



## Commander General's Report to the Order

My Fellow Companions,

Punxsutawney Phil has been right on the mark this year and, as of this writing, the grip of winter has been relentless across most of the country. Our companions in NAT suffered the most, and here in Jacksonville we have experienced a record cold winter and are wondering if southern living was all that great a choice. However, the drought has ended in the West, and as you read this, the Cherry Blossoms should be out in our Nation's Capitol.

I had the good fortune to join our companions in the Texas Commandery for their annual Nimitz Award dinner on Valentine's Day and was honored to share in the presentation of their Nimitz Award to Companion and former Navy Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. It was a delightful evening and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the Companions of the Texas Commandery. I hope that during my tour as Commander General I will be able to join other commanderies for like celebrations of our Navy's great heroes and history.

I mentioned in my first letter my priorities of mission, money, and membership. By now you have received our first annual letter of appeal for funds. I am pleased to report that your response has been most gratifying. We have received \$62,000 since the beginning of the fiscal year. We have also begun our appeal to non-members of the Naval Order. The response to this appeal will not be known until our next newsletter; however, it is safe to say that our fundraising efforts have gotten off to a good start, thanks to your generosity.

With what we have been able to raise so far, we have been able to fully pay the remaining costs of Phase II of the Normandy Monument and still have a positive and growing balance in the Naval Order Foundation coffers.



The sculptor plans to complete the installation of the Phase II pedestals in the May timeframe, in time for the 66th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2010. The pedestals will specifically acknowledge the various naval forces that contributed so much to the victory but are not otherwise recognized on the main monument. The pedestals will also have embedded illumination of the central monument.

On March 2nd, I traveled to Melbourne, Florida for a luncheon presentation to veterans groups in the Patrick Air Force Base area. There were almost 100 people in attendance

including six Normandy D-Day veterans. My presentation was centered on the *Navy Heroes of Normandy* documentary. The reception of the documentary was tremendous, as it has been the many other times I have presented it. I strongly urge Commandery Commanders to show this great documentary to your members, civic groups, and students whenever possible. The producer of the documentary has also informed me that nine PBS stations have signed up to show the documentary. When we receive information as to time and place of showings, we will do our best to provide timely notice to you.

Finally, I want to remind you that before you know it, October will be upon us and that means our annual Congress. The San Francisco Commandery is working diligently arranging the Congress to be held in Reno. Please see the Congress information page contained inside and make your reservations early. This promises to be a unique venue with a great agenda.

With best wishes to you all,  
Greg Streeter



Commander General with D-Day Vets at luncheon hosted by First Coast Companions Ernie and Ellie Joy, March 2nd in Melbourne, FL. From left: Donald Champlain, Bill Ryan, Commander General Greg Streeter, Robert Leahy, Rich O'Nines, Charlie Humphrey, John Bauman, and Companion Ernie Joy.

**Save the Date!**  
**2010 NOUS Congress**  
**Sparks, NV, October 13-16.**  
**Use the registration form on page 6, or**  
**download a copy from the NOUS website at**  
**[www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org)**

## Welcome Aboard New Members

★**Atlanta**

David A. Bright, Esq., USMC  
CAPT Joseph R. Thompson Sr., USN

★**Florida First Coast**

CAPT Stephen A. Jarecki, USN

★**Hampton Roads**

CAPT Michael B. Ferguson Sr., USN

★**Hawaii**

George D. Satterfield II

★**Illinois**

OM2 Ronald E. Eason, USN

★**Massachusetts**

STG3 Charles A. Fazio, USN

★**Monterey Bay**

LT Christopher B. Carson, USN  
LT Bradley G. Thompson, USN  
AQ3 Michael A. Watling, USN

★**National Capitol**

CDR Robert E. Brown, USN  
Maj. John J. Donahoe, USMC  
Geoffrey N. Hicks Sr., USN  
E-4 Laurence V. Hicks Sr., USN  
Daniel E. Jackson, USN

