

NAVAL ORDER

of the **UNITED STATES**

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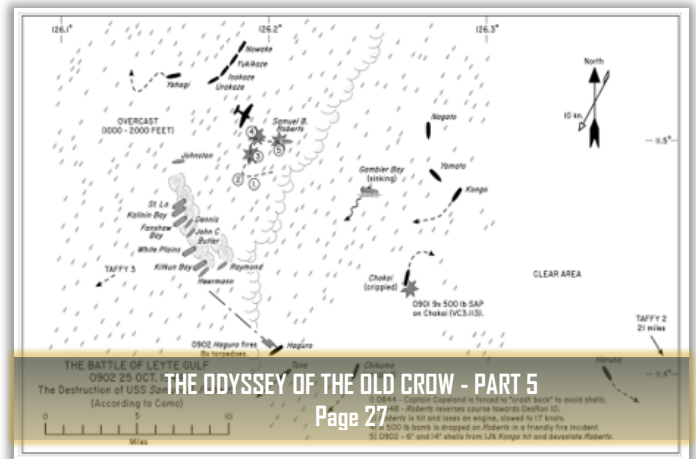
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THE NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES

Commander General CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.) - bwhitkop@gmail.com
Vice Commander General Communications John McKnight - mcknightnous@gmail.com
Deputy Vice Commander General Newsletter MCCS Robert A. Hansen, USN (Ret.) - jocsusnr@aol.com



Please join me in wishing a grateful and Happy Birthday to the United States Marine Corps!

It was on November 10, 1775 when Congress voted to raise two battalions of Continental Marines, establishing the Marine Corps.

The U.S. Marine Corps is the United States' military band of brothers dedicated to warfighting. The proud Brotherhood of Marines is guided by principles, values, virtues, love of country, and its warrior culture. This brotherhood of American Patriots has no song. Instead, Marine Warriors have a hymn. When The "Marines' Hymn" is played, United States Marines stand at attention. They silently show their pride in their fellow Marines, their corps, their country, their heritage, and their hymn.

The "Marines' Hymn" is a tribute to warriors. Marine warriors stormed fortress Derna, raised the American flag, and gave us "the shores of Tripoli." Marines fought their way into the castle at Chapultepec and gave us the "Halls of Montezuma." Marines exist for the purpose of warfighting. Fighting is their role in life. They "fight for right and freedom" and "to keep our honor clean." They fight "in the air, on land, and sea." The Marine Corps is Valhalla for warriors. U.S. Marines need no song. They have a hymn.

Ironically, no one knows who wrote the hymn, which was in widespread use by the mid-1800s. Col. A.S. McLemore, USMC, spent several years trying to identify the origin of the tune. In 1878, he told the leader of the Marine Band that the tune had been adopted from the comic opera, Genevieve de Barbant, by Jaques Offenback. Yet, others believe the tune originated from a Spanish folk song. Regardless of its origin, "The Marines' Hymn" has remained a revered icon of the United States Marine Corps for almost 200 years.

In 1929 "The Marines' Hymn" became the official hymn of the Corps. Thirteen years later in November 1942, the Commandant approved a change in the words of the first verse, fourth line. Because of the increasing use of aircraft in the Corps, the words were changed to "In the air, on land, and sea." No other changes have been made since that time. When you have attained absolute perfection, there is no need for further modification.

(Excerpt from Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines, Copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

*From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in ev'ry clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.*

May I offer all of my Marine Corps brethren my thanks and deepest respect for their dedication and Service! Semper Fidelis!

**Submitted by Bob Whitkop, CAPT, USN (Ret.)
Commander General**

The Naval Order 2021 Congress was again held in a Virtual Environment. The Continental Commandery hosted the Congress using collaboration software easily downloaded from the Internet. The Congress committee endeavored to deliver professional and rich information on Naval Order business and professional opportunities.

As many knew, the 2021 Congress was supposed to have been held in San Diego, with the idea that we could schedule several events with USS *Midway* and U.S. Marine Corps themes. However, the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the emerging Delta variant forced the NOUS leadership team to plan the Congress based on another virtual hosting. With the original venue and need to persevere in mind, the 2021 Congress Committee decided to go with the theme: "Always Faithful (Semper Fi) and Holding Fast."

Advanced training and testing made sure our equipment worked prior to the Congress and ensured a smooth event! All Business Reports were posted prior to the Congress, which allowed for an efficient review of committee reports and an effective conduct of each day's business.

Approximately 80 Companions from a quorum of commanderies participated in all activities. The Congress Committee was extremely proud of the turnout and attendance.

A speakers' bureau headed by Companion Fred Passman lined up speakers and presenters, drawing effectively upon our list of Morison Award winners as well as docents from both the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the USS *Midway* Museum. ABH2 (AW/SW) Michael Little, USN (Ret.) was essential to ensuring pre-Congress communications were sent out on a timely basis, and Companion Mark Wixom was a godsend when it came to the behind-the-scenes technical support and virtual presentation hosting. CAPT William Steagall, USN (Ret.) and Companion Sarah Koller were critical in updating the "digital drop box" for pre-Congress business, as well as keeping the website and registration refreshed. CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.) developed the Congress brochure. The brochure can be downloaded from the Congress page on the Naval Order's website:

navalorder.org/2021-congress

One additional twist to the Virtual Congress planning, however, was the incorporation of the Florida POD. CAPT Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.) had worked with the various Commanderies based in Florida, as well as a few stragglers, to create a face-to-face event in Orlando, FL to coincide with the broadcasting of the Virtual Congress. The Florida POD made for a 'blended' Congress and acted as a test of the concept. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun for those who could make it to the POD.

Congress opened for early check-in at 1400 on Friday, 22 October. At the striking of six bells at 1500 EDT the Congress was called to order. Continental Commandery Commander CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN (Ret.), as Congress emcee, welcomed everyone to the online event. The National Anthem was played, and all companions joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our virtual flag. CAPT Bresnahan then offered the invocation and read the 38 names of the Companions who passed since the conclusion of 2020 Virtual Congress. A bell sounded for each name read.

Commander General Allan Cruz then welcomed all Companions to the Congress and offered the State of the Order. Commander General Cruz reiterated his term's three goals: alignment of the Order, membership and retention, and succession planning. He had focused on ensuring we are straight with the IRS and other state agencies, as well as retention and expansion. He also broadened our leadership base by increasing active involvement in the Order.

After his remarks, Commander General Cruz requested the presentation committee reports, as required by our Constitution. The Credentials Committee, represented by MCCA Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.), reported that we had a quorum and could proceed with the Business of the Order. Reports were received from the Financial Review and Audit Committee, Investment Committee, Nominations Committee, National Awards Committee, Site Committee, and Naval Order Foundation. The Recorder General presented the actions of the General Council since the last Congress for approval by the current Congress. Most recommendations passed by acclamation.

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However, there was a request to table some matters related to political involvement for further review. Commandery support, Membership, Registrar, Retention, and our Historian also presented their reports.

In the final administrative event of the day, Commander General Cruz announced the CAPT Jan Armstrong Award for the lead small Commandery. Northwest Commandery was the winner. Incoming Commander General, Bob Whitkop, virtually presented the award plaque to Northwest Commandery Commander CAPT James McGinnes, MSC, USN (Ret.).



Incoming Commander General Bob Whitkop presents the CAPT Jan Armstrong Award to the Northwest Commandery.

After the CAPT Jan Armstrong award ceremony, Mr. Dan Kent gave an intriguing presentation titled: **Harrison and McCool; the 'Double Dose of Bad Luck Twins' of the Marine Corps**. The presentation gave wonderful insight into the U.S. Marine Corps and its actions during the Korean War, as well as the resiliency of Marines in captivity.

The day ended with the presentation by Commander General-Elect CAPT Robert Whitkop, USN (Ret.) of the Distinguished Sea Service Award – Senior Enlisted.

The award honors the exemplary service of a senior enlisted of one of the maritime services. The nominee list is selected and prepared by the Commander General-Elect with input from local commanderies. The Awards Committee then makes the final selection. This year Fleet Master Chief Mark Rudes, USN (Ret.) was honored. Master Chief Rudes personally accepted the award. Following the DSSA-SE Award presentation, the online activities were suspended for the day, and the Florida POD held an appreciation dinner in Master Chief Rudes' honor.



CAPT Whitkop presents the Distinguished Sea Service Award to FLTCM Rudes.

On Saturday, 23 October, we opened the History Day and Change of Command portion of the Congress. We called to Order at 1500 with admin remarks and gave thanks to the Continental Commandery Congress Committee. CAPT Bresnahan welcomed Southeast Florida First Coast Commandery Commander CWO3 Anthony Atwood, USN (Ret.), Ph.D. who presented: **Cold War in the Tropics: The Cuban Missile Crisis**. This was a timely overview on the anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Pictures from his presentation are available on the Naval Order website.

CAPT Bresnahan then introduced CAPT Stephen M. Andres, USN (Ret.), a docent at the USS Midway Museum, to share his presentation titled: **The Battle of Midway: How America Won the War in the Pacific**.

CAPT Andres noted that our Navy had no business winning the Battle of Midway.

Continued on next page...

The Navy was outgunned and outmanned, but in the end pulled off a miracle through daring leadership, a fortuitous intelligence breakthrough, and extraordinary heroism. Pictures from his presentation are also available on our website.

After a brief intermission, the Distinguished Sea Service Award, which recognizes the exemplary service of a senior flag officer of one of the maritime services, was conferred. This year Ambassador/Admiral Harry Harris, USN (Ret.) was the 2021 DSSA recipient. Arrangements were made to present the Admiral with the DSSA plaque and NOUS Life Membership certificate. ADM Harris was not able to join us in person. However, he accepted the award virtually and shared some detailed remarks on the challenges and importance of the ongoing U.S. diplomatic and military efforts within the Indo-Pacific theater.



The final history presentation of the Congress was offered by Major Davis A. Vickers, USMC (Ret.) entitled **Medium Tank Operations During the 1943 Battle of Tarawa**. The presentation was well received and provided wonderful detail on the use of battle tanks by the U.S. Marine Corps during the Tarawa Island campaign.

The next award presentation was for the LCDR Lee Douglas Award for the outstanding Large Commandery in the Order. The Award was presented in person by CAPT Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.) to ETCM (SW) John Craft, USN (Ret.), Commander of the Florida First Coast Commandery.



Commander General Allan Cruz used the following minutes to announce some personal awards to Companions who had made outstanding contributions to the Naval Order.

The last official business of the 2021 Congress was the Change of Command between Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.) and CAPT Robert Whitkop, USN (Ret.) and the installment of new officers of the Order. CAPT Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.) administered the oath of office to Commander General Robert Whitkop. Commander General Whitkop then administered the oath of office to all newly nominated Naval Order officers. He followed up with some words regarding his vision for the development of the Naval Order and growth in the membership.



Continued on next page...

Commander General Whitkop officially adjourned the 2021 Congress by thanking all those for attending and for the continued commitment to increase the relevance of the Order. We look forward to seeing everyone again in October 2022 in Washington DC.



“The POD” attendees listen attentively to one of the History and Heritage presentations.

The second virtual Congress was a success. We accomplished what we set out to do and we were able to have a measure of personal participation with our Distinguished Sea Service Awardees. However, we did lack the personal interaction and face to face comradery we share during our in-person congresses.

There are positive aspects of holding our annual Congress virtually, specifically the ability of our companions to attend without having to incur travel expenses and hotel bills. However, the lessons we have learned this year and last will enable us to hold blended congresses in the future. A blended Congress will allow companions to not only enjoy the in-person experiences, but also allows companions who may not otherwise attend, to still participate.

As we closed Congress 2021, we were happy to learn that the National Capital Commandry was approved to host the Congress 2022 in Alexandria, VA and that Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, has indicated that he plans to attend. The lessons and skills we learned during the second virtual/first blended Congress will set a precedent for not only 2022, but also the future. See the 2021 Congress link on our website for more details.

Follow plans for Congress 2022 in the newsletter and our website.

**Submitted by CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN (Ret.),
Continental Commandery Commander**

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA NAVAL ORDER CONGRESS IN ALEXANDRIA, VA

**Thursday through Saturday
20-23 October 2022**

Please note that we are arranging special guided tours of Washington, D.C. Metro area attractions for (Monday thru Wednesday) prior to the Congress.

We expect this Congress will be well-attended for several reasons:

- We haven't had an opportunity to assemble in person since Boston, October 2019
- The Congress venue is close to Washington DC and Reagan National Airport
- AMTRAK is a convenient mode of transportation to the Congress as well
- We have a wonderful location full of interesting things to see and do. There will be organized trips to Annapolis, Quantico, Arlington National Cemetery, etc. Many other attractions are close by and easy to get to using public transportation. You may want to arrive early and stay late
- OVER 400 Companions live within a “reasonable” driving distance, and might attend by car (lowering cost), or AMTRAK rather than fly. This has not always been the case in past Congresses

There will be full coverage of business sessions by Zoom teleconference if preferred.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR now and plan to attend! Check visitalexadria.com for more information on local sights and activities.

Be on the lookout for surveys of companions so that the Congress 2022 Committee can get a sense of your interests.

**Submitted by CAPT William Steagall, USN (Ret.)
Commander, National Capital Commandery**

**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES
PRESENTS NAVAL HISTORY NIGHTS**

Every month, NOUS presents programs over Zoom on a variety of topics related to Naval History. All are invited to join in. Please visit navalorder.org and click on History Happenings to find the Zoom link and recordings of each presentation. You may also email nouscongress@outlook.com for further information.

Below is a summary of author Paul Stillwell's book and February presentation.

VADM Willis A. Lee Jr. - Battleship Commander
by Paul Stillwell

"This is the first-ever biography of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr., who served a key role during World War II in the Pacific. Recognizing the achievements and legacy of one of the war's top combat admirals has been long overdue until now.

Battleship Commander explores Lee's life from boyhood in Kentucky through his eventual service as commander of the fast battleships from 1942 to 1945. Paul Stillwell draws on more than 150 first-person accounts from those who knew and served with Lee from boyhood until the time of his death.

Said to be down to earth, modest, forgiving, friendly, and with a wry sense of humor, Lee eschewed the media and, to the extent possible, left administrative details to others. Stillwell relates the sequential building of a successful career, illustrating ADM Lee's focus on operational, tactical, and strategic concerns.

