



### NOUS Congress Concludes

Newport, Rhode Island 2014



Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, (l), former commander of US Central Command accepts the Distinguished Sea Service Award from Commander General of NOUS, Vance Morrison

The 2014 Annual Congress of the Naval Order of the United States (NOUS) was held in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Newport Marriott Hotel from 30 October through 1 November. The theme of the Congress was *Newport Then & Now*. Guests from the various commanderies around the United States were treated to a fulfilling agenda of speakers but were also given the opportunity to see many tourist attractions available in the local area.

The Order's mission is to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects and promote the preservation of historic artifacts and memories of our maritime history. NOUS was founded in 1890 and is the oldest such organization in the United States.

Wednesday, 29 October, was reserved for the many committee meetings and national issues. The Newport Commandery, under the leadership of retired Chief Petty Officer George Wardwell, hosted the event which was welcomed to Newport by the Mayor of Newport, The Honorable Harry Winthrop.

The Congress began on Thursday with a general meeting, followed on Friday and Saturday with educational lectures.

Some of the lecturers were from the Naval War College: Professors John Hattendorf, Kevin McCranie, Michael Pavković, and Stan Carpenter. Other speakers included Admiral James Hogg, Mr. Keith Stokes, Captain Richard Bailey and Mr. Bart Dunbar of SSV *Oliver Hazard Perry*, and the Command Master Chief Petty Officer of USS *CONSTITUTION*, Nancy Estrada.

On the last day, the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award Luncheon was held and a video of its award to former-Secretary of the Navy John Lehman was viewed. In attendance were former-Secretary of the Navy, Ambassador J. William Middendorf II, and Medal of Honor recipient Captain Thomas Hudner.

The evening's Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet was the crowning activity of the Congress, however. The recipient of the award was General James Mattis, USMC (Ret.), former commander of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). General Mattis is currently a Hoover Fellow at Stanford University. The Congress was then concluded with the promise to come together in one year's time in New Orleans.

Submitted by John Kennedy



## Commander General's Report to the Order

Lots of enthusiasm, hard work, and talent by the Newport Commandery resulted in a very successful Annual Congress this past autumn. Companion George Wardwell and his team provided attendees with a beautiful and convenient venue, a list of guest speakers, many from the Naval War College who elicited very

favorable comments, unique and enjoyable tours, and a productive, well-run program of general business sessions. The event was completed within budget; Newport has set the bar high for future Congresses.

Last year I promulgated a Strategic Plan to guide us during the subsequent two years. I reported to the Congress successes on many fronts and some areas that require additional attention.

On page three in this issue of our newsletter, I have re-published that Strategic Plan to emphasize our course for this next calendar year. More successful objectives in 2014 included: developing effective national and local leadership; improved communications; maintaining the Order on a firm financial basis; innovative and appealing ideas (two will be mentioned) under the auspices of our new Project Management process; and enticing and enjoyable Naval Order events – of which we have held many across the country. Less successful has been our efforts to invigorate less active Commanderies, but during the Congress our leadership formed a task force to help address this issue. We also continue to seek new areas likely to support establishment of additional Commanderies.

Two projects of note that we have undertaken and funded are: supporting the voyage of the French sailing vessel *Hermione*, a full size and operating replica of the ship that brought Marquis Lafayette to support George Washington during our War of Independence, that will be visiting various East Coast ports this summer; and funding a graduate student research fellowship to support Companion Richard Ector's Envisioning History digital naval history library project. Others are under consideration or still in the planning stages. Companion Kent Siegel, our Projects Director and Vice Commander General (At Large), explains more in a separate article on page 16 in this issue.

Our national leadership has experienced changes, including election of Captain Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.) as Commander General-Elect (CG-E); and appointments of Rear

Admiral George A. Huchting, USN (Ret.) as a Companion to the General Council (At Large); Professor John B. Hattendorf as Acting Historian General as Companion Doug Smith recovers from illness; and Captain William J. Waylett, USN (Ret.) as Auditor General. We are most fortunate to be able to call upon so many talented companions to lead us.

To honor our extraordinary companion, Howard Snell, who you recall passed away last winter, the Congress approved creation of a senior enlisted distinguished sea service award. Awards Committee Chair CAPT Carter Conlin and CG-E Michele Lockwood are developing the criteria and process for establishing the award this coming year.

The past few issues of our newsletter have included a notice about "Cause," an organization that provides comfort for America's service members including the organization of programs that promote recreation, relaxation, and resiliency for those members of the US Armed Services recuperating from injuries received in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Companion Dr. Jack London, our 2013 recipient of the Naval Order's Admiral of the Fleet George Dewey Award, leads this effort and told me recently that they still have a long way to go to fulfill their mission. There is another notice on page 18 in this issue with more information for your consideration.

The recent Congress approved funding full-color issues of our quarterly newsletter. Favorably received in the past, now each newsletter will be full-color, such as this current issue. We also will be including more articles about the many fascinating aspects of our Companions and their professional experiences. The Charleston Commandery has taken the lead on initiating this feature which we hope you will enjoy.

The General Council has recently approved the creation of an Historical Committee that will to function as a support group for the Historian General in such cases when advice and assistance may be necessary. Now that the committee is established, we will be calling upon members with historical expertise to join the Committee to proceed at a new, more vigorous level as we pursue one of our most important mission goals.

In closing, Companion CAPT Gary Bair, USN (Ret.), Commander of the New Orleans Commandery, is gearing-up his committee for another exciting annual Naval Order Congress in his city 21-24 October 2015. There is a brief notice now on the NOUS website and soon full details will be posted there. New Orleans has been a favorite venue in the past and we hope you plan to attend this coming fall to fully enjoy all the attractions there – as well conduct some Naval Order business! Please save the dates.

Submitted by Vance Morrison

## Commander General's STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2015

### GOAL:

To provide the vision and key objectives guiding the Naval Order of the United States for the next two years to ensure that the Order continues to meet its mission objectives.

### VISION:

A Naval Order that, *as a team*:

- Continues to grow and diversify its membership
- Continues to broaden its membership with eligible members from all of the Sea Services, females as well as males, young as well as old, and enlisted as well as officers
- Is increasingly acknowledged as the leader in its field of endeavor
- More actively engages its membership in each of its primary mission tasks, including:
  - Commemorating and observing important naval-related historical events
  - Supporting the study of naval history
  - Preserving historical artifacts, documents and monuments
  - Promoting camaraderie among its Companions as well as members of other organizations with similar goals.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

In an era of increasingly constrained resources and aging organizations, the successful prosecution of this Strategic Plan will require awareness, persistence, and commitment. Our membership has been declining and some of our Commanderies exhibit decreasing activity; one has recently folded. Objectives, then, to reverse negative trends include:

- Grow and broaden the membership by pro-active recruitment of new Companions *by every Companion*
- Choose and develop effective national and local leadership
- Insure effective communications between Naval Order leadership and its components and membership
- Invigorate less active Commanderies
- Create new Commanderies in promising areas
- Maintain the Order on a firm financial basis
- Promote innovative and appealing ideas for fulfilling the Order's mission tasks will assist in recruitment

efforts as well as bring favorable notice to the public

- Plan Naval Order events that are eagerly anticipated by the membership and fun for all participants

With the above in mind, enabling actions include, *but are not limited to*, the following:

### ENABLING ACTIONS:

- Ensure every Companion knows that he/she is an active recruiter of new members and provide them with the materials to do so
- Ensure leaders know their responsibilities and are equipped to perform them
- Provide increased emphasis on Vice Commander General (VCG) - Development and the team that supports those efforts
- Upgrade the position and visibility of the Electronic Communications efforts to VCG-level as communications with and among the membership goes "high tech" and publicity assumes an increasingly important role
- Provide commercial support, when required, to the Registrar General's repetitive and time consuming tasks to enable that position to focus on strategic challenges
- Pursue engagement of America's youth through state-led maritime history contest and affordable grants and scholarships
- Encourage and participate in outreach activities such as new warship commissionings, the Samuel Eliot Morison Book Award, symposia at the Naval Academy and other maritime organizations, and assume responsibility for new projects deemed worthy as well as affordable

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

Dr. J. Phillip London, the Order's most recent recipient of the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award and Naval Order Companion, asserts in his recent book, *Character – The Ultimate Success Factor*, that "success is distinctively defined as acting with honesty and integrity, performing to the best of your ability, and appreciating the people who helped you to achieve your goals."

