



### Continental Commandery (Pre-Charter) Serving Companions Who Live at A Distance

At the 2016 Congress in Oahu, Hawai'i, the General Council decided to stand up a virtual Commandery to serve Companions who live at inconvenient distances from our established, physical Commanderies.

Commander General Lockwood asked me - based upon my efforts as Commander of the San Francisco Commandery - to serve as organizer of this new enterprise. Since beginning the effort in December, we have grown to 58 affiliated Companions from across CONUS and overseas. We are also exploring the notion of merging the long-inactive Illinois Commandery into Continental as a way of keeping even more Companions regularly informed about the many events, activities, and issues that engage the vital establishment that is the Naval Order.

My goal is to have an email communication in our Companions' inbox at least monthly, but no more, generally, than biweekly. To this end, I will solicit event and activity news from all of our Commanderies, information that I can pass to the Continentals in the event they may wish to travel to participate.

Companions are now pouring over a draft set of bylaws designed to meet the needs of a virtual Commandery. The Continental Commandery will receive its official charter as a full-fledged Commandery during the Commander General's Reception in October at the 2017 Congress in Jacksonville, FL. By the end of two years, we hope to have a slate of officers who are prepared to take the Commandery on an independent and self-sustaining course.

**CAPT Tom Snyder USN (Ret.)**



## Commander General's Report to the Order

### Insider Scoop! The VA Medical System

I had the pleasure of meeting Lauren Wells during the San Francisco Commandery's luncheon last month. She is a retired physical therapist who worked for the Veterans Administration for thirty-one

years. To say that she had first-hand knowledge of the VA system would be an understatement. She graciously allowed me to share with you her insights into what is wrong and right with the VA. After I submitted the article to Marcy Weiss, our NOUS newsletter designer, Marcy sent me comments about her experience as an employee at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the late 90's. Both Lauren's and Marcy's comments are integrated below.

Lauren was very complimentary of the VA medical system in general and believed that the VA provided better health care than what most of us experience. The quality of the clinicians staffing the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center is extraordinary, but accessing them is a problem. But why, you ask?

We have all read or heard about the VA scandals where veterans call in for appointments, but they have to wait so long that they perish before a clinician can see them. Lauren shared some insight into why this happens.

The administrative staff is riddled with unqualified personnel. In order to run a hospital with the demands required of a system like the VA, you need to demand quality performance on the part of the staff and be able to enforce that quality performance. This we have heard of, but what you may not have known is that if you work within the VA system and have cleared your probationary period, you can't be fired! If you are not productive and not showing up for work, there aren't any consequences. Lauren once had a clerk who called in sick for three weeks in a row without a medical note and nothing happened to the clerk. There were no consequences for not showing up for work – no docking of pay, no suspension without pay, no termination.

The biggest contributor to this problem, in Lauren's opinion, is veteran's preference hiring practices. Once a five- or ten-point veteran is hired, there isn't any recourse if they aren't capable of doing the job. A case in point is the Santa Rosa VA Medical Center. They needed an orthopedic physical therapist. However, a ten-point veteran with expertise in wound care applied for the job. They were forced to hire him in lieu of an orthopedic clinical specialist who was a civilian.

By giving one unqualified veteran a job over a qualified civilian, the care of hundreds of veterans over the course of a career is compromised.

Marcy offered her experience in this regard: "Medical secretaries and doctors (!) had no fear when publicly sleeping on the job, leaving files to pile up, taking three to four hour lunches, and socializing while patients sat for eight to ten hours in the waiting room. The day would end without the patients being seen. They'd have to schedule new appointments, sometimes delaying them for over three months. It was disgusting."

Marcy spoke with the administrator about the violations she saw and asked him why she was even there. He said there was nothing he could do about the staff, and if he hadn't hired her, they couldn't justify the same or higher budget the following year.

The other major problem with the VA system is that the healthcare side of the system is completely separated from the VA rating system which connects veterans with their service related disabilities. Lauren was unable to access any information about what determined a veteran's rating nor how the system came up with the rating awarded to the veteran. Service connected medical problems can include amputation, PTSD, diabetes, and a variety of other illnesses and still have an overall rating of 10%.

In addition, with the opportunity for veterans to access private sector care, none of their claims are being documented with disability ratings and service connections in mind. Their medical records are now outside the Computerized Patient Record System and not accessible to the ratings board.

Lastly the VA is administratively top-heavy. In order to validate these jobs, incumbents implement policies that detract from clinicians' ability to provide care. Lauren had to take over eight hours of mandatory training on subjects that had nothing to do with the performance of her job. That was eight hours when she could have been seeing patients.

Lauren believes that our veterans needs allies in pursuit of healthcare and benefits promised by our country. The Naval Order of the United States can be an advocate for our veterans by sponsoring "meets and greets" at local VA hospitals. Not only can we post stories about our veterans and their service to our country in Facebook, our NOUS website, and other social media, but we can bring them into the Naval Order!

My appreciation to Lauren Wells and Marcy Weiss for their heartfelt insights into the problems of the VA. Let me suggest that local Commanderies get to know their local VA representatives or ombudsmen and arrange for "meet and greets." Capture oral histories from willing veterans and invite them to your functions. Feature them in our newsletters and website. It's a wonderful way to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

**Michele Lockwood, CAPT USN (Ret.)**  
**Commander General, Naval Order of the United States**

The Florida First Coast Commandery is looking forward to the 2017 Congress scheduled for 18-21 Oct 2017 in Jacksonville, FL. There will be a lot to offer Companions attending the CONGRESS as Northeast Florida offers a full spectrum of activities. Start planning now!

Arriving early?

- Come in the weekend before and spend some time in Central Florida. Orlando is a tourist mecca with Disney World, Epcot Center, and MGM Studios to name a few attractions. October is a great time to visit as the heat of summer is passed and the crowds are much smaller.

- Too touristy for you? There is always the Space Coast and Cape Canaveral. Visit the launch site of our space program and the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

- Up the Coast is Daytona Beach, Home of the Daytona 500 and many other NASCAR races, as well as great golf and beautiful beaches.

- A little further north is Florida's oldest city, St Augustine. While we will have an optional trip to this historic town, a few hours doesn't do it justice. Spend time walking historic St Georges Street and eat in the eclectic cafes and restaurants. Visit the Alligator Farm, Ripley's Believe It or Not museum, the Old Jail, Lightner Museum, The Lighthouse, and Bridge of Lions. Visit the old Spanish fort, Fort Matanzas for a tour back in history.



Lightner Museum in Downtown St Augustine

- Coming across the Florida Peninsula from the Gulf Coast? Stop in Pensacola and spend a day at the finest Naval Air

Museum in the world. Continue across I-10 and stop for a couple of hours at the Florida Caverns near Marianna Florida, excavated during the Roosevelt Administration with stalactite and stalagmite formations nowhere else in this area of the country!

- Jacksonville has some wonderful historic attractions including Kingsley Plantation, Fort Clinche near Fernandina Beach, and the St. John's River which winds up from south Florida and snakes through Jax on its way past NAS Jacksonville (birthplace of the Blue Angels) ending at the Atlantic Ocean at Naval Station Mayport.



The Liberty Hound Statue located on the St John's Riverwalk as a Navy Memorial

Arriving the on the 18th?

Join the 2017 Congress at the Alhambra Dinner Theater for dinner and a show of 'The Addams Family.' Cost is \$60 per person. Bus transportation will be provided.

Still up for some culture?

Join the 2017 Congress at the Jacksonville Symphony on the evening of the 20th.

The rest of your time will be filled in with traditional luncheons and

dinners recognizing people who have made a difference in our country, some dynamite educational presentations, a couple of special ceremonies, a tour at a naval base, some optional tours, and enough free time to make this a great escape and learning opportunity for all attendees. The registration is up on the [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org) web site so sign up now! If you would like a printable/fax copy please e-mail us at [nousfc@gmail.com](mailto:nousfc@gmail.com) or call at 904.672.8176.

Links to attractions:

Lightner Museum: [lightnermuseum.org](http://lightnermuseum.org);

Fort Matanzas: [nps.gov/foma](http://nps.gov/foma)

Florida Caverns: [floridastateparks.org/park/Florida-Caverns](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Florida-Caverns)

Kingsley Plantation: [nps.gov/timu](http://nps.gov/timu)

Alhambra Dinner Theater: [alhambrajax.com](http://alhambrajax.com)

Jax Symphony: [jaxsymphony.org](http://jaxsymphony.org)

Submitted by Bob Whitkop

The Southeast Florida Commandery worked in support of the future Miami Military Museum & Memorial at its unveiling 19 February of a monument honoring the US Navy Submarine Service.

The bronze monument plaque was donated by Mr. Tom Kaiser, whose brother was among the crew of USS *Trout* (SS-202) lost in battle in the Philippine Sea in 1944.

