

# THE AIRSHIP



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

<http://www.nlhs.com>

April – May 2017

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

Membership Meeting, Apr 19, 2017 – 7PM Location: Cathedral of Air Chapel, Rt. 547, Lakehurst

### NLHS OFFICERS

#### President

Carl Jablonski

#### Vice Presidents

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Ron Montgomery  
Rick Zitarosa  
Charles Bish

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Elizabeth H Rossell  
Marion Kuchler  
Peter Larkin  
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#### NLHC & Ready Room Director

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#### NLHC Curators

Kevin Pace  
Ron Stryshak

#### Legal Counsel

Thomas Kunz

#### PAO

Elizabeth H Rossell

#### Gift Shop Manager

Don Adams  
Sharon Adams

#### NLHS Photographer

Max Frei

#### Webmaster:

Web Alliance Inc, Toms River, NJ

### View from the Top Presidents Message

We are fast approaching the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1937 Hindenburg Crash at Lakehurst. Two events are planned: 1) a Dinner on May 5, 2017 at the Clarion Hotel, Toms River which is open to the public - tickets are \$50 per person and 2) on Saturday, May 6, 2017 our annual Memorial Service at the Crash Site, starting at 6:45PM (Please read enclosed news article for complete details.)

Dinner tickets are still available but are going fast, don't wait - order now. Send your order to NLHS, PO Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733.

### 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 general membership meeting will be on Wednesday April 19, 2017 at 7PM at our new location base chapel Cathedral of Air, Rt. 547 (same location as last meeting). Our guest speaker will be COL. Frederick Thaden, USAF, CO Joint Base M-D-L and 87<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing. Please join us as we bid farewell to COL Thaden prior to his June 20, 2017 Change of Command Ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

### Officers Meeting

Our next Officers & Trustee meetings are scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017 and Saturday, June

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | <u>President's Message</u>               |
| 1   | <u>Meeting Notice</u>                    |
| 1   | <u>Officers Meeting</u>                  |
| 1   | <u>Volunteer Hours</u>                   |
| 2   | <u>Tours</u>                             |
| 2   | <u>Gift Shop</u>                         |
| 2   | <u>Dues Renewal Notice</u>               |
| 2   | <u>New Tour Guides</u>                   |
| 2   | <u>Hindenburg 80<sup>th</sup> Anniv.</u> |
| 2   | <u>Ad Journal</u>                        |
| 2   | <u>Sick Bay</u>                          |
| 2   | <u>Best Wishes</u>                       |
| 2   | <u>New Members</u>                       |
| 2   | <u>Thank You</u>                         |
| 2-3 | <u>Families entertain CG Recruits</u>    |
| 3   | <u>Legislation saves Base</u>            |
| 3   | <u>New Tankers at Joint Base</u>         |
| 4   | <u>USS Enterprise Decommissioned</u>     |
| 4   | <u>Germany Homes Evacuated</u>           |
| 4   | <u>JB to build Solar Farm</u>            |
| 4   | <u>Chinese Aircraft Carrier</u>          |
|     | <u>80<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Coupon</u>     |
|     | <u>Hindenburg Event Coupon</u>           |

17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:30 AM, Bldg 150. Room 102 at Joint Base Lakehurst. All officers and trustees are urged to attend. At this time no meetings are scheduled for July or August 2017.

### Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for late December, January and February for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 625 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, Kevin Pace, Elizabeth Rossell, Peter Larkin, Susan K. Koller, Roger Jordan, Jim Morano, Robert Hull, Sharon Adams, Laurie Rowek, Pete Garvey and Carl Jablonski.

### How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

## 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 Rakonczka, 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.

## 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 has mailed 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. Thank you to all those who have already sent in their renewals. If you don't renew by April 30, 2017 your membership will be cancelled.

## New Tour Guides

NLHS welcomes Peter Garvey and Laurie Rowek. We wish you continued success and thank you for volunteering.

## 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.

## Ad Journal

NLHS is publishing a special 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ad Journal to help defray dinner expenses. Please see the order from which is included with this newsletter.

## Sick Bay

We wish Susan Koller a speedy recovery from recent surgery. Sue is our Jack of All Trades and has volunteered many days and hours to NLHS. Hurry back – we miss you.

## Best Wishes Robert & Tara

**Robert Hull** who has managed our Gift Shop so well for a number of years has taken a leave of absence. We miss you and hope you will return soon. Meanwhile Don & Sharon Adams continue to manage our Gift Shop.

NLHS has accepted the resignation of Trustee Tara Cunningham. We wish Tara well as she moves on.

## New Members

NLHS welcomes the following new members:

**Roger Spoelstra Pompton Lakes, NJ**  
**Denise M Stephenson Manchester, NJ**  
**Edward F Lagno Toms River, NJ**  
**Peter Garvey Toms River, NJ**  
**Louis Oschman Philadelphia, PA**  
**Timothy Earle Crescent City, FL**  
**Kevin Titus Falls Village, CT**  
**Joanne Wright Manchester, NJ**

## Thank You

Many thanks to Margaret & Dave Burgess for your many years of printing and mailing of our AIRSHIP Newsletter. We wish you well as you move on.

## More Thanks

Many thanks to D. H. and E. W. for your support and help to your president during these busy times.

## Families entertain Coast Guard Recruits

More than 300 U.S. Coast Guard recruits are being placed with dozens of families in New Jersey as part of an annual tradition known as Operation Fireside.

The American Red Cross for 33 years has united host families with the recruits at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Capt. Owen Gibbons, the commanding officer of the training center, says that the generosity of host families means that the recruits will be able to celebrate the holiday in a way they'll never forget.

The training center is the service's

only facility that transforms volunteers into enlisted personnel during a 53-day program of exercise, drills, and studies from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m., seven days a week. Many of the young adults are away from home for the first time.

### **House Legislation saves Joint Base**

The U.S. House protected Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst from a threatened round of budget cuts in legislation setting defense policy for the 12 months beginning Oct. 1.

The National Defense Authorization Act passed the House late Wednesday night. It rejected Former President Barack Obama's call for a new round of military base closings. Supporters of the joint base fear that the facility could be on the chopping block if the Pentagon begins closing facilities.

"As the largest employer in Southern New Jersey, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst remains a critical part of our region's economy and national defense," said Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-3rd Dist.), whose district includes the facility.

MacArthur and Rep. Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.), who both sit on the House Armed Services Committee, had won approval of a provision in last year's defense bill that prevents the Defense Department from retiring the KC-10 refueling tanker planes now housed at the joint base until Sept. 30, 2017.

This year's defense bill also requires a study of whether to build an East Coast site to intercept incoming ballistic missiles, as already exists in California and Alaska. The focus would be on the feasibility and cost of installing an Aegis Ashore system, which employees at Lockheed Martin's Moorestown facility work on.

The bill passed, 277-147, largely along party lines. All six House Republicans from New Jersey backed the measure while all six Democrats voted no.

The Democrats objected to a provision that they said could allow religiously affiliated groups receiving federal contracts to refuse to employ or deal with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals.

### **New tanker aircraft will keep Joint Base alive**

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst has been chosen to receive the Air Force's next generation of air refueling tankers, securing a future for the base that's been on the chopping block in the past.

The 24 new KC-46A Pegasus planes and the mission that comes with them are expected to ensure the economic viability of the base for decades to come, officials said Thursday. The Air Force will invest \$154 million in new construction at the Joint Base to accommodate the planes, which is good news for local construction jobs, said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who represents a large portion of the base.

The Boeing planes cost about \$150 million each and currently are being manufactured. The planes will be delivered to the base between 2020 and 2023, Smith said. More details about the impact and logistics would be available later, he said.

"Economically, it'll be a huge anchor for the sustainability and stability of the Joint Base," Smith said.

The base is the state's second-largest employer next to state government, employing about 42,000 people. Of those employed, more than 7,000 are civilian employees or contractors. The base is responsible for about \$3.4 billion of New Jersey's gross domestic product and has a \$6.9 billion economic impact annually.

"The Air Force has recognized the base's strategic value and has expressed confidence in its ability to be part of America's national security strategy for decades to come," said U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J. "We've fought to improve and expand the base for years. This cements the base as part of the national security structure of the nation."

