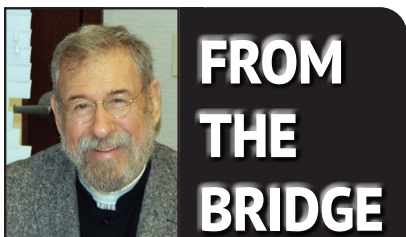




ALL AHEAD FULL

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

SUMMER 2022



First the good news: Things are coming back to life at the Baltimore Council after the Covid 19 Lockdowns. We are meeting together again in person. Mercifully, the frustrating Zoom meetings – taxing the technological expertise of Chris Costello, our treasurer, and Father John Novicki – are now behind us.

The bad news, however; the return to normal is proceeding at little better than snail's pace. Meetings have not as well attended as in the pre-Covid past, nor have events such as the Francis Scott Key Buoy Placement in Baltimore's Outer Harbor been as well supported as in the past. But a canvass of other civic organizations reveals that our slow return to normal is a problem shared by all. And, besides, it would be wrong to cavil when there are strong signs of improvement on the horizon.

While the sad loss of Judge Advocate General Leo Ottey has been a heavy blow (details later in this issue), Gene Nuth has done sterling work breathing renewed life into our youth awards program, and the commissioning program for USS Carl M. Levin in February 2023 continues apace. Meanwhile the tall ships are returning to the inner harbor: The Tall Ship Libertad, a training ship for the Argentine Navy, will be docked at the Inner Harbor, West Wall from July 8th to July 12th.

To one and all we wish a happy and relaxing summer, fair winds and following seas. ⚓

Guy Hawtin
President, Baltimore Council

The One and Only All Hail Helen



Gov. and Mrs. Hogan

By Alan Walden

There was packed house atop the World Trade Center overlooking the Inner Harbor on April 13th as tribute was paid to the grand dame, the godmother of the Port of Baltimore. No one who ever spent time with Helen Delich Bentley, as I was privileged to do on many occasions over the years, is likely to have been unmoved by the experience. A tiny woman Helen was, nonetheless, a force of nature; strong, determined, unyielding, often irascible in her commitment to the port, the city, and the state of Maryland. A journalist by trade, in print and on television, then a high ranking official of the federal government, then a member of congress for a decade, a candidate for governor, and a successful businesswoman, Helen would not, could not be denied in her pursuit of whatever it took to keep what is now known as the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore foremost in the minds of those involved in seagoing trade.

On that uncommonly mild April morning it was time to, once again, honor her memory. It fell to Governor Larry Hogan and his wife to unveil a dazzling stained glass window, designed by artist Nancy Nicholson, that shows Helen in the center surrounded by images of what she had done and where she had done it. Helen is depicted wearing one of the broad brimmed hats



Walden and Rep. Mfume

she favored. It looks for all the world like a halo; though I seriously doubt that Ms. Bentley laid any claim to sainthood. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, in whose 7th Congressional District the working port is located, was there to represent the federal government, along with Hon. James Ports, Jr., Maryland Secretary of Transportation.

Helen Delich Bentley and I worked on a number of projects through the years. Most significant to me was a video presentation titled The Port That Build A City and State, born of Helen's long

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A Salute to Mariners Then, Now, and Always

By Alan Walden

For the first time in three years National Maritime Day brought celebrants and visitors by the score to Pier 13 at the Canton Marine Terminal. There, on the quarterdeck of the Nuclear Ship Savannah, an elaborate ceremony took place to honor the seafarers who carry cargo to and from the Port of Baltimore, the longshoremen who provide their support, the pilots who guide the ships, and the dozens of other units of one of the truly great shipping centers of these United States.

