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 **“DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY’\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **SARASOTA GLENN MILLER MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

 **A COMPLETE SUCCESS**

On May 27, 2019, the Sarasota Glenn Miller Memorial Day Parade was held at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street in our city. To add to the appreciation of the tribute, the Sarasota Jazz Band donated their time to playing Glenn Miller’s hits at the ceremony. Jim D’Angelo substituted for keynote speaker Dennis Spragg, author of *Glenn Miller: Declassified*, who was unable to attend at the last moment. Jim’s speech was very well received. The purpose of the parade was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Major Glenn Miller’s, USAF disappearance while he was flying over the English Channel en route to Paris, France on December 15, 1944. The band leader was flying in a UC-64 Norseman single engine small aircraft. Miller, Lieutenant Colonel Norman Baessell, the pilot John Morgan and the aircraft have never been found and the plane’s disappearance remains a mystery today. The International Midway Memorial Foundation, Search, Inc., and Dennis Spragg, author of Glenn Miller: Declassified and Board of Trustee member of the Glenn Miller Archives have joined together to form an unit in an effort to discover his aircraft. A fund raising effort is underway to obtain the necessary funding for the project. What follows is a copy of Staff Writer Earle Kimel article in the Sarasota *Herald Tribune*, written on May 25, 2019 for your review.

**Sarasota Herald Tribune**

 **Sarasota Group Raising Money to Find Glenn Miller’s Final Resting Place**

**By Earle Kimel**

**Staff Writer**

Posted at 5:31 A.M.

Author will speak at Memorial Day ceremony in Sarasota; Miller’s plane went missing over the English Channel in 1944

Sarasota County --- Dr. Jim D’Angelo has been haunted by the final resting place of Glenn Miller’s aircraft --- believed to have crashed into the English Channel in December 1944 --- almost as much as by the band leader’s iconic piece “Moonlight Serenade.”

The retired oncologist/hematologist, who is also chairman and founder of the International Midway Memorial Foundation, along with Daniel Kennedy, a Midway Foundation board member and retired headmaster of the Sarasota Military Academy, is part of a team that hopes to raise $ 1 million dollars to mount a search to find the missing aircraft.

Monday’s Memorial Day Parade in downtown Sarasota is dedicated to Miller, in part to raise awareness of the campaign.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Dennis Spragg, author of the book “Glenn Miller: Declassified,” published in 2017, will be the guest speaker at the ceremony, which starts at 11 a.m. at Chaplain JD Hamel Park.

D’Angelo recalls walking out of the theater after seeing Jimmy Stewart in “The Glenn Miller Story,” feeling like he knew the missing band leader.

“One of the legacies of Glenn Miller is that his music will go on,” D’Angelo said.

He is still particularly moved by the sound of “Moonlight Serenade”, as the movie closes.

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I think it would bring closure – if we’re able to locate it—to the American public, particularly those who are in their 80s and 90s and the younger people who remember Glenn Miller,” said D’Angelo.

The Midway Foundation is kicking of its fund raising effort Monday, in conjunction with Spragg’s talk.

“There’s bound to be people in the community who are fans of Glenn Miller. I know I am,” Kennedy said.

At first, they hope to raise enough to book the Glenn Miller Orchestra to perform a fundraiser.

The orchestra currently has six dates scheduled in Florida in 2020, the closest of which is January 23, 2020, in Sun City Center. Kennedy said they may have an information booth at that show, to tell patrons about the search project.

“We’ve got lots of angles to work on. I personally find the project exceptionally exciting,” Kennedy said.. “I think other people will buy into it, too.”

Though Kennedy and D’Angelo both share a passion for Miller’s music, D’Angelo is the driving force behind the project.

D’Angelo, who lives in Waterlefe in Manatee County, is no stranger to historic research or underwater archaeology.

D’Angelo published “Victory at Midway: The Battle That Changed the Course of World War II.”

The International Midway Memorial Foundation gave Dr. Robert Ballard a bronze plaque to place on the wreck of the *USS Yorktown*, which was located in 1998.

The foundation’s primary purpose is to promote and preserve the memory of the Battle of Midway and the opening month of World War II.

**A Mysterious Crash**

Alton Glenn Miller was a major in the U.S. Army Air Force Band. Broadcasts of his music were meant to boost morale. He also was a part of propaganda campaigns against the Nazis.

