BLUE NOTES

SOCIETY SOCIETY

Quarterly publication of the

JUL/AUG/SEP 2021 VOL 25 ISSUE 3

Last Surviving Marine of The USS Indianapolis Has Passed Away Aged 96

May 25, 2021, <u>Jesse Beckett, Guest Author</u>
https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/edgar-harrell.html
Additional material from https://www.foxnews.com/us/edgar-harrell-last-surviving-marine-uss-indianapolis







Edgar Harrell, a 96-year-old veteran marine and last living Marine of the *USS* Indianapolis has passed away at the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Clarksville, Tennessee. He was one of only five other living survivors from the ship's sinking, which has gone down as the worst accident in U.S. Navy history.

He was one of just 316 survivors of the incident. He passed on May 8th, and is survived by his son, eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Harrell was born on October 10th, 1924, in Trigg County, Kentucky, and would eventually serve in the Pacific Theater of WWII as a Marine aboard the *USS* Indianapolis.

As a Marine, Harrell was assigned to guard the top-secret atomic bomb components aboard the *USS_*Indianapolis. After surviving the initial attack, he floated in the water with a constant threat of death.

"It's difficult to swim four-and-a-half days," Harrell said in an interview. "It's much easier to die than it is to live."

Harrell believes his faith in God helped him survive those terrible few days.

"There's times when you pray and there's times when you pray, and I'm pleading with the Lord, 'I don't want to die,'" he said last year. "'I have a certain

brunette back home, mom and dad, six young brothers, an older and younger sister, I don't want to die.'"

After the war, he worked in the glass window industry and married Ola Mae Cathey, who sadly passed away in 2019. He spent much of his life touring the world and providing speeches on his ordeal. Despite his full and busy life, the memories never left him.

"Even at 95 years old, I can tell the story and I can see it and I can feel it. The story is real, it's still with me."

With Harrell's passing on May 8th, 2021, he leaves just five men who survived the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* alongside him.

In 1945, she supported the invasion of Iwo Jima and shelled the beaches of Okinawa for seven days straight. During this time, the *USS Indianapolis* was heavily damaged by a bomb that penetrated through her deck. She retreated from the front lines of battle for repairs.

When she was due to return to the fight, she received orders to complete a top-secret mission of the highest importance. Her mission was to transport the fissile uranium that was to be used in the "Little Boy"

atomic bomb to Tinian Island. This weapon would eventually be dropped on Hiroshima.

She left San Francisco on July 16th, 1945 (the same day as the Trinity atomic test) and sailed full steam ahead to Pearl Harbor, setting a time record in the process. She reached Tinian on July 26th, dropped off her secret cargo, and headed for Guam for a crew rotation. She left there on July 28th, sailing to the Philippines for training.

She was spotted a few days later by Japanese submarine I-58, which fired six torpedoes at her on July 30th. Two of these hit, decimating the ship. One struck her bow, and the other ignited her ammunition magazine, essentially cutting her in half. She sank in just 12 minutes, immediately taking 300 of her 1,195 crew with her.

The entire event happened so fast, the *Indianapolis* was unable to send a distress signal or release many lifeboats and life jackets. The remaining 900 men were left to drift in the Pacific for four days and were subjected to extreme exposure to the elements, hypothermia, dehydration, and many shark attacks.

The U.S. Navy did not know the situation until a spotter plane saw lifeboats in the water and raised the alarm. Once ships arrived to pick up the survivors, just 316 men were left from the 900 that survived the initial sinking of the boat.

The harrowing conditions the men had to endure in the water in the days after the ship's sinking have led to it becoming infamously known as the U.S. Navy's biggest loss of life from a single ship.

In 2020, Harrell and the seven other surviving members of the *USS Indianapolis* crew received the Congressional Gold Medal on the 75th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

THE LAST
USS INDIANAPOLIS MARINE <u>SURVIVOR</u>

EDGAR HARRELL

OCTOBER 10, 1924 - MAY 8, 2021

Thank you for your service, Marine. You will not be forgotten.

