

CANAL GATOR TALES

January 2021

Exhibitions and Spring Luncheon

Despite our optimism that the annual Spring luncheon and joint meeting of the Panama Canal Society and the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection could be held as usual at the University of Florida this year, we decided to cancel the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also made the decision to extend the dates for our current exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery, *Are We Next? Fear and Social Roles in WWII*, because so few people saw the exhibition in 2020. The UF campus closed to the public in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic, and when the Smathers Library Building did reopen in late August access was limited to members of the UF community only. The Gallery had very few visitors in the Fall semester and first part of the Spring semester due to the restricted access and limited occupancy in the building.

Are We Next? will remain on display through February 2022 in the hopes that more visitors will be able to view and engage with the exhibits. An online version of the exhibition also is available at <https://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/AreWeNext/>. Curated by Elizabeth A. Bouton with assistance from Elizabeth Bemis, the exhibition explores the personal experiences, social aspects, and politics of defending and operating the Canal during the war. The exhibition initially was developed in 2019 as part of a graduate Exhibitions Seminar in Museum Studies taught by Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler. The student assistant curators were Summer Bias, Coral Dixon, Sean O'Dwyer, and Anna L. Weissman.

Below: Robert C. Lanier, USS Ancon as U.S. Navy Headquarters and Communications Command Ship, 1942, 2001.040.002, Gift of Ruth Foster



Support the Collection by Making a Memorial and Honor Gift

Would you like to give a gift in honor or memory of a family member, friend, classmate, colleague, or group? Such a gift is a meaningful way to honor or preserve the memory of someone special to you, and it can be an excellent way to commemorate a special occasion, a milestone, an anniversary, or other significant event. All memorial and honor gifts will be used to support the oral history program of the Panama Canal Museum Collection.

The oral history program was created to document the story of the Canal in the words of the people who lived it; capturing the details of life that are often not discussed in publications, not captioned in photographs, and not documented in other traditional ways. Your donations will help advance efforts to conduct oral history interviews that will be preserved as part of the PCMC for future generations. During the pandemic, we have shifted away from face-to-face interviews, and instead we are conducting interviews via telephone or online. We're also hard at work transcribing so that the text of the interviews will be available along with the recordings as part of our online digital collection, <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/ohpcm>.

All memorial and honor gifts are tax deductible, and if you donate any amount over \$25, you automatically become a member of the Friends of the PCMC. When you give a gift of \$50 or more in someone's honor or memory, we will send a card or email to your designated honoree or a recipient you designate notifying them of your gift. Your name and the name of the person or group you are honoring or memorializing will also be acknowledged on the PCMC website (<https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/donate-support/memorial-and-honor-gifts/>) and in the Canal Gator Tales email distributed to all Friends of the PCMC.

For gifts over \$100, you have the opportunity to participate in our Books of Honor program (<https://giving.uflib.ufl.edu/giving-opportunities/books-of-honor/>). When you make a Books of Honor gift, a special PCMC bookplate will be placed

To make a gift by check, please make your check payable to the "UF Foundation/Panama Canal Museum Collection Endowment (017605)." Please indicate that it is an honor or memorial gift and provide the following information:

- The honoree's full name (an individual, a couple, or a group, such as a class).
- Your contact information, including your email address.
- The contact information for the honoree or another recipient you designate if you want them to receive an acknowledgment that the gift has been made in their honor or memory.
- If applicable, the occasion being recognized such as an anniversary, birthday, or other event.

Please mail your check to the Office of Development, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, PO Box 117000, Gainesville, FL 32611-7000.

If you prefer to make your gift online rather than by check, please use the University of Florida Foundation gift page. Remember to indicate in the online form that your gift is in honor of or in memory of someone. If you have any questions, please contact John Nemmers at 352-273-2766 or jnemmers@ufl.edu. Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE

July 7-11, 2021

Panama Canal Society Annual Reunion, Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL.
Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald at mickeyftz@aol.com if you wish to volunteer your time or items for the Silent Auction.

Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection

If you haven't done so already, now is the time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF. If you're not a member already, please consider joining!

The funds collected are used to support education and research through the preservation, conservation, digitization, and processing of the collection. Funds also support the creation and development of local, traveling, and online exhibits that increase awareness about the collection, the Panama Canal, the Canal Zone, and its people. Dues and donations qualify for tax deductions. Thank you for your continued support of the PCMC at UF.

As of Spring 2020 each membership is active for a period of 12 months starting with the date you join or renew. For example, if you renewed on March 1, 2020, your membership is active through February 28, 2021.

To join or renew membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection visit <https://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/pcmembership/> or call 352-273-2505 for more information.

FRIENDS OF THE
PANAMA CANAL
Museum Collection
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

