

Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

WAGB-83 NEWS



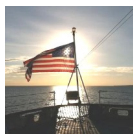
"We Move Ships When No One Else Can"

A UNIQUE AND LASTING GIFT!

A 3' X 5' American flag will be flown aboard the *Mackinaw* WAGB-83.

You will receive a Certificate of Authenticity naming the person the flag was flown in honor of, the date that it was flown and an emailed a photo of the flag as it is flown.

See our website for more info:
www.themackinaw.org



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3rd Quarter, 2017



As you likely are aware, we are undertaking the huge effort of raising the funds needed to resurface the ship. Time and weather have taken their toll on this Grand Lady and she is need of serious repairs and painting; she needs a bit more than a new coat of lipstick!

The scope of the work requires all exterior surfaces be blasted, primed and painted—stem to stern, top to waterline. In her current condition, she has large amounts of peeling and faded paint, rust and deteriorated deck surfaces. It has been determined that a full renovation at one time is required and that a piecemeal process will not be in her best long term interest. We are seeking multiple sources for funding this important endeavor. The entire project will require approximately \$365,000.

NO single ship has had a greater impact on the United States of America, the Great Lakes Region and Michigan. She saved and served many - we owe her no less.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.THEMACKINAW.ORG AND CLICK ON THE #PaintTheMac tab. You can make a monetary donation three ways:

1. Directly to us via our mailing address (we keep 100% percent)
2. Through our website on the #PaintTheMac tab (there is a small Paypal fee that is deducted prior to our receipt of the donation)
3. Via a GoFundMe account, www.gofundme.com/paintthemacs (which charges a larger fee)



SUPPORT OUR RESURFACING AND PAINTING PROJECT BY PURCHASING AND PROUDLY WEARING THIS GREAT SHIRT!

Go to: www.themackinaw.org

Click on the #PaintTheMac to mail-order or stop in our Ship's Store to purchase yours!

**ICEBREAKER
MACKINAW
MARITIME
MUSEUM**

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We're on the Web!

www.themackinaw.org

IMMM Board of Directors

- William Shepler, President
- R.J. Fisher, Vice President
- Randy Powers, Treasurer
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Our Mission Statement



"The Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum will collect, preserve, protect and interpret the rich maritime and marine history of the Straits of Mackinac and the Great Lakes. The Museum will feature the USCGC Mackinaw WAGB-83 and the important historical and present day contributions of the US Coast Guard on the Great Lakes. The Museum will present the unique maritime history, economy and ecology of the Straits of Mackinac, the Great Lakes and the State of Michigan through engaging and entertaining educational programming and interpretive exhibits."

New Displays for 2017



This year we were thrilled to add more displays to the ship's exhibit areas. The "Ice Room" was opened this June in the former First Class Lounge. Volunteer Martha Orloff took on this project with great enthusiasm and attention to detail. It includes a slide presentation that was obtained from VTS Sector Soo via Mark Gill. This details such information as the USCG's ice operations, historic ice-coverage statics and explains the various types of ice.

With the assistance of a grant from the Straits Area Community Foundation, we redesigned the Captain's Quarter's and are now displaying a variety of officer's uniforms in both that area and the Chief's Mess. Over the years we have been fortunate to receive uniforms from past crew and are honored to share them with our guests.





Join Us!

Over the past eleven years we have proven that the museum is an exciting and viable attraction for Mackinaw City and the area. Annually, we host over 20,000 tour guests. Our interactive Educational Tour Program has taught over 700 children knot-tying, safety aboard, communications and the history of the ship. And our Overnight Encampment Program allows the unique experience of sleeping aboard an actual USCG Icebreaker.

We need the support of those of you who, like us, love the *Mackinaw*, to enable us to continue moving “full speed ahead” with these and other programs. Our membership program gives you an easy way to contribute to the museum and also enjoy some great perks. The levels of support and their associated benefits are listed below.

Our Business Sponsorship program gives you an easy way to contribute to the museum and also promote your business. For your \$100 tax-deductible donation, you will receive listing on our website’s “Sponsor” page, in our quarterly newsletters and aboard the ship. We will provide you with passes for 4 people to watch the 4th of July Fireworks aboard the ship, and your employees are always welcome to tour, free of charge.

