

# WEEPING WILLIE

APRIL MAY JUNE 2017

## NEWSLETTER

Hello Shipmates:

Sorry about the type of newsletter. My software problem bit the dust before I could get the newsletter printed. I am having to try another software program. I don't like this one like I did the other one, but have to put up with it.

If you have not sent in your Association donations, we sure would like for you to do so. The donations goes a long way in keeping our wonderful ship alive. If you see your name listed, you have made your donation. If you don't know what they go for I'm listing them. Our website, newsletters, overrun sometimes on our reunions, we send memorial donations to the charity of the passing shipmate (needs to be a member of Association. At the meeting they decided to raise the donations to \$25.00. You can send your donation to USS Wilhoite, % Frank Roche, 411 Miller-Street, Luzerne, PA 18709.

Time is running out for your first deposit to be made for reunion. Sure would like to see/meet you at Dayton, Ohio. The 2018 will be in New Mexico. If you need registration form or Itinerary, let me know

If you know of someone that is sick or has passed away, please let me know so I can acknowledge by a card.

***"Smooth Sailing"***

Elisabeth Kimball

God Bless you, your family, our military serving aboard and above all 'GOD BLESS AMERICA'

Listed Below are our Association Officers.

If you need information, please feel free to contact one of them.

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**DUES PAID 2017**

Aittala Gene  
Alcorn Mike  
Anderson Henry  
Aument Carolyn  
Austin Steve  
Berry Dave  
Bunker Rita  
Burriss Gary  
Cagle Richard  
Candor Raymond  
Carlisle Martha  
Compton Ed  
Cramer Peter  
Cusato Paul  
Dutchuk John  
Endter Bill  
Ercek Ron  
Eertmoed Donald  
Farber Petra-Sovella  
Frederiksen Geri  
French William  
Gergens Steve  
Gray Clarence  
Hagee Charles  
Hawes Eugyne  
Heller Richard  
Hill Les  
Horch Linda  
Huff Ron  
Huml Vincent  
Hydro John  
Intemann Gary  
Jensen Keith  
Kaczmarski Julius  
Knight James J.  
Layton Geoffrey  
Leger Charles  
Long Leroy  
Majerle Edward  
Markley Ray  
Mason William  
Mauldin John

**DUES PAID 2017**

McFadden Charles  
McKallagat Peter  
McKenna Eugene  
McLoy Mackie  
Morlock Frederick  
Morrissey Tom  
Mullin Jim  
Murphy Obie  
O'Quinn Edward  
Owens William  
Paker David  
Papenfus William  
Payne Gary  
Payson David  
Payton Johnny  
Pohl Art  
Pratt Shannon  
Price Earl  
Riggs Arthur  
Robinson Lee  
Roche Frank  
Rott Raymond  
Ruel Donald A.  
Scheeder Richard  
Shanahan, Jr. John  
Shuck Donald L.  
Strickland Gene  
Syverson Norris  
Tencer Chuck  
Thompson Ross  
Throm Larry  
Valiant Vernon F.  
West William  
West Tom  
Winebarger Jim  
Wiseman Leonard  
Worden Charles  
Yell Louis R  
Yonkofski Ben

## FALLEN HEROES

From a letter that I recently sent out we received notice that the following shipmates have passed on. If you would like to correspond with the families, let me know and I will send their address to you.

They are: James Jones, Dennis Bettin, Louis George, Charles Hinkle, John Middlemass, Floyd Patterson, Taylor Ransom, Allen Stiffer, Paul Toombs.

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### **From the movie "Acts of Valor" a poem by Tecumseh.**

- \* With that I give you Tecumseh. So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart.
- \* Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours.
- \* Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.
- \* Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.
- \* Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none.
- \* When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself.
- \* Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision.
- \* When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.
- \* Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.

Caps are available from Frank Roche. His mailing address is 411 Miller Street, Luzerne, PA 18709. The cost is \$10.00 plus shipment. Frank is also checking into getting some caps. If you are interested in this, please let either Frank or I know.

