



**ARCHIVAL
RESEARCHERS
ASSOCIATION**

NEWS
VOLUME 2 No. 2

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello ARA Members and Newsletter Subscribers. Our meetings with NARA top executives continue to be positive. ARA's Executive Board is encouraged by NARA's acknowledgment and acceptance that our efforts to increase its budget by \$30 million, in addition to the President's FY2022 budget, is beginning to have a positive impact with key Senate and House appropriators. NARA, for the first time, expressed their sincere thanks and support to continue our endeavors.

Our \$30 million ask directly addresses NARA's problems for the last decade with the agency's ability to provide in-person access to their holdings. Our proposal asks Congress to direct these funds to the very issues that affect citizens, researchers, and research companies' ability to access and research these records in person at all NARA facilities. It provides more staff, more research hours, updated equipment, and 25,000 hours of overtime to address the backlog of research requests. Also, the funds provide for improvements to NARA's problem-plagued IT system, keeping digitization projects onsite while preserving citizen access to original documents during the process. Lastly, our request includes funding for the indexing of US Immigration records that NARA will not accept from the INS until they are indexed and the complete indexing of all Official Personnel Files at the NPRC in St. Louis.

NARA has been making headway with projects that employees can do remotely. They have started redacting PII from the US Navy Deck logs for 1970 to 1975 that the VA digitized in 2019. As they complete this project, those deck logs will be made available in the NARA catalog and join the hundreds currently available in digital form from 1960 to 1969. NARA has also completed digitizing the paper finding aids, converting them to excel format, and integrating them into the catalog.

The Biden administration has approved NARA to increase their onsite staff to 25% as COVID-19 numbers improve in communities around NARA's research room locations. Some facilities are currently in Phase II of the NARA reopening process, while some are in Phase I, and others remain closed. NARA must get approval from the administration before increasing their onsite footprint to 50%, the minimum staffing level to move to Phase III of the reopening process. Guidance is coming from the administration almost weekly as the Pandemic numbers fall.

Finally, I want to thank all our members and subscribers who have contacted their federal legislators and ask them to support our funding efforts. Our funding proposal's name is **"Restoration of Public Access to Critical Government Records at NARA."** If you have not reached out yet, please send an email or call your Senators and Congressperson and ask them to support the Archival Researchers Association's proposal. The ARA Executive Board has met with the staff of 75 Senate and House members to date. The members are from both sides of the aisle in this bipartisan effort. We have many more on our schedule in the coming weeks.

Don Mounts

Vice President and Chair - Legislative Committee

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Don Mounts provided a detailed summary of our Legislative Committee's current program. I am delighted with the progress we have made and encouraged we will meet our goals in the coming months!

ARA met on Wednesday, March 24th with several of the line producers for Florentine Films, the production company behind the successful Ken Burn's television documentaries on PBS. We shared our PowerPoint presentation with them, fielded questions, and had a great conversation about our shared challenges. They replied with several comments and suggestions giving us ideas for new avenues regarding our education programs and legislative outreach. Once the appropriations season slows in Congress, I would like to encourage the executive board to redouble their efforts in meeting with like-minded individuals and organizations. We need to build a community interested in restoring funding and public access at the National Archives in addition to dozens of state, local, and private entities that provide access to critically important public records to our members and citizen researchers.

As always, I encourage our members, donors, and subscribers to consider reaching out to your local Representative or Senator to encourage them to support our legislative "Appropriations Ask" for set-aside funding for NARA's research rooms. This type of grassroots activism is incredibly effective!

Steve Greene

2nd Vice President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Archival Researchers Association, a 501c3, gratefully accepts tax-exempt donations that help our education efforts and support our efforts to secure and preserve access to all archive facilities. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation today!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We would love to hear some of your research stories and how your efforts accessing archival documents have made an impact on a person or family. Please send a success story along with any photos you might have so that we may share in future newsletters or on social media. Send photos and stories to Myra Miller at secretary@archivalresearchers.org.

ARA ANNUAL RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE

We are currently planning for an ARA Annual Researchers Conference in May.

During the month of May, we will provide a free, one-hour weekly Zoom conference focusing on four different areas of research: Veteran records, Genealogy, Special Media, and Historical Research. These sessions will be in a panel format and allow time for questions at the end of the presentation. Our final session will be a Town Hall format for members to receive the latest information on what ARA has been doing to increase funding to the National Archives Research Services Division. Details will be shared surrounding the focus of public access to records and to help researchers safely return to the research rooms as soon as possible.

