

TOP NEWS

USS WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE JOINS HURRICANE ETA RELIEF IN HONDURAS

Tilliam P. Lawrence arrived off the coast of Honduras Nov. 12, to support Joint Task Force Bravo's (JTF Bravo) mission by conducting familiarization flights, delivering medical supplies, and coordinating with other JTF Bravo assets to identify future HA/DR needs.

These actions support the overall relief led by the Honduran government and build on a foundation of many years of partner relations with that country. When Hurricane Eta caused devastating damage to the Central American countries of Honduras, Panama, and Guatemala, JTF Bravo was directed by U.S. Southern

Command (SOUTHCOM) to conduct lifesaving efforts in the region. As search and rescue efforts are being taken over by host nations, JTF Bravo has transitioned from rescue operations to the delivery of necessary aid to communities that have been stranded for days since Hurricane Eta passed through Central America.

The mission has been a collaborative effort between the host nation governments and organizations, the U.S. military and the U.S. embassies in each country. Years of working together has solidified relationships of trust and mutual cooperation to aid in times of crisis.

The mission of Joint Task Force-Bravo includes being prepared to support disaster relief operations in Central America, South America and the Caribbean when directed. They conduct constant training both on-base and with partners across Central America to prepare for contingency operations, which allows forces to integrate for a unified response when a disaster strikes. William P. Lawrence is deployed to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations to support Joint Interagency Task Force South's mission, which includes countering illicit drug trafficking in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.







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FRONT COVER: Chief Logistics Specialist Ruby Flores leads Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi's Chief selectees in singing Anchors Aweigh during the Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony at the installation's theater, Cinema 77. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Matthew C. Duncker,

BACK COVER: Snow falls on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) on Christmas Eve. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cole C. Pielop/Released)

TOP NEWS

TWO QUANTUM RESEARCH CONFERENCES TO FOCUS ON NAVY, FEDERAL COLLABORATION

From U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

As the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory steps up in its role as the Navy's Quantum Information Science Research Center, NRL is participating in two quantum collaboration meetings focusing on intragovernmental collaboration.

The first meeting is a workshop of the Washington Metro Quantum Network Research Consortium which was held virtually on Nov. 16-17. The workshop focused on setting up collegial research efforts among consortium members with the goal of performing distributed entanglement of qubits between participating institutions in the Washington area

using fiber optic communications cables. The consortium includes NRL, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Army Research Laboratory, Laboratory for Telecommunications Sciences, and the U.S. Naval Observatory.

The second meeting is the inauguration of the Naval Quantum S&T Working Group on Nov. 23, which will be held quarterly. This event will bring together scientists and engineers from across NRL, the Office of Naval Research, and the Navy's warfare centers. NRL research physicist Adam Black, Ph.D., who will discuss his ongoing research on quantum sensing.

"NRL continues to works directly with other laboratories, academia, government and industry to conduct a variety of QIST research," said Gerald M. Borsuk, Ph.D., NRL's associate director of research for the systems directorate. "We hope these meetings build bridges within government and with academia and industry that lead to further interactions to bring quantum technologies to reality."

NRL was designated the Navy's QISRC as part of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which allows NRL to engage with public and private sector organizations to enhance and accelerate research,

development and deployment of QIS and QIS enabled technologies and systems.

The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory is a scientific and engineering command dedicated to research that drives innovative advances for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps from the seafloor to space and in the information domain. NRL is located in Washington, D.C. with major field sites in Stennis Space Center, Mississippi; Key West, Florida; Monterey, California, and employs approximately 2,500 civilian scientists, engineers and support personnel.

NAVY/MARINE CORPS COVID-19 STUDY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

From Naval Medical Research Center Public Affairs

Tmplementing best practice ■public health measures on their own among young adults may not be enough to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission, and additional actions, such as widespread and repeated testing, are recommended to reduce the risk of viral spread, according to research published today in the New England Journal of Medicine. Researchers from Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), in collaboration with scientists from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, conducted a study understand the dynamics of viral transmission and host response to COVID-19 in young adults in order to inform public health measures in response to COVID-19 in a group setting. The study, COVID-19 Health Action Response for Marines (CHARM), took place at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, and included nearly 2,000 participants, composed mostly

of 18- to 20-year-old healthy Marine recruits predominantly from the Eastern United States. Upon arrival for recruit training, the Marines spent two weeks in a strict, supervised group quarantine that required wearing masks and emphasized hand washing and social distancing as they began their initial military instruction, primarily outdoors. To determine asymptomatic and

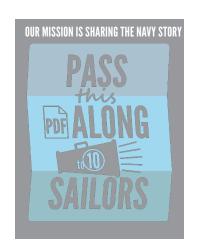
symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 prevalence and transmission among study participants during the quarantine period, researchers collected study questionnaires and specimens weekly and conducted both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and serology tests. PCR tests are the gold standard for diagnosing COVID-19.

