

**Dedicated On  
April 28th, 2000**

This 5000 pound anchor came off an LST of the class that were attacked on April 28th, 1944. It serves today as a beacon of remembrance for all TIGER Vets & US Forces in harms way.

*The Missouri  
Exercise Tiger Army  
& Navy Anchor Memorial*

# THE EXERCISE TIGER FOUNDATION

Presents

## The Historic National Tribute

**& Commemorative Motorcade  
along the Exercise Tiger Expressway**

**Mexico, MO**

**April 28, 2009  
at 1pm**

**"LST's, Their  
Finest Hour"**

*Secretary of the Navy  
John Dalton, 1997*



***We Remember***

**65th Anniversary of  
the Battle of Exercise Tiger**

★ **LST 289 After The Battle**



**At the Missouri Anchor Memorial  
Honoring Veterans, Active Duty Forces  
& Special Recognitions**



Office of the Governor  
State of Missouri

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, "Exercise Tiger" was the code name for one of several secret military full-scale rehearsals for the Battle of Normandy, conducted along the southern coast of England and involving more than 30,000 U.S. Army and Navy personnel as well as British forces; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 1944, during this staging in the English Channel, eight landing ship tanks (LSTs) carrying U.S. troops were unexpectedly attacked by German Naval Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the German attack resulted in the sinking of two American LSTs and the death of 749 soldiers, including 201 soldiers from the State of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, this top-secret naval operation to prepare United States Army and Naval forces for the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944, D-Day Invasion ended with one of the highest losses ever suffered in combat by the United States Army and Navy in World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, the courageous servicemen who participated in Exercise Tiger made great sacrifices and endured tremendous hardships to help achieve victory and preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy for this great country and the world.

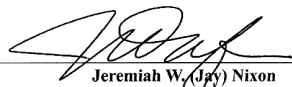
**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2009, to be

### EXERCISE TIGER DAY

in Missouri, to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World War II Battle of Exercise Tiger, and to recognize and honor the soldiers and sailors of Exercise Tiger.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2009.



  
Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon

On June 12<sup>th</sup> 1997 a request was made to US Navy Captain Gary Chiavarotti, Director of the US Navy's Inactive Fleet by Executive Director Walter Domanski. On July 13<sup>th</sup> 1997 the request was approved. The record approval time was because of Capt. Chiavarotti's desire to make a memorial to "Tiger" a reality. The request was for two (2) ex LST anchors that could serve as twin state and national memorials to the Battle of Exercise Tiger in New Jersey and Missouri. Working with Fred Hood, Director of Naval Sea Systems Command Detachment, Norfolk Naval Base and T.H. "Tommy" Tise the NAVSEA Maintenance Facility Supervisor, the Exercise Tiger Association, National Foundation was given two 5000 pound stern anchors from LST's of the Suffolk County Class. The Missouri anchor was used on an LST of this class. At the request of the Tiger Association the Navy will keep the anchor in the official US Navy Inventory, placing it on permanent loan to the Exercise Tiger Association making a lasting tribute to the courageous American Sailors and Soldiers who gave their lives in combat action with an enemy of the United States. Symbolically, the anchor will remain ever ready to again serve on an LST should an emergency exist for this type of anchor.

# The Missouri Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial History and Notes

The anchor arrived in Columbia Missouri as a Christmas present to area "Tiger" vets and Missouri Chapter Director Susan Haines on Dec. 16, 1997. Its 1500 mile journey from Norfolk Virginia was due to the efforts of former US Navy Petty Officer Rocky Roberts who served on LST USS LaMoure County 1194, and Uponor ETI of Columbia who donated their transportation resources. Roberts ship, the LaMoure County hosted the 1995 Exercise Tiger ceremony and was the first LST and active ship of the US Navy to do so. At that time the LaMoure County was

the Navy's last LST. Under the direction of Lt. Col. Marty Walker the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, Univ. of Missouri, painted it with official US Navy paint that they secured for this project. Lt. Matt Mackenzie USN, oversaw the painting.

Today, the Exercise Tiger Association, National Foundation is pleased to once again hold the National Ceremony at the Anchor Memorial in Audrain County. This serves as a beacon of remembrance and hope for all who go in harms way.







# COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

## 65th Anniversary of Exercise Tiger



*The Historic National Tribute & Commemorative / April 28th, 2009*  
*Motorcade along the Exercise Tiger Expressway / At the Missouri Anchor Memorial*

### Sequence of Events

**Arrival of Tiger Vets, Officers, Elected Officials & Guests  
via Motorcade**

Escorted by MMA Cadets through Sabre Arch

**Presenting of The Colors by Tri-Service Color Guard  
University of Missouri - Army, Navy & Air Force ROTC**

**National Anthem Missouri Military Academy Choir**

**Invocation Given by Capt. Randy Sawyer, US Army Retired**

**Recognition by Associate National Director Susan Haines  
The Exercise Tiger Association, Midwest Region**

**Welcoming Remarks ~ Commissioner Dick Weber ~ Tom Groves  
Audrain County**

**Resolution By:  
9th District Congressmen Blaine Luetkemeyer  
& State Rep. Steve Hobbs  
Gary Marble, Chief of Staff**

**Recognition by US Army ~ Fort Leonard Wood, LTC Hugh Rogers**

**Recognition by US Senator "Kit" Bond  
Sara Barfield, Constituent Liaison**

**~ Presentation of Select Awards ~**

**National Director Exercise Tiger Foundation, Walter Domanski**

**Remarks by Secretary of the Navy ~ Cmdr. Mike Waldhauser, USN**

**Recognition by Gov. Jay Nixon ~ Proclamation**

**Recognition of Exercise Tiger Veterans in attendance:  
Col. Mitch Passini, MOANG & CMSGT Al Sturgess, 442nd FW USAFR  
Presentation of Missouri Flags Flown by 442nd Wing**

**Reading of WWII Casualties Names for Exercise Tiger Memorial  
by University of Missouri, Army & Navy ROTC  
Bell Toll**

**Laying of Roses at Memorial by Exercise Tiger Families**

**21 Gun Salute ~ Select Honor Detail, Missouri Army National Guard  
Major Brad Dulle, Commanding**

**Echo Taps ~ Missouri Military Academy**

**Battle Hymn of the Republic ~ Missouri Military Academy Choir**

### Closing Remarks

**The Historic 2009 Coast to Coast USCG Tribute, Honors  
~ Exercise Tiger ~  
Active Duty Forces Serving In Iraq & Afghanistan  
~ALL USCG FORCES ~  
Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal USCG, Killed in Combat In Iraq**

**At This Time All USCG Boats Along The US Coastline  
Will Lay Wreaths Coordinated By Walter Domanski, USCGA  
Via A Communications Link**

**Surviving Tiger Vets In Attendance:  
Len Brunns ~ David Troyer  
US Navy LST Veteran Bud Meyers, LST 515  
Florence Domanski (wife of Petty Officer Walt Domanski, Sr.)  
Jean Mackey & Debbie Goslin, Family Members**

# THE BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER



What began as a top secret naval operation to prepare US Army and Naval forces for the June 6<sup>th</sup> D-Day Invasion, would end with one of the highest losses ever suffered in combat by the US Army and Navy in WWII.

At 0135 on the morning of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944, eight Tank Landing Ships (LST's) and their lone escort, the British corvette HMS AZALEA, were en route to the landing area. Slapton Sands was selected because its beach looked every bit like the beaches at Normandy that would be code named Utah and Omaha by the allies.

The eight LST's of LST Group 32, formed convoy T-4. they were the support group for elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and 188<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Group already ashore at Slapton Sands.

The LST's were carrying the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Special Brigade, the 3206<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company from Missouri, the 3207<sup>th</sup> Company and 462<sup>nd</sup> and 478<sup>th</sup> combat truck support companies as well as other elements of the US Army's engineer, signal, medical and chemical corps along with some infantry.

Miles south in the mouth of Lyme bay, lay the bulk of the Tiger naval force. Protected by the cruiser USS AGUSTA and the new British "O" class destroyers HMS ONSLOW and

HMS OBEDIENT as well as the Tribal Class destroyer HMS ASHANTI and a covering force of motor torpedo boats. Anchored along with LST's 55 and 382 they would be of no help to the ambushed LST force of T-4.

Attacking in the pitch black night, 9 German Navy "E" boats (torpedo) struck quickly and decisively. Without warning LST 507 was torpedoed first. Explosions and flame lit the night. At 0217 LST 531 is torpedoed. It sinks in six minutes. Of the 496 soldiers and sailors on her, 424 of them died. It would be on this ship that the state of Missouri would lose some 201 of its boys of the 3206<sup>th</sup>.