Let's keep the Naval Order on course with those words in mind.

Submitted by Vance Morrison



Fall brought with it a lot of activity on the First Coast. On September 8, the First Coast Commandery hosted a No Dough Dinner in conjunction with the USO at Mayport Naval Station.



The turn-out was tremendous with over 250 family members welcomed to dinner at the USO. Companions dished out meals, drinks, and cleaned up after to honor those who currently serve our nation.

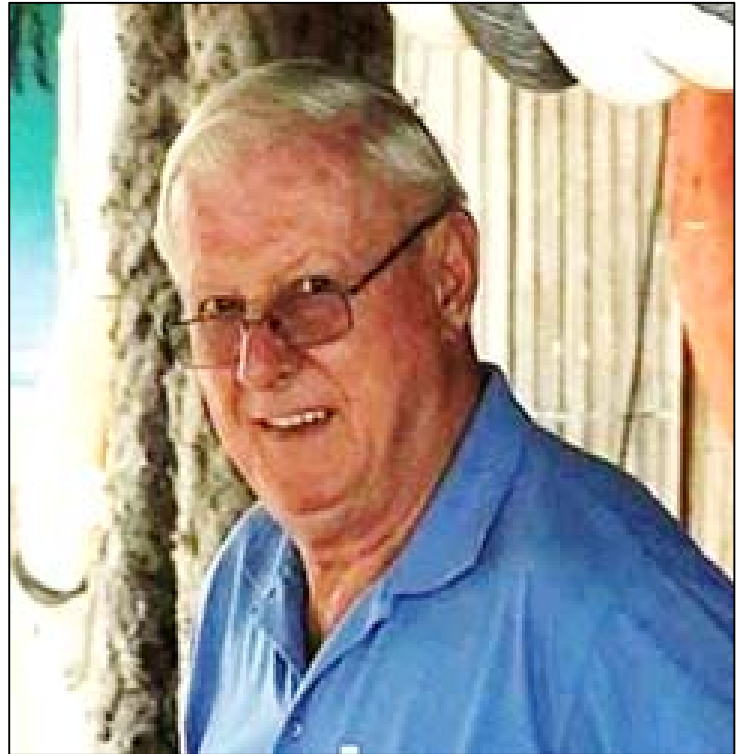


Past and current Mayport CO wives, Ann Froehlich (l) Reyna McCall (r) pass out deserts at the No Dough Dinner at Mayport USO

The 2nd Annual Jaxtoberfest was held in down town Jacksonville as part of the revitalization of the downtown area. A cornerstone to that redevelopment will be the addition of the *USS CHARLES F ADAMS* (DDG-2) as a museum ship on the waterfront. The First Coast Commandery donated support and provided free tickets to some deserving Active Duty personnel to attend. The event was a great success as the Adams Museum Group moves closer to the goal of bringing the ship (homeported in Mayport for 21 years) "Home"!

The Blue Angels returned to NAS Jacksonville, the original home of the Navy's premier flight demonstration team, on 25 & 26 October. The community was welcomed to the base for the event and hundreds of boats watched from the St John's River as the acrobatic flight teams performed followed by the 'Angels' as the Grand Finale to a wonderful day at the Air Station.

Passing of Chaplain James Mennis, Captain, CHC, USN (Ret.): On 28 October, our long standing Naval Order First Coast Commandery Chaplain, Monsignor James Mennis passed away. Chaplain Mennis was buried by his family on Friday, 7 November, in Navan, Ireland.



Monsignor Jim Mennis CAPT (CHC)

On Wednesday, 19 November, a Memorial Mass was said for Monsignor Mennis at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Jacksonville Beach. The Pastor, Father William Kelly, celebrated the mass with eight other area priests, including retired Navy Chaplains John Kaul and Gerard O'Shea. First Coast Commandery Commander, CDR Mike McGrath, USN (Ret) gave the reading from the Book of Wisdom and the eulogy was given by RADM George Huchting, USN(Ret.). Mass was followed by a reception at Chaplain Jim's condominium lobby and the releasing of 4 doves: one for the Father, one for the Son, one for the Holy Spirit and one for Chaplain Jim, as an old Irish tenor friend sang Danny Boy!

The bells were ringing on 6 December at the local Publix Supermarket as part of the Annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing efforts. Bell ringing kettles is a primary source of income for millions of homeless and unfortunate members of our communities. Companions and their families took part 'standing the watch' for the day. The local effort for this most worthy cause continues in memory of the late Companion VADM Mike Kalleres.

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CDR J. Michael McGrath, CPO Bill McLoughlin of NOUS and Jackie Smith (Legis assistant to Rep Ander Crenshaw and member of Mayport Navy League) ringing the Bells



CAPT Bob Whitkop and grandson AJ Dziedzicki ring the bells for the Salvation Army

The Commandery held its Annual Pearl Harbor remembrance dinner on 7 December at the Queens Harbor Yacht and Country Club. Guest speaker was Rear Admiral Mary M. Jackson, USN, Commander Navy Region Southeast.

Rear Admiral Jackson spoke of the sacrifice of that day and the bravery of those who awoke to the attack; "...those who have gone before me". She quoted the Sailor's Creed "I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy, and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world." She

spoke of the bravery of sailors on destroyers Cassin and Downes and the Battleship Pennsylvania fighting from their dry docks. 'Paradise had been transformed that day into perdition.' Admiral Yamamoto's attributed quote that "all we have done is awakened a sleeping giant" was true – 'America fought back. From that day forward, until the end of the war, our troops, our civilians, our families on the home front, everyone – we fought back.' She spoke of Hal Sullivan, a local survivor from Palatka, FL, who was on the minesweeper *USS PERRY*. The Perry and her crew got underway that day and patrolled the harbor entrance until May 31, 1942. "Being there matters".

She fast forwarded and talked about NOW, how 'your Navy has maintained that distinction' of being there 'protecting and defending America on the world's oceans and beyond.' That forces are there is critically important because as we have learned throughout our nation's great history – BEING THERE MATTERS. 'Being there matters in business..., in politics..., to our national defense... through forward presence...we prevent and deter wars....and when necessary, we fight and win wars. ...we also preserve America's prosperity by protecting the US economy....the unimpeded flow of commerce and information on and under the seas.....BEING THERE MATTERS.' Whether eliminating weapons facilities or a terrorist camp; targets of interest deep into opposing territory; precision air and special operations "BEING THERE MATTERS." "This all boils down to a simple fact: when it comes to protecting and defending America, BEING THERE MATTERS, and today, right now, America's Navy – your Navy – is already there."

