

# NAVAL ORDER

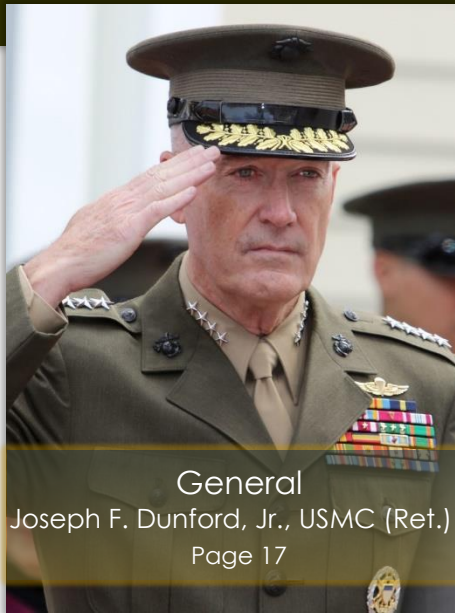
*of the* UNITED STATES

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## Dewey and Distinguished Sea Service Recipients 2022



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# COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER



The Naval Order Newsletter is published quarterly by  
**THE NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Companions,

The time for our Naval Order National Congress has come. We have put our best foot forward to showcase our Mission. The Mission of preserving history is not a passive undertaking; it needs to be in our thoughts each time we look at our service and the commitment of those currently serving so the sacrifices and achievements are not lost to time. It requires we continue to revisit our efforts of the past to ensure that the energies put forth to establish our previous recognitions remain respected and preserved and look for other opportunities to bring attention to undiscovered or unrecognized accomplishments of our predecessors, contemporaries, and those making tomorrow's history today.



Coaling Admiral Farragut's fleet at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, circa 1862.

We have been captured the lessons of oral histories from our authors monthly during our on-line Naval History Presentations. The entire series is available online on the History Happenings page ([navalorder.org/noushistoryhappenings](http://navalorder.org/noushistoryhappenings)).

I commend all Commanderies for keeping our mission alive with the opening of face-to-face gatherings and speaker meetings. These efforts continue to promote the lessons of history and preserve the remembrance of the sacrifices that have been made. All of our communities have individuals we can touch who have made a difference that we can recognize.

We continue to reach out into our communities to identify those elements of local and national importance that, we as an organization can highlight and promote. These locations and monuments enable us to reinforce the pride we have for those who came before and the commitment of our current naval members to maintain the principles of freedom of the seas for all nations. There are elements of naval and maritime history in very region; we continue to reach out and find them and make sure they are recognized.

We continue the involvement of our present and future authors through the promotion of our Naval History Essays and presentation programs. Involving our youth in the research process, analysis, and documentation of our heritage will build the thinkers of tomorrow as they write the history of yesterday and today. It is envisioned that ALL commanderies and all states will eventually be involved in these efforts. We need you to do your part and be a reviewer or judge of these amazing submissions from our youth of today!

I believe our mission of promoting and preserving naval and maritime history to be a noble one and each of our companions is part of making it happen. Keeping a watchful eye for heretofore overlooked pieces of history locally and on a national level and promoting them via new ideas using our avenues of the Foundation (as a 501c3) and local initiatives are cornerstones of our vision. Bring on your friends and colleagues remembering that most things worth doing require persistence and multiple attempts (particularly to join an organization); show YOUR passion. Use this Congress as a springboard for expanding the mission and expanding our membership efforts. Reach out!

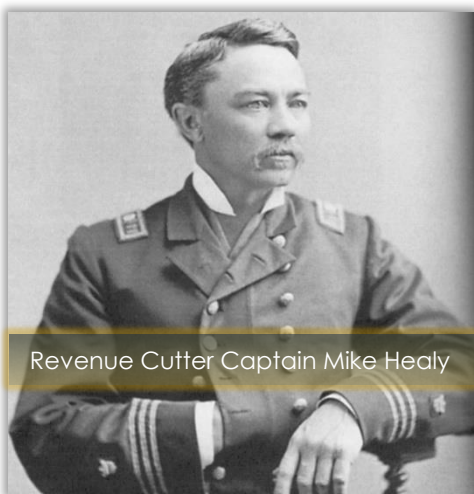
**For the Good of the Order,  
CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.)  
Commander General, NOUS**

## Naval History Virtual Lecturer Series

Under the meme, "best laid plans", both our July and August Naval History virtual lectures ran into shoal waters and had to be postponed.

Check our Commandery's Upcoming Events page (Continental Commandery - Upcoming Events (google.com)) for details or join the Continental Commandery's LinkedIn group to learn more about our upcoming events.

## October 2022 - Virtual Lecture Revenue Cutter Captain "Hell Roarin" Mike Healy, Tamer of America's Final Frontier

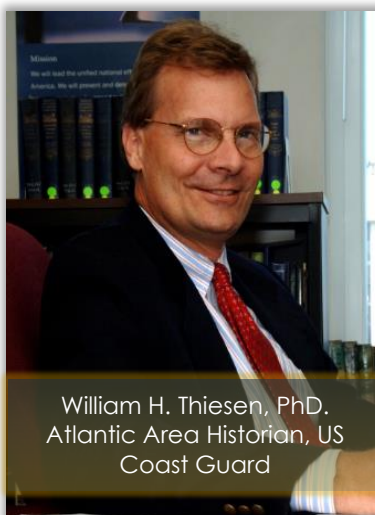


Revenue Cutter Captain Mike Healy

As with so many forgotten Coast Guard stories of heroism, bravery and courage, the story of Michael Augustine Healy is unknown to most Americans. Healy's career tied him to the taming of Alaska, America's last frontier, and made him possibly

the most interesting and controversial captain in Coast Guard history. Michael Healy made a lasting impression on American history as the first man of African American heritage to receive a U.S. sea service commission and first to command a Federal ship. As a powerful law enforcement officer in Alaska Territory, he helped shape the history of this lawless maritime frontier. During Healy's career in Alaska, he explored, policed, protected, nurtured, defended and helped preserve the humans and animals that survived in that forbidding land. This paper will explore the life and career of Captain Michael Healy, the most colorful and controversial officer in the history of the United States Coast Guard.

Dr. Thiesen serves as Atlantic Area Historian for the United States Coast Guard. Prior to working for the Coast Guard, he taught history at the undergraduate and graduate levels and served as curator and assistant director for five years at the Wisconsin



William H. Thiesen, PhD.  
Atlantic Area Historian, US  
Coast Guard

Maritime Museum, the largest maritime museum on the Great Lakes. Dr. Thiesen earned a master's degree from East Carolina University's Program in Maritime History, with a concentration in naval history; and a Ph.D. in University of Delaware's Hagley Program in the History of Industrialization and Technology, with a specialization in maritime industries and technology. His books include **Industrializing American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design and Construction, 1820-1920** and **Cruise of the Dashing Wave: Rounding Cape Horn in 1860**.

## Continental Commandery Companion Cinzi Lavin Receives Yet Another Award



Musical dramatist Cinzi Lavin  
Photo courtesy of  
AZVphotomedia.com

In the last newsletter we reported on Cinzi having received the National Society Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America's (NSDFPA) *Golden Shield Award*. In August, Texas Governor Greg Abbott presented Ms. Lavin with the *Yellow Rose of Texas Award*.

The Yellow Rose of Texas Commission is the highest recognition the state can bestow on a woman, and it is given only through the Office of the Governor to honor women for exceptional contributions to their communities and to Texas "in the preservation of our history, the accomplishments of our present, and the building of our future," according to the award notification.

Well done, Cinzi!

Submitted by CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.)

## El Faro Memorial Rehabilitations and Signage

In keeping with the NOUS mission of preserving Sea Service historical artifacts and monuments, NOUS Commander General Bob Whitkop and FFCNOUS Commander John Craft recently set about to locate and document the state of the El Faro Memorial Park. The memorial park is a joint project of the City of Jacksonville and TOTE Maritime Services. The City of Jacksonville maintains the common grounds and TOTE Maritime shoulders responsibility for the memorial.

After some difficulty, the park was located and found in less than pristine condition!

Contacts were made with the city, and we have been informed that an internal request has been submitted to Traffic Engineering to place a directional sign at a nearby intersection. This is a minor first step to properly identify the site.

Additionally, there was graffiti on, and around, the memorial. The response from the city; "Yes, we are aware of the graffiti and have discussed with Tote Maritime. Our parks maintenance will clean up the paint graffiti around the memorial area before their

annual memorial service in November. As for the vandalism/etchings on the copper monument, we will be seeking a quote from a professional to restore." FFCNOUS will continue to monitor the progress of the restoration and maintenance.

