



# Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach

WEEKLY UPDATE

Dec. 3, 2015



## TOP INTEREST ITEMS

The collage features several key elements: a screenshot of the Naval History and Heritage Command website showing a 'Remembering Pearl Harbor' article; a social media post from Navy.mil Underway with the hashtag #PEARLHARBOR74; a 'LIVE STREAMING' banner for the 74th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony on December 7 at 7 a.m.; and various historical photographs, including a large image of the USS Arizona Memorial and smaller images of survivors and sailors.

## REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

Below is a collection of available content & events regarding Pearl Harbor for sharing (including in web & social media):

- ❑ **Overview of Pearl Harbor Attacks** – This collection of content includes the human side of the attack through [oral histories](#), [survivor reports](#), bios of Sailors like [Doris Miller](#), the [Marines](#) and [medical activities](#). It also includes content on [Navy Ships](#), the [History of Pearl Harbor as a Base](#), [Navy Intelligence](#), [remembrances](#), and [additional reading](#).
- ❑ **Pearl Harbor Photos** – These images tell the story of the attack from many vantages and are sometimes the best means of understanding the incident that cost our forces so much. This includes images of: [Overall View](#), Views of [Pearl Harbor in 1940-1](#), [Battleship Row](#), [Ford Island](#), [the Navy Yard Area](#), [Airfields and Aerial Combat](#), [the Raid Aftermath](#), [Post-Attack Ship Salvage](#), and [Remembrance](#).
- ❑ **Digital Content/Remembrance Resources** – This section includes several [blogs on Pearl Harbor](#), Social Media Notes, [multimedia](#), [podcasts](#), and an [infographic](#). Stay tuned for more from [Puget Sound Naval Museum](#) for a digital engagement.
- ❑ **BLOG: Pearl Harbor Metal of Honor Recipient John Finn** – Provides his personal testimony about his experiences as an aviation machinist who took over an mounted 50-caliber machine gun and defended his position at Oahu for over two hours during the entire attack, close enough to see their faces.
- ❑ **EVENTS (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii)**. For those in Oahu, the extensive list of events occurring up to and through Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to honor and remember the courage and valor that day, please visit [www.pearlharborevents.com](http://www.pearlharborevents.com). For the rest of us, join via a [live web stream the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration](#), marking 74 years since the Pearl Harbor attack. The live stream includes three live events with 10 hours of educational and historical programming and begins at 7 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This will include the live and interactive 74th anniversary commemoration, with park educators and volunteers standing by to answer your questions in a live chat; a live broadcast of the USS Oklahoma Ceremony; and a very special live broadcast from the USS Arizona Memorial as Pearl Harbor Survivor Joseph Langdell is interred back to the ship.
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (Pensacola, Florida)**: The [National Naval Aviation Museum](#) will host the World War II Commemoration ceremony at 10 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium, featuring Pearl Harbor survivors. The guest speaker will be RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.).
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (Washington D.C.)**: The National Capitol Commandery of the Naval Order and Arlington National Cemetery will hold its annual Pearl Harbor wreath laying ceremony at the [Tomb of the Unknowns](#) on 7 December at 12:15. Sea Cadets and U.S. Navy Sailors from NHHC will support.
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (Washington D.C.): Pearl Harbor Dinner**. The National Capitol Commandery of the Naval Order hosts the 74<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn. The event begins at 6:30, followed by a reception, and dinner at 7:15 p.m. The 2015 Theme is “THIS IS NO DRILL: NAS Pearl Harbor and The Japanese Attack,” presented by Mike Wenger and Bob Pressman. For more information, [e-mail](#) the Naval Order.
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (Great Lakes, Ill.)**. [The National Museum of the American Sailor](#) will host a lunchtime viewing of “Banzai: Japan 1931-1942” from the acclaimed World War II documentary The World at War. Selected artifacts from the museum’s collection related to the raid on Pearl Harbor will also be on display during this event.
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (Keyport, Washington)** The [Naval Undersea Museum](#) will host Naval Base Kitsap-Keyport’s annual memorial observance of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The observance is in the Jack Murdock Auditorium.
- ❑ **EVENT Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> (Washington D.C.): Pearl Remembered: Voices from the Survivors**. The [National Museum of the U.S. Navy](#) will host a lecture by one of the Command Naval Historians, Gordon Calhoun, in the Cold War Gallery. Historian Gordon Calhoun will put a personal face to this well-known story by retelling the attack through the eyes of three witnesses who were there.
- ❑ **Exhibit**: The [US Naval Academy Museum](#) has a special Pearl Harbor Exhibit. Learn more [why you should visit it this month](#).

★ **Navy Chaplain Corps 240th Anniversary.** Since 1775, the [Navy Chaplain Corps](#) has ministered, counseled, admonished and encouraged Navy personnel around the world. Since its establishment when the Continental Congress agreed that divine services should be performed twice a day on board ships and a sermon preached on Sundays, the Chaplain Corps has grown to over 1,000 chaplains representing more than 100 faith groups. In celebration of chaplains' accomplishments, several news articles have captured their long and distinguished service; coverage includes the [Navy Times](#), the [Navy Live Blog](#), [Navy.mil](#), [The Maritime Executive](#), an [All Hands Video](#), and [The Globe](#) from Camp Lejeune, and a [video celebration on Youtube](#). NHHC's website has numerous [Navy chaplain](#) portraits, photos and collections throughout history.



★ **Interview with a WWII Navy Fighter Ace and Navy Cross Recipient.**

The [Navy Reserve's magazine](#) recently featured an article by NHHC's Holly Quick, who interviewed a Navy Fighter Ace named Charles "Billy" Watts. He was awarded the [Navy Cross](#) for his actions during WWII and his account (p. 22) showcases extraordinary heroism in his naval aviation career in the Pacific in battles at [Tarawa](#), Macon and Marshall Islands. In fact, the edition is dedicated to the Navy Reserves 100<sup>th</sup> commemoration and its history.



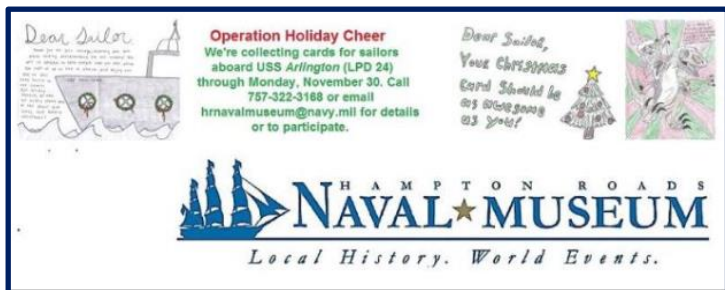
★ **Vietnam History Highlighted.** As America continues to commemorate the anniversary of the Vietnam War, more resources and information are available. Besides the recent release of NHHC's John Sherwood's "War in the Shallows," NHHC has several [publications](#) on Vietnam: "[Naval Air War: The Rolling Thunder Campaign](#)," "[Combat at Close Quarters: Warfare on the Rivers and Canals of Vietnam](#)," and many others. Recent media coverage of Vietnam commemorations includes: [Navy.mil](#), [The Rolla Daily News](#), [The Ottawa Herald](#), [NBC Channel 7 KPLC](#), [The Des Moines Register](#), and the book [Avenue of Heroes: Commander Andrew Bodnar](#). [NHHC's website](#) has a significant amount of information on the Vietnam War – personal accounts, NHHC publications, official speeches, an online reading room, photos, posters, combat art and more. Additionally, the [Vietnam War Commemoration](#) web site has information on commemorative events, timelines and more.