The plaque lists all 52 US Submarines lost in WWII and honors the 3,505 Sailors who gave their lives. The monument holding the plaque was built by the Boy Scouts and was placed next to the US Submarine deck gun at the future museum. Members of the Commandery and the Pelican Harbor Base Association

of the US Submarine Veterans unveiled the monument. There was a large crowd.

The Southeast Florida Commandery works closely with the Museum and will host a remembrance there with lectures 4 June in remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

The Commandery will co-host the opening of the Museum 16 September.

A contingent of the SEFL Commandery will attend the JAX Congress this October.

**Submitted by Anthony D. Atwood, Ph.D. CWO3, USN (Ret.)  
Commander, SEFL Commandery**



Join us 3 June in remembering the 75th Anniversary

# BATTLE OF MIDWAY – DEL MONTE HOTEL

June 3, 2017  
Herrmann Hall

“on board”

Naval Support Activity Monterey at  
the Naval Postgraduate School

1800-1900 social hour, 1900-2100 dinner  
Reservations available at NSA MWR ITT Office  
Herrmann Hall Quarter Deck Office 831.656.3223  
or by mail to “Captain Ken” per the reservation  
form found on the reverse flyer back

E-1 / E-5 \$25.00, E-6 / O-3 \$50.00  
or equivalent GS grade. All others \$60.00

CAPT Ken Johnson, USN (Ret.) 831.657.9793  
[nousmtyken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nousmtyken@sbcglobal.net)



Menu Selection of  
Grilled Tri-Tip, Salmon w/Dill  
Butter Sauce, or Penne Pasta  
with salad, dessert, wine, and  
toasting Port

Military: Dinner Dress White  
or service equivalent  
Civilian: Black Tie or Coat/Tie



# BATTLE OF MIDWAY 3 JUNE 2017

For making reservations in person at the Naval Support Activity Monterey, contact the MWR ITT Office (831.656.3223) in Herrmann Hall. For tickets by mail, make your check payable to NOUS MTY BAY CDRY and mail the following reservation form with payment to:

Captain Ken Johnson, USN (Ret)  
1014 Shell Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950-2125

Please note that guest seating will be by tables of eight. If you or your party would desire to reserve a table of eight or join a table of eight, please indicate those names on your reservation form.

Sponsor (First/Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Service (as applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta

**Others in your party:**

Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta
Name _____	Circle Meal Selection: Beef, Salmon, or Pasta

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ticket prices: E-1 / E-5 \$25.00, E-6 / O-3 \$50.00, all others (including civilians) \$60.00.**

### ATTIRE

**Military: Dinner Dress White or service equivalent - Civilian: Black Tie or Suit**

For additional information, contact **CAPT Ken Johnson, USN (Ret.)**  
[nousmtvken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nousmtvken@sbcglobal.net) (H) 831.657.9793 NLT 26 May 2017.



### **PURCHASE CONFIRMED RESERVATIONS BY 26 MAY 2017**

Those holding confirmed reservations will be added to the NSA Monterey gate security list for access that evening – 3 June. **PLEASE NOTE** that ~~at this time~~ the Base is **UNDER CONDITION BRAVO** and all entering the base **MUST have a valid ID.**

On campus BOQ rooms for military guests can be arranged through the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites by calling 831.656.2060/69, FAX 831.656.7967, or at [npsvqresrv@nps.edu](mailto:npsvqresrv@nps.edu)

## 75th Anniversary Battle of Midway Dining-Out

The Commandery will hold their annual Battle of Midway “Dining-Out” at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey on Saturday, 3 June. Over the years, this event has grown with greater participation within the local military and civilian communities on the Monterey Peninsula Coast and our friends from the Silicon Valley. This Dining-Out will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the June 1942 battle and the 14th dinner the Commandery has coordinated on the grounds of the Naval Postgraduate School.

The evening will commence on the quarter deck of the Old Del Monte Hotel, now the site of the Naval Postgraduate School, on the grounds of the Naval Support Activity Monterey with a full-service reception. The reception area will be decorated with June 1942 historical Battle of Midway artifacts provided by the school’s Dudley Knox Library. The *Honorary President of the Mess* will be Vice Admiral Ronald Route, USN (Ret.), President of the Naval Postgraduate School. CAPT Chuck Good, USN will be *President of the Mess* with CAPT Jeff Kline, USN (Ret.) as *Mr. Vice* who is known to have no reason not to send anyone to the “official GROG bowl” refreshed with “waters” from the seven seas. We anticipate 200 plus guests including NPS students, faculty, retired military, Monterey Peninsula and our Silicon Valley friends. As in the past, NPS International Students, Defense Language Institute students, and UCSC returning veterans will be in attendance. All attending high school seniors graduating on to a service academy or a college ROTC program will be recognized and present with a \$100.00 Saving Bond.

The 2017 dinner will reflect upon the successes of the Battle of Midway to the later role of the Del Monte Hotel in training future aviators in 1943 as noted in this photo:



Photo credit: Lt. Charles Fenno Jacobs, USN.  
Sometime between February 1943 and January 1944.

Take a look; you might find an uncle or a family friend! The Navy “took over” the hotel in 1943 as a training site for future aviators and never left! Following the war, the then Annapolis Postgraduate School was moved to Monterey...and, here we are!

A memorial wreath will be placed in recognition of the valor and sacrifice of the heroes that fought at the Battle of Midway. ***“They came from all walks of life – from small towns and big cities – and answered our Nation’s call to go to a place they had never seen before. We were losing the war in the Pacific until these heroes fought. Many of them gave the last full measure to help turn the tide of the war so that we could be free as Americans”.***



Following the wreath presentation, all guests will receive their individual 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Midway “challenge coin” especially struck to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Battle of Midway Anniversary. Dinner reservations can be confirmed at [nousmtyken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nousmtyken@sbcglobal.net) or by calling “Captain Ken” at 831.657.9793. If you have not ever attended a Military Dining Out and in the Monterey area, this is the year! Military Dining Out IS A MUST EVENT!

### Coming Events

The Commandery’s next event will be the annual Memorial Wreath presentation aboard the Coast Guard Pier here in Monterey on Monday 29 May preceding the 75<sup>th</sup> Battle of Midway Anniversary Dining-Out on Saturday 3 June at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Continued on next page...

**BOQ Reservations**

Have you been to Monterey and not taken advantage of our great BOQ's? As a reminder on campus BOQ room can be arranged through the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites by calling 831.656.2060, FAX 831.656.7967 or at npsvqresrv@nps.edu.

**Membership**

Yes, many of us are growing older and, like many organizations, need new "blood" to continue our membership goals. Our Vice Commander General for Membership comments in an earlier section of this newsletter is applicable to all our Commanderies. If you have a relative or business acquaintances with a maritime background, please consider inviting him/her to the Battle of Midway Dinner and membership to the Naval Order.

In closing, am pleased to announce that Ms. Jill Kleiss, daughter of the late deceased Captain "Dusty" Kleiss, USN (Ret.) has recently reinstated her membership into the Naval Order. As many will recall, then LT (jg) N.J. "Dusty" Kleiss, USN was awarded the Navy Cross for actions at the Battle of Midway. On the first day of the Battle of Midway, Kleiss planted bombs on two Japanese carriers—*Kaga* and *Hiryu*—sinking both, and later, on 6 June scored a direct hit on a Japanese cruiser, the *Mikuma*, which also sank

Submitted by **Ken Johnson**

**National Capitol Commandery**

**Historic WW I Marker to be erected in Ireland**

On 4 May 1917, Destroyer Division 8, Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet, entered Cork harbor. This marked the first presence of the United States Navy in WWI. The ships included the USS *Wadsworth* (DD 60) (Flagship DesDiv8), USS *Porter* (DD 59), USS *Conyngham* (DD 58), USS *McDougal* (DD 54), and USS *Wainwright* (DD 62). That evening, the officers were hosted at dinner by Vice Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, Royal Navy, the Commander in Chief of the Coasts of Ireland. Reportedly, VADM Bayly asked Commander Joseph K. Taussig, USN (Commander DesDiv8), when the destroyers would be ready to begin patrol. Commander Taussig's response was captured as "we are ready now, sir." For American destroyermen, "We are ready now, sir" has been a mantra ever since.

