



OFFSPRING

The National Newsletter of the SONS and DAUGHTERS of PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS, INC.

"Pearl Harbor ~ December 7, 1941 ~ Lest We Forget"

Spring Issue

CHRISTENING OF THE USS JOHN FINN, DDG 113



John Finn was a Chief Petty Officer Aviation Ordnanceman with 15 years in the U.S. Navy when on Dec. 7, 1941 at the age of 32 he brought the fight to the enemy at NAS Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Upon arriving at the airfield he mounted a .50-caliber machine gun on a tripod used for training. Finn moved the platform into an open area for a clear view of the attacking Japanese aircraft. With total disregard for his personal safety he blazed away, protecting his men, hangars, and NAS Kaneohe. Despite being wounded 21 times, John Finn kept fighting, refusing medical treatment, because the safety of his men was more important.

CPO John Finn was the first Medal of Honor recipient of WWII for his courageous actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He went on to fight the rest of WWII with the same courage. Lt. John Finn retired from the U.S. Navy after 30 years of preserving our freedom.

In 2009 he attended the National Medal of Honor Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. He stood beside President Barack Obama during a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Later that day he met with the President at the White House. When called a hero during a 2009 interview Finn responded, "That damned hero stuff is a bunch (of) crap, I guess....gotta understand that there's all kinds of heroes but they never get a chance to be in a hero's position."

Lt. John Finn passed away at the age of 100 in 2010. He was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and the last living recipient from the attack on Pearl Harbor. The headquarters

building for the U. S. Pacific Fleet at Kaneohe, HI is named in his honor. A boat that is used to bring visitors to the **USS Arizona** Memorial also bears his name. Historic Route 80 in CA was named the "John Finn Route". Three buildings in the former Naval Training Center, San Diego were named "The John and Alice Finn Office Plaza". Most importantly, on May 2, 2015 a U. S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class destroyer was christened the **USS John Finn DDG-13** in his honor.

The SDPHS received an invitation for Pearl Harbor survivors to attend the christening of the **USS John Finn** from Dennis McAllister, representing the nieces, nephews and family members of Lt. John Finn. Our SDPHS National President, **Rick Carraway**, arranged for an impressive array of Pearl Harbor Survivors, SDPHS members, and supporters to attend the event.

CWO4 USN (Ret.) Frank Emond, **USS Pennsylvania** Navy Band, and his wife Pat attended from Pensacola, FL. Frank had participated in the famous "Battle of Music", Saturday night, Dec. 6, 1941. The **USS Pennsylvania** band squared off against other ships in the fleet. The next day all his friends of the **USS Arizona** band were killed when the ship exploded. LCDR USN (Ret.) Cass Phillips from Pensacola, FL knew John Finn and was stationed with him

Continued on Page 8



Ship Sponsor, Laura E. Stavridis christens the USS John Finn



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CHILD SURVIVOR HISTORY PROJECT Send articles and photos to: **Joedy Adams**, 4065 Paducah Drive, San Diego, CA 92117-5321. (858) 273-1036 or e-mail: joedy@san.rr.com

I AM A CHILD SURVIVOR If you are a child survivor of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, contact **Mary Ellen Smith** and be recognized. Also, send an account of your memories leading up to, during & after the attack. If you would like the patch, "I am a Survivor", please send \$6 payable to: **Mary Ellen Smith**, 5903 Arbor Road, Lakewood, CA 90713 or email her at sdphs@earthlink.net

2015 DUES were due by December 6, 2014 ...make sure you write your membership number on your check. If you belong to a chapter, check with the treasurer to see if he or she is collecting dues and planning to send them all in at once. Send dues form to the National Treasurer, **Lois Heineken** and mark on the form **2015 DUES** in large print. Some chapters are doing this and it keeps everyone in active standing.