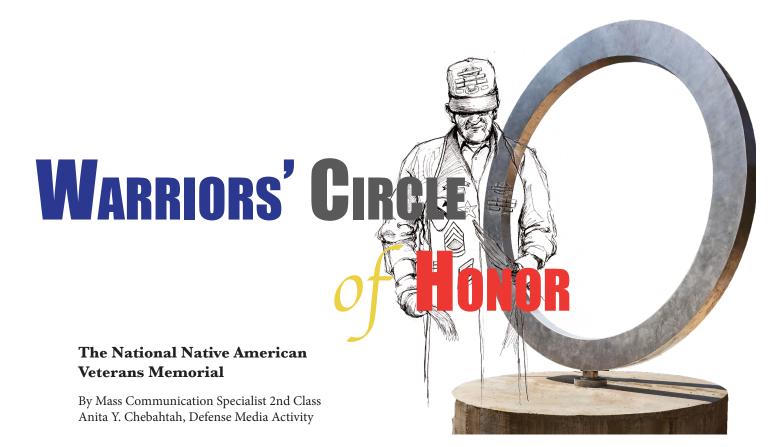
"The study hopes to improve medical readiness for the Marines and the DoD as well as inform force health protection measures," said Cmdr. Andrew Letizia lead researcher for the study and deputy director of NMRCs infectious diseases

directorate. "The investigators and I believe these findings will help the DoD, other public health entities, and society as a whole mitigate the spread of the pandemic not only among this particular population, but to those they might unknowingly infect as well."

The authors also found that nearly 6% of study participants arrived to recruit training with antibodies for SARS-CoV-2, indicating a previous exposure to the virus. Additionally, at the start of the supervised quarantine, 1% of participants tested positive, 95% of whom were asymptomatic. All reported self-quarantine at home for two weeks before reporting, denied any direct exposure to sick contacts and did not have any risk factors for exposure to COVID-19. Therefore, questions current symptoms or risk factors would not have identified 95% of these individuals who were infected. these results suggest the need

to augment public health measures with widespread initial and repeated surveillance testing to prevent COVID-19 transmission in group settings.





In a year where everything seems to have been turned upside down or delayed and shut down, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian completed their National Native American Veterans Memorial on time and opened it to the public Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.

The memorial has been in the works since the mid-90s when Congress commissioned the museum to construct and maintain the memorial with the "Native American Veterans Memorial Establishment Act of 1994."

"We want to raise the profile of Native service members and Native Veterans," said Rebecca Trautmann, project curator for the National Native American Veterans Memorial and assistant curator of contemporary art at the National Museum of the American Indian. "It is such an underrecognized story, history and commitment. We're really hopeful that this memorial, the programming and publications that we continue to do around it will help to tell some of these many different stories."

The 1994 act reiterates the history of Native American, Alaskan Native, and Hawaiian Native Veterans serving at higher percentages per capita than any other race. It reemphasizes that the NMAI was established as a living memorial to Native Americans and "(i)ts mission is to advance knowledge and understanding of Native American cultures, including art, history, language, and the contributions Native Americans have made to our society." The fact that the NMAI is part of the Smithsonian Institute and on the National Mall lends itself to being a great location for the National Native American Veterans Memorial and gives "all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States."

In 2013, the legislation was amended to allow the memorial to be located on NMAI grounds versus inside the museum, and allowed the museum to raise funds in support of the memorial. The NMAI then formed a memorial advisory committee in 2014 to help with outreach to Native communities and Veterans. From 2015-2017 the advisory committee sought input and support from tribal leaders, Native Veterans, and Native community members.

