

NAVAL ORDER

of the UNITED STATES

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ADM Karl Schultz, USCG (Ret.) receives DSSA from RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret.)

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COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER



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THE NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES

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Fellow Companions,

Welcome to 2024!

I hope your holidays with family and friends were memorable, but now it's time to get back to work promoting, preserving, and celebrating Naval History. If we don't have a plan, it is unlikely that we will achieve much of what we hope for in this brave new year. The following is a Strategic Plan for the 2023 - 2025 leadership team that I hope will be largely achievable.

Your General Commandery officers and the local commandery commanders all get a chance to offer their thoughts and suggestions for modifications. One that came in was that a lead agent should be assigned for each of the enabling actions that are listed below. Another was that we group the enabling actions under the designated lead agents for clarity. We are in the process of implementing both recommendations. Please review the Goal, Vision, Strategic Objectives, and Enabling Actions that are listed below. Identify one or two or more that speak to your own interests and commit to work on bringing about progress in your chosen ways in your local commandery. If we all work together, great progress will occur.

NOUS Strategic Plan for 2023-2025

Goal: We will continue to meet our constitutionally defined Missions by clearly defining a Vision and Strategic Objectives to be met during the 2023-2025 term of office.

Vision: As a fraternally bonded group of companions we will:

-Grow and diversify the membership of the Order, especially among currently underrepresented eligible populations (e.g., enlisted personnel and younger personnel from all services)

-Expand our inwardly directed support for our companions through expanded face to face and media supported programs, including new initiatives for personal support of vulnerable companions (e.g., those who are home bound, elderly and alone, or in nursing homes.)



-Expand our outwardly directed support for recognition of important sea service historic events, study of naval history, preservation of historic materials, creation of historic makers and monuments, and presentation of programs on sea service history to educate the broader public on its importance to the Nation's well-being

Strategic Objectives: To overcome all obstacles to progress with commitment and persistence we will:

-Encourage broad-based companion participation in gaining new members through vigorous recruiting programs; retaining current members; and reclaiming lapsed members through personal contacts, effective communications and enjoyable and educational events and social opportunities

-Invigorate commanderies over the full range from least to most active to improve and expand their programmatic offerings based on the perceived

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COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER

needs of their companions and the communities in which they operate, while recognizing the unique situation of each

-Develop vigorous liaison between the Order and other organizations with sea service orientations whose interests and activities correspond in whole or in part with ours as a force multiplier for mission achievement

Enabling Actions: To accomplish the stated Vision and Strategic Objectives in a timely, pertinent, and measurable manner we will:

-Achieve a net growth of membership over current numbers by 10% by Congress 2024 and by 20% by Congress 2025

-Ensure that 75% of all active commanderies have met the baseline criteria to qualify for consideration for their respective Douglas or Armstrong Award by Congress 2024 and that 90% will do so by Congress 2025

-Increase the number of regular face-to-face meetings for fellowship or service in at least 50% of commanderies by Congress 2024 and by at least 75% of commanderies by Congress 2025

-Develop a regular telephone or home visit "Buddy Check" program in at least 40% of commanderies by Congress 2024 and by at least 60% of commanderies by Congress 2025

-Ensure that there will be an additional three (3) Commanderies that participate in the National History Day statewide competitions for middle and high school students by Congress 2024 and a further three (3) added by Congress 2025

-Continue, and expand, support for activities in support of our mission including warship commissionings, symposia at maritime educational institutions, and recognition of outstanding performance at various career levels among sea service members

-Provide a robust set of written materials including job descriptions, how to do guides, and other training materials available via the OneDrive internet site and

provide training in their use for the leadership teams of all commanderies by Congress 2024 and provide for their continual improvement going forward

-Ensure leadership "bench strength" by recruiting, training, and using assistants for key members of the General Commandery officer team

-Provide forums for the sharing of best practices between the leaders of our commanderies via the periodic Commander's Call meetings and other mechanisms

-Develop a program of engagement with a variety of commercial and philanthropic organizations to develop the financial resources for the Order and its Foundation to expand our programs in support of education, commemoration, and research in sea service-related areas

-Develop a Speaker's/Author's Bureau including participants from all commanderies which can make available to various public groups (e.g., civic clubs, schools, veterans' organizations) presentations on relevant sea service history topics and provide the audio-visual materials to support these programs

-Develop a vigorous program of liaison focused on programs and activities of common interest with at least five (5) relevant other sea service-related organizations by Congress 2024 and further expand the list of organizations and programs and activities by Congress 2025

-Expand the range of member longevity and activity recognition programs

-Expand the number of Order wide internet-based programs and presentations on sea service history topics available to all Companions

-Evaluate NOUS and NOUS Foundation investment strategies to ensure cost effectiveness, appropriate diversification and achievement of income and growth goals

Commander General sends!

RADM Pete Andrus, SHCE/MC, USN (Ret.)
commandergeneral@navalorder.org

Naval Order Personal Awards in San Diego

There are a number of reasons that the Naval Order has an Annual Congress.

Among these reasons are that we are required to by our Constitution and OPS Manual, but that reason is driven by providing an opportunity to share our passion close up in a face-to-face collegial fashion within an organization that is spread out across the country.

The environment of our Congress presents an opportunity to share concepts and ideas that we otherwise only get through directed questions and queries; the face-to-face presence allows a deeper and more detailed exploration of what makes things tick so we can come away with a better understanding of how to continue to proselytize our passion for Naval and Military History.

Technology has facilitated our ability to meet and exchange ideas, but the personal element is essential to what we do as historians. We learn through our Congress experience of the successes and shortcomings we all experience in leading organizations; however, sharing directly in a setting which is surrounded by so much of our own historical background only adds substance to our memories.

The San Diego Congress served as a haven of comradery that many of us experienced during our time in the nation's service.

We recognized a number of movers and shakers within the Naval Order that have enabled us to continue to deliver our mission.

Those recognized included: Lifetime achievement Awards to RADM George Huchting, USN (Ret.) and MCCS Robert Hansen, USN (Ret.) for their unbounded commitment to the Order for these past many years.

All of these Companions, and so many more of you, contributed to the business of preserving Naval History through the mission of the Order.

Additionally, Commander General Medals were awarded to the following Companions of the Order:

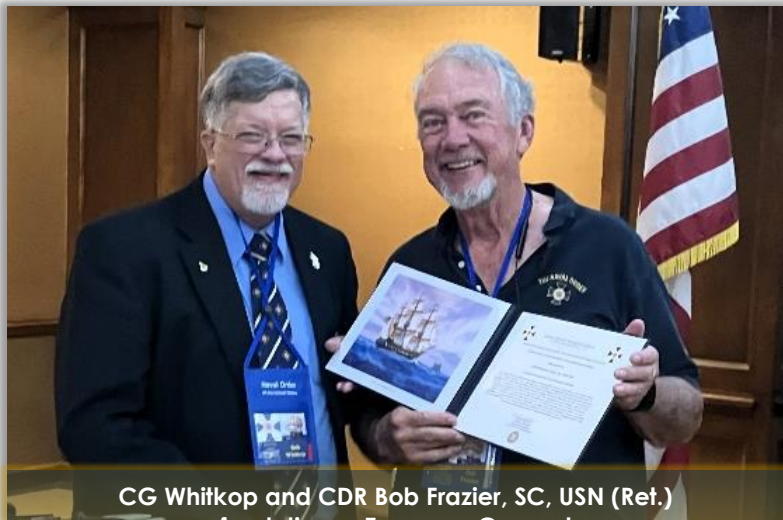
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CG Whitkop and RADM George Huchting, USN (Ret.)
Lifetime Achievement Award



CG Whitkop and MCCS Robert Hansen, USN (Ret.)
Lifetime Achievement Award



CG Whitkop and CDR Bob Frazier, SC, USN (Ret.)
for duties as Treasurer General



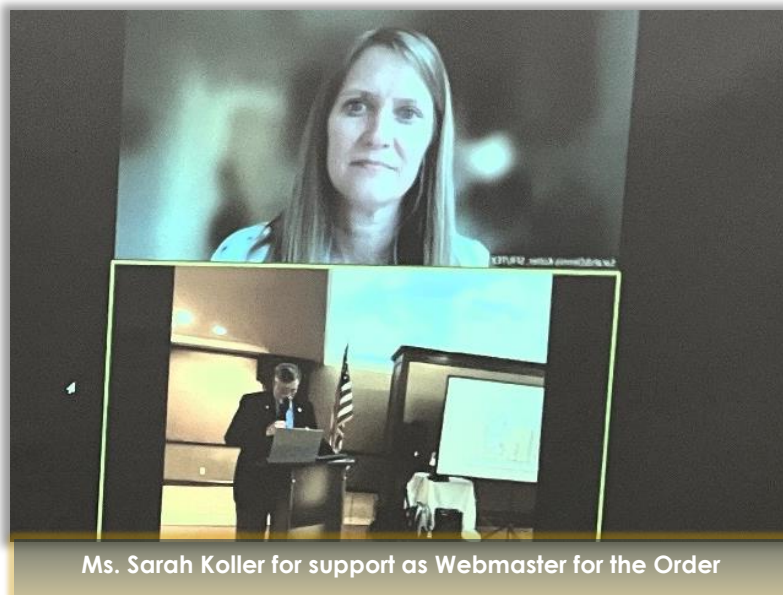
CG Whitkop and RADM William Merlin, USCG (Ret.)
for duties as advisor to the Finance Committee
in keeping our resources fluid



