



== STEADY ON COURSE ==

Fall 2022

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 Stilwell,
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 Stilwell. Stilwell 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.

Stilwell 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.



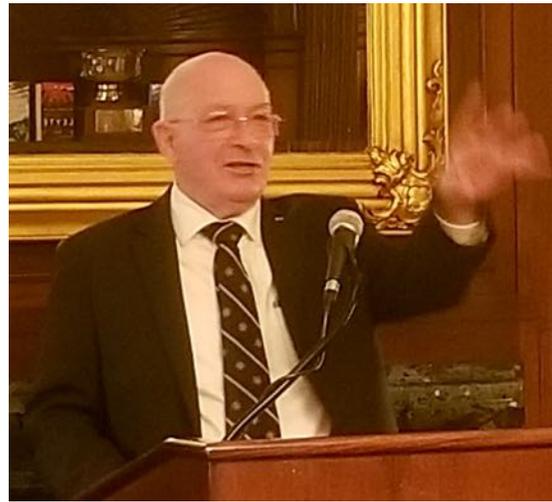
Paul Stilwell speaking to the fully subscribed event.

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



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.



BRAVO ZULU



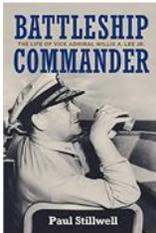
NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES NEW YORK COMMANDERY



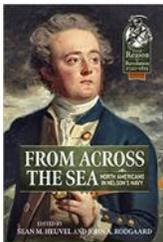
“Black Snow brilliantly vivifies the horrific reality of the most destructive air attack in history, against Tokyo on the night of March 9-10, 1945. James Scott deftly employs sharply etched portraits of individuals of all stations and nationalities to survey the global, technological, and moral backdrop of the cataclysm, including the searing experiences of Japanese trapped in a gigantic firestorm. This riveting account illuminates an historical moment of profound contemporary relevance.”
—Richard B. Frank, author of *Tower of Skulls: A History of the Asia-Pacific War: July 1937–May 1942*



During WWII, Japanese soldiers were embedded in numerous Pacific islands to protect the Japanese homeland from the Allied invasion. These soldiers integrated with indigenous population, while waiting to be attacked by the Allies. Even after WWII had ended, these soldiers remained on these ignored islands under the belief that the war was ongoing. This book tells the story of an unimaginable conflict that arises when these Japanese soldiers are confronted with an American nuclear submarine.



This is the first-ever biography of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr., who served a key role during World War II in the Pacific. Recognizing the achievements and legacy of one of the war's top combat admirals has been long overdue until now. *Battleship Commander* explores Lee's life from boyhood in Kentucky through his eventual service as commander of the fast battleships from 1942 to 1945. Paul Stillwell draws on more than 150 first-person accounts from those who knew and served with Lee from boyhood until the time of his death.



From Across the Sea: North Americans in Nelson's Navy explores the varied contributions of North Americans to the Royal Navy during Great Britain's wars against Revolutionary and Napoleonic France. It is the first book that explores this topic in depth. As an edited compilation, top specialists in the field have contributed thematic essays (on topics ranging from impressment to the Anglo-American maritime relationship) as well as biographical essays on a range of North Americans from both the officer ranks and the lower deck.



The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue is an historical novel set in 1913 Shanghai, where four cultures are about to collide: China, Korea, Japan, and the US. The point of collision is three tons of Japanese gold ingots meant to undermine an already collapsing China.



NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES NEW YORK COMMANDERY

Scheduled Event Dates for Spring 2023

Monday, 6 February

Event: Luncheon

Time: Reception, 1130hrs, Lunch 1200hrs

Monday, 6 March

Event: Luncheon

Time: Reception, 1130hrs, Lunch 1200hrs

Monday, 2 April

Event: Luncheon

Time: Reception, 1130hrs, Lunch 1200hrs

Monday, 1 May

Event: Luncheon

Time: Reception, 1130hrs, Lunch 1200hrs

Monday, 5 June

Event: Luncheon

Time: Reception, 1130hrs, Lunch 1200hrs

All luncheons are held at the **Racquet & Tennis Club**, 370 Park Avenue (between 52nd & 53rd Streets). 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**.

National Congress: think about joining both your New York companions and other national companions at this year's Naval Order Congress, scheduled to be held in October in San Diego, California. When announced, information on the Congress, registration and hotel bookings will be found on the Naval Order national website at <https://navalorder.org>.