



## Why I Chose to Serve

By Lt. Richard D. Parker, USN

What would cause a successful professional, a scholar and educational leader, at the peak of his career to walk away from it all and start something new?

Many people asked that question when I resigned my position as an associate professor after 15 years of teaching in higher education. By all accounts I had been brilliantly successful having published in numerous journals, making dozens of conference presentations, serving as department chair for five years and winning my institution's highest award for scholarly and professional achievement.

The simple answer to why I quit is that I no longer found the work to be rewarding. I became a professor because I wanted to make a difference. To me, making a difference meant contributing in a way that would have a positive and lasting benefit to those with whom I interacted; meaning that my students would walk away from my classes better prepared to deal with the world ahead of them.

Being a college professor is a wholly different concept in the 21st century than it was in 1999 when I taught my first class in media writing. Despite the changes that came over time with Millennials, their parents, the institutional focus on revenue over education and the craziness that has followed since I left higher education, I knew that I still wanted to make a difference in my life's work and that I no longer felt I could do so as a professor.

My own path away from higher education began almost four years before I resigned. In June of 2010, my mother lost a long battle with liver disease. She was 67 years old. A few months prior to her death, I had the chance to go aboard a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier as a part of the Distinguished Visitor embark program. What I saw during my 24 hours aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) literally changed my life. I saw in the crew of that great ship an attitude that was inspiring.

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## Commander General's Report to the Order

The Naval Order is doing a lot of great things!

### 2018 Congress in San Antonio, TX

The Texas Commandery will host a memorable 2018 Congress in San Antonio from 24 October through 28

October. The Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk is a dynamite venue situated in the heart of a world-renowned tourist attraction. We will capitalize on this location by shortening business meetings, promoting attractive group activities such as visits to the Alamo and the Nimitz Museum, and identifying the "best of the best" activities for companions to pursue in their free time. Please consider joining us at the 2018 Congress! For more information, including the schedule of events, please visit [navalorder.org](http://navalorder.org) or [goo.gl/Sv5cRj](http://goo.gl/Sv5cRj) (direct link).

### National History Day

The Naval Order's involvement in National History Day is growing exponentially. Guided by companions CAPT Charles Chadbourn and CDR John Hooper, the program has evolved over several years and continues to gather momentum. We support awards for efforts that have a maritime history nexus and many companions participate in judging the entries. This has been a very rewarding experience for companions who have served as judges and a terrific opportunity to encourage students to think about maritime history. I encourage you to get involved. For more information on National History Day, visit [nhd.org](http://nhd.org). To get involved locally, check affiliates in your area by visiting [nhd.org/affiliate](http://nhd.org/affiliate).

### RADM William A. Moffett Marker

Charleston Commandery recently commissioned a 115 lb. bronze marker to commemorate the Charleston birthplace of RADM William Adger Moffett, a surface warfare officer and Medal of Honor recipient, and the first Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics who is hailed as "The Architect of Naval Aviation." The marker will be dedicated on 22 April in Charleston at the site that was once the home of RADM Moffett. All companions are invited to attend. Email [CSC.NOUS@NavalOrder.org](mailto:CSC.NOUS@NavalOrder.org) for details.

### Naval Order Records

For several years, Naval Order records were archived at the Cushing Library of Texas A&M University. The Naval War

College's John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research recently agreed to accept the collection. Naval Order Companions, Professor Hattendorf and CDR David Kohlen are coordinating the transfer of nearly 40 linear feet of records. Two shipments have been made; one directly to the Naval War College (NWC), and one to CAPT Kris Carlock, the Registrar General who is digitizing membership applications before forwarding them for retention.

Although Texas A&M has been a terrific steward of our records, the Naval Order's relationship with the NWC is extraordinary because of a vibrant Newport Commandery, companions who were prominent NWC leaders, and an opportunity for retention and display of naval artifacts along with historic documents.

Many companions' names are already commonplace in Newport. Among others, CAPT William McCarty Little was a pioneer of wargaming and one of our founders. RADM Stephen B. Luce, was the first president of the NWC and a companion. RADM Reginald Belknap, was an Acting President of the Naval War College while the college's academic activities were shut down for World War I and was our Commander-General from 1931-1937; his personal papers are already in the Naval War College's Collection. The Newport Commandery is led by Professor Tim Garrod. Our immediate past Historian-General was former NWC Professor Douglas V. Smith. Professor Hattendorf is our current Historian-General.

The Naval Order helped fund restoration and archiving of Fleet Admiral Nimitz's "Gray Book" diary of the war in the Pacific. A proposal to donate the Naval Order's gavel, constructed of wood from Admiral Farragut's flagship *Hartford*, is under consideration. Bronze marquettes (small replicas) of significant projects, such as the Chief John Finn bust and the Admiral of the Fleet Chester Nimitz statue, will be included in the collection.

Together we really have "skin in the game" and the NWC is becoming increasingly important to our organization! Soon our history will be more accessible.

### National Coast Guard Museum

RADM Bill Merlin, CAPT Greg Streeter, and CDR John Hooper are exploring how the Naval Order could support the National Coast Guard Museum's "Defenders of Freedom" exhibit, which focuses on the Battle of the Atlantic from 1941 through 1945. The museum is being built in downtown New London, CT and the Naval Order has an opportunity to get in on the ground floor. We are considering how we can contribute to the collection of statutes, models, artwork, photos, video, or other displays to showcase the contribution that all of our sea services made to the war effort. For more information, visit [coastguardmuseum.org](http://coastguardmuseum.org).

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## “The Train Has Left the Station...” NOT

Whoever coined the phrase “the train has left the station”, suggesting that the process is already under way, there is no point in resisting, the time for making objections has passed and cooperation in the process is the only option, didn't consider the energy and determination of Companion Don Campagna and the Charleston Commandery. Palmetto Railways most certainly didn't when they proposed to fast-track the construction and operation of an Intermodal Container Transfer Facility at the former Charleston Naval Complex.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the project impacts on historic properties. The proposed project site consists of several historic properties and districts. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) determined and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with Charleston Commandery's assertion that there would be a permanent adverse effect from the demolition of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed buildings involving the Charleston Naval Hospital Historic District and the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks.

The ACOE is the lead agency in the NHPA review process for the proposed project and has coordinated consultation with Palmetto Railways and the following consulting parties: the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, SHPO, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Historic Charleston Foundation, the Preservation Society of Charleston, and the *Naval Order of the United States, Charleston Commandery*.

## Communications

*"If you don't move forward-you begin to move backward"*

-Mikhail Gorbachev

Harvard University, 4 December 2007

Our Communications Committee continues to make tremendous improvements in a digital world. Many things have changed very quickly, and they have expanded their efforts to improve the content and presentation of this newsletter, and beyond it, to our website, Facebook and YouTube. I urge you to take a look at them, see what we can do to make them better, provide feedback and give the committee a chance to work their magic. This is a great opportunity for us to stay relevant as conversations are increasingly held in an electronic environment.

## Naval History is All Around Us

As I “milled about smartly” through San Francisco's Union Square awaiting Al Serafini's Celebration of Life, I *stumbled*

upon the 85-foot high monument to Admiral George Dewey; erected in 1903 to commemorate the U.S. victory at the Battle of Manila Bay. Hardly any people in Union Square that day probably even noticed this prominent monument that seems to blend into the background; I suggest that even fewer understood its significance and over the years many more have or will have ‘reinterpreted’ it to fit a narrative or cause.

En route to San Francisco I read “*Clear the Bridge*” by RADM Richard H. O'Kane, USN. It was quite coincidental as I learned that USS *Tang* (SS-306) was contracted for on 15 December 1941, built by the Mare Island Navy Yard, launched on 17 August 1943 and sank its first enemy ship, the Japanese freighter *Gyoten Mam* on 17 February 1944 (the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of which was marked when I was reading the book). *Tang* was officially credited with sinking 24 Japanese ships which totaled 93,824 tons before she went down by her own torpedo eight months later on 24 October 1944. Did I mention that the book was addressed to: “LT Paul Crissy, USCG” and dated 21 June 1989? I am a little behind on my reading...

Shortly afterward I had an opportunity to attend the Texas Commandery's Annual Banquet in Houston. I mentioned to CDR Bryan Lethcoe that I had a copy of RADM O'Kane's book. CDR Lethcoe is a submariner, the new Commandery Commander, and the 2018 Congress Coordinator. Several years ago, as a LT, Bryan was an Assistant Professor of Naval Science at Rice University when Companion CAPT W.O. King was the Commanding Officer/Professor of Naval Science. Bryan mentioned that there was a poster in his office with the original signatures of four legendary submariners who had received the Medal of Honor.

This included RADM O'Kane; RADM Eugene “Lucky” Fluckey; VADM Lawson “Red” Ramage, and CAPT George L. Street. He wasn't sure if this “priceless” poster was still there or possibly posted on e-Bay...

Consequential things relevant to our maritime history are all around us. Substantial or not, it takes some action on our part to appreciate these many tentacles of our maritime history. Naval Order Companions are very important in helping others to recognize and understand the significant events and people, and how, as an island nation, our maritime heritage shaped our Nation. I challenge you to step up when a suitable opportunity presents itself and promote the important role of our naval services in our Nation's history.

## Crossing the Bar

CAPT Atillio Serafini's “Celebration of Life” was held at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco on 17 February. Nearly 100 of Al's family, friends, NOUS Companions, and Supply Corps colleagues paid tribute to a fine officer and a true friend. Although Al has ‘crossed the bar’ he will long be remembered for his significant contributions to the Naval Order.

CDR Mike McGrath crossed the bar peacefully at home on 24 January. Mike was a Past Commander of the First Coast Commandery. He and Gloria, his wife of 56 years, routinely participated in our Congresses. Mike served more than thirty years on active duty with commands both at sea and ashore. He was a life member of the Navy League, serving in numerous positions culminating in his election as the National President. Mike was also a member of the American Legion, American Society of Naval Engineers and the Military Officers Association, Surface Navy Association and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Military Issues Committee. He enjoyed fly fishing, skiing, and golf although I'm not sure when he fit this in...Mike led a full life, we were very fortunate to have had a chance to know him and he will also be long remembered.

### Fair Winds and a Following Sea

(Words and Music: Tom Lewis) ©2006

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
may the wind ever be at your back,*

*May you find old friends waiting to greet you,  
there on the outside track.*

*We're gathered together old times to remember,  
'tis but for ourselves we would grieve,*

*So we'll sing you a chorus and bid you farewell  
fair winds and a following sea.*

*We'll sing of 'The Leaf' and 'The Parting Glass',  
we'll raise up our voices in song,*

*No sadness today for the one who has passed,  
celebrate with a voice glad and strong.*

*A catch in the throat, a tear in the eye,  
but no funeral dirge will this be,*

*We'll roar 'Auld Lang Syne' as a victory song  
fair winds and a following sea.*

*And those of us left here will miss a true friend,  
who shared with us good times and bad,*

*Raising a glass to your memory we'll say:  
"We've known you – why should be we sad?"*

*We honour a life that was lived to the full,  
we honour a spirit, now free.*

*You'll long be remembered, whenever we say:  
"Fair winds and a following sea!"*

Submitted by  
Paul Crissy, CAPT, USCG (Ret.)

### Commandery Assistance A Phone Call Away

The Naval Order currently has 19 "brick and mortar" commanderies and one "virtual" commandery; that being the Continental Commandery, which, by the way, has 136 members.

About half of our established commanderies have regular meetings where they enjoy the benefit of great speakers, as well as the camaraderie of their fellow companions.

Many of these commanderies also celebrate or commemorate some of the more significant events in Naval History with special speakers and formal dinners. Members of these commanderies are enjoying the full benefit of Naval Order membership.

Our concerns are for those commanderies that are without leadership, and for their individual members. We are very grateful for your continued membership and we are prepared to do everything we can to bring your commandery to an active status including logistical and financial support...but we need to hear from you.

We ask for your thoughts, questions, and suggestions on how we may best assist you. We would also like to know if you would be willing to play some role in the reactivation of your commandery.

Don't miss out on all that NOUS has to offer!

I can be reached by phone at 973.584.9634 or by e-mail at dschuld@juno.com. I'm standing by ready to hear from you.

Submitted by Don W. Schuld, USN

Now you can donate painlessly to the Naval Order Foundation when you shop on amazon.com. The company donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the Naval Order. Here is how you do it:

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- When the smile.amazon.com home page opens, enter "Naval Order" in the area that says or pick your own charitable organization. • Select Naval Order of the United States. • Your selection will be confirmed; you can start shopping.

Be sure to always use smile.amazon.com when you want to shop on Amazon, so your purchases will support the Naval Order.

