



# ALL AHEAD FULL

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

WINTER 2022-2023



## FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings All,

As we begin 2023, and say “goodbye” to 2022, we focus on the mission before us and reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. The priority target of our duties at this time is our commitment to the commissioning of the USS Carl Levin (DDG 120). Our efforts toward this objective have been time consuming and intense. At the same time, it has been a very “team” satisfying task. My appointment of Mark White as Chief of Staff for the commissioning and RADM (ret) Victor See as my co-chair has been a blessing to this effort. In addition, the “class” of staff and supporters (who will be identified in the official program) have been extremely beneficial to the mission.

Additionally, we are re-engaging with the (Covid interrupted) JROTC,USCG, USNR, and other worthy mission recipients of awards. For the record, the Sea Cadets units sponsored by this council have been engaged in most normal activities throughout the “Covid” intrusion. We are grateful to them and all who have contributed to the success of the Baltimore Council’s responsibilities to the NLUS and those it serves.

Reflecting on last year: we were greatly saddened by the loss of our long time and honored Chaplain: Father Guy Hawtin. He was most dedicated and

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## At Last

# Live, and In Person



Dinner is served



Admiral Vic See addresses the gathering

For the first time since the unwelcome invasion of Covid-19 the Navy League faithful were able to gather, face to face in December, at the Baltimore Council’s Annual Meeting and Banquet. Held at the Delta by Marriott Hotel in Hunt Valley it was a truly festive event with fine food and drink, excellent service, and all the bells and whistles that were required thanks to the tireless efforts of Chris Costello, a highly valued member of the board. The meeting began on a very high note (pun intended) with Nicolee Ambrose’s stirring rendition of the National Anthem. Ms. Ambrose is a truly gifted soprano and was treated to a vigorous and well-earned ovation. With past president Alan Walden acting the role of Master of Ceremony and Brigadier General Joe Nattans, council president, as host for the evening, things went swimmingly through the opening moments and dinner.

The meeting included several



(l to r) MC Walden, CAPT Efimba, RADM See, BG Joe Nattans, SgtMaj Saunders

presentations. RADM Victor See, USN-ret. and chair of the USS Carl M. Levin commissioning committee spoke, (assisted by PowerPoint) on the status of the vessel, the Arleigh Burke Class DDG-120, and the ongoing campaign in anticipation of the event tentatively scheduled for late June in Baltimore. SgtMaj Gerald Saunders, USMC-ret. and Senior VP of Field Operations for the NLUS talked about the ongoing mission of the Navy League and the national headquarters’ commitment to provide whatever support is required by the local council. Other guests included Hon. Ellen Sauerbrey, former minority leader of the Maryland

House of Delegates, CAPT Motale Efimba, CO of the Navy Operational Support Center, and LT Paula Telfer, recently assigned as CO of the Sea Cadets whose headquarters are at the NOSC and do much of their training there. And past president Walden spoke of the 81st anniversary of the attack at Pearl Harbor, and some of the lesser known elements of the drama that led to 7 December 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.”

The three hours passed quickly and all who were there agreed it was a truly memorable and welcome event; Live, and in person. ⚓

## Never To Be Forgotten

# Farewell, Shipmate



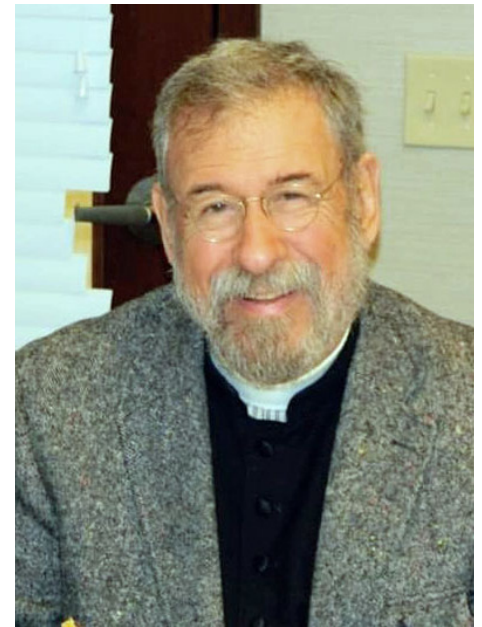
By Alan Walden

It is with a profound sense of loss that we report the death of someone whose presence on the board of this council shone like the brightest star in the firmament. The Very Reverend Guy Hawtin, Rector of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Lutherville/Timonium had become not only our spiritual guide, but also an active and hard-working shipmate and friend. Despite his heavy ecclesiastical responsibilities as Dean of the Diocese of the Eastern United States for the Anglican Church in America, Father Guy was, at various times, assistant treasurer of the council and, for a brief period, its president. He also provided the venue at St. Stephen's for our frequent meetings and was a voice of bedrock solid reason during discussions of the myriad issues with which we are regularly confronted.



