

Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission  
Minutes of Commission Meeting  
May 6, 2021  
4:00 p.m.

**Members present:**

Robert Hawthorne  
Roderick Wells  
Karen St. Cyr  
John Wells, (By Phone)  
Larry Muenzler  
Joe Jenkins  
Richard Brandt  
Robert Schilling  
John Pugh  
Aaron Bayham, Designee of Lt. Governor  
Earnest Buckner, La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

**Member absent:**

Michael Vicari  
C. J. Krueger  
Jacob Perry  
H. Davis Cole  
Jerald Juneau

**Others present:**

Rosehn Gipe  
Todd Maulding  
Tim NesSmith  
Carolyn Castel, La. Veterans Museum Foundation  
Walt Green, La. Veterans Museum Foundation  
Thomas Peak, La. Veterans Museum Foundation  
Jacob Waguespack, CPA Faulk & Winkler LLC  
Ronald Crowley, Military Order of the Purple Heart USMC Vietnam  
Deron Santiny, Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Karen Crowley, USAF Vietnam Veteran

**Call to order:** At 4:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Robert Hawthorne, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Joe Jenkins.

**Agenda:** Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

**Determination of a Quorum:** Nine Commission members were present therefore there was a quorum.

**Introduction of new members:** There was one new commissioner: Aaron Bayham who is the designee of the Lieutenant Governor. He said a few words about himself and was welcomed by the Commissioners.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to Commissioners and the Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. On a motion by

Commissioner John Pugh and a second by Commissioner Joe Jenkins, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** The Chairman told the Commissioners the treasurer, Commissioner Muenzler, was out of town and could not attend the meeting. Business Manager Todd Maulding was fighting the flu at home so therefore; the Executive Director would present the treasurer's report. Each Commissioner received an April report to review. Rosehn stated that financially all seems to be going well and things were looking better each month. The report was accepted with a motion by Commissioner John Pugh and seconded by Commissioner Richard Brandt.

**Committee reports:** The annual Audit Report for the KIDD/Museum was presented by Jacob Waguespack of Faulk & Winkler. The report Jacob presented was exemplary as no issues were found. He complimented the staff for a job well done. The issues from the previous year had all been corrected.

Carolyn Castel, Chair of the Louisiana Naval War Veterans Museum Foundation, addressed the commission regarding the "Roaring on the River II" event scheduled for June 3, 2021 starting at 5:30 pm. The foundation has raised \$36,000 so far and are continuing to get additional grants. They are expecting about 150 people. There will be food, beverages, and live music.

Chairman Hawthorne recognized Vice Chairman Pugh who asked to address the commissioners. His concern was directed at the lack of participation in support of "The Roaring on the River II" event. He was disappointed in the limited participation and asked that more commissioners do a better job in helping raise funds for the KIDD/Museum future projects.

Commissioner John Wells (by phone) gave a report on the Hull Restoration subcommittee. The subcommittee met with Mr. Jim Johnson of Johnson Marine Services who said the plan to repair the leaks from inside the skin of the ship does not give them the room and operating space they need. Work has been done and as the River recedes they hope to be able to seal more cracks from the outside in late summer early fall. Commissioner Wells stressed the importance of raising funds to keep the KIDD Baton Rouge's number one Show Piece.

**Staff report:** Tim NesSmith provided an eight page detailed account of activities conducted at the museum and onboard the KIDD. It covers the period from December 2020 to May 2021. An enormous amount of activity was covered by the staff.

The Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints were a group of volunteers that helped the KIDD get much needed work done. Over the period of this report, the group began chipping, scaling, and sanding bulkheads in Ammunition Room 53, Fan Rooms, the After Berthing, The Damage Control Locker, and sanitizing touch-points ship-wide. Additionally, they conducted house cleaning duties in the museum. Tim was extremely appreciative of their efforts.

