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# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)



## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for January - - Craig Eley ([craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net))

## Naval Hero's Story Told

The featured speaker at Monaco South's January 26, 2007 meeting was our own Doug Morton. We waived most of the time for announcements and gave almost of the meeting over to Doug's story of his father, Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton.

As a child, Cmdr. Morton's mother became incapacitated, and his father, a coal miner, sent him and his brother to live in Florida with the boys' uncle. Cmdr. Morton attended the Naval Academy and received advanced training as a submariner.

At the time Cmdr. Morton took over the U.S.S. Wahoo, during WW II, many submarine commanders preferred to take a position and then wait until something came buy. Cmdr.

Morton, however, preferred to go and seek out enemy ships and attack them. The Wahoo had a remarkable record of sinkings, and achieved a record for a submarine at that point in the war.



The U.S.S. Wahoo

Cmdr. Morton received five Navy Crosses for his exploits, which ended on October 11, 1943 when the Wahoo was attacked and sunk while attempting to exit the Sea of Japan.

Doug was four years old at the time of his father's death, and he confided that, even today, talking publicly about his father is the hardest thing he has ever done.

New interest has arisen about the Wahoo since its resting place was discovered recently. Doug showed a short video of Russian divers exploring the Wahoo,

*(continued on next page)*

**Meeting Place**  
**American Legion Hall Post 1**  
**5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado**  
**Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.**

## Proceedings of the Meeting of January 26, 2007

### Invocation & Pledge

Former MSOC President **Cy Regan** led us in an invocation in which asked us to cast off envy and to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as we are about our own. The he led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Guests

**Marilyn Brown**, the wife of our speaker, **Doug Morton**, graced our ranks today as did District Governor **Sherman Phillips**.

### Last Call for Wives & Friends to Breakfast

Next week's meeting will be the last day to sign up and pay for the February 9 Wives & Friends to breakfast event. The price is a steal at \$15 per couple, since the Club is picking up half tot e cost.

### King Soopers

**Cy Regan**, the Sultan of Soopers Certificates, unloaded \$900 worth this week, a little below our goal of \$1000. Now that those New Year's diet resolutions are dead, buy a bunch of certificates and bon appétit!

### Cmdr. Morton and the Wahoo

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which was in remarkably good shape, according to the narrator. From the video, it would be hard for anyone but an expert to be able to tell what the coral-encrusted object was, except for the presence of the submarine's tower, which still stood sentinel over the Wahoo.

Doug recounted that early in the war his father brought the Wahoo to California for repairs, and, with the country desperately looking for some good news about the war, was welcomed as a hero. Cmdr. Morton and Doug's mother met with the actor Errol Flynn, who had wanted to meet Mush Morton, and they had a drink together. A movie, inspired by Cmdr. Morton's adventures, was made,

and Cmdr. Morton served as its technical advisor. The film starred Cary Grant and was entitled "Destination Tokyo."

A building at the New London, Connecticut submarine base has been named for Cmdr. Morton, and in 1958 the U.S.S. Morton was christened by Doug's sister.

In 1995 the Wahoo Peace Memorial, was dedicated at Wakkanai, Cape Soya, Hokkaido, Japan, which is only a few miles from where the remains of the Wahoo were subsequently located.

On October 11, 2007, a ceremony will be held at Pearl Harbor to commemorate the Wahoo and the 80 men who went perished on the submarine's last voyage. Doug will be there, and he invites any Optimists who wish to join him.



Your editor has located additional information about Cmdr. Morton. The following are excerpts from an article by Darrell D. Ames:

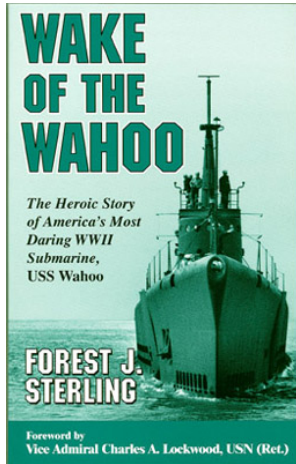
*Born in Virginia and raised in Kentucky, Cmdr. Morton had a feisty and daring nature about him. A lifelong yearning for greatness and his desire to always "give that extra effort" led to his success at U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1930) and eventually to command of one of the U.S. Navy's most fierce warships of all time, the USS Wahoo.*

*"When I first met Cmdr. Morton it only took me one minute to realize that I would follow that man to the bottom of the ocean if necessary," said former Wahoo sailor, retired Chief Yeoman Forrest Sterling. "Mush Morton was a true leader of men and knew his business inside and out," he added.*

*Morton was an uncommonly talented submarine commander. Extremely capable and aggressive, he feared nothing on or below the sea.*

Those interested in a detailed description of the entire fighting history of the Wahoo can find one at: <http://www.historycentral.com/NAVY/patrol/Wahoo.html>, from which the story below is taken:

Later that day, Wahoo sighted a 100-ton trawler and opened up with her 4-inch and 20 millimeter guns. When all three 20-millimeter guns jammed, Morton brought the submarine alongside the riddled trawler and the Wahoo men hurled on board some homemade Molotov cocktails, gifts from the marines at Midway. Wahoo departed, leaving the ship in a wrecked condition, spouting flame and smoke.



From left to right: Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton, his son and MSOC member Doug Morton, and Doug's mother. The feathers on the Indian headdress represent the number of ships sunk by Cmdr. Morton.

### Super Citizen Schedule

Fri, Feb. 2 1:30	@ McMeen	Joe Marci
Thu, Feb.15 2:30	@ MPB	Jack Rife
Fri, Feb. 23, 9:00	@Holm	-- open --
Fri, Feb. 23 3:00	@ Bradley	-- open --

### Monaco South Calendar

Fri, Feb. 2, 7 a.m.	Regular meeting, American Legion Hall. Dan Perlman, M.D., "Infectious Diseases."
Sat, Feb. 3, 7 a.m.	Brain Bowl, Thomas Jefferson High School, 3950 S. Holly Street, Denver.
Fri, Feb. 9, 7 a.m.	Wives & Friends to Breakfast, DU Restaurant School.
Fri, Feb. 9 — Sun, Feb. 11	Denver Golf Expo, Denver Merchandise Mart. MSOC staffs Junior Golf booth. Contact Ron Cisco (303-794-0749) or Joe Marci (303-771-3748) to volunteer.
Fri, Feb. 16, 7 a.m.	Regular meeting, American Legion Hall. Jennifer Auen, "Starbucks Community."
Fri, Feb. 23, 7 a.m.	Regular meeting, American Legion Hall. Nate Baldwin, "Adult Sports."