## Commandery Hosts a Greatest Generation Naval Aviator

Charleston Companions were treated to a special guest at the monthly November 2018 meeting. Mr. William (Bill) Watkinson, a WWII naval aviator provided informative insights into aviator training and combat missions in the latter stages of the Pacific Campaign.

Bill Watkinson had a unique wartime assignment: He flew the F6F-5N Hellcat night fighters from the deck of the USS *Yorktown* (CV-10). Bill spoke about his training, which included initial carrier qualification aboard the side-wheel carriers ‘*Sable*’ (IX-81) and ‘*Wolverine*’ (IX-64) in Lake Michigan. Then he was off to NAS Melbourne (FL) for night fighter training. It was there Bill learned to use the Hellcat’s radar to accomplish night-time air intercepts. Bill explained how the then cutting-edge technology was incorporated into combat flying tactics.

Bill provided a unique first-person account of aircraft carrier operations during the latter stages of the war. While night fighters flew combat air patrol during darkness, Bill noted that by that time in 1945, night mission targets were few. However, a nighttime landing on a straight deck carrier always provided its own form of excitement!

During the Q &A session, Bill noted that while the technology he used would be considered primitive today, the fundamentals of radar-controlled air intercepts are still practiced in the fleet today.

After a brief recall to active duty to serve as an instructor during the Korean Conflict, Bill went on to a rewarding career as a commercial airline captain. Today, this 95 year old may often be found aboard the same USS *Yorktown* (CV-10), serving as a volunteer docent. He can usually be found in the hangar bay next to his favorite aircraft, the Grumman F6F Hellcat!



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## Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance

The Charleston Commandery joined with other area veterans organizations in the annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance aboard USS *Yorktown* (CV-10) at Patriots Point. This solemn event, sponsored by a local VFW post, is one of the larger such gatherings in the country. It is unique in that the ceremony takes place on the hangar deck of a World War II aircraft carrier.

Children and grandchildren of Pearl Harbor survivors, and all other WWII veterans, were recognized. Sadly, it was noted that in the many years of this gathering, no survivors were in attendance. The customary reading of the names of South Carolina natives who died during the attack was followed with ringing of the ship's bell. Each participating organization was then called upon to cast a wreath onto the waters of Charleston Harbor.

Upon conclusion, Commandery attendees adjourned to nearby Harbor Breeze Restaurant for companionship, lunch, and reflection on the day's events.



## RADM Moffett Commemorative Plaque

After months of negotiating with multiple agencies, all permissions have been obtained for the Charleston Commandery to formally recognize a native son and a true hero of naval aviation. In late April 2018, a plaque will be unveiled at the site of the Charleston family home of RADM William Adger Moffett.



RADM Moffett, first commander of the Bureau of Aeronautics (now Naval Aviation Systems Command), is widely recognized as one of the primary architects of naval aviation. During his tenure, (1921-1933), the Navy introduced the use of the aircraft carrier, formalized aviation training, aviation unit organization and tactics. RADM

Moffett died in the crash of the dirigible USS *Akron* in 1933.

The site of the Moffett family home is now occupied by a building on the College of Charleston's campus. Representatives of Naval Air Systems Command together with local officials and Companions will gather on Sunday, 22 April 2018 (the anniversary of his Medal of Honor action at Veracruz) to commemorate the life and significant service of RADM Moffett.



Charleston Companions (l-r) Tom Brown, Bob Williams, and John Witty display the 115 lb. bronze marker commissioned by the Charleston Commandery.

Submitted by RADM Robert E. Besal, USN (Ret.)

## We're Expanding

Continental Commandery is proud to report that 137 Companions now call themselves "Continental". Our most recent affiliates reside in Madrid, Spain and Indianapolis, IN. Perhaps we should call ourselves the Intercontinental Commandery!

## Big News for a Fellow Companion

In December, Companion CAPT Bob Wefald, USN (Ret.) of North Dakota, informed us that President Trump has appointed him to the American Battle Monuments Commission. Bob has served as North Dakota's Attorney General and as a North Dakota District Court Judge. The Continental Commandery companion is now actively serving both state and country.



CAPT Bob Wefald, USN (Ret.)

## Camaraderie

Companion Vic Campbell of Florida recently sent me this note:

"I had the best time at lunch at McGuire's Irish Pub today in the company of my brother Jim Campbell, FSSG Medical Support Bn veterans. They were all corpsmen or doctors. In the photo, the four center front were all at one point the CO for the organization. The two at the bottom were COs and also medical doctors with a long history in Navy Reserves and active duty. I gave those two a "challenge coin" from my ship's association, USS *O'Callahan*, which fits the Irish theme of the gathering at McGuire's. The coin has the ship's seal on it, which carries a shamrock and a cross relating to Fr. O'Callahan's WWII medal of honor. He was a chaplain in USS *Franklin* when bombed and over 700 sailors died. The coin goes with instructions to use it to invoke a prayer for a veteran and thereby in return receive an Irish Blessing. These Corpsmen are a tremendous group. I am lucky to be able to join with them."

As I write this report, Continentals are taking an active role in Naval Order activities by voting their choice for the Naval Order's prestigious Distinguished Sea Service Award.

Submitted by CAPT Tom Snyder, USN (Ret.)



A Continental Companion enjoying the company of sea service veterans.

## Passing of Former Florida First Coast Commander J. Michael McGrath

The Florida First Coast Commandery recently bid farewell to CDR James Michael McGrath on his final voyage. Mike passed away peacefully at home and went to be with the Lord on Wednesday morning, 24 January 2018.



Mike was a career sailor and supporter of the sea services, as well as the industry that kept ships ready for sea. Mike was preceded in death by his selfless and loving wife, Gloria; his parents James Edward McGrath and Lucille Eva Lewis Etheridge; his sister, Gwen, and brothers Larry and Rollin McGrath. Mike is survived by his daughter, Tina Antee (Terry); his sisters Kathleen Leeds (Clarence), Sandra Diette (Maurice) and brothers W. Patrick, Thomas (Peggy) and Larney (Susan); sister-in-law Cheryl Meyer (Robert); three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mike was born 11 April 1936 in Waterbury, VT, and graduated from Wallingford, VT, high school - attending every reunion he could make. Mike gave his Country and his Navy 30+ years active service having held commands both at sea and ashore. He entered the Navy in 1954 and first served at sea in three destroyers while attaining the rate of Chief Petty Officer in 1961 prior to being selected for Officer Candidate School as a Limited Duty Officer. Upon receiving his commission, Mike served in multiple assignments at sea and ashore, culminating in command of USS *Atakapa* and the Ship Repair Complex SIMA (Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity) Mayport, FL. Among his awards were the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal (three awards), Vietnam Service Medal (three campaign stars).

Upon retirement from active duty with the Navy, Mike joined CDI Marine Co. where he served for 21+ years as an executive manager. Mike also was the executive director of the Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association (JASRA), representing over 70 companies providing essential repair services for Mayport Navy ships.

Mike always loved his Navy, and was a life member of the Navy League of the United States serving in numerous positions, culminating in his election as the National President. As a Navy League, he received the Department of the Navy

Meritorious Public Service Award, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and the United States Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award.

Mike continued his service to the Navy as Commander of the Naval Order First Coast Commandery for two terms. Mike also stayed active as a member of the American Legion, American Society of Naval Engineers, the Military Officers Association, Surface Navy Association and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Military Issues Committee. He enjoyed fly fishing, skiing and golf. Mike was a longtime member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Jacksonville Beach.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Thursday, 1 February 2018 at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Interment will be held in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Mike's name to the Navy League Foundation Gloria McGrath Scholarship Fund, 2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201; or the American Cancer Society.

## Annual Plan for First Coast Commandery unveiled

The First Coast Commandery promulgated the plan for the coming year with a very aggressive schedule. The plan for spring through winter starts with a Spring Social Event on 14 April. A bi-monthly Companion Join-Up in St Augustine will be at the Lighthouse; a tour, followed by dinner in town. The tour is expected to start at 1600 with dinner starting at about 1730, at a location TBD.

The end of the month will culminate with a presentation to a distinguished Graduate of the Jacksonville University/University of North Florida NROTC Program on 28 April.

On 17 May at 0900 the Commandery will join with Naval Station Mayport in commemorating the 31st anniversary of the Attack on USS *Stark* (FFG-31) in the Arabian Gulf. The Commandery will be presenting a framed picture of the late VADM Michael Kallares (then CCDG-12) and President Reagan at the original ceremony to the Naval Station on permanent loan to display in the Stark Memorial Classroom in the Command Building on base.

The summer will start off with the Commandery Celebration of the Battle of Midway/D-Day Dinner on 10 June.

Details for all First Coast Commandery events for the year can be reviewed at the NOUS Web Site ([www.navalorder.org](http://www.navalorder.org)) under the First Coast Commandery.

Submitted by Bob Whitkop



Companions CWO Anthony Atwood, USN (Ret.), LTJG Charles Rego, USN and Filipe Villaraus have been very busy spearheading the restoration of the historic Miami Military Museum & Memorial which will complete on 4 July 2018.

The structure was built by the Navy in 1942 to combat the WWII Nazi U-boat attacks on Florida. During the Cold War it was CIA Headquarters for clandestine anti-Communist operations by Cuban exile freedom fighters. It was then an Army Reserve Center, and finally the local Marine Corps Reserve Center, covering 50 years of our common military heritage. The building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located next to Zoo Miami and the Railroad Museum.

Approved in the recent 2018-2019 Florida State budget is its Educational Center. Major partners will be Miami Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), and FIU (the state university of Florida in Miami). They have created curricula for fieldtrips by elementary, middle, and high school students of MDCPS, the fourth-largest school system in America. Students will come and learn about our rich military history and the common threads of service, sacrifice, and accomplishment.

The Educational Center will also partner with the FSU World War II Institute with its world-class collection of WWII artifacts, and the UF Oral History Program. The building will serve as headquarters for the Southeast Florida Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States.

Governor Rick Scott on March 16 signed the 2018-19 budget which included \$800,000 in state funding for the Miami Military Museum Education Center and \$150,500 for Miami-Dade County's Veterans Treatment Court.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz sponsored the 5 October 2017 resolution urging the Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Miami Military Museum Education Center. During WWII, the Naval Air Station Richmond in Miami-Dade County became the world's largest military blimp base. Building No. 25 from the base later served as the CIA's base of operations during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and subsequently served as a reserve center for the Army and Marines. The building was relocated to County-owned land near Zoo Miami and the Gold Coast Railroad Museum for use as the Miami Military Museum and Memorial.

Miami-Dade's veterans treatment court, which started in January 2017 diverts veterans from the traditional criminal justice system and provides them with the tools needed to successfully reintegrate back into civilian life – including substance abuse treatment, vocational training, and housing from the Veterans Administration. Commissioner Diaz worked with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Miami Veterans Health Administration, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and the South Florida Behavioral Health Network to create the Miami-Dade Veterans Treatment Court.

**Submitted by Paul Crissy**



The Monterey Commandery of the Naval Order is not a tenant command of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Monterey. However, nobody can deny its connection to NSA Monterey and the fact that it continues to draw many of its companion members from tenant commands and activities at NSA.

Home to over 15 tenant commands, NSA Monterey provides primary support to The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS),

programs to increase the combat effectiveness of commissioned officers of the Naval Service to enhance the security of the United States. In support of the foregoing, and to sustain academic excellence, NPS and the Department of the Navy foster and encourage a program of relevant and meritorious research which both supports the needs of Navy and Department of Defense while building the intellectual capital of the Naval Postgraduate School faculty.



The Naval Postgraduate School Monterey when it was the Hotel Del Monte.

Navy Research Lab (NRL), and the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC). NPS is the largest producer of advanced graduate degrees for the Department of Defense and proudly graduates thousands every year from all services and from over 50 countries. NRL provides all scientific and weather modeling as well as atmospheric and aerosol studies.

FNMOC provides the highest quality, most relevant and timely worldwide Meteorology and Oceanography support to U.S. and coalition forces from FNMOC's 24x7 Operations Center in Monterey. NSA Monterey supports over 160 buildings which are located on more than 626 acres. Probably the best known building is the "Hermann Hall" which was formerly known as the Hotel Del Monte but is now the main administrative building of the Naval Postgraduate School.

The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is to provide relevant and unique advanced education and research

Historically, sailors and officers of the United States Navy received their education and training "on the job." It wasn't until 1845 that the United States Naval Academy was established at Annapolis, Maryland. What we now would call "postgraduate" studies were also based out of the Naval Academy. It became official in 1912 with the establishment of the Postgraduate Department of the United States Naval Academy. In 1933 all graduates of the Naval Academy, past and present, were awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science.

During the Second World War, the Navy leased the Hotel Del Monte for a pre-flight training program and subsequently its Electronics Training Program. At the same time Fleet Admiral Ernest King, chief of naval operations and commander-in-chief of both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, established a commission to review the role of graduate education in the Navy.

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In 1945, Congress passed legislation to make the Naval Postgraduate School a fully accredited, degree-granting graduate institution.

Two years later, Congress adopted legislation authorizing the purchase of an independent campus for the school. After the war a site selection committee recommended the property as a permanent home for the Naval Postgraduate School and the Navy purchased the school and 627 acres of surrounding land for \$2.13 million.

The Postgraduate School moved to Monterey in December 1951. Today, the school has over 40 programs of study including highly regarded M.S. and PhD programs in management, national security affairs, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical and astronautical engineering, systems engineering, space systems and satellite engineering, physics, oceanography meteorology, and other disciplines, all with an emphasis on military applications.

The NPS student population is mostly active-duty officers from all branches of the U.S. military, although U.S. Government civilians and members of foreign militaries can also matriculate under a variety of programs. Most of the faculty is civilians.

Naval Postgraduate School alumni include many notable flag officers whose names are familiar to NOUS Companions as well as astronauts and presidents of other countries. Many joined the Naval Order while at NPS. Our commandery holds its annual Battle of Midway Dinner in Hermann Hall and is proud of its “informal” affiliation with the school.

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen



“Hermann Hall” at the Naval Postgraduate School Monterey

## Naval Order Companions Attend the Maritime Heritage Conference

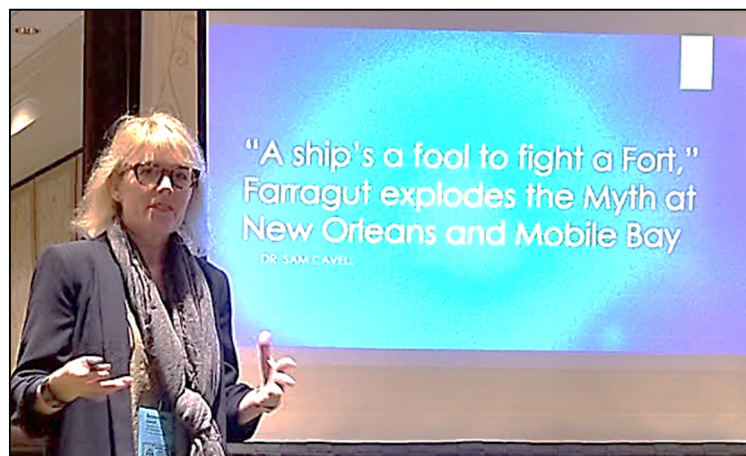
Three Naval Order companions attended the Maritime Heritage Conference in New Orleans on 14 – 17 February, held at the Marriott Hotel. Dr. Samantha Cavell, PhD, and CAPT John Rodgaard USN (Ret.) presented papers, while Dr. David Winkler, PhD, organized the conference program. Dr. Winkler is a companion of the National Capital Commandery.

Dr. Cavell was one of three scholars who formed the panel with the theme: *Farragut, Blockade and the Importance of the Gulf of Mexico to Union Victory in the Civil War*. Dr. Cavell presented her paper, *A Ship's a Fool to Fight a Fort: Farragut Explodes the Myth at New Orleans and Mobile*. She is a professor of naval history at Southeastern Louisiana University, a companion of the New Orleans Commandery, and a member of the Naval Order's History Committee, chaired by fellow companion, Dr. John Hattendorf.

CAPT John Rodgaard was one of three scholars who formed the panel with the theme: Naval Literature. He presented his paper, *The Battle for the Atlantic Through the writings of Nicholas Monsarrat*. CAPT Rodgaard is the current commander of the National Capital Commandery.

The 11th Maritime Heritage Conference and the 45th Annual Conference on Sail Training and Tall Ships was organized by the National Maritime Alliance. The conference brings together such members of the maritime heritage community as The National Maritime Historical Society, Historic Naval Ships Association, Tall Ships America, United States Coast Guard Historical Society, the United States Lighthouse Society, and the Spirit of Bermuda Association.

Submitted by CAPT John Rodgaard



Dr. Samantha Caville presenting on: *A Ship's a Fool to Fight a Fort: Farragut Explodes the Myth at New Orleans and Mobile*.

## Midshipman Dale Ceremony in Bermuda

Each year in February, the citizens of St. George's, Bermuda gather in the churchyard of St. Peter's Church to honor a fallen U.S. midshipman, Richard Sutherland Dale, the last U.S. officer to die in the War of 1812. CAPT John Rodgaard and his wife, Dr. Judy Pearson, both of the National Capital Commandery, attended the event, for the fourth consecutive year. This article will give the history of the event and a description of the ceremony.

### History

Richard Sutherland Dale was the son of Commodore Richard Dale, an American naval officer who distinguished himself during the War for American Independence. He fought in the Continental Navy under John Barry and was first lieutenant under John Paul Jones. He was one of the six original commodores of the permanent U.S. Navy and commanded a blockade of Tripoli during the First Barbary War under President Thomas Jefferson.

Midshipman Dale was wounded in 1815 in the action between the U.S. Frigate *President*, commanded by Commodore Stephen Decatur and H.M. Frigate *Endymion*, commanded by Post Captain Henry Hope. At dawn on 14 January, *President* had broken out of the British blockade of New York and was spotted and then pursued by a British squadron, consisting of *Majestic*, *Tenedos*, *Pomone*, and *Endymion*. Subsequently, a 15-hour battle took place north of Bermuda in heavy seas and high winds.

Regarded as the fastest ship in the Royal Navy, *Endymion* quickly overtook *President*, engaging in a close exchange of fire, to include bar and chain shot. *President* was outmaneuvered and took several casualties, to include Midshipman Dale. In a severely crippled state, she surrendered at 7:58 pm. However, when *Endymion* withdrew for repairs, Decatur made off to escape at 8:30 pm. *Endymion* resumed the chase at 8:52 pm. Minutes later, Decatur surrendered again, when *Pomone*, under Captain Lumley, took possession of the frigate.



A painting by Thomas Butterworth depicting HM Frigate *Endymion* and the US Frigate *President* on the night of 15 January 1815.

Both *Endymion* and *President* were heavily damaged and made their way for Bermuda for repairs. On the way, a heavy storm dismasted both ships. Before reaching Bermuda, Dale's right leg was amputated. Arriving in Bermuda, he was housed in the Stennett's Hotel. He died there on 22 February 1815, at the age of 20, and was buried in the nearby churchyard of St. Peter's, the oldest Anglican church in the Western Hemisphere. His grateful family arranged for a marble stone to be placed on his grave.

An annual ceremony marking Dale's death began in 1932. The ceremony was initiated by Bermuda-born CAPT Scarritt Adams (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1930) who was serving in Bermuda at the time. He retired in 1960 to become a professor of history at the University of Maryland until his death in 1973. The ceremony was discontinued in 1995 with the departure of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard from the island. The ceremony resumed in 2006 when CAPT Adams' daughter, Louise Hall Reider, visited the island and made a monetary gift to St. Peter's so that every year a wreath of white passion flowers would be laid at the grave. In 2015, under the leadership of the National Capital Commandery, the Naval Order of the U.S., The 1805 Club, and the Friends of St. Peter's funded a new marble gravestone to rest atop the weather-worn original.



The grave of Richard Sutherland Dale, with wreaths.

### The Ceremony

This year's ceremony began in the late afternoon on the St. George's town square, in front of the former hotel where Dale died. In front of the courthouse, the T.S. Admiral Somers Sea Cadets, led by Lt. Commander Michael Frith (SCC), gathered for inspection by the governor of the island, His Excellency, Mr. John Rankin. After the inspection, the Sea Cadets, citizens, tourists, and the official party formed a parade, walking up the hill to the churchyard of St. Peter's. The entourage was led by a piper and drummer in period dress.

Continued on next page...

The Reverend Thomas Slawson, rector of St. Peter's Church, and Reverend Erskine Simmons presided over the ceremony in a churchyard littered with old gravestones, many crumbling, and most no longer legible. The Sea Cadets stood at attention, holding both the Union Flag and a flag of the U.S. with 15 stars. The ceremony included the naval hymn and prayers. Governor Rankin and the Mayor of St. George, Her Worship, Ms. Quinell Francis, read bible verses about men and the sea.

On behalf of Queen Elizabeth II, Governor Rankin laid the first wreath of white passion flowers. The U.S. Consul General, Mrs. Mary Ellen Koenig, representing the people of the U.S., laid a second wreath. CAPT Rodgaard and Dr. Pearson each laid a wreath for The 1805 Club and the Naval Order of the U.S. respectively. Led by soloist, Miss Laverne Daniels, those assembled sang the national anthems of both Great Britain and the U.S.

After the group dispersed, the Friends of St. Peter's gathered at the nearby Griffin restaurant for a fund-raiser dinner. CAPT John Rodgaard was the guest speaker, giving a talk on Rear Admiral Thomas Tudor Tucker of the Royal Navy (1775 – 1852), a son of Bermuda.

The Dale ceremony has come to symbolize the friendship between the U.S., Great Britain, and Bermuda. It is a reminder that the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard once had a presence on the island during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, it is an opportunity to honor a young sailor, who, like so many others before and since, died on foreign soil, far from home. The inscription on the gravestone reads:

In Memory Of  
 RICHARD SUTHERLAND DALE  
 eldest son of *Commodore Richard Dale*  
 of *Philadelphia* in the U.S. of *America*  
 and Midshipman in the U.S. Navy.  
 He departed this life in *St. George's Bermuda*  
 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, A.D. 1815  
 aged 20 years 1 month and 17 days.  
 He lost his right leg in an engagement between  
 the U.S. Frigate *President* and a Squadron  
 of His *Brittanick* Majesty's Ships of War  
 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January A.D. 1815.  
 His confinement caused a severe complaint  
 in his back which in a short time  
 terminated his life.  
 This stone records the tribute  
 of his Parents gratitude  
 To those inhabitants of *St George's*  
 Whose generous and tender sympathy  
 Prompted the kindest attentions  
 To their son while living,  
 And honored him,  
 While dead.

Submitted by Judy Pearson

New Orleans companions costumed for Mardi Gras and paraded through the French Quarter following lunch in famed Antoine's, the oldest family owned restaurant in the country.

The Commandery was a major participant in the Krewe of Lafcadio, which is named for 19<sup>th</sup> century writer Lafcadio Hearn, who in 1877 wrote:

Times are not good here. The city is crumbling into ashes. It has been buried under a lava flood of taxes and frauds and maladministrations so that it has become only a study for archaeologists. Its condition is so bad that when I write about it, as I intend to do soon, nobody will believe I am telling the truth. But it is better to live here in sackcloth and ashes than to own the whole state of Ohio.

Today's companions agree "some."

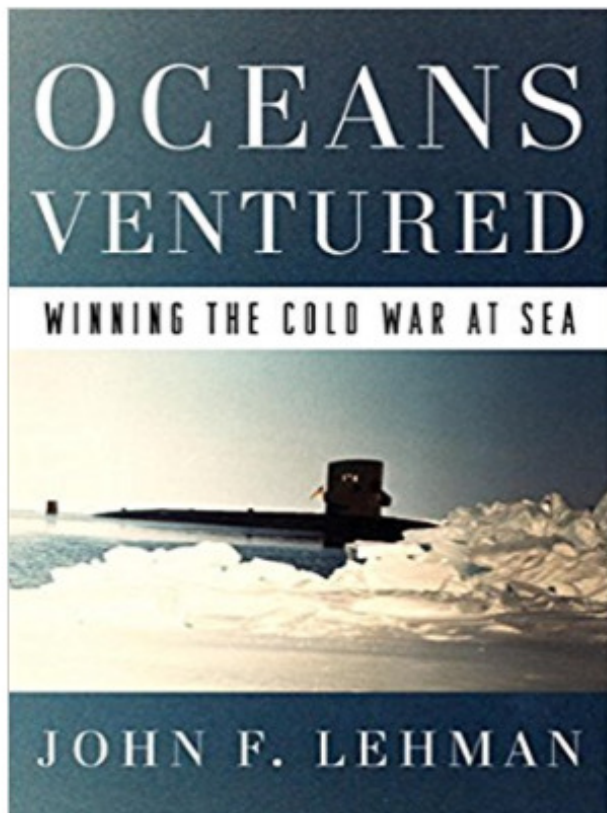


New Orleans Commandery celebrated Mardi Gras in style in Antoine's Restaurant. l to r, top row - RADM Joel Whitehead, CAPT Gary Bair, CAPT Tom Nagelin, CAPT Dave Whiddon, Brenda Sinclair, Bobbie Whiddon. Seated: Martha Whitehead, Greg and Pat Kahn.

The Krewe of Lafcadio parades in the French Quarter, celebrating and satirizing New Orleans culture. The icon is the journalist and writer Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) who published extensively about New Orleans culture, including the first Creole cookbook about its culinary arts, as well as political cartoons about its corruption.

