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**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

The New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States announces John Wukovits as the winner of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book *Tin Can Titans: the Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*, published by Da Capo Press, March 15, 2017.

NEW YORK, N.Y., September 10, 2018—The New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States announced today the winner of the 2018 Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature. **John Wukovits** author of *Tin Can Titan: the Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*, published by Da Capo Press, March 15, 2017, will be honored by the Naval Order of the United States as the recipient of this year's prestigious RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature.

**The remaining four finalists for the 2018 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature (listed in alphabetical order, not by standing) are highly commended for their outstanding contribution to naval literature. They are:**

**Cox, Jeffrey** - *Morning Star, Midnight Sun: The Early Guadalcanal-Solomons Campaign of World War II*, publisher: Osprey Publishing, February 20, 2018

**Bowden, Mark** - *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam*, publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press, June 6, 2017

**Cleaver, Thomas McKelvey** - *Pacific Thunder: The US Navy's Central Pacific Campaign, August 1943–October 1944*, publisher: Osprey Publishing, October 24, 2017

**Ohls, Gary J.** - *American Amphibious Warfare: The Roots of Tradition to 1865*, publisher: Naval Institute Press, December 15, 2017

**This distinguished writing prize**—past recipients include CAPT Edward L. Beach, USN (*Salt and Steel*); RADM Joseph F. Callo (*John Paul Jones- America's First Sea Warrior*); George C. Daughan (*If By Sea*); Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak (*First to Fight*); Dr. Norman Friedman (*Sea Power as Strategy*); Robert Gandt (*The Twilight Warriors*); James L. Nelson (*George Washington's Secret Navy*); James D. Hornfischer (*Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*); James M. Scott (*Attack on the USS Liberty*); Ian W. Toll (*Six Frigates*); Elliot Carlson (*Joe Rochefort's War: The Odyssey of the Codebreaker Who Outwitted Yamamoto at Midway*); Jack Cheevers (*Act of War: Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo*); Richard Snow (*Iron Dawn: The Monitor, the Merrimack, and the Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History*); Craig L. Symonds (*Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings*); Tim McGrath (*Give Me a Fast Ship: The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea*); Walter R. Borneman (*The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King--The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea*); and, former Navy Secretary John F. Lehman, the only author honored twice with the Morison Award (*Command of the Seas & On Seas of Glory*)—**is given to an American author “who by his published writings has made a substantial contribution to the preservation of the history and traditions of the United States Sea Services – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine.”**

Announced today by Past Commander William H Schmidt, Esq., and Daniel M. Thys, M.D., Co-Chairmen of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award Committee of the New York Commandery, the award will be presented to Mr. Wukovitz by Norman Keller, Commander, New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States in a ceremony at The Racquet & Tennis Club on Park Avenue, New York City on Monday, November 5, 2018.

The prize is named for the late **Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison**, a Harvard University history professor widely considered to be America's most distinguished naval historian. The award is administered and presented by the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States. The finalists and winner are selected by a distinguished committee of members of the New York Commandery. Books may be recommended for consideration by members of the Naval Order of the United States but must be nominated for Committee consideration by a Companion of the New York Commandery. There are detailed and stringent standards that must be met by the author and the work and the Committee follows set guidelines in considering the nominees.

The **Naval Order of the United States**, founded in 1890, prides itself on its many distinguished members, among them Admirals George Dewey, William Leahy, Ernest King, Chester Nimitz, William Halsey, Raymond Spruance, Arleigh Burke, James Crowe, and Elmo Zumwalt. Its purpose is “to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects, preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures, deeds and memories of our naval and maritime history.”

**September 10, 2018**

**ADDENDUM TO MORISON AWARD PRESS RELEASE**

**John Wukovits – Biography**



**JOHN WUKOVITS**, A MILITARY HISTORIAN SPECIALIZING IN WORLD WAR II, IS THE AUTHOR OF NINE BOOKS INCLUDING HIS MOST RECENT PRIOR BOOK, *HELL FROM THE HEAVENS: THE EPIC STORY OF THE USS LAFFEY AND WORLD WAR II'S GREATEST KAMIKAZE ATTACK*. HE LIVES IN MICHIGAN.

*“They dropped depth charges and delivered shells to five-inch guns, downed enemy aircraft and rescued military brethren. They put their lives on the line not once or twice but day after day, and emerged victorious despite the worst that the Japanese could hurl at them.”—from the Prologue*

## ***Tin Can Titans***

### ***The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron***

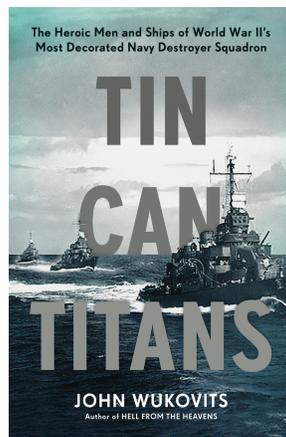
by John Wukovits

On August 29, 1945, the United States Fleet entered Tokyo Bay to accept the Japanese surrender after almost four years of war. While Admiral William Halsey could have selected his flagship, *USS Missouri*, to lead the victorious ships during the surrender ceremony, he granted that honor to a trio of destroyers—*O'Bannon*, *Nicholas*, and *Taylor*. Though far smaller than the majestic *Missouri*, the three vessels were part of Destroyer Squadron 21 (Desron 21), the most acclaimed destroyer squadron of the war.