SDPHS HISTORY PROJECT Past Offspring, Records, etc. (National, District, State or Chapters, copies of reports, etc.) and early history of SDPHS data send to our new National Historians: **Linda and Doug Hooks**, 1414 Woodville Rd. Mansfield, OH 44903-9478 ~ (419) 526-0079 or email at: Lhooks@galionhospital.org

NEW CONTACT NUMBERS

Elaine McCann French, 7th District Director has new email address: elainemccannfrench@yahoo.com

DEATH NOTICES OF PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS SHOULD BE SENT TO THREE PLACES:

- 1) Gordon Sparks, 549 Chadford Road, Irmo, SC 29063 or e-mail to: cargo549@bellsouth.net
- 2) For publication in our newsletter send to our *Offspring* Editor, Carmen Harding at OffspringEditor@gmail.com
- 3) For publication in the Pacific Historic Parks Newsletter send to: Edean Saito, Pacific Historic Parks, 94-1187 Ka Uka Blvd. Waipahu, HI 96797
Phone (808) 954-8711 ~ Cell ~ (808) 391-4834
E-mail address: esaito@pacifichistoricparks.org
Please include, Name, Duty Station and date of death



DID YOU KNOW... *The Offspring is the official newsletter of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Inc. It is published for the benefit of dues paying members. Please send any editorial content to: offspringeditor@gmail.com. Next Deadline August 15. For guidelines please see "A Note from Your Editor" on page 10 of Issue 1, 2015.*

You can also receive an e-copy in color by checking the designated box on the Dues Renewal form on Page 11.

Our next SDPHS National Convention, Dec. 2016 will be in Honolulu, HI. Anyone interested in attending that possesses an active or Retired military or Dept. of Defense ID card please contact Rick Carraway. If we can get a percentage of guests with military ID cards we may be able to hold the convention at The Hale Koa Military Hotel at a reduced rate.



FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT... *Rick Carraway*

It is with great sadness I report the passing of Dave Gladys, the husband of our National Secretary Carol Gladys. Dave was a Navy Veteran and huge supporter of SDPHS. He loved boats and collecting classic cars. Most of all he enjoyed a long marriage to Carol. Their love for each other was seen by everyone they touched. Donations in Dave's honor may be made to SDPHS through our National Treasurer Lois Heineken.

Our National Vice President, Louella Large is recuperating from back surgery and we wish her a successful and speedy recovery. We know before long she will be back moving SDPHS forward.

On May 27, the USS Arizona Memorial was involved in a collision involving the hospital ship USNS Mercy. The ramp and decking area were damaged and some superficial damage occurred to the memorial. After one week, repairs have been made and the memorial has reopened to visitors. The accident is under investigation. No damage occurred to the USS Arizona itself.

Much of the public have been aware of problems involving the National Park Service and their operation of the historic grounds and the USS Arizona Memorial. Distribution of free tickets intended for visitors were given to tour companies who in turn sold them. In 2010 the grounds underwent a \$56 million dollar restoration. Less than 5 years have passed and the grounds are in poor condition, vandalism, lack of building and monument maintenance and poor morale of National Park Service and Pacific Historic Parks employees are tolerated and the norm. No fault of the employees who are striving to do a great job and remember our history. The NPS investigated these claims and found the distribution of tickets was being handled inappropriately. They did not make necessary changes at that time to replace their management staff. I have spoken with SDPHS members and reporters who live in Oahu. They have told me you do not have to look hard or far to see the deplorable conditions.

The efforts of Bill Muehleib and Mal Middlesworth, both former presidents of PHSA, to bring attention to these problems and demand that they be fixed, has resulted in the NPS transferring the present superintendent out of Pearl Harbor. SDPHS and Pearl Harbor Survivors look forward to a new superintendent addressing all of these problems. We will be in Pearl Harbor for our 2016 SDPHS Convention for the 75th anniversary of the attack. We hope to see all of the problems solved and this historic area returned to its former greatness. Thanks to Bill Muehleib for his kind words in Remembrance Magazine urging Pearl Harbor Survivors to join SDPHS chapters in their area.

Kathleen Farley, CA State Chair, has presented me with a bell that belonged to the late PHSA Chaplain Herb Loudon for use in honoring Pearl Harbor Survivors at Two Bell National ceremonies. A special Thank You to Herb's sweetheart Evie Loudon for donating the bell to SDPHS.

As you can see from the article in this Offspring I enjoyed working with an meeting 8th grade students from Lakeland Preparatory School in Orlando, FL. It is the mission of SDPHS to create programs that inspire youth and adults to learn and document the history of the beginning of WWII and the days that followed from people who experienced it and from their ancestors. I urge our SDPHS members to inspire their social groups, civic groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and school students with the history pertaining to Pearl Harbor and the attack of December 7, 1941. You will be surprised how attentive and interested they will be. You too will be surprised how much you have learned and how proud it will make you feel.

