

USS INDIANAPOLIS/GWINN "ANGEL" SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

Seventy-Five Years Later - We Remember



Indianapolis off Mare Island Naval Shipyard on July 10, 1945; 19 days before her sinking.

The year 2020 marks 75 years since the sinking of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), which claimed the lives of nearly three out of every four of her 1,195-man final sailing crew. Their struggle for survival began shortly after midnight on Monday, July 30, 1945. Those who did not succumb to wounds, exhaustion, dehydration, sharks, or despair were sighted by Navy PV-1 Ventura patrol bomber pilot, Lieutenant (j.g.) Wilbur Charles (Chuck) Gwinn and his 5-man crew on Thursday, August 2, 1945.

Out on routine patrol, an errant radio antenna had caused Gwinn to turn the flight controls over to his copilot so he could help stop the trailing communications tool from whipping around. Looking straight down out the belly of the plane he spied an unusually large oil slick on the sea below. Thinking it was an enemy submarine, he raced back to the cockpit and circled around, flying low to investigate. By this time the shipwrecked crew had been in the water for nearly 84 hours. Harold Bray, USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) survivor from Benicia, CA, recalls, "starting the second day, we saw planes every day, but the planes were too high to see the sailors in the water. By the fourth morning, I saw a small dot that turned into an aircraft flying low. The pilot had seen the oil slick from the (wreckage of) *Indianapolis* and thought it was a Japanese sub until he saw all these heads bobbing in the oil. And, that's when the rescue started."

It soon became clear to Gwinn that the "heads bobbing in the oil" were men clinging to life in water-logged life vests and floating nets. Gwinn's crew dropped life-saving equipment from their aircraft and continued to update the urgent messages to their base on Peleliu Island. With each transmission the numbers of counted men increased. Gwinn's VPN-152 squadron commander, Lieutenant Richard Atteberry, was the first responder on scene. Dangerously low on fuel, Gwinn surveyed the scene with Atteberry before being instructed by his commander to return to base. By now the groups of survivors were spread out for miles. As other planes arrived on scene, Lt. Atteberry was able to provide air coverage and direction for dropping supplies.

Lieutenant Adrian Marks, pilot of the Navy PBY 5A, Catalina Flying Boat, had been among the first to pick up one of Gwinn's messages from the spotty radio transmission. As Marks described it, the message was interpreted as "am circling life raft", then a latitude and longitude.



*Wilbur Charles (Chuck) Gwinn,
Lieutenant (j.g.) -PV—1 Pilot*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** – Meet this year's recipients and read excerpts from their essays.
- SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** – Find out how you or your family member may qualify to receive a college scholarship award.
- THE LEGACY WE SHARE** – Join the donor list and keep the scholarship program strong!

Seventy-Five Years Later—We Remember, continued.

Marks arrived on the scene by midafternoon. He was astonished by the magnitude of what he saw and informed his commanders that he would forgo standing orders and attempt to land his aircraft in the open sea. The plane suffered damage and would no longer fly. But it was still intact, and soon became a rescue vessel. By this time, the men had been in the water for eighty-seven hours. The rescuers, however, were still completely unaware of the identity of the men in peril, or how long they had been stranded. The sinking of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) had not officially been reported.

As Marks taxied his flying boat through the maze of men, he and his 10-man crew made the heartbreaking decisions of picking and choosing among the hundreds of injured crewmen. Knowing they did not have capacity for all, they focused on the single swimmers separated from the main body of survivors. Their efforts saved 53 men from certain death.



R. Adrian Marks,
Lieutenant—PBY

Rescue efforts continued over the next 24 hours. The first ship was USS *Cecil J. Doyle*, which arrived shortly after midnight on August 3. By now it had been ninety-six hours since the heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* had sunk. Despite the wartime dangers, the *Doyle's* Lieutenant Commander Graham Claytor lit her big 24-inch searchlight and pointed it toward the sky as she neared the area to serve as a beacon of hope for the struggling crew. Other ships, USS *Bassett*, USS *Dufilho*, USS *Madison*, USS *Ralph Talbot*, USS *Ringness*, and USS *Register* searched for and rescued *Indy* survivors. The young crew of these ships heroically lifted the men to safety, cleaned their oil covered bodies, dressed their wounds from sun, sharks, and saltwater exposure, fed them, and gave up their own bunks to shelter the injured, before transporting them for better medical services.