Closing the Dinner, CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret) relieved CDR J. Michael McGrath, USN (Ret) as Commander of the Florida First Coast Commandery. We all thank Mike for his dedication and commitment to the Order.



RDML Mary Jackson, CNRSE, addresses Companions at the Annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Dinner

Submitted by Bob Whitkop, CAPT, USN (Ret)



## Honor Flight Network Now Active in San Francisco/Monterey Bay Area Four Naval Order Companions established an Honor Flight Network Hub



The Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation was established to serve the greater San Francisco/Monterey Bay Area. The nation-wide network sends World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., at no cost to the veteran, where they receive guided tours of the World War II Memorial and other memorial sights in the city, including the Tomb of the Unknown. Many veterans never get a chance to go to our Nation's Capitol to see the monument dedicated to their service. The Honor Flight Network is changing that.

Only 1.7 million World War II veterans are still alive today and about 500 of these individuals pass away every day.

In September, the Honor Flight Bay Area Hub took 26 veterans, 24 Guardians, and 25 wheelchairs on its inaugural flight. The World War II Memorial was the first stop on this first day. By prior arrangement, the veterans watched the change of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown from a front row vantage point. The four oldest veterans of the Bay Area Hub laid a wreath at the Tomb during this ceremony. The Sergeant of the Guard spoke with veterans after the ceremony. This was one of the highlights of the trip.

Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network across the United States has made heroic efforts to ensure that remaining World War II veterans have the opportunity to see their monument and be recognized for their service. Once sufficient funds have been raised for an Honor Flight trip, a group of up to 30 veterans are flown to Washington, D.C. Veterans are issued color-coded shirts and identification, and are accompanied by volunteer "guardians" who help manage their needs and assist wheelchair-bound men and women.

Honor Flight offers our WWII and some Korean War veterans the experience of a lifetime, where they are honored every step of the way. Many of these veterans consider this trip to be their last hurrah.

As World War II veterans pass away, the Honor Flight tradition will transition to veterans of the Korean War and the Vietnam

War. In addition, the most senior veterans of these conflicts, or those who are terminally ill, will be served first.

About the Honor Flight Foundation: The inaugural Honor Flight Tour took place in May of 2005. Six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio, taking 12 World War II veterans on a visit to the memorial in Washington, DC. In August of 2005, an ever-expanding waiting list of veterans led the transition to commercial airline carriers, with the goal of accommodating as many veterans as possible. Partnering with HonorAir in Hendersonville, North Carolina, the "Honor Flight Network" was formed. Today, the network is expanding its programs to cities across the nation. The Bay Area hub was started in 2014 to serve those in the greater San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas. The Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable organization. For more information, please visit [www.honorflightbayarea.org](http://www.honorflightbayarea.org).

The four Naval Order Companions who founded the Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation are RADM Douglas Moore Jr. SC, USN (Ret.), Captain Attilio "Al" Serafini, Jr., SC, USN (Ret.), and Captain Randall Ramian, SC, USN of the San Francisco Commandery and Captain Carl Stewart, SC, USN (Ret.) of the Monterey Bay Commandery.

Submitted by Al Serafini

### Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner

The annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner was held at the Naval Postgraduate School on the grounds of the Naval Support Activity, Monterey, on Friday 6 December. The evening started in the La Novia Room, a historical dining room at the Old Del Monte Hotel, now the site of the Naval Postgraduate School, with a full service reception. The immediate reception area was in full display of significant Pearl Harbor December 7th displays provided by the school's Dudley Knox Library. The Navy Center for Information Dominance Monterey Choir from the Monterey Defense Language Institute provided the guests

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with a pre-dinner medley of seasonal holiday and patriotic songs during the reception and later during the dinner the El Prado Dining Room.

Following the reception, the guests were “piped” to the formal dining room by the “official Commandery piper” LCDR Spence Myers who provided several appropriate “pipes” as the guests proceeded into the dining room decorated with Christmas trees and packages yet to be opened. The Monterey County Division-Naval Sea Cadet Corps provided the Honor and Color Guard for the evening. Of the many guests, who included the Mayor of Pacific Grove, Mayor of Santa Cruz, and Companion Monterey Council Member Nancy Selfridge, there were four Pearl Harbor survivors, Mrs. Marilyn Georgevich, LCDR Nonna Cheatham, Ms. Margorie Troutman, and Mrs. Shirley Sedgwick. Following the dinner, Commandery Commander LT James Hough presented the ladies with a small token of appreciation for sharing their personal comments on that day, 7 December.



LT James Hough, Monterey Bay Commandery’s newly elected Commander, presents gifts to the Pearl Harbor survivors. (L to R) LT Hough, Margorie Troutman, LCDR Nonna Cheatham, Shirley Sedgwick, and Marilyn Georgevich. Photo: NPS Java Chagoya



Mr. Peter Coe Verbica presents the 2014 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner guest speaker, the Honorable William H. Draper, III, a small token of appreciation following his remarks. Photo: NPS Java Chagoya

The 145 guest plus guests, including NPS students, faculty, retired military, elected officials and civilian friends from the Monterey Bay Peninsula, dined on roasted turkey and seasonal ham with all the trimmings.

Deputy Secretary General, U.N. Development Programs; and former Chairman of the Export/Import Bank spoke on Cyber warfare and the possibility of future Pearl Harbors in the 22nd Century as our Nation deals with this new threat.



LT James Hough, Monterey Bay Commandery Commander presents a Pearl Harbor Foundation silver coin to Paulo Montenegro, one of our “new generations”. Photo: NPS Java Chagoya

Following a gift presentation to Mr. Draper, LT Hough presented 11 year old Paulo Montenegro, Mr. Draper’s guest, a silver coin from the Pearl Harbor Foundation as a remembrance of attending the 73rd anniversary dinner.

The evening ended with remembrances of those that have served and those still serving, the singing of Amazing Grace, followed by the “piping” of Amazing Grace, and “taps”.

### USS AMERICA (LHA 6) Plank Owners

Monterey Bay Commandery Companions are now official plank owners of the *USS AMERICA* (LHA 6) which was commissioned October 11, 2014 in San Francisco. This recognition follows a significance donation made in supporting the time honored and traditional events associated with the ship’s commissioning. Attending the two day ceremony were LT’s Jason Grammar and James Hough.

### Coming Events

The Commandery’s next events will be the annual Memorial Day wreath laying presentation aboard the Coast Guard Cutter HAWKSBILL on Monday, 25 May 2015 followed by the 73rd Anniversary Battle of Midway Dining-Out on Saturday 6 June 2015 at the Naval Postgraduate School.

### Leadership Changes

Finally, the Commandery is pleased to announce that LT James T. Hough has relieved LT Jason P. Grammar as the Commandery Commander and LT Andrew T. Stafford will serve as the Commandery Vice-Commander. Both officers are students at NPS and have taken very active leadership roles in Commandery activities.

Submitted by CAPT Ken Johnson, USN(Ret)



## Mission: Deliver the Nelson Life Mask to the Naval Academy Museum



Captain John Rodgaard, USN Ret and Mr. Grant Weeks, Assistant Curator of the Naval Academy Museum, holding the Nelson life mask.

On November 10, 2014, National Capital Commandery members John Rodgaard and Judy Pearson accepted a most unusual mission. They were entrusted to transport a historic artifact from New York City to the Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis. Here's how the adventure began.

