



NOVEMBER 2020

Holiday Edition 2020: USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization Three-Minute Update

Hello again, Indy Family,

It's time for the Holiday Edition of the Legacy Organization Three-Minute Update! In less time than it takes to wrap a Christmas gift, fill a stocking, or drink an eggnog latte—you can speed-read through this email for important, up-to-the-minute news on Legacy...

2021 Challenge Coin Design Contest

It's time for a new *USS Indianapolis (CA-35)* challenge coin, and Jason Witty is on the hunt. Jason—the grandson of Survivor Eugene Morgan, as well as a retired Navy chief, inaugural Legacy Chair, and challenge coin designer extraordinaire—is asking for input from the children and grandchildren of Indy's final sailing crew. There are just a handful of rules for this contest:

Coin designs shall include the following:

- The Indiana state flag
- US flag with '48 stars'
- Rescue ship names
- Rescue aircraft names

Please keep the design simple, and submit either hand-drawings or computer renderings. Design submissions should include a written description of each side of the coin, including the meaning or symbolism of each design element. Jason

encourages designers to look at previous Indy coins, pins, and other memorabilia for ideas. Designers can also get ideas by examining challenge coins that represent other vessels and organizations.

The key here is “keep it simple!” Deadline for design submissions is March 1, 2021. To ask design questions or to submit your design, please contact Jason at jjwitty78@yahoo.com.

Expanding Our Reach...

Here’s a fun fact that our Membership Chair, Julie Haas, put together: The USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) Legacy Organization now represents 22 states *and* Europe! This month, we’d like to recognize the 32 new members who joined Legacy in 2020:

Patty Booth, Kasey Connor, Jeffrey Corder, Melissa Felumlee, Walter Francis Fitzpatrick III, Beverly Griesbaum, Debora Harm, Ray Heerdt, Larry Johnson, Lavinia Jurkiewicz, Raymond A. Jurkiewicz, Raymond M. Jurkiewicz, G.J. (Jon) Kellmer, Karen Kerr, Ron Kucer, Troy Leigers, Nadine Furtado Luerano, Maggie Mikus, Robert Niehaus, Marty Pay, Jeanette Pitts, Sonja Rosson, Mark Schulthess, Greg Sinclair, William Sir, Patricia Soriero, Mary Stamm, Eric Street, Gene Toffolo, Sarah Trimble, Jaime Wallner, Paula Murphy Watkins

...and Connecting Our Heroes

Jennifer Brunson’s ingenious weekly Zoom call continues to connect Survivors who’ve never met! On November 3, Survivor Harold Bray joined his shipmates, James Smith and Dick Thelen, on the call. Harold and James had not met before that night. We also welcomed special guest Atsuko Iida, granddaughter of Mochitsura Hashimoto, commander of the Japanese submarine, I-58, which fired the deadly torpedoes at the USS *Indianapolis* on that fateful night.

Finally, Pearl Harbor National Memorial Ranger Jason Ockrassa and his friend, James Smith, gave us a demonstration of their virtual Pearl Harbor project. (Yes, there really were two James Smiths on the same call. We call the younger one “James #2!”) We were all amazed to take a virtual tour of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), “walk” on her decks, and visit other onboard spaces. Many thanks to Jason and James for sharing the efforts of their hard work with us. We can’t wait to see the next level!

Old Faithful...

Survivor Dick Thelen recently shared that he has only missed a single USS *Indianapolis* Survivors Memorial Reunion since the gatherings began all the way back in July 1960. Along with Survivors Felton Outland and Giles McCoy, Dick and his wife JoAnne were among the key organizers of that first reunion, which took place at the Severin Hotel in the City of Indianapolis. Rescue pilots Chuck Gwinn and Adrian Marks both gave speeches, and the keynote speaker was none other than Captain Charles B. McVay III, skipper of the sunken cruiser. Since then, Dick has attended a total of 30 reunions—every reunion held except for one he had to miss due to surgery. We're not quite sure, but that may be a reunion record. For that reason, the Legacy Organization is honoring Dick with the title "Old Faithful!"