The final tally: Of the 1,195 onboard USS *Indianapolis* CA-35 on July 30, 1945, 879 were killed in action and/or Lost-at-Sea. Only 316 survived.

The scholarship program is dedicated to the memory of Wilbur Charles Gwinn (1920-1973). He was known as "Chuck" to friends and family. The Survivors and families of USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) called him "Angel".

The USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship Endowment at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation

In June 2002, Doug Stanton, author of *In Harm's Way*, conceived of and funded the original *USS Indianapolis Survivors' Fund Scholarship Program* to benefit family members of the ship's crew and help preserve its historic legacy. Six years later, in 2008, the fund was permanently endowed by the family of Wilbur C. Gwinn and renamed the *USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship* in memory of the pilot who first spotted the survivors and initiated their rescue at sea. Because of Gwinn's keen eyesight in a miraculous situation, 316 crewmembers survived.

The scholarship honors the families of three major groups connected to the *Indy* story: her final sailing crew, the rescue and recovery crews, and

Honorary Survivors who have received that official status by supporting the Survivors Organization's goals over the past 75 years. Eligibility criteria is listed on the back of this newsletter. Previous scholarship award recipients are not eligible.

The USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship Endowment is recognized by the Survivors' Organization and endorsed by the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization for its ongoing efforts to preserve the story of USS *Indianapolis* CA-35. Prospective and continuing college students are encouraged to research the facts, remember the sacrifices, and reflect on USS *Indianapolis* stories that exist within their own families.

The Endowment was established in 2002 at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. The Foundation provides oversight and management for the Endowment Fund and the Scholarship process and helps ensure the perpetuity of this scholarship.

In partnership with the Community Foundation, applications are submitted online each year at GTRCF.org. A multi-generational committee from across the United States (comprised of Survivors' children and grandchildren, Honorary Survivors, and members of the Gwinn family) reviews the scholarship applications and makes award recommendations.

EXCERPTS FROM THIS YEAR'S WINNING ESSAYS



Barrett Chambers, from Soddy Daisy, TN, is the great-grandson of Survivor Louis "Kayo" Erwin, Coxswain. Barrett plans to attend University of Tennessee, Knoxville, majoring in Business Administration

Louis "Kayo" Erwin was one of the 316 men who survived the tragic sinking of USS Indianapolis. I knew him as Papaw. He was from Tennessee, part of a blue-collar family,

who joined the Navy at age 17 hoping to get to the Solomon Islands where he could see his brother, a Marine. His rank was Coxswain, part of the deck crew that maintained the ship, operated the crane, and one of the ship's five-inch guns.

Kayo boarded the vessel in Mare Island, California, as a new crew member on the mission to Tinian. After his shift ended at 10 pm on Sunday, July 29, 1945, he hung a hammock under one of the five-inch guns on the starboard side. Around midnight, two torpedoes ripped into the starboard side of the USS Indianapolis.

After the torpedoes struck, Papaw began cutting down the mesh bags of kapok life jackets and throwing them to the other sailors. He dove off the ship head-first to get as far away as possible to avoid being pulled under. Oil covered his body and he attempted to swim to his shipmates.

Time spent in the water was very difficult for my grandfather and the other estimated 900 men that made it off the ship. Papaw said the heat during the day was so intense, but at night the water temperature dropped low enough to cause hypothermia. Louis huddled in a group of sailors for the first two days, held afloat by only his kapok life preserver. By the third day, his kapok had become very water-logged and no longer held him afloat. Dehydration was brutal, but sailors who drank the saltwater hallucinated claiming to see islands or hot dog stands would swim to their deaths trying to reach them. Men felt so helpless. He turned to God and his love for his mother, but he knew day four would be the last day he could survive.

