



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project
Sea Scout Ship 5544
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Tel: 800/ 694-7161 E: redbarn2@earthlink.net



HERITAGE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Preservation of Historic VietNam War PT Boat

WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE VIETNAM WAR PT BOAT, 'PATROL TORPEDO FAST # 3'. WE ARE PREPARING THIS YEAR'S APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, LETTERS EXPRESSING YOU SUPPORT FOR FUNDING THE RESTORATION OF THIS HISTORIC NAVAL VESSEL. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO SHOW THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BUREAU OF FLORIDA, THAT THERE IS A PUBLIC NEED TO PRESERVE 'PATROL TORPEDO FAST # 3.'

OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS WE HAVE MOVED STEADILY UP IN RANKING UNTIL LAST YEAR, WHEN INEXPLICABLY WE WERE DROPPED FROM OUR PREVIOUS POSITION OF # 59 TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST TO POSITION # 114. MANY ATTRIBUTE THIS EVENT TO THE VIETNAM WAR CONTROVERSY THAT OCCURRED DURING THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTION, OPENING OLD WOUNDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE.

WE MUST MOVE PAST THIS AND REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS, AND FOCUS ON THE TRUE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT. THE BOYS AND GIRLS WHO WILL MAKE UP THE TRAINING CREW THAT WILL MAN THE DECKS OF THE RESTORED PT BOAT. MEMBERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, SEA SCOUT PROGRAM AND THE U.S. NAVY LEAGUE, SEA CADET PROGRAM WILL FORM THE CORE OF THE 'HERITAGE AND YOUTH PROGRAM'. THE BOAT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO YOUTH GROUPS.

THE HISTORY THAT THIS 80 ft. PT BOAT HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH IS TRULY REMARKABLE AND DESERVES THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO PRESERVE THIS VESSEL.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY SIGNED A SPECIAL ORDER TRANSFERRING PTF 3 FROM THE NORWEGIAN NAVY TO THE U.S. NAVY, OVER STEPPING THE BUY AMERICA ACT. AND PERSONALLY VISITED THE BOAT ON IT'S ARRIVAL AT LITTLE CREEK, VA.

PTF 3 IS THE ONLY SURVIVING PTF BOAT THAT EVER CARRIED TORPEDO TUBES, WHICH HARKENS BACK TO THE WORLD WAR 2 PT BOATS USED BY KENNEDY.

PTF 3 WAS THE FIRST WOODEN PT BOAT PLACED IN SERVICE SINCE WW 2.

THE FIRST PT BOAT IN VIETNAM. SERVING AS A COVERT SPOOK BOAT BASED AT CAMP FAY, DANANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

PTF 3 WAS THE LEAD PT BOAT IN THE RAID AGAINST HON MIE ISLAND, WHICH GENERATED THE TONKIN GULF INCIDENT, IT WAS PTF 3 WITH 3 OTHER PTF BOATS THAT WERE BEING CHASED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHEN THEY BLUNDERED INTO THE U.S.S TURNER JOY, ESCALATING THE CIVIL WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO THE VIETNAM WAR.

PTF 3 WAS INVOLVED IN THE PARADISE ISLAND DIS-INFORMATION PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE PROJECT, CAPTURING NORTH VIETNAMESE AND RE-INDOCTRINATING THEM AND THEN RE-INSERTING THEM BACK INTO NORTH VIETNAM AS COVERT AGENTS, TYING UP SEVERAL NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY DIVISIONS CHASING A PHANTOM GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.

PTF 3 WAS INVOLVED IN MANY SPOOK MISSIONS INSERTING U.S. NAVY SEAL TEAMS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE SEA COMMANDO INTO NORTH VIETNAM.

PTF 3 WAS SUNK DURING A TYPHOON IN 1971, THEN RAISED, SENT TO THE PHILLIPINES TO BE REBUILT, AND THEN RETURNED TO SERVICE IN VIETNAM SERVING FOR DURATION OF THE WAR.

PTF 3 FINISHED HER NAVAL SERVICE OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. NAVY TECHNICAL DIVE SCHOOL IN KEY WEST, FL. PAINTED WHITE WITH A CIVILIAN NAME ON HER STERN, PTF 3 CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AS A 'SPOOK BOAT' COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE AND RUNNING GUNS TO CUBA. SHE WAS RETIRED FROM SERVICE IN 1977 AND SOLD FOR SCRAP IN 1978.

AS A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM, PTF 3 WILL HONOR THE SERVICE OF ALL VETERANS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PT BOAT SAILORS OF VIETNAM AND WORLD WAR 2. THIS BOAT WILL BE KEEP ALIVE BY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS THAT WILL OPERATE HER.

WE NEED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION. THE LETTERS THEN NEED TO BE MAILED TO OUR ADDRESS SO THAT THEY CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION PACKAGE. PLEASE DO NOT SEND THE LETTERS DIRECTLY TO THE BUREAU AS THE LETTERS MAY NOT JOIN UP WITH THE APPLICATION PACKAGE. THE APPLICATION IS DUE ON 31 MAY 2005. WE NEED YOUR LETTERS RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ADDRESS LETTER TO:

DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
C/O BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GRANTS AND EDUCATION SECTION
500 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0250

SEND LETTER TO:

BOY SCOUT TROOP 544
PTF 3 RESTORATION PROJECT
P.O. BOX 740789
ORANGE CITY, FL 32774-0789

WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

SINCERELY,



ROBERT MCCRAY
TROOP COMMITTEE

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