



HISTORY MATTERS

CHA UPCOMING EVENTS

Hops + History:

50 Years of the Coronado Cays

Friday, September 27

5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program

\$10 for CHA Members

\$15 for Non-Members

"My Coronado" Writers Workshop

Friday, September 27

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

\$15 for CHA Members

\$20 for Non-Members

All proceeds benefit CHA

An Evening with League of Wives

Author Heath Lee

Friday, October 4

5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program

\$10 for CHA Members

\$15 for Non-Members

at the Performing Arts Center at

Coronado High School

650 D Avenue Coronado, CA 92118

Coffee & Conversations:

Vietnam Memories

Tuesday, October 8

10:00 a.m.

Free

Monthly Wine & Lecture Series:

Unavoidable Hope

Friday, October 11

5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program

\$15 for CHA Members

\$18 for Non-Members

R.S.V.P. or Purchase Tickets at

www.coronadohistory.org, (619) 435-7242,

or by visiting the Museum Store at

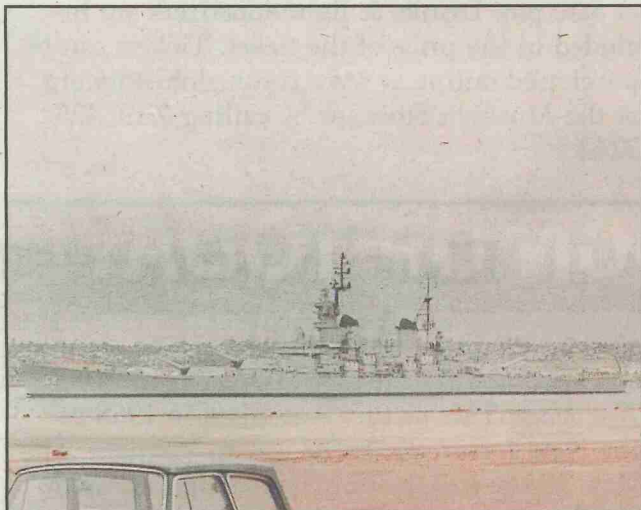
1100 Orange Avenue

HISTORY MYSTERY

A monthly photo from CHA's Collection of Coronado's past for residents to guess.

What does this photo depict?

See the next page for the answer.



Coronado Historical Association Collection

THE LEAGUE OF WIVES: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WOMEN WHO TOOK ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO BRING THEIR HUSBANDS HOME

On May 1, 1970, Sybil Stockdale, Phyllis Galanti, Louise Mulligan and Jane Denton, founding members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, rallied with 1,000 family members of prisoners of war at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington D.C. Senator Bob Dole, an early and ardent supporter of their cause, helped draw a crowd of 3,800 to the event that helped establish the League's influence and national visibility.

In May 2017, The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas created a new special exhibit about these women and the many more who worked tirelessly to bring home Vietnam POWs and honor those who were MIA and KIA.

