



My Fellow Companions,

The Ground Hog did not see his shadow, and if I have the Folk Lore Correct, it means we will have an early Spring. Based on the weather the whole nation has been experiencing this Winter, that would be welcome, but I suspect it may be problematical. I think a second opinion like the Farmer's Almanac may be in order. But by the time you read this letter the Cherry Blossoms should be peaking out in Washington and the birds may be abandoning us here in the South and headed toward all of you Northerners. That would include Virginia despite how much Virginians may resist considering themselves Northerners. So be it. Time marches on and we have work to do.

In our last Newsletter I mentioned new initiatives that were approved by the Annual Congress held last October in Sparks/Reno, Nevada. Specifically it was decided to proceed with the development and installation of an Interpretive Marker to be placed adjacent to the Statue of Commodore John Barry in Franklin Park in Washington, D.C. We also approved the project to build a Memorial Statue of Admiral Chester Nimitz. Obviously these projects cost money.

The Barry Wayside Marker will be in the neighborhood of \$8,000. The initial estimate for the Statue of Admiral Nimitz is approximately \$250,000.

As the Nimitz Project proceeds and we have greater definition regarding its design and location, more accurate cost estimates will emerge. At that time the Naval Order Foundation will embark on a Fund-raising campaign, similar to that which was conducted



the Normandy Monument. As with the Normandy Monument, we will need "seed money" to prepare brochures, conduct mail-outs to prospective donors, acquire gratuities such as commemorative coins, and potential advertising costs.

Past Commander Generals Ken Johnson and Carter Conlin appealed to membership for this seed money and you responded generously with donations that totaled approximately \$30,000 on both occasions.

Last year we conducted our first "Annual Appeal" and your response was also most generous. We obtained sufficient funds to pay off all Normandy Monument Costs, our contribution to the digitization of Admiral Nimitz's War Diaries, his "Grey Book", and still have money left in the Foundation Accounts. I am appealing to you again this year to generously contribute to these Naval Order Mission Oriented activities. A letter of appeal will be sent out to all members.

For Annual dues paying members the Appeal Letter will be included with your dues renewal notices. This will save us a considerable amount of postal costs. Please pay close attention to this mail-out and be as generous as you can in supporting our Memorial Projects. Separate letters will be mailed to our Life Members and again I ask for your generous support. A donor card will be included allowing you to pledge your donation over time, if you like, and to specify how you would like your donation to be applied, either to the Barry Marker or the Nimitz Project.

Finally, I urge you once again to make your reservations for the Congress to be held this year in Galveston, Texas. I have been in contact with Dave Burr, The Congress Chairman for the Host Commandery, the Texas Commandery, and a very attractive program is shaping up. As in past years, there are very interesting local trips in the Galveston area, that I know will be of great enjoyment. Check out the Registration form included in this Newsletter for details on the trips to local attractions. We also have important business to review including the Barry Historical Marker, the Nimitz project and others. We will also be electing a new slate of officers. Of special interest is the attendance of our Distinguished Sea Service Award recipient, Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Ret). His major leadership role in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill tragedies should provide unique insights we could otherwise never receive. Looking forward to seeing you in Galveston".

Greg Streeter

2011 NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REGISTRATION FORM

Texas Commandery – Galveston, Texas 19-22 October 2011

Name/Rank _____ (Home) Phone () _____
 Address _____ (Business) Phone () _____
 City _____ (Cell) Phone () _____
 E-Mail _____ Your Commandery _____
 Attending Spouse/Guest _____

Arrival Date/Time _____ Departure Date/Time _____

Registration Fee of \$225 (\$250 after 15 September) includes Congress fees, Commander General’s Reception, two continental breakfasts, two lunches, Presidential Hospitality Suite and DSSA Reception and Banquet.

Congress Registration Fees _____ x \$225 per person = \$ _____

Make check payable to “2011 NOUS Congress” and mail registration form with payment to LT Ed Seiling USN (Ret.), 5719 Green Springs Dr, Houston, Texas 77066. E-mail: edseiling1@sbcglobal.net Tel/Fax: 281-440-3630

Optional events:

<u>Circle preferred day</u>	#	x	\$	= Amount
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Sea Wolf Park-USS Cavalla and USS Stewart and Air Museum	_____		\$30	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Moody Gardens-2 attractions	_____		\$25	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Tour of Galveston-stop at 2 homes	_____		\$40	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Tall Ship Elissa and Seaport Museum	_____		\$20	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Strand Shopping--by Trolley	_____		-	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Offshore Drilling Rig	_____		\$10	_____
Friday/Saturday 1330-1630 Texas Maritime Academy--by Trolley	_____		-	_____
			Total \$	

Go to www.navalorder.org home page and click on Congress-2011 for details on events.

Names and Titles for Congress badges _____ and _____
 _____ and _____
 _____ and _____

Congress Registration forms with payment before 1 August will be automatically entered into an “Early Bird” registration raffle pool for two gift packages.

