



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST 10 Business & Professional
P.O. Box 591046, San Antonio, TX 78259-1046

Post 10 Website: post10.weebly.com



AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

Commander's Notes:

LEGION WEBSITES:

POST 10
post10.weebly.com

20th DISTRICT
aldistrict20.weebly.com

3rd DIVISION
txlegiondiv3.org

DEPT OF TEXAS
txlegion.org

NATIONAL
legion.org

POST 10 OFFICERS:

COMMANDER:
Tom Aslakson

VICE COMMANDER:
Robert L. Masten
3rd Division Cmdr

ADJUTANT:
Sharlene McCuan

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
Eric Mayer

SERVICE OFFICER:
Burt Quintanilla

FINANCE OFFICER:
Hector Cavazos

AMERICANISM:
Robert L. Masten

SGT-AT ARMS:
Nick Benedetto

WEBMASTER:
Eric Mayer

CHAPLAIN:
James M. Noel

IMMEDIATE PAST
POST COMMANDER:
Hector Cavazos

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:

Rick Trent
Hector Davila
Dan Martin
Richard Lee
Post 10 Officers

Commander: Tom Aslakson (ozlocsonpost10@gmail.com)

Greetings Everyone. I hope this newsletter finds each and everyone of you safe and healthy during these pressing times

With the Governor's current guidance of no groups larger than 10 - our monthly meetings are still on hold. **BUT** as soon as groups of 25 are approved we hope to finally get back on track with our membership meetings. **Of Note:** We are looking at the possibility of a Post Zoom meeting. If this proves a viable option we will be sending out a separate email.

The Executive Committee has completed our **Post's Annual Report**. It outlines our past accomplishments and plans for the new year. A copy will be posted on our webpage.



We have recently put together our Post's Mission and Vision Statements. These are living documents to reflect our organizational purpose and objectives.

Mission Statement: To engage in services and programs for Veterans and their families and our Youth while promoting a Strong National Defense fostered through Americanism.

Vision Statement: Get out there and communicate with our surrounding communities:

Goal 1: Educate the local veteran population and Post membership on changes to American Legion supported VA programs and efforts.

Goal 2: Engage with the community and local veteran population through regular participation in hiring fairs, community events, and through the various sponsored events by the local Chamber of Commerce, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the State of Texas Veterans Commission, the Veterans Administration, Coffee with Vets, and the various City Council district and city government department representatives.

Goal 3: Expand education and experiences for San Antonio youth by sponsoring youth participation in **Oratorical Contests**, [focused on developing a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students]; **Boys State and Girls State** participation [where participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments]; and supporting local **Boys Scout and Cub Scout** units through participation in Eagle Scout Review Councils and coordinating the Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence Awards with the Senior Instructor of our sponsored High Schools who participate in the **JROTC programs**.

New Post Officer Position

During our recent National Membership Workshop there was a briefing entitled “Define a Great Post”. One of the items addressed was getting out to our community as a whole and communicating our existence and what we do.

To that end we are looking into creating a new Officer position simply called: "Community Coordinator".

A "Post Horn Blower", if you will, someone who works with communication channels within our community [facebook, newspapers, neighborhood letters, instagram, school principals at all 3 grade levels, etc] — assisting to BEST publicize our Post's projects.

Granted our Post has many balls in the air **but there is so much more we could be doing to broadcast our Post and the things we are doing for our Veterans, youth and communities.**

Oratorical, Boys State, Annual Veterans Roll Call, Fisher House BBQ, JROTC awards, Scouts [Eagle Scout and Cub Scouts], Veteran Day Parade, Big Brothers/Sisters, Blood Drive, Coffee with Vets, Hiring fairs, community events, and various sponsored events by the local Chamber of Commerce, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the State of Texas Veterans Commission, the Veterans Administration.

Anyone interested in being placed on the ballot to tackle this kind of challenge please let me know.

An open letter from one of our attendees at this year's Boys State gathering. Tim is from Johnson HS and sent this note to Bob Masten, Vice Commander and Americanism Chairperson.

Dear Mr.Masten,

This is Timothy Gnalian. Once again thank you for having given me the opportunity to attend the Boys State. I am starting a Pandemic club by myself where I would buy and deliver groceries to the needy/ disabled or home bound in the community affected by COVID. I plan to provide an initial fund of \$500 for this service project.