On November 8 they were in New York City, preparing to attend a dinner sponsored by the Friends of National Museum of the Royal Navy. That morning they met for breakfast with their friend, Mr. Graham Dobbin, Deputy Director General of the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. He was very excited to discuss a recent acquisition to the museum — a recently surfaced life mask of Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson, one of only four life authentic masks known to be in existence.

This particular life mask was designated to tour the US for the next three years, beginning in January 2015, with the first three months at the Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis. The life mask was housed in a specially designed carrying case, and had a clear plexiglass box that could be easily assembled for display purposes.

This particular life mask was recently discovered in the United States, having resided in a private collection probably since the mid-19th century. It surfaced in a Christie's auction, and was acquired by the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

In the late 18th century, well-known people often had life masks made of their faces in preparation for a sculptured bust in marble or terra cotta. This particular mask dates to 1798. It is cast in plaster and painted terra cotta. Letters carved on the reverse state "Mask of Admiral [sic] Lord Nelson taken from life, at Naples 1798. Presented to Mr. W. A. Coukiler by Haden Patrick Smith January 23, 1867." The artist is the Honorable Anne Seymour Damer (1749 – 1828), who studied under Sir

Horace Walpole. It is not certain how the mask came into the hands of Smith. The mask has excellent provenance and is said to bear a good likeness to Nelson.

John and Judy agreed to carry the mask to the Naval Academy Museum, even with the stipulation that the mask, in its carrying case, could never be out of their sight. They delivered the mask safely in the afternoon, meeting with Mr. Grant Weeks, the Assistant Curator. In return for delivering the mask, they received a special privilege — a personally guided tour of the museum's recently renovated model ship room. They both agreed it was a thrilling tour and a fitting way to complete the mission to deliver the Nelson life mask.

The National Museum of the Royal Navy appreciates the assistance of the USNA Museum whose director, LCDR Claude Berube, USN is also a companion of the Naval Order.

**Submitted by John Rodgaard**

On Sunday 7 December, the National Capitol Commandery held two of its annual Pearl Harbor events. In the morning, the Commandery laid a wreath before the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. That evening the Commandery held its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner. The commander of the National Capitol Commandery, Captain John Rodgaard USN Ret, hosted both events.

At the Tomb of the Unknowns, Captain Rodgaard was accompanied by fellow companions Rear Admiral John Kirkpatrick USN (Ret), Captain Paul Crissy USCG, Dr. Judy Pearson, and the Naval Order's Commander General Captain Vance Morrison, USN (Ret). They led a multi-organization delegation to place a Naval Order wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Representing the Navy History and Heritage Command was YN2 Lockwood, USN. Also participating were three sea cadets from the Naval Sea Cadets Corps Henry E. Mooberry Division and the Navy League Cadets Corps ADM John S. McCain Training Ship. They were Seaman Recruit Christopher Clay, Petty Officer Third Class Jerome Foster II and Petty Officer Third Class Sachin Muralidhar.

All had never performed the ceremony before and they were visibly moved by the changing of the guard and felt so honored to be able to place the Naval Order wreath at the head of the tomb.

That evening, 60 companions, their spouses and guests were in attendance at the Commandery's annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner. This was the first year that the commandery was unable to have in attendance a Pearl Harbor survivor. Mr. Robert Pressman, a senior historian with the Naval History and Heritage Command was the dinner speaker. He spoke to the assembled the attempted sortie by the battleship *USS NEVADA* from Pearl Harbor. At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Pressman was presented a one-year membership to the Naval Order.

**Submitted by Judy Pearson**



The Greater New Orleans Commandery met for a delightful evening September 16 at Zea's On St. Charles restaurant. Forty companions and guests were greatly informed and entertained before and after dinner by two companion speakers.



Ensign Kevin Berto USCG gave a fresh perspective of today's brave young men and women of our sea services. Kevin is a recent graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy, where he served as Regimental Commander, and where he was honored by our New York Commandery. He reported for duty in

Morgan City just the day before the meeting, and he now leads safety inspections across southern Louisiana.



Captain Earl Higgins USN (Ret.) reported on his extensive research on Royal Navy's master planner and leader, Admiral Alexander Cochrane, who directed the formation and deployment of the massive British naval and army forces during our War of 1812, including the invasion and Battle

of New Orleans exactly 200 years ago.

The commandery was treated to sea service history and lessons learned from when we first emerged as a world maritime power two centuries ago, as well as the enthusiasm and inspiration of one of our newest commissioned officers of today.

The New Orleans Commandery met for a delightful dinner at Vacherie Restaurant in the heart of the French Quarter November 5. More than forty companions and guests were treated to a truly fascinating talk by Christian Birch, the Master of the World's Largest Super-Yacht, the AZZAM.

Born in England, and educated at the British Merchant Marine Academy, Christian rose through the ranks on various merchants, cruise ships, and yachts.



Gary Bair (l) and Christian Birch, the Master of the World's Largest Super-Yacht, the AZZAM

At age 36 he became the Master of the AZZAM, by far the world's largest super-yacht, and he says, "the most expensive "thing" anyone ever bought." Reported cost was \$605 million dollars. Rule of thumb would put the annual operating cost at \$60 million.

The AZZAM is 590 feet long (just about twice the length of a football field) and more than 13,000 tons – way larger than an Arleigh Burke destroyer. It took more paint than it would take to paint 38,000 cars. The master was not at liberty to discuss the ownership or details of the interior, but rest assured, it is all the very state of the art and the best that money can buy.

The New Orleans commandery is delighted to once again be host the NOUS Congress 21-25 October 2015, headquartered in the InterContinental Hotel.

Submitted by Gary Bair

The Commandery was very busy in October 2014.

Fleet Week San Francisco was back in full force. The highlight of the weekend was the commissioning of the first ship of the Navy's newest class of Amphibious Assault ships the *USS AMERICA* (LHA-6). Past Commander General and San Francisco Commandery member RADM Thomas F. Brown III, helped of other Commandery members chaired the commissioning committee.



The commissioning ceremony on Saturday, October 11, was attended by thousands of guests. We were honored by having Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus himself as the keynote speaker. Prior to the commissioning the crew of the *AMERICA* and Commandery members had participated in the

dedication of a veterans memorial near San Francisco city hall which featured former Secretary of State and Commandery member George Shultz as a featured speaker.

For our regular monthly meeting the Commanding Officer of the *America*, CAPT Robert A. Hall Jr., along with Command Master Chief Chad Lunsford honored us with their presence.

In November we had an "out of the ordinary" guest speaker in the person of Jonathan Bernstein, Executive Director of the Friends of the Israeli Defense Force.

Mr. Bernstein had served in the IDF and shared a very interesting first-hand account of how a terrorist cell was tracked down. The most interesting point he made was in



answer to a question. "Yes" there are Arabs who serve in the IDF. Service is open to all citizens of Israel irrespective of religion. Many non-Israelis serve as well.

In December, CAPT Michael Slotsky, Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit based at the Berkeley Campus of the University of California talked about the challenges facing the NROTC unit based in a place usually known for its anti-military attitudes.

The Berkeley NROTC Unit is one of the oldest in the United States and was formed by Fleet Admiral Nimitz.

In the years since they have added affiliates at the California Maritime Academy, the Davis Campus of the University of California as well as Stanford University. This has enabled them to increase the number of Commissioned Officers trained through the program.



