



ALL AHEAD FULL



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

WINTER 2019-2020



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings, shipmates,

This will be my final entry as president of the Baltimore Council. My term expires this month (January) and another hand will be at the helm from now on.

I joined the Navy League more than half a century ago. Though a veteran of the Army, naval history has always been of keen interest to me. When I arrived in Baltimore more than three decades ago the then president of the Baltimore Council, Bruce Copland reached out and in less time that it takes to take I was on board this council. As an officer, often president, of the board for more than a quarter of a century it has been my privilege to be involved, along with my colleagues, in the ongoing growth and development of the Baltimore Council.

Ship commissionings, Fleet Week celebrations, maritime special events of all manner, closer ties to the sea services and the men and women who wear or wore the uniform, the creation of a heavily endowed trust fund to benefit USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000) and her crew; all have taken place during that period. We helped develop a unit of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps that has grown exponentially in recent years to become one of the premier Sea Cadet companies in the nation. We have expanded considerably our involvement in and support for Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs in the region we serve. And we, as always value the support we have received from our membership.

It is my intention to remain as a member of the board for as long as I am welcome, and to continue to as executive editor of this publication: But not as an officer per se. It's time to set some of those responsibilities aside and leave them to others.

Brigadier General Arthur J. "Joe" Nattans, my likely successor is no stranger to the role of leadership. A retired flag officer in the Armed Forces of the United States he, and those who will assist him, are all fully committed and dedicated to our ongoing mission which began more than a century ago.

My thanks for having been given the high honor of leading the activities of the Baltimore Council. I wish you all "fair winds and following seas."

God Bless the United States of America, now and always. ⚓

Alan Walden, President and Life Member

Fraternal Twins

Always More Events



Walden, Nattans, Melnikoff

During the fall and early winter it sometimes seemed as though the two top officers of the Baltimore Council were joined at the hip: Chances are where you found one you would also find the other. November 22nd was a case in point. Most of us recall that date because of the tragedy in 1963 when an assassin's bullet took the life of John Kennedy. In 2019, however, there was reason to celebrate rather than mourn as friends and comrades gathered at the Peppermill Restaurant in Baltimore Council to toast the 100th birthday of Steve Melnikoff who, three quarters of a century earlier, was one of



The Greatest Generation who landed in Normandy as a member of the famed 29th Division. Council President Alan Walden was invited to read several of the proclamations and other congratulatory notes to mark the occasion. And Brigadier General Joe Nattans, Senior Vice President of the

The Sea Cadets

Fort McHenry Division/Training Ship Constellation



At GBMC



At Taney on Pier Five.



The Navy Mile



By LTJG Andrea Thomas

After a very busy Summer Training Season, the Sea and League Cadets participated and volunteered in the Greater Baltimore Medical Center Legacy Chase event, in which they help set up and performed Color Guard for the annual event. The Cadets also ran in the Navy Mile, an annual event at the Navy Memorial in Washington DC that helps support the Sea and League Cadet organizations.

Our local events included performing as color guard for the National Federation of the Blind National Convention, and participating with the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) in Baltimore at their annual Family Day. We joined with the Baltimore City Police Explorers in transporting food from Shoppers Warehouse to the St. Vincent Beans and Bread Center. We went aboard the Liberty Ship John W. Brown and USCGC Taney, the latter for the annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony, and helped American Legion Post 22 in their annual Breakfast with Santa event. ⚓

(Editor's Note: LTJG Thomas is the newly installed interim commanding officer of the Fort McHenry Division/Training Ship Constellation unit(s) of the Sea Cadets.)

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Nattans, Morneau, Walden

Council, was there, too to join in the celebration. Among the accolades, richly deserved by one of the few remaining survivors of a seminal moment in history, was a letter from the President of the United States.

Only a few weeks later, on 4 December, Walden and Nattans were together again for the Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Baltimore Council-NLUS. For the first time in recent memory, the events moved from Baltimore County into the city – to the Pier 5 Hotel on the Inner Harbor where a dozen of members of the council along with friends and other true believers enjoyed an elegant dinner and a time of pre-holiday cheer. A brief business meeting was conducted by council JAG Lee Ottey, and those assembled were also treated to a spirited and on target presentation by guest speaker Frank A. Morneau, Naval Academy alumnus and retired rear admiral, now a top executive at a defense industry related firm in Baltimore. The color guard for the event was made up of well turned out members of the Fort McHenry Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Joe DiCara, the celebrated Baltimore baritone, led the crowd in a heartfelt rendition of the National Anthem. The Pier 5 Hotel was a picture perfect setting for such an occasion: Every view from the room was of the harbor. ⚓

Those Who Served

Veterans Day

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is always a special time in Baltimore, as it is around the nation and throughout much of the western world. There was a near overflow crowd in the War Memorial building as members of veteran organizations, active members of the armed forces, and top officials from the municipal, state, and federal governments gathered to honor all of those men and women who have worn the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the United States. Former state legislator Clarence “Tiger” Davis, chairman of the Baltimore Veterans Commission, was the man in charge. And, as he has been for many years, Baltimore Council President Alan Walden was Master of Ceremony. Mayor Jack Young was there as were United States Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congressman John Sarbanes, who represents the 3rd District of Maryland in the House of Representatives. Also in attendance and recipient of a special award was Major General Linda Singh, now retired after many years of service in the Maryland National Guard culminating in her recent term as the Adjutant General.

