



COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER

Our Normandy Monument Project continues to grow through the hard work of CAPT Greg Streeter, CDR Dan Felger, CDR Bob Averill and many others. Significantly, we received a letter of support from former President George Bush, and other letters from prominent citizens and government leaders. Such endorsement adds great credibility to our project. Donations so far total over \$43,000, with the campaign to contact large defense corporations just getting underway.

Well over half the sum collected so far comes from 238 Companions, following my appeal of late 2005. By all standards, this was an excellent response! However, I ask the nearly 1600 Companions who have not yet contributed to please read the update on page 3, and send your donation to the address provided. We will make the Navy Normandy Monument a reality only with your help.

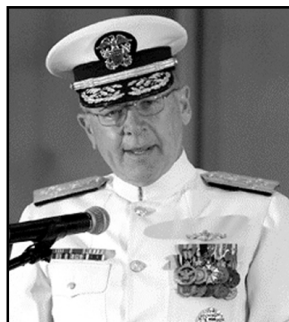
I was privileged to address the Navy League's annual convention in mid-July and was very well received. Representatives picked up all the available brochures to take back to their home councils. One council president invited me to give the same presentation to his members, and I will make that trip soon. Any of our Companions can do the same using the material on our website, www.navalorder.org, and the Project brochure. The Navy League featured our Monument Project in their March 2006 *Seapower* magazine. The Naval Institute also published an excellent, detailed article by CAPT Greg Streeter and Dick Kirschten in the June 2006 *Naval History* magazine.

The NOUS General Council recently approved two items for ratification at the 2006 National Congress. First was the Benefactor Program proposed by CAPT Dave Kaiser, VCG-Development. This provides mechanisms for various sources to donate to the Naval Order, and includes a corporate partner program. Second, Mr. Frank Green, a hereditary legacy descended from Oliver Hazard Perry, has stepped up as Registrar General to relieve Mr. Chris Cummings. We thank Chris for bridging the gap following the loss of CAPT Jan

Armstrong. We also welcome Frank, who comes with ample on-the-job training after serving as Assistant to both his predecessors.

CAPT Walt Steiner chairs the 2006 Annual Congress Host Committee for the National Capitol Commandery. Walt has advised of some of the attractions for the Congress scheduled for 19-22 OCT at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge, Arlington, VA. We are fortunate to have three highly esteemed speakers scheduled to address the Congress. ADM Vern Clark, recently retired as CNO, will receive the *Distinguished Sea Service Award* and speak at our Saturday night Banquet. Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Hon. Gordon England, will receive the *Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award* at the Friday luncheon. Our Saturday luncheon speaker will be ADM Thad Allen, Commandant of the USCG, who played such a prominent role during Hurricane Katrina. We will hear the latest news from our Normandy Monument Project along with the stories of several D-Day combat veterans. Many other interesting activities in the Washington, DC area are planned for your entertainment. A Congress Registration Form is included in this mailing. Plan early to attend, and we hope to see you there!

Best regards,
Carter B. Conlin
CAPT, USN (Ret)



ADM CLARK, 27TH CNO TO RECEIVE DSSA FOR 2006

ADM Vernon E. Clark will join NOUS Companions at the Gala Awards Banquet

on the evening of Saturday, 21 OCT to be honored as this year's *Distinguished Sea Service Award* recipient.

ADM Clark's tenure of five years makes him the second-longest serving CNO. Only ADM Arleigh Burke, another destroyerman, served longer in that post. After his retirement from the U.S. Navy in July 2005, ADM Clark was elected to the board of directors of Raytheon. He currently serves as Distinguished Professor of Leadership at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.

N.B.: The Chief of Naval Information's website offers in-depth material relating to ADM Clark's leadership, including links to news articles, his speeches and interviews, and complete military biography. You can find this at: www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/clark-index.



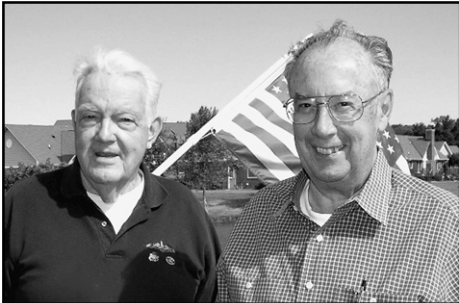
FORMER SECNAV NAMED FOR DEWEY AWARD

The National Awards Committee has selected the Hon. Gordon R. England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, to receive the *Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award*. This award honors an individual with distinguished senior service to the U.S. Navy, the Nation and the American people and whose exceptional leadership in the highest echelons of Federal Service continually advances the paramount interest of the United States and its Sea Services. The presentation will take place at our 2006 National Congress Award Luncheon on Friday, 20 OCT.