Not just a clergyman of considerable stature, Guy had also been a journalist in his earlier years, and a soldier in the army of Her Majesty, the Queen. And despite his having become a wholly patriotic citizen of these United States he remained, in conduct, demeanor, and speech, very British. Relentlessly tweedy, deliciously witty, with a stunning command of four languages, and a powerful presence he would likely deny, Guy was a bottomless font of information about the history of his homeland. About almost anything, for that matter. Speaking with Guy was like turning the pages of the Encyclopedia Britannica. And our conversations regarding historical fact, fiction, and fancy were a joy beyond measure.

The loss of "The Padre," as I called him, has left a void on our midst that will be there always. He was, and remains in memory, one of the



most thoroughly decent and honorable men I have ever encountered; a view, I am certain, that is shared by all others who knew him. Perhaps we shall meet again, someday. In the meantime we trust he is safe in the arms of his Lord.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated at the St. Stephen's Wednesday, December 28 at 11am. Expressions of sympathy may be directed in Father Guy's memory to St. Stephen's Anglican Church and/or Gilchrist, 11311 McCormick Road, Suite 350, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. ⚓

From the Bridge  
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was loved by all our Council members. Please read the article by Alan Walden in this edition of "All Ahead Full" on Chaplain Hawtin.

We also lost our JAG Leo Ottey last year. He, too, was heavily committed to and involved in all our activities. But, though saddened by their loss as both colleagues and friends, we

continue to "stay the course" in the search for their successors. God's plan and their peace will guide our strength in continuing our mission and purpose.

I want to personally thank all of our Board members and benefactors for their Patriotic efforts and support of our Baltimore Council programs and mission to support our Sea Services and honor them for their service to our Country at Home and Overseas.

God bless you in this New Year. And always remember: Freedom Isn't Free, and the men and woman of our armed forces, who provide for it with their very lives, are ever grateful for your support and prayers. ⚓

Joe  
BG Arthur J. Nattans, USA(ret)  
President, Baltimore Council  
Life Member, Navy League of the United States



## Looking Aft

# In The Beginning

By Alan Walden

It was during the War of 1812, our second war of independence, that the United States Navy began to come of age. Though we had no fleet in being with which to confront the might and majesty of the British Royal Navy, the Naval Act of 1797 had led to the construction of six large frigates that, over the course of the conflict, rode roughshod over His Majesty's commerce on the high seas. One of them, USS *Constellation*, "The Yankee Greyhound," had already proven her mettle during the quasi-war with France at the turn of the 19th century with victories over some of the largest frigates in the French navy. And, from 1812 through 1814, it would, again, be these single ship encounters that would, in most cases, give the enemy a very bad time.

In August of 1812 USS *Constitution*, commanded by Isaac Hull, destroyed HMS *Guerriere*. In October USS *United States*, under the command of the legendary Stephen Decatur, defeated and took as a prize HMS *Macedonian*, the first time an American ship brought an enemy warship home. Then, two months later, came the brawl between "Old Ironsides" and the British frigate *Java*.

On December 29th, 1812 *Java* was escorting a captured American merchant ship to port off the coast of Brazil. When a strange sail was sighted and an exchange of signals indicated it was the enemy, Captain Henry Lambert sailed to meet the threat. On board USS *Constitution* Commodore William Bainbridge, who had



Constitution and Java



Chesapeake and Shannon

succeeded Isaac Hull, was ready and willing to do battle and it wasn't long before the guns were in action. *Java* was a heavily armed 5th Rate. Though listed as a 38 gun frigate she actually mounted 46 guns. Of French design she was also lighter and faster than her adversary. In the opening minutes of the battle Commodore Bainbridge was wounded in the thigh by a splinter, and his ship's

deck-mounted wheel was shot away. But control was quickly reestablished by manhandling the tiller below and, from then on, the tables turned quickly. *Constitution's* heavier and longer ranged armament battered *Java* fore and aft. Broadside after broadside cut her rigging to ribbons and, eventually, brought down all three masts. Captain Lambert was fatally wounded. And after almost two hours *Java's*

first lieutenant struck her colors. It was an event that resonated all the way back to the admiralty on London where it was decided that, henceforth, British frigates would avoid single ship encounters with the big Yankees, and that only ships of the line or squadrons would confront them. But, not everyone got the word, or chose to regard it as an order.

Captain Philip Vere Broke was one of them. On 1 June 1813, in command of the frigate *Shannon* and cruising outside Boston Harbor as Great Britain tried to enforce a blockade of American ports, he sent a written challenge to Captain James Lawrence of USS *Chesapeake* to come out and fight. Though Lawrence never received it he was, nonetheless, prepared to break the blockade regardless of the danger. The two ships were evenly matched; both 5th Rate frigates of almost identical size and armament. But Broke, though running short of supplies and whose crew was weary after many months at sea, was one of the most proficient officers in the Royal Navy, at both ship handling and gunnery. Lawrence, on the other hand, had many inexperienced hands on board and that, combined with bad luck, made the difference. It wasn't a long fight; not much more than fifteen minutes. At one point *Chesapeake's* stern ran afoul of one of *Shannon's* anchors and the American's deck was exposed to withering raking fire. Lawrence was mortally wounded and his last words became a rallying cry for the remainder of the war. "Don't Give Up The Ship." But when the fighting was over, *Shannon* was the victor and *Chesapeake* was taken as prize to Halifax, Nova

## Then and Now

# Sail and Steel

In October the United States Navy celebrated its 247th birthday with appropriate ceremonies on all ships and at all installations. When first sent into battle the burden was carried by re-tasked merchant vessels and small, speedy, and lightly armed sloops and schooners acting as privateers under letters of marque from the new republic. Vessels that could outrun any ship they couldn't fight. A far cry from the mighty warships that now patrol the world's oceans in defense of the nation.

Navy Day has always been a special time in Baltimore. We are a seafaring city. And whenever the occasion presents itself, we show off. Such was the time, in the not too distant past, when the past and present came together at the Inner Harbor. The ships are Pride of Baltimore, the topsail schooner designed to replicate the Baltimore Clipper Chasseur, a commerce raider of the early 19th Century, and USS Barry, a Forrest



Sherman Class guided missile destroyer. The latter was a type of vessel that bridged the transition between the older Spruance Class

and the Arleigh Burkes, now the mainstays of the surface warfare fleet. Great ships and a great heritage. ⚓

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Scotia. There Lawrence was buried with full military honors. Broke, though wounded, recovered and was awarded a baronetcy for the victory. It was the only occasion during the conflict that an American warship was lost to the enemy. And, just three months later the United States had another occasion to celebrate.

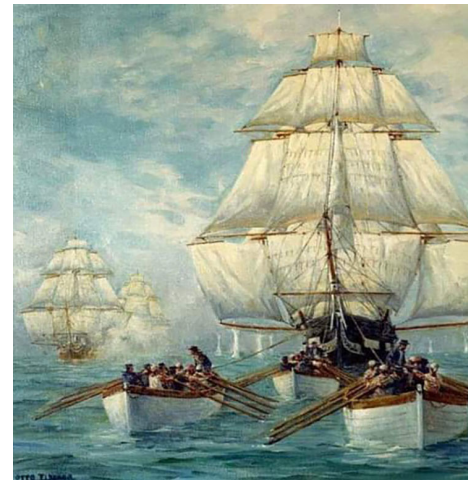
It happened off the coast of Maine. And though the ships were smaller, two masted brigs rather than frigates, the fighting was just as fierce and bloody. On 5 September 1813 it was USS Enterprise, with Lieutenant Willam Burrows in command, versus Commander Samuel Blyth's Boxer. At pistol shot range they quickly engaged. Blyth was heard to exclaim, "Great God, what shots!" just seconds before he was fatally wounded while helping his crew run out a carronade. Though bleeding heavily he refused to be carried below. Burrows had also been struck down and command of the ships was assumed by their first lieutenants; Edward McCall on Enterprise and David McGrery on Boxer. After half an hour of flying shot, shell, and splinters, McGrery described his ship as a complete wreck and lowered his colors. The



Enterprise and Boxer

dying Lieutenant Burrows declined to accept Commander Blyth's sword, directing it be sent to the family of the dead British captain. "I am satisfied," he said. "I die contented." The two captains are buried, side by side, in Portland, Maine.

It was an engagement that led Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to write, in his poem "My Lost Youth:"



Old Ironsides show her heels to a British squadron

*"I remember the sea-fight far away,  
How it thundered o'er the tide!  
And the dead captains, as they lay  
In their graves, o'erlooking the tranquil bay  
Where they in battle died.  
And the sound of that mournful song  
Goes through me with a thrill:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts." ⚓*

# Coming Up

- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/20 President's Day
- 2/22 Washington's Birthday  
Ash Wednesday
- 3/12 Begin Daylight Time/clocks ahead one hour.
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Vernal Equinox/First day of spring
- 3/22 Ramadan begins at sunset

## 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**

## From the Editor

As always comments and observations regarding this publication are welcomed. They may be sent to the editor at [arwmedia@aol.com](mailto:arwmedia@aol.com) and/or posted in the comments section on our web site: [www.navyleaguebaltimore.org](http://www.navyleaguebaltimore.org). You are also invited to visit the web site to peruse past copies of All Ahead Full and find out more about the Navy League, the Baltimore Council, and our 120 year old mission in support of the sea services.



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