

Cadet Ship *Pride of Michigan* Supports Cousteau Dive Team

Last week the Sea Cadet training vessel, the *Pride of Michigan*, became a seagoing base of operations for Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team of divers as they carried out video documentation of two 19th century shipwrecks in Lake Huron. As usual the 80-ft. *Pride* was operated by the Cadets and professional staff of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps' Great Lakes Division, based in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The support mission was arranged by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Alpena. The Cousteau team is currently producing a documentary film on the Marine Sanctuaries to be aired on Public Television next year. Jean-Michel, son of famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, heads the Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit organization based in Santa Barbara, CA and Paris, France



Mr. Cousteau helps raise the Explorers Club's flag on board the Pride of Michigan.

The expedition began on board the *Pride* as Mr. Cousteau, assisted by the Sea Cadets, raised the prestigious Explorers Club flag, a century-old symbol of exploration that renowned explorers have carried to the top of Mount Everest, to the bottom of the Marianas Trench, and even by astronauts to the moon (www.explorers.org). The *Pride* with most of the Cousteau team and dive gear on board then cruised to the offshore wreck sites, accompanied by a 30-ft. Ocean Futures vessel, *Manfish*, that would deploy the divers.

The *Pride's* crew of nine Sea Cadets included four from Divisions based in other states: New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina.



The Cousteau vessel, Manfish, departs the Pride of Michigan for another dive to film shipwrecks.

This year the Great Lakes Division, with support from the Noble Odyssey Foundation, began a 5-year program called "Thunder Bay Odyssey", which will recruit Sea Cadets nationwide for seagoing training and research experiences on the Great Lakes. In our partnering arrangement with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the *Pride of Michigan* will be based all summer at Alpena, MI, and much of the training will be conducted in Sanctuary waters of Lake Huron.

For further information about the Thunder Bay Odyssey program, please contact:

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IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LUKE CLYBURN

Mr. LEVIN: Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to an exceptional educator and steward of the Great Lakes, LCDR Luke Clyburn. Commander Clyburn is captain of the ship "Pride of Michigan" and president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation. He is an innovative, committed leader who has worked for more than 32 years to educate young people about the importance of the Great Lakes and other fresh water lakes through the Naval Sea Cadets training program. We are grateful for his long and distinguished service.



The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was incorporated by an act of Congress in 1962, and a Great Lakes Division was added in 1973. The mission of the Corps is to "encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues." For more than 32 years, Commander Clyburn has accepted that charge.

Under Commander Clyburn's able leadership, the Sea Cadet program acquired a retired naval vessel, the "Noble Odyssey," in 1977. On it, Sea Cadets from Michigan learned to man a ship from bow to stern, and they took part in invigorating scientific missions. With the cadets as crew, Commander Clyburn put together a series of Great Lakes research projects with professional scientists.

In 1989, it was my honor to help Commander Clyburn replace the "Noble Odyssey" with a larger ship, another retired naval vessel, the "Pride of Michigan." On the "Pride of Michigan," Luke has continued the same great work with the same great results. The scientific work has included significant research on invasive zebra mussels, which are harming the Great Lakes, and an investigation of an ancient drowned forest 2 miles off of Lexington, MI. These projects have been filmed and produced into documentaries, including the educational videos "Fresh Water Invaders," "Angels of the Sea," "Emperor," "The Underwater Forest," and "The Norwood Project."

In 2002, the Noble Odyssey Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization to raise money for the Sea Cadet Corps. With Luke as its president, the foundation has ensured the future of the Naval Sea Cadet Program, Great Lakes Division.

Commander Clyburn has dedicated himself to teaching young people about the importance of fresh water and how to protect these resources for future generations. He has been an inspiration and a gift to so many youth, and, along the way, he has made great contributions to scientific discovery. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking and praising Commander Clyburn for his distinguished service to our country.