

# NAVAL ORDER

## *of the* UNITED STATES

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### NOUS Congress 18-22 October 2022

*"We are ready now, Sir!"*

Make your plans now to attend the 2022 Naval Order Congress in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia 18 – 22 October 2022. Your host, the National Capital Commandery, has lined up an exciting week of maritime history tours, events, and speakers to accompany our annual business meetings and awards presentations.

This October will mark the first time in three years that we will be able to meet in person! The Congress presents an opportunity to meet fellow companions and spouses, renew existing friendships, exchange sea stories, and share our mutual interests in supporting America's sea services.

The theme for this year's Congress is "Readiness," reflecting the commitment of America's sea services to continuing readiness in the interest of national security, freedom of navigation, international humanitarian concerns and the preservation of the nation's international standing.

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Patriotic neighbors in Old Town Alexandria

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# COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER



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**THE NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Companions,

I look forward to greeting each one of you in person in our Nation's Capital during the week of 17 October 2022 for our first "in-person" Congress since 2019.

We will also recognize the outstanding large and small commanderies with the Jan Armstrong and Lee Douglas Awards.

We have special guests expected for the Commander General's Reception and throughout



What better chance to re-engage with friends in a setting that symbolizes freedom to the world? There are many events planned prior to the official start of the Congress that I hope you will take advantage of. The Committee reports will be available in advance for all to review and ask questions about prior to the Congress (please take advantage of the opportunity to review the work accomplished by these committees over the past year).

In keeping with our mission of "History and Heritage" we have planned excellent presentations. We will also recognize members of the sea services with records of significant contributions to our Services. The Dewey Award will be given to the late RADM Grace Hopper, USNR. The Distinguished Sea Service Awards will be given to General Joseph Dunford, USMC (Ret.), and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Ronald J. Greene, USMC (Ret.).

the Congress, so make a point to sign up for all events!

Let us use this opportunity to get together and increase our level of dialogue to set a course for growth and even greater accomplishment of our Mission. Invite your friends especially our newest companions. If you have never attended a Congress before, make this your first!

For those unable to attend in person, we will provide a level of remote participation as an option. Make sure you let the committee know your intentions.

Sign up NOW to make sure you have a room and to help our planners organize the events!

**CAPT Robert N Whitkop, USN (Ret.)**  
**Commander General**



The Charleston Commandery joined in the commissioning of the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS *Frank E. Petersen, Jr.* (DDG 121), 14 May 2022 in Charleston.

Commandery Commander Michael Pereira, Historian Robert "Fuzzy" Knight, and companions Aimee Pereira, Jerry and Susan Rovner, Robert Besal, and Christina Ward also participated. Distinguished guests present included Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Gilday, and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen David Berger. The ship's sponsors include Mrs. D'Arcy Ann Neller, wife of former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert "Bob" Neller, USMC (Ret.), and Lt. Gen. Petersen's wife, the late Dr. Alicia J. Petersen. Dr. Petersen passed away in September 2021. Both sponsors had participated in the keel laying, mast stepping, and christening ceremonies.

The ship is powered by four General Electric LM 2500-30 gas turbines and two shafts, making it capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots. The ship's motto, "Into the Tiger's Jaw" is a phrase that was used by LtGen Petersen many times in his life. It conveys his unbridled spirit confronting and overcoming social injustices and prejudices, as well as courage and bravery in combat.



USS Frank E. Petersen Jr.



Frank E. Petersen Jr.

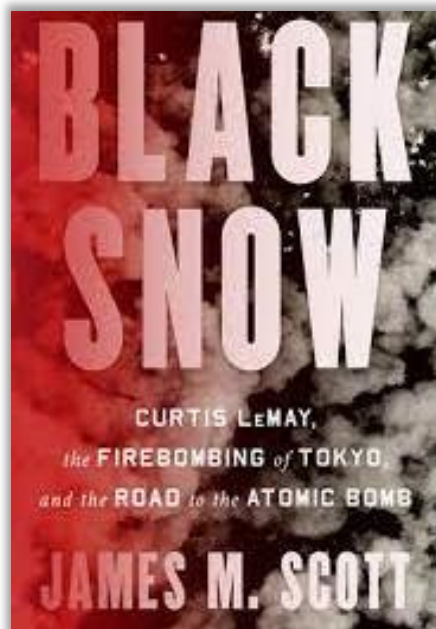


James Scott

## Companion and Author

Charleston Commandery Companion, Author James Scott, will launch his book tour with a presentation to the New York Commandery on 12 September 2022, the official launch date of his new book: **Black Snow – Curtis Lemay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Atomic Bomb.**

Scott was the winner of the 2010 Morrison Award sponsored by the New York Commandery.



Submitted by  
Michael Pereira

The ship honors Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen, Jr. USMC (Ret.), the first African American Marine aviator and the first African American Marine three-star general. Petersen served two combat tours; Korea in 1953 and Vietnam in 1968. He flew more than 350 combat missions and had over 4,000 hours in various aircraft. Lt. Gen. Petersen continued a family legacy of service begun by his great-grandfather, Private Archibald (Archie) Charles McKinney who served in the 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Lt Gen Petersen passed away in Aug. 2015 at the age of 83.

Ship's commanding officer, CDR Daniel Hancock, leads a core crew of 32 officers and 297 enlisted personnel. The ship is nearly 510 feet long, has a beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 33 feet.

## Continental Commandery Companion Cinzi Lavin receives National Society Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America's Golden Shield Award

Composer/musical dramatist Cinzi Lavin has received the Golden Shield Award, presented by the National Society Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America (NSDFPA).



Cinzi Lavin (right) receiving Golden Shield Award certificate from NSDFPA National President Phyllis Lawson (Photo courtesy of Robert Bisson).

The Golden Shield Award is given to a non-member who is prominent in his or her field of expertise and who has made exemplary contributions in one of the areas in which NSDFPA is dedicated. Lavin's award recognizes her achievements in promoting American history through her musical and dramatic works.

The NSDFPA is a lineage society which requires its members to prove an unbroken paternal line to both an American Colonial founder and an intermediary Revolutionary patriot.

The award was presented to Lavin on 7 April in Alexandria, Virginia at the organization's General Court Assembly. National President Phyllis Lawson gave the award in a room full of NSDFPA officers and members that attended.

Lavin is the award-winning composer of three full-length musical dramas, including **Toilers of the Sea: The Life of Joshua James**, among other works. She performed by invitation at the White House in 2010. In 2019, she was voted into the National League of American Pen Women for distinction in both Letters and Music and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (London). She currently serves on the board of directors of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council.

## Naval History Virtual Lecturer Series

The Commandery's Naval History virtual lecture series is celebrating its second anniversary. The series was launched in May 2020 with a lecture by Mr. David Ferriero, 10<sup>th</sup> Archivist of the United States (Inaugural Virtual History Lecture - [bit.ly/3aQ7Nia](https://bit.ly/3aQ7Nia)), as an effort to fulfill NOUS missions to preserve and promote celebrate and enjoy our nation's sea service history. Since then, we have enjoyed a series of lectures with topics ranging from a personal account of being rescued from Vietnam as Saigon fell to accounts of the great sea battles of 1942.

In April, Mr. Dale Jenkins, author of the upcoming book: **Diplomats and Admirals**, shared fresh insights about the Battle of Midway. In May, Professor Emeritus, Dr. Dennis Okerstrom discussed details of the April 1942 Doolittle Raid.



LT Colonel Doolittle's squadron of B-25 bombers lashed to deck of USS Hornet (CV-8) during transit across Pacific Ocean.

June's lecture told the fascinating story of two aircraft carriers that were converted steamers. Commissioned as *Wolverine* and *Sable*, they were used for pilot training in the Great Lakes during WWII.

Check the Commandery's *Upcoming Events* page (Continental Commandery - Upcoming Events [bit.ly/3Mlp6ii](https://bit.ly/3Mlp6ii)) for details or join the Continental Commandery's *LinkedIn* group to learn about our upcoming events.

Submitted by CAPT Fred Passman, USN (Ret.)



# FLORIDA FIRST COAST COMMANDERY

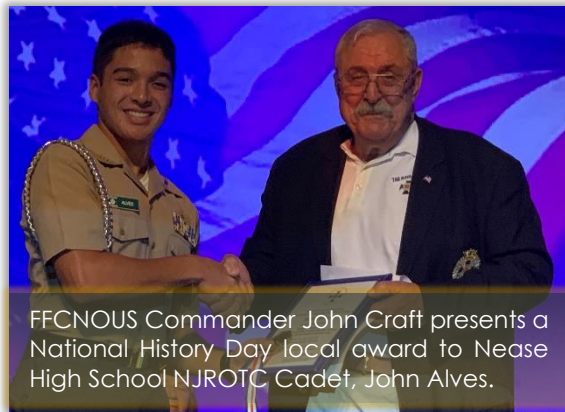
After the winter doldrums of 2021, The Florida First Coast Commandery has been a flurry of activity!

On 1 May, during Jacksonville University's ROTC commissioning ceremony, FFCNOUS Companion Dr. Richard Murphy (USMC 1950-1960) presented a Mameluke Sword to newly commissioned 2nd LT Kazeen B. Rowe, USMC. Lieutenant Rowe was selected by the ROTC Command leadership as the Outstanding Officer Candidate. Dr. Murphy was selected by the NOUS commandery to make the presentation due to his prior USMC service and time on the Jacksonville University faculty. The acquisition of the Mameluke Sword was funded by the FFCNOUS.



FFCNOUS Companion Dr. Richard Murphy (USMC 1950-1960) presented a Mameluke Sword to newly commissioned 2nd LT Kazeen B. Rowe, USMC on behalf of the FFCNOUS.

The evening of 12 May, FFCNOUS Commander John Craft presented a National History Day local award to Nease High School NJROTC Cadet John Alves. Cadet Alves had submitted "Treaty of Versailles: The document that ended the war to end all wars and yet started another one." FFCNOUS' companions CAPT Ed



FFCNOUS Commander John Craft presents a National History Day local award to Nease High School NJROTC Cadet, John Alves.

