



MARCH 2021

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

Greetings, Indy Family,

It's springtime! So grab a glass of iced tea, park yourself somewhere sunny, and take 3 minutes to catch up on all things Indy...

USS Indianapolis Burial at Sea Project

During his tenure as the Chief, Naval Historian at the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), Rick Stone began examining some Indy casualties who were apparently recovered, identified and buried at sea, but who are still officially listed by the Department of Defense as “Unaccounted For.” After retiring from the Navy, Chief Stone’s family’s charitable foundation began work with NHHC, Legacy and the Survivors Organization, and other government historians to investigate the cases of twelve members of the Indy crew who may have been buried at sea, but who still remain “Unaccounted For.” Once completed, the investigations will be submitted to NHHC with recommendations for referral to the Secretary of the Navy for appropriate action.

The Chief Rick Stone and Family Charitable Foundation believes that giving their loved ones and family members closure is the greatest way to celebrate and thank the sailors and Marines who lost their lives on the USS *Indianapolis*. For more information on this important project, please visit: www.chiefrickstone.com

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

We're excited to announce that Doug Sinclair has graciously agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Doug is the son of *Indianapolis* Survivor James Sinclair of Michigan. The Nominating Committee is charged with recruiting great people to serve on Legacy's board. Doug is leading the fabulous team of Kim Roller, Bill Toti, Deb Polise and Doug Stanton, with the goal of completing the committee's work and presenting it to the board in May. Already, the committee is actively engaged in looking for qualified and energetic nominees for the offices of Vice-Chair and Secretary. All Legacy members will vote on these nominees at the membership meeting to be held online during the 2021 Virtual Reunion. If you have an interest in sharing your talents in these positions, please contact Doug Sinclair: doug.sinclair@comcast.net.

Student Members Meet and Greet

On March 11, Membership Chair Julie Haas led a Meet and Greet Zoom event for Legacy's student members and the membership team. Five students—Shea, Reagan, Gunner, David, and Bryce—each read their autobiographies, sharing a little about themselves and how they are connected to the Indy story. Julie then read the autobiographies of Sam and Autumn, two student members who live...in Germany!

The students continue to read their first young adult book about the Indy story: *I Escaped the World's Deadliest Shark Attack: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis*. In addition, the students attended Legacy's new two-part webinar: "Never Give Up," and were impressed with how much they learned. Finally, we added a new student member this month: Brayden Spillman from Berea, Kentucky. Welcome, Brayden! Julie and the membership team—Cindy Wilson, Melissa Felumlee, and Julie

Rutherford—are excited to mentor these students as the new voices for USS *Indianapolis*.

Reunion News

Though America seems to be headed in a positive direction in terms of COVID, we're not out of the woods yet. Therefore, this year's reunion will once again be virtual. Please mark your calendar for online events on July 30-31, 2021, honoring USS *Indianapolis*'s place in history. One special event will be the Memorial Service where we honor the men who served on the ship's final sailing crew. This year, we will feature a complete listing of the final sailing crew, including their photos. If you have a Navy/Marine photo of your favorite crew member, please send it to us at admin@ussindianapolis.com to be included in the presentation.

Hopefully, domestic travel will be a thing again soon! In anticipation of that, the Reunion Committee is also working on plans for a real, live in-person event in 2022. Stay tuned....

Revealing History

Over the last eight months, an ad hoc committee has been meeting to research and gather family stories that document the service and sacrifice of the African-American men who served on USS *Indianapolis*'s final sailing crew. The project is a team effort between Jane Gwinn Goodall, daughter of rescue pilot Chuck Gwinn, and family members representing three of the Steward's Mates. None of Indy's 28 African-American crew survived the sinking, and over the years, we have known very little about their roles, responsibilities and contributions. That's now changed! The committee plans to publish its work later this summer in honor and recognition of these valiant men.

Membership Has Its Rewards

Legacy's total membership now stands at 143 smart and dedicated people. I know what you're thinking: "I want to be smart and dedicated, too!"

Not only do members actively contribute to keeping Indy's epic story alive, but membership also brings benefits. Legacy members are first to receive reunion sign-up information, including (when we are able to gather again) exclusive hotel deals, discounted admissions, and event details. Members also have the opportunity to serve in leadership and vote in elections. A General Membership costs just \$25—less than a tank of gas! (Or, in California, less than *half* a tank of gas.) To join Indy and help sustain our mission, please contact Julie Haas (juli.haas@bruceoakley.com) or visit www.ussindianapolis.org/membership to sign up online.

Birthday Zoomers

This month, in honor of Survivor Dick Thelen's birthday, the Monday Night Zoomers attended a virtual birthday party where everyone ate a bowl of Dick's favorite treat: ice cream. Dick shared a story about a post-war encounter with a nurse from the hospital ship, *USS Tranquility*. She told him that the large amount of diesel fuel and oil that had seeped from the *USS Indianapolis* survivors degraded the fabric on the ship's wheelchairs. So, after the Indy men came through, all the wheelchair fabric had to be replaced. A small price to pay!

Never Give Up!

Great news! If you missed Legacy's new two-part webinar, "Never Give Up: The *USS Indianapolis* (CA-35) Story," you can now view both parts by visiting www.ussindianapolis.com and clicking on "YouTube Channel." This informative event reveals new details and personal stories as panelists cover Indy's history from her christening and World War II campaigns to her world-changing top secret mission, her tragic sinking, and the aftermath.

Following both parts of the live Zoom webinar, Education Committee Chair Marilyn Henry received an avalanche of "Bravo Zulus to all." So if you missed it, be sure to catch up now and send your own feedback to Marilyn at: bmcp56@att.net.

In other education news, the committee is now working on a webinar and other activities for Memorial Day 2021, when Americans honor those lost in the performance of military duties. If you are a member of a Lost-at-Sea family, stay tuned for more information.

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

Lynn :-)

Lynn Vincent

Honorary Survivor

Legacy Chair