

THE AIRSHIP



Navy Lakehurst Historical Society - P.O. Box 328 - Lakehurst, NJ 08733 <http://www.nlhs.com>

September 2017



President's Message

Where is the time going to, here we are in the month of September. The summer months of June, July and August were very busy, Tours Change of Command's, Retirement Ceremonies and Meetings. Our upcoming fall season looks to be very busy as well. Our Ready Room staff have been doing a great amount of maintenance and upgrading our displays. Ron S., Roger, Ron M., Pete and Bobby are continually working on our A 7 plane and F8 Crusader plane as well. As always we are looking for volunteers for our Tours and Ready Room Operations. For info or to sign up, contact our website at NAVLAKE@prodigy.net. By the way, a special thank you to Sue Koller for her wonderful tours and for taking care of our plants and shrubs at our entrance.

Meeting Notice

Our last General Membership Meeting for members in 2017 will be **Wednesday, September 13th, 2017 at 7 PM.**, at the Cathedral of the Air Chapel. All members are welcome to attend and may bring a guest. The chapel is located on on Rte. 547, Lakehurst, and is off base, therefore a gate pass is not required. Light refreshments will be served. Our next members meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7 PM at the same location.

Officers & Trustees Meeting Notice

Our next officers and trustees meeting will be on **Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 9:30 AM**, Bldg. 150, our usual location, and **Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:30 AM**.

NLHS Welcomes Col. James Martin, US Army

On August 3, 2017. Col. James Martin, US Army relieved Col. Martin Kline, (Col. Kline was promoted to Brigadier General). Col. Martin will serve as JBMDL Dep. Cdr. and US Army Support Cdr

See his Biography on the next page.

U.S. Naval Support Activity News

On Friday, November 3, 2017, Captain Christopher Bergen, USN and JBMDL Deputy Cdr. and Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity will be relieved by Capt. Mohammed Kahn, USN. Time 10AM at Westfield Hanger, JB Lakehurst. NLHS is honored to have worked with Capt. Bergen these past years and we thank him for support and friendship. We look forward to working with Capt. Kahn and we wish him success in his new assignment at JBMDL.

Let Them Eat Cake

Many thanks to Lauren and Julie Rowek, our cake and cookie sale bakers and hosts for our First Ever Cake Sale held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 in Hangar One. The cake sale was a huge success, very little was left. Sales were way above all expectations, and the monies collected will be used for plants, shrubs and cleaning supplies for The Cathedral of the Air, which is cleaned by Lauren and Julie on a weekly basis thanks to all who made a purchase.

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COLONEL JAMES E. MARTIN, JR.

COL James Martin was commissioned into the Air Defense Artillery following graduation from McDaniel College (Westminster, MD) in 1993. Upon commissioning, he served in a variety of Air Defense Artillery assignments in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 2nd Infantry Division. Initial assignments included Platoon Leader, Maintenance Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Battery Commander.

In 2003, COL Martin transitioned into the Army Reserve's Active Duty program as a Simulations Officer; 1st Brigade, 87th Division, Birmingham, Alabama. In 2006, he deployed to Iraq as the 164th Corps Support Group Liaison Officer (LNO) to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Logistical Support Area ANACONDA - Balad, Iraq.

In 2008, COL Martin transitioned into the Information Systems Management Career Field. He served in a variety of Information Technology Management assignments and maintains the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) designation.

From 2013-2015, COL Martin served as the Battalion Commander of 4th Battalion, Army Reserves Careers Division with recruiting and accession responsibilities spanning the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Most recently, 2015-2017, COL Martin served as the USARC HQ CIO/G6 Division Chief of Operations and later as the Deputy to the Army Reserve Deputy Commanding General of support (DCG-S).

COL Martin has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from McDaniel College, a Master of Arts degree in Information Technology Management from Webster University, a Master of Science degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy

from the National Defense University, and is currently an Executive MBA candidate at the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Colonel Martin's is a resident graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and a Senior Service College graduate from the Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS).

COL Martin's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (two Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hourglass and "M" device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon. The Army awarded his former unit, the 164th Corps Support Group, the Meritorious Unit Citation for actions during the Global War on Terrorism. His badges include the Ranger Tab, the Parachutist Badge, the British Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

COL Martin is married to the former Kristie Yeargin of Goodlettsville, Tennessee. The Martins have two children.

Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. Our tours will be given every Wednesday and every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from April through October from 10 am to 1 pm. Don Adams, Nick Rakoncza, Frank Dennis, Carl Larsen, Ron Montgomery, Carl Jablonski, Kevin Mulligan, Elizabeth Rossell, Susan K. Koller, Laurie Rowek, Pete Garvey and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for June, July and August 2017 amounted to 775 hours. Thanks to Ron, Pete, Roger, Bobby, Susan, Don, Elizabeth, Kevin P, Kevin M, Peter G, Nick, Lauren, Ron S. and Rick Z.

Navy Ball

This years Navy Ball will be Friday, October 6, 2017 at Harrah's, Atlantic City at 6 PM. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. NLHS is hosting a table, all members are welcome to attend and say Happy Birthday USN. For tickets call 732-244-8861.

Members Wanted

NLHS Memberships make a great gift for that special occasion. \$25 for 1 year, \$45 for 2 years. All members are asked to recruit a new member, from your lodge, Senior Community, VFW, American Legion, Fleet Reserve, etc.

Help Wanted

NLHS is currently in need of a full time Treasurer, gift shop personnel, and Tour Guides. If interested, write to NLHS, PO Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733

New Members

Barbara Wirkus, Kenilworth, NJ
Norman Wedgewood, Summerfield, FL

Thank you for joining NLHS, and be sure that you are welcome to join in any of our events, and take part in our many activities.

Election Notice

As per our bylaws our membership is hereby notified that the position of first VP and two (1) year Trustee positions will be voted on at our 1-11-18 meeting. If interested contact Nominating Chair Tom Kuchler at 609-567-4082.

Picnic August 26, 2017

Thanks to all who attended our NLHS 8-26-17 Picnic at JB Lakehurst Freedom Park. The weather was picture perfect, thanks to Don, Nick, Kevin, Adele and Marion for your help. Our chef Kevin Pace did a great job with the grill and store shopping. As the years go by our attendance has dwindled, this year's turnout was extremely sparse. Needless to say this for members event (2017 sparse turnout) poses a serious concern for continuation of this event. Thanks to all who brought covered dishes, desserts, etc.

Gift Shop

Our gift shop is fully stocked with many new items. Check our website for a listing. Many items, including an NLHS membership, would make great gifts for that special occasion (Anniv., birthday, etc...). **NLHS now accepts Pay Pal orders, see the web site for details.**

A New Look

Your current newsletter is the second newsletter printed by Central Printing, Toms River. Many thanks to Linda, Lenny & Todd Adams. We are in the process of updating our E Files, therefore all members will receive a mailed copy. Let us hear your comments. Write to us at NLHS, P.O. Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733 or Email at NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.NET

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 13th Wednesday – General Members Meeting
7 PM Cathedral of Air - Rt. 547
- Sept. 16th Saturday – Officers and Trustees
Meeting 9:30 AM Bldg. 150
- Sept. 20th Wednesday – Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 29th Friday – Yom Kippur
- Oct. 6th Friday – Navy Ball, Harrah's Atlantic City
- Oct. 9th Monday - Columbus Day
- Oct. 31st Tuesday – Halloween
- Nov. 3rd Friday – Capt. Bergen, USN Change of
Command 10AM Westfield Hangar
- Nov. 7th Tuesday – Election Day -
Voting for Governor
- Nov. 11th Saturday – Veteran's Day & Happy Birthday
Edna Weigand & Carol Montgomery
- Nov. 18th Saturday – Officers & Trustees Meeting
- Nov. 23rd Thursday – Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7th Thursday – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 12th Tuesday – Hanukkah
- Dec. 16th Saturday – End of Year Officers &
Trustees Meeting 9:30 AM
- Dec. 24th Sunday – Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25th Monday – Merry Christmas
- Dec. 26th Tuesday – Kwanzaa
- Dec. 31st Sunday – New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1st Monday – Happy New Year
- Jan. 10th Wednesday – Members Meeting &
Elections 7 PM Cathedral of Air
- Jan. 15th Monday – Martin Luther King Day

Happy Birthday

Where have the years gone! My dearest Edna, wishing you the best of Health & Peace, your love and caring ways are and will be always treasured & remembered.

Find WWII-era USS Indianapolis wreckage

WASHINGTON - Civilian researchers say they have located the wreck of the USS Indianapolis, the World War II heavy cruiser that played a critical role in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima before being struck by Japanese torpedoes. The sinking of the Indianapolis remains the Navy's single worst loss at sea.