*On 29 September 2015, the cargo ship El Faro left Jacksonville for its regular round-trip voyage to San Juan, Puerto Rico. As the ship was loading up to leave the docks, what was then Tropical Storm Joaquin was beginning to form north of the Bahamas. In the coming days the tropical storm intensified to a Category 4 hurricane—one headed straight across El Faro's path. In the early hours of October 1, the 791-foot vessel disappeared beneath the waves. All 33 crew members aboard were lost, making it the worst U.S. maritime disaster in decades.*

*Nearly four years later, members of the Jacksonville community still honor the lives lost in the tragedy. In 2016, the city council voted to rename a small park under the Dames Point Bridge the "El Faro Memorial at Dames Point Park," and a statue was erected to memorialize the ship's deceased crew members. The sight of the statue was chosen because its position near the mouth of the St. Johns River means it was among the last patches of home those aboard the ship saw on that fateful voyage.*

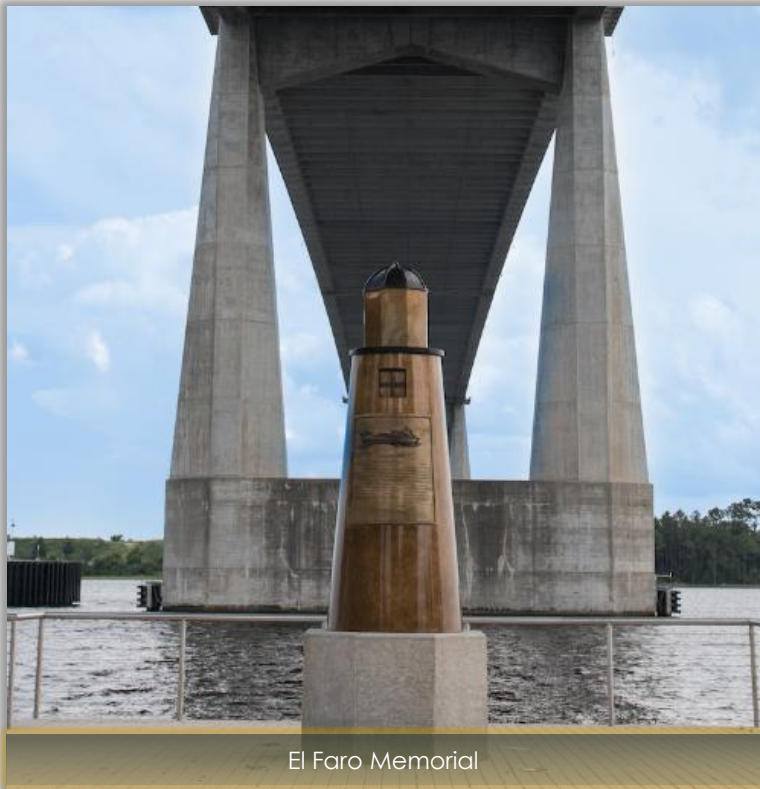
## National History Day Contest Preparations

FFCNOUS Companions CAPT Ed Froehlich and Dr Richard Murphy have begun visiting the area Sea Cadet and NJROTC/MCROTC commands to personally encourage the cadets to enter the competition and answer any questions that they may have. We expect a greater participation from our cadets during the coming year.

## Cuban Missile Crisis Remembrance Dinner

Sixty Years ago, in October 1962, the world faced Nuclear Holocaust. Several of our FFCNOUS Companions were active participants in the Cuban Missile Crisis. On Saturday, 10 September 2022, the FFCNOUS hosted a casual dinner and social hour.

Continued on next page...



El Faro Memorial

Those companions involved discussed the events leading up to the Crisis, and their personal recollections and how the crisis was resolved. This was an informative mixer.

## Welcome Aboard Luncheons

FFCNOUS has initiated a program of "Welcome Aboard" Luncheons at a local restaurant. A new or potential companion is invited to have 'lunch-on-us' and get acquainted with the mission of the NOUS and how we accomplish that mission. Several veteran companions will hold round table discussions about our order. New companions are then asked to share their service histories and many 'paths-crossed' are often discovered!

This comradery building luncheon is expected to pay long-term dividends in retention and companion participation.

## St. Mary's College Veterans Garden Rededication

On 16 July, Companion RADM George Huchting USN (Ret.) returned to St. Mary's College of California in Moraga, California, for his 60th Class Reunion. At the behest of his classmate, St. Mary's Professor Ted Tsukahara, George had helped to establish the Veterans Garden on the campus to remember alumni who had gone before in the service of their country as well as the heritage of the college in supporting the preflight training of Naval Aviators during World War II.



Professor Tsukahara (center)

Five years ago, George helped dedicate the garden and this year was the principal speaker at the

rededication ceremony. George spoke on the requirement to remember and continue to care for those in our all-volunteer armed forces who suffer from PTSD or TBI after repeated tours in combat. The garden is located along a quiet, tree lined walk to a main classroom building and has a bench for each service with the service seal for Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. At the center of the garden rests a bronze plaque with the names of alumni who have lost their lives in the service of our country. The garden provides a place for reflection on dedication as well as a remembrance of past sacrifices for our freedom. Professor Tsukahara's involvement was particularly poignant. His family was interred during World War II, and his father, uncle, and his father-in-law all fought during the war in the Japanese American 442nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army.

## National POW-MIA Museum Visit

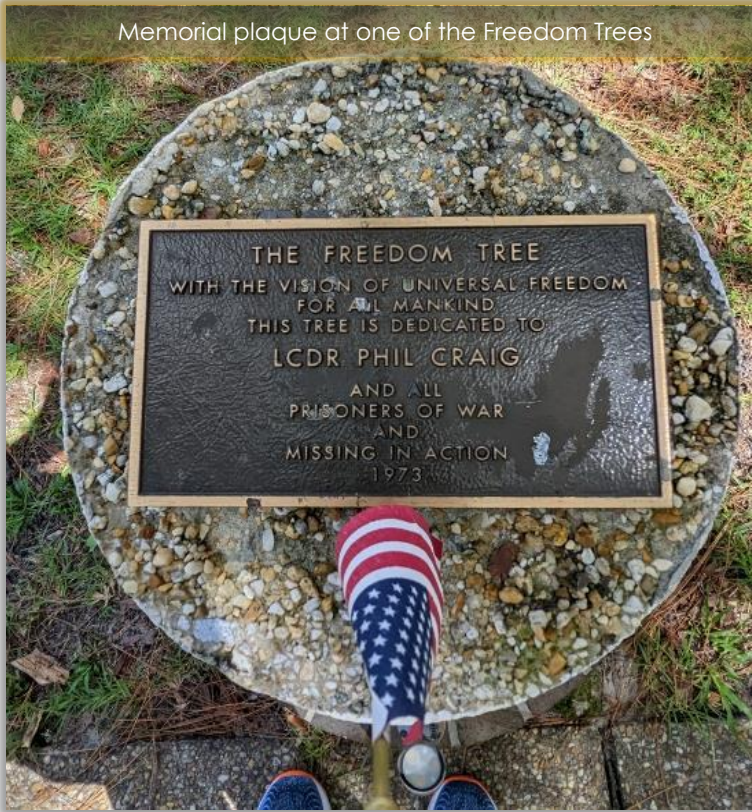
NOUS Commander General Bob Whitkop and FFCNOUS Commander John Craft recently visited The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum. The museum is located on 26-acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Master Jet Base (1941-1999). It is currently known as Cecil Commerce Center. The original POW/MIA Memorial, located just south of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, was dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during Vietnam and Desert Shield/Storm eras. This area is often referred to as Heroes' Walk & Freedom Trees.



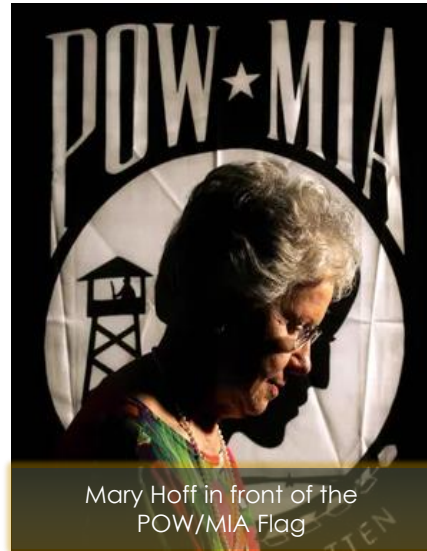
Heroes' Walk

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Memorial plaque at one of the Freedom Trees



"The Vietnam War Memorial" was originally dedicated on 11 September 1973 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten. A pavilion stage area, a metal starburst display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of this former Master Jet Base were located at the end of the boulevard amongst the pines. This area was often used by the base for recognition services and ceremonies.



Mary Hoff in front of the POW/MIA Flag

A driving force behind establishing the original memorial was Mary Hoff, wife of MIA Pilot LCDR Michael G. Hoff, still unaccounted for as of 2022. Mary was also instrumental in developing the POW/MIA flag, adopted by the National League of POW/MIA Families in early 1972 and now a

Congressionally approved national emblem.

This flag has become a vital symbol for POWs and MIAs, their families and friends and for our current and future armed forces. It assures our military that, should they be captured or go missing, their nation will do all it can to bring them home. Besides the American flag, this is the only other flag authorized to fly over the White House and the only other flag that can fly on the same flag staff below the American flag.

The establishment of a National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum in Jacksonville will give visitors of all ages a fully planned indoor and outdoor complex to reflect, learn, do research, hear the stories, experience interactive displays and attend ongoing events. Phase 1 is well underway, with additional phases to follow, to create the moving interactive experience that will Respect and Honor all who have sacrificed.

For more information about the museum, please visit [powmiamemorial.org](http://powmiamemorial.org).

**Submitted ETCM (SW)John Craft, USN (Ret.)**



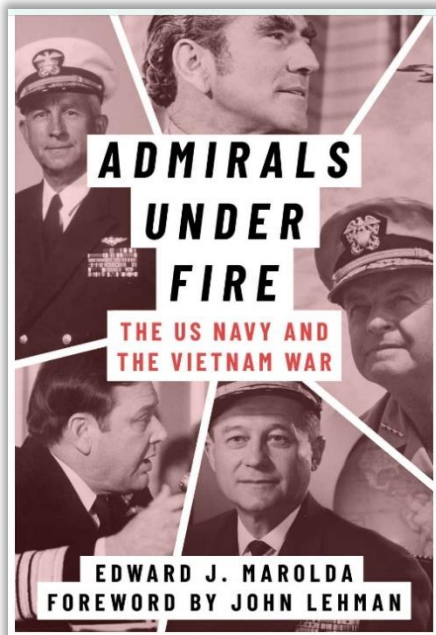
Gold Star Memorial area at the POW/MIA Memorial

## Ed Marolda Receives Accolades from North American Society of Oceanic History

Congratulations to our companion Dr. Edward Marolda! On 24 June 2022, he received an Honorable Mention from the 2021 John Lyman Book Award committee of the North American Society of Oceanic History (NASOH) at the organization's annual conference at Wilmington, North Carolina. The recognition was for his book: **Admirals Under Fire: The US Navy and the Vietnam War**. The book was also featured in the Naval Order Book Club in January of this year.

