



# THE CHINA LAKER

**Special points of interest:**

- Who was VADM Smith
- President Eisenhower
- Public Relations Corner

Newsletter Editor - Betty Moody

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## WHO WAS: VADM LEVERING 'ROSIE' SMITH by Jack Latimer

Early Years to World War II. VADM Levering Smith was the man largely responsible for the continuing success of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile program, the Polaris-Poseidon-Trident program. He was born in Joplin, Missouri on March 5, 1910. Because of his wavy red hair he acquired the nickname "Rosie."



After graduating from high school, he was appointed to the Naval Academy. Graduating 1932, he served aboard surface ships in a variety of general line assignments and then completed a postgraduate course in ordnance

engineering in 1940. During World War II he participated in eleven major campaigns, surviving the sinking of the *USS Hornet* (CV-8) in the battle of the Santa Cruz Islands on October 26, 1942 and the sinking of *USS Northampton* (CA-26) in the battle of Tassafaronga in November 30, 1942.

From the Bureau of Ordnance to NOTS. In 1944 Smith was assigned to the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance (BuOrd), beginning his career to become one of the nation's top technical experts in

explosives, propellants, ballistic missiles, and nuclear weaponry. He began directing programs in propellant development for guns and rockets and thus developed relationships with NOTS Inyokern because of its role in rocket development. NOTS' Technical Director, Dr. L. T. E. Thompson, took an interest in Smith and encouraged him to come to NOTS. He accepted Thompson's offer and arrived at Inyokern in September 1947 and spent seven years at NOTS. Thompson appointed Smith as deputy to Dr. Bruce Sage, head of the Explosives Department. When Sage left NOTS, Smith became the Explosives Department Head, and because of his knowledge of explosives (con't page 2)

## President's Message

The CLMF Annual Membership Meeting was held Sept 26 in conjunction with the Grand Re-Opening of our Gift



Shop. We hope you received a letter in the mail about this event, please let us know if you are a Member and did not at 760-939-3530. It was a fun social, well attended, and we had a banner sales day at our Gift Shop with the special 50% discount

offer! A status presentation of our Building Project was given to the Planning Commission by Laura Hickle, our volunteer grant writer, and was nicely reported in the 8/28/15 Daily Independent. Feedback (con't page 6)

## WHO WAS: LEVERING 'ROSIE' SMITH

(con't from page 1)

and propellants and his management abilities, he was later appointed to Associate Technical Director, the only military officer to hold such an appointment.

### To White Sands and Beyond.

After his assignment at NOTS, Smith was assigned as head of the Explosive Department at the Naval Ordnance Missile Test Facility at White Sands, NM, where he also served as Navy deputy to the commanding general. Following a 1955 National Security Council recommendation that part of the U.S. intermediate range ballistic missile force be sea-based, the Navy joined with the Army in a program to deploy ballistic missiles on ships. Rear Admiral William F. "Red" Raborn, director of the Navy's new Special Projects Office, drafted Smith from White Sands to lead this work because of his expertise on rockets and solid propellants. This was the beginning of a task that produced one of the nation's most convincing and effective of its strategic deterrent weapon systems—Ballistic Missile Submarines. Smith believed that once the United States and the Soviet Union had invulnerable retaliatory missiles under the sea, neither would tip the balance of terror by attacking the other in a surprise first strike. Rear Admiral Robert Wertheim (USN, retired), the Technical Director of the Special Projects Office, said of Smith, "Throughout the development of the Polaris family of weapons, the transition to the more potent Poseidon and the conceptual exploration that led to the present Trident system, Levering Smith led either the technical team or the entire program. Thus he contributed over twenty years of intelligent leadership, utilizing the combined assets of the country from our universities, government labs, and industry." For his extraordinary

support to the British Navy's team on the ballistic missile program, Smith was "knighted" by Queen Elisabeth making him "Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire."

