

Scuttlebutt

VOICE OF THE PATRIOTS POINT VOLUNTEERS ★ ISSUE 50 ★ WINTER 2021



Editor's note: Our lead article for the winter issue of Scuttlebutt is the continuation and conclusion of Randy Garrison's gripping narrative about the Battle of Lang Vei from the Scuttlebutt fall issue. In Part 1, Randy set the stage describing the decision to rebuild the Lang Vei Base, and details regarding construction, command structure and force composition for both the US and South Vietnamese as well as for the attacking North Vietnamese forces. He also described various pieces of intelligence, including a key aerial photograph identified by Randy's recon unit as a tank being transported on the Xe Pone river near Lang Vei, that were dismissed or disregarded by MACV headquarters in the weeks leading up to the battle. Part 1 concluded with the battle for Lang Vei in its early hours on the night of February 6th, 1968. Tanks are in the Wire, a major fire-fight has begun and air cover has been called in.

TANKS IN THE WIRE

Part 2

By R. J. (Randy) Garrison, Jr.

U. S. Air Force, SSgt. (E-5) / Vietnam Combat Veteran



With the air strikes continuing and the courageous efforts of the defender's things grew worse. The enemy's soldiers were able to force the defenders in Company 104 to pull back to the 2nd and 3rd Platoon position leaving the southern flank of Company 101 exposed. Two more tanks reached the area while the NVA shelled and fired into Company 101 from their newly acquired position at Company 104. The enemy fire power was too heavy and the CIDG defenders retreated to the 3rd Platoon's position leaving the eastern end of the camp in the hands of the enemy. At the other end of the camp the situation was no better off. At point-blank range, the tanks began destroying bunkers with the enemy ground troops attacking and killing many of the defenders. At the mobile strike force observation post some 800 meters west of the camp, Sgt. Lindewald (E-5), an advisor with a platoon size force radioed Captain Willoughby that his area was under heavy attack by a company size force and two tanks. Sgt. Lindewald (E-5) was hit in the stomach from machine gun fire. SFC Hanna (E-7), a heavy weapons



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specialist, administered first aid but Sgt. Lindewald died as the NVA forces seized the area. SFC Hanna was captured and never seen again. It was now about 0115 and the entire eastern end of the camp was in NVA hands.

The other end of the camp was in just as bad situation as the eastern end. Three NVA tanks breached the wire and facing Companies 102 and 103 at point-blank range, started destroying bunkers as the ground forces, two platoons of NVA, began attacking the CIDG defenders. The defenders were no match and the areas were overrun. Both MIKE forces, at the eastern end of the camp and at the western end, were overrun. Lt. Colonel Schungel pulled together and organized “tanker-killer” teams. Arming themselves with the LAWS, they spread out in two-man teams to take on the tanks. Numerous of the LAWS were defective and misfired. Several of the other two-man teams were able to fire their LAWS, but it did not stop the tanks from advancing. Efforts to stop and destroy the tanks by the defenders proved ineffective. An attempt to secure plastic explosives stored in the ammunition bunker was unsuccessful when a tank round hit the fuel dump causing a massive explosion blocking accessing to the ammo bunker. The time now was 0430 .



Lang Vei defenders confronting NVA tanks; soldier on right firing a LAWS, which proved to be ineffective.

An NVA tank from the Company 104 area moved on the OPS center with ground forces following behind it. The tank rotated its turret while blasting the camp and using its machine gun it fired short burst around the camp as well. Sgt. Tirach, manning the 4.2-inch mortar pit saw the tank and aimed a LAWS and fired. It too was defective. The NVA tanks had at this point not gotten in the inner perimeter of the camp which was in danger. An NVA tank was spotted moving westward along Highway 9 stopping near the Team House. Sgt. Wilkins decided to take the tank out and with two LAWS he aimed and fired scoring a direct hit, but the tank was not damaged. Sgt. Wilkins (E-5) aimed his second LAWS and fired, but it too was defective. Along with Sgt. Wilkins several other defenders attempted to destroy the tank, but their attempts failed.

Earlier in the fighting, around 0130 at the Old Lang Vei camp, Sgt. Allen (E-5), an assistant medical specialist, talked the Laotian Battalion Commander to fire 81mm illumination rounds over the fighting. Spec 4 Johnson (E-4), another assistant medical specialist, could see the tanks and ground troops attacking Company 101 and asked SFC Ashley (E-7), their leader and an intelligence non-com, for fifty Laotian soldiers and a rocket launcher so they could attack the tanks from the rear. The Laotian Commander decided against the plan until daylight.

At about 0245 one of the tanks already in the camp turned and headed toward the Medical bunker. The NVA were now in the inner perimeter. The tank turned and blasted away at the Medical bunker point-blank at the front entrance. Another tank joined in and it too blasted at the Medical bunker both causing some damage but not enough to destroy the bunker. At about 0230 the tanks now aimed their guns at the OPS Center (TOC). One of the Tank-Killer teams just outside the east entrance fired their LAWS causing only minor damage. The lead tank fired at the OPS Center from less than 15 meters causing injury to those around the bunker. Lt. Colonel Schungel



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suffered a fragmentation wound to his hip while Specialist McMurray (E-5) had both his hands mangled. Lt. Colonel Schungel pulled Specialist McMurray behind a pole of sandbags at the entrance to the OPS Center. A tank fired at the Observation Tower causing injury to several defenders as they climbed down and moved inside the OPS Center. Currently small groups of NVA were all over the camp. With the tank attack damaging both entrances to the deeply dug OPS Center, those who were able to make it inside were: Captain Willoughby, Lt. Longgear (O-2), Sgt. Brooks (E-5), SSgt Phillips (E-6), Sgt. Earley (E-5), Sgt. Fragos (E-5), Specialist Moreland (E-4) and Specialist Doom (E-4), most of them were wounded. Also, inside were the South Vietnamese camp commander (Willoughby's counterpart), an interpreter, a CIDG communications man and twenty-five other CIDG soldiers. McMurray wounded and behind the sandbags outside the OPS Center entrance yelled for help, Lt. Colonel Schungel attempted to rush up the stairwell to rescue him but was met by heavy enemy small-arms gun fire. Those defenders within the camp, American and Vietnamese, who at this point had been successful at escaping death or capture were working on ways to escape either fate. Sgt. Tirach (E-5) stayed at the 4.2mm inch mortar pit as long as possible. Sgt Brooks made it to the top of the team house and using armor-piercing-ammo fired at one of the attacking tanks; however, the tank took aim at his position and starting firing. At the team house Sgt. Tirach found several others including around fifty CIDG's and mobile strike force soldiers. Together, they all decided to leave the camp. They made their way to the northern perimeter and through the wire. NVA heavy machine gun fire began hitting them from the eastern area of the camp. Sgt. Tirach and SFC Craig(E-7) and about ten of the Vietnamese were the only ones to make it to a stand of bamboo across the road and into a ditch. They were safe for a short time until an U.S. Air Force jet dropped cluster bombs on the area wounding Sgt. Tirach and SFC Craig. They survived until help would arrive later.



NVA tanks attack the hardened bunker where the OPS center was located.