CG Whitkop and CAPT Ken Arendt, SC, USN (Ret.)
for duties as Treasurer of the Naval Order Foundation



CG Whitkop and CAPT William Steagall, USN (Ret.)
for duties and initiatives as NAT Commander



Ms. Sarah Koller for support as Webmaster for the Order



CG Whitkop and CAPT Tom Snyder, MC, USN (Ret.)
for duties as Ship's Store operator



CG Whitkop and Dr./CAPT Stan Carpenter, USN (Ret.) PhD for duties as Historian General

The Naval Order likes to hold a Congress every October. The Congresses give us an opportunity to renew and reinforce old friendships and make new ones with companions near and far. It gives everyone a chance, from flag officers to junior enlisted and even those who have not served, to mingle as equals and share stories about careers and families. We try to hold our congresses in different areas of our country to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to attend. Sometimes things beyond our control, like pandemics and hurricanes, throw a wrench into plans but we always recover and make the best of the situation. Technological advances of recent years have made it possible for companions wherever they live to attend virtually if they can't attend personally. Following is an overview of our recently completed 2023 Congress in San Diego.

Our first event for Congress 2023 was the presentation of the Distinguished Sea Service Award to ADM Karl Schultz, USCG, (Ret.) at the Commander General's Reception Wednesday evening. ADM Schultz was personable and friendly and even recognized some San Francisco Companions from his time at Alameda's Coast Guard Island.

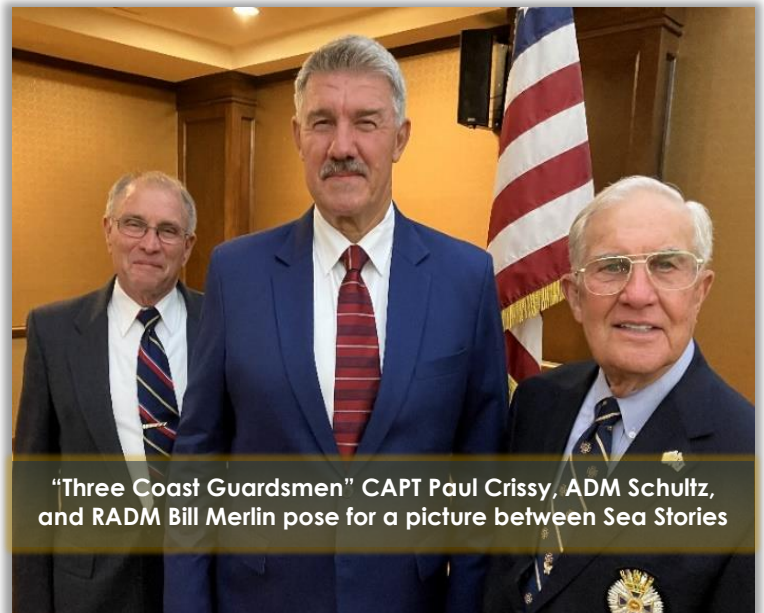
Not pictured:

- HON William Schmidt for efforts to establish our History Night series
- Dr/CDR Dave Winkler USN (Ret.) PhD for his Management of the History Night Series

Most of these recipients attended the San Diego Congress. We hope many more of you will join us in Buffalo, New York next October for what will be a truly marvelous time in the city by the lake.



Buffalo, New York

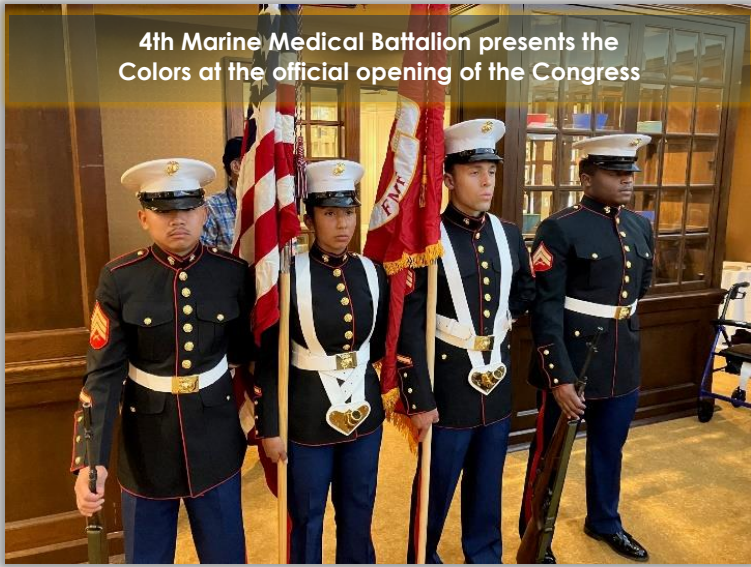


"Three Coast Guardsmen" CAPT Paul Crissy, ADM Schultz, and RADM Bill Merlin pose for a picture between Sea Stories

We opened the Congress with ritual and an outstanding color guard from the 4th Marine Medical Battalion arranged by Colonel Victor Bianchi, USMC (Ret.), San Diego Commandery Commander.

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2023 CONGRESS OVERVIEW



After the opening rituals, we tolled the bells for Companions who have “crossed the bar” since the 2022 Congress. After the usual committee reports Commander General Whitkop segued into everyone’s favorite part of the program – awards to Commanderies and companions who have excelled during the previous year. The Jan Armstrong award for Best Small Commandery went to Tampa Bay and the award for Best Large Commandery went to San Francisco.

There had been plans before the pandemic for the San Diego Commandery to host a congress that included a visit to the graduation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD). Those plans were put in abeyance the last few years. We learned how do things electronically and had successful Congresses using only Zoom technology in 2020 and 2021 but never gave up on San Diego.

We resumed our in-person Congresses in 2022 in our Nation’s Capital and had a great time with both in person and virtual attendees and renewed our determination to visit San Diego. Coincidentally our visit to MCRD this year also marked the 100th Anniversary of MCRD’s move from Mare Island to San Diego. After a visit to the MCRD museum, we joined India Company’s proud families and friends on the Parade Ground to celebrate their graduation from boot camp.



Outgoing Commander General Whitkop presented personal awards as well. (See previous article for details). A highlight of the awards presentation was the presentation of the 25-year pin to CDR Charlie Sellers, USN (Ret.), who enthusiastically accepted. All eligible companions may receive a 25-year pin through their respective commanderies. CG Whitkop and Charlie are both from the Jacksonville Commandery.



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MCRD India Company Graduation 20 October 2023



Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum

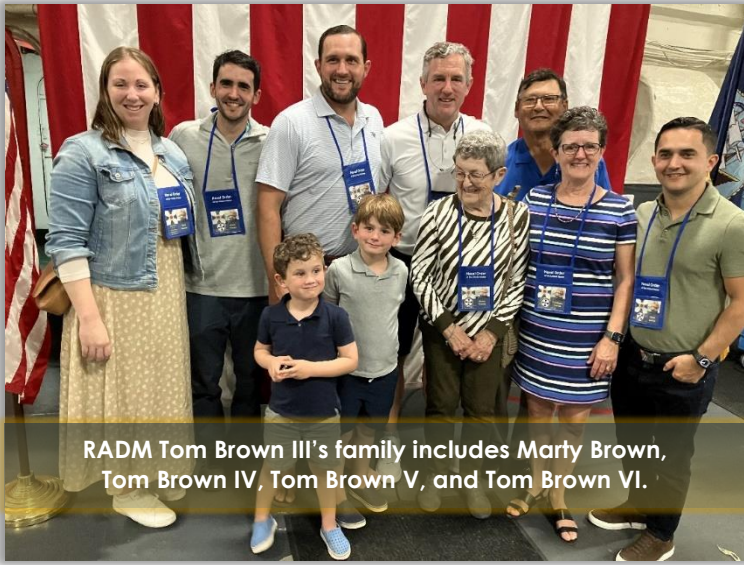
After offering our personal congratulations to our newest Marines, we adjourned to the MCRD Bayview Officer's Club to present the Distinguished Sea Service Senior Enlisted Award to Sergeant Major Mario A. Marquez, USMC (Ret.).



