



## USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization

### FAQ Sheet

**Q: Who comprises the Legacy Organization?**

A: The Legacy Organization is almost completely comprised of family members of Survivors, Lost-at-Sea, recovery crew and former crew. The Legacy Organization has opened its membership to people who are connected to the story in some way, such as friends, reunion volunteers and others who have been involved in sharing the story of the USS Indianapolis.

**Q: Are the USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization reunions diminishing in attendance or stature?**

A: Absolutely not.

As we approach the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, we find it inevitable that the actual number of Survivors will decrease each year due to loss or inability to travel. However, the attendance at reunions by families of Survivors and Lost-at-Sea continues to see a steady increase. Each year brings new connections, and the enthusiasm grows. Relationships with the active duty Navy continue to improve, with several senior Navy officials in recent attendance. Targeted outreach, recent documentaries, books, films, and the discovery of the ship itself have provided opportunities to connect with new generations of family and friends linked to the story of the Indianapolis. Speakers keep the topics fresh, engaging and informative, bringing honor and focus to the crew of the USS Indianapolis. Merchandise sales are steady due to the popularity of the selections of logo wear items. There is a high percentage of return participants each year wishing to build on their knowledge and relationships.

**Q: Does the USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization support the Legacy Organization?**

**A:** Wholeheartedly, and there are several important reasons why:

1. The Legacy Organization has committed that it will not support any initiative, movie, book, documentary, or event that the Survivors Organization does not believe is in the best interest of the ship, its crew, or its legacy.
2. The Legacy Organization has fully complied with non-profit organization requirements. It has shared with the Survivors Organization its tax-exempt records and its financial status. It has demonstrated to the Survivors and Lost-at-Sea families that the Legacy Organization is operating in a professional manner compliant with non-profit law.
3. The meetings and paperwork for the Legacy Organization are publicly open and accessible to interested parties.
4. The Legacy Organization is fully compliant with its bylaws.
5. The Legacy Organization has demonstrated that its activities support events that are meaningful to the Indy family at large. For example, the Legacy Organization is organized into committees that provide concrete programs and opportunities to be involved in the following activities:
  - Reunions – planning, coordinating, volunteering
  - Membership – finding and engaging Gold Star (LAS) families, reaching new generations of Survivor families, as well as former crew, rescue crew, friends, educators, etc.
  - Education – reaching out to expand curriculum opportunities through state and local educators
  - Fundraising – supporting reunion and educational efforts
  - Website – providing easily accessible information on the story of the USS Indianapolis CA-35, including events, news updates, and other relevant information
  - Bylaws – keeping the organization current and relevant to its membership
6. No other organization has been able to prove to the Survivors Organization that they meet these standards.

**Q: Does the Survivors Organization still support the Second Watch Organization?**

A. In a recent letter to the families and friends of the USS Indianapolis, the Survivors Organization stated that the Second Watch has been less engaged in recent years with their original purpose and activities related to the Survivors Organization. Therefore, the Survivors Organization has declared that it would no longer have any formal or informal understanding with Second Watch.

The Legacy Organization came from a grassroots movement among volunteers to bridge the gap and has pledged to the Survivors Organization their active participation in support of programs and events that bring honor to this historical ship and her crew. The USS Indianapolis CA-35 Survivors Organization has given their trust and support to the Legacy Organization.

**Q. How can I find out more about the Legacy Organization?**

A. Please visit [www.USSIndianapolis.com](http://www.USSIndianapolis.com) for the latest information on the group, events, Survivor appearances, news, and how you can get involved. We are also in the process of updating [www.USSIndianapolis.org](http://www.USSIndianapolis.org) – which will serve as a sister site, bringing you more details about all things USS Indianapolis.