Froelich and Dr. Richard Murphy had judged Cadet Alves' submission as the local NOUS First Place winner. He was

awarded \$500 for his college fund.

delivered to Signcraft LLC Annapolis, Maryland for restoration per Naval History and Heritage Command guidelines. After restoration the stern plate will be transported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois for display. It is anticipated that the stern plate and its accompanying information placard will be viewed by thousands of RTC visitors annually.

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual USS *Stark* memorial service, coordinated by the FFCNOUS, was conducted on 17 May 2022 at the memorial garden onboard Naval Station Mayport. This remembrance event was again well attended by former crew, families, Navy officials and local dignitaries. Military honors were rendered, and a bell tolled during the reading of the names of those 37 crew members lost in the attack. Later that evening a ship's reunion and raucous social event was held at a local waterfront restaurant. In keeping with the NOUS membership month drive, over 75 contacts were made of potential NOUS companions.

On May 30, Memorial Day, FFCNOUS Commander Craft participated in the annual wreath laying at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial wall. Coinciding with National Memorial Day Events, the event is held to honor Jacksonville's fallen heroes.



NOUS Companions Brian Kennedy, John Craft and George Huchting at the Jacksonville Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony.

On June 3, during the Mayport Sea Cadet Awards Dinner, FFCNOUS Companion RADM George Huchting presented a check for \$100 to Sea Cadet Petty Officer First Class Nikki Ingle. Cadet Ingle was selected as The Outstanding Leadership Sea Cadet by her command.

The USS *Barry* (DD 933) Stern Plate has been

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The D-Day and Battle of Midway remembrance dinner was held on Saturday evening 4 June at the Cypress Village Retirement Community. RADM James A. Aiken, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/Commander, U.S. FOURTH Fleet was our guest speaker. Admiral Aiken's remarks that evening were based on President Ronald Reagan's "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

The Naval Historic Ship *Orleck* (DD 866) has arrived at its temporary berth in Downtown Jacksonville. The final upgrades to its' soon-to-be permanent pier are being completed while *Orleck* is being readied for visit ship and ship's reunions duties.

The leadership of the local Merchant Marine Veterans group has agreed to collaborate and join us in our NOUS history activities. In addition to the remembrance of those Merchant Mariners lost in the Battle of the Atlantic, one of the local chapter's main focus' is the remembrance of the loss of the *SS El Faro*. The *SS El Faro*, a United States-flagged combination roll-on/roll-off and lift-on/lift-off cargo ship crewed by U.S. Merchant Mariners, was lost at sea in route to Puerto Rico with her entire crew of 33 on 1 October 2015, after steaming into the eyewall of Hurricane Joaquin. The *SS El Faro's* last port of call was Jacksonville, Florida.



NOUS Commander General Bob Whitkop and FFCNOUS Commander John Craft meet with AMM veterans Thomas Suneson and Charles Sellars for activities collaboration.

Welcome aboard to the Tampa Bay Commandery of the Naval Order!

Our Friday morning coffee gatherings continue and are growing in attendance. Wine tastings and picnic socials are an integral part of our calendar. These social gatherings continue to be superb recruiting tools for potential NOUS members!

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

The Monterey Bay Commandry joined with other Peninsula military organizations 30 May on the Coast Guard pier in Monterey to remember shipmates and friends that paid the price for our freedom.

The Ceremony was sponsored by Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 178. Following remarks by Branch President, Mr. Michael LeVine, memorial wreaths were individually cast upon the waters while their names were remembered in the first such ceremony since 2019.



Ken Johnson casting the wreath

The following deceased Companions were recognized by Commandery Commander, Past Commander General CAPT Ken Johnson: Grant Conroy, Lawrence Reeves. SSG Alan Richmond, USMC, Captain Paul Trejo, RADM Gene Tissot, USN, RADM Merrill Ruck, USN, and Captain Wayne Hughes, USN.

Of special note was the presence of Colonel J.L. "Ray" Ramos, USA, and his wife Meredith. Ray will be 100 years young 29 August 2022. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers in Europe and participated in the Normandy Landing assigned to destroy Nazi bunkers and bridges. RADM Jerry Ellis and his wife Rosemary cast remembrance flowers.



RADM Jerry Ellis, USN (Ret.) prepares to cast a memorial bouquet. Rosemary Ellis is to his right. Joining them are COL "Ray" Ramos and his wife Meredith and the local FRA.

**Submitted by CAPT Ken Johnson, USN (Ret.)**

Past Commander General, CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret.), represented the Naval Order at the United States Naval Academy Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Awards presentation on 25 May during the Class of 2022 Commencement Week activities. Companion CAPT Dave Winkler, USN (Ret.), Col Michael Styskal, USMC, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and CAPT Peter Nardi, USN (Ret.), Associate Provost for Finance and Military Affairs, also participated. Col Styskal, was Commanding Officer of the Third Marine Regiment, who received the Naval Order's donation of the Vintage Drum and Display Case in Hawaii (Spring 2020; Vol. XXV No. 2).

The Naval Order of the United States Prize has been presented for 89 consecutive years to midshipmen for the best essay on current national or international affairs. This covers Academy Division of Humanities and Social Sciences and includes the Departments of Economics, English, History, Languages and Culture, and Political Science. Finalists are nominated by Academy instructors and chosen by a committee of Division Professors. The three 2022 recipients of Naval Order prizes are:

## **NOUS CAPT James F. Brooke, III Memorial Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Award**

Midshipman First Class John H. Osment was recognized with a sword and plaque for his paper titled **"Making the Switch: Chinese Economic Incentives and the Diplomatic Abandonment of Taiwan."** MIDN Osment's paper considers how states that drop diplomatic recognition of the Republic of China (ROC)/Taiwan affects the People's Republic of China's (PRC) economic engagement. He concludes that China rewards them by immediate direct investment and increased imports from them over time.



Left to Right: Col Styskal, CAPT Nardi, CAPT Crissy, MIDN Osment, CAPT Dave Winkler

## **NOUS Senior Division Award**



CAPT Crissy and Midshipman First Class Robert E. Hatfield III

Midshipman First Class Robert E. Hatfield III received a clock and plaque for his paper titled **"A Servant of the America's Republic and Empire: CAPT Richard P. Leary, Naval Governor of Guam."** MIDN

Hatfield's paper concludes that history is the collective actions of individuals and analyzed CAPT Leary's extraordinary actions that shaped the United States' influence in the Pacific.

## **NOUS Junior Division Award**



CAPT Crissy and Midshipman Fourth Class Nathan Scherry

Midshipman Fourth Class Nathan Scherry received a clock and plaque for his paper titled **"British 'Neutrality' in the American Civil War."** MIDN Scherry's paper suggests that British neutrality enabled Britain to

profit from both the Union and the Confederacy without getting embroiled in the conflict. It also surmises that the United States has pursued a similar tact during World War I, World War II and other conflicts. CAPT Nathan W. Scherry, Nathan's father, was the first Commanding Officer of USS *Thomas Hudner* (DDG 116), named for Medal of Honor Recipient and Naval Order Companion CAPT Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., USN.

These papers are posted on the Naval Order's website to enable companions to consider their investment in preserving and promoting naval history and heritage by recognizing academic achievement.

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



# NEW ORLEANS COMMANDERY

New Orleans Commandery had a busy spring.

April's highlight was our Spring dinner and meeting, held at Andrea's Restaurant in nearby Metairie on 13 April. We welcomed new Companions CAPT Mike Turner, USN (Ret.), CAPT Stephen Drake, USN (Ret.) and AC1 William Daniels, USN.



Brian B. Brown VADM, USN (Ret.)

We were honored to host guest speaker, Brian B. Brown VADM, USN (Ret.), a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. VADM Brown served as a Surface Warfare Officer, an Oceanography Officer and

an Information Warfare Officer. At sea, he served aboard USS *Frederick* (LST 1184), and on the staffs of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31; Commander, Carrier Group 8 aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71); and Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet aboard USS *La Salle* (AGF 3) in Gaeta, Italy.

Amongst his numerous shore tours, he commanded the Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility Jacksonville and the Naval Oceanographic Office.

As a flag officer, among his many challenging assignments Brown commanded the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, and served as deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command. In his final tour, he commanded Naval Information Forces. In 2014, he was appointed as the head of the Navy's Space Cadre and served in that capacity until his retirement. He is authorized to wear the U.S. Air Force Command/Master Space Operations Badge.

ADM Brown entertained the Commandery with a discussion on the Navy's rich history in Space, including Responsibilities of the Naval Space Command, a former component command of the United States Space Command; Historical and current Joint Space efforts; Satellite technologies and tracking/monitoring objects in Space and the role of the former Naval Satellite Operations Center; The budding commercial satellite industry and challenges to monitoring space activity; Foreign challenges to U.S. supremacy in space and potential for space conflict; and the evolution of Space Force.

The Admiral's discussion was energetic, and exceptionally well-received. A lively Q&A session ensued with the Commandery. Thank you, VADM Brown!

On 9 April, the New Orleans Commandery presented Ouachita Parish (Monroe, LA) high school senior, Jacob Green, with the NOUS Naval & Maritime History Prize, part of the National History Day (NHD), Louisiana 2022 State Competition held at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.



Jacob received a certificate and a check for \$400 for his Exhibit entitled "Die for a Tie: The Korean Battle Founded upon Inefficient Debate and Diplomacy." His exceptional research made him a clear winner and earned him the NHD top prize in the category of Senior Individual Exhibit. His work will be included in the National NHD Competition. Judges for the event included New Orleans Companions CAPT William Sims, USN (Ret.), Mr. Jacques Michell, and Dr. Samantha Cavell. Congratulations, Jacob!