Left to Right: SgtMaj Marquez, Outgoing Commander General Bob Whitkop, MCRD SgtMaj Oranjel Leavy, and Incoming Commander General Pete Andrus at the Bayview Club

RADM TOM BROWN III AWARD

After leaving MCRD, we were bussed to the foot of Broadway to the USS Midway Museum ship. We were there to present the RADM Tom Brown III award to Coast Guard Pilot LTJG Micheal Travers, USCG as the top graduate of flight school. This was the first time the award was given. We were joined by the Brown family, including Marty Brown, Tom Brown IV, Tom Brown V, Tom Brown VI and others in the extended family.



RADM Tom Brown III's family includes Marty Brown, Tom Brown IV, Tom Brown V, and Tom Brown VI.

Travers started his Coast Guard Career as an enlisted Health Services Technician. He received his degree through Southern New Hampshire University's on-line curriculum and entered Officer Candidate School in 2019 and subsequently was selected to attend Naval Flight School in Pensacola.



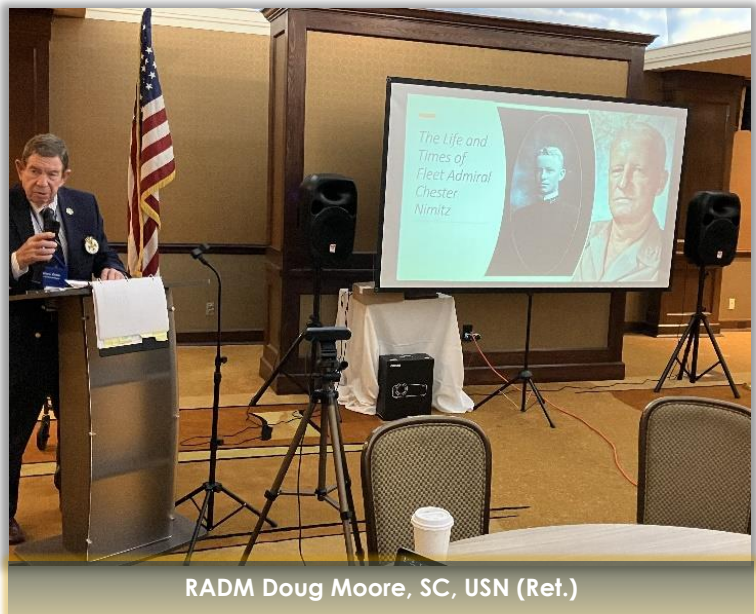
Commander General Whitkop joins Marty Brown and members of the Brown family to present the first RADM Thomas F. Brown, III award to LTJG Michael Travers, USCG

CONGRESS SPEAKERS

Saturday was the last official day of the Congress. As is usual in our Congresses it was a day set aside for historical lectures and the grand banquet and change of command.



RADM Michael Baker, MC, USN (Ret.)



RADM Doug Moore, SC, USN (Ret.)

CONGRESS SPEAKERS



Michael Carra



Jim McGinnis



Karl Zingheim



CAPT Stan Carpenter, USN (Ret.)

Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award

We were honored to present the Dewey Award to CAPT Don Walsh, USN, (Ret.) at what turned out to be his last public appearance. He spoke briefly about the Titan submersible implosion noting that his warnings went unheeded. He warmly greeted companions and asked to be personally introduced to the National History Day winners that attended to share their presentations.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Captain Walsh.

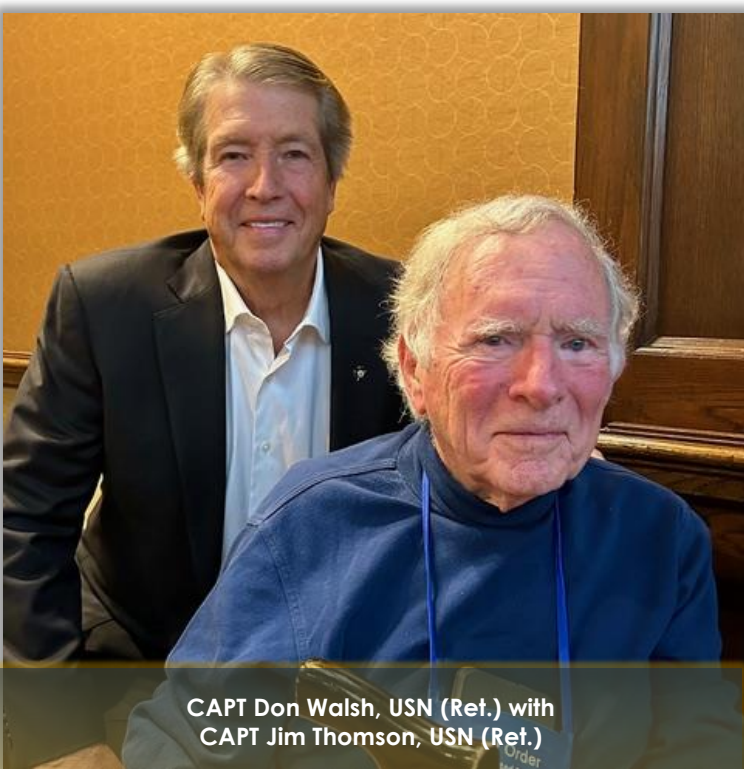
CAPT Don Walsh, USN, (Ret.)
2 November 1931 – 12 November 2023



CG Bob Whitkop presents the Dewey Award to CAPT Don Walsh with History Day Student presenters Zachary Brasher, Rosie Gates and Alexander Miller



CAPT Don Walsh, USN (Ret.) with MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)



CAPT Don Walsh, USN (Ret.) with CAPT Jim Thomson, USN (Ret.)



CAPT Kris Carlock presents membership certificate to CAPT Walsh

2023 CONGRESS OVERVIEW

Our final event of our Congress was our Grand Banquet. Our guests of honor were the families of RADM Tom Brown along with the first winner of the RADM Brown award, LtJG Michael Travers, USCG and his family. Our honored guest speaker was BGen Janes A. Ryans, II, USMC Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Western Recruiting Region, who attended with his wife. The evening

concluded with a traditional Change of Command, where RADM Pete Andrus assumed command of the Naval Order of the United States from CAPT Bob Whitkop.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Congress (tentatively Buffalo, New York).

**Submitted by CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.) and
MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)**



BGen Ryans greets incoming Commander General Andrus and immediate past Commander General Whitkop



The moment command responsibility passed



San Diego Congress attendees enjoy lunch



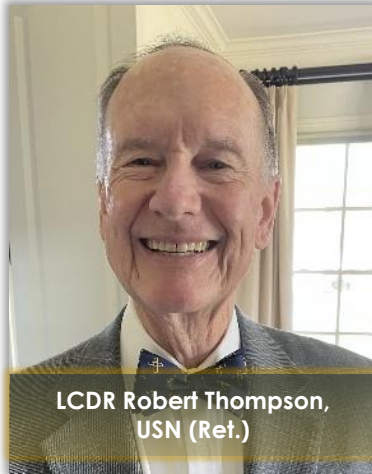
CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.) and
CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN (Ret.)

Changing of the Guard

During Continental Commandery's 9 November Commandery General meeting, LCDR Robert Thompson, USN (Ret.) relieved CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.) as CTL Commandery Commander.



CAPT Fred Passman,
USN (Ret.)



LCDR Robert Thompson,
USN (Ret.)

A longtime companion, LCDR Thompson recently transferred to Continental. Before assuming duties as Commandery Commander, LCDR Thompson was our Community Outreach Committee Chair. CAPT Passman is now Commander General Elect.

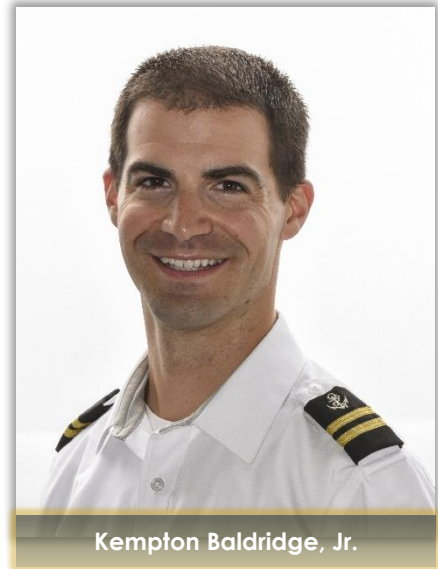
Maritime History Virtual

Our July lecture, presented by CAPT Michael A. Lilly, USN, (Ret.), explored the facts behind the myth of James Cook's discovery of Hawaii. The conventional wisdom is that Captain James Cook was the first European to "discover" Hawaii in 1778. As a teenager, however, CAPT Michael A. Lilly read an account that Gaetano, a Spanish navigator, first recorded the discovery of Hawaii in 1542. For two centuries before Captain Cook, Spanish galleons sailed each year from Acapulco to Manila and passed just south of the Islands. Lilly believes it was impossible for these galleons to miss seeing the 13,000-foot mountains of the big island of Hawaii from which smoke from lava eruptions sometimes rose high above. In 1743, a British ship captured a Spanish galleon which had charts showing a group of islands in the general location and exact latitude of Hawaii. Even Captain Cook's own navigational chart of the Pacific included the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and seven islands several hundred miles to the east. The primary globes, maps and charts of the 18th centuries were painted by Dutch cartographers.

