



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



The Meaning Behind Coins on Military Headstones

By Maura Bradshaw, NAVSTA Great Lakes Gold Star Coordinator

Have you ever noticed various types of coins on the headstones or grave markers while visiting a military cemetery? At Naval Station Great Lakes, we have the honor of having our own small cemetery. While there recently, I noticed pennies had been placed on a number of the headstones. Curiosity sent me to Google to find out if this had any significance. It turns out that there is a lot of significance to the coins placed on a service member's resting place.

According to the Department of Military Affairs, the tradition of leaving coins for military men and women dates back to the Roman Empire. In order to ensure a fallen Soldier could cross the River Styx, a coin would be inserted into their mouth. The tradition carried on in the United States during the Vietnam War. A coin placed on the service member's resting place was a practical way to demonstrate to the service member's family that the grave had been visited in a time when there was political division in the country over the war.

Each coin has its own significance. A penny means someone has visited the grave. A nickel signifies that the visitor served with the deceased service member at boot camp. A dime means the visitor and deceased service member served together at some point. A quarter is left by someone who was physically with the service member when he or she passed away.

As this tradition continues, you may wonder what happens to all of the coins. They are periodically collected and the money is used for cemetery maintenance, the cost of burial for service members, or the care of homeless veterans.

In the future, if you see coins at your Sailor's resting site, you will know he or she was visited and is remembered, just as they and you will forever be remembered by the Navy Gold Star Program.





Independence Day

*Celebrating our freedom
and those who fought for it*

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Hurricane Season Begins June 1

By Lisa Bauch, Navy Gold Star Program Analyst

June 1 marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. This season extends through Nov. 30, and while storms may occur outside this timeframe, they typically occur during these months with the most activity during August and September.

Typhoon season is from April to December. The only difference between a typhoon and a hurricane is its location. These two storms are essentially the same weather phenomenon as a tropical cyclone. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a tropical cyclone is a generic term used by meteorologists to describe a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has closed, low level circulation. In North America, central North Pacific and the eastern Pacific, these storms are called hurricanes. In the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean, they are called typhoons.

These storms are often awe-inspiring in the sheer magnitude of their destructive force and are something to be recognized and prepared for in advance. One part of preparing is knowing when a storm is developing. NOAA has an amazing website for storm trackers. The National Hurricane Center website (www.nhc.noaa.gov) has maps, projected storm tracks, and a wealth of information related to these storms.

The best time to prepare for a hurricane is well before the storm starts to develop. NOAA outlines the following steps to help you prepare for the storm season.

Know your zone. Do you live near a coast? To find out if you live in an evacuation area, contact your local emergency management office. Additional information is available at https://flash.org/pdf/2020_hurricane_evacuation_zones.pdf.

Put together an emergency kit. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit> to learn more. Check emergency equipment such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters.

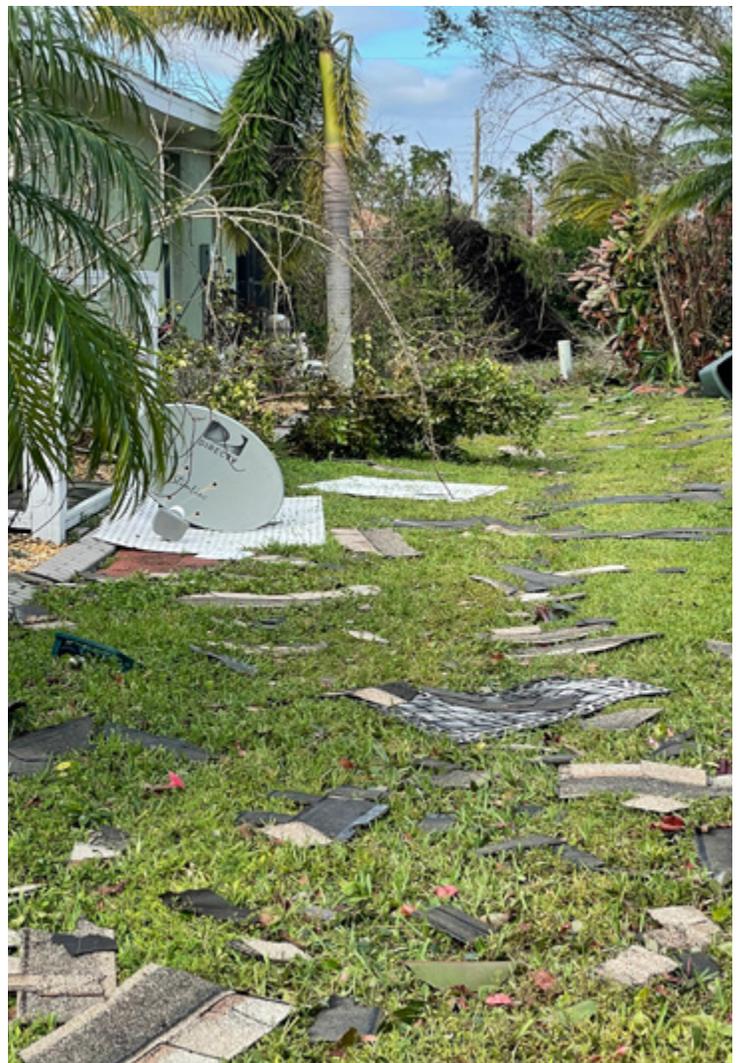


Write or review your family emergency plan. Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of the plan with your emergency supplies. You can find more information at www.ready.gov.

Review your insurance policies. Make sure that you have adequate coverage for your home and property.

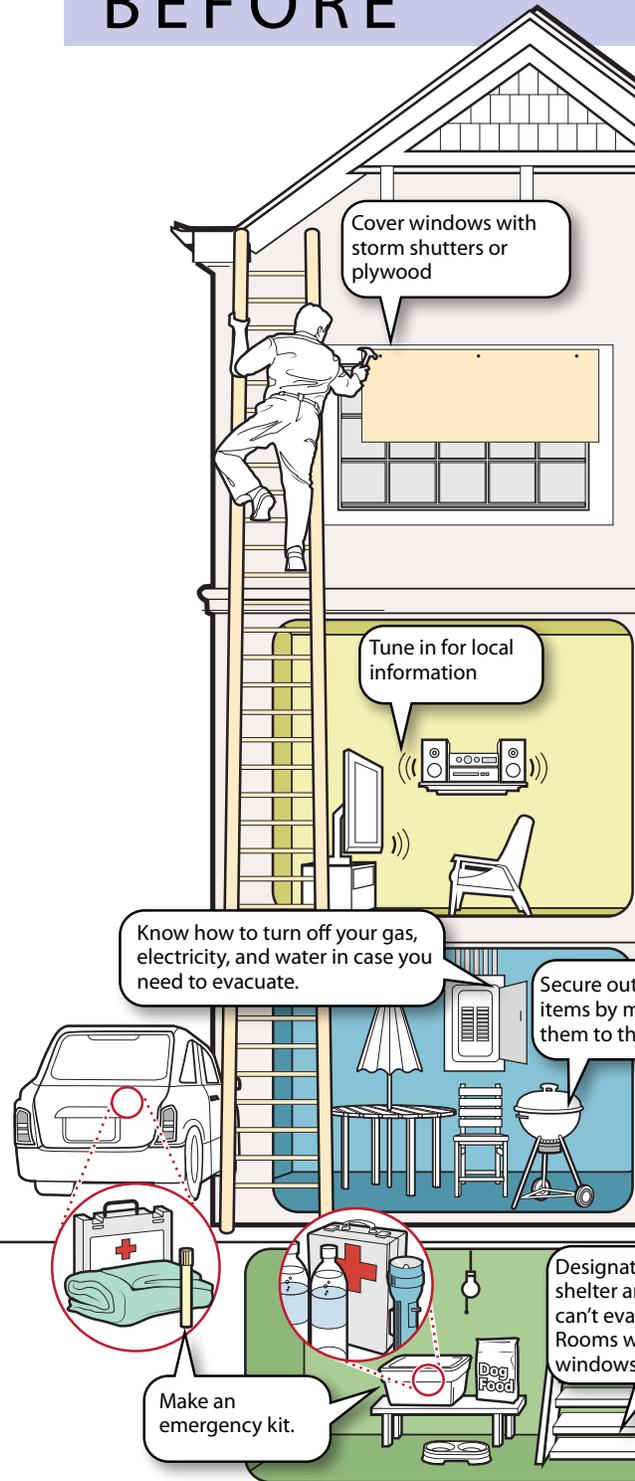
Understand the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast products, especially the NWS watches and warnings. Visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-ww> for more information. To learn more about storm safety, visit www.weather.gov/hurricanesafety.

While it's never possible to be completely prepared for every storm because of the often-changing paths and destructive potential of these phenomena, we can do our best to be ready. As someone who is from Florida and has experienced first-hand these powerful storms over the years, I can tell you that the more prepared you are, the easier it will be both during and after the storm passes.

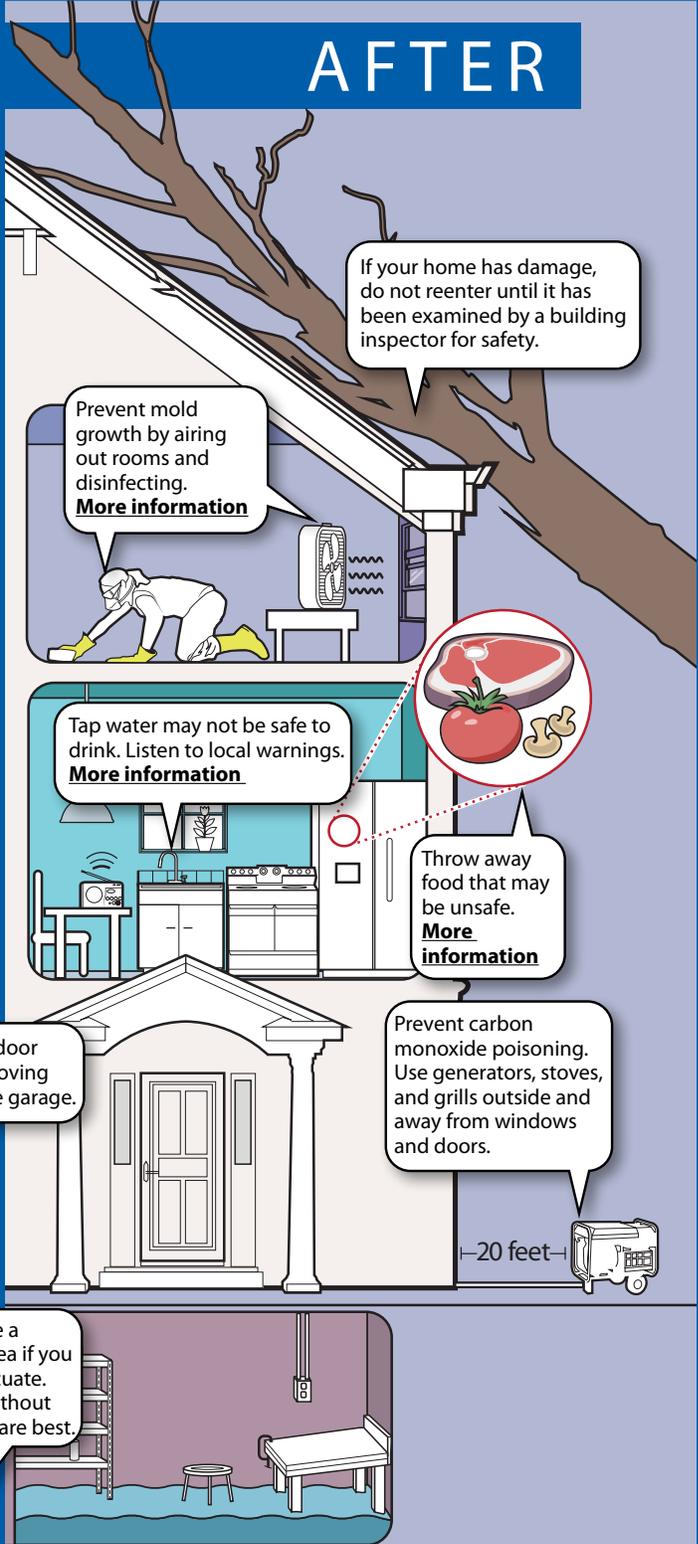


Be ready! Hurricanes

BEFORE



AFTER





New Day, New Opportunities

By CNIC Force Chaplain's Office

“This new day has greeted us with no rules; unconditional opportunity. Do not dilute the power of this new day with the hardship of yesterday. Greet this day the way it has greeted you; with open arms and endless possibility” – Steve Maraboli, “Life, the Truth, and Being Free”

“This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Holy Bible, Psalm 118:24

Maraboli's quote reminds Bible readers of Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made” and we have reason to “rejoice and be glad in it.”

Why should we “be glad and rejoice” in every new day that comes? Maraboli outlines several reasons: A new day means unconditional opportunity. A new day means it is not necessary to carry over baggage from former days to this new day. And, a new day is a new opportunity to openly and enthusiastically embrace endless possibilities that await us in that new day.

What happens to us when we live out Maraboli's prescription for receiving the new day? We hold in balance that we all have a past that influences our worldview. But, we all also have an opportunity to do something different, to take a different, unfamiliar path. There are opportunities for us to view things differently.

What does that different view look like for you? Let us draw from an old life lesson presented by Portia Nelson in her book, “There's a Hole in My Sidewalk: The Romance of Self-Discovery.”

“I walked down this street.

There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.

I fall in.

I am lost. I am helpless.

It isn't my fault.

It takes forever to find my way out.

I walk down the same street. I walk down the same street. I walk down the same street.

I walk down another street.”

The moral of Portia Nelson's story is that each new day brings opportunities to experience the vibrancy of life choices. Life choices result in new opportunities to be blessed or to be a blessing. We seldom know which role we will play. What is certain is that we will play a role as a blessing or a recipient of a blessing. The challenge of Portia Nelson's story is our deciding to walk down a different street when we find ourselves in odd but predictable potholes.

The Psalm declares: “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!” Let us resolve to be willing to walk down another street.



Gold Star Children's Day

By Lisa Bauch, Navy Gold Star Program Analyst

In 2021, Congress officially designated Aug. 1 as Gold Star Children's Day to honor the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen service members. The Navy Gold Star Program team recognizes these very special children and knows that losing a parent is life altering at any age and often devastating at a younger age. We wish to pay tribute to these resilient individuals and ensure that they know they are loved. Many Navy Gold Star coordinators are hosting activities in honor of this recognition day. Be sure to connect with your coordinator to learn more (www.navygoldstar.com/locations).





A Portrait of a Gold Star Daughter

By Clifton McKnight Sr., Gold Star Father of HMC Randy R. Rhoe and Grandfather of Loreal Denise Rhoe

The U.S. Navy's unofficial motto is "Semper Fortis," which means "Always Strong" in Latin. Loreal Denise Rhoe represents and embraces being "Always Strong." She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (a Philly girl), the daughter of Chief Hospital Corpsman Randy R. Rhoe and Lapetria Walker-Rhoe. By the time that Loreal was 3 years old, her father's deployments and PCS moves had already taken her to Philadelphia, Miami, Atlanta, and Memphis.

Loreal has a natural ability to adapt, adjust and win. Her father, HMC Rhoe, died on July 17, 2011. Loreal was just 3 at the time he passed, and one of his requests was that his daughter be given the opportunity for options. Loreal has taken that spirit for adventure and run with it, as she has experienced much and traveled many miles during her 15 years on Earth. Her 15th birthday is June 15. She was born on Father's Day.

Loreal has grown up around cheerleading, and it has developed into one of her true loves. Her involvement in competitive cheerleading has led to her extensive travel in the mid-south states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and Texas for local, regional and national competitions. Her teams have won nationals in several age groups and also finished as runners-up in multiple competitions. Loreal has been performing in all-star cheerleading since she was 4 years old and has won several jackets and medals within the dance and cheer world.

Loreal has kept pace with traveling since birth and has visited the Bahamas, Hawaii, London, England, Paris, France, and Egypt, and will soon travel to Barcelona, Spain, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. She also attended the Gold Star Teen Sailing Adventure in Providence, Rhode Island, in 2022.

Loreal is very involved in her church where she teaches pre-K on Sundays, sings in the high school choir, and is a 2nd grade teacher for summer vacation Bible School. She has been in several plays and is involved in Delta Sigma Theta Academy, where she learned entrepreneur skills that led to her starting her own company. Loreal was also captain of her middle school cheer team. In addition to cheer, upon entering high school she joined the competitive dance team and the track team.

It takes a village. Loreal has a strong support system that starts with her mother, who supports all of her endeavors and leans on love of God for support. Other contributors are her godmother Audrey Morrow, an administrator for the Shelby County Schools in Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Morrow says of her vision of Loreal, "I see her as a major influence for young women, a (future) college graduate, and the first in her family to exceed in the area of education and with (her) ultimate goals."

Another member of her support system is her father's best friend and "Main Dog," "Uncle Mario," who said, "What does the future hold for Loreal Denise Rhoe? The answer is simply this: Whatever goals she sets will be obtained. She's that special! My name is Master Chief Demario Payton and I've been serving in the U.S. Navy for over 28 years. Loreal Rhoe is my goddaughter, but I refer to her as my niece. She, in turn, refers to me as her uncle. That's not only based upon the enduring relationship that we share, but the bond and brotherhood that was forged between her late father, Chief Hospital Corpsman, Rand R. Rhoe and I. Loreal has inherited traits from her parents that make her uniquely distinctive from her peers.

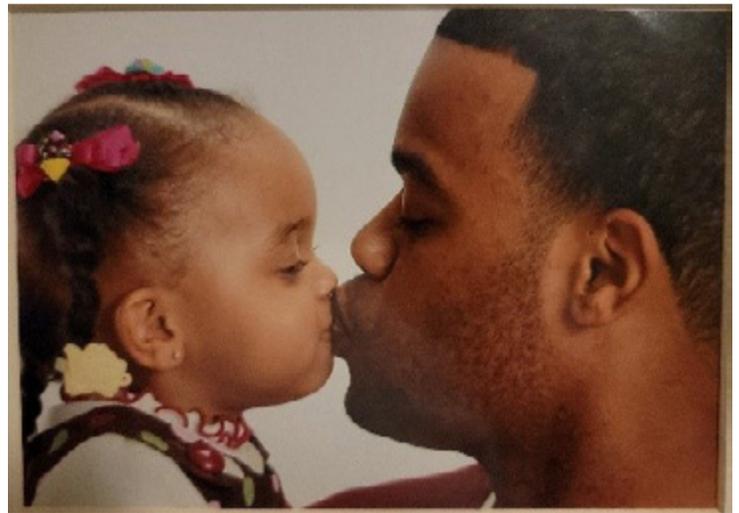




She has her mother's (Dr. Lapetria Rhoe) nurturing, compassion, strong belief in faith and worship, athleticism, and natural beauty. She has her father's articulations and leadership skills. Who is Loreal at age 15? She's an honor roll student, a competitive gymnast and dancer, a cheerleader, a track and field athlete, a brand ambassador for a make-up line, an avid international traveler, a servant leader, and a young lady of faith as an active member of Bellevue Baptist Church, just to list a few accomplishments. She is mature far beyond her years and will wow you within 10 minutes of a conversation. She is absolutely amazing! Who will she be when the dust settles? A successful and servant leader who will leave a significant impact on people and in communities."

My son's desire was for Loreal Denise Rhoe to have options. With a great mom, caring godparents, supportive grandmothers, aunts, uncles, and a crew of many cousins for support, she can truly live "Always Strong" as she searches through her options.

As a Gold Star family, I believe that you owe a debt to your departed son or daughter to make their dreams come true – for your good mental health.





We Remember

In this edition of Survivor's Link, we honor those lost during several key moments in military history that occurred during the months of June, July and August.

June 4-7: Battle of Midway



BATTLE OF MIDWAY

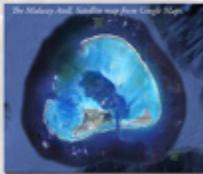
U.S. Involvement in World War II

World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The U.S. remained neutral until December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The Japanese employed six carriers to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor; however, none of the U.S. carriers were present at Pearl Harbor during the assault.



PEARL HARBOR: BY THE NUMBERS			
KILLED IN ACTION	TOTAL LOSS SHIPS	RETURNED TO SERVICE	CARRIERS LOST
2,008 U.S. NAVY	3	17	0
218 U.S. ARMY	USS ARIZONA (BB 39)	5 SHIPS SUNK, RAISED, AND REPAIRED	NONE OF THE SEVEN U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE AT PEARL HARBOR DURING THE ASSAULT.
109 U.S. MARINES	USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37)	12 SHIPS DAMAGED AND REPAIRED OR REBUILT	
68 CIVILIANS	USS UTAH (AG 16)		

The U.S. declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941. After several months of expansion, the Japanese Combined Fleet turned its sights on Midway, a small Pacific-based atoll, which then served as a U.S. sentry to Hawaii, refueling station, and landing point. The Japanese plan assumed the Pacific Fleet would arrive too late to defend Midway, but U.S. forces were waiting for them at "Point Luck."



THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEL

Capt. Rochefort and his cryptanalysts broke through the Japanese code to know they planned to strike at Midway and the Aleutians in early June 1942. Armed with this intel, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Nimitz repaid the initiative and prepared an ambush.



CAPT. JOSEPH J. ROCHEFORT
U.S. CRYPTANALYST

ADM. CHESTER W. NIMITZ
PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER

Battle of Midway: The Turning Point

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JUNE 4, 1942

- 0700 Enterprise and Hornet begin launching
- 0838 Yorktown launches
- 1020 Enterprise and Yorktown torpedo squadrons attack
- 1022-1026 Enterprise and Yorktown dive bombers attack and hit Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu.
- 1208 Japanese dive bombers attack Yorktown.
- 1441 Torpedo planes attack Yorktown.
- 1445 Yorktown hit.
- 1455 Yorktown abandons ship.
- 1500 B-17s take off from Midway.
- 1810 Two B-17s attack BB and damaged CV.
- 1830 Six B-17s attack damaged CV and DD.



U.S. and Japanese armed forces fought during the Battle of Midway, June 3-7, 1942 at and near the Midway Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean.



The victory at Midway represents a strategic turning point for the U.S. in Japan's war in the Pacific. Before the battle, Japan possessed naval superiority over the U.S. Afterward, opposing fleets were balanced and the U.S. soon took the offensive.

As a result of the battle on June 4th, the Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu were hit and sank. The Japanese carrier Hiryu escaped the initial attack, but U.S. dive bombers found, bombed, and sank her.



BATTLE OF MIDWAY: SUMMARY OF LOSSES		
	USA	JAPAN
CARRIERS	1	4
AIRCRAFT	150	256
MEN	307	2,204

Midway was a great success in U.S. Navy history. The only strategic regret might have been failing to locate and attack Hiryu before its aircraft struck Yorktown.



Victory at Midway: Impact on World War II



The Battle of Midway marked a technical revolution in displacing gunnery with naval carrier airpower as a primary means of delivering ordnance.

Prior to the Battle of Midway, the Japanese conquered several territories and expanded their resources in the Far East and South Pacific. By early May, the Japanese had an extensive defensive perimeter.



RESULTS OF THE VICTORY AT MIDWAY

- Japanese expansion halted, securing a central-Pacific guard post for Allied forces.
- Japanese losses at Midway made it possible for America's Navy to eventually reclaim maritime superiority in the Pacific theater.
- Naval Aviation proved to be a viable and necessary capability to win wars.
- Our Sailors' strength and resilience at Midway were a perfect illustration of the fighting spirit of America's Navy today.

June 8: USS Liberty Attack

On June 8, 1967, during the six days of war between Israel and its Arab neighbors in the Middle East, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. We remember those who lost their lives.

CT3 William B. Allenbaugh

CTSN Alan Higgins

CPL Edward E. Rehmeier III

LCDR Philip M. Armstrong Jr.

SN Carl L. Hoar

ICFN David Skolak

SN Gary R. Blanchard

CT2 Richard W. Keene Jr.

CT1 John C. Smith Jr.

CT2 Allen M. Blue

CTSN James L. Lenau

CTC Melvin D. Smith

QM3 Francis Brown

CTC Raymond E. Linn

PC2 John C. Spicher

CT2 Ronnie J. Campbell

CT1 James M. Lupton

GMG3 Alexander N. Thompson Jr.

CT3 Jerry L. Converse

CT3 Duane R. Marggraf

CT3 Thomas R. Thornton

CT2 Robert B. Eisenberg

CTSN David W. Marlborough

CT3 Philippe C. Tiedtke

CT3 Jerry L. Goss

CT2 Anthony P. Mendle

LT Stephen S. Toth

CT1 Curtis A. Graves

CTSN Carl C. Nygren

CT1 Frederick J. Walton

CTSN Lawrence P. Hayden

LT James C. Pierce

CT1 Warren E. Hersey

SGT Jack L. Raper

June 17: USS Fitzgerald

Early on June 17, 2017, the USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship 80 nautical miles southwest of Tokyo, Japan. We remember the seven Sailors who lost their lives.



June 28: Operation Red Wings

On June 28, 2005, an MH-47 Chinook helicopter, with eight Navy SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers aboard, was dispatched as part of an extraction mission to pull out the four embattled SEALs. The helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all 16 on the helicopter. Three of the four SEALs who were to be extracted died while fearlessly engaging in a gunfight.

LT Michael P. Murphy

SSG Shamus O. Goare

SO2 Matthew Axelson

CWO3 Corey J. Goodnature

SO2 Danny Dietz

SGT Kip A. Jacoby

SOC Jacques J. Fontan

SFC Marcus V. Muralles

SOCS Daniel R. Healy

MSG James W. Ponder III

LCDR Erik S. Kristensen

MAJ Stephen C. Reich

SO1 Jeffery A. Lucas

SFC Michael L. Russell

LT Michael M. McGreevy Jr.

CWO4 Chris J. Scherkenbach

SO2 James E. Suh

SO1 Jeffrey S. Taylor

SO2 Shane E. Patton



August 6: Operation Extortion 17

On August 6, 2011, a U.S. CH-47D Chinook military helicopter operating with the call sign Extortion 17 (pronounced “one-seven”) was shot down while transporting a Quick Reaction Force attempting to reinforce a Joint Special Operations Command unit of the 75th Ranger Regiment in the Tangi Valley in Maidan Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan.

Operation Extortion 17—We Will Never Forget

SGT Alexander J. Bennett
 SPC Spencer Duncan
 CWO Bryan J. Nichols
 CWO David R. Carter
 SSG Patrick D. Hamburger
 TSgt John W. Brown
 SSgt Andrew W. Harvell
 TSgt Daniel L. Zerbe
 PO1 (SEAL) Darrick C. Benson
 CPO (SEAL) Brian R. Bill
 PO1 (SEAL) Christopher G. Campbell
 PO1 Jared W. Day
PO1 John Douangdara & Navy SEAL Dog “Bart”
 CPO (SEAL) John W. Faas
 CPO (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston
 Lt. Cmdr. (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall
 MCPO (SEAL) Louis J. Langlais
 CPO (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason
 CPO (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills
 CPO Nicholas H. Null
 PO1 (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman
 SCPO (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratzlaff
 CPO (SEAL) Robert J. Reeves
 CPO (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson
 PO2 (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar
 PO1 Michael J. Strange
 PO1 (SEAL) Jon T. Tumilson
 PO1 (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn
 SCPO Kraig M. Vickers
 PO1 (SEAL) Jason R. Workman

August 21: USS McCain

Early on August 21, 2017, the USS John S. McCain collided with a Liberian-flagged tanker off the coast of Singapore and Malaysia. We remember the 10 Sailors who lost their lives.

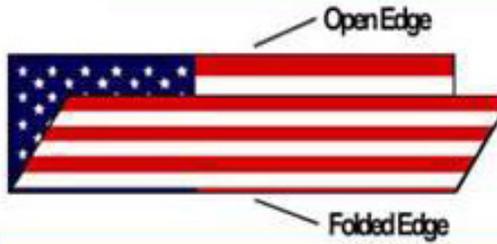


While these tragic events in military history represent only a small snapshot of valor and loss, we recognize that there are so many more to remember. The Navy Gold Star Program wants to pay tribute to all service members who died on active duty and honor their loved ones. We sincerely thank you for your sacrifices and everything you do to keep the memories of your loved ones alive. We encourage you to visit www.navygoldstar.com/tribute/add to include your loved one on our tribute page and/or visit <https://tribute.militaryonesource.mil/add-a-loved-one/> to include them in the Department of Defense online memorial.

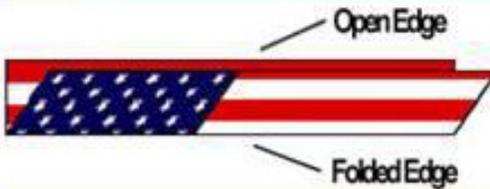
How to Fold the American Flag



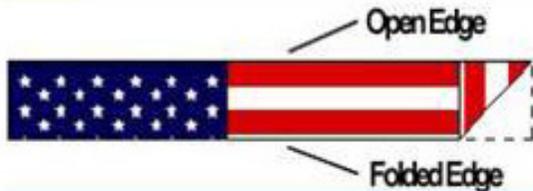
Content borrowed from the U.S. Veteran's Administration.
www.va.gov



→ Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field



→ Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge



→ A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge



→ Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle



→ Triangle folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible





Create a Summer Food Tree

From <https://www.archives.gov/education/family-history>

Materials Needed

- A few pieces of sturdy paper or cardboard
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils – whatever colors you want to use
- Scissors
- Pictures from old magazines or catalogs, or pictures you find online
- Tape or glue stick
- Creativity and imagination!

Activity

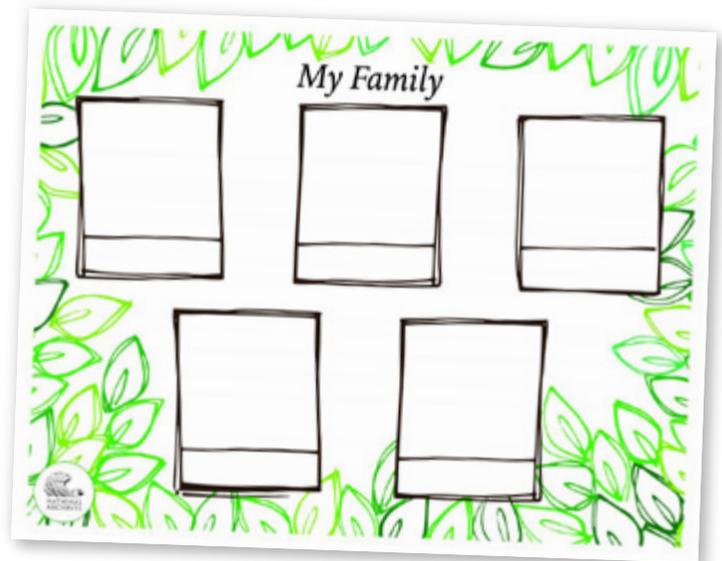
Start your investigation: Ask as many members of your family/friends as you can these questions. What is one of your favorite summer foods you eat with your family? Why is it your favorite? Did someone special make it for you, or is it a family recipe, or is there another reason? Suggestions for people to ask include parents, guardians, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins.

Note your findings: Write (or draw) each food that people tell you about. Compare their answers. Did some family members say the same things, or are they all different? How do their favorite foods compare to yours?

Search for pictures: Find pictures online or in old magazines of the foods people mentioned. How many of them can you find?

Create your summer food tree: Once you find matching food pictures, cut them out. Draw a tree base and put the pictures on it. Decorate the tree or the area around it any way you want to. What should a background of your family tree look like?

Share your work: Make sure to take a picture of your food tree when it is finished. Share it with the family members you talked to!



Questions to think about: How important is food in our family history? What can our favorite foods help tell us about our family and culture?

Sizing it up: Older kids can write a story, poem or a report of their findings and what foods are important in their family history.

Congratulations! You now have your food family tree!

Navy Gold Star Coordinators

Area of Responsibility	Phone
California (Los Angeles County/Northern CA), Japan, Guam, Korea	901-671-6720
California (San Diego/Riverside), Colorado, Utah, Hawaii	901-930-8290
Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Canada	901-930-8062
Washington, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa	901-671-7519
Georgia, South Carolina	904-542-5712
Florida	904-542-5706
Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee	901-930-8300
Texas	901-930-8109
West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and these counties in Virginia: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Alexandria, King George, Manassas, Dumfries, Fauquier, Stafford, Spotsylvania	901-930-8578
Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Europe	901-671-6521
California (San Diego/Riverside), Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada	901-930-8308
New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire	901-930-8388
Michigan, Illinois, Indiana	901-930-8593
Virginia (any county not in Northern Virginia)	901-930-8008
Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine	901-671-6910
North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio	901-930-8210

Note: All postal mail should be sent to the below address.

Commander, Navy Installations Command
 ATTN: Navy Gold Star Program
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 Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5140