★**New Orleans**

Margie D. Katz, USN

★**Newport**

John Scott Logel, USN

★**New York**

1LT Lawrence S. Driever Jr., USMC  
Norman E. Friedman  
CAPT Gregory P. Hitchen, USCG  
LT Richard R. Lane, MD, USN  
Raymond W. LeMay III, USN  
E-5 Richard J. Liptak, USN  
E-4 Jeffery S. Lundberg, USN  
CAPT Anthony J. Piscitelli, USMM  
IS3 Ryan B. Weddle, USN

★**Raleigh**

LTJG John R. Roberts, USN

★**San Francisco**

Dale F. Brown  
Diane J. Brown  
Nelson C. Lum

★**Southwest**

CDR Michael S. Borich, USN

★**Texas**

LCDR John A. Kendall, USN  
LTJG James E. Stuckey II, USN

## Need a Speaker?

One of our newest members is CDR Todd Martin, from the US Navy's Speakers' Bureau in Millington, TN. Todd has the responsibility of assigning active Navy personnel, including flag officers, to speak to organizations around the country on various subjects. These topics may include the Surface Navy, shipbuilding, the SEAL program, Navy careers, and much more. If you would like to take advantage of this program, you may contact Todd at (901) 874-5805 or [todd.martin@navy.mil](mailto:todd.martin@navy.mil).

## Get Your News Online

Do you want the same great information and more, delivered to your inbox rather than your mailbox? You can get your news faster, help us trim the budget, and save a few trees, by signing up for NOUS News Online. See what you are missing online at [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org) and click the newsletter button in the header. So far, nearly 3% of our membership has opted out of the print edition, already saving us several hundred dollars a year. Won't you join them? It's easy to opt out of the print edition, just e-mail: [nous.news@gmail.com](mailto:nous.news@gmail.com) to let us know.

## Notes from Donald W. Schuld, Vice Commander General - Membership

**Membership Referrals.** Thank you to all those companions who have been thoughtful enough to send in our new "referral form" with your dues notice, proposing a new member. Someone once thought enough of you to propose you for membership in the Naval Order, why not do the same for someone you know?

**Membership Process.** Our membership process by its nature takes longer than we would prefer. It is for this reason that we ask Commanders to handle incoming applications as expeditiously as possible. Too many applications and checks have become misplaced recently and new companions are left wondering what happened. When incoming applications have originated through the efforts of the Vice Commander General - Membership, it is important to notify him that you are in receipt of that application and are sending it to our Registrar General, Frank Green. Please contact Don Schuld at [dschuld@juno.com](mailto:dschuld@juno.com).

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# 2010 NOUS Congress Update

Planning is well underway for the 2010 NOUS Congress, October 13-16, in Sparks, Nevada. This year's Congress will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Naval Air Services. The San Francisco Commandery, this year's host, has a lot of great activities planned to ensure an outstanding event for all Companions and their guests.

Sparks is a great venue for the centennial commemoration of the Naval Air Services with Naval Air Station Fallon and Top Gun nearby. The venue for this year's Congress is the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel and Casino, the premier resort casino in the Sparks/Reno area. We have secured a group rate for Congress participants, \$95/night for the West Tower or \$114/night for the newly renovated East Tower. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel using the information below. Be sure to reference the group name, **Naval Order 2010** to secure the discounted rate. Aside from the busy Congress schedule of events, the Nugget also offers seven restaurants and a full-service 24-hour casino.

Registration fee for the Congress is \$225/person (\$250 after Sep 15th) and includes Congress fees, Commander General's reception, two continental breakfasts, access to the Presidential Hospitality Suite, Lee Douglas/Award Luncheon, and the DSSA Reception and Banquet. Lodging is not included in the Congress fee.

