



Chapter III, Annex E

Annual Commandery Report Form
NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMANDERY
2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

June 30, 2023

From: Commander, National Capital Commandery, Naval Order of the United States
To: Recorder General, Naval Order of the United States
Chairman, National Awards Committee, Naval Order of the United States
Subj: Annual Report for the period 01 June 2022 - 31 May 2023

ORGANIZATION

Summarize Commandery Executive Board

The National Capital Commandery is fortunate to have a robust **Executive Committee (ExCom)** of fifteen members this year. The ExCom meets monthly, plus two special meetings: an Annual Meeting in September and an Annual Planning Meeting in January. All the meetings are open to all Companions. The ExCom provides governance for activities and expenditures.

- **Commander** – John Shanahan (USN & NOAA Vet.) elected to this role
- **Deputy Commander** – David Mattingly, MCPO, USN (Ret.) elected to this role
- **Recording Secretary / Archivist** – Judy Pearson, Ph.D. continues in this role
- **Master-at-Arms** - Peter Pennington, LT, RN (Ret.) continues in this role
- **Vice Commander for Membership** – Phillip Puckett, CDR, SC, USN (Ret.) elected to this role
- **Vice Commander for Communications** – William Steagall, CAPT, USN (Ret.) continues in this role
- **Vice Commander for Events** – David Mattingly, MCPO, USN (Ret.) acting in this role
- **Treasurer** – John Rodgaard, CAPT, USN (Ret.) continues in this role with Captain Steagall and Mr. Shanahan continuing as Assistant Treasurers
- **Chaplain** – Julius Jackson. Chief Purser, USMM continues in this role
- **Vice Commander for Projects** – Ralph D. Day, LCDR, USN (Ret.) continues in this role
- **Vice Commander for Strategy** – Richard Woodford, LCDR, USN (Ret.) appointed to this role
- **Service Officer** – Michael Kamin, CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.) appointed to this role
- **Special Projects Officer** – Stephen Baker, LCDR, JAGC, USN (Ret.) continues in this role
- **Chief Information Officer and Webmaster** - Peter Pennington, LT, RN (Ret.) appointed to this role
- **Historian and Director, National History Day** – David Winkler, Ph.D. and CDR, USN (Ret.) appointed to this role.

In addition to the formal ExCom structure, we have several past National Officers who advise the ExCom:

- Paul Crissy, CAPT, USCG (Ret.) – Past Commander General
- Vance Morrison, CAPT, USN (Ret.) – Past Commander General
- David Kaiser, CAPT, USN (Ret.) – Past Commander and Vice President of the Naval Order Foundation.
- Robert Sinclair CAPT, USN (Ret.) – Assistant Recorder General
- Lou Orsini, CDR, USCG (Ret.) – Recorder General
- Steven Sinclair LCDR, USN (Ret.) – Master-at-Arms General
- Duret Smith, RADM, MC, USN (Ret.) – NOUS Surgeon General

Further, an active “Commandery Advisory Council” provides guidance and oversight:

Section 1.A. Commandery Advisory Council. The Commandery Advisory Committee includes **all living Past Commanders** of the National Capital Commandery and **prominent military leaders designated by the Commander**. Upon request of the Commander, it shall give advice on policy and other matters. The **immediate Past Commander shall be Chairman**. This function is fulfilled locally through the ExCom. - Bylaws Art. VIII

CAPT William F. Steagall, Jr. **Chair** *
CAPT John Rodgaard, USN (Ret) (NAT CDR: 2010-2018)*
LCDR Steve Baker, JAG, USN (Ret) *
CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret) (NAT CDR: 2008-2009)
LCDR Ralph D. Day, USN (Ret) *
CDR Dan Felger, CDR, USN (Ret) (NAT CDR: 1995-1997)
LCDR Jay Gaul, LCDR, SC, USN
CAPT Mileva Hartman, USN (Ret)
CDR William Joseph, MSC, USN (Ret)
CAPT David Kaiser, USN (Ret) (NAT CDR: 2002-2003)
CAPT Michael Kamin, SC, USN (Ret) *
RADM Donald Loren, USN (Ret)
CAPT Vance Morrison, USN (Ret) (NAT CDR: 1998-1999)
CDR Lou Orsini, USCG (Ret) (NAT CDR: 2000-2001)
CAPT Robert Sinclair, USN (Ret)
CAPT Charles J. Smith, USN (Ret) (NAT CDR: 1992-1993)
RADM Jim Toole, USN (Ret)
LCDR Mike Zampella, USN

* Note: Also serves on the Executive Committee

One of our Companions serves as Vice Commander General for Membership – Captain William Steagall. Two of our Companions serve on the Commander General Elect’s Strategic Planning Group: Commander Puckett and Captain Steagall. Further, one of our Companions is serving as **Secretary of the Navy** -- Carlos Del Toro, CDR, USN (Ret). Secretary Del Toro continues to be a strong supporter of the Commandery and the Order. Further still, one of our Companions is serving as **Vice Chief of Naval Operations** -- Lisa Marie Franchetti, ADM, USN.