One of the enemy tanks rolled on top of the OPS Center (TOC) to crush it but the six feet covering of dirt, steel, and reinforced concrete held. Enemy sapper troops began tossing grenades and satchel charges and firing their automatic weapons down at the stairwells, but the steel reinforced doors held. Outside the remaining defenders were doing their best to defend themselves and escape capture or death. Shortly after the tanks moved into the camp's areas, Captain Willoughby had radioed the 26th Marine Regiment at Khe Sanh to request reinforcements, then at around 0330 he again requested help, but his request was denied because a relief force moving down Highway 9 or even a heliborne assault would be dangerous due to the darkness and because the NVA had armor. Shortly after that Captain Willoughby

loss communications due to the tank having destroyed the radio antennas. Around 0430 those trapped in the OPS Center (TOC) began hearing the enemy digging a hole parallel to the wall of the center while from time to time they would toss grenades at the stairwell. They did not harm anything.

A little past 0600, a thermite grenade rolled into the darkened bunker and exploded in a bright orange flash. Maps

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and papers that were on the floor caught fire. The enemy now followed with fragmentation grenades and for the first-time tear gas grenades. Several of the men began burning classified documents by placing them into the fire. A Vietnamese voice called down the stairwell in Vietnamese “We are going to blow up the bunker, so give up now”. The Vietnamese commander gathered his CIDG troops and led them up the stairs out of the bunker deciding to surrender. The NVA executed them all. Then a voice, in English, called down and asked to speak to the leader. He asked if those inside had weapons and ammo, they replied “Yes, and it’s for you”. At 0630, about dawn, on the north side of the wall the sounds of digging had stopped, then a large explosion occurred with a cloud of dust, smoke, and pieces of concrete flying around in the bunker. A hole six-feet wide and four feet high was in the wall. Those inside gathered around each other to defend themselves to the end; however, the NVA decided only to continue tossing grenades into the center. Unknown to those inside, help was on its way.

At Old Lang Vei camp, SFC Ashley, Sgt. Allen and Specialist Johnson had attempted to put together some help for those defenders in Lang Vei. They tried to get the Laotian Commander to send in some men, but he refused, but he promised help when the sun came up. Waiting for the sun to come up, the three directed air strikes and flare drops on areas of the camp at Lang Vei. Old Lang Vei was 800 meters from Lang Vei along Highway 9. As the sun rose the three Americans again asked the Laotian Commander for assistance holding him to his word. They secured 100 armed Laotians and working through an interpreter, discussed their plan to move into the camp and rescue survivors and potentially retake the camp. Specialist Johnson radioed Specialist Doom in the OPS Center of their plan. SFC Ashley radioed the FAC overhead for strafing runs on the camp while the rescue team watched from their positions of about a hundred meters away. SFC Ashley formed a skirmish line with himself in the middle and carrying his PRC-25 radio in his backpack. Sgt. Allen was on the right flank and Specialist Johnson was on the left flank as they moved forward toward the camp passing through what was left of Company 101 area. Moving slowly, they found several wounded CIDG and MIKE strike force soldiers among dead NVA’s along with two dead CIDG. Weapons were found scattered all over, Sgt Allen dropped his carbine for a Browning Automatic Rifle and all the magazines he could carry as well as six grenades. They came up on several CIDG and strike force defenders still able to fight, they joined the team. Two Vietnamese began waving at the team from the bunkers at Company 104, about a hundred meters away. They were told to come out with their hands up, they ignored the command, thinking it was a trap, Sgt. Johnson yelled for everyone to get down. Just then the enemy opened with two machine guns and automatic weapons. After a few minutes, a shell from an 82mm mortar round landed close to Specialist Johnson blowing him some twenty meters away, he was not wounded. The team made two unsuccessful attempts to move forward after which SFC Ashley order the team to pull back toward Company 101 area and Highway 9. He again called in air strikes while radioing Captain Willoughby that they had met tough resistance but would try again. The time now was 0800 and while the team waited the enemy was firing on the aircraft with each pass, the NVA would not give up.

Events in the Command Bunker were becoming difficult with several of the men’s wounds growing worse even with attempts to render medical aid. They spoke only in whispers to each other when necessary. Outside the Command Bunker and under the dispensary Lt. Col. Schungel and Lt. Wilkins remained though out the attack undetected and with the sun coming up they decided to remain under the dispensary because there was heavy gun firing continuing. SFC Ashley called in air strikes to “blast” the camp. By 0930 the air strikes were over, and Lt. Col. Schungel and Lt. Wilkins decided to come out of hiding under the dispensary. Just west of the building





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Soviet built PT-76 tank destroyed during the battle.

were two burned out tanks, the results of the air strikes. As the FAC circled overhead they waved at the plane and the pilot “waggled” his wings in acknowledgment. As they passed the 1st Combat Reconnaissance Platoon positions, there was no sign of life. Just then a Vietnamese yelled for them to join him in his bunker and being happy that some friendly troops were still alive, they moved toward the bunker. As Lt. Wilkins entered the bunker, Lt. Col. Schungel fell into the bunker having been shot in his right thigh making it his third time wounded. Sgt. Tirach and the others in his group, hiding in the bamboo and ditch, had observed SFC Ashley and his team’s first attempt at moving on the camp. As a result, they came out of hiding and agreed to join the group.

On the group’s second attempt the enemy began using 81mm and 60mm mortars against the American-led team. The NVA, yelling and screaming began tossing grenades and firing automatic weapons. One of the flank forces came within twenty-five meters of the enemy-held bunkers but soon had to fall back. SFC Ashley again called in air strikes just as Sgt. Tirach spotted Lt. Col. Schungel limping toward the group along Highway 9 with the aid of two CIDG soldiers while three others with helping Lt. Wilkins. They moved the men to the team’s assembly area some 500 meters west of the Old Lang Vei camp just off the highway. SFC Ashley then lifted the air strikes and radioed the men in the Command Bunker they were going to make another attempt.

For the third time the team advanced frontally against the enemy bunker line while Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. Tirach remained behind and began to lob 60mm mortar high-explosive shells and one “Willie Pete” (a white phosphorus round) into the enemy positions. Their seventh round failed to fire with Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. Tirach grabbing their weapons and joined the assault. The enemy again pushed the attempt back with a massive amount of small arms fire from their bunkers. SFC Ashley was determined to try again radioed the FAC to plaster the area again and to continue the strikes moving them westward just ahead of his assault line as they advanced. Sgt. Johnson retrieved the 57mm recoilless rifle from Old Lang Vei camp hoping to take out the enemy bunkers.

As the team assaulted for the fourth time, Sgt. Johnson sighted and aimed the recoilless rifle for the Vietnamese gunner. Too anxious, the gunner shot over the target missing the camp. Sgt. Johnson took the recoilless rifle and put three high-explosive rounds in each of the two bunkers that had given them trouble earlier. Rushing forward towards the OPS Bunker, SFC Ashley fell. An NVA soldier who had some fight left in him cut loose with a bullet hitting SFC Ashley in the chest on his right side passing through the radio on his back. Running to SFC Ashley, Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. Allen moved him out of the line of fire and with the help of several CIDG soldiers carried him back to the assembly area. A jeep from Old Lang Vei arrived and they loaded him on it and drove back toward Old Lang Vei, all the while tending to SFC Ashley’s wound. As the jeep arrived and Sgt. Allen jumped out in search of bandages an enemy artillery round hit nearby killing SFC Ashley and knocking Sgt. Johnson unconscious. The last attempt came at 1110 to reach the Command Bunker.