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## NEW ORLEANS COMMANDRY

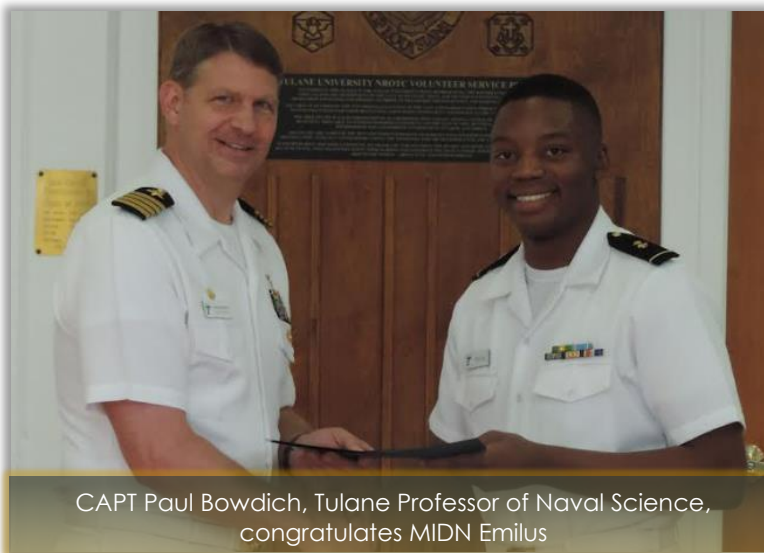
The Greater New Orleans Council of the Navy League hosted its annual Military Appreciation Day luncheon on 19 April.

Emcee for the event was New Orleans Navy League President, RADM Joel Whitehead, USCG (Ret.). The guest speaker was RADM Ronald Rábago, USCG (Ret.), now Senior Vice President for USCG's Polar Security Cutter shipbuilding program at Halter Marine, in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Many of our companions attended to honor active-duty personnel and recognize several local, distinguished, and well-deserving military members.

This event occurred as the City of New Orleans hosted Navy Week, 18-21 April. USS *Farragut* (DDG 99), USS *Lassen* (DDG 82), USCG Cutter *Daniel Tarr* (WPC 1136) and the French Navy vessel *La Combattante* (FS Tunis) visited. Companions toured the ships and connected with sailors to get news from the deck plates and reminisce about their days in the Fleet.

Last, but not least, on 20 April, New Orleans Companion and Treasurer, LCDR Greg Kahn, USN (Ret.), recognized MIDN 1/c Kevin Emilus with the NOUS Award, along with a check for \$100. MIDN Emilus, from the NROTC unit at Tulane University, later graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Sciences from Xavier University of Louisiana. He has been commissioned Ensign in the U.S. Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer. He has orders to USS *Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee* (DDG 123), based in San Diego, California – Bravo Zulu, ENS Emilus!



CAPT Paul Bowdich, Tulane Professor of Naval Science, congratulates MIDN Emilus

Submitted by Eric Trehubenko

## NEW YORK COMMANDRY

The New York Commandry continued its successful luncheons after the New Year. Noted authors and local community leaders addressed the Commandry. New York City saw the return of Fleet Week, which was, and is, an ever-popular event for hundreds of thousands, annually held on Memorial Day weekend. The Commandry is steady on course for the upcoming 2022-2023 season and invite you to any and all events.

The February meeting was cancelled due to a post-holiday second surge of COVID-19.

The New York Commandry held its March 2022 luncheon, the first after a second halt of in-person meetings due to a surge of COVID-19 over the holiday season. Although the group was small, good fellowship was had

by all. The luncheon was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the traditional New York Commandry blessing. Don Shuld, past commander, gave a brief talk on the seven commissioned warships in the U.S. Navy named USS *New York*. Following, Don Shuld, past commander and current Vice Commander General - Membership, gave a short talk on the prisoner of war camps in the United States during World War II.



Don Shuld

At the April luncheon, longtime Naval Order companion of the Commandry, retired Navy SEAL captain, and internationally noted author, Richard Crossland, gave a talk on his latest book, ***The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue***. (New Academia Publishing, 2021).



Richard Crossland

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**The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue** is an historical novel set in 1913 Shanghai, where four cultures are about to collide: China, Korea, Japan, and the U.S.. The point of collision is three tons of Japanese gold ingots meant to undermine an already collapsing China. The luncheon was attended by about twenty members and guests.

## Battle of Manila Bay Remembrance

Vice Commander General Don Schuld joined other Naval Order commanderies to attend and speak at the annual remembrance aboard *USS Olympia*, in Philadelphia. The Naval Order was also represented by Philadelphia Commander Jonathan Jones, Philadelphia Vice Commander Rick Sperry, and National Capitol Commander William Steagall. *USS Olympia* is located at Penn's Landing and affiliated with the Independence Seaport Museum.



On 2 May 2022, the New York Commandery met for its monthly luncheon meeting. After the reception, there was a remembrance held for the Battle of Manila Bay, a stated commemoration of the Naval Order. The guest speaker was Karina Verna, Programs and Administration Manager for the New York Council of the Navy League of the United States, who provided an overview of the upcoming Fleet Week NYC. This is the first Fleet Week to be held in the City since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were honored to have in attendance the President of New York Council, Frank Russo. Important information was shared, and good fellowship was had by all who attended.



The Commandery held its final luncheon of the season on 6 June 2022. Attended by nearly two dozen companions and guests, the guest speaker was Richard Snow, who gave a talk on his father's experience of going into the Navy during World War II. He pulled together letters his father, a New Yorker, had written to share what he was thinking at the time, being an architect in the civilian world. He then put on a uniform to serve on a destroyer escort: *USS Brennan* (DE 13). Naval Order Companion Richard Snow is a noted American author, contributor to motion pictures, and retired editor and chief of *Heritage* magazine. He was the winner of the 2017 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book *IRON DAWN: The Monitor, The Merrimack, and the Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History*, presented by the New York Commandery.



**Submitted by CDR John F. V. Cupschalk, USN, (Ret.)**



## A Focus on Youth, Big Data, and an Author's Navy Experiences

### NOUS Northwest Announces Naval History Awards

For the third year in a row, the Northwest Commandery supported National History Day competitions in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington states.

The commandery supports National History Day by recruiting volunteer judges from amongst our companions to judge at regional and state competitions. Companions and spouses who judged this year were Gil Beyer (Idaho); Dave Todd (Oregon); Jim and Carol McGinnis, Dick and Claire Griffin, and Norm Eberly (Washington). Competitions this year were a mixture of virtual (remote) and in-person.

In addition to judging, we sponsor a \$100.00 cash prize and commemorative certificate for the best project in each state dealing with Naval/Maritime History.

Three winners received the NOUS cash prize and certificate. In Idaho, Brooklyn Jerde won for her documentary entitled ***The Sinking of RMS Lusitania: the Debate and the Diplomacy.***



Brooklyn Jerde, a student at Eagle Rock Middle School in Idaho Falls, receives the NOUS award from her teacher, Jeffrey Cannon, for her project ***The Sinking of RMS Lusitania: The Debate and the Diplomacy.***

In Oregon, McKenzie Rose won for her project, ***The Trent Affair: How Strategic Diplomacy Prevented War.***



Sophomore McKenzie Rose receives her NOUS award for her project ***The Trent Affair: How Strategic Diplomacy Prevented War*** from Keith Holman, Principal of Echo Rock Middle School in Echo, Oregon.

Finally, in Washington, Kevin Yu won for his documentary entitled ***Aircraft Carriers: A Great Weapon for Peace.***



CAPT Richard Griffin, Northwest Commandery's National History Day coordinator, presents the NOUS award to Kevin Yu, a student at Evergreen Middle School in Redmond, Washington. His teacher, Nicole Kesler looks on.

Brooklyn and McKenzie's projects will represent their states in the National History Day competition.

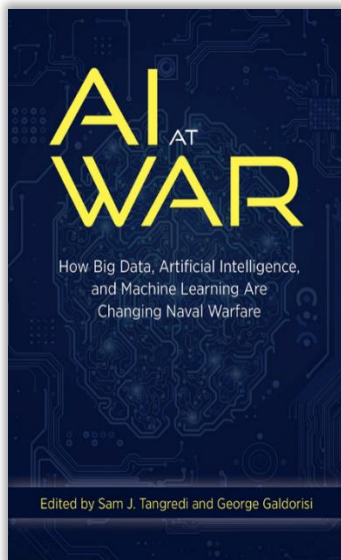
National History Day is a national program that encourages middle and high school students to become historians by developing research, analysis, presentation, and social skills. Students select a project related to an annual national theme. This year's theme was "Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." Contests are held at regional, state, and national levels, with the winners at regionals moving on to the state level and winners at the state level moving on to the capstone national competition.

Submitted by CAPT Richard Griffin, USN, (Ret.)

## The Future of Warfare? Automated Intelligence and Big Data; and The Prolific Works of USNI Author Paul Stillwell

On 21 May, NOUS Northwest held a Zoom meeting involving 17 participants, which featured several key speakers. The first presenter was CAPT (Sel.) Casey Mahon, USN, who briefed on the Naval Institute title, ***AI at War, How Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning Are Changing Naval Warfare.***

This work is a collection of essays edited by Sam J. Tangredi and George Galdorisi.



According to the USNI website, “Artificial intelligence (AI) may be the most beneficial technological development of the twenty-first century, but it is often misunderstood outside of specialists in the field.” The book covers a wide range of subjects, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, advanced computing, etc., which potentially affect every aspect of national power, not just naval matters.

CAPT (Sel.) Mahon suggested that radical changes in information collection and quantum computing are happening now in such a rapid and determined manner that recall historical transitions as 1) horse soldiers to tanks or 2) battleships to aircraft carriers. With that evolving dynamic, it is essential for the military to be able to better communicate internally the different perspectives of systemic change in order to take advantage of new developments.

To that end, CAPT (Sel.) Mahon presented a concept which he is currently developing to foster more effective communications between 1) traditional practitioners possibly leaning toward established efficiencies and 2) voices advocating systemic changes and who lean toward innovation. His concept is titled “Communicating Capabilities Transitions” and it maps the complex steps involved for moving from old system capabilities to potentially unproven feasibilities of future systems. The Zoom participants were highly engaged in asking questions

while providing feedback to CAPT (Sel.) Mahon on his conceptual management model.