Hotel Galvez, Galveston, TX 19-22 OCT 2011

Hotel Reservation Information at <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/GLSHG/> Make your CONGRESS 2011 reservations directly with our host hotel, Hotel Galvez, Galveston, Texas, 1- 800-996-3426, by referencing the Group Name **Naval Order 2011**. Online reservations should reference Group Code 1018486NA. Congress Rates are \$119 (plus local tax) for City view and \$149 (plus local tax) for Gulf view and will be honored three days before and after the Congress. Please make your reservations directly with the Hotel by calling 1-800-996-3426 and specify King or Double Beds and City view or Gulf view.

Rooms secured with a major credit card. There will be no room cancellation fee for reservations canceled 72 hours prior to scheduled date of arrival. If reservations are not canceled at least 72 hours in advance, a “no-show” fee equivalent to one night’s room rent will be assessed. Complimentary high-speed and wireless internet, complimentary self-parking, and local taxi and trolley service are available.

Commodore John Barry Interpretive Marker Project

The National Capitol Commandery is making good progress with the marker development. Joining the project committee of Bill Dudley, John Rodgaard and Kent Siegel is Ranger Michael Kelly, our working contact with the National Park Service. Michael is an avid student of naval history and has joined the Naval Order and is proving to be a very enthusiastic participant. A rough layout for the marker design and an eye-catching text of 100 words (NPS limit) has been composed that gives the gist of why we honor Barry as an American naval hero. The graphics will consist principally of a famous portrait of Barry and paintings of several sea battles in which Barry's ships were victorious over the British. As we plan ahead, the design must be complete by mid November so the manufacturing process for the porcelain panel can be bid and completed by mid March 2012.

Our tentative dedication date would miraculously fall on St. Patrick's Day. Wouldn't that put a twinkle in the eye of the great Irish-American sea fighter whom we venerate. Speaking of the Irish, the committee has established a friendly relationship with Washington Area members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. We have joined them on several social occasions and have received a wealth of important material on their interest in John Barry's life and naval career. Moreover they've given us some unique information on the Barry statue in Franklin Park in Washington, DC for which their order was a key sponsor and participant in the elaborate dedication ceremony in 1914. We welcome your financial support of the project.

Donations by check should be written to "Naval Order of the U.S. Foundation" and mailed to CAPT Al Serafini, USN (Ret) at 416 Sycamore St., San Carlos, CA 94070-2018.

Welcome Aboard New Members

Atlanta

MG Phillip Anderson, AUS
George H. Bickley V, USN
LCDR William Booth, USN
LCDR Andrew DodenHoff, USN
AC1 Michael Ehrlich, USN
William Gates III, USN
LT David Haist, USN
LT David Howe, USN
Jean James, USN
CAPT Gerald Moeller, USN
Sgt James Pugh, USMC

Monterey Bay

Col James Erickson, USMC

San Francisco

LT Angus Blackwood, USN
Katherine Martin

Charleston

LTJG Charles Foster, USN
LCDR Waring Hills III, USN
CPL Michael Kelley Jr.
CDR Michael Mercer, USN
CAPT Ladson Mills III, USN
LCDR John Sperr, USN
LT John Williams, USN

National Capitol

LCDR Thomas Burden, USN
MIDN Alexander Foley, USN
CDR Edward Majewski, USN
CAPT Gilbert Teal II, USCG
LCDR Marjorie Westlake, USN

New Orleans

William Arnold, USN
LtCol Todd Ford, USMC

New York

Douglass Mabee, USN
Lt Andrew Mason, USN

Raleigh

Elizabeth McAdams, USMC
Kimberly McAdams, USMC
Lynell McAdams, USN

San Diego

MCPO Daniel McLaughlin, USN

John Menicucci, USN William Mero, USN CAPT Denton Peoples, USN
Kathleen Mero, USN Joseph Ouellette Jr, USN

Looking for Relief at NOUS Ship's Store

CAPT Kris Carlock has run the Ship's Store since 2005 and reports it's great fun and communicating with Companions from all over the country is a joy. But it's time to step down. CAPT Carlock says that since San Francisco Companions have operated the Store for the past ten years, having a Companion from another Commandery would be ideal. For additional information contact: CAPT Carlock at 415.725.2101 or at her new email address: M.K.Carlock@gmail.com

Catching Up with the Commanderies

Charleston

Two organizational meetings were held in January and February, and the required strength in our ranks have been met. and have submitted our petition for charter.

Two events celebrating receiving the Charter as the Charleston Commandery are on Friday, April 15th and Saturday April 16th.

The events include a cocktail reception in honor of the new Commandery and guests on Friday, April 15th. On Saturday, April 16th, Commander General Greg Streeter presents the Commandery Charter and a celebration banquet will take place in the Commander's Reception Room of the Washington Light Infantry Armory.