When CAPT Lilly visited the Amsterdam National Maritime Museum, he found original maps and globes dated 1635 and 1665 showing Hawaii with various names. In his presentation, he showed numerous pre-Cook charts with these islands. He also explained why they are consistently shown several hundred miles to the actual east. Watch CAPT Lilly's presentation titled Discovery of Hawaii presented by CAPT Michael A. Lilly, USN (Ret.), tinyurl.com/mreeav2z.

Since we first launched CTL's MARHIST series, we have worked hard to ensure that our lectures include content about all the maritime services represented within NOUS and that our lecturers reflect the several generations of NOUS

companions. In August, we heard from second generation NOUS companion Kempton Baldrige, Jr. a licensed Merchant Mariner. Kempton, who holds both a 1600 Ton Master and 2nd Mate of Unlimited Tonnage merchant marine licenses, currently serves as 2nd Mate aboard a lightering support vessel out of Galveston, Texas.



Kempton Baldrige, Jr.

During our August program, Kempton discussed the decline in both the size of the U.S. merchant fleet as well as the number of available merchant mariners. He noted that the United States flag registry is actually 7th in terms of Number of Vessels (3,636), even if it is 21st in total deadweight tonnage – meaning that there are ample opportunities for new mariners to receive experience on vessels, even if the overall size of the U.S. merchant fleet is not where it should be. Mr. Baldrige spoke of recruitment issues, ongoing issues of work/life balance for mariners, and better management of the credentialing process, that plague the U.S. Merchant Marine's efforts to meet their staffing objectives. He also offered several innovative ideas for addressing each of these

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challenges. Kempton's lecture, *Decline of U.S. Merchant Fleet*, is on YouTube at tinyurl.com/2s3ssvxh.



Dallam Masterson

In October, Dallam Masterson, Ph.D., Texas Navy Admiral and direct descendent of Samuel Rhoads Fisher, one of the Texas Navy's founders, shared the fascinating history of the creation and early days of that navy. Samuel Rhoads Fisher met Moses and Stephen F.

Austin in Missouri in 1819, and in 1830, decided to move his

shipping business from Philadelphia to Austin's colony in Mexican Texas. The 1832 house that ships' carpenters built for Fisher's family in Matagorda has survived several major hurricanes and is one of the oldest homes in Texas. Fisher was instrumental in creating the Texas Navy in November 1835, beginning with the purchase of the U.S. Navy schooner *William Robbins* (renamed *Liberty* in the Texas Navy) that captured Mexican supplies and diverted them to the Texans. Fisher, signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and was appointed the first Secretary of the Navy for the Republic of Texas by President Sam Houston. When Mexico threatened the survival of the young Republic with a naval blockade, Secretary Fisher ordered the Texas Navy on a diversionary cruise to Yucatán that broke the blockade. President Houston was not pleased and fired him when he returned to a hero's welcome. Fisher was cleared of all Houston's charges by the Texas Senate, and in his farewell letter, Fisher closed with "God prosper Texas! and to you, my friends and fellow citizens, happiness and thanks." Watch the presentation, *Birth of a Navy* at tinyurl.com/bdhyrmys.

November's lecture by LCDR Aroon Seeda, CHC, USN, was "Operation Stress Control: Mindfulness for Stress Reduction and Prevention." In today's demanding environment, stress is an ever-present challenge that can significantly impact our mental and physical well-being. "Operation Stress Control" is a transformative workshop to equip individuals with mindfulness techniques to reduce stress and prevent its harmful effects on their lives. Through mindfulness, participants developed awareness, presence, and self-compassion, allowing them to handle life's challenges better. This interactive workshop guided attendees through mindfulness practices, including the single-



LCDR Aroon Seeda, CHC, USN

breath return to resting point meditation technique, breath work, and body scans, to build a strong foundation for stress reduction.

Participants also explored the science behind stress and the benefits of mindfulness, helping them to recognize their personal stress patterns and triggers. Armed with this knowledge, they can create tailored stress management plans that promote resilience and balance in their lives. Watch his presentation at *Operation Stress Control: Mindfulness for Stress Reduction and Prevention* at tinyurl.com/4af3fads.

In December we commemorated Pearl Harbor Day with a lecture by Mr. Stephen Cross, a docent and member of Midway Museum's speaker's bureau. Mr. Cross' lecture, "Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – The Long Road to War", covered the long sequence of events that led from Japan's 1905 defeat of Russia to Pearl Harbor in 1941. Amidst a flurry of diplomacy and code-breaking efforts, U.S. Armed Forces preparations struggled to gain momentum. The Pacific Fleet received a "war warning" message from ADM Harold Stark on 27 November 1941, that reinforced previous messages. Commanders wondered, "What next?" A look at the road to war and the events that provide thoughtful review to naval officers. Mr. Cross' lecture is available for viewing at tinyurl.com/7mksdm8h.

Call for Volunteers

CTL is NOUS only virtual commandery. Our #1 challenge is creating opportunities for our companions to connect. The best way to do that is to become engaged with the commandery's efforts to promote greater awareness of U.S. maritime history, particularly in our Nation's Heartland. Any companion who is interested in volunteering to help the Continental Commandery fulfill NOUS' mission should contact CAPT Passman at commander@continentalcommandery-nous.org.

Submitted by CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.)

FLORIDA FIRST COAST COMMANDERY

Florida First Coast Commandery companions enjoyed a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner on 8 December at Cypress Village in Jacksonville, which featured a presentation titled "Heroes of Pearl Harbor" presented by CAPT Jim Ransom, USN (Ret.). He is an adjunct professor with the U.S. Naval War College Fleet Seminar Program at Mayport.

In his briefing, he outlined the heroic actions of eight individuals at Pearl Harbor during the attack. This included Doris Miller, a ship's cook who manned an anti-aircraft gun in the fight. Our nation's newest aircraft carrier, under construction in Newport News, is named after Miller. USS *Doris Miller* (CVN-81) will be the fourth Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier of the United States Navy. The carrier will be the second to honor Miller, who received the Navy Cross for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The first ship was the frigate USS *Miller* (FF 1091).

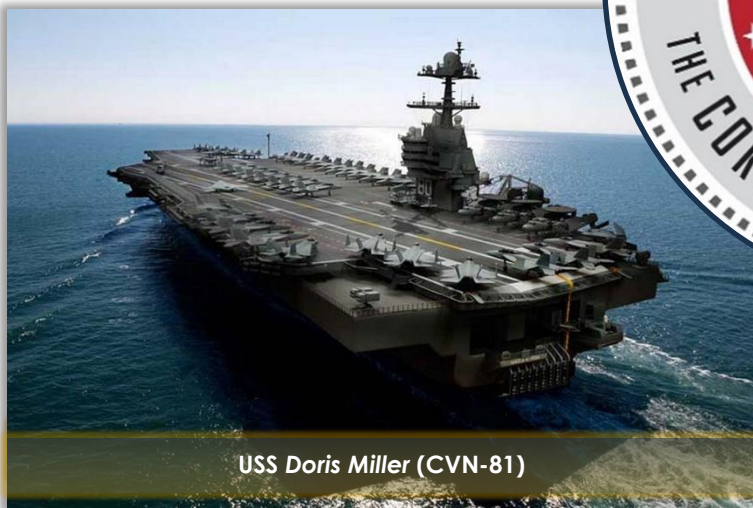
Special guests of the Commandery were Master at Arms First Class Jonathan White, USN, and his fiancé Brooke Nesa. MA1 White is in the Security Department at Naval Station Mayport and serves as kennel master. The Military Working Dog (MWD) Trainer/Kennel Master Course is a three-week course for future joint service MWD Trainers and Kennel Masters at the 341st Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio (Lackland) Texas. Students spend 120 hours on training fundamentals to include: basic obedience, substance detection, and K9 suspect apprehension. Each student is paired with an MWD with multiple training deficiencies.



Mess Attendant Doris Miller with his Navy Cross



MA1 Jonathan White, right, and his fiancé Brooke Nesa enjoy a moment at dinner with immediate past FFC Commander ETCM John Craft (left)



USS *Doris Miller* (CVN-81)



During the dinner program MA1 White was offered the opportunity to make remarks and he impressed Companions with his articulate account of his background and journey to the Navy, including his recent accomplishment of learning a bachelor's degree.

The well-attended dinner was very much a success and an outstanding way to remember the events of 7 December 1941, and its impact on history.

Submitted by CAPT Bob Buehn, USN (Ret.)

