



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

WINTER 2021-22



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings all,

The beginning of 2022 doesn't seem much different than 2021. Many of the same challenges, especially in the health arena, still exist. We have been moving forward, however, and finding success in several areas including Sea Cadets activities and preparation for the commissioning of a major surface unit of the U.S. Navy at the Inner Harbor in February of 2023; the third such event under the aegis of the Baltimore Council in just fifteen years.

My term as President of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the U.S. ends with much gratitude for all the support from our Council Board of Directors and membership. I look forward to the future of our success under my successor, Rev. Canon Guy Hawtin. His service as our chaplain has been exemplary. His contributions as board member and officer have been of immeasurable benefit to the direction and success of this council.

I wish you all a happy and especially healthy New Year. 🇺🇸

*In gratitude,
Joe*

*BG Arthur J Nattans USA (ret)
Council President & Life Member
Navy League of the United States*

Deck The Halls Business and Revelry



The Annual Meeting of the Baltimore Council, held on 1 December 2021, was another hybrid affair. With Covid and the threat posed by the Delta and Omicron variants lurking in the wings it was decided that officers and members of the board would gather in person, but other members of the council and kindred spirits would join us via Zoom. It fell to our two most technologically savvy comrades, Fr. John Novicki and Chris Costello, to set up the audio/visual connection. And it worked to near perfection.

First came the business portion of the meeting, conducted as we tucked into a modest buffet and sipped on soft drinks, wine, and (in a few cases) something a tad stronger. There were reports from the various committee heads; the secretary, assistant treasurer, youth program chairman, et al, and a lengthy discussion how best to administer the large USS Zumwalt trust fund of which the Baltimore Council is custodian. Also the commissioning of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer USS Carl M. Levin, tentatively scheduled for February 2023 in the Inner Harbor.

Then came the entertainment; in this case a half-hour video tour of USS Torsk, a Tench Class fleet boat (submarine) that saw service in the closing



days of World War II and during the Korean conflict. Torsk is one of the major artifacts now administered and preserved by Historic Ships in Baltimore and is a marvel to behold since major renovation has been done to the interior. We are, again, grateful to videographer Mike Wicklein of



(Standing l to r) Fr. John Novicki, Gene Nuth, Alan Walden, Glenn Young; (Seated l to r) Joe Nattans, Rev. Guy Hawtin, Rolanda Franklin, Chris Costello

the Wicklein Group for providing what was a very engaging presentation.

The meeting concluded with the nomination and election of board members for the coming year. Officers will be elected by the board at our next meeting this month. 🇺🇸

Wreaths Across America

Honoring the Fallen and Business As Usual

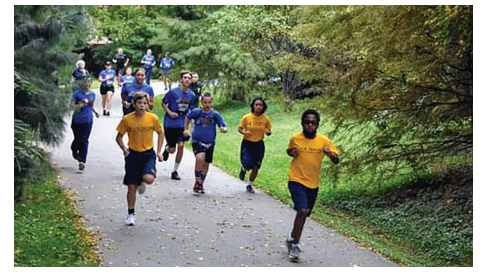


Members of the Fort McHenry Division/ Training Ship Constellation units of the Sea Cadets were out in force over the holidays to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America program in memory of all members of the Armed Forces of the United States who gave “their last full measure” in defense of the republic. Whatever the weather, whatever other commitments they may have, these young men and women are there, decorating the gravesites,



making certain that those interred are never forgotten.

Despite the threat of Covid, and with all necessary precautions taken, the Sea Cadets had a busy fall and early winter during which there was an abundance of classwork, both in person and virtual, and physical training including participation in the running of the Navy Mile in the company of active duty and



Navy Reserve personnel.

The Baltimore Council, lead sponsor of the Sea Cadets who study and train at the Navy Operational Support Center next door to Fort McHenry, birthplace of our National Anthem, are immensely proud of the cadets, their parents, and the officers/instructors whose commitment to the nation and the men and women who serve it are bedrock solid. ⚓

Decus et Praesidium

“An Honor and A Guard”



It was a salute to the Army that brought two senior members of the Baltimore Council Board to the 5th Regiment Armory on 4 December. The occasion was the annual Pass in Review and Change of Command ceremony of the 1st Battalion of what is known to history as “The Dandy Fifth,” the 175th Infantry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard. Founded as the 1st Company of Maryland Militia in 1774 by Mordecai Gist members of the battalion have been engaged in every conflict ever since, and were among the only national guardsmen to ever take part in an amphibious

invasion – at Omaha Beach in 1944.

Council President Joe Nattans, a retired brigadier general whose term expires this month, is a former commander of the battalion. Vice President Alan Walden is an honorary member of the regiment, Colonel of the Maryland Line, and invested in the Order of St. Maurice, patron saint of the infantry. Both are also life members of the Navy League of the United States.

They were, as always, proud to be there. ⚓



Walden and Nattans

In Full Glory Reflected

“She Fought Like a Battleship”



Photo # NH 96011 USS Samuel B. Roberts at sea, October 1944

by Chris Costello

Members of the board of the Baltimore Council-NLUS recently attended a very moving memorial service for long time board member Richard “Dick” Holland. Following the services, Dick’s stepson, Alan Zimmerman, presented the council with a large and remarkable scale model of USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413), in a museum display case, in memory of his stepfather. It is now proudly displayed in the council board room as both a tribute for the many years of service that Dick Holland provided to this organization, and as an inspirational reminder of the courage that American’s sailors and seamen display as they sail into harm’s way to serve and protect the nation.

A Butler Class destroyer escort Samuel B. Roberts provided one of the most outstanding examples of heroism in U.S. Naval history. Her primary purpose was to screen (protect) slow merchant convoys and CVE’s (escort carriers) from the threat of enemy submarines - not to engage in surface battles. Smaller than a destroyer Roberts’ armament was limited to two 5-inch guns in single mounts, depth charges, and three 21-inch Mark 5 torpedoes.

On October 25, 1944 “Taffy” (Task Force) 3, of which the Roberts was a unit, was the only naval force protecting the landing of the Army on the Philippine Island of Leyte. Taffy 3 included three destroyers, six destroyer escorts, and six escort carriers under the command of Admiral Thomas L. Sprague. The Japanese had drawn Admiral Halsey and the bulk of his fleet to confront what he considered to be a greater threat from the north.

At 0637 hours, under the command of Admiral Takeo Kurita, the mighty Japanese Center Force, including the largest battleships afloat, 6 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, and 11 destroyers was discovered passing through San Bernadino Strait along the coast of Samar Island. They were headed toward the beaches on which U.S. troops were disembarking. Taffy 3 was all that could prevent the almost certain annihilation of the landing force.

The Roberts’ captain, LCDR Robert W. Copeland, grim but determined, told his crew, “This will be a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected. We will do what damage we can.” DE-413

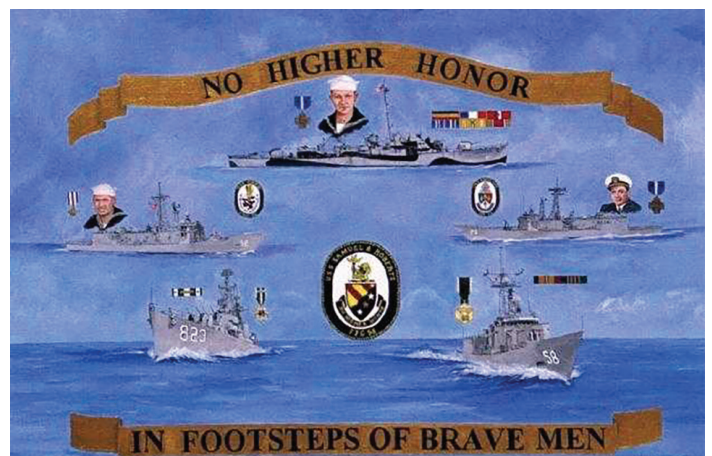


and other destroyers and destroyer escorts then turned toward the massive Japanese armada and met it head on. The U.S. aircraft from the escort carriers lacked armor piercing bombs and could only strafe the Japanese ships. But, despite the overwhelming odds, the ships of Taffy 3, their 5” guns barking, their torpedoes swimming, threw the enemy into disarray. And, having suffered the loss of four cruisers, three sunk and one badly damaged, it was Admiral Kurita who decided to break off the action.

A lot Americans died that day, including 90 on the Roberts. The survivors, Captain Copeland among them, had to endure over five hours in oily, shark infested waters before they were rescued. But a lot more would have died, at sea and on the landing beaches, had not Taffy 3 held the enemy at bay.

USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413), “the destroyer that fought like a battleship,” was included in a Presidential Unit Citation awarded “for extraordinary heroism in action” and a battle star for her World War II service. As of May 2021, Adred Lenoir, 97, of Clarion, Alabama was the only surviving crewmember.

(Editor’s note: Captain (LCDR) Copeland was awarded the Navy Cross for the Leyte Gulf action. He remained in the Naval Reserve after the war ended where he rose to rank of rear admiral before fully retiring from the service.) ⚓



“Ask The Chief!”

Backbone of the Navy

When confronted with a problem or an issue that requires resolution, on board ship or ashore, the most common response is, “Ask the Chief.” The assumption, according to the Naval Heritage and History Command, is that he or she is a font of seagoing wisdom, of value to both subordinates and, in many case, superiors; “lynchpin to the success of daily operations in the Navy.”

The earliest known use of the term “chief petty officer” dates back to 1776 onboard Continental Navy Ship Alfred, when the title “chief cook” was conferred upon cook’s mate Jacob Wasbie. This was an informal designation that noted Wasbie as the foremost ship’s cook. But “Chief” was not officially recognized nor consistently used throughout the Navy at that time.

The chief petty officer, as recognized today, was officially established 1 April 1893. This



CPO

originally encompassed nine occupational specialties a.k.a. ratings: chief master-at-arms, chief boatswain’s mate, chief quartermaster, chief gunner’s mate, chief machinist, chief carpenter’s mate, chief yeoman, apothecary, and band master. Chief Petty Officer (CPO) could be either an acting (temporary) appointment, designated as AA, or a permanent



Senior CPO

appointment, designated as PA. The Career Compensation Act of 1949 created an E-7 grade that standardized pay for all chief petty officers, regardless of acting or permanent status. And a 1958 amendment added two new pay grades, senior chief (E-8) and master chief (E-9).

Chiefs are recognized for



Master CPO

exemplary technical expertise within their rating, superior administrative skills, and strong leadership ability. Most importantly, chiefs bridge the gap between officers and enlisted personnel, acting as supervisors as well as advocates for their sailors.

So remember, when in doubt, “Ask the Chief.” ⚓

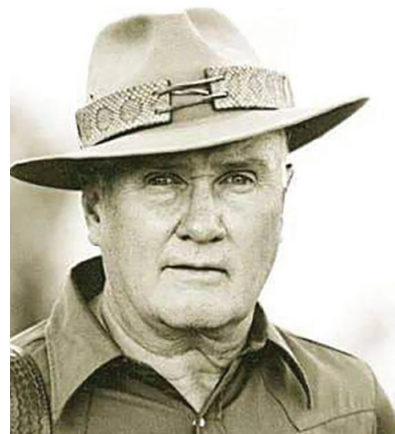
Looking Aft

Leave it to a couple of legendary officers, a sailor and a marine, to explain, in a few well-chosen words, the rules of engagement under any and all conditions. One was Chief of Naval Operations during World

War II, the other wrote the book, literally, on firearms etiquette and behavior under fire. Gentlemen, you have the floor. ⚓

The mark of a great shiphandler is never getting into situations that require great shiphandling

- Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King



"If you find yourself in a fair fight, your tactics suck"

~ Colonel Jeff Cooper

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



Coming Up

- 1/17 Martin Luther King Day
- 2/2 Groundhog Day (Watch out for shadows)
- 2/12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (1809)
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/21 Presidents Day (Show the colors)
- 2/22 George Washington's Birthday (1732)
- 3/2 Ash Wednesday
- 3/13 Daylight Saving Time begins (Clocks forward one hour)
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Vernal Equinox (First day of spring)
- 4/1 April Fool's Day

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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