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In the Command Bunker, Captain Willoughby gathered the survivors and told them he was calling air strikes on the camp and afterward they would make a break for it. The FAC directed air strikes on the entire camp. It was 1600 and the survivors were ready to make their break. As they did so the aircraft overhead flew dummy runs to keep the enemy's heads down. As they headed out, near the supply bunker automatic weapons fire from positions near Company 104 began coming close to them, Lt. Longgear turned around and unloaded his M16 into the bunkers silencing the gun fire. The team made it to Highway 9 and to Old Lang Vei. Meeting up with Lt. Col. Schungel working the radios coordinating the arrival of a fifty-man evacuation force from Khe Sanh. Captain Willoughby told him that as far as he knew there were no survivors outside of the Command Bunker. Lt. Col. Schungel radioed the FAC to plaster the entire camp with bombs, except for the Command Bunker. A flight of Marine Huey gunships and jet aircraft circled the camp as the Reaction Team arrived to provide cover. By 1730 the battle for Lang Vei was over. Of the original fighting force of 484 defenders, approximately half were killed, wounded or missing. Of the approximately 500 CIDGs, 200 were killed or missing and 75 were wounded. Out of the 24 American Special Forces, 10 were killed or missing and 11 were wounded. The NVAs KIA/MIA (killed in action / missing in action) were estimated at 250 to 500. Most of the camp's weapons and equipment were destroyed. Over 6,000 stragglers from Lang Vei area – Laotian soldiers, mountain tribesmen, South Vietnamese irregulars and nondescript civilians followed Captain Willoughby's men to Khe Sanh. The Marine base commander, Col. Lownds (0-6), knowing that enemy agents maybe mixed in with the mass, refused to admit them. He took away all their weapons staging the mass outside the fire base until representatives of the Special Forces could screen them and aid in evacuating those considered friendly.

Lang Vei fell marking the first successful use of armor by the NVA in the Vietnam War. The leaders in the north hoped that the defeat of the U.S. at Lang Vei would lead to the United States' "Dien Bien Phu" with the taking of the Marine base at Khe Sanh. This did not happen.

Final notes:



Sgt First Class Eugene Ashley

Sergeant First Class Eugene Ashley, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1969 posthumously for his actions during the Battle for Lang Vei.

SFC Harvey Brande (E-7), SSgt. Dennis L. Thompson (E-5) and SPC 4 William G. McMurray (E-4) were captured during the Battle for Lang Vei and repatriated from Hanoi in 1972 with the other U.S. POWs.



After the battle, retreating tanks on Highway 9 ran out of fuel and were destroyed by U.S. aircraft. Aerial photos of destroyed tanks were processed by my unit

Of the Eleven PT-76 tanks attacking the base at Lang Vei, 7 PT-76 NVA Tanks were confirmed destroyed. The other 4 tanks retreated toward Laos running out of gas and were destroyed by U.S. Air Force F-4 Fighters while they sat on Highway 9.





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The North Vietnamese Army Battle Flag is in a museum in Hanoi and was hand-stitched by a possible NVA soldier indicating their defeat over the Americans at Lang Vei.

Source Credits:

John A. Cash, “Battle of Lang Vei”, Chapter 6, from the Internet

Charles H. Briscoe, PhD, “The Battle of Lang Vei”, via the Internet

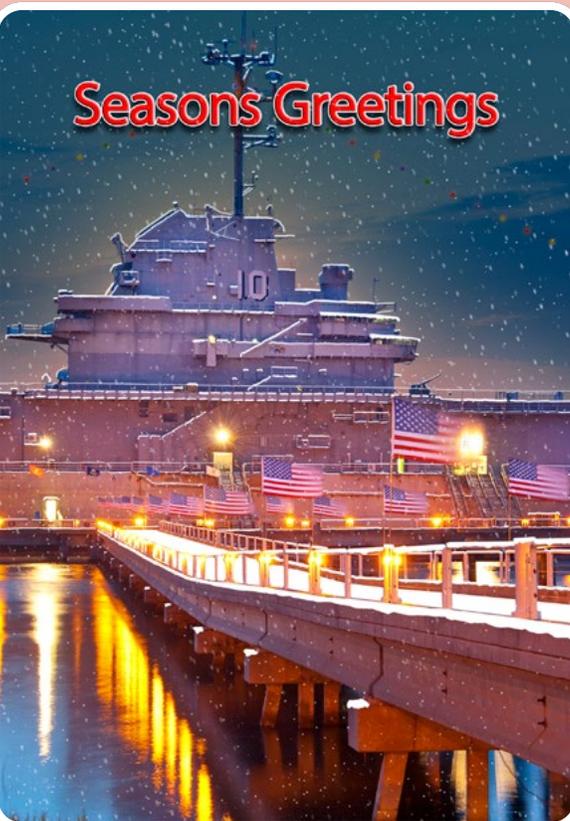
Rob Krott @2000, Lang Vei: Tanks in the Wire, U.S. Special Forces

John L. Plaster, “SOG, The Secret Wars of America’s Commando in Vietnam”, Dutton Caliber Press, Penguin Random House, New York, 2010

“Battle of Lang Vei” Wikipedia via the Internet

“February 6-7, 1968: Battle of Lang Vei Special Forces Camp”, The History Reader, via the Internet

“When Tanks Overran the Green Berets: The Battle of Lang Vei”, War History Online via the Internet



Season Greetings everyone,

I hope this edition of the Scuttlebutt finds you and yours healthy and enjoying our winter temperatures this holiday season. Wait, it looks like Mother Nature only warms up for the weekend volunteers.



Thank you all for helping us navigate this year! I know many of us cannot wait for this year to be over. We had a few challenges this year and we turned them into opportunities. Turning lemons into lemonade is always a wonderful thing. The wonderful work the team did improving the ships during our closure was such a blessing. The team continues to improve the ships and the Vietnam support base on a daily basis. Special thanks to the Low country Leathernecks and other volunteers who are currently donating their time and energy improving the Vietnam support base.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday. Please take time to make some memories with family and friends. Let’s not forget all our service men and women that are not home with their families this time of year. Please keep those military families in your thoughts and prayers as well as those who will be experiencing the Holidays this year without a loved one.

See you at the Point.

Happy New Year!

Larry





SCUTTLEBUTT

Voice of the Patriots Point Volunteers



Issue 1

Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

Summer 2005

SCUTTLEBUTT Achieves a big milestone: ISSUE #50

By Paul Baumgart

It is worthwhile that all of us stop to reflect on a Patriots Point mainstay that has been a key element of our volunteer community and an important aspect to communication and community building that plays such an important role for our team. It was more than 15 years ago, when Volume 1, Issue 1 – Summer 2005 made its debut. The issue carried the banner “SCUTTLEBUTT – Voice of the Patriots Point Volunteers”. The issue was 8 pages long, and printed in black and white.

Ned Forney, Director of Education, and David Burnette, Executive Director were identified in the credits as the management members of the Scuttlebutt staff. In the premier issue, Ned Forney wrote the following introduction and recognition of contributing team members who made the newsletter possible.

Putting it All Together” by Ned Forney

The idea of having a volunteer newsletter is something we’ve been talking about for quite some time here at Patriots Point. So, after months of meetings, planning sessions, data collecting, and behind the scenes work, we’re definitely pleased to finally have our first edition hot off the press.

