

# THE AIRSHIP



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

<http://www.nlhs.com>

Jan 2017

## Hindenburg 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events – May 5 & 6, 2017

Membership Meeting, Jan 11, 2017 – 7PM Location: Cathedral of Air Chapel, Rt. 547, Lakehurst

### NLHS OFFICERS

#### President

Carl Jablonski

#### Vice Presidents

Don Adams  
Ron Montgomery  
Rick Zitarosa  
Charles Bish

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Fr. Emmett Carroll OFM CONV.

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#### NLHS Base Tours Membership Director

Donald Adams

#### NLHC & Ready Room Director

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Pete Lovering

#### NLHC Curators

Kevin Pace  
Ron Stryshak

#### Legal Counsel

Thomas Kunz

#### PAO

Elizabeth H Rossell

#### Gift Shop Manager

Robert Hull  
Sharon Adams

#### NLHS Photographer

Max Frei

Webmaster: Tara Cunningham

### How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

### View from the Top Presidents Message

As the year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on a very busy and productive 2016. Our tours, walk-ins (military personnel), outside speaking engagements and our gift shop saw a very busy year! The awarding of several grants allowed us to upgrade our brochures and better promote our activities. As always the coming year, 2017, will be very busy and challenging. Our most important event is the 80th Anniversary of the Hindenburg Disaster. **(See page 2 for more information.)** The Annual Battle of Midway Observance, several change of commands and retirements, annual Navy Ball and, of course, our tours will keep NLHS very active. A very sincere thank you and Seasons Greetings to all for your support of NLHS and your President.

### Meeting Notice

**In order to increase attendance and attract new members, our general membership meetings are now held at the off base Cathedral of the Air Chapel, Rt. 547, Lakehurst, NJ.** By using this location the need to fill out an attendance coupon is eliminated.

Our first general membership meeting will be on Wednesday Jan 11, 2017 at 7PM at our new location base chapel Cathedral of Air, Rt. 547 (same location as last meeting). This meeting is also our Annual Election for Officers and Trustees. All NLHS incumbent Officers and Trustees have agreed to be on the ballot for re-election. Any active member wishing to vie for an officer or trustee position should call the Nominating Committee, Tom Kuchler at 609-567-4082 or Don Adams at 732-818 7520.

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1	<u>Meeting Notice</u>
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	<u>Wall of Fame Plaque</u>

(By-Laws state to be on the slate your dues must be up-to-date and you have been a member for 1yr or more and actively involved in our tours and other activities.) Light refreshments will be served.

### Officers Meeting

Our next Officers & Trustee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Feb 18, 2017 at 9:30 AM, Bldg 150. Room 102 at Joint Base Lakehurst. All officers and trustees are expected to attend.

### Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for Oct, Nov and early Dec for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 700 hours. Many thanks to our volunteers for your support: Don Adams, Carl Larsen, Rick Zitarosa, Frank Dennis, Nick Rakoncza, Ron Montgomery, Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak, Frank

Smith, Kevin Mulligan, Pete Lovering, Pete Murphy, Kevin Pace, Elizabeth Rossell, Peter Larkin, Susan K. Koller, Roger Jordan, Jim Morano, Robert Hull, Sharon Adams and Carl Jablonski.

## Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. Our tours will be given every Wednesday and every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides.

## Special VIP Tours

NLHS recently was honored to provide a private tour at the request of JB M-D-L for Lt. Col. Jurg Schottli, Officer Superior, Brigade Blindee 1 of the Swiss Army. The Lt. Col. is a Military History enthusiast and really was amazed by our collection and displays. (By the way, many thanks for the kind gift of Delicious Swiss Chocolates.)

At the request of JB M-D-L, NLHS also did a private tour for Associate Professor Gary Halada, Director Engineering Science, Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. Prof Halada filmed our displays and artifacts for a special project being undertaken by Stony Brook University.

Many thanks to Don Adams and Nick Raconza for assisting your president in conducting these private tours.

## President's Agenda

Several Members have asked "What does the President do?" Here's a brief summary of recent events:

- oversee daily operation
- attend JB M-D-L Commander Meetings
- pick up mail and make bank deposits
- 3 outside speaking requests
- staff meetings, tours, gift shop management

- attended 7 retirements and Change of Commands
- visited Sturgeon Bay, Bayonne
- attend Thanksgiving and Christmas tree lighting services
- Navy Ball Committee
- meet with XO and CO JB Lakehurst
- meetings with JB M-D-L PAO and Protocol
- pay bills, write checks in capacity as acting treasurer assisted by Tom Kuchler
- meeting with accountant for tax reports
- answer many calls and letters
- write newsletter
- serve on JB and Ocean County Military Affairs and Tourism committees (3-4 meetings a month)
- plus many other activities

## 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.**

## USS Arizona Book

NLHS has available order forms for a new book – "Second to the Last to Leave USS Arizona 12-7-41, The Lauren F Bruner Story". Mr. Bruner is one of only five USS Arizona crew members still alive today. See the web site for details.

