

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



Michael Tougias

Author, Motivational Speaker

Michael J. Tougias is a New York Times bestselling author and co-author of 29 books. Among his bestsellers are *The Finest Hours* (Disney Motion Pictures' version opened in 45 countries in January 2016), *Fatal Forecast*, *Overboard*, *King Philip's War*, and *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse: The Vermont Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe*.

Programs Available

Above & Beyond: JFK and the Florida U-2 pilots During the Cuban Missile Crisis

The little-known story of U-2 pilots who flew from Orlando to Cuba to secure the photographic proof that the Soviets were installing nuclear missiles on Cuba, sparking an international crisis that brought U.S. and the Soviet Union to the brink of war. One pilot was fatally shot down by the Soviets, in an incident that was covered up and later revealed by U-2 pilot Jerry McIlmoyle of Venice, Florida.

U-Boats So Close to Home: An American Family's World War II Story of Survival and the U-boat that Attacked Them

The attack, the survivors, and the rescue of the first U-boat to enter the Gulf of Mexico, in May 1942, as it stalked its prey 30 miles off New Orleans.

The Finest Hours: The Coast Guard's Most Daring Rescue & the Disney Movie

The true story of how two separate oil tankers split in half in a 1952 Nor'easter off Cape Cod and how the Disney movie about the disaster was made. The hero of this story was Bernie Webber of Melbourne, Florida.

From the Mayflower to King Philip's Indian War (Seeds of Democracy and a clash of cultures)

2020 marked the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth. Crucial to their success was the agreement that they signed called the Mayflower Compact that initiated the themes of American Democracy. In this slide presentation, historian and NY Times Bestselling author Michael Tougias will discuss: The Pilgrims first disastrous year, friendship with Wampanoag leader Massasoit, the two major wars with the Native Americans: The Pequot War and King Philip's War, which had the highest casualty rate per capita of any war fought by Americans including the Civil War, and the war was also the first major war in America. Tougias will discuss the ramifications of this War and how it later influenced the treatment of the Seminoles of Florida.

Contact Information:

508-282-1875

michaeltougias@gmail.com

Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

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