The krewe presents a walking parade that harkens back to the original Mardi Gras parades. A mule-drawn float carries a top local chef as royalty. Floats are followed by costumed marchers and brass bands. (kreweoflafcadio.org)

Submitted by CAPT Gary Bair, USN (Ret.)



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**About the Author**

John Lehman is Chairman of J.F. Lehman & Company, a private equity investment firm. He is a director of Verisk, Inc and EnerSys Corporation. Dr. Lehman was formerly an investment banker with PaineWebber Inc. Prior to joining PaineWebber, he served for six years as Secretary of the Navy. He was President of Abington Corporation between 1977 and 1981. He served 25 years in the naval reserve.

He has served as staff member to Dr. Henry Kissinger on the National Security Council, as delegate to the Force Reductions Negotiations in Vienna and as Deputy Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Dr. Lehman was a member of the 9/11 Commission and a member of the National Defense Commission.

Dr. Lehman holds a B.S. from St. Joseph's University, a B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently an Hon. Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University.

Dr. Lehman has written numerous books, including *On Seas of Glory*, *Command of the Seas* and *Making War*.

He serves as Chairman of the Princess Grace Foundation USA and is a member of the Board of Overseers of the School of Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea**

Publisher House: W. W. Norton & Company

Author: John Lehman

Publish Date: June 5, 2018

**A thrilling story of the Cold War, told by a former navy secretary on the basis of recently declassified documents.**

When Ronald Reagan took office in January 1981, the United States and NATO were losing the Cold War. The USSR had superiority in conventional weapons and manpower in Europe, and had embarked on a massive program to gain naval preeminence. But Reagan already had a plan to end the Cold War without armed conflict. Reagan led a bipartisan Congress to restore American command of the seas by building the navy back to six hundred major ships and fifteen aircraft carriers. He adopted a bold new strategy to deploy the growing fleet to northern waters around the periphery of the Soviet Union and demonstrate that the NATO fleet could sink Soviet submarines, defeat Soviet bomber and missile forces, and strike aggressively deep into the Soviet homeland if the USSR attacked NATO in Central Europe. New technology in radars, sensors, and electronic warfare made ghosts of American submarines and surface fleets. The United States proved that it could effectively operate carriers and aircraft in the ice and storms of Arctic waters, which no other navy had attempted. The Soviets, suffocated by this naval strategy, were forced to bankrupt their economy trying to keep pace. Shortly thereafter the Berlin Wall fell, and the USSR disbanded.

In *Oceans Ventured*, John Lehman reveals for the first time the untold story of the naval operations that played a major role in winning the Cold War.



[www.johnflehman.com](http://www.johnflehman.com)

The New York Commandery has been selected to host the release of the book a day early at its luncheon on 4 June. The event will start at 11:30am with a 1/2 hour open bar reception, with lunch at noon, followed by a presentation by Secretary Lehman. Books will be available for purchase and autograph.

Dr. Lehman is the only two-time recipient of the Naval Order's RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award. Recently the John Lehman Distinguished Naval Historian Award was established to honor past recipients of the Morison Award who went on to further distinguish themselves by their significant contributions to



Former Secretary of the Navy John Lehman with plaque honoring him on the inauguration of the John Lehman Distinguished Naval Historian Award .



Bill Schmidt and John Lehman

Naval History. Dr. Lehman was honored at the New York Commandery's luncheon in 2017 for his contributions to Naval History and allowing this new award to bear his name.

Those wishing to attend the New York Commandery event may contact Bill Schmidt for further details.

Dr. Lehman could be available to speak at other Naval Order Commanderies. Commanderies wishing to host an event with Dr. Lehman should contact Bill Schmidt at 201.314.9875 or [williamhschmidt@verizon.net](mailto:williamhschmidt@verizon.net).

Bill Schmidt is co-chairman of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award and John Lehman Distinguished Naval Historian Award, Past Commander of the New York Commandery and currently serves as Vice Commander General – Membership.

Submitted by Bill Schmidt

Cold wet winter weather may dampen many San Francisco activities, but it doesn't dampen our spirits and camaraderie.

Our speaker program continued in January 2018 with a presentation by RADM Bonnie Burnham Potter, who was the first female flag officer in the Medical Corps (not the Nurse Corps) of the United States Navy. She began her career during a time in history when women officers were often expected to be nurses and know their place.

Potter, a Northern California resident, served as Commander of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, and as fleet surgeon, U.S. Atlantic Fleet among her many challenging assignments. She overcame traditional gender roles to reach flag rank as a doctor.

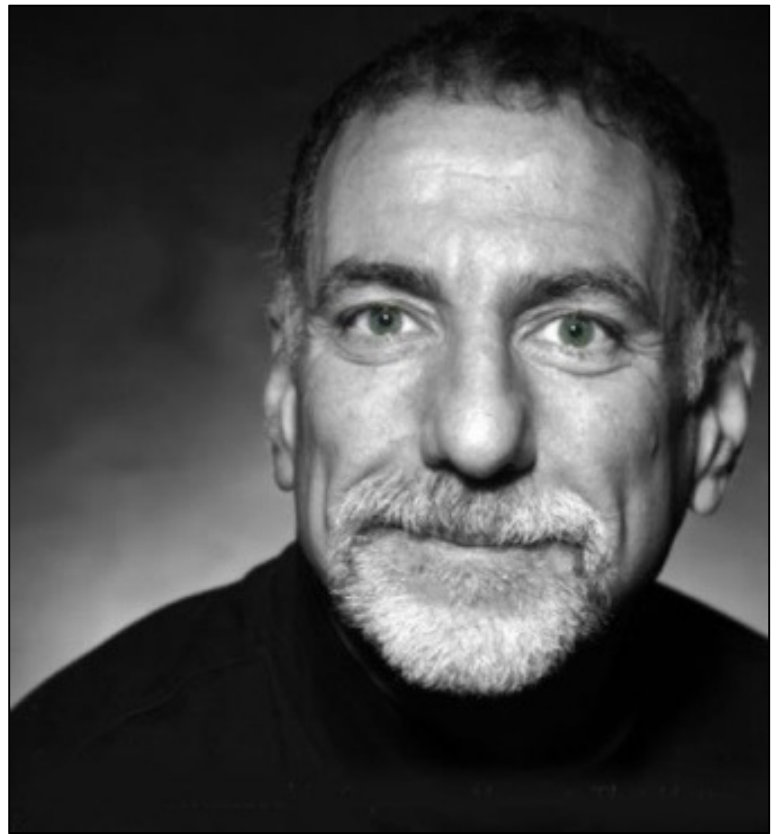
In 2000, while serving as Fleet Surgeon, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, RADM Potter was awarded the Laureate award by the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM) in the U.S. Navy Region for her abiding commitment to excellence in education, research and medical care. Her inspirational story was compelling and elicited accolades from everyone that attended the luncheon.



RADM Potter at a Memorial Day event last year.

Later in January many of us attended the Marine Day Luncheon at the Marines Memorial Club. This year our own companion Don Reid was the honoree as Marine of the Year. Don was honored for his tireless work with the Korean War Memorial as well as many other activities. (See separate article on Don's honor).

There was also some sadness in the air when on 26 January, companion Michael Mustacchi passed away after a heroic battle with Leukemia. Mike, a professional photographer, was a fixture at the Marines Memorial Club where he photographed virtually every event. He photographed such disparate individuals as Clint Eastwood, Condoleezza Rice, and many of our companions. His photos graced the pages of this newsletter on many occasions. He was generous to a fault. A SRO memorial service was held for him at the Marines Memorial Club on 18 March 18. We will all miss him.



Mike Mustacchi

Most companions have either been to or are familiar with Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, just south of San Francisco. Established as Naval Air Station Sunnyvale in 1931, it was renamed after Rear Admiral William A. Moffett who died in the loss of the airship USS *Akron* (ZRS 4) in 1933, which was based out of the air field.

The once sleepy country airfield is now nestled in a densely populated suburb. Our February speaker was CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.) public relations officer for the Moffett museum.

Continued on next page...





CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.)

CAPT Spink retired from the Navy as a P-3 Pilot with Naval Reserve Patrol Squadron 91 based at Naval Air Station Moffett Field. CAPT Spink talked about the history of Moffett Field from its origins as Naval Air Station Sunnyvale in the early 1930's as a home base for the Navy airship USS *Macon* (ZRS 5), as well as the *Akron*. After the *Macon* was also lost, Moffett Field became an Army Air Corps Training Base until the Navy resumed control because of its need for blimp hangars for its coastal patrols during World War II.

From the end of World War II until its closure, NAS Moffett Field saw the development and use of several generations of land-based anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft, and transports during Korea, jets after Korea, and patrol planes starting in the mid-'60s through the late '90s. In addition, the 129th California Air National Guard Rescue Wing is stationed there.

At its peak in the 1990s, NAS Moffett Field was the U.S. Navy's principal Pacific Fleet base for P-3C operations. In addition to headquarters staffs for Commander, U.S. Patrol Wings Pacific Fleet (COMPATWINGSPAC); Commander, Patrol Wing 10 (COMPATWING 10); and Commander, Reserve Patrol Wing Pacific / Patrol Wing 4 (COMRESPATWINGPAC / COMPATWING 4), the air station also hosted Patrol Squadron THIRTY-ONE (VP-31) - the west coast P-3C Fleet emplacement Squadron, six additional active duty P-3C squadrons and a Naval Air Reserve P-3C squadron in addition to NASA and California Air National Guard aviation activities.



Rear Admiral William A. Moffett



The *Akron* landing at Moffett Field in the early 1930's

On 1 July 1994, NAS Moffett Field was closed as a naval air station and turned over to the NASA Ames Research Center. NASA Ames now operates the facility as Moffett Federal Airfield. The field still has occasional air traffic and sublets a substantial portion of its base to Google.

Overlooking the airfield and the museum is Hangar One. The hangar was originally built for the *Macon*. One of the world's largest freestanding structures, the hangar's interior is so large that fog sometimes formed near the ceiling and a person unaccustomed to its vastness is susceptible to optical disorientation. The hangar has been undergoing restoration since 2011. The museum is open to visitors Wednesday through Saturday. For further information visit [moffettfieldmuseum.org](http://moffettfieldmuseum.org).

Later in February, companion Bob Hansen travelled to the Philippines to visit World War II battle sites on Bataan. Bob was instrumental in getting Naval Order Support for the



Bob Hansen at the monument at the site of the Bataan surrender negotiations.

Bataan Legacy Historical Society (BLHS). BLHS is working to increase public awareness of the Bataan Death March and the Battle of Leyte Gulf through education both with the general public and through the public school curriculum.

While in the Philippines, he also attended a special event commemorating Jose Abad Santos, the Chief Justice of the Philippines Supreme Court who was executed for failing to support the Japanese occupation.

Continued on next page...



Bob Hansen (c) with former President Fidel V. Ramos (r) and Peter Parsons (second from r) at an event held to honor Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court Jose Abad Santos who was executed by the Japanese during the occupation. Parsons is the son of WWII Naval Hero Commander Charles "Chick" Parsons.

For a change of pace, in March, Mr. Christopher Oldfield, the Consul General of Australia in San Francisco joined us as our guest speaker.

Oldfield had been at our USS *San Francisco* Guadalcanal commemoration on Veterans Day and approached us offering to speak about the unique partnership between the United States and Australian military.

Oldfield noted that Australia is the only country to have supported the United States with troops in every war and campaign in the last 100 years.

He reminded us that Australia was under threat of invasion by Japan during World War II and the City of Darwin had been bombed. It was from Australia that American forces sortied to fight at Guadalcanal and that there is still an American military presence down under.

Submitted by Bob Hansen



Australian Consul General Christopher Oldfield receives a certificate of appreciation from Commander John McKnight during our March luncheon.



San Francisco Commandery Companions and guests gather for a group photo prior to our March luncheon.

### Don F. Reid - Marine of the Year

On 11 January, Naval Order Companion, Don F. Reid Esq., was honored as the Marine of the Year by the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Northern California.

His life-time of service to his Country, Corps and Community was noted with pleasure by his friends and fellow citizens. The ceremony was held at the Marines Memorial Club. Special guest speaker was LtGen Jan Huly, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Marines Memorial Club.

Don served in the Korean War as a machine gunner with the First Marine Division. After his military service, and college and law school at St. John's University in New York, Don worked with the U.S. Treasury Department as a National Bank Examiner. He subsequently became the Managing Senior Compliance Officer of Wells Fargo Bank and the Chief Compliance Officer of Sumitomo Bank. In 2003 Don co-founded AML Specialties, LLC, a consulting firm focused on Anti-Money Laundering Compliance.

Continued on next page...

