



## ==*STEADY ON COURSE*==

### **September 2022**

The New York Commandery held its September luncheon on September 12th. Best-selling author, Pulitzer Prize finalist and 2010 Morison Award winner, James Scott, addressed the companions and guests, talking about his newly released book, *Black Snow*. It was a packed house. Elections were held for two offices, the 2022 Morison Award winner was announced, and a new commandery award, the Spirit of the New York Commandery Award, was introduced.



*James Scott*

### **October 2022**

The October 2022 luncheon opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, presided over by Hank Warnke, Vice Commander-Membership and past Commander. The guest speaker was Richard Heller, Esq., who spoke on the writing of his new book, *Allies in Time* leading to a lively discussion about the history that led to the storyline behind the book.



*Richard Heller*

## November 2022

Commander-elect CDR John F. V. Cupschalk was the Master of Ceremonies for the presentation of the commandery's annual RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature in November. The event was marked with a festive cocktail reception during which all were able to mingle while enjoying passed hors d'oeuvres and enjoyable piano music followed by a sumptuous dinner buffet. The evening's agenda included the opening with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Past Commander Hank Warnke, singing of the National Anthem, and an opening prayer by the Chaplain and Past Commander, the Rev. Bill Schmidt, SMP. The remembrance of the Table for the Missing Soldier/Sailor was read by the Chaplain.



*Past Commander Bill Schmidt,  
Past Commander Don Schuld,  
Roy Jr DeFranco, Linda DeFranco,  
Matthew DeFranco*

The event included the announcement of a new commandery award: *The Roy A. DeFranco Spirit of the New York Commandery Award*. The award is named in memory of Roy DeFranco who served the commandery for many years in an exemplary manner and was a valued companion. Roy's beloved wife, Linda, accompanied by their two sons Roy, Jr., and Matthew, was presented with a crystal plate struck for the occasion.

Following this announcement of the new award, it was announced that its first recipient was CDR John F. V. Cupschalk. The award criteria was also read: When appropriate and as authorized by the Companions of the Commandery, The Spirit of the New York Commandery Award shall be presented in honor and memory of New York Commandery Treasurer and Companion, Roy A. DeFranco, to a companion of the New York Commandery who by their dedication, leadership, integrity, charity and selfless contribution to the mission of the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States, has served as an inspiration to others, thereby exemplifying the life and works of our cherished Companion, Roy A. DeFranco.



*Commander-elect CDR John F. V. Cupschalk,  
Past Commander Don Schuld, Past Commander Bill Schmidt*

*November 2022 Continued*



*Daniel Thys, MD, Author Paul Stillwell,  
Past Commander Bill Schmidt.*

The main event for the evening was the presentation of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature to its 2022 winner, Paul Stillwell. Stillwell served as the first-ever Editor-in-Chief of *Naval History* magazine in the 1970s and '80s. His new book, *Battleship Commander: The Life of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr.* is the first biography of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr., who served a key role during World War II in the Pacific.

Stillwell is an independent historian and retired naval officer. In addition to being *Naval History* magazine's inaugural editor, he worked as the U.S. Naval Institute's oral historian. He is the author or editor of a dozen books, including four on battleships, including *Battleship Arizona*, and an award-winning volume on the Navy's first African American officers, *The Golden Thirteen*.



The Award was presented by Morison Award Committee Co-Chairs Daniel Thys, MD, and Past Commander Bill Schmidt.



*Paul Stillwell speaking to the fully subscribed event.*

### **December 2022**

The New York Commandery was honored to have CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Retired) as it's speaker for the December meeting. He discussed the writing of his new book *From Across the Sea: North Americans in Nelson's Navy*. His presentation was well-received and was followed by many questions and an active discussion.

CAPT Rodgaard is the Past Commander of the National Capitol Commandery, covering Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia.

The commandery also held a remembrance for the 81st Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



*CAPT John Rodgaard*

### **February 2023**

The February luncheon kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, followed by a remembrance for the USS Maine, given by Commander-Elect John Cupschalk. Guest speaker John Glusman spoke about his book "CONDUCT UNDER FIRE - Four American Doctors and Their Fight for Life as Prisoners of the Japanese". The book recounted his father's experience as a U.S. Navy medical doctor who was captured in 1942 and held by the Japanese as a POW for 3 1/2 years. The presentation and slideshow were excellent triggering a lively question and answer period.



