



The Bay Run



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

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

THE DEMISE OF HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE

(NOTE: This edition of "The Bay Run" is dedicated to Steve Murray, Betty Mugnier, Laura Hedges, Phyllis Catanoso, Paul DiFilippo and the devoted, loyal "Friends of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse" who gave so much of their time and energy to make the lighthouse and the surrounding area so successful. Thank you for all your efforts. They are sincerely appreciated.)

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, a "quaint Victorian structure that is one of the most unusual and attractive of New Jersey's lighthouses" was originally lighted in 1874. In 1977, the lighthouse was registered in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Hard working and loyal citizens, the "Friends of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse" have been volunteering, putting in long hours restoring and maintaining this lighthouse for many years. It has always been a main tourist attraction in North Wildwood.

Hereford is the only lighthouse of its kind on the East Coast. Its beautifully well-kept gardens were like a park; brick and grass paths, benches and a gazebo were surrounded by shrubs, flower gardens, wild flowers and herb gardens. These prized gardens were presented the Suburban Greening Award and honored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The gardens were so beautiful; it was once a popular place for weddings, and other events...a beautiful place for photographic opportunities. Craft shows, concerts and other programs were held at this site for Maritime Weekend and National Lighthouse Day; it was also a popular place for the annual weekend Challenge for the State of New Jersey and other numerous events. Last year's Lighthouse Challenge brought in a record number of 1,864 people from all over the nation and various countries. This year the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge is dedicated to Hereford even though the lighthouse will NOT be included as part of the weekend event. Numerous people sponsored and paid for the many engraved pavers in the courtyard dedicated to loved ones in hope they would be an enduring remembrance—a tribute to beloved relatives and friends.

BUT, all of this changed the end of 2017. Steve Murray, the custodians of the lighthouse and the "Friends" of Hereford were informed by Patrick Rosenello, the Mayor of North Wildwood, that the city was taking over their beloved Hereford Lighthouse. They were given notice to be out by the end of the year only to find that when they went to the lighthouse before Thanksgiving, the locks had been changed; city employees had removed all the items from the lighthouse, taking them to a storage shed. Murray and Company were told to come to the storage shed to claim what was theirs. If they weren't there by a certain date, everything would be discarded. Following months of court proceedings, these items still have not been returned to their rightful owners.

Mayor Patrick Rosenello of North Wildwood, claimed that "certain members of the 'Friends' organization have refused to address, and (continued on page 5)



In This Issue:

2 - A Beam from the President's Desk

3 - From the Interim Vice President
and Scholarship Winner

4 - Peggy's Corner, Battle for Fort Hancock,
East Point Lighthouse

5 - The Demise of Hereford

Inlet Lighthouse continued

7 - Veterans' Day Tributes

8 - Catching Up With the Newlyweds



As I sit here writing this column, I think about our summer lighthouse cruises and how they are not being filled as they have in previous years. When we first started the cruises with Founder Carole Reily, we had more trips and each one was full plus we had a stand-by list. This year we scheduled three trips and only one came to fruition—the 5 hour trip to Harbor of Refuge on August 26. Is the interest and history of the bay lights diminishing; is it that people don't have the time or really don't care about what happens to these lights?

The summer cruises have been our biggest fundraiser in past years. We also had the funds from selling merchandise at Hereford Inlet on Mariners' Weekend and the Lighthouse Challenge. Now that our opportunity at Hereford is gone, we need to find other means of raising funds needed to keep the organization going and to preserve these bay lights and their history for future generations to enjoy.

On the brighter side, I am proud to tell you our granddaughter, Kylie Herb, left for college in August to go to the University of Miami at Ohio. She is pursuing a degree in Business Administration and will also be playing on their Division I field hockey team. Another granddaughter, 11 year old Bella McKeown had the lead in "Annie" at the Performing Arts Center in Cape May County. Our grandson, Liam, made his stage debut. If you remember, Bella sang the National Anthem at one of our banquets.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and remember...Keep the lights shining.

