



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

Volume 35 Issue 15
Summer 2018

"Our mission is to preserve the history of the
Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

(Editor's note: I have had the honor of visiting several military cemeteries throughout United States and Europe. As Memorial Day nears, I thought it would be nice to dedicate an issue of THE BAY RUN to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice, keeping our country free, and keeping the majority of us safe from harm.)

While touring Europe, I visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery where we saw the grave of General George S. Patton, JR, General of the Third Army. His wishes were to be buried there with his men. There are approximately 6,000 victims of WWII at this cemetery. The inscription reads, "In proud remembrance of the achievements of her sons and in humble tribute to their sacrifice..." We also toured the Arnheim-Oosterbecck Cemetery located in The Netherlands which is home to 1,759 graves, victims of WWII. Most of these servicemen were killed in 1944 attempting to cross the Rhine River during the Battle of Arnheim. The inscription here reads: "Their Name Liveth for Evermore".

Back in the United States, I had the honor of going to the Sarasota National Cemetery, which covers 295 acres and is located on the outskirts of Sarasota, FL. It is one of the 6 National Cemeteries in Florida and is open to all members of the armed forces discharged honorably. They are expecting at least ten burials a day in the next ten years as military personnel from the Korean and Vietnam Wars pass away. This relatively new cemetery has a 2,800 seat ceremonial amphitheater called "Patriot Plaza". One of our good friends, Jack Dunn, a former member of the US Air Force, is buried here.

While in Arizona, we visited the Military Cemetery at Fort Huachuca, home of the venerated Buffalo Soldiers. This cemetery was established in 1877 as a base for border patrols and to protect American settlers from the Indians in this area. It is a beautiful, serene cemetery located in the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains. Our brother-in-law and Rod's sister are buried here. Tim was a career soldier, a Master Sergeant in the Army who fought in both Korea and Vietnam.

While visiting our son in *(continued on page 6)*



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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



I, along with members Joanne and Charles Bolton, had the pleasure of representing our organization at the Cape May County Coast Guard Community Festival on Saturday, May 5. We had a table set up on the base with other exhibitors and vendors. The weather was almost perfect once the afternoon breeze kicked in and blew away the annoying, biting gnats. How does that old time saying go? “When the gnats are biting so are the drum fish!” I’m sure many drum fish were biting that day!

We had a lot of people asking about our summer cruises; we handed out almost all our “Cruise News” pamphlets and our new membership brochure prepared for us by Maxine Mulligan. Let’s hope this will result in some full cruises this summer and maybe some new members signing up for our organization membership.

I had permission to go onboard the newest US Coast Guard ship, the Richard Snyder. Going into the wheel house, I found there was no wheel with which to steer the ship. There was a joystick that was used to steer everything on the entire ship. I found that even the guns were controlled by a targeting computer. To shoot the guns, all one had to do was pull the trigger on the joystick. The modern Coast Guard is quite a bit different from the days when I served. This newly commissioned ship was quite impressive.

‘Til next time – keep the light shining.

Angelo

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *by Rod Mulligan*



What great memories I have of our 23rd banquet held on April 8 at the Sea Isle City Yacht Club. The food was delicious, the speakers interesting, the view spectacular, the atmosphere comforting and the company pleasant as always. This year we honored as our Volunteer of the Year, my son and our computer technician, Kelly Mulligan. A special vote of thanks to him for all of his computer talents; he is really a big help to our organization and to our family. Thanks again, son, for a job well done.

Petty Officer Dereck Caspar (BM1) of the US Coast Guard was our first speaker. He updated us on what was happening on the lights in the Delaware Bay. Originally from Livingston, NJ, he will soon complete his fourteenth year in the coast guard and has another 12 or so to go to complete his career. We were also pleased to meet his wife and 1 ½ year old son. Next on the agenda was Steve Murray, former Curator and Manager of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse who conducted a question and answer session regarding what has been happening at the lighthouse. Thanks to both speakers for helping to make our banquet a success.

23rd ANNUAL KEEPERS BANQUET



Honoring the "Volunteer of the Year" Kelly Mulligan



President Rigazio presents a donation to Heather Garrabrant representing the Sea Isle City Yacht Club and their Sailing program.



