



The USS ORLECK Naval Museum, Inc.

Remember, Honor, Restore, Educate!

Physical Address: 604 N. Enterprise Blvd, Lake Charles LA 70601

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4470, Lake Charles LA 70606-4470

Ship Office: (337) 214-7447 Email: info@orleck.org Web: <http://orleck.org>

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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USS ORLECK MARCH FIELD DAY EVENT DRAWS VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION FOR RESTORATION PROJECT

Greetings, and ahoy all. The USS ORLECK Naval Museum (USSONM) will host its Spring 2015 Field Days from March 12th (Thursday) through March 15th (Sunday) aboard the 70-year old historic Naval Destroyer docked at 604 North Enterprise Blvd, Lake Charles LA.

It is the Museum's distinct pleasure to welcome aboard a compliment of volunteers from across the Nation and from the local area to dedicate three intense but rewarding days to repairing and restoring this National treasure. Volunteers include former ORLECK crew members and their families, former Tin Can Sailors from other destroyers, history and ship enthusiasts, and supporters from the local area. Many are coming from great distances at their own expense to volunteer.

The Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Museum are especially excited to welcome Lake Charles native and former First Lady of the State of Arkansas, Mrs. Janet Huckabee, who has volunteered to join us in the repair and restoration effort. Mrs. Huckabee's brother Tal McCain, of Lake Charles, and her sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Jeff Hinger of San Antonio, are also participating. Mrs. Huckabee is a passionate supporter of ongoing efforts to restore, preserve, and honor ORLECK's legacy and that of the sailors who served so selflessly aboard her on behalf of our great Nation.

Onsite assistance and expertise will be provided by Mr. Rich Angelini who heads up the restoration of Gearing Class USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. DD 850, ORLECK's sister museum ship in Fall River Massachusetts. His father, Michael, and JPK JR. volunteer Ted Hayes, as well as Tim NesSmith, Ship Superintendent of the USS KIDD museum ship in Baton Rouge, are also lending their expertise. Mr. Bob Orleck, nephew of namesake of the ship, LT Joseph Orleck, offered his assistance in planning the Field Days and is traveling from Randolph VT to join the work crews.



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The USS ORLECK DD 886 is one of the most decorated ships to have served after WWII. ORLECK, a Gearing Class Destroyer and workhorse of the US Navy for 37 years, also served 16 years in Turkey, our NATO ally, as the TCG Yucepepe D-345. She was commissioned at the end of WWII in Orange TX and served gallantly in Korea where she earned four battle stars and distinguished herself as the initiator of the “Train Busters”, then went on to earn 14 battle stars in Vietnam as “Top Gun” and “Grey Ghost of the Vietnam Coast”. She was the US Naval Reserve training ship in Tacoma WA before serving as a Turkish warship engaged in Middle East actions.

ORLECK opened to the public for tours and events at her current location in April 2011. The Museum’s mission: to share the legacy of the ORLECK and her sailors with our children and grandchildren so they will understand what ORLECK and other Service men and women did on their behalf to defend the Nation and our way of life! It is also a once in a lifetime opportunity to give her a proper restoration and “Welcome Home” recognition as the Vietnam War Veteran she is. In fact, Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 135 of the 2014 Louisiana Legislature recognized ORLECK’s distinguished history in its entirety and named the USS ORLECK Naval Museum as the Official Vietnam Memorial Museum Ship of the State of Louisiana.

Field Days 2015 is a major step by ORLECK’s supporters and volunteers in welcoming her home and preserving her for posterity.

What is a Field Day, you ask? For naval ships a field day refers to a day designated for the express purpose of the over-all cleaning of the ship. For a Naval Museum ship it’s an opportunity to welcome aboard eager volunteers from all across the Nation, and focus our collective energies into the great task of restoration.

Some of the work planned includes preparation, priming, and painting large portions of the exterior of the vessel; deck repair; cutting and welding of metal; cleaning and spot painting of interiors; mount equipment obtained during ship strip trips; inspect and repair internal communications and other equipment; general cleanup; and a host of other major and minor projects. Projects not completed and new ones identified will be schedule for future Field Days.

The project is made possible through the hard work of ORLECK’s volunteers and financial and in-kind donations from individuals and businesses. The USSONM is a private, tax exempt, not-for-profit organization (Tax ID: 90-0507764) and does not receive funding from any government activity. If you have a skill, talent, or passion to share, please consider sharing them at the USS ORLECK Field Days!

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in this exciting and historic occasion or making financial or in-kind donations should contact the ship office at (337) 214-7447, Email: info@orleck.org or visit our web site <http://orleck.org>.



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(NOTE: The ORLECK will be temporarily closed to the public during the Field Day event (12 – 15 March); however; the ship office will remain open for inquires and reservations for future events. Please call or email if you have any questions.)

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