Pearl Harbor Commemorative Dinner

7 December 2023 was an evening of friendship and remembrance when the National Capital Commandery and the local chapter of the Surface Navy Association held a joint commemorative dinner at the Army Navy Club, Washington, DC, to honor those who perished and those who fought during the attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941.

Approximately 90 people attended, including naval attachés from the British and New Zealand embassies. Various companions sponsored ten midshipmen who attended from George Washington University. The middies helped out in various ways by taking odd jobs assigned by the planning committee.

The evening began with an invocation by Chief Purser Julius Jackson. Commandery Commander John Shanahan served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Joined by Commander Everett Alvarez (the first Vietnam POW and 2016 Dewey Award recipient), Master Chief David Mattingly spoke about the "empty table" as a way to honor comrades who have been or are imprisoned or missing in action. Following the dinner, our companion, Dr. Frank Blazich, historian/curator for the Smithsonian Museum of American History gave a superb talk on Pearl Harbor artefacts at the Smithsonian.

Dr. Jennifer London displayed and described a flag that belonged to her late husband, Dr. Jack London (a life member of the Naval Order and Dewey Award recipient): it was the flag that flew over ADM Kimmel's office on the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In appreciation, the commandery made her a life member, transferring her husband's membership to her name.

CAPT John Rodgaard led a toast to those lost and those who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and those who brought about the turning point in the war, two years later. Chief Purser Julius Jackson gave the benediction and Mr. John Shanahan bade everyone a good night and a safe journey home.

Many thanks and kudos to the dinner planning committee: Mr. John Shanahan, Master Chief Dave Mattingly, Captain William Steagall, Captain John Rodgaard, Mr. Peter Pennington, Lieutenant Commander Steve Baker, Lieutenant Commander Ralph Day, and Dr. Judy Pearson.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.



John Shanahan, Master of Ceremonies



Master Chief Dave Mattingly and Commander Everett Alvarez



Dr. Frank Blazich, featured speaker

7 DECEMBER 2023 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

On 7 December 2023 members of the National Capital Commandery represented the Naval Order of the U.S. for their annual wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in remembrance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 7 December 1941.

CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.) organized the short ceremony. Dr. Judy Pearson, MCPO Dave Mattingly, USN (Ret.), and CAPT William Steagall, USN (Ret.) attended. They were joined by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cameron Robinson of the Navy Ceremonial Guard; Commander Alan Parker of the Royal New Zealand Navy and Naval Attaché of the New Zealand Embassy, Washington, DC; Flight Lt. George Watson from the British Embassy, Washington, DC; and RADM Michael Studeman, USN (Ret.), former Commanding Officer of the Office of Naval Intelligence, all of whom served as the four wreath-bearers.

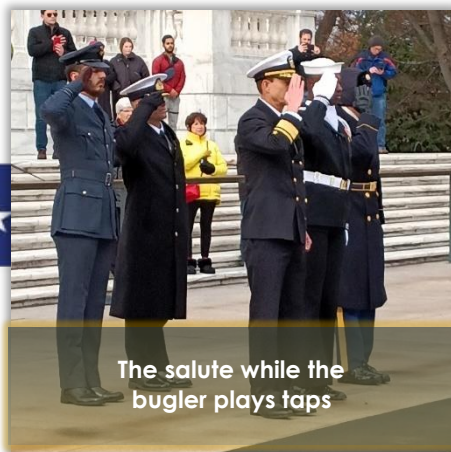
Also in attendance were Commander Chris Emonson of the Royal Australian Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché of the Australian Embassy, Washington, DC, and Commander Derek Powles, Royal Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché of the British Embassy, Washington DC.

The wreath-laying followed the noon Changing of the Guard at the tomb. Silence prevailed as the wreath-bearers, assisted by a soldier of the Old Guard, placed the red, white, and blue floral wreath in front of the tomb. A bugler played taps while those in uniform saluted, and onlookers placed their hands over their hearts. This year's wreath-laying marked the 82nd anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II. It was touching that embassy naval personnel were present to represent our allies (with the exception of Canada) in that war.

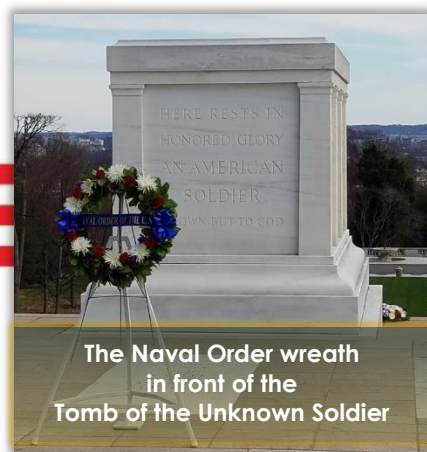
Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.



The entourage of Naval Order companions and naval staff from the British, Australian, and New Zealand embassies



The salute while the bugler plays taps



The Naval Order wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The wreath-laying party descending the stairs in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

THE PASSING OF RADM MORTON “JIM” TOOLE, USN (RET.)

With deep sadness, the National Capital Commandery marked the passing of RADM Morton “Jim” Toole on 12 November at the age of 86. RADM Toole was a companion of our commandery.

Jim entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in the U.S. Naval Reserve NROTC Program at UCLA in September 1954. He received his bachelor’s degree and was commissioned an Ensign in 1957. His first assignment was the USS *Duncan* (DDR 874).

He spent six years at sea before moving to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington to work with the “TARTAR” guided-missile systems. He attended night classes at American University and was awarded a master’s degree in international relations in 1966.

By the time he received his degree, he had been assigned to Vietnam. He was the first commander of River Division 52/Delta River Patrol Group (CTC 116.1.2) as part of “Operation Game Warden.” He had tactical command of 54 of 80 PBRs in Operation Game Warden by the end of his tour. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

His service in Vietnam brought him in contact with a Special Operations unit led by Richard Marcinko, who became the first commander of Navy SEAL Team 6. He was subsequently assigned to Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare School in San Diego and completed the Prospective CO/EO Course in Vallejo, California. He later served as executive officer of the USS *Henry B. Wilson* (DDG 7) when it came under enemy fire off the coast of Vietnam. He continued to serve as a surface line officer in various commands until his retirement in July 1987 as chief of staff of the U.S. Readiness Command (USCINCRAD)/Joint Deployment Agency. His commands included River Division 53/Delta River Patrol Group (CTG 116.1.2), USS *Hissem* (DER-400), USS *Preble* (DLG-15), USS *William H. Standley* (CG 32), and Service Group TWO. He had extensive combat experience in Vietnam in

riverine operations and on the gunline. He has service stars for seven Vietnam campaigns.

RADM Toole’s awards include the Legion of Merit (four awards); Bronze Star with Combat “V”; two Navy Commendation Medals (both with Combat “V”); Navy Achievement Medal with Combat “V”; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Battle Efficiency Ribbon (three

awards); Navy Expeditionary Medal; National Defense Service Medal (two awards); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Service Medal (seven campaign stars); Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Color); Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Action Color); and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device. In addition, he was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Medal, Corps Level (Gold Star). He also earned the small craft insignia.

Following his retirement RADM Toole, owned and operated Capitol Hill Books in Washington, DC — described as a “fiercely independent” bookshop specializing in quality rare, used,

and first edition books. The bookstore was named “best used bookstore in DC” for many years running. He sold the bookstore to employees in 2018 but continued to work there until the day he died. He will be remembered with gratitude by our Navy and nation.

In spite of having a cantankerous nature, he was beloved by all who knew him. His was a life of service, leadership, and excellence. He was devoted to his wife June who survives him, and to his children and grandchildren. Rest in peace and joy for a life well-lived, Admiral Toole.

Excerpts from NHHO Obituary 21 Nov 2023 by RADM Sam Cox, USN (Ret.) Director and interview by Judy Pearson in 2022 for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.



RADM “Jim” Toole in his Capitol Hill Books shop

NEW ORLEANS COMMANDERY

The New Orleans commandery held its summer meeting/dinner on 7 June at Bistro Orleans, in Metairie, Louisiana. Guest speaker was the Naval Order's own Dr. Samantha Cavell, who educated the group on the role CAPT Joseph Rochefort and his team had in breaking the Japanese Navy General Operational Code, JN25, during World War II – a key contributor in turning the tide of the war for the United States at the Battle of Midway. The presentation and discussion were very well-received with numerous questions afterward.



Dr. Samantha Cavell

The commandery held its fall meeting/dinner on 27 September at Dab's Bistro, also in Metairie. The guest speaker was Ms. Blair Davenport, Staff Curator of the Pacific West Region, National Park Service. Ms. Davenport is responsible for museum management and archival collections for more than sixty national park sites within the eight states of California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, portions of Arizona and Montana, and the territories of Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands.



