

THE AIRSHIP



Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733

<http://www.nlhs.com>

Aug - Sept 2010

Annual POW-MIA Remembrance Day – Thursday Sept 16, 2010 – 11 AM Admiral Jeremiah Denton USN (Ret) Guest Speaker

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I'm honored to announce that Admiral Jeremiah Denton, USN (Ret), will be our guest of honor at this year's POW-MIA Remembrance Service. Please note that this year's event will be held at Ft. Dix (Timmerman Center) at 11 AM on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010. All NLHS

members and the general public are invited to attend this day. Admiral Denton is one of the most notable former Hanoi Hilton POWs. Please plan to attend this memorable event and honor Admiral Denton and all our POW & MIA military members.

If you plan to attend you must call the McGuire Protocol Office at 609-754-2405 to be put on the guest list for the event. See Admiral Denton bio on page 2.

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Meeting Notice

Our next monthly general membership meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 8, 2010 in our usual location. Start time 7PM in the Galley Conference Room Bldg 484. All members and guests are cordially invited to attend.

Our guest speaker will be CAPT Andrew Butterfield, USN, CO Nav Air Mission, Joint Base Lakehurst. **If you plan to attend you must fill out the attendance coupon included in this newsletter. Due to new security measures, you must include your DOB, full name (including middle initial), driver's license number and phone number.**

Remember your NLHS membership card is not a base pass.

Officers Meeting

Our next Officers & Trustees meeting will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010** at 9:30 AM in **Hangar One in the CNATT Hall of Fame Meeting Room next to our gift shop.** Please note change of date due to large tours scheduled for Sept. 18. All officers and trustees are asked to attend.

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How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for July & August 2010 for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 850 hours. Many thanks to all our volunteers for your support: Don Adams, Carl Larsen, Rick Zitarosa, Frank Dennis, Nick Rakoncza, Stephanie Phillips, Ron Montgomery, Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak, Frank Smith, Chris Corapi, Kevin Pace, Pete Lovering, "Mac" McConnell, Pete Murphy, Kevin Mulligan, Howie Sjursen, Elizabeth Rossell and Carl Jablonski.

Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. During June, July and August we hosted over 700 visitors. Don Adams, Nick Rakoncza, Frank Dennis, Carl Larsen, Ron Montgomery, Carl Jablonski, Kevin Mulligan and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides.

New Member

Please welcome the following new member to NLHS:

James Mayer Middletown, NJ

NLHS Annual Picnic

This year's picnic will be on Saturday, Sept 4, 2010 from 12 noon to 5 PM at Joint Base Lakehurst Freedom Park. All members and spouses are invited. NLHS will provide chicken, hot dogs, burgers, etc.... As usual covered dishes and desserts are welcome. Be sure to fill out the coupon in this newsletter if you plan to attend. **Make copy of coupon for each person attending.**

Admiral Jeremiah Denton

In 1973, Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., walked off an Air Force C-141 aircraft to freedom after being held captive in North Vietnam for more than seven years.

Born in 1924 in Mobile Alabama, Denton graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In June 1965, he was assigned to Attack Squadron 75 on the USS Independence flying the Grumman A-6 Intruder. On 18 July 1965, while pulling up after leading a bombing attack on enemy installations near Thanh Hoa, he was shot down and captured by North Vietnamese troops. While held prisoner, Denton became the first American subjected to four years of solitary confinement.

In 1966, during a television interview by the North Vietnamese and broadcast on American television, Denton gained national attention when, while being questioned, he blinked his eyes in Morse code, repeatedly spelling out the covert message "T-O-R-T-U-R-E".

During his captivity he frequently served as the senior American military officer in numerous camps in and around Hanoi. On 12 February 1973, Denton was released and promoted to rear admiral in April 1973.

In 1976 Denton's Vietnam experience was chronicled in the book "When Hell Was In Session", and in an NBC movie of the same title, which won the 1979 Peabody Award. In 1979 Denton retired from the Navy as Commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College and returned to Mobile, Alabama. During his 34 years of military service, he received numerous awards and honors, to include: the Navy Cross, three Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Purple Hearts. In November 1980, Denton became the first retired flag officer ever elected to the U.S. Senate.