Tim also had a few fraternities to volunteer on the KIDD as well. They were Alpha Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, and Arnold Air Society. These volunteers sanitized touch-points, performed deep cleaning, scrubbed decks and cleaned bunks and equipment throughout the ship. It goes without saying that both groups were major factors in the KIDD's appearance throughout this first half of the year.

New volunteer, Fred Enders (DD868), joined the team. He has adopted the Ship's Office, the Engineering Logroom, and the Supply Office and will conduct regular housekeeping in those areas. Additionally, he regularly joins the missionaries on their work aboard ship.

Finally, the Wargaming.net, creators of World of Warships, teamed with us on a project to help promote awareness of the KIDD for the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her commissioning. Crew member Leroy Jenkins of Baton Rouge agreed to share his physical likeness so that he could be placed into the game itself as a ship commander. This effort culminated with a four-hour live stream on social media where Wargaming hosts chatted with Leroy worldwide.

The Executive Director's report began with the Louisiana Maritime Museum project being nearly complete. Many items that were missing from our inventory were located at Pointe Coupee Historical Society in New Roads. The plan is to remove the anchors, capstan, and pilothouse after the "Roaring on the River II" event here at the Museum.

A National Museum of Naval Aviation team came here in February to inspect the A-7E Corsair II. It was determined that there is a possibility of the ordinance detaching without warning. Because the memorial is on city property, the final report, when received, will be forwarded to the city.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools installed an art exhibit here the last week of April. The "Art, Jazz, and Pizzaz" included art as well as performances by musical organizations. The art will be removed by the end of May.

Plans for July 4<sup>th</sup> are in the works with some special events. Thus far no information on live fireworks is available. The Marine Reserve Band from Belle Chase has been confirmed and Todd is working on getting "BREC on the Go" for the Green area.

**New Business:** Chairman Hawthorne acknowledge the lost of one of our longest servicing commissioners, Commissioner Dr. Kyle Ronald Kennedy. He passed away on February 27, 2021. A resolution has been drafted honoring Commissioner Kennedy In Memoriam. Each commissioner was furnished a copy of the resolution. Chairman Hawthorne asked for a motion to approve the resolution into record for the commission. Motion was made by Commissioner Brandt and seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Motion passed unanimously.

A special presentation was made by members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. They were Ronald Crowley, Deron Santiny, and Karen Crowley. The commission has two Purple Heart recipients, Commissioner Shilling and Commissioner Jenkins. Commissioner Shilling explained that the USS KIDD (661) is designated as a Purple Heart Ship. Commissioner Shilling said the reason for that was due to the hard work and dedication of Tim NesSmith. The group presented a beautiful plaque to Tim in appreciation for his work ethic and dedication to duty for the KIDD.

The Foundation, along with donations from the commission, was able to purchase an original water color painting of the Japanese Kamikaze attack on the KIDD. The painting is displayed on the Manship Deck where commissioners and guests may view it at any time.

Chairman Hawthorne had two projects he wanted to introduce to the Commissioners. The first project was to form a committee to develop ideas to enhance the Exhibit Area. With the large Paddle Wheelhouse being removed after the "Roaring on the River II" event, ideas are needed.

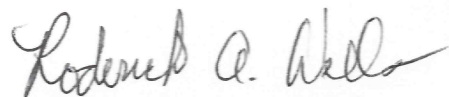
The second project by the Chairman was to form a temporary group to brainstorm what we can do or should do to advance that part of our mission in the Strategic Plan that deals with veterans affairs. However, we don't want to duplicate what other veterans groups are already doing.

Commissioner Wells reminded Commissioners of the requirement to complete the Ethics Class video each year, print out the certificate, and send a copy to the Executive Director. Also, each

Commissioner must complete a Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Report which is due each year by May 15. The office does not need a copy of that report.

**Adjournment:** The Chairman asked if anyone had further business for the Commission. There was none so he adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roderick A. Wells". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Roderick Wells  
Secretary