



CG Sends:

I am pleased to report that we have finalized hotel arrangements for the San Diego 2004 Congress. It will be held at the newly remodeled **Marriott Mission Valley Inn** with 350 high rise view rooms, all with balconies. The meeting space and facilities are outstanding, as well as the food and beverage venues. The best part? They are offering our Order a special military rate of \$99.00 per room, plus **complimentary** parking. The room rate will also be available 3 days prior to, and 3 days following, our Congress. Be aware that your reservations must be made as far in advance as possible to lock in this rate! So, Companions, make your Congress travel plans **quickly** and get on board.

We have modified our Congress program this year so there will be no planned activity following the luncheon on the final day. Hence, you can choose to go sightseeing, hang out pool side, go shopping, or take the "**Tijuana Trolley**" to Mexico—it stops at our hotel every 15 minutes and the senior round trip fare is only \$2.00. San Diego is a great Navy town with lots of interesting sights, so plan now to be with us on the third weekend of October!

Since I took command in Newport, we've had a major National Office change. LT Phil Ciaffa has relieved Chris Cummings as our Registrar General. He has been hard at work upgrading our membership database. This has proven to be a bigger task than he ever imagined! Good news, we are assured that that hill is behind us.

As I promised at my installation, I have begun visiting our Commanderies and attending one of their regularly scheduled meetings. To date, I have visited Monterey, San Diego, and Phoenix. I hope all you Commandery Commanders will continue to keep me informed of your local meetings and activities so that I can join you at a future date.

Our new JAG, RADM Doug Moore, is hard at work finalizing our IRS Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Category application
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NOUS Congress 2004 Gears Up for San Diego

Plans for the upcoming 2004 Naval Order Congress in San Diego from 14 – 16 October continue to develop. Coinciding as it does with Fleet Week San Diego, the timing for our Congress could not be more fortuitous. Many events and activities related to Fleet Week will be available for Companions to enjoy, in addition to the outstanding program be-



*Downtown San Diego
(photo © Photohome.com).*

ing put together by the San Diego Congress Committee.

The most crucial piece of the puzzle has been put in place with the hotel selection. The Congress will be held at the Marriott San Diego Mission Valley and an incredible NOUS Congress rate of \$99/night has been agreed upon. Anyone familiar with California hotel rates will instantly recognize the value of this deal. Throw in complimentary parking, and Companions might never leave San Diego. Unfortunately, the rate only applies to the period three days prior and succeeding the Congress. This rate is available through 13 September, so make plans and reservations accordingly.

Plans for speakers have not been announced, yet, but one of the special events Congress attendees will be invited to attend on Friday, 15 Oct is a

Fleet Week reception aboard the *USS Midway (CV-41)*, a decommissioned aircraft carrier run as a historical attraction in San Diego Harbor. This event will be truly special. Another Fleet Week attraction will be the Navy's own Blue Angels, flying at the Fleet Week air show held at MCAS Miramar over that weekend. Sunday, 17 Oct, will be the ideal time to see these naval aviators strut their aviation stuff as the Congress will have closed, freeing Companions to take in the air show. If that has little appeal, there are still San Diego's outstanding tourist attractions renowned the world over. These attractions include the San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Balboa Park, or the Gaslamp Quarter in the downtown area.

Congress attendance fees remain similar to those of the past several years. Prior to 1 September, a rate \$195/person has been set, with late signers paying \$225/person after 1 September. So, in the spirit of any good bargain hunter, sign up early and take advantage of the price break. CAPT Elaine Allen and the rest of the organizing committee encourage all Companions to make the trip to San Diego! Just use the insert in this newsletter and send in your application today.

Semper Paratus!

(Submitted by SEN Robert W. Mitchler)

This is the period when our Congress hears testimony from the government agencies relating to their 2005 budgets. That process is a grueling one, especially when there is a request for an increase in funding. Let's take a look at our United States Coast Guard and how their 2005 budget request is being presented.

Several weeks ago the Commandant

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Semper Paratus...

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of the USCG, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, appeared before the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Following the normal courteous greetings to the Congressmen, Admiral Collins announced the Coast Guard's fiscal year (FY) 2005 budget proposed authority of \$7.46 billion, a nine percent increase over FY-2004.

