

GREAT LAKES BULLETIN



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No. 36

*The United States Navy's oldest,
continuously published base newspaper*

AROUND NAVSTA



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Annual fundraising
campaign begins

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CPOs will share
heritage with 'Windy
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Civilian retires after
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Restoring history of Great Lakes

Former 'Hostess House' may become museum

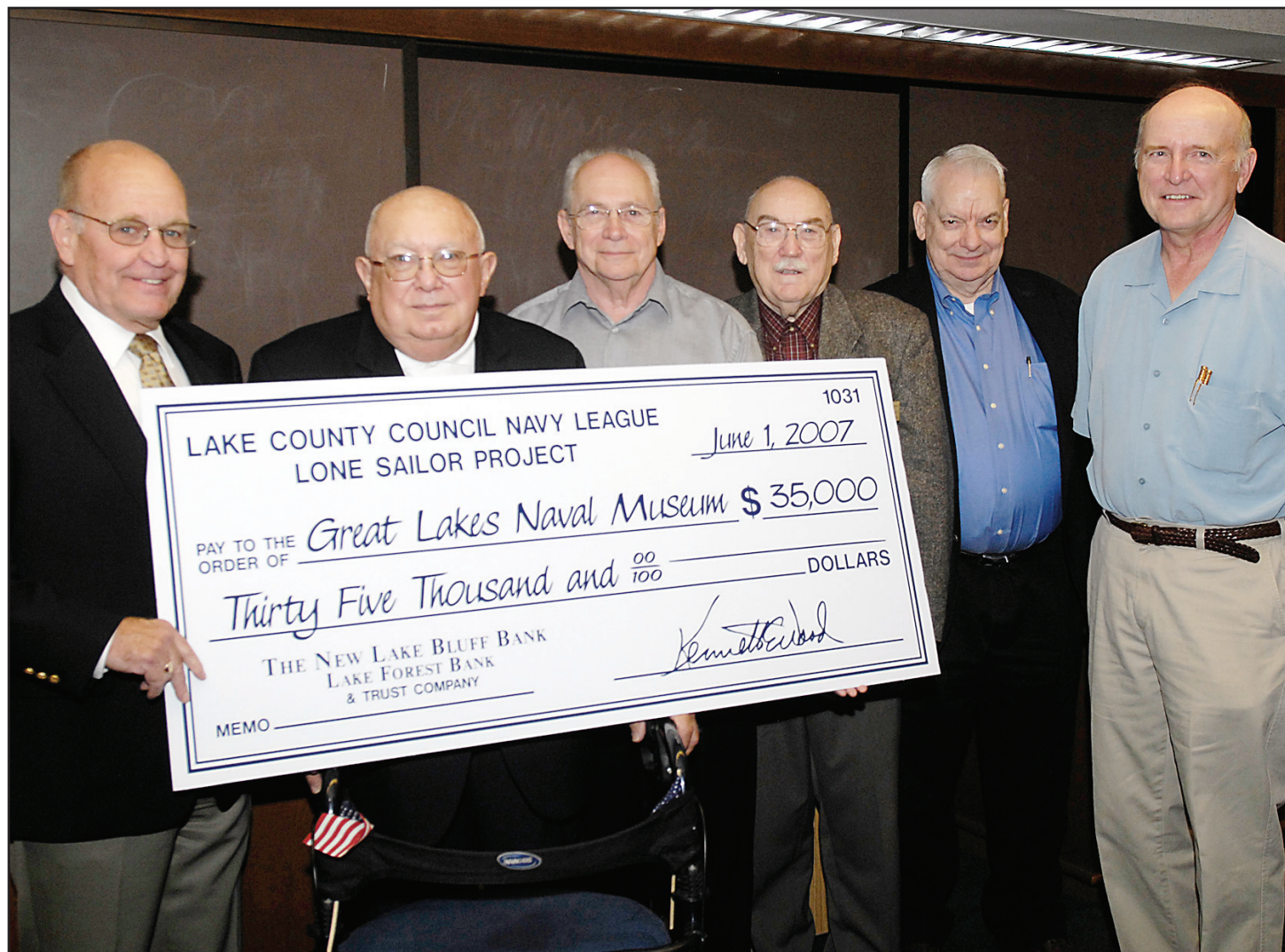


Photo by Scott Allen

A \$35,000 check is presented to Carl Ross, (left), president of the Great Lakes Naval Museum Association, by Pat Gallagher, president of the Lake County Navy League Council and Navy League members George Greene, Don Rudny, Ken Woods and Tom Doddington. "I am delighted that the Lake County Navy League has made these funds available to the Great Lakes Naval Museum Association," said Ross. "The money will certainly help the association in achieving our goal of restoring Bldg. 42, and making it a Navy museum that everyone can enjoy and will be proud of." An open house will be held at the facility, Sept. 15. See story on page 20.

By SCOTT ALLEN

The Great Lakes Naval Museum Association is inching closer to its dream of opening the doors to a new naval museum that will be located just outside the main gate of Naval Station Great Lakes.

The U.S. Navy is working closely with the Great Lakes Naval Museum Association to transfer Bldg. 42, originally known as the Hostess House and a nationally recognized historic building, to the Naval Museum Association to house the Great Lakes Naval Museum.

The Hostess House, designed by Gordon Bunshaft as the reception center for WWII Sailors, was opened in 1942 to provide a setting for thousands of Sailors to be reunited with their families and friends after completion of boot camp. Over the years it has seen many uses, but is now scheduled to be restored to its original form and house the Great Lakes Naval Museum.

Once transferred, the Museum Association will embark on a \$15-20 million multi-phase plan to restore the Hostess House to its WWII grandeur. When restored, it will be the only museum in the United States dedicated to presenting the story of U.S. Navy recruit training. Visitors will journey through more than 10,000 square feet of the historic World War II building filled with hundreds of Navy artifacts, life-size photos, interactive displays and exhibits.

"The Great Lakes Naval Museum will inform, educate and inspire Sailors, family members and the general public by presenting the history, diversity, rich tradition and proud heritage of the enlisted Sailor and how they are trained," said Carl Ross, president of the Naval Museum Association. "How appropriate that such a museum will be housed in this historically significant building."

Visitors will be able to imagine themselves as World War I and II recruits, juxtaposed with today's modern naval technology and a theatre will allow visitors to be immersed in stories about the enlisted Sailor's accomplishments throughout our Navy's great history- all designed to make the rich history of Great Lakes come alive.

The Museum Association's goal is to have

the building restored and the doors opened to the public in time for the 100th anniversary of the Great Lakes Naval Station in 2011. It will enable the general public and the more than 200,000 visitors who come to Great Lakes Naval Station to see the Navy's newest Sailors graduate from bootcamp, to learn more about the overall Navy training experience.

"As the percentage of citizens who have served in the armed forces continues to decline, it is critical that we increase the level of understanding of the sacrifices that our young people make and the skills that they acquire through our training," said Ross.

The Hostess House was designed in 1942 by Gordon L. Bunshaft, a Pritzker Prize-winning architect and one of America's most prominent Modernist architects. It is one of only two known Bunshaft structures in Illinois, and one of his earliest permanent structures in the United States.

The building, a contemporary wooden structure, was also the first military project of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP, an architectural firm that also designed the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center.

"I will never forget the wonderful times I had at the Hostess House in the 1960s," said Ruth Beth, a 36-year employee at the Great Lakes Naval Station. "The Navy would have dances every Friday night for the junior enlisted Sailors and I and a bunch of my friends would go there and meet the most wonderful young men."

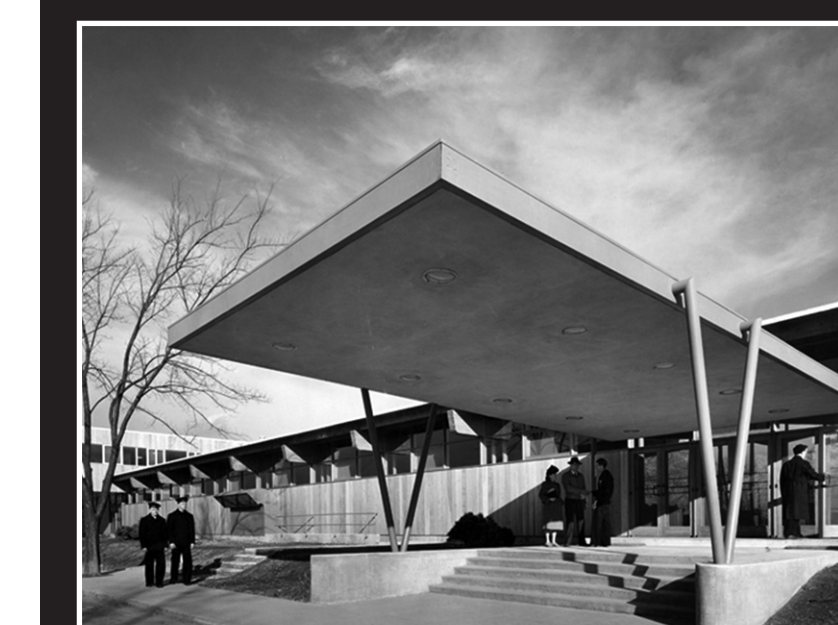
"The building had the most beautiful fireplace and I will never forget the gorgeous view looking out of the wall of windows. I specifically remember the fall foliage and the beautiful flowers along the ravine in the spring. How wonderful it is that the Great Lakes Naval Museum Association is trying to restore the building to the way it was more than 50 years ago."

"Over three million Sailors have completed their initial training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and gone to the fleet ready to defend our way of life. The "Hostess House" represents the military roots of so many Sailors, what an honor it will be to restore this building for future generations to learn about their forefathers," said Ross.

Restoring History for Future Generations



Above and left, artists renderings of Bldg. 42 restored as a naval museum.



Your Vote Counts

American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation chose Chicagoland as the second region to receive \$1 million in funding under the Partners in Preservation initiative. This historic program is designed to help restore and preserve cultural assets through community awareness and involvement for future generations to enjoy.

The Great Lakes Naval Museum Association's "Hostess House" renovation project has been chosen as one of the finalists and could receive a grant ranging from \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$150,000.

Anyone interested may view the grant candidates at <http://www.partnersinpreservation.com/> and vote for the project of your choice. Participants may vote every day from Sept. 6, through Oct. 10.

The Great Lakes Naval Museum Association will host an open house of building 42 to feature the Gordon Bunshaft (SOM) designed building that will be the new home

of the Great Lakes Naval Museum on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10 am until 3 p.m.

The open house will highlight the successful outcome of two years of negotiations between the Navy, the Great Lakes Naval Museum Association, Landmarks Illinois, IHPA, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Mies van der Rohe Society. Vinci/Hamp Architects and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill have also given tremendous assistance to this project and will have representatives at the open house.

The open house will give the general public a chance to talk to the museum association's officers and directors, look at different aspects of this historical building and view conceptual design drawings of the project. Refreshments will also be served.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Naval Museum Association feel free to contact the association through the Great Lakes Naval Museum at (847) 688-3154, or visit with representatives at the open house.

The Hostess House was designed in 1942 by Gordon L. Bunshaft, a Pritzker Prize-winning architect and one of America's most prominent Modernist architects. The "Hostess House" was also the first military project of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill.

It is one of only two known Bunshaft structures in Illinois, and one of his earliest permanent structures in the United States. The building had a historic role in the training of U.S. Navy recruits in World War II, and served as a meeting place for tens of thousands of recruits, their families and guests. When restored, it will be the only museum in the United States dedicated to presenting the story of Naval recruit training.

Clockwise from upper right: Interior view of the Hostess House, Sailors meet with family members and guest. Interior view of the Hostess House, Sailors and their guests socialize around the fireplace. Exterior front view of the Hostess House with guests and Sailors walking into the building. Exterior rear view of the Hostess House with Sailors walking into the building.

U.S. Navy Photographs
Date Unknown

Left, a display of sports memorabilia in the current Naval Museum located in Bldg. 158 in Camp Barry.

Right, a model of an early aircraft carrier is one of the most popular exhibits at the current museum.

Far right, there are many displays about the history of WAVES at Great Lakes, where many received their initial training. - Photos by Scott Allen