No money will be distributed. Identified veterans can give me the grocery shopping list. As the school opens I will include other volunteers too and mobilize fund raising avenues for this good cause, as there are uncertainties about when this pandemic would come to an end.

Since American Legion is amazing at helping veterans and with the inspiration I received from Boys state participation, I want to give back my service and time for the community.

If you have Veterans or any one in your knowledge who can benefit from my project can you please let me know and give me their contact details so I can get in touch with them or you can give them my name and contact number 210-529-0600

Thanking you ,
Sincerely
Timothy Gnalian



August Birthdays - from our database



Aurelio	Valdez	Jack	Kiser	Leroy	Garza
Carlen	Forinash	James	Munevar-Pineda	Michael	Weis
Christopher	Block	James	Furlin	Richard	LaPorte
David	Hetherly	James Eric	Treland	Robert	Foss
Dixon	Gunther	Jarrell	Pruitt, Sr.	Susan	Okonski
Dominick	Labruzzo	Jerry	Brannon	William	Zander
Donald	Carlson	Joe	McClintock	William	Craft
Eneyda	Klein	John	Gonzales	William	Lutz
Eric	Benken	Larry	Sims	William	Goforth

Membership Update by Sharlene McCuan, Post Adjutant

Post 10's 2021 Members - Processed by Post 10

Date	New Members	PUFL	Online Renewed	By Mail Renewed	"Transfers"	Total "Received" to Date	2021 Target
August 08, 2020	3	57	50	62	4	176	301
August 08, 2020	1.0%	18.9%	16.6%	20.6%	1.3%	58.5%	
1st Target Date is September 09, 2020 - 50% = 151						25 ahead of 1st Target	

August - Highlights

August 4: Coast Guard 230th Birthday: "The Coast Guard was born on August 4, 1790, just 14 years after our country was born, when Congress approved Alexander Hamilton's proposal to build ten cutters to protect the revenue of the new nation."



August 7: Purple Heart Day: "observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives."



August 12: There will be a **Virtual 20th District Meeting**. Details to follow in separate email.

August 14: A Sundance **Documentary about Texas Boys State** will air on Apple TV+.

August 15: VJ (Victory over Japan) Day: 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War.



August 16: National Airborne Day: "The idea of using parachutes as a combat tool is said to originate, at least for the U.S. Army, in the days following World War I."

August 26: Women's Equality Day: "is celebrated in the United States on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. It was first celebrated in 1973."



August 29: Marine Forces Reserve 104th Birthday - "The Marine Forces Reserve (also known as the United States Marine Corps Reserve or the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve) was created in 1916, in conjunction with the creation of the Navy Reserve. Since then, the evolution of this force would expand from just thirty-five to today's roughly 40 thousand Marine Corps Reservists"





USS Indianapolis in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1937. US Navy Photo

USS Indianapolis (CL/CA-35) was a Portland-class heavy cruiser of the United States Navy, named for the city of Indianapolis, Indiana. Launched in 1931, the vessel served as the flagship for the commander of Scouting Force 1 for eight years, then as flagship for Admiral Raymond Spruance in 1943 and 1944 while he commanded the Fifth Fleet in battles across the Central Pacific during World War II. In July 1945, Indianapolis completed a top-secret high-speed trip to deliver parts of Little Boy, the first nuclear weapon ever used in combat, to the United States Army Air Force Base on the island of Tinian, and subsequently departed for the Philippines on training duty. At 0015 on 30 July, the ship was torpedoed by the Imperial Japanese Navy submarine I-58, and sank in 12 minutes. Of 1,195 crewmen aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship.[4] The remaining 890 faced exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning, and shark attacks while stranded in the open ocean with few lifeboats and almost no food or water. The Navy only learned of the sinking four days later, when survivors were spotted by the crew of a PV-1 Ventura on routine patrol. Only 316 survived.[4] The sinking of Indianapolis resulted in the greatest single loss of life at sea from a single ship in the history of the US Navy.[a]

History	
	United States
Name:	<i>Indianapolis</i>
Namesake:	City of Indianapolis , Indiana
Ordered:	13 February 1929
Awarded:	15 August 1929
Builder:	New York Shipbuilding Corporation , Camden, New Jersey
Cost:	\$10,903,200 (contract price)
Laid down:	31 March 1930
Launched:	7 November 1931
Sponsored by:	Lucy M. Taggart
Commissioned:	15 November 1932
Identification:	Hull symbol: CL-35 Hull symbol: CA-35 Code letters: NABD 
Nickname(s):	"Indy" ^[1]
Honors and awards:	★ ★ 10 × battle stars
Fate:	Torpedoed and sunk, 30 July 1945, by Japanese submarine I-58 .