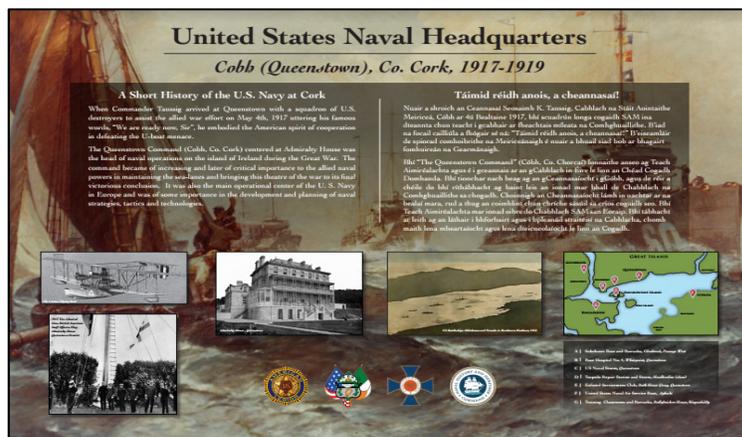
While Commander Taussig's destroyers may have been the first, eventually the US Navy presence in Cork and its surrounds included Battleship Division Six (in Berehaven, Bantry Bay), before it joined the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet as the 6th Battle Squadron. Additionally, the US Navy Base Hospital No. 4 was established in Queenstown, and no less than five Naval Air Stations from Bantry Bay to Wexford to conduct anti-submarine operations.

The Queenstown Command (Cobh) centered at Admiralty House was the head of naval operations on the island of Ireland during The Great War. The command became of increasing important to the Allies countering and defeating the German Imperial Navy's U-boat threat. It was also the main operational

Center of the US Navy in Europe and was of some importance in the development and planning of naval strategies, operations, tactics and technologies.

The National Capitol Commandery was approached last spring by Companion Sean Rickard of Kilarney, Ireland, for assistance in developing and implementing a historic wayside marker at what was Admiralty House and is now a Benedictine Convent. We are spearheading efforts to erect this historic wayside marker. LCDR Ralph D. Day, USN (Ret.) is the Commandery's point of contact for this effort. The intent is to have the wayside marker in place for the centennial celebration of DesDiv8's arrival in Cobh.

The Commandery has worked extensively with the Cork County Council, The Cork County Historic Director, the Town Council of Cobh and the Port of Cork Tourist Bureau. We are proud to announce that through the work of Dr. John Hattendorf and CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.), and the NOUS History Committee, the text and graphic design have been approved. The text will be in both Irish and English as is the want of the Cork County Council. The translation into the Irish has been kindly done by the Irish Studies Division of the Catholic University of America. An artist has been engaged to produce the graphics which have as the background the Bernard Gribble masterpiece "Return of the Mayflower." Additional elements of the graphic are pictures of the destroyers, battleships and aircraft of the US Navy stationed in and around Cork. The fabricator has been contracted and will complete the wayside marker approximately one month prior to the celebration.



Also joining the NOUS in the effort are the American Legion in Ireland, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and the Navy History and Heritage Command, who have graciously provided the illustrations.

The celebration will take place on 4 May 2017 with CAPT John Rodgaard, Dr. Judith Pearson, and LCDR Ralph Day representing the NOUS. Any Companions who may want to attend are warmly welcome to do so. The unveiling of the wayside marker will be the centerpiece of the ceremony. The Cork County Council has sent a letter to the U.S. Defense Attaché in Dublin requesting a US Navy presence for the ceremony. RDML Donald P. Loren, USN (Ret.) has sent a letter to ADM Michelle Howard expressing support for that request.

Submitted by **LCDR Ralph Day**

## The Naval Order Represented at Graveside Ceremony in Bermuda

Imagine the irregular terrain of a churchyard that dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, populated by a jumble of ancient gravestones, many of them decayed, enclosed by a rugged stone wall, on a hill overlooking sparkling turquoise bays and inlets that give way to the Atlantic. The wall surrounds three sides of a simple yet elegant white limestone church with green wooden shutters opened to bring in the sea breezes, to cool the interior where the 500-year-old pews and rafters are made of cinnamon-colored Bermuda cedar. The songs of sparrows, doves, and kiskadees provide a contrast to the motor traffic on the street below the well-worn brick steps that lead up the hill to St. Peter's Church.

It isn't often that the Naval Order extends its influence as far as Bermuda. But on Saturday, 25 February 2017, the organization enjoyed representation in the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of US Navy Midshipman Richard Sunderland Dale, in St. Peter's churchyard, St. George's Parish, Bermuda.

Companions Dr. Judy Pearson and CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.) attended the annual ceremony. Dr. Pearson laid a wreath on the grave for the Naval Order of the United States. CAPT Rodgaard laid a second wreath, representing the 1805 Club.



Midshipman Dale was the last US naval officer to die in the War of 1812, wounded in the battle between HMS *Endymion* and the USS *President*. Both ships were badly damaged and made their way to Bermuda. Dale was taken ashore for medical care, but died of his wounds and was buried in St. Peter's churchyard.



He was the son of Commodore Richard Dale, a hero of the America's War for Independence. His family erected a large marble engraved gravestone resting on six pillars. The gravestone eventually deteriorated and was replaced with a new one in 2016, funded, in part, by the NOUS.

Joining CAPT Rodgaard and Dr. Pearson in the official party were Governor General John Rankin, representing Queen Elizabeth, Ms. Linda Rosalik representing the US Consul General and the American people, Mrs. Louise Hall Reider representing the Friends of St. Peter's Church, Her Worship the Mayor of St. Georges' Ms. Quinell Francis, and LCDR Michael Frith (RNR) Commander of the Sea Cadets of T.S. *Admiral Somers*.

Canon David Raths of St. Peter's, and the Reverend Dr. Erskine Simmons, Chairman of the Friends of St. Peter's, officiated. The T.S. *Admiral Somers* Sea Cadet Unit Color Party carried the Union Flag and the Flag of the US with 15 stars. Ms. Lavern Daniels led the singing of the national anthems for each country and the Naval Hymn. A town crier, a piper and a drummer in period dress added color and character to the graveside services. Dinner followed at The Griffin restaurant at the St. George's Club. The ceremony has come to symbolize the friendship and shared naval history of the two nations.



Submitted by Judith E. Pearson, Ph.D.



## The USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) Decommissioning

Four years of hard work by crew and shipyard workers culminated on 3 February 2017 when the USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) was formally decommissioned in ceremonies at Newport News Shipyard in Newport News, VA.



There had been an inactivation ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station in December 2012. *Enterprise*, stripped of vital equipment and most of her crew, remained in commission for a “stand down period” while the fuel from her eight nuclear reactors was removed. By January 2017 that job had been safely completed and *Enterprise* was ready to be officially decommissioned.

The ship looked a bit worn nestled in the same dry dock where her keel had been laid 59 years earlier. She was the first nuclear aircraft carrier in the world and, is still the longest ship the US Navy ever built. She had completed an unprecedented 55 years of commissioned service that included combat operation from Vietnam to Afghanistan. *Enterprise* had steamed over a million miles to all corners of the globe, embarked over 100,000 crewmembers, and trapped over 413,000 aircraft on her 4 ½ acres of flight deck.

Shipyard security restrictions, challenging access and lack of amenities limited the crowd at the decommissioning ceremony. Shipyard workers, some of whom had worked at the shipyard and on this unique vessel when she was built some 60 years ago, joined almost 400 crewmembers on the hangar deck as the shipyard president, Mr. Matt Mulherin, presented the ship with a special plaque with a distinctive “E” made from steel from the hull.

Former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral James L. Holloway III, at 95, the oldest living *Enterprise* Commanding Officer sent his respects to the captain and crew by a letter stating that “those of us who served in *Enterprise* a few years or a few decades ago owe you a debt of gratitude for taking such good care of this grand old lady of the fleet as she nears the end.” (Admiral Holloway was the recipient of the Naval Order’s 2011 Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award for his inspirational naval heritage leadership.) He was the first of several generous donors who funded the production of a specially struck decommissioning coin. The coins were presented

the final crew members the day before the decommissioning event. The ship itself produced a distinctive decommissioning gift for its CVN-80 successor; a steel “flag” made from diamond tread deck plates and signed by all the final officers and chief petty officers assigned to the ship. ADM James Caldwell, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, and RADM Brian



to Antonio, Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers represented the Navy’s leadership. But the day really belonged to the crew and shipyard workers -- especially to one “plank owner” who witnessed the ceremony.

