

DeLand, Florida—USA



DNAS Museum News - AUGUST, 2021

USS MISSOURI WWII PLANK DONATED



Dr. John Calcagni

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum member Dr. John Calcagni and his wife Lynn visited the museum recently and donated a WWII deck plank from the USS Missouri (BB-63). Dr. Calcagni, a retired Navy Captain who served as a Flight Surgeon, obtained the teak deck plank which was one of many preserved as a memorial to the ship during a ship restoration project.

Active battleships had large amounts of gunpowder that had to be transported on and off of the ship. Teak served as protection preventing metal-on-metal scraping, which could potentially create sparks, thus fires. Teak also served as insulation. A battleship had a vast area of deck, 1.2 acres in fact in the case of USS Missouri (BB-63), and the sun can beat on it insistently. She had no air-conditioning, so the space underneath would get visibly hot.

On September 2, 1945, the teak wood served another purpose as it functioned as the platform for the formal end of WWII. The teak wood stood witness to history as the Emperor of Japan walked on it and formally signed the surrender documents.



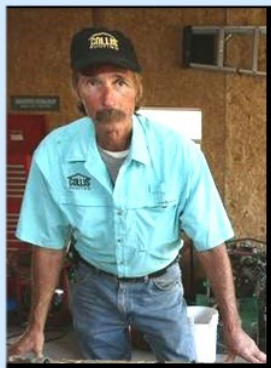
Surrender Documents Signed



Big cannons of USS Missouri BB-63 warship at Pearl Harbor. Commissioned in June 1944 and served in World War II and many wars in 1950, 1984 and 1991. In 1992 the ship was decommissioned and was later donated as a museum and memorial at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial (U.S. National Park Service), in Honolulu, Hawaii. She rests near the USS Arizona (BB-39) Memorial and is open for public tours.



Remembering Rodney Thomas



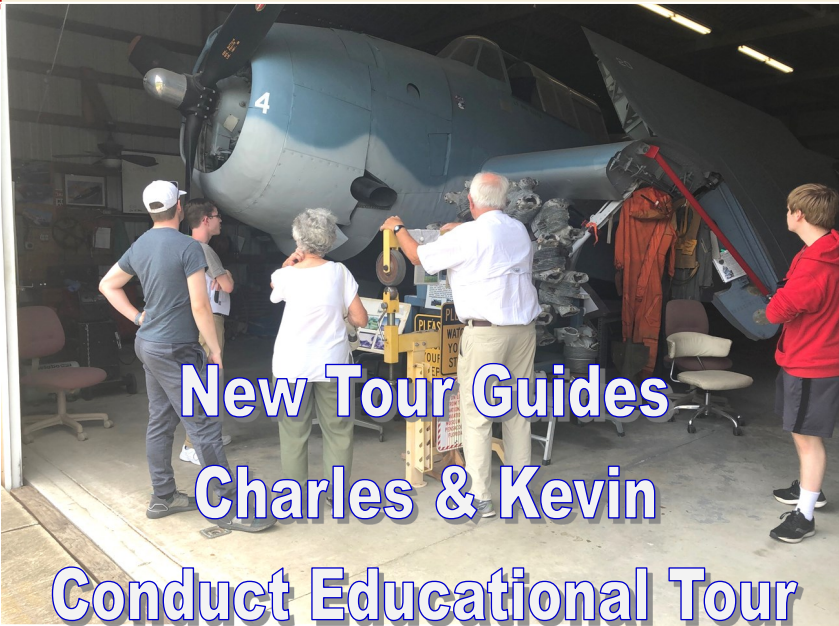
Members of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum are saddened to hear about the death of Rodney Thomas, who passed away on July 21, 2021. Rodney was a DNASM Lifetime Member and served on the Museum Board of Directors. His dedication, hard work and skillful search and recovery of a WWII SBD5 plane crash site in Osteen, Florida will always be a permanent part of our local history preservation.

It was our honor to know Rodney Thomas. Our friend left us too soon and we will miss him. We send our condolences to the Thomas family.



DNAS Museum To Close Again Public Tours Suspended

Due to the COVID-19 surge in Volusia and surrounding counties, the DNAS Museum will again suspend public tours until further notice. We have enjoyed our visitors for the past two months and look forward to opening again. Call or check website and facebook for updated info.



Community Partners Project DNAS Museum & West Volusia Historical Society



Recently, members of the West Volusia Historical Society met with Volunteers from the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum to listen to vintage records from the WVHS memorabilia collection.



Two recordings included a local radio station interview from 1951 and a recording of Gen. Pershing's 1917 address to his troops.

The subject of the local radio interview is DeLand's Great Fire on September 27, 1886 and the speaker who was a young boy in 1896, recalls witnessing the scene. We look forward to working on this project to create a written script of the interview as well as an enhanced copy of the recording that can be used for future educational programs and reenactments.





Downtown DeLand, Florida After 1886 Fire



DeLand Firemen Wore Recycled Wool Civil War Uniforms

In 1886, DeLand was a town of about 1,000 people. Modest, but the biggest city in Volusia County. Daytona, its cross-county rival, was No. 2 with a little over 700 people. DeLand had decided on its name in 1876 and incorporated in 1882. So the town was a new place on the map when the fire broke out on September 27, 1886.

The fire started sometime after midnight in the back of the Wilcox Saloon on the east side of the 100 block of North Woodland Boulevard and spread fast. The story is told that the fire started after somebody dropped a cigar on the saloon's sawdust floor. Whatever the cause, it spread fast and quickly jumped to the west side of the boulevard. The West Volusia Historical Society has a marker on the site. (delandhouse.com)

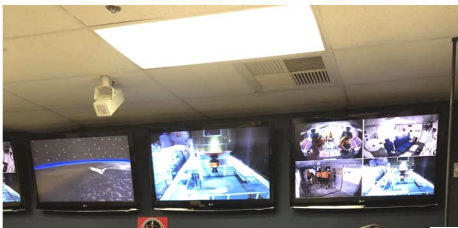
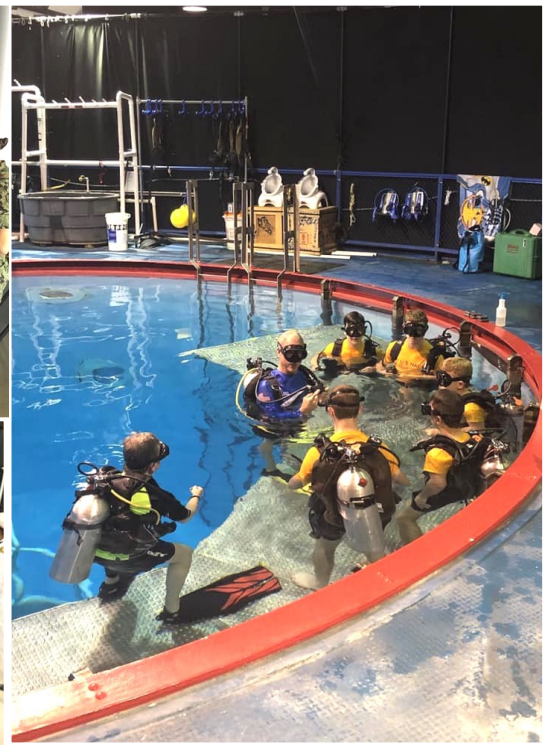
After downtown burned, DeLand's businesses rebuilt the city center out of fireproof brick to prevent a repeat of a major fire. Ordinances enacted after the fire required brick or stone buildings in commercial districts. Pre-fire DeLand was made of pine. Post-fire, it took on its familiar, redbrick character. And since those brick buildings last, some of those 19th century and early 20th century buildings survive, giving central DeLand its distinctive charm.



DeLand Naval Sea Cadet Training

The DNAS Museum hosts the Naval Sea Cadet DeLand Excellence Squadron members as they continue a modified training schedule combining a virtual and in-person schedule while following COVID-19 guidelines.

Ensign Andrew Osteen coordinates the students' training program. New students age 10 through high school who are interested in joining the DeLand Excellence Squadron can get more information about the program at aosteen@delandseacadets.org, www.delandseacadets.org, Facebook or Andrew Osteen (386) 675-5995. Sponsorships and volunteer staff needed.



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ELLWOOD TITCOMB, 1ST DNAS MUSEUM PRESIDENT



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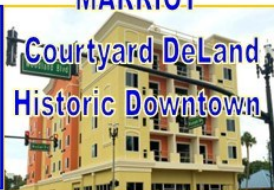


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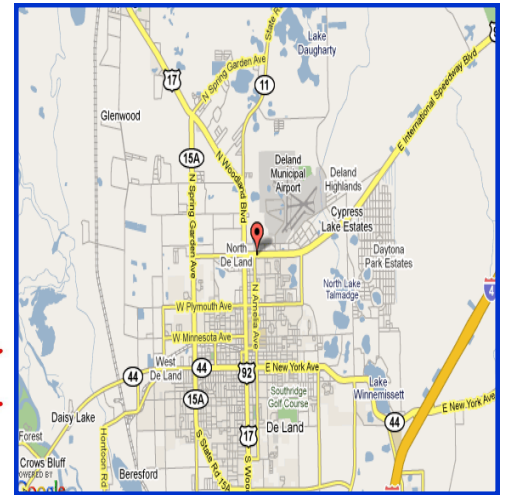


Lightner Museum St. Augustine
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Marine Science Center Ponce Inlet
Mystic Powerboats
New York Yankees Media—Raquel Julish
Nails, Waxing & Microblading by Kim—(386) 334-5923
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DUE TO COVID SURGE PUBLIC TOURS SUSPENDED 8/1/2021



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DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

Effective August 1, 2021 the museum public tours have been suspended again due to the COVID-19 surge in Volusia County/FLA.

Check website top ribbon and facebook page for announcements.

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Thank You Museum Volunteers !!

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