CAPT Trehubenko presents a Naval Order mug to Ms. Davenport

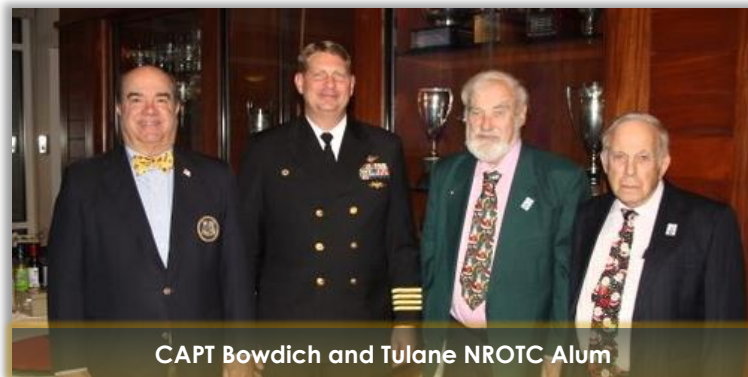
Blair presented an overview of how the U.S. Navy intersects with National Park sites that commemorate the Pacific Theater of World War II, sharing personal insights behind some of the items maintained in the archive. Her presentation was very well received.

Several companions enjoyed company at both the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday balls in New Orleans. Guest of Honor for the Navy Ball was Naval Reserve Force Master Chief (SW/EXW/AW) Tracy Hunt. The Marine Corps ball is quite memorable in that it is held on the field within the Ceasars Superdome (so both USMC and NFL protocols apply)!

The Guest of Honor was Sergeant Major Carlos Ruiz, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Master Chief Hunt and Sergeant Major Ruiz made comments about the rich history of the Navy and Marine Corps, and touched upon some of the primary issues the Naval Service is facing today.

Lastly, the commandery held its winter meeting/dinner on 21 December at the Southern Yacht Club, also in Metairie. The guest speaker was CAPT Paul Bowdich, Commanding Officer/Professor of Naval Science, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit, Tulane University. You can find his full biography at: tinyurl.com/4sd94vm3.

CAPT Bowdich provided an 85th Anniversary Update of NROTC at Tulane. The Tulane Unit is comprised of Midshipmen from six New Orleans universities and colleges.



CAPT Bowdich and Tulane NROTC Alum

Bowdich's brief included: comparisons between Unit composition over the years, history of the Navy building on the Tulane campus, Midshipmen activities and leadership development efforts, and current challenges. The brief was exceptionally well received, and we had the great fortune of having three Tulane NROTC alumni in attendance who are companions of the New Orleans commandery. A robust question and answer period followed, and we bid all companions adieu and well wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season and entry into the new year.

Submitted by CAPT Eric Trehubenko, USN (Ret.)

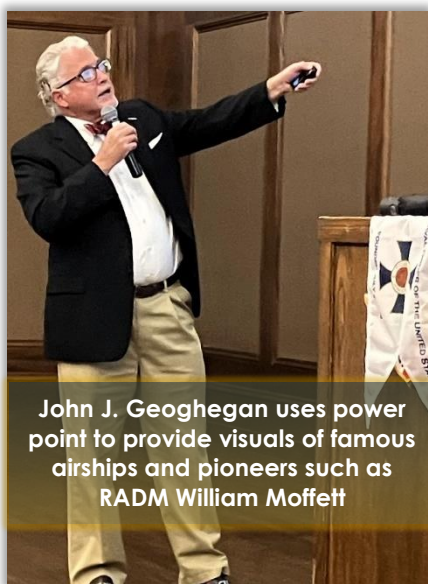
SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

The last quarter of the year has always been our busiest season in San Francisco. October brings us San Francisco's annual Fleet Week with the Blue Angels airshow and a sea of Marine and Navy Uniforms.

For our special Fleet Week luncheon, we were honored to have RDML Randall Peck and over 40 of his sailors and marines from Expeditionary Strike Group 3 (ESG 3) as our honored guests. RDML Peck spoke on the challenges we face in the Asian theatre and his hope that economic competition will be the rule.

Some of us were honored to meet several hospital corpsmen recently returned from a medical mission and hear their stories. ESG3 comprises three amphibious squadrons, 15 amphibious warships and eight naval support elements including approximately 18,000 active duty and reserve sailors and marines.

Later in the month, several of us attended the annual NOUS Congress in San Diego where our commandery received the Lee Douglas Award for Outstanding Large Commandery. The bragging rights belong to all San Francisco Commandery companions.



John J. Geoghegan uses power point to provide visuals of famous airships and pioneers such as RADM William Moffett

In November we were honored to welcome our luncheon Guest Speaker, author John J. Geoghegan, who spoke to us about his book **“When Giants Ruled the Sky: The Brief Reign and Tragic Demise of the American Rigid Airship.”**

This was of great interest to our

companions as many have served at Moffett Field. Geohegan told us how airships were intended to be used for surveillance purposes.

He focused on the USS Macon (ZR 5) and USS Akron

(ZR 4). Akron was lost off the East Coast with airship pioneer RADM William Moffett aboard. Macon was based at Moffett Field, named after Moffett, and was ultimately lost in a storm off the California Coast. Although technical difficulties and new technologies led to the ultimate demise of the Navy's initial airship program, discussion continues about their possible situational viability so we may see them again.

The Marine Corps celebrates its birthday in November. Locally, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball is held at the Marines Memorial Club. Many companions dressed up in their finest to attend this year's sold-out event. LtGen Edward J. Hanlon Jr. USMC (Ret.), Chairman of the Board Marines' Memorial Association introduced Guest of Honor LtGen David A. Ottignon, Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force. Music was provided by the Brass Ensemble, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Color Guard, Cake Escort, & Sword Detail were provided by the 23rd Marine Regiment.



LtGen David A. Ottignon USMC, LtGen Edward J. Hanlon Jr. USMC (Ret.), LtGen Mike Rocco USMC (Ret.), and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Brass Ensemble greet Marine Corps Ball attendees in front of the Marines Memorial Club

Our commandery's final event (not counting holiday parties) was our Pearl Harbor Commemorative Dinner at the University Club of San Francisco. The evening afforded us the opportunity to remember our friends who had passed and meet with companions and friends we don't see very often. As has been the tradition for the last several years, we sponsored midshipmen from local NROTC units. We had the pleasure of meeting “middies” from both the Navy and Marine Corps options.

Continued on next page...

Our special guest speaker was Vice Admiral Michael J. Dumont, USN (Ret.), Interim President of the California State University Maritime Academy.



NROTC Midshipmen stand to be recognized during our Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

VADM Dumont spoke on current events and rued the lack of civil discourse between members of the political class and their supporters. VADM Dumont spoke from a unique perspective. He served five years as a U.S. Army aviator before joining the Navy. In the Navy he has had diverse assignments including the Northern Command, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and NORAD (among others).



San Francisco Commandery Commander RADM Tom Andrews acknowledges our honored guest speaker Vice Admiral Michael J. Dumont, USN (Ret.)

He holds a B.A. from the University of Southern Maine, M.S. from the National War College, M.A. from the U.S. Army War College, and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

We adjourned, and look forward, hopefully, to good times and camaraderie in 2024.

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony

Saturday, 2 December 2023, was a somber and overcast day befitting the solemn nature of a Ceremony to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

The Texas Commandery of the NOUS (TC-NOUS) conducted its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony with approximately sixty Companions and guests in attendance. The Ceremony was held at the American Undersea Warfare Center at Seawolf Park in Galveston, Texas. The Ceremony was conducted in a space literally defined by the USS Cavalla (SS-244) and the USS Stewart (DE-238).



Commander Steven K. Howell (former LT, USNR) served as Master of Ceremonies

The Master of Ceremonies was TC-NOUS Commander Steven K. Howell who spoke about the continued relevance of the Pearl Harbor attack and why those individuals who choose to serve this nation in the uniformed military services will always merit our respect and honor. Mr. Howell's late father was a Pearl Harbor survivor.

The Keynote Speaker was Maj. Charles L. (Rocky) Martino, USMC (Ret.) who, as a Member of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors (SDPHS), spoke about the many Pearl Harbor survivors he has met and interviewed.



Keynote Speaker, Maj. Charles (Rocky) Martino, USMC (Ret.)

Continued on next page...

TEXAS COMMANDERY

In recounting the mistakes made by the Japanese Navy on that fateful day, stated that their worst mistake was "they made me mad!"

An honored Companion was also present, Mr. Tom Gillette. Tom was a ten year old at Pearl Harbor, waving from the roof of his family's home at the Japanese torpedo planes streaking toward Battleship Row. Tom has been our Keynote Speaker for several previous Remembrance Ceremonies due to his encyclopedic knowledge.

Organizations supporting this year's Ceremony included The Southeast Texas Patriot Guard Riders with Ride CAPT Johnny Darner (U.S. Flag column at the park entrance), The Community Band of Southeast Texas conducted by Jacob McWherter (pre- and ceremony music), TC-NOUS Companion Rev. James T. Payne, D.D. (Invocation and Benediction), U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Houston Div. led by NCCM Rene R. Cano USN (Ret.) (Color Guard and Escorts), Co. C, 4th Assault Amphibian Bn. 1st Bn. USMC (Honor Rifle Squad), Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association led by Mr. Rick Lawrence, and the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, Texas City. Additionally, RADM Peter Andrus, MC USNR (Ret), NOUS Commander General, represented the national organization of the NOUS.