Before proceeding to discuss the FY-2005 budget request, Admiral Collins requested a few moments to discuss some of the Coast Guard's accomplishments during the past year. Reading these accomplishments caught my attention and greatly impressed me.

As you know, the USCG was transferred from the Department of Transportation to the new Department of Homeland Security. Its mission, however, remained about the same.

During the past year, Admiral Collins reported some main accomplishments of the USCG as follows:

- 1) Interdicted over 6,000 undocumented migrants attempting to enter the country by sea.
- 2) Prevented more than 136,000 pounds of cocaine, over 14,000 pounds of marijuana and more than 800 pounds of hashish from reaching U.S. shores.
- 3) Aggressively conducted more than 36,000 port security patrols, including 3,000 air patrols, 8,000 security boardings and over 7,000 vessel escorts.
- 4) Deployed the largest contingent of Coast Guard personnel overseas since the Vietnam War to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, including 11 cutters, two shore-side support units and over 1,200 personnel.
- 5) Saved the lives of nearly 5,100 mariners in distress and responded to more than 31,500 calls for assistance.
- 6) Boarded more than 3,400 fishing vessels to enforce safety, environmental and economic laws.
- 7) Mobilized 64% of the Coast Guard Reserve Force to enhance protection of our ports, waterways and critical infrastructure during heightened states of alert, and to support the Combatant Commanders.
- 8) Kept critical shipping channels clear of ice in the Great Lakes and New England ensuring the availability of critical

energy products.

9) Maintained more than 50,000 federal aids to navigation along 25,000 miles of maritime transportation highways.

10) Responded to over 19,000 reports of water pollution or hazardous material releases.

11) Completed the most difficult re-supply of McMurdo Station (Antarctica) during Operation Deep Freeze in 40 years. USCGC Polar Sea and USCGC Healy smashed through 50 miles of ice more than 13-feet thick to enable U.S. scientists to continue their studies of the Earth's climate.

These eleven specific accomplished missions of our USCG during FY-2004 once again points out how the USCG has daily assignments and are "on station" 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That is what our USCG is mandated to do as a routine and normal performance of duty.

Integrating into the new Department of Homeland Security, the USCG has satisfactorily blended into this "one team-one fight" motto. This proved to be during the developing events in Haiti. The Operation Able Sentry was led by USCG Rear Admiral Harvey Johnson and demonstrated the USCG is indeed "on station" and doing a job WELL DONE.

CG Sends...

(Continued from page 1)

and we'll hope for good news shortly. (We need this designation in order to have major corporate and/or trust donors qualify as "tax free.") It is an important step, and one we all feel confident will be accepted by the IRS.

All hands, please remember to carry the new Membership Brochure and Applications whenever you are "out and about." It's a great way to talk up the Naval Order and to provide on-the-spot membership information to prospective, qualified individuals. Also, always wear your Naval Order "rosette" on your jackets in order to identify your Naval Order membership and create questions asking "what does that rosette signify?"

So everyone make your plans now.....I'll see you San Diego in October !

Sincerely,

Fred C. Hawkins, Capt. USNR (Ret.)

Navy-Marine Corps Council Hosts SECNAV

The Navy-Marine Corps Council met this week and heard from several Sea Service leaders including Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps John Estrada.

Scott and Estrada spoke of the exemplary performance of today's Sailors and Marines and highlighted programs and initiatives aimed at maximizing their ability to accomplish necessary missions.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Mullins and LtGen Robert Magnus, USMC, Assistant Commandant for Programs and Resources, discussed the Administration's FY05 budget proposal and its impact on their respective services. Both addressed the increasing cost of military manpower and the recent

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New Companions

12/31/2003 — 4/20/2004

ATLANTA

GYSGT James M. Ensor, USMC(Ret)

ILLINOIS

Mr. Gregory J. Banach

FLORIDA FIRST COAST

IT3 Seth A. Allen, USNR

LT James F. Kennedy, USN(Ret)

Ms. Sheila M. McNeill

Mr. Raymond H. Pfeiffer

MONTEREY

CDR Richard M. Brown, III, USN(Ret)

LT Ryan B. Ernst, USNR

CDR Michael J. Holden, USN(Ret.)

CAPT S. Starr King, USN

NATIONAL CAPITOL

YN1 Michael W. Krzmarzick, USN(Ret)

Mr. Burton S. Olson

LCDR Steven R. Sinclair, USNR

EMI Charles W. Stewart, Jr., USN(Ret)

NEW MEXICO

BG William E. Fields, NMARNG(Ret)

Ms. Priscilla Hart

NEWPORT

Mr. Lawrence C. Hall

CDR Arthur W. Stauff, USNR

NEW YORK

Mr. Theodore C. Baer, Jr.

COL Louis E. Cherico, USMC

Mr. John K. Sands

Mr. Richard H. Wagner

SAN DIEGO

Ms. Erica A. Gapp

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Catching Up with the Commanderies

First Coast – Members of the Commandery made a visit to the *USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)* on 27 MAR at Naval Station Mayport. The group was greeted on the Pier, gonged aboard, and immedi-



From left: Campbell McCarthy, Charlotte Hill, Tony Ross, Sharon Ross, Anna Streeter, Sandy Taylor, Greg Streeter, Alexa Streeter, Dick Streeter, Frank Floyd, Mike Manko, Kathy Besag, Floyd Grandson, Frank Besag, Pat Manko

ately treated to a delightful lunch followed by a most enjoyable tour of the ship. Finally, we departed with a generous packet of information on "Big John." The Commandery commends the Public Affairs staff for their graciousness and professionalism which made the visit particularly enjoyable.

Illinois – The annual Pearl Harbor Day dinner/program of the Commandery also served as the nomination and election of officers for 2004. The following Companions were elected: Commander: **Robert W. Mitchler**, Vice Commander: **W. Bruce Walker**, Treasurer: **Allen Lipscher**, Recorder: **Lee Van Der Hulst**, Surgeon: **Charles L. Rice**, Judge Advocate: **Francis X. Reilly**, and Historian: **Doug Smith**.

The following were elected to serve on the Illinois Companions Council: **Michael D. Besancon** (Immediate Past Commander), **Edward A. Bobrick**, **Charles S. Downey**, **Howard Friedman**, **Victor S. Gulliver**, **Louis Nusinson**, **F. Donal O'Brien**, **Patric W. Rastall**, **Margaret A. Ryan**, **Alden T. "Bud" Wulff**, and **Robert L. Zralek**.

The Illinois Commandery announced its support for the Veterans Oral History

Project which is being spearheaded by the National Foundation for Women Legislators Veterans Affairs Team. There was a kick-off conference for the Illinois Veterans Oral History project in Springfield, Illinois, on 24 FEB.

The Commandery will be working with Illinois State Reps. Eileen Lyons and Mary E. Flowers who are Co-Team Leaders on the NFWL Veterans Affairs Team. NFWL Team Leaders have been focusing on interviewing disabled World War II veterans since Nov 2003 and will now expand their efforts to include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and other conflicts. Interviews are collected by volunteers on audio and videotape, or submitted on paper. Original diaries, letters, maps, movies and photographs are also collected. Check out the project web site at: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/kit.html>

Monterey – On 17 Feb, the Commandery recently celebrated the 9th Anniversary of its chartering. CAPT Paul Trejo, USNR(Ret) passed his duties as Commandery Commander to CAPT Kenneth Johnson, USN(Ret), who recently relocated from Virginia. Assisting CAPT Johnson is Vice Commander, CAPT Jeff Kline, USN, who chairs the Warfare Innovation Studies program at



From left: CDR Lambing, CAPT Kline, CAPT Hawkins, CAPT Johnson, and CAPT Trejo.

the Naval Postgraduate School, and Secretary, CDR Clarence Lambing, USN (Ret). Officiating at the ceremony was the Commander General, CAPT Fred Hawkins, USNR(Ret).

Mrs. Sheila M. McNeil, the National President of the Navy League, joined the Naval Order through the Monterey Commandery. Mrs. McNeil, a life member of the Navy League since 1966, was elected National President in June 2003.

The Commandery has agreed to participate in the Monterey High School

NJROTC Awards Program in order to support the Naval Order's mission to preserve, promote, celebrate and enjoy the history and heritage of the United States Naval Services. The award to be presented each May will be the "Admiral David G. Farragut Award" for inspirational leadership and conduct. A certificate and a US saving bond will be presented to the outstanding cadet meeting these requirements.

Texas – The Commandery held its annual banquet on 24 JAN in Houston. At this event, the Nimitz Award for leader-



From left: RADM Showers, CAPT Conlin, CAPT Martine Myers, and CAPT George Holyfield.

ship was bestowed upon RADM Mac Showers by CAPT Carter Conlin.

Over 26 – 28 FEB, the Commandery participated in the annual remembrance ceremonies for the *USS Houston (CA-30)* at the *USS Houston Memorial* in downtown Houston. Over 200 people attended the ceremonies, which included 18 survivors this year.

Signing Off...

This is my final issue as Editor of the NOUS Newsletter as we have found an intrepid soul to take over at the end of my commitment. My relief, CAPT Kate Gray, USNR, is a Companion in the HRD Commandery and I wish her great luck in this endeavor. My heartfelt thanks go out to RADM Tom Brown, CAPT Jim Brooke, CAPT Jan Armstrong, Chris Cummings, and, in remembrance, Ric Teague. CAPT Hawkins and LT Phil Ciaffa have been terrific for the short time of our overlap—thank you. And, finally, I want to thank all the folks who contributed material over my tenure as Editor – you made my life a lot easier!

CAPT Gray, I stand relieved...

V/R, Chuck Berry

Navy-Marine Corp Council

debate on military end strengths, and highlighted the skyrocketing cost of DoD health care programs and its relationship to funding for readiness and other accounts.

Secretary England also spoke about efforts to restructure the armed forces and plans to reduce Navy billets by 7,900 in the coming year, citing the services' ability to operate more efficiently and effectively with 21st century equipment and technology. He also noted the high morale of our Sailors and Marines who are serving with a genuine sense of purpose.

The Naval Order was represented by CAPT Jim Brooke, Past CG and NOUS Representative to the Council, CNOCM (SW) Harry Kantrovich and several others.

New Companions...

(Continued from page 2)
CDR Thomas M. McManus, USNR(Ret)

SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. F. Ross Adkins
GMGC Joseph J. Bacciocco, USNR(Ret)
GMGC Warren W. Bacciocco, USNR(Ret)
CWO2 Howard M. Backus, SC USN(Ret)
Walter C. Bell, DDS
Mr. Raymond J. Fazio
WO1 John D. Garvey, CSMR
CAPT Larry D. Henson, USNR(Ret)
Mr. David L. Ringler
Mr. William G. Schultz

TEXAS

Mrs. Susan M. Gallimore-Denton

WESTERN NEW YORK

RADM John F. Paddock, USNR(Ret)

Remembering Okinawa

(Courtesy of SEN Robert W. Mitchler)

Okinawa was the largest amphibious invasion of the Pacific campaign and the last major campaign of the Pacific War. More ships were used, more troops put ashore, more supplies transported, more bombs dropped, and more naval guns fired against shore targets than any other operation in the Pacific. More people died during the Battle of Okinawa than all those killed during the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Casualties totaled more than 38,000 Americans wounded and 12,000 killed or missing, more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscripts killed, and perhaps 100,000 Okinawan civilians who perished in the battle.

Okinawa proved to be the bloodiest battle of the Pacific War. Thirty-four allied ships and craft of all types had been sunk, mostly by kamikazes, and 368 ships and craft damaged. The fleet had lost 763 aircraft. Total American casualties in the operation numbered over 12,000 killed [including nearly 5,000 Navy dead and almost 8,000 Marine and Army dead] and 36,000 wounded. Navy casualties were tremendous, with a ratio of 1 killed for 1 wounded as compared to a 1 to 5 ratio for the Marine Corps. There were more than 26,000 non-battle casualties. Not surprisingly, the cost of this battle, in terms of lives, time, and material, weighed heavily in the decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan just six weeks later.

NATIONAL CAPITOL and MONTEREY Companions:

Check out your new Commandery websites:

NAT: <http://www.navalorder.org/monhomepage.htm>

MON: <http://www.navalorder.org/nathomepage.htm>

Does your Commandery want one?
Contact CAPT Jim Brooke at :

JBrooke3@cox.net

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

LT Philip R. Ciaffa
P.O. Box 31069
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1069
or philipciaffa@cybermesa.com
IGNORE ADDRESS BELOW!!

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please advise the NOUS Registrar General of all changes of address. Doing so will assure delivery not only of *NOUS News* but of other important mail from the General Commandery.

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