We are planning our SDPHS National Convention in Hawaii, December 2016. Members that are planning to attend that have an active, retired military or Dept. of Defense ID card please contact me if you have not already done so. Please do this for all our members. It may help us secure affordable rates at the Hale Koa Military Hotel.

Wishing you a safe and fun summer!

Rick

Note: The membership report that normally occurs from our National Secretary, Carol Gladys will be brought up to date in our next issue of the Offspring

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lois Heineken, National Treasurer

BEGINNING BALANCE, 1/01/15

GENERAL FUND	10,466.94
MEMORIAL FUND	430.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	514.34
CONVENTION FUND	5,418.75
TOTAL	\$16,830.03

Income

Annual Dues	\$ 3,045.00
Donations to General Fund	520.00
Donations to Memorial Fund	80.00
Donations to Scholarship Fund	10.00
Donations Convention Fund	161.00
New Member Fees	430.00
New Chapter Fees	0
Small Stores	660.10
Offspring Ads	158.00
Miscellaneous	0
E-Board Meetings	0
Bank Fees	73.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	5,137.10

Expenses

Florida Dept. of State	70.00
Indiana Sec of State	0
Ohio Sec. of State	0
E-Board Meetings	5,172.38
National President	0
National Secretary	0
National Treasurer	0
National Registrar	43.80
National Historian	0
Memorial wreaths	0
Offspring: Printing/postage	479.70
Small Stores Inventory	120.25
New Chapter Start-up	0
Chapter Membership Awards	50.00
Stamp, Postage, Office Supplies	243.96
Bank Fees	105.00
Website Support	0
Miscellaneous	68.39
Memorial Fund	0
Scholarship Fund	0
Convention Fund	24.00
Trademark Expense	0
National Office Transfer	0
TOTAL EXPENSE.....	\$6,377.48
ENDING BALANCE, 03/31/2015.....	\$15,589.65

Some of Our Pearl Harbor Survivors who have recently passed away

NAME	DUTY STATION	DATE OF DEATH
James S. Angeles	US National Guard	06/01/2015
Joseph G. Alamia	USS Honolulu	02/25/2015
Robert Bochansky	USS Rigal	05/06/2015
William "Bill" Craddock	Naval Base, PH, Ordnance	03/28/2015
Robert Erly	USS Cassin	07/23/2014
Daryl L Finch	Ford Island, NAS	01/09/2015
Charles J. Haessig	USS Sacramento	02/16/2015
Francis "Frank" Hanley	USS Phoenix	05/05/2015
Ansel Hannonds, Sr.	Schofield Barracks	04/11/2015
John E. Joniec	C. E., 19 th Infantry Div.	02/04/2015
Lawrence C. Katz	Ford Island, NAS	10/29/2014
George Martin	Hickam Field	05/05/2015
Charles T. McGehee	USS Detroit	12/27/2012
Roy E. McKeehan, Jr.	USS Maryland	09/06/2014
Bill E. Smith	USS California	08/04/2014
Floyd A. Sparrow	USS Raleigh	03/05/2015
Olin M. Whitten	USS Pennsylvania	03/18/2015



Our Fathers, Our Heroes...

may they rest in peace.



IN MEMORY OF BILL ECKEL

Howard Snell

IN MEMORY of my My Dad, Frank Zwolinski,
USS Raleigh.

With love from your daughter, Donna Madeira

IN MEMORY of our Father and Grandfather, Bronsil L. Metz,
who passed September 13, 2014, Schofield Barracks, 90th F.A.,
25th I.D., US Army

Bronson & Brenda Metz, Kim & Steve Blackwell

IN MEMORY of James C. Sherrell, Husband and Father,
1920-2010, USS San Francisco

Irene, Linda, Michael, Judy, Kristie

IN LOVING MEMORY of my Father, Alfred James
Greenwood, MOMM1, USS Pelias

Daughter, Carol Joy Greenwood Gorman

Donald Lyle Jensen, USS Pennsylvania, Admiral Kimmel's
orderly, PFC, USMC *From Don, Ruth & J.P. Jensen, Sha-
ron, Kimberly & Darryl Jensen, Oliver & Wyatt Jensen*

We thank our donors for their kindness and generosity!