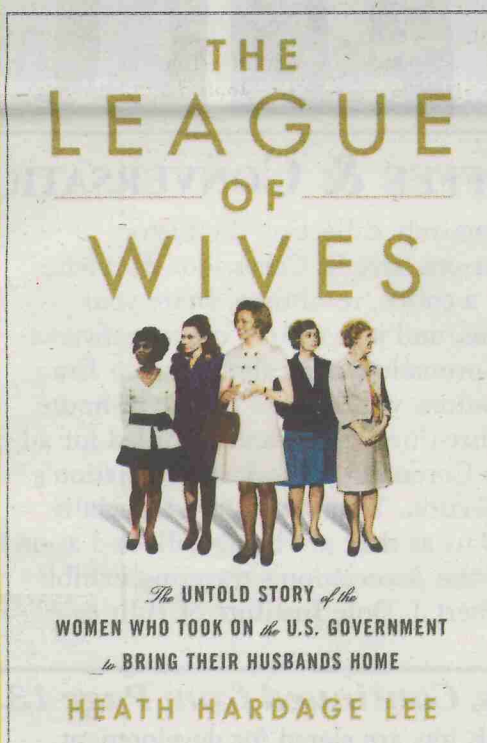
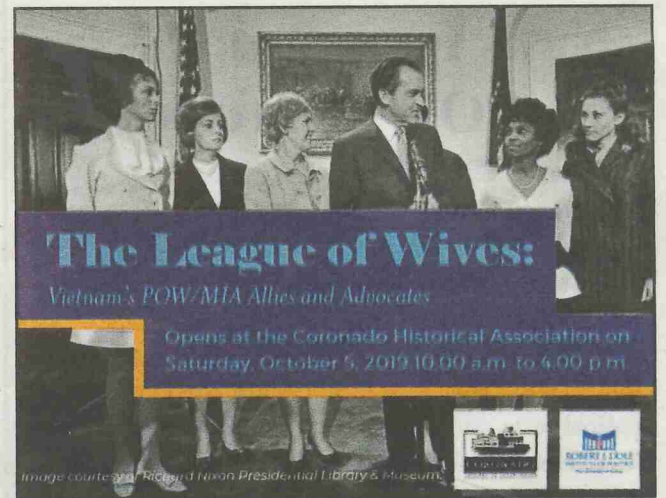
"The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Allies & Advocates," tells the story of the military wives who founded the organization that would later become the National League of POW/MIA Families. The exhibit has now traveled to Coronado, one of the central homes of this movement and story. It features documents, artifacts, and stories of the era.

Virginia-based historian and 2017 Dole Archives Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee curated the exhibit, based on her book, *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home*.

The story is a poignant one during a tumultuous time in the United States. "The wives' weapons were organization, tenacity and their willingness to ditch the very military protocols they were trained to adhere to," Lee said. "Ultimately, these Vietnam War wives quit waiting for their husbands to be rescued by the American government. Instead, they did the job themselves with aid from Senator Dole, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and his staff, National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, and President Richard Nixon."

Heath Lee comes from a museum education and curatorial background, and she has worked at history museums across the country. She holds a B.A. in History with Honors from Davidson College, and an M.A. in French Language and Literature from the University of Virginia. Potomac Books, a division of the University of Nebraska Press, published Heath's prize-winning book, *Winnie Davis: Daughter*

Special Exhibit, Continued on Page 15.



50 YEARS OF THE CORONADO CAYS

In honor of the Coronado Cays 50th anniversary, the Coronado Historical Association invites you to join us for a special Hops + History event as we reminisce on the special history that has made the Cays what it is today. The evening will consist of a panel of locals who will offer unique insights and different perspectives into the history of the Cays, what it was like in the past and what the future looks like for this growing community.

Indeed the history of the Cays is an interesting one, in a 1988 Coronado Eagle Journal article, titled Pig Farm to Marina Town, the Cays has Grown Up, the history of the then 20-year-old Cays was outlined.

"Once a 230-acre spit of land covered with garbage and sand dunes, the Cays is now home to more than 2,200 residents who reside in the marina community's 957 homes. The community

was mapped out in a special use permit in January 1968 and has since run its predetermined course. Split into 18 separate subdivisions, the

The Cays, Continued on Page 14.



Coronado Cays sign from the 1970's. Coronado Historical Association Collection.



Newly freed prisoners of war celebrate as their C-141A aircraft lifts off from Hanoi, North Vietnam, on Feb. 12, 1973, during Operation Homecoming. The mission included 54 C-141 flights between Feb. 12 and April 4, 1973, returning 591 POWs to American soil. (U.S. Air Force photo)

NEWS FROM THE PAST: POWs RETURN

*Coronado Eagle and Journal,
February 22, 1973*

Families Adorn 900 Block with 'Welcome Home Harry' Signs

Two Coronado Navy POWs, Capt. Harry Jenkins Jr. and Capt. James Stockdale, are continuing medical tests and intelligence debriefings at Balboa Naval Hospital following their release last week by the North Vietnamese ending more than seven years imprisonment for each man.

A third POW, Cdr. Brian Woods, with relatives in Coronado, also remains at Balboa following his release and immediate flight home to see his critically ill mother in Coronado Hospital. Woods was the first Vietnam POW to set foot on American soil. He was captured in 1968.

Capt. Jenkins wife, Marjorie, and members of the Woods' family all enthusiastically expressed their happiness at the men's apparent good physical condition and adjustment thus far to freedom.

Mrs. Stockdale could not be reached for comment however a hospital spokesman stated Capt. Stockdale was in good health and continuing medical processing and intelligence debriefing.

Capt. Jenkins spent his first night at home Monday evening, and a favorite baked chicken dish was prepared by Mrs. Jenkins for the first family meal. American flags and "Welcome Home" signs decorated neighborhood homes for his arrival. "Milk and ice cream," Mrs. Jenkins said when asked what special treats her husband was enjoying.

Capt. Jenkins was serving as commanding officer of Attack Squadron 163 aboard the carrier Oriskany when he was shot down in 1965. The couple have three children, Chris, 21, Karen, 15, and Kirk, 13.

Cmdr. Brian Woods visited in Coronado Sunday, and he and family members, including his father, RAdm. R. W. D. Woods, USN (ret.) of Coronado, dined at the La Avenida Restaurant. Cdr. Woods' mother remains in the intensive care unit at Coronado Hospital.

"The feeling of freedom and no schedules are a special delight to Brian," said his sister, Mrs. Barbara Walker of Coronado. "He lost about 30 pounds during captivity. It's wonderful to see that through all this he has still retained the sense of humor and dry wit I remember," she said. Cdr. Wood's wife, Paula, and their three children, Christopher, Michael, and Cathleen are staying at Miramar Naval Air Station until his release from Balboa.

Also released by the North Vietnamese is civilian Michael Kjome, whose brother, John, is a Coronado resident. Still to be released are Capt. Ernest M. Moore, Cdr. Edward H. Martin, and Cdr. William R. Stark.

A LOOK BACK: OPEN DOORS EXHIBIT AT CHA

With the opening of the League of Wives exhibit, we look back at CHA's 2002 exhibit: "Open Doors: Vietnam POWs Thirty Years Later." The exhibit honored the POWs of the Vietnam era. It was curated by a team including Taylor Kiland, a Navy Junior who lived in Coronado, and photographer Jamie Howren Quinn.

While their experience in captivity had been well-documented, the lives of former Vietnam POWs was largely overlooked. In the 30 years since their return (1973), the former POWs had taken on professional and personal challenges, careers and hobbies. They were not given celebrity treatment by today's standards, nor did they ask for it, they were not given book deals or movie deals or publicists or a million dollars. Rather, they were asked to resume their roles as husbands and fathers and sons to salvage their careers.

The exhibit highlighted these men, some of whom we have since lost, showing how many of them relished life to the fullest, for they knew that life always offers new doors of opportunity to open. The exhibit of 30 black-and-white, impressionistic photos and accompanying written profiles captured these extraordinary American men who were tested like few people of subsequent generations have, and



Former POWs are photographed outside the Coronado Museum at the opening reception for the "Open Doors" exhibition with Taylor Kiland and Jamie Howren Quinn.

it honored the sometimes forgotten Vietnam veterans.

"Open Doors: Vietnam POWs Thirty Years Later" suggested hope, opportunity and chance—a testament to the sheer strength of the human spirit and the power of human will. It reinforces the poignant quote made by Commander Paul Galanti, U.S. Navy (ret.). "There's no such thing as a bad day when you have a door knob on the inside of the door."

This exhibit debuted at the Coronado Historical Association's Museum of History and Art on August 29, 2002. From there, it traveled around the country for months.



COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS: VIETNAM MEMORIES

CHA is actively collecting the history of Vietnam War-era here in Coronado. We invite you to enjoy a coffee, reminisce, share your unique stories, and join us in a casual conversation about Coronado during the Vietnam Era. The conversations will be led by our in-house historian, Christine Stokes, and recorded for addition to the Coronado Historical Association's archives collection. Your stories are especially important to us as they are being collected as an extension of the Association's traveling exhibit from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics

League of Wives, about Vietnam's Navy wives on the home front in Coronado. The program will include time to tour the newly installed exhibit.

The event will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 10:00 am and is free of charge. Anyone is welcome to attend, however, reservations are required. RSVP by visiting www.coronadohistory.org, by visiting the museum store, or by calling (619)435-7242. Refreshments will be served.

**Participants must sign Oral History releases in order to partake.*

The Cays, Continued from Page 13.

15th and 16th lots are slated for development this year. ... The Cays Company developed the former site of a hog ranch and city dump since the first home was built on the site in 1969. The Cays property was purchased that year by Signal Oil, which in turn formed Signal Landmark Properties and later changed to its current name. Building and selling about 50 new homes a year, the Cays Company has slowly constructed a community. It now has everything you'd find in a small town, including a fire/police station, public tennis courts, and even a yacht club."

Now 30 years later, the Cays is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a daylong celebration on Saturday, September 28, at Coronado Cays Park. Join us the evening before to learn more about the fascinating history of the Cays. Everyone is invited to join the conversation, enjoy a beer, and spark up a conversation with our panelists at the reception before the evening begins.

In preparation for the event, the Coronado Historical Association is asking that every one

search through their old photos and find classic or historic photos of the Coronado Cays! If you find any you would like to share, we would encourage you to tag us on Facebook, send them via email to info@coronadohistory.org, or bring them with you to the Hops + History Event, which will be held on Friday, September 27th at 5:30 pm. Drinks & light appetizers are included in the price of the ticket. Tickets can be purchased online at www.coronadohistory.org, at the Museum Store, or by calling (619) 435-7242.

History Mystery Answer

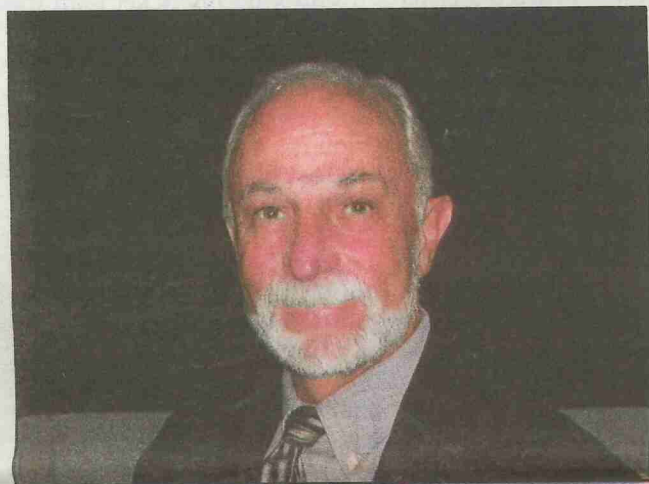
This month's History Mystery is the *USS New Jersey*. This picture was taken in 1968 as the *New Jersey* was on its way to Vietnam. The *New Jersey* was the only battleship to provide gunfire support during the Vietnam War.

WINE & LECTURE SERIES: "UNAVOIDABLE HOPE: A JEWISH SOLDIER'S FIGHT TO SAVE HIS FAMILY FROM FASCISM"

Few stories have the opportunity to be written in the unique perspective that Author Roger Sabadinni offers in his book "Unavoidable Hope: A Jewish Soldiers Fight to Save His Family from Fascism". It tells the true story of the Sabbadini family and of Mr. Sabbadini's own father Alessandro (Alex) Sabbadini, a young Italian Jewish refugee who escaped Fascist Italy to America on the eve of WWII only to join the fight in Italy with the U.S. 5th Army.

Join us at the Coronado Historical Association as we host author and professor Roger Sabadinni to discuss his incredible book. Dr. Sabbadinni will delve deeper into how he drew inspiration to write the book from his father's historical documents and many photographs, and how after looking through them he knew that his family's story was one that demanded to be told. The book dramatically reminisces the robust Jewish history in Italy, flashback to earlier military campaigns, and think on his experience as one of the first "Ritchie Boys" to have received training at the Military Intelligence Schools in Camp Ritchie, Maryland. The journey of the Sabbadini family discovering their fate is beautifully woven together and will captivate anyone with an interest in WWII Jewish history, Italian history, military history, anyone who appreciates the love of family, or the story of an unsung hero.

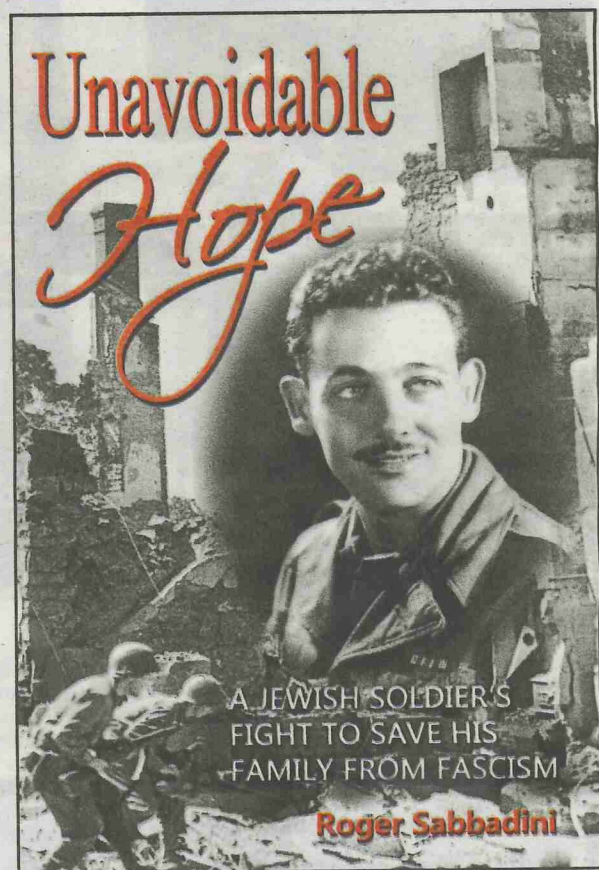
This compelling true story of an Italian Jewish refugee who escaped Fascist Italy to America on the eve of WWII only to join the fight in Italy with the U.S. 5th Army. He was in the fight for personal reasons - to liberate Italy and his Jewish family who were being pursued by the Fascists and the Nazis. The story of the Sabbadini family and Alex Sabbadini's quest to discover their fate is not told in a chronological order but dramatically begins with the January 22, 1944 invasion of Italy at the seaside towns of Anzio and Nettuno where Alex landed a mere 200 yards in front of the Sabbadini summer villa. In one of the great fiascoes of the war, the Allies became trapped in a small strip of beachhead with their backs to the sea, facing 120,000 German troops who thwarted the Allies' plan to capture



Roger Sabadinni is an Emeritus Professor at San Diego State University. Currently, he lives in Bend, Oregon, but is making the trip out to Coronado to share this incredible story with us.