God answered his prayers on Thursday, August 2, 1945. When Gwinn tipped his wings, he felt joy and relief. He was one of the fortunate few who were picked out of the water and tied to the wings of Marks' PBY.

Louis made it back home to Tennessee. He married and had two children. Louis Erwin never spoke of the disaster until the first book was published. In 1960, the first reunion was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, and he drove his convertible 1960 blue Impala to the event. From that time on he never missed a single reunion. Louis always wore clothes identifying his survivor status.

I am extremely grateful to have been a part of Louis's life. He taught me what it means to be a selfless man. For the rest of my life I will ensure that the story never is forgotten.



Kody Felumlee, from Nashport, OH, is the great grandson of Survivor James K. Jarvis, Aviation Machinist's Mate, 3c. Kody is a student at Kent State University, majoring in Architecture.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the sinking of USS Indianapolis. Although many decades have passed, the remaining survivors, like my great grandfather, James

Jarvis, are still able to vividly tell of the sinking as if it happened yesterday. Survivor James K. Jarvis was an aviation metalsmith on *Indy*, working on SC-1 Seahawk seaplanes. He continued to work in aviation after his time in the military.

According to my grandfather, at shortly past midnight on July 30, 1945 he awoke up to complete silence in the airplane hanger where he had been sleeping. The ship had never seemed silent before and he knew something was very wrong. The ship went down quickly within a matter of twelve minutes. Once he was in the water, he swam as fast as he could. There was so much fuel oil in the water and everyone was covered. He lost his glasses in the water so he could barely see when the ship actually went underwater. He seemed to know that it would be a long time before he and his shipmates would be rescued. During the days and nights, he saw fellow shipmates succumb to the temptation of drinking the saltwater, causing hallucinations. His best friend on the ship was convinced that he could swim to the Philippines. He lost his best friend during this time.

My great grandfather was one of the lucky ones that had a life vest, but the life vests were not made for four days in the water. The only food he had was one potato that he portioned throughout the four days and five nights that he was stranded in the sea. When he finally saw the plane, he was so relieved.

Once my great grandfather came home, he was able to enjoy a normal life. He moved to Uniontown, Ohio in the 1950s. He started to work for Goodyear Aerospace in Canton, Ohio. He was a researcher and a technology developer. He got married and had a beautiful daughter. Now, he has many grandkids and even more great grandkids.

My family and I are very thankful for the sacrifices he has made for this country and blessed that he never stopped fighting for his life. We are very lucky that he is still here with us today. Even after he passes, I will continue to tell his story to my kids and grandkids to ensure that their story never dies.

Editor's Note: Kody received the award in May 2020. Sadly, Kody's great grandfather, James K. Jarvis, AMM3c, passed away in June 2020.

EXCERPTS FROM THIS YEAR'S WINNING ESSAYS



Olivia Harrell, from Pleasant View, TN, is the great granddaughter of Edgar A. Harrell, Sergeant. Olivia plans to study Business Management at Austin Peay State University, Clarks-ville, TN.

SGT Edgar Alvin Harrell is my great grandfather. From Turkey Creek, KY, he enlisted in the Marine Corps at 18 years old. He was assigned to USS *Indianapolis* and served under CAPT Charles B. McVay, III as the Captain's Orderly. He would

often sleep on the cool deck, using a shoe for a pillow. On July 30, 1945, a monstrous explosion awakened him. Suddenly, another explosion rocked the ship. A large portion of the ship's bow was already gone, and he could hear the bulkheads breaking from the force of the water flooding the ship. Had he slept in the Marine barracks he would have been killed instantly.

Hurrying to the emergency station he passed men who were screaming in pain. The ship rolled severely to starboard. He made his way over to the port side, clutching the rail to keep from slipping. Looking over the edge, he saw the gooey black oil glistening on the water as the flames of the ship split the night.

