

May/June 2022

## **Hello, Indy family!**

People are *still* buzzing about the 2022 USS *Indianapolis* Reunion, which took place May 17-20 in Fredericksburg, Texas.

"The cake was a showstopper!" Jane Gwinn Goodall told me. "Cleatus and Harold were in top form. The re-enactment was a hit. Displays were well attended. The BBQ was amazing. Our committee was the hardest working, most detail conscious group I've ever worked with.....Just loved it all!"

Jane isn't the only one who's still talking about the reunion, which was presented in collaboration with the National Museum of the Pacific War. In fact, it was such a success, I will spend some time recapping it below.

But first a couple of other items...

### **Flag program going strong**

Legacy's Flag Program continues to make new friends. Two LAS flags were hand-delivered over Memorial Day weekend in Kentucky. One flag was presented to PHM3 William Hambo's niece, who is brand new to the USS Indy group and very excited to learn more about her uncle! A second flag was presented to the nephew and namesake of Edward Franklin McCord EM3.

Legacy's flag program honors Indy's final sailing crew and their families with flags flown over the USS *Indianapolis* monument on Canal Walk in the City of Indianapolis. The program is conducted in coordination with the Indianapolis War Memorials.

### **Election of officers and membership meeting**

Legacy members, keep an eye on your email box for a digital ballot for our 2022 election, coming later this week. In addition, be on the lookout for information about our upcoming annual member meeting, which will take place on Zoom in late July.

### **Adopt-a-crewmember**

It was wonderful to see how many volunteers we had sign up to “adopt a crewmember” during the recent gathering. We’ve already had several members find photos and stories, and the best part, we’ve connected with new families because of your outreach efforts! Let’s keep up the great work and find every single one of the final sailing crew, as well as those who were killed in the Kamikaze attack.

For those of you who need a little more help getting started, there is more information on our website. [Click here](#) to go to our Missing Crew page.

Check out Tammy’s video while you’re there – it’s filled with a ton of great information. And if you didn’t sign up to find a missing crew member’s photo/information and would like to, let us know! From updating “Only 316 Survived!” ([link](#)) to building the content for Project 888 ([link](#)), as well as future projects and updates to the commemorative crew photos book ([link](#)), we want to make sure every man is represented, and we need all hands on deck! Let us know how we can help you get started or join in on the effort!

### **Merchandise Update**

We are happy to announce that we have met our minimums for the merchandise order, so anyone who did place an order should receive it as expected.

## **REUNION RECAP**

And now, for everyone who was unable to attend, here's what happened in Fredericksburg:

### Survivors rule!

Our two living Survivors, Cleatus Lebow and Harold Bray, arrived in Fredericksburg to great fanfare, accompanied by family and friends. After the long COVID restrictions that kept us all operating remotely, it was so such a blessing for all who attended to be with our heroes in person. Cleatus and Harold enjoyed the reunion immensely. Both said the event turned out to be the best time they'd had in years!

### Attendees from far and wide

Our final attendance count was 172 guests, which closely matched our forecast. Registered guests came from 22 States and the District of Columbia. As you might expect, the largest delegation came from the great State of Texas. Here's a snapshot of our attendees:

TEXAS = 46.00% (78 people)	GEORGIA = 1.2% (2 people)
CALIFORNIA = 11.00% (18 people)	IDAHO = 1.2% (2 people)
ILLINOIS = 7.00% (11 people)	KANSAS = 1.2% (2 people)
INDIANA = 4.71% (8 people)	LOUISIANA = 1.2% (2 people)
NEW MEXICO = 3.53% (6 people)	SOUTH DAKOTA = 1.2% (2 people)
PENNSYLVANIA = 3.53% (6 people)	WISCONSIN = 1.2% (2 people)
TENNESSEE = 3.53% (6 people)	ARIZONA = .59% (1 person)
WASHINGTON = 3.53% (6 people)	D.C. = .59% (1 person)
MINNESOTA = 2.94% (5 people)	MASSACHUSETTS = .59% (1 person)
FLORIDA = 1.76% (3 people)	MISSOURI = .59% (1 person)
MICHIGAN = 1.76% (3 people)	OKLAHOMA = .59% (1 person)
ALABAMA = 1.2% (2 people)	

Just over half of attendees were related to Survivors. One in ten represented Lost at Sea families. Just over a quarter of attendees were

friends and rescue (5%), former crew (4%), and namesake crew (1%) rounded out the group.