## Dues Renewal Notices

VP Don Adams and our Membership Chairperson will be mailing out 2017 renewal notices to NLHS members. Dues are \$25 for one year or \$45 for 2 years. All members are encouraged to remit your payments promptly and please verify any address changes. By the way, a gift membership to a family member or friend would make a great Christmas Stocking Stuffer.

## Retirements

NLHS wishes Patricia Oddardo and Steve Rudowski a fond farewell as they retire from JB M-D-L.

**Patty Oddardo** and NLHS have had a long term friendship for over 25 years and has assisted NLHS with our tours and special events while serving as a Public Affairs Officer at Joint Base Lakehurst. Patty's last day will be Dec 23, 2016. Patty will be ending her days at Lakehurst after serving the Navy as a Command Evaluation Specialist.

**Steve Rudowski**, JB M-D-L Safety Officer, will be feted at a retirement luncheon on Thursday, Jan 19, 2017. Steve is also a long term NLHS member as well as a strong supporter and friend of NLHS and has always been there for us through the years. Steve has served for many years in the Air National Guard.

Fair Winds and Calm Seas are wished to Patty and Steve as they retire.

## Taps

The Officers, Trustees and members of NLHS extend condolences to Tom & Marion Kuchler and the entire Kuchler family upon the loss of Tom's beloved Mother, Dorothy, on Nov 8, 2016 at age 90. If you would like to send a condolence card, the address is: Tom Kuchler 67-E Fleming Pike Hammonon, NJ 08037

## Hindenburg 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner 5 May 2017

**Here's the program for Friday, May 5, 2017 and Saturday, May 6, 2017**

**On Friday, May 5, 2017**, NLHS will sponsor an 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Clarion Hotel, Rt. 37 E and Mule Rd, Toms River. Cocktails will be served from 6PM to 7PM (Cash bar). Dinner will be served at 7PM. Hindenburg artifacts will be on display and there will be featured guest speakers, including Dr. Horst Schirmer. His father designed the aeronautics for

DLZ 129 and Dr. Schirmer flew on the DLZ 129 as a child at 5yrs old on a test flight.

Tickets for this event are \$50.00 per person. A reservation Form with menu choices is printed in this newsletter. Make checks for tickets payable to NLHS and send to Carl Jablonski 240 Spray Ave, Beachwood, NJ 08722.

The Clarion is offering a special room rate of \$101./00 per night per room (plus sales tax). For reservations call 732-341-2400 and ask for the Hindenburg Reservation Package.

**On Saturday, May 6, 2017**, we will conduct our annual Memorial Service at the Crash Site at JB Lakehurst starting at 6:45PM. An attendance coupon is printed in this newsletter for your convenience. Your access to the Memorial Service is dependent upon clearing a strict security check based on the information you provide on the enclosed attendance coupon.

## **Election Notice**

Elections will be held at the Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017 membership meeting. The following positions are up for election:

President – 2 yr term  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – 2 yr term  
3 – 2 yr term Trustees  
3 – 1 yr term Trustees

Our Nominating Chairmen are Tom Kuchler and Don Adams.

## **USCG Update**

Our NLHS sponsored vessel, USCGC Sturgeon Bay, entered the shipyard in Maryland this past November 2016 for a 1 year refit. The Sturgeon Bay is expected to return to Bayonne in October 2017. Lt. John Forster, USCG, CO and his crew are currently trailered at Bayonne and are crewing up with the other Bayonne USCG vessels as needed.

## **NLHS Hosts Meeting**

On Tuesday, Dec 20, 2016, NLHS hosted Tim Hart, Director OC Heritage and Historical Committee, and his group at 6PM in Hangar One for a meeting and tours. Light refreshments were provided by NLHS.

## **Oceanport Garden Club Rededicates Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**

The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on Route 36 in West Long Branch was recently rededicated at a ceremony organized by the Oceanport Garden Club. The marker, which had originally been located on the grounds of the motor vehicle office on Route 36, was relocated this past June to a more accessible location at the intersection of Route 36 and Monmouth Road.

The ceremony took place on Saturday, October 1, and featured the ROTC Color Guard from Long Branch High School, as well as a large contingent of veterans from local VFW posts. Past State Commander (VFW Post 2226) Manny Almeida gave the keynote remarks while Chaplain Lt. Colonel USA Retired Wayne Smith delivered the invocation and benediction. Club member Sue Sherrill, a WAC veteran from World War II, dedicated the Marker.

Oceanport Garden Club President Christina Grimley thanked the Club members and New Jersey Department of Transportation officials for helping to move the memorial, plant and maintain its present site.

A reception was held following the ceremony at the Old First United Methodist Church Hall in West Long Branch. **The reception featured a display of vintage uniforms of all branches of the armed forces, on loan from the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.**

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program was begun in 1944 to honor all members of the armed services. Currently there are 35 sites in New Jersey and approximately 2,800 in the United States.

## **Explosive device found on school grounds remnant of military base**

Officials have detonated an explosive device found at the site of a former military installation in Gloucester County, local police confirmed Thursday night.

The device was an old piece of military ordnance found on the grounds of Gloucester County Christian School, located on Golf Club Road near Barnsboro Road, explained Mantua Police Chief Rodney Sawyer.

Sawyer stressed that this was not a terrorist incident and that no one was injured.

Bomb squads from Camden and Gloucester counties responded to the scene and a team from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst were called to assist. Members of Camden County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad performed a controlled detonation of the softball-sized device, described as a projectile from an M203 grenade launcher.

A crew clearing ground in a wooded area for a nature trail found the ordnance around 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sawyer said. While the school day had already ended, there were a handful of kids in after-school programs and on sports fields. They were immediately evacuated as crews responded to the scene.

"At no time was there a threat to the children," Sawyer said.

The device was found a few hundred yards from the main school building. Crews inspected the area to ensure there was no other ammunition and returned Friday morning to continue searching.

The site is part of a former Nike missile base. Founders of the Christian school purchased the property in 1964, according to the school website.

## **Effort to recognize World War II spies hung up in Congress**

Spies don't work for fame or acclaim. But after 75 years, the men and women who served behind the enemy lines in Nazi Germany and the Pacific theater during World War II wouldn't mind some recognition.

Legislation to award the spies the Congressional Gold Medal has passed the Senate and has more than 300 sponsors in the House, yet the bill is being held up by House Republicans, who recently enacted rules that require a special waiver to grant the medal to groups of people.

"I would be extremely proud to get a gold medal for what we did for our country," said Frank Gleason, 96, one of the few remaining veterans of the Office of Strategic Services, the World War II-era forerunner to the CIA. "What we did was a little exciting."

The holdup frustrates a group of veterans whose numbers continue to dwindle as time marches on.

"We're all in our mid 90s," said Irv Refkin, 95, who was recruited by OSS because of his German language abilities, which he used to gather intelligence. "We're not going to be here that long."

Refkin, of Hillcrest, California, said he called the office of House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, to lobby for the bill, and talked to "some kid intern."

"I asked him, did he know what OSS was? He didn't know. People haven't heard of us," Refkin said.

Of course, the nature of spy craft is secretive, so for many years the stories of the OSS were classified. It was formed in 1942 and at one point employed almost 13,000 men and women, recruited from all branches of the military. Famous members include actor Sterling Hayden and director John Ford, baseball player Mo Berg, chef Julia Child, future CIA director William Casey.

Estimates of how many OSS members are still alive range from a few dozen to 100.

Refkin recalled a mission to Germany where he had to gain

intelligence on the Nazis' plans for defending against what ultimately became the D-Day invasion. Refkin, dressed as a German corporal, rode the train behind enemy lines with forged documents. He posed as an office cleaner at German headquarters in Hamburg.

"Nobody looked at a corporal. You carry a garbage bag, put some smelly stuff in it, and they waive you right through," Refkin said. "Nobody pays any attention to the guy emptying the ashtrays."

Gleason's group was tasked with halting the Japanese advance into China. Gleason, who grew up in Pennsylvania coal country and knew about explosives, helped detonate bridges, railroad tracks and anything else.

"We just blew stuff up left and right," he said.

Patrick O'Donnell, a military historian who has written several books on OSS missions, said he has interviewed hundreds of members. They tell stories that sound almost implausible, and when he verifies them in old mission reports, "You find out that it's completely understated."

O'Donnell said the CIA traces its beginnings to the OSS, and the Navy Seals have their roots in the OSS' Maritime Unit.

"They changed the face of World War II," he said. "You'd be very hard pressed to find a smaller group of individuals who made such a profound difference in the history of modern American warfare."

The recognition being sought, the Congressional Gold Medal, has been awarded to several World War II-era units in recent years.

