



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

August - September 2025 Newsletter

www.WWIIRoundtable.com

Greetings!

Our Board has lined up some excellent dinner programs through November, but we rely also on our membership for speaker suggestions. If you know of a potential speaker, or if you have a program you would like to present, please contact me or any of the board members. We are happy to assist with scheduling and assembling PowerPoint presentations. If you have read a new book on a WW2 or more recent wartime topic, and would like to recommend this to our members, please let us know. Our board is here to support our membership, so reach out to any of them at one of our dinners. We welcome your suggestions for potentially great programs for 2026. Also, if you have an interest in assisting our board, please let me know. Regards,

Charles A. Holt, D.O.

WHERE HISTORY AND
HEROES MEET



**WWII HISTORY &
WARTIME STORIES
for Everyone!**



Ernie Pyle
WWII Pulitzer Prize Reporter

MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAMS

Live Guest Speakers
Northside Events & Social Club
(formerly "Knights of Columbus")
2100 E 71st Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Doors open - 5 PM
\$11 Buffet Dinner - 6 PM (RSVP)
Program - 7 PM

WWWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

Programs Aug 25 and Sep 22, 2025

Admiral Terry Cross

**"Role of the US Coast Guard
in America's Wars"**



August 25, 2025

Adm. Terry Cross, US Coast Guard, ret.

Christopher Siferts

"Modern Military Communications"



(Photo courtesy of dvidshub.net)

September 22, 2025

Christopher Siferts

Roundtable Board

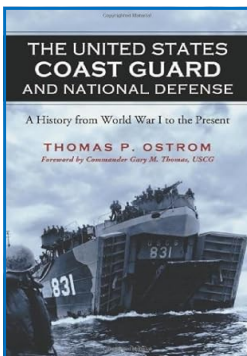
Charles A. Holt, President
Kathryn Lerch, Vice President
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Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
Meeting Arrangements: Karl &
Jan Kleinbub
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis
Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa,
& John Chalfin
Web/Audio/Visual:
Travis Petrie & Steve Hogan

Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your monthly dinner RSVPs to Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@mylinestar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948 **no later than Thursday prior to Monday's program!** (Do not rsvp via the website!) A head count for Northside Events & Social Club (K of C) is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. We encourage you to invite a guest! Thank you!

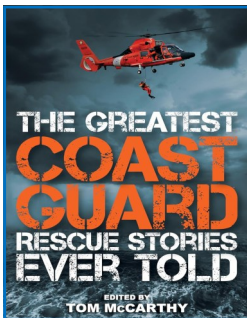
Military History Connections with our Programs. . . Through Books

Here is some more information about our upcoming August speaker, **Terry Cross** graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1970. "He was formerly second in command as a Vice Admiral and he served as 24th Vice-Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Areas of command included: Coast Guard Pacific Area, Assistant Commandant for Operations, Eleventh Coast Guard District, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Director of Operations Policy at Coast Guard Headquarters. He served during the Cold War and in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks. He served as Commander, Pacific Area. VADM Cross was responsible for all Coast Guard operations west of the Rocky Mountains and throughout the Pacific Basin to the Far East, an area encompassing over 73 million square miles. Under his leadership, Pacific Area units established the first Coast Guard maritime intelligence fusion center, participated in the Iraq War and Operation Liberty Shield, and set new records for illegal drug seizures." (source: Wikipedia)

Suggested Reading for history of the US Coast Guard . . .



In addition to port security, ship inspection and safety, law enforcement, and search and rescue, the U.S. Coast Guard assumes an important role in national defense at home and abroad. To that end, the Coast Guard has carried out separate and coordinated missions with other armed forces from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, and North Polar region. This chronicle of the Coast Guard's contributions to national defense examines participation in World War I, World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the War on Terror. Among the topics explored are defense threats, drug trafficking, and border security, as well as Coast Guard personnel, training, leadership, and assets.



Exciting rescue stories on the high seas! The Coast Guard's rescue personnel are second to none, and Coast Guard air and sea rescue missions have been the subjects of celebrated newspaper accounts, books, and movies, including *The Perfect Storm*. The Coast Guard is one of the nation's five military services, which exist to defend and preserve the United States. In *The Greatest Coast Guard Rescue Stories Ever Told*, the editor has pulled together some of the finest writings about air and sea rescues that capture readers' imaginations, culled from books, magazines, and elsewhere.

