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# Independence — Liberty — Freedom

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## AMERICAN HOME

### AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING NEWSPAPER

Serving in Ohio and nationwide over 150,000 American Slovenians  
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Ameriška Domovina, June 30, 1994

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50c



#### What's Inside

- Navy shoots 'uninhabited' isle ..... p.2
- Bill Jereb hits Utah Beach ..... p.2
- Bob Mills visits ship 50 years later ..... p.3
- Diary of submariner ..... p.4
- Mercina on America ..... p.6
- Admiral Zlatoper talks about today's Navy ... p.8
- Constitution vs. religion ..... p.9
- Tofant and D-Day ..... p.10
- My proudest day ..... p.11



St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans remember their dead on Memorial Day, 1994.

(Photo by Tony Grdina)

## 4th of July in Normandy

One of my most memorable Fourth of July's was spent on Omaha Beach (Easy-Red) in Normandy, France in 1944. I was serving with the U.S. Army's 147th Combat-Amphibious Engineer Battalion.

We took part in the invasion of France in the early morning hours on June 6th, 1944. This June 6th, 1994 I am going

back to Omaha Beach to participate in the 50th anniversary of D-Day and to relive some of the experiences of that part of my life.

After the D-Day ceremony I will visit with relatives in the small village of Predeslje, Slovenija, my birthplace.

**Anthony B. Sajovic**  
Parma, Ohio.



Tony Sajovic in France (1944)

#### THE DECLARATION

# INDEPENDENCE:

## The Birth of a New America

At 6 o'clock last Tuesday morning in Philadelphia, Virginia Delegate Thomas Jefferson looked out at the gray sky and then noted that his thermometer registered 70°. Soon afterward, there came a crack of lightning and a sudden deluge. By 9 o'clock, the city was awash. Nearly 50 delegates to the Second Continental Congress slowly filled the ground-floor meeting room of the State House on Walnut Street. They conversed quietly but kept a watchful eye on everyone who came through the door. The room steamed. The only consolation in keeping the windows closed against rain was that they also excluded the horseflies from a nearby stable.

The day before, a preliminary vote on Virginian Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence showed nine of the colonies in favor, two (South Carolina and Pennsylvania) opposed, New York abstaining and Delaware deadlocked. To decide such momentous business—cutting much of a continent and its 2.5 million inhabitants free from the British Empire—the Congress hoped for virtual unanimity. Anything less might poison the enterprise with disunity. Hence the delegates' anxiety on the morning of July 2.

A rumor passed through the hall

that Pennsylvania would come over. South Carolina's Edward Rutledge entered smiling—his colony, too, would vote for independence. New York's men still awaited instructions from home, but they would not dissent. That left only Delaware stalemated—one delegate in favor, one opposed, and one back home on business. Bostonian John Hancock, President of the Congress, rapped his gavel. Secretary Charles Thomson began rereading the resolution aloud prior to a vote.

Then over the cobblestones outside came a rattle of horse's hoofs. Soaking wet and mud-splattered, his face gray with fatigue, Delaware's third delegate, Farmer Caesar Rodney, had ridden all night from Dover after an express rider informed him of his colony's stalemate. He wore a green silk handkerchief, now nearly black with road dirt, to cover the lower part of his face, which is afflicted by a cancer. "The thunder and rain delayed me," Rodney said matter-of-factly as he entered the hall.

There, without dissent, the disparate colonies of America at last took the step

that severed their 169-year-old political ties with the mother country, proclaiming that they "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." Independence—the process as painful and bloody as birth—represents a unique historic experiment, a visionary gamble that a various people can literally will themselves into a separate political being on a new continent. Boston's John Adams is already predicting exultantly: "The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America."

Although independence had been months, even years, in coming, the week's events seemed startling in their sudden finality. July 2 declared the fact of separation. In another two days, on July 4, the Congress endorsed an extraordinary document, a Declaration that stated the Colonies' numerous reasons for leaving the imperial embrace. That date and that document may eventually loom larger in the American mind than what happened on July 2, for the Declaration,

### Slovenia declared independence, too!

(by James V. Debevec)

On June 25, 1991 the beautiful land of majestic mountains, flowing rivers, picturesque farmlands, located on the north shore of the Adriatic sea, surrounded by the legendary lands of Austria and Italy, the tiny country of Slovenia with its 2 million inhabitants, declared its independence from what was Yugoslavia, and set upon a course of liberty.

Many people in the United States, Canada and elsewhere watched anxiously as Slovenia stood ramrod straight and withstood a 10-day onslaught (Continued on page 15)

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James V. Debevec - Publisher, English editor  
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## Bill Jereb was in first Utah Beach assault

Fifty years ago Bill Jereb was in the first wave of soldiers who landed on Utah Beach during the invasion of Normandy, France.

Ten years ago he and his wife Mary Ann Jereb of Grayslake, Illinois (a Regional Director with American Slovenian Catholic Union - KSKJ) traveled overseas for the "Friendly Invasion" tour of the invasion sites.

Mary Ann writes, "On the first day of our tour because we arrived in Brussels late, they skipped visiting the cemetery where Bill's buddy Stanley was buried. He was disappointed.

"Ten days later when we returned to Brussels for the return trip home, Bill paid a cab driver \$150.00 to take him

to the cemetery to visit Stanley's grave.

"We are not going to Europe this year because of my job and I think Bill is satisfied that he had seen where Stanley is buried.

"Bill said he spent July 4, 1944 in a hospital in England because he was injured on June 23rd. He was subsequently hurt two more times and as a result was awarded three Purple Hearts. I tease him that he may have three purple ones, but not a good red one!"

*Thanks to Mary Ann Jereb for submitting this article. She serves on the National Board of American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ) as a Regional Director in Illinois.*

## Navy ship shoots at 'uninhabited' target island



LCI648(R)

Next November crew members from the LCI(R) 648, (Landing Craft, Infantry), (Rockets) — will hold their first reunion since the war. They will gather to tell stories about their harrowing experiences transporting troops to the beach at Guadalcanal, Ulithi, Okinawa, Leyte and being fired upon off the coast of China after the war.