According to Trautmann, one of the first things they learned in the consultations confirmed what legislation already had written, which was that it needed to be very inclusive. "I traveled across the country with other Museum staff for about 18 months visiting communities, holding consultations, to get a better sense of what Native Veterans, service members, and family and community members wanted to see in the memorial and what they wanted the experience of visiting the memorial to be," shared Trautmann. "We held 35 consultations across the country, including Alaska and Hawaii, and we spoke with about 1,200 people total. The things that we heard in those consultations directly shaped the design guidelines, so that we knew what we needed to ask the artists and designers who were submitting proposals to accomplish with their designs.

Inputs indicated that many communities believed Native American spiritual beliefs and practices should be incorporated into the memorial design.

Trautmann further explained, "We also heard that it was important that the memorial recognize and honor the support and sacrifices made by families of those who served. We heard that the memorial should reflect Native spirituality, again in a very inclusive way, and that the experience of visiting the memorial should be a healing experience and be a contemplative, peaceful experience."

The design for the memorial was selected through a twostage, juried international design competition. The first stage was an open call for design concepts, which started on Veterans Day, November 11, 2017. The museum received 413 registrations from five continents, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The committee's vision was to honor the interrelated elements of culture, spirituality, sacrifice, place, valor, healing, future service members, and the legacy of Veterans past. The design competition manual described each vision, wanting the designs to reflect very specific attributes of Native people. For example, the cultural commitment of Native peoples by "their responsibility to protect their homeland, community, family, and traditional way of life." Native spirituality was

to be reflected in ways that were clear to Native visitors and included a space for prayer, reflection, or cleansing, and acts as a place for healing and consolation. The sacrifice of not only the service members but also the sacrifice of their family members were to be honored as well. The memorial was to be timeless, representing the past and future generations, honoring all Native Veterans-Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Hawaiian Natives, from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Balance, inclusivity, respect, sustainability, endurance, accessibility, and interpretation of memorial elements, were the design concepts the committee agreed on. The committee wanted a balance "between a sense of enclosure and dignity with openness and visibility, inviting exploration and contemplation." The designs were to have minimal maintenance and be operationally sustainable, incorporating inclusivity for all Natives, honoring past, present, and future Veterans and their families. The memorial was to be accessible and provide an equitable experience for all visitors.

By the end of January 2018, eight jurors selected five designs to continue to the second stage of the competition. The five finalists had almost two weeks to prepare a 15-minute presentation to introduce themselves and initial design concepts to the public. At the end of May, the museum shared the design concepts on social media and invited the public to vote, ask questions, and comment on the designs. In mid-June, the designers presented their final designs to a jury of Native and non-Native artists, designers, scholars, and Veterans who weighed in with the public's input. On June 26, the jury unanimously selected a circular design that people can enter.

Harvey P. Pratt, a Southern Cheyenne chief for the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran designed the "Warriors' Circle of Honor." He is an artist and retired Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation forensic artist. Pratt's design came to him in a dream, he said. The Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal Veterans director encouraged him to submit a design, and he decided to dream about it. He approached the design through spirituality, ceremonies and tradition of the Aleutians, Native Hawaiians, and Native American peoples. He said he got his Big Chief tablet out and made some sketches after a dream one morning and it just came to him suddenly.

"Some of my best creativity is done early in the morning, you know after that dream period," said Pratt in a Conversation with the Designer discussion on the day of the ground breaking in 2019 with NMAI Director Kevin Gover. "Native people, we're the same but we're different. We have the same concepts, but we do them a little different. I thought that's the way to approach this, is spiritually through ceremonies rather than through a piece of art. I wanted to do something

that you could walk into and be involved in."

"In Harvey's design, he said that he didn't want to create a statue or sculpture for people to stand and look at," said Trautmann. "He really wanted to create a space for ceremony, a space for healing. I think that his design really met what we've been asked by the people we met with to try to accomplish."

"Harvey brought in a number of symbols into the memorial

that are meaningful in different ways to different people," shared Trautmann. "The circle brings to mind circles for gathering, for storytelling, for dance, the cycles of life, the movement of the planets and the stars. He brought in the four elements- fire which he says represents strength, courage, endurance, and comfort. Water which represents cleansing, purification, and prayer. The Earth that provides people with everything they need and then the winds are the air that will carry people's memory and prayers and thoughts into the heavens. I think that it's very abstract in a way but it's also very deeply meaningful and I hope that it is. We've received great responses from Native Veterans that we've spoken with and people who were involved in the consultations, so I hope that we've accomplished what we set out to do and really created a space that will be inclusive and meaningful to many different people.

