



USS CLEVELAND LEGACY FOUNDATION

Annual Report
2021

From the Desk of the President & Executive Director

May 20, 2022

My Fellow Clevelanders:



I am pleased to present this second annual report of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation (USSCLF), a nonprofit organization whose vision is to support positive civil-military relations by creating and maintaining a strong, meaningful, and direct bond between citizens of northeast Ohio and the crew of USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31).

The past year was an exciting period for the Foundation, as two eagerly anticipated events – Keel Laying of CLEVELAND and dedication of Cleveland’s Lone Sailor statue – both took place with appropriate pomp and ceremony.

Despite the ongoing global pandemic and associated economic challenges, the Foundation continued to achieve its objectives and experience meaningful growth. During 2021, support expanded from Greater Cleveland’s corporations, foundations, and individual philanthropists, as more of our community’s leaders learned about this rare civic project and generously signed on to support its initiatives. In addition, the USSCLF team grew with the addition of two new Directors, two additional Honorary Directors, and two more staff members. And while we mourned the loss of our dear friend, Emory Crowder, a World War II hero and a founding Honorary Director, we celebrated the Foundation’s second anniversary and the tremendous pace at which its development continued.

As we reach the halfway point of Phase I and its mission “to send USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31) to the Fleet with the greatest start possible,” the Foundation eagerly looks forward to fast-approaching milestones – Christening of CLEVELAND later this year and public installation of *The Lone Sailor – Cleveland* in the summer of 2023, all leading to the Commissioning of our ship, projected for 2024, right here in Cleveland.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we do what no city has done before. Together, we are building a durable connection between Cleveland and the USS CLEVELAND, as our community supports those who serve the cause of freedom in the world’s finest navy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MDovilla", written in a cursive, flowing style.

MICHAEL D. DOVILLA
President & Executive Director

PURPOSE STATEMENTS

Our Vision

To support positive civil-military relations by creating and maintaining a strong, meaningful, and direct bond between citizens of northeast Ohio and the crew of USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31).



Our Mission

To send USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31) to the Fleet with the greatest start possible, to support the ship and crew throughout her service life, and to welcome her home to Cleveland at the completion of her Naval service.

Chronology of Key Activities

Continued Success During Challenging Times

As 2021 began and the world entered its second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, USSCLF maintained its pace and course. To continue measuring progress, the Foundation undertook its second annual organizational assessment. The purpose of this exercise was to allow the opportunity for all Board members, employees, and other stakeholders to provide their evaluation and recommendations regarding the continual improvement and ongoing effectiveness of the organization.

Overall, the survey responses indicated a young organization that continued to evolve in a healthy direction. The instrument identified the following themes for the organization to consider in 2022:

- Maintain our mission focus and efficient operations
- Continue our attention to detail and diligence
- Stay focused on key strategies
- Engage the community more through education and partnerships
- Continue the fundraising push
- Maintain the high standards of operation we have for the board and plan thoughtfully for the future regarding leadership

Also of note during the first quarter of 2021, President Mike Dovilla and Directors Jeremy Komasz and Matt Previts all returned home from active duty mobilizations with the United States Navy, and the shipyard provided the first releasable photos of the future USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31) under construction at Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Wisconsin.



Modular construction of the future USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31)

Board Expansion

In concert with the Foundation's plans to expand its volunteer leadership team, the Board of Directors elected two additional veterans to their first three-year terms:

- Ms. Maia Hansen, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant, Senior Vice President Operations and Supply Chain, Aethersys, Inc.
- CAPT Colleen Gallagher Thomas, NC, USN (Ret.), Global Medical Manager, Relief International

In addition, the Board elected two additional Honorary Directors, a distinguished duo of medical doctors, to their first three-year terms:

- Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison, MC, USN (Ret.), 38th Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy
- Rear Admiral Duret S. Smith, MC, USN (Ret.), Force Surgeon, Marine Forces Reserve



(l-r) Directors Maia Hansen and Colleen Gallagher Thomas and Honorary Directors Forrest Faison and Duret Smith joined the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation in 2021

Annual Retreat

On April 24, 2021, the Foundation convened for a retreat, the first such gathering since December 2019, with the intention of convening each spring to engage in strategic planning and continue building camaraderie as the team added new members.