But one of the most interesting events took place in January, 1944 when the ship had rocket launchers installed. They sailed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to test the rockets. They circled off-shore of an "uninhabited" target island called Kahoolawe.

Tony Grdina saw plenty of action as a signalman on the ship. But on this particular occasion, they were practicing with the new weapon and began bombarding the island.

Tony was looking through his binoculars when his jaw dropped in astonishment. There on the beach he spotted two soldiers waving a white sheet.

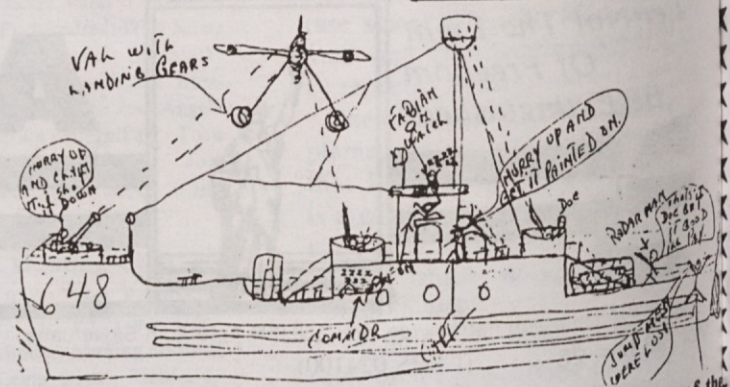
The ship immediately ceased firing. They soon discovered the Army had sent the two men there with radio equipment to monitor the airwaves. However, they didn't realize the Navy was using the island for target-practice and the first shots knocked out the radio.

Tony says luckily no one was injured, but all their equipment was blasted to kingdom-come.

Mr. Grdina recalled the incident because on May 1st of this year, the U.S. government officially returned the island of Kahoolawe to the State of Hawaii. — A little less for wear, but otherwise in the middle of paradise.



Bill Tofant (article p. 10)



This drawing by a crew-member of LCI 648 shows one of the times it was attacked by Japanese Val's (which had fixed landing gear) airplanes. Although never hit, there were numerous near-misses by a few feet.

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# With World War II Crew, Circle Line Boat Sails Back to '44

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

The Circle Line claims on its side to be "America's Favorite Boat Ride," and on Saturday afternoon, a sunny and splendid wisp of the summer to come, aboard a ship named Circle Line X, it was more than that.

The ship's former captain, officers, cook and deck hands, who served on it when it was a Navy landing vessel in the South Pacific, the Philippines and China during World War II, returned for a reminiscence-filled journey around Manhattan. From Florida and Colorado and many places in between, the old men came to glimpse faces they remembered from younger days, and to hug, cry and laugh. It was a reunion, their first, and they brought families, including one man's 5-month-old great-granddaughter.

They did all this as the ship — once known simply as Landing Craft, Infantry (Large) 758, bought by the Circle Line in the 1950's as a Navy surplus bargain — sliced through the Hudson, East, Bronx and Harlem Rivers. After the ship left Pier 83 on West 42d Street, an announcer, breathlessly and maybe accurately, pointed out the dwelling places of the rich and famous. Hundreds of passengers blissfully ignored them. Lovers kissed, beer drinkers swilled and children cried.

### A Peek at the Past

No one remarked on their flying the thin, snakelike flag of the original ship, an act some considered exuberantly defiant, since decommissioned ships are not allowed to fly their colors. It was the very flag hoisted at the ship's commissioning in Portland, Ore., 50 years ago — the occasion for the gathering.

"They're so cute I can't stand it," said Daria Malinchak, who came to peek at a slice of the past that she knew her father, Charles, had long cherished. "For many, many years, we thought he was just making all this up."

Another grown child could express only awe. "The older I get, the more I appreciate how much history he holds in his head," said Rodney Beeson, a college student in Tampa who came to hear the tales firsthand.

In their memory, the veterans were churning along on LCI(L) 758, the ship on which they delivered Army troops to at least five Pacific invasions. In reality, they were traveling on one of three identical vessels refitted by the sightseeing company from surplus Navy landing craft. It rounded out its current fleet with five former Coast Guard cutters.

The Circle Line is itself a year younger than this combat vessel, whose crew never experienced a fatality. The ship, which carried about 250 troops and could deliver them right to the beach, sailed 100,000 miles in one two-year period. Most of the veterans said they had no idea their ship still existed until a year or



Joe Major for The New York Times

Robert Mills, right, Navy veteran, holding a photograph of the ship known as Landing Craft, Infantry (Large) 758, when the ship was commissioned 50 years ago for service in World War II. Mr. Mills was radio man on the vessel, which was bought by Circle Line in the 1950's.

so ago, when they learned about the reunion cruise.

But they remembered being at sea for six months without setting foot on land. A few recounted how they lost their virginity, one on a rickshaw with a Russian woman named Angelina. Somebody recalled counting 68 Japanese kamikaze planes plunge to their doom. Who could forget the typhoon in September 1945, off Okinawa? And remember that old Victrola, the one with the little lion feet and the horn decorated with flowers?

### A Bar Brawl, a Pet Monkey

One man muttered thanks to another for help in a never-to-be-forgotten barroom brawl. There were photographs of the pet monkey they had kept for a while, and stories about how the ship's dog, a mongrel named Baby, ended up living a satisfying retirement on Long Island. One photograph showed a crew member, Ray

## A craft that circled the Pacific now circles Manhattan.

Jalley, posing with a big smile and a jellyfish on his head.

"We had a happy ship," said the ship's former captain, Gerard Marder, now a 70-year-old pediatrician from Gastonia, N.C. As principal organizer of the cruise, Dr. Marder tracked down 20 former crew members after a year's search.

"We bonded," said Dr. Marder of his crew. "You bond with me when you're under fire."

Ralph Wilson, the former quartermaster, agreed. "I got tears in my eyes, I can't explain it," he said. "We're lucky to be alive and most of

us haven't seen each other in 47 years."

There was good-natured ribbing. The one Army veteran in attendance, Charles Novotny, remembered the last words he heard as he scrambled from the boat in the Philippines to invade Ormoc, a city now named MacArthur. "The only thing you said was, 'Good luck, dogface,'" Mr. Novotny, a former member of the 77th Army's Statue of Liberty division, only a few minutes before passing the Lady herself.

"Yeah, but we had four more invasions," shot back Dr. Marder, who four weeks ago had surgery for prostate cancer and insisted he would have come on a stretcher if necessary. He skipped his 50th reunion at the University of North Carolina, also held on Saturday.

Few of the veterans, conversing intensely, got their sightseeing mon-

ey's worth. One geographic thought that did grip several conversations was the exact location of the officers' training school that some attended for 90 days to become, yes, "90-day wonders." It was agreed that school was near Riverside Church on the Upper West Side.

A few old-timers visited the pilot house and the engine room, where they found many things had changed. The crew enjoyed showing them around. "This was nice to see," said Tom Corsini, chief engineer of the Circle Line, of the special passengers.

The veterans were pleased to find faded typed descriptions of the ship's history as a naval vessel, which noted that it sailed and performed gallantly in difficult invasions. Some even heard the last words of the guide, though most were too busy talking among themselves.

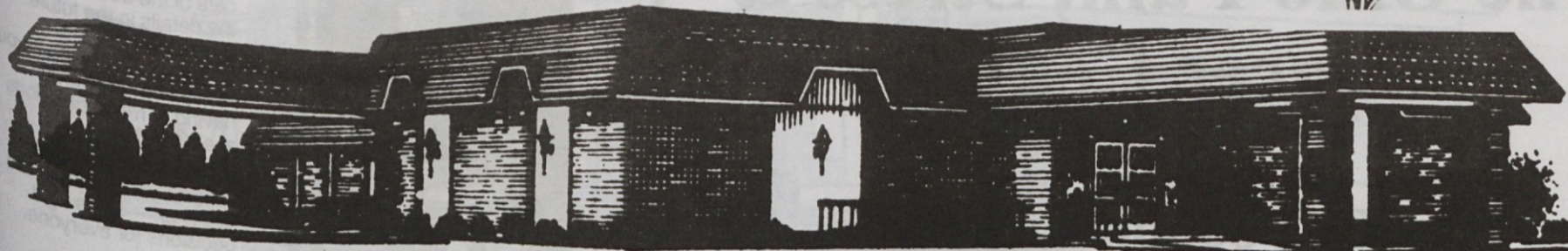
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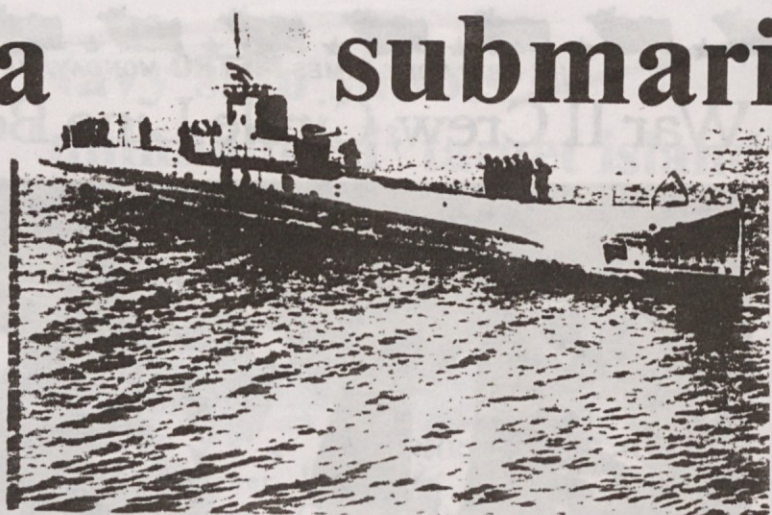
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REMEMBER OUR HEROIC SERVICEMEN & WOMEN

# 4. The diary of a submariner



H.M.Y.S. " NEBOJSA "

by Janko Majnik  
 Cooma, N.S.W., Australia  
 War was raging in Europe. October, 1940 saw the failed invasion of Greece by the Italians. The ever busy sea traffic between the Italian and Albanian coast made it imperative that no violation of the South Adriatic occurred. Thus, the surveillance of the waters became the responsibility of the Royal Yugoslav Naval and Fleet Air Arm Forces.

The submarine "Osvetnik" (Avenger) patrolled one day and night and we, the submarine "Nebojsa" (Fearless), patrolled the next. The submarines would sail out of the Bay of Tivat towards the afternoon, returning in the morning. The times of departure and arrivals varied from day to day.

For months we had patrolled the different quadrants of the Adriatic. The runs were on the surface. The officer of the watch and two look-outs were constantly scanning the sea for the unusual. At the end of the third month's patrol, we became tired of the violent winter of the Adriatic sea. The long, narrow, cigar shaped submarine created uncomfortable pitching, wallowing, roll-

ing and other unexplainable rotations that only submarines can produce.

Listening to the daily news on radio "Beograd" it became more and more evident that Yugoslavia was heading for difficult times. In early March the Turkish radio station "Ankara" pleaded with Yugoslavia not to sign the Tripartite Pact with Germany. That radio announcement was soon followed by Germany's "Do it or die" ultimatum.

But, when our leaders left for Vienna on the 24th of March to sign the Pact, an uneasy foreboding crept over me. As the radio-telegraphist serving on the submarine "Nebojsa" I had, on or off duty, ample opportunities to jot down any daily events and decided to keep a diary, just in case.

Today the Tripartite Pact with Germany was signed in Vienna. I felt betrayed. It was one of the most degrading feelings to be allied with the enemy - Hitler's Germany. I decided instantly that this could never be.

Yesterday and today serious rioting began throughout Yugoslavia. I retired to bed with hope that the leaders would change their minds and

declare war on Germany. Instead, there was peace all day.

Since France was occupied in June, 1940 and Britain hastily began to prepare for the German invasion, a few officers on our submarines were preparing their friends among the crews to join the Allies, if need be.