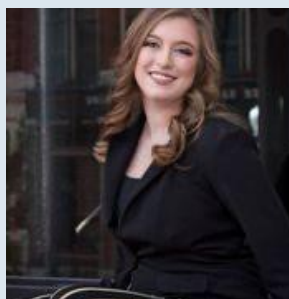
He cried out to God for help thinking this was where he would enter eternity. He stepped over the rail and walked down the side of the ship that served as a ramp into the water, being careful not to get oil in his eyes. He swam away and found a group of seventy sailors and marines and they all watched in terror as the fantail rose high into the air.

My great grandfather's faith in God strengthened him and he experienced an indescribable peace that remained with him for the next four and half days. He encouraged his shipmates and he prayed to the only One who could save them. He prayed to return to his wife-to-be, Ola Mae, who was waiting for him, oblivious to his sufferings. In the vast and lonely Pacific, he floated for four and one-half days, fighting hunger, dehydration, saltwater poisoning, exhaustion, hyperthermia, and the terror of an attack from the circling sharks.

One by one his shipmates perished, especially those who drank the saltwater. His only food was a rotten potato he found in a floating crate. Another day there was some rain and he opened his mouth to the sky, drinking drops of water funneled into his mouth with his hands.

One morning, while piloting his Lockheed Ventura PV-1 bomber on a search and destroy mission for Japanese submarines, LT "Chuck" Gwinn miraculously looked down from his plane and saw something glistening on the water. He dove down to take a closer look and discovered men floating in the sea. He started the rescue efforts and the surviving crew called him "The Angel". When LT Adrian Marks came upon the scene, Edgar, barely conscious and at death's door, was one of the men he pulled onto his plane.

Edgar returned home no longer the same teenage who left for the war. He and Ola Mae had a marriage that lasted 72 years until her passing in 2019. They had two children, seven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. Today, "Papa Ed" is 96 years old, still active and a highly sought-after speaker. He knows that God rescued him for a purpose: to live for God's glory and proclaim the saving and transforming truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Samantha Kupinski, from Granite City, IL, is the great granddaughter of Lost-at-Sea crew member Joseph Consiglio, Fire Controlman 2c. Samantha intends to major in Nursing and Spanish at Southern Illinois.

My great grandfather, Joseph William Consiglio, was aboard USS *Indianapolis* when she sank on July 30, 1945 in the

Philippine Sea. Joseph was a Fire Controlman, 2c, whose job was to operate and maintain weapons.

My great grandmother was pregnant at the time her husband was lost-at-sea, and my grandmother was born three months later in October 1945. My grandmother's sister was also left without a father and was a few years old when the ship went down.

Our family has done as much as we can to make sure he is honored. We have newspaper articles, stacks of postcards, photographs and even old report cards. On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, a U.S. flag was flown in his honor over the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) National Memorial in Indianapolis, IN. That flag was folded and sent to us. It is now displayed in our home. A photograph of him in his Navy uniform is displayed next to a photograph of my grandmother. A few years ago, I chose to surprise my family with a hand painted portrait of Great Grandpa with the American flag as the background. That painting is currently displayed near the photograph of him.

As a family we have been able to bond over learning about this tragic event. We made a trip to Alabama to watch the filming of a movie about USS *Indianapolis*. We met the family of another sailor. They shared a similar story as ours – both of our families never got to meet their loved one. We are families that never truly understood the story. The experience was truly unforgettable. Fast forward one year, and we made another trip to Alabama. This time it was to attend a special film debut that included families of USS *Indianapolis*. It was exciting to reunite with the people we had met.

I believe that sharing the story of USS *Indianapolis* is extremely important. One way I could share the story is to inform friends (new and old) and future educators. Much further in the future, I will educate my children and grandchildren about this amazing hero that we have in our family. I will make sure the story and the sacrifices that these heroes made for our freedom is never, ever forgotten.

EXCERPTS FROM THIS YEAR'S WINNING ESSAYS



Ava Sargent, from Boise, ID, is the great granddaughter of Survivor Verlin L. Fortin, Water Tender 3c. Ava plans to attend Carroll College in Helena, MT, majoring in English or Biology.

