

# The Hoosier

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 25, 2017

## USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization

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### Questions?

Contact Jim Belcher

540 256-1676

## 72nd Anniversary Reunion July 27—July 30

The USS Indianapolis CA-35 72nd Anniversary Reunion is scheduled for Thursday July 27th through Sunday July 30th, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, One South Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA 46204. Tel: +1 317 632 1234 Fax: +1 317 616 6299.

**Reservations are required for the Saturday evening banquet.** A Registration form is enclosed with this newsletter, however, if you need another or have questions, please contact Jim Belcher at [jimbelcherjr@gmail.com](mailto:jimbelcherjr@gmail.com), or call (540) 256-1676. The reunion events at the Hyatt are generally open to the public; the Survivors Business Meeting is open to Survivors and officers only, and the Saturday Evening Survivors Banquet requires pre-payment and registration (must complete a Registration form and mail in before deadline).

Room reservations at the Hyatt can be made immediately by calling the number listed. Please let them know you are with the USS Indianapolis Reunion for a reduced

rate; a limited number of rooms are available at this rate. If you are a Survivor making reservations and reduced rate rooms are sold out already, please contact Jim Belcher and arrangements will be made to get you the lower rate.

We are pleased to hear that many of our extended USS Indianapolis family will be joining us at the 72nd Anniversary Reunion. This includes our guests of honor, the USS Indianapolis Survivors, and their immediate families, the families of our lost-at-sea crewmen, the families of USS Indianapolis Survivors who are no longer with us, former crew and their families, Rescue and Recovery crewman and their families, the crewman and families of the submarine USS Indian-



apolis SSN-697, all the special friends & volunteers who have supported the Survivors

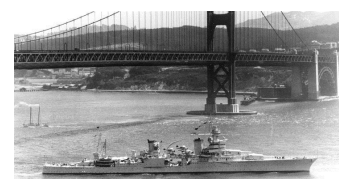


Photo # NH 81893 USS Indianapolis passes under the Golden Gate Bridge, ca. 1938

Indy in San Fran circa 1938

Organization over the past 57 years, and our newest family members, the crewman and families of the under-construction USS Indianapolis LCS-17. In fact, the theme for this year's reunion is "Our USS Indianapolis Family", and it shall be reflected in the banquet lineup and decorations.

More info to come as we



## Hotel Dining- Hyatt Regency



This year we are holding our USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization reunion at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis. The Hyatt was selected because of all the different facilities conveniently located within the building, allowing us convenience and safety for our reunion guests.

**The Eagle's Nest Restaurant-** Enjoy a romantic evening with exceptional cuisine at the only revolving rooftop restaurant in Indiana.

**The Fat Rooster restaurant-** Indy's newest concept. Offers freshly-sourced farm to table dining with a

casual diner feel. From artisan sandwiches and flatbreads to daily-made soups, individual casseroles and scratch pies.

**Level One lounge & bar-** Discover the perfect spot to mix business with pleasure. Sink into the comfort of the lounge area seating in front of our video wall, or grab a signature martini from the bar. Located on Level One, our downtown Indianapolis bar was designed as an urban oasis for the business professional. Featuring a savory menu that offers a variety of traditional appetizers with an upscale

twist, our chic Indianapolis bar offers signature cocktails, draft beer and wines of the world.

**Starbucks coffee shop-** It's early in the morning. Perhaps you are heading to a business meeting. You might be off to an event at the Indiana Convention Center. Maybe it is late afternoon and your energy is waning. No matter what hour of the day, there is nothing like a fresh, hot cup of java to get you going or to rejuvenate the weary. 6am-3pm

**Subway-** Subs (for Bill Toti and our SSN-697 guys) & more! On-the-go dining.

## The Legacy of the USS Indianapolis CA-35

When discussing the legacy of the World War II heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis CA-35, one cannot focus on just a single facet of the history of this famous warship, or one crew, but rather must discuss the myriad of "stories within a story".

A natural starting point is with the design, construction and launching of this treaty cruiser originally designated a light cruiser (CL-35) from the late 1920's, but reclassified as a heavy cruiser in 1931 with a 1932 commissioning. Her first captain was John M. Smeallie. Pre-WWII, Indy served as ship of state for FDR, with many Presidential stories in this role. A flagship for Admiral Spruance. Her ten battle stars during WWII. Her delivery of the bomb that ended World War II and

changed the course of future wars. And of course, her tragic sinking and tremendous loss of life. There was the story of survival of the 317. The amazing rescue and traumatizing recovery stories. This followed in Dec.1945 by the unjust court martial story of Captain Charles McVay.

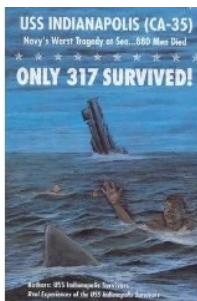
But the USS Indianapolis story doesn't end there. For the 317 Survivors, then began the lifelong recovery and rebuilding of their lives. That wonderful reunion in 1960. Reunions every 5 years, actually memorial services honoring the 880 lost at sea and shipmates lost since. In 1968 was the loss of Charles McVay as he sadly took his own life in grief. In 1977 begins the SSN-697 USS Indianapolis story. In

1991 began the exoneration of Captain McVay story, started by a young Hunter Scott from Pensacola, and ending with the signing of legislation by President Bill Clinton in 2000, finally delivering justice to the captain and crew. And the dozens of books, the movies and documentaries, all written and distributed widely, and so many school and public presentations by Survivors, family members and volunteers telling the stories, the Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship, the Second Watch, so that now the legacy of the ship and crew is known worldwide!

And next...the launching and commissioning of the new USS Indianapolis LCS-17. Then....?



## Books and References- USS Indianapolis CA-35



**Only 317 Survived! : USS Indianapolis CA-35 Navy's Worst Tragedy at Sea.** Written by the Survivors or a family member. 2001

**Abandon Ship Death of the USS Indianapolis.** Richard Newcomb. 1958.

**In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors.** Doug Stanton. 2001

**Fatal Voyage: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis.** Dan Kurzman. 1990

**Out of the Depths, A Survivor's Story,** Edgar Harrell, David Harrell. 2005

**Ordeal by Sea: The Tragedy of the USS Indianapolis.** Thomas Helm. Forward/ Afterword- Bill Toti

**The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis (We the People).** Marc Tyler Nobleman. For ages 9-12. 2006.

**Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis.** Pete Nelson. Hunter Scott story. 2002

**Those in Peril On The Sea** L. Peter Wren. 1999.

**We Were There, Rescue and Recovery Stories,** L. Peter Wren of the USS Bassett 2005

**USS Indianapolis: The Legacy, Documentary film,** Sara Vladic, Melanie Johnson 2016

**USS Indianapolis: American History,** by Patrick Spencer 2016

**Lost At Sea: The Story of the USS Indianapolis,** David Boyle 2016