Rome and Alex's ability to reunite with his family. During the agonizing stalemate, the horror of the Anzio/Nettuno battle is documented from Alex's perspective; but the seemingly eternity of time he spent there is used to reminisce on the history of Alex's archetypical family in context of the robust history of the Jewish people in Italy. Flashbacks also involve earlier military activities of the Mediterranean Campaign and the antecedents that brought Alex to the doorstep of Rome. Alex was one of a very few Italian-born Jews to fight with the Allies in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Alex accompanied the troops that were tasked with the mission of capturing Benito Mussolini. He witnessed Mussolini in death and sat at Il Duce's desk examining the Italian dictator's military and personal documents. Alex Sabbadini's personal photographs and other documents have historical value and contribute greatly to the unique character of the story. This book and Dr. Sabbadinni's talk would be of interest to those who have read "Sons and Soldiers", "Unbroken" and "A Bold and Dangerous Family"

For those interested in learning more about the book or in meeting Roger Sabadinni, there is an upcoming event hosted by the Coronado Historical Association where Sabadinni will be a special guest. The "Wine & Lecture: An Unavoidable Hope" will be held Friday, October 11th from with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the lecture beginning promptly at 6:00 pm. This will be an evening for adults to enjoy wine and cheese as Sabadinni discusses his novel. Tickets can be purchased online at www.coronadohistory.org, at the Museum Store, or by calling (619) 435-7242.



Special Exhibit, Continued from Page 13.

of the Lost Cause, in 2014. Heath's new book "The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took On the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam" was published by St. Martin's Press in April 2019. Reese Witherspoon's film production company Hello Sunshine has optioned the book for a feature film, and Heath will be an executive producer and historical consultant on the project.

"Ms. Lee's visit to the Dole Institute revealed to us a remarkable story of women's leadership during the Vietnam War and a little-remembered part of Senator Dole's legacy," said Dole Institute Assistant Director and Senior Archivist Audrey Coleman. "It also resonates today as a prime example of a grassroots effort becoming a partnership of citizens and their government officials. This transformative partnership changed U.S. government protocol regarding prisoners of war and missing in action - and ultimately, the fate of their husbands."

The exhibit has traveled nationwide to the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the Virginia Historical Society. Each museum customized the exhibit with materials from its own collections and the local POW/MIA history. Coronado is no exception. CHA's version of the exhibit features heavily the men and women of Coronado.

The traveling components of the exhibit were funded by a gift from Harlan and Alice Ann Ochs of Colorado Springs, Co. The gift honors Mr. Ochs' late brother Larry Ochs, former mayor of Colorado Springs and a strong advocate for the POW/MIA cause. The exhibit was developed at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics which is dedicated to promoting political and civic participation as well as civil discourse in a bipartisan, philosophically balanced manner. It is located on KU's West Campus and houses the Dole Archive and Special Collections. Through its robust public programming, congressional archive and museum, the Dole Institute strives to celebrate public service and the legacy of U.S. Senator Bob Dole.

The exhibit opens to the public at the Coronado Historical Association's Museum (1100 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA) on Saturday, October 5, 2019. It will be open free to the public seven days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

In conjunction with the exhibit, CHA is proud to partner with the Coronado Arts Commission and the Coronado Public Library to host Virginia-based historian and 2017 Dole Archives Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee. Lee curated the exhibit based on her book "The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took



Author and curator, Heath Lee, sits (center) at Sibyl Stockdale's dining room table with many of the wives who had once sat there with Sibyl working tirelessly to advocate for their husbands' return. The table will be featured in the exhibit courtesy of the Stockdale Family.

on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home". An Evening with Heath Lee will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Coronado High School on October 4, 2019. Dr. Dean Nelson will lead a conversation with the author about exploring the powerful stories of POW wives through the book and nationally-traveling museum exhibition.

The evening includes an audience Q & A and author book-signing. Books will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$10 for CHA Members and \$15 for Non Members. The event will sell out, so purchase your ticket early at the Museum Store or online at <https://aneveningwithheathlee.eventbrite.com> All proceeds underwrite the cost of bringing the exhibit to Coronado.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
5:30 pm Reception
6 pm Lecture

AN EVENING WITH
HEATH LEE

Tickets on sale now at
coronadohistory.org

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