



James R. Belcher, Jr.

Military Historian, Educator, Speaker of WWII History

Jim Belcher Jr is a retired Director of Quality for military defense systems. He is an “Honorary Survivor of the USS Indianapolis” and an “Honorary Colonel 116th Infantry Regiment 29th Division”. He served four years in the US Air Force at Hanscom AFB, MA, in Systems Command R&D. Jim teaches and speaks frequently at DOD and veterans’ events, public & private schools, universities and defense contractor facilities. He has authored numerous magazine articles, a book chapter, hosted a newspaper column and appeared in international history documentaries, YouTube videos, radio and news stories. He hosts two Facebook history education groups...WWII History School & Public Presentations, and USS Indianapolis CA-35 Artifacts, Memorabilia and Collectibles.

As a public speaker and educator, Jim presents a deeply emotional and thought-provoking introspection of history. His family background, life experiences and passion for complete history provide for an eye-opening perspective of the events and impacts of WWII on life in these United States. His stories are of honor, respect, pride, integrity, perseverance, tolerance, forgiveness and legacy. His unique two-sided perspective of WWII in the Pacific is insightful. He initiated the USS Indianapolis Legacy Organization (www.ussindianapolis.com).

Jim was a dual citizen at birth, born at Yokosuka Naval Hospital, Japan, the oldest son of retired US Navy Chief Petty Officer James Belcher of Abbeville, Alabama, and Toyoko Inoue of Sasebo, Japan. His father was one of 1195 men on the final voyage of the famous but ill-fated WWII heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis. Chief Belcher served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, retired in 1969 and passed away 3 May 2001. Jim’s mother is a WWII survivor and war bride, his grandfather a Nagasaki bomb survivor and uncle a sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army. Jim is the only Japanese-born son of a USS Indianapolis Survivor.