Many volunteers worked hard to get this project going. From Andy Nelson, to Pete Gibson, to Bob Deal, to Lorrie Stein, to Jim Vickers, The Scuttlebutt has come of age at last. Well done! We hope everyone enjoys reading the biographies of our volunteers who currently serve as key members of our “team.” More biographies and volunteer-related stories and information will appear in upcoming newsletters so be on the lookout.

A lot remains to be done, but we’re headed in the right direction, and we’ve got a great group of volunteers—nearly 60 strong and growing all the time. Thanks again for all you do.

Fifty issues later, the newsletter has held true to its original charter. It has achieved this milestone with contributions from so many of our volunteer community...as authors of individual articles, as editors and individuals involved in the actual work of putting each issue together, and as the subjects of personal histories, biographies, remembrances and areas of interest that have kept Scuttlebutt relevant as a growing and evolving chronicle of the Patriots Point volunteer family. Today Thom Ford sets the mark for continuing the standard for editorial content and maintaining the traditions of the publication laid out by Ned Forney. Thom is fully engaged with the planning and content development of every issue. And he has been an on-going force to keep our production schedule on track. Jim Vickers, who’s name and artistic talent graced our first issue, continues to provide the graphic design and creative aspects of putting each issue together. With the Spring issue of 2020, I took over the reins as editor, and after reviewing the past work of my predecessors (most notably Chip Biernbaum and most recently, Andy Toth), embarked on continuing to evolve and uphold the traditions of our quarterly newsletter. This is your newsletter, and we take seriously the stewardship entrusted to us as the production team.





It Happened On This Date

Editor's Note: This is a regular feature in Scuttlebutt and one that I believe is important to enrich our collective knowledge about the four cornerstones of our museum. I wanted to acknowledge the varied sources of information used to research this article each quarter, which includes internet sites such as Wikipedia, Google Images, the Association websites for each of our vessels and air groups, and a number of other websites related to the Vietnam experience. I also reference various books and periodicals in gathering the material for the feature.

February 1968 – Vietnam Chronicle: In this issue of Scuttlebutt, Part 2 of Randy Garrison's feature article about the Battle of Lang Vei provides a gripping account of the extraordinary history of this battle and that took place in the winter of 1968. This occurred on the heels of, and in conjunction with, the Tet Offensive which began 30 January 1968.

On that date, communist-affiliated troops from North Vietnam and the Viet Cong launched what became one of the largest military operations of the Vietnam War, which subsequently became a key turning point in the conflict.

The Tet Offensive was a surprise series of attacks launched during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year festival. Many South Vietnamese troops were on holiday when the attacks began, and the military was caught off guard. The campaign initially targeted more than 100 cities and towns, including the strategic southern capital of Saigon.

The Tet Offensive was a catastrophic military failure for the communists. Historians estimate as many as 50,000 communist troops died in the effort to gain control of the southern part of the country. The South Vietnamese and American losses, though significant, totaled a fraction of that number.

Although a military loss, the Tet Offensive was a stunning propaganda victory for the communists. In fact, it is often credited with turning the war in their favor. The South Vietnamese began to lose influence as Viet Cong guerrillas infiltrated rural areas formerly held by the South Vietnamese government. The offensive frayed the relationship between the South Vietnamese and the United States.





It Happened On This Date

Winter 1945 – **USS Laffey (DD 724) Chronicle:** *Laffey* rejoined the 7th Fleet, during the month of January 1945 and screened amphibious ships landing troops in the Lingayen Gulf area of Luzon. Retiring to the Caroline Islands, *Laffey* arrived at Ulithi atoll on 27 January. In February, she supported TF 58, conducting diversionary air strikes on Tokyo and direct air support of Marines fighting on Iwo Jima. Late in February, *Laffey* carried vital intelligence information to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz at Guam, arriving on 1 March.



The next day, *Laffey* arrived at Ulithi for intensive training with battleships of Task Force 54 (TF 54). On 21 March, she sortied with the task force for the invasion of Okinawa. *Laffey* helped capture Kerama Retto, bombarded shore establishments, harassed the enemy with fire at night and screened heavy units. *Laffey* was part of TF 54.2 sailing with the old relic battleships *Arkansas* (BB-43) and *Colorado* (BB-45), and heavy cruisers *San Francisco* (CA-38) and *Minneapolis* (CA-36). She soon would take on her fateful role as a radar picket destroyer in April when she would come under an unrelenting kamikaze attack and suffer severe damage and heavy casualties.

March 1944-February 1945 – **USS Clamagore (SS-343) Chronicle:** *Clamagore* was built by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. Her keel was laid 16 March 1944 and she was launched 75 years ago on 25 February 1945, under the sponsorship of Miss Mary Jane Jacobs, daughter of Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, U.S. Navy. The fleet submarine was commissioned at the U.S. Naval Base, New London, Connecticut a few months later in June 1945, with Commander Sam Colby Loomis, Jr., USN in command. Happy seventy-fifth birthday to the USS Clamagore!

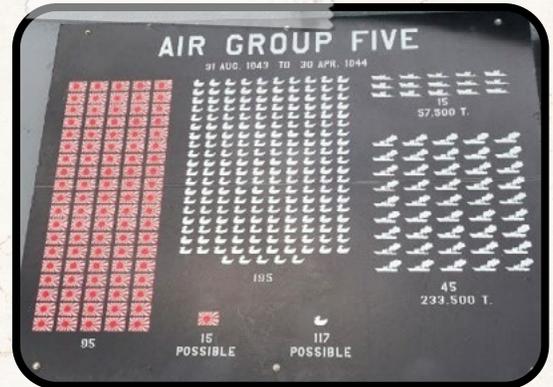




It Happened On This Date

January – March 1944 – USS Yorktown (CV-10) Chronicle:

On 16 January 1944, the *Yorktown* exited Pearl Harbor to support an amphibious assault – Operation Flintlock, the Marshall Islands invasion. Deployed with the Fast Carrier Task Force (TF 58), *Yorktown's* group was designated as Task Group 58.1 (TG 58.1). When TG 58.1 arrived at its launching point early on the morning of 29 January, carriers *Yorktown*, *Lexington*, and *Cowpens* began sending air strikes aloft at about 05:20 for attacks on Taroa airfield located on Maloelap Atoll. Throughout the day, her aircraft hit Maloelap in preparation for the assaults on Majuro and Kwajalein scheduled for 31 January. On 30 January, *Yorktown* and her sister carriers shifted targets to Kwajalein to begin softening up one of the targets. When the troops stormed ashore on 31 January, *Yorktown* aviators continued their strikes on Kwajalein in support of the troops attacking that atoll. The same employment occupied the *Yorktown's* Air Group Five during the first three days in February. On 4 February, however, the task group retired to the fleet anchorage at recently secured Majuro Atoll.



Placard recording the combat success of Air Group Five, 31 August 1943 – 30 April 1944

Over the next four months, *Yorktown* participated in a series of raids in which she ranged from the Marianas in the north to New Guinea in the south. After eight days at Majuro, she sortied with her task group on 12 February to conduct air strikes on the main Japanese anchorage at Truk Atoll. Those highly successful raids occurred on 16–17 February. On 18 February, the carrier set a course for the Marianas, and on 22 February, conducted a single day of raids on enemy airfields and installations on Saipan. That same day, she cleared the area on her way back to Majuro. The warship arrived in Majuro lagoon on 26 February and remained there. On 8 March, the carrier stood out of Majuro, rendezvoused with the rest of TF 58, and shaped a course for Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides. She reached her destination on 13 March and remained there for 10 days before getting underway for another series of raids on the Japanese middle defense line. On 30–31 March, she launched air strikes on Japanese installations located in the Palau Islands; and on 1 April, her aviators went after the island of Woleai. Five days later, she returned to her base at Majuro for a week of replenishment and recreation.

