

Okaloosa County News Release



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Retrieving the USS Okaloosa Bell

On January 4, 2012, a county delegation will travel to Foley, Alabama to retrieve the original bell from the **USS Okaloosa- APA-219 Attack Transport Ship**. APA-219 was named after Okaloosa County, Florida, and commissioned on November 28, 1944. U.S. Congressman Jeff Miller has been invited to travel with Judge Maney and Tracy Stage, Okaloosa Co. projects manager.

USS Okaloosa shuttled troops and cargo and earned one battle star for WWII service. The ships bell will be prominently displayed in the Northwest Florida Regional Airport, and dedicated on **April 26, 2012**. Local area veteran, Corporal Wally Helmstadter, 5th Fleet Marine Force (FMF), served on the USS Okaloosa during the Battle of Okinawa in WWII, and will be included in the dedication ceremony.

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