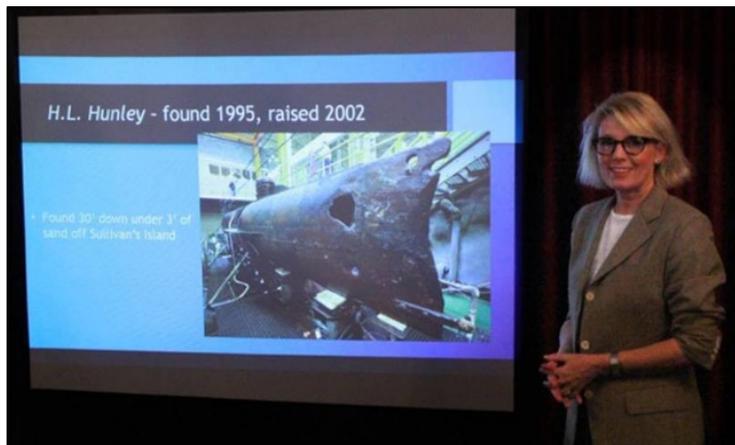
Ray Godfrey of Bigfork, Montana had been a young nuclear machinist mate on the 1961 commissioning crew. Godfrey returned to bid farewell to the ship that for five years had defined his life and set him on the road to a fulfilling Navy and Air Force career, followed by work in the nuclear industry. While the press waited and watched, young sailors, some of whose parents hadn’t even been born when their ship was launched, hugged Ray as a shipmate and a symbol of their ship’s legacy.

The guests heard the 24th and last commanding officer, CAPT Todd Beltz (the first surface warfare officer ever to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier) receive permission from Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic, RADM Bruce Lindsey, to secure the watch, and haul down the colors and the commissioning pennant. As the crew, shipyard workers, and guests departed the ship, sadness was tempered by the confidence that the next USS *Enterprise*’s keel would be laid nearby within the next few years. The CVN-65 motto “We Are Legend” will be passed on to this new ship – the future *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN-80).

CAPT Todd Creekman, USN (Ret.), is Naval Historical Foundation Executive Director Emeritus, and Companion in the National Capitol Commandery. His father served aboard *Enterprise* as Supply Officer from 1964-1966. The “Big E” was the first Navy ship in which Todd ever embarked when he was a high school senior during the ship’s first dependents’ cruise in October 1964. (The souvenir decommissioning coin is available at the Naval Historical Foundation’s Navy Museum Store at [www.navyhistory.org](http://www.navyhistory.org)).

Submitted by CAPT Todd Creekman, USN (Ret.)

More than thirty companions of the New Orleans Commandery began the new year with a delightful dinner at Andrea's Restaurant 10 January 2017. They were treated to an extremely well researched presentation by Companion Dr. Samantha "Sam" Cavell.



Dr. Cavell teaches military history at Southeastern University in Hammond LA. She reported on her exhaustive research, complete with numerous historic photographs, on the first combat submarine sinking of a warship, which occurred during the Civil War.

The New Orleans audience was surprised to learn that Horace Lawson Hunley built his first pioneer prototype three-man submarine downtown in a Tchoupitoulas Street warehouse in 1862. The program had to shift to Mobile, AL after Admiral Farragut took New Orleans for the Union a few months after it was launched.

The next pioneer had to be shipped by rail on two flatbeds to Charleston, SC, which was under blockade by the Union. It was 40 feet long with but 4 feet, three-inch height inside. The crew of eight literally manpowered the sub by cranking on a long rod connected to the propeller. It could remain submerged for two hours at a time.

The sub, then called Fish Boat, sank during its first trial, killing five of the crew. She sank again on the next trial, killing the entire eight-man crew, including Hunley himself. She was raised again and named H.L. Hunley.

Lt. George Dixon and seven other volunteers manned her for her combat action on 17 February 1864. They proceeded for two hours to sea, then approached the Union's 1240 short ton screw sloop USS *Housatonic*, attached their one torpedo, backed off, and detonated the torpedo. They sank the enemy, but were apparently too close to the explosion, and Hunley also sank, losing all eight crew members.

The sub was found in 1995 and raised in 2002. It has since been on display in North Charleston, SC at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center.

Submitted by Gary Bair

The New York Commandery invites you to attend, learn, discuss, and enjoy our speakers in March, April, and June. All are welcome.

All events are held at the Racquet & Tennis Club - 370 Park Avenue, New York City. The Receptions start at 11:30am and the Luncheons at Noon. \$70 in advance, \$75 at the door.

**Monday, 6 March**  
**Michael J. Bonvento**  
*The Manhattan Project*

**Bio:**

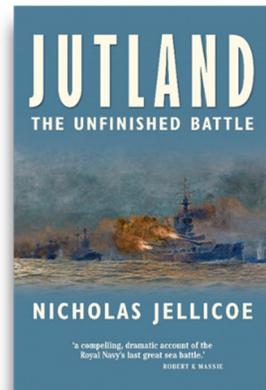
- Received BS Degree in Radiological Sciences from Manhattan College
- Received MS Degree in Physics from Polytechnic University
- Received Ph.D. Degree in Biomedical Engineering from Stony Brook University
- Currently the Chief of Clinical Medical Physics at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY.



He has over 30 years experience in radiological physics and has authored and co-authored several papers on topics ranging from imaging to radiation safety.

Mike is a clinically orientated Medical Physicist whose main areas of involvement are diagnostic radiological imaging and radiation safety. For the past 35 years, he has had various responsibilities in radiation safety, regulatory compliance, and radiological imaging.

**Monday, 3 April**  
**Nick Jellicoe**  
*Jutland:*  
*The Unfinished Battle*



Nick Jellicoe has lived his whole life under the shadow of Jutland. The enduring controversy surrounding his grandfather's actions on that day inspired him to undertake a major investigation of the battle and an analysis of the arguments that followed. This book is the result.

One hundred years after Jutland, the first and largest engagement of dreadnoughts in the twentieth century, historians are still fighting this controversial and misunderstood battle.

What was in fact a strategic victory stands out starkly against the background of bitter public disappointment in the Royal Navy

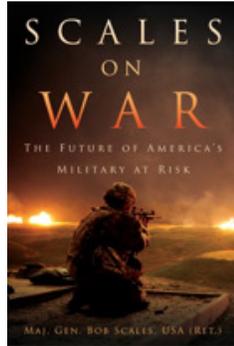
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and decades of divisive acrimony and very public infighting between the camps supporting the two most senior commanders, Jellicoe and Beatty.

Based on the latest research, *The Unfinished Battle* retells the story of the battle from both a British and German perspective, clarifying the context of Germany's inevitable naval clash. It also traces the dispute known as the "Jutland Controversy" that ensued until Admiral Jellicoe's death in 1935.

Author Nick Jellicoe is uniquely placed to tell the story of Jutland. His naval connections are strong: his father, the second Earl Jellicoe served as First Lord of the Admiralty, while his grandfather, Sir John Jellicoe, commanded the Grand Fleet for the first two years of the war from 1914 to 1916. Sir John was famously described by Churchill as being "the only man who could have lost the war in an afternoon."

**Monday, 5 June**  
**MajGen Bob Scales USA (Ret.)**  
*Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk*



*Scales on War* is a collection of ideas, concepts, and observations on contemporary war taken from more than thirty years of research, writing, and personal experience by MajGen Bob Scales (Ret.). Scales' unique style of writing utilizes contemporary military history, current events, and his philosophy of ground warfare to create a very personal and expansive view of the future direction of American defense policies.

Each chapter in the book addresses a distinct topic facing the US military, including tactical ground warfare, future gazing, the draft, and the role of women in the infantry. Fusing all of these issues together is Scales' belief that, throughout its history, the United States has favored and relied upon a technological approach to fighting its wars and has neglected the warfighter.

*Scales on War* illustrates that, as a result of America's focus on winning wars with technology rather than people, its enemies have adapted their warfighting methods to ensure technological defeat. As a well-known warfare expert, Scales demonstrates how only a resurgent land force of Army and Marine small units will restore the United States' fighting competence. The military's focus must be exclusively on land power and its contribution to American defense policy. Scales maintains that the United States has paid an enormously high price for neglecting those who do most of the fighting and dying in our most recent wars. Now is the time for change.

Maj. Gen. Bob Scales, USA (Ret.), is one of America's most respected authorities on land power. He commanded units in Korea and the United States and two units in Vietnam, and he is the recipient of the Silver Star for action during the Battle of Hamburger Hill. He completed his service as commandant of the Army War College.

**Registration Form for NY Commandery Speakers and Luncheons**

**Monday, 6 March - Michael J. Bonvento**  
*The Manhattan Project*

\_\_\_No. of guests (\$70 per person in advance)  
 \_\_\_I will attend and pay at the door (\$75 per person)

Reservation/cancellation accepted by Wednesday, 1 March.

**Monday, 3 April - Nick Jellicoe**  
*Jutland: The Unfinished Battle*

\_\_\_No. of guests (\$70 per person in advance)  
 \_\_\_I will attend and pay at the door (\$75 per person)

Reservation/cancellation accepted by Wednesday, 27 March.

**Monday, 5 June - MajGen Bob Scales USA (Ret.)**  
*Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk*

\_\_\_No. of guests (\$70 per person in advance)  
 \_\_\_I will attend and pay at the door (\$75 per person)

Reservation/cancellation accepted by Wednesday, 30 May.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: NOUS NY Commandery and send to:

Roy DeFranco  
 20 Orleans Lane West Milford, NJ 07480  
 rdefranco@yahoo.com

If unable to reserve by mail, please call Roy DeFranco at 973.440.0966 or send an email to rdefranco@yahoo.com to reserve and pay at door.

