

## **National Capital Commandery**

### **7 December 2023 Pearl Harbor Remembrance**

On 7 December 2023 members of the National Capital Commandery represented the Naval Order of the U.S. for their annual wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in remembrance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 7 December 1941.

Captain John Rodgaard (USN Ret.) organized the short ceremony. Dr. Judy Pearson, MCPO Dave Mattingly (USN Ret.), and Captain William Steagall (USN Ret.) attended. They were joined by Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cameron Robinson of the Navy Ceremonial Guard; Commander Alan Parker of the Royal New Zealand Navy and Naval Attaché of the New Zealand Embassy, Washington, DC; Flight Lt. George Watson from the British Embassy, Washington, DC; and Rear Admiral Michael Studeman (USN, Ret.), former Commanding Officer of the Office of Naval Intelligence, all of whom served as the four wreath-bearers.

Also in attendance were Commander Chris Emonson of the Royal Australian Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché of the Australian Embassy, Washington, DC, and Commander Derek Powles, Royal Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché of the British Embassy, Washington DC.

The wreath-laying followed the noon Changing of the Guard at the tomb. Silence prevailed as the wreath-bearers, assisted by a soldier of the Old Guard, placed the red, white and blue floral wreath in front of the tomb. A bugler played taps while those in uniform saluted and onlookers placed their hands over their hearts. This year's wreath-laying marked the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the US entry into World War II. It was touching that embassy naval personnel were present to represent our allies (with the exception of Canada) in that war.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, Ph.D.

#### Photos:

1. The wreath-laying party descending the stairs in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. L-R, Flight Lt. George Watson, Cdr Alan Parker, RADM Mike Studeman, and Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cameron Robinson.
2. Placing the wreath.
3. The salute while the bugler plays taps
4. The entourage of Naval Order companions and naval staff from the British, Australian, and New Zealand embassies.
5. The Naval Order wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier