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**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

The New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States announces **Eric Jay Dolin** as the winner of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book ***Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution***, published by Liveright (imprint of W. W. Norton), ISBN 978-1631498251, 352 pages, (May 31, 2022) \$32.50.

Announced today by Past Commander William H Schmidt, Esq., and Vice Commander – Historian Daniel M. Thys, M.D., Co-Chairmen of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award Committee of the New York Commandery, the award will be presented to the winner by CAPT Lawrence B. Brennan, USN (Ret), Commander, New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States in a ceremony at The Racquet & Tennis Club on Park Avenue, New York City on Monday, November 13, 2023, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm. For further information on the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States and information on attending this event, please see the NY Commandery web site at [navalordernyc.org](http://navalordernyc.org)

The prize, named for the late **Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison**, a Harvard University history professor widely considered to be America's most distinguished naval historian, is administered, and presented by the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States. The finalists and winner are selected by a distinguished committee of members of the New York Commandery. Books may be recommended for consideration by any member of the Naval Order of the United States but must be nominated by a Companion of the New York Commandery for Committee consideration. Detailed and stringent standards of review must be met by both the author and the work, following set guidelines, for Committee consideration for the Award.

**The remaining four finalists for the 2023 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature (listed in alphabetical order, not by standing) each receive an Honorable Mention, and are highly commended for their books as outstanding contributions to naval literature. They are:**

**Lewis McIntyre – *Take Charge and Move Out: The Founding Fathers of Tacamo***  
Publisher: Casemate; (May 12, 2022)

**Thomas Sheppard – *Commanding Petty Despots: The American Navy in the New Republic*** Publisher: Naval Institute Press (March 15, 2022)

**James Stavridis – *To Risk It All: Nine Conflicts and the Crucible of Decision***  
Publisher: Penguin Press (May 24, 2022)

**Beverly Weintraub – *Wings of Gold: The History of the First Women Naval Aviators***  
Publisher: Lyon Press (December 15, 2021)

This distinguished writing prize is presented to an American author “who by his published writings has made a substantial contribution to the preservation of the history, heritage and traditions of the United States Sea Services – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine.”

A sample of past recipients includes 1984 **Victor H. Krulak**, (*First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps*); 1989 **John F. Lehman**, (*Command of the Seas: Building the 600 Ship Navy*); 1999 **Edward L. Beach, Jr.**, (*Salt and Steel: Reflections of a Submariner*); 2002 **Norman Friedman**, (*Seapower As Strategy: Navies and National Interests*); 2003 **John F. Lehman**, (*On Seas of Glory: Heroic Men, Great Ships, and Epic Battles of the American Navy*); 2004 **James D. Hornfischer**, (*The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*); 2005 **Michael Walling**, (*Bloodstained Sea: The U.S. Coast Guard in the Battle of the Atlantic, 1941-1944*); 2006 **Joseph F. Callo**, (*John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior*); 2007 **Ian W. Toll**, (*Six Frigates: Epic History of Founding of the US Navy*); 2008 **George C. Daughan**, (*If by Sea: Forging of the US Navy*); 2009 **James L. Nelson**, (*George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea*); 2010 **James Scott**, (*The Attack on the Liberty: The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship*); 2011 **Robert Gandt**, (*The Twilight Warriors: The Deadliest Naval Battle of WWII*); 2012 **Elliot Carlson**, (*Joe Rochefort's War: The Odyssey of the Codebreaker Who Outwitted Yamamoto at Midway*); 2013 **Walter R. Borneman**, (*The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King — The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea*); 2014 **Jack Cheevers**, (*Act of War: Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo*); 2015 **Craig L. Symonds**, (*Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings*); 2016 **Tim McGrath**, (*Give Me a Fast Ship: The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea*); 2017 **Richard Snow**, (*Iron Dawn: The Monitor, the Merrimack, and the Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History*); 2018 **John F. Wukovits**, (*Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*); 2019 **Hampton Sides**, (*On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War's Greatest Battle*); 2020 (No Award – COVID); 2021 **M. Ernest Marshall** (Rear Admiral Herbert V. Wiley U.S. Navy: *A Career in Airships and Battleships (History of Military Aviation)*); and, **Paul Stillwell** as the winner of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book *Battleship Commander: The Life of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr.* published by Naval Institute Press (October 15, 2021)

Former Navy Secretary **John F. Lehman** is the only author honored twice with the Morison Award (*Command of the Seas & On Seas of Glory*)

The **Naval Order of the United States**, founded in 1890, prides itself on its many distinguished members, among them Admirals George Dewey, William Leahy, Ernest King, Chester Nimitz, William Halsey, Raymond Spruance, Arleigh Burke, William Crowe, and Elmo Zumwalt. Its purpose is “to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects, preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures, deeds and memories of our naval and maritime history.”

