

The Bugle

Ocean Hills Village Vets

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Commander's Corner

Captain Bob Bechill, SC, USNR-R.

Hot Dog Extravaganza on May 21st. Be there!

It's that time of year again as we roll out the grills for our **annual Hot Dog Extravaganza!** I am the one who came up "extravaganza," so if you are getting tired of that word please, for the love of all that is holy, come up with another!

What's on the menu? Let's see. Oh yeah. Hot Dogs grilled to perfection, chips, beverages, ice cream and perhaps another surprise or two.

When and where will the Extravaganza be held? (okay, we definitely need another

word). In the Lanai. We hope to start rolling the dogs off the grill starting around 11:30.

Will there be a guest speaker? You betcha! This year, the CEO of the USS Midway Foundation, Rear Admiral Terry Kraft, will come up to talk with us about the new Freedom Park that is scheduled to open in 2028. Rear Admiral Clark is a decorated combat aviator, so I'm sure he will also come armed with a sea story or two.

Is there a charge? FREE for members and only a measly \$5 for guests. What a deal!

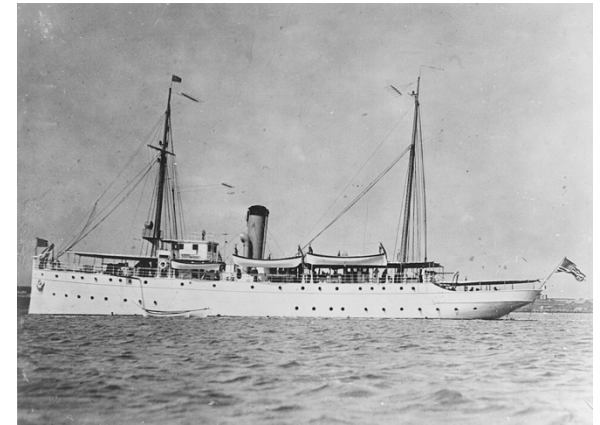
Why are we meeting? Our commitment to you is to have at least one general meeting or related activity every two months. Last year we had a number of additional special meetings in addition to our general meetings, and I'll tell you about some planned schedule additions on May 21.

One item that we will again bring up is the need for officer nominations. The four officers that we have to nominate and then vote on each year are the Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer, and Secretary. Of the four, the Treasurer spot is the one we desperately need nominations for. Doc Smitty has been our Treasurer for the past eight years! He's decided it's time to step down. Smitty's records are immaculate. Will one of you step up?

Next meeting? Our next meeting will be on June 25 with a presentation on VA Home Health Care options by Dan Sweiger, President of BrightStar Care-Carlsbad.

Back to another title. Hot Dog Round Up? Hot Dog Spectacular? Hot Dog Jamboree? Hot Dog Pageant! PLEASE HELP!!!

The Loss of the TAMPA



By Jim McDonough

During the First World War, the naval forces of the United States were largely involved in protecting convoys bringing men and equipment to assist the Allies. There were no major naval battles, nothing comparable to Midway or Leyte Gulf, fought by the U.S. Navy. But there was one major casualty endured during the war, and the ship we lost was a Coast Guard cutter, the USCGC *Tampa*.

The *Tampa* was originally named *Miami*, and she was part of the Revenue Cutter Service. This service was established in 1790 at the recommendation of the nation's first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton. It was an armed customs enforcement service, initially a key source of revenue for the newly formed Federal government. It eventually gained additional missions, including some of a military nature. The Cutter Service was eventually merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form the U.S. Coast Guard in January 1915. *Miami* was renamed *Tampa* while attending a festival held in Tampa, FL, in 1916. *Tampa* was 190 feet long, had a beam of 32.5 feet, and a draft of 14.1 feet. Her maximum speed was thirteen knots.

In April 1917, the United States entered World War I, and *Tampa* was transferred to Navy control for the duration of hostilities along with most of the Coast Guard. This is normal for declared wars; for undeclared wars, individual cutters may be ordered to change operational control to a Navy command. *Tampa* was crewed by Coast Guardsmen. She was up-gunned with two three-inch guns, machine guns, and depth charge throwers and racks. In her eleven months of wartime service, she escorted eighteen convoys between Gibraltar and

Great Britain, losing only two escorted vessels to submarines.

On September 26, 1918, *Tampa* was ordered to put into Milford Haven, Wales, and proceeded independently toward her destination. That evening, she was spotted by *UB-91*, who submerged and entered an attack position. She fired one torpedo from a stern tube, which hit *Tampa* amidships. *Tampa* sank with all hands, 111 Coast Guardsmen, 4 U.S. Navy personnel, and 16 passengers. The *Tampa* loss was the worst combat loss of a U.S. naval vessel in World War I. A few bodies were recovered, but the ship disappeared. Logs from the U-Boat recovered after the war were the only record as to what happened to her.

You may have read or seen that *Tampa* was in the news of late. Her final location has been discovered. According to the New York Times, "the discovery was the culmination of a three-year effort by the Gasperados Dive Team, a group of British explorers and researchers. They combed shipping logs and wartime messages, and collaborated with the Coast Guard to pinpoint the path and resting place of the vanished vessel."

The *Tampa* is remembered in the Coast Guard's official song, *Semper Paratus*, and

her loss has been a bitter memory for the service for over a century. There is some comfort in knowing her final resting place.

A Local Gem – Connie's

Just tucked into the strip shopping center across Melrose from Albertson's you can find Connie's Café. She is open 7 days a week for breakfast and lunch only, with everything prepared to order. She offers take-out dinners on Wednesday that are publicized on her Facebook page.

I especially like the tuna melt and the Reuben.



We take the potato salad home to have that night.

A Vet in Our Village

I was unable to identify a Vet in Our Village for this month due to travel and the press of time. If you would like to be honored as the Vet for a future month, or if you know someone who should be honored, please send a note to me at jamespmcdonough@gmail.com, or call the number on page 1. Thanks. No vet's story is not worth telling.