Guests listening to presentations



Raffle baskets and gifts thanks to the many donors



Guest Speaker, Steve Murray, former Curator Hereford Inlet Lighthouse



Guest speaker, Petty Officer Dereck Caspar BM1, USCG

Pictures courtesy of Moser and Mulligan

PEGGY'S CORNER – Event Calendar

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chairperson



SAVE THE DATES – Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, June 2 – Bay Day Celebration at East Point Lighthouse. All volunteers are needed and welcome. Come out and support your organization.

Saturday, June 16 – Mollusk-Oyster Wedding off shore NJ or DE

Saturday, June 30 – Summer picnic/meeting to be held at the *gazebo at Riverview Beach Park, 48 North Broadway, Route 49, Pennsville, NJ 08070 11-Noon Social hour; Noon-1 PM meeting; 1 PM enjoy the park, view the Delaware River and visit the Pennsville

Historic Museum located on the grounds. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. Approved fireplaces are available for grilling. The gazebo area is ours from 11AM – 3PM Points of interest nearby: Finn's National Cemetery, Fort Mott State Park, Fort Delaware, Pea Patch Island, Historic Salem, NJ, etc... also Pennsville Township Historical Society Church Landing Farm, 86 Church Landing Rd. featuring a Victorian farmhouse and exhibits on Riverview Beach Park and the area's maritime heritage.

Sunday, July 15 and August 12 – Cruises to Ship John Shoal and north in bay (See Cruise News insert for details.)

Thursday, August 7 – National Lighthouse Day at East Point Light. Come join us; all are welcome.

Sunday, August 26 – Cruise to Harbor of Refuge and south in bay (See Cruise News insert for details.)

Saturday, September 22 – Fall Meeting – Location & Speaker TBA

Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21 – NJ Lighthouse Challenge; we will be at Cape May Lighthouse. Come out and enjoy. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

(NOTE: We are always looking for interesting guest speakers, topics and maritime locations.

Suggestions can be sent to: mspegstapleford@windstream.net)

RIVERVIEW BEACH PARK - A BACKGROUND

In 1845, this area along the Delaware River consisted of a farm, a tavern and a ferry boat. Eventually the Riverview area became a park where the excursion boat, "The Delaware," brought passengers down the Delaware River from Philadelphia daily enabling the city folk to "get away from it all," a time to relax and enjoy the countryside. The 4 hour cruise would stop at Riverview to discharge passengers on its way to Salem, NJ. This boat was eventually replaced by the Wilson Line. In the 1950's amusement rides were added to the park; the park was fenced in and admission was charged.

In the early 60's, the final excursion of the flagship of the Wilson Line took place. Riverview Beach Park closed in 1967 and the amusement rides were sold. In 1976, the park reopened; it has been used for recreational purposes ever since. One of the first events held was to celebrate America's bicentennial September 11, 1976.



Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge, located in Martin County, FL is the only surviving House of Refuge left on the East Coast. Originally built by the Treasury Department as one of ten along the east coast of Florida, it is the oldest remaining structure in that county. Designated as a haven for ship wrecked sailors and travelers in an area that once sparsely populated the Atlantic coastline of Florida, it was run



by the US Lifesaving Service and played a critical role in a time when sailing ships dominated the world's commerce. The House was built in 1875, remained a life saving service through World Wars I and II, and was used as a lookout for German U boats during WWII. Axel Hagbach Johnansen began service there in December 1901. Johnansen, along with former keepers of the house provided shelter, food, clothing and transportation to survivors of shipwrecks and storms at sea.

In 1915, the House of Refuge became US Coast Guard Station #207. While Johnansen and his wife, Kate, remained on duty; his title was changed from Keeper to Surfman No. 1. The title remained until 1928 when he retired.

Restored in 1976, the House of Refuge is now open to the public and the surrounding area used by locals and visitors for swimming and fishing. Gilbert was a pirate in the day that the House functioned for refuge. There is much folklore centered around Gilbert and "his band of men"...so much so that the Florida Ghost Team was called in to investigate reported paranormal activity taking place. Could it be that Gilbert and his band of men have returned to seek revenge? It seems that Gilbert and his cohorts recently charged into an event and "a grand time was had by all" as money was raised for local charities.

There is a museum at Gilbert's Bar that has been restored to showcase historical lifesaving equipment and the keeper's living quarters as they originally were back in 1904, providing a look at living at the turn of the 20th Century. The House has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge has been recommissioned and is currently listed as a US Coast Guard Station.