LST 289 tried to evade the fast German "E" boats but was hit in the stern. LST's 496, 515, and 511 all began firing at their attackers, LST 289 joined in returning fire while lowering landing craft to pull it out of harms way.

At 0225 the LST 499 radioed for help. Minutes later the lead ship, LST 515 sent out an urgent and chilling message. "E" boat attack". Radio stations along the coast pick up the dramatic calls for help. unaware of the top secret operation underway, the calls go unanswered. Only after an alert radio operator heard the words "T-4", did the Naval Command realize the calls were from "Tiger" and send help.

By 0240 the horror was slowly realized. Two LST's sunk, a third lay crippled. Of the 4000 man force nearly a fourth were missing or killed. Official Dept. of Defense records confirm 749 dead, 551 US Army and 198 US Navy. The death toll makes "Tiger" the costliest battle to U.S. forces at that point in the war after Pearl Harbor.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944, the LST's darkest yet finest hour occurred. When, for one hour, the men and ships of Convoy T-4 fought the greatest naval battle ever faced by an LST force in history. Against superior enemy warships, the Tiger amphibious force held its own.

The German attack did not stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed later on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a credit to the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger, that the D-Day invasion at Normandy occurred as planned.

The events surrounding Exercise Tiger were officially declassified in early August 1944, two months after the Normandy Invasion. On April 28<sup>th</sup> 1996 Secretary of The Navy John Dalton stated in his remarks "Tiger....was the LST's finest hour."



This history was assembled by the NJ/MO Tiger Assoc. and based on Navy reports, DOD reports, and eye witness accounts.

# Office of the Freeholder Director Proclamation

April 28, 2009

**WHEREAS**, the men and women who make up America's military forces are an indispensable part of our Nation's efforts to promote democracy, peace and freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, The Exercise Tiger Association will honor these brave Americans at a special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Tribute on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 by laying 7 wreaths along the US Coastline from Ocean County, New Jersey to California, honoring the battle of Exercise Tiger during WWII and members of the US Armed Forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and USCG Forces worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, US Coast Guard Stations: Barnegat Light, Bodega Bay and Miami will take part in this historic wreath tribute, an honor performed by US Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light since 1989; and

**WHEREAS**, this ceremony will honor the last surviving Veterans of The Battle of "Tiger": Tom Glynn, John Lewis, Earl Thatcher, Phil Holcomb, US Navy and posthumously honor Ocean County Veterans Walter "Guns" Domanski, Sr. US Navy and John McGarigal and Jack Smith US Army; and Missouri Tiger Vets Len Bruns & David Troyer along with surviving family members including Florence Domanski, wife of "Guns" Domanski; and

**WHEREAS**, The "Tiger" Association will further honor educators, police, citizens, and members of the NJ Submarine Veterans Association Jersey Shore Base, Toms River, cadets from Missouri Military Academy, Missouri Navy ROTC, Missouri Army Guard, USAF, and retired US Air Force Sergeants Don Daly and Bob Jackson for their community and public service; and

**WHEREAS**, a separate wreath will also honor USCG Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal who was killed in combat guarding the waters off Iraq, the first member of the US Coast Guard force to give his life in war since Vietnam.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. BARTLETT, JR., DIRECTOR** of the **BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** of the **COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**, do hereby support and stand united with the brave men and women of the United States Military, our Veterans at this wreath laying tribute and memorial service.



*John C. Bartlett, Jr.*  
Freeholder Director  
John C. Bartlett, Jr.