During this period of time, it was the aircraft of Air Group Five led by Commander James Flatley, carrying out the nearly continuous daily sorties against the dug-in Japanese forces on these islands and atolls. The incredible score card for the work of this renowned Air Group is visible on the side of the *Yorktown's* island structure.



The F6F-3 Hellcat piloted by Commander James Flatley, Commander, Air Group Five, prepares for takeoff from the USS Yorktown



Who Is That Masked Man Behind the Camera??

By Paul Baumgart

As we usher in 2021 with the 50th issue of Scuttlebutt, it is interesting to note that just one name of the group of individuals who were behind the premier edition of our quarterly newsletter is still making his presence felt as we publish our fiftieth issue. Back in the summer of 2005, the editorial team of Pete Gibson, Lorrie Stein and Bob Deal with staff oversight from David Burnette and Ned Forney created the original identity of Scuttlebutt. And for that maiden voyage, the creative genius, many of the photos, and the graphic design that brought the editorial content to life was the work of Jim Vickers, who continues to this very day to be the artist in residence behind every issue of the newsletter.

Jim is a highly visible and recognizable member of the Patriots Point Staff and a great supporter of the volunteer team. When you come in early for the first shift at the information desk and swing by the lounge to sign in and say hello to Thom, there is a good chance Jim will be down in the lounge sipping a coffee and checking in with members of the group. He seems to know just about everyone. And when there is any kind of event taking place, like the Veterans Day recognition of our Volunteer of the Year, Jim is quietly moving about the crowd recording the occasion with his omni-present camera. His photo library is an amazing journey through the history of Patriots Point since he arrived on site in April 1996, looking for a part time job.

Jim enlisted in the Navy in 1977 and became a Hull Maintenance Technician (HT) on board the USS Arthur W. Radford DD-968 in the repair division. When he was stationed aboard the Radford he had the opportunity to qualify for the Navy's 2nd Class Deep Sea Diving School in Little VA. His first duty station as a U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diver was here in Charleston on board the submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS-40). In 1982, after two and half years as a working diver (HT2DV) on the Frank Cable Jim left the service to the US NAVY and headed to the Charleston Naval Shipyard, Shop 72 Riggers Diving Locker as a civilian Diver working for the Navy. He transitioned over to civilian life continuing to descend into the murky water inspecting hulls of submarines, and surface vessels, completing repairs and modifications and other duties working to keep the Charleston fleet seaworthy. But when it became apparent that the Naval Shipyard was closing and his position would be on the chopping block along with the rest of the assets of the Naval operation, Jim began looking for a new opportunity.



Diving Mark V, Summer 1980
USN 2nd Class Deep Sea Diving School
Little Creek, VA



PATRIOTS POINT

★ VOLUNTEERS ★

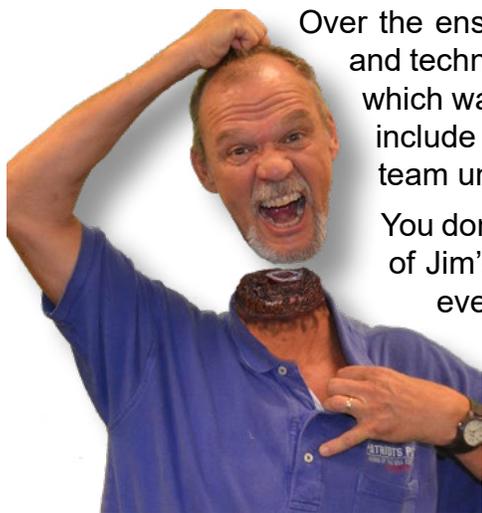
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Man behind the Camera cont.

He had completed an Associates Degree at Trident College in engineering and graphic design learning about the new technologies of 3D CAD and computer graphics. This complimented the interest he had always had in art, engineering and photography from an early age growing up in St Louis. Then one day, he was tasked to help move a lot of photography equipment from the naval base into the graphics department at Patriots Point. And that is when the possibility of employment on the museum staff albeit in a part time role, opened up a new career path. What never occurred to him is that within weeks after accepting the position and getting started, he was told by the manager of the department that they were searching for a replacement, as the manager had already expressed his desire to step down.



Over the ensuing months, as Jim was able to demonstrate his creative abilities and technical competency, he eventually stepped seamlessly into the position, which was an integral part of the Exhibits department. This was expanded to include an operational role as well, and he continued to work with the exhibit team under the direction of David Clark.

You don't have to walk very far beyond the information desk to see examples of Jim's work. He takes a lot of pride in the contributions he has made to every tour route and every corner of our museum and the exhibits, but he also is the first to say this is a big team effort in every respect. Illustrations and graphic images that help to illuminate the history and heritage of our ships and artifacts in addition to signage, photos and other imagery help to create interest and pull in our thousands of visitors by stimulating their curiosity about what they are looking at. The exhibits on the hangar deck describing

the history of the Kido Butai and the IJN carrier fleet, and the wall of information adjacent to the B-25 describing the epic journey of the USS Hornet and the Doolittle Raiders into the storied history of WW II are great examples of the artistry and creative genius of Jim Vickers.

When Thom asked me to take on the challenge of serving as the Scuttlebutt editor, I was more than a little concerned about how I could put out those great quarterly issues every three months. Until I got to know Jim. He put my mind at ease, telling me to furnish him the editorial content, and he would take care of the rest. I have learned after completing three issues with him he is a guy who likes to have the creative license to run with a project with basic, but nevertheless minimum discussion of particular aspects to what I want to see as an editor. But after I turn over the content files to Jim, I wait along with everyone else to see the amazing results of his skillful creation of each final issue. He has full control over the layout of each issue, adds the pictures, the extra touches of images of various volunteers, the museum and events. He turns over a draft of the final version of the issue to Thom Ford and me for review, but other than identifying an occasional typo or minor change of copy, we never cease to be amazed and in awe of how the issue looks as we put it to bed and it goes to press.

It really comes down to one of the ways Jim described to me exactly what he does: he "likes helping the Yorktown staff express what they are imagining." And I can speak from my personal experience over the last year with Scuttlebutt, he does exactly that oh so well!





In Memoriam George Lo-Presti



George Lo-Presti of Summerville, formerly of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, passed away peacefully of end-stage Parkinson's disease on November 21, 2020 at the age of 82.

George was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1938, the son of two Italian immigrants. He grew up in Brooklyn and attended Long Island University, where he met his wife of 56 years, Patricia. They moved to southern New Jersey, where they raised a family, and George worked as a food chemist at Campbell Soup Co. After he retired, true to his character, George kept himself busy with traveling the world and chasing after his grandchildren. He

also volunteered for the Mt. Laurel Fire Department, the Battleship New Jersey in Camden, NJ and the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point. HE also did volunteer work for Trident Hospital and Middleton Place in Summerville. Throughout his life, George enjoyed giving back to the community. He was a much beloved coach of his kids' and grandkids' sports teams and was involved in the management of multiple township sports programs.