## FLEET WEEK SAN FRANCISCO

The location and timing of this year's Congress makes for a perfect pre-Congress vacation in San Francisco during the city's annual Fleet Week celebration, October 8-12. A tradition since 1981, Fleet Week is the most anticipated autumn event in San Francisco. Drawing an estimated one million spectators to the city's northern waterfront, this year's events will include a parade of ships, ship tours, and two performances by the Navy Blue Angels. See [www.fleetweek.us](http://www.fleetweek.us) for more details of Fleet Week events.

If you are coming to San Francisco before the Congress you are invited to join the San Francisco Commandery for its October 11th luncheon meeting at Capp's Corner, in the famed

North Beach neighborhood. We will be joined by a Commanding Officer from one of the visiting ships. Early registrants will also be invited to a reception aboard the flagship later that evening. The cost of the luncheon is \$30/person to be paid at the door, and the flagship reception is free; however, advance registration is required for both events, so please be sure to note your desire to attend when you register for the Congress. If you are looking for a hotel in San Francisco, we recommend the Marines' Memorial Club. Room rates are \$189/night during October. Reservations can be made by phone at 415-673-6672 or by e-mail at [reservations@marineclub.com](mailto:reservations@marineclub.com). For more information visit their website at [www.marineclub.com](http://www.marineclub.com).

The San Francisco Commandery has arranged for another exciting option for those coming to enjoy San Francisco before the Congress. Two private Amtrak cars (pictures below) have been made available on October 12th, for those who wish to travel from San Francisco to Sparks in grand style through the Sierras. Travel by private train car, round-trip, includes a box lunch and hosted bar, for \$210/person. Advance registration is required as seats are limited. First Come, First Aboard!

Several exciting optional events during the Congress have also been arranged. On Wednesday, October 12th or Friday, October 15th, from 0830 to 1600, cruise aboard the yacht Dixie for a private luncheon cruise on pristine Lake Tahoe (\$70/person). On Thursday, October 14th, from 0830 to 1330, join us for a guided tour of Naval Air Station Fallon, home of Top Gun. This tour includes bus transportation, continental breakfast, and a buffet lunch for \$30/person. Seating is limited to 56, so be sure to register early. On Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th, from 0830 to 1600, tour the historic gold country landmark, Virginia City, \$47/person. On Saturday, October 16th, from 1330-1630, take a tour of Reno City and the National Automobile Museum tour for \$44/person.

As you can see it is lining up to be an exciting Congress. Please use the form on page 6 of this newsletter or on the Naval Order website ([www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org)) to register for this year's events.



Captain Michele Lockwood checks out the Vista Dome railcar. Below is a view of the lounge car.



Come aboard the yacht Dixie for a scenic private luncheon cruise on pristine Lake Tahoe.



Nugget Hotel and Casino, Sparks, NV

**John Ascuaga's  
Nugget Hotel and  
Casino**  
Reservations can be made  
by phone at  
1-800-648-1177, online at  
[www.januggetsecure.com/  
jump/1144](http://www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1144), or via mail at  
John Ascuaga's Nugget  
Hotel, 1100 Nugget Ave.,  
Sparks, NV 89432-0797.  
Be sure to reference the  
group name, Naval Order  
2010, to secure the  
discounted rate of \$95 for  
the West Tower or \$115  
for the newly renovated  
East Tower.

# Catching Up with the Commanderies

## Florida First Coast

During the First Coast Commandery's 2009 Pearl Harbor Commemoration, companions heard from Mr. Randy Slocum about his recent visits presenting USO performers to our armed forces serving in combat zones.



First Coast Commander Captain John O'Neil, USN (Ret.) thanks Bernadette and Randy Slocum.



Captain Lee Steele and students from the Jacksonville University NROTC Unit with Captain O'Neil.



RADM George Huchting, Frances Wyncoop, and Gloria and Mike McGrath.

