



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

WINTER 2023-2024



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

2023 was a very engaging and challenging test for our Baltimore Council - NLUS. Overcoming the devastation of world health effects and returning to more "normal" activities agenda has been a test of our resolve. It was a gratifying outcome, however, with all the goals achieved by a dedicated board of directors who accepted the tasks with confidence and expertise. Of special note were the seemingly endless hours of "Zoom" meetings and team communication calls and coordination, as well as personal visits and the development and execution of hospitality opportunities for the crew of USS Carl M Levin (DDG 120) and both military and civilian VIPs. An overwhelming success it reinforced our hopes for the 2026 commissioning in Baltimore, home to the 19th Century Sloop of War Constellation, of a brand new vessel that will bear the same proud name: USS Constellation, lead ship of a new class of frigates.

I am extremely proud of the energy, dedication and success of our board not only in the commissioning but the entire mission of our Navy League; the continuous support of the Sea Cadets, JROTC Programs, Visiting Ships, awards to the Navy Reserve and Coast Guard personnel to name a few. Our involvement in Fleet Week and numerous events, both military and

► to page 2

Another Year

The Faithful Gather

It was a time to celebrate as a crowd of true believers gathered at the Marriott in the Owings Mills Town Center for the Baltimore Council's 2023 Annual Meeting and Banquet. Under the guidance of perennial Master of Ceremony Alan Walden, Life Member and Past President, the evening of 6 December flowed easily in an atmosphere of holiday fellowship and good cheer from start to finish.

The event began with appropriate ceremony: the colors advanced by a unit of the Fort McHenry Division Sea Cadets commanded and supervised by LTJG Alyssa Haley-USNSCC and SGT Scully-USMC, the National Anthem sung brilliantly by Nicolee Ambrose, and an invocation from Captain Ed Fielding, chaplain of the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry. Then dinner, a mercifully brief business meeting conducted by Council Treasurer Chris Costello, and the keynote address from Luke Lorenz, Director of Legislative Affairs from Navy League headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Amiable and articulate, Lorenz struck all the right chords with the audience as he explained, in detail, his responsibilities and those of the membership in assisting and, and when necessary, insisting that our



The Anthem / Nicolee Amrose and Alan Walden



Keynote Speaker Luke Lorenz



Sea Cadets Color Guard

lected and appointed officials steer the proper course in support of the men and women of the sea services.

As always, Brigadier General Joe Nattans, the Baltimore Council president, ably assisted

► to page 2



Council President Nattans with Keith Hahn, Joe Casalino, and Kyle McDonell



Walden, Nattans, Chaplain Fielding, and CAPT Motale Efimba, CO of the Navy Operational Support Center



(standing) Donna Nattans, Gene Nuth, Damey Hahn. (sitting) Bill Devine

Another Year
Continued from page 1

by his charming and equally dedicated wife, Donna, was the perfect host. He made certain that no one was overlooked; that everyone in the room knew they were as important as they were welcome. That's just Joe.

The evening ended with a silent action and a drawing for door prizes. And now we head into 2024 All Ahead Full, our mission again clearly defined, and ready to deal with whatever challenges we may encounter; all for the benefit of our sea services ships, units, installations and the youth who are our future. ⚓

Comrades in Arms To Those Who Serve(d)



Alan Walden

Veterans Day is always a special occasion in these United States. Not only for those who are serving or have served. But for all Americans who are and should rightfully be grateful to those who swore the oath



Walden and Post Commander Tom Longest

without expiration date and wrote the check, payable in an amount up to and including their lives. Those in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, the newly

created Space Force and the often-overlooked Merchant Marine, active duty, reserve, and National Guard, have but one mission; to serve these United States in peace and war.

Ceremonies abound in early November on what once was known as Armistice Day, the 11th hour of the 11th day or the 11th month when, in 1918, the guns finally fell silent on the battlefields of Europe. In Baltimore it fell to Life Member Alan Walden, himself a veteran of the Army, to appear before a gathering of comrades and their families at American Legion Post #2 in Hampden, to talk about the day and what it means. About the responsibility accepted by those who serve, and about the debt owed them for that service. Walden also took the occasion to present to the post, as an appropriate historical artifact, a cased American flag, flown on board USS Maryland (SSBN-738), an Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine, presented to him as then President of the Baltimore Council, by the boat's captain and crew.

