



**Minutes of the 2019 Annual Congress
Naval Order of the United States
23 - 26 October 2019
Constitution Inn
Boston, Massachusetts**

In accordance with the Constitution of the Naval Order of the United States, and due notice having been given thereof, there met, at the place and during the period noted above, the **Annual Congress of the Naval Order of the United States**, the Commander General, **CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret.)**, presiding. Fifty-eight Companions of the Naval Order were present and registered as voting or non-voting delegates to the Annual Congress. Names and Commandery affiliations are in **Enclosure (1)**.

Pre-Congress Activities

The following **committee meetings** were held on 23-24 October in accordance with the Congress Program, **Enclosure (2)**; some meeting times varied from the program:

Awards Committee
Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Commandery Support Committee
Communications Committee
Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Credentials Committee
Finance & Audit Committee
Historical Committee
Investment Committee
Membership & Retention Committee
Naval Order Foundation Board
Nominating Committee
Site Committee
General Council; Minutes at Enclosure (3)

The **Commander General's reception** was held at the Commandant's House, Boston Navy Yard on 24 October, which included remarks by the Commander General.

The Congress

Opening Session Friday, 25 October 2019

The Commander General, **CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret.)** called the formal **Opening Ceremonies** to order at 0835. The *USS Constitution* Color Guard in period uniforms paraded the colors. CAPT Crissy led the Congress in the Pledge of Allegiance. **CDR (Father) Mike Zuffoletto, USN (Ret.)** delivered the **Invocation**.

CAPT Fran McDonald, USN (Ret.) read the names of the **40 Companions who have passed since the 2018 Congress and earlier** as **LCDR Steven Sinclair, USN (Ret.)** tolled the NOUS bell for each, and a moment of reverential silence was observed; see **Enclosure (4)** for the list of names.

CAPT Crissy welcomed Companions to the Congress and provided administrative information. He finished by presenting the **Commander General Medal to CAPT Tom Snyder, USN (Ret.)** for his actions in running the Ship's Store.

CDR Nate Shick, USN, 75th Commanding Officer of the *USS Constitution* provided welcoming remarks to the city of Boston and the Charlestown Navy Yard. He spoke of the significance of *Constitution* and naval units in the early days of the republic and for Charlestown specifically. Following his remarks, CAPT Crissy presented CDR Shick with a signed copy of the book "A Most Fortunate Ship; A Narrative History of Old Ironsides" by CDR Tyrone Martin as a token of our appreciation. The Registrar General, **CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.)**, then presented him with a complimentary annual membership in the Naval Order.

MCCS Bob Hanson, USN (Ret.) submitted the **Credentials Committee Report, Enclosure (5)**, explaining voting rules and noting that a sufficient number of Commanderies (10) and voting delegates (33) are present and hence **a quorum exists**.

The **Commander General** gave his **Report to the General Commandery, Enclosure (6)**, on NOUS activities of note over the past year. He stated it was an eventful and fulfilling year, and that it has been an honor and privilege to have served. CAPT Crissy kept his remarks at an appropriate high-level leaving details to be presented by the cognizant officers and committee chairs. He summarized the actions of the General Council during the previous year, which were approved and ratified by the General Commandery, and spoke of the awards presented. He stated the strength of our organization rests with the local organizations and individual companions, and that we continue to work on improving communications through innumerable various media. While he didn't make it to every commandery for an event, CAPT Crissy spoke of several local Commandery events he was able to participate in. He next covered our efforts to preserve Naval Order records in the archives encouraging all to be cognizant of this need. He next addressed the financial situation noting our overall healthy condition. He closed by reiterating his focus on the "All Services" nature of the Naval

Order that continue to be refined by the many ongoing initiatives and activities of our members. **CAPT Crissy then presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to CDR Lou Orsini, USCG (Ret.), CAPT Joe Valenta, USN (Ret.), and CAPT Bill Waylett, USN (Ret.) briefly describing their major accomplishments.**

CDR Lou Orsini, USCG (Ret.) provided the **Recorder General Report, Enclosure (7)**, addressing administrative accomplishments and advising the General Commandery that the General Council had just approved Change 3 to the Operations Manual, which will be distributed to all in the Leadership Directory once final edits are made. He then detailed the **two proposals approved by the General Council** on October 24 as follows: (1) retain earnings attributed to the Life Member Endowment Fund fundraising campaign until such time as the General Council approves a distribution plan and it is implemented; and (2) approve an annual payment of \$1,200 to the Naval War College Foundation to maintain the Naval Order archive to include processing new records and responding to requests for access to this. There was a **Motion that the General Commandery approve the actions of the General Council, which was seconded and approved unanimously.**

CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.) provided the **Registrar General Report, Enclosure (8)**. She started by reporting a net loss of 70 members during the year from 1348 to 1278 members, which highlights the need for every member to be a recruiter. Membership is about equally divided between life and annual members. She noted how there are several life members who she has not been able to get in touch with and will ask Commandery Commanders to reach out to these members to ensure they are well and try to activate them. CAPT Carlock reported about 35% of transactions including annual dues and regalia are paid by credit card. She is continuing work on scanning and entering all applications into the Naval Order data base to be available for research. CAPT Carlock briefed three issues that will be further studied for making a determination **CAPT Crissy then presented CAPT Carlock with the Commander General Medal for her work as Registrar General.**