According to the long-time volunteers who knew George, he worked the Information Counter and was always eager to lend a helping hand.



George Lo-Presti photographed with fellow volunteers Dave Shuler, Ron Thompson and Arnie Stein



Dave Sowers



Lloyd Whitnack



PATRIOTS POINT

★ VOLUNTEERS ★

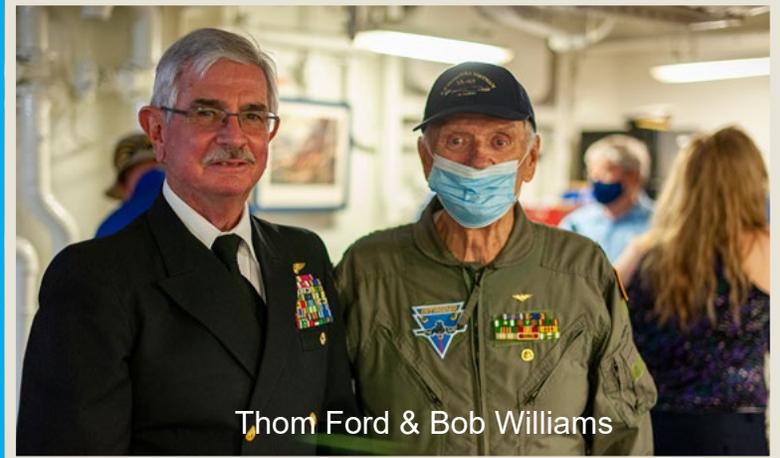
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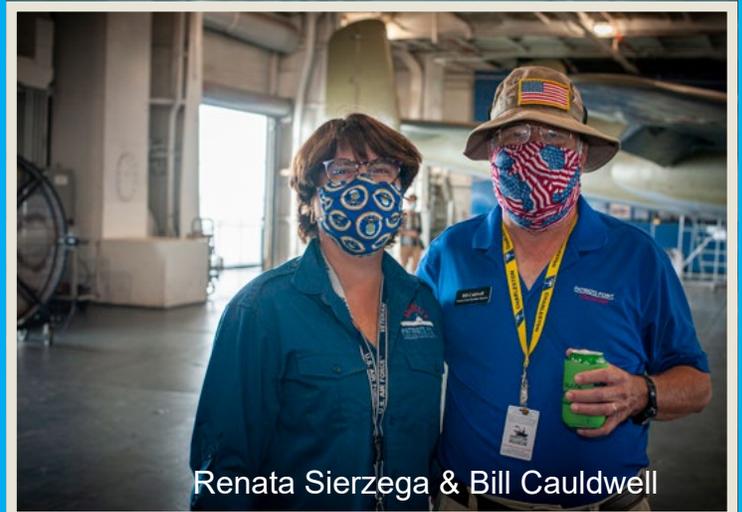
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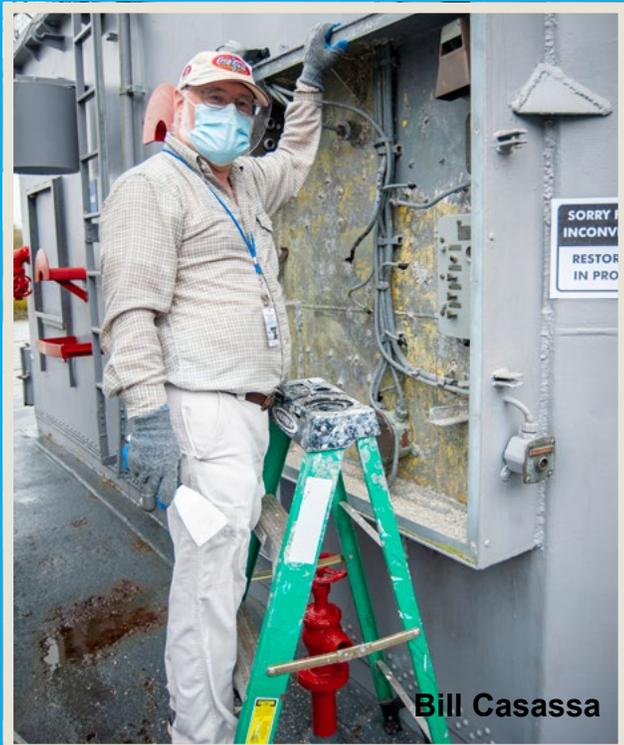
Randy Garrison at Pearl Harbor Memorial



Thom Ford & Bob Williams



Renata Sierzega & Bill Cauldwell



Bill Casassa

Gerry Maggard





Marines Attack the Maritime and Naval Museum at Patriots Point

By Stoney Bates, USMC, Retired

Early on a crisp morning of 29 October 2020, they came from the east, with the sun at their back, slowly, skillfully, individually and clandestinely entering the Patriots Point Maritime and Naval Museum. Silently eluding any potential challenges they penetrated into the Vietnam War Experience compound exhibits area, intimately familiar to them individually and collectively. They had a mission to execute and embraced a plan to complete it. They were armed to the teeth.



Patriots Point Volunteers: Dave Sowers, Martin Diamond, Bill Casassa, Robert Newman, and Lowcountry Leathernecks Chuck Skipper and Steve Driscoll.

Arriving at the rendezvous point, they began to utilize skills honed from boot camp, advanced training, and duties within the war-zone of Vietnam, plus intervening years of experience. Relying on instinctive traits, they began to engage their target with the weapons at their disposal, and overwhelmed any and all opposition, completing their assigned and assumed mission in record time.

Collective they were pleased with the results, and momentarily paused to admire their handiwork. Professionally they withdrew almost unnoticed from their objective area to await another similar mission in the near future.

It was a successful mission by any standard. The target billeting structure, a barracks (hooch) was totally cleaned by removing every object from the facsimile of that Vietnam War era Southeast-Asia troop living quarters, thoroughly cleaning the empty building, cleaning all removed equipment, and restoring it to its rightful location within the structure. The Lowcountry Leathernecks of the Charleston area had struck again. On previous similar missions, the Marine Corps War Veterans, and a few museum volunteers had previously stained and waterproofed all wooden bridges, banisters, and walkways within the wartime exhibit; however, this more complex mission targeted the structures, especially the buildings. On those previous missions they were armed with gallons of preservative solution, paint rollers, brushes and paint pressure-sprayers. On this mission their weapons were brooms, mops (swabs), cleaning rags, various cleaning solutions, a water hose and water buckets. On both missions, the primary element leading toward success were the Semper Fi tradition of the Marine Corps, and old fashioned sweat-ethic.

The Marines had landed and the situation was well in-hand! These Marines of the “Old Corps” assisted the staff of the Maritime and Naval Museum in providing old fashioned, time-honored, Marine Corps *Esprit de Corps*, free of charge.

Semper Fi, Leathernecks.



Mike Sudzina Recognized as Distinguished Volunteer of the Year at Veterans Day Ceremony – November 11, 2020

Combining the solemnity of remembrance of all veterans and their service to our country with the announcement of this year’s slate of deserving candidates for the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year recognition and finally, a moving tribute and roll call of volunteers who passed on in the last year, our Veterans Day ceremony went on as scheduled, masks and social distancing in effect.

