



The Bay Run

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

Volume 42 Issue 28
Summer 2024

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

WOMEN WHO KEPT THE LIGHTS "BACK IN THE DAY" *LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS*

Hundreds of American women have kept the lamps burning in the lighthouses since the lighthouse keepers were away fighting in the War for Independence. Most of these women served during the 19th century. Some of their duties included: lighting a number of lamps in the tower at dusk, replacing them when necessary, replenishing the fuel, polishing the lamps every morning, keeping the lights shining brightly not to mention rescuing seamen when their ships capsized or were wrecked. (Need I mention, some of these women were married and had families.) Not much is known about the 24 lighthouses on the East Coast in the first two decades of the 19th century since official registers of keepers were not begun until 1828. Following are stories about a few of the women who kept the lights burning on some of the lighthouses along the East Coast. Several of these stalwart women received recommendations for their courage.

According to records and research it was found that Hannah Thomas, keeper at Gurnet Point Light in Massachusetts from 1776-1786, was the first female lighthouse keeper in the United States. Hannah took over her husband's job when he went off to fight the British in 1776. Her job was a seven-day-a-week responsibility. It was certainly a lonely and occasionally frightening responsibility trying to keep the lights burning as hostile British frigates cruised up and down the coast. The two lamps in each lantern had to be lit and kept burning every night of the week, every day of the year. She tended four flat-wick lamps without any reflecting apparatus; these lamps burned whale oil, which gave off a large amount of smoke and soot. She had to replenish the oil in the lamps two or three times during the night, trim the wicks, and wipe the glass clean. At dawn, she extinguished the lamps and cleaned them (and hopefully went to bed).

Catherine Moore was keeper of the Black Rock Light of Connecticut from 1817 – 1879. "Kate" did not become official keeper of Black Rock, (located on the north shore of Long Island Sound) until she was 76 years old. Her father, who was keeper, was injured in a fall and his health was failing, so Kate was called on to assist with the light. She did her invalid father's work and cared for him for 54 years. The light, she stated: "consisted of eight oil lamps which took four gallons of oil each night and if they were not replenished at stated intervals all through the night, they went out. During very windy nights, it was almost impossible to keep them burning at all and I had to stay there all night." She added, "It was a miserable light to keep burning." During the time Kate was at Black Rock, she saved at least 21 lives. "Hundreds of dead sailors washed up on the shore as well. We had to keep the bodies until the Government chose to dispose of them." She



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Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



Greetings from North Cape May, New Jersey. It looks like we will be having another pleasant sunny day here in Cape May County with temperatures warm but not hot. It is the kind of day where you want to sit on the deck, put your feet up and just relax.

The posters advertising the summer cruises have been hung in various locations around Cape May and Cumberland Counties and the pamphlets are ready to be handed out. Two cruises, the first one on July 20th and the second on August 31st are booked with the Bonanza II. We are hoping for another good response this year. If you are interested in seeing any of the Delaware Bay lighthouses give us a call. You can read about the trips in this Newsletter.

It has been a busy time for us here setting up the vegetable garden and cleaning up the yard. We have corn, tomatoes, green peppers, green beans, cucumbers, and of course fresh herbs planted. It is a lot of work but so rewarding to have those fresh vegetables all summer. We share all the extras with the family and neighbors.

The NJ Lighthouse Challenge will be held on October 19-20 this year. We will set up our station at East Point Lighthouse once again. Nancy and Carl Tidy, along with their volunteers make sure it is a fun weekend. The visitors to the light are all very friendly and seem excited to listen to our stories. If you can stop by, we would love to see you.

We were sad to lose three valuable members who gave so much of themselves to the organization. Peggy Stapleford, who always had a smile, loved to collect any historical lighthouse news. She planned the meetings year after year driving from her home in Honey Brook, PA to attend each one. Anthony Giletto headed the scholarship program and made sure the merchandise inventory was always up to date. He drove from Cherry Hill NJ bringing the merchandise to each meeting to sell. He attended the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge meetings reporting any updates back to the organization. Marvin White was a great speaker and had stories with historical facts that everyone enjoyed. We will miss the faces and voices of these three friends but will have fond memories of them.