Following Maj. Martino's comments, Mr. Howell recognized the SDPHS Members in attendance. As part of the tribute to both the survivors and those brave Americans who lost their lives during and after the attack on Pearl Harbor, two SDPHS Members, escorted by Sea Cadets, tossed a memorial lei into Galveston Harbor.



Sea Cadets Color Guard

Submitted by Steven K. Howell



NOUS Companions attending included SFC (former ET2) Rickey P. Gonzales, USAR (Ret.); CAPT W. O. King, Jr., USN (Ret.), Archdeacon James T. Payne, D.D; Mr. Steven K. Howell, RADM, Peter Andrus, MC, USNR (Ret.); Mr. Tom Gillette (seated); CDR James Sterling, USCG (Ret.); CAPT Charles Hewell, USN (Ret.); CDR Robert Frazier, SC, USN (Ret.); CAPT William D. Barron, USN (Ret.); and NAT Commander John Shanahan

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Most of us commemorate and remember Pearl Harbor at ceremonies and commemorative events every December. The Date that Will Live in Infamy, 7 December 1941 marked the nadir of our nation's spirit during the Pacific War.

The veterans who used to join us for remembrance events have, for the most part, crossed the bar in the 82 years since Pearl Harbor. We still have their stories that inspire us, and we share them every chance we get.

JOHN FINN

One of the heroes that day was John Finn. Finn was awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions on that day. He was also a Naval Order Companion.

John Finn's Medal of Honor Citation

"For extraordinary heroism distinguished service, and devotion above and beyond the call of duty. During the first attack by Japanese airplanes on the Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, on 7 December 1941, Finn promptly secured and manned a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an instruction stand in a completely exposed section of the parking ramp, which was under heavy enemy machine-gun strafing fire. Although painfully wounded many times, he continued to man this gun and to return the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks and with complete disregard for his own personal safety. It was only by specific orders that he was persuaded to leave his post to seek medical attention. Following first-aid treatment, although obviously suffering much pain and moving with great difficulty, he returned to the squadron area and actively supervised the rearming of returning planes. His extraordinary heroism and conduct in this action were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Finn's was one of 16 Medal of Honors awarded for Pearl Harbor. Most sources say that Finn received the first Medal of Honor awarded for World War II. A Chief Aviation Ordnanceman on 7 December 1941. He retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant.

Finn died at age 100 on the morning of 27 May 2010, at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. He was buried

beside his wife at the Campo Indian Reservation's cemetery, after a memorial service in El Cajon. He was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the attack on Pearl Harbor, the oldest living recipient, and the only aviation ordnanceman to have ever received the medal.



The headquarters building for Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, United States Pacific Fleet at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe was named in Finn's honor, and in 2009 a boat used to bring visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial was also named after him. In that same year, part of Historic U.S. Route 80, was named "John Finn Route". Three buildings in the former Naval Training Center San Diego were named the John and Alice Finn Office Plaza. On 15 February 2012, the U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer would be named USS John Finn (DDG 113) in his honor.

The U.S. States Navy stopped the Japanese advance at the "Battle of Midway" in June 1942. However, it was in the fall of 1942 that we turned the tide and went on the offensive. The event that turned the tide, known as the Battle of Guadalcanal, was actually a series of battles that started with the landing of the 1st Marine Division on 7 August 1942, and finished on 9 February 1943. General Alexander Vandegrift, founder of the Marines Memorial Association, received one of twenty Medals of Honor awarded for Guadalcanal.

Following are the stories of two of them.

Continued on next page...

JOHN BASILONE

Sergeant John Basilone had served and completed a tour of duty with the U.S. Army when he enlisted in the Marine Corps on 3 June 1940. He took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal. In October, he and the two machine-gun sections under his command, held off an attack by a numerically far superior Japanese force. He was one of only three Marines in that group to survive. He was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Basilone's Medal of Honor Citation

"For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942.

While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sgt. BASILONE, in charge of two sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. BASILONE'S sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only two men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived.

A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Basilone returned to the United States after being awarded the Medal of Honor. He participated in war bond tours across the country. Despite being offered a commission, he wanted to return to the battlefield as an enlisted man. He was at Camp Pendleton for pre-deployment training when he met and married Sgt Lena Mae Riggi, USMCR in July 1944.

He was serving with 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division on 19 February 1945, the first day of the invasion of Iwo Jima. With his unit pinned down, Basilone made his way around the side of the Japanese positions until he was directly on top of the blockhouse. He then attacked with grenades and demolitions, single-handedly destroying the entire strong point and its defending garrison.

Basilone was posthumously awarded the Marine Corps' second-highest decoration for valor, the Navy Cross, for extraordinary heroism during the battle of Iwo Jima.

He has been honored many times since the war. The U.S. Navy commissioned USS *Basilone*, (DD 824) a Gearing-class destroyer, in 1949. The ship's keel was laid down on 7 July 1945, in Orange, Texas, and launched on 21 December 1945. His widow, Sergeant Lena Mae Basilone, sponsored the ship.



Guadalcanal was the only time that a Coast Guardsman was awarded a Medal of Honor.

DOUGLAS ALBERT MUNRO

Douglas Albert Munro was born in Canada. His father was an American and his mother Canadian. In 1939, with the threat of war growing, Munro decided to withdraw from college and enlist in the military. He reportedly told his sister he had chosen the Coast Guard because its primary mission was saving lives. Slightly built, Munro spent the week before his induction eating heavily to meet the Coast Guard's minimum weight standard.

Continued on next page...



Signalman First Class
Douglas Munro, USCG

Munro underwent recruit training at Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles. He was then assigned to the Treasury-class cutter USCGC Spencer, serving aboard the vessel until 1941. During the course of his military service, Munro consistently received high marks on his performance

evaluations and expressed a desire to become a career Coast Guardsman.

In mid-1941, the U.S. government transferred the Coast Guard from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of the Navy. He was aboard the USS *Hunter Ligget* (APA 14) when it was assigned to Transport Division 17 and tasked with supporting the Guadalcanal Campaign. Navy personnel began training as small boat handlers under Coast Guard tutelage. Due to the shortage of coxswains, Munro, a signalman trained as a coxswain, volunteered to join the training. At the Battle of Tulagi and Gavutu-Tanambogo, Munro was aboard USS *McCawley* when he was ordered to ferry troops to shore during the third attack wave, then beach his boat and attach himself to a U.S. Marine unit to help manage ship-to-shore communication.

Munro was among the personnel who staffed Naval Operating Base (NOB) Cactus at Lunga Point on the northern coast of Guadalcanal.

On 20 September 1942, he volunteered to lead a small boat search-and-rescue mission to recover the crew of a Navy airplane that had been forced down off Savo Island. During the operation, Munro's craft came under intense fire from Japanese shore positions. He was able to maneuver the boat back to base with only minor injuries to his crew.

On 27 September 1942, Munro was in command of Higgins boats that dropped about 500 Marines at a beachhead known as Point Cruz near the Matanikau River. The goal: drive the Japanese from the river

and establish an inland patrol base. But the Japanese were ready to counter the invaders and the Marines quickly fell under heavy attack. With time being of the essence and the Marines facing extermination, Munro stepped to the fore. Taking five of the small craft under his command, he mounted a rescue mission, all the while under continuous attack from the shore. As the boats were too small to transport all the Marines at once, Munro and his fellow Coast Guardsmen had to make several dangerous trips back and forth. At one point, a group of Marines came under particularly intense fire. In an effort to provide cover, Munro used his own boat as a shield between the beachhead and the other boats.

As the last group of Marines was being evacuated from the island, Munro was hit by a fatal burst of enemy fire. Focused on his mission to the end, his dying words to his friend Evans, who was with him on the scene, were: "Did they get off?" His sacrifice had saved hundreds of Marines. In a letter to his bereaved parents, informing them of their loss, Munro's Commanding Officer wrote that, without exception, those under his charge had praise for Munro. His Master Sergeant wrote that Douglas was "kind, courteous, thoughtful, and, above all, courageous," the "kind of American who made [that] war worth fighting."

MUNRO'S MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as Officer in Charge of a group of twenty-four Higgins boats engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on September 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly five hundred beleaguered marines, MUNRO, under constant strafing by enemy machine guns on the island, and at great risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signaled the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft, with its two small guns, as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, MUNRO was instantly killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of

Continued next page...

whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had landed and cleared the beach. By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

Munro had a sister, Patricia, who attempted to enlist in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve following her brother's death but was rejected as she was underweight. Patricia's son, Douglas Sheehan, was named after her brother. He joined the Coast Guard Reserve and retired as a commander.

