

July 2022

## **Hello, Indy family!**

This week marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of USS *Indianapolis*, an event that claimed hundreds of young lives and, in so doing, affected—and even defined—many thousands more. While we haven't been able to gather in Indianapolis for three years, a faithful contingent of Lost-at-Sea and Survivor families, along with Indy supporters, has met each year in the City of Indianapolis to remember the lost. This year is no exception...

### **Honor Watch to Commemorate Sinking Anniversary**

Commencing at sunrise on Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, Indy family members will report for our Seventh Annual Honor Watch at the CA-35 monument in the City of Indianapolis. The Honor Watch was created in 2015 to honor the 879 Indy crew who did not come home, as well as the nine Indy sailors killed when a kamikaze plane struck the ship off Okinawa in March 1945. Families of Survivors and Lost at Sea, along with Honorary Survivors and friends will be joining us to stand watch, and also to share Indy's story and incredible legacy with monument visitors. The Honor Watch is open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

### **This Saturday from Indianapolis, It's Legacy Live!**

On Saturday, July 30, Survivor Dick Thelen's daughter, Karen Thelen Corby, will be hosting the 2022 USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization Annual Meeting live from the Indiana War Memorial in the City of Indianapolis.

On the agenda:

New Board Members: We will be announcing our official Legacy Board election results, and I will be passing the gavel to Legacy's incoming

chair, Captain Bill Toti.

The Latest News: Reports from our committee chairs—find out what’s happening with Legacy’s ongoing outreach efforts.

Ice Cream! If you will be in the City of Indianapolis for the Honor Watch, or if you happen to live nearby, please stop by to attend our annual meeting in person! As a special treat after the meeting, Karen Thelen will be hosting an ice cream social at the South Bend Chocolate Café on Monument Circle, where Legacy will buy an ice cream cone for each person who attends the annual meeting *in Indy*. Just a way to say thank you for taking the time to stop by in person!

For those attending virtually, we have no ice cream, but we do have a Zoom Link:

Indy Annual Meeting

Time: Jul 30, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 847 7334 5537

Passcode: 603780

### **Facebook Refresh**

Here at the end of Legacy's fiscal year, we're looking forward to the future of our organization as the newly elected board members step into their new positions! As part of those changes, our Legacy Facebook group is transitioning to a "members only" page, where we will be providing exclusive access to people whose Legacy membership is current as of July 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Remember, Legacy is an annual dues-based membership. With these changes, we will be offering our members first-look information about upcoming events, as well as member perks, special content, and early access to event reservations and merchandise sales. We want to celebrate our members and give them access first! To learn whether your membership is current, please email Julie Haas at

[julie.haas@bruceoakley.com](mailto:julie.haas@bruceoakley.com).

### **Membership & Student Membership**

From Membership Chair, Julie Haas: "On behalf of the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization, I would personally like to thank every one of you for your time and commitment to our organization. We are reaching out to all of you to become a member of our organization and with the last 'roundup' in Texas and our first letter of recruitment to members for renewal, we have successfully increased our membership."

56 Lifetime Members  
82 General Members  
50 General Members (Membership expires July 31, 2022)  
18 Student Members

Total: 206

If you think your membership has expired, we would love to have you back! If you aren't a Legacy member and would like to consider joining, we have more information to share. For new memberships and renewals, please visit [USSIndianapolis.org/membership](https://USSIndianapolis.org/membership) or contact [julie.haas@bruceoakley.com](mailto:julie.haas@bruceoakley.com).

### **A Search for Buried Treasure**

Mail Call was the high point for Indy's final sailing crew. Young sailors wrote letters home inquiring about family members and high school classmates, and they also shared their hopes and dreams—what they planned to do when they got back home. Letters the final sailing crew received from home are forever buried in the Philippine Sea, but letters those sailors sent back are buried in boxes, drawers, basements and attics.

A search for these buried treasures has begun! The Education

Committee is seeking copies of letters sent home to include in Project 888, an ongoing Legacy project that honors the final sailing crew. The Education team will use excerpts from letters to recreate the story of the final sailing crew.

Please send copies of your letters to Project 888 at [Project888@ussindianapolis.org](mailto:Project888@ussindianapolis.org).

Questions? Call or Text Marilyn Henry, 615-512-5956, Nashville, TN. Please list the full name of your sailor.

### **Looking for a Few Good Folks**

The Nominating Committee is on the move, looking to assist our incoming chair in selecting a new chair for the finance committee. Also, in 2023, two Legacy Board members will be up for election: Vice Chairperson and Member at Large. The nominating committee will be beginning the work needed to define and look for ideal candidates for those roles.

“The nominating committee wishes to extend to the outgoing board members our gratitude towards their effort and support,” said nominating committee Chair Doug Sinclair, “as well as assurance to the new board members of our commitment towards continuously improving our processes and our support to team and organization.”

If you are interested in chairing the finance committee, please contact Doug: [doug.sinclair@comcast.net](mailto:doug.sinclair@comcast.net).

### **Housekeeping Note: A Change of Address**

Effective after the annual meeting on July 30, Legacy will have a new mailing address.

Please use the following address:

USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization  
P.O. Box 226  
Bluff City, TN 37618

### **Signing Off...But Not Out**

That's it for this edition — my *farewell* edition, actually—of the *3-Minute Update*! It has been an honor for me to help carry the Indy story forward and to serve this organization as Chair.

It's my philosophy that each person called to serve in a short-term leadership position does well to have a central mission. Mine has been to solidify internal infrastructure and procedures and also to formalize and expand our communication with members and supporters. Working alongside our fantastic board and committee chairs, we've advanced those goals significantly over the past two years.

I am thrilled that Captain Bill Toti will be stepping in to skipper Legacy next. The cliché thing to say would be something like, "I can't think of a better person to lead this organization." Instead, I will say emphatically that there simply *is* no better person than Bill to chair Legacy at this particular time in our group's history.

I am very thankful that he—and you—said yes!

Along with his many other duties as Chair, Bill will continue to send out the *3-Minute Update* to keep you all in the loop. As for me, as we used to say in the Navy, I'll be "milling about smartly"—hanging around Legacy looking for new ways to serve.

Blessings and many thanks to all of you!

Lynn

Lynn Vincent  
Honorary Survivor  
(Outgoing) Legacy Chair