(Thanks to Correspondent C. Neely and "Your News," Stuart, Florida, April 4, 2018.)

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE *(continued from page 1)*

Richmond, VA we toured the Hollywood Cemetery where 28 Confederate generals are buried including General George Pickett and General J.E.B. Stuart along with many members of both the Confederate and Union armies. Interred in the “President’s Circle” are James Monroe and John Tyler. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy is buried here along with many governors of Virginia and other dignitaries. The administration here kept a promise to President Lincoln to “care for those who shall have borne the battle”.

Of course, I would be remiss not to mention the 624 acre large military cemetery at Arlington, VA where the dead have been interred beginning with the Civil War as well as the reinterred dead from previous wars. This is located right across the Potomac River from Washington, DC nestled peacefully below the Custis-Lee Mansion. The area includes acres and acres of white crosses as far as the eye can see, including the Tomb of the Unknowns, representing the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Some others interred here are the victims of the Space Shuttle Challenger and Columbia disasters, President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Edward “Ted” Kennedy, 396 Medal of Honor winners and thousands of other members of the military.

Last but certainly not least, are some interesting Veterans Statistics regarding the Viet Nam Wall. Presently there are over 58,000 names listed on the Wall including three sets of fathers and sons. The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old including 31 sets of brothers. Thirty-one sets of parents lost two sons; one woman lost 6 sons. West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in our nation. Eight women are listed and the most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968, when 245 deaths were recorded.

There are so many more I could mention: Valley Forge, PA commemorating the sacrifice and perseverance of the Revolutionary War generation; Gettysburg, PA listing 3,512 interments with 979 listed as unknown. Their burials now exceed 6,000 which includes other wars, veterans spouses and children; (NOTE: Valley Forge and Gettysburg Cemeteries are said to be haunted); Fredericksburg, VA, established in 1865, the final resting place for 15,000 Union soldiers; Vicksburg, Mississippi where there are 17,000 interments with 5,000 listed as unknown. Locally we have visited Finn’s Point National Cemetery which contains the graves of 2,436 Confederate soldiers who died while prisoners of war at Fort Delaware. There are 24 graves marked as “Unknown”. The price of freedom is not cheap.

I have been fortunate to visit all of these places but see not only figures, but am haunted by the numbers because some were our ancestors, friends, neighbors and relatives. “There are no noble wars, just noble warriors”. Seeing all of this, makes one realize how many lives have been sacrificed allowing us to live in the “land of the free and the home of the brave”.

VARIOUS MILITARY CEMETERIES



Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial



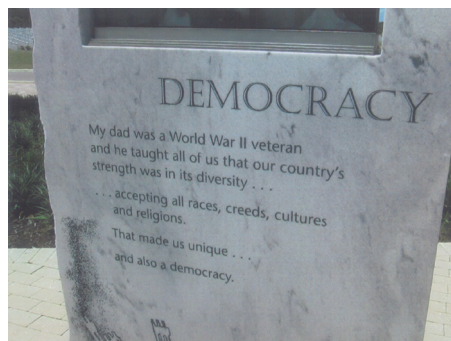
Grave of George S. Patton, Jr.



Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery



Tombstones



Sarasota National Cemetery

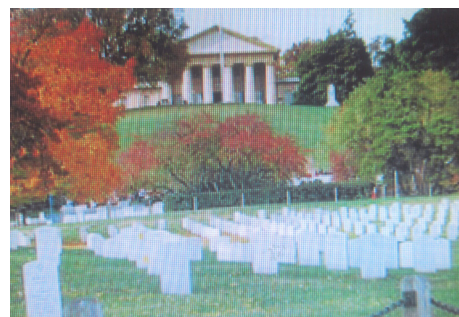
MILITARY CEMETERIES *continued*



*Fort Huachuca Military Cemetery
in Arizona*



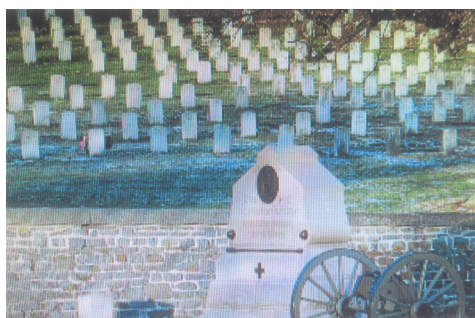
*Confederate Monument in
Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond VA*