Three Coast Guard facilities are named in honor of Munro: Munro Hall at the United States Coast Guard Academy, Munro Hall at United States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, and the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C.

Several monuments have also been erected to Munro, including a bronze statue at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (Douglas Munro by Carey Boone Nelson), a larger-than-life bust at the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters (Douglas Munro by John Tuomisto-Bell and Tyson Snow), a black marble pillar etched with Munro's visage at the Coast Guard Academy, a memorial marker at the Point Cruz Yacht Club in Honiara in the Solomon Islands, and a monument in Crystal River, Florida. In 2006, Munro was added to the Wall of Heroes of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, becoming the only non-Marine represented on it.

In his hometown of Cle Elum, Washington, Munro is commemorated by Douglas Munro Boulevard.

At Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, New Jersey recruit classes are annually assembled at the statue Douglas Munro on the anniversary of Munro's death, during which three-volleys are fired.

Warships named after Munro include: USS *Douglas A. Munro* (DE 422), and USCGC *Douglas Munro* (WHEC 724). USCGC *Munro* (WMSL 755) is in Coast Guard service based in Alameda, CA.

The preceding biographies represent only snapshots of the service of these heroes.

Submitted by **MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)**

2023 Year-to-Date

Our Goal is to grow the Order by 10% by Congress 2024 and 10% more by Congress 2025. This is a team effort, and we are well prepared to meet this goal.

Stats: 104 Open Leads plus: 126 New Members, 33 Reinstated, -47 Deaths, -69 Other losses, = 43 net new members with a potential for an additional 107 if the open leads join. With a **goal of 135 net new Companions**, we can expect large commanderies to carry more of the goal than smaller ones. National Capital, San Francisco, Continental, New York City, and Texas represent 57% of our Companions and will need to bring in 78 of our 135 new member goal. Smaller Commanderies like Atlanta, Massachusetts, New Orleans, Tampa, and Western New York are already punching above their weight class with great success at 27 new Companions.

Low Hanging Fruit: one approach you might take is to call the 65 Companions listed in the files from the REGGEN called "Newly Inactive Members" and ask them to pay their dues and come back to the fold. Dues can be paid here: ships-store-naval-order.square.site/dues and will instantly reinstate lapsed members to currency.

Committee Members:

Don Schuld (NYC), CAPT Kris Carlock (TPA), CAPT Jim McGinnis (NWT), Ms. Sherry Cornett (ATL), and LCDR Glenn Smith (ATL) have all agreed to serve this year as the Membership Committee. We have one open slot, so if Membership projects sound interesting to you, let me know at membership@navalorder.org.

M4: We expect to do another "Buddy Check" **M**ay is **M**embership **M**adness **M**onth (M4) in May of 2024, but with prep time this year. More planning and notice this year.

Collateral: We will continue to develop the collateral materials that you need, including blank applications, trifolds, elevator cards, calling (business) cards, and a Quarter-Page ad. We are developing an electronic application, which takes a bit of thought to get it right. We will pilot that project this year.

Questions or suggestions? Call 571-334-2794 or email membership@navalorder.org.

Submitted by **William F. Steagall, Jr., CAPT, USN (Ret.)**
Vice Commander Membership

Welcome New Companions!

Atlanta

CDR Robert Miller Burnham, USN (Ret.)
Ms. Sherry Nathan Cornett
Mrs. Anna Marie Smith
CAPT Charles Edward Wagner, USN (Ret.)

Charleston

Mrs. Mary Louise Williams

Continental

ENS Forest Edward Allen, USCG
CAPT Steven Eugene Maffeo, USN (Ret.)
Mr. Jay Martin Stephens

Florida First Coast

Ms. Darlene Ann Allmaras

National Capital

LCDR Marc Robert Henderson, USN (Ret.)
Ms. Jessie Beatrice Henderson
LCDR Dwight Sturtevant Hughes, USN (Ret.)
CDR William Michael Newell, SC, USN (Ret.)
Dr. Peter John Rindelsbacher

Northwest

Mrs. Carol Ann McGinnis

Philadelphia/Delaware Valley

Mr. Paul Lazzarotti

San Diego

Mr. Andrew Ross Tabar

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.

CAPT Paul Arthur Bernhardt, USN (Ret.)

San Francisco Commandery
Died 29 June 2023

CAPT Kim Flint

San Francisco Commandery
Died 26 November 2023

CAPT Richard Michael Galecki, USN (Ret.)

National Capital Commandery
Died 19 February 2023

Mr. Alexander Gaston, (USN Veteran)

Hawaii Commandery
Died 20 August 2021

CAPT James Joseph Harrington, USN (Ret.)

Continental Commandery
Died 10 October 2023

CAPT Loren Howard Page, USN (Ret.)

New Orleans Commandery
Died 08 October 2023

RADM Norman Thomas Saunders, USCG (Ret.)

National Capital Commandery
Died 04 June 2023

RADM Morton Egner Toole, USN (Ret.)

National Capital Commandery
Died 11 November 2023

CAPT Robert Campos Trevino, USN (Ret.)

Texas Commandery
Died 30 September 2023

CAPT Don Walsh, USN (Ret.)

Northwest Commandery
Died 11 November 2023



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	Quantity	Price
• The Naval Order Cross (Large medal, 1 1/4" 2 sides)	_____	\$35.00
• The Naval Order Cross (Miniature medal, 3/4" 2 sides)	_____	\$30.00
• NOUS Cross, LG (1 1/4" 1-side, for mounting)	_____	\$25.00
• Campaign Ribbon	_____	\$ 5.00
• Naval Order Rosette	_____	\$15.00
• Antique Rosette (Large) 1/2" Clutch Back	_____	\$40.00
• Antique Rosette (Large) 1/2" Button Back	_____	\$30.00
• Antique Rosette (Small) 5/16" Button Back only	_____	\$25.00
• Naval Order Cross Lapel Pin	_____	\$10.00
• Ladies Necklace (3/4" Naval Order Cross w/chain)	_____	\$20.00
• Naval Order Tie, Silk	_____	\$30.00
• Naval Order Tie Bar	_____	\$12.00
• Naval Order Cufflink Set	_____	\$20.00
• Marine Cufflink Set	_____	\$20.00
• Naval Order Blazer Patch, plain, pin-on	_____	\$30.00
• Naval Order Flag (3' x 5') two sides	_____	\$85.00
• Naval Order Banner (3' x 5') one side	_____	\$50.00
• Naval Order Burgee, Cross (12"x18") polyester, 1 side	_____	\$36.00
• NOUS Baseball Cap - plain bill	_____	\$20.00
• NOUS Ball Cap "eggs" - 05/06	_____	\$22.00
• NOUS Ball Cap "eggs" - Flag Officer	_____	\$25.00
• NOUS Pima Cotton Golf Shirt		
Black _____ White _____ Royal Blue _____		
Size S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____	_____	\$40.00
• Aloha Shirt		
Men's - Size S _____ M _____ L _____	_____	\$40.00
Women's - Size M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____	_____	\$40.00
• NOUS Polo Shirt-Light Blue, Picqué Cotton-Size S only	_____	\$10.00
• "Navy Heroes of Normandy" DVD	_____	\$ 5.00

• Naval Order Medallion (4" diameter, brass)				
with mounting post	_____			\$35.00
without mounting post	_____			\$35.00
• Challenge Coin				
2010 Commemorating 100 Years of Naval Aviation	_____			\$ 8.00
2013 Charleston _____ \$ 8.00			2015 New Orleans	\$ 8.00
2016 Hawaii _____ \$ 8.00			2019 Boston	\$ 8.00
2021 Virtual _____ \$ 8.00			2022 Alexandria	\$ 8.00
2023 San Diego	_____			\$10.00
• NOUS Window Decal (shipping included)	_____			\$ 2.00
• NOUS Coffee Mug, two sides	_____			\$25.00
• Medal Star 3/16" Bronze# _____ # Silver_____	_____			\$ 2.00
• Medal Star 1/8" Bronze# _____ Silver# _____	_____			\$ 1.50
Past and Present National Officers and Commandery Commanders only:				
• Naval Order Blazer Patch w/Crest Pin-on _____ Sew-on _____	_____			\$35.00
• Naval Order Cross with Neck Suspension Ribbon				
(Large medal, 1 1/4" 2 sides, worn with formal attire only)	_____			\$35.00
• Commander General's Medal, Large*	_____			\$20.00
• Commander General's Medal, Miniature*	_____			\$15.00
• Padded Presentation folders* #horizontal _____ #vertical _____	_____			\$15.00
• 25 Year Lapel Pin*	_____			\$ 2.00

If subtotal is \$5 or more, ADD SHIPPING

\$6.00 within USA; \$15.00 international

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____
 Email _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Commandery _____

**Regalia are sold only to Companions of the Naval Order.
 Become a Companion today! Visit www.navalorder.org/membership**