Kevin Tokarski, Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift of the federal Maritime Administration was the keynote speaker. He was joined at the podium by Armand Patella of the Baltimore Port Alliance, Executive Director Bill Doyle of the Maryland Port Administration, and CAPT David O'Connell of the United States Coast Guard, Commanding Officer of Sector Maryland-National Capital Region. Also on hand were CAPT (Professor) Emil Mussin and a dozen midshipmen from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. The cadets, who've been working on board S.S. John W. Brown, across the pier, provided the color guard for the event.

It was, as it always seems to be, one of the hottest days of the year. But the heat and humidity did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd. Music, memories, and tributes were the order of the day. And, after a memorial wreath was dropped into water alongside Savannah, a salute gun boomed from the cannon aboard Pride of Baltimore II, the ships' horns and whistles began to bellow, and great



Walden (center) with cadets

jets of water were sprayed aloft from fireboats and tugs astern.

Both the Savannah and the John W. Brown were open to visitors for several hours and well attended once the formal ceremony ended. Once again, as in years past, I had the high honor to fill the role of Master of Ceremony and took the opportunity to speak of the Navy League and remind all attendees of the commissioning of the guided missile destroyer

USS Carl M. Levin, scheduled to take place in Baltimore next February.

The celebration of National Marine Day and the salute to our Merchant Marine is an event I always enjoy. And I hope that those of you who missed it the year will have it on your calendars for 2023. Baltimore is, after all, as the late Helen Delich Bentley so often proclaimed, "The port that built a city and state." ⚓



What So Proudly We Hailed

The Marker



It was a partly cloudy and unseasonably cool morning in late May when WLM-560, the Keeper Class Coast Guard Cutter William Tate, cast off from her berth and headed down Curtis Creek on an annual mission normally conducted by her sister ship, the James Rankin. But with the Rankin undergoing an overhaul it fell to Captain (LT) Carey Engel and her crew to get the job done; to place the Star-Spangled Francis Scott Key buoy in Baltimore Harbor at the spot where, on board a truce ship in 1814, Key and his companions watched the bombardment of Fort McHenry and he wrote the poem that, when set to music, became our National Anthem.

In addition to the crew and some of their families there were dozens of other onlookers on board. High ranking officers of both the Coast Guard and the Navy, representatives of other government agencies, and those of us whose mission is to support the sea services and the men and women who so well serve this nation as members of the armed forces. Brigadier General Joe Nattans and Alan Walden, both past presidents of the Baltimore Council, were there to represent the Navy League.

The enormous buoy was borne in a cradle on the well deck until we reached our destination near the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Then,



Walden, CAPT Al Seeman-USN, Nattans

after a stirring account of the Battle of Baltimore presented by a National Park Service ranger and a few remarks from others, the crew sprang into action. It was an impressive display of professional skill as the buoy was hoisted from its cradle, swung over the starboard side, and carefully lowered into the water alongside the ship where it will remain until the fall as both a channel marker and a reminder of the time when the future of our young republic hung in the balance. Once the buoy was anchored in place the deck crew stood at attention and rendered a hand salute as the National Anthem was played.

Engel managed to be the perfect host for the cruise as she mingled with the guests on board. The Galley crew did its best a well, providing snacks and a tasty lunch for one and all.

The William Tate, when not on a temporary mission such as this, is home ported in Philadelphia from which she and her crew maintain 262 buoys along the Atlantic Coast, Delaware Bay and River, and the upper Chesapeake. Her namesake was a celebrated officer of the United States Lighthouse Service. Captain Tate also helped the Wright Brothers in their early efforts at flight and pioneered the use of aircraft in the monitoring of aids to navigation. ⚓

Despite her responsibilities Captain



Moving On, Moving Up Toward the Future

This issue's report on the Sea Cadets comes in two parts; what is happening, and where it may lead.

The Fort McHenry Division, of which this council is the lead sponsor, had six graduates this year four of whom have already chosen career paths that began with their enlistment in the Navy League and United States Naval Sea Cadet programs. Some names and faces you may recognize from previous issues.