My great grandpa, Verlin Fortin was a survivor of USS *Indianapolis*. Grandpa "Buzz" was a Water Tender, 3rd Class. He tended to the fires and boilers in the ship's

engine room. When the *Indianapolis* went down, Grandpa Buzz spent most of his time hanging onto a potato crate that he found from the wreckage. This was the life support that kept him afloat.

In the water he had many obstacles. Surrounded by water that was undrinkable, he suffered from thirst and dehydration. Holding onto that wooden crate he must have wondered if anyone would find them, or whether he would be one of the next ones taken by sharks. He struggled to survive and keep his sanity. He thought of his girlfriend back home and imagined her walking down the aisle in a pretty white dress. He knew he had to get home and marry the love of his life.

I imagine that his companions all rallied around each other. They had children, wives, mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers, all waiting for them to come home. When the day finally arrived that their guardian angel flew overhead, Grandpa Buzz had been in the sea 5 nights and 4 days. He recalled being pulled up out of the water. Due to the saturation of skin from the saltwater and oil, a lot of his skin had shed off.

Finally, he made it back home. He got married and had three children. But this was not a happily ever after. He struggled a lot as PTSD slowly crept over him with flashbacks from his time in the water. Unfortunately, Buzz turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism after his rescue. My grandma (Buzz's daughter Linda) never knew why her father had started drinking. He had not told his children about the things he experienced. It wasn't until my grandma was 63 years old that her father opened up to her about his past life. It wasn't easy for my grandma to hear what my great grandpa had gone through, but she and her siblings were finally able to understand their father and the life decisions he had made. It changed the way they viewed him and their life. They were incredibly thankful that he had told his stories so they could tell their children, and their children's children.

My life changed after meeting Grandpa Buzz. I saw the strong and amazing young man he used to be. I saw the will and determination still sparkling in his eyes. I am a proud granddaughter of Verlin Fortin. I would like to leave a note to Grandpa Buzz to finish off: *You have blessed me with an amazing grandma, who I know you are proud of. You have also blessed our family with your presence, and your endless humor and stories of the good and the bad times. I will carry on your legacy for as long as possible. We all love and miss you.*



Ethan Trewartha, is from Oneida, WI. He is the great grandson of Survivor James W. Kittoe, Fireman 2c. Ethan intends to study Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse.

My great grandfather, James W. Kittoe, was just shy of 21 when he married my great grandmother, Essie, in 1942. Their first daughter, Jane, was born in January 1943.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in

December 1944, he enlisted in the Navy. He was a Fireman 2nd Class, responsible for the maintenance of the ship's weapons systems. He was one of the nearly 1200 crewmen who were on USS *Indianapolis* when it was torpedoed. He was one of 316 who survived.

He was discharged from the Navy in March 1946, three months after his second daughter, Mary, was born. He farmed, worked for John Deere Dubuque Works, and later at the Dubuque Packing Company in Iowa for 25 years. His son, James was born in 1948 and daughter, Glenda, in 1950. Due to a heart condition he was forced to retire in January 1978. He died on July 1, 1996.

I never got to meet my great grandfather and learn about his experience firsthand. Through my dad's stories, great grandmother Essie's history lessons, and my own personal research, I feel a connection with him and an appreciation of the loss of USS *Indianapolis*. Talking to James about *Indianapolis* was forbidden, but my dad was 10 years younger than his oldest brother and wasn't aware of the rule, so he asked his grandfather about it for a school report. It was the only time James Kittoe ever talked about it.

He had been scheduled to be in his bunk, but instead was asked to relieve another shipmate who had fallen ill. The deadly torpedo struck right where James would have been sleeping that night. Alive, he clung to a floater net covered with oil, not sure what he was in for next.