CAPT Joe Valenta, USN (Ret.) then followed with an excellent summary of terms and definitions related to Artificial Intelligence. He described how the evolution of “rules-based software” is advancing with artificial intelligence methods toward the potential capabilities of the human mind. He said that by 2023, quantum processors may be at least eight times present capability. He concluded with quoting Moore's Law showing that “at the current rate processing speed is increasing, in about 5 years, AI will be able to mirror the human mind!”

In keeping with a cyber-oriented theme for the first part of the meeting, CAPT Jim McGinnis, MSC, USN (Ret.) then took the Zoom participants back to 1989 with his review of Cliff Stoll's ***The Cuckoo's Nest***. Noting that the cuckoo is a bird that lays its eggs in another bird's nest, CAPT McGinnis indicated that for computer crime, that is what hackers do. As a systems administrator at Lawrence Berkely Lab, Stoll uncovered a hacker hidden within the network in his main frame system. Eventually the intruder's network was traced back to Germany through a fascinating deception led by Stoll. That effort revealed that the stolen, sensitive information was being sold to the KGB. CAPT McGinnis recommended ***The Cuckoo's Nest*** as a good first primer for understanding computer vulnerabilities.

The Zoom meeting concluded with a moving account by author Paul Stillwell of his active-duty Navy period followed by a distinguished career as a prolific writer for the Naval Institute.

Enlisting in the USNR in 1962, Stillwell was later commissioned as an Ensign in 1966. He described several indelible experiences while serving as Operations Officer on USS *Washoe County* (LST 1165), including Market Time patrol activities as well as supporting riverine operations.

Traveling home on leave from the Western Pacific by cargo plane, he recalled landing in Dover, Delaware with “the constant sight of silver-colored coffins” which really brought home to him the large numbers of men who would not return home alive.

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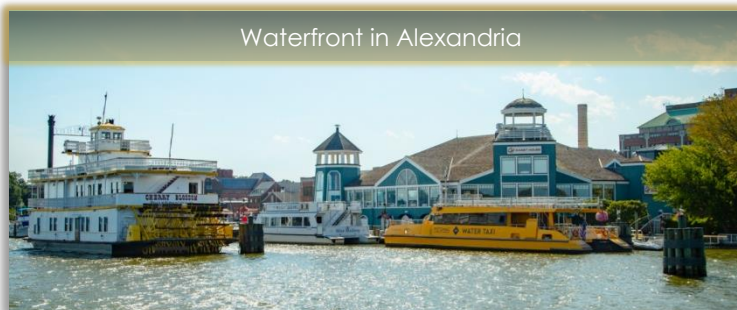
In 1917, LCDR Joseph K. Taussig, USN led the first contingent of six U.S. Navy destroyers to Europe after the U.S. declared war against Germany, arriving in Queenstown (the port of Cork) in Ireland in May to assist the British government in protecting merchant shipping against German Uboats. In response to the British Commander-in-Chief of the Western Approaches, Vice Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly's question about when the newly arrived U.S. destroyers would commence operations, legend has it that Taussig replied, "We are ready now, Sir."

This theme is beautifully shown in the design of this year's Congress Coin. The City – Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

The 2022 Congress will take place at the Hilton in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, a city rich in maritime history and founded in 1695. As a major colonial seaport on the Potomac River, Alexandria was essential to the colonies in the War for American Independence. In the War of 1812, the British seized and looted Alexandria on their way upriver to attack the National Capital. In the antebellum era, Alexandria was the center of a massive slave market. The U.S. Army occupied the city during the Civil War.

Today, Alexandria is a thriving metropolis with the Old Town district offering world-class restaurants, boutique shops, public waterfront parks, trolley cars, water taxis, and charming 19th century architecture.

Ideally situated for the Congress, Alexandria is only minutes away from Reagan National Airport, Washington DC, and George Washington's Mount Vernon; only an hour from Annapolis, Maryland, home to the U.S. Naval Academy; and the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia. For more information about Alexandria, see this link: [visitalalexandria.com](http://visitalalexandria.com)



## Congress 2022 Schedule Notes:

**Note 1:** National Museum of the Marine Corps is in Triangle, VA, a short bus ride away. Bus or Uber will be decided, based on the number of people who sign up. Museum is free (donations accepted) and lunch at Tun Tavern will be no-host pub food.

**Note 2:** The Host Committee will provide you with a guide to explore Alexandria and Washington DC. Perhaps you've been here many times before, but have never been to Mt. Vernon, George Washington's estate. Or maybe you want to see the First Ladies' Inaugural Ball Gowns at the Smithsonian. Or maybe you've heard about the U.S. Navy Memorial or the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, Iwo Jima, and would like to see them close up. We also have a tour arranged of maritime history and events in Old Town Alexandria. These and dozens more attractions await your journey of exploration.

**Note 3:** There is a free King Street trolley to take us to local restaurants.

**Note 4:** Arlington National Cemetery is an unforgettable visit. There is good Metro (subway) service from our hotel to the cemetery. We will depart as a group and take the tram tour of ANC, seeing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Kennedy gravesite, and many other features. (Modest cost for Metro). From there, either back to the hotel or off to DC by Metro to see the U.S. Navy Memorial, Smithsonian Museum(s), Library of Congress, WIMSA Memorial at Arlington, etc. Lunch will be on your own.

**Note 5:** Annapolis and USNA – Round trip by chartered Bus (\$50 add'l/pp) to include: USNA Visitor Center, Commodore John Barry Plaza and Memorial, USNA Chapel (Crypt and John Paul Jones Memorial), RADM Grace M. Hopper Hall and Cyber Warfare Center (briefing and plaque presentation), and the USNA Museum. Lunch is on your own, either at the Academy's Officers Club or on the town in Annapolis.

**Note 6:** Trafalgar Night option: Friday night. Have you been to a British Officers' Formal Dinner? It's quite the thing. Take an Uber or Carpool ride to Fairfax Country Club to join the British Officers' Club of Washington DC at their annual celebration of Lord Nelson's Victory off Cape Trafalgar. (Separate registration: \$93 per person. More details upon registration.)





## The Plan of Naval Order Congress 2022

**Monday Oct 17, 2022** – Travel Day for Delegate and Guests.

**Tuesday Oct 18, 2022** - Check-in and Events  
Committee Meetings as arranged

Bus trip to USMC Museum (note 1)	[OR]	Explore Old Town or Washington DC on your own (note 2) or Tour of Mt. Vernon on your own
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Dinner on your own. Movie night in the Hospitality Suite.

**Wednesday October 19, 2022** -- Check-in and Events  
Committee Meetings as arranged

Tour of Arlington Nat'l Cemetery (note 4) and WIMSA Memorial	[OR]	Conducted tour of the Alexandria Waterfront, touching on historical incidents. Lunch at 12:00 at Gadsby's Tavern with address by <b>President James Madison</b> and Q&A on state of the forces following the 1812-14 War.
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Dinner on your own. Movie night in the Hospitality Suite.

**Thursday October 20, 2022** Check-in and Events  
Committee Meetings as arranged

Bus trip to Annapolis and USNA (note 5)	[OR]	Explore Old Town or Washington DC on your own (note 2)
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Evening: **Commander General's Reception** and  
**DSSA Senior Service Award (Hilton Old Town Alexandria)**

Dinner on your own. Hospitality Suite open. (note 3) Movie Night.

**Friday, October 21, 2022**

0730: Special video to be shown at breakfast commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar (today is the memorial of that event).

Business Meetings, Committee Presentations. Armstrong Awards and Luncheon Speaker: VADM Robert Murrett USN (Ret) will speak on "Naval Intelligence – How its History Informs the Present and the Future."  
**New This Year** → Roundtable Workshops for All Commandery Commanders, Membership and Finance Officers

Dinner on your own. (note 3)

Optional: British Officers' Club Trafalgar Night Formal Dinner (note 6)

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

Business Meetings and Presentations. Lee Douglas and DSSA Enlisted Awards at Luncheon Program & Speaker

Dinner – Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award Presentation  
Hospitality Suite open. Movie Night.

**Sunday, October 23, 2022** – Depart at your leisure.

Check-out is 10 a.m. The hotel will hold your luggage until you need it.





**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**2022 National Congress Registration**  
 Hilton Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia

**CONGRESS REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Service \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street) (Apt #) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Projected Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Projected Departure \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGRESS RESERVATIONS, FEES & PAYMENT**

RESERVATIONS	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL
<b>A. Registration for Companions/Delegates (All-Inclusive)</b> <i>(Includes Commander General's Reception, Luncheons, NOUS Banquet, Refreshments, Coin, Hospitality Suite, taxes &amp; tips).</i>	<b>\$350</b>		\$
<b>B. Attendees Other than Companions or Delegates</b> <i>(i.e. non-Naval Order spouses and guests) can register by choosing individual events as shown below:</i>			
-- Commander General's Reception & DSSA Award Thur. 20 Oct.	\$50		\$
-- Armstrong Award Presentation Luncheon, Fri. 21 Oct.	\$65		\$
-- Douglas Award Presentation & DSSA/E Luncheon, Sat. 22 Oct.	\$65		\$
-- Dewey Award Presentation & NOUS Banquet, Sat. 22 Oct.	\$85		\$
<b>C. ZOOM-Only Registration, per person</b> <i>(Webcast limited to business meetings and speakers; includes 2022 Congress Coin.)</i>	<b>\$25</b>		\$
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b> (add all sums in the far right "Total" column) →			\$

Please Make Check Payable to: Naval Order of the U.S.; Mail Check & this Registration form to:  
 CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret), 6089 Guildhall Court, Burke VA 22015.

