



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

SUMMER 2023



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings, Shipmates,

Accolades to all who contributed to the overwhelming success of the USS Carl M. Levin commissioning. The efforts of the Baltimore Council NLUUS and the Commissioning Committee were truly laudable.

The ship's crew were entertained with a Maryland traditional "Crab Feast", Orioles baseball game tickets, photo ops with Ravens cheerleaders and mascots, and lunch provided by Mission Barbecue.

Significant donors and supporters and patriotic organizations' representatives enjoyed a VIP breakfast the morning of the commissioning and a banquet and reception at Four Seasons Hotel in Harbor East in Baltimore. Attendance at the banquet included the Secretary of the Navy and one of our men in space as guest speakers. Numerous corporate and political luminaries in addition to families and friends of the Baltimore and Navy communities also were in attendance.

In spite of difficult economic conditions and a potential "debt ceiling" impasse, we were confident in our ability to finance and execute an exemplary commissioning event worthy of recognition and honor to our Navy, our Country's military pride, and to the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States.

Thank you to all who made this commissioning a memorable success.

Keep America strong and safe, contribute for "Freedom Isn't Free!"

May God continue to bless you and the United States of America. ⚓

Joe

BG A. J. Nattans, USA-ret.
President & Life Member

The Big Day

"Bring Your Ship Alive"

By the time you receive this the newest and one of the most powerful of the Navy's surface warships will have joined the fleet. USS Carl M. Levin (DDG-120) was commissioned in Baltimore



Harbor amid much pomp and circumstance which, as outlined in "From the Bridge," began with a series of pre-commissioning activities during the week leading up to the event.

The full story of the commissioning will appear in the fall edition of All Ahead Full with an array of photographs of what took place before and during this truly memorable occasion.

As has been mentioned in previous issues of this publication the Arleigh Burke Class destroyers are the backbone of the Navy. No battle group sails without one or more of them in company. Even alone



they are armed with a stunning array of offensive and defensive weaponry capable of dealing with nearly every challenge imaginable.

Again, look for the full story in the next issue. ⚓

Hoo-rah

The Junior Jarheads



On Tuesday, 16 May, Baltimore Council V.P Alan Walden and Board Member Gene Nuth, chair of the Youth Committee, were privileged to attend a gala event at Franklin High School in Baltimore County to present

special awards to members of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC corps of cadets. Our host was Sergeant Major Jason Kappen,



Walden, Garcia Barrientos, Kappen, Leeks

The Junior Jarheads
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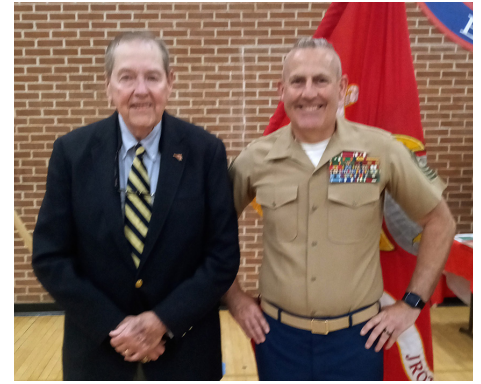
USMC-retired, senior instructor of the corps, ably assisted by Master Sergeant Jerice Leeks, USMC-retired and others of the staff.

The crowd was large and loud as awards from a number of military and patriotic organizations were presented to the honorees. The auditorium rang to the applause, cheers, hoots and whistles from family and friends as the young men



Walden and Kostylev

and women of the unit stepped forward to receive their well-earned accolades. Among them, Cadet Private First Class Yazin Garcia Barrientos, who was presented with a Baltimore Council Award of Merit as an outstanding cadet of the year. And to Cadet Captain Jason Kostylev, company commander of the JROTC unit, went the coveted Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Medal for his exemplary academic and military performance.



Nuth and Kappen

Franklin High School has an extraordinarily large and highly professional JROTC program thanks, in full measure, to the efforts of SgtMaj Kappen and his fellow instructors. It was a pleasure to see what they have been able to accomplish and how well the students have responded to their guidance. We were proud to be among them on this memorable occasion. ⚓

Unsung Heroes

Mariners Move The Nation

Each year, in May, the nation celebrates the service of those whose efforts are often overlooked by the public at large. We are a maritime nation. And yet we pay scant attention to the contribution that are made on our behalf by the merchant mariners of the United States.

It was 90 years ago when the congress finally saw fit to commemorate the historic

transatlantic crossing of the steamship Savannah by creating National Maritime Day as a tribute to the men and women of the Merchant Marine who power the world's largest economy in peace and, whenever necessary, support our armed forces with troops and supplies wherever they are needed.

In Baltimore, this year's ceremony took place on 21 May, at Pier 13 in Canton, on board the nuclear ship

Savannah. Nearby was S.S. John W. Brown, one of only two fully operational survivors from the armada of Liberty Ships that were vital in securing victory in World War II.

It is the unsung heroes of the United States Merchant Marine who move the nation across the world. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow. ⚓



Savannah Sets Sail - by John Stobart

Unclassified

The Secret's Out

By Alan Walden

There's been a great deal in the news in recent months about government secrecy and how certain documents have fallen into the wrong hands, Often, because some government employee has been careless. But, sometimes, because some lower-level functionary, civilian or military, has decided to score a quick buck

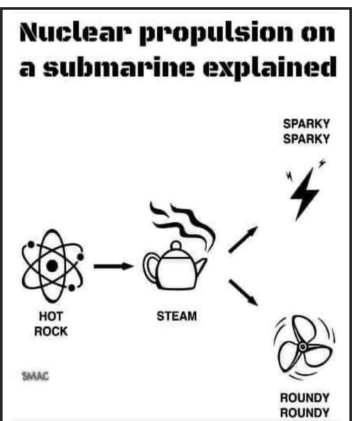
by playing fast and loose with documents that might be of benefit to those who harbor ill will toward these United States.