Trouble at NOTS. A curious side note to Smith's career, documented in several of the references listed below this article, is that he was promoted to Rear Admiral directly by President John F. Kennedy. What was that about? Here's the rest of the story, perhaps published for the first time. And it takes us back to Smith's time at NOTS Inyokern. In his role as Associate Technical Director he attended meetings of the upper civilian management team. At the time, the Commanding Officer of NOTS, Captain W. V. R. Viewig, USN, was having some serious differences of opinion with the new NOTS Technical Director, Dr. Frederick W. Brown, as to how the base should be managed. Viewig ordered Smith to report back to him on what was being said in the civilian management team's meetings. Smith refused to spy on the civilian team because of his inner integrity and the trust he had established with the team. Accordingly, he was given a poor fitness report for "refusing to obey a direct order." This negative report in his personnel file proved later to be a problem when he should have been promoted by the Navy's flag selection committee to Rear Admiral consistent with his responsibilities in the Special Projects Office. A frustrated Secretary of the Navy, John B. Connally, finally took Smith to a meeting with President John F. Kennedy, and explained his problem in getting Smith promoted. Reportedly President Kennedy, after listening to the story, said words to the effect, "the last time I looked I am still the

Commander-in-Chief of the military," and promoted Smith on the spot. A good friend and neighbor of Smith's when he lived at China Lake passed on this story, because he did not want the story to go untold. Smith went on to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral, and collected numerous honors from both his Navy and civilian colleagues. Three times he was awarded the highest Navy award for noncombat service, the Distinguished Service Medal, and he collected other honors, almost too numerous to count. Smith passed away in San Diego on April 5, 1993 at the age of 83.

### References

1. *Magnificent Mavericks, History of the Navy at China Lake, California*, Vol. 3 by Elizabeth Babcock, p. 10-14.

2. *Levering Smith, 1910-1993. Memorial Tributes: National Academy of Engineering*, Vol. 7, p.215

*Vice Admiral Levering Smith, USN (Ret). The Navy's Ordnance Engineering Duty Only (OEDO) Specialist Admiral Sir Levering Smith, KBE.* <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=634892>

1. *Levering "Rosie" Smith. Genealogy Profile:* <http://www.geni.com/people/Levering-Smith/4341635>

## PUBLIC RELATIONS CORNER



By Dr.  
Anthony  
(Tony)  
Damiano,

I was on KZGN Television Station last Wednesday talking about the China Lake Museum Foundation. The KZGN telecasts reach about 8,000 of the 10,000 plus households and internet streaming video in Ridgecrest. I discussed our intention to have a 2,888 square foot presence in Ridgecrest by mid-2016. In the next two years, with sufficient commitment of funds, we plan to expand to a 10,000-foot building before the 2018 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China Lake existence. We are then planning for an additional 15,000 square foot for displays and storage. I asked all former and present employees of China Lake to help bring the museum off base and show our history of technology that benefits the Warfighter and commercial industry through technology transfer.

I am sending requests to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Membership to consider donating \$10 to our cause. There are 3.7 million members of both organizations. We need 500,000 to contribute to have money to go right into building our 25,000 square foot

building. The China Lake Museum web site was posted for Veteran's contributions by Bill Webster.

Bob Peoples, Ray Hocker, and Rick Bruckman are working on a promotional video about China Lake activities in weapon and technology development. This is a great project that Bob suggested; he is pushing forward as a new advertising tool. I believe this video will help us tell our story. Additionally, Bob has arranged for China Lake Museum to be advertised in *Scenic 395*. The *Scenic 395* Magazine is distributed statewide and presents the museums and towns between Mojave and Bridgeport. The China Lake Museum and Ridgecrest is shown on pages 11 through 13.

We all need to spread the word locally. Fund raising must be on everyone's mind for us to move forward and build our facility off Base on County land. Let us have a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in our new Museum with pride and enthusiasm in something that will make our predecessors from the 1940's forward remembered for sacrifices they made to arm our Nation's Warfighter.

I want to personally thank Bob Peoples for his hard work and friendship during our transition from jobs supporting the China Lake Museum Foundation. Bob

has offered to advise me throughout my tenure as your new public relations representative.



By Mary  
Lattig,  
Gift Shop  
Manager

### Gift Shop Re-designed

Stop in and check out our newly redesigned gift shop. New merchandise is arriving daily. We have new infant wear, new toys, new books, new t-shirts for all ages including hoodies, and new ornaments with a Navy theme. Lots of merchandise is marked down to half off to reduce the inventory including polos, t-shirts, and glassware. New glassware is coming. Start your holiday shopping now with our great steals and deals as well as new items. We are open daily, 10 am to 4 pm, except Sunday.



## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SUPPORT

For

Dwight D Eisenhower

1953 -1961



Conflicts

Korean War & Cold War

### Major Contributions of the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS):

**Problem:** The Navy issued a requirement to replace the fixed-fin 5" **Holy Moses** with a rocket that would have folding fins and could be fired from a launch pod holding four rockets for air-to-air and air-to-ground engagements.

**Solution:** NOTS designed, tested and fielded the 5" **Zuni** high-performance rocket, which can be launched at speeds up to mach 1.2. Literally millions of these rockets have been fired in combat and are still in use today more than 60 years after introduction. The rockets are modular in that they can be fitted with different warheads depending on the targets engaged (fragmentation, antitank, anti personnel, flares, smoke, and chaff). Recent industrial activity is exploring putting a laser guidance system in the Zuni rockets.

**Problem:** Unguided rockets never proved very useful in shooting down enemy aircraft, primarily because the target aircraft could maneuver, whereas the rocket essentially went straight influenced only by gravity and wind forces. A rocket was needed that could follow a maneuvering aircraft.

**Solution:** NOTS designed and developed the **Sidewinder** guided missile that would home on the heat produced by the target aircraft's exhaust and therefore could follow a maneuvering target. Sidewinder, much modified, is still in use today nearly 70 years after Fleet introduction and is considered the most effective short-range air-to-air guided missile in the world. Its inventor, Dr. Wm. McLean, received a \$25,000 award for his invention, a President's Award for Distinguished Federal Service and has a Navy ship, T-AKE-12 *USNS William McLean*, named in his honor.

**Problem:** In response to a growing Soviet nuclear threat, a requirement for a submarine-launched ballistic missile was issued. Existing ballistic missiles were too large and heavy, and their liquid fuel was too toxic to be carried by submarines.

**Solution:** NOTS, working with the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance, developed the concept for a small solid-fueled rocket motor to launch a ballistic missile from a submerged submarine. The concept that emerged from prototype testing was the **Polaris** missile. NOTS conducted successful launch tests proving the concept of underwater launching. Overall, the Polaris work conducted by NOTS was one of the most significant accomplishments in Fleet Ballistic Missile support. China Lake continues to support Fleet Ballistic Missiles with testing of production line Poseidon and now Trident ballistic missile rocket motors.

**Problem:** In 1954, immediately after the Korean War, the People's Republic of China initiated hostilities against the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan with a series of battles over some islands in the Taiwan Straits.

**Solution:** The US responded to a Taiwanese request for aid under a mutual defense treaty. In a secret effort called "**Operation Black Magic**," the US Navy modified some F-86 Sabre jets to carry the newly operational Sidewinder missile and, in an air-to-air battle in September 1958 between 32 Nationalistic Chinese F-86s and 100 Red Chinese MiG fighters, several MiGs were shot down in a series of engagements. This gave the Taiwanese a decisive edge over the Red Chinese, ended Red Chinese domination of the airspace over the Taiwan Strait between the two nations, and decreased hostilities. This was the first operational use of Sidewinder.



# Eisenhower Timeline References

(con't from page 4)

## Problem 1: Zuni

1. NOTS TS 2013 080: 70 Years at China Lake Timeline Chart: "5.0 Inch FFAR Zuni development completed" (1956-1957)
2. *Arming the Fleet 1943-2011*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition; p. 50
3. History of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California Volume 2; *The Grand Experiment at Inyokern*; p. 297
4. *Magnificent Mavericks*, History of the Navy at China Lake, CA. Volume 3: p.379-384

Laser-Guided Zuni: <http://mbdinc.com/laser-guided-zuni-rocket/>

## Problem 2: Sidewinder

1. NOTS TS 2013 080: 70 Years at China Lake Timeline Chart: "Sidewinder 1 (AIM-9A) became operational. (1955-1956). "Sidewinder -1A(AIM-9B) released to fleet": (1956-1957).
2. *Arming the Fleet 1943-2011*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition; p.39
3. *Magnificent Mavericks*, History of the Navy at China Lake, CA. Volume 3: Chapter 15.