→ **NOTE:** The cut-off date for Congress registration is **29 September 2022.**

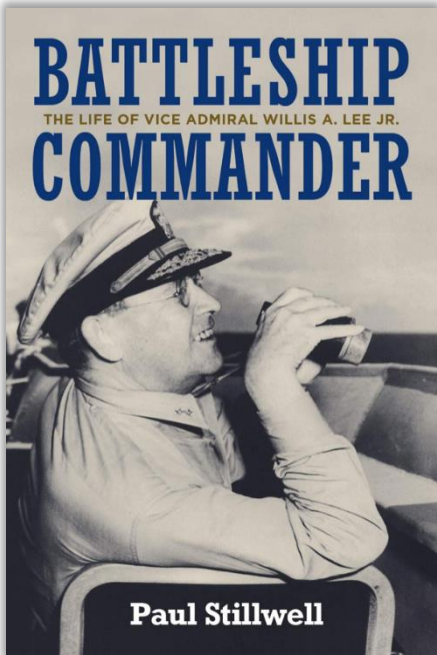
**Cancellation Policy:** Congress registration fees are non-refundable for cancellations received on or after **29 September 2022.**

For questions about the Congress, send an email to: [nous.congress2022@gmail.com](mailto:nous.congress2022@gmail.com)

The **2022 Naval Order's Congress** will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Register online with Hilton and apply the code: **NC22** to get the Congress rate. You may also call the hotel direct at: 703-837-0440 (the hotel's Alexandria number). Our special rate is available for 17 – 25 October: **\$209/night** plus taxes and **includes full breakfast daily for two.** Congress parking rates are \$22/day for guests and \$10/day for visitors.  
 → The cut-off date for Hilton's group discount is **29 September 2022.**



Moving on to his next assignment, USS *New Jersey*, (BB-62), that vessel was soon decommissioned, and he left active duty for studies in journalism. He noted that in that transition period from active duty. He was lucky to meet his future wife, which would not have happened if the vessel remained in service and deployed to Vietnam as scheduled. Later, through a turn of events involving short-lived jobs with St. Louis professional sports teams, he connected in 1974 with the USNI in Annapolis where he has been editing and writing ever since.



The Naval Institute describes Stillwell and his works “as an independent historian and retired naval officer. He worked for thirty years at the U.S. Naval Institute as an oral historian and editor of *Naval History* magazine. He is the author or editor of thirteen books, including four on battleships and an award-winning volume on the Navy's first African

American officers, *The Golden Thirteen*. His most recent book is *Battleship Commander, The Life of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee, Jr.*

Following an engaging discussion between Stillwell and Zoom participants, CAPT McGinnis adjourned the meeting.

**Upcoming Events**

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

**Chapter Contacts**

Commander: CAPT Jim McGinnis, MSC, USN (Ret.) at [jmcginnis28@comcast.net](mailto:jmcginnis28@comcast.net) and 360.980.2782  
 Communications: CAPT Solon Webb, USN (Ret.) at [mendosolo@aol.com](mailto:mendosolo@aol.com) or 707.548.3720

Submitted by CAPT Solon Webb, USN, (Ret.)

**Commemoration of 124th Anniversary of The Battle of Manila Bay**

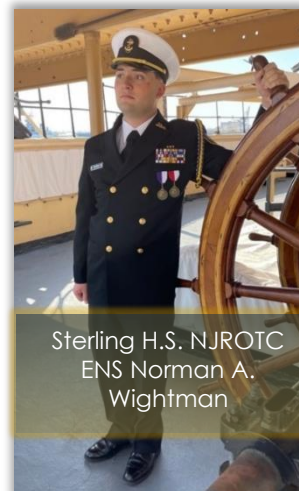
On the 30 April, the eve of the anniversary of the famous Battle of Manila Bay, a commemoration was held aboard the USS *Olympia* (C 6). It was a remembrance of the famous battle on the 1st of May 1898, in which Commodore George Dewey sailed into Manila Bay. He coolly uttered those now famous words, “You may fire when ready, Gridley,” which sailed him into the glorious annals of U.S. Naval history. His resounding and complete defeat of the Spanish Pacific Squadron led to the collapse of the Spanish Empire, and the rise of the U.S. recognition as a world power.



From left, Donald W. Schuld, Jonathan C. Jones, and Richard S. Sperry

The commemoration was led by Jonathan C. Jones and Richard S. Sperry, Commander and Vice Commander of Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Commandery. An enthusiastic group attended, among

who were NOUS officers Donald W. Schuld, Vice Commander General-Membership and a member of New York Commandery, CAPT William F. Steagall, Jr. (Ret.), Commander, National Capital Commandery. There was also a representative from Sterling High School, Somerdale NJ, NJROTC ENS Norman C. Wightman.



Sterling H.S. NJROTC ENS Norman A. Wightman

After the wreath laying ceremony, a tour of the *Olympia* was given by Michael J. Flynn, Chief Operating Officer of the Independence Seaport Museum, followed by a luncheon at the Seaport Hilton Hotel's “Admiral's Quarters” overlooking the Delaware River. After a brief talk, Mr. Flynn gave everyone a new old stock commemorative coin made from one of the *Olympia*'s screws.

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CAPT Steagall also spoke briefly on Dewey's tactics and how the event transpired during the battle.



CAPT William F. Steagall, Jr.

This first battle of the Spanish American War was sparked by the destruction of the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor, Cuba on 15 February 1898. In March, an official Naval Court of Inquiry with scant evidence, ruled that an underwater mine had resulted in the destruction of the ship but stopped short of placing direct blame on Spain. While the cause and responsibility for her sinking remained entirely unclear after the Court of Inquiry, nevertheless, popular opinion in the U.S., swayed by inflammatory articles printed in the Yellow Press by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, squarely placed blame on Spain. With the loss of nearly three quarters of her crew, the words "Remember the Maine" became a battle cry from the people of the U.S. seeking vengeance for the sinking. A declaration of war followed in April, and a mere six days later, Dewey would deliver a crushing blow to the Spanish forces in the Philippines. The brief war ended in December, ceding Guam, Wake, Puerto Rico, and Cuba to America, and the Philippines were purchased for the bargain price of \$20 million. Virtually overnight, the Spanish Empire had vanished and the United States had become a recognized world power.

Upon return to America, Dewey came home to a hero's welcome. Congress granted him the title of Admiral of The Navy, a position he held until his death, upon which the office ceased to exist. At a large public gathering in Washington, he received from President William McKinley an elegant special sword made by Tiffany & Company and authorized by Congress. He served a total of 62 years in the Navy. Upon his death on 16 January 1917, after lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda, he was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery, however his remains were later moved in 1925 by his widow to the Bethlehem Chapel on the crypt level in the National Cathedral.

Admiral Dewey served as Commander General of the Naval Order from 1907-1917.

Submitted by Earl C. Wightman

Although monthly attendance has been muted due to COVID, the San Francisco Commandery continued its outstanding luncheon Speaker Series program, and Companions continued to participate in numerous community and military themed events.

April's speaker was Steve Minniear, a local author and unofficial historian of the nearby suburban town of Dublin. He spoke about the massive U.S. Navy presence in the then rural community of Dublin during World War II. The Navy facility, known as Camp Shoemaker during the war, was primarily a processing point and Naval Hospital for U.S. Navy Seabees going to and returning from the Pacific theatre. After the war, it became an Air Force base without an airfield. What remains of the base is now known as Camp Parks Reserve base. Although run by the Army, it still has a Seabee presence.

In May, Mr. Robert Bezak of the Veteran's Administration led a special presentation on the Veterans Administration redevelopment project at Alameda Point, formerly Naval Air Station Alameda. When completed, it will serve an estimated 270,000 Veterans in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Facilities on the site will include a 158,000 square foot Community Based Outpatient Clinic, a National Cemetery Columbarium that will have the potential to hold the remains of 300,000 Veterans and spouses, and a Veterans Benefits Service Center to help bring VA programs to the many veterans residing in the area. The project has been authorized by Congress with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers overseeing construction.

May typically includes the graduation ceremonies for local NROTC units. Our commandery has had the honor of presenting a Naval Officer's sword to the Distinguished Graduates of the NROTC programs of the University of California and the California Maritime Academy as part of the Rear Admiral Henry J. Armstrong Award Program.

Cal Alumnus and Past Commander General, RADM Doug Moore, made the presentation at the University of California to Ensign Morgan Markow and MCCS Bob Hansen, whose grandfather was a merchant seaman, made the presentation to Ensign Keegan Flynn at the Maritime Academy.

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Flanked by NROTC Unit CO, CAPT Travis Perzoldt, USN and instructor GySgt Henry Perkins, USMC, RADM Doug Moore presents a Naval officer's sword to Ensign Morgan Markow

The award is named in honor of RADM Henry Jacques Armstrong, first commanding officer of USS *Spence* (DD 512), which was part of the famous Destroyer Squadron 23, known as the "Little Beavers" Squadron, when it was commanded by then CAPT Arleigh Burke, later Chief of Naval Operations. The high tempo of wartime operations characterized by high-speed engagements earned ADM Burke the nickname "31-knot Burke" and the squadron the nickname "Little Beavers." Their mascot was a comic strip character from the "Adventures of Red Ryder."

On 21 May, MCCS Hansen and other commandery companions had the honor of participating in a special SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* Armed Forces Day cruise. The *O'Brien* sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and paused to scatter ashes of deceased individuals and toss memorial lei wreathes overboard. Senior Chief Hansen had the privilege of tossing a wreath to "never forget" those who had served.

*Jeremiah O'Brien* is a class EC2-S-CI ship, built in just 56 days at the New England Shipbuilding Corporation in South Portland, Maine and launched on 19 June 1943. *O'Brien* was part of the "Operation Neptune" invasion fleet armada on D-Day.

*Jeremiah O'Brien* was mothballed and remained in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay for 33 years. In the 1970s, the ship was put aside for preservation instead of being sold for scrap.

An all-volunteer group, the National Liberty Ship Memorial (NLSM), acquired *Jeremiah O'Brien* in 1979 for restoration. At that time, she was virtually the last Liberty Ship at the anchorage. After more than three decades in mothballs, *Jeremiah O'Brien's* boilers were lit.