Among other actions taken during the retreat, the Foundation revised its Phase I Key Results and established four primary campaigns:

- Development
- Education & Engagement
- Strategic Partners & Stakeholders
- Organizational Development & USSCLF Workforce

Phase I Key Results

KR 1: Raise \$5,000,000.31

KR 2: Establish meaningful contact with 100 percent of crew members and ensure Adopt-a-Sailor program is ready to launch

KR 3: Attract 15,000 attendees to Commissioning

Keel Laying

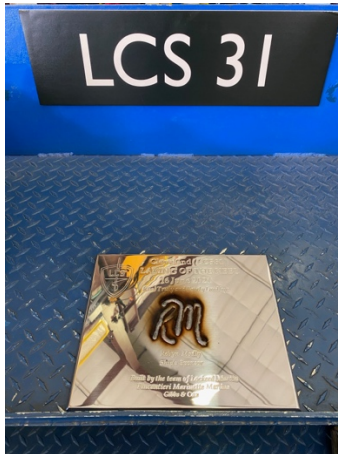
There are several key dates that represent milestones in the life of any ship. For the future USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31), the first of these occurred on June 16, 2021, when the initials of Mrs. Robyn Modly, Ship Sponsor, were welded into a steel plate that will be affixed to the keel of the ship. Although pandemic restrictions limited attendance at the event, several Directors and partners made the trip to Marinette, Wisconsin for this special occasion that marked the ship's birthday.



Mrs. Robyn Modly, Ship Sponsor, and Mr. Joe Thomas, former Cleveland Browns tackle



A group of USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation directors, donors, and community partners joined representatives of the United States Navy and Team Freedom – Lockheed Martin, Fincantieri Marinette Marine, and Gibbs and Cox – to celebrate the keel laying of CLEVELAND on June 16, 2021. A module of LCS 31 served as the backdrop for the ceremony.



Mrs. Robyn Modly, Ship Sponsor, authenticated that the keel for CLEVELAND was “truly and fairly laid.”

Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors convened its Annual Meeting on July 17, 2021, at the offices of Skylight Financial Group in Ohio City. At this extended meeting, the Foundation’s leadership team discussed the need to provide additional staff support in order to execute the robust strategy established at the April retreat. By this point in the year, the Personnel and Compensation Committee was well into its effort to identify and hire an experienced, full-time development professional to support the Executive Director with this important organizational function. In

addition, the Foundation determined it was time to to hire a part-time Assistant Executive Director to allow the Executive Director additional capacity to engage in organizational leadership, vision, and community engagement on behalf of the Foundation.

With substantial funding now committed by partners in the Greater Cleveland community and clearer lines of effort developing for the organization, the Foundation also began the process of building its first full budget for the following year, Fiscal Year 2022, with detailed input from committees and evaluation by the Finance Committee.

The Board also took the following actions at the Annual Meeting:

- Reviewed the Foundation’s Code of Regulations and various policies and procedures;
- Established a new standing Marketing Committee, splitting off its functions from the Marketing and Events Committee that was formed in 2019, and a standing Volunteers Committee; and
- Authorized the volunteer and staff team to investigate the creation of affinity groups for young professionals and youth leaders who wish to engage with USSCLF’s efforts.

Lone Sailor Dedication

On September 10, 2021, the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation and KeyBank marked the unveiling of *The Lone Sailor – Cleveland* at Great Lakes Science Center. The statue’s dedication was designed to raise awareness of the Foundation’s effort to commission, support, and honor the future USS CLEVELAND (LCS 31). USSCLF partnered with the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. to have this replica of the Lone Sailor Statue – only the 18th in the world – installed in Cleveland. It is an iconic symbol of the Navy Memorial’s mission to honor, recognize, and celebrate the men and women of the Sea Services, past, present, and future; and to inform the public about their service.



USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation team members celebrate the dedication of The Lone Sailor – Cleveland.



Mrs. Robyn Modly, Mr. Drew Carey, and Rear Adm. Julius Caesar, USN (Ret.) at the Lone Sailor dedication ceremony.

The Foundation was honored to be joined by Mr. Drew Carey at the dedication. The occasion provided an opportunity to express gratitude to Mr. Carey for his six years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and his ongoing support of the military through countless USO trips to combat zones. Later in September, the Navy Memorial presented the Lone Sailor Award to Mr. Carey, who joined an impressive list of men and women that have received this prestigious honor.

USSCLF is now working with the City of Cleveland and local corporate and nonprofit partners to place the statue in its permanent location in George V. Voinovich Bicentennial Park at North Coast Harbor overlooking Lake Erie.

Staff Expansion

An important organizational development during 2021 was the intentional growth of the Foundation's professional staff. As Phase I operations continued to mature, it became apparent that additional resources would be required to support ambitious advancement and programming needs. In August, Mrs. Courtney Smrdel, a retired Navy Career Counselor First Class with 22 years of service, joined the team as the organization's first Assistant Executive Director. And in October, the Foundation welcomed Mrs. Diane Tomer, an experienced fundraising professional in Cleveland, as its inaugural Director of Development.



(l-r) Assistant Executive Director Courtney Smrdel and Director of Development Diane Tomer joined the Foundation team in 2021

Passing of Honorary Director Crowder



Mr. Emory C. Crowder, Jr.

In the autumn of 2021, the Foundation mourned the loss of a founding Honorary Director, Mr. Emory C. Crowder, Jr. Prior to the inception of USSCLF, several individuals who would become involved with the Foundation had the privilege of making Mr. Crowder's acquaintance and learning his incredible life story, including decorated service to the Nation during World War II. Mr. Crowder was an integral member of the USSCLF team during its early years, and everyone will miss his boundless optimism and steadfast encouragement. At the Foundation's November meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution memorializing Mr. Crowder. A copy of the document appears on the following page.

A RESOLUTION

In memory of Mr. Emory C. Crowder, Jr., Honorary Director.

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. was born on September 6, 1923, in Roanoke, Virginia to Nannie Edriss and Emory Cary Crowder, graduated from William Fleming High School, and attended and played football for Roanoke College; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. served in the United States Navy during World War II from 1942 to 1945, was trained as a hospital corpsman to serve with the United States Marines in combat, and was stationed in Tinian, Okinawa, and Saipan during which distinguished service he received a Purple Heart and the Silver Star for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity” in battle; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. married the brown-eyed love of his life, Kathryn, in 1950, and enjoyed 65 years of matrimony before her passing in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. worked for Norfolk Southern Railway for over 42 years, overseeing a large region and moving often with Kathryn until they settled in Westlake, Ohio in 1968, and retiring as Assistant to the General Manager in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. for more than 40 years led the children’s Fourth of July bicycle parade in his neighborhood and served as the unofficial community patriarch, faithfully contributing with Kathryn to family, neighbors, and church members in countless ways and demonstrating boundless kindness and love; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. was loved and revered by his fellow Navy sailors and Marines, and was the guest of honor at numerous military events including the 2019 Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. served as an inaugural Honorary Director of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation, lending his energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to the efforts of this new nonprofit organization established in 2019 to support the crew of the future *USS Cleveland* (LCS 31); and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. had a profound impact on the lives of all who knew him, daily demonstrating the three core values which motivated him – faith, love of life, and love for people – and immeasurably impacting and enriching the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Emory C. Crowder, Jr. completed his earthly mission on October 18, 2021, went home to rest in the arms of God, and is remembered fondly by nieces, nephews, and a multitude of beloved friends;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Directors of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation, in adopting this Resolution, mourn the loss and salute the memory of Emory C. Crowder, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President and Executive Director of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to the family of Emory C. Crowder, Jr. and that the same be entered permanently into the minutes of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation.

