

FLEET FOCUS

Namesake ship commemorates Battle of Lake Erie in Put-In Bay

By Ens. Ryan Ona
USS LAKE ERIE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In September 1999, the Toledo Navy League council in Perrysburg, Ohio, officially adopted USS Lake Erie (CG 70). This year Lake Erie strengthened ties with Ohio communities in and around Lake Erie by participating in events commemorating the Battle of Lake Erie at Put-In Bay, Ohio on South Bass Island Sept. 9-10. Capt. L. W. Capello, Commanding Officer, USS Lake Erie, and the Lake Erie honor guard represented the ship in the 187th anniversary celebration of the battle.

USS Lake Erie is named for the Battle of Lake Erie, fought in waters near Put-In Bay, Ohio, on Sept. 10, 1813, during the War of 1812.

The American squadron built and commanded by Oliver Hazard Perry defeated a British squadron that controlled the lake, which preserved the northwest for the United States and immortalized the battle cry, "Don't give up the ship!"

Capt. Capello addressed the Toledo Navy League at a dinner in Put-in-Bay Sept. 9. The following day, a celebration parade was held on South Bass Island. The USS Lake Erie honor guard, led by Ens. Ryan Ona Springfield, Va. and BM1(SW) Carlos Zuniga of New York City, N.Y., headed up the procession through the center of Put-in-Bay. The parade ended at Perry's Victory and International Peace



USS Lake Erie photo

USS Lake Erie's (CG 70) honor guard participates in the 187th commemoration of the Battle of Lake Erie Sept. 9-10. From left to right: Ens. Ryan Ona, BM2 Durreth Mayfield, BM1(SW) Carlos Zuniga, PNSN Joseph Gable FC3 Rich Sedlor, SM2 Peavy, OS2(SW) Doug Holt, FC3 Apollo Starnes and BM3 Chris Hamilton.

Memorial, a national monument.

The Doric column, rising 352 feet over Lake Erie, honors Perry's victory and also celebrates the mutual trust and peace between the United

States and Canada.

After the parade, a commemoration of the battle and a ground breaking ceremony for the new visitor's center were held at the base of the memorial. The Lake Erie honor

guard presented the colors during the ceremony in which distinguished speakers, including Congressman Paul Gillmor, 5th District of Ohio, gave remarks.

The weekend was a vivid re-

minder that the strength of the Navy is not just in the ships at sea, but also in the strong support from those in the community who share respect for the Navy's heritage and care about its future.

Jimmy Buffett visits Louisville on last tour stop for 2000

By Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Buffett made one final surprise appearance on the heels of his 2000 tour schedule. He visited the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) recently while on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Buffett, a musician and writer, is best known for songs including "Margaritaville," "Come Monday," "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Son of a Son of a Sailor," "A Pirate Looks at Forty" and "Volcano." He was on the island after having just completed his concert-touring schedule here that started in March on the mainland.

True to form, Buffett showed that he really was "Growing Older but Not Up," as he enthusiastically got around the sub and met with crewmembers.

"The guys were great, the boat was great. And I can't wait to get back here and drive this thing!"

Buffett was escorted along the tour by the submarine's commanding officer, Cdr. Russ Janicke. They made stops in the control room, a berthing area, crew's mess, the torpedo room and the ship's sail.

An aviation aficionado, Buffett was kitted with crewmembers as he sat at the control panel that the rudders found on aircraft weren't at his feet where they belonged. He also pointed out that it had everything one needed to drive it - right down to the cup holder.

While visiting the crew's mess, Buffett obliged the eager crew by signing everything from compact disc covers to books written by him to day planners. The ship's navigator, Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Kosnar, asked him to sign his guitar.

"He was very friendly. I've listened to him and played his music for many years."

When Buffett briefly strummed the guitar, he jokingly grimaced about the condition of the guitar's strings.

"Agghhh! They don't sell strings on this boat? They ought to make it standard issue," Buffett said.

"Oh yeah, he got me there," Kosnar said. "It's been a couple of months since I changed 'em. It was pretty funny."

While he was there, the captain presented Buffett with a ship's ball cap, shirt, plaque, photo and other memorabilia. Most notably, he was presented a tailored "USS Louisville Slugger" baseball bat, made exclusively by the company on behalf of the namesake submarine.

Throughout the visit, crewmembers approached him for signatures and to tell him what big fans they were of his music and books.

Master Chief Electronics Technician(SS) Tim Butler, Chief of the Boat, said the visit meant a lot to the crew.

"I think it was really neat. The guys were pretty pumped up, and I know a bunch of them made it to the concert this past weekend."

Buffett was flying back to the mainland later that morning, and expressed genuine appreciation for the opportunity to visit the submarine and crew, and indicated he hoped to one-day get underway on a submarine.

World War II veterans became household names

By JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell D. Ames
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Most people are familiar with the more popular names of World War II participants. Names like Nimitz, Eisenhower, Patton, MacArthur, Lockwood and Bradley stand out. But how many people know that the man who starred as "Jed Clampett" on "The Beverly Hillbillies" was a World War II veteran? Believe it or not, Buddy Ebsen headlines a 'who's who' of entertainers, politicians, sports figures, authors, astronauts, etc., that saw duty in the world's largest conflict.