*John Glusman*

### **March 2023**

The New York Commandery's March luncheon was opened by Commander-Elect CDR John F. V. Cupschalk. Past Commander Hank Warnke led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by past Commander and Chaplain, the Rev. Bill Schmidt, SMP. CDR Cupschalk then led a remembrance for the USS Houston with a moment of silence for the 700+ sailors who lost their lives at the Sunda Strait in 1942. Past Commander Don Schuld introduced New York Commandery Companion and Treasurer/Judge Advocate Richard P. Kaye, Esq., who spoke about his large scratch-built model warship collection. He related that his father, a U.S.



*Richard P. Kaye, Esq.*

Army officer, had received medical treatment by Navy Corpsmen aboard a destroyer escort during the Korean War, and afterwards built a small wooden model of that DE. That led to Richard's lifelong interest in naval history, including building Navy wooden warship models from scratch. Over the years he has built a well-balanced fleet of hundreds of ships from aircraft carriers to a wide range of surface combatants and auxiliaries of all types and sizes. An entertaining Power Point presentation catalogued the "Fleet" and how the models were built, and was followed by an entertaining discussion for this well attended event. A representative group of models from the collection was also on display.



*Kaye's Fighting Ships*



### **April 2023**

Past Commander Hanke Warnke opened the luncheon with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Commander-Elect John Cupschalk, who gave the invocation and greetings. He also led in the remembrance of Admiral Farragut. At this luncheon, we held our annual Sound Off, where members of the commandery share their personal naval/maritime experiences and aspects of their lives in the civilian world. This is always an interesting and enjoyable session. Past Commander Don Schuld led this discussion and invited Companions LCDR Scott McGuirk, USN (Ret) and CAPT Ted Mason, USN (Ret) to share. Both were lively discussions with great interaction with members.



*Your MC, Past Commander Don Schuld*



*LCDR Scott McGuirk, USN (Ret)*



*CAPT Ted Mason, USN (Ret)*

### **May 2023**

The luncheon was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation. This was followed by a remembrance of the Battle of Manila Bay. The speaker was a companion of the Commandery, Matthew Benevento. Adjunct Professor at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, a previous merchant mariner and fellow companion of the New York Commandery, Matt provided the commandery with a lively interactive discussion on the training needs of today's Merchant Marine. Matt authored the book *FROM THE GALLEY: Stories and Recipes from American Sailors*. The luncheon was - nicely - oversold.



*Matthew Bonvento  
Adj. Professor USMM*

### **June 2023**

The June luncheon was opened by Past Commander Hank Warnke, who led the Pledge of Allegiance, and was followed by Past Commander Don Schuld, who said the invocation. Commander-Elect CDR John Cuschalk greeted the attendees, and led the Remembrance for the Battle of Midway. The speaker was Ken Kraetzer, owner of his network and a well-known person in military and political circles for his interviews. He shared stories of his career, and the list of senior military officials he has had to opportunity to interview. The luncheon had an oversold crowd, which was a great send-off for the summer months.



*Ken Kraetzer*

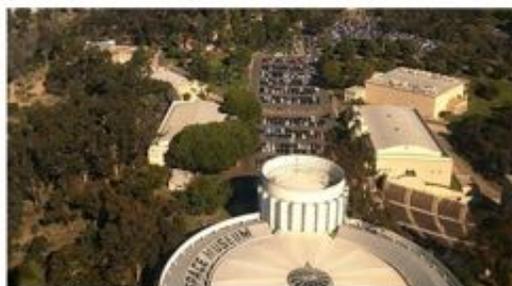
### August 2023

Companions of the Commandery and their spouses gathered for a summer picnic, and were hosted by the Commandery's Treasurer, Richard Kaye, Esq., and his wife (Home Command), at their lovely home in White Plains, New York. It was a perfect summer day, with steaks and salmon on the grill and flowing wine and drinks. Fun food and fellowship were had by all.



## Naval Order Congress

17-22 October 2023  
San Diego, California



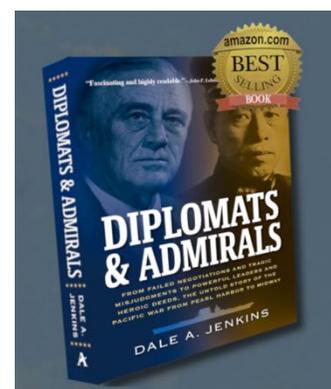


## OUR COMPANIONS OUTSIDE THE COMANDERY

**CAPT Roger Crossland** received two notable distinctions this year for his book *The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue*. On Friday, 4 October, he received the Admiral David Glasgow Farragut Book Award from the Burke Chapter Mess of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) at its annual dinner held at a yacht club in Westchester County. On Sunday, 4 December, he was awarded the Military Order of St. Louis from the Priory of St. Patrick, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, in White Plains. This honor is not an annual event and is conferred upon a recipient only when a book stands out above other published works.