JAMES M. FOLK
Chairman

MICHAEL D. DOVILLA
President

Adopted November 20, 2021



Second Anniversary

As the end of 2021 approached, the Foundation celebrated two years as an official nonprofit organization. The Board held its final meeting of the year on USSCLF's second anniversary, November 20, 2021, in Ohio City, where participants celebrated in an appropriate manner with birthday cake.



President and Executive Director Mike Dovilla makes the ceremonial first cut of cake marking the organization's second anniversary.

Development

Work on the Foundation's initial campaign, *Launching a Legacy*, remained a primary line of effort throughout 2021. Having tapped Inbloom Consulting for assistance in organizing its development efforts in 2020, USSCLF completed this engagement in the spring of 2021 with the following noteworthy accomplishments:

- Establishment of donor levels and associated benefits;
- Finalization of the Foundation's case for support and campaign timeline;
- Completion of an initial presentation deck and associated promotional materials; and
- Competitive selection of Bloomerang as USSCLF's constituent relationship management (CRM) partner.

USSCLF appreciates the comprehensive support Inbloom provided during its nascent period as a nonprofit in Greater Cleveland, guidance which continues to frame the organization's development efforts.

In April 2021, the Foundation was honored to receive its first Admiral-level partner, as Mr. Ken Taylor, President of Ohio CAT, a multi-generational family-owned business headquartered in Broadview Heights, pledged a \$500,000.31 leadership gift. This pledge represents ten percent of the *Launching a Legacy* campaign's goal.



Mr. Ken Taylor (center) is joined by Rear Adm. Frank Thorp, USN (Ret.), President and CEO of the U.S. Navy Memorial, and Mr. Jim Folk, Board Chairman of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation.



Miniature replicas of the Lone Sailor were presented to inaugural partners of the Foundation in 2021.

Another noteworthy achievement in the development realm was the successful completion of the Foundation's fundraising goal for the Lone Sailor statue. When USSCLF committed to partner with the U.S. Navy Memorial on this initiative to increase the visibility of the Sea Services in Northeast Ohio, the Board of Directors sought to raise \$500,000.00. At the June 30, 2021, deadline for support, the Foundation had received commitments of \$730,000.00 for the statue project. Donors of \$25,000.00 or more received recognition in the form of miniature Lone Sailor statues at a breakfast reception prior to the statue's dedication on September 10, 2021, at Great Lakes Science Center.

At the end of 2021, thanks to the generous support of its Plank Owner partners, the Foundation approached the 60 percent mark in its *Launching a Legacy* campaign with nearly \$3 million committed to the organization's inaugural development effort. USSCLF appreciates the support of the organizations displayed below for their early engagement.

PLANK OWNERS LEADERBOARD			
	USS CLEVELAND LEGACY FOUNDATION		
Admiral \$500,000.31	Captain \$300,000.31	Commander \$150,000.31	Master Chief \$75,000.31
			
			
			
		W. Craig Bashein The Levanduski Family The William & Pam Summers Family In memory of CDR Robert "Tuck" Brant, USN	
ADDITIONAL PLANK OWNERS			
	USS CLEVELAND LEGACY FOUNDATION		
			
			
		Robbins Foundation In honor of Chief Tyler and Marla Robbins	

Community partners that support the *Launching a Legacy* campaign are designated USSCLF Plank Owners.

Financials

During its second full year of operations, the Foundation experienced considerable growth in its balance sheet. In addition to a significant increase in donations from pledged support by community partners, USSCLF invested in a replica of the Lone Sailor statue, a fixed asset that will be a permanent military monument and gift to the Greater Cleveland community. A snapshot of the organization's financial position at the end of 2021 appears below.