### **About the Author**

#### **Eric Jay Dolin Bio:**

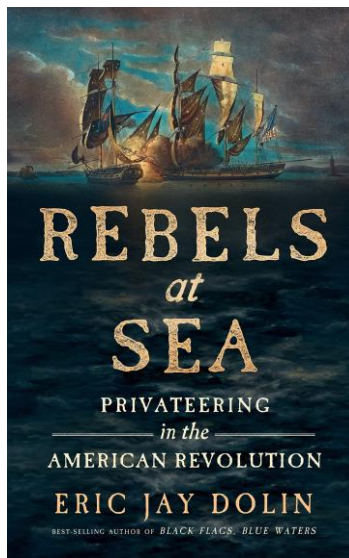
Eric Jay Dolin is the author of fifteen books, including *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America*, which was chosen as one of the best nonfiction books of 2007 by the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Boston Globe*, won the 2007 John Lyman Award for U.S. Maritime History, and was an Editor’s Choice for the *New York Times Book Review*. His most recent book before *Rebels at Sea* is *A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America’s Hurricanes*, which was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and was chosen as one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and the editors at Amazon. It was also selected as a "Must-Read" book by the Massachusetts Center for the Book for 2021, and an Editor’s Choice for the *New York Times Book Review*. *Rebels at Sea* was awarded the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award and was a finalist for both the New England Society Book Award and the Julia Ward Howe Award given by the Boston Authors Club. *Rebels* was also selected as a “Must-Read” book for 2023. *Brilliant Beacons: A History of the American Lighthouse* was chosen by *gCaptain* and *Classic Boat* as one of the best nautical books of 2016 and was selected as a “Must-Read” book for 2017. One of Dolin’s most popular maritime books is *Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America’s Most Notorious Pirates*, published in 2018. His next book, due out in May 2024, is *Left for Dead: Shipwreck, Treachery, and Survival at the Edge of the World*, about men intentionally marooned on the Falkland Islands during the War of 1812. A graduate of Brown, Yale, and MIT, where he received his PhD in environmental policy, Dolin lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts, with his family. For more information, please see [www.ericjaydolin.com](http://www.ericjaydolin.com).



**Eric Jay Dolin**

**In addition to his book awards, he has also been the recipient of other honors, including the Switzer Environmental Fellowship, the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, and the Starr Fellowship for Public Service from Brown University. He is a Nantucket Historical Society Research Fellow, a member of the Colonia Society of Massachusetts, and was awarded a special commendation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for "Contributing to the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 to the IPCC."**

## **ABOUT REBELS AT SEA**



**The best-selling author of *Black Flags*, *Blue Waters* reclaims the daring freelance sailors who proved essential to winning the Revolutionary War. The heroic story of the founding of the U.S. Navy during the Revolution has been told before, yet missing from most maritime histories of America's first war is the ragtag fleet of private vessels, from 20-foot whaleboats to 40-cannon men-of-war, that truly revealed the new nation's character—above all, its ambition and entrepreneurial**

ethos. In *Rebels at Sea*, best-selling historian Eric Jay Dolin corrects that significant omission, and contends that privateers, though often seen as profiteers at best and pirates at worst, were in fact critical to the Revolution's outcome. Armed with cannons, swivel guns, muskets, and pikes—as well as government documents granting them the right to seize enemy ships—thousands of privateers tormented the British on the broad Atlantic and in bays and harbors on both sides of the ocean. Abounding with tales of daring maneuvers and deadly encounters, *Rebels at Sea* presents the American Revolution as we have rarely seen it before.

## Reviews

"Eric Jay Dolin, the author of several books on early American seafaring, believes that these privateers have received short shrift in other histories of the Revolution. His thoroughly researched, engagingly written *Rebels at Sea* gives them their due . . . when a ship couldn't outsail its foes, or when a potential prize resisted, a bloody action could ensue, and *Rebels at Sea* vividly recounts some of these battles, as vessels with evocative names such as Vengeance, Eagle and Defiance face off against the enemy . . . Dolin convincingly contends that the underappreciated 'militia of the sea' played a critical role in the colonies winning their independence, despite Britain's 'peculiar and sovereign authority upon the ocean.'"

— Gerard Helferich, *Wall Street Journal*

"The author makes this solid work of scholarship the sort of book that starts a young person's love of reading and interest in history. Dolin never loses the reader in his clear and concise prose."

— Robert S. Davis, *New York Journal of Books*

"*Rebels at Sea* is sure to be another successful addition to Dolin's catalog. The narrative is fast-paced and exciting. . . The work also has some stunning and colorful pictures, including paintings, maps, and portraits. This ranks as one of the best books the *Journal of the American Revolution* has reviewed."

— Timothy Symington, *Journal of the American Revolution*

"Yet another maritime masterpiece by one of the top historians of the oceans! *Rebels at Sea* is a brilliant exposition of a little-understood and underappreciated part of the American Revolution under way. Like his earlier works, it is full of fresh thinking and sharply observed anecdotes that both inform and delight. Eric Jay Dolin's books deserve a prominent place on every sailor's bookshelf.

—Admiral James Stavridis, 16th Supreme Allied Commander at NATO, and author of *The Sailor's Bookshelf: Fifty Books to Know the Sea*

"Richly detailed, impressively documented, and beautifully written, *Rebels at Sea* hugely expands our understanding of the American Revolution through a stirring narrative of an essential part that has long been neglected."

—George Daughan, author of *Revolution on the Hudson* and *Lexington and Concord*

**“While the infant American navy fought gallantly, privateers presented the Royal Navy with its greatest challenge. Eric Jay Dolin’s *Rebels at Sea* is an excellent book about those overlooked patriots who brought the war at sea home to the British. It is welcome addition to the history of the American Revolution, and it deserves the highest praise.”**

**—William M. Fowler, author of *Jack Tars and Commodores: The American Navy 1783–1815***

**“With *Rebels at Sea*, Eric Jay Dolin combines his meticulous research with his consummate skills as a story teller. The American privateers who sailed and fought in our Revolution have been unjustly forgotten by our history books. Their victories at sea heartened citizens, proved their worth to the Continental Congress, and drove George III and Lord North nuts. This is a terrific read!”**

**—Tim McGrath, author of *Give Me a Fast Ship: The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea***

**“The war at sea during the Revolutionary War is less known than the famous land battles fought at places such as Lexington and Trenton. But privateers played a crucial role by elevating the cost of war to the Crown and providing vital supplies and gunpowder to the nascent United States among other actions. Eric Jay Dolin brings the war at sea to life with vibrant prose and solid research. After reading *Rebels at Sea*, readers will come away with a new perspective on how America gained independence. “**

**—Patrick K. O’Donnell, author of *The Indispensables: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware***

**“The most under-appreciated and under-chronicled contribution to American victory in the War of Independence was the massive impact of the capture and sale by Yankee privateers of numerous British merchant ships. At last we have an authoritative history of those patriots and their exploits by a disciplined scholar and a master teller of sea stories. *Rebels at Sea*, is that rare volume, a well-researched scholarly maritime history that is also a gripping saga of adventure on the high seas.”**

**—John Lehman, former Secretary of the Navy, and author of *Oceans Ventured: Winning the Cold War at Sea***

**“An often-overlooked factor in America’s victory in the War of Independence was the role of privateering – sailors who captured British ships or merchants who at considerable risk acquired essential goods for the army and home front. Eric Jay Dolin’s wonderful *Rebels at Sea* demonstrates that privateering was more than a sideshow. It caused Great Britain enormous problems that contributed to its failure to crush the American rebellion. This book is must reading for all who wish to learn more about the Revolutionary War.”**

**—John Ferling, author of *Winning Independence: The Decisive Years of the Revolutionary War, 1778-1781***