He became increasingly weak and discouraged. On that final day, he felt he had given all he could. He was starving, dehydrated, had a swollen tongue, cracked lips, and was prepared to die. After the rescue he was brought to a Guam hospital and then sent to San Diego. Meanwhile, at home, Essie received a telegraph regarding the ship but had no idea if her husband was dead or alive.

The physical recovery would come over time. The emotional struggle would be the biggest battle of all. Memories of the men who perished, the constant risk of shark attacks, and coming to grips with death haunted him throughout his life.

As he aged his family encouraged him to go to the Survivors Reunions in Indianapolis. He finally made the trip, accompanied by his wife, daughter Mary and her husband Jim. Jim described the shipmates' stories of the worst week of their lives as "emotionally draining."

James V. Kittoe was a brave and courageous man, one who survived the worst sea disaster in U/S/ Naval history. I am proud not only to call him my great grandfather, but my hero.

EXCERPTS FROM THIS YEAR'S WINNING ESSAYS



Boston Underwood, from Crestwood, KY, is the great grandson of Survivor Ralph E. Underwood, Seaman 1c. Boston plans to attend Brigham Young University. His major is currently Undecided.

My great grandfather, Ralph Ellis Underwood, was fortunate enough to survive the five nights and four days in the Philippine Sea and make it back to civilian life. In a letter he wrote from Guam shortly after the experi-

ence, he explained that his wife Hallie and son Ben (my grandfather) gave him a reason to fight to stay alive.

His letter shared that it was too hot to sleep below, so he was sleeping on the main deck three fourths of the way back from the bow when the torpedoes "rocked the boat". He was thrown into a passageway near the galley. He immediately put on his clothes and grabbed a life jacket when the ship started to list starboard. He abandoned ship when *Indy* had a sixty-degree list. With the sea at his feet, he jumped in. He swam as fast as he could and turned around to see the final fifty feet of the ship sink into the ocean.

He was fortunate enough to reach a life raft shortly after hitting the water which makes me think he may have been in Richard Redmayne's group because they had the most supplies, life rafts and three floating nets. He was able to be on the raft about one quarter of the time he was in the water, the rest of the time he was hanging onto the side. He wasn't very hungry and only received two tablespoons of water. He recalled that only three men in his group were "shark casualties" out of the 104 original men in his group. His letter said that he only slept for fifteen minutes, and that was on the final day.

He was picked up on August 3rd at 4:00 am and taken to Samar (north of Leyte) where he was in the hospital for eight days to recover from his twenty-five saltwater ulcers. He then was flown to a hospital in Guam for more recovery. It was there that he wrote the letter and told us of his plans to return to San Francisco by October 1st and continue his naval service at the Great Lakes.

I took the time to dive into Ralph's experience a few years ago. I read through the letter he sent and the numerous newspaper articles that my great grandmother kept about the sinking of the ship. I have tried to share Ralph's story with as many people as I can. During Junior year in high school we were learning about the war in the Pacific in my U.S. History class, and I reported my great grandfather's experience. Ralph was my only direct relative who served in World War II, and this gave me a chance to display his character and get to know a man that I never had the opportunity to meet.

I am fortunate to live a few hours south of Indianapolis and have visited the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Memorial. I saw all of the names of those who served on the ship, not just my great grandpa, providing a perspective I had not seen before of life and service to others. Ralph's story is part of the Underwood family history and will continue to be told to many generations to come.

Did you know?

Since its endowment in 2008, the USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$57,300 among 63 deserving students.

Virtually Amazing



The year 2020 marked important milestones in the history of USS Indianapolis CA-35. Not only was July 30, 2020, the 75th anniversary of the ship's sinking, it was also the 60th year since the survivors have been holding anniversary reunions in the City of Indianapolis.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic curtailed our ability to hold a large-scale reunion in person. However, we did the next best thing by commemorating the anniversary with a virtual reunion. There were more than 205,000 views as people tuned in from around the world to see tributes, witness the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, and learn about the ship and her crew.

Three of this year's scholarship award recipients were asked to participate in the reunion by sharing a pre-recorded reading of their essay.