CDR Orsini provided the **Membership Report, Enclosure (9)**, on behalf of **Mr. Bill Schmidt** detailing his approach to recruiting new members and retaining current ones. This includes expediting the membership application process. While there was a substantial increase in inquiries generated through the Naval Order webpage over the past year (107 up from 23), this has not translated into an equivalent increase in applications submitted. Mr. Schmidt made the following recommendations to improve the membership process: (1) phase out the paper recommendation process and move to an online form on the web page; (2) clarify eligibility language on the website; (3) clarify the application process on the web page; and (4) for all companions to post on various sea service related social media sites they may belong to about the Naval Order and how to become a member. He is working on a Facebook webpage dedicated to NOUS membership. As a Blue & Gold officer (BGO), he is encouraging Area Coordinators to share Naval Order information with their BGOs. Another initiative is to channel naval history authors toward NOUS membership. The United States Naval Institute Press (USNIP) is interested in partnering to promote Naval Order membership

and USNIP's naval history literature. Mr. Schmidt expressed his concern with accepting members not fully vetted for eligibility could endanger our tax-exempt status and recommended a committee be established to review current compliance with the Naval Order's status as a 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization. Details of his proposals and recommendations can be found in his Membership Report. There was a discussion regarding using a fillable .pdf form, as well as the possibility of automatic membership renewal for those using a credit card. These issues will be considered by the Registrar General.

Mr. Don Schuld next presented the Commandery Support Report, Enclosure (10), noting that the Atlanta, Massachusetts and Hampton Roads commanderies now have re-organizers in place. He spoke of the success of the newly formed Northwest and Continental commanderies. However, Annapolis, Raleigh and San Diego remain without commanders. Mr. Schuld discussed the challenges in finding companions willing to take a leadership role even though many are willing to help. He next addressed the need to better recruit new companions as we are only bringing aboard five new companions a month, which fails to even meet attrition. During floor discussions, there were suggestions to add the names of national officers to each commandery's website; partner with similar organizations to recruit new members; and use the newsletter as a retention and recruiting tool through effective communications. **CAPT Crissy then presented Mr. Schuld with the Commander General Medal for his work as Vice Commander General Commandery Support.**

MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.) provided the Communications Committee Report, Enclosure (11), noting that everyone in the organization needs to be a communicator, which is a good way to recruit new members. He asked members to contribute to the quarterly Newsletter especially on issues that do not get a lot of publicity. Target length for Newsletters is 28 pages with approximately 25% photos. MCCS Hansen is working on a Style Guide. He will advertise submission deadlines, which must be adhered to in order to achieve our goal of a 45-day turnaround. **CAPT Crissy then presented MCCS Hansen with the Commander General Medal for his work as Vice Commander General Communications.**

CAPT Joe Valenta, USN (Ret.) presented the Project Management Program Committee Report, Enclosure (12), describing the process used to consider whether to fund a project. **Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.)** described in detail, using a PowerPoint presentation, the project to donate a vintage drum marked Third Regiment, U.S. Marines and display case to the Third Regiment in Hawaii. **A motion to authorize \$500 to complete funding for this project was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.** Col Cruz then displayed a spreadsheet showing the three active projects while noting there are other active projects being handled at the commandery level. The oldest project on the national list is to erect interpretive markers by the *USS Missouri*, which is done, and *HIJMS Mikasa*, which was cancelled due to continued non-response from the Government of Japan. Funds allotted to this part of the project will be returned to the NOUS Foundation treasury. Next, he described the status of the Chief John Finn statue, which will be erected near the Nimitz statue by

USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor. The clay model design is completed, and we are awaiting the Navy to lease a plot of land to the *USS Missouri* Foundation where the statue would be located. This has delayed the project for an estimated two years. Col Cruz reminded members of the need for historic accuracy and to include the Historian General in the process, which has been added to the Operations Manual.

The Commander General adjourned the Congress at 1110 for the DSSA-SE and LCDR Lee Douglas Award Luncheon to resume at 1415.

**Distinguished Sea Service Award – Senior Enlisted &
LCDR Lee Douglas Memorial Award &
CAPT Jan Armstrong Memorial Award Luncheon
Friday, 25 October 2019**

CAPT Crissy opened the **Special Awards Luncheon (Enclosure 13)**. Our newest member, **CAPT Jim McGinnis, USN (Ret.)** led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **CDR Zuffoletto** delivered the Invocation. CAPT Crissy then recognized distinguished guests. After lunch, CAPT Crissy described the **Distinguished Sea Service Award – Senior Enlisted**, and announced **Master Chief of the Coast Guard Reserve Eric Johnson, USCG (Ret.)** as its fifth recipient. He summarized Master Chief Johnson's service and through vignettes encapsulated why he was chosen for this year's award. Unfortunately, Master Chief Johnson was unavailable to accept the award, which will be presented at a future meeting of the National Capital Commandery. Next, **RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret)** provided a brief history of the **LCDR Lee Douglas Award**, which is bestowed upon the Commandery determined to be the best for the year based on their annual report, and presented the award. The **San Francisco Commandery** was selected as this year's recipient. The Commander, **Mr. John McKnight, USN (Vet.)**, accepted the award on behalf of the Commandery and recognized the hard work of the many outstanding Companions who made this possible. RADM Merlin then described the newest award to be presented, the **CAPT Jan Armstrong Memorial Award**, which will be given each year to the outstanding commandery with fewer than 50 companions using the same criteria as the LCDR Lee Douglas Award, and presented the award. The **Charleston Commandery** was selected for this initial award presentation. **CAPT Jerry Rovner, USN (Ret.)** accepted the award on behalf of the commandery thanking all companions for their hard work in earning this recognition. He also noted that the Commandery would be meeting on Sunday and he would be able to present it to them at the meeting.

**Afternoon Session
Friday, 25 October 2019**

CAPT Crissy opened the **afternoon session** at 1420 introducing **CAPT Marc Liebman, USN (Ret.)** with a presentation titled "**Naval Lessons from the American Revolution**". CAPT Liebman writes military fiction, which is historically and operationally accurate. He started with a story of how he came upon his current book

on the Continental Navy, which will be published shortly. In the 711 years between 1066 and 1775, England and France were at war with one another for 116 of those years. Hence, England did not view America as a threat. The Seven Years War was the first truly global war and Great Britain was the clear winner. It was fought on and in the waters of five continents. Afterward, the American Revolution was just a minor theater in another global war with combat occurring in the Americas, India, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. The only strategic interest for England in the 13 Colonies was a source of oak for building ships. At the start of the American Revolution, England was the wealthiest country in the world and the Royal Navy had 350 rated ships. The Continental Navy was created October 13, 1775 by the Second Continental Congress. The Continental Navy was dissolved in 1785 and reborn via the Navy Act of March 27, 1794. Hence, the term United States Ship should not be used for any ship commissioned before March 1, 1781. The Continental Navy was funded through foreign loans, individual contributions, and bounty from privateering. Its shipbuilding program was a mix of new and modifications of merchant ships. The first squadron was the frigates *Alfred* and *Columbus*, brigs *Andrea Doria* and *Cabot*, and sloop *Providence*. Thirteen frigates were built but none survived the war. Eventually 63 ships were built of which 43 were lost. Numbers show the Royal Navy soundly defeated the Continental Navy, but the results show the Americans hurt them badly. Between the Navy and privateers, the Americans captured or destroyed between 12-15% of the British merchant fleet. American privateers were very effective capturing 3,087 Royal Navy and British East India Company ships. Lessons learned: (1) the United States was then and remains today a maritime nation with 90% of non-NAFTA commerce today traveling by sea and similar percentage of overseas war support materials traveling the same way; (2) as a maritime nation, the United States needs a strong Navy; (3) people are the key to success and the Navy needs to be led by warriors, which was championed by John Hughes in the early Navy; and (4) the country needs to leverage technology, not be a slave to it, and it must be affordable, effective and deployed in quantity for which he provided several examples. The U.S. Navy has learned much from the Royal Navy, but should not follow their current path. Despite being a maritime nation, the Royal Navy is a shadow of its former self and the United Kingdom can no longer project power. CAPT Liebman's upcoming book is titled "*Raider of the Scottish Coast*", which follows the intertwining careers of both an American and a British midshipman at the start of the American Revolution. CAPT Liebman then took several questions covering a variety of issues including Continental Navy shipbuilding, recent Navy operational and equipment decisions, and naval gunfire support. The entire presentation can be found at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2111689099139677&id=100008958210149. Upon conclusion of the presentation, CAPT Crissy presented CAPT Liebman with a signed copy of the book "*A Most Fortunate Ship; A Narrative History of Old Ironsides*" by CDR Tyrone Martin as a token of our appreciation.

The second speaker was **James Haley** with a presentation titled "**The Devil in Paradise**" "**Historical Literacy from Historical Fiction: Captain Putnam's Most Desperate Adventure**". He started with an explanation of why history is important noting that everything you believe in the world that is important is filtered through your understanding of history. Through a series of facts and statistics, he demonstrated

ignorance of history in society generally. He figured out that people don't want to be educated; they want to be entertained, and so this led him to writing historical fiction. Based on a lead from his agent, James Hornfischer, Mr. Haley outlined an American tall ship naval adventure series to fill a gap in current historical fiction literature. The outline consisted of a series of six books about two 14-year old midshipmen, one from Litchfield, Connecticut (Bliven Putnam) and the other from South Carolina (Sam Bandy), who become best friends starting with the Barbary Wars. His approach was to tell a good story about these characters while bending the story as close to true historical events as he could. The series continues through the War of 1812 in his second book, and then in his third book follows the missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands in 1820. In book four the main characters are seconded to the Texas Navy, and in book five they are in the Atlantic Squadron chasing down slave ships. Back to *The Devil in Paradise*, Putnam is the captain of his own ship, the sloop *Rappahannock*, assigned to the Pacific theater, which is a two to three-year voyage. Based on actual historical figures, Mr. Haley introduced us to interesting native Hawaiian characters such as Opukaha'ia, King Kamehemmeha I, Queen Ka'ahumanu, Boki & Lilah, and High Chief Kalanimoku. After King Kamehemmeha conquered all the islands, Opukaha'ia fled Hawaii for Litchfield where he became a preacher and sparked a missionary expedition to Hawaii led by Hiram and Sybil Bingham to bring Christianity to the islands. The missionaries left on the brig *Thaddeus*, which arrived after a harrowing voyage. Upon arrival they discovered King Kamehemmeha had died and was replaced by Queen Ka'ahumanu, who converted to Christianity while maintaining a strong ruling position. In his story, Boki & Lilah were the villains, while High Chief Kalanimoku was the good guy. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Haley interwove historical vignette sidebars. Afterward, he answered questions on James Michener's Hawaii, which blended history and fiction so well that you couldn't tell one from the other; his Texan roots impact; and his research techniques. The entire presentation can be found at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2111755275799726&id=100008958210149. Upon conclusion of the presentation, CAPT Crissy presented Mr. Haley with a signed copy of the book "*A Most Fortunate Ship; A Narrative History of Old Ironsides*" by CDR Tyrone Martin and a pen fabricated of planking from *USS Constitution* as tokens of our appreciation.

The **Commander General adjourned the session at 1630** to resume at 0830, Saturday for the remainder of the reports and historical programs.

Morning Session Saturday, 26 October 2019

The **Commander General reopened the Congress at 0835** for a continuation of officer and committee reports. **CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret.)** on behalf of **Professor John Hattendorf** provided the **Historian General Report, Enclosure (14)**. He reported on the four major issues the National Historical Committee addressed the past year. The NOUS archives now reside at the Naval War College. The Hattendorf Historical Center at the Naval War College will maintain the Naval Order's records. To

assist and help support their permanent maintenance, the Historian-General's Committee requested an annual donation of \$1,200 be made to the Naval War College Foundation and specified that this donation be clearly restricted to the direct support of the Naval Order's archival collection. Second, the National Capital Commandery, in coordination with the American Legion, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Cork County Council, have agreed on the design for a historic wayside marker to commemorate the presence of the United States Navy Air Station Bantry Bay, Ireland 1918-1919. The marker will be installed and dedicated in May 2020. Third, NOUS again sponsored a Panel at the biannual McMullen Naval History Symposium. Fourth is active support provided for National History Day events by local commanderies in seven states, which the Committee hopes to expand. **CDR John Hooper, USCG (Ret.)** developed a Vision Statement, Operations Plan and POA&M for 2019 History Day.

CAPT Bill Waylett, USN (Ret.) provided a summary of the **Financial Review & Audit Committee Report, Enclosure (15)**, noting that the three funds audited are in good shape and they accurately and completely present the financial condition of the Naval Order. He reported on the status of the IRS group non-profit, which is very slow (going on two years now) but is moving forward. Once approved, CAPT Waylett will provide information to all commanderies regarding their responsibilities under the group exemption.

CAPT Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.) provided the **Investment Committee Report, Enclosure (16)**, introducing **RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret.)** for the details. He reported we had better than expected results with investment income of over \$23,000 for the third year in a row with a 6.2% return on investment. Market value increased to \$482,919, which was a 3% increase. Donations to the Life Membership Fund totaled about \$29,675 last year in response to a solicitation directed in the 2017 Annual Congress, which is about 35% of what is needed to bring the fund to an amount that can support Life members while keeping principal intact. There were 11 transactions during the year with an increase in bond holdings to 12% of investments. The Committee is looking at safe dividends and preservation of capital. **CAPT Crissy then presented RADM Merlin with the Commander General Medal for his work as Investment Advisor.**

Ms. Susie McLaurine provided the **Finance Committee and Treasurer General Reports** showing trends. She started with a comparison of the FY-2019 budget income and expenses to actual income and expenses with a net income of \$4,187 compared to a projected income of \$90. She next showed trends from 2015 to 2019 regarding income from member dues and income from other sources. Finally, Ms. McLaurine provided the actual FY2019 budget with the proposed 2020 budget. **A Motion to accept the 2020 Budget was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.** Together these reports comprise the **National Finance Committee Report, Enclosures (17-19)**. **CAPT Crissy then presented Ms. McLaurine with the Commander General Medal for her work as Treasurer General.**

RADM Merlin on behalf of **RADM Doug Moore, USN (Ret.)** presented the **National Awards Committee Report**, details of which can be found at **Enclosure (20)**. The Committee consists of all prior living Commander Generals. There are seven classes of awards given each year for which RADM Merlin announced the winners. Awards include three essay contest awards for midshipmen at the Naval Academy; the RADM Thurston H. James Memorial Award to the outstanding graduate of the naval flight officer program; the Coast Guard Academy Junior Officer Instructor of the Year Award, which is decided by a vote of the Corps of Cadets; the LCDR Lee Douglas Award to the San Francisco Commandery; the initial CAPT Jan Armstrong Award to the Charleston Commandery; the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award to ADM James Hogg, USN (Ret.); the Distinguished Sea Service Award – Senior Enlisted to Command Master Chief Eric Johnson, USCGR (Ret.); and the Distinguished Sea Service Award to ADM Mark Ferguson, III, USN (Ret.).