These are hard times for Americans in uniform. Our men and women

are deployed in and/or near some of the most dangerous places on earth. And they are hard times for many veterans whose benefits, though improving, are limited; especially those who are suffering from the lingering effects of PTSD. The American Legion, through its posts, has never lost sight, nor will it ever, of its responsibility to provide for them to the best of its abilities and resources. ⚓

From the Bridge
Continued from page 1

community activities remain in focus as we pursue our mission. And I encourage you to be active in future patriotic Navy League activities in support of the men and women of the armed forces in their pursuit of peace and security around the globe. Remember: "For evil to succeed, all that is necessary is for good people to do nothing." (Edmund Burke)

God bless you and our beloved Country. ⚓

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

The Dandy 5th, etc. Centuries of Service

The weekend of 2-3 December was a time for two of the Baltimore Council's longest serving board members to return to their Armed Forces roots: In the Army. On Saturday, Council President Joe Nattans, a retired brigadier general, and Life Member Alan Walden, an Army veteran, were among those invited to attend the 249th annual Pass in Review of the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry at the 5th Regiment Armory. Known as the legendary Dandy Fifth, the unit traces its origins to the founding, by Mordecai Gist, of the First Company of Maryland Volunteers in 1774. It was, as is always the case, an impressive ceremony.



All Assembled

The following day, Walden was among those who rode in the Mayor's Christmas season parade through the Hampden neighborhood where a crowd of tens of thousands lined the route to help celebrate the beginning of a joyous holiday season for those of all faiths. Walden was participating in the event as an active member of American Legion Post #2 whose headquarters is on Hickory Avenue just off 36th Street, a.k.a. "The Avenue" in Hampden. Lots of shouting, applauding, cheering, and even an occasional handshake with some who braved the procession to add a personal touch.



Walden and Nattans



'Tis the season and Hampden, with its brilliantly lit homes on what's been called "The Miracle on 34th Steet," and where every major holiday is time for a festival, always leads the way. 🇺🇸



Walden on parade

Bravo Zulu

Special Recognition



Costello, Loving, Nattans, and Copeland



Command Master Chief Derrion Foster, Loving, and Nattans

Monday, 27 November, was a stellar day in the career of Storekeeper First Class (SK-1) Shawn Loving, USCG. A team lead and contracting officer at the Coast Guard Surface Forces Logistics Center in Baltimore, Loving received a special award for outstanding performance from the Baltimore Council – NLUS as Enlisted Person of the Quarter. Brig. Gen. Joe Nattans, president of the Council, accompanied by Treasurer Chris Costello and board member Bruce Copeland were there to

present the award in person.

Described in the nomination as “a highly motivated Coast Guardsman with a strong drive to advance both personally and professionally,” SK-1 Loving also volunteers at the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and is an active member of the Coast Guard Enlisted Association. Of particular note, he arranged a structural repair to Tower Crane One at the Coast Guard Yard that, again quoting from the

nomination, “directly impacted the CG Yard’s ability to maintain operational readiness and provide continual service to the fleet.”

The Surface Forces Logistic Center is just one of a number of units at Curtis Bay supported by the Baltimore Council. The sprawling complex off Hawkins Point Road, where all major construction and repairs are conducted, is the only Coast Guard Yard in the United States. ⚓

On Guard

EM-1

By Alan Walden

Back in the 1940s, when almost the entire world was engaged in war, Baltimore was among the busiest ports in the United States. Liberty Ships and landing craft by the score were being launched at the Bethlehem Steel shipyard, and supplies in a seemingly endless stream were flowing from its docks to support the war effort overseas. Security was of the highest priority. The men of the Shore Patrol

were on guard 24/7, ever vigilant for enemy agents; saboteurs who would go to any lengths to interrupt the flow. And there was another enemy: The vermin, the rats and mice that roamed the waterfront in search of a meal and who, if left unchecked, could ruin an outbound cargo of the food badly needed at the front. That’s when Kerman showed up.