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### **REGIMENTAL ANSWER**

Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill inspired the free world during World War II and was world famous for his fiercely defiant promises to fight tyrants and defend freedom. He pounded his desk with his hands as he shouted "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be...and we shall never surrender." He worked closely with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt to use their resources to defeat Nazi Germany and its allies around the world.

He also said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." that was his way of expressing his firm belief that the ones who deserved the gratitude and thanks of all people were those who had served, fought and sacrificed during World War II. Many veterans still find it hard to accept those thanks.

Churchill once talked to a shy young soldier. "You feel very humble in my presence, don't you?", he asked. "Yes, Sir," the man replied.

"Then perhaps you can imagine how humble and awkward I feel in yours," said the Prime Minister.

During 2017, we will be observing the 75th anniversaries of many battles around the world. Here in America we do not celebrate the way people do who were close to the battlegrounds. People in Europe and Korea have bigger ceremonies to express their thanks. But it is important to those in America who served to realize that a grateful nation does appreciate their sacrifice and wants to express their gratitude.

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"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover".

Mark Twain

## **"101" of lots of "stuff"!!!!!!**

You are going to say, "I didn't know that!" at least 5 times. Really neat stuff here:

\* Alaska More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska .

\*Antarctica Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica . This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world. As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches. Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it is ice), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.

\* Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined. Canada is an Indian word meaning ' Big Village '.

\*Chicago Next to Warsaw, Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.

\*Detroit Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan carries the designation M-1. So named because it was the first paved road anywhere.

\*Istanbul, Turkey Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world located on two continents.

\*Los Angeles The full name of Los Angeles is: El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula It can be abbreviated to 3.6% of its size: L.A.

\*New York City The term 'The Big Apple' was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930s who used the slang expression 'apple' for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time - The Big Apple. There are more Irish in New York City than in Dublin, Ireland ; more Italians in New York City than in Rome, Italy; And more Jews in New York City than in Tel Aviv, Israel .

### **101 "Lots of Stuff" (cont)**

\*Ohio ....There are no natural lakes in the state of Ohio..eveyone of them is man-made.

\*Rome.... the first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, Italy. (in 133 B.C.) there is a city called Rome on every continent.

\*Siberia Siberia contains more than 25% of the world's forests.

\*Chances that a road is unpaved: in the USA - 1% in Canada-75%.

\*Russia..the deepest hole ever drilled by man is the Kola Super deep Borehole, in Russia. It reached and gave up some unexpected discoveries, one of which was a huge deposit of hydrogen - so massive that the mud coming from the hole was boiling with it.

\*United States... The Eisenhower Interstate system required that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

I have always said, you should learn something new every day. Unfortunately, many of us are at that age where what we learn today, weforget tomorrow. But, give it a shot anyway.

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### **AMERICAN HISTORY TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

1. What book did Robert E. Lee order all Confederate soldier's to carry because he believed it symbolized their cause?
2. What city is the host to the All-American Soap Box Derby?
3. How much did the price of beef rise because of inflation during the American Revolution?
4. Whose wife was helped by George Washington to flee from enemy troops?

## F-35B ready USS Essex returns to sea



USS Essex (LHD 2) transits San Diego Bay while getting underway for sea trials on May 3. Photo: US Navy

U.S. Navy's Wasp-class multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD2) returned to sea on May 3 after completing her phased maintenance availability.

During this availability, USS Essex (LHD-2) was fitted with equipment needed to deploy the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

Essex is the third big-deck platform to feature the upgrades and will operate the F-35B is the world's first supersonic short take-off, vertical landing (STOVL) fighter which will become the new standard across the amphibious fleet.

USS Essex began the post-deployment planned maintenance availability in March 2016 at General Dynamics' San Diego, California, shipyard.