### **Admirals Under Fire**

analyses the leadership of five admirals in the Vietnam war: Admirals Harry D. Felt, Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, Thomas H. Moorer, Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., and James L. Holloway III. The book examines the challenges these top-ranking officers faced, how they met their responsibilities,



demonstrated professionalism, achieved their successes, dealt with their failures, and managed their relationships with Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter and Secretaries of Defense McNamara, Laird, and Schlesinger. The forward is by John Lehman, Secretary of the Navy 1981-1987. The research behind this book is extensive and thorough.

Dr. Marolda has served as the Acting Director of Naval History and Senior Historian of the Navy. In 2017, the Naval Historical Foundation honored him with the Commodore Dudley W. Know Naval History Lifetime Achievement Award. He has authored, coauthored, or edited nine works on the U.S. Navy's experience in Vietnam.

NASOH promotes and showcases scholarship and research in maritime history.



Ed Marolda (right) receives the John Lyman Book Award Honorable Mention from Paul Fontenoy, chair of the selection committee.

At this year's conference, 38 historians presented research papers on a wide range of topics such as trade and war at sea, shipwrecks and maritime archaeology, sea-faring heroes, and maritime technology. Three companions of the National Capital Commandery participated: Dr. Ed Marolda chaired a panel, as did I. Captain John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.) presented a paper on his book: **From Across the Sea: North Americans in Nelson's Navy**.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.

## Commodore John Barry Wreath-laying

On 13 September 2022 representatives from the National Capital Commandery and the John Barry Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians met for a commemorative wreath-laying at the foot of the statue of Commodore John Barry in Franklin Park, Washington, DC. Barry died on this date in 1803.

Commandery Commander, Captain William Steagall, USN (Ret.), Captain John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.), and Dr. Judy Pearson represented the Naval Order of the US. Father John J. Hurley and Mr. Keith Carney, President of the John Barry Chapter represented The Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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Commodore Barry, founder of the U.S. Navy, was born in Wexford, Ireland in 1745. At a young age he left his impoverished family to begin his sea-going life as a cabin boy. In 1776, he joined the Continental Navy. He was the first commissioned officer to sail under the Continental Flag. In 1797, he received the Number 1 commodore's commission to the U.S. Navy from President George Washington. During his service, Barry commanded the U.S. warships *Delaware*, *Lexington*, *Raleigh*, *Alliance*, and *United States*. Besides the U.S. War for Independence, he also served in the Quasi-War with France (1798 – 1800).



Under the statue of John Barry, left to right: Father John Hurley, CAPT John Rodgaard, Dr. Judy Pearson, Mr. Keith Carney, and CAPT William F. Steagall



Markers and statues throughout the U.S. honor Commodore John Barry. In 2012, the National Capital Commandery placed a historic marker next to his statue in Washington, DC. In 2018, members of the National Capital

Commandery, LCDR Ralph Day, CAPT John Rodgaard, and Dr. Judy Pearson, attended a wreath-laying at his statue in Wexford, Ireland.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.

## Franchetti Named VCNO

In a Pentagon ceremony on 2 September, ADM Lisa Franchetti was sworn in as the 42nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations when she assumed duties from ADM William Lescher, who retired after 42 years of naval service. Said Lescher, "I know that ADM Lisa Franchetti is the right leader to help guide our Navy to further advantage in this critical decade. She will be exceptional."



Admiral Franchetti's four-star shoulder boards are attached by family members.

"I am grateful for all that ADM Bill Lescher has done for our Navy and our nation," said Chief of Naval Operations ADM Michael Gilday. "Bill always led by example, ensuring our warfighting culture is one focused on continuous improvement and teamwork. His leadership, guidance and initiatives will positively impact the maritime balance of power for years to come."

"The Navy and the nation are grateful for you and your family's service," Gilday added.

Franchetti was promoted to the rank of Admiral by Gilday prior to the change of office.

"Admiral Franchetti is a true leader with unrelenting commitment to the Fleet," said Gilday. "She demonstrates operational excellence, strong character, diverse perspectives and resilience in all she does — and I look forward to working together to ensure our Navy remains the world's premier maritime force."

"It continues to be an honor to serve as a leader in our Navy," Franchetti said. "My focus remains on supporting the most powerful Navy in the world, ready for the future fight."

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In her previous position, Franchetti served on the Joint Staff as Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5). As the Joint Staff J5, she was responsible for strategy, plans, and policy recommendations to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to support his provision of military advice across the full spectrum of national security concerns to the President and other national leaders.

A career surface warfare officer, Franchetti was recently head of the J5 Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff. She first commissioned into the Navy in 1985 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Northwestern University.

At sea, Franchetti has served aboard USS *Shenandoah* (AD 44), USS *Monongahela* (AO 178), USS *Moosbrugger* (DD 980), USS *Stout* (DDG 55) and the George Washington Carrier Strike Group.

She commanded USS *Ross* (DDG 71) and Destroyer Squadron 21 while the DESRON was embarked on USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). She also was the commander of Pacific Partnership 2010, during which she was embarked on USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19).

"It continues to be an honor to serve as a leader in our Navy," Franchetti said in a Friday news release about the change of command. "My focus remains on supporting the most powerful Navy in the world, ready for the future fight."

Lescher is retiring after 42 years in the Navy. He had served as vice chief of naval operations since May 2020.

"Bill always led by example, ensuring our warfighting culture is one focused on continuous improvement and teamwork," Gilday said. "His leadership, guidance and initiatives will positively impact the maritime balance of power for years to come."

Franchetti's personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards).

Admiral Franchetti is a companion of the National Capital Commandery of the NOUS.

From USNI News.

**Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)**

The New Orleans Commandery held its summer dinner and meeting at Bistro Orleans in Metairie, LA on 9 June. We welcomed new members and guests and presented a Quarter Century pin to CAPT Lester Alfortish, USN (Ret.). As luck would have it, a companion had located and brought the original Charter establishment of the New Orleans Commandery (3 October 1979) to the meeting and CAPT Alfortish was recognized as a Plankowner.



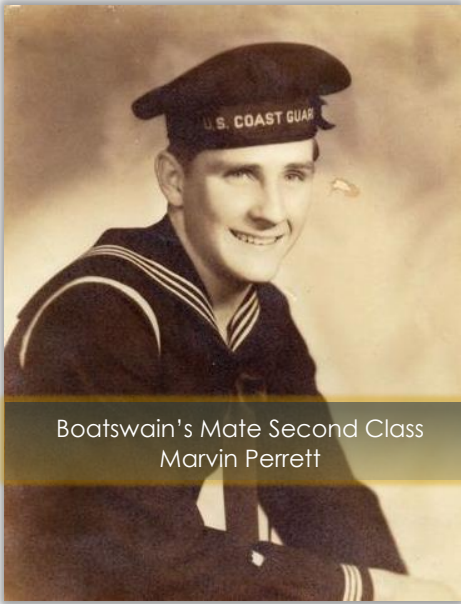
Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Samantha Cavell, who provided a presentation on Exercise Tiger, or Operation Tiger, a large-scale practice for the D-Day invasion in April 1944 at Slapton Sands, Devon. The practice went horribly wrong, including a friendly fire incident and attacks by 9 German E-boats. Two LSTs were sunk and another two were damaged. It is estimated that nearly 750 men perished.

Several changes resulted from mistakes made in Exercise Tiger:

- Radio frequencies were standardized for allied forces
- Better lifejacket training was provided for landing troops
- Plans were made for small craft to pick up floating survivors on D-Day

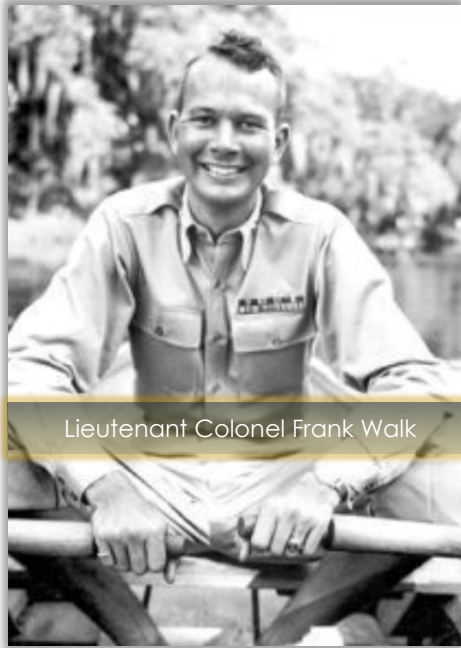
Sam closed her discussion by highlighting the careers of two gentlemen who were there in 1944 - both closely connected to members of the New Orleans Commandery.

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Boatswain's Mate Second Class  
Marvin Perrett

The first was Boatswain's Mate Second Class Marvin Perrett (U.S. Coast Guard) who, in addition to Exercise Tiger, served as a coxswain of New Orleans-built Higgins landing craft at Utah Beach, Iwo Jima, and Guadalcanal. You can find Perrett's story on the National WWII Museum's Digital Collection website at [bit.ly/3S6pU3P](https://bit.ly/3S6pU3P).



Lieutenant Colonel Frank Walk

The second gentleman highlighted was Lieutenant Colonel Frank Walk (U.S. Army) – Father-in-Law to New Orleans Commandry member Jacque Michell. Walk is profiled on the National WWII Museum website at [bit.ly/3dx8sXy](https://bit.ly/3dx8sXy)

We were honored to have 6 members of the Walk family present with us for our dinner. It was quite a memorable evening.



Walk Family

Submitted by CAPT Eric Trehubenko, USN (Ret.)