At pre-arranged times we would meet in the radio room on the submarine "Neboljsa" where we would exchange news from home, our common city of Ljubljana.

### March 27, 1941

The new government headed by Air Force General Simovic overthrew the pro-Axis Party and cancelled the Agreement with Germany. King Peter assumed full responsibilities from today. Long live the king!

### March 29, 1941

When the news was received about the great naval battle in the seas south of Greece, at Cape Matapan, where three heavy Italian cruisers and two destroyers were sunk, we became as jubilant as the British must have been. Their success stirred in everyone the strong desire to do battle.

If there is any shore leave tonight I must find my Kotor girlfriend, Ljubica, if she is still in town.

### April 2, 1941

We had diving exercises from 0700 to 1600 hours. Back on the pier some 30 Albanian men, women and children were waiting for authorities to take charge, feed and clothe them. Their priest, an old man, was showing everybody who cared to look, his bloodied wrists where the Italian chains rubbed off the skin. We felt sorry for them, this being the first time for us to see the result of war.

There is no leave tonight.

### April 3, 1941

The town is full of activity. The Albanians we saw yester-

day turned out to be Greeks living in Albania. The Red Cross exchanged them for Albanians living in Greece.

### April 5, 1941

Went ashore with Marusic. We started to grow beards. The girls we were supposed to meet were not there.

### April 6, 1941

Today is Palm Sunday. It should have been called by some other name. Instead of palms being placed on the road as a sign of peace - all hell broke out instead.

The alarms kept going off. We became angry at the one who sounded the gongs. How could they do this to us when we were supposed to sleep longer, get dressed in our best uniforms, go to church, and as per local custom, promenade the ladies until lunch time.

We found out what the alarms were for, our officer issued a warning of a possible German attack on Yugoslavia.

We re-located in a scattered formation in the bay. The submarine was in "war trim," ready to dive at the first command or sound of claxon.

I was scanning the skyline. I never used binoculars. I felt I had a wider vision without them. At 0710 hours (the time remains indelibly written in my mind). My head remained clear. The brain began sorting out the events now in progress and my actions became automatic. "Planes!" I shouted pointing at the dreaded shapes of Junker 87s flying high which were nosing

(Continued on page 8)

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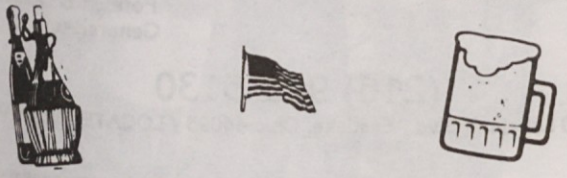
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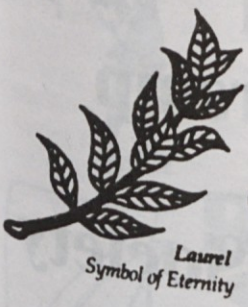
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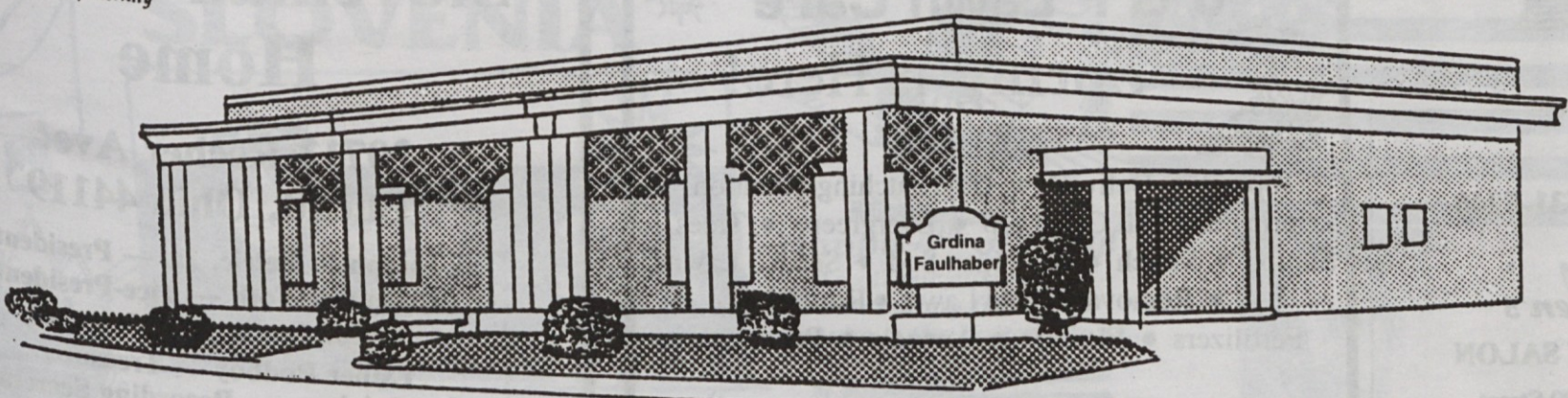
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**\*\*FOURTH OF JULY\*\***

To be independent...to be FREE... is the wish of every human being. United States of America gained its independence in 1776. Slovenia gained its independence 200 plus years later. The freedom was gained by both through a struggle. The birth of both nations could be compared to birth of a child who frees itself of mother's womb. The struggle for independence and with growth associated with it continues for human beings as well as for countries. "America" is still struggling with its independence and the freedoms associated with it. Slovenia is likewise feeling the pangs of birth and will continue to feel the pain for years to come as the old system is being replaced by the new. It will take time and patience. Our beloved "Amerika" is still struggling through its independence 200+years later. It will take generations before "Slovenia" will likewise gain its true freedom. Let the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the bells in every church in Slovenia ring in unison for FREEDOM. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S.A. and SLOVENIA!**

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- "In Unity and Harmony*  
*There is Progress."*



(Photo by Tony Grdina)

Marcie Mills shows the photo of the ship her husband, Bob Mills served on during World War II named Landing Craft Infantry (Large) 758. It saw action in the South Pacific, the Philippines and China. Marcie and Bob visited the ship on Saturday, May 21 in New York City during the former crew's first reunion. It now serves as a sightseeing ship in the Circle Line tour around Manhattan. Bob, a radioman during the war (and, incidentally, still active in the military radio emergency network), says they cut off the top of the ship, but he isn't complaining because all former crewmembers and their guests were given a free 3-hour trip with all spaces open for inspection. Pictured are members of the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans Post 1655, left to right, Ann Lube, Marie Azman, Josie Baskovic, Marcie Mills, and Claire Abriani.