*Sidewinder, Creative Missile Development at China Lake*, by Ron Westrum, Naval Institute Press

## Problem 3: Polaris

1. TS 2013 080: 70 Years at China Lake Timeline Chart: "Studies begun to provide sea-based deterrence (Polaris Studies)," (1954)
2. *Arming the Fleet 1943-2011*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition; p.57

*Magnificent Mavericks*, History of the Navy at China Lake, CA. Volume 3: p. 358

## Problem 4: First tactical use of Sidewinder.

TS 2013 080: 70 Years at China Lake Timeline Chart: "Sidewinder first used in combat September 24, 1958 (by Nationalist Chinese)—first successful use of an air-to-air missile." 1958

## Spotlight: Annual Business Membership in CLMF

### BUSINESS \$1000

AltaOne Federal Credit Union  
Coldwell Banker Best Realty  
Jacobs Naval Systems Group  
Raytheon Company  
The Boeing Company

### BUSINESS SPONSOR \$500

The Swap Sheet  
Warren's Automotive

### BUSINESS CONTRIBUTOR \$100

Ashley Furniture Homestore  
Cosner-Neipp Corporation  
Daily Independent  
Desert Valley Federal Credit Union  
Electric Motor Works, Inc  
IWV Insurance Agency  
Lone Star Aerospace  
McDonald's

(Continued)

Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitor Bureau  
Ridgecrest Automotive, LLC  
SpringHill Suites and Hampton Inn  
Tax Time Services, Inc  
TOSS and Service Master  
Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones Investments



Member Agency 13086

Combined Federal Campaign

The newsletter is sent via USPS.

If you wish to receive the quarterly newsletter via email, please call (760)939-3530 or email us at [chinalakemuseum@mediacombb.net](mailto:chinalakemuseum@mediacombb.net). Place "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line.

### FOUNDERS PROGRAM NEW MEMBERS

### BENEFACTORS

Minnie and Ray Miller

### FOUNDERS

Elsa and George Hennings

# President's Message

(con't from page 1)

received so far from participants in our Founder Program, our current fundraising campaign for the new building, has been mostly positive with all but two reconfirming their pledge for the new plan to build adjacent to Maturango Museum. We fully expect to be relocated by Fall of 2016 at our new location in Ridgecrest with a modest presence, without having to use any Founders Campaign funds.

From there, we will inform, educate, and redirect people to the Museum on Base until our final Museum move. Many potential Founders have told us that having a presence in Ridgecrest is the most important step we can take for them to make a decision to help us financially, so that's what we will be doing.

Thank you so much to those of you who have had patience and confidence in us by becoming a part of the Founders Campaign. Please spread



the word about our "bottom up" fundraising approach with the Founders Campaign. Please encourage friends of China Lake and those who appreciate the role China Lake has played in preserving freedom for America and the world. No contribution is too small.



**We are now enrolled in Amazon Smile, so if you are an Amazon buyer, select Amazon Smile in the upper left corner, then type in/choose "China Lake Museum Foundation" and Amazon will contribute a small percentage to us each time you make a purchase! Be sure to spread the word!**

For socials, let us get together as a "China Lake Family" again at this year's Retiree Day Nov 5 (call Eva Bien at 760-939-0978 during the day for details). It is a big weekend if you come for a few days, Community Day on Base is Nov 7, and Petroglyph Festival weekend in Ridgecrest is Nov 7 & 8.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alice Campbell