The base's strategic location for reaching Africa, Europe and the Middle East is part what makes it ideal for the aircraft, officials said. In June, the Air Force announced the Joint Base was one of five finalists for the planes.

Travis Air Force Base in California also was selected to receive 24 of the planes. The first base to get the planes

will be McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas.

"This truly was a team effort, and because of that, over 42,000 New Jersey residents in my district who are employed at the base and the thousands of additional jobs in the surrounding area that rely on its survival can breathe easy knowing the Joint Base will remain our nation's premier air mobility installation by becoming the new home of the KC-46 air-to-air refueling tanker," Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J., said in a news release Thursday.

The Joint Base has been considered for Base Realignment and Closure, which is a process the Department of Defense uses when budgets need to be cut. For years, public officials have tried to add missions and expand the base to keep it from being eliminated.

"It's a significant new enhancement to the base," Smith said. "But most importantly, with the old (KC-10) tankers being mothballed, that would have diminished the viability of the base significantly."

The 52-foot tall KC-46s, which are 165 feet long and have a 157-foot wingspan, will eventually replace the aging KC-135 Stratotankers that have been in use for about 50 years, according to the Air Force. The Joint Base has Stratotankers, but they belong to the 108th Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

In 2015, KC-10 Extenders — larger refueling tankers that have been in use since 1981 — were set to be retired, which would have put the Joint Base at risk for closure. Thirty-two of the country's 59 KC10s are housed at the Joint Base, and they account for two-thirds of the base's flying mission.

The planes were saved in a final version of the nation's defense bill in 2015, but it's only a matter of time before they need to be replaced, officials said.

### **USS Enterprise Decommissioned 1<sup>st</sup> Nuclear Powered Aircraft Carrier**

During a recent ceremony at a Newport News shipyard, the USS

Enterprise was described as a "legendary" vessel that helped shape history.

It served more than 50 years, playing a role in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Affectionately called the "Big E," the ship retired from service in 2012. The Navy has spent the past few years defueling its reactors. The ship will eventually be taken apart and its metal recycled.

One of the Enterprise's original sailors was 77-year-old Ray Godfrey of Bigfork, Montana. He said the ceremony was emotional for him realizing that "she's done."

But he said, "We started something really good."

### **Homes evacuated over 2-ton bomb**

About 54,000 residents of the southern German city of Augsburg had to leave their homes on Sunday as authorities defused a 2-ton bomb, in what was described as the country's biggest evacuation since World War II.

It took explosives specialists about 4 hours to defuse the bomb, a police spokesman said.

After the evacuation, 900 police officers and hundreds of firefighters checked the area to make sure no one remained.

In addition to private residences, a hospital and more than a dozen facilities for the elderly were also evacuated.

### **Joint Base builds solar farm on Superfund site**

The largest solar farm at a military base in the northeastern United States is to be constructed over a federal Superfund site in the middle of the Pine Barrens.

The 16.5-megawatt solar energy project is in a remote section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

More than 51,000 solar panels are to be installed there and eventually produce more than 21,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy each year, enough to power more than 2,500 homes across Jersey Central Power & Light's electric grid, according to the Joint Base Public Affairs Office.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place Tuesday morning with Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, Adjutant General of New Jersey and Miranda A. Ballentine, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, who each delivered speeches about the merits of the project.

Also in attendance were U.S. Rep. Donald W. Norcross, D-NJ, state Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, D-Gloucester, and state Sen. James Beach, D-Camden.

The location is the 126-acre, capped Fort Dix Landfill Site outside Pemberton Township, in the southwest section of the base. In operation from 1950 to 1984, the landfill was used by what was then-Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base.

The area is considered a toxic dump as the military did not keep complete records of what it disposed there until 1980. Past practices suggest drums of liquid waste were buried, according to documents from the Environmental Protection Agency. In 1982 and 1984, ground water samples indicated contamination close to the landfill.

"Here we have taken a landfill and created this wonderful asset, not only for the (Joint) Base MDL, but also for the region, said Jim Gordon, president of Energy Management, Inc. of Boston. "This project is going to help stabilize energy costs, it's going to create a cleaner, healthier environment and there are going to be over 100 construction workers working (here) at the peak of construction.

