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BELLE MEADE

A NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE
BELLE MEADE COMMUNITY

living

Book Review

Sea Stories: A Memoir of a Naval Officer (1956-1967)

An American hero in our midst, Belle Meade resident Gary Salughter, an award-winning author, releases a memoir chronicling his personal experience as a U.S. Navy Ensign during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

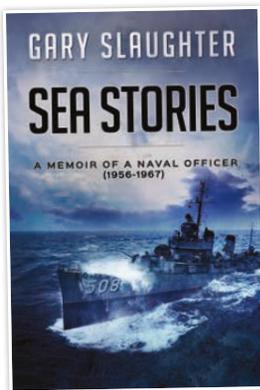
arts & entertainment

book review: *SEA stories:*

A Memoir of a Naval Officer (1956-1967)

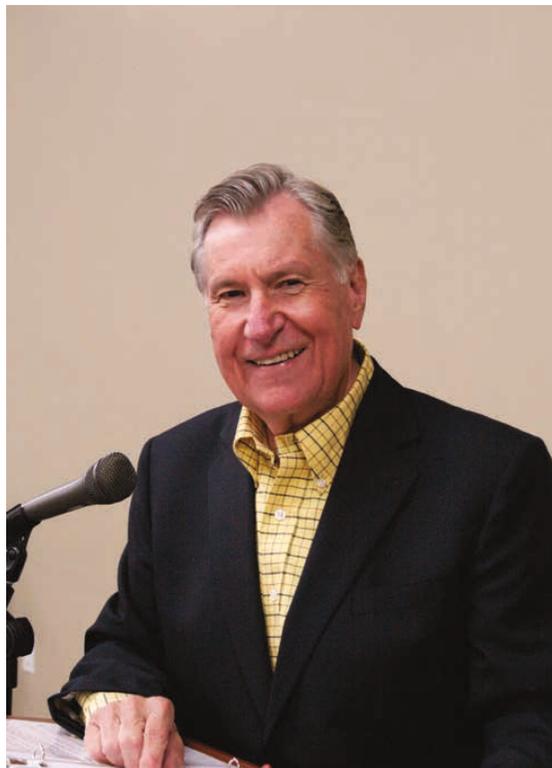
By BML writer **Emily Grant**

Photos submitted by **JKS Communications** - Literary Publicity



Being from Nashville, we all have our stories about running into famous people. Whether it's a country artist or a Hollywood star, we always have our eyes peeled. But would you be able to recognize an American naval officer who had a hand in diffusing the Cuban Missile Crisis? Probably not, but after reading *Sea Stories: A Memoir of a Naval Officer (1956-1967)* you may want to keep an eye out for Gary Slaughter as well.

Gary Slaughter has lived in Belle Meade with his wife, Joanne, for 18 years, but before moving to Nashville, Slaughter served in the U.S. Navy for 11 years from 1956-1967, the timeframe of his latest nonfiction manuscript. *Sea Stories* is made up of 60 "vignettes" recounting Slaughter's time in the navy. He chronicles his journey, each chapter describing a new experience or challenge he faced as a naval officer. His most notable story is his account of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

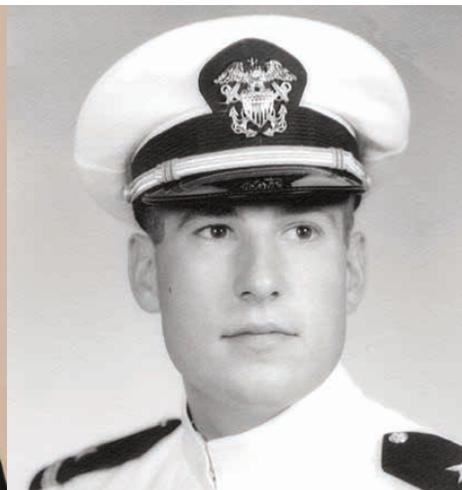


Author Gary Slaughter

The *USS Cony* was Slaughter's first ship as a commissioned officer. This particular ship survived two Japanese bombs during World War II and was converted to an Anti-Submarine Warfare destroyer. Slaughter used his training to communicate with Soviet warships using the Cyrillic alphabet transliteration table, International Signals Book and Morse code; he was exceptionally qualified to command this ship during the Cold War. On what is known as Black Saturday, October 27, 1962, Slaughter came face-to-face with Vitali Savitsky, the commanding officer of *B-59*, a Soviet submarine.

The standoff lasted several hours with tensions high, but Slaughter was able to keep Savitsky happy long enough to prevent him from firing torpedoes at the U.S. ship. He even sent over some bread and cigarettes as a sign of cordiality. It wasn't until later that Slaughter realized there were nuclear weapons on that submarine, and his actions prevented what would have been the start of nuclear war for the United States.

This part of history was kept secret from the world until Peter Huchthausen's book, *October Fury*, was released in 2002. Slaughter's handling of this dangerous situation was later featured in two documentary films on the 50th anniversary of



Ensign Slaughter's Commissioning Photo (June 1961)



U.S. Navy destroyer: USS Cony DDE 508

the incident in 2012. The first was produced by Bedlam Productions, the same studio that produced *The King's Speech*. Their account, however, did not accurately depict the *Cony's* involvement, so Slaughter interviewed exclusively with BBC for their two-part documentary, *The Silent War*, offering a more in-depth discussion on the role of submarines during the Cold War.

Slaughter's memoir offers more stories about his 11 years in the Navy, some humorous, some more somber, but the stories are real and give the readers a first-hand look at the immense amount of hard work and dedication it takes to be a U.S. naval officer. It is clear that Slaughter has used the same dedication in writing these stories that will educate and inspire all who read it.

Sea Stories: A Memoir of a Naval Officer (1956-1967) will be released on September 4. Slaughter celebrated his book release with a launch party and book signing on September 4, at 2 p.m. at Parnassus Books in Green Hills.

If you missed Gary Slaughter's September 4th book launch event at Parnassus Books, make sure to catch one of his upcoming book talks:

SEPT. 12, 2 p.m. (Brentwood, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk

Location: The Heritage of Brentwood, 800 Heritage Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

SEPT. 14, 2 p.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk

Location: Park Manor apartments

SEPT. 15, 10:30 a.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Behind the Book talk

Location: FiftyForward at the J/L/Turner Center

SEPT. 15, 6 p.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Talk with American Legion Nashville Post 5

Location: Carrabba's, The Mall at Green Hills, 2110 Green Hills Village Dr, Nashville, TN 37215

SEPT. 19, 12 p.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Behind the Book Talk

Location: Downtown Lions Club at University Club of Nashville

SEPT. 21, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. (Brentwood, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk with the Brentwood Morning Rotary Club

Location: Chick-Fil-A, 330 Franklin Rd, Brentwood, TN 37027

OCT. 3, 2 p.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk

Location: Richland Place Independent Living

OCT. 6, 10 a.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Speaking engagement with Nashville PEO Chapter E

OCT. 11, 7 p.m. (Mt. Juliet, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk with Tyler Cates American Legion Post 281

Location: Rutland Place, 435 NW Rutland Rd, Mt Juliet, TN 37122

OCT. 13, 11:40 a.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Book talk with DAR Campbell Chapter

Location: Centennial Club

OCT. 14-16 (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Southern Festival of Books

NOV. 11, 1:30 p.m. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Event: Talk on the Cuban Missile Crisis

Location: Richland Place Independent Living