## A Focus on Historical and Contemporary Maritime Issues

Each year in September, the Northwest Commandry reviews its plans for the coming year to allow adequate time to line up speakers and guests. This chart below provides an overview of what is currently scheduled for next year.



USS Chancellorsville amid a replenishment-at-sea with the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.  
Photo by John Harris, U.S. Navy

### Key Meetings for 2023

- **25 February** – Destroyer Club: All Zoom “My Road to Captain” Presentations by O-6 companions
- **25 March** – Luncheon: Discussion Group and Hybrid Zoom, “USN and South China Sea Operations.” Book reviews and personal experiences.
- **20 May** – Potential ship’s visit at Naval Station Everett
- **24 June** – Midway Luncheon: Hybrid Zoom. The Nimitz “South Pacific Plan”: MacArthur’s “I Shall Return: Campaign”; and “Marianas Turkey Shoot”
- **11 November** – Veteran’s Day Luncheon: Hybrid Zoom. Current Navy topics and continue discussions on Artificial Intelligence
- **2 December** – Pearl Harbor Dinner: Hybrid Zoom. Commander’s review of the year and awards. Guest author TBD

**Business meetings/Planning dates:** 23 January, 17 April, 18 September

**Summer Break:** July-August

**Annual Nation Congress:** October

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## Midway and Pearl Harbor

The annual plan is anchored around two key historical observances; the Victory at Midway and Pearl Harbor Day. For Midway, the commandery is following a five-year plan to cover that engagement and subsequent maritime events through the end of World War II. The chart below provides specific discussion topics stemming from the Battle of Midway intended to highlight the gallant service of Maritime Service participants in the Pacific theater.

### Five Year Plan For Covering Midway and Subsequent Battles

- Prior years: "Pearl Harbor, Raid on Tokyo, Battles of Coral Sea, Midway and Guadalcanal; After Midway- Battle Strategy" and "A Strategy of Island Hopping in the Pacific."
- **2022** - "The Battle of Tarawa" and "The Battle of Samar."
- **2023** - "The Nimitz South Pacific Strategy", "MacArthur's 'I shall Return' Story, including the battles to take the Philippines (Mindanao and Luzon):", Marianas Turkey Shoot."
- **2024** - "The Nimitz Strategy Beyond the Philippines: Palau, Iwo Jima (1944-45)."
- **2025** - "The Battle of Okinawa and Japan Invasion Plan."

## Current Subjects

On a more contemporary basis, the commandery conducts regular Discussion Groups which have focused on topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and the South China Sea (SCS). A sub-group (Destroyer Club) also arranges for topics of interest including "tin-can" operations and traditions as well as Navy life in general.

In 2023, the NWT Commandery will extend its review of the South China Sea to include observations by personnel who have recently experienced duty in that operating area as well as NROTC students preparing for duty. By doing so, the commandery aims to attract potential interest in the Naval Order by those currently serving.

## Footnote: Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz

Following a great Zoom presentation by author Craig L. Symonds of his new book, **Nimitz at War**, the NWT Commandery plans to incorporate a specific focus on FADM Chester Nimitz during the course of the five year Midway plan. We will begin with a review of that title and

continue with related book discussions in future meetings. The Symonds' presentation was made available to all NOUS companions via Naval History Night on 10 August 2022. A replay of that event is available on the "History Happenings Around the Order" on the Naval Order website and is highly recommended.

[navalorder.org/noushistoryhappenings](http://navalorder.org/noushistoryhappenings)

## Upcoming Events

Planned upcoming events are listed on NOUS Northwest's website at [nousnorthwest.org](http://nousnorthwest.org). Each meeting is led by NOUS Northwest Commander CAPT Jim McGinnis, MSC, USN (Ret.).

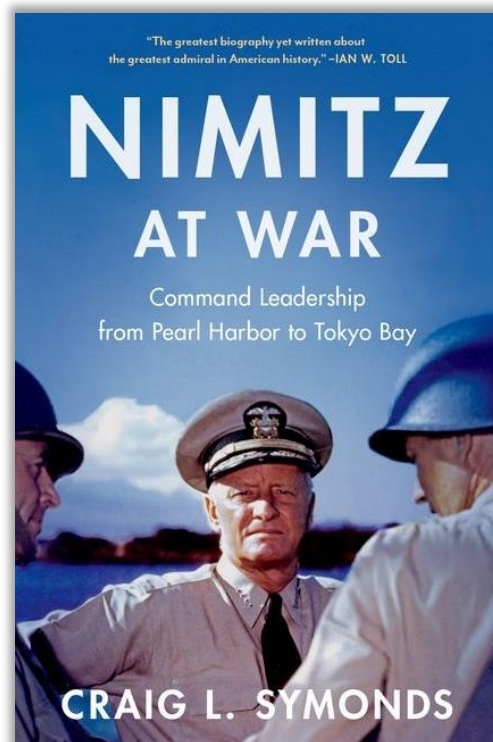
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CAPT Solon Webb, USN (Ret.) at [mendosolo@aol.com](mailto:mendosolo@aol.com) or 707.548.3720 for additional details.



Submitted by CAPT Solon Webb, USN (Ret.)

# SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

San Francisco continued its luncheon speaker program and other activities throughout the summer.

One of the San Francisco Commandery's favorite projects is the Korean War Memorial at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Key players in the development of the project were our own companions Don Reid and the late Lt.Col. John Stevens. This year on 25 June, Don, along with John's family, were joined by the Korean Consulate General to commemorate the sacrifices and heroism of those who served and fought during our "forgotten war."

The honored guest speaker was former Congressman Col. Pete McCloskey, USMCR (Ret.). Col. McCloskey was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star for heroism and earned two Purple Hearts during the Korean War. Don Reid spoke briefly acknowledging the Stevens family, as did Air Force Veteran Judge Quentin Kopp, who also served in Korea. The memorial was dedicated in 2016.

Its location overlooking San Francisco Bay with the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop is apropos as San Francisco and the Presidio was the point of embarkation for many of those who fought in Korea.

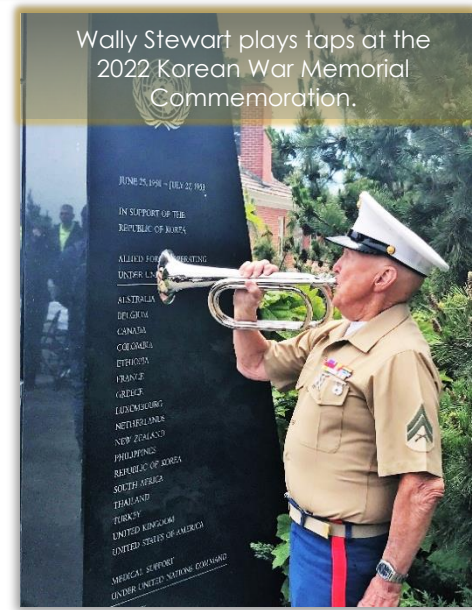


The Korean War Memorial overlooks San Francisco Bay.

Our guest speaker in July was Wallace "Wally" Stewart, Director of Education for the Memorial. He talked about the role of Destroyers during the war and how they supported ground troops.

Wallace Stewart joined the U. S. Marines Reserves in high school. When the Korean War broke out, he was honorably discharged from the reserves so that he could reenlist with the U.S. Marines. He knew nothing of Korea. Despite pursuing basic training at Camp

Pendleton, he was too young to go to Korea and served stateside until he was old enough to see combat. He eventually served in Baker Company 1st Battalion Marine Corps as a Light Machine Gun Ammunition Carrier; he earned a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds sustained in 1953.



Wally Stewart plays taps at the 2022 Korean War Memorial Commemoration.

As the Director of Education for the Korean War Memorial Foundation, he uses his expertise as a former teacher to create lesson plans to teach high school students about the Korean War.

Wally had been joined at lunch by Gerard "Gerry" Parker, executive director of the Korean War Memorial Foundation. Gerry, who had served with the Marine Corps in Vietnam, was our August speaker. He gave us an in-depth talk about the history of the foundation and a walk through of the Memorial and details of the cenotaph.

September was a special month. Our honored guest speaker was Doctor Jonathan Roth, Director of the Burdick Military History project at San Jose State University. He is also Faculty Advisor to Student Veterans' organizations. Dr. Roth's expertise in ancient history was clearly evidenced as he talked about logistics of ancient cultures and their armies as their civilizations expanded across the Mediterranean world.

Among our companions and guests enjoying the presentation and lunch were two very special Marines. LtGen Mike Rocco, CEO of the Marines Memorial Club and Foundation and Col Chris Tavuchis, Director, Veterans Marketing and Military Outreach of the Club and Foundation.

LtGen Rocco and Col Tavuchis submitted their applications for membership in the Naval Order.

Continued on next page...

LtGen Mike Rocco



Dr. Jonathan Roth



Col. Chris Tavuchis



Introduced by companion Chuck Paskerian, their applications were unanimously approved.

There was also a somber moment as we paused to reflect on companion CDR Dean "Diz" Laird, USN (Ret.) a member of our commandery and World War II fighter ace.

CDR Laird is the only World War II Ace known to have shot down both German and Japanese aircraft. Dean passed away at age 101 on 10 August. His memorial service was on 22 September aboard the

the USS *Hornet* at Alameda Point. The *Hornet* holds an extensive collection of Diz's memorabilia. CDR Laird retired in 1972. Fair winds and following seas "Diz."

As we secured, we were reminded that our next event will be San Francisco's Fleet Week. We all look forward to meeting the ship crews that will come to enjoy San Francisco. We will meet many of them at the Italian Athletic Club when they attend as our guests.

**Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)**



CDR Dean Laird



CDR Laird on Memorial Day, 2019

## Battleship Texas towed to Galveston

On 31 August 2022, the last battleship to fight in both World Wars, the USS Texas (BB 35), was successfully towed from her berth at the San Jacinto State Historical Site to a floating dry dock in Galveston, Texas for long-overdue and much-needed repairs.