## **House acts to protect N.J.'s McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst from move to close military bases**

The U.S. House approved legislation Friday to prevent a new round of military base closings, offering another layer of protection for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The final version of the National Defense Authorization Act blocked President Barack Obama's request to

close additional bases in an attempt to pare the Pentagon budget of unneeded facilities.

Obama, who visited the installation in December 2014, had proposed a new round military base closings as part of his budget for the current fiscal year.

The joint base also is protected by a provision in last year's legislation preventing the Pentagon from moving or retiring any of the KC-10 refueling tanker planes stationed there.

The vote was 375-34. The measure still must be approved by the Senate and signed into law by the president. The bill authorizes \$619 billion in defense spending for current fiscal year. Reps. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6th Dist.) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th Dist.) were among the handful of lawmakers voting no.

Pallone said congressional Republicans not only refused to approve a resolution authorizing the use of force against the Islamic State, but raided the account used to fund those military operations for other programs that the Pentagon didn't want.

"This misappropriation of funds is both disingenuous and harmful to our troops," Pallone said.

Watson Coleman spokesman James Gee did not respond to a request for comment.

Outgoing Rep. Scott Garrett (R-5th Dist.) did not vote.

## **Earle naval station may let civilians rent homes, report says**

Civilians might soon be able to rent a home inside Naval Weapons Station Earle.

Though state Sen. Jennifer Beck (R-Monmouth) and other officials oppose the plan, the station's commanding officer Capt. Jay Steingold told News 12 New Jersey he's "supremely confident" the security plan is sufficient.

Prospective renters would have to undergo two background checks.

Of the base's 89 family-style homes, 22 are unoccupied and available for rent, according to TwoRiverTimes.com. The homes are either three or four bedrooms and would rent for \$2,400 a

month, the report said.

Renters would be restricted to certain areas of the 12,000 acre property.

Some state and local officials said they were against the plan because the base stores weapons used on warships.

The Navy says 3,000 civilians live on bases across the country.

**2017 Calendar of Events**

**Jan 1, 2017** – Happy New Year

**Wed, Jan 11** – NLHS General membership meeting 7PM – Base Chapel Cathedral of Air, Rt. 547

**Mon, Jan 16** – Martin Luther King Observance (Federal Holiday)

**Fri, Jan 20** – Presidential Inauguration Day

**Sat, Feb 4** – Happy Birthday Don Adams

**Sat, Feb 18** – Officers meeting 9:30 AM (usual location)

**Mon, Feb 20** – Presidents Day (Federal Holiday)

**Wed, Mar 1** – Ash Wednesday

**Fri, Mar 17** – St. Patrick's Day

**Sat, Apr 1** – Beware April Fools Day

**Sat, Apr 15** – Officers Meeting

**Wed, Apr 19** – General Meeting at Base Chapel (same as Jan 11 location)

**Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah  
Happy Kwanza  
Happy New Year  
To all**

**Navy Lakehurst – Historical Society  
80<sup>th</sup> Hindenburg Anniversary Dinner  
Friday, May 5, 2017  
Clarion Hotel, 815 Route 37 West at Mule Road  
Cash Bar: 6-7 p.m. Dinner: 7 p.m.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#Attending \_\_\_\_\_ at \$50.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

Menu: Fruit Cup and Caesar Salad

**Please choose one of the following entrees:**

Chicken Francaise \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_

Peppercorn Crusted Tilapia \_\_\_\_\_

(All entrees served with vegetable, potato, rolls, butter, dessert, coffee, tea)

**Please return this form with your check made payable to Navy Lakehurst**

**Historical Society to:**

Carl Jablonski

240 Spray Avenue

Beachwood, NJ 08722-3936

**RESERVATION DEADLINE - April 23, 2017**

NLHS STORE ITEMS - See Website for pictures of items [www.nlhs.com](http://www.nlhs.com)