"It's the largest solar military installation in the Northeast and it's the largest solar project on a landfill in the state of New Jersey," Gordon said.

The project is expected to take six months to be completed and is to be funded entirely by private capital in the "millions of dollars," he said, declining to reveal a specific amount for proprietary reasons.

"We're installing it and we're creating a new revenue stream for the base," he said.

"The Air Force will get \$250,000 per year for the next 40 years, which we will use to reinvest in energy resilience," Ballentine said.

Ballentine said the landfill is an ideal location for such a solar project, which will utilize 98 acres of the site, because it is otherwise unused federal land.

"Solar power is one of the most efficient and affordable energy alternatives available today," Cunniff said. "Whether you're interested in solar power because of its economic or environmental impact, during these times of budgetary constraints on the federal side and the state side, we all would agree this joint solar project could not happen at a greater time."

### **Chinese Aircraft Carrier to W. Pacific**

China's Defense Ministry says the country's first aircraft carrier has set off for the Western Pacific for an open-sea training exercise.

State media say it is the first time that the Liaoning, which was commissioned by the Chinese navy in 2012, has headed to "distant sea waters." The Western Pacific stretches from China to New Zealand and encompasses countries in the Pacific, Oceania and parts of Asia.

The statement said a navy formation including the Liaoning set off Saturday for training "in distant sea waters" as part of an annual training plan.

**NLHS May 6, 2017 80<sup>th</sup> Hindenburg Memorial Services  
ATTENDANCE COUPON**

I WILL ATTEND THE FOLLOWING EVENT ON Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 6:45 PM  
Each person Attending must fill out a coupon.

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

Full Middle name (not maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_

Drivers License #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ATTN: Hindenburg Ceremony**

**Or e-mail to: NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.NET**

**DEADLINE for registration: May 1, 2017 by 12 noon**

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

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

**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)

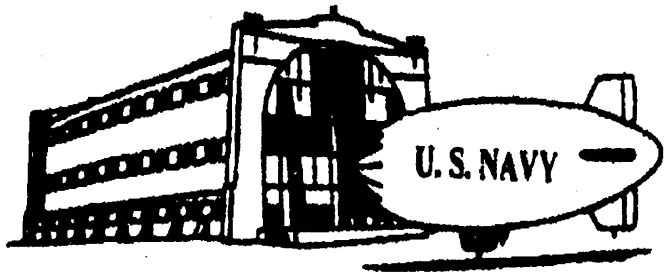
**Please return this form with your check made payable to Navy Lakehurst  
Historical Society to:**

Carl Jablonski

240 Spray Avenue

Beachwood, NJ 08722-3936

**RESERVATION DEADLINE - April 23, 2017**



**NAVY LAKEHURST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AD JOURNAL**  
**May 6, 2017**

NLHS will hold a Hindenburg Remembrance Dinner on Friday, May 5, 2017. We are selling advertising space in a commemorative Ad Journal which will be distributed at the dinner and also on May 6, 2017 during the Memorial Service.

The costs for placing an ad are as follows:

|                        |   |       |
|------------------------|---|-------|
| * Gold Page            | - | \$250 |
| * Silver Page          | - | \$150 |
| Full Page (8½ x 11)    | - | \$100 |
| Half Page (5½ x 8½)    | - | \$50  |
| Quarter Page (4¼ x 5½) | - | \$25  |
| Booster Listing        | - | \$10  |

\*There is only two gold and two silver pages - first come first served!

You can attach a business card, or write your own copy!

Please complete the form below and mail it with your ad copy to NLHS, PO Box 328, Lakehurst, NJ 08733 no later than April 21, 2017. Your check or money order should be made payable to NLHS, Ad Journal.

Your support will help NLHS to offset costs for our Dinner. Thank you for your interest, support and commitment to NLHS.

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I would like to participate by taking an ad in the NLHS Dinner Ad Journal. Please circle one:

Gold Page    Silver Page    Full Page    Half Page    Quarter Page    Booster

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please use this space for your message: (use other side if needed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_