
MIDWAY SENTINEL

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“DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY”

UNMAINTAINED HISTORIC MIDWAY SEAPLANE HANGAR LOST IN STORM

On January 13, 2022, the IMMF received notice from Midway Wildlife Manager Repp that the Sea Plane hangar had collapsed after an intense winter storm with winds in the 40+ range and heavy rains since December 2021. This morning the sea plane hangar collapsed from what appeared to be the center of the roof falling inward from a high volume of rain in a very short period of time.

In 2011, FWS' facilities maintenance officials spent \$ 193,000 for estimates to repair the Seaplane hangar. Contract bids were developed but the project was cancelled when the bids were considered to be too high.

*****It is important to note that the seaplane hangar did not receive any real maintenance during FWS tenure from the time it took over the jurisdiction of Midway in 1996 to the present date.

The seaplane hangar was a category 1 structure and on the List of Historic Places. It was shelled during the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor raid by two Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami*, and bombed by Japanese aircraft during the first stages of the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942. The foregoing is another example of FWS' policy of demolition by neglect. Soon, all of the significant remains of Midway's rich history will be have Lost and the memory of the Battle of Midway gone. All efforts by the IMMF to reverse

this policy in Congress, the Secretary of the Navy and the President of the United States have yielded no results.

THE GLENN MILLER PROJECT:

I regret to inform our members that Richard Matthews, donor of the one million dollars has suddenly passed away. As a result, the donation which been approved, has been placed on hold and the disposition of the donation is uncertain. We remain in communication with Mathews' organization to discover the final outcome of the donation. In the meantime, we are exploring possible federal and private donations. The Glenn Miller Project team is standing by on alert. A copy of support from Sarasota's former Mayor Hagen Brody's support for the Glenn Miller Project is enclosed with this newsletter.

CAPTAIN JACK CRAWFORD, USN (RET.) PASSES AWAY:

Captain Jack Crawford was 102 years old when he passed away on February 28, 2022, and most likely among the last survivors of the Battle of Midway. He was with us when I formed the International Midway Memorial Foundation (IMMF) in 1992. A 1942 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a new ensign when he boarded the *USS Yorktown* in late May 1942 before it left Pearl Harbor to join USS Enterprise and USS Hornet, northeast of Midway. In the battle the USS Yorktown, already damaged by Japanese aircraft was sunk on June 7, 1942 by the Japanese Submarine I-168. Jack was rescued from the carrier without incident before the carrier sank. After Midway, Jack was assigned to a ship in the North Africa invasion. After the war, and later in his career, he worked for the legendary nuclear submarine pioneer Admiral Hyman Rickover for over 10 years. Jack joined played an important role the early days of the IMMF and continued to play a role in mission of the IMMF as it continued to exist. As a side light,

The first time I met Jack was in the hospital when I was asked to see Jack as a Hematology consultant when he developed severe unstoppable bladder bleeding after prostate surgery. I was able to stop the bleeding and we became good friends when the IMMF was formed and until he passed away

Chris and I wish everyone a good and healthy Easter!!

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Jim D'Angelo
Chris Sims

ADDRESS:

11918 Petunia Terrace
Bradenton, FL 34212

WEBSITE: IMM-F-MIDWAY.COM

EMAIL: IMM-F1942@GMAIL.COM
PHONE: 941-567-5415