No one knew the precise time of his arrival. But one night, in late 1942, there he was. A

cat; little more than a kitten at first. A medium sized gray tabby who took it upon himself to join the security patrols. And it was quickly noticed that when Kerman (as he was named) was out and about, the rodents were not. And those who didn’t depart quickly enough were often delivered, with ceremonial cattitude, at the feet of whatever Shore Patrolman was passing by. So successful and relentless on the

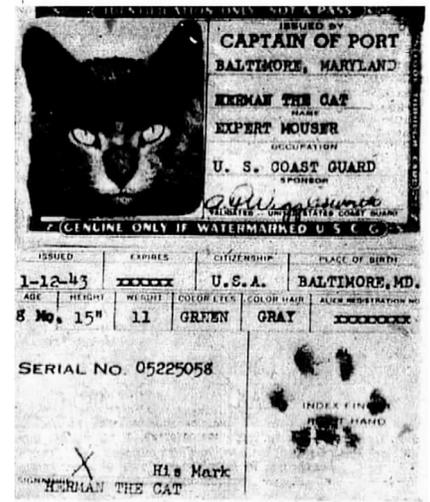
On Guard
Continued from page 4

hunt was Kerman that the captain of the port decided to enlist him, formally, into the United States Coast Guard.

On the morning of 12 January 1943 Kerman was taken to headquarters where a photo ID was issued to the first and only feline noncom in the service. Kerman the Cat. Age: 8 months. Height: 15". Weight: 12 lbs. Eyes: Green. Complexion: Gray. Rate: EM-1. (Expert Mouser).

Serial # 05225058. To which Kerman's paw print was added in the signature block, and it was done.

Kerman was back on duty that night, and for many nights thereafter. Until, one day, he was gone – but not forgotten. His enlistment documents are still on file somewhere. And while there are countless gray tabbies out there, who knows? Some of them may have had a bona fide guardian of the republic as an ancestor. ⚓



Meeting the Challenge Just over the Horizon



USCGC Calhoun (WMSL-759)

In the past fifteen years Baltimore and this Council have been thrice at the forefront of major warship commissionings. The Arleigh Burke Class destroyers USS Sterett and USS Carl M. Levin, and the super stealth destroyer USS Zumwalt have all officially joined the Navy here. And there are more to come as the United States meets the challenges of these uneasy times.

In April the action will take place at Curtis Bay when USCGC Calhoun (WMSL-759) Joins the fleet. Newest of the Legend Class heavy endurance cutters, she is the first vessel to be named for Charles L. Calhoun, the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard.

Though it is the Charleston, South Carolina Council of the Navy League that will lead the event we

are making every effort to become involved for several reasons: (1) We know the drill, start to finish. (2) The commissioning will take place here in Baltimore. And (3) Master Chief Calhoun was a Marylander born and bred; a graduate of Ocean City High School. The ship, launched in 2022 is now undergoing sea trials.

Then, in 2026, as mentioned earlier in this issue, the Navy plans to commission a vessel with a powerful Charm City connection. As many of you know Baltimore is already home to USS Constellation, the sloop-of-war built in the mid-19th Century and one of the principal historical

attractions at the Inner Harbor. This new vessel will take that proud name into the 21st Century. FFG-62, USS Constellation, will be the lead ship of a modern class fighting ships. A frigate, as was the original and celebrated "Yankee Greyhound" built in Baltimore under terms of the Naval Act of 1797. This new Constellation, the fourth vessel to bear that name, will have the multi-mission capability to conduct air, anti-submarine, surface, and electromagnetic warfare. A new hull designed to carry current and easily upgraded technology.

Yes, there are, indeed, heady days a'coming. Stay tuned. ⚓



USS Constellation (FFG-62)

Coming Up

- 1/1 New Year's Day
- 1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – show the colors
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday- show the colors
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday
- 2/19 President's Day – show the colors
- 2/22 Washington's Birthday – show the colors
- 3/10 Begin Daylight Saving Time (clocks forward one hour)
- 3/19 Vernal Equinox (First Day of Spring)
- 3/24 Palm Sunday
- 3/31 Easter Sunday

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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