

President's Message, Holiday 2017



November is the month set aside by the United States to give thanks for our blessings. On Veterans Day weekend we thank and honor veterans and active duty service members for their service to our country. We lay wreaths and place flags on the graves of veterans who served and those who sacrificed their lives defending our freedom around the world. We also would like to thank first responders who protect and help us when accidents, crimes and disasters occur.

Our November 10 visit to the USS battleship *Iowa* provided a timely opportunity to honor our veterans. As we gathered to board the bus, veteran David Kristjanson reminded us that the day was the US Marine Corp's 242nd birthday. After arriving at Los Angeles harbor we learned that we had a total of 10 veterans with us who would be admitted without charge, a holiday gift to the Historical Society.



One of our USS *Iowa* docents describes the ship as we get ready to board.

As we toured the *Iowa* with service veterans who volunteer as guides, we learned she was commissioned in February 1943, and had the honor of transporting President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic to Europe in 1943 for meetings with our allies, which included the Teheran Conference. We visited the suite specially outfitted with a tub for the paralyzed President. There is an expansive exhibit in the museum beneath the main deck detailing the *Iowa*'s history from 1943 until its acquisition by the Pacific Battleship Center in San Pedro in 2011. Among the displays were the photos of the 47 crewmen killed when an accidental powder explosion ripped through a 16-inch gun turret on April 19, 1989, during a gunnery exercise. The incident was one of the Navy's worst casualties during peacetime and changed the powder-handling procedures for battleships.

The tour of the Los Angeles Fire Station 112s Fire Boat, the *Warner Lawrence*, was a perfect example of first responders coming to the rescue. In this case it was because we had not been informed that the "Old Fire Station 36s Museum" had closed due to Veterans Day. The *Warner Lawrence* crew paused their maintenance activities and "saved our day" by offering us a tour of the boat and the harbor and showed us the boat's impressive maneuvering capabilities during the crew's lunch break. Yet another example of why we appreciate our first responders. Everyone enjoyed the excursion and we applaud our committee's efforts to accommodate last-minute changes and provide refreshments on the return to Dana Point.

Our October 25 meeting was a success thanks to Joe Dunn and Wayne Schafer, who presented Dunn's book, *Indian: The Life of Osage Waterman Wayne Schafer*. It was entertaining to learn the motivation for the book and to hear Wayne's stories. Wayne's description of his Osage grandfather's funeral is unforgettable.

Thanksgiving is the second November holiday set aside for counting our blessings and to remember and thank others. The Historical Society is blessed to have an *active* Board of Directors, docents, volunteers and donors who have contributed to make 2017 an interesting year with new acquisitions, events and the celebratory launch of our 30th Anniversary year. My sincere thanks to each of you! Have a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let's get together for the Society's museum reception on Sunday, December 10, and share in some Holiday Cheer!



DPHS members get ready for a ride aboard Fire Boat No. 2, the *Warner Lawrence*.

~~~ Barbara Force Johannes