The event was well attended as nearly 50 volunteers gathered on Hangar Deck 3 with Thom Ford as the master of ceremonies. Thom stood on the dais in dress uniform along with the guest of honor and key note speaker, Mt. Pleasant’s Mayor Will Haynie, and Larry Murray, the Executive Director of Patriots Point, who also made some opening remarks. USS Yorktown Foundation Board members, Admiral Flatley, Chauncey Clark, Mike Sudzina and Kent Hutchinson as well as Executive Director, Allison Hunt attended. Louisa Montgomery, wife of volunteer Ned, and Carol Pierce, wife of volunteer Mike, were also present for their husbands’ remembrance ceremony.

After the playing of the National Anthem, Larry Murray opened the event by recognizing the important role that volunteers play every day in the success of the museum. He spoke of the challenges confronting us in the face of the on-going Covid crisis and noted the unwavering efforts of the volunteers and staff working together to overcome these obstacles.

Mayor Haynie spoke to us about the pride Mt. Pleasant takes in being the home of the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, and spoke about patriotism and what he saw as “a constant threat of an assault on our values.” He spoke about the “greatest generation” and the courage with which they overcame the challenges of a global economic depression and a world war and set a lasting example for all future generations to follow. Mayor Haynie noted that the call for Patriotism today is “now and immediate” and declared that the way we can honor that “greatest generation” and keep their patriotic spirit alive is to “set the example ourselves, first.” He recognized our volunteer team for being true leaders in the community in that regard.

Thom Ford then read the list of candidates for the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year recognition noting that these were individuals who set an example of going above and beyond the normal duties of a Patriots Point volunteer. After reading the names and recognizing the nine individuals nominated by their peers to receive this important honor, Thom announced the selection





Volunteer of the Year cont.

committee had named Mike Sudzina to be designated the 2020 Distinguished Volunteer of the Year. Mike made some gracious remarks to the other nominees and to his peers gathered around him and told the audience “you are a critical part of this ship.” He also pointed out the importance “of not only hosting our visitors, but sharing our stories.” Mike finished his brief remarks saying the award “recognizes our volunteers – all of them – and I am proud to be a part of this group.”

The ceremony finished with a roll call of our fallen volunteers who passed during the last year. One by one, the names were read out, followed by members of the volunteer community who knew these individuals coming forward to share a story or two about each person, recognizing lives well lived, and eulogizing and saluting each remarkable individual. As each name was read out, the ship’s bell tolled.

Mike Sudzina – 2020 Distinguished Volunteer of the Year

Mike has served as a volunteer for many years. He is a veteran, serving as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps and saw action in Vietnam. He spends several hours each week working in the Museum’s Services Department with Curator Melissa Buchanan helping to manage the myriad of exhibits and museum assets. In 2013 with Museum leadership, Mike started the USS Yorktown Foundation, the Museum’s non-profit support organization. Mike has led the effort to move the Foundation to a valuable support source for Museum programs. In FY 18/19, the Foundation raised \$451,240 to support exhibits, special programs and symposia, and scholarships for underserved students to attend educational programming on the ship. One of Mike’s nominators pointed out “Mike is tireless and committed, and never lets obstacles get in his way. He is willing to take on complex tasks, and do whatever is needed to make the Museum better for all of us.”



Larry Murray and Mt. Pleasant Mayor Will Haynie present Mike with the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year Award



Veterans Day in the Volunteer lounge provided by the USS Yorktown Foundation





Volunteer of the Year cont.

The field of other nominees for the 2020 Distinguished Volunteer of the Year

Stoney Bates, USMC, Retired



Nominators commented: “He is dedicated and passionate to his volunteer position.” “Driving the courtesy shuttle, he often appeared as our welcome person driving the shuttle when we were coming to work. He interacts well with the public – he would meet us and others at the start of the pier and have a witty comment and smile.” “He knows his history and we are a better organization with Stoney aboard!”



Don Bommarito, USMC Veteran



Nominators commented: “Don’s devotion to Patriots Point places him high on the list of many qualified men and women that serve. Don has always been one of the volunteers who ask if there was something to be done and when a program became available, Don always said, ‘Put me in Coach!’ Don’s attitude toward our customers has always been to give the customer the best and most accurate information and tour that money could buy.” “I know many volunteers stand out, but Don is one of the best.” “He has driven the cart and has welcomed many visitors with grace and patriotism.”



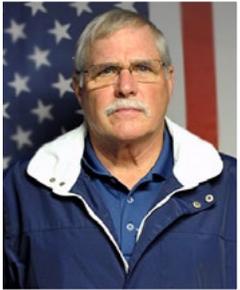
Robert Newman, USN Veteran



Nominators commented: “Robert Newman most certainly warrants consideration for the designation of “Volunteer of the Year.” He is a superb representative of the Yorktown community, and he goes, clearly, above what is expected of a volunteer.” “He is the backbone of the program offered to the Nuclear Power students.” “Like many of our volunteers, Robert will go to great lengths to support the mission of the Yorktown.” “Robert is a delight to serve the same watch with him...above and beyond required volunteer services. Outstanding!”



Tom Simons, USN, Retired



Nominators commented: “Takes the extra time with visitors to explain about the self-guided tours and, because of his in-depth knowledge of aircraft and carriers, he is able to answer any and all questions posed by visitors, In addition to volunteering at the information desk, he leads tours of students on field trips and also teaches students in the flight academy.” “When he arrives for his shift at the information desk, he is usually there 1 ½ hours early and makes a point of walking various tours, reacquainting himself with routes and tour content, and stays up-to-date so he can pass on to our visitors accurate and good information. “He is a great communicator and exudes enthusiasm and pride about Patriots Point.” “I’d like to submit my vote for Tom Simons for volunteer of the decade!!”





Volunteer of the Year cont.

Leonard Singleton, USN, Retired

Nominators commented: “Leonard has gone above and beyond the call of duty by ensuring the Laffey is given the attention the ship deserves. I have seen Leonard manning his post by Mount 53 rain or shine, and is often there in the middle of 100+ degree days. He also has more than just his duties in mind while volunteering.” “Leonard is knowledgeable, friendly and a great asset to Patriots Point.”



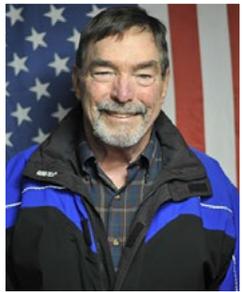
Arnie Stein, USA, Retired

Nominators comments: “I would like to nominate Arnie Stein to recognize his more than 25 years of service. He was a dedicated volunteer, and has now moved to Florida so that his daughter can help with her mother who has Alzheimer’s. Arnie maintained the Navy Nuclear Power training program for more than ten years, which was not an easy task.” “I think it would be a special honor for him to receive the award, even though he has moved away.



Paul Watters, USN, Retired

Nominators commented: “I nominate my friend and fellow Vietnam War veteran Paul Watters. He goes beyond his normal duties, is a member of the Volunteer Fund Board, and conducts tours when allowed. He replaces volunteer vacancies often, and is intimately familiar with our ships and the Vietnam War Experience.”



Lloyd Whitnack, USN Veteran

Nominators commented: “I realize that this individual has won this award in the past, but in my estimation, he definitely deserves it a second time. Lloyd goes above and beyond when it comes to our visitors at Patriots Point. I have witnessed on more than one occasion, Lloyd going out of his way to help transport visitors to and back from the Yorktown. He always starts out with a conversation to help the visitor understand and navigate their way through our ships and to include the Vietnam Experience.” “Lloyd is someone I see just about every time I come in. He drives the cart, sweeps the deck around the ticket office, empties trash cans, cleans the wheel chairs. He is always doing something!”





