



Dear Companions,

For most of you a great opportunity was again missed to participate in a wonderful Annual Congress held from 14 to 16 October in Reno/Sparks Nevada. The San Francisco Commandery planned and carried out another outstanding Congress in keeping with the high standards we have recently enjoyed in Monterey, New Orleans and Jacksonville. The good news is that our membership continues to grow, now exceeding 1,800 for the first time in many years. The bad news is that despite increased membership, attendance at our Congresses continues to wane. Next year we will be in Galveston, Texas from 12 to 15 October, 2011 hosted by the Texas Commandery. I know that most of you travel during the year and I urge you to mark that week on your calendars for inclusion in your travel plans for next year.

The theme for this year's Congress was "100 Years of Naval Aviation". In keeping with that theme we had a most interesting side trip to the Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nevada. Our Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award recipient was Rear Admiral Tom Cassidy, Jr., USN (Ret). Admiral Cassidy is regarded as the "Father of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, now so important in the War on Terror. He gave us a most informative talk on the evolution and status of UAV's today. We also had presentations by Author William Trimble on the life of Glenn Curtiss and his relationship to Naval Aviation development. Mr. Trimble also presented a history of Navy Sea Planes that was both informative and enjoyable.

For my wife Anna and myself, we flew into San Francisco on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>, enjoyed a glorious, sunny afternoon in this beautiful and unique city, had lunch with the San Francisco Commandery on Monday and attended a Reception on the Makin Island Monday night. The ship was in port as part of San Francisco Fleet Week.



The week began for many with a scenic train ride from Emoryville, California near Oakland, over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into Reno. It was a beautiful clear day and the mountain vistas were spectacular. There were also side trips to Lake Tahoe and Virginia City. For those who have not seen Lake Tahoe on a crisp, clear Autumn day, you must put it on your "bucket list". It is truly one of God's beautiful masterpieces. As for Virginia City, it is about as good a taste of the "Old West" as one can find.

As always, the Congress culminated with the Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet. Our recipient this year, General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret) was a most genial honored guest and gave a truly inspirational talk to the Banquet attendees.

I wish to emphasize once again how hard the host Commanderies work to make our Congresses both informative and enjoyable and I sincerely hope that you will give early thought to planning some of your travel next year around our Congress in Galveston. I guarantee you will not regret it.

Obviously, the business of the Order is the *raison d'être* for our Annual Congresses and much was accomplished this year. As I said, our membership situation is improving. We are seeing renewed leadership and activity in the Massachusetts, Atlanta, Newport and Raleigh Commanderies. A new Commandery is being formed in Charleston, SC that I expect to be chartered by the end of the year. We have formed a committee to investigate the possibility of building a Monument/Statue to Admiral Nimitz. The National Capitol Commandery is working with the National Park Service to place a descriptive historical marker alongside the statue of Commodore John Barry in Franklin Park, Washington, D.C. A proposal was approved to move forward with a Data Service Provider to support the Registrar General in managing the processing of new member applications, sending out dues notices and other administrative functions. We also received positive reports from our Treasurer, Investment Committee and Finance Committee regarding the state of our finances. Our Benefactor Program is now up and running and promises to generate substantial revenues for us in the future. Brochures in this regard will be sent out with dues renewal notices and I ask that you review these brochures and consider becoming a Benefactor to the Order. Information regarding the Benefactor Program can also be found on the Naval Order Web Site.

So you see Our Congresses are not all fun and games. It is as we liked to say while on active duty – work hard and play hard.

I wish you all a happy and blessed holiday season.

Greg Streeeter

## Report on 2010 Congress Sparks Nevada

For many Companions, the Congress began early with Fleet Week festivities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Not only did attendees garner an invitation to visit one of the participating ships, they also had a chance to attend the San Francisco Commandery meeting at Capp's Corner in the famed North Beach neighborhood.

After a scenic train ride to Reno, a transfer was made to the impressive Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks. The fun continued later in the week with trips and tours of the picturesque Lake Tahoe, historic Virginia City and NAS Fallon, formerly the home of "Top Gun", now billed as the "Navy's premiere tactical training facility".

The Congress began in earnest on Friday with opening ceremonies directed by our Commander General Greg Streeter. An honor guard from Sparks' Reed High School NJROTC unit provided an outstanding flag presentation. Committee reports filled the rest of Friday. News that the Order grew in numbers over the past year, our investments performing exceptionally well in these difficult financial times and the Order's Bylaws had been updated and modernized were announced. New business include approving a national NJROTC Awards Program based on a model used by the National Capital Commandery and honoring our "host", John Ascuaga, with a Life Membership in recognition of his long time support of the maritime services.