The ship left the mothball fleet on 6 October 1979 bound for San Francisco Bay, drydocking, and thousands of

hours of restoration work. She was the only Liberty Ship to leave the mothball fleet under her own power.

She was named a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1984 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986. Licensed to carry tours around San Francisco Bay, the ship was restored to oceangoing specification. After efforts in securing sponsorship, this was accomplished in time for the 50th D-Day Anniversary.

In 1994, *Jeremiah O'Brien* steamed through the Golden Gate bound for France. She went down the West Coast, through the Panama Canal, and crossed the Atlantic for the first time since World War II. Crewed by veterans and volunteers, she was the only large ship from the original Normandy flotilla to return for the event.

Docked at Pier 45 in San Francisco, she now makes several passenger-carrying daylight cruises, including the Armed Forces Day memorial cruise, each year in the San Francisco Bay, and occasional voyages to more distant ports.

Footage of the ship's engine was used in the 1997 film *Titanic*. The engine is very similar to the engines on board the RMS *Titanic*; two of her engines were triple expansion marine steam engines, albeit *Titanic's* engines were four cylinders as opposed to three.

The ship is completely restored to its original World War II configuration. Most areas are open to the public, including the engine room, bridge, and cargo holds. Modernization has been kept to a minimum and mostly involves systems related to safety, communications, and navigation.



The Liberty Ship SS *Jeremiah O'Brien*

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Memorial Day weekend was commemorated with the annual USS *San Francisco* Memorial event at Land's End park in San Francisco. This was the first public event at the site since 2019. The Memorial itself includes an actual portion of the heavily damaged bridge, salvaged during the post-battle repair.

The special "Chair of Honor" for the Event was Mess Attendant First Class Leonard Roy Harmon, who was killed during the battle. As their names were read, the bells were tolled for Harmon and the other sailors and marines who lost their lives aboard the ship during the Battles of Guadalcanal.

The most prominent name read was RADM Daniel Callaghan, who as commander of Task Group 67.4, was killed along with most of his command staff on the bridge of USS *San Francisco* on 13 November 1942 during the height of the battle. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism.

Four Medal of Honors, 32 Navy Crosses and 21 Silver Stars awarded members of the crew. There is always an aura of poignancy when Callaghan's name is read – he was a native San Franciscan. Wreaths were presented in memory of all who gave their lives during the battle: American, Japanese and Korean.

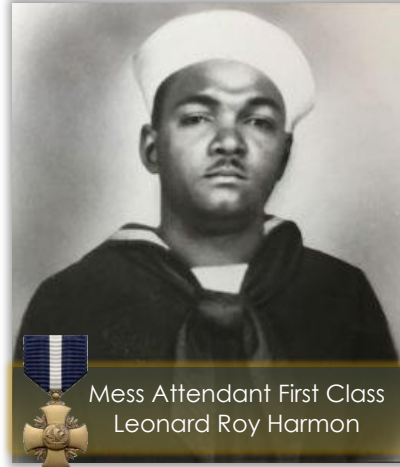
A separate memorial bell was rung for seven members of the USS *San Francisco* Memorial foundation, Companions of our Commandery, who have passed since the last public commemorative event in 2019. Japanese Deputy Consul General Hajime Kishimori and CAPT Taylor Lam, USCG, made brief remarks.

The Keynote Speaker was Professor James Armstead who reflected on Mess Attendant First Class Harmon. Harmon was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism. Armstead noted that Petty Officer Harmon was the first African American to have a ship named after him, USS *Harmon* (DE 678). He also remarked on how the Navy

has changed over the years with many junior enlisted having attended college and minorities no longer relegated to being "mess attendants."

The color guard was provided by the Scottish American Military Society with Piper Lynne S. Miller. The Mare Island Chorale sang 'The Navy Hymn' and 'America the Beautiful' a cappella. Celebratory music was performed by The Sea Cadet Band of the West.

### **From Petty Officer Harmon's Navy Cross Citation:**

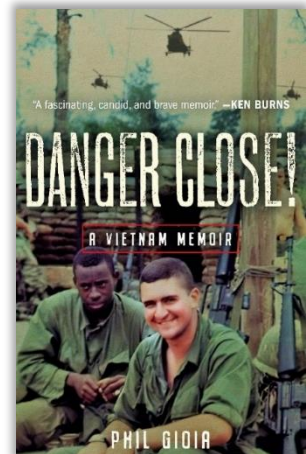


*The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (posthumously) to Mess Attendant First Class Leonard Roy Harmon ... for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in action against the enemy while serving on board the Heavy*

*Cruiser USS San Francisco (CA 38), during action against enemy Japanese naval forces near Savo Island in the Solomon Islands on the night of on 12 -13 November 1942. With persistent disregard of his own personal safety, Mess Attendant First Class Harmon rendered invaluable assistance in caring for the wounded and assisting them to a dressing station ... he deliberately exposed himself to hostile gunfire in order to protect a shipmate and, as a result of this courageous deed, was killed in action. **His heroic spirit of self-sacrifice, maintained above and beyond the call of duty, was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.** He gallantly gave his life for his country.*

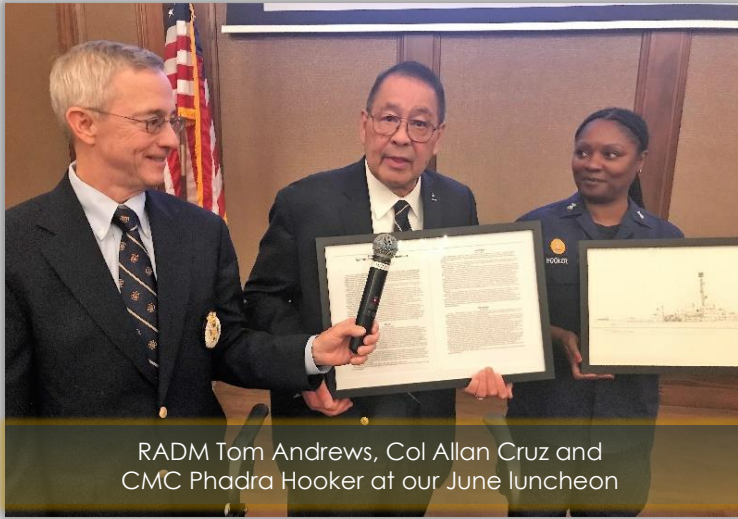
For June, our luncheon speaker was Phil Gioia, who talked about his newly published autobiography. **Danger Close.**

He related his life as a military brat and his life experiences as a cadet at the Virginia Military Institute and with the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam. Phil was a consultant to, and featured in, the Ken Burns PBS documentary on the Vietnam War.



# SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

A very special guest at our June luncheon was Command Master Chief Phadra Hooker, USCG. CMC Hooker represented Coast Guard District 11 Commander RADM Brian Penoyer for a presentation of Coast Guard Memorabilia by Past Commander General Col Allan Cruz. CMC Hooker indicated her interest in being active in the Naval Order once she retires to Florida.



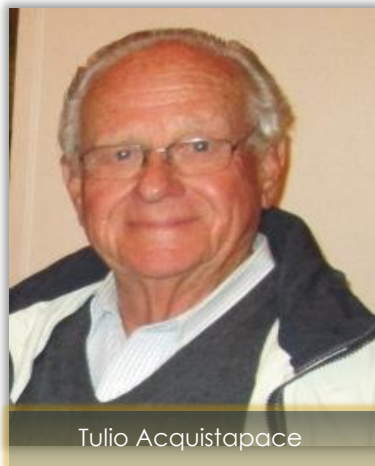
RADM Tom Andrews, Col Allan Cruz and CMC Phadra Hooker at our June luncheon

Our summer program will continue unabated with the Korean War Memorial Event and speakers from the Korean War Memorial committee at our luncheons. The Memorial Foundation and Memorial were largely spearheaded by our late Companion LtCol John Stevens, with Companion Don Reid. Many of our Companions have and continue to serve on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

## In Memoriam

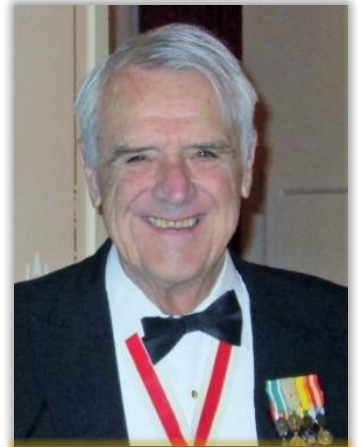
The San Francisco Commandery has been saddened by the passing recently of some very important Companions, as well as friends of our Commandery.

CAPT Tulio Acquistapace, SC, USN (Ret.) would take public transportation from his home in the suburbs to our luncheon venues to share sea stories with his fellow "supply types" of which we have a surfeit.



Tulio Acquistapace

CAPT Stan Ellekson, USN (Ret.) was an active officer in the Naval Order for many years. Before COVID, he was also active in the American Legion. He was thrilled when we started having in-person meetings again in August. We last saw him in September.



Stan Ellekson

QMCS Mickey Ganitch, USN, (Ret.) was aboard the USS *Pennsylvania* at Pearl Harbor and was always willing to speak on the events of 7 December 1941. He was active in his Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Masons. If you ever watched the History Channel you would have likely seen him interviewed. A world traveler, he would need to pull out his date book as his calendar would often be full. He lived to celebrate his 102nd birthday.



Mickey Ganitch

We also lost a very special Marine when Sergeant Major John Canley, USMC (Ret.) who was featured in the Spring 2022 newsletter, passed away. Canley earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during the 1968 TET offensive. A frequent guest of the Marines Memorial Club, we had hoped to invite him to join our commandery when we heard the news of his passing. SEMPER Fi Sergeant Major.



SgtMaj Canley

Submitted by MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret.)