### Membership boost

Almost one in four reunion attendees either joined Legacy or upgraded their membership. Legacy is excited to welcome:

- Five new Lifetime members: Stephanie Bray, Olivia Hussey, Michael Hussey, Matthew Sciasia, and Karen Toti.
- Thirty-two new General Members: Harold Bray, Jr., Rhonda Beadle, Jeff Davis, Maureen Driscoll, Elizabeth Erickson, Jean Erickson, Dona Ferguson (sister of Janice Olson), Ben Huntley, Jeff Hupka, Josh Hupka, Loretta Hupka, Dempsey James, Donald Kleinkort, James Lebow, Steven Lebow, David Lee, Dawn Lowden, Don McCall, Jr., Lillian McKissick, Constantine (Don) Mengason, Dawn Vladic Mengason, Dionne Mitchell, Deone Monson, Jason Moore, Eric Rasmussen, Judith Robbins, Patti Robbins, Adria Smith, Dennis Smith, Roy Williams, Sarah Williams, and Walter Witty.

We're so glad you've joined us!

### Programs cover Okinawa and rescue/recovery

Legacy presented two major programs. The first was a re-enactment of the Battle of Okinawa, held May 18 at the Museum's Combat Zone. After the main presentation, Sara Vladic shared the story of Indy's role at Okinawa, including the kamikaze attack. Larry Johnson, son of former crew Ralph Johnson, who was injured in that attack, spoke about his father. The program was outstanding. Eight WWII vets also joined the re-enactment. One of the vets is a 102-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor. There was a by-invitation luncheon afterwards to thank the re-enactors.

The second program was the two-part plaque dedication for Harold Bray

and Cleatus Lebow and a panel discussion on the rescue and recovery of USS *Indianapolis* CA-35. Sara Vladic moderated the discussion. Panelists included Captain Bill Toti, Chief Rick Stone, Dr. Kristina Giannotta, and Jane Goodall. The program provided new information and insights.

To watch the discussion on YouTube, [please click here](#).

### Bravo Zulu honorees

This year's Bravo Zulu awards were presented in Fredericksburg. In naval practice and tradition, "Bravo Zulu" is a signal flag message that means, "Well done!" The Legacy Bravo Zulu Program recognizes volunteers whose service and support reflects great credit upon CA-35, her final sailing crew, and the Legacy Organization.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to our 2021-2022 Bravo Zulu honorees:

Jeanette Pitts, Arlene Taylor, Janice Alston, Ernestine Peete, and Jackie Dugan: for their long service researching and writing about the history of the African-American members of Indy's final sailing crew.

Olivia Hussey: For her excellent work in coordinating the Legacy Flag Program

Tammy Rusznak: For extraordinary results in locating missing crewmember photos and connecting new families of Indy's final sailing crew with the Legacy Organization

Jane Gwinn Goodall, Sara Vladic, Stephanie Hagee (NMPW), Sharon Morgan, Tom Morgan, and Janice Olson: For hundreds of hours they volunteered in planning executing the 2022 Fredericksburg reunion.

Grace Goodwin: Who made the incredible USS *Indianapolis* cake that

honored the whole story.

Jim Houghton: Who worked on reunion programs with the National Museum of the Pacific War staff.

Konnie Patke: Who assisted in reunion planning on behalf of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

A special thank you to our many volunteers and especially to Stephanie Hagee and the National Museum of Pacific War, as well as the City of Fredericksburg, for rolling out the red carpet for us!

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

Lynn :)

Lynn Vincent  
Honorary Survivor  
Legacy Chair