Don is a founder and principal benefactor of the University of San Francisco Graduate Asian Studies Program and the Marines Memorial Association. He has served on the board of the Marines Memorial Association, and many non-profit boards. He was a Member and Chairman of the 1984 San Francisco Fleet Week for the Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the Mayor of San Francisco's Protocol and Host Committee. He was president of the Marine Corps Coordinating Council from 1987-2012. He currently serves as the Treasurer and Director of the Korean War Memorial Foundation.

Mr. Reid's awards and honors include the Korean War Veterans Medal from the Republic of South Korea; the Patriotic Citizen's Award and Medal from the Department of Defense, US Army; the City and County of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors Certificate of Honor, the Department of the Treasury-IRS Award of Merit for Support in Combatting Drug Money Laundering and an appointment as an Honorary Special Agent for the CID/IRS. In 2007 he was knighted by the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaler.

He is a life member of the San Francisco Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club and has completed 69 marathons (best time 3:31), twice completed the Iron Man Triathlon Competition in Hawaii, 21 swims from Alcatraz including the first thirteen "Escapes from Alcatraz" and continues to swim in San Francisco Bay.



l to r - Col Allan Cruz, Immediate Past Commander General  
CAPT Michele Lockwood, Marine of the Year, Don Reid.

Submitted by Col Allan F.P. Cruz, USMC (Ret.)

## The Fleet Admiral Nimitz Leadership Award

The Texas Commandery held its Annual Banquet on Saturday night, 24 February 2018 at the Briar Club in Houston with the Commandery Commander, CAPT Chuck Hewell, presiding over the event. Commander General Paul Crissy honored us with his presence, having flown in from Washington DC that afternoon to attend our annual banquet.

This was the 32nd year that the Texas Commandery has recognized the leadership of FADM Chester W. Nimitz by presenting an award in his memory. ADM Nimitz's outstanding leadership qualities are examples of those qualities for which the Texas Commandery was chartered.

Admiral Nimitz, a native Texan born in Fredericksburg, TX, was elected to the New York Commandery of the Naval Order on 15 September 1947.

CAPT Carter Conlin, Chairman of the Nimitz Award Committee, introduced CAPT Dave Burr, a member of the Nimitz Committee, who gave the background for the award, followed by CAPT Conlin giving the qualifications of this year's recipient, ADM William H. McRaven, USN (Ret.). CAPT Martine Myers Offenberger, the third member of the Nimitz Committee, could not be present because she is now living in North Carolina.



ADM William H. McRaven, USN (Ret.).

Continued on next page...

CAPT Conlin cited five significant points in the career of ADM McRaven leading to his appointment to four-star admiral, and as the ninth Commander of the United States Special Operations Command, and then his being charged by, then CIA Director, Leon Panetta to organize and oversee Operation Neptune, the Special Ops raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden on 2 May 2011.

These accomplishments were cited as justification for presenting the Nimitz Award to ADM McRaven, who was unable to be present to accept the award in person. However, he had prepared a brief video in which he expressed his deep appreciation and honor in being presented with the award.

CAPT Conlin noted that in addition to the plaque that will be forwarded to him, his name also will be engraved on a small brass name plate and mounted on the Naval Order plaque that is displayed at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX, together with all of the names of previous recipients starting with John F. Lehman, Secretary of the Navy, who was presented with the award on 10 October 1986.

TCNOUS Commander Chuck Hewell then asked Commander General Paul Crissy to join him at the podium to present the Naval Order of the United States Lifetime Achievement Award to CAPT Carter B. Conlin.



Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.). l to r - CAPT Chuck Hewell, CAPT Carter Conlin and Commander General CAPT Paul Crissy.

In expressing his appreciation for the award, CAPT Conlin took the opportunity to discuss the major undertaking during his two-year term as Commander General from 2005 to 2007, which was the D-Day monument project. CAPT Greg Streeter became aware that there were no monuments at Normandy commemorating the role played by the Navy.

The navy's role, besides transporting the troops to the landing beaches, was mainly in shore bombardment by battleships and cruisers, close-in shore bombardment by destroyers and underwater demolition team work. The destroyers approached the shore as closely as possible so that they could employ their 5-inch guns to destroy the enemy machine gun nests that had our troops pinned down on the beach preventing their moving inland.

The Naval Order voted to take on this very large project right at the beginning of CAPT Conlin's term of office in 2005. One of his first acts for the project was to appoint CAPT Streeter as the chairman of the D-Day Monument Committee. A great deal of time and work was devoted to raising the necessary funds, contacting foundations, organizations and individuals in addition to finding a suitable location for the monument and a sculptor. A suitable location was found at Utah Beach on a large concrete slab that had been the top of a German bunker. A contract was written to engage Stephen Spears as the sculptor.

The project cost was approximately a half million dollars. A very significant portion of the project cost was donated by one of the companions of the Texas Commandery, Mr. Marshall Cloyd. Mr. Cloyd had a very special connection with Normandy because his father had taken him to visit it shortly after the war when he was a very young man. His father had been a member of the contingent of young college men who had interrupted their education to volunteer their services shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack. They were given the enormous task of establishing and organizing the 8th Air Force in England for the purpose of joining the Royal Air Force in bombing the enemy in Europe.

The sculpture consists of three figures: a naval officer in charge of the planning and control of operations; a sailor holding a projectile representing the shore bombardment; and another sailor with underwater demolition equipment. Suitable lighting of the monument was provided, which makes it visible to those on aircraft approaching Paris at night.



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CAPT Hewell introduced the new slate of officers including the new Commander of TCNOUS, CDR Bryan Lethcoe, and noted that the office of Vice Commander needed to be filled.

CDR Lethcoe gave a slide presentation showing the demographics of Houston and the rest of Texas, information that will be helpful to build up TCNOUS membership. He also suggested considering other types of members such as those knowledgeable of or interested in naval history.

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



Photo on right - Change of Command for Texas Commandery Commander: CAPT Chuck Hewell and CDR Bryan Lethcoe.



Group of all members of Texas Commandery present:  
Front row (Seated) l to r - CDR Bryan Lethcoe, CAPT Chuck Hewell, CAPT Paul Crissy (Commander General), CAPT Carter Conlin.  
Back row l to r - CAPT Woe King, LT Steve Howell, CAPT Dave Burr, CDR Jim Sterling, CAPT Buzz Gralla, CDR Bob Frazier,  
CDR Don Lieske, CAPT Joe Dervay, CAPT Robert Trevino.

According to the Minutes ledgers found in our Archives, we find at least two Naval Order meetings have been held at “Delmonico’s”, corner of Fifth Avenue and Forty-fourth Street, New York, NY”. Both of these were quite noteworthy events indeed.

The first was the semi-annual meeting of the General Council of the General Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States, held 01 November 1899. The following members were present:

Leonard Chenery, U.S.N., (0182) General Recorder;

Jarvis B. Edson, (0109) General Treasurer;

Rev. Geo. Williamson Smith, (0227) General Chaplain;

Medical Director George Worth Woods, U.S.N (0204);

and by proxie:

Rear Admiral J. G. Walker, U.S.N., (0092) General Commander;

J. V. P Turner, (0069) General Registrar;

Rodney MacDonough, (0149) Asst. General Record; and

Captain H. H. Bellas, U.S.N. (0064)

(I have added their certificate number in parentheses)

The most interesting point of this semi-annual General Council meeting was the application for the issue of a Charter to the California Commandery. This early in the history of the Naval Order, Commanderies were just named by the state they were in. It seems that a meeting had been held on 7 September 1899 in San Francisco, CA for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps to form a commandery in California. With more than the requisite 20 charter members in place it was voted to charter the First San Francisco Commandery on 1 November 1899 - thus we could say the charter date of San Francisco is 1899, vice what we think of today as 4 July 1950!

The second memorable meeting at Delmonico’s of record was the annual dinner of the New York Commandery held Saturday, 10 March 1900. That evening the Guest of Honor was our very own Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral Dewey. An attendee had kept his dinner program after having it autographed by the high ranking Naval officers in attendance. This program has been retained in our Archives. Here are the pages with the splendid Delmonico’s menu, the toasts and autographs of:

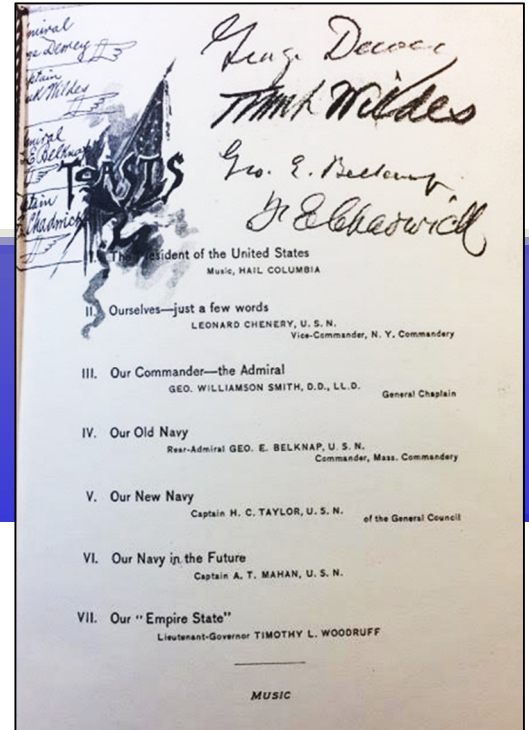
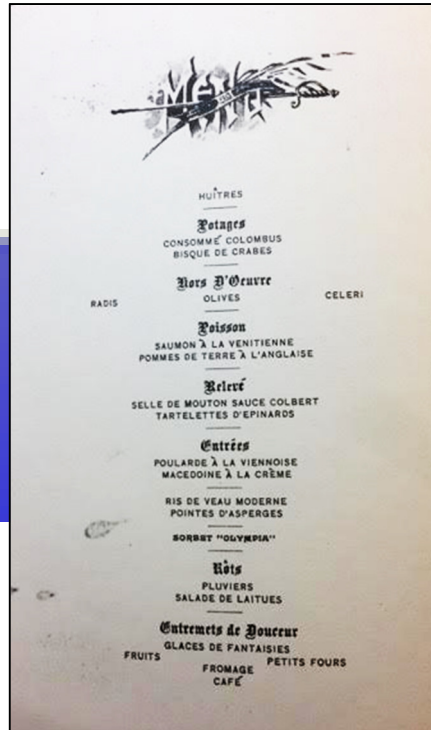
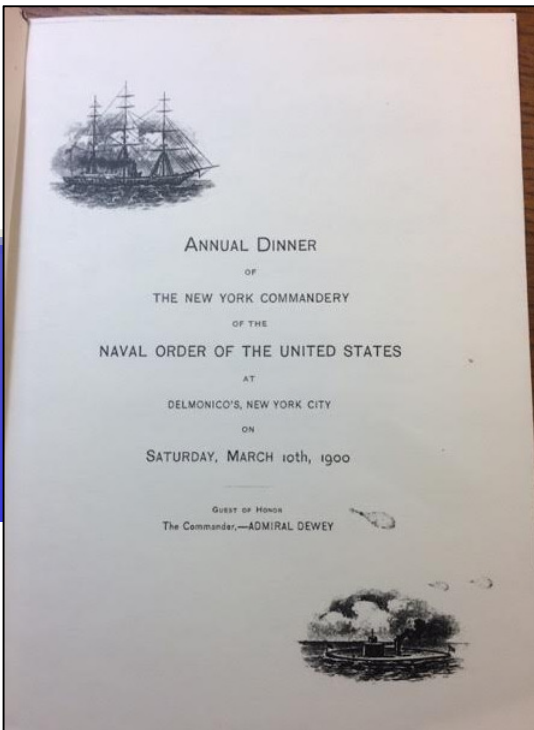
Admiral George Dewey (0207),

Captain Frank Wildes (0397, CO of USS *Boston* at the battle of Manilla Bay),

Admiral Geo. E. Belknap (0159) and

Captain F. E. Chadwick (0400, fighting at the Battle of Santiago de Cuba).

Submitted by CAPT M. K. Carlock, USN, (Ret.)



## USS *Colorado* (SSN 788) Commissioned!

The nuclear submarine USS *Colorado* (SSN 788) was commissioned on 17 March 2018 at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut.



USS *Colorado* (SSN 788) prior to commissioning.

*Colorado* is a United States Navy Virginia-class attack submarine, named for the State of Colorado. She is the fifteenth of her class and fifth of the significantly redesigned Block III, including a revised bow and VLS technology from the Ohio-class of guided missile submarines.

She was constructed by Huntington Ingalls Industries in partnership with the Electric Boat division of General Dynamics in Newport News, VA. Her keel was laid down on 7 March 2015 and she was christened and launched on 3 December 2016. Her sponsor is Annie Mabus, daughter of former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus.