-----

Vice President Development

Pat Connell

-----

Vice President Public Relations

Dr. Anthony 'Tony' Damiano

-----

Vice President Building

Wayne Doucette

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Vice President Operations

Pat Doucette

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Vice President Memberships

Pat Doucette

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Secretary

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Building Fundraiser

John Freeman

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Rick Bruckman Rick Ferris

Elsa Hennings Charlie White

Dave Maxwell Bettye Moody

Kathy Vejtasa

# Photographs from Membership Meeting Courtesy of Bob Peoples



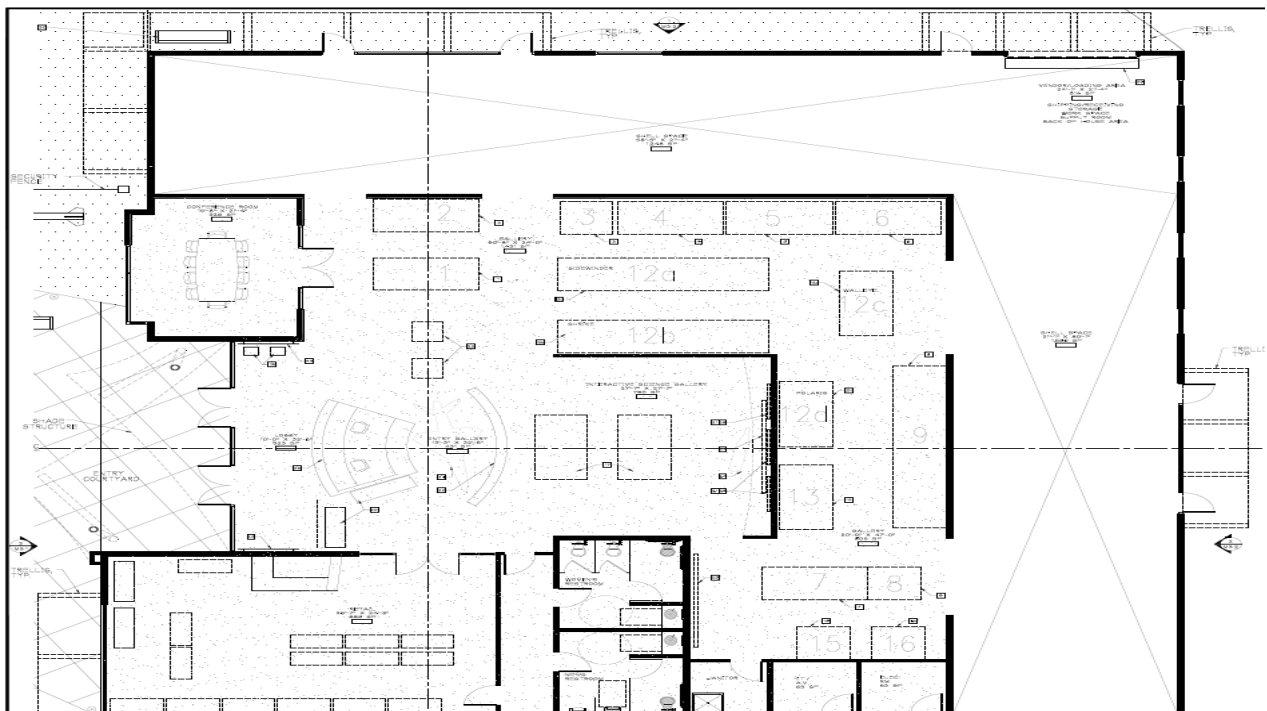
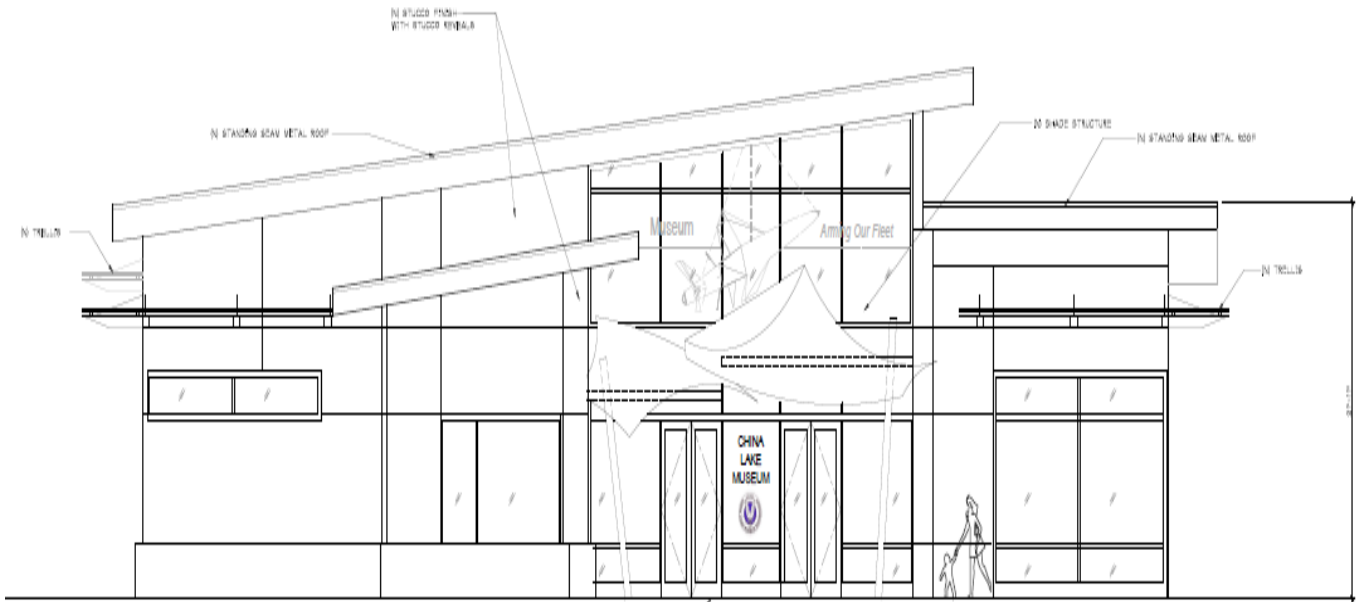