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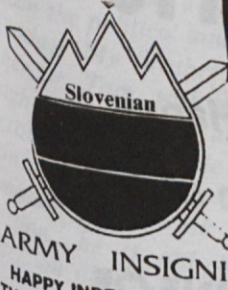
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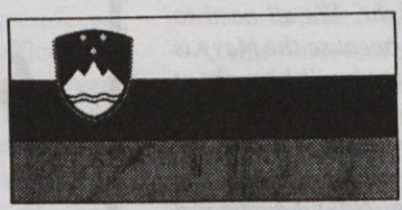
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# The diary of a submariner

(Continued from page 4) toward our cruiser "Dalmacija." The captain, who happened to be looking in the other direction, never queried the call. He swiftly headed for the conning tower pressing the "dive" claxon shouting, "Dive, Dive, Dive" into the control room. Even before I was able to close the hatch I heard the nearby ships open fire.

Whoever executed the extremely acute angled dive was in a hurry to get underwater. The clatter of crockery, eating utensils, spanners, shifters and other tools in the engine room and anything else that was not bolted down, made terrible crashing sounds. My descent into the control room was monkey-like due to the boat's angle - hands hanging onto the ladder, feet trying to find the next rung.

It seemed to me as if I was the only one scared to death; I was trying hard to unravel the numerous "knots of fear" in my stomach.

One day the captain and I were lookouts, scanning the sky when he suddenly shouted, "Planes," pointing toward the mountain of "Trojica" and he started to run toward the conning tower to order the dive. "No," I shouted, "they are eagles. There are four of them. I have been watching them for the last two minutes. He focused the binoculars toward the mountain, turned to me and said, jokingly, "Oko orla, you have the eye of an eagle!" That nick-name stayed with me for a long time.

Twice more we spotted planes. They must have been flying to or from bombing sorties. Whenever sighted,

however, we never waited to discover their plans, we dived immediately.

"Planes!" I shouted at 1350 hours. Four Junkers 87 appeared over the mountain, above the town of Kotor. I heard the nearby ships open fire. I noticed the officer of the watch descending swiftly into the conning tower and already felt the submarine tilting into a diving angle - much steeper than the one this morning. My last look before the descent into the conning tower saw the Stukas in the dive - then something hit me on the head.

I scrambled into the control room with the agility of a circus trapeze artist. Explosions were now close and loud. As I came into the control room I felt, for the first time, that my fear was clearly visible to everyone. They all looked at me strangely, and inside of me I felt ashamed and embarrassed. To conceal my shame I grinned cheerfully and removed my hat. A pool of blood formed on the deck in front of me and I knew then it was not fear they had seen on my face but blood. It flowed from a gash on the side of my head. A small piece of shrapnel was responsible.

While the First Aid Man, Petty Officer Simatovic cut the hair from around the wound, washed and bandaged it, a tremendous explosion, almost like a direct hit shook the submarine, blasting out all lights. I thought, "what will the next one do to us?" Luckily it must have been the last bomb in the bomber's racks. Peace returned once again into the silent world under the sea.

(To Be Continued)



ZLATOPER FAMILY — (from left) Tom, Joe, Ann and Vice Admiral Ronald

## Admiral Zlatoper about the Navy

Vice Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper the U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Personnel spoke in Cleveland on Thursday, April 21 at a gathering sponsored by the Navy League of the United States, Cleveland Council. American Home photographer Tony Grdina was there and asked Admiral Zlatoper for a copy of his speech, which he gladly sent for publication.

Admiral Zlatoper is a native of Cleveland and graduate of St. Joseph High School, class of 1959. During the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations he took command of Carrier Group 7. During his aviation career, he has logged over 4,000 flying hours and 1,000 carrier landings in Navy jet aircraft. Currently he is in charge of all manpower resources, policies, recruitment, assignments and in general the quality of life of every person in the Navy!

It is great to be out of Washington for the day, the city with the greatest internal energy loss in the world. A city that closes down when they see the first flake falling from the sky... and there are a lot of flakes in Washington, let me tell you.

First things first — we're (the Navy) still hiring. You will hear that message at least three times tonight from me, and, as you can see, we have several recruiters with us in the audience tonight. We all need to help them, because the Navy is still hiring and will hire about 56,000 new people this year alone. I want to make missionaries out of each of you this evening. Navy League is a special organization that has an impact on young people,

families, and friends. As recruiting command will tell you, you are centers of influence in your community. So I need each of you to become missionaries for the Navy.

I am proud to be from Cleveland, and so many times I long to return. Always knew that if the Navy career didn't work out I could open up a coffee shop or something here in town. So far have been able to do O.K. and stay out of the restaurant business. And I haven't been this excited in a long time. Not since I sat on my dad's shoulders behind the centerfield fence at Cleveland Stadium and watched Jim Hegan hit a homer when the Indians won the World Series in '48. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of waiting

for next year. Tonight, I'm declaring, with the team ballpark ready, the team ready and this is next year. Let's win the pennant. I'm not a pessimist here. My Indians and Browns are always in title running. And let's bring Bernie home again.

In all seriousness, I don't see a lot of Cleveland every day in our Navy because Cleveland, to me, represents a group of good people who work hard, are honest with you, and not afraid to tell you in the eye and tell it like it is. I say I see a great deal of Cleveland because those are the same characteristics shared by our people in the uniform today. Those

(Continued on page 6)

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# Admiral Zlatoper

(Continued from page 8)

the cold war. Yet, on the other hand, while we are all grateful that we no longer have to worry about World War III, and we seem to have an unlimited opportunity to tackle some of the tough issues that have bedeviled us here at home for years... such rapid change in such a short period of time also presents great challenges. And, the suddenness of change has generated even more chaos and uncertainty in our world today.