So, until next time, keep the lights shining! *Angelo*

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*The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA)
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.*

PEGGY'S CORNER – Event Calendar

by Peggy Stapleford Activities/Program Chairperson



SAVE THE DATES – Mark Your Calendars:

(Editor's note: As a tribute to Margaret "Peggy" Stapleford, I would like to honor her by writing the last Peggy's Corner. Peggy passed away April 14, 2024.)

Organization information: There will be NO SUMMER Meeting. Come join us on a cruise.

Saturday, July 20 Four-hour narrated Sunset Cruise in the Delaware Bay to Ship John in the northern part of the Bay leaving the dock at Higbee's Marina at 3 PM (slip #5) on the Bonanza II out of Fortescue, NJ. Get up close and personal with 5 lighthouses. Bring a lunch; bring a friend.

These lighthouses are not going to be there forever. Cost of cruise - adults \$50; children 5-12 \$25. Payment is due 2 weeks BEFORE the cruise, checks made payable to DBLHKFA may be mailed to Maxine Mulligan, Treasurer, 1049 Simca Terrace, Vineland, NJ 08360. For reservations and further information call: Darlene or Angelo Rigazio (609) 408-6692; e-mail: darlenej50@yahoo.com - KeeperAng54@yahoo.com or check our website (Delawarebaylightkeeper-friend.org). You will be notified if the cruise is cancelled due to inclement weather; your check will be returned.

Saturday, August, 31 Four-hour narrated Sunset Cruise in the Delaware Bay to Brandywine, in the southern part of the Bay. (Information same as above.)

Saturday, September 14 – Fall meeting to be held at the Bay Shore Center at Bivalve, NJ (in the renovated oyster sheds) 2800 High Street, Port Norris, NJ 08345 (856)785-2060. Meeting time 11 AM; Noon - enjoy a fresh oyster lunch at the Oyster Cracker Café (or "brown bag" it). 1 PM learn some interesting historical facts about the area from guest speaker(s) and enjoy videos offered. Bring a guest; all are welcome. Visit the newly refurbished oyster sheds, check out the museum and have a brief tour of the AJ Meerwald (if available). (NOTE: This is the bayside home of Oliie and family).

Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20 New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge – You are challenged to visit all the lighthouses in New Jersey in one weekend. Take the challenge!! Stop by East Point to tour the lighthouse, visit the gift shop and talk with a real-live lighthouse keeper at our Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keeper and Friends tent. East Point Light is open for tours monthly every 1st and 3rd weekend.

ELIZABETH GRACE BOLTON WINS CAROLE REILY SCHOLARSHIP



Elizabeth Grace Bolton, granddaughter of members Charles and JoAnne Bolton was awarded the Carole Reily Scholarship this year. She is a graduate of Pittsgrove's Arthur P. Schalick High School, earning a 3.8 average during her high school tenure. Elizabeth is planning on attending Montclair State University or Stockton University majoring in Illustration, possibly working in the theater/production industry as an illustrator for children's books.

While attending Schalick, Elizabeth won several awards including an Academy Award at the Jazz and Art Festival, she earned first place in the Mannington Mills "Art is Cool" contest; received awards from the State of NJ in Teen Arts; was a member of the National Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Music Honor Society; was the Schalick Chorus Outstanding Vocalist; Renaissance Artist of the Month, Student of the Month; she was published in the Celebrating Art Catalog and Received the highest score on her AP Art Portfolio. A member of the Mural Club, the Chorus, Elizabeth performed in the school's Spring Musical and performed jazz, tap and ballet at various company levels. With all these honors and activities, Elizabeth was also involved in community service working in "Bee Kind" and volunteering at the Vineland Public Library in the Children's Department.

We would like to wish Elizabeth the best of luck in her future endeavors; may you succeed in all you pursue.

