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**IMMF      \*\*\*      MIDWAY SENTINEL      \*\*\*      IMMF**

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**“DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY”**

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## **MIDWAY’S FATE LIES IN THE BALANCE**

The fate of Midway lies in the balance as negotiations between the Director of USFWS Aurelia Skipwith and Deputy Director of USFWS Bryan Arroyo and the International Midway Memorial Foundation (IMMF) continue. The first meeting was held with Bryan Arroyo on Friday October 29, 2020. Mr. Arroyo expressed a desire to hold further discussions with the IMMF to see if how both parties could work together. The IMMF informed Mr. Arroyo that our intention was for the Atoll be governed by the private sector, establish the return of public visitation return to the islands and that the IMMF would govern the island with Midway’s operations being run by the private sector. The meeting ended with the agreement to have further meetings. A conference phone call to discuss Midway includes Aurelia Skipwith, Director of USFWS Byran Arroyo. Deputy Director of FWS, James Noone, USNR (Ret.) and lawyer, Dr. William Dudley, former Director the then of Naval Historic Center and myself at 11:00 a.m. on Friday December11

### **USFWS RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY THE IMMF TO WHETHER ANY MORE BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURED WERE BEING CONSIDERED FOR DESTRUCTION BY THE AGENCY:**

The response came from Dr. Jared Underwood Superintendent of Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument that they would like to remove Bachelor’s Officer’s Enlisted Quarters Charlie (BEQ –Charlie 3503) and Bachelor’s Enlisted Quarters Delta (BEQ-Delta 3504),

as well as Bachelor Officers Bravo (BOQ Bravo 4203). The IMMF informed Dr. Underwood that action would preclude any possibility of restoring public visitation to Midway because sleeping quarters for the visitors would be a prerequisite for the return of public visitation. Dr. Underwood has requested that he would be interested in talking with the foundation in the first week in 2001 to discuss how FWS and the IMMF have together in the past and how we can work together in the future. The foundation is attempting to do just that.

### **NEWEST MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Joseph Sandlin is the newest member appointed to the IMMF's active board of Trustees. His resume is as follows: In 2003 an emergency phone call was made by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003 to Joseph Sandlin, Captain of a Kauai-based Gulfstream Jet to fly from Honolulu to Henderson Field on Sand Island in the Midway Atoll.

His aviation experience began 47 years ago as a private pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Wing. Since that time, he has successfully launched, managed and owned several aviation businesses. These businesses cover the complete spectrum of the Aerospace industry. He has served in roles as diverse as they are impressive; from the position of President of the Regional Recreational Airline to his work as a Government Researcher in the development of the Airborne Environmental Decision Making Platform Software (AEDMP), a C-130 Transport aircraft and NASA Remote Sensors with NOAA Prediction Software for Real-Time Disaster Response. He was the Principle Investigator for the South Padre Island Remote Sensing and GIS Lab in the early 1990's on a grant from the Stennis Space Center. On Kauai, he served as Chief Pilot, Hawaii Helicopters.

Mr. Sandlin also designed and constructed a private airport in 1985, headquarters for a Helicopter Medical Emergency Program and Aerial Film Production Company. In 2019 he served as Executive Producer of a short film TV Smuggler) on aviation history and Air Operations Safety Officer, a D&B Risk Management contract his veteran owned small business provided. Long term memberships : NBAA, U.S. State Department/ MRC, Washington State Emergency Worker. A USCG Certified Captain, currently a Submarine student pilot living in Kirkland, Washington. His team has been involved on a Midway Surplus YYB tug sales and a ghost fishing net cleanup.

### **GLENN MILLER PROJECT**

The Glenn Miller Project is on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will resume after the virus settles down.

**Chris and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**\*\*\* New Address:**

**IMMF  
1918 Petunia Terrace  
Bradenton, FL 34212**

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

**JIM  
CHRIS SIMS**

**PHONE:  
941-5675415**

**EMAIL:  
[IMMF1942@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IMMF1942@GMAIL.COM)**

**WEB SITE:  
[WWW.IMMF-MIDWAY.COM](http://WWW.IMMF-MIDWAY.COM)**

