

AIMS Mini-Grant

Kennedy Junior High School
2929 Green Trails Drive
Lisle, IL 60532

Lead Teacher: Paulette Goodman

USS Indianapolis

To bring together Michael Kuryla, survivor of the USS Indianapolis, Hunter Scott, the initiator of the change in the status for the captain of the USS Indianapolis (Book: *Left For Dead*) and 8th grade students who have studied World War II, but, yet, do not have any concept of the sacrifice and loss that veterans from that war suffered and what they gave to this country.

In order for this appreciation to take place, a day devoted to exchanging thoughts, ideas and feelings will take place with the survivor and 390 8th grade students intricately involved in this process. The non-fiction book "Left For Dead" is the driving force that propels the project forward. Each 8th grade student will read the book and be exposed to its horrors and hope. The survivors are passing away daily and soon, there will be no one to hear their stories. The curriculum can only provide book knowledge, not personal knowledge of experiences. This project will open the gates to that level of knowledge and allow students to explore another level of reality.

A young man, Hunter Scott, who at the age of 11 discovered and then changed history from his extensive and relentless research on the USS Indianapolis, will be invited for a second day of "reality checking". His voice was the only one willing to contest the findings of the U.S. Government and the U.S. Navy concerning the USS Indianapolis, its captain and its men. Eighth grade students will have opportunities to questions and discuss the level of courage that was undertaken by this young man, the steps he took to accomplish his mission and the aftermath of the experience. Hunter Scott is a living role model for these students.

At the conclusion of the two(2) separate days of interaction/learning students will be challenged to find the "power of one voice", realizing that just one voice changed the history of a man, his ship and the USS Indianapolis survivors. Projects will be introduced that can fulfill their desires to make a difference in this world.

Duration of the project:

Two separate days will be designated for both the USS Indianapolis survivor, Mike Kuryla, and the young man, Hunter Scott, who changed history by his research on this WWII tragedy.

Intended Benefit and Needs:

The bringing together of a courageous young man and an USS Indianapolis survivor has never been undertaken in this school district. The symbolism and qualities of good character exude from this interaction. They are banners held high for all to emulate. Personal exchanges present the foremost level of reality to the book read by these 8th grade students. Students will also be introduced to the new publication by the 317 USS Indianapolis survivors entitled "Only 317 Survived", as well as read the book "Left For Dead".

Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

Knowing that each and every 8th grade student will have the opportunity to read the book "Left For Dead", to interact with the survivor and to meet the young man whose questions changed the lives of all the USS Indianapolis, would be enough. But there will be one more step that we will be requesting of these 8th grade students. That they pick an issue that is meaningful to them and then to pursue steps that will aid in a positive change for that issue. It may take years to learn of the impact of this program, but it will be felt. In addition, a writing project will be undertaken with the 8th grade students writing letters to the survivors expressing their feelings and gratitude for all they did.

Budget:

4 COPIES OF "Only 317 Survived" @ \$35.00	\$140.00
Published by the USS Indianapolis survivors – all proceeds to survivors	
10 COPIES OF THE BOOK "LEFT FOR DEAD".....	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$290.00

PLANS FOR PUBLICIZING THE PROGRAM:

The **DAILY HERALD** newspaper will cover this story from start to finish; notices posted in the school newsletter to parents and announcements at all public events happening at Kennedy Junior High School will designate AIMS as a sponsoring agency.