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On December 15, 1944, he boarded a plane in Bedfordshire, England, bound for France, where he would have performed for the Allied troops.

Based on research of military documents, Spragg in his book, said the plane was flying low because of poor visibility. Fuel lines likely froze, the engine stopped and it crashed.

A longtime fan of Miller’s music, D’Angelo first thought about finding his plane after watching “The Disappearance of Glenn Miller,” an episode of the PBS History Detectives documentary series.

While there has been previous searches to find Miller’s plane, Spragg’s 2017 book “Glenn Miller: Declassified” offered a better sense of where a search should be conducted to find the aircraft, as well as dispelling conspiracy theories of what happened when it disappeared.

As recently as January, The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery --- the Oxford, Pennsylvania-based group conducting the Amelia Earhart Project --- started to follow up a claim that in 1987 three fisherman pulled up a plane similar to the UC-64A Norseman in which Miller disappeared and then let it fall back into the water.

Spragg, who directs the Glenn Miller Archives at the University of Colorado, advises that search group, and is one of eight members of D’Angelo’s project team.

“No one has looked in the place where the author Dennis Spragg actually feels the plane is,” D’Angelo said.

D’Angelo said he thought about joining forces with the TIGHAR group but was advised not to by James Delgado, the man who would lead the team conducting the search on behalf of the Midway Foundation.

Delgado said that recent extensive research --- partly through Spragg’s book --- is one factor that makes the search compelling.

“That means that at least half of what needs to be done has been done,” said Delgado, former director of Maritime Heritage for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and currently the Jacksonville-based senior vice president of Search, Inc., the largest archaeology and cultural resource management company in the world.

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The first challenge, he said, will be doing the best modeling they can with historical information and define the best search area.

“The other half is then going out and doing a survey,” Degado said. “You have to go out and systematically mow the lawn, as we call it, by using instruments to look at what’s on the sea bottom, and those instruments range from devices that detect large masses or smaller masses of metal to sonar that gives you a visual record what might be sticking up.”

After more than seven decades, Delgado said they’re realistically searching for the plane’s engine.

As technology has evolved, it has become easier for us to find aircraft in the ocean and you are beginning to see more projects taking place where aircraft have been hunted for and found,’ Delgado said.

Once the survey turns up possible locations, the next step is diving each one.

“We can be looking and we can find aircraft engines,” Delgado said. “Then it’s going to be trying to sort out exactly whose engine --- in this case, we do have the serial number, but that may require raising it and taking a look.”

**Preservation of Memories**

Delgado, who most recently dove the waters off Normandy to explore tanks and other sunken relics in preparation for the 75th anniversary of D-Day, said the appeal for him is the preservation of memories.

“As time passes, and as memories certainly fade, it runs the risk of being forgotten,” Delgado said. “not by family, but by some, the world itself seems to have moved on.”

“When we rediscover things down there --- or when an excavation on land discovers something --- it gives us a physical connection to the past,” he added. “In particular, with something like Glenn Miller and his aircraft, resolution --- a final chapter, but one that spans time, connecting this generation with that generation, which is now passing.”

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*Information from the BBC.com and the University of Colorado Music Department, through Colorado.edu was used in this report.*

**Efforts on Capitol Hill on Hold Until New Congress Is Elected:**

The IMMF has decided not to pursue Congressional support for our Midway Atoll bill until a new Congress is elected. The reason for this decision is based on the fact that there appears to be at this time no desire for bi-partisanship on the Hill. Stay tuned!!

**Pearl Harbor: Declassified:**

Dr. William S. Dudley (collaborator) and I (author) are in the process of completing a manuscript entitled *Pearl Harbor: Declassified* that provides significant evidence that the U.S. government had foreknowledge of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The manuscript then proceeds to explain why this foreknowledge was not used to forewarn Army and Navy commanders in Hawaii. It is revealed that before the attack, not only were we able to read the Japanese diplomatic code but the Japanese Fleet code (JN-25B) as well. The manuscript is also enhanced by the evidence, review and support for the manuscript by Thomas Kimmel, Jr., grandson of Admiral Husband Kimmel, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the time of the attack. Captain Jack Crawford, USN (CV-5), Midway veteran will also review the manuscript. The time line for publication of the book is about one year.

**Chris and I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer!!**

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