The *Naval Aviation, 2020 and Beyond* panel featuring Companions Rear Admirals Vince Anzilotti, Tom Brown, III, John Miller and Tim Beard, and our newest Companion, Coast Guard aviator LCDR Jennifer Arko.

On Saturday, Companions enjoyed a day interesting presentations related to the Congress theme "Celebrating 100 Years of Naval Aviation". In the morning, Auburn professor Bill Trimble shared the story of Glenn Curtis and his role in the development of early naval aviation. At lunch, Commander General Streeter awarded the Lee Douglas Award for best Commandery to Monterey. The Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award went to RADM Thomas J Cassidy, Jr, USN, RET, in recognition for his accomplishments in developing unmanned aircraft we know as drones. The afternoon saw sessions on current drone programs, and a panel *Naval Aviation, 2020 and Beyond* which featured Companions Rear Admirals Vince Anzilotti, Tom Brown, III, John Miller and Tim Beard, Coast Guard aviator LCDR Jennifer Arko.

On Saturday evening, Companions in their finest military or dress regalia mixed and reminisced at the hotel poolside terrace. Following an excellent dinner, Commander General Streeter closed the Congress, but not before he awarded the Distinguished Sea Service Award to General Peter Pace, 16<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the first Marine Corps officer to hold that post. General Pace's gracious acceptance of the award was, he said, in the name of three groups: families of service members whose sacrifice is not appreciated; junior officers who "do the Generals' and Admirals' work"; and the service members themselves, most especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret) accepting the Distinguished Sea Service Award from Captain Greg Streeter, USN (Ret).



# Catching Up with the Commanderies

## Atlanta

The Commandery is in the process of standing back up with CDR Ron James, USN (Ret) as the Commander. He may be contacted at [ronfatboyjames@aol.com](mailto:ronfatboyjames@aol.com) (706) 974-4844.

## First Coast

The First Coast Commandery has been busy supporting the local USO, making a "Heroes of Normandy" presentation to the Jacksonville University NROTC Unit and assisting with the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association's "Bring Home the USS Adams (DDG-2)" effort

On December 5, 2010, we held our annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration dinner. Forty-eight Companions, spouses and friends heard Commander General Captain Greg Streeter speak about the significance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and how it galvanized the United States to defeat the Axis Powers.

## Monterey Bay

The Monterey Bay Commandery was presented the LCDR Lee W. Douglas Memorial Award during October Congress 2010 in Sparks, NV. This is the third time our Commandery has received the award.

With our Navy League friends, we held our annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner on 3 December. The 2010 theme was "Honoring Monterey's Heroes Who Served on USS ARIZONA" recalling three sailors from the community who died in the attack.

Guest speakers were Clara Foster; the Honorable Dan Albert, and the Honorable Jack Holt, who grew up with Navy petty officers Michael Criscuola, Jack Hazdovac, and Tom Trovato.

## New Orleans

The Commandery met in October for a delightful dinner and an update on Federal City, the initiative resulting from the latest BRAC. Major General David Mize, USMC (Ret.), provided a report on the billion dollar project. The new buildings for the Headquarters of the Marine Forces Reserve are ahead of schedule and will be ready in June 2011.

The Coast Guard has already moved their sector headquarters there and an announcement that more federal agencies are coming aboard will be made soon. As many as 10,000 military and civilians will work, shop and live at the site, the former Naval Support Activity.

CAPT Sandy Lockwood, Peggy Bremer, RADM Russ Gorman, Pat Hawkins, RADM Doug Moore, (back row) CAPT Stan Ellexson, CAPT Al Serafini, RADM Jim Grealish.

estimated 500 attended the event which honored Admiral Daniel Callaghan. Companion John Eagan talked about his experience on USS SAN FRANCISCO, serving under ADM Callaghan and CAPT Callaghan and was Gun Captain at the battle of Guadalcanal. John Eagan almost lost his life and was almost thrown overboard, but he happened to move at the right moment.

## NOUS News Editor Change of Watch

LCDR Michelle Poole, USN has turned responsibilities of editing NOUS News to Tim Cummings. Submissions may continue being sent to [nous.news@gmail.com](mailto:nous.news@gmail.com)

Our Annual Battle of Midway Celebration Dinner on 6 June was a huge success, a sold out event with the key speaker Admiral Eric Olson, SOSCOM. There were nine Battle of Midway Veterans and their families at this year's dinner. A donation of \$1000.00 from the proceeds was made to the Navy League Wounded Warrior Foundation.

Sadly, one of our favorite San Francisco Companions, LT John Finn passed away in June. At the time of his death, Finn was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and the last living recipient from the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Commandery sent a wreath to his memorial service.