Some of his major committee assignments included: the Judiciary Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee. In 1983, Denton founded the National Forum Foundation dedicated to the concept of One Nation Under God, the institution of the family, welfare reform, and peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs. In 1987, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to be Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Merchant Marine and Defense. Among many other legislative accomplishments, Denton established the highly acclaimed international aid program known as The Denton Program, responsible for transporting over 20 million pounds of critical equipment and supplies to needy people throughout the world. Denton currently serves as President of the National Forum Foundation and lectures on national and international affairs.

Capt. Andrew A. Butterfield, USN

Following commissioning at the US Naval Academy in 1985, Captain Butterfield completed rotary wing flight training at Pensacola, FL in 1987. He reported to Helicopter Squadron Seven, deploying twice to the Mediterranean and Red Seas, flying missions in the SH-3H Sea King from USS John F Kennedy (CV-67), including support of Operation Desert Shield. He also served as Flight

Officer, Schedules Officer, Public Affairs Officer, Aircraft Division Officer and the Aircraft Maintenance Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) during this tour.

In 1991 Captain Butterfield reported to Helicopter Squadron One for duty as a Sea King instructor pilot, also serving as the Line Division Officer and again as QAO. Next transitioning to the SH-60B Sea Hawk, he reported in 1993 to Helicopter Squadron Forty-Two, where he deployed to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas in USS Normandy (G-60) as Detachment Five Operations Officer and Assistant Officer-in-Charge (OIC). He then deployed in USS Halyer (DDG-997) to the Baltic Sea as Detachment Four OIC and Helicopter Element Coordinator for the International multi-ship exercise "BALTOPS '94".

After graduation from the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, CA. in 1996, Captain Butterfield transitioned to the SH-60F and HH-60H and returned to Helicopter Squadron Seven, where he embarked in USS Enterprise (CVN-65) and served as head of the Aircraft Maintenance and Administration Departments.

In 1999 Captain Butterfield served as Deputy Director of Joint Task Force – Southwest Asia Joint Search and Rescue Center in Saudi Arabia, completed Armed Forces Staff College, and reported US Central Command. There he served in the Operations Directorate, Plans Division as Deputy Chief of Strategic Deployments, where he participated in the planning of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was subsequently designated a Joint Specialist.

In 2003, Captain Butterfield reported to Helicopter Squadron Fifteen as Executive Officer. In 2004 he took command and, embarked once again in USS John F Kennedy, led the Red Lions through deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The squadron operated simultaneously from multiple locations and flew over 400 sorties throughout Southern Iraq in direct support of special operations forces. The squadron earned the 2004 Admiral Jimmy Thach Award in recognition of their aviation achievements.

In 2005, Captain Butterfield reported to Headquarters, US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), where he first served as Deputy Director of the

Quadrennial Defense Review Office. He was then selected to serve as the USSOCOM Deputy Chief of Staff from 2007 to 2009.

Captain Butterfield currently serves in New Jersey as a plank-owner of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the nations first and only tri-service joint base, where he serves as Deputy Mission Support Group Commander. He has accumulated over 3,400 flight hours. His decorations include several Meritorious Unit Commendations and the coveted "Battle E".

Taps

NLHS extends sympathy and condolences to the families of John Ed Ryan and Joanna Wilkes.

John Ed Ryan

John Ed Ryan, 88, of Manchester, formerly of Hohokus, passed away on Saturday July 3, 2010 at Community Medical Center, Toms River, NJ. He was born on September 18, 1921 in Jackson, Michigan. John Ed served 42 months on the destroyer, USS Buchanan in the South Pacific during WWII. He graduated from Michigan State University where he received a BS degree in Civil/Structural Engineering. After graduation, he joined the engineering department of Pontiac Michigan.

In 1951, he helped organize and was the first president of the Southeastern Michigan Building Officials and Inspectors Association. He also served as president of the Michigan Building Officials Association in 1957. In April 1954, John Ed moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he organized the Department of Building and Safety Engineering which he served as director until November 1960. Between 1949 and 1960, he served on a number of BOCA (ICC) Committees. In November 1960, John Ed joined the National Forest Products Association and was assigned to the med-west office until August 1965 when he moved east as District Manager for Technical Services for the 10 northeastern states.