Courtesy of Bob Peoples

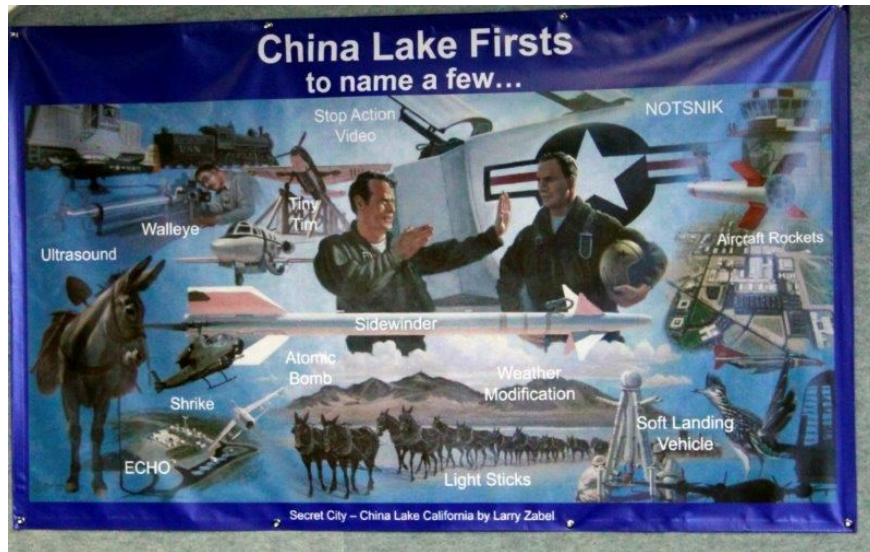




# Future Museum Building Plans



# Build Yourself a Legacy



## Join the China Lake Family!

# GOAL!

Phase 2- Museum Building

**Become a Founder today for \$5,000! Or a Benefactor for more than \$5,000 with naming rights!**

**Founders, Benefactors, and Business Partners will help our community realize "The Dream".**

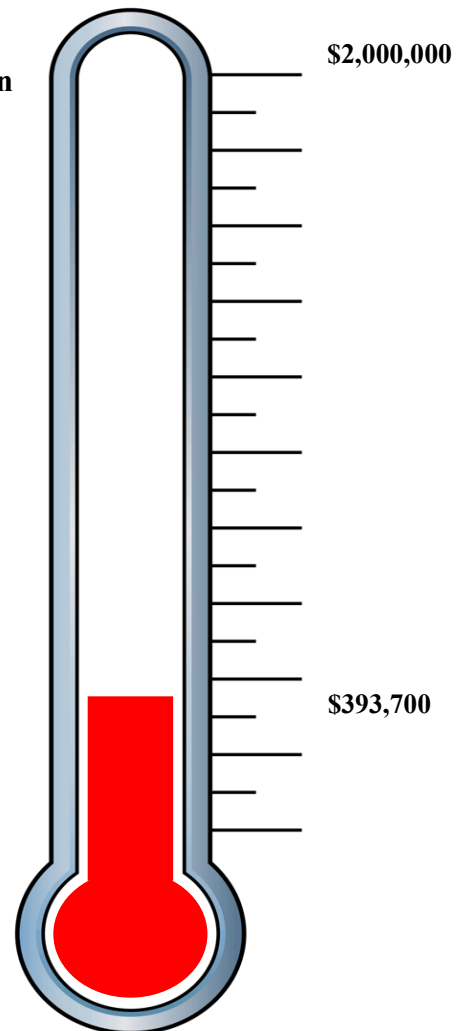
**Help move the "Secret City's" Museum into the City of Ridgecrest, where it will not be such a secret anymore.**