For example, while on the one hand, we have an upsurge of democracy in the world, on the other we have the re-emergence of fragmentation, as demonstrated in areas ranging from Somalia to Bosnia. And, while on the one hand, we have developing nations with increasing wealth, on the other we have seen a greater disparity between the "haves" and the "have nots." Much of this chaos has required a military response, of some form, from this nation... and your Navy... most often in conjunction with other nations under the peace-keeping flag of the United Nations.

Here is the common theme... in each of these difficult situations, it has been your Navy called to the fore... It has been the nearly 500,000 men and women of the Navy who have made a difference during very difficult, challenging and changing times.

At the same time, the Navy has been reduced significantly in size, going from nearly 600 ships less than five years ago to about 450 today. In fact, this year alone, the Navy will decommission or disestablish 115 ships, submarines or aircraft squadrons. For perspective, that reduction is equivalent to the size of the third largest Navy in the world today. By the end of the decade, your Navy will number about 330 ships.

And while the Navy is smaller in relative numbers, the Navy's traditional operating tempo of approximately 40% of our units underway, with almost 180,000 sailors at sea, and more than 20% on extended deployment, has not changed. The Navy must now cover more than one geographic area with each deploying group, through a form of time-sharing, rather than guaranteeing unbroken presence in all regions.

Obviously these changes are not risk free. It requires our area, or unified commanders, to know that we may be farther away from a crisis when it first breaks out, and we lack some of our traditional surge capability that we had in the past.

And so, while the maintenance of 12 aircraft carriers is not an insignificant bit of pocket change, it is a very valuable investment in military readiness and world peace. Twelve carriers is also a reasonable number of these capable ships, about the minimum the Navy needs to

maintain deployment and operational flexibility.

When I worked for Caspar Weinberger, as his Military Assistant from 1983 to 1985, his first question during a crisis situation was, "Do we have carriers in the area?" If I found out this was not the case, his second question invariably was, "How long will it take to get carriers over there?" The carrier is the first choice of national leadership during crisis situations, and because we can get as much as 50 years service from each of these carriers, I also believe they are unbeatable investments.

Aircraft carriers and Marines have traditionally served as our nation's primary means of affecting world events. And these are far more than just floating air fields or armies. In fact, they are a part of America our President can move where need be... whenever required... without any other nation's permission or need for landing rights.

Notwithstanding the opinions of some of our more boisterous and at times, thoughtless, critics, the Navy is manned by crews of quality and dedicated people. The sailor of today represents a cross-section of this nation's finest.

And what are these sailors doing today... right now? The cover story article in U.S. News and World Report in late February — entitled, "The Big, Mean War Machine" covers the six-month deployment of the carrier USS America... from tearful goodbye to welcome home hugs on the pier. I recommend the article to each of you. It tells an amazing story of professionalism.

But maybe it was the quote of a 21-year-old electronics tech aboard another carrier — USS Saratoga — off Bosnia today — that sums up the performance, pride and spirit of the American sailor. He said to a visiting reporter, "The Saratoga just stepped in and said, 'Get out' and helped calm things down. It feels good to be promoting peace, saving lives and stopping a war." As you can see on the evening news, this presence of an aircraft carrier continues today.

Let me cite a few additional stories for you...

Like off the coast of Mombasa, Kenya, last week... when the USS Pelelu flew 330 of their Marines ashore to Burundi in Africa. Those Marines went in to evacuate American citizens in Rwanda after the recent drastic and terrible escalation of violence in that country left thousands dead. This group of Marines and supporting Naval forces pulled the whole operation off without a hitch.

At this time, more than 2,500 sailors and Marines are teaming up with Kuwaiti and British service people in exercise Native Fury 94. This is the largest Naval exercise ever conducted in Kuwait, demonstrating international

resolve to support peace in that region, lest Iraq question our resolve in Southeast Asia.

During that same week, last week, the Chief of Naval Operations awarded five Navy Seals the Silver Star... awarded for their gallantry during combat actions in Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993. These five men were part of a task force that went in to rescue, under fire, some of the 80 Army Rangers who were wounded during a United Nations operation that resulted in the death of 18 of their fellow soldiers. That courageous ac-

tion... just another day of service for the sailors in your Navy.

Many fellow Americans don't think often of Desert Storm and the war against Iraq any more. Not for your Navy. They are still there well performing their mission. Just two weeks ago the Navy intercepted the 20,000th — the 20,000th ship since the sanctions were put into place in August 1990.

Think about the individuals who serve in the Navy. The sailors of the Navy are the superstars of this nation.



## Separation of Church and State is not in Constitution

Did you know that the phrase "separation of church and state" is NOT found anywhere in the U.S. Constitution and that it did not originate in an official document of the United States? In regard to religion, the First Amendment of the Constitution merely states:

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."*

The phrase "separation of church and state" was taken from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptists in 1802, 13 years after the constitution was ratified. He was addressing their concern about a rumor that the federal government wanted to establish a national denomination, the situation they had just escaped in England. Jefferson reassured them by explaining that the first amendment had erected a "wall of separation" between church and state. However, he also assured them that the wall was a one-directional wall, its sole purpose being to protect the Christian religion from government, *not* to keep Christian principles out of government.

This understanding has been confirmed by Supreme Court rulings, in which the justices

openly affirmed Christian principles as the basis of civil law and called the United States a "Christian nation." To understand the true meaning of "separation of church and state," consider the 1878 *Reynolds v. United States* case, the first case that appealed to Jefferson's 1802 letter. In his book, *The Myth of Separation*, David Barton summarizes the case:

... The Mormons claimed that the First Amendment's "free exercise of religion" promise and the "separation of church and state" principle should keep the United States government from making laws prohibiting their "religious" exercise of polygamy. Using Jefferson's address, the Court showed that while the government was not free to interfere with opinions on religion, which is what frequently distinguishes one denomination from another, it was responsible to enforce civil laws according to general Christian standards. In other words, separation of church and state pertained to denominational differences not to basic Christian principles. Therefore, and on that basis, the Court rules that the Mormon practice of polygamy and bigamy was a violation of the Constitution because it was a (Continues on page 14)

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American Home photographer Tony Grdina (left) and Tony DeLuca and Fabian were the bridge communications section of LCI 648. The two Tony's are signalmen and Fabian is the quartermaster (steers the ship). Grdina hasn't changed a bit in all these 50 years.

