



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

March 15, 2017

GREETINGS TO ALL COMMEMORATING THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER

On behalf of the Department of the Navy, it is my pleasure to extend greetings and thanks as you gather at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, for the 28th annual wreath laying and national tribute commemorating the WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger. And, to all veterans being honored today, congratulations.

Seventy-three years ago 551 U.S. Army Soldiers and 198 U.S. Navy Sailors lost their lives in combat. On April 28, 1944, eight U.S. Navy LSTs (Tank Landing ships) comprised of Convoy Taffy 4, were preparing for the upcoming Normandy invasion known to the world as D-Day. Without warning, nine German Navy E-boats attacked the convoy. Despite suffering battle damage and horrific casualties, the U.S. Navy ships held their own against a much larger enemy force. When courage counted most, those Army and Navy crews met that challenge. The Battle of Exercise Tiger and the LSTs of Convoy Taffy 4 remains one of the shining moments in the history of U.S. Naval Amphibious Warfare.

I commend the U.S. Exercise Tiger Foundation for their continued efforts and devotion to keep this day a day of honor and remembrance. The U.S. Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light is commended, as well, for their historic uninterrupted wreath laying tribute, honoring this battle for 28 years, the longest wreath-laying ceremony in USCG history. To all our veterans gathered today, thank you for your service. For those being honored for their Vietnam War participation by the Department of Defense, let me add, welcome home. Best wishes for a memorable tribute.

Sean J. Stackley
Acting

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