For more information contact:

Dave Simson  
 917.916.4888 (c)  
 718.836.1348 (h)  
 davidfsimson@gmail.com



Heavy rains may have slowed us down somewhat; however, our speaker program and activities continued unabated. In January, our Commander, CAPT Tom Snyder, recounted a holiday visit to his daughter who works in Baku, Azerbaijan. His anecdotes about the challenges of life in the post-Soviet era fascinated all our companions. The same week our own Colonel Allan Cruz as President of the Marine Corps Co-coordinating council of Northern California hosted the annual “Marine Day” awards luncheon at the Marines Memorial Club that many of us attended.



Commander Amy Hunt,  
Commanding Officer, NOSC San Jose

Many members of our commandery served in the Naval Reserves, so we were honored to have Commander Amy Hunt, Commanding Officer of Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) San Jose, as our February speaker. Her presentation titled, “Positive Disruption: Innovation and Leadership at a Small Command” reflected her experience leading a small but dynamic Navy Reserve center. Recognizing the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of the nation’s leading innovation economy, CDR Hunt embraced the talents of

her 20-person staff and 275 Reserve Sailors and set out to make NOSC San Jose the “premiere Innovation NOSC.”

Inspired by the command’s location in the heart of Silicon Valley, CDR Hunt built a command climate that fosters innovation, a culture of learning, and a deep commitment to warrior and family support. The latter is important because approximately 37 reservists are deployed or on active duty. In the area of innovation, NOSC San Jose cultivated partnerships with the SECDEF’s new Defense Innovation Unit (DIUx), SECNAV’s Navy Innovation Advisory Council, PACFLT’s “The Bridge,” and other industry and national security organizations. Some of their joint initiatives included: the first “Innovation Summit Afloat” aboard the USS *San Diego* during San Francisco Fleet Week 2016; the first “Athena Project” innovation pitch contest for SELRES; the DIUx-sponsored Aviation Mission Support—Tactical Advancements for the Next Generation (design thinking event); and participation in various innovation conferences and workshops.

As a learning organization, NOSC San Jose sought to move beyond the standard General Military Training to develop “transformational leaders” through high impact education and training. One such opportunity offered to its active duty staff and

drilling reservists was an online leadership course sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School called “Working Effectively in Small Teams”. This virtual reality course utilized video gaming to prepare leaders globally to engage in cooperative innovation. The NOSC initiative has also implemented a flexible work schedule to encourage off-duty education. During CDR Hunt’s tour, up to 80% of the staff pursued college education, with four staff members earning an associate or higher degree.

The mission of the Navy Reserve is to prepare sailors to be ready to mobilize to meet global requirements. NOSC San Jose has made its support of sailors and families its top priority and was recently named as the Navy Reserve recipient of the Department of Defense Family Readiness Award for 2016. CDR Hunt, whose tour ends this spring, will travel to Washington DC to receive the award at a special ceremony.

In March, we had a return visit from Dr. James Armstead, whose expertise in Public Policy Analysis and National Security Affairs always makes for an interesting and informative presentation. Professor Armstead’s impressive credentials include positions at Stanford University, the Naval Postgraduate School and Naval War College. He has also lectured at other prestigious institutions at home and abroad and recently returned from a lecture tour in the Ukraine.



CAPT Kris Carlock presents Dr. Armstead  
a certificate of appreciation after lunch.

His presentation included elements from a book on “*A New Understanding of International Affairs*” that he’s currently writing. His premise is that there are four forces that hold the modern world together, and we have to be cognizant of them, if we hope to understand the world and move forward. The four forces are fundamentalism, tribalism, nationalism, and globalism. These forces affect the way people think, and an understanding of how they affect thinking is important, if we, as a nation, hope to make progress in our foreign relations.

Submitted by Bob Hansen



Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.) presents “Marine of the Year” award to James Brown. Brown was recognized for his work with Marines at the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital.



Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.) presents a gift to Brig Gen Paul K. Lebidine, Commanding General of the Fourth Marine Division. Lebidine was guest speaker at the annual “Marine of the Year” luncheon. Cruz is President of the Marine Corps Co-ordinating Council of Northern California



Commander General Michele Lockwood with husband Sandy Lockwood and Col Allan Cruz pose with Brig Gen Paul K. Lebidine at the Marine Day Luncheon at the Marines Memorial Club. © by Michael Mustacchi, used with permission

## Marine of the Year – James Brown

James Brown enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1983. He served at the Marine Security Detachment at Naval Air Station Alameda and is a veteran of “Operation Desert Storm.” He is well known for helping local military and veterans. He works on the Advisory Council for the Director of the Palo Alto VA and on select teams for Veterans Employment, Marine Corps Musters and Wounded Warrior support. He has been credited for directly helping an average of 7,000 veterans every year. James was part of a team that helped to raise \$17,000,000 to build a modern 140 bed hotel on the grounds of the Palo Alto VA hospital that will be free for Veterans coming in for health care. He has personally brought in many dollars in donations and private contributions to the VA, Semper Fi Fund, Fisher House and other Veteran support programs.



Colonel Allan Cruz, USMC, (Ret) introduces “Marine of the Year” James Brown at San Francisco’s annual “Marine of the Year Luncheon” at the Marines Memorial Club.

James and his wife Caroline, a former Navy Corpsman, spend their spare time volunteering and raising awareness of veterans and military service member needs.

Submitted by Bob Hansen



SA Alina Full receives a USS *Houston* Challenge coin from CAPT Carter Conlin

## USS *Houston* CA30 Bell Ceremony

On the way to the Houston Bell Ceremony, I was feeling both nervous and excited at the same time. I didn’t want to mess up, and yet at the same time I was excited that we would get to help out with the event. When I got there, I was asked to be part of the Color Guard. This was very exciting because I had been wanting to do color guard for a while.

During the function, I got to go practice with the color guard and help present the colors. I was nervous that I would mess up, but I got a refresher on how to do the left rifle movements, and then felt confident that I could do it.

When it was over, I felt very excited that I did everything right, and proud that I got to help with the event. I got to meet many of the Commodores and high ranking military officials, not just from the US, but from other countries such as Australia as well. I am proud to have received a USS *Houston* Challenge coin from a Retired Navy Captain from WWII.

Now, I feel confident that if I have to step in and help the color guard again, I will be even more prepared.

Submitted by SA Alina Full

## Texas Commandery Participates in Memorial Ceremony for Survivors of USS *Houston*

The Texas Commandery participated in the annual memorial ceremony on 4 March 2017 for the survivors of USS *Houston* (CA-30) which was held for the 23rd time since the dedication of the monument by the Texas Commandery of the Naval Order on 11 November 1995.

The ceremony was held in downtown Houston in Sam Houston Park at the site of the monument with the bell from USS *Houston* mounted on top. The ship was sunk in World War II on 1 March 1942, during the Battle of Sunda Strait near the island of Java, with the loss of 700 lives and only 368 surviving. During three and a half years of captivity, most of the crew members were cruelly forced to build the “death railway” between Bangkok, Thailand, and Moulmein, Burma (Myanmar). Only 290 men survived. The Australian cruiser HMAS Perth was lost in the same battle with similar high losses.

Now there are only three survivors from USS *Houston*, none of which attended the reunion and memorial ceremony. Many relatives and friends of the survivors attended the ceremony in addition to representatives of the four ABDA Nations (American, British, Dutch and Australian) that participated in the Battle of the Java Sea (27-28 February 1942) and the Battle of Sunda Strait (28 February – 1 March 1942).

The Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony was Mr. John K. Schwarz, son of the founder of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generations, the late CPO Otto Schwarz, USN. Mr. Schwarz called on LT Barry Barlow, USN Sea Cadet Corps Executive Officer and Chaplain, Houston Division to give an inspiring invocation and benediction.

The Mayor of the City of Houston, Hon. Sylvester Turner, gave his welcome to the wives and other relatives of the survivors by way of Mr. Carl Salazar, the Director of the City of Houston Veterans Affairs who is a Navy veteran and graduate of the US Naval Academy.

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USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Ceremony Sea Cadets, Houston Division.