## Monterey Bay

The 68th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway Dining Out will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School on Saturday, June 5th. The event is chaired by the school President's Student Council in coordination with the Monterey Bay Commandery of the Naval Order, and the Monterey Peninsula Council of the Navy League. Over the years, this event has grown with greater participation within the local military and civilian organizations on the Monterey Peninsula. VADM

Daniel Oliver, USN (Ret.), President of the Naval Postgraduate School will host the event with Senator John McCain (invited) as the guest speaker reflecting upon the life of John Sidney "Slew" McCain, USN and his influence on the June Battle of Midway. Of the many honored guests will be Mrs. Mary Snopowski, wife of deceased Captain Edward L. Snopowski, USN. As an Ensign, Snopowski served on Midway Island at the time of the battle. After the war, the family moved to Monterey when Captain Snopowski attended and taught at NPS.

## Raleigh

The Raleigh Commandery had a successful Pearl Harbor Day Dinner on December 6th with spouses. Next year's plans for the event include extending invitations to local Pearl Harbor veterans and a midshipman essay competition. The Commandery is making plans for its Midway commemoration in June.

## San Francisco

In January Captain Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.), relieved Captain Sandy Lockwood, USN (Ret.), as Commander of the San Francisco Commandery. During the first monthly meeting she presented the State of the Commandery presentation, designated Captain Tom Snyder, USN (Ret.), as Junior NROTC Award Committee Chair and reiterated the Mission of the Naval Order. There was also a discussion on the planning of the 2010 Naval Order Congress being hosted by the San Francisco Commandery in Sparks, Nevada in October 2010. Every present was anxious to get to work to make this our best Congress ever.

The February monthly luncheon of the San Francisco Commandery featured a talk by *USS Indianapolis* survivor Adolfo Celaya, a firman aboard the heavy cruiser during the transport of the atomic bomb from San Francisco to Tinian Island for loading aboard B-29s and delivering to Japan. He spoke about what he believed to be the secrets of his survival. He was

young and athletic and kept a medal of St. Anthony, given to him by his mother, in his mouth, helping to keep him from ingesting sea water. His vivid recall of those four days in the water, clinging to a life raft, left the Navy veterans in attendance stunned and feeling privileged to listen to his first hand account. After being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Philippine Sea, *Indianapolis* sank in 12 minutes. Of the 1,196 men aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship. After floating for days in shark-infested waters with few lifeboats, and most with no food or water, only 316 of the nearly 900 survivors of the initial attack were rescued.

Inspired by the efforts of the First Coast Commandery and Captain John O'Neil's challenge, companions of the San Francisco Commandery voted to match the First Coast contribution of \$500 for the Normandy foundation, from their general fund and then raised an additional \$750 by passing the basket.



Captain Kris Carlock presents a Certificate of Appreciation to former Fireman Adolpho Celaya, *USS Indianapolis* survivor at their February monthly meeting.

## Texas

The Texas Commandery held its annual banquet and 24th Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Leadership Award Presentation on Saturday, February 13th, at the Houston Racquet Club. Nimitz committee chairman and past Naval Order Commander General, Captain Carter Conlin, USN (Ret.), presented the Nimitz award to Companion Gordon R. England, 29th Deputy Secretary of Defense, 72nd and 73rd Secretary of the Navy, and the first Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. Mr. England also received

## Catching Up (continued)

the Admiral Dewey Award in 2006 for his achievements and distinguished service to our country. Prior to joining the federal government, Mr. England held various senior executive positions with General Dynamics Fort Worth Aircraft (now Lockheed) and General Dynamics land systems company and General Dynamics corporate information and systems technology. Mr. England has served in a variety of civic, charitable and government organizations, has been recognized for numerous professional and service contributions and is currently president of E6 Partners, a firm specializing in international business.

At the conclusion of Mr. England's remarks, CDR Klock presented him with a certificate appointing him an Admiral in the Texas Navy. We were pleased that Commander General Greg Streeter could attend and speak to the Commandery about his outlook for the Naval Order and plans for the future.