MEMBERSHIP

Summarize membership growth by recruiting new membership and retaining current membership, listing the relative numbers.

<u>22 Gains</u> <u>9 New and 12+1 Reinstatements:</u>	<u>20 Losses:</u> <u>8 non-renewal / 5 TPA / 7 Deaths</u>
<p>Mr. Mark Arbeen (10144) VADM Terry Benedict (10135) Dr. Frank Blazich (10185) LCDR Paulstephen Cheirico (10148) CDR John Conjura(100600 Maj Daniel Dewit (10206) Mr. Fred Phelps (10050) CDR Paul Stillwell (10183) LCDR Sean Patrick Walsh (10205)</p> <p>SgtMaj Michael Barrett (Reinstated 9651) Mr. Peter Glenn (Reinstated 8654) Mr. Richard Groves (Reinstated 9305) Mr. Jackson Kemper (Reinstated 5947z) Maj Frank Petrik (Reinstated 8054) CAPT Eugene Razzetti (Reinstated 6986) LT John Rothrock (Reinstated 8978) RADM Brad Skillman (Reinstated 8659) Mr. Christopher Walsh (Reinstated 7632) Ms. Suzanne Williams (Reinstated 7292) ADM James Winnefeld (Reinstated 9847) Maj James Winslow (Reinstated 8554)</p> <p>Converted to 90+ Life: CAPT John Arnold</p>	<p>CDR David Bachand CAPT Jan Downing Mr. Richard Ector Cadet James McCaffrey MIDN Grace McCaffrey CAPT Gary Schnurrrpusch ENS Matt Shoemaker STS1 Michael Tucci</p> <p>Transferred to TPA: LCDR Tom Burden CAPT Henry Clime CAPT Mary Nowaczyk CAPT Walt Steiner VADM Howard Thorsen</p> <p>CAPT Neal Bundo (RIP) CAPT Carl Karlsson (RIP) CAPT Louis Kriser (RIP) RADM Mike McCaffree (RIP) Dr. Elmon Harold Roy (RIP) VADM James Sagerholm (RIP) CAPT David Woods (RIP)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary: We did grow the Commandery by 9 new Companions 12+1 reinstated companions, against 8non-renewal members, 5 transfer, and 7deaths.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year-end GROWTH: Net 2 Companions to the COMMANDERY Net 7 Companions to the ORDER</p>

The Annapolis (ANN) MD Commandery has continued in reorganization stage, with 6 companions on its membership rolls. It was declared inactive in 2020. We have had these Companions on our mailing list for 30 months. We expect most of those Companions will elect to affiliate with NAT and we will continue to coordinate events and activities with them.

We have written to Companions who are delinquent in payment of their annual dues, sending an email with a letter describing upcoming events that we had planned (more about that in Events, below), and inviting them to participate. We will keep them on our mailing list.

We have an active recruiting program with 73 prospective companions (up from 68 last year) receiving our monthly newsletter and Monday Look-Ahead. Anyone can nominate a prospective candidate for the newsletter mailing list through our Vice Commander for Membership, CDR Phillip Puckett.

RECRUITING



Figure 1: Recruiting Kits

Recruiting kits are available for all members. We provide each ExCom member with three with them at all appropriate times. They consist of a Tri-Fold flyer about the Naval Order, a current newsletter, a “**Why Join Us**” flyer and an envelope addressed to our Vice Commander for Membership.

We have an active program to initiate contact with our inactive Companions.

LONGEVITY RECOGNITION

We have a number of Companions who have been loyal members for over 25 years. By unanimous vote of the ExCom, we decided to recognize these Companions with a Silver Anniversary Certificate of membership.



Figure 2: Longevity Recognition Program: Silver and Gold Anniversary Certificates and Quarter Century Lapel Pin

In 2022, we added new Companions to the “Quarter Century Club” and presented all new and current QCC Companions with a 25-year lapel pin, approved recently by the General Commandery.