The historic ship was commissioned 12 March 1914. With ten 14" 45-caliber naval rifles in five turrets and twenty-one 5" guns as her secondary battery, she was the most powerful weapon system afloat at the time she entered the fleet.

Texas started service as a convoy escort in WWII and ended her active duty providing fire support during WWII at Omaha Beach on D-Day, as well as Iwo

Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific. She became the first museum ship in 1948 and has been berthed adjacent to the San Jacinto Monument, about 15 miles from downtown Houston, since that time.

The Texas Commandery has held its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony on the bow of Texas for almost thirty years. We will miss her as she undergoes repairs.

The movement of this historic ship was a notable and newsworthy event for local media, which covered the tow during the 10-hour trip down the Houston Ship Channel.

**Submitted by Steven K. Howell**

Texas Commandery continued on page 25...



USS Texas in Dry Dock

# DISTINGUISHED SEA SERVICE (DSSA) AND DEWEY AWRDEES

The NOUS has announced the winners of this year's Distinguished Sea Service and Dewey awards. The awards will be presented during the NOUS 2022 Congress in Alexandria, Virginia in October.

The Dewey Award is given to any United States civilian, eligible for regular membership in the Naval Order, whose record for service sets him/her apart among his/her peers. The period of eligibility is not an issue for this award. It is assumed that the awardee will make every effort to accept this award in person. Each local commandery may submit the name of only one candidate for consideration each year. Each submission shall be accompanied by a brief biographical sketch which will be circulated for voting purposes.

Once a year, the Distinguished Sea Service Award (DSSA) is given to honor a recently retired senior sea service officer who has, over a total career, so distinguished him/herself and the Naval Services, that the officer is to be being singled out as one who stands 'First Among Firsts'. A separate Distinguished Sea Service Award - Senior Enlisted (DSSA-SE) is given to honor a recently retired senior enlisted member who has similarly distinguished him/herself.

This year's Dewey awardee is the late Rear Admiral Lower Half Grace Hopper, USNR (Ret.). The Distinguished Sea Service awardees are General Joseph Dunford, USMC (Ret.) and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Ronald Green, USMC (Ret.).

Biographies of the awardees follow:

## DSSA Senior Enlisted Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green

Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green is from Jackson, Miss. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in November 1983. Upon graduation, he was meritoriously promoted to private first class.

Private First Class Green reported to Hotel Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, CA., in March 1984, for duty as a field artillery cannoneer. He was also meritoriously promoted to lance corporal in September 1984.

Lance Corporal Green moved to Okinawa, Japan, in November 1985 and was assigned to Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. He was meritoriously promoted to corporal in March 1985 and sergeant in August 1986. He also attended Nuclear Field Artillery School in October 1987 and earned the additional military occupational specialty of Field

Artillery Nuclear Projectileman.

In May 1988, Sergeant Green reported to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to serve as the tower operator for Southern Impact Area Control, also known as Long Rifle.

Sergeant Green reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in April 1990 where he served as a drill instructor, senior drill instructor and drill master. In July 1992, while on the drill field, he was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant.

In September 1992, Staff Sergeant Green reported to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion,

11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, for duty as a section chief.

Continued on next page...



Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green

## SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD L. GREEN

He deployed to Somalia with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), during Operation Restore Hope in 1993. Upon his return, he transferred to Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, as the battery gunnery sergeant.

From July 1995 to August 1998, Staff Sergeant Green served as the assistant marine officer instructor at Southern University and A&M College located in Baton Rouge, LA. During this period, he was promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant (January 1997).

Gunnery Sergeant Green assumed the duties as the battery gunnery sergeant for Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, in October 1998. He was promoted to first sergeant in December 2000.

First Sergeant Green reported to Bossier City, LA., for Inspector-Instructor Duty with B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, in April 2001. During this tour, he deployed to South America in support of Operation United Americas (UNITAS) for seven months.

He was promoted to sergeant major in April 2005 and reported to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Camp Pendleton. They conducted a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006. In February 2007,

Sergeant Major Green transferred to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39.

He assumed the duties of the Sergeant Major of Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, VA., in June 2008.

Sergeant Major Green took the post of Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Forces Europe/Marine Corps Forces Africa, Stuttgart, Germany, in August 2010, where he supported numerous theater security cooperation and noncommissioned officer development efforts with partner nations.

In June 2012, he returned to Camp Pendleton where he served as the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force Sergeant Major. Sergeant Major Green was selected by the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps General Joseph F. Dunford to be the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on January 20, 2015.

Assuming his post on February 20, 2015, Sergeant Major

Green was the longest serving Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, serving four years and five months. Sergeant Major Green served under the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps General Joseph F. Dunford, the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps General Robert B. Neller, and briefly under the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps General David H. Berger.

He served in this position until 26 July 2019.



Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, USMC (Ret.)



## DSSA Senior Officer General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. served as the 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest-ranking military officer, and the principal military advisor to the President, Secretary of Defense, and National Security Council from 1 October 2015, through 30 September 2019.

Prior to becoming Chairman, General Dunford served as the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He previously served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2010 to 2012 and was Commander, International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces-Afghanistan from February 2013 to August 2014.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, General Dunford graduated from Saint Michael's College and was commissioned in 1977. He has served as an infantry officer at all levels, to include command of 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, and command of the 5th Marine Regiment during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

General Dunford also served as the Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Director of Operations, and Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations. He commanded I Marine Expeditionary Force and served as the Commander, Marine Forces U.S. Central Command.

His Joint assignments include duty as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of the Global and Multilateral Affairs Division (J-5), and Vice Director for Operations on the Joint Staff (J-3).



General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC (Ret.)

A graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School, Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, and the U.S. Army War College, General Dunford also earned master's degrees in Government from Georgetown University and in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

His numerous personal awards include: the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with V, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation as well as marksmanship badges and various campaign medals and other unit awards. He also holds many foreign awards including the Order of the British Empire.

General Dunford was sworn in as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by his predecessor, General Martin Dempsey. Gen. Dunford is the first Commandant of the Marine Corps to be named Chairman.

## Dewey Award Rear Admiral Grace Hopper

The Admiral Dewey Award, named after prior Commander General, Admiral of the Navy George Dewey, will be posthumously awarded to Rear Admiral, Lower Half, Grace Hopper, USNR (Ret.). Hopper is noted as being instrumental in the development of the COBOL ("Common" Business Oriented) computer language

and is reputed to have originated the term "computer bug" when a moth was found in a MARK II computer relay at Harvard University in 1947. Some highlights of her long and distinguished career follow.

Hopper tried to enlist in the Navy early in World War II. She was rejected for a few reasons. At age 34, she was too old to enlist, and her weight to height ratio was too low. She was also denied on the basis that her job as a mathematician and mathematics professor at Vassar College was valuable to the war effort. During the war in 1943, Hopper obtained a leave of absence from Vassar

and was sworn into the United States Navy Reserve; she was one of many women who volunteered to serve in the WAVES. She had to get an exemption to enlist; she was 15 pounds below the Navy minimum weight of 120 pounds. She reported in December and trained at the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Hopper graduated first in her class in 1944, and was assigned to the Bureau of Ships Computation Project at Harvard

Harvard University as a lieutenant, junior grade. She served on the Mark I computer programming staff headed by Howard H. Aiken.

Hopper and Aiken co-authored three papers on the Mark I, also known as the Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator. Hopper's request to transfer to the regular Navy at the end of the war was declined due to her advanced age of 38. She continued to serve in the Navy Reserve. Hopper remained at the Harvard Computation Lab until 1949, turning down a full professorship at Vassar in favor of working as a research fellow under a Navy contract at Harvard.

From 1967 to 1977, Hopper served as the director of the Navy Programming Languages Group in the Navy's Office of Information Systems Planning and was promoted to the rank of captain in 1973. She developed validation software for COBOL

and its compiler as part of a COBOL standardization program for the entire Navy.

In the 1970s, Hopper advocated for the Defense Department to replace large, centralized systems with networks of small, distributed computers. Any user on any computer node could access common databases located on the network. She developed



Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, USNR (Ret.)

Continued on next page...

# REAR ADMIRAL GRACE HOPPER

the implementation of standards for testing computer systems and components, most significantly for early programming languages such as FORTRAN and COBOL. The Navy tests for conformance to these standards led to significant convergence among the programming language dialects of the major computer vendors. In the 1980s, these tests (and their official administration) were assumed by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), known today as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).



Hopper at the console of a UNIVAC computer.

In 1966, Hopper retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of commander at age 60. She was recalled to active duty in August 1967 for a six-month period that turned into an indefinite assignment. She again retired in 1971 but was again asked to return to active duty in 1972. She was promoted to captain in 1973 by Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr..

Rep. Philip Crane saw her on a March 1983 segment of 60 Minutes, he championed 341, a joint resolution originating in the House of Representatives, which led to her promotion on 15 December 1983 to commodore by special Presidential appointment by President Ronald Reagan.

She remained on active duty for several years beyond mandatory retirement by special approval of Congress. Effective 8 November 1985, the rank of commodore was renamed Rear Admiral (lower half) and Hopper became one of the Navy's few female admirals.

Following a career that spanned more than 42 years, RDML Hopper took (final) retirement from the Navy on 14 August 1986. The celebration was held in Boston on the USS *Constitution*, Hopper was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the highest non-combat decoration awarded by the Department of Defense.

At the time of her retirement, she was the oldest active duty commissioned officer in the United States Navy (79 years, eight months, and five days), and had her retirement ceremony aboard the oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy (188 years, nine months and 23 days). Admirals William D. Leahy, Chester W. Nimitz, Hyman G. Rickover, and Charles Stewart were the only other officers in the Navy's history to serve on active duty at a higher age.