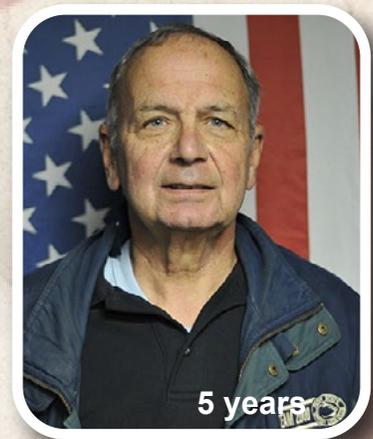
Volunteer Service Awards



John Goodwin
*A volunteer since
October 2015*



Bob Blakely
*A volunteer since
December 2010*



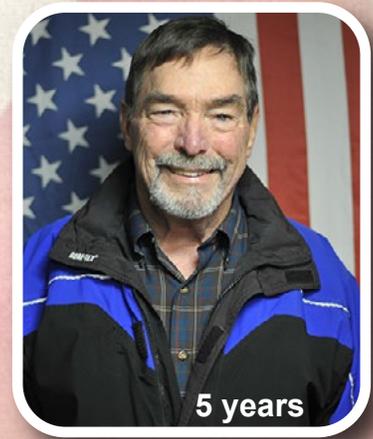
Carl Herscher
*A volunteer since
October 2015*



Bill Caiazza
*A volunteer since
October 2015*



Claude Roundtree
*A volunteer since
November 2015*



Paul Watters
*A volunteer since
December 2015*



Charlotte Brailsford – A note from Admiral Flatley:



Admiral Flatley wanted to share this photo of Charlotte Brailsford, who, in addition to appearing very smart in her Citadel Cadet uniform, remains an active member of our PPN&MM Volunteer force. As mentioned during our Board meeting, before she went off to become a NOB at The Citadel, she and Jen teamed-up to do some great on-line promotions for the Museum!



I've been mentoring Charlotte for the Naval Academy for three years, and when she just barely missed the cut for USNA's

Class of 2024, she immediately applied to The Citadel, while reapplying to the Naval Academy for the Class of 2025.

Charlotte shared the following:

“Our midterm grades were posted this week and I am proud to say I have a 4.0 GPA, with an A in every class. I'm taking 26 credit hours with a concentration on math and science for my Civil Engineering major! I plan on keeping that up for the remainder of the semester.

On Tuesday, November 10th at 5 pm, I have my interview with Senator Scott's office over zoom.”



In late November, Stu Carlin narrated a live(!) stream for the Charleston Library. The Library's children's series is usually about vehicles, but switched gears for Stu who, I know, is more comfortable flying than driving. So, instead of talking about a '38 Packard, Stu gave a talk on the venerable Grumman Wildcat.





PATRIOTS POINT

★ VOLUNTEERS ★

Issue 50

Patriots Point – Home of the USS YORKTOWN

Winter 2021



In November, Al Edgington and Tom Simons co-starred in a John Willman produced video for four to eleven-year olds about Veterans Day, the *Yorktown* and B-25.

Chris Hauff and the Marketing and Sales team have us hopping lately.



On December 6, volunteers John Goodwin, Hugh Walling, Coy Meadows, and Tom Valentukonis directed traffic for the Operation COVID Christmas Task Force. In the Patriots Point parking lot, this group of nonprofits collected donations of food, clothing and toiletries, provided meals, and conducted a blood drive, all benefiting groups hit hard by the pandemic.

On 24 November, zooming from Hangar Bay 3, Renata Sierzega was the 'Mystery Reader' for the St. John Catholic School in North Charleston. Thanks to Barb Amidon and Charlotte Brailsford also for volunteering for mystery reader duty.





USS YORKTOWN FOUNDATION UPDATE

Happy New Year Everyone!

The Foundation was honored to host the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year ceremony on Veterans Day! It was exciting to see the award go to long time Volunteer and Foundation founding member and former Chairman Mike Sudzina. He has numerous volunteer responsibilities around the ship, and the Foundation would not exist without his passionate and enthusiastic support. Hearty congratulations to Mike!

The two major Foundation exhibit projects are continuing to move along nicely. In the Pri Fly, the Air Boss and Mini Boss chairs have been installed and fabrication on the replicated Pri Fly equipment is underway. We have received a generous donation of \$10,000 from the USS Yorktown Association for this project. Many thanks to Kent Hutchinson and Admiral Flatley for keeping this project on track.

Williams Tire is currently working on aircraft tires on the Flight Deck. Removal of these tires has been more challenging because of the direct exposure to the elements, but they are getting it done. The donation includes purchasing stands to support the aircraft so the tires will remain round and the planes moveable. Fabrication of these stands is underway for the Hangar Bay aircraft.

The restoration, conservation and presentation casing for the USS Laffey Battle of Okinawa flag has been completed. The Foundation received a \$7500 grant from Tin Can Sailors Association for this and other Laffey projects. Many thanks to Jessica Steinberg and Melissa Buchanan for their hard work on this- including driving to Washington DC to pick up the flag!

The Foundation is partnering with Patriots Point and Bulldog Tours on the new Captain's Tour. Bulldog Tours has hired Patriots Point Volunteers Tom Simons, Mike Cashman and Don Bommarito as tour guides and this brand new offering is off to a great start! The Foundation is also supporting a Winter Marketing Campaign and other marketing efforts through grant funding.

In another partnership, PP Volunteers Stoney Bates and Jan Visser are sharing their time and talents in the USS Yorktown Association office.

We continue to sponsor the Patriots Point employee support C.A.R.E. Team program, the Employee of the Month program, and the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons for staff.

All of us at the Foundation are honored to be a part of the important values we all share at Patriots Point- Honor, Educate, Inspire. Thank you to each of you for your passion and commitment to these values, and to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum!





Foundation Cont.



Volunteer Fund Update



Legacy Donors (Estate Beneficiaries)

Thom Ford

Eagle Donors (\$500 or more, one time or cumulative gifts)

Rich and Janet Mady ★ Kent and Joan Hutchinson ★ Mike Sudzina
Sandy and Audrey Greene Family ★ Thom and Diane Ford

Donors this quarter

Paul Watters ★ Tom Simons (for PriFly project) ★ Thom Ford



Allison Hunt serves as Executive Director and can be reached by phone at 843.881.5925, by email at allisonhunt@ussyorktownfoundation.org, or by dropping by the Administrative Office landside.



On November 7th, Stoney Bates represented Patriots Point as the guest speaker for Hanahan's Red, White and Blue Salute to Veterans Festival.



PATRIOTS POINT Home of the USS YORKTOWN (CV-10) Volunteer Department

*** WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS ***



Chris Ward

Chris Ward joined us in October as what we'd call a 'full up round.' She's ready to go from the git-go as a veteran career Naval Officer and former Yorktown Camping SDO and tour guide. She will join the "Dos Amigos", Claude Rountree and Gerry Maggard, along with recent new volunteer, Declan Brennan on Friday evenings.



Jim Offutt, Leonard Singleton, Robert Newman and Thom Ford



Paul Baumgart