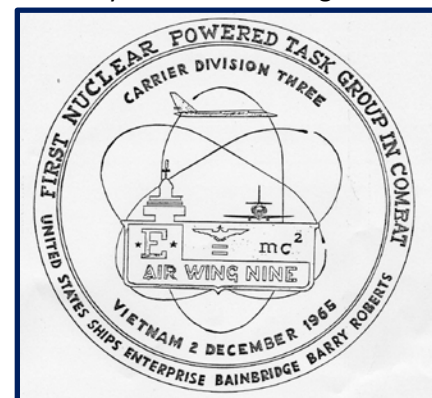
★ **Helping Veterans Transition - OSD Films at HRNM.** The [OSD Transition to Veterans Program Office](#) (Office of the Undersecretary of Defense) filmed at the [Hampton Roads Naval Museum](#), Dec. 1-2, to capture short testimonial videos of Service members who recently went through [TAP \(Transition Assistance Program\)](#). The museum provided a military-type of backdrop for the filming. The videos will be featured on [JKO \(Joint Knowledge Online\)](#) and may be posted on YouTube.

★ **Hampton Roads Naval Museum Reaches out to Sailors for the Holidays, visits local Elementary Schools.**

[HRNM](#) recently conducted "[Operation Holiday Cheer](#)," where visitors wrote holiday cards to select a deployed Navy ship for specific to Sailors on that ship. HRNM education staff continue their outreach program this month -- "Navigation and Explorers" -- for all Portsmouth Elementary School 6th grade classes, which will include approximately 50 classes through the end of December. The program will restart for area schools in January.



★ **50th anniversary of the First Nuclear Powered Task Group in combat.** The Big E went into action off the coast of South Vietnam on 2 Dec 1965 – [read all about it here](#) in this month's [Seapower Magazine](#). Thanks its author - the [Naval Historical Foundation's](#) own Dave Winkler who always has some great perspective on our 20<sup>th</sup> century naval action. To the left is a graphic of the logo for the event that was produced on commemorative medals for the occasion! Cruise patch anyone? All you Big "E" fans – if Dave hadn't reminded us, how many would have recalled it? Thanks to those who went before.



## NHHC Museums and HQ Plans

### ★ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. NAVY (NMUSN), WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **Dec. 8: Pearl Remembered: Voices from the Survivors.** NMUSN will host a lecture by one of the Command Naval Historians, Gordon Calhoun, in the Cold War Gallery. The attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, solidifying America's entry into the Second World War, is a familiar tale to most Americans. The story that is often taught, however, highlights the technical aspects of the attack: the aircraft used, ships sunk and weapons fired. Join us as we commemorate this historic day with insights to the events of that Sunday morning that no textbook can provide. Historian Gordon Calhoun will put a personal face to this well-known story by retelling the attack through the eyes of three witnesses who were there.
- **Dec. 9-10: Full STEAM Ahead: Home School Science Engineering Challenges - Building 76.** Home school students and their families are invited to a day of hands-on science! Students will have a variety of engineering challenges to choose from, and project complexity will vary, bringing challenges for students of all ages.
- **Dec. 15: "Tipping Point: Pearl Remembered: Voices from the Survivors."** NMUSN will host a lecture by David Poyer, author of "Tipping Point," part of Poyer's long-running and well-read Dan Lenson series of naval fiction. Taking place mostly in the Indian Ocean, the book culminates in a nuclear showdown between India and Pakistan. Dan Lenson's ship is caught in between trying to prevent a major holocaust from occurring. David Poyer is a retired naval officer, as well as a military analyst who worked in Washington and war-gamed scenarios for the Pentagon.
- **Dec. 24: Museum Closed**
- **Dec. 25: Museum Closed**
- **Dec. 26:** Saturday, NMUSN will be open from 10 a.m - 5p.m.
- **Dec. 31:** Museum open from 10 a.m. - 5p.m.
- **Jan. 1: Museum Closed**
- **Jan 2: Museum open** from 10 a.m. - 5p.m.

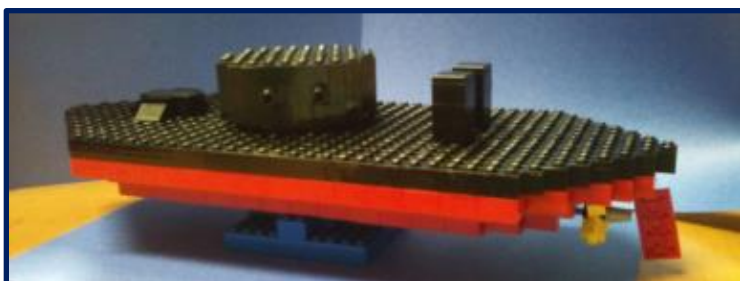
### ★ NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM (NNAM), PENSACOLA, FL.

- **Dec. 7: World War II Commemoration** ceremony at 10 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium, featuring Pearl Harbor survivors. The NNAM will honor World War II generation on the anniversary of Pearl; the guest speaker for the event will be **RADM Samuel Cox**, USN (Ret.), the Director of the NHHC. Enjoy patriotic music and popular songs from the World War II era performed by Tate High School Band and Ensemble. All World War II veterans and their families are invited to attend and be recognized for their service.



### ★ HAMPTON ROADS NAVAL MUSEUM, (HRNM), NORFOLK, VA

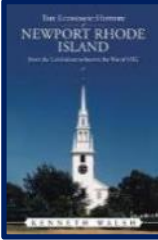
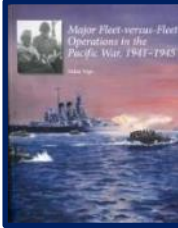

- **Dec. 19: Red, White and Blue Holiday Craft** - Saturdays - design your holiday ornament at [HRNM](#).
- **Feb. 6: 5th ANNUAL BRICK BY BRICK LEGO SHIPBUILDING EVENT HAS A NEW HOME** – The [Hampton Roads Naval Museum \(HRNM\)](#) is proud to announce the 5th Annual Brick by [Brick Lego Shipbuilding Event](#) February 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center. HRNM is bringing back its "blockbuster" LEGO Shipbuilding event in a venue that provides three times the space. This FREE program invites LEGO shipbuilders of all ages to share their creations with fellow enthusiasts on one exciting day – and compete for fabulous prizes! This popular signature event is presented in partnership with the



Hampton Roads Naval Historical Foundation, and Nauticus. Children and adults alike can bring their pre-constructed LEGO ships to display at the museum prior to 2 p.m. on February 6. There are two separate contests: one for those who make ships at HRNM, and one for those who built their ships at home. HRNM will award prizes for five winning age categories in each competition, along with our fan favorite, voted on by you. HRNM Educators will be on hand to share the science

behind building ships. In addition, visitors can create historic naval ships from HRNM's own diagrams. Each year, staff members add new ships to their on-site brick fleet. New ships this year include USS Maine, USS Seawolf, USS Liberty, and USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia. Several LEGO-related activities will accompany the event, so be sure to bring your creativity to [the Hampton Roads Naval Museum](#).