Mr. England has twice led the Navy-Marine Corps Team as Secretary of the Navy, and also served as the first Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Before joining the current administration, he held several executive positions at General Dynamics. See his complete biography on the Web at www.defenselink.mil/bios.

CATCHING UP WITH THE COMMANDERIES

Hampton Roads — RADM Donald Perry Hall, USN (Ret) spoke at a recent Living History evening about his service in the Navy's first nuclear powered submarine, USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571). NAUTILUS made the first transpolar voyage across the North Pole in 1958. This historic achievement earned the crew the Presidential Unit Citation, the first such award for extraordinary action in peacetime.



CAPT Prentice Cushing, Jr, USN (Ret) selected then ENS Hall (right) for duty in USS SIRAGO (SS 485) in 1952.

Monterey Bay – The Commandery commemorated the 64th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway with a Dining Out at Naval Postgraduate School. NPS President RDML Richard H. Wells was guest speaker. Guests of honor included Mrs. Lois Roberts, widow of RADM Wilbur Roberts, and CDR and Mrs. Bill Cullin. Then-ENS Roberts flew off USS ENTERPRISE in the Battle of Midway and took part in the raid that sank the Japanese carrier AKAGI. Bill Cullen was another young ensign at the battle, a member of VP-44, which first sighted the Japanese fleet at Midway and later rescued ENS George Gay, the only survivor of Torpedo Squadron Eight.

In July, our Commandery participated in the 160th Anniversary of the Landing of Commodore John Drake Sloat at Monterey Bay. Sloat's landing in Monterey harbor is an important event in America history. His proclamation to the inhabitants of Mexican California on 7 JUL 1842 sowed the seeds for an American West that would expand U.S. territory from sea to shining sea. California attained statehood less than three years later. The site of this historic landing will be just one of many local features for Companions to tour during the next National Congress in Monterey, 19-21 OCT 2007.

San Francisco – Founded on 4 JUL 1950, the SFR Commandery celebrated its own birthday along with Independence Day at the July luncheon meeting. The event also honored all our past Commandery com-

manders, with every living Past Commander in attendance. RADM James V. Grealish, USN (Ret)—whose term ended over 40 years ago!—was the senior Past Commander present.



SFR Past Commanders (from left): CAPT Fred Hawkins (Immediate Past CG, 2003-05), CAPT Stan Ellexson, Jr. (1998-99), RADM Doug Moore (1999-01), RADM James Grealish (1964-65), RADM Russell W. Gorman (2004-05)

South East Florida – SEF Commandery, along with Boca-Delray Council of the Navy League, is making plans early for this year's Pearl Harbor Remembrance, to be held at the Marriott Boca Center in Boca Raton, FL. Regrettably, we missed marking the date in 2005 because of the illness and subsequent death of Col Ed Resnik, who spear-

headed the past two annual events. We are fortunate this year to have RADM Nelson Heyer and CAPT George Baldwin—both very active in our Commandery and the local NLUS Council—handle the upcoming luncheon, which will also remember those who perished on 9/11.

Texas – on 6 JUN, the Commandery held a combined luncheon meeting with our local Navy League council and the Houston Military Affairs Committee. Guest speaker for the event was Anthony P. Tully, co-author of Shattered Sword, the untold story of the Battle of Midway. Mr. Tully's definitive book brings to light a great deal of previously unreported information about the battle.



From left: CAPT Carter Conlin, Commander General, CAPT Dean Hill, Texas Commandery Commander, Mr. Tully, FC2 Lewis LaGessee, Pearl Harbor survivor, STC Howard Snell, Battle of Midway veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, and Chief Luke Trahin, Pearl Harbor survivor.

FORMER POW HONORS VP-45 SAILOR

By LTJG Toby Hall, USN

CAPT Dick Stratton and CAPT Greg Streeter, Commander of the First Coast Commandery, visited VP-45 in MAY to present the **RADM Thurston H. James Award** to LTJG Cale Johnson. The Naval Order presents this award each year to recognize "Outstanding Performance as a Naval Flight Officer." The award was established in 1965 by the General Commandery of the Naval Order and the Chief of Naval Air Training in memory of RADM Thurston James, who was designated a Naval Aviator in 1928, and follow-



LTJG Cale Johnson and his wife Kim, with CAPT Greg Streeter (left) and CAPT Dick Stratton

ing his retirement, served as Commander General of the Naval Order.

