

Sea Cadets March in NOAA Sanctuary Grand Opening

A color guard of Sea Cadets from our Great Lakes Division presented the flag to start today's Grand Opening ceremonies of NOAA's brand new Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Michigan. At anchor behind the Center building was our training and research vessel, the 80 ft. *Pride of Michigan*. The Division, supported by the Noble Odyssey Foundation, is now an official partner organization of the Thunder Bay Sanctuary.



The Center's state-of-the-art facilities and staff will foster public education and research on maritime history and archaeology at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. Beneath the clear, cold waters of Thunder Bay are dozens of shipwrecks, many of them still undocumented. The 448 square miles of Sanctuary waters also conceal rugged terrain and ancient shorelines once exposed during extreme low lake levels. Both mastodons and Paleo-Indians likely inhabited these coastal areas some 10,000 years ago. The Sanctuary's research mission includes exploration for evidence of such prehistoric remains, as well as for historic shipwrecks.



During its 5-year development the Sanctuary has enjoyed strong support from the State of Michigan and its representatives in the U. S. Congress, particularly Senator Carl Levin. After speaking at the opening ceremonies, Senator Levin paid a personal visit to the *Pride's* Cadets and crew, which he has supported enthusiastically for many years. As a special honor he presented NOF President, Captain Luke Clyburn, with a citation placed in the Congressional Record, which commends Captain Clyburn for his 32-year commitment to educating young Sea Cadets in seagoing skills and leadership values (see reverse). Senator Levin also pledged his continuing support for the Great Lakes Division and its mission to integrate Sea Cadet training with scientific research.



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IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LUKE CLYBURN

Mr. LEVIN: Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to an exceptional educator and steward of the Great Lakes, LCDR Luke Clyburn. Commander Clyburn is captain of the ship "Pride of Michigan" and president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation. He is an innovative, committed leader who has worked for more than 32 years to educate young people about the importance of the Great Lakes and other fresh water lakes through the Naval Sea Cadets training program. We are grateful for his long and distinguished service.



The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was incorporated by an act of Congress in 1962, and a Great Lakes Division was added in 1973. The mission of the Corps is to "encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues." For more than 32 years, Commander Clyburn has accepted that charge.

Under Commander Clyburn's able leadership, the Sea Cadet program acquired a retired naval vessel, the "Noble Odyssey," in 1977. On it, Sea Cadets from Michigan learned to man a ship from bow to stern, and they took part in invigorating scientific missions. With the cadets as crew, Commander Clyburn put together a series of Great Lakes research projects with professional scientists.

In 1989, it was my honor to help Commander Clyburn replace the "Noble Odyssey" with a larger ship, another retired naval vessel, the "Pride of Michigan." On the "Pride of Michigan," Luke has continued the same great work with the same great results. The scientific work has included significant research on invasive zebra mussels, which are harming the Great Lakes, and an investigation of an ancient drowned forest 2 miles off of Lexington, MI. These projects have been filmed and produced into documentaries, including the educational videos "Fresh Water Invaders," "Angels of the Sea," "Emperor," "The Underwater Forest," and "The Norwood Project."

In 2002, the Noble Odyssey Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization to raise money for the Sea Cadet Corps. With Luke as its president, the foundation has ensured the future of the Naval Sea Cadet Program, Great Lakes Division.

Commander Clyburn has dedicated himself to teaching young people about the importance of fresh water and how to protect these resources for future generations. He has been an inspiration and a gift to so many youth, and, along the way, he has made great contributions to scientific discovery. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking and praising Commander Clyburn for his distinguished service to our country.