★ **NAVAL WAR COLLEGE MUSEUM, (NWCM) NEWPORT, RI**

- **Dec.–Jan.: [NWCM remains closed for a six-month renovation](#)**, during which the museum's HVAC system replacement will ensure a more stable environmental climate for the preservation of the treasured historical artifacts on exhibit. The [NWC Museum](#) is scheduled to reopen Jan. 4, 2016, once renovations are complete.
- **EIGHT BELLS LUNCHTIME LECTURES (Temporary location in BRETT HALL):**
  - **Dec. 3: [The Economic History of Newport, Rhode Island, From the Colonial Era to beyond the War of 1812 by Kenneth Walsh](#)**. Through the efforts of Roger Williams and the Rev. John Clarke, Rhode Island was the first secular state of its time. There was religious freedom and no effective control by Britain over the colony. A Free running economy developed based upon international trading developed, making Newport one of the biggest ports on the eastern seaboard. The book traces the economic ups and downs of the town. 
  - **Dec. 10: [Relentless Pursuit: The Untold Story of the U.S. 5th Air Force's 39th Fighter Squadron by Ken Dooley](#)**. Fighting against an enemy with faster, more maneuverable airplanes, the 39th Fighter Squadron was made up of young men who had been rushed through training to stem the Japanese onslaught in the Pacific. They succeeded but at terrible costs in men and materiel. The story has a strong Rhode Island connection with the life and death of Cranston native, 2nd Lt. Robert E. Thorpe.
  - **Jan. 4: [NWCM Reopens after Renovations](#)**: The [Naval War College Museum](#) is scheduled to re-open on Jan. 4, 2016 in Founders Hall. Stop by to see the updates to the permanent exhibits, a new temporary exhibit on Operation DEEP FREEZE I and a very special exhibit featuring the [c. 1800-life mask of Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson](#) on loan from the National Museum of the Royal Navy. 
  - **Jan. 14: [A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah by Dwight Hughes](#)**. CSS Shenandoah was a commerce raider and during 1864 and 1865 she pursued her dangerous mission. Her lists of officers is a Who's Who reflecting some of the names associated with the southern aristocracy.
  - **Jan. 21: [Coral, Copra, and Concrete by Dan Urish](#)**. The story of Diego Garcia, B.I.O.T, its history, construction of the U.S. base by SeaBees, and its expansion into the U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, providing logistic support to operational forces forward deployed to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf areas of responsibility in support of national policy objectives. 28 January
  - **Feb. 11: [Striking the Hornets' Nest: Naval Aviation and the Origins of Strategic Bombing in World War I](#)**. One of the first dedicated strategic bombing programs was developed by the Northern Bombing Group in World War I. Although the Armistice prevented the implementation of the bombing, the exercise of establishing the logistics and organization needed in the effort was not lost on those who would resurrect the plans for use in World War II.
  - **Feb. 18: [Major Fleet vs Fleet Operations in the Pacific War, 1941-1945 by Milan Vego](#)**. This is a study of three of the major naval operations of World War II that took place in the Pacific Theater: the Battle of the Coral Sea, Midway/Aleutians Campaign, and the Philippine Sea. It is a wealth of information on the geography and strategic context of these operations.
  - **Mar. 17: [God and Sea Power by Suzanne Geissler \(Bowles\)](#)**. It is a biography of our leading naval theorist and proponent of the United States as a sea power that also takes into account his faith as an Episcopalian layperson. It is a rare look at the 19th Century naval officer and offers great insight into the religious influences of his life.
  - **Mar. 31: [Fenian Invasions of Canada with Bill McKone](#)**
  - **Apr. 14: [Sailor in the White House by Robert Cross](#)**. Shared stories about Franklin D. Roosevelt, as seen by Secret Service agents, family, and sailing friends. A most interesting and intimate biography. 

- **Apr. 21: Seeing the War: The Stories behind the Famous Photographs of World War II by David P. Colley.** The faces in photographs of World War II - both the famous pictures from Life magazine and the seldom-seen snapshots of individual soldiers, sailors, and correspondents - have a unique capacity to induce awe, respect, and wonder. The year 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of that war. The images of those veterans, depicted in photographs, bring alive those momentous years and enshrine the soldiers in our history and our imaginations.
- **Apr. 28: Ghost Riders of Bagdad: Soldiers, Civilians, and the Myth of the Surge by Col. Daniel A. Sjursen.** Based on a soldier's view of his time in Iraq and the complex mission requirements that grew out of an evolving strategy, the author takes a larger view of issues that continue to plague policy planners and strategists. Described as part history, part memoir, and part cultural commentary, it contributes to an understanding of what warfare has become and focuses on the human cost.
- **May 5: Zumwalt by Larry Berman.** Zumwalt is a compelling portrait of the controversial military man who is widely regarded as the founder of the modern U.S. Navy, especially regarding changing social policy. Chief of Naval Operations during the decades-long Cold War crisis, Zumwalt implemented major strategic innovations that endure to this day, especially in his campaign against racism and sexism throughout the fleet. The book is a detailed look at an extraordinary man—winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—an inspiring portrait of leadership that is essential in these troubled times.
- **May 12: The Court-martial of Paul Revere by Michael Greenburg.** This is a look at the life of Paul Revere and his responsibility for the disastrous Penobscot Expedition, the worst naval disaster for the U.S. prior to Pearl Harbor. Charges of cowardice and neglect of duty from his fellow officers led Revere to request a court-martial.
- **May 19: American Knights by Tory Failmezger.** This book is the story of a young Lieutenant, Thomas Peter Welch, in the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion during World War II as told through more than 150 letters from the front and the unpublished memoirs and diaries of the men who were there. The book follows the 601st from stateside training, to North Africa's Kasserine Pass and El Guetter, to the invasion of Italy, to the final landing in the south of France as the allies raced to Berlin.
- **Jun. 2: Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport during World War II by Douglas Stark.** The story of how basketball developed during the war from a regional game to a national pastime. From the formation of the World Professional Basketball tournament (WPBT) in 1939 that saw the participation of integrated and non-integrated teams in a round-robin tournament, to the promotion of athletic teams by military bases, to the integration of the National Basketball League in 1942, by the end of the war, these factors contributed to the appeal of the game growing exponentially into the NBA that we have today.