When he moved to Hohokus, NJ, he had conducted many educational programs for building and fire officials including several for PENNBOC, DCA and the Eastern State Building Officials Federation. He had been a member of

the National Fire Protection Association, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) since 1963.

John Ed was also a member of the Society of Fire Prevention Engineers and Vice Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter. He was a registered professional engineer in Michigan, New Jersey and California in structural and fire protection engineering. He received many awards and recognitions throughout his life. John Ed was a 4th Knights of Columbus and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a certified swimming official with both the NCAA and the USA Swimming Assn (formerly AAU). John Ed was a previous president of the Lakehurst Navy League.

John Ed was predeceased by his wife, Frances (nee Grover) and his daughter, Michalene Ryan. He is survived by his daughter, Rollie McGarry and his grandsons, Tim and Pat McGarry.

Joanna Wilkes

Joanna Wilkes, 67, died on Monday, June 7, 2010 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. Born and raised in Newark, Mrs. Wilkes lived in Nutley and West Orange before settling in Colonia 21 years ago. Joanna worked for Verizon in Clark for several years retiring in 2002. In addition, Mrs. Wilkes enjoyed volunteering at St. John Vianney RC Church in Colonia but more importantly she cared for and loved her family.

She is predeceased by her husband Robert who died in 2009 and by her brother Michael Pecora Jr. Surviving is her daughter Lisa M. Krystopik and her husband Kenneth L. Jr. of South Plainfield and her sister Florence Bestone and her husband Eddie of Mullica Hill, NJ as well as numerous extended relatives and friends.

Sick Bay

Greta Fox, wife of our treasurer Jim Fox, is recuperating from recent hip surgery. NLHS wishes Greta a speedy recovery. Please consider sending a get well card to: Greta Fox, 40 Seward Ave, Toms River, NJ 08753

Welcome Home

Our adopted USCGC Sturgeon Bay (WTB-109) recently returned to Bayonne, NJ from a deployment to the Gulf of Mexico. Many thanks to our NLHS members who went to the Welcome Home ceremony on Aug 23, 2010 at Bayonne. Lt. Daniel Everette is the CO and a good friend and supporter of NLHS.

Welcome Aboard

NLHS heartily welcomes LT Daniel Everette, new CO of our sponsored USCGC Sturgeon Bay (WTB-109). LT Everette assumed command on Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at a Change of Command Ceremony relieving LT CDR Scott Rae. We wish LT CDR Rae success in his new assignment at USCG Boot Camp, Cape May, NJ. We are grateful to LT. CDR Rae for his friendship and kindness to NLHS and we look forward to a continuing relationship with LT Everette and his crew.

LT Daniel J Everette, USCG

LT Everette enlisted in the US Coast Guard in 1994 and was assigned to USCGC Bridle upon completion of recruit training. After graduation from Telecommunications Specialist "A" School, he was assigned to USCGC Polar Sea. In 1997 he accepted an appointment to the US Coast Guard Academy, graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

After being commissioned as an Ensign, Lieutenant Everette returned to sea as a Deck Watch Officer onboard USCGC Healy. Following the completion of three scientific support missions in the eastern and western Artic Regions, the North Pole, and Antarctica, he was assigned to USCGC Biscayne Bay as Executive Officer. In 2005 LT Everette was selected for post-graduate school. He earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island in 2007.

LT Everette's previous assignment was as the GPS and Broadcast Group Lead for the Differential Global

Positioning System (DGPS) at the Coast Guard Command and Control Engineering Center (C2CEN) in Portsmouth, Virginia.

LT Everette's professional awards and achievements include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Commandant Letter of Commendation, three Arctic Service Medals, and the Antarctica Service Medal. In addition, he is a FAA certificated Multi-Engine Commercial Pilot and holds a current Flight Instructor Certificate.

Originally hailing from Pittsfield, MA, he is currently engaged to be married to Ms. Wendy Knox of Sparta, NJ.

New Gift Ship Items

Our gift shop now features Revell Hindenburg Model Kits (\$30.00); mini Revell Hindenburg kit (\$5.25); Joint Base MDL refrigerator magnet (\$2.00); USS Macon & Akron & Los Angeles & Hindenburg Ball caps (\$20.00 per hat). Call 732-581-1209 to order.

Bravo, Zulu

A special well done to our tour director, Don Adams, Nick Rakonczka, Frank Dennis and Kevin Mulligan for the many extra hours volunteered recently. On several recent Wednesdays our volunteers did many extra tours for the military and Congressional requests, sometimes staying until 4 or 5 PM.

POW-MIA Day Event

This year's Sept 16, 2010 event will incur additional expenses beyond the normal expenses. If you are able to, would our members please consider making a donation to help defray the additional costs. All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. Mail to NLHS PO Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733.

Navy Ball

This year's Navy Ball will be on Friday, Oct 15, 2010 at Bali's in Atlantic City, NJ starting at 6 PM. NLHS has reserved 2 tables and so far 10 members are going. If you wish to honor our US Navy Birthday celebration, please join us. For

reservations and prices call 732-244-8861.

If you are unable to attend and would like to sponsor a ticket for a deserving sailor by making a monetary contribution, please do so by making your check payable to Navy Ball Committee, and mail to NLHS, PO Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733.

Korean War Display

NLHS members headed by VP Ron Montgomery have arranged a wonderful Korean War 60th Anniversary Display at Joint Base McGuire Library. So far rave reviews have been received. Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak and Pete Lovering assisted Ron.

Duatholan Aug 1, 2010

Special thanks to Nick Rakonczka for his help in manning our table at the Joint Base Lakehurst event on Sunday, August 1, 2010. Your President, Carl Jablonski was also present at the event.

In the Mail

The members of the Ocean County Coin Club can't thank the members of the Historical Society for the outstanding cooperation we received during our tour of the Naval Air Station on Wed. May 26, 2010.

All 45 members and guests fully enjoyed the tour and we all offer our sincere appreciation to our two tour guides, Nick and Kevin, who took care of us from beginning to end. We all learned so much about the Hindenburg, other air ships, the POWs and the many artifacts that were associated with Lakehurst and the Navy as Nick and Kevin gave us so many interesting stories.

It was especially interesting to me to see the uniform of Larry Guarino, whom I met when I enlisted in the Air Guard at Newark Airport. Larry was a Captain at that time, who flew the P-47 and P-51s and chose to sign on an active tour with the Navy. I didn't see him again until the TV news covered him exiting from an aircraft upon his being released from POW status after 6 years.

Thanks again and please pass along

our appreciation to include Don, who explained so much about the POWs and other interesting information and facts. In addition, kindly thank Don Adams for handling the submission of the forms for the tour.

Sincerely,
Jim Majoros
Ocean County Coin Club

Military base locked tight after incidents.

Report of shots fired outside gate unsubstantiated.

A gun-toting Fed-Ex deliveryman who arrived at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst at the same time guards heard shots fired in the nearby woods prompted military officials to temporarily lock down part of the installation Monday morning, June 21, 2010.

The Lakehurst section of the base was closed to incoming and outgoing traffic for an hour Monday while federal and state officials investigated the simultaneous incidents by land and air.

The delivery truck driver, identified in New Jersey State Police reports as Goran Pasalic, drove up to the security checkpoint of main gate at the base around 9:30 a.m. During a routine search of the truck and questioning by members of the 87th Special Forces Squadron, the driver admitted he had a firearm on him, said Airman 1st Class Bryan Swink.

Around the same time the deliveryman arrived at the main gate, a guard and patrol unit at Lakehurst's commercial gate heard what they thought was gun fire, according to base commander Col. Gina Grosso. When responding to the gun fire, they saw a man in the vicinity of shots and ordered him to halt, she said. Rather than stop, the suspect fled, she said.

The man was described in state police reports as 6-foot-4 and wearing blue jeans, a gray shirt and a camouflage hat. The report of gunfire appears to be unsubstantiated, Grosso said.

"Due to the quick actions and response from our security personnel, security procedures were not breached during either incident," Grosso said. "All actions taken throughout this time were

precautionary in nature to ensure the security and safety of the joint base."

