

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Deputy Director

395 Whittier St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718
907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 7, 2012

SOLE SURVIVORS

Alaska State Museum to Display Rare Artifacts from Sunken WWII Ship U.S.S. Juneau

JUNEAU – On November 13, 1942, twenty seconds after Japanese torpedoes ripped into its munitions magazine during the Battle of Guadalcanal, the light cruiser U.S.S. Juneau sank, killing 687 men, including the five Sullivan brothers, a.k.a. “The Fighting Sullivans.”

In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the sinking of Juneau’s namesake vessel, the Alaska State Museum will display two rare artifacts from the U.S.S. Juneau ship: a welcome mat and an ammunition container. These are among the very few surviving remnants—radio restrictions and military oversight delayed recovery efforts until eight days after the ship went down.

Removed from the vessel prior to its sinking, these artifacts will be displayed at the Alaska State Museum November 13-17, one of several events around Juneau commemorating the anniversary.

The U.S.S. Juneau earned four battle stars for service in World War II, its soldiers hailed as heroes in what proved a turning point for Allied naval forces. A direct result of the Sullivans’ deaths and several other similar cases, the U.S. War Department adopted the Sole Survivor Policy, protecting family members from military service if the family has already lost other members in the line of duty. Their story also inspired the 1944 film *The Fighting Sullivans*.

Other temporary exhibits on display at the museum are *Coastal Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska’s Gulf Coast* consisting of digital photographs obtained during aerial surveys in the Gulf of Alaska; Kristin Link’s solo exhibition *Notes from Nature*; and the museum’s biennial juried photography exhibit *Alaska Positive 2012*. *Coastal Impressions* and *Notes from Nature* will be on display through January 12, 2013 and *Alaska Positive 2012* will be on display through January 5, 2013.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs by contacting Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us

[return to top](#)

[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)