Item #	Category	Description	Price
511	Patches	Lakehurst Decal	\$2.00
706	Patches	NAS Lakehurst Patch or Naval Support Activity Patch	\$7.00
708	Patches	ZP-1 Patch	\$7.00
701	Patches	Airship Squadron Two Patch	\$7.00
703	Patches	Blimp Squadron 12 Patch	\$7.00
709	Patches	ZP-14 Patch	\$7.00
702	Patches	Bayou Bomber Patch	\$7.00
704	Patches	Lambda Tau Alpha Patch	\$7.00
711	Patches	ZW-1 Patch: Early Warning Squadron Patch	\$7.00
710	Patches	ZP-3 Patch	\$7.00
801	Patches	Navy Lakehurst 90th Anniversary Patch	\$7.00
96	Ballcaps	NAS Lakehurst ballcap	\$20.00
07	Ballcaps	USS Macon (ZRS-5) ballcap	\$20.00
98	Ballcaps	Hindenburg (D-LZ129) ballcap	\$20.00
99	Ballcaps	USS Shenandoah(ZR-1) ballcap	\$20.00
100	Ballcaps	USS Akron (ZRS-4) ballcap	\$20.00
101	Ballcaps	USS Los Angeles (ZR-3) ballcap	\$20.00
11	Books	Fleet Angels of Lakehurst	\$15.00
95	Books	Guide to over 900 Aircraft Museums - USA and Canada	\$10.00
205	Books	Images of America: Naval Air Station Lakehurst	\$20.00
209	Books	The Airship Experience	\$20.00
213	Books	US Navy Airships	\$20.00
212	Books	US Army Airships 1908-1942	\$20.00
201	Books	American Airship Bases and Facilities	\$25.00
216	Books	Aweigh and Up	\$20.00
217	Books	The Van Dyk Collection of LTA Plans & Drawings	\$25.00
218	Books	Airships vs Submarines	\$24.00
404	Lithographs	USS Shenandoah ZR-1 (Daughter of the Stars)	\$30.00
406	Lithographs	Hindenburg Final Moments (color)	\$30.00
510	Mugs	Hindenburg Coffee Mug	\$6.00
85	Mugs	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Mug	\$6.00
106	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst T-shirt (Blue) Sm – XL 2XL -3XL-(\$20.00)	\$18.00
102	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Golf Shirt (Dk Blue) Med – XL 2XL -3XL-(\$29.00)	\$24.00
103	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M – XL 2xl-3xl (\$33.00)	\$30.00
104	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M–XL 2xl-3xl (\$29.00)	\$24.00
105	Shirts	Blimp T-shirt (grey) Blimp image - M-XL 2xl-3xl (\$20)	\$18.00
301	DVD	The Blimp Goes to War Again (color)	\$35.00
308	DVD	Airships Fight a Cold War (color)	\$25.00
302	DVD	Airship Handling (B&W)	\$15.00
303	DVD	LS-129 Hindenburg (B&W)	\$15.00
800	Military Posters	6 different choices see website for information	\$12.00
307	Sculpture	Hangar One Wood Sculpture	\$18.00
306	Sculpture	Hindenburg Wood Sculpture	\$18.00

**POSTAGE & HANDLING**

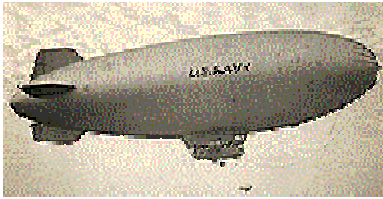
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For orders \$51.00 to \$100.00 add \$15.00





# Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, INC

*Preserving the Heritage of Naval Air Station Lakehurst*

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corp.

The Navy Lakehurst Historical Society would like to offer our members and the general public, the opportunity to memorialize a loved ones service to our county with a permanent brass nameplate. These plates will be mounted on the wall of the museum, midway between the floor and the ceiling. Each nameplate will be seen by visitors who come to the museum each year. It is a wonderful, yet inexpensive way, to insure your family member will be remembered in a setting befitting their service to our state and to the nation.

The donation cost of each brass plate is only \$50.00. Even this minimal cost is offset by the fact the museum is a 501-C(3) non-profit, enabling you to deduct the full cost when you file your income taxes.

Your donation serves two purposes. First, and most important, it serves to memorialize a family member who served this country in peacetime or in war. It also allows the museum to continue to grow and expand, insuring tomorrow's youth learn what the price of freedom is and WHO paid it.

Below are some samples of what can be put on the memorial plate:

Sgt. John Smith US Army Co. A 12 <sup>th</sup> Inf Rgt 5 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div European Theater - WWII	Maj. John Smith USAF – USAF Res 30 <sup>th</sup> Tac Ftr Sq 354 <sup>th</sup> Tac Ftr Wg Cold War	Capt. John Smith USAAF 705 <sup>th</sup> BMS 384 <sup>th</sup> BMB GRP Pacific Theatre – WWII
Cpl John Smith USMC 5 <sup>th</sup> Bn 7 <sup>th</sup> Marines Korean War	S/Sgt. John Smith USAF Air Nat Guard 132 <sup>nd</sup> FIS 101 <sup>st</sup> FIW Vietnam War	CPO Mary Smith US Navy USS IOWA Cold War

Please fill out the exact wording you'd like on the memorial plate. ( Please PRINT )

Name, rank & branch of service:

Unit Identification:

Time or area of service

To place an order, please call 732-244-8861 or mail your completed order from to:

NLHS PO Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733

ATTN: Memorial