Louis Armstrong Documentary 'Black & Blues' Headed to Apple

TV+

https://www.udiscovermusic.com/news/louis-armstrong-black-and-blues-documentary/



Photo: Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Apple Original Films has officially greenlit a new Louis Armstrong documentary feature, *Black & Blues: The Colorful Ballad of Louis Armstrong* with Imagine Documentaries producing the film. The film will offer a definitive look at the seminal musician's life and legacy as a founding father of jazz, the first pop star, and a cultural ambassador of the US.

Armstrong's music was adored by millions worldwide, but the artist was often mischaracterized for not doing enough to support the Civil Rights Movement. Despite this misnomer, Armstrong used his celebrity to fuel social justice reform and had a willingness to break his silence on issues of segregation and patriotism.

With the full support of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, the filmmakers have been granted access to a treasure trove of never-before-seen archival materials including hundreds of hours of audio recordings, film footage, photographs, personal diaries, and a life's worth of ephemera for exclusive use in the first significant documentary dedicated entirely to his life.

The film will be directed by Emmy-nominated Sacha Jenkins (*Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men*) and produced by Jenkins, Julie Anderson, Sara Bernstein, and Justin Wilkes. Imagine Documentaries' Brian Grazer and Ron Howard will also serve as executive producers. The project is being produced in association with Universal Music Group's Polygram Entertainment with Michele Anthony and David Blackman serving as executive producers.

http://centralfloridajazzsociety.com

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President's Improv



By Carla Hays

We've got so much good news to share with you!

Our annual scholarship competition was held at Blue Bamboo on May 16th. As usual it was extremely exciting. This year we only had 9 contestants rather than 10, as one young musician, a drummer, broke his arm the day before. The nine that did compete were exceptional, yes, fabulous! The five scholarships were claimed by three vocalists, a saxophonist, and a drummer (see page 6 for winners). These "kids" are our jazz greats of the future.

Our concert season was highly successful despite covid. In April Bobby Pickwood was scheduled, but a family emergency called him to California just before the concert. We were extremely happy that Dave Mackenzie agreed, at the last minute, to step in. He was accompanied by Greg Parnell's trio. They put on an outstanding show. Our May concert was our annual *Name That Tune* fundraiser. Michael Kramer, Ben Kramer, and Greg Parnell all performed for free as did vocalists Michelle Mailhot, Charlie Russo and a surprise guest vocalist, Jackie Jones. The audience was DELIGHTED by the entire show, which included requests to perform songs such as "Summer Wind", "Birth of the Blues", and "I Should Care". It's my opinion that you can't find better musicians anywhere. The Blue Bamboo also donated the venue for which we are really grateful! The concert was sold out and we raised a lot of money toward next year's scholarships. We love our jazz community!

Our 2021-2022 season is going to be sensational! (see page 5 for lineup)

Blue Bamboo will be open to full capacity this season, but seating is still limited so please mark your calendars and make your reservations early.

This past year and a half has been extremely challenging for all of us. Thankfully, most of it is behind us. We want to thank all of you who stood by us through the trying times and attended the concerts as well as renewing your memberships. Our memberships, however, are way down from a few years ago. Now that we're fully up and running again, we're hopeful that you will all renew and attend. After all, it's the BEST DEAL in town and we're promoting the jazz talent of the future.

Wishing you all a wonderful, happy, and healthy summer and looking forward to seeing everyone on September 12th! God bless and take care!