"I definitely feel that Harvey brought to his design his own experience as a Native veteran and as someone who grew up in this tradition of service," continued Trautmann. "He talked about being aware of older Veterans as he was growing up and of their roles in the community. I think that he was able to bring all of those experiences to his design and to interpret this in a way that would have been difficult for others to be able to do. I think that's part of what makes his design so meaningful and so perfect in that it just really creates the kind of space that people wanted to see, this gathering space."

In September 2019, the NMAI held a groundbreaking ceremony and announced their plans for the dedication ceremony, which was slated for this Veterans Day. The museum planned a Veterans procession, which due to the pandemic, will happen when it is safe to do so.

"We don't see this memorial as being completed, being a project that we're done with and we're moving on," shared Trautmann. "It's going to be, as Kevin Gover has talked about, a forever project for the museum. We will continue to publish articles, to hold programs and exhibitions, to program in different ways around this memorial so that we can keep telling this story because it's a story that is still happening and there are still so many different stories to be told. This is really just beginning, in a lot of ways, rather than kind of the conclusion of a project. It's something that we will continue to work with and tell the

story for decades and decades to come."

The memorial is now among the many Veterans memorials located right on the National Mall, nestled on the northeast corner of 3rd street and Jefferson in Washington D.C.

"You know, when I returned home from Vietnam, my family had a ceremony for me and had a blessing for me," said Pratt in the memorial's opening video on the NMAI website. "And when I think of this memorial, that's the way I feel—that people that come

here, that they're going to be blessed and healed. And they will think about their family, and the family will think about the Veterans, and this will become a place of power. And that's what I hope this place does for our Veterans."

For more information on the National Museum of the American Indian or the National Native American Veterans Memorial, https://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm.



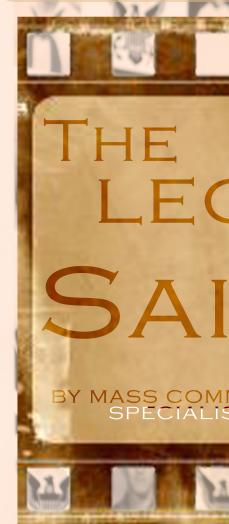


"It's fitting that we're h been Fireman Wise's 100th bi birthday of the United States Chaplain said. "It is our admi and our connection to the Na unites us all here today."

At twenty-one years old on board USS Oklahoma (BB-1941. Oklahoma was moored sunk by Japanese aircraft that ship's hull. Wise was one of 4 accounted for and were presu 79 years later, his remains we: Eunice Wittum.

"Fireman Wise gave his the love and protection of his to serve during tumultuous ti His life exemplifies the honor so dear. And now, he has fina

The task of identifying is a long process that has bee achieving success. From Dec the recovered remains were b cemeteries in Hawaii. In 1947 remains were buried once mo Memorial Cemetery of the Pa







ere today because today would have rthday, and yesterday was the 245th Navy," Lt. Daniel McGraw, U.S. Navy ration and love for Fireman Wise — vy that he honorably served — that

d, Fireman 1st Class Rex E. Wise was (37) at Pearl Harbor on December 7, at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. It was delivered numerous torpedo hits to the 29 Sailors onboard who could not be med to have died in the attack. Nearly re identified using DNA from his sister,

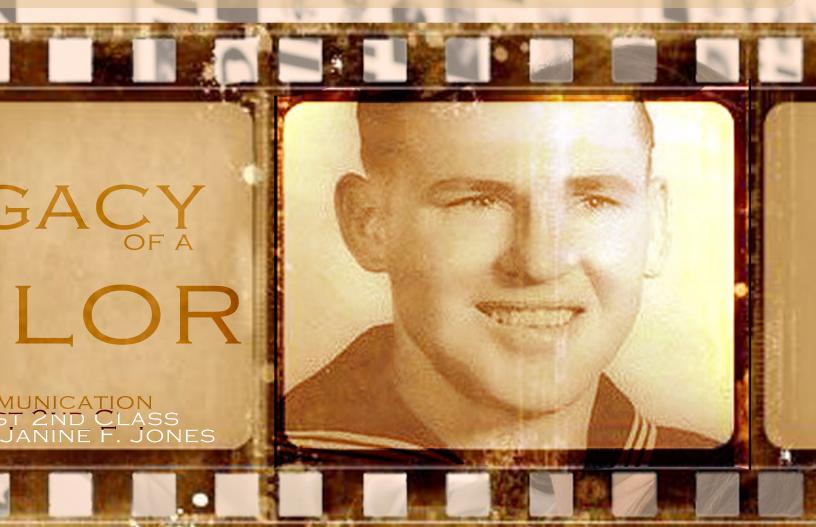
s all, even to the last full measure, for country," McGraw said. "He stepped up mes, and he faithfully kept the watch., courage and commitment that we hold lly come home to rest."