On 19 August 2017, a search team financed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen located the wreckage of the sunken cruiser in the Philippine Sea lying at a depth of approximately 18,000 ft (5,500 m).[5] On 20 December 2018, the crew of the Indianapolis was collectively awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. [6]" [\[Source - Wikipedia\]](#)



There are now only 10 remaining survivors of the crew of 1,195 -- as of Jan 03, 2020



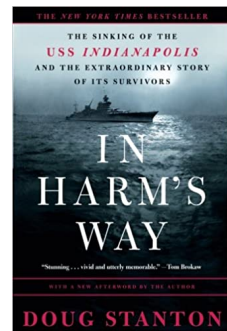
It brings us great sadness to share that Don Howison, the oldest remaining survivor, and the last living officer of USS Indianapolis, has passed away. Don was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor and outlook on life. Rest In Peace, sailor. You will not be forgotten.
There are now only 10 living survivors of USS Indianapolis. Help us honor them all by sharing their stories and preserving the legacy. May we never forget. 🇺🇸

Title: **In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors**

Author: Doug Stanton **Published:** Paperback - May 1, 2003

Review from Amazon Prime:

[https://www.amazon.com/Harms-Way-Indianapolis-Extraordinary-Survivors/dp/0805073663/ref=pd_lpo_14_img_0/131-5749096-2478854?](https://www.amazon.com/Harms-Way-Indianapolis-Extraordinary-Survivors/dp/0805073663/ref=pd_lpo_14_img_0/131-5749096-2478854?pf_rd_p=805073663&pf_rd_r=805073663)



A harrowing, adrenaline-charged account of America's worst naval disaster -- and of the heroism of the men who, against all odds, survived. Interweaving the stories of survivors, Doug Stanton has brought this astonishing human drama to life in a narrative that is at once immediate and timeless. The definitive account of a little-known chapter in World War II history, *In Harm's Way* is destined to become a classic tale of war, survival, and extraordinary courage.

On July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine. An estimated 300 men were killed upon impact; close to 900 sailors were cast into the Pacific Ocean, where they remained undetected by the navy for nearly four days and nights. Battered by a savage sea, they struggled to stay alive, fighting off sharks, hypothermia, and dementia. The captain's subsequent court-martial left many questions unanswered: How did the navy fail to realize the Indianapolis was missing? And perhaps most amazing of all, how did these 316 men manage to survive?

Netflix must see movie: [**USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage**](#)

Title: **Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World**

Author: Chris Wallace **Published:** Hardcover – June 9, 2020

Review from Amazon Prime: [**Countdown 1945**](#)



April 12, 1945: After years of bloody conflict in Europe and the Pacific, America is stunned by news of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death. In an instant, Vice President Harry Truman, who has been kept out of war planning and knows nothing of the top-secret Manhattan Project to develop the world's first atomic bomb, must assume command of a nation at war on multiple continents—and confront one of the most consequential decisions in history. *Countdown 1945* tells the gripping true story of the turbulent days, weeks, and months to follow, leading up to August 6, 1945, when Truman gives the order to drop the bomb on Hiroshima.

Chris Wallace, takes readers inside the minds of the iconic and elusive figures who join the quest for the bomb, each for different reasons: Albert Einstein, who eventually calls his vocal support for the atomic bomb “the one great mistake in my life”; lead researcher J. Robert “Oppie” Oppenheimer and the Soviet spies who secretly infiltrate his team; the fiercely competitive pilots of the plane selected to drop the bomb; and many more.

> The story of an untested new president confronting a decision that he knows will change the world forever. Truman's journey during these 116 days is a story of high drama: from the shock of learning of the bomb's existence, to the conflicting advice he receives from generals like Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Marshall, to wrestling with the devastating carnage that will result if he gives the order to use America's first weapon of mass destruction.

> *Countdown 1945* is more than a book about the atomic bomb. It's also an unforgettable account of the lives of ordinary American and Japanese civilians in wartime - as well as American soldiers fighting in the Pacific, waiting in fear for the order to launch a possible invasion of Japan.

Told with vigor, intelligence, and humanity, *Countdown 1945* is the definitive account of one of the most significant moments in history.