

A long overdue project is finally completed at the
USS Silversides Submarine Museum
In Muskegon, Michigan.
August 2015

The Board and staff of the USS Silversides Submarine Museum in Muskegon, Michigan is proud to announce completion of the World War II Lost Submariners Memorial and the formal dedication on September 2, 2015. The Museum board began planning the Memorial over 15 years ago; when the USS Silversides was permanently moored in the Muskegon Channel. Since that time the museum has focused its efforts on preserving the USS Silversides and the prohibition era Coast Guard Cutter McLane as well as creating a 15,000 square foot museum. The Museum Board chose late summer 2015 as the perfect time to complete the memorial. Museum Curator, Peggy Maniates commented on the importance of this date. "This month marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. " On August 15, 1945; the voice of Emperor Hirohito was heard on the radio for the first time. He announced to the People of Japan that he had instructed his government to accept all terms of the Postdam Declaration which detailed the terms of Japanese's surrender. On September 2, 1945 the Allied supreme commander General Douglas MacArthur, along with the Japanese foreign Minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu and the chief of staff of the Japanese army, Yoshijiro Umezu, signed the official Japanese surrender aboard the U.S. Navy Battleship Missouri, officially ending WWII.

70 years later The USS Silversides Submarine Museum makes it their highest priority to remember the 52 submarines that were sunk and over 3,500 submariners who lost their lives in the service of their country during WWII. Submarine Service is often overlooked when people reflect on WWII. The Submarine Service represented only 1.6% of all Navy personnel during WWII; but they were responsible for sinking 55% of all Japanese's ships including one third of the Imperial Japanese Navy. Unfortunately; the Silent Service paid heavily for their successes with a casualty rate of almost 23%, higher than any other branch of the Service.

The wall, made of polished concrete, contains a plaque commemorating the circumstances of each of the 52 submarines lost as well as the date and location of the loss and the disposition of the crew. A central plaque recounts the amazing impact Submarines had in WWII as well as a quote from Admiral Nimitz.



We shall never forget that it was our Submariners that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.



The formal dedication ceremony will take place at 6:00pm on September 2, 2015 at the USS Silversides Submarine Museum located at 1346 Bluff Street, Muskegon, MI 49441. For more information or to contribute to the Submarine Memorial, please contact Mike Culp, Executive Director at 231-755-1230 or visit www.silversidesmuseum.org. The Museum and its vessels are open year round.