Tributes to Members Who Have “Crossed the Bar”

MEMORIES OF ANTHONY “TONY” GILETTO

by Maxine Mulligan



Our friend and long-time member of our organization, Chairman of the Ways and Means and Scholarship Committees, Anthony Giletto, passed away on April 14, 2024. Tony was born in Camden, NJ and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1946. He was drafted into the Army, served in Korea and Japan, and was a recipient of the Bronze Star. Serving in the US Army, Sergeant First Class Anthony Giletto, active during the Korean Conflict, was assigned to the Chowrom valley to protect the area which allowed the US military access to the South Korean capital of Seoul. After finishing his time in the service, Tony established and maintained his own business. In 2009, he was honored as the DBLHKFA Volunteer of the Year and in 2018 he received the Nonagenarian Award. Tony was presented with a Quilt of Valor by the local South Jersey Quilts of Valor Chapter #11255 in June of 2020. The quilt is a single lifetime award presented to a living service member; a veteran touched by the war. At the presentation, he was wrapped in the quilt as a comforting, healing and protective tradition. The quilt had five stars representing each one of his daughters.

We were always entertained listening to Tony's stories, about his time in the war, attending the dances at Buena Hall, running his business and his number one topic, his family. He was a dedicated member of our organization, always

ready to help when needed, worked at our outreaches and a devoted family man. Yes, Tony, we thank you for your service, your dedication and your help. We all miss you, your stories and reminiscing together.

HONORING ANTHONY “TONY” GILETTO

By Darlene Rigazio

Tony was a special kind of lighthouse friend with a heart of gold. I remember the first year he attended a meeting at our house that was decorated for Christmas. He seemed excited about the décor and complimented us. The following year he brought me his wooden sled so that I could decorate it. I put lights, garland and flowers on it. I think of Tony every year as I check the lights and set the sled up on our porch for the holidays. It brings back special memories of my special friend.

I also remember the meeting when Tony suggested the scholarship program to honor Carole Reily, our organization's founder and first president. It was a great idea and has helped many students with their college education. He was dedicated to our organization and a wonderful person. I miss him at our meetings and will never forget him.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY “TONY” GILETTO

By Rod Mulligan

I really don't remember where and when I first met Tony but knowing him was unforgettable. He always volunteered, stepping forward to be helpful due to his experience in merchandizing. Chairperson of our Ways and Means Committee and Scholarship Program, his organizing skills were passed down to his daughters.

Tony had a great sense of humor. He would share stories of his family and his time in the service. He always was pleasant and had a ready smile. I recall an incident when we had an outreach at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Hereford is a building constructed in the late 1800's with low overhead beams in the basement. At weekend outreach events, our organization would store merchandise in the basement. Tony was of medium height but still managed to continually bump his head on the beams while helping to store the merchandise for overnight security. At our next annual banquet, another member, Bill Geilfuss, presented Tony with a hard hat to protect him while storing merchandise in Hereford's basement. Tony was a strong supporter of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse during the court battle with the Mayor of North Wildwood.

We will certainly miss his sense of humor, his stories and our friend “Tony” in general. Thank you for your service and for the help you so generously gave to our organization. We could always count on you.

MARGARET “PEGGY” STAPLEFORD



“Peggy” was born and grew up in southwest Philadelphia, graduated from John Bartram High School in 1950, and continued her education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing where she earned a nursing degree in 1954. She moved throughout the country residing in San Diego, CA, Philadelphia, PA, on to West Chester, PA, then to Florida; Peggy returned to Pennsylvania in 1993. During her lifetime travels, she married, had 4 children, worked at Chester County Hospital, worked as a Care Coordinator Educator and worked for the Children's Medical Services as a Nurse Liaison and Care Coordinator. Later in life, she continued working part time in a doctor's office. After retiring from nursing, Peggy traveled to Europe. She also maintained a booth in an antique mall in Pennsylvania. She loved her family, the grandbabies, animals, camping, metal detecting, collecting rocks, had an interest in trains and, of course, loved lighthouses. Her other interests included the beach, reading, history, genealogy and she enjoyed helping people. She was, indeed, a woman of many talents and loved by all.

MY TRIBUTE TO PEGGY

By Rod Mulligan

I met Peggy about 20 years ago at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood. At that time, I was the Activities/Program Chairperson and had run out of ideas for meetings. Peggy asked what she could do to help; I asked if she wanted my job; she said, "Yes," and, as they say, "The rest is history". Later on, we added the position of Historian.

As time went on, due to contract issues, we needed a facility in which to hold our annual banquet. Peggy had a previous acquaintance whose husband was the Commander of the Sea Isle City Yacht Club. That was it – a done deal...excellent facilities, great service and fond memories. Peggy was always ready and willing to help.

So, our thanks to you, Peggy, for all you have done to help make our association a success. Your help and input is greatly appreciated. All of us would like to extend our condolences to Peggy's family and friends. May Peggy and another member, Tony Giletto, who both "Crossed Over the Bar" on April 14, along with the 6 other members who passed through "the pearly gates" in the last 2 months, conduct their own heavenly lighthouse meetings. Hopefully you were all greeted by our organization's founder and past president Carole Reily.

THOUGHTS OF PEGGY

By Maxine Mulligan

Margaret "Peggy" Stapleford passed away April 14, 2024. Peggy was our organization's Programs and Activities Chairperson and Historian. As Chairperson her role was to select meeting dates, meeting places and plan programs by contacting guest speakers. As historian, she was kept busy collecting pictures and articles of interest pertaining to lighthouses, the coast guard and other maritime events in New Jersey, Delaware and, at times, throughout the country. She incorporated these pictures and articles of interest into her many scrapbooks.

At times the lighthouse meetings would last longer than expected, so Peggy would stay overnight with us. She was always welcome. Coming to New Jersey, she didn't like to drive over the Commodore Barry Bridge, she preferred the Delaware Memorial Bridge for some reason; due to her influence, this is often a standard family practice. When she visited, we were always careful not to include onions in any food preparation (she did NOT like onions).

On her many visits, she would update us on her family's activities: going camping, adventures on vacation, visiting the farm and her volunteering to help "feed the multitudes" at her church. All of which she enjoyed. She was very proud of her family.

Twelve years ago, I decided to write a book about my teaching experience. I was not aware of the procedures and requirements for publishing a book. I mentioned this to Peggy, and she immediately got busy and contacted a publishing company. We met at Gap, Pennsylvania, proceeded into Amish country, over hill and dale, and ended up at Mastof Press where I met the publisher. (I recall sometimes driving on unpaved roads.) The publisher took care of all the procedures and requirements and published my book. I will be forever appreciative of her help in this project.

Our officers, members of our association, other lighthouse managers and curators and all Peggy's Jersey friends, extend their condolences to Peggy's family and friends. "To know her was to love her". We were fortunate to have known and worked with Peggy and are proud to call her friend.

A TRIBUTE

By Darlene Rigazio

Peggy was a beautiful person with a smile that had a way of making everyone present feel comfortable by just being in her presence. She loved her family dearly, lighthouses, and chihuahuas. That was our connection. She remembered my fur babies and always asked how they were doing. Peggy shared stories with me about her special chihuahua and how he liked to drink her coffee.

When Peggy was planning the quarterly meetings, she had everything in order; we had fun at each one. The only thing I remember Peggy didn't like (and she would speak right up and tell you) and that was onions. I can remember her getting up, moving from where she was sitting at one of our meetings because the person next to her was eating onions on his sandwich.

Peggy was the kind of person who was sweet, kind and who had a gentle soul. She was missed so much once her health kept her from attending the meetings. I will always think of her as a special kind of friend, cherishing my memories.