**Dale A. Jenkins** gave a talk on CSPAN on his book *Diplomats and Admirals*. This book is listed on Amazon's Best Selling List. Fellow companion Secretary John Lehman gave his review of Dale's book. "Dale Jenkins' fascinating and highly readable book offers startling new facts regarding what happened in key, early battles. Based on new research and previously overlooked documents, it provides valuable insight."



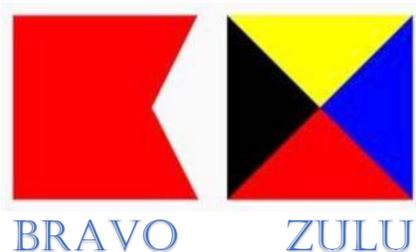
## "You may fire when ready, Gridley."

Saturday, 29 April 2023, members from the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley, National Capital and New York Commanderies attended the annual Remembrance of the Battle of Mania Bay aboard USS Olympia. USS Olympia is moored at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia. After the ceremony, all met at the Rope & Tackle restaurant at the Hilton Hotel. In attendance from New York were Past Commanders **Don Schuld** and **John Cupschalk**. **Jonathan Jones**, who was past commander before moving to Philadelphia, was also in attendance.



## USMMA

Two awards were presented to mishipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy for their demonstrated leadership skills. Companion **Matthew Bonvento**, who is an adjunct professor at the academy represented the New York Commandery in presenting these awards.



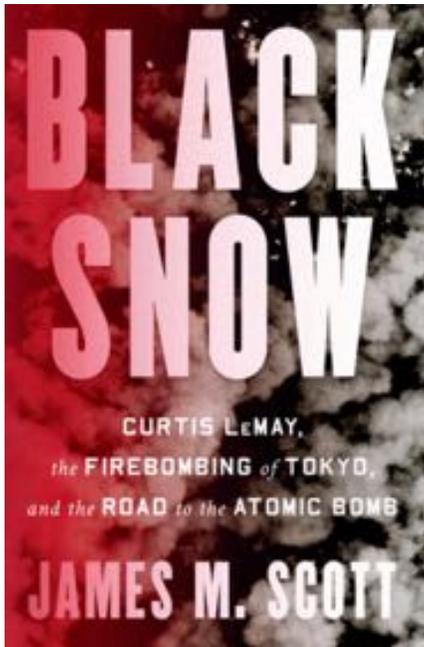
BRAVO

ZULU



**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES  
NEW YORK COMMANDERY**

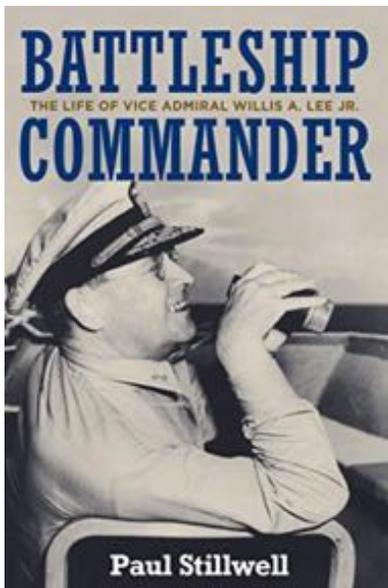
**Books Recognized This Year**



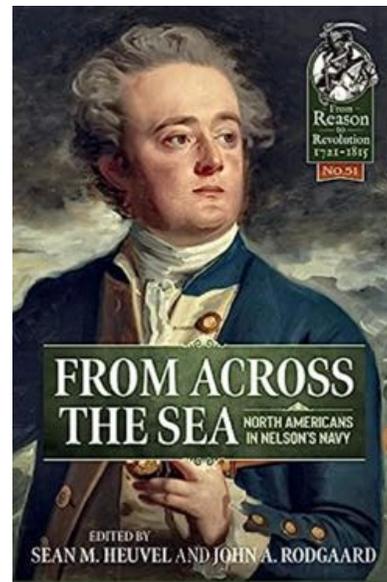
James Scott  
*Black Snow*



Richard Heller  
*Allies In Time*



Paul Stilwell  
*Battleship Commander: The Life of Vice  
Admiral Willis A. Lee J*