At precisely 1100 hours, the bells of nearby Zion Lutheran church tolled the moment at which, in 1918, the guns fell silent at the conclusion of what was, at the time, called “The War to End All Wars.” That it wasn’t is a burden we still carry. †



Walden at the War Memorial

Jarhead Discipline

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

By Alan Walden



After thirty years of honorable service, the USMC sergeant major decided it was time

for a change and turned in his papers. But his commitment to service remained as strong as ever and, rather than a quiet retirement, he applied for and was hired as a MCJROTC instructor at an inner city high school. Upon arrival for the first day of classes he was confronted by a room full of unruly teenagers who were obviously accustomed to misbehaving pretty much as they wished. It was, in a word, bedlam. Not an auspicious beginning for

a career E-9 who a week before school started was in an accident that required him to wear a full upper body cast under his uniform.

It was a warm day and the windows of the classroom were, therefore, open to the elements. A stiff breeze was blowing and, much to the sergeant major’s annoyance, his tie was flapping wildly. But the discomfort of the body cast and the stapler he saw on the desk gave him an idea. He called for attention and, in the momentary lull that followed picked it up, held the tie in place with one hand and, with the other, slammed a staple through the tie and into his chest.

From that moment forward he had the best behaved class in the entire school. †

Just for Fun



Double Header

December 7th



Milford Mill Academy MCJROTC

It was a calendar coincidence that led two major events to occur on the same day; one right after the other.

First, a crowd of several hundred gathered on the quarterdeck of USCGC Taney and on Pier Five at the Inner Harbor for the annual commemoration of “the date which will live in infamy,” the 78th anniversary of the attack on the United States battle fleet at Pearl Harbor that led to our entry into World War II. The weather was perfect; those assembled properly reverent and attentive as a crack, spit and polish team from the MCJROTC program at Milford Mill Academy presented the colors and the audience joined Joe DiCara in the singing of the National Anthem. There were two special addresses: One by Coast Guard Rear Admiral Melvin Bouboulis, Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics; the other by Walter Borneman, author of “Brothers Down,” the remarkable and sobering story of the dozens of siblings who were among the crew of USS Arizona when she was destroyed at Battleship Row on 7 December 1941. Baltimore Council President Alan Walden was, as always, Master of Ceremony. The event concluded with a 21 gun salute, the drop of a memorial wreath into the water alongside, and the singing of the Coast Guard version of “Eternal Father.” The Navy League was well represented by Brigadier General Joe



ADM Bouboulis



Walden as MC



U.S. Army Old Guard drill team



First Battalion 175th Inf.

Nattans, Baltimore Council vice president, and Gene Nuth, chair of the Youth Committee.

The action then shifted uptown as Walden and Nattans raced to the 5th Regiment Armory, a few miles away, for the annual Pass in Review of the First Battalion, 175th Infantry, a regiment that traces its roots to the formation, in 1774 by Mordecai Gist, of the First Volunteer Company of Maryland Militia. It was there that Walden, perennial MC and narrator of the ceremony, was surprised to receive from Major General Timothy Gowen, Adjutant General of the Maryland National

Guard who was representing the Chief of Infantry of the United States Army, The Order of St. Maurice. The accompanying citation reads, in part, for having “demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the

infantry, and present(ing) the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and dedication to duty.” The award is named for the commander of the Roman Theban Legion of the Third Century. Past recipients include General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Secretary of State, and former Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey. †



Walden wearing The Order of St. Maurice

The Silent Service

A Bittersweet Moment

It was a nasty, rainy day as submariners, their friends and supporters met on the deck of USS Torsk (SS-423) at the pier adjacent to the National Aquarium in Baltimore to mark the 75th anniversary of Torsk's commissioning as a fleet boat of the Navy toward the conclusion of the World War II. Once again Baltimore Council President Alan Walden was asked to assume the role of MC for the symbolic recommissioning of the warship credited with having sunk the

last enemy vessel of the conflict that ended in 1945. Chris Rowsom, Vice President of Living Classrooms Foundation and Executive Director of Historic Ships in Baltimore, which cares for Torsk, read a letter from a former adversary, a Japanese officer, who expressed his hope that the friendship between our nations will endure for all time and that the world will know peace. We sent 314 submarines against the enemy in World War II. 53 never came back.

Toward the conclusion of the event the ship's bell was struck in memory of them and the almost 3,500 men aboard who were lost with their boats. Then, as the ceremony ended Walden declared, "By my authority as President of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League, I order Historic Ships in Baltimore and Living Classrooms Foundation to man the boat, and keep her alive." ⚓



USS Torsk



Walden presides



Memorial bell sounding

Coming Up

- 1/20 Martin Luther King Day*
- 2/12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday*
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/17 Presidents Day*
- 2/22 George Washington's Birthday*
- 3/8 Daylight Saving Time begins – clocks forward one hour
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/19 Vernal Equinox – First Day of Spring

* Show the Colors

Remembering Our Mission

The NAVY LEAGUE came into being in 1902 with the express purpose "to enlighten the people on naval matters and tell them what a Navy means to the country and what it ought to mean to them."

We have always conveyed the philosophy of two of our founders, PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT and ADMIRAL ALFRED THAYER MAHAN that America is a maritime nation and that a strong Navy is the most cost-effective means of ensuring peace.

PRIDE • SERVICE • PATRIOTISM



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