Desert Cities, Mitchell Paige MOH Chapter Scuttlebutt 1st Marine Division Association

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Desert Cities, Mitchell Paige MOH Chapter

SCUTTLEBUTT

1st Marine Division Association
August 2021

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FMDADESERT.org.

MONTHLY MEETING UPDATE

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING!

OUR CHAPTER WILL MEET AT THE CLASSIC CLUB 4 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1130 FOR LUNCH AND CHAPTER BUSINESS.

OUR CHAPTER WILL BE DARK JUNE, JULY, AUGUST.
ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

CHAPTER NEWS & UPDATES

PASSING OF MARILYN PAIGE

Members, I am deeply saddened to report that long time Chapter Honorary member Marilyn Paige passed away on July 15. A memorial service was held for Marilyn at the Southwest Church in Indian Wells, CA. on July28.
Seven Chapter members attended the service along with the members of 7th Marine Regiment Command Staff.
Marilyn Paige was the widow of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Mitchell Paige, a Founder of our Chapter.

Upon Colonel Paige's passing Marilyn continued in his stead, participating in all Desert Cities Chapter activities and supporting the Marine Corps JROTC program at Desert Hot Springs High School, the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Devil Pups program.

Marilyn, carried on Colonel Paige's strong support of the Marine Corps School of Infantry as a frequent Guest of Honor at class graduations and presenter of the Mitchell Paige award to the outstanding graduate.

Marilyn's devotion to keeping Colonel Mitchell Paige's memory alive was evident in her commitment in so many Marine activities.

Pictured: Commanding Officer 7th Marines .Colonel Hart, Sgt Major Turay, Regiment Exec Officer, Quint Villanueva, Bob Puentes, Tom Woulfe, Regiment 1st Sergeant, Bob Shepard, Harrry Covert attend ceremonies in celebration of Marilyn Paige. Attended but not in photo, BJ Chovenac and Jim Olson.

Marilyn Paige,
You will always be one of us!
Semper Fidelis

MAY YOUR HEAVENLY JOURNEY BE BLESSED
WITH FAIR WINDS AND A FOLLOWING SEA

Marines & Sailors of the Desert Cities,
Mitchell Paige Medal of Honor Chapter
1st Marine Division Association

A LITTLE BIT OF WWII HISTORY

Seventy Sixth Anniversary of Japanese Surrender

On August 14, 1945 the Japanese Imperial Forces surrendered unconditionally to the Allied Forces. On September 2, 1945,

representatives from the Japanese government and Allied forces assembled aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay to sign the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, which effectively ended World War II.

Much has been written describing the solemnity of the ceremony but little has been written about the symbolism that was included in the planning of the ceremony.

With compliments to the unknown author, enjoy this essay.

A FASCINATING PIECE OF HISTORY

Why did the US choose a US Navy Iowa-class battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War 2 even though they were in Tokyo Bay and could have used a building on land? Pure symbolism. Nothing says "you're utterly defeated" than having to board the enemy's massive battleship in the waters of your own capital city. A naval vessel is considered sovereign territory for the purposes of accepting a surrender. You just don't get that if you borrow a ceremonial space from the host country. In addition, the Navy originally wanted the USS South Dakota to be the surrender site. It was President Truman who changed it to USS Missouri, Missouri being Truman's home state.

The Japanese delegation had to travel across water to the Missouri, which sat at the center of a huge US fleet. It's a bit like those movie scenes where someone enters a big-wig's office, and the big-wig is sat silhouetted at the end of a long room, behind a massive desk. The appellant has to walk all the way to that desk along a featureless space, feeling small, exposed, vulnerable and comparatively worthless before the mogul enthroned in dramatic lighting before him. By the time he gets

there the great speech he had prepared is reduced to a muttered sentence or two.

In addition, the USS Missouri flew the flag of Commodore Perry's 19th century gun-boat diplomacy mission that opened the closeted Edo-era Japan to the world and forced upon them the Meiji restoration which ended the rule of the samurai class. The symbolism here is pretty clear - "this is how we want you to be, and remember what happens to countries that defy us." It was particularly humiliating for a proud country like Japan, and that was entirely the point. The symbolism of the ceremony was even greater than that. The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the West. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony.

When the Japanese delegation came aboard, they were forced to use an accommodation way (stairs) situated just forward of turret #1. The freeboard (distance between the ship's deck and the water line) there makes the climb about twice as long as if it had been set up farther aft, where the freeboard of the ship is less. NOTE: This was even more of an issue for the Japanese surrender party as the senior member, Foreign Affairs Minister Shigemitsu, was crippled by an assassination attempt in 1932, losing his right leg in the process.

The #1 and #2 turrets had been traversed about 20 degrees to starboard. The ostensible reason for this was to get the turret overhangs out of the way to create more room for the ceremony on the starboard veranda deck, but in fact this would have only required traversing turret #2 had it been the real reason. However, the turret position also put the gun tubes directly over

the heads of the Japanese. They were literally boarding the ship "under the gun".

The honor guard of US sailors (side boys) were all hand-picked to be over six feet tall, a further intimidation of the short-statured Japanese. The surrender documents themselves, one copy for the Allies and one for the Japanese contained identical English-language texts, but the Allied copy was bound in good quality leather, while the Japanese copy was bound with light canvas whose stitching looked like it had been done by a drunken tailor using kite string.

After the signing ceremony, the Japanese delegation was not invited for tea and cookies; they were shuffled off the ship as an Allied air armada of over 400 aircraft flew overhead as a final reminder that American forces still had the ability to continue fighting should the Japanese have second thoughts on surrender.

TUN TAVERN UPDATES

TUN TAVERN GROUP

The Tun Tavern Club meets several times a year for dinner, fellowship, camaraderie, to swap sea stories and to pig out on food and grog. The few shekels accumulated by the club, if any, are turned over to the Chapter to use at its discretion. There are no club officers or rules or regulations guiding the demeanor of members and guests other than military courtesy extended to each other.
From time to time members may be tasked with sharing their military experiences with the members. Tun Tavern meetings are open to guests both military and civilian.

CURRENT TUN TAVERN MEMBERS

Wes Ahlgren | Michael Bales (in memorium)| Harry Covert|
Dave Dangwillo | Charlie Garbarini | Bob Ferris | Frank Gillette | Charlie Hall

| Jim Irwin | Howard Lehman | Vince Mast| | Jack Mennis | George Moffatt |
Gene Mooring | James Olson | Mike Ostrom | Henry Sanchez | Bob Shepard |
George Stettler | Dale Turner | Quint Villanueva | Mike Walker |
Myrl Wallace | Linn Wiley | Tom Woulfe

CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT | Harry Covert
VICE PRESIDENT | Vince Mast
SECRETARY | Quint Villanueva
TREASURER | Tom Woulfe
SERGEANT AT ARMS | James Olson
DIRECTORS |
Robert Shepard
George Stettler
Dave Dangwillo

PAST PRESIDENTS

Bill Ping (RIP) 1998-2002 | **J**oseph A. Daily 2002-2006 | James Sullivan (RIP) 2006-2009
Quint Villanueva 2009-2012 | Richard Partee (RIP) 2012-2014 | George Stettler 2014-2016
Vince Mast (2016-2019)

THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you find this newsletter of benefit. We appreciate your continued membership and support of the chapter. If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter with news or stories, or if interested in helping edit and produce the newsletter please email the editor.

Quint Villanueva, qlv@aol.com

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