In 1942 Willis Lee became commander of the first division of fast battleships to operate in the Pacific. During that service, he commanded Task Force 64, which achieved a tide-turning victory in a night battle near Guadalcanal in November 1942. Lee missed two major opportunities for surface actions against the Japanese.

Continuing his career of service near the end of the war, Lee, in the summer of 1945, directed anti-kamikaze research efforts in Casco Bay, Maine. While Lee's wartime successes and failures make for compelling reading, what is here in this biography is a balanced look at the man and officer."

For their December meeting Members of the Charleston Commandery participated in the Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Services aboard USS Yorktown (CV 10) on 7 December. CAPT Jerry Rovner, USN (Ret.) and CMDR Robert H. "Fuzzy" Knight, USN (Ret.) threw a wreath on behalf of the Commandery. Others in attendance were Sue Rovner, Jerry's wife, John Essenberg and his daughter Lori, Don Compagna, and MMCM Sam Kirton, USN (Ret.).

The January 2022 meeting was held on Sunday 23 January at the Charleston County Masonic Center, which will be our meeting place henceforth. Approximately twenty companions attended the meeting. Mr. Warren Lasch gave an outstanding presentation on some of the details entailed in raising and preserving the Civil War submarine H.L. Hunley.



Mr. Lasch was the Executive Director in charge of this immense and historic project. He planned and conducted all parts of this evolution and the process of preserving/restoring the submarine and for raising funds necessary to carry out the project. The Preservation Lab was named for him. In his talk, he described some of the problems he encountered and sometimes humorously described how he solved those problems.

Aimee Periera, wife of our Commandery Commander as well as President of the local Navy League also spoke. She reported on plans to commission USS Frank Peterson (DDG 121), here sometime this spring. Fuzzy Knight then gave a report on the meeting scheduled for 25 January with representatives from several local veterans organizations to plan for a dinner aboard USS Yorktown on 4 June to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

CDR. Robert H. Fuzzy Knight, USN (Ret.)

The Charleston Commandery resumed meetings in September after being suspended almost 18 months because of COVID.

We are now meeting in the Masonic Center on Orange Grove Road, West Ashley because our former meeting place in the rectory of the Huguenot Church downtown is still not available. Our meetings will continue to be held at the Masonic Center on the fourth Sunday of every month, except June to August and December.

We participate in the Carolina Day celebration and parade in June and the Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service aboard Yorktown in December with lunch following.

Carolina Day is the annual celebration of an important military victory that took place in the early days of the American Revolution. On 28 June 1776, British ships sailed into Charleston harbor and opened fire on a tiny fort on Sullivan's Island. The infamous "shots heard 'round the world" had been fired a little over a year before in April 1775, but Americans were still debating whether to declare independence from Britain. The British expected to put down the rebellion quickly by taking Charleston, one of the largest and wealthiest ports in America.

Unprepared for battle, patriot Colonel William Moultrie and his troops hastily constructed a fort on the tip of the island using local palmetto trees. As the British navy began their bombardment, the spongy logs absorbed the cannon balls rather than splintering. Moultrie's regiment, with a limited supply of troops and ammunition, fired carefully upon the British fleet, damaging the ships severely. After a day of bombardment, the British navy withdrew to New York, and it would be three years before they revived the fight in the southern colonies.

A year later, Charlestonians commemorated Moultrie's victory, and the holiday has been celebrated in the state ever since. The state flag, which features prominently in all Carolina Day celebrations, was designed by Colonel Moultrie after the battle. The indigo flag incorporates the crescent symbol from Moultrie's company flag and an image of the palmetto tree that was critical to that battle.

-Written by Ivy McIntyre for the South Carolina Historical Society



A year later, on the 28 of June 1777, Charleston witnessed celebratory firing of cannon, parades of proud soldiers, flags and banners waving, reverent prayers of thanksgiving, and copious feasting and drinking. Throughout the town and country, citizens raised their glasses in honor of the brave men who lost their lives on the 28th of June, to the gallant Sgt. William Jasper, and of course to Col. William Moultrie.

Our speaker in September, Perry Smith, gave a very interesting presentation on the Early History of the Carolinas and Charleston dating back to the 1500s.

The Carolina Territory in those days ranged from the Virginia border to approximately St. Augustine and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. It was later reduced to the Mississippi River, was subsequently divided into North and South Carolinas and Georgia.

We didn't have a planned speaker for our October meeting, but our companion, Michael Carra, gave us a spellbinding update on some of his recent adventures, current and future projects.

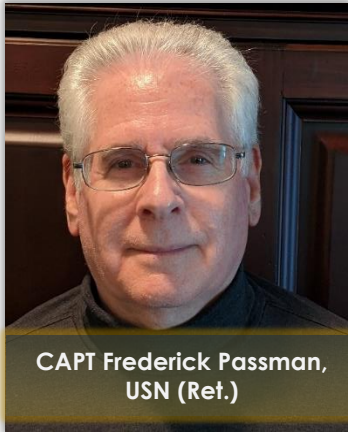
Aimee Periera, wife of our Commander Mike, reported on the National Congress just completed.

Fuzzy Knight reported that he and Aimee Periera are working on plans to hold a dinner celebration next June 4th on the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway. The Charleston Commandery will sponsor this event, inviting all area veterans. Hopefully, it will become an annual event. Several veterans organizations have already expressed an interest in participating.

Submitted by CDR Robert H. "Fuzzy" Knight, USN (Ret.)

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 23 October, CAPT Frederick (Fred) J. Passman, USN (Ret.) relieved CAPT Aaron Bresnahan USN (Ret.) as Commander, Continental Commandery. However, CAPT Bresnahan has not gone far. He is now the NOUS Vice-Commander General – Commandery Support.



CAPT Passman became a Texas Commandery companion in 1984. After relocating to Chicago, he joined the Illinois Commandery. In 2017, CAPT Passman became a charter companion of the Continental Commandery. Since late 2020, CAPT Passman has been recruiting speakers for the Commandery's monthly naval history virtual lectures.

CAPT Passman and his wife, Willa Inlander have called Princeton, NJ home since 1996. He and Willa have one son and a daughter-in-law. CAPT Passman also has one daughter, a son-in-law and two grandchildren from a previous marriage.

Commissioned through the Reserve Officer Candidate (ROC) program in 1970, CAPT Passman participated in the initial Surface Warfare Officer School pilot program. He served aboard the USS *McKean* (DD 784) as Damage Control Assistant.

In 1973, then LTJG Passman matriculated in the Ph.D. program at the University of New Hampshire and joined the Selected Reserve. Soon thereafter he joined USS *Detector* (MSO 429) as SELRES Operations Officer. He received his Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1977.

In 1977, then LT Passman became the SELRES Operation Officer, then Executive Officer of the USS *Affray* (MSO 509). LT Passman subsequently

joined the USS *Edson's* (DD 946) SELRES crew as Operations Officer, and later, Executive Officer.

In 1981, after moving to Houston, TX, LCDR Passman joined Fleet Training Group San Diego Detachment (FTG SDIEG DET) 210. He served in that unit initially as Operations Officer and later as Commanding Officer. As a LCDR, he also served as Commanding Officer FTG SDIEGO DET 2013, Great Lakes, IL.

CAPT Passman successively commanded the Fleet Training Center, Great Lakes SELRES Unit, and Naval Control of Shipping Office, Indian Ocean, Detachment 213. After a tour as Readiness Officer, Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Region 13, CAPT Passman served as Commanding Officer Military Sealift Command, Wilmington, Detachment 106 – retiring in 1998.

Continuing along the same path initiated by CAPT Bresnahan, CAPT Passman's primary objective is to develop improved ways to cultivate connection and comradery among the Continental Commandery's internationally dispersed companions.

The Commandery also welcomed aboard two new leaders. Mr. Mark Wixom has become Vice-Commander, Communications and Mr. John Peracchio has become Chair, Naval History Virtual Lecture Committee.

During the 2021 National Congress, Mr. Wixom did an excellent job choreographing the Zoom application from his home in San Diego, CA. Having accepted the Naval History Chair responsibility in mid-December, Mr. Peracchio has already lined up our lecturers through April 2022.



Mr. Mark Wixom



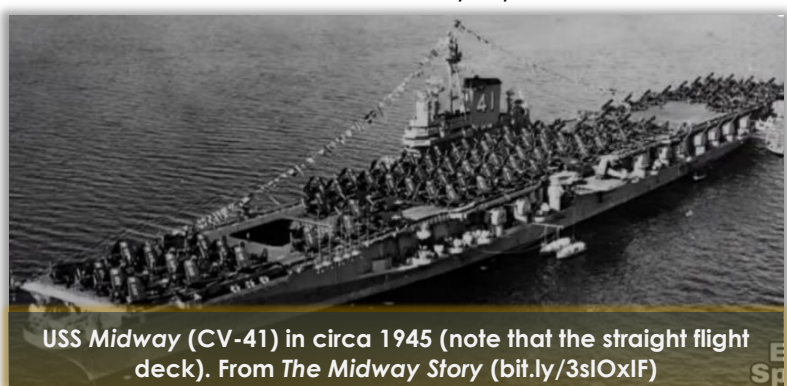
Mr. John Peracchio

Submitted by CAPT Frederick J. Passman, USN (Ret.)

NAVAL HISTORY VIRTUAL LECTURER SERIES

After a two-month hiatus to avoid conflicts with the NOUS History Night and National Congress lectures, the Continental Commandery's series picked up again with a history of the USS *Midway*'s transition from active service as CV-41 to the ship's current role as a maritime museum. Permanently docked in San Diego, the USS *Midway* Museum is the fifth most visited museum in the United States – welcoming more than 1.4 million visitors annually. During his lecture, Mr. John Landry, a USS *Midway* Museum Docent, recounted the ship's illustrious history from keel laying to museum service. It's a fascinating story you can watch at bit.ly/3Jh6Agh.

In December, Mr. Landry returned as our virtual history lecturer. This time he regaled attendees with a detailed account of the Battle of Coral Sea 4-8 May 1942. During his presentation, Mr. Landry discussed the strategically pivotal decisions made by the Imperial Japanese Navy, the battle's progress, and its implications for the balance of U.S. and Japanese naval orders of battle for the remainder of the war. The Battle of Coral Sea lecture can be watched at bit.ly/3yWtZio.



USS *Midway* (CV-41) in circa 1945 (note that the straight flight deck). From *The Midway Story* (bit.ly/3slOxIF)

In the months ahead, we will learn about the history of the USS *Olympia* (C 6) ADM George Dewey's flagship during the Battle of Manila Bay and museum ship at Philadelphia's Independence Seaport Museum.

Our 29 January 2022 guest lecturer will be Mr. Peter Seibert, CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum. Our future lectures will be equally educational and fascinating. All are welcome.

Check the *Upcoming Events* page bit.ly/3sx3ezP for details or join the Continental Commandery's *LinkedIn* group to learn about our upcoming events.

Submitted by CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.)

NAVAL HISTORY NIGHT WITH DR. ALAN BLISS

Our presenter for December 2021 was Dr. Alan J. Bliss. Dr. Bliss is a member of the Naval Order, Florida First Coast Commandery. Our presentation in December was on Oral History: Importance and the 'How to.'

Below you will find links to the documents that will assist each of you to embark on your own journey to an autobiography or biography of service for your family and posterity.

Dr. Alan Bliss has served as CEO of the Jacksonville Historical Society since January 2018. Prior to then, he taught U.S. History at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. His courses include Urban History, Maritime History, the Great Depression and the New Deal, Civil Rights, and Proseminars on Public History - all emphasizing Jacksonville.

Bliss holds bachelor's (summa cum laude) and master's degrees, as well a Ph.D., all from the University of Florida, where he investigated urban political economy in the Sunbelt during the twentieth century. His dissertation, ***Making a Sunbelt Place***, focused on growth in Tampa, FL from 1923 to 1964. His research on modern Florida has won professional awards, and he has made presentations at numerous academic conferences nationwide. He consults widely on preservation and historic resources, and in 2015 he authored a fifty-year history of Jacksonville's Haskell Company.

Bliss' memberships include the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Downtown Council and the Naval Order of the United States. He is a member of Riverside Presbyterian Church, where he serves on the Property Committee. From 2017-2019, Bliss served on the Board of Directors of Fonkoze, USA, Inc., a microfinance organization directed at assistance for Haiti's rural ultra-poor. Before returning to higher education, he worked in the real estate industry and as a commercial mariner. He is an experienced offshore sailor and continues to enjoy boating on the St. Johns River and surrounding waters.

Oral History Interview Guide - bit.ly/3Kj5nFO

Deed of Gift - bit.ly/3tvGwZo

FFCNOUS: A POD, A PARADE, A SHIP, COMPETITION, AND REMEMBRANCE

The POD

Merriam-Webster defines a POD as “an usually small group of people who regularly interact closely with one another but with few or no others in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection during an outbreak of a contagious disease.”

Such was the case of the Florida Commanderies of the Naval Order when they decided to meet at the Avanti International Resort in Orlando, Florida to participate via video conferences with the National Congress. Companions CAPT Kris Carlock and CAPT Michele Lockwood were the driving forces and coordination team spearheading the event. Warm central Florida weather, amenable hosts, and poolside libations, combined to produce a most enjoyable and unforgettable event.

Commander General-Elect CAPT Bob Whitkop arrived in Orlando days early to set-up and test the conference connections. After all the audio and video connections were in place and working as expected, companions from the Southeast Florida (Miami) Commandery, the (soon to be established) Southwest Florida (Tampa) Commandery and the Florida First Coast (Jacksonville) Commandery began arriving.

Outside of the business meetings of the Congress, dinners and social gatherings of friends and companions both poolside and at local Orlando watering holes were the order of the three-day event. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends and enjoy the moment.

The Parade

FFCNOUS again had a presence in the Jacksonville annual Veterans Day Parade. “Big Red” the name affectionately given by some to the truck driven by ETCM Craft was decorated in full regalia to honor all who have served. Commander General CAPT Whitkop was the honored passenger along with his grandson, A.J. FFCNOUS banners were affixed to the sides of the truck to advertise our mission and parade coverage by local television stations helped raise awareness our involvement in the community.