“Friends of the Mackinaw” Support Program Application

Annual Membership Level:

- ☐ \$50.00 Petty Officer
 ☐ \$100.00 Chief Petty Officer
 ☐ \$250.00 Chief Warrant Officer
 ☐ \$500.00 Ensign
☐ \$100.00 Business Sponsor
☐ \$ _____ Donation

Name _____ ☐ I would like to Volunteer (please contact me)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send to:
IMMM
PO Box 39
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVU _____

We accept Visa, MasterCard & Discover

IMMM is a Non-Profit 501 (C) 3 Organization

1st Quarter Newsletter, 2017

IMMM Levels of Support and Benefits for “Friends of the Mackinaw”

Level	Amount	Inaugural Gift*	Admission Benefits
Petty Officer	\$ 50.00		Unlimited for member + 1 guest, per visit
Chief Petty Officer	\$ 100.00	Lapel Pin or Key Chain	Unlimited for member + 2 guests, per visit
Chief Warrant Officer	\$ 250.00	Icebreaker Mackinaw DVD	Unlimited for member + 3 guests, per visit
Ensign	\$ 500.00	Icebreaker Mackinaw Book	Unlimited for member + 4 guests, per visit

- Inaugural Gift will be presented for first-year membership ONLY unless level of support is increased.
- Cardholders will receive, in addition to the above listed benefits: a 10% discount on Ship’s Store retail items, e-mail receipt of our newsletter and notices of special events and invitation to watch 4th of July fireworks aboard the ship.

*An equal value Inaugural Gift may be substituted due to availability.

Of Course, Donations Are Always Welcome!

We have an endowment fund through the Straits Area Community Foundation! www.cfneem.org/sacf/ Your donation is tax-deductible.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Alice's Kandy & Korn, Mackinaw City
 Big Stone Bay Fishery, Mackinaw City
 Citizens National Bank, Cheboygan
 Keyhole Bar & Grill, Mackinaw City
 Lamplighter Motel, Mackinaw City
 Mackinaw Mill Creek Camping
 Seaway Painting, Livonia
 Joann's Fudge, Mackinac Island
 Holiday Inn Express-At The Bridge, Mackinaw City
 Days Inn and Suites, Mackinaw City
 Mystery Spot, St. Ignace
 Paws Fur Fun, Mackinaw City
 Today's Dental, Cheboygan
 Ramsby Well Drilling, Inc., Cheboygan
 First Community Bank, Cheboygan
 Wheeler Motors, Cheboygan
 Body Shop 23, Cheboygan
 Blarney Castle Oil Co., Cheboygan
 East Lake Resort, Fibre
 Quality Inn, St. Ignace

Sullivan Label & Packaging, Inc., Comstock Park
 Kilwin's Quality Chocolates & Confections, Petoskey
 Hunt's Mackinaw Pastie & Cookie Co., Mackinaw City
 Pizza Palace, Mackinaw City
 Teysen's Gift Shop, Mackinaw City
 National Office Products & Printing, Inc., Sault Ste. Marie
 Spray's Landscape Nursery & Garden Center, Cheboygan
 Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, Mackinaw City
 Gaslight Media, Petoskey
 Pancake Chef Restaurant, Mackinaw City
 Mitchell Graphics, Petoskey
 Mother Mary's Canning Co., Cheboygan
 Bernard Building Center, Cheboygan
 Kokosing Industrial/Durocher Marine Div., Cheboygan
 Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows, Mackinaw City
 Original Mackinac Island Butterfly House, Mackinac Island
 Mackinaw Shuttle & Limousine Service, Pellston
 Clothing Connection, Mackinaw City
 Silver Sands Resort, St. Ignace
 Mark Mercer D.D.S., St. Ignace



The Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum is proud to partner with these wonderful Straits area business community organizations and their members!

SHOP OUR SHIP'S STORE!



KEYCHAINS	\$ 9.99
BRASS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS	\$14.99
CERAMIC CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS	\$12.99
CHALLENGE COINS	\$ 9.99
REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS	\$ 3.99
BLUE / KHAKI BALL CAPS	\$16.99
LAPEL PINS	\$ 6.99
"FACTS" COFFEE MUGS	\$ 9.99
SHOT GLASSES	\$ 5.99
"BREAKING ICE" DVD	\$19.99
"ICEBREAKER MACKINAW" DVD	\$22.95
"ICE BREAKER MACKINAW" BOOK	\$23.95
"USCGC MACKINAW" BOOK	\$29.95

Please email: contact@themackinaw.org to order.

*Prices do not include sales tax or shipping/handling and may be subject to change.