"More than two years of detailed planning and close coordination with both uniformed and civilian partners has enabled Essex to begin sea trials a day ahead of schedule and under budget," said Essex's

### **F-35B READY USS ESSEX RETURNS TO SEA (cont)**

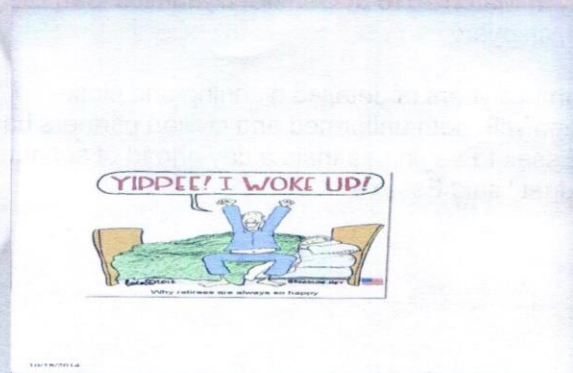
commanding officer, Capt. Brian Quin. "It has been a complete team effort to do all this so well."

Sea trials are held after any large PMA period involving major construction or reconstruction of a ship. During this time, the ship's systems and equipment will be tested and evaluated. These evolutions include anchor drop tests, steering tests and testing of the ship's aqueous film-forming foam system, which is one of the ship's fire-fighting sprinkler systems.

"These sea trials are imperative to ensure the quality of work during the PMA is beneficial and to identify any potential issues to be addressed upon our return to San Diego," said Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist Dwayne Edmonds.

Along with testing the ship's equipment, this time at sea is used to test the ship's crew. Sailors will conduct and be evaluated on a series of assessments, including firefighting, boat recovery man overboard drills, and weapons qualifications.

The 844 ft (257 m) long USS Essex (LHD-2) was built at Huntington Ingalls Industries in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and commissioned on October 17, 1992. Essex returned from a seven-month deployment to the U.S, 5th and 7th fleet areas of operations (AOO) in December 2015 to start her phased maintenance availability.





## **Ingalls launches America-class amphibious assault warship 13 weeks ahead of schedule**

The newest America-class amphibious assault warship was launched by Ingalls Shipbuilding 13 weeks ahead of schedule, according a report from [Huntington Ingalls Industries](#). The Tripoli is the second warship Ingalls built, the first was delivered to the Navy in 2014 and named the America. And another vessel, the Bougainville, is slated to begin construction in late 2018. Brian Cuccias, president of Ingalls Shipbuilding, [told WLOX](#) that Ingalls has been the go-to company for the construction of amphibious, large-deck vessels since the early 1970s. "Our vast knowledge and experience in the design and construction of these great ships is paying [dividends](#) - not only for the American taxpayer, but also for the Navy-Marine Corps team and the sailors and Marines who will be [operating](#) these important warships in defense of our country." These LHA vessels are used to transport Marine expeditionary units and their equipment. They weigh over 44,000 tons, stand 20 stories tall and are almost three football fields long.

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### **PLACES TO VISIT ON FREE DAY**

- \* America Packard---Phone Number...9837-226-1710
- \* Dayton International Peace Museum...208 W Monument Avenue  
Phone Number 937-227-3223
- \* Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park  
165 S William Street...Phone # 937-225-7705
- \* Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm  
100 Aullwood Road---Phone # 937-890-7360
- \* National City Second Street Market  
600 E Second Street...no phone listed
- \* Boonshaft Museum of Discovery  
2600 DeWeese Parkway...Phone # 937-275-7431
- \* Sunwatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park  
2301 West River Road

## **USS JACKSON COMPLETES MISSILE TEST**

Littoral combat ship (LCS) USS Jackson (LCS 6) successfully fired a SeaRam missile against an aerial drone, destroying the target in a test off the Southern California coast, April 22.

The drone was simulating an anti-ship missile as part of a Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) event to demonstrate the self-defense capability of the ship against an aerial target.