Dues are the only means of receiving funds for our Operating Expenses. Without your donation we would not be able to accomplish all that we do. We want you to know that your donations are greatly appreciated!!

Donations were made for the period of 1/1/2015 - 3/31/2015

GENERAL FUND

Joseph Simone
Ralph Jeffers
Bonnie Wissink
Perry & Tina Koustenis
John Berlier, Jr.
William Manning
Beverly Cummings

Barbara & Kerry Pendergast
David Bruschwein
Rachel Shea
JoAnn Wilson
Theresa J. Currier
Sharon & James Lawrence

CONVENTION FUND

Jay Carraway

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mary Hay
Bluegrass Thoroughbred
Chapter 1
Stacy Jeffrey
James Michael Flanagan

MEMORIAL FUND

Wayne Carson
Gary Stephenson
Sharon & James Lawrence

Thank YOU!!

CPL Gerald E. Wiggins, USMC, Marine Barracks,
Pearl Harbor
The Rapacz Family

IN HONOR OF Charles G. Smith "CG", who served
aboard USS Gamble.
Thanks Dad!
Valerie J. Sullivan

Sgt. Charles B. Shindel, 481st Ordnance Group,
Hickam Field

IN LOVING MEMORY of my dad, John W. Lawhon, USS
Phelps, DD360. *Love & miss you Daddy,*
Carolyn and Jerry

IN LOVING MEMORY In Loving Memory of our Father,
Leonide (Lee) Soucy, USS Utah, Pharmacist Mate 2/C
Mary McCormick and Margaret Soucy

Russell R. Argabrite, BMCM, USS California, BB44
*From his children, Martha, Raymond, Steven, John & Amy
and grandchildren Sean, Brendan, Melissa & Russell*

Ben V. Bossi, Hickam Field

Edward A. George, Fort Shafter
Karen George Burridge

Haile Hamilton "Jake" Jaekel, was one of the USS
Salt Lake City crew members on shore duty in Pearl
Harbor December 7, 1941

IN LOVING MEMORY of my dad, Joseph C. Cronin,
Cmdr. USN, Kaneohe NAS
Joedy Adams

Sgt. Major George F. Didyoung, USA,
Camp Malakole, Hawaii

IN MEMORY of My Dad, CPL Michael J. Pavlic,
Schofield Barracks, Battery D, 97th CA (AA)
Donald and Janet Pavlic

IN LOVING MEMORY of my Dad, John W. Stanhope,
CMM, USS Tennessee
Craig Stanhope

IN MEMORY OF of Joseph W. Simone (6/12/19 - 4/21/99)
USS Phoenix (CL-46) USN, Cox. Service Dates 5/38 - 9/45
Joseph Simone

State, Chapter, District Reports

ARIZONA

CHILD SURVIVOR FRANK HOAK was about 4 years old at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. His father was on the **USS Pennsylvania**. He has an avid interest in philately (stamp collecting) and in particular anything that is related to the December 7th attack. A lengthy article in the December 2011 issue of the American Philatelist tells his story.

“My interest in Pearl Harbor goes way back as I was actually at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. My father was a Chief Radioman with the **USS Pennsylvania** (BB-38). Fortunately the Pennsylvania was in dry dock that morning and he was not aboard. Our family stayed at Pearl Harbor for the remainder of the war. My father was transferred to the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Command (CINCPAC) and my mother took a job at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard.”

Franks interest in stamp cancellations is ongoing and encompasses ship cancellations on and around the December 7th date. “If you have any related 12-7-41 US Navy cancellations I would like to hear from you. Thanks, Frank Hoak III.



Frank right after 12-7-41 at age 4 in his gas mask at PH and a little later holding a model airplane.

You can contact me at www.FHoak3@aol.com.”

OHIO

Columbus by Wayne Lingafelter

On May 9th, SDPHS was honored at a dinner here in Columbus. The program was called “Springtime Celebration of Life Americana Dinner.” It honored people “giving back” to people in cities everywhere. In the picture to the right is PHS Milt Mapou, SDPHS **Wayne Lingafelter**, and PHS Roy Keihn. Roy also was presented with the “Kentucky Colonel Award.” There were also other WWII veterans/people being honored from Columbus.