...and New Voices

Membership Chair Julie Haas is set to launch an exciting new program: The Legacy Student Membership. "We want students to discover the joy of honoring the USS *Indianapolis* and her crew," says Julie. "They will be the voice that carries the story forward to the generations ahead." Plans for the Student Membership program include meeting and getting to know Survivors, reaching out to schools and libraries to promote Indy's history, creating a private collection of Indy biographies, illustrations, poems, and short stories, and the opportunity to serve as a Legacy Student Historian.

Thank you to our four new Student Membership volunteers: Cindy Wilson, Melissa Felumlee, Sarah Trimble, and Kasey Connor. It is especially appropriate (and cool!) to mention that it was Julie's 12-year-old granddaughter, Shea Groves, who pushed Julie to create this program. Shea encourages students interested in "friendship, adventure, achievement, creativity, dependability, and a 'big heart'" to get involved. To find out how the young people in your life can become Student Members, please contact Julie Haas at Julie.Haas@bruceoakley.com

The Giving Season...

As we approach the holidays and the end of year, many people turn their thoughts to helping others. It is a time when we most remember the joy of giving. We hope you will consider a gift to the USS *Indianapolis* Legacy Organization. Tax deductible donations to our 501(c)(3) organization will help ensure that the story of the USS *Indianapolis* and her crew will not be forgotten. The seven remaining survivors want their stories to be heard, their shipmates' sacrifices to be remembered, and

their beloved ship to always be honored. With your support, we can ensure their wishes will be fulfilled. Please visit <https://www.ussindianapolis.org/donations> to help continue the Legacy.

A note for those who typically do not itemize their deductions: The CARES Act, the COVID relief legislation passed by Congress, created a tax deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations to qualifying organizations. If you don't typically itemize and would like to take advantage of this deduction, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-the-cares-act-changes-deducting-charitable-contributions> for more information.

We encourage all Legacy donors to consult their tax advisor for the most current information about charitable giving.

...and the Shopping Season

Did you know that all you have to do to support Legacy is *shop*? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a percentage of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization.

The best part of this is that you can support Legacy all year long, simply by shopping Amazon as you normally do. Here's how to get started:

- Visit Smile.Amazon.com and choose USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization (EIN 82-5498977) as your charitable choice. Then, simply shop as usual—there's no extra cost to you.
- A small portion (.5%) of your eligible purchase dollars will be donated to the Legacy Organization quarterly, helping support our goals to provide programs and services that keep the story of USS Indianapolis CA-35 alive and relevant.

Be a part of the movement: shop and spread the word! On behalf of the Legacy, we thank you!

Zooming In On History

In November, the Education Committee partnered with National History Clubs (NHC) for its first ZOOM presentation for students. From California to Florida to Virginia,

some 137 high school history students and teachers joined in as our expert presenters shared the story of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35.) Jim Belcher, Sara Vladoic, Earl Henry, and Survivor Dick Thelen presented an engaging overview of the Indy story from the perspectives of survivors, lost-at-sea family members, and researchers. More than 99 students submitted questions, which are being answered by the committee, and many students were so engaged that they said they can't wait for the next session. The next NHC ZOOM presentation will be held in January 2021, and you are welcome to sit in! To receive a Zoom invitation, please contact Marilyn Henry at bmcp56@att.net.

Last Chance for Membership Perk!

Still looking for great Christmas gifts? How about our commemorative book, *USS Indianapolis (CA-35) Commemorating Seventy-Five Years (1945-2020)*? We've recently updated this unique volume—and made it 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, the 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. Books are available online at <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/USS-INDIANAPOLIS-CA-35>.

Current members can grab that discount code by contacting Membership Chair, Julie Haas: Julie.Haas@bruceoakley.com

To renew or join, email Julie, or visit www.USSIndianapolis.org/membership. Bonnie Buckett will email your discount code with your membership receipt.

That's it for the Holiday Edition of the Three-Minute Legacy Update. If you have any questions or input, please email me at Lynn@LynnVincent.com or Admin@USSIndianapolis.com

Merry Christmas!

Lynn :-)

Lynn Vincent
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Legacy Chair
Honorary Survivor