*Colorado* (SSN 788) is the fourth ship named after the state of Colorado. The third *Colorado* (BB 45) was the lead ship in the Colorado class of Battleships. She served from 1923 to 1947 and saw extensive action during World War II throughout the Pacific. She supported landings on several islands and participated in the Battle of Lingayen Straits during Leyte Gulf. Hit 22 times by shore batteries during the Battle of Tinian, and hit twice by two kamikazes, she still managed to keep going. She was decommissioned in 1947 and scrapped in 1959.

Submitted by **Bob Hansen**





## Mare Island Naval Cemetery Needs Your Help

Until recently, I was unaware of the dilapidated state of the Naval Cemetery at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA. It is a result of the imposition of Base Realignment and Closures in the 1990's. A retired Navy captain has started an online petition for the VA to assume control of the cemetery, under existing available regulations, and to bring it up to the level of VA National Cemeteries.

The link below will provide the requisite information and details of current progress. Over 50,000 have now signed. If you haven't had a chance, please do sign. There is no need to donate anything to change.org to sign the petition. For further information and to sign the petition please go to <http://chn.ge/2BUHBjL>.

The petition reads as follows:

“We respectfully request the Executive Branch, President Donald Trump and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin, to honor the military service of our Nation's Veterans by repossessing/assuming ownership of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery by Fiscal Year 2020.

The Mare Island Naval Cemetery (MINC) is a national shrine but its deplorable condition is a shocking disgrace to the honorable service, uncommon valor, and selfless sacrifice of our courageous Veterans buried there and, even worse, to the dignity our great Nation.

After Mare Island Naval Shipyard's closure in 1996 (due to BRAC 1993), the federal government left MINC behind and did not provide any funding to first restore it to honorable conditions (i.e., no National Shrine contract to repair the gravesites) nor for its immense need for ongoing maintenance.

The mission of the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (VA NCA) is to provide a dignified burial and lasting memorial for Veterans and their eligible family members and to maintain our Veterans' cemeteries as national shrines.

The MINC is a national shrine as it has about 1,000 graves including Veterans who served since the War of 1812. Designated as a National Historic Landmark, it is the final resting place for three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, James Cooney, William Halford, and Alexander Parker. Also buried there is Anna Arnold Key, the daughter of Francis Scott Key who wrote our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

To preemptively fulfill part of the VA NCA's Urban Initiative, the City of Vallejo is also offering to hand-over additional land adjacent to the cemetery which will increase the burial options for our local Veterans and their eligible family members.

We respectfully ask you to please sign this petition and send a message to the Executive Branch to please re-possess / assume ownership of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery by Fiscal Year 2020.”

**Submitted by Art Curtis**



## 'Doc' Mitchell - Icon of POW Studies and Treatment

In 1969, as a third-class hospital corpsman, the Navy, in its infinite wisdom, decided that my somewhat dubious talents were required at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Rota, Spain.

Amazed that I had somehow been ordered to Europe rather than to the Fleet Marine Force and Viet Nam, I happily reported aboard and was briefly introduced to my new Commanding Officer, CAPT Robert E. Mitchell. Assigned as an operating room technician, I quickly disappeared into the arcane world of the surgical suite where my days began early and ended late in a seemingly never-ending succession of surgeries, newborn deliveries, and emergencies. If I had any dealings with CAPT Mitchell at the time, I no longer remember them. In those days, I considered this a good thing considering that in the pre-Zumwalt era, an encounter with a Chief Petty Officer could be a memorable and traumatic event.

A year or so into my tour, the Hospital held a Change of Command ceremony and CAPT Mitchell departed. In later years, I was fortunate to reunite with him through a Rota reunion group. It was only then that I would come to understand what an impressive and dedicated individual CAPT Mitchell truly was.

It is sometimes said that, "There are people who make a difference, and people that make the difference." One man who made THE difference is "Doc Mitchell".

CAPT Robert E. Mitchell's 44 years of service to Aerospace Medicine is especially evident in his unwavering dedication to the U.S. repatriated prisoners of war (RPWs) from Vietnam. Today the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoner of War studies stands as the only Department of Defense sanctioned facility supported to conduct annual medical evaluations for our RPWs. This article is a tribute to the 41 years of lessons learned from caring for these individuals; and, to CAPT Mitchell's undying dedication and pivotal role in the establishment of the Center for POW studies.

### Birth of the Center

Prior to initiating the program involving Vietnam repatriated prisoners of war, there was no American, long-term, holistic study of an entire cohort of repatriates whose data could provide evidence to forecast the long-term impact of disease or psychological problems in such a group. Although examinations were conducted on former POWs from past wars, these were one-time examinations with no follow-up. Furthermore, systematic historical and/or scientific record keeping was lacking. It has also been noted that the large number of prisoners being repatriated prior to the Vietnam War, the wide geographical distribution of the prisoners



following WWII, and the confusion which existed at the end of them may have all contributed to the lack of available records. As a result, there was little information available regarding the subtle, long-term holistic effects on various systems of the body.

When Operation Homecoming was in its planning stages (circa 1971-1972), in expectation of the repatriation of the Vietnam POWs, it was recognized, for the reasons described above, there was a lack of extensive longitudinal data from direct clinical examinations of repatriates in a scientific setting to predict the outcomes of these returning repatriates.

This realization prompted the DOD to follow the Vietnam RPWs and plan for the Center for Prisoner of War Studies (CPOW) at Point Loma, California in 1971. The DOD funded a five-year charter for all the services to evaluate the effect of captivity among the repatriated POWs. To plan the program, a group of Army, Navy, and Air Force specialists met in San Diego during the summer of 1972, and designed questionnaires and examination procedures which would be uniform for the three services when the men were released from captivity. Furthermore, the pivotal role of the aerospace medicine community in the return of the Vietnam POWs included many other significant contributions.

Continued on next page...

Of great concern during Operation Homecoming was the availability of physicians for flying with the air evacuation missions from Hanoi to Saigon to the Philippines and then from the Philippines to the U.S. This concern was addressed by the physician Residents in Aerospace Medicine (RAMS) who were temporarily assigned to Clark Air Base exclusively for air evacuation duty.

Since the majority of U.S. POWs were aviators and aircrew, establishing an immediate rapport between the repatriate and the flight surgeon was critical.

The CPOW in San Diego conducted the marriage and family research on repatriates' families. The medical evaluations for each service were conducted at separate facilities. The medical evaluations for Air Force repatriates were conducted at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio while the Army repatriates were evaluated at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio.

At the time of repatriation, the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) had over thirty-five years of experience with a similar group, "The Thousand Aviators" study. This program gave the Navy its first look at personal attributes of successful student

aviators. Since the majority of men were aviation personnel, the most logical place to conduct both the medical evaluations and research component for the Navy and Marine Corps repatriates was at NAMI in Pensacola, FL.

In 1978, the CPOW Charter ended and all services were required to archive and discontinue their studies. "Doc Mitchell," well respected by the RPWs, known for his classic house calls to area RPWs and telephone consultations to those geographically distant, refused to discontinue care to the Navy and Marine Corps RPWs. CAPT Mitchell became the cornerstone of the program.

Having been integral to the "Thousand Aviator Study," involved in the planning of the CPOW, and involved in the repatriated POW evaluations until 1990, CAPT Mitchell's vision and singular effort is the reason that today the REMC for POW studies stands as the only program which continued its care of RPWs well beyond the expiration of the original five-year charter. As a result of CAPT Mitchell's dedication to the long-term physical and psychological effects related to the POW experience, the REMC expertise was recognized throughout the DOD.

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When Operation Desert Storm occurred (1990-1991), and service members were captured and later repatriated, these RPWs were invited to the REMC and added to the group. Later in the mid-1990's, the Air Force and Army authorized their former Vietnam repatriated POWs to rejoin the group. In 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom repatriated POWs were added to the group as well as hostages and detainees from Bosnia and Somalia, and program funding was added.

In 1998, Building 3933, which stands adjacent to NAMI, and located at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, was dedicated as the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoner of War Studies. In this building the REMC continues its care of repatriates from all conflicts and is a special program of the Navy Medicine Operational Training Center (NMOTC).

### Brief Biography of CAPT Bob Mitchell

Born in the shadow of the Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA on 19 May 1918 to George E. and Jessie Mitchell, his elementary and secondary education was in schools in central California. He received his bachelor's degree in 1942 from the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1947 he received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery degrees from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and from there reported for duty in the United States Navy at Naval Hospital San Diego for his internship. This was followed by residency training in internal medicine at Naval Hospitals San Diego and Oakland. He had further graduate training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Navy Diving School in Washington, D.C. and London Heart Hospital in England.

Doctor Mitchell was designated a naval flight surgeon in 1955, at which time he reported to the research division of the School of Aviation Medicine at Pensacola. During his subsequent tours at the Laboratory, he was heavily involved in major research efforts with the "Thousand Aviator" project. This ongoing study, begun in the mid 40s was designed to track the careers and lives of 1056 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots over their lifetimes, and to assess the impact of such a career in both personal and professional terms.

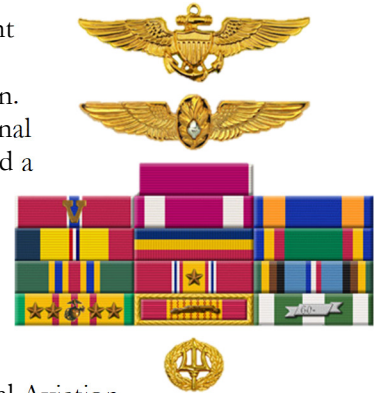
Doctor Mitchell was also the prime researcher in the program assessing the health of Navy and Marine Corps personnel repatriated after being prisoners of war as a result of the Vietnam conflict. This program started in 1972, with a comparison group initiated in 1976. Air Force and Army RPWs were also eventually brought into this program. He is known as DOCPOWC. He was head of the Medical Sciences Department of the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL) from 1970 until he assumed command of the Lab in 1975.

Doctor Mitchell retired from the Navy in 1980 and was immediately recalled to active duty in order to serve at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI). He retired a second time

and was recalled to active duty, again. After the third retirement, he was hired on a contract basis to continue his work with the repatriates, the comparison group and the "Thousand Aviators." He was also an original member of the medical team which worked with the American hostages who had been held in Iran.

During his career, CAPT Mitchell served extensively in overseas assignments: Kwajalein, Marshall Islands; Naples, Italy, USS *Shangri-La* (CV 38); First Marine Aircraft Wing, Da Nang, Vietnam; and at Naval Station Rota, Spain, where he commissioned Naval Hospital Rota as its first commanding officer.

Doctor Mitchell was the recipient of many professional honors in the field of medicine and aviation. He was elected to the International Academy of Astronautics; elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in England; elected an honorary member of NAM-POW, Inc. That organization installed a



bronze plaque in his honor at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, FL. A second plaque was installed at the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Repatriated Prisoner of War Studies at Naval Air Station Pensacola; he was elected an honorary member of the Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association ("The Golden Eagles"); was the first recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award established in his name by The Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons; received the Theodore C. Lyster Award of the Aerospace Medical Association "for outstanding achievement in the general field of aerospace medicine"; designated Honorary Naval Aviator #21 by the Chief of Naval Operations, the only flight surgeon in the navy so honored; elected to the Hall of Honor in the National Museum of Naval Aviation; mentioned in the record of the 101st Congress by Senator John Glenn of Ohio; honored by the Freedom Foundation/Navy League of Pensacola for his role in establishing the POW follow-up studies.

He had 2000+ hours of flight time during his career, in all types of aircraft.

Captain Mitchell passed away at home in Pensacola at the age of 97.

Thanks to:  
 Larry Coffey, Navy Medical Support Command PAO  
 Defense Technical Information Center  
 Legacy.com  
 Veterantributes.com

Submitted by LCDR Tom Burden, MSC, USN (Ret.)

Here, at sea, men and women worked long hours under harsh conditions, volunteering to do a job so few stand up to do, and they loved it. They were part of something bigger. And they knew it. The pride in their work and in their ship left me with a desire to join them, and to be part of their team.

Friends told me I was crazy to try and join the Navy at 40, but after my mother died, I knew that I didn't want to hit 70 and have a bunch of regrets hanging over me. It might have been a long shot, but I at least had to try. It took me almost three years but against the odds, at age 43, I was commissioned as a Public Affairs Officer in the Navy Reserve.

My commissioning came almost a year before I left academia. During that time, I saw enough as a Reserve Sailor to know that I had the potential to make a greater difference in serving my country than in continuing the old, tired lectures in marketing communications or trying to accommodate overbearing parents or administrators concerned about retention numbers.