During our July Luncheon Neil Malloch, the Historian of the California Heritage Council made a short presentation to propose cooperation on commemorative activities relating to the 1911 aircraft landing on the USS Pennsylvania by Eugene Ely and his plans to involve the San Francisco Port Authority, the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Maritime Museum to organize a memorial activity in January 2011 to place a plaque near the San Francisco Ferry Building.



CAPT Sandy Lockwood, Peggy Bremer, RADM Russ Gorman, Pat Hawkins, RADM Doug Moore, (back row) CAPT Stan Ellexson, CAPT Al Serafini, RADM Jim Grealish.



We celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Commandery which included attendance of eight past commanders, including RADM Jim Grealish, RADM Doug Moore, CAPT Stan Ellexson, RADM Russ Gorman, CAPT Sandy Lockwood, CAPT Al Serafini and wives of past Commanders, Pat Hawkins and Peggy Bremer.

Our speaker was SBC Warren Bacciocco, from our own Commandery. Chief Bacciocco who spoke on the importance of arms training before depolying. He has 35 years as a weapons instructor to include SWCC SEAL Teams, military and law enforcement.

In August the speaker was Bruce Henderson, former Oceanographer Second Class, who, while on the USS RANGER during the Viet Nam war, met LT Deiter Dengler, the first U.S. POW to escape from Cambodia. Mr. Henderson's recently published book "Hero Found" tells of the heroic escape.

Our speaker in September was Lt Col Roger Dong, Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission and he shared news about the Veteran's Memorial Project which is eighty-four years in the making. It will honor the San Francisco veterans who served our nation while defending our freedom.

The October Fleet Week luncheon was the jewel in our year of great presentations. Not only did we get to host the Commander General, Captain Greg Streeter and wife Anna. We had numerous other Companions



LT Col Roger Dong, Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission and CAPT Kris Carlock

who had arrived early for the 2010 Congress. Our guests of honor were LCDR Jose Roman CO of USS PIONEER, HMC Jason Fechner (Sailor of the Year), MN2 Justin Garcia (Junior Sailor of the Year) and ET3 Justin Henry (Bluejacket of the Year); LCDR James Rushton, CO of USS CHIEF and LCDR Annie Laird, XO and ITCS Larry Lynch, CMC; LT Tom Faulds, OPS Officer on USS PINCKNEY with ET3 John Garcia (Bluejacket of the Year) and Lt. Col. Tom Prentice, OPS Officer of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

As it was also the Navy's Birthday, we celebrated with a cake cutting by the oldest and the youngest in attendance (the oldest was CDR Bob Landau at 90, and the youngest was ET3 Garcia, age 19). The next day many of us boarded the California Zephyr for the trip to Reno and the 2010 NOUS Congress.

### **Southwest**

The 2010 Annual Meeting and "Naval Aviation Leadership

Symposium" of the Southwest Commandery, took place 28-29 October at the Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage, CA. Our traditional two days of fellowship, business meetings and dialogue included a Welcome Reception, a golf tournament, the "Pete Dye" Course organized by CAPT Denny Irelan, USN (Ret.), the annual business meeting on Friday afternoon and the Black Tie "Naval Aviation Leadership Banquet" with forty-seven members, spouses and guests in attendance. We were honored to have Rear Admiral Thomas A. Cropper, Commander Strike Force Training Pacific, as our guest speaker at the banquet.

### **Ship's Store a source of timely gifts**

We have some new additions to our Ship's Store inventory including the new silk ties were a big hit at the Congress. They are of a superior quality and are excellent gifts for the holidays or for a new Companion. Also we have a supply of the Challenge Coins that were created for the 2010 Congress in Sparks.

Make sure you use the new order form at [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org). Note that we have had to increase our shipping costs, trying to stay even with Post Office increases.

Send your order and payment to: CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.), 929 Willow Street, Martinez, CA 94553. If you want additional information contact CAPT Carlock at 415.725.2101 or [kriscarlock@comcast.net](mailto:kriscarlock@comcast.net).

## Naval Order to Give ‘Life’ to John Barry Statue

The Naval Order is celebrating the patriotism and heroism of Commodore John Barry, a prominent figure in establishing our Navy during and immediately after America’s independence from Britain. Working with the National Park Service, the National Capitol Commandery is developing an interpretive marker to be located at the inspiring statue of Barry in downtown Washington, DC. Irish-born Barry was a gallant and skillful sea warrior, commanding both Colonial privateers and Continental Navy warships during the Revolutionary War. Admired for his numerous victories over the British and his prominent role in building and equipping American fighting ships during and after the War, he was given “Commission No. 1” as a Captain in the young U.S. Navy. Elevation to Commodore came as his achievements grew in both scope and influence, distinguishing him as our Navy’s first flag officer.