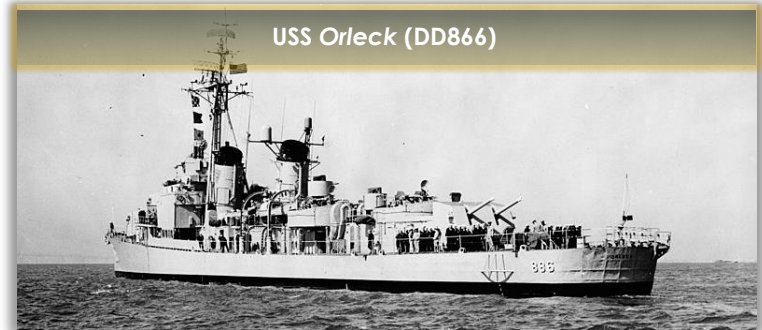
QR code banners are being acquired to effortlessly drive parade and tv viewers to both the local and national websites.



ETCM Craft with "Big Red"

The Ship

The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) under the direction of Companion CAPT John O'Neill continues progressing smartly on the move of the former USS Orleck (DD 866) to the drydock in Orange, Texas with further transfer to its new berth on St. Johns River in downtown Jacksonville, Florida.



USS Orleck (DD866)

The Competition

National History Day Competition amongst the several Naval Junior ROTC units in the Northeast Florida is underway for the year 2022. Several members of the FFCNOUS contributed generously to the local awards fund in hopes of generating a greater response from students. Companion CAPT Ed Froelich and Companion Professor Richard Murphy are actively seeking judges for the 2022 submissions. Direct liaison with the commanding officers of the Units will hopefully inspire greater research and writing about our Naval History.

The Remembrance

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner for the FFCNOUS was hosted by the Cypress Village Retirement Community.

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We were fortunate to have several local companions relate their personal experiences and memories of 7 December 1941.

Companion CAPT Greg Streeter related the mood of the country and the effects on daily living during the following years. CAPT Streeter, living in Milwaukee and aged 6 at the time of the attack, gave first-hand accounts of rationing, war stamps and bonds, victory gardens, and recycling of scrap metals. His presentation was a rare insight into the perceptions of a youngster during those years.



Companion CAPT Bill Wirth, then a 2-year-old dependent living in Honolulu, read excerpts from his father's diary of his arrival in Pearl Harbor aboard the USS *Portland* on 13 December 1941. The senior Wirth was serving as the Commanding Officer of the USS *Portland* and was underway at the time of the attack. The diary inputs continued for several days after December 7th and provided insight to the mood of the officers and crews after the attack.

An informal discussion session followed the presentations and included CAPT Sandy Lockwood relating the experiences of his family members who were living in the Philippines at the time of the attack and CAPT Michele Lockwood relating stories of both Army and Navy Nurses at several island outposts during the war.

FFCNOUS is looking forward to repeating and improving on the events of the past year in 2022!

Submitted by John Craft

CHEROKEE NATION RECEIVES CRUISE BOOK OF ADMIRAL JOCKO CLARK

To honor Native American History month, the Library Trust of the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. hosted VADM Jeffrey Trussler USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (N2N6) and Director of Naval Intelligence. VADM



Admiral Jocko Clark

Trussler, a member of the Cherokee Nation, presented the World War II cruise book from Task Force Carrier Division Thirteen, commanded by Admiral Joseph James "Jocko" Clark USN (1893-1971) to Ms. Kim Teehee, the Cherokee Nation's designated representative to the U.S. Congress. The event at The Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square coincided with the birthday of Admiral Clark, who was a member of the Club. His two grandsons and his granddaughter, in town for a family event, attended the event with other Club members and members of the Cherokee Nation.

Presented to Admiral Clark by his staff when he commanded the Fast Carrier Task Force aboard USS *Hornet* in 1942, the cruise book includes inscribed portraits and operational photos shot by famous war photographer LT Charles Kerlee, who served with LCDR Edward Steichen's renowned Naval Aviation Photographic Unit. Thanking VADM Trussler, Ms. Teehee then gave him a naval cap bearing Admiral Clark's own officer crest.

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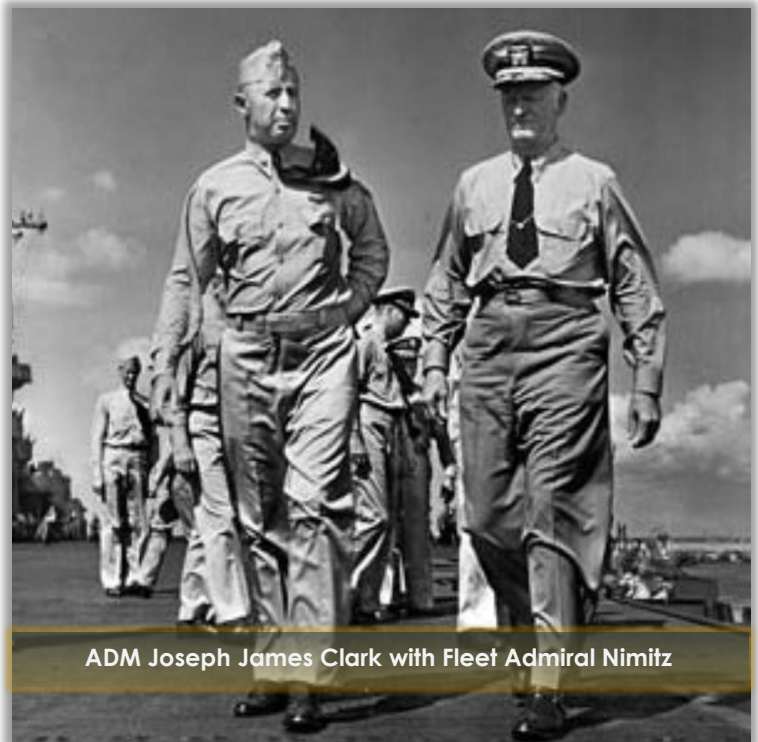
The crest and cruise book were part of a large trove of memorabilia purchased in an estate sale by actor and real estate agent, Jeffrey Stephan, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, also attending the event. In 2015, a group of naval officers led by club member and Naval Order companion, LCDR Michael Zampella, purchased a large portrait of ADM Clark, which they donated to the Army Navy Club's Library Trust. Mr. Stephan then entrusted Zampella with finding suitable places for the other Clark memorabilia. Zampella had donated ADM Clark's photographs and letters to the U.S. Naval Academy Museum. The Club event was to ensure Clark's cruise book would go to the Cherokee Nation in his honor.

Native to Oklahoma and born in living memory of the Cherokee removals and the Trail of Tears, ADM Clark was the first Native American to graduate from the United States Naval Academy. He remains the only Native American to achieve four-star rank in the U.S. Armed Forces. His first assignments were aboard destroyers during World War I; he transitioned to naval aviation, becoming a pioneer and advocate of the emerging capability.

During the interwar period, he served as the only aeronautical member of the Board of Inspection and Survey, assiduously working to bring the types of ships and aircraft necessary to the success of the fast

the carriers USS *Suwannee* (ACV 27) and USS *Yorktown* (CV 10).

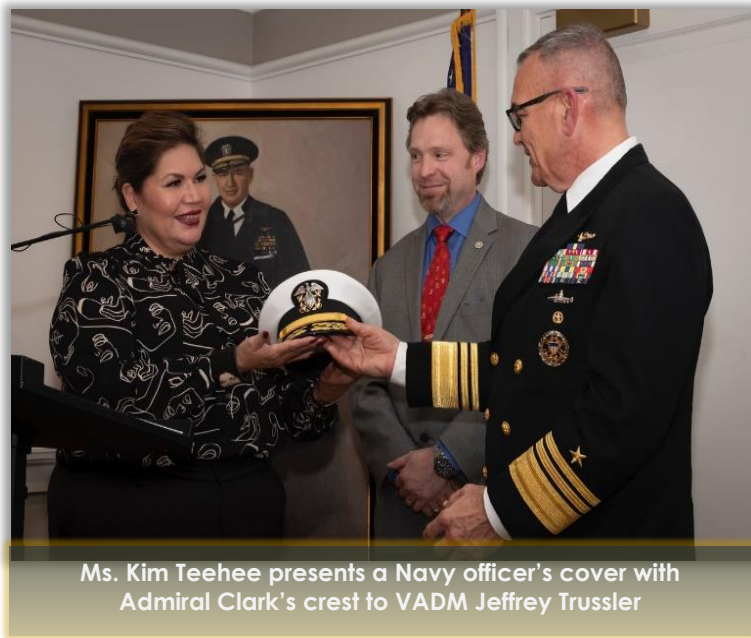
Clark was a dynamic commander, his emphasis on offensive maneuver, hit and run attacks, and striking deep in enemy territory, led him to be called the "Patton of the Pacific." He was given command of Task Force 58, with his flag on USS *Hornet* (CV 12) during the Marianas Campaign and the Battle of the Philippine Sea. Fleet Admiral Nimitz dubbed ADM Clark "the fightingest Admiral in the Pacific Theatre" and he is remembered for his famous saying: "Watch every angle and fight for every inch."



ADM Joseph James Clark with Fleet Admiral Nimitz

During the Korean Conflict, Clark commanded the Seventh Fleet. Clark was famous for his self-proclaimed "Cherokee Strikes," where he concentrated his carrier task force on the destruction of enemy weapons and supplies behind enemy lines.

He received a "tombstone" promotion to four-star Admiral upon retirement due to his combat citations. His awards include the Navy Cross, Navy DSM, Army DSM, the Silver Star, and the Legion of Merit (with valor device). The guided-missile frigate, USS *Clark* (FFG 11) was named in his honor. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Ms. Kim Teehee presents a Navy officer's cover with Admiral Clark's crest to VADM Jeffrey Trussler

attack carrier task force in the coming war. He then proved the concept in battle, commanding

Submitted by LCDR Michael Zampella

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMANDERY COMMEMORATES PEARL HARBOR

December 7, 2021 dawned chilly and bright under a clear sky in the nation's capital city. Companions of the National Capital Commandery commemorated the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor with a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery and a dinner at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC.

The annual wreath-laying took place at 12:15 pm, just after the ceremonial changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the hill above the sea of gravestones that is Arlington National Cemetery. The time was chosen to coincide with 8:15 AM Hawaii time, when the Japanese bombed the ships and naval facilities of Pearl Harbor in 1941. In a solemn ceremony, with the assistance of a soldier of the U.S. Army "Old Guard," four wreath-bearers placed a red, white, and blue wreath, saluting while a bugler played taps.



The wreath is in place, followed by a salute.

The wreath-bearers were CAPT John Rodgaard (USN, Ret.); Ms. Wendy Braniff of Houston, Texas; Commodore Matt Hudson, Royal Australian Navy attaché; and Commander Derrick Powles, assistant Royal Navy attaché. Also present in the official party were companions CAPT Kevin Myers, commander of the Georgetown University Navy ROTC unit, and commander CAPT William Steagall (USN, Ret.).

That evening, approximately seventy people attended the commandery's commemorative dinner at the elegantly appointed Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square in Washington, DC.

Mr. John Shanahan served as emcee, with Chief Purser Julius Jackson as the evening's chaplain, who

delivered the invocation and benediction.

Four Mooberry Sea Cadets presented the colors. Attendees ranged in rank from midshipmen to admirals, along with naval attachés from the Australian and British embassies. CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.) introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Angela Callahan, Historian to the Secretary of the Navy, whose speech was entitled "Still Reflecting, Still Learning."



Among the commemorative dinner VIPs:
Mr. Bernie Barston (Korean War Veteran) and
Vice Admiral Lisa Marie Franchetti.

The evening ended with a toast to honor those who perished and those who fought at Pearl Harbor.

The successful dinner was the product of hours of planning and preparation by the dinner committee, under the direction of LCDR Steve Baker, USN (Ret.) and CAPT William Steagall, USN (Ret.). Additional committee members were LCDR Ralph Day, USN (Ret.), CDR John Prevar (USN, Ret.), Mr. Peter Pennington (formerly of the Royal Navy), and Dr. Judy Pearson.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.

AMBASSADOR J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II SPEAKS TO THE NAVAL ORDER BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, 19 September, former U.S. Ambassador and Secretary of the Navy, J. William Middendorf spoke at the monthly Naval Order Book Club (on Zoom) about his recently published book, ***The Great Nightfall: How We Win the New Cold War***, followed by a Q&A session. Those of us in attendance felt honored because of Ambassador Middendorf's long history of service to the nation as well as the urgency of his subject matter.

The ambassador has served a number of presidential administrations in high-level positions. Some of the most important weapon systems in U.S. history were deployed during Ambassador Middendorf's tenure as Secretary of the Navy (1974-1977) including the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine fleet, Trident missiles, the Aegis Battle Managed Systems, and the FA-18 warplane. He was Ambassador to the European Communities, the Organization of American States, and the Netherlands. A delegate to presidential nominating conventions as far back as Barry Goldwater's in 1964, Middendorf was active in shaping conservative foreign, defense, and economic policy through regular meetings with staff members on Capitol Hill. He was the intellectual force behind the North American Free Trade Agreement. At age 97, he is a true renaissance man with interests in current events on an international scale, music, and art.

The Great Nightfall is a series of essays that document threats to national security posed by Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea as well as from terrorism, cyber warfare, and electromagnetic pulse attack (EMP). Ambassador Middendorf makes the case that national security and military readiness must be the nation's top priority. His purpose is not a call for war but to encourage the U.S. preparation for war, should it occur. "The only good war is the one that is never fought." Space weapon development is essential to U.S. defense, as is continually maintaining and upgrading a strong Navy. Diplomacy will not suffice. The U.S. must achieve "peace through strength."

According to Middendorf, the U.S. is in an arms race in which capitalism is pitted against communism. Industry leaders must agree to a "one world policy" in which Western nations pool their resources.

Middendorf also notes that the U.S. and its allies must recognize the economic threat that China poses in terms of our debt to China. China's threat extends to China's ownership of strategic ports, advances in weapons systems, cyber espionage, and in their theft of technology and intellectual property.

This is just one example of the quality presentations you will find in the free Naval Order Book Club, hosted by Commander Phil Puckett of the National Capital Commandery. Book Club meetings are on Zoom. New attendees must first register with the Naval Order Book Club page on Goodreads.com to get on the email mailing list.

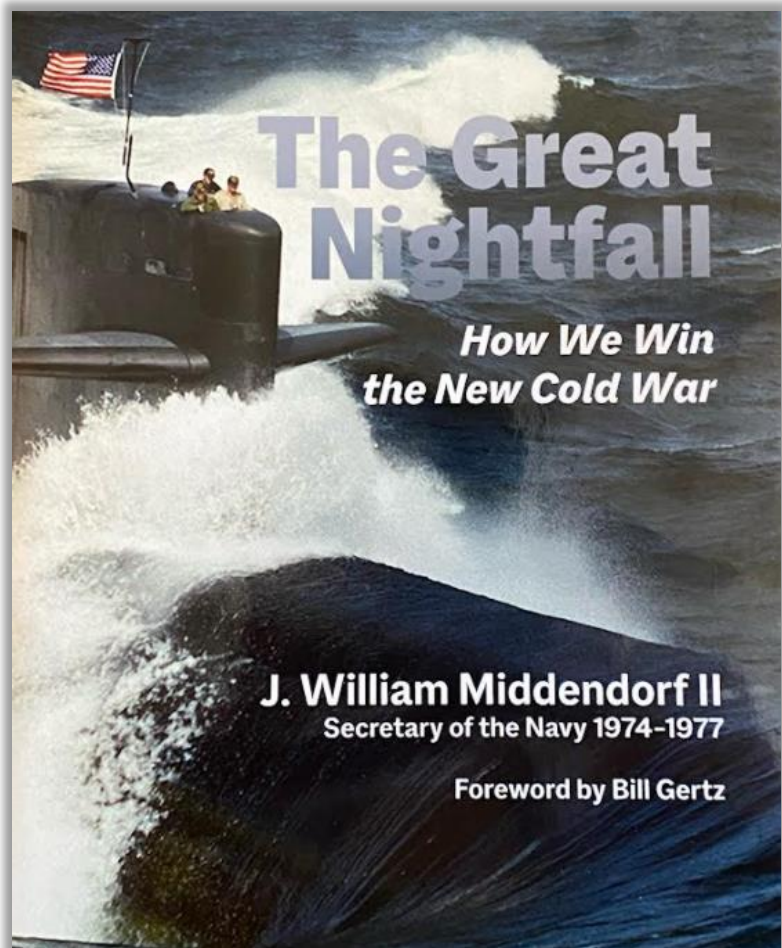
Recent Book Club offerings include:

November 2021: Dr. Bill Dudley spoke on *Inside the U.S. Navy 1812-1815*.

December 2021: The book club reviewed *Fortune Favors Boldness* by VADM Barry M. Costello, USN (Ret.), former Commander U.S. Third Fleet.

Please join the book club for more exciting titles.

**Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.
and Commander Phil Puckett**



CAPT PETER SWARTZ AND DR. CHARLES CHADBOURN HONORED AT COMMODORE DUDLEY KNOX AWARDS EVENT

On 12 August 2021, the Naval Historical Foundation (NHF) hosted the 2020 Commodore Dudley W. Knox Awards with a luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. The 2020 awards were originally scheduled for the fall of 2020, but the event was delayed until August 2021 due to COVID-19.

A number of members from the National Capital Commandery attended because two of our companions, CAPT Peter Swartz and Dr. Charles Chadbourn, were award recipients.

The Knox Medal is named for Commodore Dudley Wright Knox (1877 – 1960). A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Naval War College, Knox had a distinguished career as a naval officer with service in the Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, Great White Fleet, and World War I. As a historian, librarian, and archivist, he earned respect and admiration from his peers, and later generations, with the U.S. Navy naming the USS Knox (FF 1052) in his honor.

The NHF established the award in 2013 to honor individuals who have dedicated a lifetime of work to further the advancement and understanding of naval history.

CAPT Peter Swartz, USN (Ret.) received the Commodore Dudley W. Knox Medal for Lifetime Achievement, as an expert on 20th and 21st-century Navy strategy, policy, and operations and on military history, organization, and culture. His work examines Navy strategy, the organizational history of the Navy, U.S. Navy international relationships, and U.S. inter-service relationships, policy, and doctrine. He works for the Center for Naval Analysis, following 26 years as a Navy officer in strategy, plans, and policy.

Joining the SECNAV's Advisory Committee on Naval History in the 1980s, he served as advisor to the Naval Historical Center (now Naval History and Heritage Command) for more than three decades. He has mentored scores of junior and senior naval officers as well as senior flags and civilian senior executives. Admiral Jamie Foggo, one of CAPT Swartz's many mentees, gave a tribute to CAPT Swartz and NFH Chairman, ADM William Fallon USN (Ret.), presented the award.



CAPT Peter Swartz (c) receives the Knox Medal from ADM William Fallon (l), accompanied by ADM Jamie Foggo (r).

In his remarks, CAPT Swartz credited his mentor, CAPT, Dr. David Rosenberg, USN (Ret.), with teaching him the transformational power of an education in history. Dr. Rosenberg (himself, a noted historian, author, and speaker), who was present, is a companion of the National Capital Commandery and a member of the NHF selection committee.

For more information about CAPT Swartz receiving this award, see the Winter 2021 issue of the Naval Order of the United States newsletter. The other Knox Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020 was Dr. Michael Crawford, former assistant branch head and lead editor of the Naval Historical Center (NHHC), author/editor of seventeen books and numerous articles, and past Senior Historian of the Navy.

Dr. Charles Chadbourn (CAPT, USN, Ret.) received the NHF Kenneth Coskey Volunteer of the Year award. For decades, Dr. Chadbourn has dedicated his energies and skills to naval history education and research.

With a Master of Arts in History, he joined the Navy to serve as a Surface Warfare Officer on destroyers in the Western Pacific with two tours to Vietnam.

After leaving active duty in 1976, he earned a Ph.D. in U.S. Naval and Diplomatic History. He continued serving in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a captain. He led three commands, including two of the nation's largest reserve units. VADM Stanfield Turner chose him to open the first nonresident Fleet Seminar Program in Washington, D.C., which has now expanded to more than 1000 students at fleet concentration sites around the country. He has also received the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

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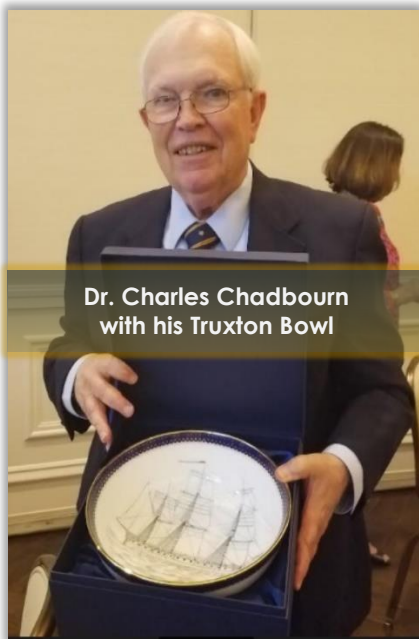


Dr. Charles Chadbourn (r) receives his certificate from ADM William Fallon (l) and Mrs. Rosemary Cosky (c).

Dr. Chadbourn is editor-in-chief of the NHF-supported *International Journal of Naval History* and the foundation's point person at National History Day ceremonies. He also helped to organize the NHF Teachers of Distinction Program, which recognizes teachers who support their students' naval history projects. Dr. Chadbourn received a certificate from ADM Fallon and Mrs. Rosemary Coskey (widow of the late Kenneth Coskey). He also received a Truxton Bowl; a replica of a Chinese porcelain bowl made for CAPT Thomas Truxton in 1794. Truxton commanded the USS *Constellation* 1798 to 1800.

Winners of the 2021 Commodore Dudley W. Knox awards have been announced and will receive their awards at the Knox banquet in September 2021 in conjunction with the McMullin Biannual Naval History Symposium at Annapolis, Maryland.

Submitted by
Judy Pearson, PhD



Dr. Charles Chadbourn with his Truxton Bowl

SEPTEMBER

After 15 months of the pandemic preventing the New York Commandery from meeting, the commandery held its first in-person luncheon in September 2021. The first meeting was well attended with the attendees sharing sea stories and more.

OCTOBER

At the October luncheon, author and companion Dale Jenkins spoke on his new book ***Diplomats and Admirals, PEARL HARBOR, Before, During and After the War.***



Dale Jenkins

Diplomats and Admirals recounts the mounting confrontation of the Imperial Japanese Navy and the U.S. Navy culminating in 1941. The story begins with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the U.S. leader who advocated for a strong Navy but was impeded by isolationists. On the Japanese side is Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who built an aircraft carrier fleet into the most powerful naval force on the planet. It brings to life persons who played major roles: President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Japanese Prime Ministers Konoe and Tojo, ADM Chester Nimitz, Admiral Yamamoto and others. It shows that the war in the Pacific was the result of internal divisions and misjudgments on both sides of the Pacific Ocean, and possible duplicity within the Roosevelt administration.

Also at the luncheon, a short business meeting was held to vote on the upcoming slate of officers for 2021-2023. The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected.

NOVEMBER

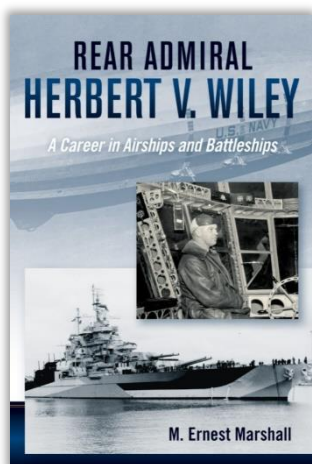
In November, Dale Jenkins was speaker on one of the NOUS History Nights.

Dale Jenkins is a former U.S. Navy officer who served on a destroyer in the Pacific, and for a time was homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. While on active duty he was awarded the Navy Expeditionary medal. His business career was primarily in international banking,

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and he also was a staff director at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Dale currently serves on the Samuel Eliot Morison Committee of the Naval Order of the United States, New York, that annually presents the most prestigious award for the best current history of the US sea services. He also is a Regional Director of the Naval War College Foundation. He has degrees in history and business from Harvard and Columbia.

Also in November, the 2021 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature was presented to author M. Ernest Marshall, MD, for his book **Rear Admiral Herbert V. Wiley, A Career in Airships and Battleships**. Although the book was selected in 2020, the award was moved to 2021 due to the shutdown of New York City during the pandemic.



Daniel Thys, MD, explained the history and criteria of the Morrison award while William H. Schmidt made the presentation. Both are co-chairs of the Morrison committee. The Change of Command from Henry Warnke to CAPT Lawrence Brennan, JAG, USN (Ret.), followed the award presentation.



2021 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature
William H. Schmidt, M. Ernest Marshall, MD,
Henry Warnke, Daniel Thys, MD.

DECEMBER

At the December luncheon, CDR John F. V. Cupschalk opened the meeting with a Remembrance of the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.



CDR John F. V. Cupschalk

Retired from the United States Navy (Reserves) in 2015 after 28 years of service, he served with numerous active duty and reserve commands: Naval Coordination and Guidance of Shipping (two tours) as Executive Officer, Operations Officer and Training Officer; Navy Information Operations Command as Special Projects Officer; Commander Second Fleet as Civil Military Operations and Inter-Agency Affairs Officer; active duty with Navy Central Command /Commander Fifth Fleet as Coordinator for the Friendly Forces Coordination Center (18 nation naval coalition) and Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff - Manpower and Individual Augmentation Manager during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Decorations include the Armed Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. He also received the Long and Faithful Service Medal from the New York Naval Militia.

CDR Cupschalk is past-Commander of the New York Commandery, sat on the Boards of Directors for the N.Y. Council of the Navy League of the U.S. and the N.Y. Commandery of Military Order of Foreign Wars of the U.S., and commissioned a colonel in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

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The luncheon was followed by a brief talk by the commander, CAPT Lawrence Brennan, announcing plans for the upcoming months. Afterwards, members shared holiday companionship.



CAPT Lawrence Brennan

CAPT Lawrence Brennan was a Federal Litigator for the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a retired Captain, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy and served at sea and ashore for more than 33 years, including record setting tour at sea in the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68), which launched helicopters during the Iranian Hostage Rescue Attempt. As a Navy Lieutenant, he spent months in the Persian Gulf Northern Arabian Sea areas.

He was counsel for the Navy Investigation into the fatal air crash on board *Nimitz* that led to the "Zero Tolerance" anti-drug program following fourteen deaths and more than 50 serious injuries. He has extensive experience litigating and investigating major marine casualties on both the civil and criminal side.

CAPT Lawrence Brennan has been interviewed on national television and radio and has been frequently cited by U.S. and international media on major maritime casualties and public international law issues. He has written extensively on maritime casualties, public international law, and maritime and naval history.

Professor Brennan taught at Fordham Law School for eight years. He has a particular professional and personal interest in the interrelationship of individual accountability and institutional culpability.

Submitted by CDR John F. V. Cupschalk

NORTHWEST COMMANDERY FOCUSES ON SUBMARINES, REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR, AND LEADERSHIP

On 20 September 2021, Northwest Companions met via Zoom for the Commandery's Annual Meeting. Included on the agenda: the technical requirements for conducting more effective hybrid Zoom meetings; and a review of our remaining 2021 schedule.

On 30 October, the Commandery welcomed guest speakers who presented on topics related to the U.S. Navy's submarine force: CAPT Dick Ahlborn, USN (Ret.), CAPT Ron Withrow, USN, (Professor, Commanding Officer of Yale University NROTC), and LT Samantha Barszowski, USN, (Lecturer, Yale University NROTC).

This was the first of a series of NWT programs focusing on the U.S. Navy's submarine force with the next session scheduled for 5 March.

NOUS Northwest combined an in-person gathering at Grazie Restaurant in Bothell, Washington with Zoom viewers from three states. The meeting included the Commandery's annual remembrance of Pearl Harbor and of those who were there on 7 December 1941.

This was the Commandery's first fully equipped hybrid Zoom meeting, with the availability of new technology. The Zoom image was visible within the restaurant on a pull-down movie screen. All participants appreciated the additional capability gained from our advanced technology.

The evening's program also included a special presentation by former Navy pilot John Ramstead, author of **On Purpose With Purpose**. His inspirational talk discussed what today's leaders need to unlock their true potential while also emphasizing the importance of mentoring Naval students, including pilots-in-training.

Upcoming Events

Planned upcoming events are listed on NOUS Northwest's website at nousnorthwest.org.

Submitted by CAPT Jim McGinnis, MSC, USN (Ret.)

SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

San Francisco Commandery is back in action. Although some COVID restrictions remain in place, we are back to a semblance of normality with a regular schedule of events and activities that had been cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Our first big event was our Fleet Week luncheon, where we entertained RDML Michael Baze, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3), along with ESG 3 Command Master Chief Matthew Danforth, and other officers, sailors, and marines who were in San Francisco for Fleet Week. RDML Baze fondly recalled how he had



RDML Baze

been in San Francisco for the Commissioning of the USS *America* (LHA 6) as the executive officer of the commissioning crew. He was subsequently the *America's* commanding officer.

Joining us for lunch as a member of our Commandery, was 2005 DSSA awardee ADM Jim Ellis. ADM Ellis took the opportunity to mingle with companions whom he had not met before.



Companions Bob McLaughlin and ADM Jim Ellis (r) share sea stories at our Fleet Week luncheon.

In November, our own RADM Doug Moore, SC, USN (Ret.), past NOUS Commander General, updated us on the status of the U.S. Navy today. We were joined again by CSG 3 CMDRCM Matthew Danforth, who was in town for a Fleet Week related meeting. He took the opportunity to visit with companion Sid Mobell and secure Sid's autograph.



CMDRCM Matthew Danforth obtains Sid Mobell's autograph while companion CAPT Dave Foote looks on.

Sid, a retired San Francisco jeweler, had written a book in scrapbook form, about his life titled "From an Orphanage to the Smithsonian." CMDRCM Danforth brought three copies with him for Sid's signature. Sid, a veteran of the Second World War, is noted for his exquisite custom jewelry designs some of which are on exhibit in the Smithsonian.

Later that same week, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball was once again held at the Marines Memorial Club. The Ball also marked the grand "reopening" of the Marines Memorial Club, which has operated on limited capacity since the COVID pandemic lockdown began in March 2020. It also marked the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Marines Memorial Association and Foundation. Most of our San Francisco Commandery Companions are members and many attended the event. Local Marines provided the color guard.

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SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

Companions, once again, were able to participate in local Veterans' Day observances in San Francisco, the East Bay and beyond. Companion Chuck Paskerian took the salute at San Francisco's "Salute to Veterans" parade, and Companion Bob Hansen joined the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Dublin, California at a Rotary Club luncheon to honor a young soldier stationed at nearby Camp Parks who was awarded an Army ROTC college scholarship.

December, of course, marked our annual Pearl Harbor Day dinner at the University Club on Nob Hill. The event was more somber than usual in that for the first time we didn't have any of our Pearl Harbor veterans in attendance. Names were solemnly read, and the bell tolled for their passing, as we remembered them and the other companions who had passed since the last time we gathered in 2019.

Our speaker was RADM Brian Penoyer, Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District, based in nearby Alameda. RADM Penoyer spoke on the importance of remembering our history and heritage and never forgetting what happened on 7 December 1941. Companions and guests, who included Midshipmen and staff from local NROTC units, took the opportunity to dress formally for the first time in a long time. The formal wear ranged from a Filipino Barong Tagalog to Kilts along with the traditional Military mess dress from attendee's respective services.

The evening concluded with formal toasts and a traditional Naval Service Change of Command Ceremony.

Immediate past Commander General Col Allan Cruz took the Conn, as RADM Tom Andrews, SC,

USN (Ret.) read his orders and took the helm from Maj Gene Redding, USMC, (Ret.). Maj Redding thanked companions for their support, especially as we struggled to keep our commandery viable during the COVID restrictions when we were mostly relegated to virtual meetings. His efforts were a resounding success with compelling speakers (mostly by Zoom) and commandery cohesion maintained.

Our commandery has gotten over the hump imposed by COVID restrictions and look forward to a great year of interesting speakers and commandery activities. We may well be wearing masks and showing our vaccination cards, but we will move forward. Anchors Aweigh!

Submitted by MCCA Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)



WWII veteran Staff Sergeant Henry Tassinari (I) With Sergeant Major John Canley at the Marine Corps Ball at the Marines Memorial Club



San Francisco Commandery Companions and Guests at the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Dinner.

SOUTHEAST COAST COMMANDERY

On 20 November 2021, CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN (Ret.) had the pleasure to meet with CWO3 Anthony Atwood, USN (Ret.) for a tour of the Miami Military Museum and Memorial as well as meet with the leadership team of the South Coast Commandery. The Southeast Coast Commandery meets regularly on the Museum grounds.

The Miami Military Museum and Memorial honors all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as its clandestine services. It especially recognizes the service, the sacrifice, and the accomplishments of the active military, veterans, families, and supporters from the greater South Florida community. The Museum is dedicated to preserving the rich military heritage of Florida and its diversity. It serves as an educational voice to enrich the community.



The Miami Military Museum and Memorial

federally chartered program sponsored by the U.S. Navy for young men and women ages 10-17 who are interested in developing skills in leadership, teamwork, basic seamanship, personal confidence



Dr. Anthony D. Atwood, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Miami Military Museum and Memorial

CAPT Bresnahan also had the chance to spend some time with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, NAS Richmond Division, which trains and conducts its operations at the Miami Military Museum. The Cadets were being drilled in naval knowledge and military discipline.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is a



U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC)

and courage, self-reliance, and military discipline.

It was a great visit and anyone coming to Miami, Florida should take a few hours during their visit to tour the Museum and learn more about our exiting South Florida history. It is conveniently located on the grounds of Zoo Miami.

Submitted by CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN (Ret.)

DEDICATION OF THE CAPTAIN CARL V. "RAGS" RAGSDALE – NAVAL ORDER OF THE U.S. LIBRARY

On 6 November 2021, the Texas Commandery fulfilled a long-time promise to its founder, Captain Carl V. "Rags" Ragsdale, USN (Ret.) (Deceased), for the establishment of a library for the Midshipmen of the Rice University NROTC Unit. When CAPT W.O. "Woe" King, Jr., Commander, Texas Commandery, was the Commanding Officer of the Houston Consortium NROTC consisting of Rice University and Prairie View A & M University NROTC units, CAPT Ragsdale requested that a library be created at the Rice NROTC Unit for the Midshipmen. CAPT King retired from the Navy before a formal library could be established. The plans for the library were set aside and eventually were out of mind and overcome by the events of many personnel changes at the NROTC unit and the normal day-to-day business of training future officers of the Navy and Marine Corps.

In 2019 over lunch with the then Commanding Officer of the Houston Consortium, CAPT Tim Symons, CAPT King told him of the long-time planned library at the Rice unit and asked if he would be interested in helping establish it and provide some floor space for bookshelves that



CAPT Carl V. "Rags" Ragsdale, USN (Ret.)

would accommodate the holdings of the over 100 books that CAPT Ragsdale had donated from his personal library, plus any other books that already existed in the NROTC spaces. CAPT Symons agreed to help and set out to develop a plan for the library.

In early 2020, after consulting with CAPT Symons and his staff, Texas Commandery Companions and Diane Ragsdale, CAPT Ragsdale's wife who still lived in the Houston area, set a date for the dedication of the library for 25 April 2020.

And then...COVID hit and the ensuing pandemic changed everything. Early in the pandemic, the Texas Commandery and the NROTC unit continued to plan for the dedication based on the university's COVID rules of masking and limited numbers of attendees. But it soon became clear that requirements were changing so quickly that it would not be possible to have a gathering of any size for the dedication.

Somewhere around eight or so of CAPT Ragsdale's family members were planning to attend the dedication, including CAPT Ragsdale's wife, Diane, and his son, John. When the event was cancelled airline flight reservations had to be cancelled as well as hotel reservations, car rentals, etc. Hopes were high that it could be rescheduled for the Fall of 2020.

Fast forward to the Spring/Summer of 2021. The Commanding Officer of the Houston Consortium was now CAPT Ryan Tewell, who had been briefed by CAPT Symons about the plans for the library, so when CAPT King approached him about setting a date for the dedication, he was fully onboard. The bookshelves were in place, so the actual dedication ceremony just needed a date that was agreeable to the Rice NROTC unit based on the academic schedule for the Midshipmen and consistent with the university's COVID requirements, which limited indoor venues to 50 people. The new date was set for Saturday, 6 November 2021.

After several attempts to contact Diane Ragsdale throughout the early months of 2021, it was discovered in August that she had passed away in late 2020. She is interred next to her husband at the Houston National Cemetery. CAPT King contacted John Ragsdale to inform him of the new dedication date. John said he would fly in from New Jersey but other members of the family that had previously planned to come to Houston would not be able to attend the rescheduled dedication.

At 1100 on 6 November, a small group gathered for the dedication in the Rice NROTC spaces. The Rice NROTC staff, several Midshipmen, and four Texas Commandery Companions were present. The Texas Commandery Companions were CAPT King, CAPT Buzz Gralla, Captain Chuck Hewell, and Lieutenant Steven Howell.

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Attendees at the dedication: NROTC Staff, Midshipmen, John Ragsdale, TC Companions (CAPTs King, Hewell, Gralla, LT. Howell, Mrs. King

CAPT Tewell welcomed the attendees to the NROTC unit and provided background information on the NROTC unit and the library. He introduced CAPT King who provided the details of how the library came to be from the initial request from CAPT Ragsdale. He gave a brief biographical sketch of CAPT Ragsdale, including information about his duties with the Pacific Fleet Combat Camera Group during the Korean War, his civilian work as a producer and director in the motion picture industry, and the Academy Award Oscar that he won in 1967 as the Executive Producer of a 30-minute documentary on VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) titled, "A Year Towards Tomorrow." He received an Academy Award nomination for a second documentary the following year but did not receive the 1968 OSCAR for the category of short documentaries. Many of the long-time companions of the Texas Commandery have had an Oscar sighting on the Ragsdale's mantle, but, unfortunately, it was not present for the dedication.

CAPT Ragsdale's son, John, assisted in unveiling the large, framed museum quality poster with CAPT Ragsdale's photo and a short biography that will hang in the NROTC spaces near the bookcases that contain approximately 400 books belonging to the library. A large sign above the bookshelves reads: Captain Carl V. "Rags" Ragsdale Naval Order of the United States Library in three individual signs.

John Ragsdale was also presented a framed, smaller version of the larger framed poster for his personal collection. John spoke a few minutes about his dad and his many accomplishments as a Navy officer and civilian motion picture producer and director.



John Ragsdale and CAPT King after the reveal of the framed biographical photo of Captain Ragsdale.

John also gave an album of CAPT Ragsdale's many photographs from his duties in Korea in the early 1950s to the NROTC Unit. In recognition of the assistance and professionalism of the Rice NROTC staff, the Texas Commandery presented CAPT Tewell a small replica of the Admiral Nimitz sculpture located at the Pearl Harbor Memorial at Ford Island, HI, overlooking the USS *Arizona*. Commissioned by the NOUS, the sculpture was dedicated 13 September 2013, coinciding with the anniversary of the Allied victory in the Pacific, VJ Day, 1945.*

At the time of his retirement in 1985, CAPT Ragsdale was the most senior Captain in the U.S. Navy. He founded the Texas Commandery of the NOUS in 1986 and served as the Commander for six years. He received the Texas Commandery's Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Leadership Award in 1998. He passed away in June 2003.

Guests enjoyed light snacks following the ceremony.

Submitted by CAPT Woe King, USN (Ret.)

The Texas Commandery returned to the USS *Texas* (BB 35) at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site for their annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony on 4 December 2021. Their last Pearl Harbor Ceremony on *Texas* was in 2018 just before the ship closed to the public to prepare for a lengthy dry-docking period scheduled to begin in 2022. The Texas Commandery has held Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremonies on the *Texas* for over 30 years. The annual ceremony honors the U.S. military men and women and the civilian workers who were there that Sunday morning, 7 December 1941.

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The 2019 commemoration was held at the Galveston Naval Museum on Pelican Island where the destroyer escort, USS *Stewart* (DE 238), and the USS *Cavalla* (SS 244) are berthed aground as part of Seawolf Park. The 2020 remembrance was cancelled due to COVID.

Honor Guard from local Veterans Groups



The ceremony was scheduled to include an Honor Flight flyover by Houston Wing Commemorative Air Force aircraft 15 minutes before the start of the ceremony. Due to fog and a low overcast, the flight held on the ground pending weather clearance.

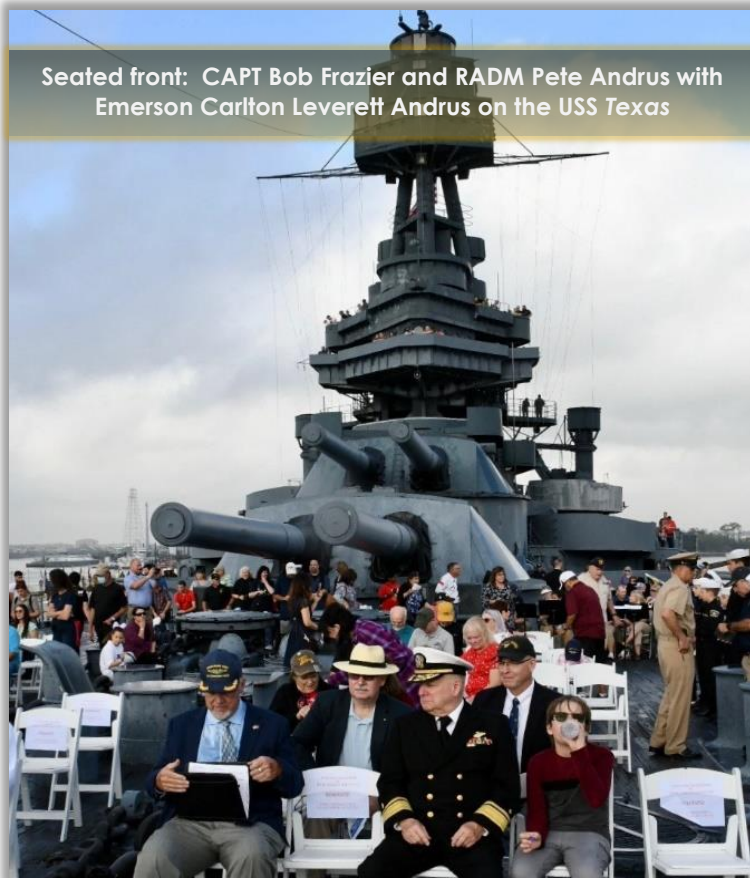
CWO 4 Wayne Thompson, USCG (Ret.), piped assembly and Texas Commandery Commander, Captain W.O. "Woe" King, Jr., welcomed the audience. The Battleship *Texas* Foundation (BTF), operator of the *Texas*, opened the ship to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

The audience of over 100 consisted of the paying guests and those that came with free admission for the remembrance. All were invited to the ceremony.