MARVIN WHITE

By Maxine Mulligan

Marvin White passed away on Friday, April 5. He was born and raised in Bridgeton, NJ, graduating from Bridgeton High School in 1957. After high school, he entered the US Coast Guard and retired in 2004 as a Chief Petty Officer. Marvin was involved in the trucking industry over the years working for several trucking companies in the area. He taught mechanics at the Atlantic County Vocational School as well as Pennco Tech. He was a longtime member and Past Exalted Ruler of the Millville Elks Lodge #580 and the Nabb-Leslie American Legion Post #82 in Millville. He was an avid gun enthusiast and enjoyed target shooting with his friends Gary Price and Rodney Mulligan. (Information from the Vineland Daily Journal)

Marvin also took part in the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Assoc. where he relayed his coast guard experiences as guest speaker at various meetings. We always enjoyed his excellent presentations and appreciated the time he spent with our organization. He will be sadly missed by all of us. SEMPER PARATUS



MY TRIBUTE TO MARVIN WHITE

By Darlene Rigazio

I really didn't know Marvin that well but always remember the interesting stories he told and the items he passed around for our perusal during his presentations. He was an interesting speaker; we were all entertained as he told the stories about his tour of duty in the coast guard. We will always have fond memories of Marvin. He will be missed.

FOND MEMORIES OF MY COAST GUARD BUDDY, MARVIN WHITE

By Rod Mulligan

Marvin and I met while serving in the United States Coast Guard in the late 1950's. We served aboard the Zinnia, a buoy tender out of Gloucester, NJ. After a time, I was transferred and eventually discharged. Marvin had a great career in the coast guard reaching the rank of Chief Engineman. He balanced this career by becoming a member of the USCG reserve and an administrator in the field of diesel technology.

About 8 years ago, we were reacquainted thanks to a mutual friend and neighbor, Sherry Macleod. They were both members of the same church.

Marvin introduced me to target shooting shortly after we met. He walked me through the requirements and procedures necessary to own a gun and to purchase ammunition at gun shops. When I could no longer continue going to target shooting because of health issues, Marvin and I would go to breakfast once a week at various restaurants, just to keep in touch. He would pull up to the door both at the restaurant and at my house for my convenience. He could not do enough to help people, always trying to please them. I often think, he is probably pinning targets on a fluffy cloud to continue honing his shooting skills. He also attended and spoke at many of our Delaware Bay Lighthouse meetings, sharing his coast guard experiences.

The last time I saw Marvin was March 27. Little did I know we were doing our "fist bump" for the last time. I didn't know he was ill. I found out he was in the hospital and called his wife to find out how he was doing. She informed me that Marvin had "crossed over the bar" earlier that morning. I will surely miss our weekly get togethers and his red Toyota Tacoma pickup of which he was so proud. It still seems unreal, unbelievable that he has passed.

Until we meet again, keep on target. So long, good buddy, you are the best.

MEMORIES OF THE COAST GUARD (2ND IN SERIES)

By Ron Mikulski

After the one week leave, we got after boot camp graduation, I reported to Group Cape May. Upon arriving I found that I was assigned to Fourteen Foot Bank Light; I also was informed that the supply boat was leaving the next day. Arriving at the lighthouse, after stopping at Brandywine Shoal Light, I was surprised to find the lighthouse just rose straight out of the water with no landing nor rocks around it. I had to time the waves just right at peak, jump for the ladder, then scramble up to a hatchway in the deck. I was greeted by BMI Williams and EN I Jackson.

Harbor of Refuge, on the State of Delaware side of the bay, did not mark the shipping channel. It marked the ship anchorage, which was originally constructed along with a breakwater for ships to anchor and seek refuge during storms. Later it marked a deep-water area where the large tankers, that drew too much draft when fully loaded, would anchor and offload part of their cargo onto barges before continuing up the Delaware to the refineries. This practice ceased after an off-loading station was built off Indian River which enabled direct transfer to land.