## Tofant jumped on D-day

Cleveland resident Bill Tofant was invited to participate in the June 6th jump this month into France for veteran paratroopers, but, regrettably, had to decline due to age infirmities even though he runs and is enrolled in a fitness program at the YMCA.

Bill was on the 6th place headed into Normandy on June 6th, 1944 (D-Day).

He recalls, "In this jump I was unscathed, but in the Holland jump, I got hit, getting a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star."

Bill met General Eisenhower while in Europe and had a picture taken with him. As president, when Eisenhower stopped over in Cleveland for a visit, he talked with Tofant about their brief encounter and signed Bill's photos.



Ferdinand Zele served in the U.S. Marine Air Corps in World War I (1917). He was stationed in Pensacola Naval Air Base in Florida, U.S.A. He was born in Slovenia near the town of Postojna, a province of Notranjsko, southwestern part of Slovenia. — Ferdinand died in 1919. Our American-born Zele Family are proud relatives of this late and great pioneer Slovenian aviator.



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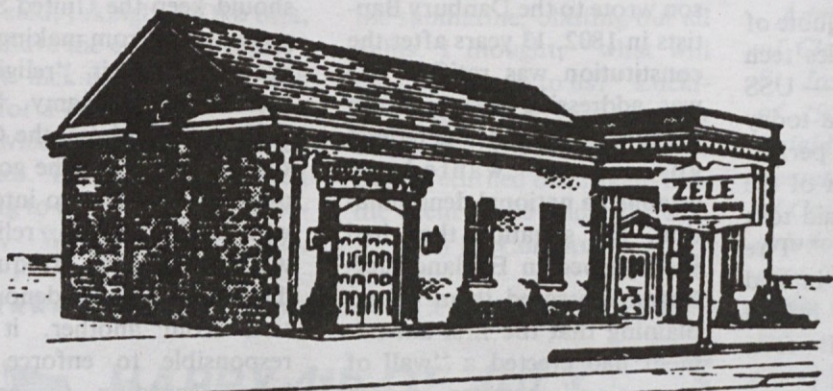
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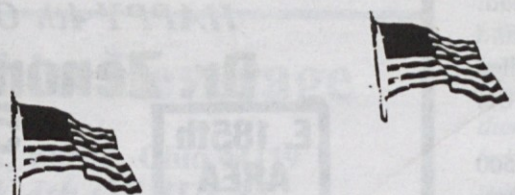
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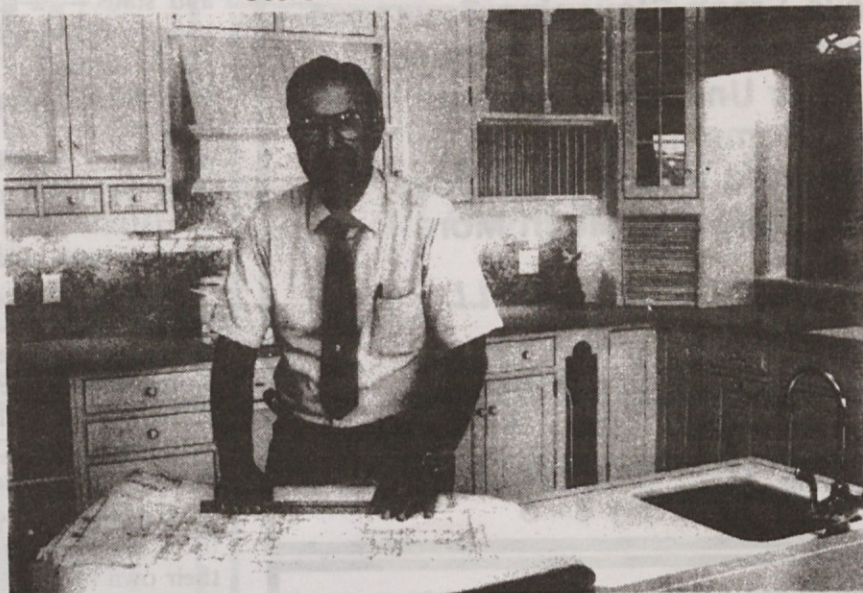
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| Rev. Gallagher, Thomas  | * Mills, Robert W. Sr. | Stromsky, Louis          |
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| * Grdina, Anthony W.    | Mismas, Joseph         | Trebar, Louis            |
| * Grdina, Jerry J.      | Monroe, William T.     | Tulloch, Thomas A.       |
| * Grdina, Joseph        | Mott, Richard J.       | Turk, Edmund J.          |
| Grum, Edward            | * Nousak, Matthew F.   | Turk, Elmer              |
| Hrovat, Raymond J.      | Novak, Joseph Z.       | Whitbread, George        |
| Jakomin, Joseph         | Novak, Robert A.       | Yarts, Robert A.         |
| Janas, Thaddeus F.      | * Novsak, Louis J.     | Zak, Theodore            |
| Jasko, Raymond K.       | Ogrinc, Lawrence MD    | Zitko, Frank A.          |
| Rev. Jerse, William M.  | Okorn, Joseph A., Jr.  | * Denotes Charter Member |
| Jezerinac, Joseph       | * Orehek, Albin        |                          |
| Kern, Frank E.          | Osenar, Peter R.       |                          |
| Kerzisknik, John V.     | Paul, Michael G.       |                          |

### MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1. A person who is both an American citizen and a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States of America as herein defined is eligible for membership in the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc. An applicant shall be a member of the Catholic Church, as defined in Section 2; enlisted, drafted, inducted, or commissioned into any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, including its Reserve and National Guard components, and the U.S. Merchant Marines, provided that such applicant who has served in the U.S. Merchant Marines served at least 90 days between December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, including service in the U.S. Army Transport Service of the Naval Transport Service, and who has served at least 90 days on active duty and who now has a discharge under honorable conditions or is eligible therefor. An individual who has served less than 90 days but was discharged because of a disability incurred during the line of duty is eligible. A person who is on active duty and assigned to any branch of the U. S. Armed Forces, including its Reserve of National Guard components, shall be admitted to membership.