# TAMPA BAY COMMANDERY

Tuesday, 24 May 2022 was a big day in Florida - the third Florida Naval Order Commandery was chartered, Tampa Bay Commandery. CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.) is the new Commander. Jim Hoey, USN is Membership/Recorder. CDR Burt Folce, USCG (Ret.) is Treasurer. RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret.) is Council Member at Large.

Commander General CAPT Bob Whitkop, USN (Ret.) did us the honor of officiating and bringing the Commandery to life. We also had two previous Commanders General in attendance: RADM Bill Merlin ('95-'97) and CAPT Michele Lockwood ('15-'17). We were joined by the Vice President of the Tampa Navy League, CDR Tom O'Malley, USN (Ret.).



CAPT Michelle Lockwood, Commander General CAPT Bob Whitkop, Companion Gregory Clarke, RADM Bill Merlin, RADM Lawrence Chambers, CAPT Kris Carlock

We chartered the new Commandery with a total of 35 companions. Nine companions were recruited directly into Tampa Bay Commandery in the last 10 months. The other 25 came from various Commanderies across the country who had recently moved to Florida. None of them hesitated to join when invited.



Tampa Bay Commandery Companions and guests.

The chartering event was a great success -- 30 in attendance for a wonderful luncheon at the beautiful Bayou Club, Seminole, FL. Our engaging

speaker was RADM Lawrence Chambers, USN (Ret.) who had assisted in the evacuation of Saigon in April of 1975 as the very new Commanding Officer of USS Midway. It was discovered just the day before the luncheon that ADM Chambers was a former Naval Order companion, joining in 1980. He was then Commander, Carrier Group Three and joined the San Francisco Commandery #5428. He will soon be active in the Tampa Bay Commandery again.



Commander General CAPT Bob Whitkop and CAPT Kris Carlock

After presenting Charter Member Certificates to all in attendance, CAPT Whitkop had some inspirational words about the Naval Order mission, the military richness of the Tampa

Bay area, and the width and breadth of our local membership. He finished up the day by presenting 25-year-pins to four companions in attendance, RADM Bill Merlin, Alice Merlin, CAPT Bob Clime, and to his great surprise, RADM Larry Chambers – our speaker!

Florida is now the state with the most Commanderies (3). In attendance was the 10,000th Naval Order companion - 94-year-old Betty Carlock. Also in attendance were #10132 and 10134, two of the three very newest companions; CAPT Art Whiting, USCG (Ret.) and CAPT G. Mark Hardy, USN (Ret.) #10133, Kristina Mendez is also a Tampa Bay companion, but could not make this event.

Of the four states with over 100 companions, Florida comes in third with 139 companions, 1st – California - 226, 2nd – Virginia - 161, 4th – Texas -107.

Tampa Bay Commandery plans to hold monthly meetings at a local venue, starting 6 June with a luncheon and a speaker LCDR Andy Pray, USN (Ret.), topic- Battle of Midway.

**Submitted by CAPT Kris Carlock, USN (Ret.)**

## HENRY JACQUES ARMSTRONG 1903-1989

Every Congress the Naval Order presents the Captain Jan Armstrong Award to an outstanding Commandery. CAPT Armstrong was a Naval Order Companion, friend, and shipmate to many. We also present Naval Officer swords in honor of her father, Henry Jacques Armstrong, to outstanding graduates of Northern California NROTC units. The senior Armstrong, like his daughter, a companion of the San Francisco Commandery, had an illustrious career that many of us may not know about. The following is excerpted from his biography at the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Henry Jacques Armstrong was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 14 June 1903, son of the late Henry J. and Elizabeth (Green) Armstrong. He graduated from East Side High School in Salt Lake City and attended the University of Utah before entering the U.S. Naval Academy on 3 June 1923. He graduated and was commissioned Ensign with the Class of 1927.

He had sea duty until 1929, serving successively as watch and junior division officer in the USS *Medusa*, the USS *Colorado* (BB 45), and as Assistant Engineer Officer of USS *Henshaw* (DD 278). He had flight training at the Naval Air Station, North Island, in 1929 and 1930. Later, he was again at sea, first as Engineer and Watch Officer of the USS *Pruitt* (DD 347) and as Ship's Secretary and Direction Operator in USS *Saratoga* (CV 3).

He was a student in General Line at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1935-1936, and, after completing the Hydrographic Course, served as Executive Officer and Navigator of the USS *Fairfax* (DD 93).

At sea during the period 1938-1939, he served in USS

*Nokomis* (YT 142), on survey duty, as Officer in Charge, U.S. Navy Houseboat #1, Ocean and Lakes Officer; and in USS *Oklahoma* (BB 37). Upon his return to the United States, he was assigned duty as an instructor in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit of the University of California at Berkeley.

He is entitled to wear the presidential Unit Citation awarded to Destroyer Squadron 23: "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the Solomon Islands ... ."



Henry Jacques Armstrong as a Midshipman

He was personally awarded the Navy Cross, a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Navy Cross, and Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", for service during the period of his command. The citations read in part:

Navy Cross: "For extraordinary heroism... during a night engagement with six enemy Japanese warships off Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, on 24-25 November 1943... (He) fought his ship with resolute courage and daring aggressiveness, frequently risking his own personal safety to press home vigorous, unrelenting attacks upon Japanese surface forces... ."

After attending Sound School at San Diego, California, he assumed command, in July 1941, of USS *Waters* (DD 115), and took that destroyer from Honolulu to the Aleutian Islands. He was in command of the *Waters* when the United States entered World War II. During the period 1942-1944, he commanded USS *Spence* (DD 512), participating in the Casablanca Convoy and operations in the Southwest Pacific as a part of Destroyer Squadron 23, "Little Beavers" including the

Continued on next page...



# HENRY JACQUES ARMSTRONG

bombardment of Kavieng, the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay, and others.

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Navy Cross: "...on the night of 1-2 November 1943. With his Task Force engaging a Japanese surface force of superior fire power, (he) hurled the full fighting strength of his ship against the enemy and...aided his Task Force in sinking five hostile warships, in damaging four others and in completely routing the enemy, thereby contributing materially to the successful establishment of our beachhead on Bougainville Island..." He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal, with "V": "For heroic achievement as Commanding Officer of the USS Spence, for other actions against enemy forces.

He was subsequently ordered to USS *Adams* (DM 27) building at the Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine. He assumed command of *Adams* at her commissioning in October 1944. In early 1945, *Adams* participated in action at Kerama, Rhetto and Okinawa. The *Adams* was struck twice and seriously damaged by kamikazes and returned to San Francisco steering by engines. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroism during these actions. Under his command the *Adams* was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for "outstanding heroism in action" 24 March to 1 April 1945..."

He detached from the *Adams* and given command of Mine Division EIGHT, and later was Task Unit Commander of a "Guinea Pig Group" for ocean sweeps in the China Sea and to test channels before

entrance of our forces into Japan channels. He received a Legion of Merit, with Combat "V", was awarded him "For exceptionally meritorious conduct... ." 7 May 1945 to 23 December 1947. During that period, he displayed outstanding courage and leadership in the sweeping and buoying of enemy mine fields in the East China Sea and Japanese waters..."

United States, he served a tour of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He then reported to Commander Cruisers-Destroyers, Pacific, for four months' duty, after which from February 1951 to February 1952, he served as Commander Destroyer Squadron 15. During this period, he served as Screen Commander of fast carrier operations off Korea during three difference periods, and successively as "Mayor of Won" and Governor of Wonson, conducting extensive shore bombardments and patrol activities.

As a result of these operations, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit with Combat "V".

In March 1952, he joined the staff of Commander Caribbean Sea Frontier to serve as Director of Intelligence. On 26 October 1953, he was ordered to duty as commanding Officer of USS *Worcester* (CL 144) until detached on 7 April 1955 He retired in 1956 and died on 5 April 1989, in Walnut Creek, California.

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



## USS J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF (DDG 138)

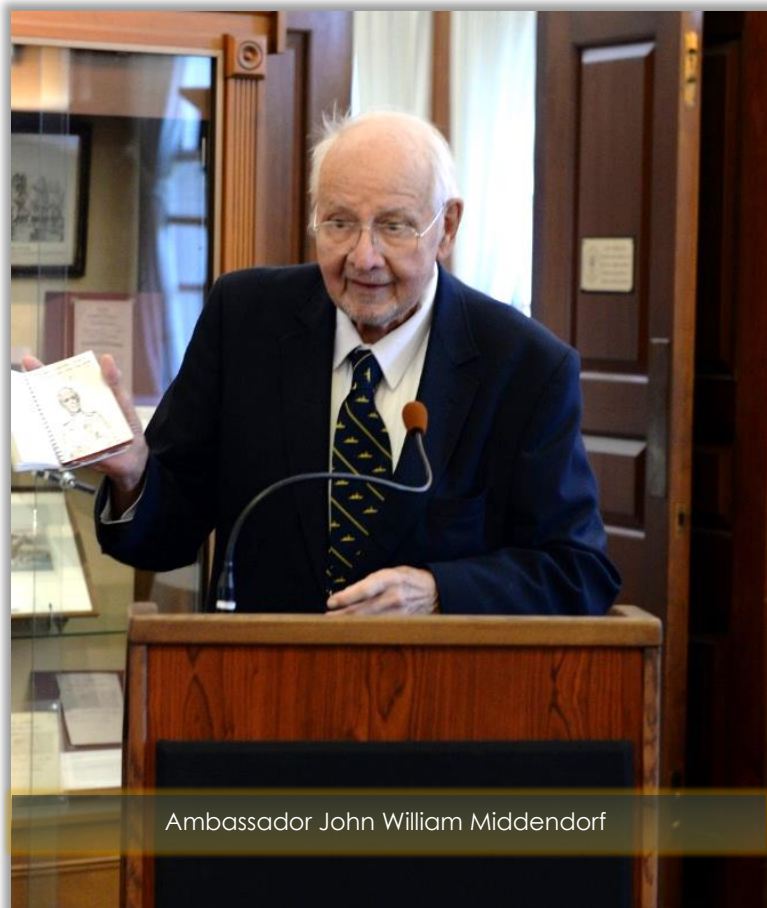
Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Carlos Del Toro, announced during the Naval War College commencement on 10 June, that future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG 138 will be named *USS J. William Middendorf* (DDG 138). Middendorf has been a companion of the Naval Order since joining the New York Commandery in 1950. He currently belongs to the Newport Commandery.

