

Island Heights Cultural & Heritage

2026 Speaker Series ~ 'The Texas Tower'

May 18th, 2026



Lost at Sea: The Collapse of the Air Force Tower

Imagine a wall of water more than 100 feet high slamming into the three-legged U.S. Air Force radar tower stationed 85 miles at sea. The ill-fated Texas Tower (TT-4) 85 miles off the coast of New Jersey, toppled in a violent nor'easter on January 15, 1961 and cost the lives of 28 airmen and civilians stationed onboard. The Texas Towers so named because they resembled Texas oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, housed radar equipment in 3 rubber domes and extended the U.S. monitoring capabilities for almost 150 miles in the ocean. They were critical for providing at least a 45-minute warning in the event of a Soviet Union attack from the north or east. Learn how decisions made that day sent 28 good men to a watery grave at sea as recounted by a member of the U.S. Air Force.

7 pm Ocean County Artist Guild ~ 22 Chestnut Street, Island Heights

Free & Open to the Public ~ Donations Appreciated

www.thecottagemuseum.org



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