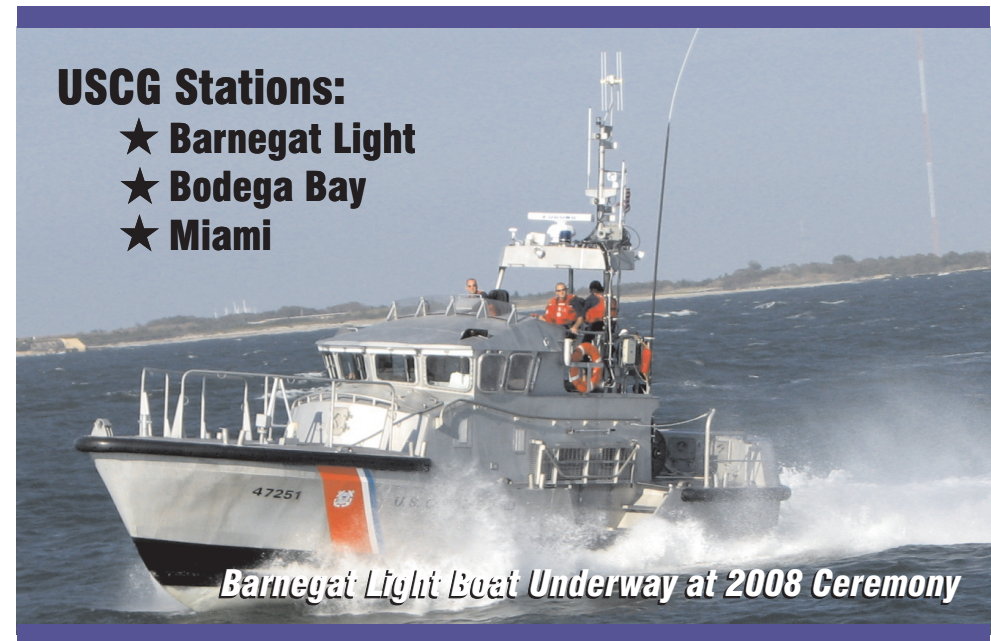
# The National Ceremony USCG Wreath Tribute



