



# AMPHIBIAN

Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.

## 2015 Camp Gordon Johnston Days Revisited



*Honor Guards: The Port St. Joe Jr. Naval ROTC led the parade, followed by the Ricards Jr. Army ROTC and next came the Port St. Joe HS Band.*



*A WWII vehicle line-up in downtown Carrabelle after the parade.*



*A Humvee and a WWII weapons Carrier parade down HWY 98 in Carrabelle.*



*Skyler Vickery, from Perry, Florida, who came as a D-Day Airborne Soldier, looks over the items for sale at the vendors section along the parade route.*



*The Marine Corps League returned again this year with their entry.*



*Rosie the Riveter and a camouflaged Jeep come down the parade route. The Military Vehicle Preservation Society and the First Florida Division came in force to make this parade a true montage of American Military vehicles. They also held their quarterly meeting in the board room at the Gulf Unmanned facility in downtown Carrabelle. Mr. Bruce McCormick generously offered the facilities of his corporate headquarters.*

## Sidney Winchester, 1937-2015



*Sidney Winchester*

Sidney Winchester went to be with the Lord at 11:55 A.M. on Sunday, July 12, 2015. One of the founding members of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and World War Two Museum, Sid was a driving force in growing the museum to where it is today.

Among his accomplishments was acquiring our WWII DUKW from the Police Department, City of New Orleans, and putting great effort into its restoration. On the Apalachicola Courthouse Steps, he bid on the property where the old Officer's Club in Lanark Village had been located. Along with his wife Bobbye Jean, he promoted and supervised the Camp Gordon Johnston Days Parades for the last 20 years.

Sid became president of the association in 1997. He was a friend to all who walked through the doors of our Museum. There is no proper way to relate all of the accomplishments he brought to the museum and City of Carrabelle.

Sidney proudly served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper. Whenever he and Bobbye could get away they would attend reunions with his old unit.

Sidney had two major interests: The First Baptist Church of Carrabelle, where he taught Sunday school, and the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and WWII Museum.

Sid loved Camp Gordon Johnston Days and all the veterans and families that attended the reunions. If you so desire you can make donations in his memory to the Camp Gordon Johnston Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of North Florida and through our website at [www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com).

## Salute to Veterans Golf Tournament Fundraiser set for 2015

Each year the Camp Gordon Johnston Association partners with the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club to hold a *Salute to Veterans* golf tournament. This is a fund raising event that is held for two reasons: to honor all American Veterans and to keep open the doors of the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum in Carrabelle, Florida.

The 2015 tournament planning committee includes: Anthony Minichiello and Michael Horvath, from Camp Gordon Johnston Association, along with Mary Kelly and Dan Van Treese from St. Joseph Bay Golf Club. Meetings will be held July through November. Meetings will consist of sending out sponsorship letters, donors for the silent auction, categorizing items donated for the silent auction, evening entertainment and finalizing the date and time of the events.

The museum will be accepting donated items for the Silent Auction to be held on Friday evening prior to the Saturday tee-off.



# Landing Craft Higgins Boat Inches Closer to Completion

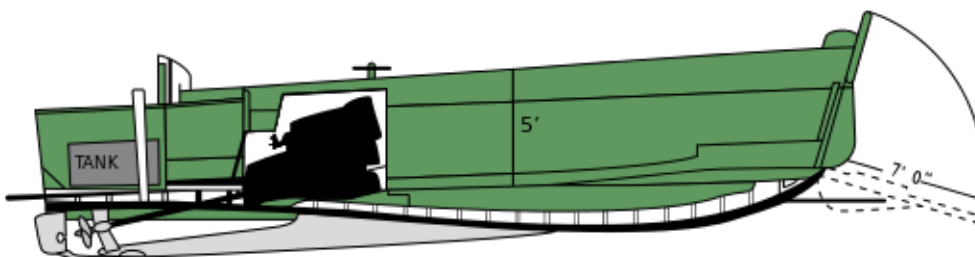
**You may contribute to the construction of this centerpiece display! Be a part of our efforts!**

**Click on the link below and you will be taken to the Go Fund Me donation site:**

**<http://www.gofundme.com/szqn2s>**



*If you will note, the ramp on the landing craft has a slight bulge. When questioned, Martin referred to the original sets of plans from the Higgins Boat Company dated 1942 which showed the feature. We estimate on early models it was included to act as a sort of "bow" and also as a cushion when the ramp was lowered into, which may account for it not being seen on later production models.*



*In the illustration above, a small bow can be seen at bottom of the ramp.*



## News Spots

### Helping increase our tourism

Museum visitor count shows a 7% increase for the first 3 quarters of 2014-15 calendar year.

Most likely due to both the beautiful weather we've been enjoying here in Franklin County and an increase in RV'ers staying in the area. Our museum has become an alternative tourist attraction for this area and is becoming known as a good place to visit.

We figure that those who come day-trip strictly to see the museum and bring in \$45.00 to the local economy per a family of four.

### 25 years of Air Classic Magazines donated

Mr. R.R. Barber of Snellville, GA dropped by the museum and donated his collection of Air Classics Magazines. They are currently housed in the Lt. Joseph Wheeler Butler research library, which contains over 1,000 books relating to the war; all the Life Magazines dated from December 7, 1941 through 1945; the leather bound history of the Wermacht put out by a German Tobacco company; and Polish publications on Auschwitz.

### 2015-16 CGJ WWII Museum budget approved

The 2015-2016 Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum budget of \$48,026.85 was finalized and approved by the Camp Gordon Johnston Association Board of Directors at the June meeting.

Generally the variance between projected and actual budgets is usually plus or minus 3-5%.

Copies of the budget are available to interested parties by e-mailing [campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net](mailto:campgordonjohnston@fairpoint.net).

The Unique Sweethearts of Rhythm all female band from the war years. You can google this delightful band and see, hear and learn of this All American talented Swing Band!



**The Florida Department of Parks and Recreation invites the CGJ WWII Museum to help Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of V-Day!**

August 15th, 2015, is the 70-year anniversary of V-Day or Victory Day, that marked the end of World War II in 1945. Florida was an active training ground for the United States military. Representatives from the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum, in nearby Carrabelle, will go to the St. George Island State Park to talk about the relationship between the camp, St. George Island and other nearby training areas. Come to the park to see military vehicle displays, equipment and historical information highlighting the important role Florida played in training for the battlefield during World War II. Vehicles and displays will be provided by the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum and the Military Vehicle Preservation Association.

## CGJA Legislative Efforts Fall Short on First Attempt

Letter to the supporters of the CGJ WWII Museum,

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been supportive of our efforts to secure state funding for our new building which would be located on Hwy 98 across from Carrabelle Beach.

With your help, we were able to generate a lot of positive input from members, veterans and supporters from not only Florida but also nationally and internationally. Our thanks go out to Senator Bill Montford and Representative Halsey Beshears and who sponsored the funding of \$500,000.00 for our building. We also are appreciative of the media coverage by Gerald Ensley of the Tallahassee Democrat and Julie Montanaro from WCTV. That money, along with our existing funds would have been more than adequate for our plans. The Legislature included the museum appropriation in the budget that passed last week, sending it to Governor Scott to sign.

Unfortunately, the museum funding fell victim to the Governor's veto pen as did more than \$461 million other projects across the state. This act will not deter us from our mission, however. We are determined to keep the memory of our WWII veterans as an important part of our history, especially in light of the current educational trend to eliminate and alter the story of America's contributions to freedom.

The sad fact is that of the over 16,000,000 Americans who served in WWII, there are only approximately 847,000 who are still alive today. In the next 5 years, perhaps only 200,000 may still be alive. Our history is fading fast. Unlike Russia whose history of the "great patriotic war" is taught and revered, today's children are taught other parts of our history. Florida and California have the largest population of WWII veterans alive, and we at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum are interviewing and video taping every WWII Veteran who walks through our door, if they will allow us to do so.

This CGJ WWII museum will survive this veto, partly because we are righteous in our cause and partly because, as Americans, and veterans ourselves, we know the need to preserve our country's heritage for the future generations.

Anthony "Tony" Minichiello,  
President, CGJA

## Camp Gordon Johnston Association forms Advisory Council

The CGJA Board of Directors at the July meeting authorized the formation of an Advisory Board, which will consist of individuals who, although not attending our board meetings, will give advice on a wide range of topics which relate to the operation of the museum. The Council will also help in ideas for formulation of a Capital Program for the permanent building site.

To date we have three people who have volunteered to be on board:

Jim Waddel, Inovia  
Foyt Ralston, Brant, Miller and Olive  
Wayne McDaniel, McDaniel Consulting, LLC

# CGJ WWII Museum's Stock of WWII Uniforms is Growing

As you can see, the CGJ WWII Museum could possibly provide uniforms for a full platoon. Of course they would have to weigh about 120 lbs. and have a twenty -inch waist and wear a size 34 shirt. Not many of us today could fit into those sizes, so what to do with them?

Well, for one thing, we are selling a select assortment in our gift shop and when you visit the museum you will be able to see the selection. The unique ones we are saving for posterity as they become more to locate, find they are becoming more valuable and can be used for trading with other museums. The lack of 24-7 air conditioning is becoming a problem, especially in the Florida summertime, so re-locating to a new building is of paramount importance. Below is a partial view of our uniform collection!