Based on the success of the Quarter Century Lapel Pin, National Capital Commandery **will be submitting a proposal** for a “Life Companion” Lapel Pin for use nationwide. For example:



Figure 3: Proposed Life Companion Lapel Pin

QUARTER CENTURY COMPANIONS

Captain John Elwyn Arnold, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Rear Admiral Thomas F Atkin, USCG (Ret)
Rear Admiral Joseph John Barth, USN (Ret) (Annual for 34 years)
Captain Hugh Baumgardner, USN (Ret)
General Walter Boomer, USMC (Ret)
Mrs. Margaret Woodall Brooke
Rear Admiral James Joseph Carey, USN (Ret)
Captain John A. C. Cartner, USN (Ret)
Lieutenant Commander Michael Caudill, SC, USN(Ret)
Commander Charles Davis, USN (Ret)
Commander Carlos Del Toro, USN (Ret)
Commander Timothy Demy, CHC, USN (Ret)
Captain Charles W. Dougherty, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Dr. William Dudley, PhD
Lieutenant Commander Robert A. Eisenberg, CEC, USN (Ret)
Commander Joseph Bortner Famme, USN (Ret)
Commander Daniel Gene Felger, USN (Ret)
Mrs. Jean Herz Felger
Lieutenant Commander Reau E. Folk, USN (Ret)
General Alfred Mason Gray, USMC (Ret)
Captain Mileva Hartman, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Captain George Hill, USN (Ret)
Captain Edward Brigham Hontz, USN (Ret)
Commander Michael Hryshchyshyn, USN (Ret)
Rear Admiral Stephen Seabrook Israel, USN (Ret)
Rear Admiral Eric Jones, USCG
Commander Henry Jones, USN (Ret)) Annual Member
Captain Carl Richard Karlsson, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Rear Admiral Stephen Keith, USN (Ret)
Captain Howard Krauderer, USN (Ret)
Rear Admiral John Henry Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Captain Wallace H Lloyd, III, USN (Ret)
Rear Admiral Donald Loren, USN (Ret)
Captain Vance H Morrison, USN (Ret)
Lieutenant Colonel George Martin Malone, USMC (Ret)
Commander Elijah McDavid USN (Ret)
Commander Louis John Orsini, USCG (Ret)
Captain Dennis Pignotti, USN (Ret)
Colonel Susan L Malone, USMC (Ret)
Captain Joe Mancias, Jr., USN (Ret) Annual Member
Commander Thomas F McCaffery, USN (Ret)
Captain Eugene Anthony Razzetti, USN (Ret)
Captain William F Readdy, USN (Ret)
Captain Sharon Fernando Reinke, (USN (Ret)
Captain David Alan Rosenberg, USN (Ret)
Rear Admiral Norman Saunders, USCG (Ret)
Admiral Leighton Warren “Snuffy” Smith, USN (Ret)



QUARTER CENTURY COMPANIONS (Continued)

Captain William Steagall, USN (Ret)
Captain Walter K Steiner, USN (Ret)
Captain Richard Jacob Stohr, USN (Ret)
Captain Willard Stubbs, USN (Ret)
Vice Admiral Howard B Thorsen, USCG (Ret) Annual Member
Rear Admiral Morton E. “Jim” Toole, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Captain Glenn Howard Ward, USN (Ret)
Captain William J. Waylett, USN (Ret)
Ms. Suzanne Williams
Captain Edmund P. Willis, USN (Ret) Annual Member
Captain Leland E. “Bud” Wood Jr., USN (Ret) Annual Member
Captain Christopher Barrett Yates, Sr., USN (Ret) Annual Member



RADM James J. Carey, USN (Ret.)
(NAT “Silver Narwhal”)* #5172



*The Silver Narwhal is the Companion with **the earliest Companion Certificate Number.**

Next Seniors: CAPT George Hill #5400, CAPT Mileva Hartman #5641.

The large number of Quarter Century Companions is a great indicator of the health of a Commandery. The fact that so many continue as Annual Members is a real tribute to the value they see in our Order.



The Silver Narwhal is an unofficial honor bestowed on our Companion with the earliest join date.

FINANCIAL STATUS

“Summarize financial status as of the end of the year to include results of annual audit of financial books.”

The Commandery has filed its Form 990-N tax return with the IRS on a timely basis and completed its annual audit, with the Audit Committee Report filed with the Commander and ExCom.

The commandery is pleased to report that its financial condition is strong, reflecting sound fiscal management and a clear understanding of our fiduciary responsibilities to our fellow companions.

The National Capital Commandery commenced its fiscal year 22 (FY22) on 1 June 2022 with a balance from all of its accounts at \$25,774.96. The Commandery ended FY23 on 31 May 2023 with a combined balance of \$22,214.60. Funds are held in various checking, money market and certificate of deposit accounts at Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU).

A reserve fund of \$11,125 is set to provide interest income in support of our pre-2018 Life Companions.

During the fiscal year, the Commandery funded several of annual events to include the US Coast Guard Birthday luncheon, wreaths, and other modest expenses. A net of \$3,560.36 was spent. The Commandery has a current balance of \$11,089.60 in unreserved funds.

Additionally, the Commandery provided funds for the awards (sword and plaques) to the winners of the annual Captain James Brooke Naval History Prizes at the U.S. Naval Academy in May. This outlay will be reimbursed to the Commandery by the National finance officer during FY 23.

Income from donations to the Commandery’s general fund was significantly down from previous years. Most of the income the Commandery received to its general fund came in the form of quarterly dues from National. Additionally, the Commandery earned a small amount of income as interest income from the various NFCU accounts.

Although we have seen a nearly 14% decrease in the Commandery’s overall balance, our overall fiscal condition remains very strong. This decrease is a result of increased spending on programs to support our members.

The financial records of the National Capital Commandery were audited by the Audit Committee in September 2022, as reported at the Monthly Meeting in May 2023. No irregularities were noted.

The National Capital Commandery did file its IRS Form 990-N (Report of Exempt Organizations) with the Internal Revenue Service on time in APRIL 2023. The prudent stewardship of funds by the Treasurer and ExCom has served the Commandery well.

PROGRAMS

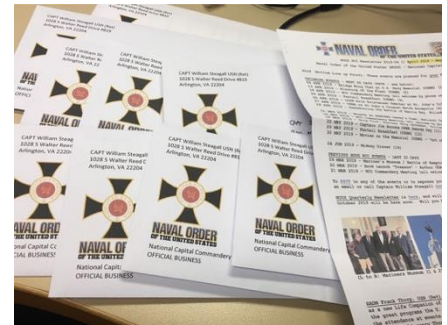
Internal Communications

Summarize all internal communications programs and initiatives with local companions. Include report of annual meeting and validation of Commandery by-laws on file with the Recorder General.

1. **New Web Page** – <https://nouscap.org> Categories of information shared: events, membership dues, about the Commandery, Next ExCom Meeting link, news, pictures of past events.
2. **Integration with NavalOrder.org web page.** We have linked the NAT web page to the NOUS web page.
3. **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/Groups/NOUSNAT> We have observed that only about 40% of our Companions are on Facebook, so we have elected to have other means to communicate with them. The new Facebook page is much easier to access and navigate, as it is a “Group” instead of “Non-Profit Organization.”

4. **Monthly Commandery Newsletter** with 7 sections:

- A 60-day look ahead at events upcoming
- A 30-day look back at events we have held
- A few photographs of previous events, if available
- An update on Companions (gains, losses, illness, deaths, transfers)
- Details about each of the upcoming events
- A listing of the ExCom members, with phone and e-mail
- Links to the Naval Order Commandery web page, and Facebook page for NOUS NAT



National Quarterly Magazine Articles:

National Capital Commandery submitted the following Articles to the NOUS Quarterly Magazine:

Summer 2022 - Congress details (page 1, 2, 13, 14), USNA Awards (page 7), Olympia (page 10),

Fall 2022 - Commandery Report (page 8-9)

Winter 2022-2023 - NOUS National Congress (pages 2, 3, 4), Commandery Report (page 10, 11)

Spring 2023 - Commandery Report (page 8, 9, 10, 11)

Community Involvement

Summarize all local community involvement in such events as local Sea Service programs, meeting speakers, sponsoring awards, special observances and local publicity regarding historical maritime activities. Annual Schedule of Events should be included as an attachment.

National Capital Commandery participated in and led the following events during this year:

Battle of Midway Dinner – June 2022 – in conjunction with Surface Navy Association



Ericsson Memorial Ceremony, July 2022: A wreath-laying ceremony and a reading of the Ericsson Memorial Dedication Speech as given by President Calvin Coolidge on 5/26/1926

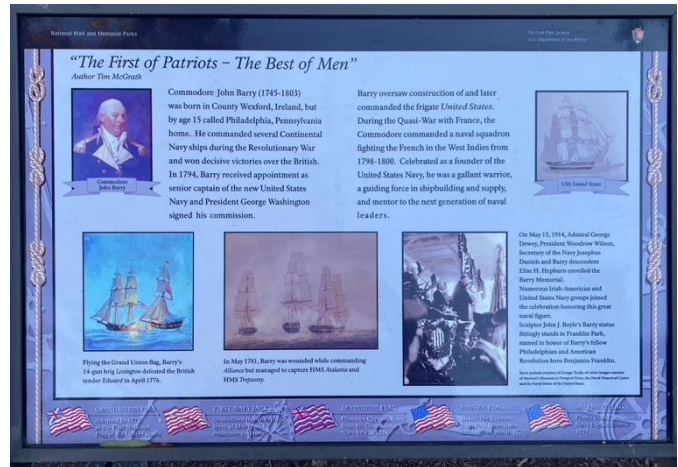


US Coast Guard Birthday, August 2022: An informal gathering to celebrate the birthday of the

United States Coast Guard at O’Connell’s Pub, Alexandria VA.



Commodore John Barry Memorial Observance, September 2022: Franklin Park, Washington DC.



Underway on SS John W. Brown, September 2022:

A “day at sea” on a World War II Victory Ship!



Annual Commandery Meeting – September 2022 –



Quarter Century Club Luncheon – September 2022 -

The Quarter Century Club Luncheon was a tribute to the many living companions who have maintained membership in the Commandery and the Naval Order for 25 years or more. Seven such companions, all retired U.S. Navy veterans, were present to receive certificates of recognition. Twenty additional Quarter Century Club Companions were new in 2022, and six more in 2023

Names for 2022: Cato, Chavez, Gubser, Bearss, Cutler, Manning, Lange, Browning, Clime, Kaiser, McKinney, Tillman, Piche, Jones (J-R), Wiltshire, Karonis, Redshaw (M), Redshaw (M), Arthur, Roncolato.

Names for 2023: Creekman, D’Angelo, Heyer, Mahnken, McAllen, Poole

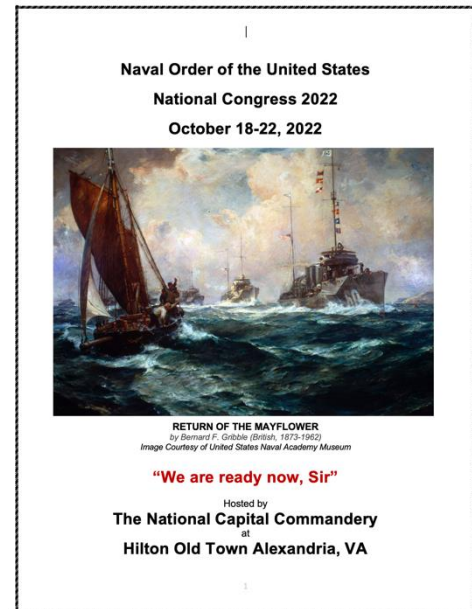
US Navy Museum Reception, September 2022:

Future U.S. Navy Museum designs were previewed at a reception at what has been the former Navy Museum. This was a U.S. Navy event attended by NOUS Members at the invitation of SECNAV.



The National Capital Commandery hosted National Congress 2022 for the Naval Order, October 2022

- Submitted Proposal in August 2021
- Selection of NAT in September 2021
- July 2022 – August 2022
 - Final stages July - October
 - Weekly meetings
 - Change of venue to alternate site
- Final stages September - October 2022
 - Weekly meetings
 - Change of venue to alternate site
 - All other tasks completed on time
- Result: First in-person meeting since 2019.



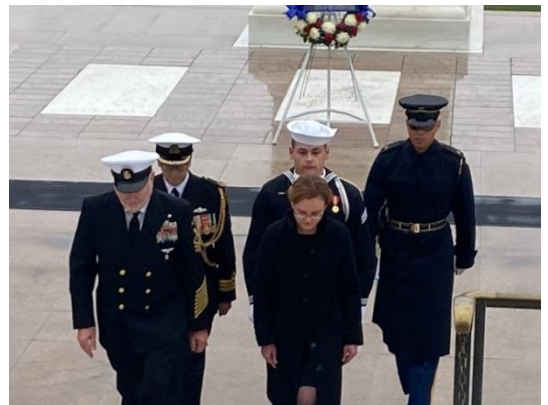
Guest Speaker – SECNAV

Final Financial Report – Modest profit, most importantly: NOT A BURDEN ON NOUS TREASURY

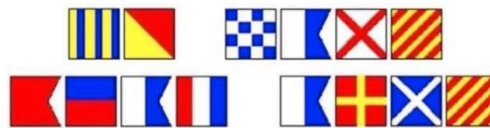




Pearl Harbor Memorial and Wreath, December 2022



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner, December 2022:



Annual Planning Meeting, January 2023: For the eleventh year in a row, the Commandery held a planning meeting in January.

This January Tradition includes planning the remaining events for the calendar year.



USMC Museum Visit, January 2023:

In the winter, when “it is too cold to play outside,” we schedule museum visits.



Cold War Museum, February 2023



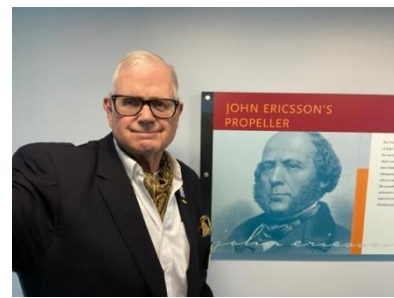
Wreath-laying at the Mast of the USS MAINE, 15 February 2023: We remember the loss of the USS MAINE on the 125th anniversary of the explosion. A solemn remembrance was held.



Wreath-Laying at Midshipman Dale's Tomb in Bermuda, February 2023: Captain Rodgaard and Dr. Pearson attended in person at the services conducted in memory of Midshipman Dale in Bermuda. The National Capital Commandery sent a wreath to be placed in his memory on behalf of the Naval Order of the United States.



Remembering the Battle or Hampton Roads - Mariner’s Museum, March 2023, Newport News, VA. Several Companions attended the “Hampton Roads Weekend.”



Annual Eric Kristensen Memorial Lecture, St. Johns College, Annapolis MD, April 2023: Several companions attended this reflection on Maritime History, held in memory of LCDR Eric Kristensen, an alumni of St. Johns College and USNA.



Battle of Manila Bay - Wreath Laying at the USS OLYMPIA, Philadelphia, April 2023:

Representatives of Philadelphia, NYC, Continental, and National Capital Commanderies gathered in Philadelphia to remember Admiral of the Navy George Dewey’s victory at the Battle of Manila Bay.



Admiral of the Navy George Dewey - Wreath Laying at the National Cathedral, May 2023:
Held in person, with a modest attendance due to lingering pandemic concerns.



Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home – May 11-13, 2023 on the National Mall

In cooperation with the Department of Defense and the National Vietnam Veterans “Welcome Home” celebration, the Commandery had a booth on the National Mall for the three day event.



United States Naval Academy Awards – May 2023 – Awards were presented in person by CAPT Paul Crissy, USGC (Ret) Past Commander General of the Naval Order

Past Commander General, CAPT Paul Crissy, USCG (Ret) represented the Naval Order at the Prizes and Awards Ceremony for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences during the United States Naval Academy’s 2023 Commencement Week activities. Col Michael Styskal, USMC, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Samara Firebaugh, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, participated in the presentations. The Naval Order’s relationship with Col Styskal dates back to 2017, when Companion LtCol Frank Bendrick, USMC (Ret) presented Col Styskal, then Commanding Officer of the Third Marine Regiment, with the Vintage Drum and Display Case at the parade commemorating the Anniversary of the Battle of Bougainville.

Naval Order awards have been presented for 90 consecutive years to midshipmen in the Academy Division of Humanities and Social Sciences which includes the Departments of Economics, English, History, Languages and Culture, and Political Science. Finalists are nominated by Academy instructors and chosen by a committee of Division professors. The Naval Order's participation in the School Awards program grew from a single "Naval Order of the United States Prize" to the "Naval Order's Captain James F. Brooke, III Memorial Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Award," the "Senior Division Award" and the "Junior Division Award." The three 2023 recipients of Naval Order prizes are:

The 2023 "Captain James F. Brooke, III Memorial Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Award recipient is **Midshipman First Class Grant Booker** who received a sword and plaque for his paper titled "Faces of Justice: Sentencing Disparities in the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary." MIDN Booker's senior honors thesis considers how racial and gender inequities could be addressed in criminal justice system reform, concluding that no defendant should face a greater or lesser level of objective justice, and that if judges considered how their personal socialization impacts their judicial decisions, equity could be improved.

The 2023 Naval Order of the United States Senior Division Award. **Midshipman First Class Ricardo D. Herzog Balderas** was presented with a clock and plaque for his paper titled "Ottoman Past and Iraqi Present: Arab Officer's Ottoman History and its Influence on their Authority in British Mandate Iraq." MIDN Balderas's paper concludes that while those who would become Iraqis fought alongside the British to free themselves from Ottoman administration in the Arab Revolt, the nation of Iraq saw similar practices to that of the Ottomans as imposed by the mandate administration of Britain.

The 2023 Naval Order of the United States Junior Division Award. **Midshipman Third Class Nicole Rosenfeld** received a clock and plaque for her paper titled "Hamilton vs. Jefferson: The Federalist Debate Over the Challenge of Pandemics." MIDN Rosenfeld's paper suggests that Federalism in the United States is a challenge to the Department of Homeland Security that requires an updated response with new solutions and ideas. MIDN Rosenfeld was excused from the Prizes and Awards Ceremony to attend her sister, Brooke's graduation from the United States Military Academy where "Beat Army" was reportedly heard when Brooke was awarded her electrical engineering degree...



Memorial Day Observance and Wreath Laying at Military Women’s Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, May 2023 -- Chief Purser Julius Jackson, USMM represented the Commandery and laid the memorial wreath.



The National Capital Commandery has committed to supporting the **National Congress in San Diego in person and via Zoom Teleconference in October, 2023**, with a large turn-out of Companions expected to attend.

Commandery Service Officer Program

This year, Captain Mike Kaman accepted the role of Commandery Service Officer. His goal is to contact and visit our elderly Companions in person and to let them know that they are not forgotten.



SCHEDULED EVENTS 2022-2023: 36 events

2022	2023
2022 06 03 Midway Commemoration & Dinner 2022 06 23 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2022 07 07 ‘From Across the Sea’ 2022 07 21 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2022 07 31 Ericsson Memorial 2022 08 04 USCG Birthday Celebration 2022 08 18 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2022 09 11 Remembrance 2021 09 13 Barry Wreath 2022 09 17 Annual Business Meeting 2022 09 24 SS John W Brown Visit 2022 10 15 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2022 10 22 NOUS Congress 2022 2022 11 13 Remembrance Sunday 2022 11 17 Commandery & ExCom Meeting 2022 12 07 Tomb of the Unknowns Wreath 2022 12 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner 2022 12 10 Army-Navy Game Tailgate 2022 12 15 Commandery & ExCom meeting 19 events held	2023 01 21 Annual Planning Meeting 2023 02 05 USMC Museum Visit 2023 02 11 Cold War Museum Visit 2023 02 15 Remember the Maine Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery 2023 02 16 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2023 02 25 Midshipman Dale Memorial, Bermuda - Wreath Laying 2023 03 11 Mariners Museum - Hampton Roads Visit 2023 03 16 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2023 04 12 LCDR Eric Kristensen Seminar SJC 2023 04 20 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2023 04 29 USS Olympia Memorial with PDV Commandery 2023 05 01 Memorial Ceremonies: Dewey Crypt and Wreath 2023 05 12 ‘Welcome Home’ for Vietnam Veterans – National Mall 2023 05 18 Commandery & ExCom meeting 2023 05 25 USNA Awards Program and NOUS Presentations 2023 05 29 Memorial Day – Ceremonies at Navy Memorial 2023 05 29 Memorial Day and Wreath Laying at Women’s Memorial 17 events held

National Initiatives

Summarize participation in National initiatives that could be related to research, National publications or exhibits in local areas.

National Capital Commandery continues to propose the establishment of a “**Model Commandery**” award to recognize *all of the Commanderies which complete the minimum requirements* for the Lee Douglass or Jan Armstrong Award. This award would do two important things: (1.) Establish a benchmark for satisfactory performance by a Commandery, and (2.) Appropriately recognize those Commanderies which achieve that benchmark.

While only one Commandery can be awarded the “best of the best,” every Commandery could complete the minimum requirements to be considered. For example, in 2022, only 3 commanderies (two large and one small) met the minimum requirements. We can do better. A “Model Commandery” award would encourage all commanderies to strive for excellence.

Details: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sf6pwv2ghkh3s02/AAD0xOzy-sPHA7EKplroe_HQa?dl=0

National Capital Commandery has proposed and the General Commandery has approved some of the aspects of a suggestion for conversion of some long standing and aged Annual Dues paying Companions to Life Companions. While this will likely result in reduced revenue at the General Commandery Treasury, for some Companions, past a certain age, it is not a long future revenue stream we would be giving up. In the interim, NAT is paying the annual dues for some of our very elderly. Details: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nvvmqm3oddb91pc/AABS-Dm1gb7BXwWsOwJ2bGW2a?dl=0>

National Capital Commandery **suggests broadening the definition of Associate Membership** to include more than just veterans and descendants of veterans or service members, but to add enthusiastic supporters of the Order and its mission to those who do not meet current associate membership requirements.

Other Significant Events

Summarize any other significant events during reporting period.

HISTORIC MARKERS

National Capital Commandery has three Historic Marker Campaigns underway:

- USCG Marker at former U.S. Coast Guard Air Station **Bermuda**
- US Navy Marker at former U.S. Naval Air Station, **Bantry Bay, Ireland**
- US Navy Marker at USS Constitution former port of **Siracusa, Sicily, Italy**

Each of these markers uphold the tradition of the Naval Order for communicating the history of the maritime services to the public. Each is supported financially by the National Capital Commandery, by individual Companions, and by the local communities where they are to be placed.

PROJECT: “A BATTERY OF FLAGS”

National Capital Commandery Executive Committee (ExCom) has acquired a set of 8 flags, flagpoles, stands, etc., to use at our events as a backdrop and stage dressing for future events. These eight flags are a lasting tribute to the maritime services whose history we preserve.

US, USN, USMC, USCG, USMM, USPHS, NOAA, and NOUS flags.

The total cost was approximately \$2400. We solicited donors to sponsor flags, and engraved the **names of the donors on a brass plate** on the pole of the flag(s) they wish to sponsor.

We first used this Battery of Flags at the Midway Dinner in June 2022. These flags should last us 20 years.



RECORD KEEPING AND ARCHIVES

- Digital Archives for CY 2021 were delivered to the Historian General in May 2023.
- Digital Archives for CY 2022 were delivered to the Historian General in May 2023.

COMMANDER'S PERSONAL THOUGHTS

Opportunity for Commandery Commander reflections and focus for the coming year.

A principal marker of our Commandery's performance for 2022-23 has been "Teamwork." We accepted the challenge of planning and executing the 2022 NOUS Congress and came together to work as a team to make it happen. As a measure of success, the 2022 Congress was the first one since the 2018 Congress to be hosted by a local commandery. Not only did we conduct a successful program and earn a profit, we utilized the experience of the Congress to "pull together" and to take advantage of the strengths of each member of the team. This experience has helped us to build a stronger management team for 2023 and beyond.

Moving to the start of calendar 2023, the Commandery took the (perhaps unusual) step of electing a commander who did not live in the National Capital AOR. Doing that challenged the Commandery to make two changes in its management style: (1.) Adopt a distributed management scheme and make extensive use of Zoom technology for communication, and (2.) Change its officer structure to engage one of its officers in the National Capital AOR as Deputy Commander. MCPO David Mattingly was asked to step into this role and has done a superb job in this new position. We look forward to making this management structure a permanent arrangement, as it provides for "two-deep leadership," a key element of success for any organization.

Going forward for 2023-24, we have several key objectives. Here they are – and why:

1. **Build a larger and more active member base.** With a base of roughly 200 members, a net increase of just 15 members (7.5%) – plus engagement of current members – could make a significant difference in our ability to undertake and execute our missions. In addition, we will lose some of our key players on the ExCom over time, as they choose to move on to other opportunities. We need a ready cadre to replace them. And we need to grow overall.
2. **Expand our geographic impact** in our National Capital AOR. We have members in Annapolis and Baltimore. We need to ensure that they are served effectively and that these two important maritime centers are effectively supported. We plan to accomplish that by appointing Area Vice Commanders for each and using them to plan and organize programs and events in each of these communities.
3. **Partner with other naval/maritime service organizations.** We are doing that now with the Surface Navy Association in the planning and execution of the Battle of Midway Memorial Dinner. We are looking to do more in this area and have pursued new opportunities with the Navy Memorial Foundation. And we plan on more to come.
4. **Expand our communications and public outreach impact.** We have a new website in place and we maintain regular updates on our social media page (Facebook). We have budgeted for and will buy two new "pop-up" display stands this summer to roll out in September at the McMullen Naval History Symposium at the Naval Academy. We are looking to place recruiting blurbs in publications of naval and maritime service organizations that succinctly tell the story of "**What is the Naval Order – and Why**" and invite interested folks to join.
5. **Advocate internally for less restrictive standards for Associate Membership.** We want folks who are interested in what we do – and who wish to support us – to feel welcome and to have a seat at the table. Let's expand Associate Membership to all those who have an interest in preserving and promoting naval and maritime history and bring them on board.

Proposed Events for 2023 - 2024:

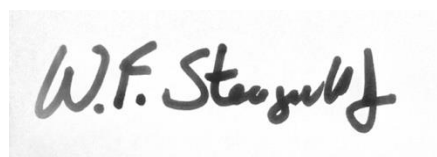
We will maintain the previous calendar from 2022-23 and add the McMullen Naval History Symposium at the Naval Academy in September 2023.

Special thanks to Carlos del Toro, CDR, USN (Ret), Secretary of the Navy and former owner of SBG Technology Services, where we meet for the Monthly ExCom meetings, the Annual Commandery Meeting, and the Annual Planning Meeting. The hospitality extended is greatly appreciated by all.

Submitted: June 30, 2023



John H. Shanahan, Jr.
Life Companion of the Naval Order
Commander
National Capital Commandery
Email: jhshanahan@gmail.com
Phone: 713-851-0430



William F Steagall, Jr, Captain, USN (Ret)
Quarter Century Companion and
Life Companion of the Naval Order of the United States #7311
PAST Commander, National Capital Commandery
nous.nat.cdr@gmail.com 571-334-2794