Angelo

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FROM THE LOG OF THE INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT

by Rod Mulligan



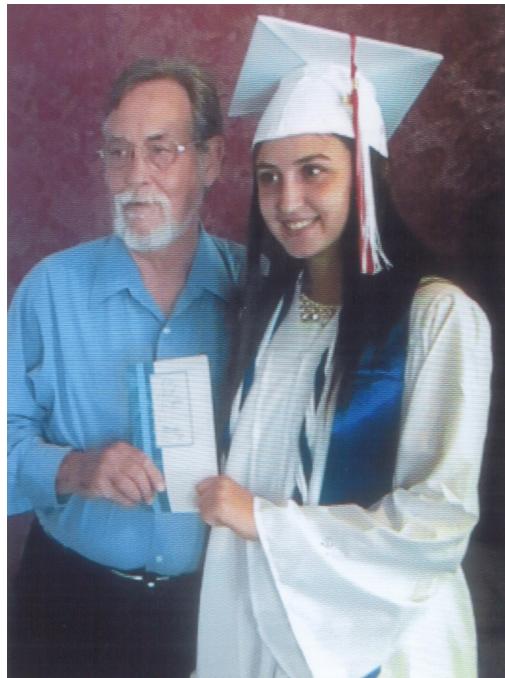
Our summer picnic/meeting took place at Riverview Beach Park on June 30. What a beautiful, hot and humid day. Temperatures soared into the 90's but we had nice tables in the shade and thankfully, a cool breeze off the Delaware River. After a productive meeting, we interacted socially and were entertained by a large flock of geese that live in the park. Some of our members took advantage of visiting the nearby Fort Mott State Park and Finn's Point National Monument. It was an interesting, informative, relaxing day.

On August 7, National Lighthouse Day was celebrated at East Point Light. Many visitors were greeted by our volunteers; it was great meeting and conversing with old friends. Nancy Patterson-Tidy was a gracious hostess as always. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation has announced that the land surrounding East Point has been sold to preserve this historical area.

Our next event will be our annual fall meeting which will be held on September 22 at the "Pavilion by the Sea" at Cape May Point. Hope to see you there.

CAROLE F. REILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Our association's 2018 Carole F. Reily Award Winner is Kylie Herb, granddaughter of Angelo and Darlene Rigazio. Kylie is a very ambitious young lady who graduated this year from Wilson High School in Sinking Spring, PA with a 3.92 GPA. She was presented the Business Department Award, the Sun Federal Credit Union Award and the Wilson Plate Award at graduation. Her academic accomplishments include: National Honor Society, All-State Academic Team, Academic Student of the Month, Outstanding Business Student in 11th grade, 1st Place in Spreadsheet Applications State Competition, a "Clean Teen" member for 4 years, recipient of the Caron Foundation Community Youth Leadership Award plus she received the PA SADD Chapter of the Year Award twice during her high school years. She is very involved in school, not only academically but in sports. She was All County, All Division, winner of the National Field Hockey Championship Gold Medal, and All State on her field hockey team earning her a scholarship to Miami University of Ohio. She was also a member of the Varsity Track and Field team for three years, a County Champion for her last 2. Her goal upon graduating is to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Miami University and become a CPA. Congratulations on all your achievements, Kylie, and best of luck in your future endeavors.



President Rigazio presents scholarship award to Kylie Herb

PEGGY'S CORNER – Event Calendar

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chairperson



SAVE THE DATES – Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, September 22 – Fall Meeting will be held at the “Pavilion By The Sea” at Cape May Point, NJ. Agenda: 10 – 11 AM Meet & Greet featuring coffee, donuts and socializing; 11 – Noon Meeting; Noon – 1 PM lunch (brown bag); 1 PM Guest speaker, Rich Chiemingo, Former Manager of Cape May Light and prominent member of MidAtlantic Center for the Arts (MAC), will speak on “Childhood Memories of Cape May: Sites & Subs”.

Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21 – NJ Lighthouse Challenge; our organization will be volunteering at Cape May Lighthouse for the weekend. 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)

BATTLE ONGOING TO SAVE HISTORIC FORT HANCOCK AT SANDY HOOK, NJ

It has been more than four decades since the US Army deactivated Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook and turned it over to the National Park Service. It has been two decades since the Park Service first put out requests for proposals seeking private entities to rehabilitate vacant buildings at the fort. What does the future hold for the preservation of existing buildings at the Fort? There are currently 13 letters of intent (a tentative agreement between the government and a potential leaseholder for building use) in place. Only one building has been leased to date. The chapel has been restored and many of the buildings on Officers’ Row are available for long-term leasing. Hopefully the Sandy Hook Lighthouse will remain in tact through all of these negotiations and the buildings will be preserved as important pieces of history for future generations. (AC Press, June, 2018)

EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

East Point Lighthouse in Heislerville, NJ was recently awarded the 2018 NJ Historic Preservation Award from the State Department of Environmental Protection. This award contributed to the restoration of the entire exterior and interior of the lighthouse. Visitors can now climb the four stories to view the panoramic scene and experience period piece antique furnishings depicting the time when the lighthouse keeper and his family would have lived on the property. The East Point Lighthouse, originally constructed in 1849, is the second oldest lighthouse in New Jersey. Congratulations to Nancy Patterson-Tidy, her husband, Carl, and the Maurice River Historical Society for this wonderful accomplishment.

(Cumberland County Reminder, July 11, 2018)



*Nancy Patterson-Tidy receives award on
behalf of East Point Lighthouse*

THE DEMISE OF HEREFORD *(continued from page 1)*

have negligently disregarded all of the very real concerns that the City has with the current operation of the Lighthouse." "The existing liabilities at the Lighthouse and the ground, most of which were caused by the 'Friends' can no longer be ignored." The "Friends" were accused of neglecting to make a final payment of funds due, failing to comply with grant close-out procedures, failing to comply with federal regulations, claiming that all of these have affected "the City's impeccable record with federal and state funding sources". Other improprieties include: improper communications on behalf of the city, unilateral action regarding city events, failure to respond to city request for meetings, improper and abusive treatment of city employees, inconsistent public access provided to lighthouse grounds, annual report, annual plan (including budget), certificates of insurance, etc., etc., etc. (Excerpts taken from Mayor Rosenello's letter of November 16, 2017)

During this past summer, the beacon light went out. It was replaced by the coast guard with a flashing signal. This flashing light will be in place until a new light is delivered. We have stopped by Hereford several times since the "take-over" and there have been no visitors. The only vehicle in the parking lot belonged to the people working in the lighthouse.

The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers & Friends Association has always been treated politely, fairly and with kind regard for all those involved. Our association has always been invited to and included in all the events for many years. It has always been an enjoyable experience volunteering, meeting the various lighthouse enthusiasts and tourists and working with the people at Hereford. There has never been one moment's problem with our organization and the people in charge at Hereford. It is difficult to understand why the Mayor and the Council have seen it necessary to take control of a historic site that has been working smoothly for years and removing the people who have made this lighthouse and surrounding grounds so successful and appealing to tourists.

Stop by when you are in the area and check things out for yourself. They say "a picture is worth a thousand words". Please check out the following pictures. I rest my case.

THAT WAS THEN



Mariners' Weekend



Garden tours

Lectures



The Monarchs stop by



Pavers honoring our founder

THIS IS NOW



SALUTING OUR VETERANS Veterans' Day — November 11

Originally Woodrow Wilson named November 11 Armistice Day in 1919 designating the end of WWI when the Armistice with Germany went into effect, the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. It was then renamed Veterans Day in 1954, a public holiday honoring the people serving in the US Armed Forces. This holiday honors the veterans who are living whereas Memorial Day is in honor of those making the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

What a perfect time to honor some of the veterans who are members of our organization. We sincerely wish all our members who have served our country a long and peaceful life. It is indeed time to say, "Thank you for your service". Because of your sacrifice, we are able to enjoy our freedom living in the greatest county in the world.