On March 6th, the Texas Commandery participated in the annual remembrance of the sinking of *USS Houston* (CA 30), March 1, 1942, during the Battle of the Sunda Strait. Four survivors of the battle were present: Marvin Sizemore, David Flynn, Clarence Schilperoord, and Basil Bunyard. Guest speakers from Great Britain, Australia, and the Netherlands honored the memory of their armed forces' sacrifices and CDR Brian Klock, USN (Ret.), Commander of the Texas Commandery, spoke about the sinking of *Houston* and US naval actions during the early stages of the Pacific War. At the conclusion of the program, wreaths were laid by *USS Houston* (CA 30) Survivors Association and Next Generations, the Naval Order, participating countries and other military and civilian organizations. The Houston Brass Band played the Navy Hymn and Captain Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.), recited the words. The *USS Houston* Monument in Sam Houston Park, Houston, Texas was dedicated November 11, 1995 and was a project of the Texas Commandery.



From left, CDR Brian Klock, USN (Ret.), CDR James Sterling, USN (Ret.), CAPT Carter Conlin, USN (Ret.), CAPT David Burr, USN (Ret.), Honorable Gordon R. England, and CAPT Greg Streeter, USN (Ret.)

From left, CAPT Carter Conlin, USN, (Ret.), CDR Brian Klock, USN (Ret.), and Mr. Don Kehn



Marine Corps League, McLemore Detachment renders honors at the annual remembrance of the sinking of *USS Houston* (CA 30), held March 6th at the *USS Houston* Monument in Sam Houston Park.

## New Address for the Ship's Store

Starting to think about making plans to attend the 2010 Naval Order Congress in Sparks, Nevada in October? Do you need a new NOUS polo shirt or ball cap? Be ready and order your NOUS regalia now.

The NOUS Ship's Store is always open to Companions. Go to our website at [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org), click on "Ship's Store" to download an order form, and send your order with payment to:

CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.)  
929 Willow Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

Questions? You can reach CAPT Carlock at (415) 725-2101 or by e-mail, at [kriscarlock@comcast.net](mailto:kriscarlock@comcast.net).

## Note from the Historian General

Dr. Bill Dudley reports that his chapter "Old Ironsides' Last Battle: *USS Constitution* versus HM Ships *Cyane* and *Levant*" was published in *Fighting At Sea: Naval Battles from the Ages of Sail and Steam*, edited by Douglas M. McLean (Montreal, Canada: Robin Brass Studio, 2008). His article, "The War of 1812 Bicentennial: Planning in Progress," appeared in the Naval Historical Foundation newsletter *Pull Together*, Spring/Summer issue, 2009. He served as discussant for the Society for Historical Archaeology symposium, "The Search for the *Bonhomme Richard* and HMS *Serapis*," on January 8, 2010, held at Amelia Island Resort, Florida.

# Naval Order of the United States 2010 Congress Registration Form

Hosted by San Francisco Commandery in Sparks, Nevada, October 13-16, 2010

Name/Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Your Commandery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attending Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee \$225 per person (\$250 after Sep 15)** includes Congress fees, Commander General's Reception, two continental breakfasts, access to the Presidential Hospitality Suite, Lee Douglas/Award Luncheon, and DSSA Reception and Banquet. **Lodging is not included.**

### Payment and Registration Information

Congress Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ x \$225 (\$250 after Sep 15) per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # attendees

### Optional Pre-Congress Events in San Francisco Advance Registration Is Required

Mon, Oct 11 NOUS Luncheon, Capp's Corner, \$30 per person (**pay at the door**) # attendees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mon, Oct 11 Third Fleet Flagship Reception (**no cost**) # attendees \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Events

Tues, Oct 12, Private Train, San Francisco to Sparks, NV \_\_\_\_\_ x \$210 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wed, Oct 13, Tour of Scenic Lake Tahoe \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thurs, Oct 14, Tour of Naval Air Station/Top Gun, Fallon \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fri, Oct 15, Tour of Scenic Lake Tahoe \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fri, Oct 15, Tour of Historic Virginia City \_\_\_\_\_ x \$47 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sat, Oct 16, Tour of Historic Virginia City \_\_\_\_\_ x \$47 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sat, Oct 16, Reno City and National Auto Museum Tour \_\_\_\_\_ x \$44 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Name Badges

Please provide your names as you would like them to appear on your badges:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to "2010 NOUS Congress"**  
**Detach registration form and mail with payment to:**

Captain John Hassenplug, SC, USN, (Ret.)  
 1943 Mt. Vernon Court  
 Mountain View, CA 94040-2086

Submit your registration forms with payment before August 1st and you will be entered into a drawing for one of two prizes of the latest two national bestselling books from noted author Dale Brown.

Additional registration forms can be downloaded and printed from the Naval Order Website at [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org).



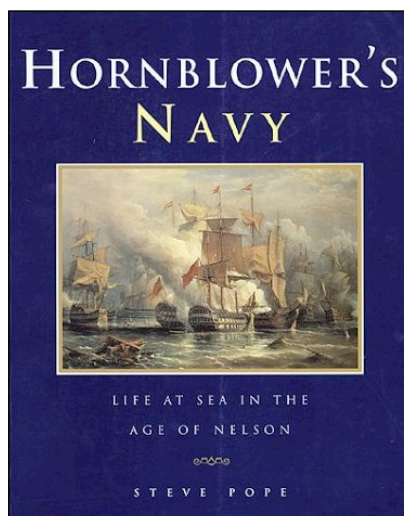
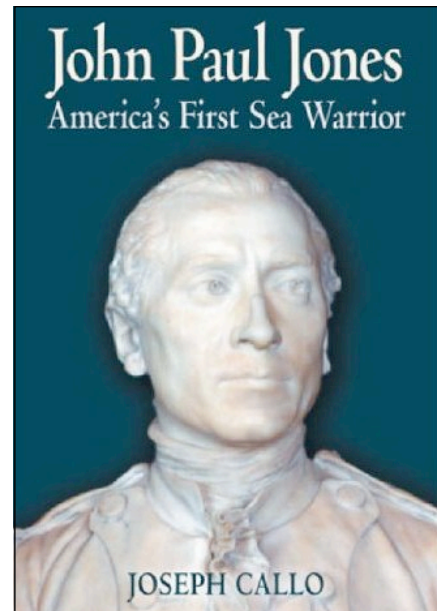
## New York Companion Rear Admiral Joseph Callo to Receive Lee Wayland Douglas Award for Literary Achievement



The Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) announced on March 1st, the selection of Rear Admiral Joseph F. Callo, USNR (Ret.), to receive its Lee Wayland Douglas Award for Literary Achievement. The Douglas Award is presented periodically by the Association for exceptional literary achievement over time in the field of maritime history. When announcing the selection, AUSN President Captain G. Mark Hardy, III, USN, said, "The Douglas Award emphasizes the importance of history and heritage to the United States Navy, and the body of literary work created by Rear Admiral Joe Callo has illuminated those subjects with unique clarity in a wide variety of media over many years."

Rear Admiral Callo's most recent book is the award-winning *John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior* (Naval Institute Press). Admiral Callo has also written three books about Britain's Lord Nelson, and was the U.S. editor for *Who's Who in Naval History*. In addition, he was a contributor to *The Trafalgar Companion* (Osprey Publishing). During his writing career, he has been a frequent author of magazine and newspaper articles, speaker on maritime subjects, and has been interviewed on many radio and television programs.

The award will be presented Saturday, 24 April, during the AUSN Spring National Conference in Jacksonville, FL. The AUSN is dedicated to informing the nation and the U.S. Congress about important issues related to the U.S. Navy and national defense. The Lee Wyland Douglas Award is named for the late writer, Navy Reservist, and for many years a tireless pioneer in the AUSA's predecessor organization, the Naval Reserve Association.



## Notes from Sickbay

by Captain John R. Wheeler, USN (Ret.)

This winter I visited Antigua and Barbuda, an independent Commonwealth nation in the Leeward Islands of the West Indies. Antigua was sighted by Columbus in 1493, and the islands were successfully colonized in 1632, when the British introduced sugarcane from St. Kitts. St. John's, the capital, served as headquarters for the Royal Navy in the West Indies. The British influence is evident with a visit to historic Nelson's Dockyard, named for Horatio Nelson, Commandant of the Yard for four years while serving as a young Captain. Despite his spectacular view of English Harbor, Nelson hated the heat and bugs of the Caribbean.

This got me thinking about the medical care in the British Navy of the early 1800s. According to *Hornblower's Navy: Live at Sea in the Age of Nelson* by Steve Pope, chaplains and surgeons, professional men in civilian life, enjoyed recognition as gentlemen, and usually messed with the commissioned officers. The Navy employed about 550 surgeons in 1793, but most were by reputation drunken incompetents. By 1815, their numbers had risen to 850, and an improvement in general standards

was linked to pay raises, the establishment of half-pay while awaiting another posting aboard ship, and the Navy's decision to fund at least some shipboard medical supplies. Their mates, renamed from "loblolly boys" to "surgeon's assistants" after 1805, were rated as petty officers. Women also traveled aboard warships, and were present in numbers at all major battles of the era, when they were usually drafted as assistants to the surgeon. Most were wives of officers and NCOs, but the rules governing soldiers also allowed each company of marines to travel with five women (with their status not being further elucidated).

The Royal Navy lost less than 5,000 men in all its major wartime fleet actions put together, compared with more than 70,000 victims of disease, but this reflects the infrequency of battles rather than their mildness. A ship engaged in heavy close-range fighting was likely to lose anywhere up to 150 men in a day, and most of them would be likely to die horribly. The lucky ones were either killed instantly or saved by amputation, the only operation at which naval surgeons were generally at least competent. Complete lack of hygiene was likely to kill many of the wounded, with gangrene and blood poisoning, often from the gold braid on an officer's uniform, the standard causes of death.

This brief glimpse of life before the mast gives us pause as we might wish for the wonderful days of sail.



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## Distinguished Sailors, Two Naval Order Companions, Honored

Four U.S. Navy icons were commemorated by the February 4th unveiling of a new set of First Class stamps in a dedication ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. These stamps, now available nationwide, immortalize four Sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th Century: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy, and Doris "Dorie" Miller. Both Sims and Burke were Companions of the Naval Order.

**William S. Sims** was commander of U.S. naval forces in European waters during World War I. He successfully advocated improved gunfire techniques that increased firing accuracy as ships rolled through ocean swells and the convoy system, saving countless lives in both World Wars. His stamp features a detail from a 1919 photograph of Sims and depicts the crest of the destroyer escort *USS W.S. Sims* (DE 1059), commissioned in 1970.

**Arleigh A. Burke** served as one of the top destroyer squadron commanders of World War II, leading DESRON 23, the Little Beavers, through 22 separate actions in a four-month period, sinking nine enemy destroyers and downing thirty aircraft. He later served three terms as Chief of Naval Operations. His stamp is based on a 1951 photograph, and includes the crest of the guided missile destroyer *USS Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51), commissioned in 1991.

**John McCloy** is one of the few men in our nation's history to earn two Medals of Honor, the first for a rescue mission during the Boxer Rebellion and second for action during the 1914 Mexican Revolt. His stamp is based on a photograph from 1920 and depicts the crest of



the destroyer escort *USS McCloy* (DE 1038), commissioned in 1963.

**Doris Miller** was the first black American hero of World War II, becoming an inspiration to generations for his heroic action at Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941. Awarded the Navy Cross, he was killed later that year, along with 600 of his shipmates, during the invasion of the Gilbert Islands when *USS Liscome Bay* was lost. His stamp is based on a 1942 photograph and depicts the crest of the destroyer escort *USS Miller* (DE 1091), commissioned in 1973.