The expedition crew of Research Vessel Petrel, which is owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, says it located the wreckage of the Indianapolis on the floor of the North Pacific Ocean, more than 18,000 feet (5,500 meters) below the surface, the U.S. Navy said in a news release Saturday.

The Indianapolis, with 1,196 sailors and Marines on board, was sailing the Philippine Sea between Guam and Leyte Gulf when two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine struck just after midnight on July 30, 1945. It sank in 12 minutes, killing about 300. Survivors were left in the water, most of them with only life jackets.

There was no time to send a distress signal, and four days passed before a bomber on routine patrol happened to spot the survivors in the water. By the time rescuers arrived, a combination of exposure, dehydration, drowning and constant shark attacks had left only one-fourth of the ship's original number alive. Documentaries and movies, most recently "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage" (2016) starring Nicolas Cage, have recounted the crew's horror-filled days at sea. The sinking also was a plot point in the Steven Spielberg blockbuster "Jaws" (1975), with the fictitious survivor Capt. Quint recounting the terror he felt.

Gold Star Mothers

In 1928, Grace Darling Seibold, whose son was killed during WWI, founded American Gold Star Mothers, a support and service organization for women who lost their sons in the line of duty. In 1936, President Roosevelt established American Gold Star Mother's Day (Sept. 24 this year).

"We believe that we turn our sorrow into service and that we continue the service that our fallen sons and

daughters never got to finish," says Candy Martin, the organization's former national president, whose son, 1st Lt. Thomas Martin, was killed in Iraq in 2007.

\$12.9B Carrier is Commissioned 'Shake with fear:' Enemies of U.S. should take heed, Trump declares

President Donald Trump helped commission the USS Gerald R. Ford on Saturday, July 23, 2017, and declared that the most advanced aircraft carrier to join the Navy will cause America's enemies to "shake with fear" whenever they see its form cutting across the horizon.

"I hereby place United States Ship Gerald R. Ford in commission," Trump said after delivering a speech in which he praised the U.S. military and the American labor that went into building the 100,000 ton, \$12.9 billion warship.

"May God bless and guide this warship and all who shall sail in her," Trump said.

Trump also called on Congress to approve higher military spending so the U.S. can build "the best equipment."

He criticized what he called a lack of investment in new military technology and "a shortfall in military readiness" under the previous administration.

Trump called on Congress "to do its job and pass the budget," which increases funding for the military.

He called the new carrier "a 100,000-ton message to the world" of American military might.

He was followed shortly by Susan Ford Bales, the ship's sponsor and daughter of the 38th president, whom the ship honors.

"There is no one, absolutely no one, who would be prouder of the commissioning of this mighty ship than the president of the United States, Gerald R. Ford," she said. "I am honored to give the command: 'Officers and crew of the United States Gerald R. Ford, man our ship and bring her to life.'

Within minutes, the captain was informed that "the ship is manned and ready and reports for duty to the fleet." Trump arrived aboard the carrier's steamy flight deck by the Marine One presidential helicopter and was

greeted by Defense Secretary James Mattis and other officials.

Construction on the USS Ford started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy has attributed the delays and budget overruns to the ship's state-of-the-art systems and technology, including electromagnetic launch systems and drones that will replace steam catapults.

Honored Tuskegee Airman and Jersey native dies at 96

By Cindy Capitani for The Star Ledger

George Watson Sr. of Lakewood, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen has died. He was 96.

Tech Sgt. Watson died of complications due to pneumonia on June 19, according to his obituary.

During his 26 years of service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force., he was assigned to stations in Germany, England, Turkey and McGuire Air Force Base in Burlington County, his grandson Bryce Watson said.

His duties during World War II included delivering aircraft parts to the "Red Tails," the nickname for the African-American airmen responsible for flying escort for heavy bombers. His grandson said he was injured while on guard duty, but later returned to service.

After retiring, Tech Sgt. Watson managed the Greenwood Cemetery in Lakewood, his grandson said. He also made a lifelong commitment to talking to schools and community groups about the Tuskegee Airmen.

Two films were made about the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, and Watson was interviewed and credited for his contribution to George Lucas' 2012 movie "Red Tails." Experts estimate that fewer than 200 of the airmen are still alive.

"He was very excited when Lucas Films came to town," his grandson said.