Our goal in placing the marker is to provide key information to make the statue come alive in an eye-catching and interest-riveting way. Aspiring to make this happen are Historian General Bill Dudley and historian-author John Rodgaard with project management by Kent Siegel. Estimated cost of the project is \$8,000 which includes production of standard NPS informational brochures that will expand on the marker’s content. National Capitol Commandery has led off with a \$500 donation. This is all-NOUS project, so please get aboard with a donation...it doesn’t need to be large.

If all Companions lend support, we’ll quickly go over the top with any excess funds going to other projects funded by the Foundation. Mail checks to CAPT Al Serafini, NOUS Foundation Treasurer, 416 Sycamore St., San Carlos, CA 94070-2018.

## 21st Annual Coast Guard Academy Award

**LT Nicole Tesoniero is presented the Naval Order Award at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Convocation**



From left, RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret.), LT Nicole Tesoniero, and Cadet Regimental Commander, First Class Michael Ahlin.

LT Nicole Tesoniero was honored as the Naval Order Award winner at the United States Coast Guard Academy Convocation, August 19th. The award is conferred on the junior officer faculty member whose personal conduct and commitment to learning best exemplify the highest traditions of the American military services and the United States Coast Guard.

In addition to the handsome plaque awarded by the Naval Order, the officer’s name is inscribed on a permanent plaque outside the Dean’s office and the recipient receives a life membership to the Naval Order. The winner is selected by the Corps of Cadets. An energized LT Tesoniero accepted the award with a inspiring speech on commitment to the Corps and the Academy’s dedication to teaching.

Rear Admiral William Merlin, USCG (Ret.), a member of the Class of 1956, made the presentation.

### Welcome Aboard New Members

#### Arizona

S/SGT Donald P. Dolin , USAF

#### Charleston

Julian V. Brandt III, USN

David Petty , USN

James M. Scott , USN

#### Hampton Roads

QM3 Alan B. Noel , USN

#### Monterey Bay

LT Michael F. Smith , USN

#### National Capitol

Calamanda Bassa , USN

CDR Martin L. Belko , USN

CDR Kenneth M. Bradford , USCC

#### New York

EM2 Stephen A. Crate , USN

LT Michael H. Popernik , USN

#### San Francisco

LCDR Jennifer H. Arko , USN

John Ascuaga , USN

CDR Larry L. Bruton , USN

LT Robert A. Burke , USN

CDR Virgil P. Caselli , USCG

Michael B. Hobson

CAPT William V. Weinman Jr., USN

#### Southwest

CAPT Walter H. Stammer III, USN

#### Texas

LTJG Astley C. Ancona Jr., USN

CAPT James T. Knight , USN

CAPT Frank R. Russo Jr., USN



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### ***Naval History Magazine Bulletin***

A number of our *NHM* subscribers have reported receiving issues with an expiration notice attached. This was due to a USNI database error and the Circulation Manager apologizes and says the problem is fixed. Under the terms of our agreement with USNI, expiration notices are not to be sent to our individual subscribers. If your subscription lapses due to failure to stay current with your NOUS dues, or an administrative error on our part, the magazine will simply stop coming to you. If there is a lapse and your dues are up-to-date, please contact me and I'll check it out. CAPT Kent Siegel, [ksiegel@cox.net](mailto:ksiegel@cox.net)

### **A Hard Fought Ship: the story of HMS *Venomous***

Captain John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.) of the National Capital Commandery co-authored the story of the Royal Navy destroyer HMS *Venomous*. Sixty-six were built at the end of the Great War and by the end of World War II they had all been sunk or scrapped. This story is about her men as told by them and is illustrated with 170 of their photographs taken in the heat of the action plus paintings, drawings and maps. In his review published by the prestigious *Naval Review*, Cdr. A. J. W. Wilson RN wrote, "I would rate this as being in the same class as *The Cruel Sea* for a picture of small ship life in World War II."

Their accounts are linked together by Lt. Cdr. Robert J Moore RNR and CAPT John Rodgaard USN (*Naval History* "author of the year", 2000). John Rodgaard is the co-author of "A call to the Sea", a biography of the nineteenth century American naval hero, Charles Stewart. His knowledge of British and American naval history is combined with knowledge acquired during fort-one years of naval service.

The book was published in the UK in April 2010 but it is not presently available in the United States. However, you can order it by contacting John Rodgaard directly at [john\\_rodgaard@yahoo.com](mailto:john_rodgaard@yahoo.com)