★ **NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM, (NSFM), and HS NAUTILUS, GROTON, CT**

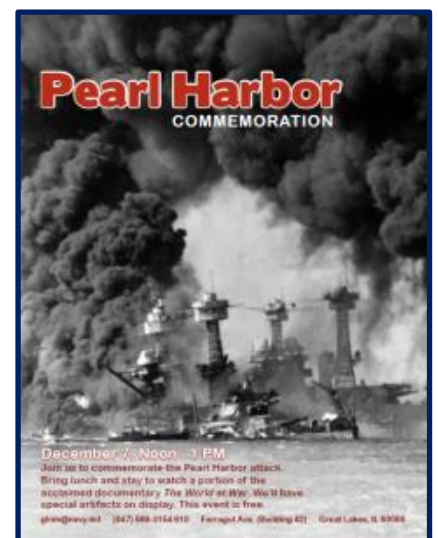
- **Dec. 4: Submarine Officers Spouse Association (SOSA) Holiday Party.**
- **Dec. 10: USS HARTFORD (SSN 768), Meet & Greet.**

★ **U.S. NAVY SEABEE MUSEUM (UNSM), PORT HUENEME, CA**

- **Dec. 12: Movies at the Museum.** The [Seabee Museum](#) will feature, "Movies and the Museum," hosted by Alexandra Hostetter.

★ **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN SAILOR (NMAS), GREAT LAKES, IL**

- **Early December: Exhibit on the Medal of Honor .** This exhibit will focus on five Enlisted Medal of Honor winners, spanning the Navy's history.
- **Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Commemoration and Documentary Viewing.** Following a brief commemoration, the museum will host a lunchtime viewing of "Banzai: Japan 1931-1942" from the acclaimed World War II documentary *The World at War*. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch for this viewing; light refreshments will be served. Selected artifacts from the museum's collection that are related to the raid on Pearl Harbor will also be on display during this event.
- **Dec. 11: Holiday Band Concert - Woodwind Quartet "Fairwinds"** The [museum](#) is hosting the Navy Band Great Lakes woodwind quartet "Fairwinds" as they play classic and favorite holiday music.



- **Dec. 12: Holiday Activity – Decorate a Nautical Themed Ornament** - In celebration of the holidays, students are invited to decorate their own nautical themed Christmas ornament. During this activity, students can enjoy delicious hot chocolate, listen to holiday music and design, decorate, and color their own Christmas tree ornament. This is a wonderful family activity during the holiday season and the ornaments look fantastic on any Christmas tree. All craft supplies are provided; there is no charge for this event.
- **Dec.18: Holiday Band Concert – Naval Band Great Lakes** - Get in the mood of the Holiday Season with the [museum](#) and Naval Band Great Lakes. Enjoy your favorite holiday classics while enjoying hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. This event is free and open to the public.
- **Jan. 16: Educational Activity -Electricity: Open, Closed, and Squishy Circuits.** Please come to the Museum Theatre for this educational program. Students in this class will learn how to conduct electricity through a circuit by using closed and open electrical circuits, conductive materials, and insulating materials. Students will also have the opportunity to design, engineer, and test their own circuits using homemade dough.
- **Feb. 20: Educational Activity – “Salt, Water, & Power: Corrosion As Energy.”** [The Museum](#) invites military and civilian families to attend a free educational activity entitled, “Salt, Water, & Power: Corrosion As Energy” in the Museum Theatre. Students in this class will learn and observe how the electrochemical process of corrosion works. The importance of this process to the U.S. Navy (both positive and negative aspects) will be demonstrated to students and this process will also be put into practical use as students will have the opportunity to build a coin batter and power a salt water battery operated car.
- **Mar. 19: Educational Activity – “Free-Throw Physics: The Science of Sports.”** [The Museum](#) invites military and civilian families to attend a free educational activity entitled, “Free-Throw Physics: The Science of Sports” in the Museum Theatre. Students will learn about the math and science behind their favorite sports as we discuss the properties of various balls (basketballs, baseballs, tennis balls, golf balls, and hockey pucks).

★ **NAVY MUSEUMS NORTHWEST - [NAVAL UNDERSEA MUSEUM \(NUM\)](#), KEYPORT, WA**

- **Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Memorial Observance.** [NUM](#) will host [Naval Base Kitsap](#)-Keyport’s annual memorial observance of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The observance is in the Jack Murdock Auditorium.
- **Dec. 8: Volunteer Recognition Event.** The [Naval Undersea Museum](#) will hold its annual holiday volunteer recognition event at Kiana Lodge.
- **Dec. 25: Federal Holiday Closures.** [NUM](#) will be closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas.
- **Federal Holiday Closures.** NUM will be closed on Nov. 26, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1 for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day holidays.
- **Jan 14 & Feb. 24: STEM Showcases.** On Jan. 14 and Feb. 24, NUM will be participating in a series of STEM Showcases as a way of bringing outreach programming to the community. Current locations are in Gig Harbor and Bremerton. For more information contact Valerie Johnson, NUM Educator.
- **Jan. 21-22: Navy STEM Days.** NUM and PSNM will hold the third Navy STEM Days sessions of the 2015-16 school year Jan. 21-22 at the Naval Undersea Museum. The program is run in partnership with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF), and brings 4th-6th grade students to the museums for a full day of STEM activities run by museum and PSNS & IMF staff. This year’s STEM Days have expanded to host two days of programming per month, a total of 12 sessions accommodating approximately 50 classrooms. New lessons about waves and simple machines have been developed and added to the program. All sessions for 2015-16 have been filled to capacity. Media may be present for these events. POC: Valerie Johnson, NUM Educator
- **Feb. – May: Science Saturday.** The Naval Undersea Museum will host Science Saturday, for the public to participate in STEAM-related demonstrations and activities the first Saturday in February, March, April, and May from 10:00a.m. until 2:00p.m. For more information contact Valerie Johnson, NUM Educator.
- **Feb. 27: Engineers Discover "E" Day.** The Naval Undersea Museum will host its 17th annual observance of National Engineers Discover "E" Day on 27 February. “E” Day is a national event designed to engage the young people of our nation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning and inspire them to future careers in those fields. The event is organized by NUM’s education department and much of its success is due directly to the valuable assistance of Naval Reservists, civilian volunteers from [Naval Base Kitsap](#)-Keyport and the [Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility](#), and museum volunteer personnel who staff STEM experiments, activities, and learning stations. POC: Valerie Johnson, NUM Educator