CAPT Vance Morrison, USN (Ret.) provided the **Site Committee Report, Enclosure (21)** confirming Buffalo as the site for the 2020 Congress, which will be hosted by the Western New York Commandery with assistance from a National Committee. He then briefed a summary of planned and potential activities. The Committee also recognized the tremendous work done by RADM Moore and CAPT Lockwood in executing the 2019 Congress. **A Motion was made to finalize holding the 2020 Congress in Buffalo, New York from 14-17 October at the Hyatt Regional Hotel at a rate of \$139/night, which was seconded and approved unanimously.** CAPT Morrison next described the proposal to hold the 2021 Congress in San Diego, California at the Doubletree Hotel hosted by the San Francisco Commandery with possibility of a Marine Corps theme. For 2022, the National Capitol Commandery has agreed to host the Congress in Washington, DC. The Northwest Commandery is considering hosting the 2023 Congress in the Seattle area although they note several challenges that will need to be addressed before committing. CAPT Lockwood recommended the Committee consider having a National Committee host all future congresses in coordination with a local Commandery. The Site Committee will consider this recommendation. **A motion was made to tentatively hold the 2021 Congress in San Diego, which was seconded and approved unanimously.**

Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret) provided the **Foundation Board Report, Enclosure (22)**, reporting that there were three projects under consideration in 2018-19; one completed and two on hold as noted in the Project Management Report. **CAPT Ken Arendt, USN (Ret.)** next provided a financial synopsis of the Foundation showing a beginning balance of a little over \$43,000 with donations of nearly \$36,000 resulting in a total value of about \$79,000. Expenses were a bit over \$3,900 leaving a balance of about \$75,000. **A Motion was made to approve the Foundation Board Report, which was seconded and approved unanimously.** CAPT Crissy then presented Col Cruz with the **Commander General Medal for his work as Chair of the Foundation.**

CAPT Michele Lockwood presented the **Nominating Committee Report, Enclosure (23)**, starting with those requiring approval of the General Commandery. The proposed slate is as follows:

Commander General: Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.)
Commander General Elect: CAPT Robert Whitkop, USN (Ret.)
Vice Commander General Commandery Support: Vacant
Vice Commander General Membership: Mr. Donald Schuld, USN (Vet.)
Recorder General: CDR Louis J. Orsini, USCG (Ret.)
Registrar General: CAPT M. K. [Kris] Carlock, USN (Ret.)
Treasurer General: Ms. Susan (Susie) McLaurine
Historian General: CAPT Stanley Carpenter, USN (Ret.)
Companions to the General Council: CAPT Kenneth E Arendt, SC, USN (Ret.),
CWO3 Anthony D. Atwood, USN (Ret.), Mr. Jonathan C. Jones, USN (Vet.), CAPT
Jerry Rovner, USN (Ret.), CAPT John A. Rodgaard, USN (Ret.), and CDR Timothy
Garrold, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Lockwood asked for nominations from the floor for any of these positions; hearing none, she asked for a **motion to approve the slate of officers announced, which was seconded and approved unanimously.**

CAPT Lockwood next announced the nomination of those positions requiring a waiver for those nominees to serve a consecutive two-year tour as follows:

Vice Commander General (At Large) Projects Director: CAPT Joseph R. Valenta, USN (Ret.)

Vice Commander General (At Large) Continental Commandery Commander: CAPT Aaron Bresnahan, USN

Vice Commander General (At Large): Ms. Hartley Porter

Vice Commander General – Communications: MCCA Robert A. Hansen, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Lockwood asked for nominations from the floor for any of these positions; hearing none, she asked for a **motion to approve the waiver for these incumbents to remain in their positions, which was seconded and approved unanimously.**

CAPT Lockwood announced the nomination of officers to the following two positions requiring approval by the General Commandery but are not members of the General Council:

Judge Advocate General: CAPT Richard Alexander, USN (Ret.)

Surgeon General: Vacant

CAPT Lockwood asked for nominations from the floor for either of these positions; hearing none, she asked for a **motion to approve the slate of officers announced, which was seconded and approved unanimously.**

Finally, CAPT Lockwood announced the appointment of the following officers to positions that do not require the approval of the General Commandery:

Assistant Historian General: Vacant

Assistant Recorder General: CAPT Robert E. Sinclair, USN (Ret.)

Assistant Treasurer General (Ship's Store Manager): CAPT Thomas L. Snyder, MC, USN (Ret.)