We would like your input as to the best day and time for weekly one-hour sessions.

Morning: 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST

Afternoon: 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST

Evening: 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. CST

What day of the week is the best day for the Zoom?

Weekdays or Weekend?

Please send your responses to <mailto:aratreasury@gmail.com>.

CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION LIST TO DATE

Here is the complete list of 75 congressional presentations that have been made on behalf of ARA members as of March 31, 2021.

State	Senator	Representative	State	Senator	Representative
Alaska	Dan Sullivan		Missouri	Roy Blunt	
Arizona		Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02)	Missouri		Ann Wagner (MO-02)
Arkansas	John Boozman		Missouri		Sam Graves (MO-06)
Arkansas		Steve Womack (AR-03)	Nevada		Mark Amodei (NV-02)
California	Dianne Feinstein		Nevada	Jacky Rosen	
California		Norma Torres (CA-35)	New Hampshire	Jeanne Shaheen	
California	Alex Padilla		New Hampshire	Maggie Hassan	
Connecticut	Chris Murphy		New Jersey	Robert Menendez	
Connecticut		Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)	New Jersey		Bill Pascrell (NJ-09)
Delaware	Chris Coons		New Mexico	Ben Ray Lujan	
Delaware	Tom Carper		New York	Kirsten Gillibrand	
Florida	Marco Rubio		New York		Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
Georgia		Stanford D. Bishop (GA-02)	New York	Chuck Schumer	
Hawaii	Brian Schatz		North Carolina		David Price (NC-04)
Idaho	James Risch		North Dakota	John Hoeven	
Illinois	Dick Durbin		Ohio		David Joyce (OH-14)
Illinois	Tammy Duckworth		Ohio	Rob Portman	
Illinois		Mike Quigley (IL-05)	Ohio		Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)
Illinois		Cheri Bustos (IL-17)	Oklahoma	James Lankford	
Illinois		Lauren Underwood (IL-14)	Oklahoma	Jim Inhofe	
Illinois		Mike Bost (IL-12)	Oregon	Ron Wyden	
Indiana	Mike Braun		Oregon	Jeff Merkley	
Iowa		Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA-02)	Pennsylvania		Matt Cartwright (PA-08)
Kansas	Jerry Moran		Rhode Island	Jack Reed	
Kansas	Roger Marshall, M.D.		Rhode Island	Sheldon Whitehouse	
Kansas		Sharice Davids (KS-03)	South Carolina	Tim Scott	
Maine	Susan Collins		Texas	John Cornyn	
Maine		Chellie Pingree (ME-01)	Texas		John Carter (TX-31)
Maryland	Ben Cardin		Utah	Mitt Romney	
Maryland	Chris Van Hollen		Utah		Chris Stewart (UT-02)
Maryland		David Trone (MD-06)	Vermont	Patrick Leahy	
Massachusetts	Elizabeth Warren		Virginia	Tim Kaine	
Michigan		Brenda Lawrence (MI-14)	Virginia		Gerald Connolly (VA-11)
Minnesota	Amy Klobuchar		Washington		Pramila Jayapal (WA-07)
Minnesota		Betty McCollum (MN-04)	West Virginia	Joe Manchin	
Mississippi	Cindy Hyde-Smith		West Virginia	Shelley Capito	
Missouri	Josh Hawley		Wisconsin		Mark Pocan (WI-02)

Show your support for the Archival Researcher's Association. Click below to visit Redbubble for a wide selection of ARA logo products. 100% of proceeds support the ARA mission.



RESEARCHER SUCCESS STORIES

Lt. Dean Davenport and the Missing Silver Star

'Doolittle's Raiders' are among the most famous US Airmen of WWII. The success of their daring and improbable 1942 mission to bomb mainland Japan rallied a nation still reeling from the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Their mission has been the subject of multiple books and movies, passing into legend as one of the most well-known and well documented events of the war.

However, the family of one deceased "Raider" knew the official history of that long-ago mission lacked one important detail about their father, the co-pilot of the downed B-25 known as "Ruptured Duck".

Click the 'Ruptured Duck' crew photo below to find out the full story of how an ARA member assisted Lt. Davenport's family to correct the official record to reflect his full honors, and see the official documentation and contemporary personal diary excerpts of Lt. Dean Davenport.



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