★ **NAVY MUSEUMS NORTHWEST – PUGET SOUND NAVY MUSEUM, (PSNM) BREMERTON, WA**

- **Dec. 5: Cub Scout Workshop (Webelos) – Build My Own Hero.** PSNM will debut the Webelos Workshop “Build My Own Hero.” Heroes are all around us! Discover what it means to be a hero and meet a veteran of the U.S. Navy at the Puget Sound Navy Museum! Students will also learn about Scouts who have gone on to become heroes for their country as well as those from around the world. Session 2 of this workshop is on April 9, 2016.
- **Dec. 7: Curator Megan Churchwell has developed both Twitter and Facebook posts in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day.** We also have an area in PSNM’s Heritage of Excellence: PSNS and IMF exhibit that highlights the attack on Pearl Harbor and the work that PSNS did to refit the surviving battleships. This area also includes a piece of shrapnel found on USS Tennessee. In addition, one Speaker’s Bureau program focuses on World War II at PSNS and includes a discussion of the work PSNS did to repair the battleships.
- **Volunteer Recognition Event.** The Naval Undersea Museum will hold its annual holiday volunteer recognition event at Kiana Lodge on Dec. 8. POC: Mary Rogers, NUM Volunteer & Event Coordinator
- **Federal Holiday Closures.** NUM will be closed on Nov. 26, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1 for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day holidays.
- **Jan. 16: Cub Scout Workshop (Wolves) – Motor Away.** PSNM will host the Wolf Scout Workshop “Motor Away.” The U.S. Navy is more than just ships; the Navy also has planes and jet, cars and trucks, even trains! As part of this workshop, students will design, build, and launch their own plane, wind-powered boat, and wheeled vehicle.
- **Jan 30: Navy Signal Flags.** ‘Last Saturdays’ resume at Puget Sound Naval Museum and the first workshop will feature Navy Signal Flags. The next ‘Last Saturday’ will be on Feb. 27. and will feature coding activities.
- **Feb. 24: West Hills STEM Fair.** PSNM will provide interactive STEM equipment as part of the museum’s booth at the third annual STEM Fair held at Bremerton’s West Hill STEM Academy.
- **Mar. 2016: New Exhibit.** PSNM staff will open the next major temporary exhibit on the history of Navy baseball, tentatively titled “When Baseball Went to War: U.S. Navy Baseball Through Two World Wars.”

★ **U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY MUSEUM, (USNAM), ANNAPOLIS, MD**

- **Dec. 7: U.S. Naval Academy permanent coverage on Pearl Harbor.** For the exhibit, USNAM constructed a large screen with the full story in film on the Pearl Harbor attack along with a large-scale map of the Honolulu Harbor. Among the historic objects in enclosed cases on either side of the screen are the following exhibited artifacts: a silver water ewer, a nickel coin, and telephone directory off USS Arizona; and a wristwatch from a Naval Academy alumni who squeezed out a port hole of USS Utah as it rolled over to sink and the watch stopped at 8:05 a.m. just after the attack began. Additionally, other exhibited artifacts include some damaged wardroom silver plate off USS Oklahoma; Medal of Honor of Captain Cassin Young, a flag and bell off USS Shaw, the Japanese sword surrendered by Lieutenant Kazuo Sakamaki, commander of the Japanese midget submarine no. 19, when it was beached in the surf; and a piece of a midget submarine periscope.
- **Dec. 9: "A Navy Cruiser At The Nevada Test Site?"** Presented by: Rob Hoffman, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Wednesday, 9 Dec. 2015 @ 12:30 P.M. in the Museum Theater, 2nd Floor Preble Hall. From its inception LLNL and the Navy go way back. But all the way back to WWII? You bet. This talk covers historical aspects of the Nevada Test Site, the Navy's early involvement in the nuclear weapons program, and a mystery pertaining to the a specific relic of WWII that ended up serving her country long after her last salvo was fired.

★ **NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND**

- **Dec. 7:** Pearl Harbor Wreath Laying Ceremony, sponsored by the Naval Order of the United States, at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Jan. 7-9: Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology** in Washington, D.C. NHHC will have an exhibit and underwater archaeologists will present papers.
- **Jan. 12-14, 2016: Surface Navy Association Symposium** in Crystal City. NHHC will have an exhibit booth and HAD historians will provide a lecture.
- **May 16-18, 2016: Sea-Air-Space Conference** in National Harbor.

## UPCOMING SYMPOSIA & EVENTS

This list of upcoming conferences, symposia and events, captures a wider swath of events for archivists, historians, library science and museum professionals.

- ✦ [Jan. 7-10 2016: American Historical Association – 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Global Migrations: Empires, Nation and Neighbors.](#)
- ✦ [Jan. 8-12, 2016: ALA American Library Association, Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA:](#) (Registration is open)
- ✦ [Jan. 12-14, 2016: Surface Navy Association Symposium in Crystal City](#)
- ✦ [Feb. 14-16, 2016: Small Museum Association, Small Museums Working Together, Ocean City, MD.](#)
- ✦ [March 16-19, 2016: National Council on Public History, Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, Balt. MD](#)
- ✦ [April 6-9, 2016: Museums and the Web, Los Angeles, California, USA](#)
- ✦ [Apr. 14-17, 2016: 2016 Annual Meeting - 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, "Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries", Ottawa, Ontario, Canada](#)
- ✦ [Apr. 21-23, 2016: Crossing Borders - NCHC National Conference, Niagara Falls, NY](#)
- ✦ [May 24-25, 2016: AAMG Annual Conference, Washington DC.](#)
- ✦ [May 26-29, 2016: American Alliance of Museum Expo, Washington, DC](#)
- ✦ [June 1-4, 2016: 2016 Policy History Conference, Nashville, TN, at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.](#)
- ✦ [June 23-28, 2016: Annual Conference, Orlando, FL:](#) (Registration opens noon [Central] January 19, 2016)

## HISTORIC EVENTS TIMELINE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA PLANNING

### Dec. 3

- 1775 – The [first American flag](#) is raised on board a Continental ship when [Lt. John Paul Jones](#) hoists the Grand Union Flag during [Continental ship Alfred's](#) commissioning at Philadelphia, Penn.
- 1863 – The armed steamer [Cambridge](#) captures schooner J.C. Roker off the coast of North Carolina and the schooner Emma Tuttle off Cape Fear.
- 1943 – [USS Tinosa \(SS 283\)](#) sinks the Palau-bound Japanese fleet tanker Azuma Maru northwest of Sonorol.
- 1956 – The first ship converted to support the Fleet Ballistic Missile program, [USS Compass Island \(EAG 153\)](#), is commissioned.
- 1983 – Two F-14s are fired upon off Lebanon. The next day, [USS John F. Kennedy \(CV 67\)](#) and [USS Independence \(CV 62\)](#) launch a strike against Syrian anti-aircraft positions. During the strike, two U.S. Navy planes, A-6E and A-7E, are shot down. In the A-6E, Lt. Mark A Lange is killed while Lt. Robert O. Goodman is captured. Goodman is released Jan. 1984.

### Dec. 4

- 1918 – [President Woodrow Wilson](#) sails on board the transport [George Washington](#) for the Paris Peace Conference.
- 1943 – TBF aircraft from [USS Lexington \(CV 16\)](#), [USS Independence \(CVL 22\)](#), and [USS Yorktown \(CV 10\)](#) attack Kwajalein Atoll and sink the Japanese vessels Asakaze Maru, Tateyama Maru, Takunan Maru, and Mikuni Maru.
- 1944 – [USS Flasher \(SS 249\)](#) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami and damages a merchant ship in the South China Sea. Flasher is the only U.S. submarine to sink more than 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.
- 1950 – While serving with VF-32 from [USS Leyte \(CV 32\)](#) during the Korean War, [Lt. i.g. Thomas J. Hudner](#) crash-lands his plane near the Chosin reservoir in an effort to rescue [Ensign Jesse L. Brown](#), another VF-32 pilot whose plane had been shot down. Hudner is awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.
- 1965 – [Gemini 7](#) is launched. The mission's command pilot is Air Force Maj. Frank F. Borman and the pilot is Lt. [Cmdr. James A. Lovell](#). This flight consists of 206 orbits at an altitude of 327 km and lasts 13 days and 18 hours.
- 1998 – [USS Donald Cook \(DDG 75\)](#) is commissioned at Philadelphia, Pa. The ship is named in honor of the late Marine Corps Colonel Donald G. Cook, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam while held as prisoner for three years by the Viet Cong.