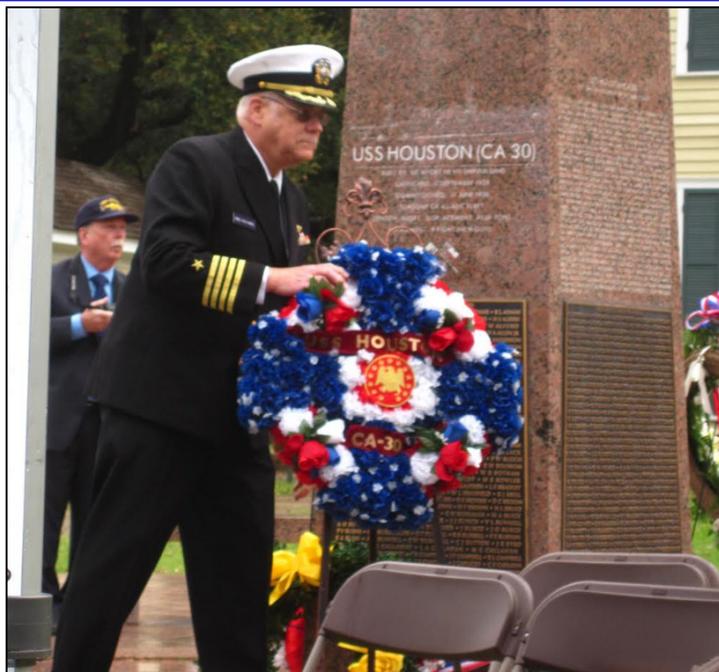


USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Ceremony Sea Cadets, Houston Division. with speakers from the four ABDA (American, British, Dutch and Australian) nations that participated in the Battles of the Java Sea and Sunda Strait.

Mr. Schwarz introduced the speakers representing the four ABDA nations which included CAPT R. Mark Stacpoole, USN, former American Legation US Naval Attaché to Djakarta, Indonesia and LCOL Michael R. Hudson, USMC Commanding Officer Inspector, Instructor Staff, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, who jointly represented the United States. CAPT Stacpoole took an active part in preventing salvage operations on USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth* while serving as the USN Attaché in Djakarta.

The other speakers for the ABDA nations were Commodore Peter Leavy and CDR Scott Craig, RAN, for Australia; Karen Bell, British Consul General, Houston, for Great Britain, and Col Carlo B. J. E. van den Berg, Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, and Mr. Jos Wellink, Hon. Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Netherlands.

The Navy Hymn was played by the Community Band of Southeast Texas conducted by Mr. Arthur Ferris, while CAPT Carter Conlin, Texas Commandery of NOUS, recited the words. Several organizations placed wreaths at the base of the monument. The Naval Order wreath was presented by CAPT Chuck Hewell, Commander of the Texas Commandery.



CAPT Chuck Hewell, Commander of the Texas Commandery of the Naval Order places a wreath at the foot of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) monument.

Submitted by CAPT Carter Conlin



Naval Order companions attending the USS *Houston* (CA-30) memorial ceremony: From left: Don Kehn, CAPT Woe King, CAPT Carter Conlin, CAPT Chuck Hewell, CDR Jim Sterling, and unnamed SGT of Netherlands Marine Corps

## The Fleet Admiral Nimitz Leadership Award

The Texas Commandery held its annual banquet on Saturday night, 18 February, at the Houston Racquet Club with the Commandery Commander, CAPT Chuck Hewell, conducting the event.



Group of all members of Texas Commandery present. Front row (Seated): Kerry Magee, MIDN Tullie St. John, Clyde Combs, MIDN Brian Krulak, Gil Raynor, and Ricky Gonzales. 2nd and 3rd rows (standing): Don Lieske, Robert Trevino, Carter Conlin, Don Kehn, Gen Michael W. Hagee, Dave Burr, Steve Howell, Chuck Hewell, Bob Frazier, Woe King, Buzz Gralla, Jim Sterling, RADM Peter Andrus, and Bryan Lethcoe. Photos by CAPT Carter Conlin and Nancy Conlin.

This was the 31st year that the Texas Commandery has recognized the leadership of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz by presenting an award in his memory. Admiral Nimitz's outstanding leadership qualities are examples of those qualities for which the Texas Commandery was chartered. Admiral Nimitz, a native Texan born in Fredericksburg, Texas, was elected to the New York Commandery of the Naval Order on 15 September 1947.

CAPT Carter Conlin, Chairman of the Nimitz Award Committee, introduced CAPT Dave Burr, member of the Nimitz Committee, who gave the background for the award followed by CAPT Conlin giving the qualifications of this year's recipient. He noted the fact that LTJG Kleiss was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in the attacks on the Marshall Islands on 1 February 1942; and that he was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy in the Air Battle of Midway on 4-6 June 1942. Also noted was the fact that LTJG Kleiss was the only US pilot to have achieved bomb hits on two of the four enemy aircraft carriers, Kaga and Hiryu. The Battle of Midway is generally considered to have been the turning point of the Pacific War.



From left: RADM Peter Andrus at podium, CAPT Dave Burr, CAPT Carter Conlin

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The other member of the Nimitz Committee is CAPT Martine Myers Offenberger who now lives in North Carolina. RADM Peter Andrus made the presentation of the award plaque.

This year's award was presented posthumously because, in the midst of the voting procedure of the Nimitz Committee, the recipient, CAPT Norman Jack "Dusty" Kleiss, USN passed away on 22 April 2016, having just celebrated his 100th birthday on 7 March 2016. It was decided by the Nimitz Committee with the concurrence of the Texas Commandery Commander, CAPT Chuck Hewell, that we would present the award posthumously and ask Gen Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.) to receive it for display at the National Museum of the Pacific War of which he is the President and CEO and to be the speaker for our Annual Banquet. Gen Hagee graciously accepted our invitation. In addition to the award plaque, there is a permanent Nimitz Leadership Award plaque that is located at the Nimitz museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, where the names of all past recipients are displayed on individual brass nameplates.



CAPT Chuck Hewell

After being presented with the Nimitz Leadership Award for CAPT Kleiss, Gen Hagee spoke to the group about the Battle of Midway starting on 4 June 1942, for which the odds were heavily against the US forces. Besides the numerical disadvantage in our forces, almost the entire air group of the Hornet flew in the wrong direction to find the enemy fleet; and the one unit from the Hornet that flew in the right direction and found the enemy fleet, Torpedo Squadron 8, was all shot down probably because of no fighter protection, with only Ensign George Gay surviving. Fortunately, the squadrons from the *Enterprise* and *Yorktown* were able to find the enemy fleet and make successful dive-bombing attacks on the Kaga, Akagi and Soryu and sinking them. LTJG Kleiss saw his squadron leader, Wade McClusky, waggle his wings and start his dive on the Kaga. He saw one of his squadron mates, Earl Gallaher, make

the first hit on the Kaga which caused a huge fire on the after portion of the ship. Then he noted the large red circle on the forward flight deck, so he aimed at that and struck it on the aft edge which caused a huge explosion and fire. He was very low on fuel so he turned towards Midway Island. When he looked back he could see three carriers burning.

The *Enterprise* squadrons had made many bomb hits on the Kaga and one hit on the Akagi. The *Yorktown* squadrons had hit the Soryu. He turned towards the *Enterprise* and just barely made it back before running out of fuel. He had a sandwich and cup of coffee and a little rest. That afternoon his squadron was launched to search for the fourth enemy carrier, Hiryu. When the Hiryu was found, she made violent evasive maneuvers. So, again, LTJG Kleiss aimed at the large red circle on the flight deck and made a direct hit. He said that it made a fire that could be seen from 10 miles away.



Gen Michael W. Hagee

Gen Hagee pointed out that the Battle of Guadalcanal should also be considered as being one of the major turning points in the Pacific War. It was the first battle engaged in face-to-face combat with the enemy. But he felt that the real hero of the Pacific War was Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. The General reviewed the background of Admiral Nimitz from his upbringing in Fredericksburg, his German roots, his father and grandfather who had given him philosophical instructions, one of which was to not concern himself with things he could not change. He applied this principle after he had run his first command, a destroyer, aground, for which he received a letter of reprimand.

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Later on, when President Roosevelt wanted to promote him over other more senior officers to be the Chief of Naval Operations, he refused saying that he felt it would have a very detrimental effect on the Navy if someone as junior as he were to be given the top job in the Navy. Later, after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Roosevelt told him in no uncertain terms that he was going to Pearl Harbor to take over the Pacific Fleet—no questions asked.

Gen Hagee opened the floor for questions. Concerning the selections of Gen. James Mattis, USMC (Ret.) for Secretary of Defense and Gen. John F. Kelly, USMC (Ret.) for Secretary of Homeland Security, he felt that they were excellent choices and gave several examples of the strengths of these two Marine Corps officers.

He was asked questions about the relationships between Admiral Nimitz and Gen Douglas MacArthur and also between his two admirals in charge of the 3rd and 5th fleets during WWII, Admirals Halsey and Spruance, respectively. He made some interesting comparisons and comments concerning them.