Brandywine was the first lighthouse in the line guiding ships up the Delaware River. It was surrounded by rock (rip rap) along with a finger pier and main pier in a cove constructed in the rock. It had a ramp from the main pier to the deck for entrance. The main pier also had several white buildings the Navy had constructed to house equipment during WWII. No one seemed to know what the equipment was, but it was probably some form of underwater listening equipment for submarines. It had long been removed and the buildings were used for storage. Inside were two or three grandfather-like Seth Thomas clock units. Their purpose was to transmit a radio signal for ships to calibrate their direction finders. The direction finders were used in the auto pilots of the ships to aid in navigating the two shipping channels out of Delaware Bay—one led to the Delaware Lightship, the other to the Five Fathom Lightship. Each lightship emitted a signal that the ships could hone in on with the direction finder and help them follow the shipping channel. Brandywine was also equipped with a light and a foghorn. It was powered locally by diesel driven generators.

Fourteen Foot was located on the Delaware side of the Bay; it rose 36' out of the water. Miah Maul, third in line, had an awning entirely around the deck; the lighthouse was painted bright red. Because of the color and the awning, the lighthouse looked stout and was nicknamed the "fireplug".

It was the only one at that time powered by an underwater cable (shore tie) that supplied power to Elbow of Cross Ledge, an unmanned unit. The Elbow of Cross Ledge building had been partially destroyed and then razed. It was replaced by a skeleton tower.

Ship John was the last of the Channel Lights under the Cape May group. It was surrounded by rocks and had a small landing pier.

The lighthouses were supplied with food each week weather permitting. Personnel were also transferred at the same time. Personnel got one week off for every two weeks on duty. They were also paid a meal allowance. Food orders were called in to Cape May Radio and then transferred to the PX. The food was packaged and sent out to the lighthouse on a boat. For Fourteen Foot and Miah Maul, a net attached to a hoist was dropped, the food placed into the net, and it was then hoisted onto the deck. This was somewhat a hairy event for the boat personnel when the weather was rough as I later found out.

WOMEN WHO KEPT THE LIGHTS “BACK IN THE DAY”

tended the light, the tower of which still stands, until she was 84 years old, retired, bought a retirement home, which still stands, and lived to age 105.

Meanwhile, closer to our area, Margaret Stuart was busy keeping the light lit at Bombay Hook from 1850 – 1862. Bombay Hook is located on the south side of the Smyrna River near the shore of the Delaware River in Delaware. Her father was the first keeper, and she was assigned to keep the station neat and clean. To help her out, the lighthouse was whitewashed at Mr. Stuart's request because there was no allowance for lime for whitewashing. Margaret's job was made a little less onerous when new iron lanterns for fourth-order apparatus were substituted for the old defective style lanterns. Her appointment ended, as did that of many other lighthouse keepers, during the Civil War. Many lights were extinguished then to prevent their aiding the enemy, and the confusion of the period affected the careers of many of the keepers. This lighthouse was abandoned some time in the early 20th century. The site is now the property of Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife and is part of the Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge.

In keeping with the theme of this newsletter, we would like to pay tribute to Carole Reily whose anniversary date of her passing is July 7. Carole was the founder, chief administrator and director in charge of our association, and was affectionately known as “The Lighthouse Lady”. She always enjoyed sitting in the bow of the Bonanza II on our cruises and would exit the cruise completely soaked. Many other women have followed her leadership example along the way. We would like to pay tribute to Betty Mougner of Hereford Lighthouse who passed away recently. Kudos also go to Nancy Patterson-Tidy who has fought so courageously to maintain and keep the light burning at East Point. To these women and many others whose contributions, expertise, time and energy kept these lights burning, we salute you. (Clifford, Mary Louise and J. Candace, WOMEN WHO KEPT THE LIGHTS, Cypress Communications, Williamsburg, VA 1993.)

ADVENTURE AWAITS AT THE BAYSHORE CENTER AT BIVALVE

The following events are available at The Bayshore Center this summer. A visit to the Delaware Bay Museum includes the Shucking House Exhibit, which is located on the second floor of the museum and features oral histories, original shucking stalls, oyster cans and plates and our newest museum piece, an oyster cooler which was used in retail shops throughout the US to sell Delaware Bay oysters. The documentary “On the Shellpile” can be view in the exhibit, highlighting the African-American community.