CPO Steven Emessiene – Chief Emessiene joined the NLCC at age 11, in which he served as Leading Petty Officer. He then moved on to the USNSCC where he was Color Guard Captain, Company Commander of Blue Company, and eventually Command Chief. Chief Emessiene was an excellent role model for new Chiefs and helped mold Unit Cadet Leadership. He has accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

CPO Julia Knisley – Chief Knisley joined Sea Cadets and served as LPO and then Training Chief. She was an excellent mentor to female cadets and was a valuable asset with INDOC Cadets. She has received a 2,000 scholarship



from the NSCC Scholarship Committee and has received acceptance offers from Massachusetts Maritime, SUNY Maritime, and Maine Maritime Academies. Also Rochester Institute of Technology.

LPO Geoffrey Benecewicz – PO1 Benecewicz joined the Navy League Cadet Corps and, upon moving on to the USNCC he was the Color Guard Captain and Leading Petty Officer for the 2021-22 Season. PO1 Benecewicz will graduate with Honors from Eastern Tech High School, and will attend CCBC Essex.

SN Bailul Ghirmai – SN Ghirmai served as Assistant Company Commander of Gold Company. She will attend Howard Community College while serving in the Navy Reserve.

And where, you may ask, may it lead? That's a question best answered by those who have passed through the Sea Cadet programs and who have chosen service to the nation as their life's work. Those like CDR Lauren Dufrene, a 2003 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy who now serves as executive officer of the only Coast Guard Yard in the nation; right here in Baltimore.

Prior to her current posting Commander Dufrene served as the Coast Guard liaison to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Legislative Affairs, where she collaborated with DHS partners to communicate operational and strategic initiatives to Congress. Her previous tours include afloat assignments as the Auxiliary Division Chief and Chief Engineer aboard USCGC Munro (WHEC-725) and Chief Engineer on USCGC Morgenthau (WHEC-722). Her previous ashore naval engineering positions include assignment as a Patrol Boat Port Engineer at Naval Engineering Support Unit (NESU) New Orleans, where she directed vessel contracting and maintenance support following Hurricanes KATRINA and RITA, and as the Engineering Branch Chief at Surface Forces Logistics Center Patrol Boat Product Line where she directed global logistics and maintenance



CDR Dufrene

support for the Service's patrol boat fleet. During the design and initial production phases of the Fast Response Cutter (WPC-154) acquisition, Commander Dufrene served as the program's Technical Design Lead at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Commander Dufrene holds a Master of Science in Project Management from George Washington University and is certified Department of Homeland Security Level II Acquisition Program Manager. Her personal awards include a Meritorious Service Medal, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and various team and unit awards. She was selected as the 2016 American Society of Naval Engineers' Rosenblatt Award for early professional achievement in the field of naval engineering.

That's where it may lead. And we, of the Baltimore Council, earnestly hope that there are those among the new graduates of the Ft. McHenry Division of the Sea Cadets that may do as well.

We wish them all "fair winds and following seas." ⚓

All Hail Helen
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running television series of that name and produced by the skilled videographers of the Wicklein Group. But my favorite memory of this remarkable public servant is of the first time we met.

It was at a public event shortly after my arrival in Baltimore back in the 1980s. At I was walking to my designated seat I felt a solid thump on my leg. When I stopped and looked down, there was Halen. She had hit me with her purse. She looked up with an expression that was half scowl and half smile, and muttered, "We should talk." And we did, often. And we became friends. Helen Delich Bentley was unique, one of a kind. And we are unlikely to see anyone quite like her ever again. ⚓

Lest We Forget

Memorial Day 2022

On May 30th, with the worst of the Covid crisis seemingly in the past, reverent Americans were again able to gather in person at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens in Timonium to pay tribute to those who gave “their last full measure” as members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Baltimore Council past president Alan Walden, perennial Master of Ceremony at the event, was also tasked as keynote speaker on this Memorial Day and held the crowd of several hundred at rapt attention as he told of the origins of the holiday and the need to never forget the sacrifices made by those being honored.

For the first time in memory tribute was also paid to the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine whose losses, in World War II, were higher per capita than those of any other service. Captain Dru Dimattia, President of the Association of Merchant Marine Veterans, told



Walden with Dimattia

of the long overdue award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the merchant mariners who kept the Armed Forces fully supplied throughout the conflict, ferried the troops to all theaters, and continue to pursue that mission even today, whenever and wherever they are needed. Captain Dimattia spent three decades at sea, rising through the years from able seaman to master mariner.



Walden with Mitchell

It was a highly emotional day for Walden. In his introductory remarks Jack Mitchell, co-owner of Dulaney Valley Memorial Garden, presented him with a facsimile of a tribute to be engraved on a bronze plaque and affixed to a wall in the Circle of Heroes, the final resting place for many of “the loved and lost.” It honors Walden for having been, for three decades, “the heart, soul, and voice” of the ceremony.

Among the other speakers was Congressman “Dutch” Ruppberger of Maryland’s 2nd District. And the Navy League was well represented by Brigadier General Joe Nattans, past president and life member of the Baltimore Council. ⚓



Hail and Farwell

One of Our Own

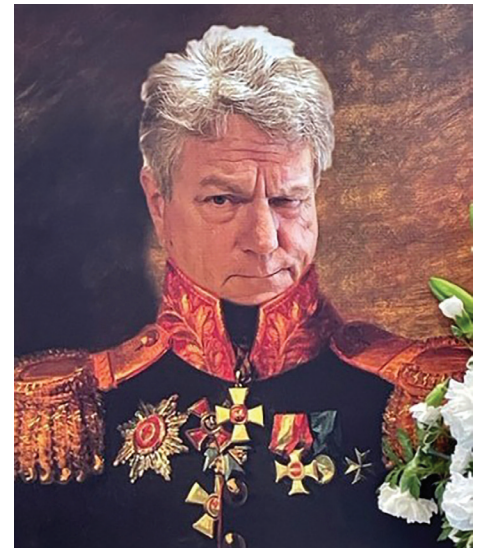
By Alan Walden

The Baltimore Council was deeply saddened last month by the death of one of its key members. Leo Wesley (Lee) Ottey, Jr. was, for many years, the Council Judge Advocate General and, in many ways, its conscience. A gifted and successful attorney Lee, as JAG, kept the council on track in its legal and fiscal dealings and was, above all, an amiable and treasured companion. He had, for years, been fighting the ravages of prostate cancer, a battle he finally lost.

I knew Lee better than did most of the other board members. He, my late wife, and I spent many happy times together on his houseboat, and aboard the little runabout, Sua Sponte (Of one’s

own accord), on which he liked to dart about Baltimore Harbor and which, in jest, became the flagship of the Baltimore Council flotilla.

A military historian by avocation Lee had a lifelong fascination with the towering figures of the Napoleonic Wars. When the occasion seemed right he’d even try to become some of them. At a power squadron regatta, for example, when, after months of preparation, he arrived at his berth in Dundalk, at the helm of Sua Sponte, dressed, from hoof to plume, as Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson, victor at the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar. It, therefore, seemed altogether fitting that, at a memorial mass at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church on May 10th, there appeared a portrait of Lee Ottey in the full dress uniform of Prussian General Gebhard von Blucher, another of his heroes, whose arrival in June of 1815 on



the battlefield at Waterloo was pivotal in the final defeat and exile of Napoleon Bonaparte.

“Salut, Herr GeneralFeldMarschall. Wellington couldn’t have done it without you.” And we, of the Navy League, will be hard pressed to do what we do without Leo Ottey. ⚓

Coming Up

- 7/4 Independence Day (Show the colors)
- 9/5 Labor Day (Show the Colors)
- 9/22 Autumnal Equinox – First day of Fall
- 9/25 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

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 and/or posted in the comments section on our web site: 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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