Hopper died of natural causes at her home at her home in Arlington, Virginia, on New Year's Day 1992. She was interred with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Arleigh Burke Class destroyer, USS *Hopper* (DDG 7), commissioned in San Francisco on 6 September 1997, was named after her. Hopper's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Navy Meritorious Service Medal. In 2016 President Obama posthumously awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



USS Hopper

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)

# COMPANION SPOTLIGHT - SKCS EARL PHARES, USN (RET.)

When SKCS Earl Phares joined the Navy in 1966, he felt that, like his father Musician First Class Don Phares, he was destined to be a Navy Musician. His career ultimately took a different and very unexpected path.



MU1 Don Phares (front row, far left). Third from left is Lawrence "Jack" Emel, who subsequently played with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra

The senior Phares was bandmaster at Great Lakes Naval Station when Earl was born in 1948. They moved to California when Don was deployed on the USS Boxer (CV 21) during the Korean conflict. After Don returned from the Korean War, the Phares family lived in La Jolla, California until he retired from the Navy in 1955 (as an MU1 with NTC San Diego Band). Earl moved with his family to Ontario, California in 1957, where he graduated from high school in 1966 as a musician, like his father.

He joined the Navy 29 December 1966. He attended boot camp at NTC San Diego. After boot camp he received orders to the Naval School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia. He was on track to complete the Basic Music course and join the Naval Academy Band. It was at that point his life took a different course.

## Seaman Earl Phares

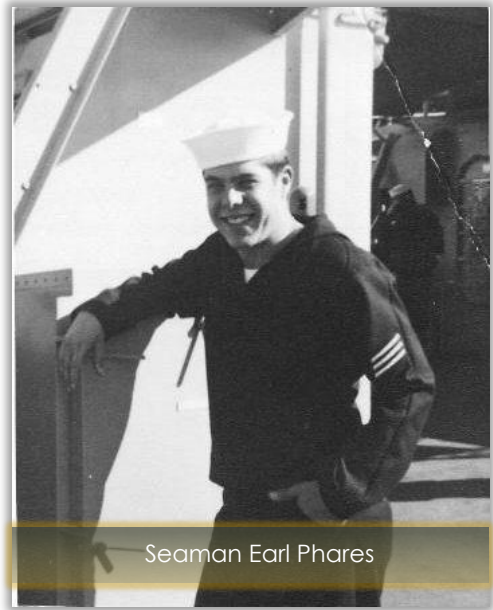
According to Earl, "My dad was dying of cancer, so I resigned from the school to be home with him. I received compassionate orders to the Naval Reserve Center in Ontario so I could be nearby until he passed in August of '67."

He couldn't return to music school. As a Seaman E-3, He was fair game for assignment anywhere in the world where the Navy had a need. Said Earl, "I put in for Antarctica but instead, in December 1967 the Navy

sent me to Yokosuka, Japan as part of the crew of the USS Pueblo (AGER 2).

Pueblo was about to embark for an assignment and needed to fill some holes in the crew." Assigned to the deck department, he was the loader for the forward .50 caliber machine gun when

they were attacked by the North Koreans on 23 January 23. The rest is history.



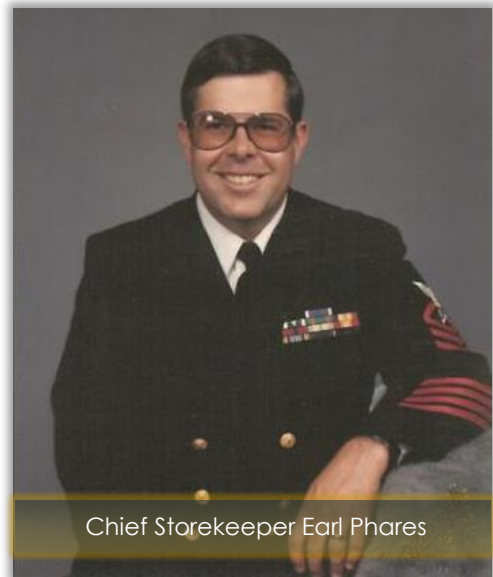
Seaman Earl Phares

Repatriated on 23 December 1968, he was discharged from active duty for humanitarian reasons on 24 October 1969. He returned to civilian life but wasn't done with the Navy.

Phares got a job with the Post Office and married Donna Littleton on 6 June 1970. After his son Douglas was born, he joined the Naval Reserves in February 1972. The units he served with include Surface Division

11-4, Weapons Station Seal Beach Det. B, Port Services Unit San Diego, Naval Supply Center San Diego, Naval Supply Center Long Beach, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobil Unit 7 (8 years).

Phares was advanced to Chief Storekeeper in 1985 and Senior Chief Storekeeper in 1988. He holds the Career Counselor NEC 9588 and EOD Technical assistant NEC 5331.



Chief Storekeeper Earl Phares

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Senior Chief Phares retired from the Navy on 1 Sept 1995 and the United States Postal Service, after 34 years, in January 2004. He also retired in 1998 from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office after 10 years of Reserve service with them.

He and his wife of over 50 years live in Ontario, California. They have three sons: Douglas, a banker with Merrill Lynch in La Jolla, Steven a Sergeant in the Army at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base, and Scott, a Realtor in Ontario. He also has three grandchildren.

Senior Chief Phares coordinates the sale of *Pueblo* memorabilia and facilitates crew reunions.

He frequently speaks to new Chief Petty Officers and civic organizations about his career and the *Pueblo* incident.



Senior Chief Phares speaks to Chief selectees.

He continues with his music by playing with the local Ontario Chaffey community band. He is a member of the Navy Musicians Association and an honorary Naval Academy Alumnus. He is a companion of the San Francisco Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States.

*Pueblo* is still held by North Korea and has not been decommissioned. It is the second oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy. Only the *Constitution* has been in commission longer.

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)

The following is a speech prior Commander General Rear Admiral Tom Brown gave about 10 years ago at the USS *San Francisco* Memorial Day commemoration as "chair of honor" at the memorial site at Lands End in San Francisco. He was the Commander General of the Naval Order from 2005 to 2007.

RADM Brown was a decorated fighter pilot in Vietnam and was awarded the Silver Star. He took over the Tailhook organization at the request of the Secretary of the Navy in 1991 and was the executive director of the organization for 10 years.

*I am so proud to be selected to occupy the Chair of Honor following behind numerous USS San Francisco veterans, including Chief Johnny Johnson and more recently, LTCOL John Stevens, and last year Sergeant Don Reid, both USMC (RET.). I am deeply honored and humbled to say the least.*

*In reality I am here today to represent the Vietnam War Veterans...Veterans, thank you for your service! Since today we are honoring those who served in the Vietnam war the remainder of my remarks will focus on this.*

*First, a little history: the U.S. became involved in the conflict in the Southeast Asia country of Vietnam between 1964 and 1973 and more than 22 million Americans served in Vietnam.*

*The average age of those who served was about 22 years - 4 years younger than in WWII. About 4% of our population served during Vietnam - this compared to 11% in WWII and less than 1% in 2001 in the war on terror. Regarding our losses in Vietnam, we suffered 58,169 killed or missing in action, and 1 out of every 10 Americans was a casualty.*

*Now to 3 misconceptions:*

*First myth: Most Vietnam Vets were drafted into the service. The truth: Two thirds of those who served were volunteers and 72% of those who died were volunteers.*

*Second myth: The war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated. The truth: 79% of those who fought had a high school education or better.*

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## REMEMBERING RADM THOMAS F. BROWN III

Thirdly, it is rumored that the war in the South Pacific was more severe during WWII. This is not true. During WWII, the average soldier there saw 40 days of combat in four years. During Vietnam, the average soldier saw 240 days of combat in one year.

The bottom line here is Vietnam Veterans are not victims. A comprehensive survey, commissioned in 1980 by the Veteran's Administration, reported that 91% of those who had seen combat in Vietnam were "glad they had served their country." A healthy 80% disagreed with the statement that "the U.S. took advantage of me."

And finally, two out of every three said that they would go to Vietnam again - even knowing how the war would end. Perhaps this is a surprise to some.

A few years ago, I started reading the book "**We Were Soldiers Once... And Young**" by GEN Hal Moore and Joe Galloway, written in 1992. As I was reading through the prologue, five paragraphs hit me between the eyes. I want to share them with you now. I guess they explain, at least in part, why I am the way I am.

"Many of our countrymen came to hate the war we fought. Those who hated it the most - the professionally sensitive - were not, in the end, sensitive enough to differentiate between the war and the soldiers who had been ordered to fight it. They hated us as well, and we went to ground in the crossfire, as we had learned in the jungles.

In time our battles were forgotten, our sacrifices discounted and both our sanity and our suitability for life in polite progressive American society were publicly questioned. Our young-old faces, chiseled and gaunt from the fever and the heat and the sleepless nights, now stare back at us, lost and damned strangers, frozen in yellowing snapshots packed away in cardboard boxes with our medals and ribbons.

We rebuilt our lives, found jobs or professions, married, raised families, and waited patiently for America to come to its senses. As the years passed, we searched each other out and found that the half remembered pride of service was shared by those who had shared everything else with us. With them, and only with them,

could we talk about what had really happened over there - what we had seen, what we had done, what we had survived.

We knew what Vietnam had been like, and how we looked and acted and talked and smelled. No one in America did. Hollywood got it wrong every damned time, whetting twisted political knives on the bones of our dead brothers.

So once, just this once, this is how it all began, what it was really like, what it meant to us and what we meant to each other. It was no movie. When it was over, the dead did not get up and dust themselves off and walk away. The wounded did not wash away the red and go on with life unhurt. Those who were, miraculously, unscratched were by no means untouched. Not one of us left Vietnam the same person they were when they arrived."

Next are some more very personal thoughts:

There are three things about the Vietnam war that bother me more than some other things.