In *Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*, John Wukovits tells the story of Desron 21 and the officers and sailors who earned the squadron its glory. From the battle of Guadalcanal to the conflicts of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the crews of Desron 21 sunk or helped sink ten submarines and several surface vessels, shot down dozens of aircraft, and rescued more than eighteen hundred sailors and downed airmen. During these missions, 372 crewmembers were killed and many more were wounded. Of the twelve destroyers, only three survived the bombing raids and the torpedo and kamikaze attacks.

Gathering information from diaries and letters of crew members and personal interviews with Desron 21 survivors, Wukovits introduces us to several members of the destroyer squadron, like Commander Donald MacDonald, a Pennsylvania native who led *O'Bannon* through years of almost constant naval warfare and never hesitated to rescue the crews of sunken ships, even when it meant placing his destroyer between the damaged ships and direct fire; Lieutenant Hugh B. Miller, a former University of Alabama quarterback who used the determination he acquired on the football field to help his crewmembers escape a sinking ship and lead them to safety in spite of his severe internal injuries; and Dr. Dow H. Ransom Jr., a ship's doctor from California who ran on deck during a mine explosion to attend to the wounded, and stayed up for thirty consecutive hours to treat them. Through the eyes of these men, *Tin Can Titans* tells the naval side of the Pacific war, and the countless battles, patrols, and escort missions that were crucial to the United States victory against Japan.

March 15, 2017 \$28.00 Hardcover History 320 pages ISBN: 978-0-306-82430-2



## Editorial Reviews

"John Wukovits has all the skills of a great naval historian, and he shows them in this rousing tale of destroyer warfare in the Pacific during World War II. He understands the tactics and strategy--and shows the resourcefulness and gallantry--of officers and men in harm's way."--**Evan Thomas**, bestselling author of *Sea of Thunder*

John Wukovits's *Tin Can Titans* sets sail into the vast Pacific aboard the fightingest of warships, whose rolling decks and fiery guns were manned by the bravest of sailors as they fought in World War II's largest sea battles in the world's biggest ocean. A stirring story of the generation that went to war to save mankind."--**Bruce Henderson**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sons and Soldiers* and *Rescue at Los Banos*

"John Wukovits is probably our best living chronicler of the war at sea. No one else writes with the immediacy that he does, or captures the intensity and the courage of those who fought in 'tin cans' in quite the same way. *Tin Can Titans* could very well be his masterpiece."--**Flint Whitlock**, Editor, *WWII Quarterly* magazine

"An acknowledged master of Pacific War history, John Wukovits deftly covers new territory in this detailed history of Destroyer Squadron 21's vital contribution to the US Navy's hard-fought campaign against Japan. Exhaustively researched and typically well-written, *Tin Can Titans* is an engrossing and compelling read."--**Stephen Harding**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Battle* and *The Castaway's War*

"Wukovits certainly joins [Samuel Eliot] Morrison and James D. Hornfischer as one of the pre-eminent writers on the history of U.S. Navy operations in the Pacific theater...Thanks should go not only to those veterans who want their story told before they're gone but as well to those like John Wukovits who do the telling in a well presented and poignantly human written manner."--**New York Journal of Books**

"Authors such as John Wukovits do all of us a great service by researching the lives of ships and sailors, and putting these stirring tales before a public often far too ignorant of their heritage...A well-researched, well-written and well-edited book, sure to stir the imaginations of many veterans, and well worth the time of adventure-loving civilians."--**Roanoke Times**

"The strength of *Tin Can Titans* is that Mr. Wukovits has ferreted out deeply personal stories of the officers and enlisted men who experienced hell aboard these destroyers. Their diaries, letters and personal reminiscences, as well as the action reports from their commanders, convey the horrors of pitching decks, exploding shrapnel and gut-wrenching fear."--**Walter Borneman**, *Wall Street Journal*

"An inspiring story of courage, duty, sacrifice, and devotion to country in the most trying and dangerous of circumstances. It's an epic story about decisive actions in a large Pacific war. But it's mostly a story about American sailors at war...most of them civilians who donned uniforms for the duration when their country needed them, and who went back, those who survived, to their civilian lives when the shooting stopped...Destroyers were workhorses in the Pacific, and elsewhere. It's right that their story is told too, as it is so well in *Tin Can Titans*. These are ships and Americans that should not be forgotten."--**The American Spectator**

"[Wukovits] draws overdue attention to the heroism, dedication, and courage of the young destroyer sailors.... He expertly weaves together monthly war diaries, action reports, and ships' histories, as well as interviews and oral histories from the officers and sailors that lived, fought, and often died together."--**America in WWII**

"*Tin Can Titans* is history with humanity, and should be of interest to any current student of Americana, and to any of the fading generations who still have close ties to our last great war."

—**Curled Up with a Good Book**,