CAPT King gave brief remarks about the history of the *Texas* and her designation as a National Historic Landmark. *Texas* served in both World Wars, participating in the North African Campaign, the Normandy landings, and the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. *Texas* is the last of the pre-war dreadnoughts, and the only existing battleship that fought in both world wars.

CAPT King's introductory comments about the Day of Infamy recalled how the Imperial Japanese Navy's attack on Pearl Harbor was the trigger that propelled

Seated front: CAPT Bob Frazier and RADM Pete Andrus with Emerson Carlton Leverett Andrus on the USS *Texas*



the United States into World War II.

He noted the importance of knowing and understanding history to keep from repeating it in the future by quoting words attributed to American philosopher, George Santayana: *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."*

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps Color Guard paraded the colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem by the Community Band of Southeast Texas, and the invocation by Texas Commandery Chaplain, the Reverend James T. Payne, D.D.

CAPT King introduced members of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Bluebonnet Chapter. He acknowledged three of their members who were childhood survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Two of the three, Jill Allen and Ann McKennis, were on travel and the third, Tom Gillette, served as the event's keynote speaker. The Sons and Daughters group have been integral to the Texas Commandery's Pearl Harbor Commemoration for many years.

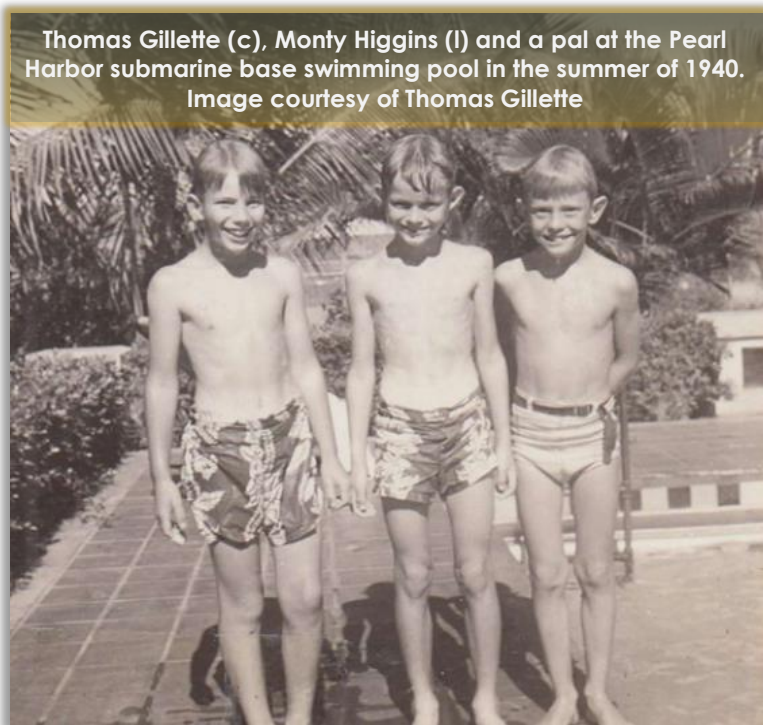
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CAPT King made additional comments that the Remembrance Ceremony connects us to history and thus, to the future using Winston Churchill's words: *"The further backward you can look the farther forward you are likely to see."*

He provided statistics about the loss of life and wounded, the lost and damaged ships and aircraft, and the heroes with a reminder that we cannot forget the freedoms that our forefathers, sons, and daughters pioneered for us were not free and that our debt to them has not yet been paid.

Finally, he noted that the response by Americans was not expected by our attackers. They had not envisioned such American anger, determination, commitment, resilience, and resolve. America became the most powerful force on Earth.

CAPT King introduced the keynote speaker, Tom Gillette, who was 10 years old on 7 December 1941. His family's quarters were on Ford Island where his Navy captain father was the manager of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.



Thomas Gillette (c), Monty Higgins (l) and a pal at the Pearl Harbor submarine base swimming pool in the summer of 1940. Image courtesy of Thomas Gillette

Tom also served in the Navy at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard as ship repair officer and type desk officer. Employed by EXXON for 37 years, he has served as a docent on the *Texas* for 20 years. He is a Texas Commandery Companion, and a member of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors.

Tom told the audience about his activities on that Sunday morning. He and a friend were playing indoors when they heard the thunder of aircraft flying over their homes. Rushing outside he saw the Japanese planes flying well below 100 feet altitude and at an airspeed of probably less than 100 knots. (It was later determined that low altitude and slow speed were for proper torpedo arming once released from the aircraft.) He commented on how clearly, he could see the pilots from his ground level position.

Although he could not see Battleship Row from his yard, he did hear the explosions and saw smoke rising from the embattled, sitting-duck ships anchored in the harbor. After the attack his family found several bullet holes in his sister's bedroom wall as well shrapnel on the roof of their quarters.

Following the attack, the families were evacuated away from Pearl Harbor for several days. They were eventually allowed back to their homes to pack belongings for ship transport back to the mainland. They arrived in San Francisco on New Year's Day.

Over the years Tom became active in researching the attack. He picked up bits and pieces of information including information that was declassified and publicly released under Presidents Carter and Clinton about warnings that the Japanese were going to attack U.S. possessions. He said that there were warnings as late as 28 November that war with Japan was imminent, but the communication system directed all intelligence to Washington, D.C. where the powers that be would decide what information to disseminate to field commands.

He noted that there was concern that warnings of a potential Japanese attack, especially on Pearl Harbor, might be intercepted by the Japanese and they would know that we had broken their code. Tom continued with many of his findings from his research including personal thoughts about the intelligence gathered prior to the December attack and how it was treated by the intelligence community.

Following Tom's talk, Texas Commandery

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representative, Treasurer Steven Howell, presented an orchid wreath from Hawaii to the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors members for the Memorial Wreath toss onto the water.

The U.S. Marine Corps Honor Rifle Squad fired a 21-gun salute in memory of the fallen and in honor of the survivors, and Reverend Payne offered the benediction. A trumpeter from the Community Band of Southeast Texas then played TAPS.

As the program ended, the aircraft from the Commemorative Air Force were cleared to make their four overhead passes with the Missing Man Formation, a fitting tribute to conclude the ceremony. Their timing was impeccable as their first pass commenced just as the final note of TAPS sounded.

The *Texas* is the last dreadnought in existence. Dreadnoughts were the big gun battleships in service from WWI until the fast Battleships of the *North Carolina* and *Missouri* classes entered service. In recent years, *Texas* has increasingly been showing the signs of its 100 years+ age. The Battleship *Texas* Foundation plans to temporarily move *Texas* to Galveston to be repaired. It is projected that this work will begin in 2022.

Ceremony photos are credited to the three individuals noted below in no specific order or number. The Texas Commandery thanks all who participated and those that attended. Ceremony Photos by: CAPT Chuck Hewell, Texas Commandery Jerry Withrow, Sons and Daughter Pearl Harbor Survivors Stan Russ: Commemorative Air Force "Air Boss".



Submitted by CAPT Woe King, USN (Ret.)

THE ODYSSEY OF THE OLD CROW – THE STORY OF LT THOMAS L. ANDREWS, JR. AND HIS JOURNEY TO THE BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF (PART 5)

(This story is excerpted from a presentation RADM Thomas L. Andrews, III, made at the National Congress of the Naval Order of the United States in October 2019, and reprised in two installments to the San Francisco Commandery in June and July of 2020. This quarter's edition begins with the escalation of the air engagement during the Battle as skies cleared.)

You might recall from last quarter I brought you to the point in the Battle where the Magnificent Seven had expended all of their torpedoes and given the six *Taffy 3* carriers time to put some distance between them and the Japanese Center Force, at great cost to the screening force.

With the skies clearing around *Taffy 3*, forces in the air begin to play a larger role. Early in the battle, the *Kitkun Bay* had been able to launch 17 planes and the *Gambier Bay* had launched 21. *Taffy 2* had also launched planes and provided substantial air power to the effort. The *Taffy 2* airplanes had been instructed to not concentrate on one ship, rather to attack all ships in the formation, which they did. VC-5's skipper, CDR Dick Fowler, realized that the very low ceiling conditions in the rain squalls would prohibit the torpedo bombers from making effective runs; but the fighters could do some damage, so he directed the fighters to make their attacks. Each plane made eight to ten firing runs and six to eight dummy runs at the leading destroyers and cruisers, wreaking havoc on the weather decks of the various ships. His comment in Aircraft Action Report #56 was that "The results of about 20,000 rounds of 50 caliber fire against the weather decks of the ships would be interesting to know, however, it may be safely assumed that much damage was done to light caliber AA weapons and attendant personnel as the return fire definitely diminished after the second strafing runs by the division of planes."

At 0800, *Taffy 3* was ordered to change course to 0220. With the Japanese cruisers coming up the port

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THE ODYSSEY OF THE OLD CROW - PART 5

side of the formation, this left the two ships in the rear of the formation, the *Kalinan Bay* and the *Gambier Bay*, exposed. The sky had cleared and the wind was coming out of the northeast, so the smoke was being blown away from the ships. Again, the escort carriers were sitting ducks. It was around this time that VADM Kurita broadcast an order to all of his ships, "Assault! All ships attack!"

Shells had been landing in the vicinity of the *Gambier Bay* since 0745. The Skipper, CAPT Vieweg, had successfully maneuvered his ship in response to the deliberate pattern the shells made as they fell. As the *Chikuma* and *Tone* came within 18,000 yards, both CAPT Vieweg and the skipper of the *Kalinan Bay*, CAPT Williamson, opened fire with their one 5" 38 caliber gun mounted at the fantails of their ships.

It was not a fair fight. Minutes later, an increasingly violent bombardment in response was received. The *Kalinan Bay* was hit with an 8" shell at the waterline amidships, which passed through several bulkheads and detonated in the aviation lubricants oil tank, almost exiting through the bottom of the ship.

The *Gambier Bay* continued on undaunted for a few minutes. But at 0810, her luck ran out. In the picture below, you can actually see one of the cruisers that ended up being her assassin. This, and other similar photos, are purported to be the only photos showing a Japanese ship firing upon an American ship.

Within seventeen minutes, the *Gambier Bay* was hit

several times. With water rising so quickly, the forward boilers had to be secured. Now, more shells were hitting the ship than missing. Within 33 minutes, the aft boilers had to be secured and CAPT Vieweg ordered abandon ship. It's 0832 and the Japanese cruisers are getting ready to flank the formation. The *Yamato* is back within a horizon and the two Japanese Cruiser Divisions are sweeping in on the left flank. The *Heermann* is crossing the formation to meet the cruisers and almost rams the *Fanshaw Bay*. The *Hoel* and *Gambier Bay* are crippled. Things aren't looking so good.

As the *Heermann* continues across the formation, she nearly spears the *Johnston*. The two ships take emergency actions, and a cheer goes up on both ships as they miss colliding by just a couple of feet.

Aboard the *Gambier Bay*, almost immediately after CAPT Vieweg orders the crew to abandon ship, the ship is rocked by two torpedoes launched by the *Tone*, blowing the forward elevator into the water. At 0907, the ship capsized, and she sank 4 minutes later.

This was all being viewed with great interest by folks on the *Kitkun Bay*, of course, as the cruisers were gaining on the rest of the carriers and it was only a matter of time, in most of their views, until they met a similar fate.

Charles Spalding relates:

"The anguish of utter helplessness gives the crew a craven look. They stand impotently at the rail watching sheels splash about the Gambier Bay."

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The USS *Gambier Bay* being bombarded by IJN Cruisers, one of which can be seen in the picture.



Everybody has friends on the Gambier Bay. I want to run away. I duck into the light locker and run aimlessly down the passageway. In the Flag Office, I find LT Snyder at his desk. His thick frame is slumped in a chair and fear has drawn his features. Sitting there unshaven, he looks like a sooty snowman in a thaw. "What do you think," I ask stupidly. He spreads his thick hands helplessly. "This is it", he says. "Yeah, this is it" echo two pale yeomen, nodding together agreeably. They are packing secret papers that they have been ordered to destroy.

I leave this cheerless scene and go needlessly to the head. 250 pounds of LT McCabe are balanced on the toilet in what must be one of the most studied casual gestures ever assumed. Spread out before him is the sports edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer. The paper is four months old. "What do you think?" I ask absurdly, taking a seat beside him. He turns his huge head slightly, like an interested St. Bernard, and talks grandly, "I have every confidence that we shall emerge safely from this."

"You go up and look at that cruiser off our port beam and you'll lose some of that confidence" I say. "The hell there is!" he whispers hoarsely."

It was 0850 now and CDR Dick Fowler had been in the air nearly two hours. Over the past half hour, the weather had started to clear enough to permit a bomber attack. Taffy 2 aircraft were approaching, and he was organizing the planes for a strike. At this time, RADM Sprague came over the radio: "All aircraft. Primary target is cruiser on port quarter. Attack! Attack!"

With that, the combined forces attacked the *Chokai* and the *Chikuma*. The planes dropped fifteen torpedoes and at least one of them hit the *Chokai*. CDR Fowler then gave the order to pounce on the cruiser and four TBM's dove down out of the sun and dropped twelve 500-pound bombs, nine of which blanketed the ship from bow to stern. LTJG Archer of VC3 followed up with eight 5" rockets, two of which hit the bridge with spectacular results.

Despite all these direct hits, the *Chokai* was able to maintain headway and fall in behind the battleships. Just then, a group of five Taffy 2 TBM's headed at the battleships and dropped a spread of five torpedoes. The battleships deftly maneuvered to avoid

torpedoes, to which one of the pilots was heard to say, "How the hell did we miss that big son of a bitch?" As they flew away on their evasive course, however, they were able to watch the two torpedoes slam into the *Chokai*, stopping it dead in the water. Their flight leader was heard to say, "Two Banjo planes just got a cruiser."

Spalding continues his story here:

"It is noted in the Kitkun Bay log that the skipper had given folks on the bridge a reason to smile when he said to the gunnery officer, "Mr. Kuhn, the enemy is now within range, you may fire the 5-inch at will." It is also noted that the crew fired off 120 rounds out of the 180 on board and were undoubtedly a factor in disconcerting the surprisingly inaccurate fire of the enemy.

A thud is heard outside and a moment later it is announced tonelessly: "The Kitkun Bay is under fire." The announcement is coupled with three more thuds in quick succession. My stomach cramps. Crippled by terror, I crawl into a bunk and turn out the lights so as not to be seen. But this is worse. I can't mentally overcome my fright because we are literally helpless. But there is no way out! Without fire power, we are even deprived of a fighting chance. Announcements come regularly over the public address system. Chief Leddy and Yeoman Darcy keep the crew below decks advised of the battle's progress.

The announcements over the 1MC continue: "A salvo just exploded about a hundred feet off the port side." "They're pretty close, but they're doing no good. Our fellows are really putting out on the five-inch." "That last salvo straddled us."

Men walk rapidly through the passageway. I can't stand the darkness any longer. I follow Doc Whitt out onto the fo'c'sle. It is an incredible sight. Enemy cruisers are in plain view off our port quarter. Orange flames spurt from their guns at uneven intervals. They fire broadside in salvos of six."

My Dad used to tell the story at this point in the battle of standing on the flight deck and watching the cruiser fire at the Kitkun Bay. He said he would watch the cruiser adjust its guns until they locked, and

Continued on next page...

THE ODYSSEY OF THE OLD CROW - PART 5

when they did, the ship would execute a hard left rudder or hard right, depending on the timing. You could then see the flash of the guns and then listen as the rounds either flew over the ship or landed on the port side.

The History of the Kitkun Bay notes: The cruisers opened up on the Kitkun Bay again at 0900, dropping a salvo 200 yards astern and a minute later straddling the ship with shells falling on both sides. The Jap cruisers were now on the port beam, 12,000 yards away, and the five-inch gun had used up practically all the available ammunition. The captain gave orders to cease firing to save some ammunition for an expected destroyer attack.

At 0910, the Japs dropped a salvo which the five-inch gun crew claim was only twenty yards astern, and there was every reason to suspect that the next salvo would do serious damage.

The captain swung the ship between 200 True and

270 True in an effort to forestall the apparently inevitable, which for some inexplicable reason never happened. No further shots were fired by the cruisers, which continued to close the range to 10,500 yards and then turned away at 0921.

VADM Kurita had made his decision by 0900. He had caught back up to the battle scene, been attacked by planes and barely missed being torpedoed, saw the damage to his two remaining cruisers, and came to the conclusion that, if he continued to pursue the American ships, the Center Force would be destroyed. He broadcast his recall order at 0914. The Kitkun Bay was spared, for the moment at least, the fate that had befallen its sister ship, the Gambier Bay.

With the surface battle now disengaged, the American forces took the offensive.

Tune in next quarter for that part of the story.

Submitted by RADM Tom Andrews, SC, USN (Ret.)

The final volley of shells from the IJN cruisers land just astern of the USS Kitkun Bay.



MY EXPERIENCES WITH ADMIRAL FLUCKEY

In 1961, I was the Engineering Officer of USS *Speigel Grove* (LSD 32) and we were selected to be the flagship of a Task Group consisting of us, an LST, two destroyers and a yard oiler to tour Africa on a good will mission. These are a record of some of my experiences with Admiral Fluckey during that time.

First a little bit of his history during WWII. While CO of USS *Barb* (SS 220), ADM Fluckey had the record for the number of ships sunk by a skipper; 17, including a carrier, cruiser, and a frigate.

On one occasion during reduced visibility, he followed a number of Japanese ships into a Chinese harbor with a depth of only 30 feet. They fired eight

torpedoes, four forward and four aft, sinking six Japanese ships. In the ensuing melee, they managed to escape and reach a safe depth where they could submerge. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for this action.

While patrolling close to the Japanese Mainland, and on the surface at night, they observed a coastal train. He sent an eight-man crew ashore to plant a demolition charge on the tracks. They were paddling back to the boat when the 16-car train blew up. They got to add a train on their battle flag and had one painted on the side of the ship. He chose one unmarried man who had

been a Boy Scout from each Ships Division for the crew. He wanted to accompany them, but his XO wouldn't permit it.

His nickname was "Lucky Fluckey".

He was about 5' 10" tall, slender, and looked quite impressive in his dress white uniform, with his red hair and the blue ribboned Medal of Honor around his neck.

One of his assignments as a Rear Admiral, was Commander Amphibious Group Four. In this capacity, he was selected to be the Deputy,

Commander South Atlantic Forces (SOLANT) and was the Task Group Commander for our SOLANT AMITY II cruise to Africa in 1961.

We had a new Ensign aboard who was slender, had red hair and looked a lot like the Admiral. One night, I was the Officer of the Deck and Ensign Upson was my JO. I was on the open bridge which was dark and entered the Pilot House which only had minimal red lighting. I went over to look at the Radar and in the dark saw what looked like the Ensign standing at it. I gave him a hefty shove, said, "Move over Red." To my chagrin it was the Admiral. I thought, 'Oh shit, my career is over.' Lieutenants don't shove Admirals around. He started laughing so hard that I thought that he was going to roll on the deck. And I was relieved. He took a liking to me and took me with him on many of his official visits.

Our first port call as part of our mission was Bathurst, Gambia, after which we proceeded down the West Coast of Africa. As we were moving along down the coast, I had an afternoon watch and he was on the bridge. He always was very friendly and casual, to me anyway.

We were getting close to crossing the Equator where we would observe the "Crossing the Line" Ceremony. I saw that our track was close to the Zero Meridian, and said to him,

"Admiral, if we change course slightly, we can cross the Equator at Zero Meridian and have all zeroes on our certificates," which only a few people get. He immediately determined the course to do so and put out a change of course signal to accomplish this.

One afternoon, I was out on the starboard wing wall and he came up to me and said, "Come with me." He led me all the way up forward into his cabin and into his bedroom. I wondered if his toilet was stopped up or what? He opened his clothes locker

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Rear Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey

locker, pulled out a couple white dinner dress jackets and said, "Try these on." I did and he said, "They fit pretty good, they are yours."

As CHENG, it was my duty to suggest to the Captain when to hold GQ drills and, with my damage control assistant, to plan the "hits" during them. We had to tell the Admiral that we were going to have one. Before we were to have one the next day, he stopped me in the passageway and said, "There won't be any hits in the well deck". The next day, I snuck out during the drill. He and his staff were playing volleyball in the well deck.

We had six Marine helicopters on board for the cruise and the Admiral frequently used them to go ashore on official business. Before we entered a port, he would sometimes fly ahead to meet the head of the country - President, Dictator, etc. - and make arrangements for our stay. Sometimes, he would take me with him.

In one port after we anchored, he flew ashore to make his official call on the President and a helo was sent to bring the President for his "return" call. For some reason, the President's helo returned to the ship before the Admiral got back. As CDO, I was also the flight control officer; the helo pilot radioed who he had on board. I called out the Marine Honor Guard. We had a Marine BLT commanded by a LtCol and a detachment of pilots along for the cruise as part of our 3-fold mission. The helo landed and I escorted the President and his party thru the Honor Guard and up to the Admirals cabin. The President wore what looked like a white sheet draped around his body and had what looked like a lamp shade on his head. I had the stewards bring out coffee, etc. The President picked up the cream pitcher and drank the cream from the spout. The Admiral landed shortly afterwards, came up and relieved me.

There are still several other stories that I could relate but in the interest of brevity, I will save them for maybe another article.

Excerpted from a chapter in the forthcoming book, **Graveyard Spooks and Other People** to be published by Bob Knight.

It was a beautiful Hawaiian Sunday morning. Quartermaster Third Class Louis A. Conter had the Quarterdeck watch. As such, he would be responsible for the "ship's" log recording the times of events in the log. It was five minutes before 0800 and the ship's band was getting ready for colors. He regretted he would not be able to play in the football game with the USS *Pennsylvania* (BB 38).

Conter had much to feel good about. Recently he'd had his first flight in an aircraft – the ship's scouting plane. His girlfriend's father knew the commander, ADM William Calhoun. He was surprised to meet the Admiral at dinner one evening. When Lou told Calhoun about his interest in Naval Aviation, the Admiral said that, despite his "right arm rating" he could apply for enlisted pilot training. Calhoun was the approving authority and would approve his application. Calhoun was true to his word, and Lou soon had orders to Pensacola for pilot training. Rather than taking the SS *Lurline* to San Francisco, he was told to detach when his ship, the USS *Arizona* (BB 39), returned stateside in January.

Lou's regular general quarter's battle station was the lower powder handling room beneath turret two. The quarterdeck was between turret three and the main mast when the attack came at 0755. Chaos ensued and many were knocked unconscious by bomb blasts. Minutes after the attack began a bomb penetrated forward at turret two and passed through five steel decks before exploding near the lower handling room – Lou's battle station. Millions of pounds of gunpowder and hundreds of thousands of pounds of ammunition ignited in a huge fireball vaporizing the ship forward.



USS Arizona magazine explodes from a direct hit

Submitted by Bob "Fuzzy" Knight, CDR, USN (Ret.)

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LCDR Lou Conter, USN (Ret.) through the years

CAPT Franklin Van Valkenburgh and Battleship Division One commander RADM Isaac Kidd were lost in the fireball with most of the crew. Senior surviving officer LCDR Samuel Fuqua was the First Lieutenant and Damage Control Officer. He had been knocked out but quickly recovered to take charge. Wounded were tended to, and survivors rescued. Despite the conflagration, ship's guns were still firing at the enemy. Only when Fuqua was satisfied that nothing more could be done did he give the order to abandon ship.

At 0840 the second wave attack began. According to Conter, "I want to make it clear that had it not been for the many selfless acts of bravery that took place immediately after the first Japanese plane was spotted, more people would have lost their lives." LCDR Fuqua noted in his official report that he could not single out any one individual who stood out in acts of heroism above others.

The Japanese withdrew at about 0955. LCDR Samuel Fuqua, RADM Isaac Kidd and CAPT Franklin Van Valkenburgh all received the Medal of Honor.

Lou helped battle fires until Tuesday night. He then slept for 12 hours straight. It took five days for the ship to cool down. Lou was one of the divers tasked with recovering documents and bodies from the sunken hull. When diving efforts were secured, his time with *Arizona* was officially over.

On 8 January 1942, he again had dinner with his girlfriend's family. ADM Calhoun was there as well. The Admiral was surprised to see him.

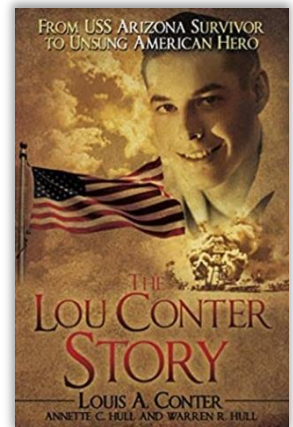
Conter told the Admiral why he had been held back and besides, the orders had burned up with his ship. Three days later Conter received new orders for the *Lurline* for passage to San Francisco.

Conter arrived in Pensacola and began flight training on 20 January 1942. He trained for patrol bombers (PBY) and received his wings on 15 November 1942. Assigned to Patrol Squadron 11 (VP 11), although a Naval Aviator he was still a petty officer. He returned to Hawaii in July 1943. One day in November he was called to the wardroom and told he was now an

Ensign. He served in the Pacific Theatre and was shot down twice. He was at Naval Air Station Norman, Oklahoma when news came of the Japanese surrender.

Lou's distinguished career includes Special Forces and Korean War service. He retired as a Lieutenant Commander in December 1967. In 2018, documentary film makers

Annette and Warren Hall interviewed him and encouraged him to write an autobiography. Co-authored by the Halls, it was published on 29 December 2021. LCDR Conter wants to share his story – the story of a member of the greatest generation. The book is available on Amazon, and Lou assured me that he will autograph copies for anyone.



**Submitted by LCDR Lou Conter, USN (Ret.)
with MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)**



Only by not forgetting the past can we be the master of the future.

~
Ba Jin

With this quote, Ba Jin points out that no experience exists in a vacuum. By reflecting on where we've been, we can chart the course ahead to steer us in a better direction.

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to lead the Naval Order as we continue to meet our Mission goal of Preserving Naval History. This newsletter is a significant documentation of that history both for commandery activities and the elements of history highlighted by the various articles and vignettes that are submitted from across the organization. We are making efforts to expand the exposure of our companions and other to Naval History, its stories, and its lessons. For the past year we have been re-publishing 'This Week in Naval History' on our website from the Naval Historical Foundation's listing. We hope that you can use these daily remembrances to stimulate other thoughts of your careers and memories. We have also sponsored a Monthly Naval History Presentation, found at navalorder.org/noushistoryhappenings

Thanks to the efforts of Companion Bill 'Doc' Schmidt through the past year, we had many notable presenters and speakers. The past year's recordings are posted there, and we will continue the presentations on the second Wednesday of each Month. We have also been holding a 'Sea Stories Night' on Thursday evenings at 2000 EST for swapping yarns and just connecting with other companions; also accessible through the 'History Happenings' page. Scan this QR Code for access!



We aren't stopping here in our efforts to expand our Oral History capabilities. We will be looking at a regular BLOG where companions can add their memories and experiences to share with others.

We started with Pearl Harbor and will have other opportunities through the year. We want you to record and share your Oral History through whatever means is best for you. Some guidelines are listed with documents with Dr. Alan Bliss' presentation from November. I encourage each Commandery to have an Oral History guru to assist in this area.

Please remember you are all Naval Historians! You all have a story whether personal or something you have researched. Take our stories to others by establishing a Local 'Speakers' Bureau': Companions with a story of Naval capabilities and experiences-Aircraft (Attack, Log, and Surveillance), Amphibious, Submarine Patrols, Surface Navy, Special Forces, SeaBees, Technogeekical, MARCORPS, USCG Law Enforcement, USMM, and even Space. List them on your part of the NOUS website so we may provide an outreach to others in the community and in other Commanderies. We are all experts in something!

Finally, we want to increase the profile for our Naval History Competition. I would really like to see the competition continue to become a Hallmark event for the Order with as many Commanderies participating as possible. The Foundation has taken up the cause of funding; it is up to all of you to Challenge the effort with maximum participation and visibility locally and nationally. We build our future Companions by involving them in these initiatives of History!