It was also during that time when I discovered that my choice to become a sailor was not supported by my superiors at my civilian academic employer. Despite assurances from everyone in the chain above me that there were no issues with my joining the Navy Reserve during my application process, the reality once I was commissioned was much different. Rather than to continue working in a job I no longer enjoyed and to also have my service berated by those above me, I decided to make a radical course correction and chart a different path.

I taught my last college courses in 2014 and I haven't looked back. The spark I saw aboard *Truman*, the team effort, the camaraderie, the pride in being part of something great, has shown itself throughout the five years I have now spent in the Navy. From Pearl Harbor, where I served as the deputy PAO at COMSUBPAC to

helping organize a namesake visit for USS *Houston* (SSN 713) to sailing the waters of the Black Sea aboard USS *Whidbey Island* (LSD 41) during exercise Sea Breeze 2016 to my time on ADSW orders in Naples at NAVEUR-NAVAF/U.S.



Sixth Fleet, my journey has been, for lack of a better word, epic.

I have discovered on my new path, that the work I now perform in support of national defense, in mentoring younger Sailors and in telling the Navy's story is more rewarding and more satisfying than even my best days as a professor. What makes it so satisfying is knowing that the work I am doing helps to develop a better understanding of the Navy's mission among our publics, and also that my experience as a professor is helping my Shipmates to develop stronger communication skills and be better prepared once they leave the Fleet. But I think most significantly, it's rewarding because as a part of the Navy team, I feel like I am making that difference that was so important to me when I began my career in teaching.

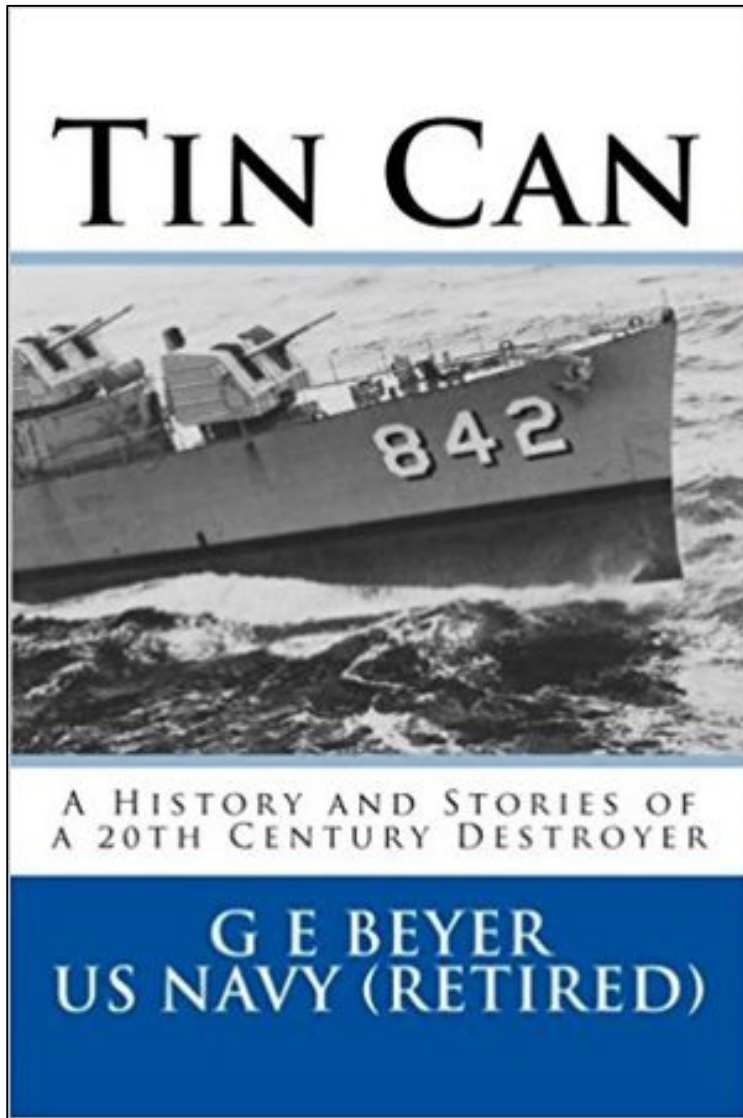
As much as I hate to admit it, there is still a small part of me that probably always will be an academic. I've been told in more than one instance "once a professor..." I do occasionally collaborate with former colleagues on academic papers, my wife is a tenured chemistry professor and I recently published a book on leadership based on material I used to teach in graduate school called "Leadership Lessons from Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and I've been enjoying JPME studies through the Naval War College's online offerings. But being Naval Officer is, by far, truly the finest thing I have ever done.

President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." I think the biggest take away from my time in the Navy is that it's never too late to find a rewarding path in life. For me, service to my

country as a Naval Officer has been phenomenal and has proved to be highly rewarding. As I've told more than one person who has heard my story: Life is too short. Find something you love and even if it scares you to try something new, at least give it a shot. You may find yourself in a place better than you had imagined.

LT Richard D.

Parker Ph.D., is a public affairs officer currently billeted with NR Navy Office of Information – U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet.



**Tin Can: A History and Stories of a 20th Century Destroyer** by G. E. Beyer, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

A collection of stories and tales about a WWII era and Cold War participant destroyer that served the US Navy from 1945 until 1980. While she was one of many, the tales told about this ship are unique and told by the officers and sailors that served on her.

Mr. Beyer is also the author of *Tin Can: An Incomplete History of the USS Fiske*. He served aboard the *Fiske* from 1960-1963 and retired from the Navy in 1980. He resides in Sandpoint, Idaho. "My time aboard the *Fiske* was what made me decide to make a career of the Navy. The Med Cruises and our prolonged stay off the coast of Cuba in '62 are memory highlights in my Navy career. She was a great old lady, crewed by some of the best I ever served with."

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 Published: 2017  
 Ordering Info: Amazon

[WW II](#), [Naval History](#), [Tin Can](#), [Cold War](#)



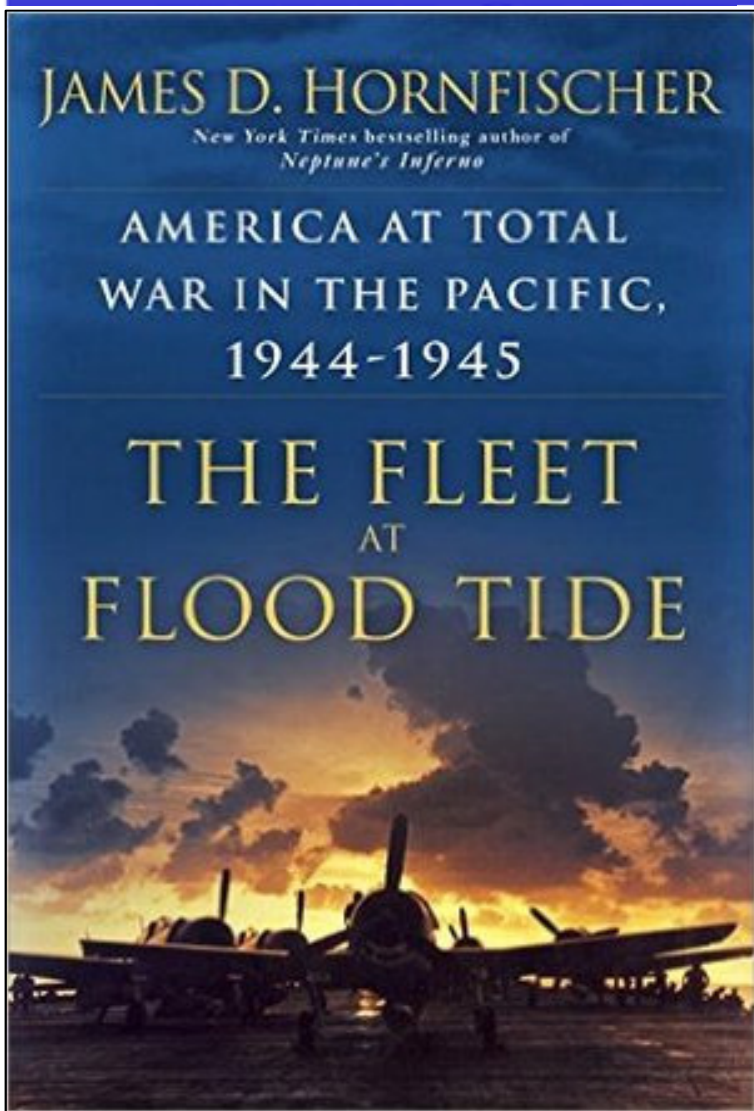
**The Oath** by Dennis Koller

Winner 2017 Silver Medal, Mystery/Thriller, Military Writers Society of America

A lifetime ago, two young Naval aviators took that Oath. Both were shot down over North Vietnam and together endured years of brutal torture as prisoners of war in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Four decades later, one is a San Francisco Homicide Inspector. The other has decided it's payback time and has begun killing selected Americans who went to North Vietnam to aid the enemy's cause. The Oath, that once made them brothers-in-arms, now threatens to destroy their lives.

*"An exciting and well written story with a plot that could have been a real life biography, or dream, of many Vietnam Veterans during and since Jane Fonda's visit to Hanoi."* LCDR Richard Pariseau, USN (Ret.) USNA '60, PhD

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[Vietnam War](#), [Naval Aviation](#), [Novel](#), [Thriller](#)



**The Fleet at Flood Tide: America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944-1945** by James D. Hornfischer

The extraordinary story of the World War II air, land, and sea campaign that brought the U.S. Navy to the apex of its strength and marked the rise of the United States as a global superpower. Drawing on new primary sources and personal accounts by Americans and Japanese alike, here is a thrilling narrative of the climactic end stage of the Pacific War, focusing on the U.S. invasion of the Mariana Islands in June 1944 and the momentous events that it triggered. From the seaborne invasion of Saipan to the stunning aerial battles of the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot, to the largest banzai attack of the war and the strategic bombing effort that led to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Marianas became the fulcrum of the drive to compel Tokyo to surrender with consequences that forever changed modern war.

Email: [jh@hornfischerlit.com](mailto:jh@hornfischerlit.com)

Ordering Info: Amazon, and can be ordered online at book website [jameshornfischer.com](http://jameshornfischer.com)

[WW II](#), [Naval History](#), [Japan](#), [Pacific](#), [Marianas](#)

**WELCOME!**

**Welcome New Companions!**

**Continental**

Mr. John Cameron Estabrook  
SKCM Lawrence Joseph Garofalo  
Mr. Gary William Gullic  
Mr. Matthew Richard Hovious  
Mr. Richard Arlan Hovious  
National Capitol  
Mr. Dennis Louis Nasuti  
Mr. Guy Joseph Nasuti  
Mr. John Harrold Shanahan, Jr.

**New York City**

Mr. Richard Folger Snow  
Mr. Nicholas Valdez

**San Francisco**

SKCS Earl Raymond Phares, USN (Ret.)

**Texas**

CDR John Harold Seate, Jr., USN (Ret.)

**Connections are Powerful;  
Begin Networking Now**

We all know how much we can do as a team; this is perhaps one of the greatest lessons we all learn as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Team work does not end when we step out of uniform, and it in fact becomes even more important. What does your network look like and how adept are you at building business relationships?

Start by building your LinkedIn profile and, of course, keep a professional look about your social media footprint; employers will look at the way you present yourself to the world.

Next, join professional organizations in your field of interest and get to know people in your field. Write them, let them know you are interested in exploring opportunities in their field, and ask to meet with them over coffee if the opportunity avails itself. Many jobs and opportunities come from relationships rather than job boards. Make personal contacts now.

