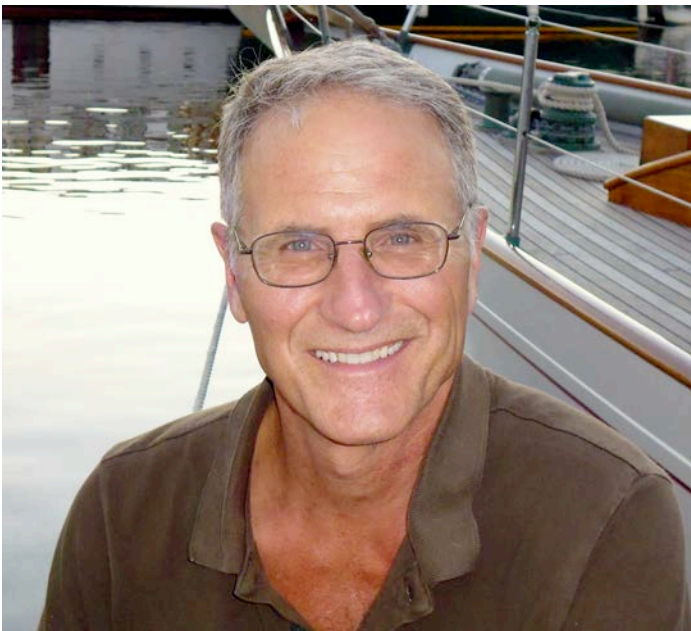


12th Literary Gala features *The Finest Hours* co-author Michael Tougias as keynote speaker

The Milton Library Foundation is hosting its' 12th Literary Gala with New York Times-bestselling author Michael Tougias on November 1, 2017, 6PM, at Granite Links in Quincy. Mr. Tougias will give a slide presentation on his book *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue*. The Disney Corporation made a movie based on the book starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.



Proceeds from the event benefit the Milton Library Foundation whose main mission is to help ensure the growth and success of the Milton Public Library. Each attendee will receive an autographed copy of one of the author's most popular paperback books. Complimentary valet parking will be provided.

The Finest Hours captures an astonishing maritime event, which began on February 18th, 1952 when a ferocious nor'easter split in half a 500-

foot-long oil tanker, the *Pendleton*, approximately one mile off the coast of Cape Cod. Incredibly, just twenty miles away, a second oil tanker, the *Fort Mercer*, also split in half. On both fractured tankers men were trapped on the severed bows and sterns, and all four sections were sinking in 60-foot seas. Thus began a life and death drama of survival, heroism, and a series of tragic mistakes. Of the 84 seamen aboard the tankers, 70 would be rescued and 14 would lose their lives. The book was a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award, selected as a "must read."

Michael Tougias, co-author of *The Finest Hours*, will use slides of the storm, the sinking tankers, the rescues, the victims, the survivors and the heroes to tell the story of this historic event. Tougias will describe the harrowing attempts to rescue the seamen, especially focusing on four young Coast Guardsmen who must overcome insurmountable odds to save the lives of 32 crewmen stranded aboard the stern of the *Pendleton*. Standing between the men and their mission

were towering waves that reached 70 feet, blinding snow, and one of the most dangerous shoals in the world, the dreaded Chatham Bar. The waters along the outer arm of Cape Cod are called “the graveyard of the Atlantic” for good reason, yet this rescue defies all odds. Tougias will also discuss the making of the movie. Books will be available for sale and signing before and after program. The presentation is suitable for all ages.

Tougias has two new books just released from Simon and Schuster: *So Close To Home: A True Story of an American Family’s Fight for Survival During WWII* and *A Storm Too Soon: A True Story of Disaster, Survival, and an Incredible Rescue*.

Michael Tougias is the author and coauthor of 25 books including *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea*, which the Los Angeles Times called “breathtaking...a marvelous and terrifying tale.” Tougias’ previous book *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do During the Blizzard of ‘78* received an Editor’s Choice Selection from the American Library Association which selected it as one of the top books of the year.

Mr. Tougias was born and raised in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. He attended Boston College and graduated from Saint Michael’s College in Vermont. He is an avid outdoorsman, has a daughter Kristin, with whom he wrote a memoir entitled *The Cringe Chronicles* and currently resides in Massachusetts

Email Milton.library.foundation@gmail.com for details on sponsoring The Milton Library Foundation’s major fundraiser of 2017. Tickets to the Gala will be on sale after Labor Day.