**HELP OUR
NON-PROFIT SAVE
MONEY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT.**

**DROP US AN EMAIL SO WE
CAN ADD YOU TO OUR
ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST.**

officemanager@themackinaw.org



[Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum](http://IcebreakerMackinawMaritimeMuseum.org)



[@WAGB-83](https://twitter.com/WAGB-83)

Mr. Forrest Suffel, 99, Former Welder on the Mackinaw in 1943/44

By Roy Brewer, IMMM Member/Contributor, Military Veteran



On Sunday, July 30, 2017, I was introduced to Mr. Forrest Suffel who was celebrating his 99th birthday with his family. Mr. Suffel and his family stopped by the house for what he thought was just a visit.

Little did Mr. Suffel know, his visit would turn into a special occasion. Within a few minutes I was asking him about his career before retirement; he stated that he spent most of his life in the welding business. I asked him if he welded on ships.

"Of course," he replied. I told him that I had an understanding that he was a welder on the USCGC *Mackinaw*. A big smile came to his face. "Yes, I was." He remarked that he was one of five specialized welders that could do certain welding jobs on the *Mackinaw's* hull and structure.

Mr. Suffel was one of many civilians, who for one reason or another, were unable to serve during WW II, so he supported the war effort by working in the shipyard as a welder. In his words, he was "a darn good welder!"

Mr. Suffel also mentioned that the shipyard was under control by the Department of the Navy. Please note, that during war time the U.S. Coast Guard operated under the Department of Navy.

Forrest Suffel is from Edgerton, Ohio. As young man he would go to the local machine shop where he learned his skills as a welder. When he applied for a job at the Toledo Shipyard, he was the youngest of his male and female co-workers. After a short period of time as a welder, he took tests and became a certified welder. He and four fellow welders were promoted to grade five (5) welders who could do any type of welding that may be required. Forrest added that the highest quality steel produced by the Pittsburgh Steel Mills was used for the hull and superstructure of the "Mac."

Being the smallest in size welder, he was selected to weld the inside of the hawsehole, a hole in the hull of the ship where the anchor chain / cable passes through to lower or raise the anchor. He was lowered by rope along with his welding equipment, he would weld a portion, then get pulled back a short distance, then he would start process again. Once all the welding was completed and he was out of the hawsehole, he was happy to have some fresh air. He also welded in place the raised letters for the name "MACKINAW" on the hull.

Mr. Suffel recalls the launching of the *Mackinaw* on March 4, 1944. It was a very stormy day as he and others watched the launch; he also mentioned that some workers were hurt during the launch, as well!

After the *Mackinaw*, Mr. Suffel traveled across the U.S. to different welding jobs. Upon completion, he would then travel to the next big job. At one point, he went to New York State to build a sphere. That sphere was used to contain a nuclear reactor for a submarine. He also went on to build large 20,000 gallon tanks and other assignments.

Upon his retirement, he moved back to Ohio for a while, then moved to Florida where he loves the warm temperatures. "No more of that cold weather for me!" he remarked.

During this writer's tour of the *Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum* in October, 2015, I observed a lot of welding of the hull and superstructure. Now, having met one of the original welders of the "Mighty Mac" has been both an honor and privilege for me! I cannot fathom the number of man-hours that went into the building of the *Mackinaw*... from the laying of the keel, to her commissioning. I won't even guess at the number!

It has been an pleasure to meet Mr. Forrest Suffel, who is still going strong. He wears his "Mackinaw WAGB 83" hat very proudly, and he assured me that he has the U.S. flag that was flown on the stern of the *Mackinaw* displayed in a very special place in his home. You mention the *Mackinaw*, and he becomes excited too! For this writer, what a small world it is. In closing, again, it is an honor to have met Mr. Suffel and to have brought him some additional happiness in recounting those memories of years past!

Written with the permission of Mr. Forrest Suffel from his memory/recall of events.

**ICEBREAKER MACKINAW MARITIME MUSEUM
P. O. BOX 39
MACKINAW CITY, MI 49701**



“Spotlight” on Staff Member Mary Tomke



Mary Tomke

Mary has worked in our ticket booth for eleven years, and she's often the first person you meet when you visit our museum. She grew up in Cheboygan, the original homeport of the *Mackinaw*, so she says she “jumped at the chance to be a part of the team when the opportunity presented itself.”

In her spare time, Mary loves to play cards, enjoys activities with friends and get-togethers with her family. She says the one surprising question she still gets from visitors is, “What time does the bridge swing over to the island?”

“For me, the best part of working for the museum is seeing the excitement of the kids about to board the ship and the joy of the former crewmen telling stories about their experiences while serving on the ship.”

“My co-workers are the BEST, and the people I encounter from all around the world make my job very interesting.”

Mary, we think you're the BEST too!