



## JUNE 2021

### USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization 3-Minute Update: June Edition

Hello again, Indy family!

Summer is here and that means our annual reunion is coming up. This year's reunion will once again be held online, via Facebook, at July's end. Stay tuned for a schedule of events, which is coming next month. Meanwhile, here's what's happening with Indy...

#### **Fair Winds and Following Seas**

Last month, we were all heartbroken when we lost two Survivors in a single week. In the words of the poet Tennyson, both men "[crost the bar](#)"— James Smith on May 5 and Edgar Harrell on May 8—at the age of 96.

We were so happy to see each man's life honored in print. Here's a great story [about James](#) in the Kingsport, Tennessee *Times News*. And here's another great one, [about Ed](#), in the Murray, Kentucky *Murray Ledger*.

In April, [we also lost Dorothy Riggins](#), wife of Survivor Earl Riggins. Dorothy was deeply involved with the early Survivor reunions and with the Survivors Organization. We were all blessed to know and love these amazing people, and we continue to hold their families close to our hearts.

#### **Memorial Day Town Hall...and Lost-at-Sea Project**

This Memorial Day, May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Education Committee held a virtual town hall meeting in honor of the 888 *Indianapolis* crewmembers lost at sea in 1945. Nine died in the Kamikaze attack in March; another 879 died in July when *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. These were the sons, fathers, husbands, brothers and uncles whose families wept

when they did not return. If you missed the Memorial Day town hall meeting, check [www.ussindianapolis.com](http://www.ussindianapolis.com), where the recorded version will be posted very soon.

The Education Committee is now planning a new book project that will honor these 888 men. The committee has begun contacting lost-at-sea families in order to gather photos, documents, and stories. Tune into social media for the latest on this project!

### **Welcome New Members...and New Voters!**

Welcome aboard to our new members: Barry Eggleston, Lynn McIntire (Niece of LAS David Jump, ENS), Reid New, and Arlene Taylor (Niece of LAS Henry Jackson, StM1C)

Our Annual Membership meeting this year will be virtual and is scheduled for July 31, 2021. Members will receive proxy voting materials in June, including a ballot for new officers. All General Memberships are good through August 1, 2021, and as a member you may vote in the upcoming elections of officers.

### **Calling All Auction Items**

Looking for a wonderful way to support Legacy's programs? Why not consider donating a couple of your Indy collectibles to our virtual auction?

This summer marks the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USS *Indianapolis* CA-35's tragic sinking and miraculous rescue. Our virtual memorial reunion will include a virtual auction. Auction items in the past have included signed memorabilia, autographed or rare books, vintage USS *Indianapolis* CA-35 logo wear, art, challenge coin sets, etc. If you would like to donate an item (or items) for the auction, please contact Jane Gwinn Goodall, Reunion Co-Chair, at [janegwinngoodall@gmail.com](mailto:janegwinngoodall@gmail.com) by July 1, 2021. Donations to the non-profit Legacy Organization (EIN: 82-5498677) are tax-deductible

### **Strategizing for the Future**

Did you know that Legacy has a Strategic Advisory Group? Ray Wilson leads this group, whose role is to come alongside Legacy committees, evaluate programs, provide objective analysis, and offer input and assistance. Ray and the Strategic Advisory Group are now collaborating with Julie Haas and the Membership Committee to optimize membership incentives and volunteer opportunities, as well as expand membership and get younger members more involved. For an assist from Ray's team, please email him: [ray557@comcast.net](mailto:ray557@comcast.net)

### **Student Members on the Move**

A special welcome to our newest student member, Milaan Seeliger, who joins a growing group of young members who are excited to share what they've been working on. The students have sent cards, drawings and "party boxes" honoring the Survivors on their birthdays. They have also sent sympathy cards and flowers to commemorate the passing of Survivors James Smith and Edgar Harrell, and they continue to send Get Well/Thinking of You cards to survivors.

The Seeliger boys teamed up with the nonprofit Tech Angels to gift Survivor Harpo Celaya with a brand new I-pad. Harpo was able to Zoom for the first time with other survivors and friends. The student members also had their first Zoom with Survivor Dick Thelen and Honorary Survivor Kim Roller. Dick shared memorabilia, and told the story of his time on the ship and how he survived the sinking. Kim shared with the students how she became involved with the Survivors Organization.

Coming up: Our students have a wonderful item that will be offered at the Virtual Reunion silent auction. Right now, it's top secret, but trust us: you will not want to miss the chance to bid on it!

If you are interested in becoming a Legacy member, please visit [www.ussindianapolis.org/membership](http://www.ussindianapolis.org/membership) or contact [julie.haas@bruceoakley.com](mailto:julie.haas@bruceoakley.com)

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

Lynn ☺

Lynn Vincent

Honorary Survivor

Legacy Chair