Auditor General: CAPT William J. Waylett, USN (Ret.)

Chaplain General: CDR Michael P. Zuffoletto, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Master-at-Arms General: LCDR Steven Sinclair, USN (Ret.)

Parliamentarian General: CAPT Frances McDonald, USN (Ret.)

The **Commander General adjourned the Congress at 1050** for a tour of USS *Cassin Young* followed by the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award Luncheon at 1215.

Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award Luncheon Saturday, 26 October 2019

CAPT Crissy opened the **Dewey Award Luncheon (Enclosure 24)** and **Mr. Michael Carra** led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **CDR Zuffoletto** delivered the Invocation. After lunch, **CAPT Crissy** provided a history of ADM Dewey, the Naval Order's award named in his honor, the criteria for selection, and noted past recipients. He then announced **ADM James Hogg, USN (Ret.)** as its 17th recipient. He provided the highlights of ADM Hogg's civilian service that led to his selection to receive this prestigious award. Unfortunately, ADM Hogg was unavailable to accept the award, which will be presented at a future meeting of the Newport Commandery.

Afternoon Session Saturday, 26 October 2019

CAPT Crissy called the Afternoon Session to order at 1420 and introduced **RADM Tom Andrews, SC, USN (Ret.)** to make a presentation on "The Battle of Leyte Gulf off Samar Island – The Untold Story". This presentation has been in the works for about 35 years since his father first started talking about his war experiences and in particular about his experiences at the Battle of Leyte Gulf where he won the Navy Cross. He discussed his research and thanked several others who helped him in his research. Some may think there is nothing more to be said about this battle, but RADM Andrews noted that no one had adequately described the actions of USS *Kitkun Bay* (CVE-71) and VC-5 (the Old Crow), the latter of which was established September 6, 1943. He told the story largely through what he learned from his father, LT Thomas Andrews, who was the flight officer on VC-5, interspersed with personal stories and some anecdotes. He also gave credit to a book by Byron Como that has recently been published called "The Defenders of Taffy 3" and an online book by Robert Cox. The squadron deployed aboard *USS Kitkun Bay* and entered the war with its first action on June 13, 1944. Their first significant action occurred at Saipan with 18 days of combat followed by two weeks of combat in the Battle of Tinian. They briefly conducted operations at the end of the Battle of Guam followed by the assault on Peleliu where he noted that the First Marine Division suffered 71% casualty rate in the first eight days. Next came brief operations off Ulithi before going on to Leyte Gulf. There were five separate engagements during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The first engagement was the Battle of Palawan during which the Japanese Center Force under ADM Kurita lost five ships. The second engagement

was the Battle of Sibuyan Sea on October 24 where the Center Force lost five more ships leaving them with 23 of the original 33 ships before they exited the San Bernardino Straits. In the third engagement, the Japanese Southern Force engaged the U.S. Navy in the Battle of Surigao Strait from which the Japanese forces were forced to retreat after losing most of their vanguard ships. Fourth was the Battle off Samar Island, in which the 23 capital ships of the Japanese Center Force engaged Task Unit 77.4.3 (TAFFY III), which was only an invasion support group consisting of 13 ships and 168 Avenger and Wildcat aircraft. At 0655 on October 25, both forces discovered the other about 14 miles apart in intermittent rain squalls and elements of TAFFY III turned to engage despite being significantly outgunned, while the six escort carriers began evasive maneuvers. RADM Andrews then told the story from the perspective of his father including reported statements and observations by various crewmembers. The seven screening ships of TAFFY III (Magnificent Seven) provided enough holding power despite their relatively small size allowing the escort carriers to temporarily escape. *USS Johnston* and a TBM from *USS Gambier Bay* fired the first round of torpedoes disabling the *Kumano*, the lead cruiser in the Japanese line. This attack was followed by TBM's from VC-10 attacking the second cruiser in the line, the *Suzuya*, and damaging the ship's propeller shaft. *USS Hoel* was next firing a volley into the next two Japanese cruisers in line. *USS Roberts* attacked next against the Japanese cruisers while *USS Heermann* attacked the battleships with its torpedoes. The American destroyers were joined in the battle by fighters from both TAFFY II and III. Later, bombers from TAFFY II and III were able to attack the Japanese fleet as the weather cleared. The two and one half hour surface engagement ended at 0921 as the Japanese fleet disengaged and retreated back into the San Bernardino Straits. Over the course of the three-day battle, the U.S. lost ten ships (37,000 tons) and the Japanese lost 26 ships (306,000 tons). After this battle, the Japanese Navy would never again sail as an effective fighting force. **CAPT Jim McGinnis, USN (Ret.)** then told the story of his father's participation in the battle aboard *USS Ommaney Bay*. The entire presentation can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/nousfc/videos/2112476649060922?sfns=mo>. Upon conclusion of the presentation CAPT Crissy presented RADM Andrews with a signed copy of the book "A Most Fortunate Ship; A Narrative History of Old Ironsides" by CDR Tyrone Martin and a pen fabricated from planking removed from *USS Constitution* as tokens of appreciation.

CAPT Crissy next reintroduced **CAPT Marc Liebman** for his presentation on "North Korea – the Threat, the Truth and Our Options". North Korea has had a turbulent history starting with the Japanese taking possession after the Russo-Japanese War. The country was split into two occupation zones at the 38th parallel following World War II and into two countries in 1948. The Korean War started in 1950 when the North invaded the South during which naval aviation played a key role. The North Korean economy is a mess and they have suffered through several famines. North Korea has a perfect record regarding treaties they've signed in that they have never complied with their provisions. There have been over 100 international incidents since 1960 in which people have been killed or wounded. These incidents usually occur when the leader feels an internal threat to his power, or when he wants to get Western attention. North Korea is an economic pygmy when compared to South Korea. Legally they export iron

ore and coal; illegal exports are counterfeit drugs, amphetamines and heroin. It is a terrible place to live with 56% unemployment rate among its 25 million citizens, as well as an environmental wasteland with over one percent of its population in reeducation camps. The country cannot feed itself with 40% plus undernourished. It is essentially an armed camp with 25% of its population engaged in national defense. North Korea has no domestic sources of oil or natural gas with about 45-60 day supply of petroleum products in reserve. North Korea is well aware of U.S. Navy amphibious capabilities. Their geography is completely different in each part with extreme weather conditions prevalent. Kim Jong-un is not crazy; he is more like a spoiled brat throwing a temper tantrum including acts of war against South Korea. These are actions he learned from his father and grandfather as a way to get what he wants from the West, mostly food. When Kim talks about regime survival, he means his survival for which there are about 2500 people dedicated. There are about 200 high officials who benefit from his leadership through funds deposited in Swiss bank accounts to buy their loyalty. North Korea currently does not have the capability to threaten the United States with missile attacks. The past three presidents tried ignoring the DPRK when it acted badly or tried appeasement unsuccessfully as North Korea violated any agreement signed. President Trump made it China's problem through economic sanctions. He also threatened North Korea with a strong military response if any of their missiles hit South Korea or Japan. He also cut off access to funds in offshore banks. The President has demanded data on all nuclear sites. What happens next depends on whether Kim believes Trump will win or lose the next election. If the former, there will be some level of compliance with verbal and written agreements. If the latter, there will be delays and stalling hoping for a better deal. War is always a possibility but highly unlikely as South Korea could easily defeat North Korea resulting in regime change, but not before sustaining severe damage to Seoul. In any peace treaty, North Korea must give up its nuclear and biological weapons and allow inspections, and agree to be a responsible nation. In return, sanctions would be removed, foreign loans opened, and free trade would be possible. This also would lead to family reunifications and cross border trade. If peace efforts fail, there are four possible scenarios: (1) Kim feels he could lose his power and attacks South Korea; (2) a nuclear or chemical missile accidentally hits South Korea or Japan and the United States attacks North Korea (least likely of four scenarios); (3) there is a coup attempt by either the hardliners (mostly military) or moderates (mostly economic) and South Korea picks sides; and (4) South Korea decides to invade the North in support of a coup. CAPT Liebman believes that after China, the greater threat is from Iran than North Korea due to much different underlying ideologies. Both countries have/are developing nuclear weapons for the same reasons: to make them difficult to attack and to threaten neighboring countries. However, whereas North Korea is obsessed with regime survival, Iranian leaders are religious fanatics who welcome death in their quest to dominate the Levant. Iran is the world's greatest state sponsor of terrorism and has deployed more Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) soldiers than the U.S. with 125,000 in Syria forming Assad's army, another 150,000 in Iraq, 20-30,000 in Yemen, 10,000 in Venezuela and 5,000 in Libya. Further, despite nuclear agreements with both the Clinton and Obama administrations, Iran has continued developing their nuclear capability. CAPT Liebman then answered a number of questions directly related to his presentation. The entire presentation can be found at

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?id=100008958210149&story_fbid=211253269238865

1. CAPT Crissy then presented CAPT Liebman with an American-made buck knife fabricated from planking removed from *USS Constitution* as a token of appreciation.

The Commander General closed the session at 1535.

**Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet
Saturday, 26 October 2019**

From 1800 to 1900, a reception was held preceding the **Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet, Enclosure (25)**. The banquet started at 1915 with the **pledge of allegiance led by Mr. John Shanahan, and the Invocation offered by CDR Zuffoletto**. CAPT Crissy introduced distinguished guests, attending flag officers, and past Commanders General. **CAPT Fran McDonald, USN (Ret)** assisted by **MSgt Thomas Gafford, USMC (Ret) and LCDR Steven Sinclair** conducted a **tribute to the fallen and missing** by calling attention to the small table with a single place setting in a position of honor and the symbolism of each part of the place setting. After dinner, **CAPT Crissy introduced ADM Mark E. Ferguson, USN (Ret), recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Sea Service Award**. He then presented ADM Ferguson with the award and CAPT M. Kris Carlock, the Registrar General, presented ADM Ferguson with a complimentary Life Membership in the Naval Order. In accepting the award, ADM Ferguson thanked the Naval Order noting his surprise at the honor and expressing his gratitude for all his blessings in life. He then recounted the story of his discussion with a group of junior executives in the tech industry about leadership where they spent a long time discussing trust. In the service, we take trust for granted. Trust must be safeguarded in our relationships, communities and institutions. He learned about trust at the Naval Academy and saw trust demonstrated with four traits over his career. First, trust is reliable. It requires action, keeps promises, meets deadlines, is on time, delivers, is credible and has integrity. To drive home the point, he told the story of his part in the Kosovo airstrikes to stop an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe. Second, trust is open. It clarifies expectations and is honest about limitations. It tells how you feel, what you think, and what you believe. It doesn't criticize but values and seeks the opinions of others. He talked about his time with the Enterprise Strike Group to illustrate these traits. Third, trust is accepting. Trust listens, allows mistakes, accepts limitations, respects others' points of view, and helps others. He then talked about how he implemented the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as Chief of Naval personnel. Fourth, Trust is congruent. It talks straight, doesn't play games, is sincere, sets boundaries, makes rules clear, and is not too kind. As an example of congruence, he recalled his interview with ADM Rickover as he was deciding on a career path and how it guided his actions as a reactor officer on a carrier years later.

The **Commander General** then recognized the hard work, attention to detail and flexibility of the organizing committee in hosting the Congress. In particular, he recognized the efforts of **RADM Doug Moore, USN (Ret.), CAPT Michele Lockwood, USN (Ret.), Ms. Susie McLaurine, LT Jim Lansing, USN (Ret.), CAPT Vance Morrison, USN, Ret.), Ms. Edna Wardwell, CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.), and**

CAPT Bill Steagall, USN (Ret.) describing briefly what each had done. He also thanked **CDR Nate Shick** and his crew in *USS Constitution* for helping make the Congress a success.

CDR Shick offered a toast to the *USS Constitution*, as the official Naval Order Ship of State, reading the original tribute by former Commanding Officer CAPT William Bainbridge in 1831; “Old Ironsides, never has she failed us.” **CAPT Crissy then started a series of toasts to the Merchant Marine, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Public Health Service, the United States of America, and the Commander-in-Chief.**

In his final order of business, **CAPT Crissy** thanked everyone for their support and contributions to the Naval Order during his tenure. The Parliamentarian, **CAPT Fran McDonald, USN (Ret.) then administered the oath of office to the next Commander General, Col Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret.)**. In his acceptance remarks, Col Cruz recognized CAPT Crissy for his outstanding leadership and presented him with an engraved gavel.

CDR Zuffoletto offered the benediction.

Col Cruz declared the **Congress adjourned** at 2110.

Commandery Reports

The following **Commandery Annual Reports** were submitted in writing: **Arizona, Charleston, Continental, Florida First Coast, Hampton Roads, Monterey Bay, National Capitol, New Orleans, New York, Newport, Northwest, Philadelphia/Delaware Valley, San Francisco, Southeast Florida and Texas, Enclosures (26 – 40).**

Very Respectfully Submitted: _____

Louis J. Orsini
CDR, USCG (Ret.)
Recorder General

Approved and Promulgated: _____

Allan Cruz
Col, USMC (Ret.)
Commander General

- (1) Congress Attendee List
- (2) Congress Program
- (3) General Council Minutes
- (4) List of Deceased Companions 2018-19
- (5) Credentials Committee Report
- (6) Commander General Report
- (7) Recorder General Report
- (8) Registrar General Report
- (9) Membership Committee Report
- (10) Commandery Support Report
- (11) Communications Committee Report
- (12) Project Management Program Committee Report
- (13) LCDR Lee W. Douglas Memorial Award Luncheon Program
- (14) Historian General Report
- (15) Financial Review & Audit Committee Report
- (16) Investment Committee Report
National Finance Committee Reports
- (17) Operating Statement
- (18) Balance Sheet
- (19) 2020 Budget
- (20) National Awards Committee Report
- (21) Site Committee Report
- (22) Foundation Board Report
- (23) Nominating Committee Report
- (24) Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award Luncheon Program
- (25) Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet Program
- (26) Arizona Commandery Report
- (27) Charleston Commandery Report
- (28) Continental Commandery Report
- (29) Florida First Coast Commandery Report
- (30) Hampton Roads Commandery Report
- (31) Monterey Bay Commandery Report
- (32) National Capitol Commandery Report
- (33) New Orleans Commandery Report
- (34) New York Commandery Report
- (35) Newport Commandery Report
- (36) Northwest Commandery Report
- (37) Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Commandery Report
- (38) San Francisco Commandery Report
- (39) Southeast Florida Commandery Report
- (40) Texas Commandery Report

This concludes the Minutes of the 2019 Naval Order Congress, without the enclosures. Enclosures are available electronically upon individual request to Recorder General CDR Louis J. Orsini, USCG (Ret.), E-mail: oh2batc73@comcast.net