Gen Hagee said that he was very pleased to be a part of the Naval Order, having received the Texas Commandry's Nimitz Leadership Award in 2006. He also said that he is very pleased to receive this award plaque honoring the memory of the Battle of Midway hero CAPT Norman Jack "Dusty" Kleiss which he plans to display at the Fredericksburg National Museum of the Pacific War near the existing Naval Order plaque listing the names of all 30 previous recipients of the award. He added that he thinks the Naval Order is carrying on a very valuable function in keeping awareness of our naval history.

**Submitted by CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.)**



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## New National Coast Guard Museum Milestone Reached

NEW LONDON, Conn -- "Today marks the most important progress to date since the idea for a National Coast Guard Museum was first conceived."

With those words, Richard Grahn, President of the National Coast Guard Museum Association, captured the excitement over the Museum's new architectural designs which have been unveiled to the public to wide acclaim.



Artistic rendering of Payette Architects proposed design.

The proposed design concept of the Museum has been redefined to address opportunities and needs of building on the waterfront site. The National Coast Guard Museum Association and officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Coast Guard, the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the US Army Corps of Engineers have been working diligently to consider the design elements necessary to satisfy all applicable environmental regulations.

The final design will be determined through an extensive environmental review and public comment process, and NCGMA is delighted to provide a glimpse of a world class museum on the New London waterfront.

"The evolution of the design is a natural part of the process and we expect it to continue to develop as we move forward," said Charles Klee, architect from Payette (Architects, Boston). "We are designing the Museum to ensure it compliments the City's waterfront and historic Union Train Station. We believe we have found the perfect balance between the traditional and the new."

With the extensive pre-design work now completed, Klee announced the revised design timeline will target a construction start as early as the summer of 2018, with scheduled opening in 2021.

**Story by National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc.**

## NOUS Dedicates Commemorative Historical Marker at Washington's "Old Naval Hospital"

In 1864, three years into the Civil War, President Lincoln signed an Act of Congress "for erecting a naval hospital at Washington City" that would serve the Navy's needs beyond the war's end. Under architect Ammi B. Young, construction of this fifty-bed facility was completed in 1866 at a final cost of \$115,000.



Located in the Capitol Hill area at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast, the hospital would go on to serve first as an inpatient care facility, then a school of instruction for Navy corpsmen, and lastly as headquarters for the Naval Reserve. In 1922, the Navy leased the building to the Grand Army of the Republic for use as a hotel for visiting Civil War veterans, until, in 1963, ownership was transferred to the District of Columbia government to house various social services. During this period, the building fell into serious disrepair and was subsequently left vacant until a group of concerned Capitol Hill citizens formed a foundation to restore the facility and preserve it for community use. Under a multimillion dollar restoration project, the building was painstakingly returned to its former glory. It now operates under a long-term lease agreement as the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, a vibrant community services center.

On 1 October 2016, the Naval Order as principal sponsor, together with the Hill Center, the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the Society for the History of Navy Medicine, commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Hospital's opening, and dedicated a historical marker recognizing the facility's significance. Conceived by NOUS Surgeon General, LCDR Tom Burden, the dedication was the culmination of a two-year project to gather and validate the historical research required. Data were gathered from records at the National Archives, the Hill Center Foundation, and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery with valuable input contributed by BUMED Historian André Sobocinski. Graphic artwork for the marker was designed and prepared by Ms. Karen Wright, who has designed previous NOUS projects.

Funding for the project was provided by the Foundation of the Naval Order of the United States, the National Capital Commandery, the Society for the History of Navy Medicine, and Potomac Healthcare Solutions, LLC.



(L to R): RADM Pearigen, Chairman Guy Martin, DC Council Member Charles Allen, LCDR Tom Burden, CAPT Paul Crissy, Mooberry Color Guard

Due to inclement weather, the ceremony was held indoors. With Companion CDR Bill Joseph, MSC, USN (Ret.) serving as emcee, the program included welcoming remarks by D.C. Council Member Charles Allen; Hill Center Chairman Guy Martin; Commander-General Elect, CAPT Paul Crissy; and LCDR Burden. RADM Paul Pearigen, MC, Director of the Navy Medical Corps and himself a Capitol Hill resident, appeared as Keynote Speaker and offered a fascinating overview of the Hospital and its historical significance.

The Navy Ceremonial Brass Ensemble performed prior to the ceremony and the colors were presented by the Sea Cadet Corps, H. E. Mooberry Division Honor Guard.

The ceremony was well attended by representatives from the Government of the District of Columbia, the National Capital Commandery, the Hill Center, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, the Society for the History of Navy Medicine, and the general public.

Submitted by LCDR Tom Burden



Following the marker's unveiling, a ceremonial cake cutting was performed to recognize the 150th anniversary. Two special guests appeared - Commodore John Barry, USN and Ms. Clara Barton, ably re-enacted by LCDR Ralph Day of the National Capital Commandery, and Ms. Diana Ingraham, Executive Director of the Hill Center.

## The Long Blue Line: An African American Hero in a Segregated Service

By Dr. William H. Thiesen, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian



Mess Attendant Charles Walter David Jr.

Many individuals need a lifetime to learn leadership skills. It comes naturally to others. Charles Walter David, Jr., namesake of Fast Response Cutter *David*, was an instinctive despite the racial barriers of society at the times. David served in the United States Coast Guard early in World War II, when the military services limited what African Americans were allowed to do and limited them largely to non-senior enlisted ratings.

Mess Attendant 1/c David was unique in every way. He reached the age of 26 during his time aboard the cutter *Comanche* in the Coast Guard's Greenland Patrol and was one of the ship's older enlisted crewmembers. At over six-feet-tall and 220 pounds, his stature intimidated others, but he still counted many friends among the cutter's 60-man crew. He had a natural talent for music, playing the blues harmonica in jam sessions with shipmate and friend saxophone player Richard "Dick" Swanson.

What set David apart was the loyalty he had for his cutter and shipmates. This seems surprising given the second-class status that African Americans held in the Service at the time.

David demonstrated his character in February of 1943, while *Comanche* served as an escort for the three-ship convoy bound from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to southwest Greenland.

Weather conditions during the convoy's first few days proved horrendous as they usually did in the North Atlantic winter. The average temperature remained well below freezing. The seas were heavy, and the wind-driven spray formed layers of ice on the cutter's exposed decks and superstructure.

They fought both the elements and the German U-boats lurking in the frigid waters. At about 1am on 3 February 1943, U-223 torpedoed convoy vessel US Army Transport *Dorchester*, which carried over 900 troops, civilian contractors, and crew.

The task force commander ordered *Comanche* to screen rescue efforts. By the time they arrived, *Dorchester* had slipped beneath the waves and survivors had taken to the water and lifeboats. *Comanche's* log noted, "all men in lifejackets lifeless." However, when the cutter's lookouts spotted lifeboats full of survivors, the crew threw a cargo net over the cutter's port side. David, his friend Swanson and several shipmates swung into action clad only in un-insulated uniforms.

With waves 10 feet high, David climbed down the cargo net to the lifeboats and hoisted *Dorchester's* living yet frozen victims to his shipmates on *Comanche's* deck. Swanson worked alongside his friend saving nearly 100 survivors from the boats.

During the operation, *Comanche's* executive officer, LT Langford Anderson, slipped and fell into the icy seas. Without hesitation, David plunged into water that could kill within minutes and helped Anderson back on board the cutter. After helping the last survivors up to *Comanche's* deck, David climbed up the net. Six years younger than David, Dick Swanson lost use of his limbs and made it only halfway up the cutter's side. David encouraged his friend, yelling "C'mon Swanny. You can make it!" But Swanson was too exhausted and frozen to go any further. David descended the net and, with the aid of another crewmen, pulled Swanson back up to the cutter's deck.

Swanson later said Charles David was a "tower of strength" that day. He risked his life to save dozens of *Dorchester* survivors, *Comanche's* executive officer and his friend Swanny. However, David harbored a deadly secret. Days before he had come down with a bad cold. The exposure to frigid water and sub-freezing temperatures turned into hypothermia.

When *Comanche* delivered *Dorchester* survivors to an Army hospital in Greenland, doctors ordered an ambulance for David as well.

Continued on next page...

It was the last time his shipmates would ever see him. His cold had turned into pneumonia. Within weeks he was dead. It took a few weeks before his shipmates learned that their friend had died.

David was temporarily buried in the permafrost of Greenland. After the war, the military re-interred his remains in the Long Island National Cemetery at Farmingdale. It was 60 years after his heroic end that the Service undertook a systematic search for his immediate family and notified his next of kin of his gravesite.

Despite his secondary status in a segregated service, Charles Walter David, Jr., placed the needs of others before his own. For his heroism, David was posthumously awarded the Navy & Marine Corps Medal and, in 1999, was recognized with the Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity.