### Dec. 5

- 1813 -- During the War of 1812, the frigate [Congress](#) captures the British brig Atlantic in the North Atlantic. Also on this date [USS President](#) captures schooner Comet off New York.



- 1941 – [USS Lexington \(CV-2\)](#) sails with Task Force 12 to ferry Marine aircraft to Midway, leaving no carriers at Pearl Harbor. Previously, on Nov. 28, [USS Enterprise \(CV-6\)](#) sails from Pearl Harbor for Wake Island to ferry Marine aircraft to island.
- 1943 – [USS Narwhal \(SS 167\)](#) embarks nine evacuees at Alubijid, Mascalor Bay and then sinks Japanese cargo ship Himeno Maru off Camiguin Island.
- 1944 – [USS Hake \(SS 256\)](#) evacuates downed aviators and turns over all supplies that can be spared to Filipino guerilla forces ashore at Libertad, Panay, Philippines.
- 1862 -- During the Civil War, boats from the gunboat [Mahaska](#) and the converted tug [General Putnam](#) capture and destroy “several fine Confederate boats,” a schooner and two sloops in branches of Severn River, Md., and bring back schooners Seven Brothers and Galena.

#### Dec. 6

- 1917 -- During World War I, German submarine U-53 torpedoes and sinks [USS Jacob Jones \(DD-61\)](#) off England with the loss of 64 lives. U-53’s commanding officer, Hans Rose, in a rare gesture, reports the 38 survivors’ drift location to the American base in Queenstown, Ireland.
- 1959 -- Cmdr. Lawrence E. Flint, Jr., piloting a McDonnell F4H-1 Phantom II powered by two GE J-79 engines, [better the existing world altitude record](#) by reaching 98,560 feet above Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The previous record of 94,658 feet was reached in the USSR by a TU-431 jet.
- 1943 – [USS Raven \(AM 55\)](#) rescues 16 survivors from U.S. tanker Touchet, which was sunk by German submarine U 193 three days earlier. The entire merchant complement of 50 men survive but 10 of the 30-man armed guard are lost with the ship.
- 1861 – During the Civil War, the side-wheel steam cruiser [Augusta](#), commanded by Cmdr. Enoch G. Parrott, captures British blockade runner Cheshire off South Carolina.
- 1941 – [USS Decatur \(DD 341\)](#), in Task Unit 4.1.4, while on escort duty with convoy ONS 39, carries out a depth charge attack on a suspicious contact in the North Atlantic.
- 1941 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt sends a letter to the Japanese emperor reminding the Japanese leader of their country’s long-standing relationship and his concern about developments occurring in the Pacific area.

#### Dec. 7

- 1941 – In one of the defining moments in U.S. history, the [Japanese attack](#) the U.S. Pacific Fleet and nearby military airfields and installations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and remove the U.S. Navy’s battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire’s southward expansion. The U.S. is brought into the World War II as a full combatant.
- 1944 – The 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet forces land the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Infantry Division on the shore of Ormoc Bay. Kamikazes attack the Task Force, damaging several U.S. Navy ships. [USS Ward \(APD-16\)](#) is scuttled after being hit by a kamikaze.
- 1796 – In his [Eighth Annual Message to Congress](#), President George Washington urges Congress to increase naval strength.
- 1941 – As the Japanese attacked Midway Island, [1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George H. Cannon](#) remains at his post until all of his wounded men are evacuated, though severely wounded himself. Because of his dedication to his men, Cannon dies due loss of blood from his wounds. For his "distinguished conduct in the line of his profession", Cannon is posthumously awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).
- 1941 – [Capt. Mervyn Sharp Bennion](#), commanding officer of [USS West Virginia \(BB 48\)](#), evidenced apparent concern only in fighting and saving his ship, and strongly protested against being carried from the bridge. For devotion to duty and courage during the Pearl Harbor attack, Bennion is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).
- 1941 – [Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John William Finn](#) mans a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an instruction stand in an exposed section of the parking ramp, under heavy enemy machine-gun strafing fire. While painfully wounded, he continued to man the gun and return the enemy’s fire with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks. He was at last persuaded to leave his post to seek medical attention after being specifically ordered to do so. After receiving first-aid, the chief returned to the squadron area and actively supervised the rearming of returning planes. Chief (later Lieutenant) Finn earned the [Medal of Honor](#) that day for his extraordinary heroism, distinguished service, and devotion above and beyond the call of duty during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor.

- 1941 – [Ensign Francis C. Flaherty](#) remains in his turret, holding a flashlight so the remainder of the turret crew could see the escape, thereby sacrificing his own life. For devotion to duty and courage during the Pearl Harbor attack, Flaherty is awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).
- 1941 – [Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Glenn Fuqua](#) rushes to the quarterdeck of [USS Arizona](#), where a large bomb hits and penetrates several decks, and the explosion starts a severe fire and also stuns and knocks him down. Upon coming to, he begins to direct the firefighting and rescue efforts. A tremendous explosion forward appears to make the ship rise out of the water, shudder and settle down by the bow. Flames envelope the forward part of the ship and spread, as wounded men pour out of the ship to the quarterdeck. Despite the mayhem, Fuqua keeps calm under pressure and continues to direct the firefighting efforts so that the wounded could be taken from the ship, and in so doing inspires everyone who sees him. Realizing that the ship cannot be saved and that he was the senior surviving officer aboard, he orders the crew to abandon ship. Fuqua remains on the quarterdeck until satisfied that all personnel that could be had been saved, after which he leaves the ship with the last boatload.
- 1941 – [Chief Boatswain Edwin Joseph Hill](#) leads his men of the line-handling details of [USS Nevada](#) to the quays, casts off the lines and swims back to this ship. Later, while on the forecandle attempting to let go the anchors, he is blown overboard and killed by the explosion of several bombs. Chief Hill earned the [Medal of Honor](#) that day for his distinguished conduct in the line of his profession, extraordinary courage, and disregard of his own safety during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor.
- 1941 – [Ensign Herbert C. Jones](#) organizes and leads a party in supplying ammunition to the anti-aircraft battery of the [USS California](#) after the mechanical hoists were put out of action. Jones is then fatally wounded by a nearby bomb explosion and when two men attempt to take him from the area which was on fire, he refuses to let them, saying, in words to the effect, "Leave me alone! I am done for. Get out of here before the magazines go off."
- 1941 – [Rear Adm. Isaac C. Kidd](#) immediately goes to the bridge and as the commander of battleship division one, he courageously performs his duties as Senior Officer Present Afloat until his flagship, [USS Arizona](#), blows up from magazine explosions and he is killed by a direct bomb hit on the bridge.
- 1941 – As the mechanized ammunition hoists are put out of action in [USS California](#), [Chief Radioman Thomas James Reeves](#), on his own initiative, in a burning passageway, assists in the maintenance of an ammunition supply by hand to the anti-aircraft guns until he is overcome by smoke and fire, resulting in his death.
- 1941 – As his station in the forward dynamo room aboard the [USS Nevada](#) becomes almost untenable due to smoke, steam, and heat, [Lt. Cmdr. Donald Kirby Ross](#) forces his men to leave the station and performs all the duties himself until blinded and unconscious. Upon being rescued and resuscitated, he returns and secures the forward dynamo room and proceeds to the aft dynamo room where he is again rendered unconscious by exhaustion. Again recovering consciousness, he returns to his station where he remained until directed to abandon it.