the Sailors lost during Pearl Harbor n attempted several times before ember 1941 through June 1944, puried in the Halawa and Nu'uanu 7, 35 men were identified, and the ore labeled as unknown in the National acific in Honolulu.

The first individual identification of a Sailor was made in 2008 from a single casket from USS Oklahoma. The content of that casket contained more than 100 individual's remains from previous handling and identification attempts. The unknown remains had been undisturbed for nearly 50 years until Ray Emory, a Pearl Harbor survivor, unknowingly started a campaign to bring more than 200 Sailors home. A partnership between the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Department of Veteran Affairs allowed the remaining caskets to be removed to start the identification process. The agency pushed to contact family members to provide DNA samples. They have collected nearly 5,000 samples, resulting in almost 85% of the ship's missing personnel having a sample before the identification process began.

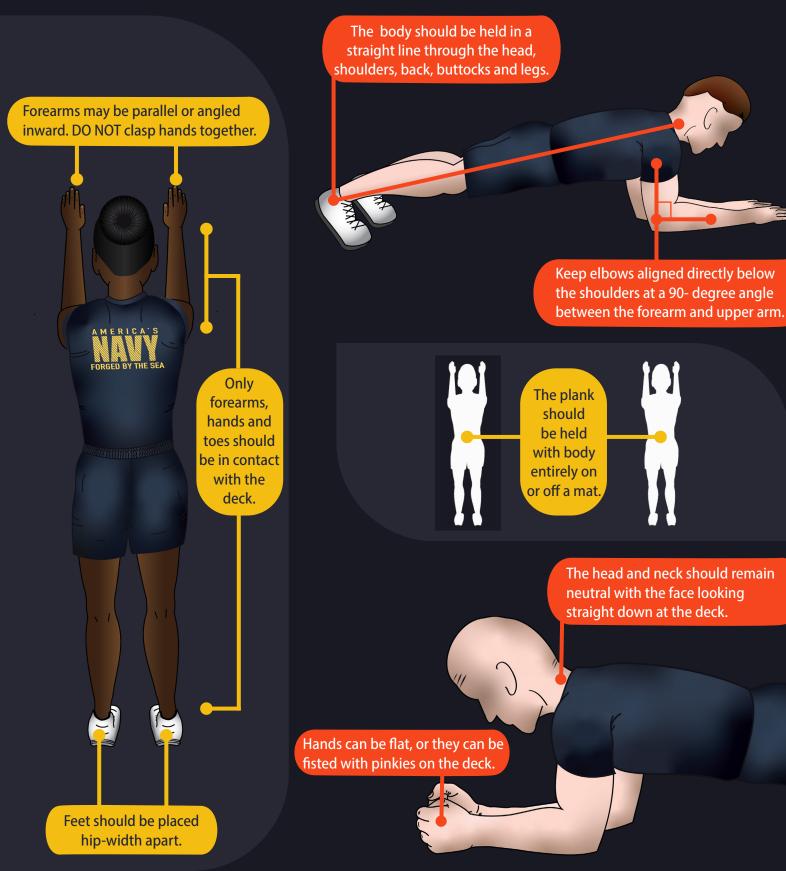
In the conference room of DPAA, there are several frames on the wall, each representing a person who was unaccounted for when USS Oklahoma was sunk. Some of the frames show a U.S. Navy logo or U.S. Marine Corps insignia, and some of the frames have a photo of a serviceman.

"When we are working on a loss, we work in the blind, which is to say we don't have any information about that person in order to avoid biasing our analyses," said Dr. Carrie Brown, who leads the DPAA USS Oklahoma project. "But once a loss has been identified, we are able to access that information, including photographs of the service member. It reminds us that our work is important because it brings answers to those who are longing to know what happened to the person they cared about."



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