

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Early October 2017

Current Deposit Balance \$ _____

Catching up with DC#4 event covers



I have been playing catch-up due to an upcoming vacation. You will now have received three mailings close together, some sitting on my print desk awaiting crests and others that were awaiting the return of the covers by the USPS, delays that seem to occur all too frequently. I'll be in Cape Coral FL for two weeks by the time this reaches you so any correspondence won't be answered until about 12 October. I had worried that IRMA would hit this area very hard, but a change in direction took her east of Route 75 and sparing the areas of Ft. Myers and Cape Coral along the Caloosahatchie River.

Services Held for Sailors Killed Aboard DDG's

Memorial Service for Sailors lost in recent collisions aboard *USS FITZGERALD* and *USS JOHN S McCain* recently.



The services were held aboard the *USS MIDWAY* museum in San Diego on CPO Pride Day, Sept 8, 2017.

PCU COLORADO completes milestone events toward commissioning

Two milestones were recently completed by the Pre-Commissioning Crew of the *PCU COLORADO SSN-788*. Her Builders Sea Trails were completed on 30

Sept 2017 (Bravo Trials). The boat was accepted by the U S Navy on 21 September 2017 (In Commission-Special). Chapter covers for both events are in progress.



Above photo from the *USS COLORADO* Commissioning Committee website.

USNS LEWIS B PULLER T-ESB 3, commissioned as USS LEWIS B PULLER ESB 3.

Without much fanfare the *USNS LEWIS B. PULLER T-ESB 3* (formerly T-MLP-3/T-AFSB-1) was commissioned in the U S Navy fleet as *USS LEWIS B. PULLER ESB 3* on 17 August 2017. The commissioning took place at Khalifa bin Salman Port in Al Hidd, Bahrain. I doubt that any commissioning covers could have been serviced for the event. USNI News reports that the Navy stated the following on the change in status: "Converting ESB-3 to a commissioned warship (USS) will allow U.S. Central Command and 5th Fleet the flexibility needed to meet challenges in the region."



Navy spokesman Lt. Seth Clarke told USNI News. "Potential missions, such as mine-countermeasure operations and special operations forces staging, must be conducted by a warship under the law of armed conflict. In order to provide combatant commanders the maximum amount of flexibility, the Navy decided to commission ESB-3 as a U.S. warship once she arrived in [Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command] / U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations."