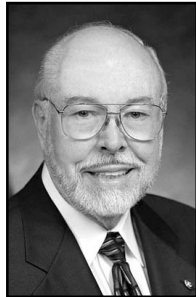




COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER

A great deal has happened since the winter issue of the Newsletter. The Normandy Monument, which is the largest project ever undertaken by the Naval Order, proceeds along with good progress under the able management of CAPT Greg Streeter (VCG-Membership) as Chairman of the Normandy Monument Committee. CAPT Dave Kaiser (VCG-Development) is in charge of overall Naval Order fund raising and has appointed CDR Dan Felger as chairman of the Fundraising Committee for the project. Our initial solicitation of members resulted in donations of \$22,600 in the NOUS treasury. About 12% of our membership responded, which seems low to me; however, according to professionals in the business that response is excellent. Average donations exceeded the requested \$100, which also is excellent. The campaign to solicit donations from outside organizations is just getting started but it too is already receiving positive response.



Still, we have a way to go to reach the estimated goal of about \$500,000. Dan Felger has put together an excellent plan and has requested aid from Commanderies located in or near the locations of targeted organizations. Those eight Commanderies are: Florida First Coast, New York, Hampton Roads, New Orleans, Texas, Newport, National Capitol and San Diego. We look to the commanders of those Commanderies to enlist the best efforts of their companions to assist Dan and his fund raising committee as we make the Monument a reality.

Dave Kaiser has prepared a Benefactor Program offering our members the opportunity to leave a legacy that will promote and preserve our Sea Service history and heritage. Companions will hear more about this program shortly.

CAPT Ken Johnson, Commander General-Elect, has been tasked to chair a new Retention Committee with CAPTs Greg Streeter and Kent Siegel as members. The

purpose of the Retention Committee is to recover members lost because of change of address, etc. This long-standing problem can be solved by diligent research using available tools such as Google, etc. This Retention Committee's work will be closely coordinated with the Registrar General.

Until very recently, the position of Registrar General was held by CAPT Jan Armstrong, who served for many years in that role and also as Commander of the San Francisco Commandery in 2002-2003. She relinquished her duties because of illness early this spring, and with much sadness I must relate that Jan passed away in April. Mr. Chris Cummings, who formerly served in the position, has resumed responsibilities as Registrar General with considerable help from 1st LT Frank Green, ensuring the efficient transfer of all information, documents, procedures and software. Frank will continue as Assistant Registrar General.

Greg Streeter arranged a superb Distinguished Sea Service Award Dinner in Jacksonville, FL for ADM James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret). This 2005 DSSA was of course originally scheduled for presentation by CAPT Fred Hawkins, then-Commander General, at our New Orleans National Congress last October. Because of that cancellation, I had the privilege of presenting ADM Ellis with his award and also his Life Membership certificate at the dinner. ADM Ellis was very pleased and spoke in appreciation of the award.

It was my great pleasure to announce earlier this Spring that ADM Vern Clark, USN (Ret) will receive the DSSA for 2006. Look for a feature on ADM Clark, who served five years as CNO before his retirement in July 2005, in the next issue of this newsletter. I hope to see many of our companions at the presentation Gala during the upcoming National Congress in Rosslyn, VA.

The National Capitol Commandery plans many interesting activities for the Congress to take place 19-21 October. Do join us there!

Best regards,

Carter B. Conlin
CAPT, USN (Ret)

PRESENTATION ACCOMPLISHED



Carter Conlin, ADM Ellis, and Greg Streeter

Commander General Carter Conlin traveled to Jacksonville to make a belated presentation to the Naval Order's 2005 Distinguished Sea Service Award winner, ADM James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret). At the Dinner on 4 March 2006, ADM Ellis gave a personal and moving address to companions and guests of the First Coast Commandery. The Navy Band from NAS Jacksonville played and a Color Guard from Naval Station Mayport paraded the Colors at the event.



FIRST COAST AWARD PRESENTATION



OC Lisa Blachford received a presentation sword from CAPT Greg Streeter on behalf of the Naval Order's First Coast Commandery.

OC Lisa Blachford is this year's Outstanding Officer Candidate Graduate of Jacksonville University NROTC. OC Blachford enlisted in June 1999 and attended ET "A" school and Radiac "C" school in Great Lakes. She was assigned to the Ground Electronics Maintenance Division in Rota, Spain, and was selected for the STA-21 program in September 2002. OC Blachford transferred to the NROTC program at Jacksonville University after completing Naval Science requirements in Newport, RI. A Surface Warfare Officer selectee, she will receive her commission in May 2006, with orders to USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17).

FINAL SALUTE



CAPT Jan V. Armstrong passed away in April after a short battle with lung cancer. The daughter of the late RADM and Mrs. Henry J. Armstrong, Jan earned a degree in history from Barrett College, Lake Forest, IL before joining the Navy Reserve. She served in both Active and Reserve Components. As a civilian, Jan retired from her position as business manager in the statewide patent office for the University of California.

Jan joined the Naval Order of the United States in 1988. She was a Life Member, and held national office in the Order as Recorder and Registrar General for two separate periods. She also formerly served as Commander of the San Francisco Commandery, the first woman elected as Commandery Commander.

The SF Commandery celebrated Jan's life with a spontaneous hour-long remembrance at its May Luncheon meeting, attended by more than 60 Companions including her brother, Nick Armstrong. Jan's good humor and sense of commitment will be missed by all whose lives she touched.



TODAY in Navy History

Find interesting facts in American naval history at our website, www.navalorder.org, by clicking on the "Naval History 365" button (on the left side of the Index page). This links to the Naval Historical Center's site for a listing of important events and milestones, arranged by month and day.



NOUS News is your newsletter. Please share your Commandery's commemoration of the Battle of Midway, or other notable events. To be included in the Summer edition of NOUS News, submit material NLT 7 July 2006 to:

CAPT Kate Gray
1312 Sussex Place
Norfolk, VA 23508-1133
or grayusnr@aol.com

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES 2006 NATIONAL CONGRESS

The National Capitol Commandery will host the 2006 Congress in Washington, DC 19-21 October. The site will be the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, VA—the same location as the 1999 National Congress. CAPT Walt Steiner, USN (Ret) leads this year's Congress organizational committee.

Appropriately, given the Order's Normandy Monument project, the theme for the 2006 Congress will be "Honoring Our Navy at Normandy." In addition to the business sessions, the Congress will include historic presentations and a symposium by World War II Normandy veterans.

The Washington area is rich with history! We'll hold our initial Congress event, a Thursday evening reception, in the Navy Museum at the Washington Navy Yard. On Sunday, Companions have two extra options: a trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, or a tour of the National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (this facility, which opened in 2003, shares with the Museum on the National Mall the largest collection of aviation and space artifacts in the world).

Registration forms for the 2006 National Congress are included in this newsletter. Also, see the Naval Order's web site at www.navalorder.org for the registration form and to keep up with the latest plans for this year's Congress.



RELIEF OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Mr. Chris Cummings assumed duties as Registrar General effective 1 March 2006. Chris is no stranger to national office in the Naval Order, having held this position after Jan Armstrong's first term as Registrar General. Welcome back, Chris!

We request that you help the Naval Order save on returned postage fees by notifying the Registrar General of any address changes. Contact him at:

Mr. Chris Cummings
P.O. Box 1702
Allen, TX 75013-9998
or c_cummings@comcast.net

YOU'LL GET A BOOMING WELCOME



when you join other Naval Order Big Guns at the 2006 Washington, DC Congress this 19-21 October!

Companions must make their own hotel reservations for the 2006 National Congress. See details below.

Hotel Reservations

**NOUS National Congress
Washington, D.C.**

**Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge
1900 Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA 22209**

Room Rates:

Wednesday, 18 OCT, \$153.00

Thursday thru Monday, 19-23 OCT
\$119.00 per night
Plus Applicable Taxes

Reservations require a one-night deposit, guaranteed by credit card. Phone the Holiday Inn Rosslyn directly at 703-807-2000 (Fax: 703-522-8864) or toll free at 1-800-281-4654.

Special rates are only valid for 18-23 OCT 2006, so make your reservation early! After 21 SEP, the Holiday Inn Rosslyn will accept reservations on a space available basis only.

NAVY NORMANDY MONUMENT UPDATE

We need \$500,000 to emplace a monument on Normandy's UTAH Beach to memorialize the U.S. Navy's D-Day performance in the epic Normandy Invasion! And we need the money by...when?

At the 2006 Surface Navy Association (SNA) Symposium held in Washington this past January, the Naval Order unveiled a 12" bronze model of the proposed Monument. The design drew rave comments from many sea-service history enthusiasts, including a number of retired flag officers. Photos of the model are on the Naval Order's website, www.navalorder.org.

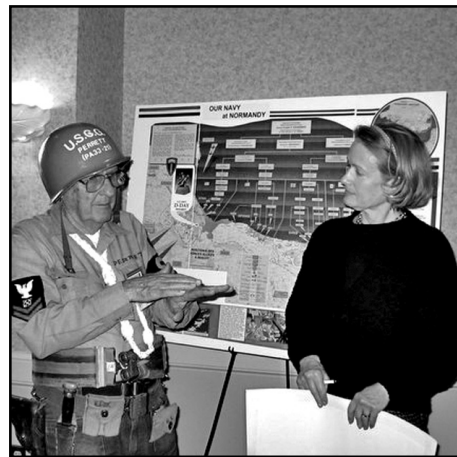
Naval Order Historian General Dean Mosher—himself a naval artist—and the Navy D-Day Monument Project Committee confirmed the cost of \$500,000 to manufacture, transport, and dedicate the Monument on the UTAH Beach site reserved by the French Government. In his letter to individual Companions in late 2005, Commander General Carter Conlin requested the financial support of every Companion. The Naval Order has revised its target date for the Monument's dedication to 6 June 2008. Now, to set up the contracts to meet the new target date, **we need to raise the total \$500,000 by April 2007.**

Here's a quick review for new Companions and friends as to why the Naval Order took on this important challenge:

- At Normandy, the contributions and sacrifices of all U.S. armed services and those of our Allies that took part in the D-Day Landings are commemorated—except for our Navy's!
- USN ships transported invasion troops, swept mines and provided gunfire support at UTAH and OMAHA Beaches, the

beaches assigned to U.S. forces. Navy landing craft and crews and their embarked soldiers suffered grievous losses, particularly at OMAHA Beach, against a well-entrenched, resourceful enemy. Navy Combat Demolition Units cleared the formidable German anti-landing obstacles and traps in the surf and ashore. Navy Beachmaster units struggled against the combined effects of fierce German resistance and adverse winds and currents, to overcome early chaos and organize the build up of men and supplies on the invasion beaches.

- The invasion's toll on the U.S. Navy included 1002 deaths. Between the dates of 5-12 June 1944, one troop transport, three destroyers, a destroyer escort, and two minesweepers were sunk, as well as nu-



WW II Coast Guard Vet Marv Perrett and Companion Jean Felger. Then-BM2 Perrett served in USS BAYFIELD, a Coast Guard-manned amphibious ship. As Cox'n of an LCVP, Perrett landed troops ashore at Normandy's UTAH Beach and in three other major battles.

merous landing craft.

The Commander General's letter noted that if just half of all Companions donated \$100 each, the resulting \$100,000 would provide seed money to build strong project momentum. Contributions from Companions total \$26,000 to date. Dr. Jack London, a Companion and president of CACI (a major defense consulting firm headquartered in Washington), advised project fundraisers that some corporate sponsors will tie their donations to contributions from within the Naval Order, as a measure of the Order's commitment to this project.

CDR Dan Felger, USN (Ret) chairs the Monument fundraising group. He reports that potential corporate donors include major defense contractors, and those contacted to date indicate that our commitment to raising funds by volunteers is a plus. Still, the Monument Project fundraising group needs help to boost the campaign's momentum. Felger asks that Companions with connections to Navy contractors or to national veterans' organizations or their local chapters provide contact information to him at danjeandc@verizon.net, cc to their respective Commandery commanders.

Editor's note: Corporate donors and non-members of the Naval Order are being asked to donate to the Project through the Naval Order of the United States Foundation, an IRS Code Sec. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For Companions—send your tax-deductible donations, payable to "Naval Order Normandy Monument Project," to CAPT Michele Lockwood, Treasurer General, 2222 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403.

NEW ORLEANS COMMANDERY RESUMES BUSINESS

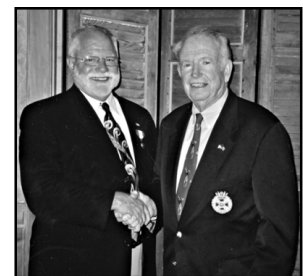
I was fortunate to join the New Orleans Commandery for its first meeting since the utter destruction of Hurricane Katrina. It was most unique to see Gary Bair and his Companions together and hear them exchange hurricane stories. Some lost everything—homes, personal effects, family members and friends—while others were lucky enough to escape with only structural damage to their houses. CAPT John Rice spent a harrowing three days in the attic of his home before he was rescued via helicopter, and even then his drama didn't end! As someone who experienced this disaster only at a distance, I felt awed by the stamina and upbeat attitudes of our

Companions in New Orleans. The Naval Order is alive and moving forward in that city, as I believe we'll see firsthand at the 2008 National Congress.

Though I attended primarily to demonstrate the Naval Order's outside support to the Commandery, I also wanted to present Gary with my Commander General's Medal in person. "Commitment, Service and Excellence" is the motto appearing on the medal and those qualities are the basis for this award. Gary met these criteria, and then some. The 2005 Congress was to have been the second National Congress he chaired; he has already stepped forward again for 2008. No doubt,

"third time's the charm" for the Naval Order in New Orleans.

—CAPT Fred Hawkins
Immediate Past Commander General



Gary Bair and Fred Hawkins

Catching Up with the Commanderies

Arizona — CDR Larry Bahill, USNR (Ret) spoke at the Commandery's January meeting in Pheonix. An Admissions Field Rep for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy,



Larry told about the establishment of the U.S. Merchant Marine and of the USMMA at King's Point, NY. His talk began with the early history of the U.S.

Merchant Marine—including its first war-time role in 1775, when a group of Maine mariners boarded an unarmed schooner and captured the British warship, HMS MARGARETTA. Larry also described important events in the Merchant service from WWII through today, with an overview of the current U.S. Merchant Marine structure.

Hampton Roads – VADM Mark P. Fitzgerald, USN, Commander US Second Fleet/Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic was guest of honor at HRD's 2005 Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner. The event incorporated the Commandery's popular "Living History" theme with a display of Pacific Theater memorabilia by Lt. Col. Jeff Christman, USMC (Ret), HRD's Vice Commander and Historian.



World War II vets Harvey S. "Buddy" Whitaker, CAPT Roy Werthmuller, and CAPT Prentice Cushing with new Companion VADM Fitzgerald



The Hon. Peter Holland with Prentice Cushing. Judge Holland was one of five Marines in his platoon to survive the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Companions also took part in a ceremony aboard USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) honoring survivors of the Iwo Jima invasion and other veterans of World War II. The ceremony began with the haunting sound of Jeff Christman on bagpipes, played from high above the crew and the guests seated on the flight deck.

Illinois — Senator Bob Mitchler traveled to Guam and Iwo Jima in March for a whirlwind Military Historical Tour marking the 61st anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Iwo Jima itself for a commemoration ceremony at the island's permanent memorial. While touring several caves and tunnels on the island, the group encountered the Japanese Iwo Jima Veterans Association, also there for the 61st anniversary. Among the Japanese dignitaries were Mr. Kyusyi Endoh, chairman of the Japanese Iwo-Jima Veterans Association; Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, grandson of LTGEN Kuribayashi (the senior Japanese military officer on the island during the invasion); Mr. Yuoshio Mori, former Prime Minister and Chairman of Iwo Jima Problems Council; and Mr. Shintaro Ito, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The American group totaled 79, including 20 Young Marines. These Young Marines, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, were all high school students and provided great help to the WW II vets.

Monterey Bay – the Commandery joined with the Navy League Monterey Peninsula Council and other military and civilian organizations to commemorate the attack on Pearl Harbor. CAPT Wayne P. Hughes, Jr., USN (Ret), Dean of the Graduate School of Operational and Information Science at Naval Postgraduate School, gave a powerful presentation on "How Pearl Harbor Transformed the Fleet Forever."

LT Casey Mahon, USN, relieved CAPT Ken Johnson, USN (Ret), at a February dinner marking the 11th year of the Commandery's founding. LT Mahon's remarks at the installation of officers focused on preparations for the 2007 National Congress in Monterey. One highlight already planned for the Congress is a panel discussion on "Air Ships – Carrier Ships and the Influence on Sea Power," to be chaired by Dean Hughes.

New Orleans – the Commandery recently heard first-hand from two leaders of the enormous search, rescue, and recovery operations conducted in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



RADM Bob Duncan and LT Craig Murray flank Gary Bair and Fred Hawkins. Forty New Orleans companions learned of the historic and heroic exploits of Coast Guardsmen during Hurricane Katrina.

Naval Order companion RADM Robert Duncan, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District headquartered in New Orleans, gave the "big picture" of the total forces he commanded. 4350 Coast Guard personnel combined to save a record 24,135 lives and affect 9409 medical evacuations. Their assets included 26 cutters, 38 helicopters, 14 fixed wing aircraft, 119 boats, and over 40 specialized teams. They also worked 1223 pollution cases and 845 wreck removals. On a much more personal level, LT Craig Murray, whose helo made the first rescue while the storm still raged, showed video footage of an actual recovery of a mother and new-born baby.

Immediate Past Commander General, CAPT Fred Hawkins, flew in to attend the March dinner and present his CG's medal to CAPT Gary Bair for organizing the "greatest NOUS Congress we never had."



SET YOUR SIGHTS



on the Naval Order's
DC Congress
19-21 October!

Texas – The Commandery held its 20th annual Pearl Harbor Memorial aboard USS Texas BB35, proud guests of the Battleship Texas Foundation for this time-honored event. The ceremony gives special recognition to the veterans of the Pearl Harbor attack for their devoted service. This year’s memorial featured a 21-gun salute by the Rifle Squad U.S. Marine Corps, First Battalion, 23rd Marines, as well as patriotic music performed by the Houston Brass Band. Mr. Barry Ward, noted historian and Life Companion of the Naval Order, delivered the keynote address. Outgoing Commandery Commander CAPT Martine Myers presented a wreath to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Six Pearl Harbor survivors attended the memorial, including Companions STC Howard Snell and CPO Luke Trahin.



From left are NOUS Commander General Carter Conlin, Barry Ward, Howard Snell, Bob Youngman, Luke Trahin, George Hemingway, and Martine Myers.

San Francisco – the Commandery held its Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Dinner at the Marines’ Memorial Club, in downtown San Francisco. VADM Terrance T. Etnyre, USN, Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet addressed the attendees. His remarks included one of the Navy’s most



Seated, from left: RADM Del Beumer, SC, USNR (Ret), his wife Marty, and RADM Doug Moore, SC, USNR (Ret). Standing: Lillian Etcheverry, CAPT Martin McNair, USNR (Ret), and Marti and RADM Tom Brown, USN (Ret)

important initiatives, the integration of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) into the U.S. fleet. Of note, the LCS has gone from concept to introduction in approximately six years.

RADM Russell W. Gorman, USNR (Ret) served as President of the Mess, with 70 officers and guests—including nine Flag Officers—present. Following the traditional after-dinner toasts, CAPT Attilio “Al” Serafini, SC, USNR (Ret) relieved RADM Gorman as Commandery Commander.



RADM Gorman prepares to introduce VADM Etnyre

Be it Resolved . . .

Each year the National Congress accomplishes many things, including decisions regarding the Naval Order’s list of Annual Resolutions. These resolutions determine those sea service issues or projects of significant historical importance for our organization to push at the national level. Submit Resolution proposals to: CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret) Commander General 5583 Beverly Hill Street Houston, TX 77056-6801 or by email to: cbconlin@houston.rr.com

For more info about format or procedures, contact:

CAPT John R. Wheeler, USNR (Ret) Resolutions Committee Chairman at 813-788-7408 or captjrw@aol.com.

NEW COMPANIONS

1OCT05-30MAR06

FLORIDA FIRST COAST

Mr. John T. Duchesneau

HAMPTON ROADS

VADM Mark P. Fitzgerald, USN
RMC William A. Mereno, USN
CAPT Russell H. Van Brimer, USN
RADM Norman C. Venzke, USCG

MONTEREY BAY

Mr. Robert Beck
CAPT Davis Buckey, USN
COL Charles Erickson, USMC
LT Timothy P. McGeehan, USN
SSG Alan B. Richmond, USMC
CDR Keith Robinson, USN
Mr. George S. Springer

NATIONAL CAPITOL

LT Lamar H. Cason, USNR
Mr. Arden D. Elliott
CMDRCM Carl S. Jones, USN
LCDR Charles H. Nalls, USNR
CAPT Richard L. Wright, USN
RADM Richard E. Young, USN

NEW ORLEANS

Mr. Jacques P. De Le Vergne
CDR Merrill L. Talbott, USN

NEW YORK

Mr. Joseph J. Buff
Mr. Philip A. Fleming
LTJG Ivan Obolensky, USNR

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

LT Robert J. Gagnon, USNR
CAPT Jerry H. Rovner, USN
DCG-3 Victor H. Schumacher, USNR
LT Richard J. Stephens, USN

SAN DIEGO

CAPT Gary M. Hughes, USN
LT Michael J. Weaver, USNR
Mrs. Valerie S. Weaver

SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. Leon F. Artac
Mr. James D. Bartha
CAPT David L. Buckey, USN
LT John A. Carlson, USN
CAPT John G. Day, USN
VADM Terrance T. Etnyre, USN
LT John W. Finn, USN
CAPT Carl T. Gamble, USN
LCDR William A. Hardenstine, USNR
CAPT John K. Hassenplug, USN
FTC Robert B. King, USNR
CAPT William J. Lambden, USN
Mr. Michael T. Nemey
CAPT Herbert C. Thurman, USNR
AT1 Gary W. Towery, USNR
Mr. Robert L. Wood

SOUTHWEST

CDR William G. Trainor, USNR

TEXAS

STG-3 Terry L. Miller, USNR

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT ALSO A NOUS COMPANION



From left are San Francisco Companions LCDR Michael Brayer, SC, USNR (Ret); CAPT John Hassenplug, SC, USNR (Ret); LT John Finn, USN (Ret); and CAPT Attilio Serafini, SC, USNR (Ret). All four are also members of the USS HANCOCK CV/CVA 19 Association and represent the beginning and end of the service life of that carrier. LT Finn served on USS HANCOCK after the ship was commissioned and active in WWII in the Pacific. CAPT Hassenplug served on HANCOCK at the time it was decommissioned—after the ship saw action in the Vietnam War and was involved in rescuing “boat people” at the end of that conflict.

LT John William Finn, USN (Ret), the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, became one of the newest Naval Order Companions at the San Francisco Commandery’s Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner in December 2005. The event took place 64 years to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The official MoH Citation reads in part:

“During the first attack by Japanese airplanes on the Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay...LT Finn promptly secured and manned a .50-caliber machinegun mounted on an instruction stand in a completely exposed section of the parking ramp, which was under heavy enemy machine gun strafing fire. Although painfully wounded many times, he continued to man this gun and to return the enemy’s

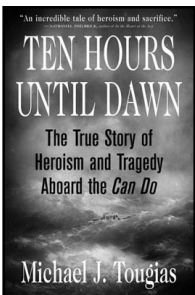
fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks and with complete disregard for his own personal safety. It was only by specific orders that he was persuaded to leave his post to seek medical attention. Following first aid treatment, although obviously suffering much pain and moving with great difficulty, he returned to the squadron area and actively supervised the rearming of returning planes.”

When Navy personnel finally got John Finn to the hospital, doctors found he had more than 40 wounds. LT Finn was in recovery at the Naval Hospital for several months.

Admiral Chester Nimitz presented the award, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt, to LT Finn aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6). It was the first Medal of Honor awarded in World War II.

THE OTHER PERFECT STORM AND FORGOTTEN HEROES

Isn’t this familiar? Hundreds of homes crushed by storm surge, residents fleeing to attics and rooftops, people swept out to sea, and thousands trapped in their cars. Could be stories from Hurricane Katrina or the Tsunami that hit Southeast Asia, but this also happened in New England during the Blizzard of February 1978. With winds reaching 100 miles/hour, four-foot snows, and a 20-foot storm surge, the region suffered over a billion dollars in damage with 99 people dead. As with Katrina, during the Blizzard some heroes risked their own lives to rescue others. This is the story of one such act of courage:



At the height of the storm, the GLOBAL HOPE, a Greek-registered tanker, radioed a mayday: *“Coast Guard! We are in a dangerous place! Water in the engine room! Our hull is broken!”*

The tanker was foundering in the shoal-riddled waters of Salem Sound, just off Massachusetts. Coast Guard Station Gloucester heard the plea and dispatched two cutters and a patrol boat, but very shortly, the patrol boat too was in trouble, lost in the storm with no radar.

Back in Gloucester, Frank Quirk, captain of the 50’ pilot boat CAN DO, monitored the marine radio. He and his four-man crew grew increasingly concerned,

particularly when they heard about the patrol boat’s malfunctioning radar.

Quirk made his decision, and radioed the Coast Guard that the CAN DO was underway to find the lost patrol boat and lead it back to safety. As the vessel left Gloucester the storm intensified, with waves up to 30’.

Halfway to Salem Sound, Quirk raised Station Gloucester: *“My radar went over with a big crash. So if I can get turned around, I’ll be awhile getting back...I’ll be taking it slow.”* Although his voice was matter-of-fact, Quirk knew that he and his crew were in serious trouble.

He managed to turn the pilot boat and slowly plow northeast toward Gloucester, with the waves now breaking on the vessel’s bow instead of the stern. After an hour an enormous wave smashed into the CAN DO and blew the windshield apart. Quirk was at the wheel when the fist of water and broken glass struck him, cutting his face and neck.

The next radio message came from crewmate Charlie Bucko, former Coast Guardsman and Vietnam Vet. His voice was tense: *“This is not a drill! Mayday!”* The radio went silent, then Charlie was back: *“We’re in shoal waters. Our windshield is out. Position unknown. Action extremely violent.”*

The crew stuffed mattresses into the broken windshield, and with remarkable seamanship were able to motor off the shoals. They kept the boat afloat through the next four hours, and Quirk recovered

enough to resume control. In the early morning, he sent one more message, indicating they continued to fight the seas: *“We’re getting pretty wet up here. Hatch is loose and we’re going to try to move aft. Sure wish we could raise some power...but we’re making it.”*

In the end, the seas won that battle. All five on the CAN DO perished, though ironically, the lost patrol boat found its way to harbor. And the tanker GLOBAL HOPE was found intact and hard aground, its crewmembers shaken but alive.

The story of the Blizzard of ’78 and the CAN DO is told in *Ten Hours Until Dawn*, by Michael Tougias. The book has just been released in paperback and as an audio book. The audio version includes actual radio communications from the boats caught in the storm.



STEADY ON COURSE, MATES



**for the Naval Order’s
DC Congress, 19-21 October!**

NEW DDG HONORS VIETNAM WAR HERO

In January, the U.S. Navy announced that its newest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer will be named in honor of VADM James Bond Stockdale (1923-2005). USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) is scheduled for delivery in 2008 and will be the 56th ship in her class.



ADM Mike Mullen, CNO, presents a photo of USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) to VADM Stockdale's widow, Sybil. U.S. Navy photo by GSE3 Andrew Korenkov.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please advise the NOUS Registrar General of all changes of address to assure delivery of *Naval History Magazine*, NOUS News, and other important mail from the General Commandery. Send address changes to:

Mr. Chris Cummings
P.O. Box 1702
Allen, TX 75013-9998
or c_cummings@comcast.net

AVIATION LEGEND "TEX" HILL RECEIVES NIMITZ LEADERSHIP AWARD

The evening of 14 January marked the Texas Commandery's 20th Annual Banquet and presentation of the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Leadership Award. This year's honoree was Brig. Gen. David Lee "Tex" Hill, Texas Air National Guard.

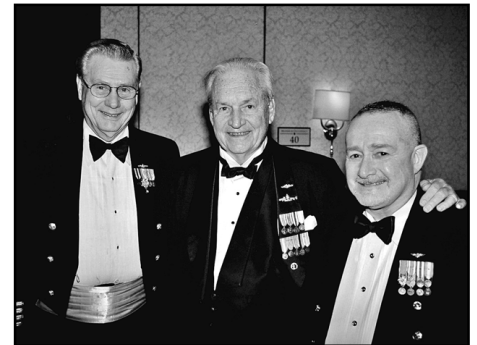


"Tex" Hill with CAPT Carter Conlin

"Tex" entered the U.S. Navy Aviation Cadet Program after college and received his commission in 1939. He served as a pilot aboard USS SARATOGA (CV 3), USS RANGER (CV 4) and one cruise in USS Yorktown (CV 5) before joining Claire Chennault's famous American Volunteer Group (AVG)/Flying Tigers in 1941.

While leading the AVG's 2nd Squadron, the Panda Bears, "Tex" downed more than 12 Japanese planes. His feats were so well-known that John Wayne modeled his character in the 1942 film "Flying Tigers" on Hill.

When the AVG disbanded on 4 July 1942, Hill stayed on as a USAAF major with General Chennault and became the first commander of the 75th FS, 23rd FG. "Tex" returned to China in 1943 as a colonel to command the 23rd FG and added six more victories to his tally. His last wartime assignment in 1945 was as commander of the 412th FG—the first jet aircraft group in the Army Air Force. In 1947, he took command of the Texas Air National Guard and became the youngest brigadier general in the Guard's history at age 31. "Tex" holds the Distinguished Service Cross among his many military decorations, and is truly an "aviation legend" in his time!



From left, newly-elected Commandery Commander CAPT Dean Hill with CAPT Zeb Alford and CAPT Woe King at the Texas Banquet and Installation of Officers

JOHN PAUL JONES: AMERICA'S FIRST SEA WARRIOR

RADM Joseph Callo, USNR (Ret) of the New York Commandery, has written a new view of one of the best-known naval heroes. Published by the Naval Institute Press, the book establishes John Paul Jones firmly as a key player in the War of Independence, relating Jones' dramatic military achievements within the context of his times, rather than as stand-alone events.

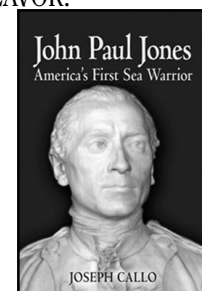
RADM Callo focuses on several interesting but less well-known aspects of John Paul Jones' naval career. He uses the often-difficult dealings between Jones and such civilian leaders as Benjamin Franklin to illustrate the formation of our nation's concept of civilian control of the military.

He also analyzes Jones' brief tour in the Russian navy of Catherine the Great, at a time when there was no active Continental Navy command for Jones.

The publicity material says, "instead of looking at Jones in a rear view mirror, [Callo] illuminates how this unique naval hero is linked to our present and future. As a result, he has given us a sea saga that can tell us much about our own lives and times."

A former Public Affairs Officer, RADM Callo held civilian positions in advertising and as a television producer. He now writes full time, and has authored several books about the Royal Navy's most famous hero,

Horatio Nelson. He was *Naval History Magazine's* 1998 Author of the Year. He learned to sail at age 13, and he skips sailboats up to 50' in length in the Caribbean. He also crewed in the full-scale reproduction of Captain Cook's square-rigged bark ENDEAVOR.



SEA SERVICE HISTORY, BROUGHT TO LIFE

The Hampton Roads Commandery, with about 40 Companions, offers a unique series of events in its "Living History" evenings. Under the guidance of CDR Eric Dietrich Berryman, USN (Ret), these happen about once a month, each in different settings and cities around Hampton Roads—such as the Old Coast Guard Station on the Virginia Beach oceanfront, the Virginia War Museum in Newport News, or the 1907 Jamestown Exposition's Carolina House at Norfolk Naval Station. More often than not, the meetings have no business portion. Rather, a group of like-minded folks gather for an evening of period music or an interesting lecture. Often, some fascinating artifacts are on display.

At one such event in January, Lt. Col. Jeff Christman, USMC (Ret), HRD's Vice Commander and Historian, brought a group of fellow musicians from the Liberty Hall Fife and Drum Corps along to a Naval Order gathering. They played traditional melodies and demonstrated how orders were passed aboard ship and on the battlefield using musical instruments. Lt. Col. Christman also gave the assembly a taste of his skill on the bugle.



Members of the Liberty Hall Fife and Drum Corps

On the same evening, CAPT Chris Melhuish, USN, 65th CO of USS CONSTITUTION, described the history of the U. S. Navy's oldest commissioned vessel – and the NOUS Honorary Flag Ship – in inspiring detail. Also that night, HRD companions admired a museum-quality display of rare swords and dirks of the 18th and 19th centuries, and from Imperial Japan.



Al Hennessey plays a medley of the Great War's greatest hits

Another Commandery event focused on the First World War. CAPT Al Hennessey, USN (Ret), played piano while Companions and guests sang along with favorites like "Oh! How I Hate To Get Up in the Morning," "Pack Up Your Troubles," and "Goodbye Broadway, Hello France." Jeff Christman gave the group an authoritative talk about the art of Belleau Wood. The evening was made even more memorable with Jeff's amazing collection of American, British and German WWI materials on display. He even made it possible to experience the 'fog of war'...via dry ice!

The "Living History" series means Companions enjoy a broad range of topics, at widely varying venues, and often on a more meaningful level than at a business meeting with a guest speaker limited to 20 or

30 minutes. Of course, not every member makes it to every event. But, every attendee does leave with a richer understanding of a time, place, or happening in the history of the American sea service.



"Kaiser Wilhelm" greets CAPT Ron Johnson



From left, Jeff Christman, Eric Dietrich Berryman, and Al Hennessey muster for the trenches of WWI

NOUS NEWS is published quarterly by the General Commandery Naval Order of the United States PO Box 2714 Merrifield, VA 22116-2714.

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NOUS NEWS

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES
National Capitol Commandery, Washington, D.C.
2006 National Congress Registration Form
19-22 OCT 2006

Mail this completed form to the address below. *NOTE:* Make hotel reservations directly with the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge, 1-800-281-4654. The Congress Registration Committee cannot take hotel reservations.

Name/Rank _____ Home Phone No. () _____
Life Member? _____ Bus. Phone No. () _____
Address _____ Cell Phone No. () _____
_____ Attending Spouse/Guest(s) _____
_____ Life Member? _____ Associate Member? _____ Non-Member?
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Arrival Date _____ Time _____
Work E-Mail: _____ Departure Date _____ Time _____
Home E-Mail: _____ Your Commandery _____

Registration fee of \$195 (\$225 after 1 September 2006) includes:
Congress Fee, Commander General's Reception, Hospitality Room, two Continental Breakfasts,
Coffee Breaks, two Lunches, and the Formal DSSA Banquet.

Optional Events

Thursday, 19 OCT 2006, CONGRESS KICKOFF: "Splicing the Main Brace" at the Navy's oldest shipyard.
Heavy hors d'oeuvres and program at the Navy Museum with brief bus tour of night time DC before return to hotel.
Price includes bus transportation to and from event.
Number of reservations _____ @ \$40 per person = \$ _____

Sunday, 22 OCT 2006, trip to either: Baltimore Inner Harbor or the National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (near Washington Dulles International Airport). Both trips will be about five hours.
Number of reservations for Baltimore Inner Harbor (includes transportation and lunch)
_____ @ \$40 per person = \$ _____

OR

Number of reservations for National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (transportation only; lunch not included)
_____ @ \$20 per person = \$ _____

Registration Fees \$ _____
plus Optional Event Fees \$ _____
Check enclosed for Total \$ _____

Name(s) for Name Tag: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

C'MON ABOARD



**for the Naval Order's DC Congress,
19-21 October!**

Make check payable to: **National Capitol Commandery, NOUS** and mail Registration Form and payment to:

CAPT David Kaiser, USN (Ret)
2908 Langholm Place
Vienna, VA 22181

for more info:
phone: (703) 938-7388 or
email: kaisernav@cox.net

Spouses' Program

White House Tour, morning of Friday, October 20 (no fee). Senator John Warner's office is working with us to arrange a White House tour. His staff reports a 70% approval rate. We'll have an answer by September 20. **The White House requires advance submission of participants' full names and social security numbers**, so if our tour request is approved, the deadline for reservations would be October 13. Please let us know (see form below) how we can contact you for additional information. If you don't mind submitting your full name and social security number now, please do so. ***If our request is approved, you must bring two forms of photo ID to participate in the tour.***

Hillwood Tour, 2-5 pm Friday, October 20 (\$10 fee). Advance Reservation and payment required. Hillwood Museum and Gardens is the former home of Marjorie Merriwether Post, heiress to the Post Cereal Company (now General Foods Corporation). The mansion in upper Northwest Washington D.C. features her world-renowned collections of French decorative and Russian imperial art (including two Faberge "Easter Eggs" made for the family of Czar Nicolas). The 25-acre estate boasts a variety of pleasure gardens. We have arranged for self-guided audio tours of the Mansion (about 1 hours) and Gardens (about 45 minutes). The Naval Order's Friday luncheon will conclude by 1:30 pm to permit departure for Hillwood tour participants. Hillwood requires a deposit and preliminary count by September 20 and a final count and payment by October 11. Please include the completed form below and a check for \$10 per participant payable to Jean Herz-Felger when you submit your registration for the Congress.

Other activities for spouses will be announced at registration. Registration packets will contain information about current exhibits and cultural activities in the Washington DC area. Most are accessible by cab or by Metro via Rosslyn Station, adjacent to the Holiday Inn Rosslyn.

We need your replies by September 13. If possible, please also email reply directly to Jean Herz-Felger (danjeandc@verizon.net) so she may keep an up-to-date count for planning purposes. Call Jean with any questions at 202-488-8268.

A) Hillwood: 2-5 pm, Friday October 20

Name(s): _____

\$10 check(s) enclosed _____ (please make payable to Jean Herz-Felger)

B) White House Tour (subject to approval): morning of Friday October 20

(Yes) _____(No) _____ If yes, please indicate how we may contact you in late September for social security number(s) and full names(s) as required by White House security.

Email: _____ and/or phone number _____

PLEASE REPLY BY SEPTEMBER 13 — email danjeandc@verizon.net

**Complete this form and send it with your Congress registration to: CAPT David Kaiser, USN (Ret)
2908 Langholm Place
Vienna, VA 22181**