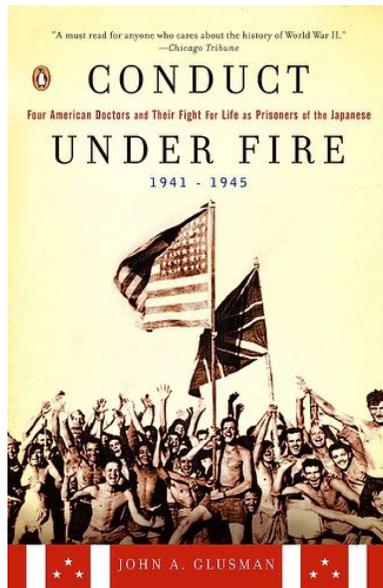


John Rodgaard  
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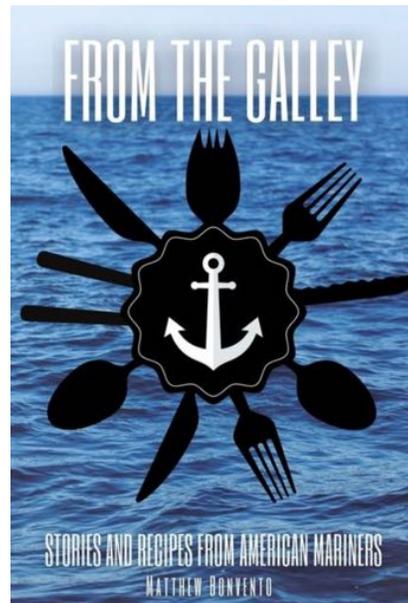
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NEW YORK COMMANDERY**

**Books Recognized This Year**



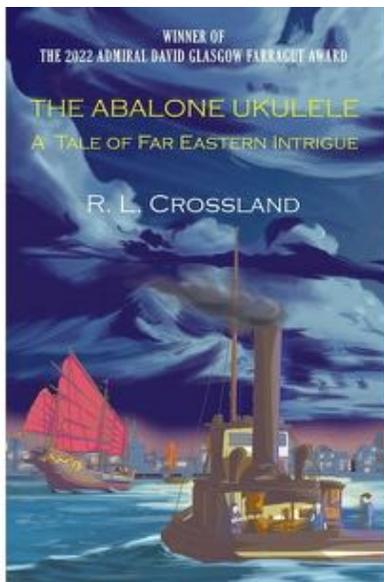
John Glusman

*CONDUCT UNDER FIRE - Four American  
Doctors and Their Fight for Life as Prisoners  
of the Japanese*



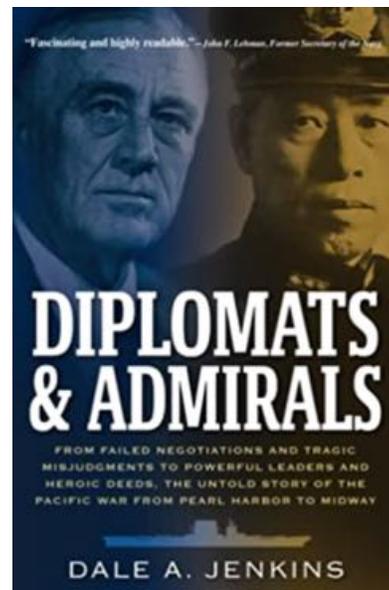
Matthew Bonvento

*FROM THE GALLEY: Stories and Recipes  
from American Sailors*



Roger Crossland

*The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale  
of Far Eastern Intrigue*



Dale Jenkins

*Diplomats Admirals*



**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES  
NEW YORK COMMANDERY**

***SAVE THE DATES***

**Monday, 11 September 2023**

Luncheon: 11:30am

*This is the second Monday due to  
the first Monday being Labor Day*

**Monday, 2 October 2023**

Luncheon: 11:30am

**Monday, 13 November 2023**

Cocktail Reception: 4:30pm-7:30pm

CHANGE OF COMMAND

&

RADM Samuel Eliot Morison

Book Award For Naval Literature

**Monday, 4 December 2023**

Luncheon: 11:30am

**Monday, 5 February 2024**

Luncheon: 11:30am

**Monday, 4 March 2024**

Luncheon: 11:30am

**Monday, 8 April 2024**

Luncheon: 11:30am

*This is the second Monday due  
to Easter Monday the week  
before*

**Monday, 6 May 2024**

Luncheon: 11:30am

**Monday, 3 June 2024**

Luncheon: 11:30am

All luncheons are held at the **Racquet & Tennis Club**, 370 Park Avenue (between 52<sup>nd</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup> Streets), and club rules require gentlemen to be attired in coat and tie.

Become a member of the ad-hoc **Speakers Bureau** and introduce a guest speaker to address the commandery.

Keep in touch with the latest news by visiting our **New York website at**  
**<https://navalordernyc.org>** and on social media via **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.

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Editor: Richard P. Kaye, Esq.