis.org/membership](http://www.USSIndianapolis.org/membership).

To renew via mail, please contact Julie: [Julie.haas@bruceoakley.com](mailto:Julie.haas@bruceoakley.com).

### **Zoom-ing with Survivors**

Who knew we'd one day be connecting Indy Survivors by video from several states away? After the pandemic started, Jennifer Brunson (Tennessee) organized a weekly Zoom meeting to keep Survivor James Smith (Tennessee) connected with his *Indianapolis* friends. Now, Jennifer is working to add other Survivors to the meetings. Dick Thelen (Michigan) recently attended and shared some great stories. Dick said he'd always heard there were men who'd recently gotten out of the brig before the ship went down. After 75 years, he finally met one of them via Zoom—James Smith!

The Zoom project is in the early stages, and Jennifer hopes to include more Survivors and other guests soon. We're not yet sure how far this will expand, but if you are interested in dropping by occasionally to support these heroes with a Zoom visit, please email Jennifer: [wer5bs@hotmail.com](mailto:wer5bs@hotmail.com)

### **Congressional Gold Medal to Cost...Well, More Gold**

In July 2020, the Indy crew was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the two highest civilian awards in the United States. Replica medals and presentation cases, which make fantastic keepsakes and gifts, are now available. But as you may already have heard, on January 1, 2021, the price of these replicas will go up—way up.

- The three-inch bronze medal replica is currently priced at \$39.95. The price will increase to \$160 *each* on January 1, 2021. (Yikes!) The price of the presentation case will increase from \$10.95 to \$35.00.
- The 1.5-inch bronze medal replica is currently priced at \$6.95. The price will increase to \$20 *each* on January 1, 2021. The presentation case price will increase from \$4.95 to \$15.00.

The 3-inch replica is listed as "out of stock," but we have been assured that the medals are in production and will be available to us at the current price until December 31, 2020.

To purchase your replica medals, just click on the following links to the U.S. Mint:

[3-inch Medal](#)

[3-inch Medal Presentation Case](#)

[1.5-inch Medal](#)

[1.5-inch Medal Presentation Case](#)

Current pricing is available to anyone, so please share this information!

### **Education Committee Nearly Triples**

With eight total members, including five new volunteers, the Education Committee is already tackling the PowerPoint and Zoom education projects announced last month. Thank you to all our intrepid education volunteers:

Dawn Ott Bollhoefer: Granddaughter of Theodore Gene Ott, Y1, Lost-at-Sea

Jeff Sweeney: Great-nephew of Wallace Mansfield Jeffers COX, Lost-at-Sea

E. Carl Fahnestock: Friend of CA-35 and avid reader of Indy books

Robert Cantrell: Relative of Billy George Cantrell, F, Lost-at-Sea

Trent Smith: Son of Cozell Lee Smith, Jr., COX, Survivor

Jim Belcher, Jr.: Son of James Robert Belcher, S1, Survivor

Michael William Emery: Nephew and namesake, William Friend Emery, S1, Lost-at-Sea

Marilyn N. Henry: Daughter-in-law of Earl O. Henry, LCDR, Ship's Dentist, Lost-at-Sea

The Zoom and PowerPoint projects will help Legacy members share the Indy story in public settings, including schools and history clubs. To volunteer, contact Education Chair, Marilyn Henry (Tennessee): [bmcp56@att.net](mailto:bmcp56@att.net)

### **Full Speed Ahead: CA-35 Stewards Project**

The Ad Hoc committee has identified twenty-six African American sailors who served Indy on the final sailing crew. All but two served as Stewards or Steward's Mates. Additionally, one served as a Seaman 1c. Another held the rating of Cook 2c, and he served as Captain McVay's personal valet. All of these men perished in the sinking of USS *Indianapolis* CA-35 or in the aftermath. Our goal is to tell their story. We are honored to have the families of three of these sailors participating in our research project. We invite the participation of other families and are looking for family stories or additional information to help us round out the profiles of these crew members. To share information, please contact Jane Gwinn Goodall (California): [JaneGwinnGoodall@gmail.com](mailto:JaneGwinnGoodall@gmail.com)

### **Looking Ahead**

Strategic Planning Committee Chair Ray Wilson (Delaware) and team will meet over the next few weeks to continue hammering out a Legacy "SWOT" document, which addresses Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Questions on the table will include membership incentives, leadership policies, ideas for serving CA-35 crew families, and new ways to think about future reunions. Ray is looking for a

leader to lend a hand. If you are a strategic thinker with an eye for the future, please contact Ray to volunteer: [ray557@comcast.net](mailto:ray557@comcast.net)

### **Reunion 2021**

On the subject of reunions...COVID-19 continues to impede our reunion plans for 2021. The Legacy Organization is looking at a variety of safe options to gather Indy families and friends to honor the ship's final sailing crew. Stay tuned!

That's it for today's Three-Minute Legacy Update. If you have any questions or input, please email me at [Lynn@LynnVincent.com](mailto:Lynn@LynnVincent.com) or [Admin@USSIndianapolis.com](mailto:Admin@USSIndianapolis.com)

Blessings!

Lynn :-)

Lynn Vincent  
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Legacy Chair  
Honorary Survivor