Lake Erie Chapter 2 by Carol Gladys

We were extremely proud to be able to donate a bench in honor of our fathers at the Ohio Veterans Memorial Part (OVMP). The black granite bench was designed to pay homage to the Pearl Harbor Survivors by listing our Chapters father’s names and branch of service engraved over a folded flag. Also named is Jack Fickle, a survivor who is active with the chapter. The names are flanked by images of the Survivors and SDPHS seals, as well as the slogan “Keep America Alert”. Since all of our fathers served either in the Navy or Army, those seals are engraved on the seat, along with a touching image of the tattered flag from Hickam Field. Included on the bench are quotes from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

The OVMP was established in 2009, and has quickly established itself as a premier destination designed solely for the purpose of honoring Ohio’s veterans who served in all branches of the U.S. military. Located in Clinton, the park is approximately an hour’s drive from Northeast Ohio. Funded entirely from private donations and grants the Veterans Park features a memorial fashioned after the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. Their memorial contains names of the 3,095 men and women who lost their lives or were missing in action in Vietnam who were from Ohio. The memorial also names Ohioans whose lives were lost in the War on Terror. Other major memorials include the POW/MIA reflection pond and a Purple Heart Memorial. They are also home to the only memorials honoring both Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Fathers. A Cobra helicopter is also proudly displayed.

The Chapter has spent many hours volunteering and supporting events at the memorial park. Thousands of visitors participate in events at the park every year which gives our group many opportunities to showcase its mission of never forgetting December 7th. It has been a great partnership between the two groups for the past several years, and we look forward to continuing the relationship in the years to come.



State, Chapter, District Reports

NEVADA by *Barbara Ford, State Chair, 1st District Director*

As a Sons and Daughters representative, I attended a Veteran Suicide Awareness March on May 2nd in Carson City, Nevada sponsored by the WNC Veterans Center. It was a 1.3 mile walk along which we could view signage that is meant to send caring thoughts to veterans, and also acknowledge the suffering and needs that many veterans bring home from battle. Words like “We will fight with you” and “We haven’t given up on you” are shared with stark messages such as “A veteran commits suicide every 65 minutes” and “It takes the courage and strength of a warrior to ask for help.” (from 3/30/15 WNC press release)



Barbara Ford standing by over 8000 flags that were placed representing the 22 veterans every day who commit suicide.

Jay and I also attended a “Celebration of Heroes Parade” in Virginia City NV. They joined hundreds of others on the Comstock for the annual Memorial Day parade along C-Street. The parade honors the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and the streets were lined with folks who wanted to remember their family members or teach their children that Memorial Day is about those people who died for our country, our freedoms and the our way of life.

WYOMING by *Pat Smith, 2nd District Director*

I have received a request from a fellow member of the 31st Bomb Squad of which I have been a member for many years. She received the request below and I thought I might share it with fellow SDPHS members:

Steve Birdsall is an Australian aviation author currently researching the B-17s that served in Hawaii between December 1941 and the end of World War II. He writes:

In particular, I am trying to find a photo – any photo – of a B-17E that had the name “Miss Fit” painted on the nose. A 31st Squadron pilot, Leon Rockwell, described it as a “jinx” B-17 that was “kicked around all the squadrons” of the 5th Bomb Group while they were in Hawaii. He flew it from Kaneohe to Hickam Field in October 1942 and believed it was going to be used as a transport by Eddie Rickenbacker. (That may have been the original intention but Rickenbacker was given another, older model B-17 for his ill-fated flight from Hawaii.)

I don’t know whether “Miss Fit” remained in Hawaii or went to the New Hebrides as a replacement with the 11th Bomb Group, but I intend to find out if I can.

I’m also interested in any references to “Miss Fit” that might turn up in veterans’ diaries or other sources. If you know anything about this plane, please contact Joanne Emerick, Historian, 31st Bomb Squadron (H), PO Box 254, Hoxie, KS 67740. Thank you, Steve Birdsall

MARYLAND CHAPTER 1 by *Elaine McCann French 7th District Director*

Memorial Day Parade ~ Washington, DC - Maryland participated again this year in the National Memorial Day Parade. Thanks to our parade crew which included **Bob Wagner, Flo and Gene Strawser, Ian French, Amy Millikan, Luke French, and Elaine McCann French**. We proudly walked down Constitution Avenue in our nation’s capital to honor our Pearl Harbor Survivors. A float was created by Tom McCann and Luke French which featured the Arizona Memorial.