From left to right: Rev Dr. Ladson Mills, Chaplain; John Williams, Vice Commander, Membership; Bob Besal, Recorder; James Scott, Treasurer; Tommy Lemacks, Commander.



Attendees at the February 2011 organizational meeting.

Monterey Bay

The Commandery “welcomes aboard” LT Mike Smith, USN as the new Commander due to the NPS graduation and departure of LT Bill Howey, USN. Bill’s inspirational leadership during his tenure as Commander was instrumental in the very successful Battle of Midway Dining-Out last summer as well as this past December 7th Remembrance Dinner. Following the graduation ceremonies, Bill and his family departed for the east coast where he will attend the Submarine Officer Advance Course before returning the Fleet.



VADM Dan Oliver, President of the Naval Postgraduate School (L) looks on as LT Mike Smith, the new Commander of the Monterey Bay Commandery, receives his "*Official Naval Order Patch*" from LT Bill Howey, out going Commander. Looking on is CAPT Ken Johnson, Immediate Past Commander General of the Naval Order.

The 69th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway Dining-Out will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School on Saturday 4 June. The event is chaired by the school’s President’s Student Council in coordination with the Monterey Bay Commandery of the Naval Order. Over the years, this event has grown with greater participation within the local military and civilian organizations on the Monterey Peninsula Coast. VADM Daniel Oliver will be the honoree “President of the Mess”. The evening will feature comments related from individuals that participated in the sinking of several enemy carriers, Navy pre-flight students from the 1943 U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at Del Monte (now the home of the Naval Postgraduate School), and comments from current Naval Aviation students recently returning from overseas conflicts. Further information can be found at www.nps.edu/midway.

San Francisco

Meetings in late 2010 were informative and full of recognition. LCDR Gerald Stewart RCNR, was awarded the Legionne d'Honneur by the French Consulate for his role with the Canadian Navy at the D-Day invasion at Normandy.

The October monthly meeting saw record attendance. Two Commanding Officers and two Department Heads from ships in port for Fleet Week, and a number of their Sailors attended. The spot light was on our outstanding community involvement, also recognized by our visiting General Commander, CAPT Greg Streeter.

Other activities finishing up the year included Joe Butler shared a beautiful 1909 piece of memorabilia from the Great White Fleet' visit in 1908. Mr. James Kern, Director of Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum spoke about Naval Station Mare Island, the Navy's oldest shipyard. Dr. J.M. Allan, marine archeologist enlightened us about the numerous Navy vessels that are under water in and around San Francisco Bay.

The annual Pearl Harbor Dinner included speaker Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown USCG, and two Pearl Harbor survivors, Chief Johnny Johnson and LtCol John Stevens, USMC.

Our speaker at the January's meeting was Maj Christopher Welsh, the Bay Area representative for "Marines for Life", a national organization that assists Marines as they transition into civilian life. Many of our Companions stepped up to assist the Major in locating interested employers.

February speaker was CAPT Patrick Moloney, Master and Port Captain of the National Liberty Ship Memorial SS Jeremiah O'Brien. The Jeremiah O'Brien is at Pier 45 in San Francisco and sails regularly with her group of volunteers, many of whom are Companions.

Texas

The annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony aboard the Battleship TEXAS was on Saturday 4 December. CAPT Carter Conlin, USN (ret), Past CG, gave the keynote address which included recollections of the attack by two survivors in attendance. CAPT Dave Burr USN (ret) presented Companion Lewis La Gesse, Texas State Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association with a ceremonial wreath to honor the veterans of attack for their service. Participants included LCDR Sean Cox, CHC, USN, Houston Brass Band, and the 1st Battalion 23rd Marines.



CAPT Conlin and CAPT Burr with Lewis La Gesse and survivors.

The Texas Commandery held its Annual Banquet on February 12, 2011 at which the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Leadership Award was presented to RADM Clay W. G. Fulcher, USN (Ret.).



CAPT Conlin, RADM Fulcher, CAPT Burr

RADM Fulcher served in the Navy for 34 years is credited for much of the successful operation of the astronaut space suits used since the 1960s.



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USS Constitution Included in SNDL Update from CAPT Chris Melhuish, 65th Commanding Officer

Earlier this year CAPT Chris Melhuish, USN (Ret) was perusing the Navy's Standard Navy Distribution List and noticed that the CONSTITUTION was not in either the Fleet or Shore administrative chains of command and made available the appropriate extract from the National Defense Authorization Act that designates Old Ironsides as America's Ship of State to the SNDL "custodian".

This resulted in the ship being properly recognized in the SNDL not only as a direct report to CNO but also listed as the US Ship of State. As far as CAPT Meluish determine, this is the first time so recorded in an official US Navy document.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE OPERATING FORCES OF THE U.S. NAVY

1 Mar 2011

ECHELON

FLEET CHAIN OF COMMAND

- 1 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (00011)
- 2 CONSTITUTION (U S SHIP OF STATE) (REPORTS TO CNO THROUGH THE DIRECTOR, NAVY STAFF)