As a courtesy to others, please Do Not attend the dinner if you are ill, or possibly becoming ill, as you may be contagious to others. *Same time, same place, great speakers and remember to invite a guest!*

Annual Dues for 2025

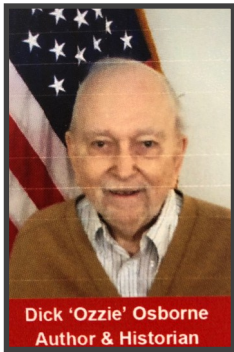
Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

Please mail your check to: WWII Roundtable 917 E. Walnut St, Lebanon IN 46052 or Pay at the dinner

Name: _____ Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____ Address: _____

WW2 Veteran? _____ Post-WW2 Veteran? _____ If yes, branch & period of service _____



WW 2 Trivia August through September 2025

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports Do you remember or have you read about these events eighty years ago?

- ◆ Aug. 6: First Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- ◆ Aug. 8: USSR declares war on Japan
- ◆ Aug. 9: Second Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- ◆ Aug. 14: Japanese accept unconditional surrender; Gen. Douglas MacArthur appointed head of occupation forces in Japan
- ◆ Aug. 27: B-29s drop supplies to Allied POWs in China
- ◆ Aug. 30: The British reoccupy Hong Kong
- ◆ Sept. 2: Formal Japanese surrender ceremony on board the *Missouri*, President Truman declares VJ Day
- ◆ Sept. 3-13: more Japanese surrenders on Wake Island, British land in Singapore, MacArthur enters Tokyo, Sept. 9, Japanese surrender in Korea and Sept. 13, 1945, Japanese surrender in Burma.



The board of the WW2 Roundtable is sad to report our last WW2 veteran member, Alex Rearick, who served in the US Army Air Corps passed away on July 28, 2025 at the Riverwalk Village in Noblesville, where he had been living. Many of our members may remember he liked to sit right up front and chat with many of his fellow WW2 veterans. He was always generous in sharing his story of flying missions over the Pacific. Our long-time members may remember he was also a former President of our Indianapolis Roundtable.

Alex's WW2 military career was fascinating. He served in the Twentieth Air Force, 484th Bomb Squadron, 505th Bomb Group, in the 313 Bomb Wing. Alex was born Dec. 1, 1925 and lived in Winamac, Indiana before he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Initially he trained as an aerial gunner, but later served as a radar operator and was trained to take bomb run photos. In an oral history interview he shared his experiences in the Pacific Theater, flying on the high altitude heavy B-29 bombers from Tinian to Japan. "Japan was like England; it was overcast a lot of the times. You can't haul your bombs 1500 miles and not drop 'em and radar enable you to drop the bombs through the clouds. You didn't even have to see the target except on the radar. The navigator would look at the radar . . and he'd tell the bombardier to put the coordinates in the bombsights. You knew when we're twenty miles away, and we're fifteen miles away, and we're ten miles away. So the bombardier would kill the drift, get everything set in the bombsights, drop the bombs through the clouds, then we'd haul off for Tinian. Missions would last sixteen, eighteen hours." On April 15, 1945, he flew a mission to Kawasaki, Japan. "We almost got shot down that night. That was very memorable. When you hear the flak hitting the plane, it sounds like someone's throwing bricks . . . But it's big pieces of artillery shells. I think we ended up with fifty holes in the plane. We brought it back, landed and the chief mechanic told the pilot, 'you know, these planes cost \$600,000 a piece. You ought to take better care of it!'"

Later, Rearick, remembered General Lemay decided that the airplanes were not doing sufficient damage to Japan at high altitudes. "We'll go in at 6,000 feet." The B-29 was designed for high altitudes, so the crews initially thought this was suicide, but Rearick remembered "it worked at night 'cause after that, we started burning up the cities one by one until there wasn't much left. Unfortunately they caught us in the searchlights going in It was pretty hairy. You see all the explosions in the air and hear the flak." Later, "near the end of the war, he saw that a special pit had been dug on Tinian to accommodate loading the atomic bomb up into the *Enola Gay*. He did not realize at the time the significance of what he saw." [Source: *Words of War: Wartime Memories: Oral Histories from WWII*, Vol. IV, pp. 239-244] You will be missed, dear friend!