Memories of Korea (Anthony “Tony” Giletto)



In 1950, one of our members, Anthony “Tony” Giletto was drafted into the US Army. He became Sergeant First Class during the Korean Conflict. Living in Camden NJ when he was drafted, he was sent to Camp Polk, Louisiana for basic training and from there started on the long trek, his final destination, Hokaido, Korea. His first 14 day voyage took him from New Orleans, through the Panama Canal to San Francisco. When the ship stopped at the Mira Flores locks in the Panama Canal, the men had liberty. Thirty-seven of them didn’t return to the ship so upon arriving at San Francisco, the ship was heavily guarded; no one was permitted to leave. His memories include sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge and taking another 14 days before arriving in Hokaido. He was assigned to the Chowrom Valley area—

SALUTING OUR VETERANS *continued*

the major assignment to protect this Valley that led into the South Korean capital of Seoul. The US military built roads through the mountain ranges to aid transportation and allow the US military access to the South Korean capital. Smoke generators ran all day long producing camouflage to protect these troops in the valleys of the area mountain ranges.

Tony was assigned to the Fire Direction Center; he had a Native American as his FO (Forward Observer), whose job was to scout for Vietcong targets. Sgt. 1st Class Giletto had to be very careful in aiming the Howitzer 105 projectile shots since these missiles would be going over the heads of our soldiers on the front line. There were no computers at this time so everything had to be figured out mathematically. The noise of the shots caused Tony to have a hearing problem so he had to be fitted with hearing aids. He recalls Betty Hutton and Frances Langford coming to the camp with the USO to entertain the troops. The Vietcong machine gunned Langford's train but luckily she was not hurt. Watching the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang this year brought back many memories. Tony finished out his remaining time in Japan. He was overseas for 19 months – 9 months on the front lines in South Korea and 10 months in Japan.

For God and Country (*Sam Mastrogiacomo*)

One of six children born to Italian immigrant parents in Philadelphia, Sam decided to enlist in the Army Air Force right after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since he was underage at the time, his mother had to sign for his enlistment. Assigned to Olmstead Field in Middletown, PA for basic training, he went on to gunnery school in Laredo, TX , on to more training at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi and finally ended up in Denver, Colorado. After finishing sixteen weeks in Denver, Sam was then sent to Salt Lake City, Utah and finally was assigned aboard a B24 Liberator stationed at Sioux City, Iowa. Not finished traveling as yet, Sam was sent to Watertown, South Dakota where he got his assignment to head overseas via Lincoln, Nebraska. Leaving the USA, the men then flew to British Guiana, South America, continued on to North Africa and finally reached their assigned destination—a rebuilt RAF Base in England.

A member of the US Army's 8th Air Force Division, he was a Ball Turret Gunner on a B-24; his assignment was to protect the underside of the aircraft. His crew was directed to fly across the English Channel to hit targets in Nazi occupied Western Europe and targets of the Third Reich itself. Sam's Commanding Officer and pilot was Captain (eventually Major) James Stewart. (Yes, that one!!) Sam recalls occasions when their guns froze on one mission and couldn't be used. Other times he witnessed his buddies and planes getting shot down, their engines on fire, planes crashing and the skies filled with men parachuting. This was the realization and effects of war: dodging German aircraft rockets, German planes; words like buzz bombs, flak, strafing, etc. became a reality. Acronyms such as: MIA, MP, NCO, OCS, POW were part of the everyday vernacular.

As they were returning from Mission #13, they discovered their engine was on fire, one of the engines was leaking, oil pressure was dropping; consequently, they were forced to land on a small island between Sweden and Denmark. He and the crew were captured and taken to Sweden where the crew joined other French, British and Polish fighter pilots who had similar experiences. He remained in Sweden and eventually returned to the United States. In October, 2003, Staff Sergeant Samuel Mastrogiacomo was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He had also received other medals for his heroic escapades as a tail gunner. Sam wrote of these adventures in a recently published book, *FOR GOD AND COUNTRY* In that Order, in which he tells a riveting story of the good, the bad and the ugly of air war. He was put on active duty when the Korean War began but didn't have to report.

Memories of a Sherman Tank and Germany (*Jim Moffatt*)

Some friends and I were working in New York City and going to Rutgers Evening Extension Courses when we decided to sign up for the Draft. So off we headed to Fort Dix, NJ. After signing up, we were sent to Camp Pickett in Blackstone, VA where I completed my basic training. We assumed we were headed for Korea but found out we were being sent to Germany for Border Duty. The Russians had just invaded the Czech Republic and had plans to occupy Southern Germany. I was assigned to the 43rd Division Recon Company as an assistant driver (Bog Gunner) in a Sherman Tank, the fastest tank in the military at that time. My "Caddie" had twin eight cylinder engines, traveled at a top speed of 60+ mph, and had a 75mm cannon, two 30mm machine guns plus additional fire power. Many a night we slept in the turret; if it was too cold, we sat on the engine grate to stay warm. Eisenhower, who was

SALUTING OUR VETERANS *continued*

running for president at that time, put a freeze on promotions at all levels, so I never did get my sergeant stripes after being upgraded to Tank Commander.

We had some tough field missions but we knew we could always depend on each other to keep our sanity. I can say I did enjoy most of my army life. Field assignments had their reward; we got extra credit days for furloughs so I spent time traveling throughout Europe. When we arrived in Naples, we were met at the train station by a local cabbie who said, "Hey, GI's, where ya from". I said, "New Jersey". He replied, "Hey, me, too". Come to find out, he had been a prisoner of war at Parvin State Park. Small world. While on furlough in England, we were invited to tea by a very proper English lady.

Jim spent 32 months in Munich, Germany doing lots of field living, sometimes in the tank. He states he had some great times on furloughs seeing much of Europe including Italy, France, Austria, the Netherlands and England and Scotland. He adds he met the famous British singer, "Bea Lilly" who sang "The White Cliffs of Dover" which was adopted as the British national war anthem.

Incidentally, Jim was former Editor of The Bay Run.

CATCHING UP WITH THE NEWLYWEDS

What a wonderful wedding we had on June 16, a beautiful spring day, off the New Jersey/ Delaware coasts. Shelley made a lovely bride in the "Month of Brides" named for Juno, Queen of the Greek Gods. The service was conducted by the Reverend Leeward Lobster and our close friends acted as attendants. Many of our friends and relatives attended the wedding, staying for the reception which featured: plankton, dancing, drinking, filtering and "the usual"... "a great time was had by all". Previously, Shelley and I had discussed honeymoon plans and talked about possibly going to Oyster Creek, NJ; incidentally this area was named for my great grandfather. Eventually we found out that the nuclear plant located there was currently being decontaminated and no longer producing electricity for the surrounding area. Even though it wouldn't be dismantled until 2075, we certainly didn't want to get involved in this at any time let alone on our honeymoon. How shocking!! It seems that the owner, Exelon Generation Company had proposed a 60 year \$1.4 billion plan for returning the site to any type of use after the plant closes down this fall. Oyster Creek was the oldest operating nuclear plant in the country and was producing enough power to supply 600,000 homes with electricity.

Visiting Long Island's Oyster Bay was also discussed. We both love history and would enjoy touring, Sagamore Hill, the house of Former President Theodore Roosevelt. It isn't far from the home of William Vanderbilt II and other historic sites but we thought this might be a little too extravagant for our tastes. We sought out travel brochures on Clearwater and Sweetwater in Florida but figured that would not involve filtering so they were out. Eventually, we decided just to float around the Delaware Bay and maybe venture up the Delaware and Maurice Rivers. After all, the area of Maurice River Cove in the Delaware Bay and along Bivalve and the Maurice River was once known as "The Oyster Capital of the World". In

our research, we found that there is a big difference between oysters raised in cold water and those grown in warmer waters. We had heard that the oysters along the Gulf Coast tend to be a little wild since the water is too warm. So we figured staying close to home was our best bet. It was a pleasure just being together; two oysters in love, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and out in the world on our own. The "world was truly our oyster".

After two weeks of extreme bliss, just floating along on our own, we had to return to our home base and think about going back to work (ho hum). We also had to find a place where we could attach for the next few years, find a suitable oyster bed and eventually raise a family. So, please stay tuned as our life goes on.