**Questions?**

**Call John Freeman (760) 382-7776,**

**Bob Campbell (760) 377-7085, or**

**Wayne Doucette (760) 447-1484**





## China Lake Founder/ Donor/Contributor Pledge Agreement

**Founder (\$5,000 or more)** – I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

Payment enclosed

If you prefer to pledge only at this time or pay in installments please indicate by filling out the information below.

I understand that my name (or a name designated by me) will be added to a Founder's Plaque in the Museum. I also understand that I will be given the opportunity to document my China Lake story, which will be incorporated as a permanent part of the Museum history. A complimentary life membership (if not already a life member) and future "Founders Club" benefits will be included. Benefactor Founders (over \$5,000) will be given opportunities for naming rights commensurate with the amount pledged.

**Donor (\$1000 - \$4999)** – I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

Payment enclosed

If you prefer to pledge only at this time please indicate by filling out the information below.

I understand that my name (or a name designated by me) will be added to a List of Donors in the Museum.

**Contributor (less than \$1000)** – I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

Payment enclosed

If you prefer to pledge only at this time please indicate by filling out the information below

Donations at the time of pledge are highly encouraged however pledges to be billed at a later date will be accepted, We, the undersigned, agree that pledges will not be called due until such time as the Foundation executes a construction notice to proceed. When my pledge is called due by order of the Board of the China Lake Museum Foundation, I agree to make payment in full or in installments as agreed to below within thirty (30) days of the "call" which will be made by certified mail. I understand the pledge and subsequent donation identified as part of this agreement will be used in support of construction of the building and the outside areas of the Museum complex, relocation and refurbishment of existing exhibits and development of new exhibits, and to sustain operations of the Museum in its new location. I understand that none of this pledge and subsequent donation will be used to pay a commission to any volunteer, employee or agent of the China Lake Museum Foundation.

I wish to make this pledge and subsequent donation in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) authorize the China Lake Museum Foundation to acknowledge my pledge and subsequent donation within the museum and in museum publications.

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) wish to keep my pledge and subsequent donation anonymous.

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) wish to fulfill my pledge with annual installments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ over a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years (three (3) years or less preferred) and authorize the CLMF to bill me each year on the anniversary of the call for payment of pledges.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Printed Name Date Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Street, City, State, Zip) Email

Accepted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation Signature Printed Name Date Title

**Please submit signed pledge form and donations to CLMF, PO Box 217, Ridgecrest, CA 93556.**

No goods or services are provided for this donation. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law for this non-profit 501(C) (3) organization, Tax ID #77-0340083. (A signed copy of this form will serve as your receipt.)

Thank you for your support in preserving the heritage of China Lake and especially those individuals who over the past seven decades have contributed to the defense and freedom of our great Nation.



CHINA LAKE MUSEUM FOUNDATION  
P.O. BOX 217, RIDGECREST, CA 93556-0217



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 48

Or Current Resident:



*China Lake Museum Foundation*

*From the Desert to the Fleet*

**Preserving the Legacy of Naval Armament and Technology**

CLMF  
P.O. Box 217  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law for a 501(C)(3) organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to help support the Museum!**

**Please accept my payment of:**

**YES!**

- \$10     \$200     \$500  
 \$1,000     \$5,000     \_\_\_\_\_

For checks intended for the new building "Founders Program", please use the form included in this newsletter, or note on your check "Founders Program"

- Enclosed is my     Check     Visa     MasterCard     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or call (760) 939-3530 to make your credit card donation.