**Submitted by John McKnight**

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

Mr. Nicholas Julian Bartilucci  
(Certificate 8687)  
New York City Commandery  
Joined 20 August 2007  
Died 17 July 2016

CDR Paul Frederick Baumann, SC, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 4735)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 02 June 1969  
Died 2017

CAPT George Alfred Beck, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 4919)  
Southeast Florida Commandery  
Joined 01 June 1970  
Died 20 March 2015

CDR Lawrence L. Bruton, SC, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 9026)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 15 August 2010  
Died 21 January 2018

CAPT Robert Frederick Fear, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 4239)  
SWS Commandery  
Joined 10 March 2010  
Died 19 July 2017

CAPT Michael B. Ferguson, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 8957)  
Hampton Roads Commandery  
Joined 02 January 2010  
Died 11 June 2016

HMCM Max Fox, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 9170)  
Texas Commandery  
Joined 26 January 2012  
Died 24 January 2018

**CAPT Roland Morris Hamilton, CEC, USN (Ret.)**  
(Certificate 6090)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 05 April 1976  
Died 30 May 2014

Col Richard Lou Hemenez, USMC (Ret.)  
(Certificate 9688)  
San Diego Commandery  
Joined 15 January 2017  
Died 23 October 2017

CAPT Herbert Roy Hern, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 4362)  
Florida First Coast Commandery  
Joined 06 September 1965  
Died 16 February 2007

Mr. Carl D. Jennings  
(Certificate 8161)  
National Capital Commandery  
Joined 27 July 2002  
Died 31 May 2017

CAPT Ronald Ernest Johnson, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 7841)  
Hampton Roads Commandery  
Joined 27 October 1999  
Died 17 July 2017

RADM William Henry Langenberg USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 5449)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 02 December 1980  
Died 01 February 2018

Ms. Dianne Arline Levy  
(Certificate 9647)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 10 October 2016  
Died 29 October 2017

CDR J. Michael McGrath, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 8052)  
Florida First Coast Commandery  
Joined 01 September 2001  
Died 24 January 2018

Mr. Michael Lorenzo Mustacchi  
(Certificate 9356)  
San Francisco Commandery  
Joined 14 April 2014  
Died 26 January 2018

**Mrs. Mary Teresa Kelly Piotrowski**  
(Certificate 6461)  
Illinois Commandery  
Joined 30 September 1989  
Died December 2015

CAPT Rosario "Zip" M. Rausa, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 6354)  
National Capital Commandery  
Joined 28 July 1989  
Died 04 January 2018

Mrs. Alice Westphal Wedekind  
(Certificate 9277)  
New Orleans Commandery  
Joined 22 June 2013  
Died 10 July 2016





# NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES



## 2018 National Congress

San Antonio, Texas

24 October – 28 October 2018



## COME AND TAKE IT

### “Come and Take It” - Honoring the Persistent, Dedicated, and Defiant Fighting Spirit of the Nation's Sea Services

The Texas Commandery is pleased to host the 2018 Naval Order of the United States Congress in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. The Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk has been selected for this Congress. It is conveniently located along San Antonio's spectacular Riverwalk. It is within walking distance of the Alamo, Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, The Pearl Brewery Shopping Complex and El Mercado Marketplace. The hotel is a short drive to historic San Antonio Missions, San Marcos Outlet Center and Sea World. It is located just 8 miles from San Antonio International Airport.

The rate for all rooms is \$159.00 per night for the Congress and this same rate applies for 2 nights on either side our meeting dates. The current tax rate is 16.75% (\$26.64/night). The discounted parking rate is \$19/night. Companions must make their own reservations by calling 1.866.764.8536 before 24 September 2018. You must identify yourself as a member of the Naval Order to get this rate. Reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card.

The Alamo Mission in San Antonio ("The Alamo") located in Downtown, is Texas' top tourist attraction. Because of the mission, San Antonio is often called the "Alamo City". The River Walk, which meanders through the downtown area, is the city's second-most-visited attraction, giving it the additional nickname of "River City." Extended an additional 13 miles between 2009–2013, the landscaped walking and bike path line the San Antonio River from the Museum Reach, beginning in Brackenridge Park through downtown, the Downtown Reach, past the Blue Star's Eagleland, to the Mission Reach, ending near Loop 410 South past Mission Espada. Lined with numerous shops, bars, and restaurants, as well as the Arneson River Theater, this attraction is transformed into an impressive festival of lights during the Christmas and New Year holiday period and is suffused with the local sounds of folklorico and flamenco music during the summer, particularly during celebrations such as the Fiesta Noche del Rio.

The Downtown Area also features San Fernando Cathedral, The Majestic Theatre, Hemisfair (home of the Tower of the Americas, and UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures), La Villita, Market Square, the Spanish Governor's Palace, and the historic Menger Hotel. The Fairmount Hotel, built in 1906 and San Antonio's second oldest hotel, is in the Guinness World Records as one of the heaviest buildings ever moved intact. It was placed in its new location, three blocks south of the Alamo, over four days in 1985, and cost \$650,000 to move.

San Antonio is home to the first museum of modern art in Texas, the McNay Art Museum. Other art institutions and museums include ArtPace, Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, the Briscoe Western Art Museum, Buckhorn Saloon & Museum (where visitors can experience something of the cowboy culture year round), San Antonio Museum of Art, formerly the Lonestar Brewery, Say Si (mentoring San Antonio artistic youth), the Southwest School of Art, Texas Rangers Museum, Texas Transportation Museum, the Witte Museum and the DoSeum. An outdoor display at North Star Mall features 40 foot (12 meters) tall cowboy boots.

The five missions in the city, which are found in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, as well the Alamo, were named a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 5 July 2015. The San Antonio Missions became the 23rd U.S. site on the World Heritage List, which includes the Grand Canyon and the Statue of Liberty. It is the first site in the state of Texas. The new Mission Reach of the River Walk was completed in 2013, and created over 15 miles of biking, hiking, and paddling trails that connect the Missions to Downtown and the Broadway Corridor.

Other places of interest include the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Brackenridge Park, the Japanese Tea Gardens, the Sunken Garden Theater, The Woodlawn Theatre and the Majik Theatre, a children's educational theater.

San Antonio is home to one of the largest concentrations of military bases in the United States, and has become known as Military City, USA. The city is home to several active military installations: Lackland Air Force Base, Brooke Army Medical Center, Randolph Air Force Base, and Fort Sam Houston. The defense industry in San Antonio employs over 89,000 and provides a \$5.25 billion impact to the city's economy.

**TUESDAY 10/23**

0730-1800 Optional Excursion National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) Fredericksburg, TX (Tickets, transportation cost/means TBA)

**WEDNESDAY 10/24**

0730-1800 Registration Desk/Welcome  
 0900-1200: Optional Tour Briscoe Western Art Museum OR On-Your-Own Options  
 Lunch (individually arranged)  
 1300-1345 Communications Committee  
 1400-1445 Membership and Retention Committee  
 1500-1545 Commandery Support  
 1600-1645 Investment Committee  
 1700-1745 Finance and Audit Committee  
 1600-1645 Foundation Board  
 Dinner (individually arranged)  
 2100-2300 Hospitality Suite

**THURSDAY 10/25**

0730-1130 Registration Desk  
 0800-0845 Historian General's Committee  
 0800-0845 Awards Committee  
 0900-0945 By-Law Constitution Committee  
 0900-0945 Site Committee  
 1000-1145 General Council  
 Lunch (individually arranged)  
 1330-1600: Optional Tour Alamo OR On-Your-Own Options  
 1800-2000: Commander General's Reception  
 Dinner (individually arranged)  
 2100-2300: Hospitality Suite

**FRIDAY 10/26**

0700-0830 Continental Breakfast  
 0830-0900 General Session – Opening Ceremonies  
 Administrative remarks by Congress Host

0900-0905 Credentials Committee Report  
 0905-0920 Commander General's Report  
 0920-0935 Recorder General's Report  
 0935-0950 Registrar General's Report  
 0950-1000 BREAK  
 1000-1015 Membership Report  
 1015-1030 Commandery Support Report  
 1030-1045 Communications Report  
 1100-1200 Presentation by Texas Naval Historian (TBD)  
 1230-1400 DSSA-SE/LCDR Lee Douglas Award Luncheon  
 Award Luncheon:  
 1415-1420 General Session Reconvenes/Remarks  
 1420-1520 Presentation by Don Kehn Jr.  
 1520-1530 Administrative Remarks  
 Dinner individually arranged  
 1800: Optional Tour/Night Out Option  
 2100-2300: Hospitality Suite

**SATURDAY 10/27**

0730-0830: Continental Breakfast  
 0830-0840 General Session Reconvenes/Remarks  
 0840-0900 Historian General Report  
 0900-0915 Auditor General Report  
 0915-0930 National Investment Committee Report  
 0930-0945 National Finance Committee Report  
 0945-1000 BREAK  
 1000-1015 Awards Committee Report  
 1015-1030 Project Manager Report  
 1030-1045 Site Committee Report  
 1045-1100 President Naval Order Foundation Report  
 1115-1215 Presentation by Marc Liebman  
 1230-1400 ADM George Dewey/CG Medal and Certificate Awards Luncheon  
 1415-1420 General Session Reconvenes/Remarks  
 1420-1520 Presentation by James Hornfischer  
 1520-1530 General Sessions Ends/Final Remarks  
 1800-1900: DSSA Cocktail Reception  
 1900-2200: Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet  
 2200: Congress officially concludes  
 2230-2400 Hospitality Suite



Register online at <https://goo.gl/hD55cq> or tear out this form and send it in.



## NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES 2018 National Congress Registration

San Antonio, Texas  
24 October – 28 October 2018

| REGISTRATION INFORMATION |   |                     |  |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Name                     | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 8px;"> <span>(Last)</span> <span>(First)</span> <span>(MI)</span> </div>  | Rank/Service        |  |
| Address                  | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 8px;"> <span>(Number)</span> <span>(Street)</span> <span>(Apt #)</span> <span>(City)</span> <span>(State)</span> <span>(Zip Code)</span> </div> |                     |  |
| e-mail                   |   | Telephone           |  |
| Commandery               |   | Spouse/Guest        |  |
| Name Badge               |   | Name Badge          |  |
| Projected Arrival        |   | Projected Departure |  |

| RESERVATIONS/FEES & PAYMENT  |       |        |       |
|--|-------|--------|-------|
| RESERVATIONS   | COST  | NUMBER | TOTAL |
| General Registration for Companion and spouse/partner<br><i>(Includes Commander General's Reception, Luncheons, Continental Breakfasts, DSSA Banquet, Refreshments, Hospitality Suite, tax &amp; gratuities)</i> | \$300 |        |       |
| Commander General's Reception<br><i>Non-registered Guest</i>   | \$60  |        |       |
| DSSA-SE / Lee Douglas Luncheon<br><i>Non-registered Guest</i>  | \$40  |        |       |
| Dewey Award Luncheon<br><i>Non-registered Guest</i>  | \$40  |        |       |
| Distinguished Sea Service Award Banquet<br><i>Non-registered Guest</i>   | \$80  |        |       |
| Briscoe Western Art Museum   | TBD   |        |       |
| The Alamo  | TBD   |        |       |
| National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum)   | TBD   |        |       |
| Total Enclosed   |       |        |       |
| Please Make Check Payable to: <b>NOUS 2018 Congress</b><br>Send Check & Registration form to: CDR Robert B. Frazier, SC, USN (Ret)<br>1504 Harold Street<br>Houston, TX 77006                                    |       |        |       |



Naval Order of the United States  
 Founded on Independence Day, 1890  
 NOUS Registrar General  
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 Martinez, CA 94553  
 NavalOrder.org

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To order, print and mail this form, list which commandery you belong to and include a check payable to "Naval Order of U.S."  
 CDR Cotton Talbott, USN (Ret.), 1357 Park Dr., Mandeville, LA 70471 985-869-4073 (C) E-mail ctalbeau@bellsouth.net

Authorized for all Companions:

|  | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| The Naval Order Cross (Large, 1 1/4")  | _____           | \$35.00      |
| The Naval Order Cross (Miniature, 3/4")                                      | _____           | \$25.00      |
| Ladies Necklace (3/4" Naval Order Cross w/chain)                             | _____           | \$15.00      |
| Campaign Ribbon  | _____           | \$10.00      |
| Naval Order Rosette  | _____           | \$15.00      |
| Naval Order Cross Lapel Pin  | _____           | \$10.00      |
| Naval Order Tie, Silk  | _____           | \$20.00      |
| Naval Order Tie Bar  | _____           | \$10.00      |
| Naval Order Cufflink Set   | _____           | \$15.00      |
| Naval Order Blazer Patch   | _____           | \$20.00      |
| Naval Order Flag (3' x 5') two sides   | _____           | \$85.00      |
| Naval Order Banner (3' x 5') one side  | _____           | \$50.00      |
| NOUS Baseball Caps - plain bill  | _____           | \$14.00      |
| -- NOUS Ball Cap "eggs" 05/06  | _____           | \$15.00      |
| -- NOUS Ball Cap "eggs" Flag Officer   | _____           | \$16.00      |
| NOUS Pima Cotton Golf Shirt XXL - Black, White, Royal Blue                   | _____           | \$40.00      |
| NOUS Pima Cotton Golf Shirt - Black, White, Royal Blue - Size - S M L XL     | _____           | \$38.00      |
| Golf Shirts, polyester, Light Blue - <b>Closeout, \$22 shipping included</b> | _____           | \$22.00      |
| "Navy Heroes of Normandy" DVD  | _____           | \$ 5.00      |
| Challenge Coin (commemorating 100 Years of Naval Aviation)                   | _____           | \$ 5.00      |

For past and present National Officers and Commandery Commanders only:

|  |       |         |
|--|-------|---------|
| Naval Order Blazer Patch w/Crest                             | _____ | \$25.00 |
| Neck Ribbon for Large Medal - (Worn with formal attire only) | _____ | \$15.00 |

**SHIPPING \$ 6.00**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_