It just so happens that one of these documents has fallen into my hands and, hey, someone of my considerably advanced years can always use a new source of income. On the other hand, rather than

risk spending whatever time I have left in Club Fed, maybe I'll just leave it up to my readers to make the next move. So here ya go.

The schematics for the power plant on the latest class of U.S. Navy nuclear driven submarines. The next move is yours.

Good luck. ⚓



Cruise News

By The Dawn's Early Light



Walden, Szeliga, Nattans

In truth it was well past dawn on Wednesday, 24 May, when the Coast Guard cutter/ buoy tender James Rankin (WLM-555) pulled away from her berth at Curtis Bay and headed out into Baltimore Harbor for the annual placement of the star-spangled Francis Scott buoy at the spot from which Key, on board a truce ship, witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry in September of 1814. It was then that he wrote the poem in four verses that became the lyrics of the National Anthem.

Captain (LT) Kyle Sutshek and her crew were busier than ever that morning. Not only did they have a mission to perform, the ship was crowded with passengers to witness the event. Spouses and friends of crewmembers, political and military guests of the Coast Guard, and members of a variety of military and patriotic organizations including this council which sponsors the ship and its personnel as an integral element of our mission. Leading the Navy League contingent was Council President Joe Nattans, along with V.P. Alan Walden, and Fr. Dan Bursi, the council chaplain. Nattans had, among his guests, Chief Warrant Officer Roger Weaver, USA-ret., who flew helicopters for Uncle Sam in Vietnam.

Among the elected officials on board was Hon. Kathy Szeliga, former minority whip of the Maryland House of Delegates and still a force to be reckoned with in Annapolis. And there



Weaver and Bursi

were flag officers of the Coast Guard on board as well.

The crowd was treated, by a National Park Service Ranger, to a brief overview of what had happened by the dawn's early light. Then, as we reached the appointed spot near the Key Bridge, the Star-Spangled Banner was very well sung by the wife of one of the crew members, the buoy was slowly and carefully lifted from its cradle and lowered into the water while the crew lined the rail at attention and rendered their salute.

On the way back to Curtis Bay everyone on board was treated to a lavish and tasty lunch courtesy of the galley staff. And, as the James Rankin tied up at the pier, everyone, their appetites sated, their patriotism reinforced, seemed patently delighted to have been on board.

It was a very good day. ⚓



For the Fallen The Loved and Lost



Colors Advanced

It is the most solemn day on the secular calendar; especially for the families and friends who will forever remember the sacrifice made by their fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and friends, who died under the colors. Those who wore the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the United States in peace and war. So it was on Memorial Day, 29 May 2023 as an overflow crowd gathered again around the Circle of the Immortals at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens in Timonium to salute the fallen.

As he has for more than three decades, Baltimore Council Vice President Alan Walden was master of ceremony for an event that lasted well over two hours as tribute was paid with reverence and respect to the loved and lost. This council was well represented by its president, retired Brigadier General Joe Nattans who was accompanied by a prominent visitor from afar: Dr. Meen Poudyal Chhetri, president of the Center for Disaster Management in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

This year's event was a dual observance. First, in memory of all fallen heroes. Secondly, a National Remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the end of the 10,000 day War in Vietnam, the focus of many of the comments made by veterans of that conflict



Walden

and members of their families. Among the speakers was Hon. John Olszewski, Johnny "O", the Baltimore County Executive. And in the audience was Hon. Harry Bhandari, a member of the House of Delegates from the 8th Legislative District.

It was also the first time that Walden had a chance to see a bronze plaque affixed to the top of a wall at the Circle of Heroes in honor of his years of service to the ceremony.

We are ever grateful to John and Jack Mitchell, co-owners of Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, for they diligence and effort they provide in creating what is always a truly memorable event.



From Dulaney Valley V.P. Walden



Poudyal Chhetri and Nattans made a quick trip home for a change of dress and was off to American Legion Post #2 in Hampden, oldest in Maryland and one of the oldest in the nation, for another Memorial Day observance. There were dozens of men, women, and children in the audience; most of them veterans and their families

who were treated to a fine lunch and, for all the vets, a gift from Home Depot: A large work pail in which were sets of shiny, new tools; ideal for the do-it-yourselfer; hammer, screwdrivers, pruning shears, etc.

Walden was the principal speaker. But, overall, the event was short on speeches and long on the comradeship you find among those who have worn the uniform and mourn the loss of their comrades in arms. The comment "Happy" Memorial Day, so often seen or spoken, is altogether inappropriate. It is not nor was it ever intended to be a happy occasion. Thoughtful? Yes. Solemn? Certainly. But not happy. ⚓



Walden & Post Commander Tom Longest.

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



Coming Up

- 7/4 Independence Day (Show the colors)
- 9/4 Labor Day (Show the colors)
- 9/11 Patriot Day (Show the colors)
- 9/15 Rosh Hashanna begins at sundown
- 9/22 Autumnal Equinox – First day of fall
- 9/24 Yom Kippur – Jewish Day of Atonement

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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