Arlington National Cemetery ~ Three generations of Sons and Daughters paid homage at the Flag Ceremony and Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery where President Barack Obama was the keynote speaker. The President was accompanied by General Martin Dempsey and Ash Carter, Secretary of Defence. Carrying the flags for SDPHS were Jim Walsh and Bob McGrath. Kate McCann Walsh laid the SDPHS wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



Parade Crew

Flo & Gene Strawser, Bob Wagner, Amy Millikan, Luke French & Ian French



Arlington Crew

*Front: Kate Walsh Singles, Baby Gemma Rose Singles, Kate McCann, Deacon James Walsh
Back: Joe Singles, Bob McGrath & Rachael Walsh*



SDPHS Float

Painting of Arizona Memorial was carried in truck driven by Luke French

From page 1

at Kaneohe during the attack. Cass was Radioman on a PBY aircraft and later went on to become a “Mustang” pilot. ETC USN (Ret.) Myron Jay Carraway from Gulf Breeze, FL also attended. Jay was aboard the **USS Hulbert AVD-6** on Dec. 7, 1941. His battle station was on the rear 5-inch gun and he had a ringside seat of the attack on battleship row.

Representing SDPHS were National President, **Rick Carraway and wife Teresa** from Navarre, FL and SDPHS CA State Chair **Kathleen Farley** with **John Antczak** from Concord, CA. Kathleen and John had met John Finn several times. Honorary SDPHS member SrA USAF **Jason Okrassa**, an historian, and his dad LTC (Ret.) Chuck Okrassa traveled from Cedar Park, TX. Angelina Engel of Pensacola, FL also attended. She is the widow of PHS Joseph Engel, a “Silver Eagle” pilot. Angie was present during the attack on Kaneohe with her 18 month old son. Angie and Joe knew John Finn and his wife Alice well. They were all stationed together at Kaneohe and in San Diego. Her accounts of the attack and John Finn were incredible! Her three sons, Ray, Michael and Stephen also attended. Captain Richard Weaver, MC USN (Ret.) Flight Surgeon and Pearl Harbor Survivor supporter from Pensacola, FL did a great job on photography at the event.

PHS Cass Phillips named our adventure the “Trip to the Ship”. We arrived May 1, Friday afternoon to late evening in Pascagoula, MS. The U.S. Navy and Ingalls Shipbuilding invited us to a dinner banquet in honor of the ship’s sponsor Laura E. Stavridis, wife of Admiral USN (Ret.) James Stavridis. Banquet attendees all had a great opportunity to meet Mrs. Stavridis, Commander Michael Wagner the new ship’s skipper, distinguished U.S. Navy officers and crew. The President and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries Mike Petters, President of Ingalls Shipbuilding Brian Cuccis and their staff made this a first class event. We were all treated like royalty by the U.S. Navy and the shipbuilders of Ingalls, Pascagoula, MS. The next morning, May 2, we arose to beautiful blue skies and comfortable temperatures. This was the event we had come to be a part of, the Christening of the USS John Finn. After breakfast we were taken by motor coach for a tour of Ingalls Shipyard. Actual workers from the shipyard were our tour guides. We learned how U.S. Navy ships and USCG National Security Cutters were built from the ground up. Then, as we turned the corner, there she was, draped in red, white and blue banners, the USS John Finn. We felt the same pride John Finn would have experienced if he could have been with us. Over 30 nieces, nephews and family members of John Finn were there. The Pearl Harbor Survivors were seated front and center. It was fitting that Master Chief of the Navy, Michael Stevens, was the principal speaker. After all, John Finn was a CPO at the time of the attack. MCPON Stevens spoke about CPOs and said “I tell them a model CPO is a quiet, humble and servant leader. I believe with all my heart that John Finn exemplified all of these traits through his heroic actions on that day.”