## The French Consulate in Miami is Looking for Florida Veterans who Served in France during WWII.



Know any Florida veteran who was in France during WWII? They may qualify for the Legion of Honor medal being awarded by the Republic of France. The only paperwork to fill is the Proposal Memory that you can find at this page on the website of the Consulate [www.consulfrance-miami.org](http://www.consulfrance-miami.org) on the English page and as proof of service in France a copy of the front and back of the Honorable Discharge (what else is new whenever the Army is involved?)

For details of this program, Contact:  
[nathalie.cluzet-bertot@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:nathalie.cluzet-bertot@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Or call (305) 403-4157

Who knows, they may present the next group to receive the award at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum.

*Excerpt from November 2009  
World War II Magazine*

### What is lost?

By Rick Atkinson

The statistics are as stark as mortality itself: Of the 16,112,566 American veterans of the Second World War, fewer than 2.5 million remain alive/ With another 311,000 projected to die this year (2009), they are passing at the rate of 852 a day, or 35 and hour, or about one every two minutes. Sometime around Christmas 2014, the number will dip below one million, according to demographic tables compiled by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and a decade later, in 2024, fewer than 100,000 will remain. In 2036, the latest year for which figures have been calculated, the cohort who fought and won the most destructive war in human history will be reduced to 370 survivors, less than half the size of an infantry battalion.

What is lost, in the slow march to the grave? What is lost to history, to historians, to our culture? If the private deprivation seems obvious—fathers and grandfathers gone, widows bereft of companionship—the public depletion is harder to assess. As we move toward the when not a single participant remains to alive to tell his tale, what does it mean for a nation to lose has been deemed his greatest generation?



## It's Membership Renewal time!

The Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum is dedicated to the memories of the "Amphibious Soldiers" of WWII.

Dear Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum Supporter:

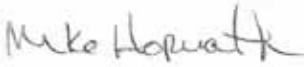
The Camp Gordon Johnston Association has made the decision to raise the yearly Membership Dues from \$10.00 to \$20.00. This is being increased because of raising costs of operating the Museum. Dues can be mailed to:

Camp Gordon Johnston Association  
PO Box 1334  
Carrabelle FL 32322

Or you can pay your dues on-line through our web page at:  
<http://www.campgordonjohnston.com/membership.htm>

If you would like to contribute more, please fill out the form provided. Thank you for your continuing support.

Our members are the key to our success and we are inviting you to join the team and become a member of Camp Gordon Johnston by filling out the Membership Form.



Mike Horvath, Secretary/Treasurer  
Board of Directors, Camp Gordon Johnston Museum  
Charter Membership

Please print, fill out form and mail with your enclosed check to:

Camp Gordon Johnston Museum Fund  
P.O. Box 1334  
Carrabelle FL 32322

Yes, I want to support the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum and our WWII veterans!

Please accept my tax deductible contribution in the amount of:

Corps—\$250.00       Division—\$200.00       Brigade—\$150.00,

Battalion—100.00       Company—\$50.00

I do not wish to be a charter member, but would like to pay my annual membership dues of \$20.00.

Contact person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Company or individual name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if different than mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Gordon Johnston Museum Fund is part of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association and maintains a separate account for the operation of the museum. The Camp Gordon Johnston Association is a 501 (4) (c) Florida non-profit corporation

# 2016 Camp Gordon Johnston Calendar Available NOW!

Plastic GBC bound this is a custom designed Calendar by CGJA member Roy Bassin. Each month features a scene from the camp when it was in operation. Laser printed on 20lb. white bond there are 13 months of scenes beginning in January 2016 going though January 2017. You will be surprised at the types of hi-jinks and tough training that was carried out at the camp. The donation is \$9.00 and includes shipping. Supplies are limited.

To order your 2016 Camp Gordon Johnston Calendar, please print, fill out form and mail with your enclosed check to address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check or Money Order to:  
 Camp Gordon Johnston WW II Museum  
 PO Box 1334  
 Carrabelle FL 32322



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## Camp Gordon Johnston WW II Museum Commerative Brick Order Form

Yes, I would like to purchase a permanent brick to be installed at the new Camp Gordon Johnston Memorial Pavilion.  
 NOTE: Any bricks purchased prior to the memorial being built will be displayed temporarily at the museum.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Bricks are 4"x8"x2 1/4". Each brick may contain up to 3 lines of copy, 21 charters per line.  
 All text is centered unless otherwise specified. EXAMPLE 1

Please return this form and your enclosed check for \$125.00, payable to:  
 Camp Gordon Johnston WW II Museum  
 PO Box 1334  
 Carrabelle FL 32322

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EXAMPLE 1

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EXAMPLE 2

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**If you have any questions, please call Mike Horvath – 850-251-3928**

**NOTE:** Bricks are not limited to just WW II Veterans—any veteran, family member or Camp Gordon Johnston WW II Museum supporter may purchase a brick.