There are several Oyster Industry Exhibits; Dockside Dining & Local Craft Beer is available, Community Events & special Programs are offered on the Second Friday of each month Expert speakers share their knowledge and research connected to the Bayshore and the community. You will have an opportunity to Go Sailing on the Historic A. J. Meerwald, “New Jersey's Tall Ship”. (Tickets are \$50 per person.) To make reservations or if you have any questions, please call 856-785-2060 or check out the Website: BayshoreCenter.org.

Educational sails on the Meerwald are available for schools and youth organizations and continue throughout the season, connecting youth to our waterways, maritime history and natural environment.

The Center is open from May to October on Thursdays 4 – 8 PM; Saturdays and Sundays 12 – 5 PM.

NEW ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS DESTROYER DEDICATED—THE USS JOHN FINN

On the anniversary of Pearl Harbor a new guided missile destroyer was dedicated, the USS John Finn (DDG-113). It was named for John Finn, a Chief Aviation Ordnance man who showed extra-ordinary courage during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It seems that Finn was at home that fateful morning, having a cup of coffee with his wife when he heard about the attack. He immediately returned to the base, took a .30 caliber machine gun and proceeded to fire at oncoming Japanese planes. During this heroic act, he suffered a total of 21 shrapnel wounds inflicted by the Japanese bomber planes. He went to receive medical aide, only to return to help other wounded sailors and to prepare for a possible second attack. John Finn was awarded the Medal of Honor in September of 1942 and had the honor of being the first Medal of Honor recipient of World War II. After serving 30 years of active duty, he retired in 1956 with the rank of Lieutenant. He was the oldest Medal of Honor recipient.

DID YOU KNOW?



Margate, NJ's "Lucy the Elephant" is the oldest roadside attraction in the United States.



Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest operating light in the United States; constructed June 11, 1724.



The oyster schooner, New Jersey's tall ship, the AJ Meerwald, was used by the coast guard as a fire boat in World War II. It was built in 1928.



The Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana is the longest bridge in the United States and the longest continuous bridge over water in the world checking in at 23.79 miles. It connects New Orleans with smaller communities on the north side of the lake. The causeway, connected by 2 parallel bridges, is supported by 9,500 concrete pilings.



Prior to 1920, it was possible to send children through the US Postal Service. Requirements included: the child had to weigh less than 50 pounds and the stamps had to be attached to his/her clothing. They traveled in the mail car under the supervision of a mail clerk. One child traveled from Florida to Virginia for \$.15.



The "Harbor of Defense" of the Delaware Defense System aka Fort Miles was designed to protect 200 miles of the Delaware Bay and River shoreline from German vessels during WWII.



Built in 1942 near Sun Set Beach in Cape May only a few yards from where the Delaware Bay flows into the Atlantic Ocean, a Fire Control lookout tower is the only remaining free standing tower in the area.



Cape May, NJ is the oldest seaside resort in the United States. It was also named the Most Beautiful Town in America by CN Traveler. (Internet)



Italy houses the greatest number of UNESCO World Heritage sites with 55 sites. (Internet)



Congratulations to 9th grader Demi Johnson of Mississippi for receiving a National Geographic award and is headed to the National Geographic Explorer Festival in Washington, DC for her oyster reef program. She has produced 1,100 oysters this year that will in turn spawn millions of larvae that will make a huge impact on our ecological system. Ollie and family express their thanks.



Nearly 100,000 visitors a year tour the Cape May Lighthouse.



Historic Town Bank, NJ, the "Birthplace of South Jersey," was established in 1635.



Belated birthday greetings to Sandy Hook Lighthouse, celebrating its 260th birthday.



The Battleship New Jersey began its trip back to its home in New Jersey after a much-needed renovation in Philadelphia. It returned to Camden, NJ on June 20.