CAPT Stratton, a member of the First Coast Commandery, is a retired Naval Aviator who spent over five years as a POW in North Vietnam, mostly at the "Hanoi Hilton." He is known for his forced "confession" and bowing to the Vietnamese in March 1967, when he undermined the Vietnamese by pretending to be delirious and confused. It was a perfect example of resistance and defiance against his captors. He took time to share his POW experiences with the members of VP-45 following the award ceremony. CAPT Stratton left the Pelican Sailors fully appreciative of the "Honor, Courage, and Commitment" demonstrated by the POWs during their time of captivity.

CAPT Streeter spoke briefly about the history and mission of the Naval Order. He also told of the current campaign to erect a monument at Normandy commemorating the U.S. Navy's critical role in the invasion of Europe.

NORMANDY D-DAY MONUMENT CAMPAIGN GETS STRONG ENDORSEMENTS, SUPPORT

Know any Companions still “sitting on the fence,” waiting to see if the Navy Normandy D-Day Monument campaign could develop the necessary momentum before making their donates to the Naval Order’s national campaign?

If so, please tell these colleagues about recent significant developments:

- **Endorsements by former President George H. W. Bush, Senators Bob Dole and John McCain, and two Medal of Honor recipients.** Here’s what retired SEN Dole—an Army veteran grievously wounded during combat in Italy, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and leader of the national campaign that emplaced the World War II Memorial on the Mall—wrote:

History records the allied D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944 as the largest amphibious operation ever undertaken. Eight American warships were sunk and a thousand Sailors were killed, yet no monument exists in Normandy to honor the US Navy’s role in that epic battle. The Naval Order’s campaign to erect a monument on UTAH Beach will change that. I urge you to support this long overdue tribute to service and sacrifice.

- **Encouragement by the Secretary of the Navy.** Federal law prohibits official endorsement of projects involving fundraising. Even so, at a mid-April briefing in the Pentagon, Asst. SecNav William A. Navas, Jr. encouraged the Naval Order to proceed as we confirmed these key aspects of the D-day Monument Project:

- Design approval by the American Battle Monuments Commission
- NO Government funds involved
- ALL fundraising and related activities performed voluntarily by Naval Order Companions and NO use of paid consultants
- French government support for the project through donation of land for the Monument and commitment to maintain it in perpetuity
- IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) non-profit status of the Naval Order of the United States Foundation

- **Support from National and Veterans Organizations.** The Navy Club of the USA and American War Orphans Network have officially endorsed the Monu-

ment Project and pledged donations. Regarding larger organizations, we anticipate endorsement by the American Legion, and we are working with the national leaders of the Navy League, VFW, and others to secure recognition of the Monument Project and its introduction into their respective councils, posts, chapters and lodges. Rather than asking for donations from the national headquarters of such organizations, the Naval Order will request that local councils and chapters be empowered to donate individually to the Monument Project. *Companions who are members of the Navy League and other patriotic organizations can promote this “tribute to service and sacrifice” within their own service groups.*

- **Publicity.** The June issue of *Naval History* magazine carried an excellent feature about honoring our Navy at Normandy, read by many Companions and other subscribers. To mark the 2006 D-Day anniversary, more than 20 newspapers around the nation carried a feature by Scripps-Howard’s nationally syndicated news service on the Monument Project. Endorsements by the VFW and other national groups will surely result in even more favorable publicity.

The view eight months after launching the Monument Project looks bright. Still, hard work remains. In the vital area of corporate donations, Fundraising Group Chairman Dan Felger reports that Navy Federal Credit Union, the world’s largest credit union, has invited us to make a formal presentation. But Exxon Corporation and Booz Allen Hamilton—two businesses with extensive historical ties to the U. S. Navy—rejected our initial sponsorship requests that combined business-related and patriotic appeals.

Felger remains confident that corporations will provide much of our \$500,000 goal. The overall success of Campaign Chairman Greg Streeter’s groundwork in garnering national endorsements, providing proof-of-concept to senior Navy civilian leaders, establishing awareness, and fostering organizational relationships now lets us focus specifically on fundraising.

That raises a final point. One-quarter of our Companions have already made donations to the Navy Normandy D-Day Monument. Those still considering should

heed the endorsement of SEN Dole and send their own “tribute to service and sacrifice” to: *Naval Order Normandy Monument Project, CAPT Michele Lockwood, Treasurer General, 2222 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403.* More specifics on how to contribute are available by calling toll-free 1-866-794-DDAY (1-866-794-3329). Callers can also request info on the project by leaving a recorded message at this number.

★ ★ ★

NORMANDY: A VIEW FROM THE SURF

Both Allied and Axis commanders at Normandy knew that victory would go to the side that could reinforce and re-equip more quickly than its enemy. The unique ability of American officers and non-coms to seize the initiative gave the Allies an advantage. Companions at the 2006 National Congress will meet one of these fine officers, and other Normandy vets, at our reception on Thursday, 19 OCT at Washington’s world-class Navy Museum.



At left, Mort Caplin recounts his experiences as a Beachmaster with Dan Felger, Fundraising Chairman for the Monument Project.

Then-LT Mortimer Caplin was commander of a Naval Beach(master) group on OMAHA Beach. During a prolonged period of high surf, Caplin ordered the captain of a Liberty ship to run his vessel aground to off-load its vital cargo of ammunition. The Liberty ship captain refused. Caplin repeated his order, invoking the name an imaginary US Army major general. The captain complied, ran the Liberty ship aground, and the ammo off-load began. Very soon, tank and artillery rounds were headed south on Army trucks to support our Soldiers as the fighting raged inland.

Caplin returned to his civilian law practice after the War, though he reentered public service in the 1960s as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

2006 USNA ESSAY WINNERS

The Awards Committee, under the chairmanship of RADM Thomas F. Brown, III, USN (Ret), selected this year's award-winning essays from among those submitted for the contest through the U.S. Naval Academy's Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. CAPT Jim Brooke presented the awards at a ceremony and reception in May. MIDN 1/c Mathew H. Lampert won First Place in the Senior Division for his essay, "Leadership, Mutiny and Collective Disobedience in the American Expeditionary Force North Russia, 1918-1919." MIDN 1/c David E. Faherty, III, received Second Place in the Senior Division for his essay entitled "Tracking the Chinese Dragon: The Origin and Development of China's Submarine Force, 1953-1988." First Place in the Junior Division was won by MIDN 4/c Brandy A. Soublet for her essay on "Securing Stability: The American Occupation of Haiti."

Each of this year's recipients received an attractive desk clock, a commemorative Naval Order plaque, and a complimentary first year membership in the Naval Order.

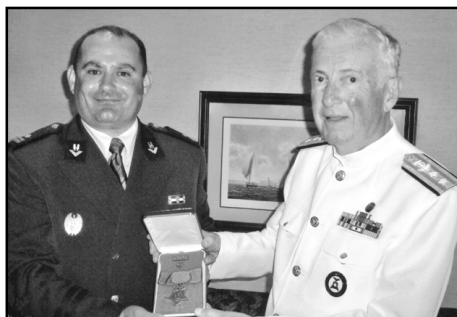
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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. Frank Green
NOUS Register General
P.O. Box 2709
Oakland, CA 94602-0009
or via email to aeis@california.com

SAILOR'S VALOR IS REMEMBERED

In May, ADM Harry Ulrich, COMNAVEUR, made an historic presentation aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in the Adriatic Sea to honor a Pearl Harbor hero. Peter Tomich, born in what is now Croatia, became an American citizen and fought in the U.S. Army during WWI. He joined the Navy as soon as his first enlistment was up, and on 7 DEC 1941 was serving as a Chief in USS UTAH (BB 31). After the bombardment, with his ship capsizing, "Tomich remained at his post in the engineering plant until he saw that all boilers were secured and all fireroom personnel had left their stations, and by so doing lost his own life."



LTC Herzeg-Tonic and RADM J. Robert Lunney

NY Companion CAPT Bob Lunney, USN (Ret), who also holds two-star rank as Judge Advocate General in the New York Naval Militia, worked for nine years to trace Tomich's next of kin. Through his efforts, Srecko Herzeg-Tonic, LTC (Ret), Croatian Army, accepted the posthumous Medal of Honor on behalf of his relative.

A FEW OF THE REASONS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE MONUMENT PROJECT:

My uncle, PO2/c Jack J. Mazzola, was there aboard the heavy cruiser AUGUSTA.

A. D. Juarez, MG (Ret)

My father and two uncles were at Normandy on D-Day and survived.

Raymond M. Hunt

I served in USS HOBSON (DD 464) as a torpedoman. We were on Utah Beach when our sister ship, USS CORRY, hit a mine.-Vito Zazzero

For James D. Dwyer, whose Naval Combat Demolition Unit landed in the second wave. Seven went in, five were killed; he was badly wounded.

Gregory K. Lane

Our brother, John D. Melville, (LCT 1182) was lost in the third wave at Normandy.

Roger J. Melville & Charles W. Melville, LCDR (Ret)

I was in France on June 6, 1944 and I remember and will never forget. Thanks to all those brave men.

Robert Someliana
(now a U.S. citizen)

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