Watson waited decades to receive long-overdue honors in recognition of his service. In 2007, he was one of the Tuskegee Airmen at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol rotunda to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2010, he was awarded the Purple Heart, which he received from Rep. Chris Smith (R-4th Dist.) in a ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

"I was dismayed to learn of the passing of George Watson," Smith said. "You read about Mr. Watson in history books. He faced Nazis. He faced racism in the military. He overcame. He helped make the world a better place."

"It was humbling for me to be in the presence of one of the legendary Tuskegee Airman," Smith said.

Mr. Watson was born on Aug. 10, 1920 in Wildwood, to Jack and Anna Watson.

He played football for Lakewood High School and was recently inducted into its football hall of fame.

In 1942, he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. He was sent to Tuskegee to help form the 332nd Fighter Group and the 96th Air Service Group, where he served as a supply sergeant and support personnel.

Watson said he joined the service because his mother was scrubbing floors to make a living. The Army was a way "to make a better life for himself."

NLHS extends Sympathy & Condolences to the Watson family.

Army breaks ground on \$20M reserve center

The US Army Reserve broke ground this weekend on an 87,000-square-foot, \$20 million facility to train and support soldiers at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The building scheduled to open in January 2019, will have the latest in training and administrative resources, from classrooms and a learning center, to a library and weapon simulator, the Army said.

It will be home to about 600 Army reservists in 15 base units currently occupying about a dozen base facilities.

This facility represents the next step towards insuring that America's Army Reserve remains the most capable, combat ready and lethal federal reserve force in the history of the nation," said Maj. Gen. Troy Kok, commanding general of the Army Reserves 99th Regional Support Command.

The 99th command supports 44,000 Army reservists who live and serve and 13 northeastern states.

“This facility matters because it will support, encourage, train and help enable our reserve component to be ready when they are called on for service,” Tom MacArthur (R-3rd Dist.) said in a statement.

U.S. destroyer sails near disputed island

An American guided-missile destroyer sailed near a disputed island in the South China Sea on Sunday, a U.S. defense official said, marking the second such operation since President Trump took office.

The Japan-based USS Stethem, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, sailed within 12 miles of Triton Island, a small landmass in the Paracel Islands chain. Fox News first reported on the incident.

Triton Island is claimed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan. In May, a U.S. destroyer sailed well within 12 miles of Mischief Reef, a man-made island in the Spratly Islands. During Sunday’s operation, a Chinese warship tailed the USS Stethem, Fox News reported, though it is unclear how close the ship came to the American vessel.

The 12-mile line is the internationally recognized distance that separates the shores of a sovereign nation from international waters. The United States has routinely conducted voyages within this 12-mile limit around islands in the South China Sea as a message to countries such as China, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Air Force cuts nuclear forces

The Air Force is quickly shrinking its deployed force of land-based nuclear missiles as part of a holdover Obama administration plan to comply with an arms control treaty with Russia.

The reductions are nearing completion despite President Donald Trump’s argument that the treaty gives Moscow an unfair advantage in nuclear firepower.

The reduction to 400 missiles from 450 is the first for the intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, force in a decade. The Air Force says the latest cut in Minuteman 3 missiles will be completed in April, leaving the deployed ICBM arsenal at its smallest size since the early 1960s.

In 2014, President Barack Obama’s administration announced the planned ICBM reduction to tailor the overall nuclear force to the new START accord that the U.S. and Russia sealed in 2010.

House reaches deal to greatly expand GI Bill

House Republicans and Democrats have reached initial agreement on the biggest expansion of college aid for military veterans in a decade, removing a 15-year time limit to tap into benefits and boosting money for thousands in the National Guard and Reserve.

The deal being announced early Thursday is a sweeping effort to fill coverage gaps in the post-9/11 GI Bill amid a rapidly changing job market. Building on major legislation passed in 2008 that guaranteed a full-ride scholarship to any in-state public university— or the cash amount for private college students similar to the value of a scholarship at a state college – the bill gets veterans added flexibility to enroll in college later in life. Veterans would get additional payments if they complete science, technology and engineering courses.

For a student attending a private university, the additional benefits to members of the Guard and Reserve could mean thousand \$2,300 a year more in tuition than they are receiving now, plus a bigger housing allowance.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said the measure was a major effort to modernize the GI Bill, better positioning veterans for jobs after their service in a technologically sophisticated U.S. military.

Senate bill allocates \$158M for new tanker aircraft at joint base

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst would receive \$158 million under the Senate’s military construction spending bill for the 12 months beginning Oct. 1.