Statement of Financial Position		
<i>As of December 31, 2021</i>		
	As of Dec 31, 2021	Total As of Dec 31, 2020 (PY)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Non - Profit Checking (3752)	599,947.92	192,065.31
Total Bank Accounts	599,947.92	192,065.31
Total Current Assets	599,947.92	192,065.31
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	260,905.00	
Total Fixed Assets	260,905.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$860,852.92	\$192,065.31
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities		
Equity		
Net Assets	192,065.31	30,601.31
Net Revenue	668,787.61	161,464.00
Total Equity	860,852.92	192,065.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$860,852.92	\$192,065.31

Conclusion

Now in its third year, the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation continues to pursue its vision and mission while executing programmatic and operational elements of Phase I. With christening of CLEVELAND and public installation of the Lone Sailor statue in 2022 and 2023, respectively, exciting events are on the horizon for the Greater Cleveland community and U.S. Navy sailors the Foundation serves.



Board of Directors

Mrs. Robyn P. Modly, M.A., Ed.M.
Ship Sponsor

Directors

James M. Folk
Chairman

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, M.D.
Vice President

Keven P. Prather, CFBS
Vice Chairman

Benjamin E. Baran, Ph.D., SPHR
Secretary

Hon. Michael D. Dovilla
President & Executive Director

LaRese B. Purnell, MBA
Treasurer

W. Craig Bashein

Jeremy M. Komasz

Richard J. DeCarlo

Matthew J. Previts

Maia Hansen

Rear Adm. Dwight D. Shepherd, USN (Ret.)

Doug Harvey

Capt. Colleen Gallagher Thomas, NC, USN
(Ret.)

Honorary Directors

Vice Adm. C. Forrest Faison, MC, USN (Ret.), M.D., Sc.D. (hon), FAAP

Vice Adm. Bruce E. Grooms, USN (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Julius S. Caesar, USN (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Janet R. Donovan, USN (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Michael N. Parks, USCG (Ret.)

Rear Adm. Duret S. Smith, MC, USN (Ret.), M.D.

Brig. Gen. Peter B. Collins, USMC (Ret.)

Mr. Christopher M. Connors

Mr. William B. Summers, Jr.

Mr. Emory C. Crowder, Jr. *

** Deceased*

Professional Staff

Michael D. Dovilla
President & Executive Director

Diane Tomer
Director of Development

Courtney Smrdel
Assistant Executive Director

Standing Committees

EXECUTIVE

Jim Folke, Chair

Ben Baran, Director

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, Director

Keven Prather, Director

Matt Previts, Director

LaRese Purnell, Director

Mike Dovilla, Director (non-voting)

AUDIT

Richard DeCarlo, Chair

Jeremy Komasz, Director

DEVELOPMENT

Matt Previts, Chair

Craig Bashein, Director

Doug Harvey, Director

Jeremy Komasz, Director

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, Director

Pete Collins, Honorary Director

EVENTS

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, Chair

Richard DeCarlo, Director

Matt Previts, Director

FINANCE

LaRese Purnell, Chair

Keven Prather, Director

Mike Parks, Honorary Director

GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS

Ben Baran, Chair

Keven Prather, Director

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, Director

Jackie Vary, Volunteer

HERITAGE

Tim Daley, Chair

Newly established committee;

Directors to be appointed

MARKETING

Keven Prather, Director

Matt Previts, Director

LaRese Purnell, Director

Colleen Gallagher Thomas, Director

PERSONNEL & COMPENSATION

Ben Baran, Chair

Richard DeCarlo, Director

Doug Harvey, Director

Karen Mihalik-Potoczak, Director

VOLUNTEERS

Chris Garazatua, Chair

Ben Baran, Director

Jeremy Komasz, Director

Mike Parks, Honorary Director

N.B.: Ship Sponsor Modly, Chairman Folke, President Dovilla, Development Director Tomer, and Assistant Executive Director Smrdel are ex officio to all standing committees.



USS CLEVELAND LEGACY FOUNDATION

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Cleveland, Ohio 44114
usscleveland.org

The USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. The mission of the Foundation is to send USS CLEVELAND to the Fleet with the greatest start possible, to support the ship and crew throughout her service life, and to welcome her home to Cleveland at the completion of her Naval service. Our nonprofit identification number is 83-4007897.