R.W. Anderson (left), who was rescued by David, looks on while RADM S. V. Parker presents the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Mrs. Kathleen W. David, and Neil David, the wife and son of Mess Attendant David.

Recently, the United States Coast Guard named a Fast Response Cutter in his honor. David was a true Coast Guardsman and one of the Service's long blue line, who exemplified the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty.



Charles David Jr. is the first Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutter to be homeported in Key West.

Membership requests continue to arrive via e-mail. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, our web site now has a space that allows visitors to inquire about membership. The first requests arrived on 18 June and to date now number seventy-five (75). That's one every 3.4 days. Each of these applicants are vetted and then affiliated with the appropriate commandery. Those not living in a state that has an established physical commandery become members of our new Continental Commandery.

Since the first of the year we have "booked" fifty (50) new members, and I presently have another forty-five (45) in my pending file. Our total membership has now reached 1,475.

Retaining our existing members has a positive effect on our overall growth. Current local commanders need to review the quarterly reports sent to them by CAPT Kris Carlock to identify and follow up on members who are delinquent in their dues because at some point they will be dropped from our official membership list, their newsletters will stop, and they might be lost forever.

Also, it's important for local commanders to mention at every gathering of their commandery the importance of recruiting new members. They are out there by the millions just waiting to be asked. Please remember to use only the revised membership application of 16 August 2016.

For information on setting up a recruiting display at your local library please contact me at 973.584.9634 or dschuld@juno.com.

Submitted by Don Schuld,  
Vice Commander General-Membership

## We're taking credit cards!

The Registrar General is now accepting VISA and MasterCard payments for new member applications and dues payments. As we move to more and more electronic communications, it was only natural to start using credit cards. The new Dues Invoices and New Member Application forms have been revised to provide credit card information.



**Arizona**

Mr. Michael William Wold

**Charleston**

Mr. Cameron Littlejohn Brown  
CDR Richard Lee Fry, USN (Ret)  
Mr. Max Arnold Highbaugh  
Mr. Paul Garry Hines  
Mr. Kent Earle Hutchinson  
Mrs. Debra Denise Reynolds  
MAC Tony Jesus Sanchez, USN  
CAPT Raymond Howard Setser, Jr., USN (Ret)  
Mr. John Mark Stadtmueller

**Continental**

CDR C. Joseph "Sepp" Benedikt  
Mr. Stephen George Bush  
Mr. John Robert Finnell, Jr.  
Mr. Seth Michael Hopkins  
Mr. Ronald David Lockhart  
Mr. Christopher Willard Moberg  
Mr. Gerald Louis Smart

**Florida First Coast**

LCDR Roger Nelson Thomas, USN (Ret)  
CDR Steven Lloyd Souders, USN

**Hampton Roads**

LT Alexander Lowe Darby, USN (Ret)  
Lt Col Walter Guerry Green, III, USAF (Ret)  
CDR Frederick Theodore Matthies, USN (Ret)

**Massachusetts**

Mr. Michael G. Walling

**Monterey**

LT Kelli Ann Guffey, USN  
CAPT Phillip Charles Pardue, USN (Ret)

**National Capital**

CDR Kim Ray Allen, USN  
CDR Everett Alvarez, Jr., USN (Ret)  
SgtMaj Michael Patrick BarRet.t, USMC (Ret.)  
Mr. Eric Rodger Linthicum  
LCDR Eric Jason Matthies, USN  
CAPT James Murray McDonald, USN (Ret.)  
LCDR Stephen Timothy Morgan, USN  
ADM Robert Joseph Papp, Jr., USCG (Ret.)  
LT Douglas Lee Ramsdell, USN  
VADM James Alvin Sagerholm, USN (Ret.)

**New Orleans**

SK2 Louis John Roux, USN (Ret.)

**Newport**

Mr. Norman Edward Champagne  
LCDR Vicky DeFiore Garrold, USN (Ret.)  
Ms. Martha Anne Kivlehan Koziara  
CAPT Arthur Ralph Thomas, USN (Ret.)

**Northwest**

Mr. Floyd Nelson Kershner  
CAPT John Charles Laible, USN (Ret.)  
Mr. Curt Michael Maier  
Mr. Harry Everest Stengele  
Mr. Richard Scott Whitkop

**New York City**

LT Mark Charlton Mendelsohn Bristol, USN  
Mr. David Alan Disi  
Mr. Mark Paul Felton  
Mr. Salvatore Giardina  
Mr. Adam Paige Hess  
CAPT Thomas Joseph Higgins, USN (Ret.)  
Mr. Jeremy D. Poth  
Mr. Angelo Anthony Sedacca  
Mr. Michael Francis Wangler

**Philadelphia/Delaware Valley**

Mr. John Rodman Clendenning, Jr.  
Mr. Sallim Joseph Curi  
Mr. Charles Brown Grace, Jr.  
Mr. Bartholomew Dean Myles  
Mr. Larry Laverne Stonesifer

**Southeast Florida**

Mr. Felipe J. Villaraus

**San Diego**

Col Richard Lou Hemenez, USMC (Ret.)

**San Francisco**

CMDCM (SW) Julio Ramon Blea, USN (Ret.)  
RADM Thomas Albert Cropper, USN (Ret.)  
Dr. Larry Omar Goldbeck, MD  
Mr. Thomas Robbins Green  
HMCS Benjamin John Grover, USN  
Mr. John Nye Gulick, Jr.  
Lt Col Bertrand Huchberger, USAF (Ret.)  
LCDR Brendan Andrew Kearney, USN  
Mrs. Joan Christine King  
Mr. Paul Eugene King, Jr.  
Mrs. Sarah Lynn Koller  
CW04 Jack Hamilton Lauer, USN (Ret.)  
Ms. Dianne Arline Levy  
CAPT Richard James Mahan, USN (Ret.)  
Mr. Victor Ahmed Malik  
Mr. Charles Kay Paskerian  
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**We note the passing of our fellow Companions.  
May their memories be a blessing.**

Mr. William DeLoach Cope  
(Certificate 6134)  
Arizona Commandery  
Joined 01 April 1988  
Died 23 March 2015

CAPT Max C. Duncan, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 7692)  
Annapolis Commandery  
Joined 03 August 1998  
Died 13 July 2015

Mrs. Barbara Bebe Hunter  
(Certificate 9246)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 01 February 2013  
Died 23 August 2016

Mr. Robert Paul Irons, Jr.  
(Certificate 9518)  
Arizona Commandery  
Joined 22 August 2015  
Died 01 April 2016

CDR Ronald B. James, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 8830)  
Charleston and Florida First Coast Commandery  
Joined 13 October 2008  
Died 25 December 2016

Mrs. Mary E. Komorowski  
(Certificate 8151)  
National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 13 July 2002  
Died 15 July 2016

ADM Robert E. Kramek, USCG (Ret)  
(Certificate 6470)  
Texas and National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 30 October 1989  
Died 20 October 2016

CAPT William Jon. Lambden, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 8539)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 06 February 2006  
Died 19 August 2016

CAPT Robert Lemuel Miller, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 5401)  
National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 16 June 1980  
Died 01 April 2015

Mr. Thomas Malin Rodgers  
(Certificate 8172)  
Atlanta Commandery  
Joined 10 September 2002  
Died 10 April 2012

CDR Robert William Selle, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 8181)  
Massachusetts and National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 23 September 2002  
Died 17 June 2015

Mr. William E. Shissler  
(Certificate 9152)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 02 January 2012  
Died 09 November 2016

CDR Douglas H. Smith, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 7057)  
Illinois Commandery  
Joined 26 March 1993  
Died 18 May 2016

CAPT Albert L. Solgaard, MC, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 5773)  
Monterey and San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 01 January 1973  
Died 05 June 2004

LCDR Conrad J. Spitek, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 4960)  
Illinois Commandery  
Joined 01 October 1990  
Died 19 October 2012

CAPT Roger Powell Staiger, Jr., USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 6651)  
Annapolis Commandery  
Joined 15 November 1975  
Died 18 May 2014

CAPT Edward Bernard Waldmann, MC, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 5002)  
Arizona and San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 23 October 1973  
Died 14 December 2015

Mr. Christopher Walsh  
(Certificate 7632)  
National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 02 March 1998  
Died August 2016

RADM Hugh L. Webster, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 7888)  
San Diego and National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 10 September 2002  
Died 09 December 2016

RADM Park W. Willis, MC, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 5369)  
New Orleans and Illinois Commandery  
Joined 18 November 1979  
Died 28 December 2003

CAPT Irene Wolensky, USN (Ret)  
(Certificate 6031)  
National Capitol Commandery  
Joined 12 March 1988  
Died 22 June 2012

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Wulff  
(Certificate 6446)  
Illinois Commandery  
Joined 29 September 1989  
Died 23 January 2016





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