### CONGRESSIONAL CHARTERED

On August 17, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-382 granting a Congressional Charter to the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc. We are the 59th Group to receive a Federal Charter and significantly—the first and only Catholic organization to be honored with such recognition by the Members of Congress.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America

I am an American citizen, a Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church, and have served in the United States—Army, Navy, Marine Corp., Coast Guard and/or Air Force for at least 90 days active duty or served less than 90 days because of a disability incurred in the line of duty. I possess a discharge under honorable condition and/or I am currently on active duty.

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Please print or type NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE DISCHARGED \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF DISCHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership dues are \$15.00. Membership is offered on a fiscal year basis, from October 1 to the following September 30. Your membership dues include a subscription to "The Catholic War Veteran" newspaper.

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**Stanley I. Zupancic**

*killed in action June 26, 1944  
Heavy are our hearts today  
Memory brings you back once more  
to the time when you were with us  
To the happy days yore.*

Sadly missed by:  
Brothers Frank and Henry  
and Mary (sister-in-law)  
Nieces, Noreen, Cheryl and Cynthia  
and their husbands, John DeSantis  
Robert Balish and Dennis Valencic  
and their 7 children

Cleveland, Ohio 30. June, 1944

**Constitution...**

(Continued from page 9)

violation of basic Christian principles.

Barton explains that the Court began taking Jefferson's phrase out of context in the 1947 *Everson v. Board of Education* case, in which it "announced for the first time the new meaning of church and state — a separation of basic religious principles from public arenas" (*The Myth of Separation*). In other words, the Court reversed the primary purpose of the First Amendment (which was to protect the Christian Church from Government) and redefined "Church" to mean any "religious" activity (including deference to widely accepted morals). Thus the Court and many others (the ACLU, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, etc.) have set aside history and 150 years of legal precedent to suit their purposes and promote their own beliefs.

Many people claim that it is our constitutional obligation to remove all religion from the public forum. But in actuality, there is an organized movement in our nation to replace the God-centered, Judeo-Christian foundation of our Constitution with another one: Humanism, the man-centered ideology declared in the *Humanist Manifesto* and by our Supreme Court (in 1961) to be a "religion."

The fact is that general religious principles cannot be divorced from human activity, private OR public. One's priorities and choices are rooted in what one believes about: *the origin of the cosmos and the origin of life, the nature of God, the nature of man and his place in the cosmos, the origin and purpose of civil government and law, etc.*

(To Be Continued)

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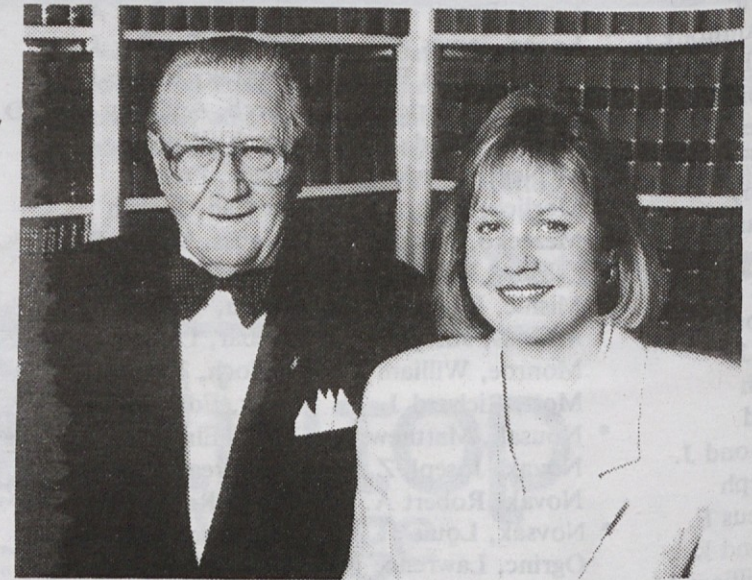
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July**



**Paul J. Hribar  
Joyce Ann Hribar**  
Attorneys at Law

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# Slovenia

(Continued from page 1)

by the Yugoslav army. Like the pains of birth which everyone of us produces, Slovenia began its life vulnerable but with determination.

Like expectant fathers, many of us waited anxiously for Slovenia to break away from its oppressive yoke and become self-supportive.

And as Slovenian mothers are likely to do, there were many of us in the United States and Canada who took action in any way we could to urge our country to recognize Slovenia. Like those in the American Revolution of 200+ years ago, we fought the good battle here and were eventually victorious!

Slovenia fought desperately and won its independence; other countries recognized the sibling, and now we proudly watch and admire Slovenia's ascent into economic prosperity and the adulthood of eventual admission into the United Nations of the world. We pray and anxiously watch Slovenia's deliberate progress toward full-fledged independence and liberty that freedom alone can produce!

## Freedom

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves...."

—Abraham Lincoln

## D-Day beginning of end of war in Europe

On D-Day, June 6, 1944 — American, Canadian and British forces based in southern England launched a massive military campaign to conquer a continent kept captive by Adolf Hitler, the most notorious dictator of modern times. Their initial target was Normandy, a pastoral springboard to all of France, and it was on five beaches between Le Havre and Cherbourg that thousands of fighting men of the Allied forces fought against well-equipped German

placements. Many died or were wounded during the first 8 hours after landing craft disgorged them in the face of merciless enemy fire. Though pinned down, Allied forces finally broke through and began the long battle that ended less than a year later with Germany's surrender — and V-E Day. The intricately planned invasion is the story of secret meetings in country manor houses, deceptions to confuse enemy intelligence, night-and-day training of foot soldiers, endless aerial reconnaissance, transatlantic phone calls between 10 Downing Street and the White House — all in the cause of marshalling the largest invading force of men and material ever assembled in history.



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