The future *USS J. William Middendorf* will honor former Secretary of the Navy and U.S. Ambassador, J. William Middendorf II. The name selection follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes. In 2020, former Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, announced his intention to name a ship after Middendorf, but had not dedicated the name to an assigned hull number. Today, Del Toro assigns the name to DDG138 which was appropriated in the fiscal year 2022 budget.

"I am pleased to honor Secretary Spencer's previous decision to name a ship after Ambassador J. William Middendorf and I am incredibly proud to announce it here, at the Naval War College, during the commencement of our future leaders," said Del Toro. "Middendorf's spirit of innovation and questioning helped champion programs that are still defending our nation today. This namesake ship will continue to inspire that legacy."

Middendorf was born in 1924, in Baltimore MD. Throughout 1944-1946, served in the U.S. Navy as an engineer and navigator aboard landing craft support ship, USS LCS (L)(3)-53, he earned his Bachelor of Naval Science. After a discharge from Naval Service as a lieutenant, he earned an additional B.A. from Harvard University and then an M.B.A. from New York University.

In 1969, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, and continued in the position until 1973. He then served as Under Secretary of the Navy with an appointment from President Nixon. On 8 April 1974, Middendorf became the 62nd Secretary of the Navy. During his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he championed the Trident submarine program, AEGIS Missile system, oversaw the creation of the famed Marine Corps Marathon, and was instrumental in the development of the F/A-18 Hornet.



Ambassador John William Middendorf

In addition to his career in public service, Middendorf is widely respected philanthropist and an accomplished author, artist, and composer.

"I met with Middendorf recently, affirming my decision to move forward with the previous naming decision. His ongoing leadership and respect provides a worthy cause for the naming of a destroyer," said Del Toro. "The men and women who will sail upon this vessel will undoubtedly be inspired and strengthened by legacy of the namesake, ultimately impacting actions and decisions that will further our nation and freedom across the globe"

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, built around the Aegis Combat System, are the backbone of the U.S. Navy's surface fleet providing protection to America around the globe. They incorporate stealth techniques, allowing these highly capable, multi-mission ships to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence to national security, providing a wide range of warfighting capabilities in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface domains.

**Submitted by Dr. Judy Pearson**



## Welcome New Companions!

### Atlanta

RADM James Mitchell McGarragh, CEC, USN (Ret.)

### Charleston

CAPT Carradean Lynn Brown, USN (Ret.)

Mr. James William Forrester

Mrs. Aimee Janell Pereira

### Continental

Mr. Robert Walter Davis

Mr. Marc Workman

### National Capital

VADM Terry Joseph Benedict, USN (Ret.)

LtCol Joshua Edward Vincent, USMCR (Ret.)

CAPT Mark Scott Winward, USN (Ret.)

### Philadelphia/Delaware Valley

LCDR David Ernest Neimeyer, USN (Ret.)

Mr. Norman Alexander Campbell Wightman

### San Diego

CMDCM Matthew Danforth, USN

Mr. Peter Deyell

### Southeast Florida

CDR Michael A. Fiorino, USN (Ret.)

LT Sanford Raymond Sears, USCG (Ret.)

### Tampa Bay

Mr. Jeffrey Lon Clarke

SSgt Robert Edward Hadd, ARG (Ret.)

CAPT G. Mark Hardy, USN (Ret.)

Ms. Kristina Nicole Schmidt Mendez

CAPT Arthur Alvin Whiting, USCG (Ret.)

### Texas

Col Jimmy Lee Mitchell, USMC (Ret.)

### Western New York

Mr. Arnold Jules Rubenstein

CDR John Joseph Trombetta, USN (Ret.)

Send all contact info changes to:

CAPT M. K. Carlock

6205 7th Ave N

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

M.K.Carlock@gmail.com

## MEMBERS-MEMBERS !!!

At this writing, 36 inquiries and four referrals have been sent to me. All have been sent a NOUS brochure and an application, bringing the total pending memberships to 59, many of which go back six months or more. With multiple follow ups, a good number will eventually join.

Each Local Commander was asked to reach out to their respective members and promote a recruiting effort. While a few did, it appears that most did not, evidenced by no significant increase in submitted applications so far this month. So, the trend continues that more members are finding us, than us finding members.

By the time you read this, membership month will have concluded, so no results are available for publishing at this point. Final results will be available at this year's Congress and in a future issue of this magazine.

A study and analysis is currently underway to evaluate the demographics of our current membership and how we, as an organization, can mine the vast community of potential members living among us.



Surely each of us, with a little effort, could propose at least one new member. The other organizations you belong to are the perfect places to find new members. If you send me their contact information, I will do the rest!

EVERYONE,  
GO GET ONE!

**Donald W. Schuld, USN**  
**Naval Order of the United States**  
**Vice Commander General-Membership**  
**3 Mildred Terrace, Flanders, N.J. 07836**  
**Home: 973-584-9634 Cell: 201-874-0730**

The New York Commandery regrets to announce the passing of Companion Roy DeFranco. He died on 7 June 2022 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Roy was the long-time and faithful Treasurer of the Commandery from 2004 until 2022. His tireless dedication to the New York Commandery and the Naval Order was unmatched by anyone. He was the tantamount shipmate and will be missed.

Roy was born in Paterson, NJ on 7 March 1945, to Philip and Gertrude (nee Tschopp). He moved to Wayne, New Jersey with his family when he was 13. He was a graduate from Wayne Senior High School in 1962. After high school Roy enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and after graduating in 1966 from Paterson State College, now known as William Paterson University, he served two years active duty in the Navy based in Norfolk, Virginia. Roy was very patriotic and proud to be a veteran. He supported veterans throughout his life.

Roy began his teaching career in Pequannock Township where he taught social studies for 18 years. During his time in Pequannock Township, he continued his education and received his Masters of Education from Seton Hall University. He then furthered his education at Montclair University receiving several more educational certifications.

In 1987 his career took a turn when he took a position with the Hopatcong Board of Education working in the central office and subsequently became the high school principal. He remained in

that position until he retired from education in 2001.

After his retirement from education, Roy was fortunate to have a second career with Catholic Charities. He became the development director for the Department of Persons with Disabilities. This position was life changing. Roy was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Francis Koch Council 6343 in Echo Lake, New Jersey for almost 50 years and he was a Past Grand Knight. Being strongly influenced by the United States Navy, Roy became a member of the Naval Order of the United States, New York Commandery where he held the position of treasurer.

Roy met the love of his life, Linda, in 1966 in the A&P where they were both working during their college years. They were married four years later on 18 April 1970. They settled in Parsippany and then Wayne and after their sons, Roy and Matthew, were born. They then moved to West Milford where they remained for the rest of their 52-year marriage. Roy was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. Nothing was more

important to him or brought him more joy than his family and spending time with them. He was extremely proud of his sons and the men they became.

Roy is survived by his wife Linda (née Bufardeci) of West Milford, two sons, Roy DeFranco Jr. and his wife Stephanie of Astoria, Queens, and Matthew DeFranco and his wife Camille of Pompton Plains, his grandchildren Lucia, Amelia, Rocco, and Cameron, his brother Philip and his wife Randee, and his sister-in-law Andrea Cardelfe and her husband Scott.



Roy DeFranco



**We note the passing of our fellow Naval Order Companions  
in 2021 and 2022.**

**May their memories be a blessing.**

**Florida First Coast Commandery**

- CAPT William Posey Bosworth, MC, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 8142)

Florida First Coast Commandery

Joined 01 June 2002

Died 02 February 2022

- LCDR Campbell J. McCarthy, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 7783)

Florida First Coast Commandery

Joined 01 May 1999

Died 21 April 2022

- CAPT Zsolt Thomas Stockinger, MC, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 8091)

Florida First Coast Commandery

Joined 09 January 2002

Died 19 October 2021

**National Capital Commandery**

- Dr. Elmon Harold Roy (USN Vet)  
(Certificate 7812)

National Capital Commandery

Joined 26 July 1999

Died 23 February 2022

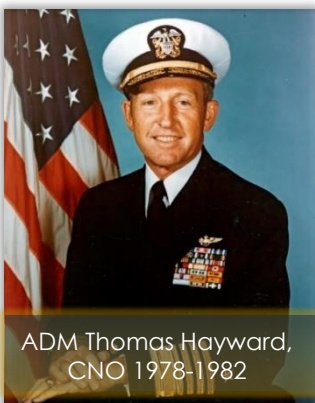
**New Orleans Commandery**

- Mr. Richard Alcee Juge (USCG Vet)  
(Certificate 8777)

New Orleans Commandery

Joined 08 March 2008

Died 22 February 2022



ADM Thomas Hayward,  
CNO 1978-1982

**Northwest  
Commandery**

- ADM Thomas Bibb  
Hayward, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 5670)

Northwest  
Commandery

Joined  
21 September 1984

Died  
03 March 2022

**Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Commandery**

- LCDR William Rocco (Mazzocchetti) Mayo, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 6676)

Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Commandery

Joined 29 January 1990

Died 23 January 2022

**San Francisco Commandery**

- LCDR George Hoyt Martin, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 6075)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 02 May 1988

Died 18 January 2022

- CAPT Tulio G. Acquistapace, SC, USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 5168)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 15 October 1986

Died 28 May 2022

- CAPT Stanley Edgar Ellexson, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
(Certificate 5540)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 03 January 1983

Died 05 March 2022

- Mr. William Ray Ward  
(Certificate 5994)

San Francisco Commandery

Joined 12 October 1987

Died 23 March 2021

**Texas Commandery**

- CAPT William David Compton, USPHS (Ret.)  
(Certificate 9175)

Texas Commandery

Joined 12 February 2012

Died 14 April 2022



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