After speeches by all the dignitaries present it was time for the big moment. Laura E. Stavridis, the ship’s sponsor, forcibly smashed a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow of the ship, officially christening DDG-113 USS John Finn. “God bless this ship and all who sail on her”, she said. The ship’s crest designed with the help of John Finn’s nieces and nephews has the motto “Status El Pugno” (Stand Fast and Fight). All who serve on her will have to follow the heroic actions of John Finn.

We cannot thank enough the family of John Finn, Ingalls Shipbuilding, U.S. Navy and especially Alicia L. Aadnesen, CIV NAVSEA Team Ships, Washington Navy Yard. Alicia’s attention to detail from invitations to the conclusion of the event was above the call of duty. SDPHS was honored to be part of the christening of the USS John Finn DDG-113.

“Here they’re paying you for doing your duty, and that, what I did, I never intended to be a hero. But on Dec. 7, by God we were in a war.” - John Finn on his 100th Birthday



Pictured Above:
Painting depicting CPO John Finn in action on Dec. 7, 1941

Left:
Pearl Harbor Survivors: Jay Carraway, Cass Phillips and Frank Emond

Right:
Jay Carraway, Rick and Teresa Carraway and Angie Engel



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROJECT

“The Master Mind Behind the Attack”

In January, National President, Rick Carraway was contacted by Grayson, an 8th grade student from Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando, FL. She wanted to know if SDPHS could put her in contact with a Pearl Harbor Survivor in Orlando. Grayson, along with her partners Kalini and Blaine were starting an history project about “Leadership & Legacy.” They had chosen the leader of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto from a long list of leaders and different topics for their National History Day project. I was curious why 8th grade students were interested in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Grayson explained that they were taught about the events of December 7, 1941 by their history teachers and they were interested in learning more. She said her whole class was interested.

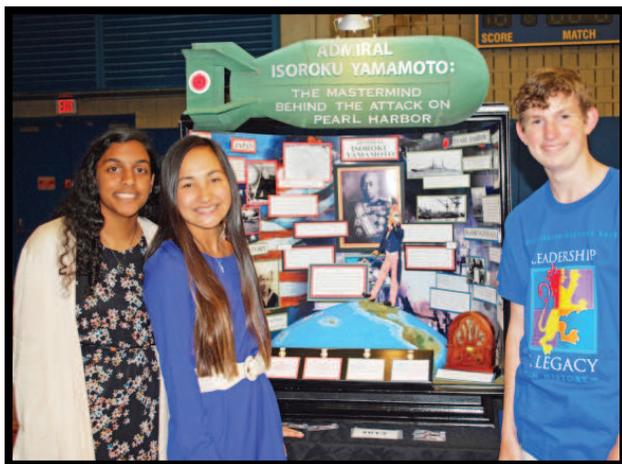
They were moving quickly with their project and were having trouble finding a Pearl Harbor Survivor in Orlando. Not to be disheartened, Grayson asked “Do you know any Pearl Harbor Survivors we could speak with?” My dad, Jay Carraway came to mind but he was very ill in the hospital. Grayson asked me to tell her his story of the attack. We spent many hours on the phone discussing Pearl Harbor and most importantly their project and ideas. I asked her to keep me informed with the progress of the project. The students sent photos as they worked on their exhibit. The three partners asked more questions. They told me their creative ideas and I was amazed. They worked constantly on the project despite school, sports and family obligations.

Grayson did the research, notetaking, printing and cutting part of the project. Kalini was the writing, editing and insight providing leader. To my surprise Blaine was the creative aspect and expert exhibit builder. He has been offered a job by a local Orlando museum. They chose to work together because their personalities were all different and they thought their teamwork could create the best project. The team succeeded and won 1st place with a score of 99% in their school’s National History Day Competition. They were very upset with their nonperfect score.

The students were now on to the Florida State Finals. They asked me to come meet and support them in Tallahassee. I had already made three great new friends and now would finally get to meet them. May 4th my wife Teresa, and I met with the students, teachers and parents of Lake Highland Preparatory School 8th grade class at a local restaurant in Tallahassee. Everyone was excited to meet us. I spoke about the christening of the USS John Finn, Pearl Harbor Survivors and the importance of remembering the attack on Pearl Harbor. The excitement, enthusiasm and professionalism of these students was incredible! I asked myself are these 8th graders or college students? Their teachers and parents showed the same enthusiasm.