Special thanks to Barrett Chambers, Olivia Harrell and Ethan Trewartha for sharing their essays during the virtual reunion. You can view the archived recordings on USS Indianapolis Official Facebook page and YouTube.

Links are found on www.ussindianapolis.org or www.ussindianapolis.com.

THE LEGACY WE SHARE

USS Indianapolis CA-35 had a long and distinguished history of naval service. The "Angel" scholarship program is an opportunity for families whose loved ones served on her fateful and final sailing mission to share their story.

We gratefully accept contributions for the USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship Endowment as a way to honor and remember your Indy crew member on his birthday or as a fitting memorial. Donations may be sent to our scholarship endowment at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF).

Your gift helps ensure that the legacy of USS Indianapolis CA-35 and her crew will live on through scholarships given out each year to deserving college-bound students.

Contributions can be sent to:

USS Indianapolis Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship
GTRCF

223 Lake Avenue, Suite B, Traverse City, MI 49684

Call 1-231-935-4066 for stock or credit card gifts; or visit www.gtrcf.org/give/our-funds.html/159/ to give online.

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED - THANK YOU!

Your generosity keeps our scholarship program strong! The following donors kindly contributed to the Community Foundation for the Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship Endowment from October 2019 – September 2020.

Jeanne Altschuler *

Merle Bauser *

Jean E. Benton *

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Dorothy Buckett *

William and Constance Buckett *

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USS Indianapolis Survivors
Organization*

** indicates multiple years of giving*

Each and every gift is special and helps keep our program strong! Our growing list of donors means that people share our goal of engaging younger persons in researching and remembering the story of the USS Indianapolis as a way to keep the legacy alive.

Gifts were made in honor or memory of the following:

Victor R. Buckett (Survivor)

Paul Campana RDM3

Frank J. Centazzo

Louie DeBernardi

William Friend Emery S1/
QM Striker

Theodore Erickson
(Survivor)

Wilbur Chuck "Indy Angel"
Gwinn

Edgar Harrell

Frederick Elliott Harrison
QM/2C

John Donald Howison

James K. Jarvis (Survivor)

A.C. "Tony" King (Survivor)

James William Kittoe

Lynn Larson

Arthur Leenerman
(Survivor)

Lt. Adrian Marks

Donald C. McCall

Charles Keith Neal (LAS)

Felton Outland Jr.

Robert "Bob" Witzig
(Survivor)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a *direct* descendent (e.g., grandchild, great-grandchild, includes stepchildren) of a Survivor, Lost-at-Sea (LAS), Rescue Crew or Honorary Survivor
- Attend or be a prospective *full-time* attendee of an accredited college or university
- Be of academic good standing - a GPA of 3.0 is preferred
- Previous recipients of the USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship are not eligible

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2021.

Applications are submitted online to the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF.ORG).

*This is a competitive process. Each application will be evaluated thoroughly by a multigenerational committee, including family members of Survivors, rescue crew, and honorary Survivors. The application process is open to any age college student; however, only one "Angel" scholarship award is allowed per student. Essays and short answers are vital components of the application. **All work must be ORIGINAL. Word counts and proper grammar are primary considerations for scoring. Factual correctness is very important.** Much has been learned about USS Indianapolis CA-35 in the 75 years since her sinking, and some of the earlier resources have outdated information. Please double check your facts with USS Indianapolis CA-35 websites: www.ussindianapolis.com or www.ussindianapolis.org. Recipients will be notified late spring, and awards will be sent directly to the educational institution of enrollment by the fall.*

The scholarship applications are reviewed each spring by a dedicated group of volunteers of three generations of USS Indianapolis CA-35 families. Our goal is to keep the story alive and relevant for current and future generations. To protect the integrity of the evaluation process, their names are not listed. Their contributions, however, are PRICELESS! A huge THANK YOU to the Scholarship Committee for serving faithfully and being committed to an objective process of awarding scholarships.



USS INDIANAPOLIS/GWINN "ANGEL" SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
223 Lake Avenue, Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49684