Along with Mr. Ebsen (Coast Guard), entertainers who served in World War II were people like Eddie Albert (Navy), James Arness (Army), Gene Autry (Army Air Force), Humphrey Bogart (Navy), Ernest Borgnine (Navy), Mel Brooks (Army), Raymond Burr (Navy), Art Carney (Army), Tony Curtis (Navy), Kirk Douglas (Navy), Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., (Navy), Henry Fonda (Navy), and

Glenn Ford (Marine Corps).

The cavalcade of stars also included Clark Gable (Army Air Force), Charlton Heston (Army Air Force), Burt Lancaster (Army), Norman Lear (Army Air Force), Jack Lemmon (Navy), Henry Mancini (Army Air Force), Lee Marvin (Marine Corps), Walter Matthau (Army Air Force), Audie Murphy (Army), Paul Newman (Navy), Tyrone Power (Marine Corps), Tony Randall (Army), Cesar Romero (Navy), Mickey Rooney (Army), Telly Savalas (Army), Rod Serling (Army), Jimmy Stewart (Army Air Force), Frank Sutton (Army), James Whitmore (Marine Corps), and Efram Zimbalist, Jr., (Army).

Murphy, in fact, received his ticket to Hollywood by virtue of his battlefield accomplishments. As America's most decorated war hero, Murphy's face graced the cover of a 1945 issue of Life Magazine. Actor James Cagney saw the issue and invited Murphy to Hollywood to try his hand at acting. Murphy starred in mostly "B" grade westerns until his death in 1971.

World War II veterans who went on to loom large in the world of sports include: Yogi Berra (Navy), Jack Dempsey (Coast Guard), Bob Feller (Navy), Gil Hodges (Marine Corps), Tom Landry (Army Air Force), Rocky Marciano (Army), Warren Spahn (Army) and Hoyt Wilhelm (Army), Ted Williams (Marine Corps) and Joe DiMaggio (Army).

The list of politicians and government servants include names like Henry Kissinger (Army), Cyrus Vance (Navy), George Bush (Navy), Robert Dole (Army), Gerald Ford (Navy), Barry Goldwater (Army Air Force), Daniel Inouye (Army), Lyndon B. Johnson (Navy), John F. Kennedy (Navy), George McGovern (Army Air Force), Richard Nixon (Navy), Strom Thurmond (Army), and George Wallace (Army Air Force).

The people who were most able to compile their World War II adventures on paper, the journalists and authors, featured names like Art Buchwald (Marine Corps), Alex Haley (Coast Guard), Louis L'Amour (Army), James Michener (Navy), Kurt

Vonnegut, Jr., (Army Air Force), Thornton Wilder (Army Air Force), Pierre Salinger (Navy) and Mike Wallace (Navy).

Four of our nation's astronauts were also involved in the second world war. They were John Glenn (Marine Corps), Alan Shepard (Navy), Deke Slayton (Army Air Force), and Chuck Yeager (Army Air Force).

Some years after the war, Bob Feller, Hall of Fame pitcher with baseball's Cleveland Indians and a Naval Officer in the service, would say, "I was very proud to interrupt my baseball career to serve my country in it's time of need." Feller's comment seemed to echo the sentiment of his generation. It was a time of sacrifice and doing what was right...no matter the cost.

These World War II veterans came home, labeled as war heroes, and went on to greatness in their respective fields. The 'hero' label would be disputed by our number one hero however. Said Audie Murphy following the war, "the real heroes are the ones who didn't come home."

Windy City's finest visit USS Chicago Sailors

By JO3 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Chicago (SSN 721) recently welcomed a group of retired and current officers from the namesake's police department- Chicago, Ill.

"We're proud of the city of Chicago and proud to have the chance to give something back to them," said Lt. Dennis Klien, the damage control assistant on USS Chicago. Klien toured half of the Chicagoans through the submarine, including the control room, torpedo room and crew's mess.

"We've never been on a nuclear-powered submarine before, only the U505," said Art Wirkus, a retired Chicago Police Department captain of 30 years. "It's a great opportunity and to top it all off, it's USS Chicago. We were just glad they were in port," added Wirkus.

Chicago Police Department Lt. Brad Woods was fascinated by the tight interior and found; "submarines are extremely interesting. I've been on surface ships before, but this submarine is awesome."

"I like the aspect of tradition and submarine protocol. This is why we have the greatest Navy in the world," said Woods.

During the touring of the control room, north Chicago native Petty Officer 2nd Class Manuel Velgara familiarized the tour group and summed up the activities that occur in the "Con" while the submarine is underway.

"I volunteer to do tour groups because it's one of my favorite things to do. But I was even more excited when I found it would be for natives of my own hometown," said Velgara. "I have relatives on the force and I'm excited that I'm serving on a submarine named after the place I grew up," he added.

"We think the Chicago police department is the best in the country," Velgara maintained.

The group of officers and wives will continue to va-



JO3 McClain Shewman photo

A group of retired and current officers and their family members from the Chicago police department visited USS Chicago recently. The group met with Chicago Sailors and received a guided tour of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine.

marine based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The submarine was commissioned in September 1986, carries a crew of 130 men and is commanded by Cmdr. Daniel Prince.

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