Most of the funding in the legislation, which still needs to pass the full Senate and be reconciled with a House version, would go to support the new KC-46A refueling tankers being stationed at the base, the state’s second-largest employer.

“Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is indispensable to both our national security and to New Jersey’s economy, and this important funding will help ensure its vitality for years to come,” said U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.).

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) called the legislation “another step forward to bring jobs and economic opportunity” to the state.

President Donald Trump's fiscal 2018 budget included \$269 million for hangars at the Joint Base and Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., which also was selected to house the KC-46 planes.

The Joint Base will get the tankers first, which will replace the KC-10s now stationed there. The Air Force announced in January that the joint base's 305th Air Mobility Wing eventually would house 24 KC-46 tankers. They are scheduled to arrive by 2021, with the second group going to Travis in 2023.

The House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th Dist.) is on track to allocate \$2.4 billion to buy 15 of the aircraft. The House Armed Services Committee wants to spend even more, requesting funding for 17 of the planes in legislation setting defense policy for the next fiscal year.

The Senate bill also includes \$11.5 million to expand the airfield parking apron to accommodate aircraft for the Marine Forces Reserve at the base.

117 Years of Airship History

STADT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 10.07.2017
DER OBERBÜRGERMEISTER

NLHS INC
President Carl Jablonski

Dear President Jablonski,

When Graf von Zeppelin first talked about building an airship that could fly across the Atlantic, no one believed in his idea. He was laughed at by many. Though, the pioneer proved them all wrong.

The first Zeppelin, which was built in Friedrichshafen, took off in 1900. 24 years later, Graf von Zeppelin not only fulfilled his dreams, but exceeded all expectations. As the Zeppelin LZ 126 landed in Lakehurst, modern air transport was born. The peak of airship

era and intercontinental transportation was reached in 1929, when the LZ 127 'Graf Zeppelin' completed its trip around the world successfully.

Unfortunately, the era of the Zeppelin was transient. With the disaster of the LZ 129 'Hindenburg' on May 6, 1937, the production of airships was stopped and the transportation of passengers prohibited. The pictures of the flames and the eruption, which led to the crash of the Zeppelin, will stay with us forever. This year, we commemorated the victims of the 'Hindenburg' tragedy for the 80th time.

Lakehurst however, will not solely be remembered as the site of the fatal 'Hindenburg' accident, but as a pivotal harbor for all transatlantic Zeppelin flights. I wish you the best of luck in preserving this unique heritage.

Therefore, please accept our gifts as a tribute to airship history, conjoining Friedrichshafen and Lakehurst. The pictures and the model Zeppelin of the 'Hindenburg' represent the past and the glass model of the Zeppelin NT (New Technology) a new era of airships in the spirit of Graf von Zeppelin.

Kind regards from Friedrichshafen, the home of Zeppelin, to the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.

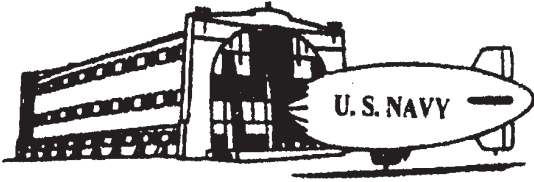


Andreas Brand

Welcome Aboard!

NLHS welcomes Captain Brian Wagner, USAF, officer in charge of JBMDL Public Affairs Office. Captain Wagner's last assignment was Florida.





NAVY LAKEHURST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(NJ NONPROFIT CORP)

P.O. BOX 328 LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY 08733-0328

THE AIRSHIP

A smaller illustration of a U.S. Navy blimp, similar to the one in the top left, flying through a stylized, cloud-like graphic that forms part of the title.

Join NLHS as we say
Happy Birthday
to the USN
at the October 6th
Navy Ball at
Harrah's, Atlantic City.
NLHS is sponsoring
a table.
\$75 per person
732-244-8861

NLHS OFFICERS

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Ron Montgomery
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Charles Bish

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Elizabeth H. Rossell
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Corresponding Secretary Thomas Kuchler

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NLHS Base Tours Membership Director Donald Adams

NLHC & Ready Room Director Ron Montgomery

Asst NLHC & Ready Room Director Pete Lovering

NLHC Curators Kevin Pace & Ron Stryshak

Legal Counsel Thomas Kunz **PAO** Elizabeth H. Rossell

Gift Shop Manager Don Adams

NLHS Photographer Max Frei

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