Cheers, Carla

Marjorie Ann Coxey

Marjorie Ann (Everett) Coxey was born on November 24, 1926, to John Norman and Anna Henrietta (Koeplinger) Everett in Farwell, MI. She was raised in Flint, MI, attending Flint Northern High School where she was highly involved in the choir. After high school, she sang with various jazz bands, including performing for the students several times at the University of Michigan. Music was pivotal in Marjorie's life. She played the piano and organ as well as being an accomplished vocalist. She has performed with jazz greats, including Chubby Jackson and Ira Sullivan. While with Chubby Jackson's band she recorded several records and traveled the east coast of Florida, performing at resort supper clubs during the 1960s. Marjorie married Harry A. Kenney in 1950 and had two daughters in that marriage. Later in life, Marjorie married Donald R. Coxey in 1970 at the home of their dear friend Joy Bork. Marjorie and Donald shared a love of football and attended all the home games of the Miami Dolphins. They were famous for their tailgate parties with grilled steaks and champagne. In 1989 Marjorie and Donald moved to Orlando to be near family and to work for Disney. Marjorie worked in Group Ticket Sales and made friends from all over the world. She never knew a stranger. After retiring, she still enjoyed visiting the Disney parks, with Epcot being her favorite. Following the death of Donald, she became involved in the Central Florida Jazz Society where she served in several positions on the Board of Directors. She attended monthly jazz concerts, often getting up to sing with the various bands. Music and art were her passions. She took many art classes and produced some delightful paintings. She attended Christ the King Lutheran Church for nearly 30 years. Her faith was as important to her as her music; almost every conversation she had ended with "God bless you." Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents, sister Beth (Everett) Ingalls, brothers Abram, John, and William Everett. She is survived by her son, James Waldeck II; daughters, Scarlett (Larry) Privara and

Andrea (Brian) Rafferty; grandchildren Mike Waldeck, Katie (Kevin) Harris, Heather (Wade) Schneider, Emma Stark, and Everett Ballot; great-granddaughter Scarlett Grace Harris. Services were held at Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home, 428 E. Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787 on Wednesday April 21st at 2:00 p.m. Donations can be made in Marjorie's honor to the Central Florida Jazz Society Scholarship Program (https://centralfloridajazzsociety.com/) or to Vitas Hospice & Palliative Care in Seminole, Orange & Osceola

Counties (https://vitascommunityconnection.org/).

Marge Ann first joined the CFJS in 1991, was a former

Marge Ann first joined the CFJS in 1991, was a former member of the Board of Directors, and was honored with a lifetime membership. While on the Board, she was anxious to help in any way she could; and, of course, she was an avid jazz fan, and enjoyed the monthly CFJS concerts where she made an impact with her enthusiasm and congenial manner!

Marking Legendary Golden-Age Pianist Erroll Garner's Centennial



Published May 17, 2021 at 3:10 PM EDT

Erroll Garner, the effervescent and boundlessly inventive jazz pianist and composer, died more than 40 years ago, at the age of 55. A household name and major concert attraction in his prime, he has recently regained a measure of cultural cachet thanks to the Erroll Garner Project.



This is a pre-ordered product and will ship on or after its release date of September 17, 2021.

This deluxe limited edition boxed set (limited to 300) chronicles legendary pianist/composer Erroll Garner at the height of his creative freedom, telling the real story of the famed musician's artist-owned label, Octave Records, and redefining his place in music history.

<u>Erroll Garner Centennial Celebration – Mack Avenue</u> Music Group



2021-2022 CONCERT SEASON

September 12, 2021	Bobby Pickwood	Trumpet, vocals	We're so pleased after missing him in April.
October 10, 2021	Resolve	Vocal group, rhythm section	You loved them 2 years ago!
November 14, 2021	Greg Parnell Octet	Music of Duke Ellington and Oliver Nelson	Everyone's favorite!
December 12, 2021	Suzy Park with Dave MacKenzie/John DePaola Group	A Tribute to Ella	Energy and talent!
January 9, 2022	Megabones	5 trombones and rhythm section	Lots of horns, lots of fun!
February 13, 2022	UCF Flying Horse Big Band	Directed by Grammy winning Jeff Rupert	Always a crowd pleaser!
March 13, 2022	Name That Tune Fundraiser	Performing requested songs for a donation.	Lots of surprises!
April 10, 2022	Jeff Bush	Trombone, vocals performing music from the Swing Era	Mega talent from NY!
May 15, 2022	Vivacity	Featuring Heather Thorn on xylophone	Vivacious!

The Greg Parnell Trio Featuring David MacKenzie

April 11, 2021



Greg Parnell, drums

Bob Thornton, piano

Greg Zabel, bass

David MacKenzie, saxophone







2021 CFJS Scholarship Winners

First Place: Christopher McDole - vocals, Oberlin University \$2500

Second Place: Hannah Stokes - vocals, Rollins College \$2000

Third Place: Tyler Pauletti - sax, Spruce Creek HS \$1500

Fourth Place: Shaina LaRoche - vocals, Rollins College \$1000 Midge Bowman Scholarship

Fifth Place: Max Terechenok - drums, UCF \$1000 Marge Ann Coxey Scholarship

& PARNELL BENEFIT CONCERT KRAMER²

May 16, 2021



VOCALISTS

Jacqueline Jones Michelle Mailhot Charlie Russo



Duke Ellington Quiz

https://www.udiscovermusic.com/quizzes/duke-ellington-quiz/

Duke Ellington was one of the greatest composers of the 20th century and a key figure in the development of jazz. But how well do YOU know Duke? Test your knowledge with our Duke Ellington quiz!



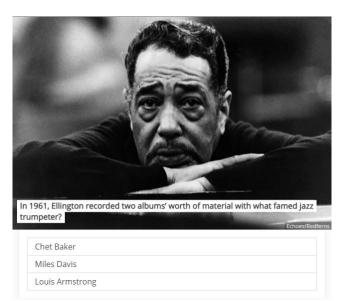
Cotton Club

Barron's Exclusive Club

Savoy Ballroom



A Rhapsody in Black and Blue
St. Louis Blues
Black and Tan

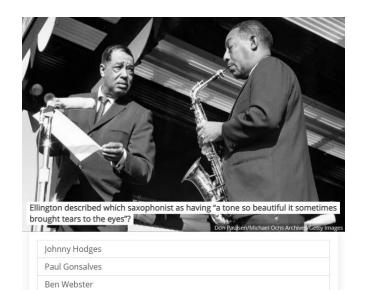


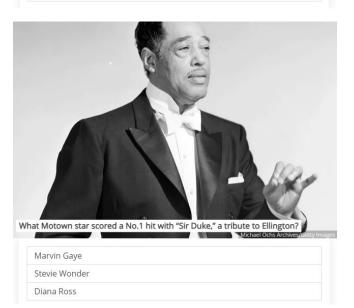


The Blue Angel
Anatomy of a Murder
Imitation of Life



Frankie Ford
Francis Moore
Frank Sinatra











"East St. Louis Toodle-Oo"

"In A Sentimental Mood"

How'd you do?

Feeling proud, a might poorly, or somewhere in between? Wherever you landed...



Answers: 1 Cotton Club, 2 Black and Tan, 3 Louis Armstrong, 4 Anatomy of a Murder, 5 Frank Sinatra, 6 Johnny Hodges, 7 Stevie Wonder, 8 Charles Mingus, 9 Newport Jazz Festival, 10 East St. Louis Toodle-Oo









Anaïs Reno: Lovesome Thing

Anaïs Reno Sings Ellington & Strayhorn Featuring Emmet Cohen

https://www.allaboutjazz.com/lovesome-thing-anais-reno-sings-ellington-and-strayhorn-anais-reno-harbinger-records



By PIERRE GIROUX April 22, 2021

Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn were collaborators for several decades beginning in the late 1930s. They became so closely intertwined musically that it was frequently impossible to distinguish their work. Anaïs Reno a young and promising singer has chosen to use their compositions as the basis for her debut release *Lovesome Thing: Anaïs Reno Sings Ellington & Strayhorn*. This choice was not without risk as the harmonic structure and lyrics of some of the compositions are better suited to a more experienced vocalist. However, Reno was undeterred, and the results are more than impressive.

In addition to being fearless in her choice of material, Reno had the foresight to look for a supporting musical cast that would enhance her vocal efforts. Pianist and arranger Emmet Cohen was an ideal selection as he is a stellar and inventive musician. Rounding out the band are Russell Hall (bass), Kyle Poole (drums), Tivon Pennicott (saxophone) and on a couple of tracks violinist Juliet Kurtzman, who also happens to be Reno's mother.

The opening Ellington tracks "Caravan" and "Mood Indigo" had co-writers, namely Juan Tizol on the former and Barney Bigard for the latter. Cohen has put together a rhythmically off-beat construction for "Caravan" that gives Reno the foundation to test her vocalese before the lyric begins. Pennicott covers much ground with his Middle Eastern influenced solo before Reno picks up the lyric again in the out chorus. Cohen's light-fingered piano opening on "Mood Indigo" foretells the interpretation offered by Reno. Gliding over the lyrics, she shows a gift for flowing delicacy, that segues into Kurtzman's violin for an uncluttered interjection.

The impact of Ellington and Strayhorn either separately or together cannot be underestimated in the jazz world. Their work here as co-composers includes "Day Dream" and "All Roads Lead Back to You." The former was written as a feature for alto saxophonist Johnny Hodges in order to take advantage of his restrained vibrato and daunting glissandos. Here Reno imparts an earthy intimacy to the number. The second number is also known as "Lotus Blossom" and is emotionally similar to the former composition, although slightly more melancholy.

"Lush Life" was Billy Strayhorn's first classic composition, written when he was just a teenager. It is filled with demanding harmonies and is complex chromatic music. The lyrics tell the story of the isolation of a black man who declined to compromise his sexual identity. No small stretch for a debutante singer, but one which she reaches with assurance. The final track in this session, "Take the 'A' Train," was the first composition that Strayhorn wrote for Ellington. History tells us that the composition's name was based on directions that Ellington gave to Strayhorn to find Ellington's apartment in Harlem from mid-town New York. Reno's interpretation of the composition uses the imbedded swing norms and harmonic cleverness to deliver an "A" train experience.

Anaïs Reno exudes confidence on this debut and with experience should develop into a singer who will delve further into the heart of the songs she chooses.



OYCE Jazz Day!

The Orlando Youth Chamber Ensembles is a non-profit organization that provides supplementary music instruction for student musicians in Central Florida. OYCE has a large collection of ensembles that bring together students from all over Central Florida. They offer a variety of unique ensembles that allow students to broaden their knowledge with instrument specific instruction. In addition to their faculty, they often have guest artists and clinicians come to work with the ensembles. The Ensembles are devoted to playing a large variety of music to further expose the members to quality literature. No member is turned away as they strive to achieve a positive, inclusive environment. Their mission is to develop all of the members through quality, focused supplemental instruction.

OYCE is "so thankful for this incredible community of small businesses, local colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations who came out to our Jazz Day to offer a variety of exciting opportunities to our student musicians!"



The Central Florida Jazz Society (CFJS) was proud to participate in OYCE Jazz Day on April 10th, at Gateway Church facilities in Orlando. Board members Doug Glicken and Greg Parnell set up a table at the entrance where they greeted attendees and presented information about our scholarship program and

concerts. Michelle Mailhot further elaborated on the CFJS's mission and goals. Many thanks to our board members for getting out there to let folks know who we are!



https://www.wtju.net/new-jazz-news-5112021/

Ryan Devlin – Thoughts on The Matter (Timucua):

(past CFJS scholarship winner)

"This project came together almost by chance. During a global pandemic I did not think recording a live album was even possible. Luckily, Benoit Glazer and his family at Timucua Arts made live music possible during this unpredictable time. I had the opportunity to meet Ulysses Owens, Jr. at Timucua back in September. After sitting in on his group's gig, Ulysses offered to come back and play with my quartet. I immediately went to my favorite Pianist and Bass player in town in Per Danielsson and Thomas Milovac and started writing the project. This album is written based on my thoughts and feelings on different matters. After 23 short years of life, I've experienced a lot of positives and negatives. Losing my mother in December of 2019 was and still is the biggest obstacle I've faced. I based the album around "The Grief Suite," a suite I wrote based on my feelings during the grieving process after losing my mom. The tunes proceeding the suite are "Yorkshire Street" which was written for my Yorkshire Terrier Macy, and "Riley," a tune I wrote for my beautiful girlfriend. I chose to finish the album with John Coltrane's "Resolution" from his famous project Love Supreme. Not only does the title really finish off the album but the energy and melody really cap off the project." (https://www.ryandevlinmusic.com/album) This set is a complete treasure from beginning to end. Devlin is a fantastic saxophonist, and everyone gives their total best.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgc5ruXs-Lg&t=2s



NOW PLAYING!