#### Dec. 8

- 1941 – After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the [United States declares war](#) on Japan.
- 1941 – [USS Wake \(PR 3\)](#), a river gunboat moored at Shanghai, surrenders to the Japanese. During WWII, Wake is the only US Navy vessel to be captured by the enemy intact.
- 1942 – [Eight PT boats](#) (PT 36, PT 37, PT 40, PT 43, PT 44, PT 48, PT 59, and PT 109) turn back eight Japanese destroyers attempting to reinforce Japanese forces on Guadalcanal.
- 1846 – While commanded by Lt. [Raphael Semmes](#), the brig [Somers](#) is chasing a blockade runner off Vera Cruz when she is caught in a sudden storm. Capsized by the heavy winds, she quickly sinks with the loss of more than 30 of her crew. In recent years, her wreck has been discovered and explored by divers.
- 1943 – [USS Sawfish \(SS 276\)](#) sinks Japanese transport Sansei Maru southeast of Chi Chi Jima. Also on this date, TBFs sink Rabaul-bound fishing boats No. 3 Yusho Maru, No.7 Fukuri Maru, No.2 Takatori Maru, and No.1 Hoko Maru.

#### Dec. 9

- 1938 – A prototype shipboard radar, [XAF](#), designed and built by the Naval Research Laboratory, is installed on [USS New York \(BB-34\)](#). [Installation on U.S. Navy vessels](#) begins in 1940 and proves fruitful in detecting the enemy in World War II.

- 1941 – [USS Swordfish \(SS 193\)](#) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship, torpedoing a ship 150 miles west of Manila. Her claim of sinking, though, is not confirmed in enemy records.
- 1944 – [USS Charles F. Hughes \(DD 428\)](#) and [USS Madison \(DD 425\)](#) bombard German coast artillery positions and troop concentrations along the Franco-Italian border.
- 1864 – While operating on the Roanoke River at Rainbow Bluff, N.C., the [side-wheel gunboat Otsego](#) strikes two Confederate mines. The [steam tugboat Bazely](#) rushes to help Otsego, but she also hits a mine. Both vessels eventually sink. During this operation, the [side-wheel gunboat Wyalusing](#) provides fire cover while boats dragged for mines.

#### Dec. 10

- 1843 – The first steam ship with screw propeller, [Princeton](#), is launched. In 1844, its guns explode during a demonstration and kill [Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur](#), [Secretary of the Navy Thomas Gilmer](#) and several others.
- 1941 – SBD aircraft from [USS Enterprise \(CV 6\)](#) attack and sink the Japanese submarine I-70 north of Hawaiian Islands. A participant in the Pearl Harbor Attack, I-70 is the first major Japanese combatant ship sunk during World War II.
- 1941 – A PBV aircraft piloted by [Lt. Harmon T. Utter](#) is attacked by three Japanese Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 0 carrier fighters. Chief Boatswain Earl D. Payne, Utter's bow gunner shoots one down, scoring the Navy's first verifiable air-to-air "kill" of a Japanese plane in the Pacific War.
- 1982 – The nuclear powered [USS Ohio \(SSBN-726\)](#), first Trident-Class submarine, returns from its first deterrent patrol.

#### Dec. 11

- 1863 – During the Civil War, the iron-clad river gunboat [Carondelet](#) fires upon Confederate troops that are firing upon iron-clad river gunboat [Indianola](#), which had been stuck on a bar in the Mississippi River since earlier that year and had not yet been freed. The effective counter-fire by Carondelet drives off the Confederates.
- 1942 – The United States [declares war](#) on Germany and Italy.
- 1941 – The [Wake Island Garrison under Cmdr. Winfield Cunningham](#) repulses the Japanese invasion force with shore battery fire that sink Japanese destroyer Hayate while Marine F4Fs sink destroyer Kisaragi.
- 1943 – The U.S. Navy dispatches vessels to help the U.S. collier Suffolk, which is foundering and eventually sinks in a storm.
- 1944 – [USS Gar \(SS 206\)](#) lands 35 tons of supplies at Darigayos Inlet on the west coast of Luzon and picks up secret intelligence documents. Also on this date, [USS Sea Owl \(SS 405\)](#) sinks Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 76 in the East China Sea.
- 1865 – Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles writes to Secretary of State William H. Seward, complaining of the action of the British government in releasing the officers and crew of [CSS Shenandoah](#).
- 1954 -- The first "supercarrier" [USS Forrestal](#) (CVA 59) is launched.

#### Dec. 12

- 1862 – During the Civil War, a Confederate torpedo (mine) sinks [USS Cairo](#) in Yazoo River. Her wreck is recovered in 1965, but is badly damaged during the salvage efforts.
- 1937 – After Japan invades Nanking, China, [USS Panay](#) (PR 5) evacuates American citizens when it comes under attack from Japanese aircraft, killing three men and wounding 43 sailors and five civilians.
- 1942 – Five torpedo boats attack 11 Japanese destroyers off [Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal](#). Motor torpedo boats PT 37 and PT 40 sink Japanese destroyer Terutsuki. In return, the Japanese destroyers Kawakaze and Suzukaze [sink PT 44 off Savo Island](#).
- 1941 – The [Naval Air Transport Service](#) (NATS) is established.
- 1972 – [Capt. Eugene A. Cernan](#), commander of [Apollo 17](#), walks on the Moon and raises the U.S. flag. [Cmdr. Ronald E. Evans](#) is the Command Module Pilot and [Harrison H. Schmitt](#) is the Lunar Module pilot. The mission lasts 12 days, 13 hours and 52 minutes.

#### Dec. 13

- 1775 – The [Continental Congress](#) provides for the construction of five ships of 32 guns, five ships of 28 guns, and three ships of 24 guns at an estimated cost of \$866,666. The ships are [Hancock](#), [Randolph](#), [Raleigh](#), [Warren](#), [Washington](#), [Congress](#), [Effingham](#), [Providence](#), [Trumbull](#), [Virginia](#), [Boston](#), [Delaware](#), and [Montgomery](#).