Law enforcement officers and military personnel searched the nearby woods and State Police launched a helicopter to aid in the search. The gates to the Lakehurst section were locked around 10 a.m. but reopened at 11 a.m.

State police reports indicated the delivery truck driver has a permit to carry the weapon, a .38-caliber handgun. However, the driver, who Grosso described as "cooperative," was cited for attempting to bring a weapon onto the base. Swink said visitors are prohibited from bringing any kind of weapon onto the installation. He noted authorities believe the driver had no intention of harming anyone on the base.

There was no shooting involved and no one was shot, said Senior Airman David Carbajal. Grosso said no joint base personnel were in danger at any time during the incident.

The Naval station at Lakehurst, which encompasses 7,430 acres in the Pinelands, was combined with Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base last year as a result of a recommendation of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The entire installation covers some 42,00 acres.

Now known as the Naval Air Engineering Center, the Naval station at Lakehurst was the site of the explosion of the airship Hindenberg on May 6, 1937.

Navy MZ-3A Airship Returns to Lakehurst

The Navy's MZ-3A airship Buno #167811 returned to JBMDL on Tuesday August 17th after a 5-month deployment which saw it participate in experiments at Yuma, AZ as well as spending most of the

month of July and early August doing "spotter/observer" duty with the Coast Guard monitoring the BP Gulf oil spill. The airship returned as it left...in excellent condition.



Blimp Arrives At Lakehurst

This was the LONGEST deployment of a USN airship since 1961-62 and proof positive that this particular airship is a VALUABLE ASSET to the U.S. Government. Current plans are for the ship to re-enter Hangar #6 for a brief period of maintenance/upgrade and then she will be off for *new* adventures. Civilian contractor ISSI (Integrated Systems Solutions, Inc.) continues to operate and maintain the 178-foot airship under contract with the Navy, with the airship being officially



Rick Zitarosa heads out to meet the arriving Blimp at Lakehurst

assigned to Squadron VXS-1 (Patuxent River.)

Many surely recall the STRUGGLE we had convincing the Navy to keep the airship inflated. There were no less than SIX occasions between June 2007 and December 2009 when deflation orders were issued. FORTUNATELY, the "powers that be" saw mission capabilities for this airship and decided to let her do what she does best....FLY!

During the period of inactivity, many members of the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society volunteered to help maintain the airship and "worked the phones" to try to find a mission for it. It can be safely....and PROUDLY...said that NLHS and its membership helped SAVE NAVY LTA at a very crucial time!

PDF Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter in PDF electronic format, you can see current issue by going to the Newsletter link on the NLHS website which is located at: <http://www.nlhs.com> This will also give you an idea of how long it takes to download. Those who would like to receive the pdf newsletter should send an email to: newsletter@nlhs.com with your name, address & phone number to verify you in the database.

Remember, you must have a copy of the Adobe Acrobat viewer on your computer in order to view this newsletter.

You will receive the newsletter faster and help NLHS save on postage.

NLHS Annual Picnic Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010 12 noon to 5 pm Freedom Park, Joint Base Lakehurst

FULL NAME in following format: (please print) Make copies for each person attending

Last Name _____ **Full Middle Name** _____

First name _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Phone (with area code):** _____

Drivers License #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

People Attending: _____ **Yes I will bring a covered dish**

Type of Covered Dish I will bring _____

**MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733
ATTN: PICNIC**

**DEADLINE: Sept. 2 , 2010 noon - No reservations will be taken after this deadline date
NO PHONE CALLS – MAIL RESERVATIONS ONLY!**

NOTE: Your NLHS Membership card IS NOT a base pass.

**NLHS September Meeting Attendance Coupon Wednesday, Sept 8, 2010 7PM
Meeting Location: The Galley Conference meeting room located in Bldg. #484**

FULL NAME in following format: (please print) Make copies for each person attending

Last Name _____ **Full Middle Name** _____

First name _____

Date of Birth: _____ **PHONE (with area code):** _____

Drivers License #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

**MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733
ATTN: September Meeting**

DEADLINE: Sept 7, 2010 by 12 noon

**You must fill out this coupon if you plan on attending the meeting
and don't have a pass for the base.**

NOTE: Your NLHS Membership card IS NOT a base pass.