Pearl Harbor Survivors Chief Johnny Johnson

We were fortunate to have two of our own, Pearl Harbor Survivors Chief Johnny Johnson and Sergeant John Egan recounted their memories of that fateful day so long ago when they were both stationed aboard the *USS SAN FRANCISCO* (CA-38). Despite the passage of over 70 years, they remember the attack as if it happened last week.

We were further honored to have as keynote speaker Vice Admiral Charles Ray, USCG, Commander Pacific Region who noted that the last vessel still afloat that was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 is the Cutter *TANEY* which is now a museum in Baltimore, Maryland.



Submitted by Bob Hansen





Fog lifts over the San Francisco Bay Bridge as guests await the start of the Commissioning Ceremony for the *USS AMERICA* (LHA-6) at San Francisco's Pier 30-32 during Fleet Week. The San Francisco Commandery, with help from local Navy Commands took the lead in organizing the ceremony (Photo by Bob Hansen).



Chief Bobby Gaines, from Naval Operational Support Center Alameda takes a "selfie" with Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus after the commissioning. Mabus was the ceremony's keynote speaker. (Photo Courtesy of HTC Gaines).

San Francisco Commandery member from Secretary of State George Shultz (c) sits with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown (l) and Senator Dianne Feinstein during the ceremonial dedication of a Veterans Memorial monument as part of Fleet Week. Crew from the *USS AMERICA* also participated. (Photo by Bob Hansen).





S.F. Commandery Commander Col. Allan F.P. Cruz, USMC (Ret) (l) and members CAPT David Foote (keynote speaker) and Cecilia Gaerlan pose during a program commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Gaerlan, Executive Director of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, [bataanlegacy.org](http://bataanlegacy.org), promotes programs to maintain the heritage and legacy of World War II in the Philippines. Her father survived the Bataan Death March. Gaerlan coordinates programs to maintain the heritage and legacy of World War II in the Philippines.



Pearl Harbor Veterans and San Francisco Commandery members Johnny Johnson (left) and John Egan (right) pose with Vice Admiral Charles Ray (USCG) and Commandery member CAPT Stan Ellexon during San Francisco Commandery's annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Dinner. As the evening's speakers, Johnson and Egan recalled their still vivid memories of December 7, 1941 aboard the *USS SAN FRANCISCO* (CA-38) during the attack. Ray, who is Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area, talked about the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter TANEY (WHEC-37) the last vessel still afloat that was at Pearl Harbor during the attack. Ray had recently visited the Taney, which is now a floating museum in Baltimore harbor and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

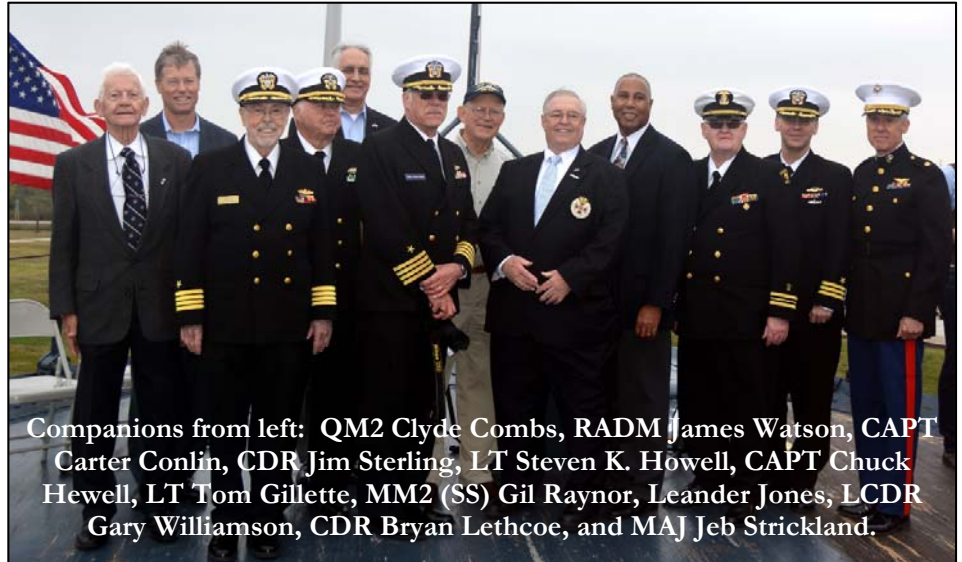


The Texas Commandery conducted the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony on the Battleship Texas in recognition of the 73rd anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack on Saturday December 6, 2014.

The Commander of the Texas Commandery, MM2 (SS) Gil Raynor, USN (Ret.), conducted the program which was held on the forecastle of the Battleship Texas in very pleasant weather of 68 degrees F. The usual flyover by the Commemorative Air Force had to be canceled because of cloudy weather.

Commander Gil Raynor introduced the honored guests, the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, and then called on Companion Clyde Combs to give an extemporaneous invocation which was beautifully expressed and gave recognition to the Pearl Harbor survivors who were not present. This was the first time in the 28 years this event has been held that no survivors were present for the ceremony; only their sons and daughters were. It had been expected that one survivor, Billy Edward Smith, would be present. However, he had passed on in August 2014. Captain Carter Conlin gave the oral history of Billy Smith which included a recounting of his experiences on *USS CALIFORNIA* (BB-44), in the water and Ford Island during the attack. His son, Jeff Smith, was present representing the sons and daughters and gave the listing of known Pearl Harbor survivors still living in the area and the names of four who had passed on in 2014 which included Howard L. Snell (1/14/2014), Enoch E. "Buttsy" Vaughn (7/20/2014), Billy Edward Smith (8/4/2014) and Lewis LaGessee (10/23/2014). The daughter of Lewis LaGessee, Lori LaGessee Cento, with her husband, Louis Cento, were present for the ceremony and she participated in the memorial lei ceremony which was held to honor all of those lost at Pearl Harbor and the survivors lost since that time.

Commander Gil Raynor introduced the keynote speaker, Companion LT Thomas W. Gillette, USN (Ret.). His keynote address included his experiences during the Pearl Harbor attack as a ten-year old boy living in quarters near Battleship Row and seeing the Japanese torpedo bombers flying over his house on their way to dropping torpedoes to attack the Pacific Fleet battleships. His father, Captain Claude Gillette, was the Naval Shipyard Manager from June 1939 to June 1942. His father was promoted to Rear Admiral and assigned to manage the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard during WWII until March 1945.



Companions from left: QM2 Clyde Combs, RADM James Watson, CAPT Carter Conlin, CDR Jim Sterling, LT Steven K. Howell, CAPT Chuck Hewell, LT Tom Gillette, MM2 (SS) Gil Raynor, Leander Jones, LCDR Gary Williamson, CDR Bryan Lethcoe, and MAJ Jeb Strickland.

The speaker told of having lunch on *USS ARIZONA* shortly before the attack at the invitation of the commanding officer, Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh; and that his sister, Diane, had also received a letter in late November 1941 from the captain inviting her and some of her teenage friends to come out to the ship in the afternoon of December 7, 1941 to tour the ship, have dinner in his cabin, and watch movies on the quarterdeck. LT Gillette has served as a docent on *USS TEXAS* for 14 years in the winter months, and spends his summers in Maine.



Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors

This was followed by the usual Marine Corps rifle salute and taps.

Participants in the program besides the Naval Order were: the Invincible Eagle Band directed by Companion PNC Charles E. Grabein, USN (Ret.); the U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Houston; the USMC Rifle Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Marines; Southeast Texas Patriot Guard Riders-Flag Line, John Darner (Johnny D) Ride Captain; the Thunderbird Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Torre LoDolce, 1<sup>st</sup> LT, Deputy Commander of Cadets, TX 179; The Sea Scouts Ship 93; Bos'n Call, CWO4 Wayne Thompson, USCG (Ret.); and vocal soloist, Tyson Ruhmann

Submitted by CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.)





## Hospital Corps History Part 6 (1954-1973) Hospital Corpsmen in Vietnam

As American military commitment in Southeast Asia grew following World War II, so did the role of the Navy Corpsman. As early as August 1954, Navy physicians and corpsmen aboard *USS MENARD* (APA-201) and *USS CAVALLARO* (APD-128) participated

in the CTF 90.8 evacuation of 1,924 Indochina refugees from Haiphong to Cap St. Jacques. In September 1954, corpsmen aboard US hospital ship *Haven* (AH-12) were pressed into service to help evacuate 721 sick and injured French military personnel from Saigon, many of whom were survivors of the battle at Dien Bien Phu. After transiting the Suez Canal, the evacuees were delivered safely to Oran and Marseille.

In 1959, a few hospital corpsmen provided medical support for U.S. military personnel as part of the American Dispensary at the U.S. Embassy. Four years later, in 1963, Navy Station Hospital, Saigon was created. Ninety hospital corpsmen would staff the facility, providing care to U.S. and allied (Australian, New Zealand, Filipino, and South Korean) military, as well as South Vietnamese civilians. These medical personnel conducted routine medical care and treated the victims of combat and terrorist actions until the hospital was transferred to the Army in 1966.

A new hospital was constructed in 1965 at Naval Support Activity Da Nang. A staff of 485 hospital corpsmen worked with doctors and nurses to care for combat casualties. The hospital, which was designed primarily to care for Marines in the I Corps sector, treated 23,467 patients in 1968 alone. Although not then on the front lines, the hospital corpsmen here were subjected to routine rocket and mortar attacks.



Hospital corpsmen were assigned aboard ships of various kinds, providing off-shore medical support to U. S. forces. The largest commitment here was on the hospital ships *USS REPOSE* and *USS SANCTUARY*. Some 200 hospital corpsmen, representing the gamut of technical specialties, worked on each ship.

Teams of 20 hospital corpsmen served on LPH class amphibious ships. Others supported the riverine force on APB class base ships.

U. S. State Department initiatives and DOD's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) provided medical support for Vietnamese civilians. Under the Military Provincial Hospital Advisory Program (MILPHAP) program, small teams of hospital corpsmen, sometimes operating independently of medical officers, held sick-call, delivered babies, and instructed the South Vietnamese in sanitation and disease prevention. Beyond routine aid and treatment, the hospital corpsmen working through these programs provided guidance in preventive medicine throughout South Vietnam.



By far the Hospital Corps' largest contribution in Vietnam was with Marine Corps units. Starting with the 50 who landed with the Marines at Da Nang in 1965,

the enlisted medical component would grow to 2,700 hospital corpsmen assigned to 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, 1st Marine Air Wing, and other combat support units. Two medical battalions and two hospital companies operated field hospitals, collecting and clearing units, and dispensaries which treated the flow of combat casualties from the field. Closer support was provided at the battalion aid station (BAS) level, where casualties could be stabilized before evacuation to more definitive care. The BAS was often bypassed because of the exceptional medical evacuation capabilities of helicopter medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and the availability of the two hospital ships, Sanctuary and Repose.

The most dangerous role of the hospital corpsman in Vietnam was in the field. In addition to direct support of combat Marines, corpsmen were embedded with special units, such as Navy SEAL teams and Marine reconnaissance units, as well as artillery, air, and infantry elements of the Marine Corps. Most of the hospital corpsmen assigned to an infantry battalion served with rifle companies, one or two men per platoon of about 40. These Sailors patrolled with their Marines, risked the same dangers, and rendered the aid that saved the lives of thousands.



Contributions of hospital corpsmen in Vietnam were noteworthy, as they cared for over 70,000 combat Navy and Marine Corps combat casualties and countless military and civilian sick call patients. Their valor was great. HM3 Donald E. Ballard, HM3 Wayne M. Caron, and HM2 David R. Ray earned the Medal of Honor for heroism. HM3 Robert R. Ingram received his Medal of Honor for Vietnam in 1998. Additionally, 30 hospital corpsmen received the Navy Cross, 127 the Silver Star Medal, and 290 the Bronze Star Medal. The names of 690 hospital corpsmen are memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, more than died in any other war except World War II. Too many more—4,563—would receive the Purple Heart.

HM2 Chris Pyle wrote the following letter home before assignment with 1st Marine Division in Vietnam.



HM3 Donald Ballard

*Many people have died to save another. The Navy Corpsman has had more honors bestowed on him than any other group. My life has but one meaning, to save or help someone. Soon I will be going over to Vietnam. I have my fears and beliefs, but they lay hidden under my emotions. That's why God has made me so. Someday I will see before me a wounded marine. I will think of all kinds of things, but my training has prepared me for this moment. I really doubt if I will be a hero, but to that Marine I will be God. I am hoping that no one will die while I am helping him; if so, some of myself will die with him. Love for fellow man is great in my book. It's true they make me mad at times but no matter who it is, if he's wounded in the middle of a rice paddy, you can bet your bottom dollar that whatever God gave me for power, I will try until my life is taken to help save him, and any other.*

Five months later, on 28 May 1969, HM2 Pyle was killed in action.

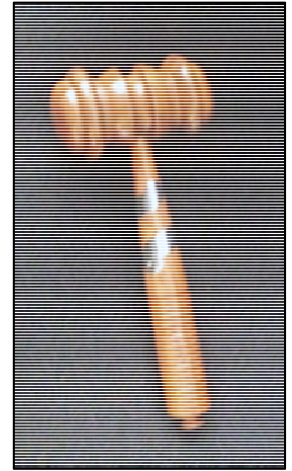
**In the next issue: Hospital Corps History, Part 7 (Post-Vietnam to Present)**

*Acknowledgements:* Jan K. Herman, *Passage to Freedom to the Fall of Saigon*, HMCS (FMF) Mark T. Hacala, USNR

Submitted by Tom Burden

## The Naval Order Gavel

Many Companions are not aware that our Naval Order Gavel, used mostly by the Commander General to call Annual Congress business sessions to order, is an artifact of considerable historical significance.



Official Gavel of NOUS, made from wood from U.S. Steamer *HARTFORD*

According to our Operations Manual, the Gavel has a long history and the material from which it is made gives it great sentimental and monetary value. It is irreplaceable and to be handled with the greatest care. Kept in an obviously home-made wooden box, specially constructed for the task, the Gavel head is made from the frame of the after portside gun port of the U.S. Steamer *HARTFORD* from its berth deck starboard side, while the handle is made from the main rail, aft of the forecastle. A thin silver plate winds around the upper portion of its handle, elegantly decorated with scrolling on each side of the text, inscribed as follows: *USS HARTFORD*, 1861-1865, "Farragut". Maintained in the box is a flimsy, yellowed, hand-written note that provides the above location description and on the reverse side the text reads: "Presented to Lieutenant J. C. Foley, USN, by Chief Constructor P. Hickborn, USN, and in turn presented to the Naval Order of the United States General Commandery by Lieut. Foley." The note is undated. The Naval Order's Centennial Register of Companions published in 1990 reflects several Foleys from the establishment of the Naval Order until 1990 but none with the initials J.C.



U.S. Steamer *HARTFORD* (c. 1865)

Students of Civil War history will recall the *USS HARTFORD* was Rear Admiral David G. Farragut's flagship during the Union Navy's toughly resisted attempt to capture New Orleans on 24 April 1862. The ship ran aground and was set afire but survived to fight in the battles of Vicksburg and Mobile Bay ("Damn the torpedoes!"). New Orleans surrendered to the Union forces on 25 April. Now, we are proud to have a small portion of that famous ship accompany us at each of our Annual Congresses.

Submitted by Vance Morrison

## News from the NOUS Projects Management Office

Our program is not yet a year old and we've had an encouraging level of activity. Over a dozen projects have been proposed with seven receiving serious consideration for further evaluation. Of these, three were processed through the established wickets and achieved Foundation funding approval. They are:

- Development of markers commemorating the ADM Nimitz ADM Togo relationship to be placed at the *USS MISSOURI* Memorial at Pearl Harbor and the Japanese battleship *Mikasa* Memorial in Yokosuka, Japan. *Mikasa* was Togo's flagship during the Russo-Japanese War wherein Togo's performance was much-admired by Nimitz who felt compelled to help restore the memorial ship after WWII.
- A modest financial contribution was made in support of the planned 2015 visits to U.S. and Canadian ports by the French replica sailing ship *Hermione*. The namesake ship carried the Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780 to join Washington's military leadership in the American Revolution.
- Award of an *Envisioning History, Inc.* (EH) 1-year fellowship grant of up to \$2000 for the selection of and project support of a graduate student to develop an academic case study on a chosen event in naval history in the 1918 to 1950 era. Following peer review by three historians, the study will be imported into the EH digitized database with appropriate tutelage to convert it to "digitized history" that can be used in conjunction with other archival material as a teaching aid to undergraduate students in better understanding naval history.

Here, I will expand on the EH fellowship as the program under which it will be accomplished is rather arcane.

While the digitizing process is the province of EH, it is based on creative new learning technologies. However, the case studies are intended primarily as a comprehensive guide to some aspect of naval history for undergraduates. A high premium is placed on telling the story well to those unfamiliar with the material – remembering that the fellowships are about history, not technology. The latter is only a tool in helping us to learn. (You might equate this idea to some of the good interactive, multi-sourced history displays that you've seen in museums.)



EH product development is a collaborative process. Partnering academic and archival institutions contribute their digital libraries and their expert support in introducing new material and to help EH ensure that "scholarship grade" rigor is employed in building its digitized library. Naturally, we'll be watching this process at work in our first grant to judge whether future fellowships should be funded. We are fortunate to have the sponsorship of Mr. Rick Ector, the Executive Director of EH, a non-profit specializing in military history. Rick is a Naval Order Companion. (You are invited to learn more about EH by visiting their website, [envisioninghistory.org](http://envisioninghistory.org)).

We are excited about the long-term potential of this project. The Commander General, General Council, and Project Management staff find it attractive because it can be done in relatively inexpensive mini-projects; we would be adding to the naval history digitized library for universal research use, and the project's heavy lifting is done through the good offices of EH. Yet, we will have a role in selecting the fellowship winner and we'll be permitted overall review as the project ensues. All of this spells strong fulfillment of our Naval Order mission to promote the education of naval history to all Americans, but especially to our follow-on generations.

We look forward to 2015 bringing us new projects to evaluate, approval of those in the wings awaiting funding, and the successful execution of our ongoing projects.

**CAPT Kent Siegel, USN (Ret),  
Project Management Director**

## Health Status-Historian General Doug Smith

Doug Smith, the former Commander of the Newport Commandery and the current Historian General suffered a stroke in October and his condition was announced during the 2014 Annual National Congress. Since that time Doug has made significant progress. Currently he is undergoing rehabilitation at a facility in Middletown, RI, with steady progress in the areas of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. While he still faces substantive challenges in all three areas, his spirit and unique personality remain intact. His ability to converse, which initially caused Doug his biggest frustration, is markedly improved and he is able to have visitors and truly enjoys seeing folks. There is no current prognosis for when he will be able to go home, but all expect Doug to go home as soon as it is safe for both him and for his wife, Polly. He still faces some other challenging health issues and the medical folks are working on those as well. All in all, he is on a positive glide slope toward recovery.

Those wishing to send a note or card can mail it to his home address at 52 Vanderbilt Lane, Portsmouth, RI. 02871.

**From a report by Dr. John Kennedy, NWC, Newport, RI**



## Referrals Work

At this year's Congress in Newport, I distributed trifold referral forms which allow our companions to refer potential members who are located in areas of the country other than their own. These same forms are also sent out with "dues notices" to our annual paying members. Well, I'm happy to report that this continues to be very productive.

I've recently received a referral form from a companion in Alabama proposing a prospective member from Ohio. Another companion in California just proposed someone from Alabama. Thank you Captains Fred Cain and Nevin Fidler for your referrals.

I would opine that every companion reading this report could refer at least one potential member from another part of the country. If you don't have one of these referral forms you can still make the referral by e-mailing me at dschuld@juno.com, providing me with the prospect's name, rank, address, e-mail and/or phone number and, of course, provide me with our information as well. I will take it from there, sending them a letter advising that you have made the referral and include two pieces of NOUS information. I will also advise them as to which commandery they would become affiliated with and I will contact the respective local commander. Who knows, the new member you propose may contribute much to the Naval Order due to their knowledge and love of naval history. They may also one day assume a leadership role in local commandery affairs and on a national level as well.

Let's do it for the "good of the order".



## New Members:

- **Charleston Commandery**

CAPT John Wilfrid Allin, USN (Ret)  
Mr. John Ekvall Gross, Jr.  
Mr. Arnold Larry Marcus  
CDR Jeffrey Charles McAtee, USNR  
Mr. Michael Jon Tito

- **Florida First Coast**

CW3 Nick Munoz Chan, USN (Ret)

- **Monterey Commandery**

LT James Taylor Hough, USN  
Mr. Joshua Mitchell Hugh Mills  
LT Andrew Thomas Stafford, USN

- **National Capitol Commandery**

RADM John Dale Butler, USN (Ret)  
Mr. Robert Cressman  
CAPT John Prevar, USN (Ret.)

- **New Orleans Commandery**

Col Steven Glenn Godinho, USMC  
LtGen Richard Peter Mills, USMC  
Mr. John Robert Peracchio

- **New York Commandery**

Mr. Kevin Neil Ainsworth  
Mr. Steven Joseph Baker  
CDR Corey Burns Barker, USN  
ENS Alexandra Nicole Biehn, USNR  
Captain Patrick Michael DeCharles, II, USMS  
LtCol Arthur Vincent Gorman, Jr., USMC (Ret)  
Mr. Joseph Leek Holloway, Sr.  
Mr. James Taylor Mace  
Dr. Robert Steven Waldbaum, MD

- **Newport Commandery**

Dr. Bradley Layne Carter, PhD  
RADM Philip Gardner Howe, III, USN  
CAPT Thomas Jerome Hudner, Jr., USN (Ret)  
LCDR David John MacDonald, USN (Ret)  
VADM James Philip Wisecup, USN (Ret)

- **Philadelphia / Delaware Valley**

Mr. Sebastian Douglas Pugliese

- **San Francisco**

Mr. Jack Cheevers  
Mrs. Susan Lynn Cruz  
Mr. Mark Travis Gundersen  
Mrs. Sharon Jean Harris  
Mr. Michael Lambert Helms  
Mr. Ramon Thomas Perez  
LT Jeffrey Scott Rasmussen, USNR  
CDR Owen Philip Reid, Jr., USN (Ret)

- **Southeast Florida Commandery**

Mr. Adam Seth Sherr

- **Texas Commandery**

CDR James Emery Andrews, USCG (Ret)  
LT Matthew Lawrence Guyton, USNR  
Mrs. Howard L. Snell

Submitted by Don Schuld  
Vice Commander General - Membership

## In Memoriam

CWO4 T.J. Hanson-Smith, USN (Ret) (Certificate # 5928)  
San Diego Commandery  
Joined February 28, 1987  
November 4, 2014

Mr. Edward J. Keenan (Certificate # 8643)  
National Capitol Commandery  
Joined July 17, 2006  
October 23, 2014

Mr. Lewis E. Lagesse (Certificate # 8349)  
Texas Commandery  
Joined March 31, 2004  
October 23, 2014

The 2015 Congress 22-25 October in New Orleans will draw heavily upon the famed history, food, music, and charm of one of the world's most exciting cities.

The National World War II Museum excursion will feature several of the new pavilions recently opened amid a \$350 million expansion. It will also provide a major source for many extraordinary speakers. Another excursion will begin with lunch at the Riverview Room of the New Orleans School of Cooking, include Mississippi River plantation and swamp tours, and end with an optional Cajun dinner beside the bayou.

Another optional excursion will include coffee and beignets at the

Rue d'Orléans  
**Orleans Street**

Rue Canal  
**Canal Street**

Rue Bourbon  
**Bourbon Street**

Quartier Français  
**French Quarter**

Avenue de Charles  
**St. Charles Avenue**

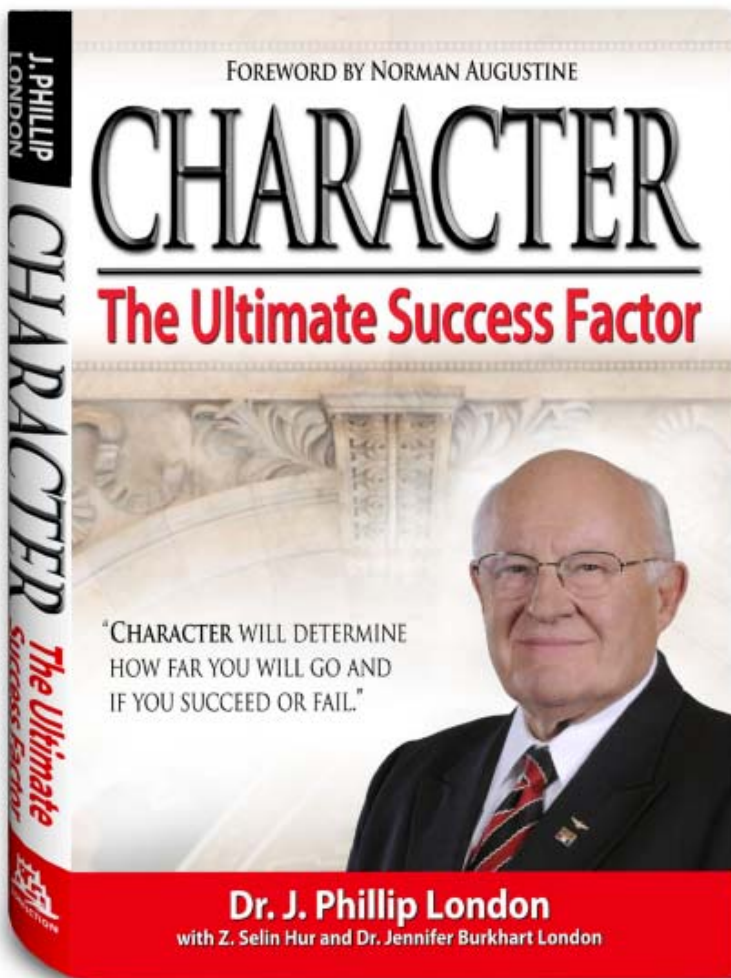
Maket Français  
**French Market**

Place de Jackson  
**Jackson Square**

Old Square  
**Vieux Carré**

famed Café du Monde, a French Quarter tour by mule-drawn buggy, and tours of St. Louis Cathedral, the Presbytère State Museum, and two French Quarter homes. An optional French Quarter history and tasting tour of the best restaurants is also planned. Indeed, Congress meals are planned at a few of the restaurants of world famed chefs.

Our host Intercontinental Hotel, conveniently located on famed St. Charles Avenue, will offer resplendent grandeur and comfort fresh from a \$28 million renovation. A special \$151 per night room rate has been secured. Now is the time to (1) mark your calendar and (2) make your hotel reservation at 1-800-439-4745. Think about coming early or staying late to extend your vacation.



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—Norman Augustine

**Dr. Jack London, CACI Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board** and a Navy veteran, shares his 40 years of character-driven leadership experience in his new book, *Character: The Ultimate Success Factor*. He urges everyone to make a commitment to character.

Available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. To get your copy autographed by Dr. London, contact [info@characterthebook.com](mailto:info@characterthebook.com). *All royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to CAUSE, the wounded warriors support organization.*

*Dr. London is a recipient of the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award.*

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**2015 NATIONAL CONGRESS REGISTRATION**

New Orleans, Louisiana  
21-24 October 2015

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Commandery: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES AND PAYMENTS**

<b>Reservations</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>#Attendees</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registration for Companion & Guest/Spouse <i>Includes Banquet, 2 Luncheons, 2 Receptions, 2 Continental Breakfasts, Hospitality Suite</i>	<b>\$235</b> (\$260 after 1 Sept 2015)	_____	\$ _____
CG Welcome Reception Non-registered guest	<b>\$20</b>	_____	_____
DSSA Banquet Reception Non-registered Guest	<b>\$20</b>	_____	_____
Douglas Luncheon Non-registered Guest	<b>\$35</b>	_____	_____
Dewey Luncheon Non-registered Guest	<b>\$40</b>	_____	_____
DSSA Banquet Non-registered Guest	<b>\$60</b>	_____	_____
French Quarter Tour 10/22 (am)	<b>\$35</b>	_____	_____
Lunch Luke Restaurant 10/22	<b>\$40</b>	_____	_____
French Quarter Culinary Tour 10/22 (pm)	<b>\$45</b>	_____	_____
Dinner Luke Restaurant 10/22	<b>\$50</b>	_____	_____
Plantation/Swamp Tour 10/23	<b>\$35</b>	_____	_____
Shrimp Boil/Chicken Fry (10/23)	<b>\$40</b>	_____	_____
National WWII Museum Tour (10/24)	<b>\$30</b>	_____	_____

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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Hotel reservations NOUS link at [www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org)



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Naval Order Tie, Silk	_____	\$20	_____
Naval Order Tie Bar	_____	\$8	_____
Naval Order Cufflink Set	_____	\$15	_____
Naval Order Blazer Patch	_____	\$20	_____
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- NOUS Ball Cap 'eggs' 05/06	_____	\$15	_____
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Pima Cotton Golf Shirt XXL	_____	\$40	_____
NOUS Golf Shirt – black, white, navy – specify size S M L XL XXL	_____	\$38	_____
NOUS Golf Shirt, polyester, light blue - <b>Close out, \$22 dollars, shipping included</b>	_____	\$22	_____
'Navy Heroes of Normandy' DVD	_____	\$5	_____
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