



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

WINTER 2020-21



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings All!

What a challenging year! Conditions we never could have imagined occurring in this time of science and technology. The Baltimore Council NLUS has, however, continued to navigate the prevailing winds and waves to accomplish our service mission.

Our monthly meetings were conducted in person when possible and, otherwise, "virtually." Many of our normal functions were curtailed due to closures and shut downs, civic decrees, stay at home orders, cancellations and postponements; all in an effort to protect the population from the attack of Covid19 virus as I am sure you are aware.

The JROTC, USCG, and Special awards and recognition ceremonies were postponed or cancelled altogether. We were successful to some degree in awarding deserving individuals by "snail mail" or internet.

The most courageous group of our charges were our Sea Cadets who continued their volunteer program with true spirit and dedication.

On a sad note, we lost another former member of our Council Board of Directors. Richard (Dick) S. Holland. Later in this newsletter, former President Alan Walden will do an honor to Dick as a true patriot. Also of note is the accomplishment of our JAG,

Leo Ottey, in the coordination of the "Zumwalt Trust Document" of which this council is custodian. The entire board is, of course, anxious to return to normal in 2021 and prepared to sail "full speed ahead" in engaging the interrupted programs and support recognition services which are the core of our mission.

We are always looking for new members to join the Baltimore Council and encourage you to solicit patriotic friends of our services to take the "plunge" and explore membership with us in our service those who stand guard over our nation.

I am very grateful to our Board staff for their dedicated and professional assistance in the success of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States.

In conclusion I hope you all had a happy holiday season and will enjoy good health, peace, and prosperity in the new year. May God bless all of us and our nation and protect the men and women of our Armed Forces, wherever and whenever they are deployed, in defense of the republic. ⚓

"Freedom isn't free"

Joe
BG Arthur J. Nattans, USA (ret)
President & Life Member

Bravo Zulu!

An Even Dozen

Baltimore may have more than its share of problems, but maritime security certainly isn't one of them. It was announced recently that for the 12th consecutive year the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore's state-owned, public marine terminals received a top security grade from the U.S. Coast Guard.



The assessment reviewed security procedures and protocols at the six public marine terminals: Dundalk, Seagirt, North Locust Point, South Locust Point (including the cruise passenger terminal), Fairfield and Masonville. The announcement came from Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Greg Slater. "Throughout the COVID-19 emergency," he said, "the Port of Baltimore has played a crucial role in keeping Maryland's supply chain moving, and will be key in the state's economic recovery as well." And, he added, "Protecting our dedicated workforce is critical to the Port's mission, and this top security rating reflects that commitment."

Each year U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland conducts an inspection to ensure compliance of federal security regulations. The visual inspection includes a review of access control procedures and makes certain physical security fixtures, such as high-mast lighting and fencing, are up to federal security standards.

The Port of Baltimore generates about 15,300 direct jobs, with nearly 140,000 jobs overall linked to Port activities. Last year the Port handled a record 43.6 million tons of cargo, including more than 11 million tons of general cargo at the state-owned, public terminals. Baltimore ranks first among the nation's ports in volume of autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, and imported gypsum. And work is progressing on a second 50-foot berth that will allow two massive ships to visit the Port at the same time. That berth, and four new supersized cranes, are expected to be operational by summer 2021. ⚓

ZOOMing About Business Not Quite As Usual

By Alan Walden

As have so many events this year the Baltimore Council's in-person Annual Meeting and Banquet fell victim to the menace of Covid-19. But all was not lost as board member and Treasurer Chris Costello set up a ZOOM connection via which the membership could meet, as required by NLUS bylaws, and engaged in a "virtual" gathering of kindred spirits. There were a few live attendants at St. Stephen's Anglican Church on the evening of 2 December. But the operative word is "few" and we were very careful.

The Padre, the President, and the JAG (as they appear in the photo) kept the business of the evening moving at a brisk pace. Opening remarks by Brig. Gen Joe Nattans, the Pledge of Allegiance, an appropriate prayer from our host, Rev. Canon Guy Hawtin, and a report of the nominating committee from Lee Ottey.

The rest of the meeting, despite some inherent technical difficulties, was greatly enhanced by two short videos courtesy of Wicklein Group, one of the most highly regarded audio/video production companies in Maryland. Mike Wicklein, an outstanding producer, videographer, writer, editor as well as a good friend with whom I have worked on a number

of occasions, provided us with (1) the story of



Hawtin, Nattans, Ottey

the John W. Brown, one of only two WWII era Liberty ships still afloat and operational and, (2) a virtual tour of USS Constellation, the 19th Century sloop of war and the last all wooden all sail driven warship built for the United States Navy. Constellation was still in commission during WWII as the flagship of Admiral Royal Ingersoll who was, at that time CINCLANT (Commander In Chief of the Atlantic Fleet). Baltimore is home port to both vessels.

We are, course, very grateful to Mike Wicklein for his contribution, and to all of those who made things happen. And we hope that all



SS John W. Brown



USS Constellation

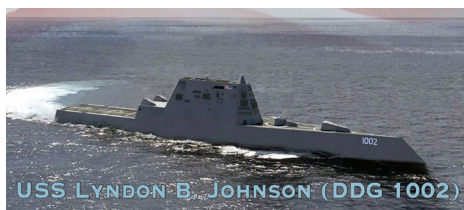
who were able to join us for this unusual event enjoyed the experience. This year, "good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise," we'll be together again, face to face. ⚓

Short Takes

On 13 October Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite announced that plans have been drawn for a new National Museum of the Navy. The SECNAV told those assembled in the Washington Navy Yard, "It is vital that the American people understand the importance of a strong and viable naval force. As a Maritime Nation, our future depends on it" And, he continued, "The new museum campus will serve as an educational, inspirational, cultural and ceremonial center for those who have served, and are serving in the Navy today. The exhibits in this advanced museum will demonstrate the critical role the Navy has played in the defense of our Nation." A site for the new museum has yet to be determined.



The third and final Zumwalt Class destroyer



USS Lyndon B. Johnson

has been "bought into" the Navy. USS Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG-1002) joins USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000) and USS Michael Monsoor (DDG-1001) as the most powerful surface warships afloat with revolutionary propulsion and weapons systems and whose stealth technology is unsurpassed.



From 2014 until 2018 Ryan Brown was a member of the Fort McHenry Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, one



Ryan Brown

of the units sponsored and supported by the Baltimore Council-NLUS, where he rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Upon graduation CPO Brown joined the United States Marine Corps where we have little doubt that his service will be every bit as exemplary as it has been in the past. He was not the first of our Sea Cadets to enlist in one of the sea services. Nor, we are certain, will he be the last. Hoo-RAH! ⚓

In Memoriam

One of the Founders

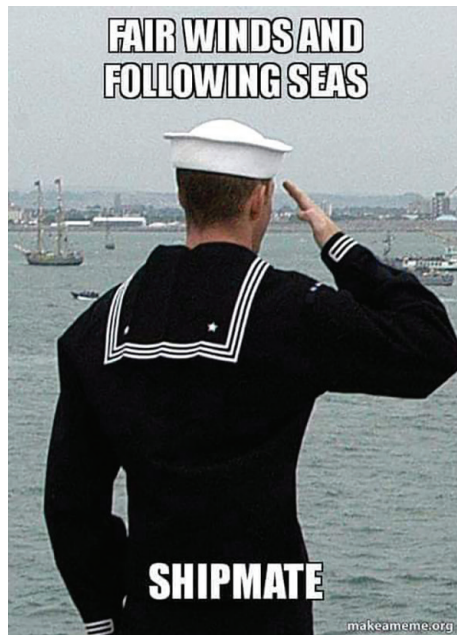
We lost Dick Holland this past fall. He shipped over on Wednesday, 23 September 2020 at the age of 87. A lifelong Baltimorean Dick was the longest serving member of our board and, for decades, its recording secretary

A graduate of Baltimore Polytechnical Institute Richard Shelton Holland earned a degree in



mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He briefly attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy but transferred to ROTC and, upon graduation from JHU

served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He later worked as an engineer and project manager at Western



Electric and Bell Telephone. But for most of his career in civilian life Dick worked with his brothers Bob and Howard running the Holland

Manufacturing Company, the old tack factory on Bank Street. Both he and his second wife, Joann, were very active with the Navy League. Dick was also a wonderful baritone singer. He sang in the Baltimore Symphony Chorus and in the choir at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City. And, for many years, his drawing and painting skills were put to good use at the Catonsville Cotillion Club where he designed and created elaborate backdrops for formal dances. He leaves behind his children, Andy and Karen, stepchildren Melinda, Meredith, Alan and Scott Zimmerman, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Anecdotally, Dick was "to the manor born." One of his childhood friends recalls that, when attending Baltimore Poly, young Richard was embarrassed by his grandmother's insistence that her chauffeur drive him to school and back every day. The family coat of arms was painted on the doors of her limousine.

He will be missed. ⚓

Stemwinders

The Book Report

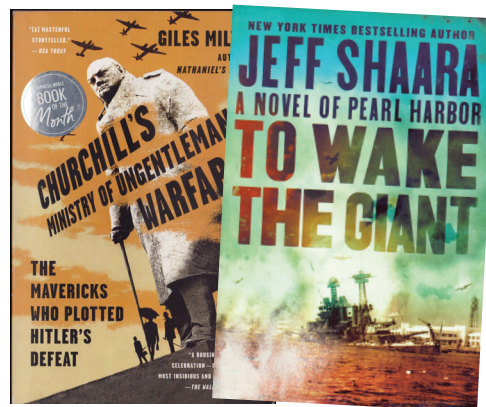
By Alan Walden

So you're stuck in the house on a gray winter's day. That Covid "thing" is still out there, you've watched all the TV reruns you can stand, television news makes you crazy; Social Media even crazier: What to do? Grab a good book, settle in your favorite chair, and read. What book? Start with these and you won't be disappointed.

First, "Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" by Giles Minton. A non-fiction page turner it tells the story of the disparate gang of mostly civilians who, during the dark early days of WWII, helped develop the guerilla tactics and devices designed to cripple the German war machine. Pensioners, retirees, amateur inventors, hobbyists and, in many cases, absolutely fearless men and women who did more to baffle and bedevil the Nazis than you would have thought possible. I mean who would have imagined that that chewing gum

had just the properties required to stick an explosive charge against the hull of a ship; or that an Alka-Seltzer tablet was the near perfect timed-to-the-second underwater fuse. Read it and I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Next comes Jeff Shaara's absolutely riveting account of the ramp-up to the United States' entry into the Second World War. "To Awaken The Giant" is historical fiction at its best. The author, who follows where his father led with the Civil War classic "The Killer Angels," has been writing ever since about the various conflicts in



which we've been engaged before and after. He is a master storyteller and in this remarkable

tome, far more fact than fiction, he holds the reader spellbound as he recounts, from both American and Japanese perspectives, the events that culminated in the attack on the U.S. battle fleet in Hawaii on 7 December 1941. The title is a paraphrase of comments attributed to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander in chief of the Japanese Combined

Fleet who, when told that the attack had taken place before Japan's ambassador delivered his final note to the Secretary of State Cordell Hull, is widely believed to have said, "I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve." ⚓

For Valor

The Chosen Few

Only twice in the history of the Armed Forces of the United States have both father and son been awarded the nation's highest honor for action against the enemy.

First came Arthur MacArthur who, as a teenaged lieutenant serving with the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment, "seized the colors of his regiment at a critical moment and planted them on the captured works at the crest of Missionary Ridge." The elder MacArthur actually left the service in June 1865 as a lieutenant colonel. But, after a brief hiatus to study law, he re-entered the Regular Army in 1866, was finally awarded his Medal of Honor in 1890, and retired in 1909 as a lieutenant general.

His son, the better known Douglas MacArthur, was nominated for the Medal twice for service as a brigadier general in World War I. Despite his displays of truly incredible heroism in that conflict, he was denied the award because of the antipathy of General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. He would have to wait until 1942 to receive it for his service in the defense of the Philippines. And even then it was tainted by the belief among many, including Dwight Eisenhower, that his actions did not meet the standard for the award in that he had not performed an act of valor. But Army Chief of Staff George Marshall, who personally authored the citation, overruled opposition to MacArthur's nomination, and justified it by pointing out that some past awards had been made to individuals who had not been responsible for front-line achievements.

Theodore Roosevelt, the only U.S. president to have received

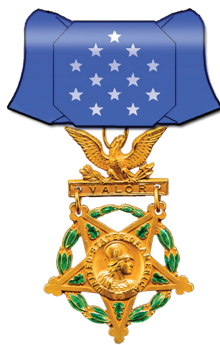


Left to Right - Arthur MacArthur, Douglas MacArthur, Theodore Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

the Medal of Honor, had to wait even longer. His MOH was for actions as a member of the "Rough Riders," during the Spanish-American War. The nomination reads, "Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the battle for San Juan Hill."

After numerous lobbying attempts over several decades after Roosevelt's death, Congress, in 1996, repealed the statute of limitations on military decorations. Though the Army opposed retroactive recognition,

legislation passed in late 1998 provided for appointment of a board to review the matter. It recommended approval and President Roosevelt was finally awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, on 16 January 2001.



And 46 years after his father's charge in Cuba, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. the oldest general officer to lead his troops ashore on D-Day, a Distinguished Service Cross recipient of World

War I and one of the founders of the American Legion, had his moment of glory at Utah Beach. By coincidence, his son, Capt. Quentin Roosevelt II, landed with the first wave on Omaha Beach. Armed only with a pistol and a cane, the latter because of severe arthritis, Teddy Jr., at the head of the 4th Division, "repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights

of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties." When Brig. Gen. Roosevelt realized the troops had landed about a mile off course he is quoted as having said, "We are going to start the war right here." Ironically and unfortunately he died of a heart attack barely six weeks later, July 12, 1944; the very day he had been selected for promotion to major general and command of the 90th Infantry Division.

These four recipients of the Medal of Honor represent two distinguished American families that faithfully served the nation for decades. And despite lingering reservations that may exist there remains the historical that they were the only father-son recipients of the nation's highest military award. ⚔

Note: Much of the credit for this article goes to retired Lt. Colonel Wayne Curtis, Ph.D., a former dean of Troy University business school, and a long-time member of the MOAA (Military Officers Association of America).

ORGANIZATIONS, INSTALLATIONS, AND VESSELS SPONSORED
AND OTHERWISE SUPPORTED BY THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL-NLUS



Coming Up

- 1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *
- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (1809) *
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 Presidents Day *
- 2/17 Ash Wednesday
- 2/22 George Washington's Birthday (1732) *
- 3/14 Begin Daylight Time (Clocks ahead one hour)
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Vernal Equinox (First day of spring)
- 3/27 Passover begins at sundown
- 3/28 Palm Sunday

(* 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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