First, when we got involved in 1964, I felt that it was the right war, in the right place, at the right time. Then in May 1965 I flew my first combat missions there. In June I wrote to my Mom and told her I felt the war was a loser. We were passing up good military targets to go bomb crappy, worthless targets and risking lives at the same time. I said we were not getting the enemy's attention. We were not fighting to win! (Even worse, I learned recently that Pres. Johnson had told Secretary of State Dean Rusk back then to give the North Vietnamese 24 hours' notice regarding which targets we were going to bomb next! He said that way civilian casualties can be avoided! One conclusion here, we should not go to war unless we are going to fight to win, as we did in WWII.

You might ask me, "if you felt that way why did you go back in 1967-68 and then again in 1972-73?" That's fair. My CAG, Jim Stockdale, was shot down and captured on 8 September 1965. Other friends suffered the same fate later, in addition to many KIA. To put it simply I wanted to be able to look the POWS square in the eye when they came back knowing that I did all I could to gain their release and return home!

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## REMEMBERING RADM THOMAS F. BROWN III

Second, the Tet Offensive occurred in early 1968. It was a defeat for the North Vietnamese, but it was not presented that way by our media. Specifically, Walter Cronkite, and most of the rest of the media, changed from lukewarm supporters of the war to opponents of the war. In my opinion, objective, unbiased reporting of the war stopped right then. In many respects, that same type of biased reporting continues to this day in the so-called mainstream media.

My third and final item concerns the way many of the American people treated our troops when they returned home from serving in Vietnam. Recall most of these boys were drafted into the service, the same as many of you and I were. They were ordered to Vietnam in an undeclared war that was started by our President, with the support of the Congress, the representatives of "We, the People." So, they served, and we literally spat at many of them when they returned. As I noted before, about 58,000 of them did not return and, in addition, we left a significant number behind as abandoned POWs.

I want to conclude with this personal story. After my first combat tour in Vietnam in 1965, I served in the A-4 Skyhawk training squadron at NAS Lemoore, California. One day, my former Commanding Officer, CDR Dutch Netherland, showed up in the ready room. He was an absolutely outstanding CO, whom I highly respected. When I saw him, I said, "Hey, Skipper, how are you doing? I thought you were going to an East Coast Air Wing!" He said, "Well, I was but I requested a change to the West Coast." "How come?" I asked. He replied, "Well, I haven't been to Vietnam... it's my turn." He went on to say, "I believe when you sign on as a coop-scraper" (for any non-farmers out there, coop stands for a chicken coop). "when you sign on as a coop-scraper and it comes time to scrape coops, you've got to scrape coops."

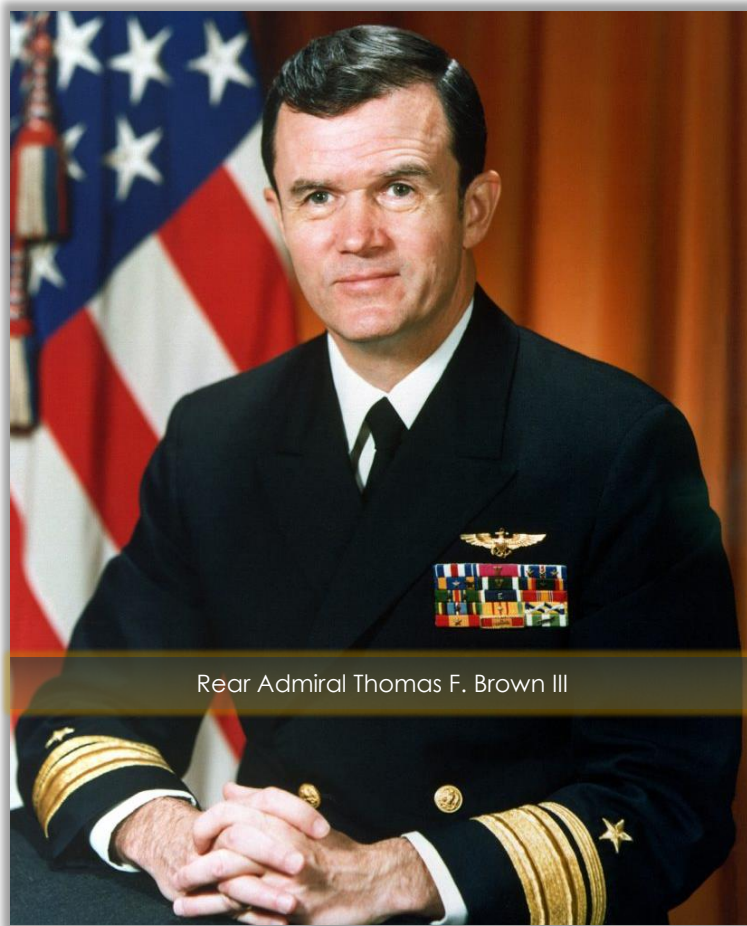
CDR Netherland became an Air Wing commander and on 10 May 1966, while leading his first strike into North Vietnam, he was hit by a SAM and was killed-in-action. CDR Netherland's words still ring in my ears... "when you sign on as a coop-scraper and it comes time to scrape coops, you've got to scrape coops."

Veterans: When it came time to scrape coops, you scraped coops!

Thank you for that, my friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's the coop-scrappers of America whom we are honoring today: Please remember in your prayers our families who have lost loved ones in military service. Also, take the opportunity to thank our veterans for their service whenever possible.

Thank you...and may God bless you and may God continue to bless America!!



Rear Admiral Thomas F. Brown III

Rear Admiral Thomas F. Brown III (Ret.) passed away 14 May 2020. Over his career he accumulated nearly 5000 flight hours, 1017 carrier arrested landings, and during three deployments to Vietnam flew 343 combat missions. His decorations included the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, five Legions of Merit, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, amongst a host of others.

Submitted by RADM Doug Moore, SC, USN (Ret.)

## WWII Navy Veteran Remembers

### Battle of Peleliu

By David Venditta

*The Battle of Peleliu was fought from 15 September to 27 November 1943. The following is excerpted from an oral history recently published in the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Morning Call.*

Mathias F. Gutman, a son of Yugoslavian immigrants, left Allentown High School in 1943 to join the Navy. After amphibious training, "Matt" was assigned to a landing ship tank (LST) as coxswain on one of its two Higgins boats. He landed troops on six Japanese-held islands in World War II.

Now 97 and living in Allentown, he remembers his first landing as the worst. It took place Sept. 15, 1944, at Peleliu. He was 19.

"An LST was a big box. It carried troops and tanks and had antiaircraft guns for firepower. The night before the invasion, everyone on our ship was quiet. We looked closely at each other. Who among us are going to survive? I didn't sleep much.

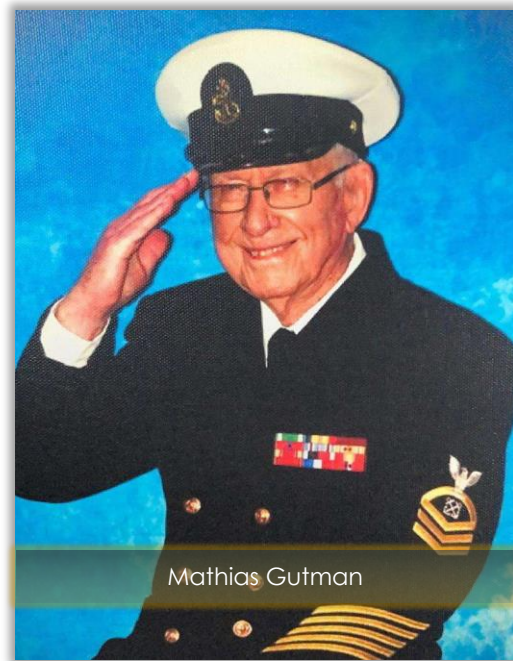
Peleliu was just a small island. What was important was: It had an airfield. My assignment was to take care of my Higgins boat. I got up early and had some chow. Then I went to my boat. I had a crew of three other sailors. One was a machinist mate who took care of the diesel engine, one to lower the ramp, and one to tie up the boat.

That boat was 36 foot long and 10 foot wide. Once we were down, they threw cargo nets over the side of our LST. The nets were like a ladder coming down to my boat. The Marines climbed down.

I had 35 men from the 1st Marine Division aboard. They were ready for combat. As coxswain, I was in the stern. The Marines were hunkered down. All I could see was the back of their heads. They were quiet. They knew they were going into battle, and for how long?

My boat was in the third wave. It was complete chaos. Our fleet pounded the island with big shells. Our air force bombed installations. Smoke everywhere, places on fire.

The seaman in the bow was on the lookout, and he shouted, "Coral reefs, coral reefs!" I had to stop about a hundred yards from the beach. I had to transfer these troops from my boat into an LVT, (landing vehicle tracked) that could make it over the reefs. That took time.



The Marines climbed into the LVT. Some got shot up during the transfer. Some were killed, some seriously hurt. Several of the wounded were on my boat. Guys were hollering for their mothers, and the floorboards were covered with blood.

Once the Marines were on their way in the LVT, they were going in real slow. The Japanese sank a lot of those tracked vehicles. A lot of Marines got killed before they reached the beach.

I had to turn my boat around. I took the wounded Marines to a hospital ship. By that time, my LST had gone out to sea. I had to go back to the island.

I beached the boat and spent the night with two Marines in a foxhole, maybe 200 yards in. My crew found other Marines close by and stayed with them in foxholes.

The next day, my ship came back. The crew didn't know what happened to me. They thought I was not coming back." (Story to be continued in Winter 2022 newsletter).