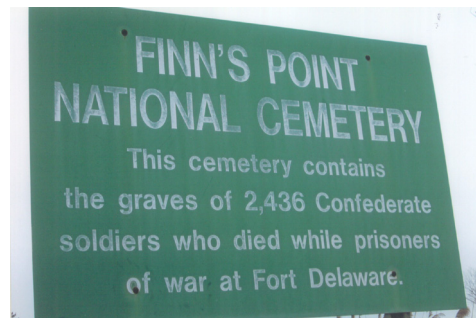
Arlington, VA



Gettysburg, PA



Vicksburg, MS



Finn's Point, Pennsville NJ

DID YOU KNOW?



A well-preserved 7,000 year old Native American burial site was found by a recreational diver off the coast of Fort Myers, FL 300 yards off the Manasota Key in the Gulf of Mexico. The oldest site in FL dating back 14,500 years is in the Big Bend area of Florida.



The annual "Moby Dick Marathon" held in New Bedford, MA draws people from around the region as the novel is read aloud, word for word, by more than 100 readers from teenagers to octogenarians. (*Boston Globe, January 2018*)



An 18th century 48' partial hull from a shipwreck washed up on Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida. Researchers brought in to study the well preserved hull found Roman numeral markings.



The tall ships will be returning up the Delaware River and will be anchored at the Port of Philadelphia May 24 – 28.



Due to the bad weather we had in March, the ospreys are returning to South Jersey a month later than usual.



The Greenwich Tea Party took place on the shore of the Cohansey River on December 22, 1774, one year after the Boston Tea Party. It seems that a load of tea on its way to Philadelphia was torched by a group of local patriots dressed as Native Americans. A statue on Main Street in Greenwich, NJ commemorates this event.



The US Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that \$700K in federal funding will be used for acquisition of additional land for the conservation of 1,650 acres along the Cohansey River and the Delaware Bayshore area in Cumberland County. (*The Reminder, April 25, 2018*)



The Absecon Lighthouse will receive \$50K from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. The money will be used to repair the roof of the Keeper's Cottage, cracks in the drywall, rusted light posts around the property and weathered window screens. Any remaining monies will be used to offset a deficit the lighthouse has been operating under for the last two years. (*AC Press, April 28, 2018*)

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE F. REILY

(Our organization's founder,
first president,
"The Lighthouse Lady"
who left us to sail on to
far, distant shores July 7, 2007)

*You were like a lighthouse
Shining over the darkened sea
Now your light has gone out
Only memories guide me.*

(Poet, Michelle)



WHAT IS IT ABOUT LIGHTHOUSES?

Lighthouses continue to inspire photographers, poets, and history buffs. Friends of New England Lighthouses, having more than 9,600 members on their Face Book page, actively posts photos and reflections of the visits to these stalwart towers. Many books have been published about the history of lighthouses delving deeply into the technological evolution of these navigational lifesavers and the lives of the men and women who kept them lit through time and tempests. They reflect the growth of our nation, tragedy, architecture, maritime commerce and devastating storms. It is said that lighthouses don't distinguish between friend nor foe; they help everybody.

New Jersey can boast of having the nation's oldest continuously operating lighthouse at Sandy Hook which was completed in 1764. It seems that the nation's most popular lighthouse is Portland Head Lighthouse in Cape Elizabeth, Maine boasting of more than a million visitors a year. It is very well preserved while other lighthouses are vulnerable to tides and fierce weather. Some lighthouses have been destroyed completely by devastating storms. Others have been moved further inland to avoid being destroyed. Many of the offshore lighthouses are in need of repair.

What is it about lighthouses that fascinates so many people? Passengers on a cruise out to Boston Light were asked this question. One passenger felt that it was a spiritual connection; a symbol of hope. Another stated: "A lighthouse is one of the few things in this world put there to help people. Its sole purpose is to make sure people are safe." A couple of people felt the lighthouse helped to guide them home..."When I see the light, it means I'm close to home." "Before the invention of the GPS, the light guided me safely into the harbor."

Concern has been expressed about the nation's lighthouses since many of the preservationists involved in their upkeep are in their 50's or 60's. If younger people do not take an active interest in preserving these buildings, these sentinels of the shore will be gone forever. "Lighthouses have saved thousands of people. Now it's time for people to save the lighthouses." (*The Boston Globe, June 2017*)