JAZZ FESTIVALS



NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL 2021 NEWPORT, RI JULY 30-AUGUST 1, 2021 / BOOK TICKETS



TELLURIDE JAZZ FESTIVAL 2021
TELLURIDE, CO
AUGUST 13-15, 2021



MONTREAL JAZZ FESTIVAL 2021 MONTREAL, QC SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2021



MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL 2021 MONTEREY, CA SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2021



NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FESTIVAL 2021

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OCTOBER 8-17, 2021 / BOOK TICKETS

MUSIC REVIEW BY MANDALIT DEL BARCO NPR WEEKEND EDITION



Nnenna and Phil Freelon were a power couple: He was the lead architect for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History & Culture, and she was a Grammy-nominated jazz singer, composer, actress and playwright. They enjoyed an exciting, full life of work, travel, friends, and family.

Phil Freelon died in 2019. Now, Nnenna has started new podcast to share her grief, and recorded a new album dedicated to her late husband. She describes Time Traveler as a love letter to Phil, who she met in 1978 on a mutual friend's porch in North Carolina.

"He was my heart," she says from her home in Durham. "He was my soul mate."

After Phil was diagnosed with ALS in 2016, Nnenna paused her music career to care for him until the end. On her first album in more than a decade, she reinterprets some of the songs they enjoyed during their 40-year marriage, including "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Time After Time," and "I Say a Little Prayer."

"I say a little prayer for you—now, that's a ditty for when you're in one place in your life," she says. "But when you've experienced the loss of your great beloved, it takes on a whole 'nother feeling."

She sings the lyrics to that song with a melancholy soulfulness: "Together, forever / That's how it must be / To live without you / Will only mean heartbreak for me..."

Freelon says music has been important for her in processing loss. "Music is like a time traveler, taking you to the past," she says, "You can exist, like in a science fiction movie, in the past and in the present."

"The very fact that I can create, in this space of grief," she says, "to me, that's a superpower," adding that grief has made her more creative, more compassionate, and more willing to take risks.



NOW PLAYING!





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MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE

Many people have told me they no longer wish to receive the printed copy of the Blue Notes – they are enjoying the colorful version online each quarter! If you would like to discontinue the mailed version, call or send me an email and I'll be glad to make that change.

Have you lost your membership card? Is something misspelled or incorrect? Are you not receiving your requested Blue Notes newsletter or monthly phone message from Carla Hays? (Carla sends a message at least once a month before each concert.)

Have a suggestion or question?

Mary Uithoven can help: 407-719-0521 or CFJSMemberships@gmail.com



Welcome New Members!

Joy Dickinson Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Griffith **Brent Kubasta** Om Pathak Mr. & Mrs. Doug Scarola

Members Who Renewed

Joan Agnew Rona Rothman Jennifer and Larry Coates Jamie Sterrett Maureen & Charles DeStefano **Kay Stevens** Samuel Dixon Rose Strubel Nicki Everett Harold Tassell Kathy Koshan Will Weatherbee Tom Robinson Joe Young IV

Golden Patrons

Carol Boardman Doug Glicken Gene Hays Alice and Richard Joossens Lynn & Jerry Rickman Loyd and Jeannie Warren

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We Stand for You

Words and Music by
David Moffitt and Sue C. Smith

To the ones who bought our freedom, for the sacrifice they made.

The ones who never made it back home, and those who didn't come home the same.

To those who bravely serve this nation, even though the cost is great.

To the best of every generation, this is what we need to say:

We rise in honor. We stand for you.

We will remember all you went through.

Because you gave, we still can wave the beautiful red, white, and blue.

We rise in honor. We stand for you.

To those who run into the danger when the cry for help is heard,

Those who protect us and defend us expecting nothing in return.

We rise in honor. We stand for you.

We will remember all you went through.

Because you gave, we still can wave the beautiful red, white, and blue.

We rise in honor. We stand for you.

The Central Florida Jazz Society salutes our veterans!

Ron Berti 4 years	SETTED STREET	Samuel Dixon, Jr. PFC 1945-1946	ARM T
Mark Fivars Seaman 1958-1959		George Hawkins LTC 1964-1986	* ARM' *
Mack C. Palmer 1961-1963	STATED STATES	Patricia Stucky SP5 1975-1979	* TRM' *