Gutman will speak Nov. 22 at the Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project Roundtable, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**Submitted by CDR John Hooper, USCG (Ret.)**



## Texas Commandery National History Day Involvement 2022

For the second year in a row, the Texas Commandery participated in the National History Day competition. While the competition in 2021 was all virtual due to the COVID pandemic, this year's Texas contest featured both virtual and in-person presentations. Former commandery commander, CAPT Chuck Hewell coordinated with the Texas Historic Commission, while RADM Pete Andrus, chaired the 3-man judges' panel that also included CAPT Ed Hermann and LtCol Ken Crosthwait, USAF (Ret.), whose father served in the Navy in WWII.

This year's competition was held at the Bullock Museum in Austin, Texas. The format of presentations varied from written papers, to individual or group documentaries, exhibits or websites. There were 12 projects considered overall: seven in the junior division (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) and five in the senior division (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades). The first prize winner in the junior division went to a project on the origin and effects of the Domino Theory, with two honorable mentions for projects on the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the changes in international law resulting from the sinking of the Titanic. In the senior division, first prize went to a presentation on the Cuban missile crisis, while honorable mentions went to a project about women in the workplace during World War II and beyond, as well as another related to the Cuban missile crisis that took a different approach than the first.

The judges were uniformly impressed with the quality of the presentations, the depth of research that went into them, and the maturity of the presentations. They were struck with how much more sophisticated they were when compared to what they themselves might have done in their youth. Most importantly, however, they were impressed with the poise shown by those presenters they were able to meet in person on the day of the competition and the interest and patriotism that these young people consistently demonstrated.

All six winners received a check and a certificate commemorating their participation.

**Submitted by RADM Pete Andrus, MC, USN (Ret.)**

After a successful tour as President of the Naval Order of the United States Foundation, CAPT Bob Whitkop assumed duties as NOUS Commander General at the October 2021 Annual Congress (virtual). As a result, I began my tour as Foundation President, and I write now to report on progress in recent months.

The financial status of the Foundation is sound. Our assets are approximately \$73,000.00 and typical annual administrative expenses run about \$100.00. Our support for projects this year has been directed to National History Day and the *Barry Stern Plate* restoration and display at NTC Great Lakes. Our only administrative expenses relate to legal filings with the IRS and the State of Oregon, where we are incorporated, and postage and office materials, and represent less than 1% of our assets. We are proud to be a 501(c)3 corporation with such a favorable program to administrative expense ratio!

To further strengthen our financial position, the past year has seen the coordination of our bank accounts with a brokerage account that allows for no-cost transfers between the accounts. In addition, we have transferred funds from essentially zero interest checking/saving accounts to the brokerage account and made prudent purchases of 4 positions in the market are expected to generate dividend yields of between 7% and 8 %, thus putting our current assets to effective use and growing our ability to support worthy projects identified by the Projects Committee of NOUS.

In the current year, many individuals have made contributions to the Foundation. These have included monies designated in support of either the National History Day program or the *Barry Stern Plate* project, as well as those that were "undesignated" and available for use without restriction. In addition, it should be noted that several Commanderies have made "corporate" donations for the *Barry* project, and these have included San Francisco, Northwest, Florida First Coast, and Texas to date. BZ to each of them.

The National History Day project continued this year in providing several commanderies with funds to award to worthy projects by middle and high school students in several states that focused on sea service history. To make a donation to the Naval Order Foundation in support of NHD, visit the NOUS Foundation page. The *Barry Stern Plate* was rescued from the wrecking ball, has been refurbished and is at NTC Great Lakes

Continued on next page...

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

with plans underway for its prominent display to commemorate Commodore Barry and his role as "the Father of the Navy."

I hope that this update on the Foundation's activities has been of interest. Further details will be included in the current year's final report submitted to the upcoming 2022 Annual Congress at Alexandria in October.

If you would like more information, or would like to donate to the Naval Order Foundation, please send your tax-deductible contributions to:

Naval Order Foundation  
Attn: CAPT Kenneth Arendt, USN, SC (Ret.)  
108 Ann Arbor Ct., Los Gatos, CA 95032

\*Please indicate "unrestricted", which means for any project or need, for National History Day or one or more projects of your choice.

**Submitted by RADM Pete Andrus, MC, USN (Ret.), MD**

## Membership

As of this date 95 people have inquired via our website or have been referred for membership. This does not include those new members that have been directly recruited by our members. The breakdown is as follows:

Navy – 71	Officers - 33
USMC – 6	Enlisted - 50
USCG – 6	Descendants -10
NOAA – 1	Honorary - 1

Interesting to note that 19 of the above have been, or would become, affiliated with the Continental Commandery. Also note that enlisted inquiries continue to outpace officers.

According to "New Member Reports" provided by the Registrar General between 18 October 2021 and 22 August 2022, 67 new members were officially booked. Of those, 28 came as result of our web site while 39 were from direct recruiting by our members.

It should be also noted that the numbers presented here pertain only to members and potential members who have applied via our web site.

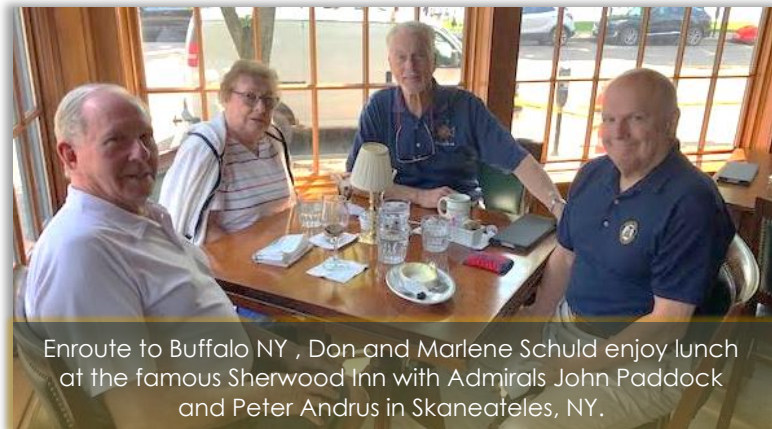
The numbers provided by the Registrar General are for all members and will vary considerably and will be presented by the RG separately.

There are some 73 people in the "pending file". That is, those who have made inquiries and received applications, but have yet to submit them. Some of these go back almost a year! Experience shows that some of these people will eventually submit their applications having received continuous reminders. The join rate for those who inquire via our website is presently around 50 to 60 %.

The concern continues to be that we are barely scratching the surface when it comes to bringing aboard new members. How many of our members have attended other naval type gatherings this year and never thought to approach a prospective member?

During my 30th reunion of the USS *Little Rock* Association in Buffalo this past week, I recruited three new members, including the President & CEO of the Naval Park. Each of them were flattered to be asked. And they, in turn, will be asked to "pay it forward".

Surely you know of someone who is eligible for membership. Reach out to them today!



**Submitted by Donald W. Schuld, USN (Ret.)**

3 Mildred Terrace, Flanders, N.J. 07836

H- 973-584-9634 C- 201-874-0730

**Welcome to NOUS's Newest Members****Atlanta**

Mrs. Myra Askew Hall, (USN Vet)

**Continental**

CAPT James Richard Bloom, MC, USN (Ret.)

CTI2 Logan Lierboe Jen0, USN

CAPT Joseph O. Quintana, SC, USN (Ret.)

**Florida First Coast**

Mr. Robert Paul Birtalan

CDR Bobby Eugene Greene, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Kelvin Wayne Huehn, USN (Ret.)

**Massachusetts**

Mr. Joseph Robert Lewis

**National Capital**

Mr. Mark Francis Arleen

VADM Terry Joseph Benedict, USN (Ret.)

LCDR Paulstephen Cheirico, CEC, USN (Ret.)

**New Orleans**

CDR Janette Balkcom Arencibia, MC, USN

CAPT John David Cousins, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Gregory Steven Ireton, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Corry "Jeb" Kucik, USN

CDR Darrell Henry Smith, USN (Ret.)

**New York City**

Chief Diego Herrera, USCG (Ret.)

**Northwest**

Mr. Louis Charles Hoffmann Alloin

Mr. Luke Sowieralski

**Philadelphia/Delaware Valley**

Dr. Sheldon Marvin Bernick (USN Vet)

REV Justin Thomas Cohen (USN Vet)

**San Francisco**

Mr. Morton Pritchett Beebe (USN Vet)

**Tampa Bay**

CAPT G. Mark Hardy, USN (Ret.)

Mrs. Jeanne Marie Hoey

CDR Thomas Joseph O'Malley, Jr., USN (Ret.)

Mr. Walter Robert Stevenson

**Texas**

Col Keven Wesley Matthews, USMC (Ret.)

**Western New York**

RADM Sean Raymond Filipowski, MC, USN (Ret.)

Send all contact info changes to:

CAPT M. K. Carlock

6205 7th Ave N

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

M.K.Carlock@gmail.com

415-725-2101

**We note the passing of our fellow Naval Order Companions. May their memories be a blessing.**

**Florida First Coast Commandery**

CAPT Francis Marshall Floyd, USN (Ret.)

(Certificate 8244)

Florida First Coast Commandery

Joined 01 September 2003

Died 17 July 2022

**National Capital Commandery**

RADM Edward Keith Walker, SC, USN (Ret.)

(Certificate 6459)

National Capital Commandery

Joined 06 October 1989

Died 11 December 2021

ADM Paul Alexander Yost, USCG (Ret.)

(Certificate 6175)

National Capital Commandery

Joined 31 October 1988

Died 09 February 2022

**San Francisco Commandery**

LT Evan Smith Baker, USN (Ret.)

(Certificate 6759)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 03 June 1991

Died 26 March 2022

CDR Dean "Diz" Samuel Laird, USN (Ret.)

(Certificate 9562)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 11 February 2016

Died 10 August 2022

CDR William R. Sharkey, USN (Ret.)

(Certificate 9230)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 06 September 1994

Died 10 June 2022

**Western New York Commandery**

Mr. Julian Edmund DeCastro, III (USN Vet)

(Certificate 7158)

Western New York Commandery

Joined 09 April 1994

Died 24 March 2017



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