"I couldn't be more proud of my crew and all the hard work we have put forth in preparing for and accomplishing the CSSQT events," said Cmdr. Patrick Keller, Jackson's commanding officer.

CSSQT events are designed to test the ship's ability to track and disable high-speed maneuvering surface targets and defeat long range anti-air threats. Planned and coordinated by the LCS Shipbuilding Program Office, the CSSQT included firing exercises using the 57 mm gun against a fast attack craft. Jackson's crew, along with personnel from Naval Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division, completed each scenario successfully and exercised Jackson's combat systems suite.

"It's been a long journey, with a lot of training, effort and dedication," said Keller. "These events further demonstrate that my team is ready to fight and defend Jackson, and that our ship is ready when called. I couldn't be happier with the results.

Constructed by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama, USS Jackson is an Independence variant LCS and the third vessel of the trimaran design. Jackson was christened March 22, 2014 and commissioned December 5, 2015 in Gulfport, Mississippi.

LCS is a high-speed, agile, shallow draft, focused-mission surface combatant designed for operations in the littoral environment, yet fully capable of open ocean operations. LCS is complementary to the surface fleet, with the ability to counter and outpace evolving threats independently or within a network of surface combatants. Paired with advanced sonar and mine hunting capabilities, LCS provides a major contribution, as well as a more diverse set of options to commanders, across the spectrum of operations.



U.S.S. WILHOITE DE/DER 397 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 12/31/16

BALANCE AS OF 12/31/15 \$ 2,481.30

DEPOSITS

2016 Contributions	\$ 2,160.00	
50-50	101.00	
Hats	40.00	
TOTAL	\$ 2,301.00	+ 2,301.00

EXPENSES

Web Hosting	\$ 199.95	
Bank Fees	36.00	
New Checks	44.75	
Newsletters	1,336.50	
Hats	54.32	
Reunion T-Shirts	231.00	
Tom Morrissey (Beer, soda, etc)	121.51	
Memorials	50.00	
Ohio Travel	300.00	
DEHM (USS Slater)	100.00	
TOTAL	\$ 2,474.07	- 2,474.07

BALANCE AS OF 12/31/16 \$ 2,308.23

Frank Roche, Treasurer

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Les Miserables
2. Akron, Ohio
3. 33,000%
4. Benedict Arnold

## Navy to Christen Submarine Indiana

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy will christen its newest Virginia-class fast attack submarine, the future USS Indiana (SSN 789), during an 11 a. m. EDT ceremony Saturday, April 29, at Huntington Ingalls Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. Vice President Mike Pence, who previously served as the 50th governor of Indiana, will deliver the ceremony's principal address. Diane Donald, wife of retired Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion from 2004 to 2012, is serving as the ship's sponsor. "The christening of the future USS Indiana brings this technological marvel one step closer to joining the world's preeminent submarine force," said the Honorable Sean Stackley, acting secretary of the Navy. "Thanks to the hard work, dedication and unparalleled skill of our nation's shipbuilders, who continue to produce the finest submarines in the world, our Navy will continue to dominate the undersea domain long into the future." Indiana (SSN 789) is the 16th Virginia-class fast attack submarine and the sixth Virginia-class Block III submarine. This next-generation attack submarine provides the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea superiority well into the 21st century. The submarine, which began construction in 2012, will be the third U.S. Navy ship to be christened with the name Indiana. The first Indiana (BB-1), the lead ship of her class of battleship, served in the North Atlantic and later participated in the blockade of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The second Indiana (BB-58) was a South Dakota-class battleship that earned nine battle stars for her service in the Pacific Theater in World War II. BB-58 fought in the Battle of the Philippine Sea and participated in the invasions of Tarawa, Kwajalein and Okinawa, and bombarded Saipan, the Palau Islands, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. Indiana will have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; mine delivery and minefield mapping; and special forces delivery and support. Virginia-class submarines, built under a unique teaming arrangement between General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News, are 7,800 tons and 377 feet in length, have a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. They are built with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship-reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.