Use the Web Site for staying current with what is going on in your Commandery and at the National Level! We will continue to blend the rich local initiatives with our national efforts to make our collective experience a worthy tribute to those who came before us and a legacy for the future!

CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.)
Commander General

USS BARRY STERN NAMEPLATE PROJECT STATUS

Project Manager/Companion, CAPT Greg Streeter, USN (Ret.), reports the following status for the USS *Barry* (DD 933) Stern Nameplate Project as of 18 January 2022, recalling that USS *Barry* was the display ship in the Washington, DC Navy Yard for about 30 years:

We are making good headway on the *Barry* Stern Nameplate Project. The nameplate was removed from the ship early last year and delivered to the Naval History and Heritage Command. They have it stored in one of their facilities in Richmond, VA. We have contracted with a company in Annapolis to transport the Nameplate from Richmond to Annapolis, perform the refurbishment work, and then transport it to Great Lakes Recruit Training Center (RTC).

Doug Darch, my DCA when I commanded *Barry*, has been providing invaluable assistance on the other end as he lives in Barrington, IL in the Great Lakes area. He has met with the folks at RTC who are enthusiastic about the project. They intend to display it in a location where all the parents and friends get their tickets for the Recruit Graduation Ceremonies.

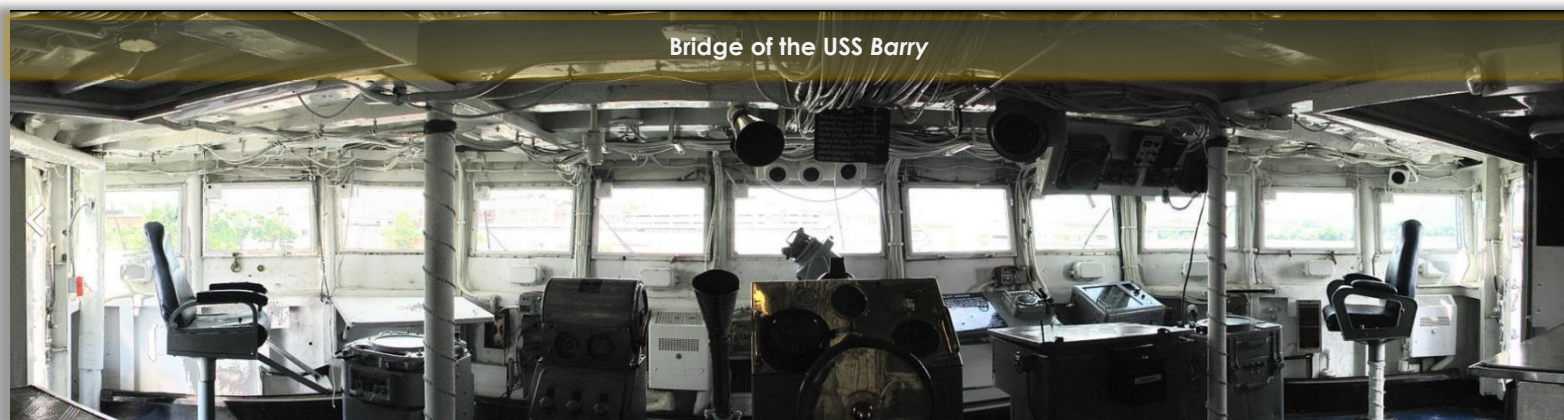
The Bill from the company in Annapolis for the refurbishment and transportation is \$6,000. This, and any other incidental costs, are planned to be paid by the Naval Order Foundation. If you wish to contribute, send your donation to:

Naval Order Foundation
Attn: CAPT Kenneth Arendt, USN, SC, (Ret.)
108 Ann Arbor Ct. Los Gatos, CA 95032

Photo # NH 98052 USS Barry underway at sea, December 1978



USS Barry at sea



Bridge of the USS Barry

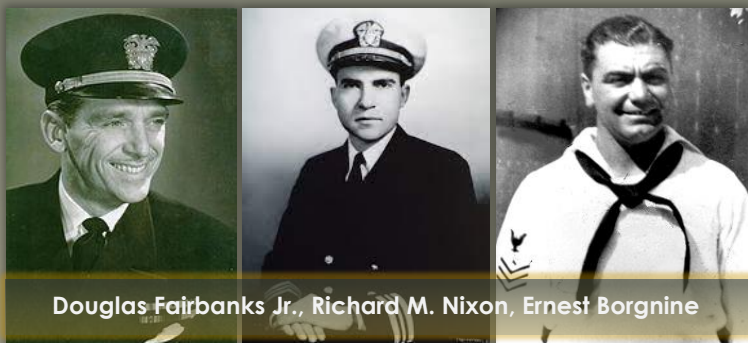
On 30 September 2021, Companions Chuck Paskerian and Don Reid, joined by fellow Korean War Veteran, Judge Quentin Kopp, were honored by The Korean Government during their 2021 National Day Reception and Hanbok Fashion Show.

Don and Chuck are pictured wearing custom made Hanbok (just for them) garments, which were formerly worn by Korean Royalty. Don (r) and Chuck are the two in red with the models.

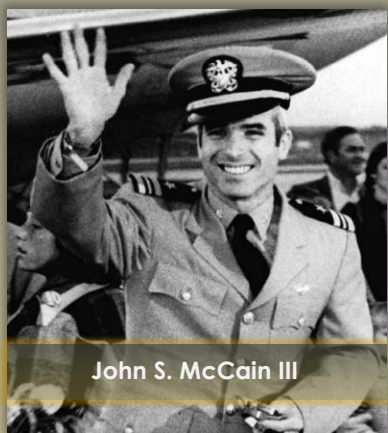


Companions Chuck Paskerian and Don Reid get fashionable.

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)



Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Richard M. Nixon, Ernest Borgnine



John S. McCain III

What do these four men have in common?

That's right! They were all members of the Naval Order of the United States.

You are in good company.

TURN IT UP!

Since the beginning of this year 112 inquiries about membership via our web site have come to me. That's one every three days and they came from 29 states, 13 of which don't even have a "Brick & Mortar" commandery. Yet they joined! Why? Because they want the distinction of being a Companion in the Naval Order. They believe in what we do. They believe in our Mission.

Of the 112 inquiries we see the following:

- 38 - officers
- 56 - enlisted
- 16 - Descendants
- 2 - Associates
- 74 - Navy
- 17 - Marines
- 5 - Coast Guard (need more there)

Keep in mind, none of the above statistics include new members who have been directly recruited by local commanderies. It is in that area that we need to DO MORE. Be more proactive. The last five New Member Reports going back to March 2021 reveal that out of the 76 new members booked by our Registrar General, through 9 October, 51 joined as a result of visiting to our web site, while only 16 were directly recruited by a local commandery.

Whenever I have questioned a companion as to how they came to recruit a particular member, they said they "simply asked him/her". I'm sure that most of you belong to other military organizations and I'm sure if you "simply asked", it would result in a new member. Everyone I have ever brought aboard as a member were flattered to be asked and have gone on to bring others aboard.

There is NO "supply chain problem" here. All the potential members are right here, in your town, down the street, next door, at work or in your church or organization. Remember that person you were thinking about asking before but forgot? Well, call him, wish him a Happy New Year, and then Ask Him.

LOCAL COMMANDERS - You are the thermostat at your commandery. You determine whether it's runs hot or cold! Let's turn it up for the new year!

Submitted by Donald W. Schuld, USN
 Vice Commander General-Membership
 3 Mildred Terrace, Flanders, N.J. 07836
 H- 973-584-9634 C- 201-874-0730

WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS!**Atlanta**

CAPT Patrick V. Foege, USN
 CW04 Raymond Douglas Stratton, USMC (Ret.)

Continental

MSgt Chesley "Beau" Earl Bowden, III, USMC (Ret.)

Mr. Michael Leonard Davis

Mr. Daniel Lee Lyons

FCCM Gary Duane Mickle, USN (Ret.)

CW05 Walter Herman Schley, Jr., USMC (Ret.)

LCDR Carl Andrew Wager, USN (Ret.)

Mr. John Leslie Whitlock

Hampton Roads

ISC Billy Franklin Gordon, Jr., USN (Ret.)

Massachusetts

LSC(SCW) Paul Louis Gagne, USN (Ret.)

National Capital

CAPT Albert T. Angel, USN

CDR John Edward Conjura, USN (Ret.)

CDR Robert Franklin Hartman, III, USN (Ret.)

SSG Anthony Curtis Schienschang, II, USA (Ret.)

New York City

Mrs. Angelique Rebecca Mann

San Diego

Mr. Mark Lawrence Wixom

San Francisco

Mr. Robert Joseph McLaughlin

LCDR Thomas Neal McNamara, USN (Ret.)

Southeast Florida

Mr. James Anthony Murray

Texas

Mr. John Spotswood Bowers

LT Derek James Petty, USCG

Tampa Bay

Mr. Gregory Allen Clarke

CDR Burton Frederick Folce, Jr., USCG (Ret.)

Western New York

Mr. William Lawrence Conole

Dr. Peter Gard Lorey, DDS

CDR Daniel Edmund Toolan, USN

Send all contact info changes to:

CAPT M. K. Carlock

6205 7th Ave N

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

M.K.Carlock@gmail.com

415-725-2101

We note the passing of our fellow Naval Order Companions.

May their memories be a blessing.

Stanley Ernest Auslander
 (Certificate 6289)
 New York City Commandery
 Joined 20 April 1989
 Died 30 March 2007

CDR Donald Leon Baker, USN (Ret.)
 (Certificate 5871)
 Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Commandery
 Joined 22 September 1986
 Died 14 October 2021

LT Arthur George Benham, USN (Ret.)
 (Certificate 6228)
 San Francisco Commandery
 Joined 06 February 1989
 Died 02 August 2014

CAPT Ronald Charles Berning, USN (Ret.)
 (Certificate 6353)
 Florida Keys Commandery
 Joined 28 July 1989
 Died 02 August 2014

RADM Peter Arnold Bunch, USCG (Ret.)
 (Certificate 6273)
 San Francisco Commandery
 Joined 03 April 1989
 Died 12 May 2004

Calvin Hayes Cobb, Jr.
 (Certificate 6308)
 National Capital Commandery
 Joined 18 May 1989
 Died 28 October 2017

VADM John Stephen Disher, USN (Ret.)
 (Certificate 6282)
 Florida Keys Commandery
 Joined 13 April 1989
 Died 8 April 1998

CAPT John Martindale Duke, Jr. , USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6294)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined 28 March 1989
Died 29 September 2014

CAPT Patrick Lyman Foster, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6374)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined 07 August 1989
Died 20 August 2005

Robert Guestliers Goelet
(Certificate 1726)
New York City Commandery
Joined unknown
Died 09 October 2019

LCDR William Rogers Hamel, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6280)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 30 March 1989
Died 15 June 2001

LT Frances Zoe Heppe, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6202)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 01 December 1988
Died 01 July 2003

RADM Clarence Arthur Hill, Jr, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6350)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 28 July 1989
Died 29 August 2011

CAPT Jeanne Frances Hoeck, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6310)
San Diego Commandery
Joined 29 May 1989
Died 03 February 2007

CAPT William Fred Ingwersen, DC, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6250)
Long Beach Commandery
Joined 06 March 1989
Died 24 February 2013

The Honorable James Merrill Jeffords
(Certificate 6326)
National Capital Commandery
Joined 23 June 1989
Died 18 August 2014

CDR Gustav Engeland Karlsen, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 8483)
Continental Commandery
Joined 16 June 2005
Died 12 September 2021

CAPT Leo Michael Lazo, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6375)
Massachusetts Commandery
Joined 01 August 1989
Died 24 April 2017

RADM Willis Ivan Lewis, Jr., USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6306)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 17 May 1989
Died 28 August 2021

RADM Ronald Frank Marryott, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6363)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 09 August 1989
Died 04 June 2005

VADM Edward Holmes Martin, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6351)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 28 July 1989
Died 23 December 2014

CAPT Hugh Edward McLoone, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 7505)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined 03 March 1997
Died 03 September 2021

CDR Albro Pearl Michell, Sr. USCG (Ret.)
(Certificate 6342)
New Orleans Commandery
Joined 11 July 1989
Died 25 April 2005

Robert Eugene Mize
(Certificate 9554)
Atlanta Commandery
Joined 12 January 2016
Died 24 February 2020

CAPT Roy Bedford Moody, Jr., USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6240)
Southeast Florida Commandery
Joined 15 February 1989
Died 13 July 1989

MajGen Jeremiah Williams Pearson, III, USMC (Ret.)
(Certificate 6345)
New Orleans Commandery
Joined 18 June 189
Died 01 June 2012

CAPT Arnold Pock, MSC, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6275)
Pensacola Commandery
Joined 04 April 1989
Died 19 April 2018

LCDR Ralph William Popp, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6301)
National Capital Commandery
Joined 28 April 1989
Died 07 July 2013

VADM John Kenneth Ready, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6366)
Southwest Commandery
Joined 09 August 1989
Died 15 January 2015

Lawrence J. Reeves
(Certificate 8645)
Monterey Commandery
Joined 20 February 2007
Died 23 September 2021

RADM Tommie Fred Rinard, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 5950)
New Orleans Commandery
Joined 20 May 1987
Died 16 October 2021

Nash Roberts Charles, Jr.
(Certificate 6304)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 17 May 1989
Died 19 December 2010

Clayton John Rohrbach, Jr.
(Certificate 6244)
Southeast Florida Commandery
Joined 27 February 1989
Died 01 July 2014

CDR Richard Orton Rudd
(Certificate 6355)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 28 July 1989
Died 15 September 2015

CAPT Robert John Sands, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6218)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined 09 January 1989
Died 15 April 2020

Col Charles Joseph Stander, USMC (Ret.)
(Certificate 6296)
National Capital Commandery
Joined 02 May 1989
Died 03 February 2008

CDR Harold Menton Wheelahan, Jr., USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6336)
Florida Keys Commandery
Joined 15 July 1989
Died 03 February 2018

VADM Joseph Barbour Wilkinson, USN (Ret.)
(Certificate 6312)
National Capital Commandery
Joined 05 June 1989
Died 16 October 2011

Grant Dare Conroy
(Certificate 08921)
Monterey Bay Commandery
Joined 07.01.2009
Died 11.23.2021



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