★ April 28th, 2009 ★  
The 65th Anniversary of Exercise Tiger

## USCG Stations:

- ★ Barnegat Light
- ★ Bodega Bay
- ★ Miami

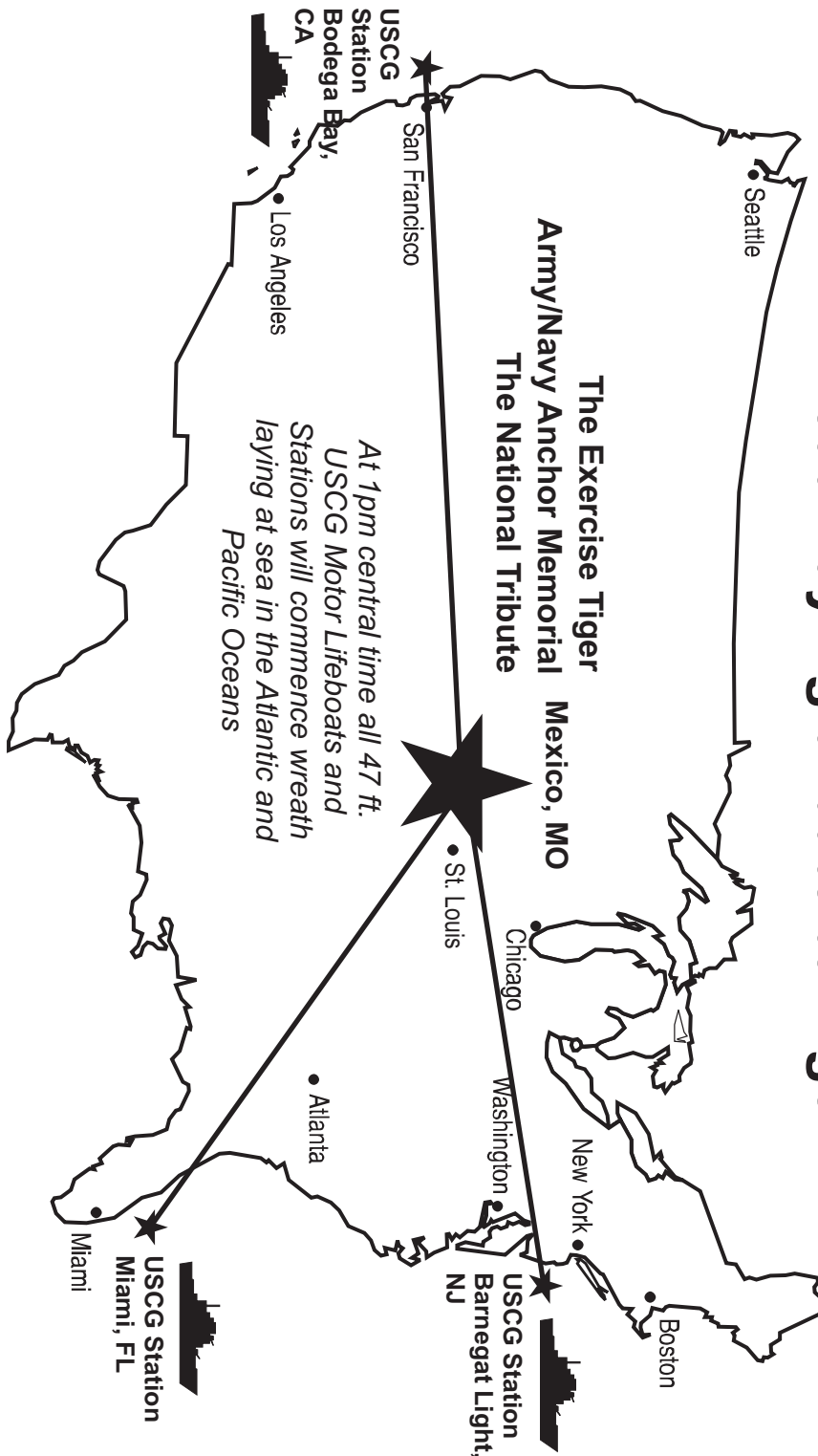


*Barnegat Light Boat Underway at 2008 Ceremony*

This marks the 20th year that the USCG has honored the memory of Exercise Tiger and the sacrifice made by 1000 soldiers and sailors 65 years ago. As the National ceremony begins here in Mexico Missouri, a total of some 7 wreaths will honor Tiger veterans, US Forces & Troops, and ALL USCG Forces serving. The US Submarine Service Association once again joins the Tiger Foundation and will lay wreaths honoring the silent service. A special honor of USCG Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal is included.

USCG Station Barnegat Light which began this honor in 1989 marks its 20th year performing this tribute.

## The Historic USCG Coast to Coast Wreath laying tribute to Tiger



# Today's Event

April 28th, 2009

## Mexico, MO

With today's National Tribute the Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation turns twenty. The Midwestern Regional Chapter based in Missouri turns 15. The Missouri Anchor Memorial where we are gathered today turns 9. Over the past 20 years the Tiger Association has been at the forefront of honoring Tiger veterans and their families. Recognized by the Dept. of Defense and the Naval Historical Center as the official organization annually honoring Tiger. What started out as a one time tribute to "Tiger" and to honor the late Walter "Guns" Domanski Sr. off the coast of NJ is now one of the premier organizations honoring our nations veterans. Over 2000 veterans from WW II to present day troops have received Tiger Awards for their actions. Another 1000 awards have been presented to family members, elected officials, law enforcement, students, and military units. In all, over 40 separate categories of awards exist to honor our citizens and troops. Under the direction of Associate National Director Susan Haines,

today's event with motorcade, is a testament to the outstanding patriotism of those participating in the event. The efforts of retired Air Force Sgt.'s Bob Jackson and Don Daly, who are Tiger Association Senior Staff, are to be commended.

The Missouri Military Academy cadets, UMC Navy ROTC Midshipman, Missouri National Guard and Air Guard have supported "Tiger" ceremonies since 1998. These units are not only part of history, but once again are making history.

It is through ceremony's and award programs like today that the legacy and Spirit of Tiger will live on. That this memorial and LST anchor will serve as a beacon of bravery and courage of a battle fought long ago and forgotten by history.

Please donate, the Tiger Association exists on donations only. 100 percent of all donations go towards awards or events. Go to [ExerciseTiger.org](http://ExerciseTiger.org) or contact one of our Tiger staff members.

## On The Cover

LST 289, After the Battle.

LST 289 rests at Dartmouth Harbor her stern virtually blown off by German E-Boat torpedoes. After a valiant effort the commanding officer of LST 289 brought his wounded ship into Dartmouth where the British Naval Hospital was at so that his wounded would get the best care.



DIRECTOR OF  
GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-0001

APRIL 25, 2009

### A MESSAGE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER

It is my honor and privilege to extend a warm welcome to all who have gathered to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Exercise Tiger.

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard, I would like to express my thanks to the Tiger veterans in attendance and the families of the 749 service members who paid the ultimate price in the defense of our country during Exercise Tiger. Today we also remember those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially PO Nathan Bruckenthal who lost his life April 24, 2004, while underway in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today's ceremonies at Station Barnegat Light, Station Bodega Bay, & Station Miami help us remember the valor and the sacrifices that these heroes made to preserve our freedom and allow us to renew our commitment to the defense of our country. Their sacrifices are not forgotten.

*Semper Paratus,*



MARY E. LANDRY  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard