



2015 Distinguished Sea Service Award

Admiral Jim Stavridis, USN (Ret)

Dean, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
Tufts University



A Florida native, Jim Stavridis attended the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, and spent over thirty years in the Navy, rising to the rank of 4-star Admiral. Among his many commands were four years as the 16th Supreme Allied Commander at NATO, where he oversaw operations in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, the Balkans, and piracy off the coast of Africa. He also commanded US Southern Command in Miami, charged with military operations through Latin America for nearly three years. He was the longest serving Combatant Commander in recent US history.

In the course of his career in the Navy, he served as senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense. He led the Navy's premier operational think tank for innovation, Deep Blue, immediately after the 9/11 attacks. He won the Battenberg Cup for commanding the top ship in the Atlantic Fleet and the Navy League John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational leadership, along more than 50 US and international medals and decorations, including 28 from foreign nations. He also commanded a Destroyer Squadron and a Carrier Strike Group, both in combat.

He earned a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School at Tufts, winning the Gullion prize as outstanding student in his class in 1983, as well as academic honors from the National and Naval War Colleges as a distinguished student. He speaks Spanish and French.

Jim has published six books on leadership, Latin America, ship handling, and innovation, as well as over a hundred articles in leading journals. An active user of social networks, he has thousands of followers on Twitter and friends on Facebook. His TED talk on 21st century security in 2012 has had over 650,000 views. He tweeted the end of combat operations in the Libyan NATO intervention. His memoir of the NATO years, "The Accidental Admiral," was released in October 2014.

Admiral Stavridis is also the Chair of the Board of the US Naval Institute, the professional association of the Nation's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

Jim is the 12th Dean at The Fletcher School, a post he assumed in the summer of 2013. He is happily married to Laura, and they have two daughters – one working at Google and the other an Ensign in the US Navy.

As our Companions now know, Admiral Stavridis is our 2015 Distinguished Sea Service Award honoree and will receive his award formally at our Annual Congress in New Orleans on 21 October 2015.

**Submitted by Admiral Stavridis's Executive Assistant
except for the final paragraph by Vance Morrison**



Commander General's Report to the Order

It is my honor and pleasure to note that we feature our extraordinary 2015 Distinguished Sea Service Award honoree, Admiral James Stavridis, U. S. Navy (Retired) as the lead article on our front page this issue. We look forward to meeting with and presenting the award to Admiral Stavridis during the 2015 Annual Congress in October.

Selection for another major award, the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award, is now underway among the Commanderies and the results of the Committee's deliberations will be announced to all electronically and featured prominently in the next, summer, issue of our newsletter.

Captain Carter Conlin, former Commander General and his Awards Committee are developing a suitable process for our first-ever Distinguished Sea Service Award-Senior Enlisted honoree. It is very satisfying that we will be able to recognize the contributions of our many former enlisted Companions, both while on active duty in the Sea Services and for the Naval Order, in a meaningful way and in honor of one of their fellow Companions. We plan to have more news on this new award in the summer newsletter.

Rear Admiral George Huchting, U.S. Navy (Retired), our Companion to the General Council, provided an article on the passing of our distinguished Companion, Rear Admiral James H. Gaff, Junior, that appears as our *Companion in the Spotlight* in this issue. The story of Admiral Gaff's career makes for fascinating reading. He exemplifies so many of our Companions who have done, and continue to do, so much to enrich our naval heritage.

Doctoral candidate at Ohio State University Corbin Williamson recently has been chosen by a special committee of our Companions, who also are historians, to receive the Graduate Fellowship funded by the Naval Order to support Companion Ricks Ector's *Envisioning History* digital naval history library project. Mr. Williamson will address "Japan's Initial Offensive – Allied Resources and Policy Allocation 1941-1942," a Case Study that should be completed by June. In the future, any activity regarding this project, along with many other aspects of our historical-related efforts, will come under the auspices of Professor John Hattendorf and his recently created Historical Committee.

The Newport, New York, National Capitol, and Hampton Roads Commanderies all have indicated to me that they intend to participate actively in the June-July 2015 ports visits of the

French Frigate *Hermione*, a full-size replica of the ship that carried the Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780 to assist General George Washington in our fight for freedom. Interested Companions who live near the East Coast should consider visiting the ship during one of its many ports visits. The ship's schedule is printed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

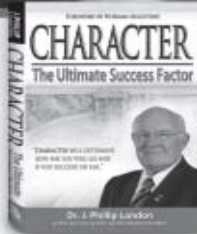
We sadly acknowledge the recent passing of Catherine Nimitz Lay, eldest child of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz at the age of 100. Her sons, Chester and Richard, are both Companions of the Newport Commandery and attended the dedication ceremony of Fleet Admiral Nimitz's statue at Pearl Harbor in September 2013, the statue that was conceived, funded, prepared and installed by the Naval Order with the assistance of the USS Missouri (Battleship) Memorial Association. Mrs. Lay's obituary appears in this issue of the newsletter.

Much needed, we now are developing a list of position descriptions for our national officers and national committee chairpersons, to be placed in the Naval Order Operations Manual as a ready reference for all. In the past, descriptions were not easily found in our documents or did not exist.

Finally, there is much information about the 2015 New Orleans Naval Order Annual Congress in this issue of the newsletter and on our website, www.navalorder.org, including registration forms and how to reserve your hotel room. ***Please consider joining us 21-14 October in the Big Easy to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Naval Order!***

Submitted by Vance Morrison

MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER



"Jack London's book should be required reading."


—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. 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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Membership News

While San Francisco Companions Allan Cruz (Commander), right, and Attilio (Al) Serafini, left, were in Honolulu, Hawaii recently making arrangements for the 2016 NOUS Congress, they took the opportunity to present a Naval Order certificate of membership to LT Jeffery Scott Rasmussen. LT Rasmussen and his wife, Jennifer, and son, Kai met with Allan and Al at the Mariani Sailing Club for an old-style Hawaii dinner.



Distinguished Sea Service Award Honoree

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West, U.S. Navy (Retired) was recently chosen to be our first Senior Enlisted Distinguished Sea Service Award honoree. There will be much more about the award and Master Chief Petty Officer West in our summer issue of this newsletter as well on the Naval Order's website.



The First Coast Commandery started the year running. The bi-monthly meetings now include a video presentation on Great Battles in History. January included the 31 BC Engagement at Actium leading to the birth of the Roman Empire. The March meeting reviewed the 1905 Battle of Tsushima Straits. The Battle announced the emergence of Japanese naval power with a resounding defeat of the Russian Fleet, which led Japan into the following wars with new found naval confidence. Was it Mathew Perry's 'visit' to Japan in 1853 and strong armed trade tactics that really vaulted Japan to develop their navy, leading to the 'proving of emergence' at Tsushima?

Many members of the Commandery attended a lifelong learning presentation by Mr. Sam Turner of the St Augustine Lighthouse on 20 January with residents of the local Cypress Village community. He spoke about the history and contribution of Bernardo Galvez to the American Revolution and the ongoing project to build a ship replica of the original Sailing ship 'Galvez' (Galveston, TX is named after Bernardo Galvez). On 28 January we continued our program with a presentation by Dr. Alan Bliss of the University of North Florida regarding oral history and preserving your legacy. Dr. Bliss, a NOUS FC Companion, provided examples and discussed the process of recording your history, your legacy. This is important to our members who all possess a vast storehouse of Naval knowledge, which if not recorded, becomes lost. Have you recorded YOUR oral history? Preserved YOUR legacy?



Dr. Alan Bliss speaks to the FC commandery on the importance of recording your oral history

The Battle of Olustee Re-enactment - a re-enactment of a Civil War battle fought just west of Jacksonville was held over the President's Day weekend. The event is held annually and features authentic camps and demonstration of infantry tactics, cavalry charges, and cannons. The Jacksonville area features a number of other historic military sites including Fort Clinch in Fernandina Beach, naval facilities in Green Cove Springs, and Fort Frederica near Brunswick, GA.



Members of the FC Commandery and their guests enjoy an evening cruise on the St John's River in Jacksonville on the MV Foxy Lady.

The commandery social event of the first quarter was a dinner cruise on the MV Foxy Lady on 21 March. The 'Group Sail' on the St John's River, with superb cruising weather, wonderful menu and venue, showed the beauty of the downtown Jacksonville area.

On 28 March a number of companions supported the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 in dedicating a monument to all Vietnam veterans across the nation that served their country during the Vietnam War. The monument was erected with a unique design to stand as a testament to their memory and to their courage and sacrifice. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument was funded entirely by private donations. The ceremony was held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. More information is available at www.vva1046.com/monument.



VVA Chapter 1046 Monument to all Veterans of the Vietnam War. Located at the entrance to Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The annual Blessing of the Fleet in St Augustine and downtown Jacksonville was held on Palm Sunday to a wide array of boats and spectators. Commercial and pleasure boats sailed past the downtown gazebos to receive the sprinkling of Holy Water for Blessings during the next season's outings and harvest.

Events for the next quarter include a presentation of a Navy Officer's Sword to the Top Officer Candidate at Jacksonville University/University of North Florida NROTC Commissioning Ceremony, a remembrance of the *USS Stark* on 15 May at Naval Station Mayport, the annual Battle of Midway Dinner at the World Golf Village, and a 'No-Dough Dinner' at the Mayport USO in support of our active duty families.

The Commandery anxiously awaits the release of the Ex-*USS Charles F. Adams* to a local group to establish the Cold-War era destroyer as a museum ship in Jacksonville. It is hoped to open the ship late summer for visits. Additionally, if visiting Jacksonville, please stop in at the Jacksonville Landing and visit the Jacksonville Maritime Heritage Center (JMHC). They have an awesome display of ship models and a full array of mementos, pictures and displays to keep Naval History alive. They can really use your help!
jacksonvillemaritimeheritagecenter.org/default.aspx

The Commandery invites you to join us for any of our upcoming events; just send an e-mail to nousfc@comcast.net. Additionally, if you are just passing through, we gather each Friday at the local Panera's at the corner of Beach Blvd and Hodges Blvd at 0800 for coffee, breakfast, and tall tales!

Submitted by **Bob Whitkop, CAPT, USN (Ret)**

The Monterey Bay Commandery will hold their annual Battle of Midway "Dining Out" at the Naval Support Activity, Monterey, home of the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey on 6 June.

This will be the twelfth year that the Monterey Bay Commandery has coordinated this significant naval historical dinner. Over the years, this event has grown with greater participation within the local military and civilian communities on the Monterey Peninsula Coast.

The evening will commence on the quarter deck of the Old Del Monte Hotel, now the site of the Naval Postgraduate School, with a full service reception. The reception area will be decorated with June 1942 historical Battle of Midway artifacts provided by the school's Dudley Knox Library. The Honorary President of the Mess will be Vice Admiral Ronald Route, USN (Ret.), President of the Naval Postgraduate School.

The official guest of honor and guest speaker is Brigadier General Helen G. Pratt, USMCR, President, Marine Corps University. The 2015 theme is Marines at Midway – 1942. A memorial wreath will be placed in recognition of the valor and sacrifice of the heroes that fought at the Battle of Midway.



Brigadier General
Helen G. Pratt, USMCR

"They came from all walks of life – from small towns and big cities – and answered our Nation's call to go to a place they had never seen before. We were losing the war in the Pacific until these heroes fought. Many of them gave the last full measure to help turn the tide of the war so that we could be free as Americans".

The Navy CID Unit Monterey choir will provide dinner music with patriotic songs for the enjoyment of the attendees and the evening will end with remembrances of those that have served and those still serving with the "piping" of Amazing Grace and "Taps". The Monterey High School NJROTC Unit will provide the Honor Guard detail.

Dinner reservations are available by contacting the Commandery Commander, Lieutenant James Hough, USN at jjhough@nps.edu

On campus BOQ rooms for military guests can be arranged through the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites at npsvqresrv@nps.edu.

New members joining the Commandery this reporting period include LT Timothy (Tim) Baker, USN and LT Kyle Kendall, USN.

Finally, the Commandery is saddened to report that Mrs. Charlotte Minor, a strong supporter of the Monterey Bay Commandery, died 4 February at the age of 100 years.

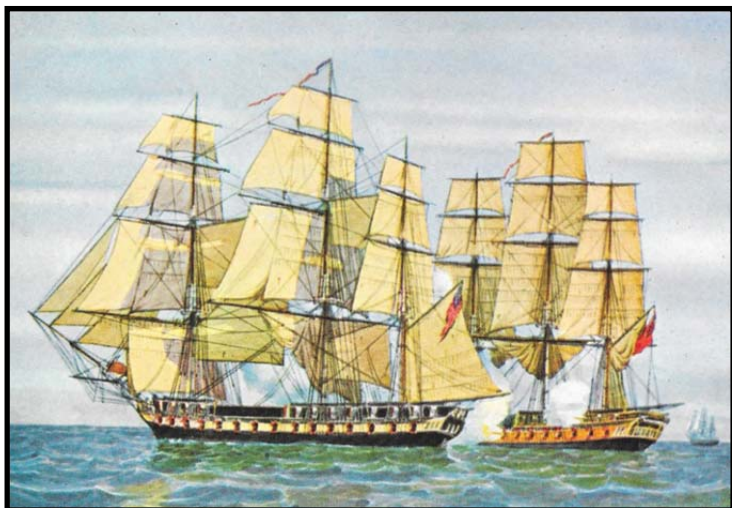
Charlotte married Navy Commander Warner Minor in 1934 and never left the navy. She was the official guest of honor for many Pearl Harbor Dinners and Dining-Out dinners here at the Naval Postgraduate School. December 7, 1941, Charlotte was at home with her husband and two young children when “we awoke to the sounds of planes and bullets hitting the ground. As my husband was returning to his ship, the *USS UTAH*, he placed his 45 automatic on the table and (our two children, 3 and 5 years old, under it) left the house saying...don’t move.....stay here.....off he went and I didn’t see him for another two years”. Charlotte and Warner are now “at home.”

Submitted by Ken Johnson

National Capitol Commandery

On Saturday 21 February, Club members Captain John Rodgaard and his wife Dr. Judy Pearson participated in the bicentennial commemorative service of the death of Midshipman Richard Sutherland Dale, USN at his grave in St Peter’s Churchyard, St George, Bermuda.

Midshipman Dale served onboard the United States Frigate *President*, when on 14 January 1815, the *President* was able to sortie from New York. But in the snowstorm that had blown the Royal Navy’s blockading squadron offshore, the *President* ran hard onto a sand bar. The damage to the *President’s* hull was such that she was no longer the excellent sailer that she was on previous voyages. This would prove fatal to the *President* and to Midshipman Dale.



The US Frigate *President* v HM Frigate *Endymion* by George C. Wales

Throughout the night, the *President* fled pursuit and at daylight found HMS *Majestic* (50-gun razeed) and HMS *Endymion* (40-gun) astern, HMS *Pomona* (38-gun) and HMS *Tenedos* (38-gun) on either quarter. During the subsequent chase that lasted throughout the day and into the early morning hours of 16 January, Decatur was forced to strike the *President’s* colours. It was during the off again, on again running gun battle, that Midshipman Dale received a severe wound to his right leg, which had to be amputated.

The *President* and her main antagonist, the badly shot-up *Endymion*, arrived in Bermuda toward the end of January after a most difficult, stormy passage that had left both ships dismantled. Upon anchoring at St George, Midshipman Dale was taken to a hotel located in town’s square. There the young 20 year old midshipman was lovingly nursed, but on 22 February 1815, Dale died of his wounds.



Sea Cadets from T.S. Admiral Somer’s await inspection by the Governor General. The building in the background was the hotel that Midshipman Dale was nursed and died.

In a solemn ceremony, Dale was buried in St Peter’s Churchyard. Midshipman Dale would be the last US Navy death during the War of 1812. A few years later, Dale’s Father, Commodore Richard Dale, USN commissioned a large white marble tombstone that would rest on marble pillars.



The inscription on his tombstone reads:

In memory of Richard Sutherland Dale, eldest son of Commodore Richard Dale of Philadelphia in the US of America and Midshipman in the US Navy

He departed this life at St George's Bermuda on the 22nd day of February AD 1815 aged 20 years old 1 month and 17 days

He lost his right leg in an engagement between the US Frigate President and a Squadron of His Britannick Majesty's Ships of War on the 15th January AD 1815

His confinement caused a severe complaint In his back and in a short time Terminated his life.

This stone Records the tribute Of his Parents' gratitude To those inhabitants of St George's Whose generous and tender sympathy Prompted the kindest attentions To their son while living And honoured him While dead.

There had been a ceremony on the anniversary of Dale's death, beginning in 1932, when Captain Scarritt Adams, USN resurrected the Dale service and it continued through the years the US Navy had a presence on Bermuda. After a short hiatus the ceremony was resumed by the St. Peter's parish and the people of St George.

The Crown is represented by the Governor General and the United States by the Consul General to Bermuda. A procession led by a piper and drummer and escorted by Bermuda's Sea Cadet Corps, whose colour guard carries the Union Flag and the Stars and Stripes of 15 stars flown during the War of 1812.

The procession with the Governor General and the Consular General walks from the town square through the winding streets of the St George up the hill toward St. Peter's Church.

As in previous years, The Governor General of Bermuda lays a wreath on behalf of the Queen and the Consul General on behalf of the American people. On this bicentennial year, Governor General, His Excellency Mr. George Ferguson, and Consul General, Mr. Robert Settje, were joined by Captain Rodgaard who laid a wreath on behalf of the Naval Order of the United States, whilst Dr. Pearson laid a wreath on behalf of The 1805 Club.

During the grave-side ceremony Captain Allen Brooks, RN Retired, OBE, representing the Royal Navy Officers Association (Bermuda) read a message from Commodore Richard Allen, RN, British Attaché, Washington DC.

In attendance was Dr. Jack Rickman, MD, who was dressed in period costume as a Surgeon Lieutenant onboard the USS *Constitution*. He presented to Captain Rodgaard, the commander's coin from Commander Sean Kearns, USN, the 73rd in command of the historic frigate.

After the ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Ferguson and the Consul General Mr. Settje led those in attendance to a reception and dinner, hosted by The Friends of St. Peter's Church.



The Governor General, His Excellency Mr. George Ferguson, inspects the sea cadet of T.S. Admiral Somers

Prior to the ceremony, Captain Rodgaard met with the rector of St. Peter's Church, Reverend David Rath and Dr. Charlotte Andrews, the Executive Director of the St George Foundation. Reverend Rath and Dr. Andrews briefed Captain Rodgaard on the approach the parish will take to preserve Dale's tombstone and replace it with a new one.

The plan is to remove the stone and preserve it from further deterioration by housing it in the St George cultural and visitor centre and to have a replacement fabricated using the same Italian white marble with the identical inscription and font. Captain Rodgaard informed Rath and Andrews that once the estimate for the project was received, he would approach both The 1805 Club Council and the Naval Order's Executive Council as to the costs. He said that both organizations have expressed interest in the project. Reverend Rath stated that the Friends of St Peter's Church are also interested in supporting the project. Dr. Andrews stated the St George Foundation would support St Peter's from a coordinating perspective.

A cooperative effort among the organizations to preserve Dale's tombstone and replace it with another of the same construction would be an excellent opportunity to promote the mutual history and heritage of the United States, Great Britain, and Bermuda.

Submitted by John Rodgaard

The San Francisco Commandery's outstanding Speaker's program continues to highlight our monthly luncheons.

In January we heard from Mr. Curtis Stocking, the Founder of the Wreaths Project at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery at Dixon, CA.

A local tradition began in 2006 when the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery opened outside of Dixon, California, when holiday wreaths were placed on the gravesites in honor of our fallen. It is estimated that 346,000 veterans live within the cemeteries service area. It should serve northern California's needs for the next 50 years.

According to Mr. Stocking about 300 wreaths were purchased in mid-December that year and placed by a dozen volunteers. The following year, the cemetery had already grown to more than 1,300 gravesites. Requests for donations and help went to the neighboring communities and the response was overwhelming. Wreath Project volunteers started a letter-writing campaign to prior donors, sent emails to our growing email database and sent press releases to all area media outlets. With so many helping to spread the word the cemetery was 100% covered again.

The project has grown exponentially since then and during the 2014 holiday season; approximately 15,000 wreaths were placed as a result of a successful community effort. The target for 2015 is 17,500 wreaths.



Wreaths decorate graves at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

In February our speaker was CDR Alvin Concepcion USN, CO Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) Alameda. Alameda used to be home to Carriers and Cruisers and thousands of sailors at the Naval Air Station Alameda. The NOSC, its staff and drilling reservists, now represent the United States Navy in the area. His briefing focused on the US Naval Reserve Community Outreach Program. He provided a status update on the world-wide activities of the Naval Reserve in support of the Operating Forces. NOSC Alameda, a component of Navy Region Southwest San Diego supports multiple units covering a broad range of missions and capabilities. The Southwest region includes than 10,000 Selected Reservists (SELRES) in seven

states and one territory. NOSC Alameda, one of nineteen Reserve Centers in the region, delivers operational capability and strategic depth and will continue to deliver a ready and accessible force to the United States Navy.

NOSC Alameda Sailors volunteered to support the USS *America* (LHA-6) commissioning as augments to the ship's security force during Fleet Week this past October. Their professionalism and outstanding military bearing made a positive impression on the 9,000 guests at the event. CDR Concepcion took the opportunity to invite the Naval Order to the Centennial Celebration of the US Naval Reserve that will be held on Saturday, 5 July, 2015 at the old NAS Piers on Ferry Point Road in Alameda.



Bishop Barber Addresses the Commandery during the last meeting at Capps.

March was our last luncheon in Capp's Corner. Our speaker was the Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J., Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland and CAPT, CHC, USN. Bishop Barber, who deployed to theatre with the Marines during "Operation Iraqi Freedom," is a drilling reservist assigned as the command chaplain for Navy Region Northwest.

Bishop Barber gave us an update of the Navy Chaplain program. He described the current structure of the Chaplain Corps and noted that total numbers for military chaplains has decreased over the years. The main role of the Chaplain Corps is to provide religious services for military personnel in their denomination. There are chaplains representing many Christian denominations as well as the Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim faiths and others. On many occasions the chaplain facilitates religious observances for people not in their particular denomination. An important aspect of the chaplain's duties is to ensure there is an opportunity for military members to observe religious holidays. Bishop Barber highlighted the point that chaplains cannot reveal information they have heard in confidence. There was a very animated Q&A session after the presentation.

Submitted by Allan Cruz

Texas Commandery Participates in Memorial Ceremony for Survivors of *USS Houston* (CA-30)

The Texas Commandery again participated in the memorial ceremony held March 7, 2015 for the survivors of *USS Houston* (CA-30) which was held for the 21st time since the dedication of the monument on 11 November 1995.



Naval Order group: From left: Chaplain Ken Espinosa, Lori LaGesce Cento, CAPT David Burr, Lin Drees, CAPT Carter Conlin, MM2 (SS) Gil Raynor, CAPT Woe King, CAPT Buzz Gralla, CAPT Chuck Hewell, CDR Jim Sterling, and CPO Charles Grabein.

The ceremony was held in downtown Houston in Sam Houston Park at the site of the monument with the bell from *USS Houston* mounted on top. The ship was sunk in World War II on March 1, 1942 during the Battle of Sunda Strait near the island of Java with the loss of 700 lives and only 368 surviving. After 3-1/2 years of captivity, during which most of the crew members were cruelly forced to build the “death railway” between Bangkok, Thailand and Moulmein, Burma (Myanmar), only 290 survived. The Australian cruiser *HMAS Perth* was lost in the same battle with similar losses. Now there are only eight survivors from *USS Houston*, none of which attended the reunion and memorial ceremony.

Many relatives and friends of the survivors attended the ceremony in addition to representatives of the four ABDA Nations (American, British, Dutch and Australian) that participated in the Battle of the Java Sea (February 27-28, 1942) and the Battle of Sunda Strait (February 28-March 1, 1942). The Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony was Mr. John K. Schwarz, son of the founder of the *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generations, the late CPO Otto Schwarz, USN.



MC John Schwarz addressing survivors group

The Mayor of the City of Houston, Hon. Annise D. Parker, surprised those attending, by bringing a proclamation honoring the crew and the ship which she presented to Mr. Schwarz and CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN



Hon. Mayor Annise Parker presenting a City of Houston Proclamation to John Schwarz and CAPT Carter Conlin.

(Ret.). This is the first time in the 20 years that this annual event has been held that a mayor of the City of Houston has honored the event with his or her presence.

Mr. Schwarz introduced the four speakers representing the ABDA nations which included the Commander of the Texas Commandery of the Naval Order, MM2 (SS) Gilbert J. Raynor, USN (Ret.), who represented the United States. Quoting from his speech:

“It is this spirit of these men that we come here today to honor. We stand, humbly, here today because of these men and their service to this nation; service that all of us have benefited from. It is impossible to comprehend what they suffered and went through. We cannot know the longing of the families who did not know the status of their men, dead or alive, however we can understand that it is these men and thousands like them who brought us to where we are today.”

After hearing Gil Raynor’s speech, Mr. Schwarz remarked that although this is the first time he has spoken to the survivors’ group, “...he hit a home run his first time at bat!”

CPO Charles E. Grabein, USN (Ret.) directed the Invincible Eagle Band and played the Navy Hymn to which CAPT Carter Conlin recited the words. Several organizations placed wreaths at the base of the monument. The Naval Order wreath was presented by CAPT Chuck Hewell, Vice Commander of the Texas Commandery.



CAPT Chuck Hewell placing Texas Commandery wreath

The Fleet Admiral Nimitz Leadership Award

The Texas Commandery held its Annual Banquet on Saturday night February 7, 2015 at the Houston Racquet Club with the Commandery Vice Commander, Captain Chuck Hewell, conducting the event in lieu of Commander Gil Raynor who had a previously arranged engagement.

This was the 29th year that the Texas Commandery has recognized the leadership of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz by presenting an award in his memory. Admiral Nimitz's outstanding leadership qualities are examples of those qualities for which the Texas Commandery was chartered. Admiral Nimitz, a native Texan born in Fredericksburg, Texas, was elected to the New York Commandery of the Naval Order on 15 September 1947. CAPT Carter Conlin, Chairman of the Nimitz Award Committee, gave the background and qualifications for the award in addition to the qualifications of this year's recipient. The other members of the Nimitz Committee are Captain David Burr and Captain Martine Myers Offenberger.

This year's recipient is Vice Admiral David B. Robinson, USN (Ret.), who served as the Commander of Naval Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet in 1993 until his retirement in 1996. During the earlier part of his career he served on several destroyers and cruisers in various positions including Executive Officer and Commanding Officer which included his command of the patrol gunboat *USS Canon* (PG-90) in Vietnam in 1969 where he was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on this ship.



VADM David B. Robinson speaking at podium

RADM William "Bear" Pickavance was asked to come to the podium and read an excerpt from the citation. "...he was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions when his ship was traveling up the Bo De River and suddenly came under intense

enemy automatic weapon, rocket and small arms attack from an estimated forty-man force located in a mangrove swamp on both banks of the river. During the initial attack he sustained a broken leg and numerous shrapnel wounds when a rocket exploded on the port side of the flying bridge. Despite his serious wounds and loss of blood, he continued to direct his ship's fire until the enemy attack was suppressed. He then refused medical evacuation but got some first-aid treatment and then requested that he be strapped into a stretcher and placed in an upright position so that he could continue to direct the actions of his ship until it cleared the enemy ambush site."

The Nimitz Leadership Award plaque was presented by Captain Chuck Hewell, Texas Commandery Vice Commander. In addition to this personal award plaque, there is a permanent Nimitz Leadership Award plaque that is displayed at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas where the names of all past recipients are displayed on individual brass nameplates.

After being presented the Nimitz Leadership Award, VADM Robinson spoke to the group about some of his experiences during his long and significant naval career. He also discussed some of the personality traits that are necessary for the development of strong leadership qualities.

A table was set up as a remembrance for those POW/MIA service members who could not be present. Chaplain Ken Espinosa, LT, USN, gave an inspiring invocation and benediction for the banquet.



Group of all members of Texas Commandery present:

Seated from left: Chaplain Ken Espinosa, Robert Trevino, Chuck Hewell, Clyde Combs and Joan Alford.

Standing from left: RADM William Pickavance, Jeb Strickland, Joe Dervay, Leander Jones, Don Lieske, Cheri Ackert-Burr, Woe King, David Burr, VADM David B. Robinson, Carter Conlin, Buzz Gralla, Bryan Lethcoe, Jim McCuiston and Michael "Pepe" Carambas.

Photography by: Carter and Nancy Conlin

Submitted by Carter Conlin



The Texas Commandery has joined with the Commanding Officer, Commander Scott McGinnis, USN, of the submarine, *USS Houston* (SSN-713), to provide a wreath that the crew of the submarine will place in the Sunda Strait in remembrance of the sunken heavy cruiser *USS Houston* (CA-30) crew, two-thirds of which were lost during the Battle of Sunda Strait on March 1, 1942, while the remainder of the crew was either lost at sea trying to survive or were captured and became prisoners of war of the Japanese and used as slave labor on the Burma Railroad that included constructing the bridge over the River Kwai.

Seven hundred sailors from the cruiser *USS Houston* died as the ship went down fighting alongside the Australian light cruiser, HMAS Perth, which was sunk minutes before the *USS Houston*. The sailors who survived the sinking of the *USS Houston* suffered for hours in the sea fighting to reach land as the currents drew them away. Covered with fuel oil and tormented by battle wounds, some succumbed to the sea and never reached land. Today, the *USS Houston* rests approximately 120 feet below the surface of the Sunda Strait.

President Roosevelt, speaking of this heroic ship on Memorial Day, 1942, in Houston, noted:

“When ship and men went down, still fighting, they did not go down to defeat.... The officers and men of the U.S.S Houston were privileged to prove, once again, that free Americans consider no price too high to pay in defense of their freedom. The officers and men of the USS Houston drove a hard bargain. They sold their liberty and their lives most dearly.”

Commander McGinnis requested that the Texas Commandery consider providing a commemoration wreath to deploy in the Sunda Strait as the submarine *USS HOUSTON* transits the Strait during her Western Pacific deployment in 2015. The Commanding Officer will provide a videotape of the memorial service that is tentatively scheduled for late October or early

November depending on mission requirements. The wreath was shipped to Commander McGinnis in April 2014 to be stowed on the sub until the memorial service.

Captain Carl V. Ragsdale, USN (Ret), founding Commander of the Texas Commandery, had a vision of a monument to honor the memory of the men who served on the ship nicknamed the “Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast,” receiving that handle due to her uncanny ability to survive such events as ships exploding next to her while at anchor under air raids. The Japanese reported her sunk so many times the crew nicknamed the *USS Houston* “The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast.” No sooner had the Japanese declared her destroyed than she appeared miles away, causing havoc for the enemy.



In the early 1990s Captain Ragsdale formed the *USS Houston* Foundation, a committee of ten Texas Commandery Companions to select a design, raise money, and then build the monument in downtown Houston as a memorial to both the survivors and those who lost their lives in service to their country in World War II when the *USS Houston* was sunk in battle. The memorial was dedicated on November 11, 1995. Atop the Texas Pink Granite obelisk is the ship’s 500-pound bell that was recovered by Indonesian divers in 1973 from the sunken *USS Houston*.

The bell was presented on behalf of the Indonesian people to the American Ambassador where upon it was transferred to the custody of the U.S. Navy, which, in turn, gave custody to the

City of Houston. It was stored in a crate for 17 years on the Battleship *USS Texas*, (BB-35) in the San Jacinto Battleground Park, southeast of downtown Houston. When Captain Ragsdale learned of the bell's location and history, he conceived of the project to build a monument to the *USS Houston* and her gallant crew.



USS Houston (CA-30) Memorial

A memorial service is held annually on the Saturday closest to March 1 to remember the crew--those who died and those who survived. The Texas Commandery directed the ceremony for several years after the memorial's dedication after which the *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors and Next Generation Association took on that responsibility. The ceremony includes representatives of the Allied fleet of ABDA forces (American, British, Dutch, & Australian).

Following the Battle of the Java Sea on February 27, 1942, consisting of 14 ABDA ships, only the *USS Houston* and the HMAS Perth survived, and a day later they were ambushed by a superior Imperial Japanese Navy fleet in the Sunda Strait.

The Texas Commandery is honored to be able to contribute to another generation of *USS Houston* sailors learning about and commemorating such an important part of our WWII naval history.

The Commandery provided the crew with copies of ***SHIP OF GHOSTS: The Story Of The USS Houston*** by James D. Hornfischer, ***THE LAST BATTLE STATION: The Story of the USS Houston*** by Duane Schultz, and a DVD entitled "**The Last Stand of the *USS Houston***" narrated by Otto Schwarz (a *USS Houston* survivor) and The *USS Houston* Survivors and Next Generation Association. It was directed by Jason Eisenberg.

Submitted by Gil Raynor, MM2 SS (elt)
Commander, Texas Commandery of the Naval Order

Paul M. Kennedy, the J. Richardson Dilworth professor of history at Yale University, was presented the Hattendorf Prize for Distinguished Original Research in Maritime History by U.S. Naval War College (NWC) president Rear Adm. P. Gardner Howe III, Nov. 20, at Yale, where Hattendorf provided a guest lecture on "Sea Power since 1945."

In presenting the award, Howe recognized Kennedy for his innovative and wide-ranging approach to the writing of naval history, inspiring scholars to examine the importance of sea power and shaping the course of international history.



U.S. Naval War College (NWC) president Rear Adm. P. Gardner Howe III and NWC professor John B. Hattendorf present Yale University professor Paul M. Kennedy the Hattendorf Prize

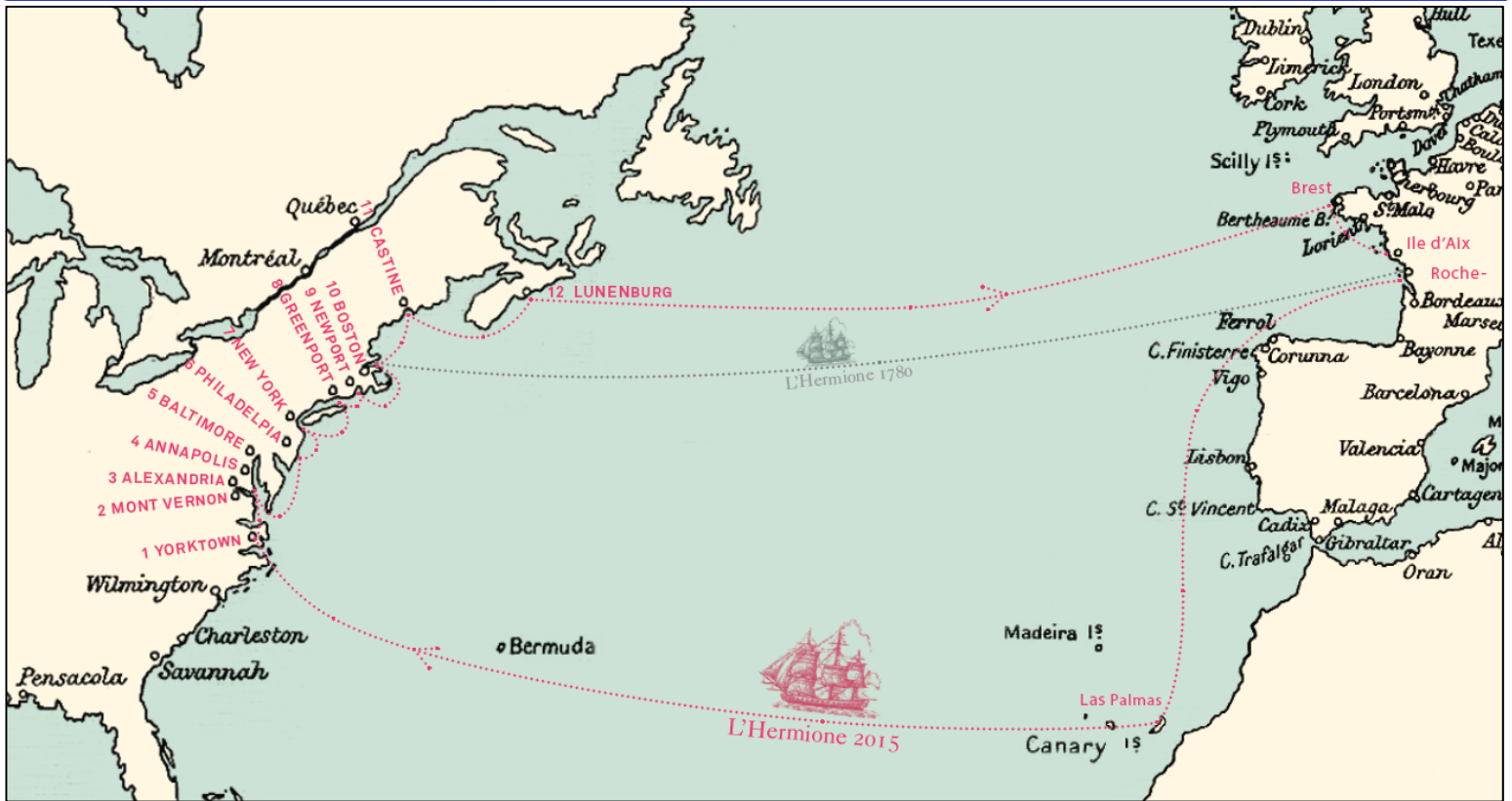
"This impressive body of historical scholarship has influenced the work not only of other historians, but a much wider audience," said Howe. "By breaking down barriers to interdisciplinary study, by integrating a wide range of knowledge, and by making a contribution to policy discussions, your works have themselves become prizes for us to read."

Kennedy has written compelling narratives that show the inter-relationship of sea power and land power, technological innovation and naval warfare, economic wherewithal and naval strength, and grand strategy and high politics. Howe emphasized that the award honors both Kennedy and his work, expressing appreciation for distinguished academic research, insight and writing that contributes to a deeper understanding of the influence of sea power and the rise and fall of great powers.

The Hattendorf Prize is made to an individual who has made world-class achievement in original research, contributing to a deeper historical understanding of the broad context and interrelationships involved in the roles, contributions, limitations and uses of the sea services in history.

First awarded in 2011, the prize is made possible through the generosity of the NWC Foundation. It is awarded at two- or three-year intervals, providing a \$10,000 cash prize with a citation and bronze medal.

Edited and Submitted by Daniel S. Marciniak



The Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America, Inc. announce Lafayette's Hermione voyage 2015, a two-month long "Re-Living History" sail to commemorate the Hermione, the Frigate of Freedom that delivered young Marquis de Lafayette in 1780 to General Washington with full French aid. They, together, turned the tide of the American Revolution. The authentically reconstructed Hermione, 17 years in the re-making, will sail 3,819 miles across the Atlantic to land in Yorktown June 5, before sailing up the coast to 11 additional ports for an unprecedented two months of events. Visitors can join the festivities at any point along the route and enjoy tours on board or pier-side where activities are scheduled, including historic shipbuilding crafts demonstrations, interactive conversations with the young volunteer sailors, and a lineup of cultural activities like costumed performances by seasoned re-enactors, concerts of period and contemporary music, and food and craft exhibitions.

A traveling photography exhibit covering the 17 years of Hermione's reconstruction will be free to the public in each port with companion exhibits at the New York Historical Society, the Museum of the U. S. Navy in Washington, D.C., and the Athenaeum in Boston. Philadelphia will host a recreation of the meal aboard the Hermione that the Continental Congress enjoyed with Washington and Lafayette at City Tavern, the oldest tavern in America." Much more information can be found on the website Hermione2105.com.

A map of the Hermione voyage (above) with dates (next column) for the many port visits accompanies this article for Companions' information. The Newport, New York, National Capitol and Hampton Roads Commanderries plan to participate

in the ports calls in their respective areas. Many other Companions may find the ship visits also of interest.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June | July |
| Yorktown, VA June 5-7 | New York, NY July 1 - 4 |
| Mount Vernon, VA June 9 | Greenport, NY July 6, 7 |
| Alexandria, VA June 10-12 | Newport, RI July 8, 9 |
| Annapolis, MD June 16, 17 | Boston, MA July 11, 12 |
| Baltimore, MD June 19-21 | Castine, ME July 14, 15 |
| Philadelphia, PA June 25 - 28 | Lunenburg, Nova Scotia July 18 |



Excerpted from a 9 February 2015 press release
Submitted by Vance Morrison



Hospital Corps History Part 7 (1980-Present)

Following the post-Viet Nam defense drawdown, the Hospital Corps continued to adapt and evolve. Many, though not all, of the changes were positive, capitalizing on lessons learned from the battlefield and improvements in healthcare modalities made possible from technological advances.

Corpsman Training



Navy Physician Assistant LT Sarah Browning

In the mid-Sixties, responding to the American Medical Association's recommendation to create a new category of



Chief Hospital Corpsman Reyes Camacho, Independent Duty Corpsman aboard the USS Toledo (SSN 769) checks the heartbeat of Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Rudy Taylor

healthcare workers called "physician assistants", Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. formed the first university-level PA program at the Duke University Medical Center. He based the curriculum of the PA program on his first-hand knowledge of the fast-track training of medical doctors during World War II. Recognizing the unique value of Navy independent duty corpsmen, as well as those with Viet Nam combat experience, Duke's first class was comprised entirely of former Navy Corpsmen. The Navy soon began its

own program at the Naval School of Health Sciences in Portsmouth, VA, and started training its own physician assistants drawn from the ranks of independent duty hospital corpsmen. In 1985, training moved to San Diego where it now operates the Interservice Physician's Assistant Program with a university affiliation of the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In the mid-Seventies, driven largely by budgetary pressures, the Navy consolidated two of the Hospital Corps' most respected advanced "B" schools, the Independent Duty course, and the Medical Administrative Technician course, into a new hybrid— the Medical Services Technician course. Subsequent experience, however, would show that the new "super" school did not reliably prepare senior petty officers for independent duty at sea. After a string of for-cause reliefs, the Surgeon General convened a team of proven senior and master chief corpsmen and medical officers to re-design the advanced training curriculum and strengthen the screening process for independent duty. At their recommendation, the Medical Service Technician was abolished and the Independent Duty Corpsman designation was restored along with a new, strengthened curriculum. With these changes, duty at sea independent of a physician again became one of the most respected and highly sought-after assignments of a corpsman's career.

Hospital Corpsmen in Beirut



A different part of the world would beckon hospital corpsmen in the 1980s, southwest Asia. The objective was a "peacekeeping" mission in Beirut, Lebanon, in which U.S. forces participated with those of France, Italy, and Great Britain in a Multinational Force. Here, hospital corpsmen from the ships of a Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group and a Marine Amphibious Unit were assigned to stop a bloody, eight-year old factional civil war. By the end of August, 1983, the peacekeepers had become targets locked in a ground war that was all but unknown back in the U.S.

Firefights at isolated outposts soon produced casualties, and hospital corpsmen responded under fire to treat their wounded Marines. When a mortar round hit one of the Marine positions, one hospital corpsman, HN Victor Oglesby, found himself with five wounded Marines, his platoon sergeant dead, and his platoon commander barely alive. Two months later, on 23 October a uniformed suicide truck bomber attacked the headquarters of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. The truck bomb unleashed the largest non-nuclear blast ever detonated, and killed 241 Americans. Almost the entire battalion aid station—15 hospital corpsmen and the battalion surgeon—were killed. The single-day casualty count for the Hospital Corps would be the next costly after World War I. One of the three hospital corpsmen who survived the blast, HM3 Donald Howell, tended to wounded Marines while trapped in the rubble although himself wounded. The relief unit for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit would not arrive in Lebanon until they had invaded the small Caribbean nation of Grenada.

Hospital Corpsmen in the Persian Gulf War



HM3 Michael Vann Johnson, USN

The 1990-91 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait gained a strong response from the U.S. and the world. Preparations were made to drive the Iraqi Army out of the tiny country, and corpsmen were readied to respond to the needs of their shipmates. Hospital corpsmen around the globe reacted, as their ships, stations, and Marines deployed or prepared to receive casualties. In fact, the first Navy casualty of the war was a hospital corpsman, HM3 Michael Vann Johnson. Of the vast

number of Naval Reservists called to active duty, the largest single group activated was hospital corpsmen. From a total Reserve inventory of just over 12,000 hospital corpsmen, 6,739 were called to active duty. The largest group of them, 4,617, served at medical treatment facilities and casualty receiving centers. 1,142 went to Marine Corps units, 841 to Fleet Hospitals, and 15,471 of them were assigned to the hospital ships, USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort.

Hospital Corpsmen in Somalia

In 1993, U.S. forces would again try to bring stability to a troubled land: Somalia. Hospital corpsmen there faced both bullets and the needs of a starving populace. One, HM3 Timothy E. Quinn, wrote a letter describing his experiences in February of that year. “I was on a foot patrol that got pinned down by automatic weapons fire, and here I am tucked up against a tree

trying to get small...” he continued, “I go out to orphanages and do simple sick call and such...the people there tell us that food is now plentiful, and that no one is dying of hunger anymore, but now the medical problems are much more apparent.”

Hospital Corpsmen Today

Since its opening in 1913, the Navy’s Hospital Corps “A” School at Great Lakes, Illinois fulfilled its mission to field basic hospital corpsmen for the fleet and the shore establishment. However, once again, fiscal pressures, along with the DOD-wide movement toward “jointness” would have a major impact on the training of Hospital Corpsmen. After producing tens of thousands of superbly qualified graduates, Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes closed its doors after the last class graduated on July 28, 2011. Training was relocated to the Medical Education and Training Campus at Fort Sam Houston, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas where initial enlisted medical preparation is now conducted for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

In its first century, the Hospital Corps has compiled a truly honorable legacy of valor and sacrifice. In addition to the wars and conflicts recounted in this series, Navy Corpsmen have responded to natural disasters, military accidents, and other peacetime emergencies. Moreover, they have maintained the regular health of their Sailors and Marines, giving immunizations, conducting preventive medicine efforts, and holding sick call. Today, the 23,000 regular and 6,000 reserve members of the Navy Hospital Corps continue to serve around the globe. They are assigned to naval hospitals and clinics, to surface ships and submarines. They fly search and rescue missions and deploy with Seabees. They maintain constant battle readiness with Marine Corps units and SEAL teams.

Hospital Corpsmen have always had the job of maintaining the health of their shipmates and marines. Their innumerable instances of heroism, of consciously exposing themselves to danger to save lives, are not spectacular because they were required to act. Their displays of courage have been noteworthy because these men and women cared about their shipmates. Today’s Hospital Corps is firmly established as a critical component of Navy Medicine and stands ready to carry out the mission.

**Submitted by Thomas W. Burden
Lieutenant Commander, Medical Service Corps
U.S. Navy (Retired)
Surgeon General
Naval Order of the United States**

With our Projects Management Program at the 1-year point, we are tracking three active NOUS Foundation-funded projects; and two other projects that are likely to become active in the near future. Here are summaries of activity/progress/prognosis:

Nimitz –Togo Markers

CAPT Al Serafini is project manager. He is working closely with USS Missouri Memorial Association POC, Ms. Ruth Ann Becker, to design and develop informational markers featuring the two admirals and their relationship. So far, negotiations with the Japanese to place two markers at the Mikasa Museum (Togo's flagship at Tsushima during the Russo-Japanese War) have run into roadblocks. Therefore, all effort will be shifted to the two markers for display near *USS Missouri*. They will be in the same style as the markers now in place there. Al will collaborate with Ms. Becker in selecting the graphics and text. A Japanese translator will be brought in and when the final layout is fully approved, the markers will be manufactured. An estimated cost of \$4,500 is within funding already committed by our foundation. Placement will be determined by the Missouri Association, most likely near the Nimitz statue.

Hermione Cruise to the East Coast

CAPT Bob Luney whetted our interest in this project being run by the American Hermione Project to which NOUS is participating by virtue of a \$1000 donation of support. This beautiful sailing ship is an exact replica of the vessel that transported the Marquis de Lafayette to America with a commitment to lend his military skills to General George Washington in the fight for our independence from Britain. Hermione is cruising to our East Coast in June and July with port visits scheduled in Yorktown, Mt. Vernon, Alexandria, Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Newport, and Boston. Our commanderies in or near those locations will receive details and are encouraged to participate with tours and/or onboard events, as arranged with the Hermione Project Executive, Director of Friends. Some commanderies are already putting plans in place.

Envisioning History Fellowship

CDR Rick Ector is executive director of Envisioning History, Inc. and this project manager. He has overseen the call for applications and selection process which has culminated in the selection of the committee choosing Corbin Williamson, a doctoral candidate at Ohio State University. Our Companions CAPT Chuck Chadbourn, Dr. Bill Dudley, and CAPT Dave Kaiser served on the committee which named Corbin the winner from the field of four excellent applicants. He will write a case study entitled "Japan's Initial Offensive – Allied Resources and Policy Allocations in 1941-1942". This has been a key issue in the study of the history of the early months just before and during WW II. His case study is expected to be available by the end of May.

Rick is mentoring Corbin on the development of the case study and will continue the transformation of the case study into an instructional medium for college undergraduates using the envisioning history process to achieve the desired final product. It will be a database of primary and secondary sources related to the subject of the case study and will be an educational resource based on geospatial analysis. This project is being conducted under the watchful eye of Prof. John Hattendorf, our acting Historian General. We will advise on the progress as we track along with Corbin's work.

Washington's Old Navy Hospital Marker

LCDR Tom Burden is project manager. A tour of the Hill Center facility (restored hospital building) was conducted in company with the BUMED historian and PAO officer. BUMED is now onboard as a partner in the project with NOUS and the Hill Center. Consideration of this project for formal NOUS approval and Foundation funding is delayed by lack of an approved site for the marker. We are seeking out an official in the Washington bureaucracy that can give such approval. A call on the Ward 6 council member, from whom support is sought, is pending. More news will follow when we have it.

MIDN Dale Gravesite Marker

CAPT John Rodgaard is the project manager and prime-mover. The project involves helping fund the production of a replacement marble cover for the grave of MIDN Richard Sutherland Dale, USN at St. Peters Church in St. Georges, Bermuda. He died in 1815 from wounds suffered in combat at sea.

John has established relationships in Bermuda with St. Peters Church and St. Georges Foundation officials through several personally-funded trips to the island and much phone and e-mail communication. The church has decided to move the well-worn, fragile original marble cover into the protection of the church museum where it will be displayed. Thus, there is a need for the replacement which will bear the same inscription as the original. So far, no NOUS funds have been used, but a cost, yet to be determined, in which NOUS would share is thought to be more than the NATCAP Commandery could afford. If so, a formal request for NOUS project status and Foundation funding will be forthcoming. We'll keep you posted.

If you are inclined to bring forward a project proposal, we will be happy to consider it; or if you, or someone you know, may wish to donate to the Foundation for any of the above or future projects, it will be gratefully received.

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

While there are 5 or 6 commanderies that continue to produce new members each month, there are several more commanderies that rarely produce any new members at all. The irony of this is that those commanderies are surrounded by eligible members who would join if only asked.

I appeal to those aforementioned commanderies and their commanders to develop an active recruiting committee and bring new life to their commanderies. We will be happy to provide brochures and applications to anyone who will put them to use. Also, if you would like help with recruiting, please reach out to me for assistance.

Just this past week I received three "referral forms" in the mail. These are the buff colored forms that are mailed out with dues renewal notices. They allow a member from one part of the country to propose a new member from another part of the country. If you happen to have one, please consider proposing someone.

You were proposed at one time; now it's time to pay it forward.

Submitted by Donald W. Schuld
Vice Commander – Membership

In Memoriam

NOUS was notified recently of Captain Richard S. Rogers (97) passing. His obituary noted that he passed away on 23 October 2012. He was a 1937 USNA graduate, an aviator (fighters) with nearly 10,000 flight hours and over 350 carrier landings. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, four Distinguished Flying Cross Medals, four Air Medals, and numerous other medals and citations.

Mr. Roy W. Brown (Certificate #8844)
National Capitol Commandery
Joined November 10, 2008
February 7, 2015

CDR Harold L. Buell, USN (Ret) (Certificate #6849)
Texas Commandery
Joined January 8, 1992
August 14, 2014

Joanne Strauss Crown (Certificate # 4982)
Illinois Commandery
Joined September 25, 1975
January 25, 2015

Col Charles B. Erickson, USMC (Ret) (Certificate 9061)
Monterey Bay Commandery
Joined January 20, 2011
December 24, 2014

CAPT Richard Alan Dirks, USN (Ret) (Certificate #5417)
National Capitol Commandery
Joined September 8, 1980
September 29, 2014

CAPT Edward M. Fitch, USN (Ret) (Certificate #3752)
San Diego Commandery
Joined June 9, 1959
June 9, 2014

Mr. Maurice Fulton (Certificate #5406)
Illinois Commandery
Joined July 8, 1980
August 31, 2014

RADM Robert B. Fulton, USN (Ret) (Certificate #7999)
Texas Commandery
Joined January 3, 2001
February 18, 2015

Mr. James H. Gaff (Certificate # 8808)
Florida First Coast Commandery
Joined July 20, 2008
January 7, 2015

CDR Vernon T. Hitchcock, USN (Ret) (Certificate # 5305)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined July 10, 1978
December 2, 2014

CAPT Edward W. Knutsen, USN (Ret) (Certificate #5876)
Texas Commandery
Joined September 19, 1986
February 15, 2015

Mr. Francis Williams Lachicotte, IV (Certificate #9319)
Charleston Commandery
Joined November 18, 2013
July 2, 2014

CAPT John J. McCarthy (Certificate # 6217)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined January 9, 1989
October 31, 2014

Catherine Nimitz Lay (Certificate # 9255)
San Francisco Commandery
Joined May 6, 2013
January 14, 2015

Ms. Patricia F. Simoni (Certificate #8813)
Florida First Coast Commandery
Joined August 30, 2008
January 2, 2015

Catherine Nimitz Lay
Eldest Child of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz



WELLFLEET – Catherine Nimitz Lay, the eldest child of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Catherine Freeman Nimitz, died at her home on January 14 at the age of 100. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Captain James T. Lay, her eldest son, James T. Lay, Jr., and by her three younger siblings, Chester W. Nimitz, Jr., Nancy Nimitz and Sister Mary Aquinas Nimitz. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Richard and Jean Lay

of Wellfleet, her son and daughter-in-law Chester and Marion Lay of Brewster, her daughter-in-law Shirley Lay of Blue Hill, Maine and by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was born at the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn New York on February 22, 1914. In June of 1920, her father was ordered by the Navy Department to build a *de novo* submarine base at Pearl Harbor and six year old Catherine, along with her brother Chester and sister Nancy moved with the family to Oahu, where she remembers walking barefoot through cow pastures to attend Punahou school.

Catherine enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley for the spring term when she was just 16. She graduated in 1934 and sailed aboard the *President Johnson* to Shanghai to join her family who were stationed there when her father commanded the cruiser *USS Augusta*

At a reception in Japan following the death of Fleet Admiral Togo, she met – was enamored by – a young lieutenant, James Lay, then serving under her father on the *Augusta*. They corresponded thereafter and throughout the war and were married in Washington, D.C., in March of 1945. Of the chance meeting of her future husband at the event for Admiral Togo, Catherine would say “never pass up a good funeral!”

She became chief of the music division of the Washington Public Library and was living with her sister Nancy across the hall from the senior Nimitzes in an apartment on Q Street when Pearl Harbor was attacked. As her father was whisked off to the Navy Department, Catherine put the family cocker spaniel, Freakles, on a leash and took him for a walk around the corner to Massachusetts Avenue.

They came upon a crowd of spectators and reporters outside the Japanese embassy watching the employees carting documents out to the lawn and throwing them onto a bonfire. Suddenly, Freakles slipped his collar, ran onto the immaculate grounds of the embassy and committed a “nuisance”. “I have the headlines for tomorrow’s *Post*”, Catherine announced to her family upon their return: “ADMIRAL’S DOG HURLS DEFIANCE AT NIPPON!”

During the war, Catherine and Nancy sent congratulatory telegrams to their father at Pearl Harbor. One of his favorites arrived shortly after the overwhelming US victory off the island of Truk on

February 16th, 1944: “Like Carrie Nation guzzling booze, when man runs over Truk, that’s news!”

Catherine and her three boys traveled from coast to coast during Captain Lay’s 30 year career in the Navy. The family settled in Newport, Rhode Island, where Catherine worked as a librarian in the Newport school system. On May 13, 1972, she christened the nuclear aircraft carrier *U. S. S. Nimitz* (CVN-68) in Norfolk.

Jim and Catherine retired to Wellfleet in 1974 where she did volunteer work at the library and elementary school. She spent her retirement reading, walking with her best friend, Peg Carter, swimming and enjoying time with her extended family. Until her last days, she continued to enjoy her evening martini, always preceded by her father’s favorite toast from the old English Navy “Here’s to a bloody war or a sickly season!”, the only paths open for promotion back then. On August 13, 2013, she received the Boston Post Cane from the Town of Wellfleet, an award given to its oldest living resident. She accepted it with grace but told the family in private “You know, I’m not sure I want that damn thing – everyone who receives it *dies!*!”

The family wants to thank Catherine’s caregivers, especially Melissa Shantz and her daughter Anna. Donations may be made in her name to the Wellfleet Library. Services were private.

Submitted by George Wardwell
Commander, Newport Commandery

It is with deep sadness that I report to you on the passing of *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivor RADM Robert B. Fulton, II, USN (Ret.) on 18 February 2015 in Collierville, TN. RADM Fulton was 104-years-old.

Rear Admiral Robert B. Fulton, USN (Ret.), 104, passed peacefully from this life on 18 February 2015 at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House in Collierville, TN.



He grew up in Washington, DC, and after graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1932, he served on the cruisers Raleigh and Indianapolis and the destroyer Dickerson. He coached crew at the Naval Academy and began a graduate course in marine engineering, receiving an MS degree in 1941 from MIT. He was then ordered to the Asiatic Fleet where he received orders to *USS Houston* to serve through the early months of WWII. When Houston was sunk in the Battle of Sunda Strait in the early hours of 1 March 1942, he managed to swim ashore to the island of Java. There he was captured by a Japanese army patrol. He was forced to work on their landing

beaches unloading supplies and then was marched to the town of Serang to be imprisoned first in a movie theater and then in the local jail. In April 1942, he became part of a group of eight Houston officers who were taken to Japan to the naval interrogation camp in Ofuna. Then in September, he was moved to the POW camp in the town of Zentsuji. From there in June 1945, he was moved to a remote camp site, termed Rokuroshi, in the mountains of Honshu. It was there that units of the American First Cavalry came to recover him and his shipmates at the end of the war. After the war, he returned to active duty.

He was designated for engineering duty and served in that capacity in various stations, including Norfolk and Boston Naval Shipyards, the Navy Department in Washington, and as Supervisor of Shipbuilding in New York. In 1957 he joined the staff of the Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet, as Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics. Then in 1959, he assumed command of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where he directed the work of that industrial facility in the building and repair of ships. While stationed there, he was advanced in rank to Rear Admiral. His final tour of duty was in the Naval Ships Systems Command in Washington, DC. He managed all ship engineering activities (excluding nuclear) throughout the Navy and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his work there.

After retiring from active duty in 1968, he came to Memphis, TN to participate in the startup of the State Technical Institute. He headed a division offering degrees in seven engineering disciplines. These engineering technology programs all received professional accreditation and have attracted interest from corporate employers.

After retiring from that position, he remained active in community affairs in Memphis. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and served on the boards of charitable and civic organizations. His wife, Frances McCarley Fulton and their children, Frances Anne Fulton and William L. Fulton predeceased him. He is survived by his grandchildren, Michelle Fulton Hauser (John) of Dorado, PR, and Robert E. Fulton of Washington, DC, his son-in-law, Jim Good of Mountain View, AR, his godson, CAPT Frederic N. Howe, Jr. USN (Ret.) of Fredericksburg, VA, and his caregiver friend, Nancy Herndon of Oakland, TN. He leaves behind many family members, friends, shipmates, associates, doctors and nurses, who have all meant so much to him. A service and interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. Donations may be made to Baptist Reynolds Hospice House, 1520 W. Poplar, Collierville, TN 38017, or to First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar, Memphis, TN 38103, or to Stephen Ministry of Collierville United Methodist Church, 454 W. Poplar, Collierville, TN 38017, or to Huntington's Disease Society of America.

Submitted by R. Dana Charles

Our 21-24 October Congress will draw heavily upon the famed history, food, music, and charm of New Orleans – one of America's most exciting cities.

Our host hotel, the InterContinental New Orleans, is conveniently located on famed St. Charles Avenue only a couple blocks from the French Quarter. Fresh from a \$26 million renovation, the four-diamond hotel offers resplendent grandeur and comfort for our special \$151 plus tax rate. (Call 504-525-5566 now, ID yourself as Naval Order, and select superior king or double beds.)

Registration fee includes two continental breakfasts, two luncheons, two receptions, the DSSA Banquet, the hospitality suite, and Congress expenses.

Meals and excursions complement the Congress sessions and are highly recommended for ALL. They meet broad appeal, go "behind the scenes," and allow us to "go out to dinner" and experience the best of New Orleans together, without needing to make our own reservations.

Excursions designed for all:

Friday afternoon we'll tour San Francisco Plantation, "The Most Opulent Plantation in the South." Then enjoy an hour and half private Cajun Pride Swamp Tour.

Saturday morning our National World War II Museum tour will feature the new pavilions only recently opened amid a \$350 million expansion. View *Beyond All Boundaries*, the four-dimensional cinematic experience.

Optional tours available during Congress sessions Thursday: Morning – coffee and beignets at everyone's favorite Café du Monde, enjoy a French Quarter mule-drawn buggy tour, tour Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, and the Prebytere State Museum. And then privately tour two Quarter homes and patios.

Afternoon – The French Quarter Culinary History and Tasting Tour will immerse you in nine of the city's finest restaurants including Antoine's, Arnaud's, and Tujague's.

Meals out will be special. Lunch and dinner at nationally acclaimed Chef John Besh's restaurant Luke. (Chef Besh will speak to us of his days as a US Marine.) TV personality Chef Kevin Belton will delight us along with the spectacular view in the New Orleans School of Cooking Riverview Room. We'll dine at the Brennan Restaurant Bourbon House. An authentic Cajun Shrimp Boil on the bayou will be complemented with Southern Fried Chicken from Jacques-Imo's.

Transportation. Hotel shuttles do not go to the airport. The Airport Shuttle is \$20 per person (\$18 round trip). Taxis are about the same for two people. A parking lot is next to the hotel for \$20 overnight.

For more information, contact Gary Bair at 504-391-0667 or gbair4@cox.net.



2015 NATIONAL CONGRESS REGISTRATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
21-24 October 2015

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Service: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Address _____
(Number) (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail _____ Telephone: _____

Commandery: _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Badge Name: _____ Badge Name: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

FEES AND PAYMENTS

Reservations	Cost	#Attendees	Total
Registration for Companion & Guest/Spouse <i>Includes Banquet, 2 Luncheons, 2 Receptions, 2 Continental Breakfasts, Hospitality Suite</i>	\$235 (\$260 after 1 Sept 2015)	_____	\$ _____
CG Welcome Reception Non-registered guest	\$20	_____	_____
DSSA Banquet Reception Non-registered Guest	\$20	_____	_____
Douglas Luncheon Non-registered Guest	\$35	_____	_____
Dewey Luncheon Non-registered Guest	\$40	_____	_____
DSSA Banquet Non-registered Guest	\$60	_____	_____
French Quarter Tour 10/22 (am)	\$35	_____	_____
Lunch Luke Restaurant 10/22	\$40	_____	_____
French Quarter Culinary Tour 10/22 (pm)	\$45	_____	_____
Dinner Luke Restaurant 10/22	\$50	_____	_____
Plantation/Swamp Tour w/o Shrimp Boil 10/23	\$35	_____	_____
Plantation/Swamp Tour w/Shrimp Boil 10/23	\$75	_____	_____
National WWII Museum Tour (10/24)	\$30	_____	_____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Naval Order of the United States"
and mail to Gary Bair, 3641 Red Oak Court, New Orleans LA 70131

InterContinental New Orleans Hotel, 444 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans LA 70130 Phone: 504-525-5566

Hotel reservations NOUS link at www.navalorder.org



Naval Order of the United States
 Founded on Independence Day, 1890
 NOUS Registrar General
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 Arlington, VA 22215-5039
 NavalOrder.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

To order from The Ship's Store current inventory, cut out this form and mail it with a delivery AND email address and check payable to 'Naval Order of U.S.' to CDR Cotton Talbott, USN, Ret. 1357 Park Drive Manderville, LA 70471. You may also fax this form to 985.626.4073.

For further information or questions, please contact Cotton Talbott at ctalbeau@bellsouth.net or 985.626.4073.

Authorized for all Companions	Quantity	Price	Amount
The Naval Order Cross (Large)	_____	\$35	_____
The Naval Order Cross (Miniature)	_____	\$25	_____
Campaign Ribbon	_____	\$5	_____
Naval Order Rosette lapel pin	_____	\$15	_____
Naval Order Cross Lapel Pin (NEW ITEM)	_____	\$10	_____
Naval Order Tie, Silk	_____	\$20	_____
Naval Order Tie Bar	_____	\$8	_____
Naval Order Cufflink Set	_____	\$15	_____
Naval Order Blazer Patch	_____	\$20	_____
Naval Order Flag (3'x5') two sides	_____	\$85	_____
Naval Order Banner (3'x5') one side	_____	\$50	_____
Naval Order Burgee (12"x18") one side	_____	\$15	_____
NOUS Baseball Caps – plain bill	_____	\$14	_____
- NOUS Ball Cap 'eggs' 05/06	_____	\$15	_____
- NOUS Ball Cap 'eggs' Flag Officer	_____	\$16	_____
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 - Close out, \$22 dollars, shipping included	_____	\$22	_____
'Navy Heroes of Normandy' DVD	_____	\$5	_____
Challenge Coin (commemorating 100 years of Naval Aviation)	_____	\$5	_____
Authorized for past and present National Officers and Commandery Commanders Only*			
*Naval Order Blazer Patch with Crest	_____	\$25	_____
*Neck Ribbon for Large Medal (worn with formal attire only)	_____	\$15	_____
Please add Postage/Shipping to your order			\$6
Totals			_____