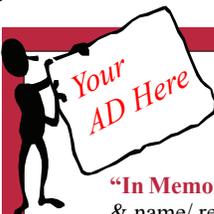
Next, we went to view the exhibit at Tallahassee Community College. Grayson, Kalini, Blaine and I were interviewed by the college TV station about Pearl Harbor and their project “The Mastermind Behind the Attack”. The craftsmanship and colors made their exhibit stand out more than others. The torpedo had to be shortened due to space rules but it looked frighteningly real. The map at the bottom had lights that could be selected by push button to show Tokyo, Pearl Harbor and Washington, D.C. In the bottom right corner was an old 1940’s radio. Inside, Blaine had hidden an iphone that continuously played FDR’s “Day of Infamy” speech. The exhibit told the whole story of the planning, practicing and execution of Yamamoto’s plan to attack Pearl Harbor. It spoke of the bravery of U.S. Service men and the Pearl Harbor Survivors. Much to my surprise they had used comments and photos from my dad, Jay Carraway. He had worked with the students after recovering from the hospital and they featured him in the project. He was extremely honored. Grayson, Kalini and Blaine spent an incredible amount of time reading many books and articles from the internet. Their research and knowledge of the Pearl Harbor story is incredible. Their creative and practical skills created an exhibit above all others. They went on to finish in 3rd place in the Florida State Finals. *I knew they should have gotten first!* Grayson, Kalini and Blaine sent me a wonderful book and thank you card signed by them and “Lest We Forget” reminding me they would never forget what they had learned and would always “Remember Pearl Harbor”.

~ submitted by: Rick Carraway, National President ~



Pictured above: Kalini, Grayson and Blaine

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They Remember, We Won't Forget

FRANCIS (FRANK) X. O'DONNELL, USS WEST VIRGINIA

He was up early as usual on that notorious Sunday morning. Frank was assigned to Rear Admiral Walter Stratton Anderson's Staff (Battleship Flag) after only six years of service. He had been requested to hoist the Flag Staff boat onto the boat deck and clean the marine growth to be placed back in the water for a later trip to shore to pick up RADM Anderson who would be returning from a weekend at this home near Diamond Head.

Just before 8 AM, he sat down casually to read the Sunday paper and told his crew to "get hot" as the crew stood there in silence and unmoved. One of them muttered the words, "look.. look at those planes... diving". Frank looked around as he heard the planes drawing nearer; he could just barely make out the "rising sun" on the wings of the planes. The feeling of fear came across his whole body; he knew the War had found its hateful way to him, to the crew, to the battleships, to the United States. One by one torpedoes exploded on all the ships he could see.

Frank set fear aside; he jumped into action as he had been trained. Commanding his crew to put the boat back in the water, he prayed the machine gunners in the back of each rising sun plane would ignore the small wooden boat. He and the crew watched in horror as the beautiful Hawaiian day quickly turned into a hellish nightmare. Boom. Boom. Boom. In a blink of smoky blue eyes young men, some strangers, some friends were shot. Capt. Mervyn Sharp Bennion of the West Virginia was gone and many other shipmates. Ships and unsuspecting crew were sinking to their final demise. With no guns, no way to defend themselves, Frank and the crew were stuck on a small wooden boat; all they could do was duck down and pray. The crew bravely made their way across torpedo wakes toward the Fleet Landing. Tears were to be shed later as they had a daunting job to do right then.

After the first wave of attacks, the men began picking up bodies from the water, even recognizing some friends, trying to make sense of everything and wondering what was next, what more did the day have in store for them.

After that day, Frank would not re-tell his story until near the 45th anniversary of the attack. A young child, his granddaughter would read her school book and ask him if he knew anything about Pearl Harbor and WWII. The stories began to flood out of his then retired mind like they had happened moments before. Suddenly his 30 years in the Navy, and 20 years with the Chicago Yacht Club Belmont Harbor had led to this peaceful yet awakening afternoon with one of his 4 grandchildren on a beautiful California day. Frank's 3 children were in shock at the years of solitude and anguish of this heart wrenching story and encouraged him to join the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. He made it to the 45th anniversary and sadly passed away a few months before the much anticipated 50th. His last wish, which was fulfilled, was to be buried with his fallen comrades of that horrific day at the peaceful Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu.

Retold by his Granddaughter, Ashlet Baker