- 1941 – [Cmdr. William A. Sullivan](#) is designated the first Supervisor of Salvage.
- 1943 – [USS Osmond Ingram \(DD 255\)](#), [USS George E. Badger \(DD 196\)](#), [USS Clemson \(DD 186\)](#), and FMs VC-19 from [USS Bogue \(CVE 9\)](#) sink German submarine U 172 west of the Canary Islands.
- 1943 – [USS Wainwright \(DD 419\)](#) and British destroyer HMS Calpe sink German submarine U-593 150 miles northeast of Algiers.
- 1943 – [USS Sailfish \(SS 192\)](#) sinks Japanese cargo ship Totai Maru east of Tokara Strait while PBV aircraft sink Tokiwa Maru in the Bismarck Sea.

#### Dec. 14

- 1814 – Under the command of Commodore Thomas Catesby Jones, U.S. gunboats, along with [Sea Horse](#) and [Alligator](#), engage the British during the Battle of Lake Borgne, La. Though the American flotilla is defeated, the engagement delays the British attack on New Orleans for nine days, buying precious time for Gen. Andrew Jackson's successful defense of New Orleans.
- 1911 – USS California (ACR 6) breaks a red, white, and blue ribbon stretched across a Hawaiian channel to become the first ship to call on Pearl Harbor after it becomes a naval base.
- 1942 – Pharmacist's Mate 1st Class Harry B. Roby performs an appendectomy on Torpedoman 1st Class W. R. Jones on board [USS Grayback \(SS 208\)](#). It is the second appendectomy performed on board a submarine.
- 1944 – The rank of Fleet Admiral (five-star admiral) of the U.S. Navy is established during World War II due to the rapid build-up of U.S. military forces. [The first five-star admirals](#) are: William D. Leahy, Ernest J. King, and Chester W. Nimitz. Adm. William F. Halsey joined the selected group Dec. 11, 1945.
- 1944 – [Task Force 38](#) aircraft begins the attack on Japanese transport Oryoku Maru which, unbeknownst to the Task Force, is carrying approximately 1,600 Allied prisoners of war. The following day, the ship is sunk at Subic Bay.

#### Dec. 15

- 1845 – [Yorktown](#) captures the slaver Panther off Kabenda, Africa. Previously that September, Yorktown also captured the slavers Pons and Patuxent.
- 1944 – [USS Hawkbill \(SS 366\)](#) sinks the Japanese destroyer Momo west of Luzon.
- 1944 – The invasion of Mindoro Island, Philippines begins. During the battle, [USS LST 738 is hit by a Japanese kamikaze plane and set ablaze](#). After attempts to control the fires are unsuccessful, LST-738 is sunk by the guns of other ships of the invasion fleet. [USS LST 472](#) is also hit by the kamikaze attack and sinks six days later.
- 1965 – Gemini 6 is launched, making 16 orbits in 25 hours and 51 minutes. [Capt. Walter M. Schirra](#) is command pilot and [Thomas P. Stafford](#) is pilot.
- 1988 – [Operation Earnest Will](#) ends in the Persian Gulf. U.S. Navy ships escorted reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and approximately 270 neutral ships and tankers to protect them from missile attacks and mines laid during the Iran-Iraq War.

#### Dec. 16

- 1821 – [Lt. Robert F. Stockton](#) and Dr. Eli Ayers, a naval surgeon and member of American Colonizing Society, persuade a local African king to sell territory for a colony [that becomes the Republic of Liberia](#).
- 1907 – [The Great White Fleet](#) departs Hampton Roads, Va. to circumnavigate the world in 14 months, a journey of 43,000 miles that included 20 port calls across six continents. Fourteen thousand Sailors and Marines participated in the voyage, leaving a lasting legacy at home and abroad.
- 1922 – [Lt. Cmdr. Walter A. Edwards](#), commanding [USS Bainbridge \(DD 246\)](#), leads [the rescue of 482 passengers from the burning French transport Vinh-Long](#) by placing his destroyer in dangerous positions to ensure the passengers could disembark, despite a series of explosions. He later brings them to Constantinople. For his leadership and heroism, Edwards receives the Medal of Honor.
- 1944 – [USS Swordfish \(SS 193\)](#) attacks a Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island and sinks Japanese army transport Atsutasan Maru.
- 1998 – In [Operation Desert Fox](#), Navy cruise missiles attack Iraq to degrade Saddam Hussein's ability to make and use weapons of mass destruction.

#### Dec. 17

- 1812 – The brig Argus, commanded by Arthur Sinclair, recaptures the American schooner Vancise during the War of 1812. The ship had been abandoned and found derelict by another ship.

- 1863 – The bark-rigged clipper ship [Roebuck](#) seizes blockade-runner British schooner Ringdove off Indian River, Fla., with cargo including salt, coffee, tea, and whiskey.
- 1917 – [USS Remlik \(SP 157\)](#) reportedly encounters an enemy submarine during a storm in the Bay of Biscay, but the weather prevents an engagement. While she is fighting the heavy seas that day, a depth charge breaks loose on her after deck and is secured by [Chief Boatswain's Mate John MacKenzie](#), who receives the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.
- 1917 – While underway off Point Loma, Calif., [USS F 1](#) collides with her sister submarine, [USS F 3](#). With her hull torn open amidships, she rapidly sinks and loses 19 crewmen.
- 1942 – [USS Grouper \(SS 214\)](#) sinks the Japanese army passenger cargo ship Bandoeng Maru about 15 miles northwest of Cape Henpan, Buka Island, Solomons and survives the counterattack by submarine chaser Ch 29.

#### Dec. 18

- 1902 – During the Venezuela Crisis of 1902-1903, [Adm. George Dewey](#) receives orders from President Theodore Roosevelt to sail with the North and South Atlantic Squadron to Trinidad then Venezuela to ensure Great Britain and Germany's dispute with Venezuela is settled by peaceful arbitration, not force. A settlement is reached February 1903.
- 1927 – [Chief Gunner's Mate Thomas Eadie](#) dives under adverse conditions to help Chief Torpedoman Fred Michels, who had problems connecting an air line to [USS S 4](#) as she is sinking. After two hours of extremely dangerous work, Eadie succeeds in his mission and brings Michels safely to the surface. For his extraordinary heroism Eadie is awarded the Medal of Honor. Michels receives his second Navy Cross for his rescue efforts on USS S 4.
- 1943 – [USS Aspro \(SS 309\)](#) attacks a Japanese convoy in Sakishima Gunto, damaging fleet tankers Sarawak Maru and Tenei Maru, and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Shoikaze. Meanwhile, [USS Grayback \(SS 208\)](#) sinks Japanese freighter Gyokurei Maru east-northeast of Naha, Okinawa and escapes counter attacks by destroyer Numakaze.
- 1944 – [Adm. Halsey's](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet encounters a [typhoon](#) northeast of Samar. Destroyers [USS Hull \(DD 350\)](#), [USS Spence \(DD 512\)](#), and [USS Monaghan \(DD 354\)](#) capsized and went down with practically all hands, while a cruiser, five aircraft carriers, and three destroyers suffered serious damage. Approximately 790 officers and men were lost or killed, with another 80 injured.
- 1965 – The [River Patrol Force](#) is established in Vietnam. In Dec. 1970, the resources are transferred by Admiral Elmo Zumwalt to the [Vietnamese navy](#).

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