



ALL AHEAD FULL



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

WINTER 2017-2018



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings and Happy New Year, Shipmates,

2017 was another successful 12 months for the Baltimore Council. We received numerous accolades for our conduct in commissioning the USS Zumwalt and supporting the functions of "Fleet Week" in Baltimore October, 2016 and are currently involved in preparations for the next Fleet Week in October.

Our Sea Cadet Corps units are growing and flourishing with interesting and challenging new activities under the tutelage of a tremendously talent cadre. The Council is very proud of their accomplishments and enthusiasm and always encouraged to witness the youthful patriotism evident not only in the Sea Cadets Corps but also in the Navy and Marine Corps JROTC high school programs we recognize and support. That support also extends to the adult Sea Services where council recognition certificates and cash awards go to Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) and Sailor of the Year (SOY) ceremonies at the various Coast Guard Units at Curtis Bay and the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) at Fort McHenry.

The educational presentations by our Board and Staff, in particular Past-President Alan Walden, are a highlight of our mission and often sought after, especially by youth groups. Interest and opportunities are regularly observed and honored. We attend local promotions and Change of Command ceremonies that are frequent in this seafaring venue. We are front and center when ships from other nations visit Baltimore, a favorite port of call because of its proximity to most of the major attractions of this great city.

And we end our year with a lavish holiday banquet on the first Wednesday of December, a fitting postscript to the many months of dedicated support and concern for the Sea Services and their personnel. In 2017 we were highly honored to have as our guest speaker Admiral Samuel Jones Locklear, former Commander in Chief-Pacific (CINCPAC), a distinguished leader and a very fine speaker. (More on that event later in this issue)

All that the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States accomplished so successfully is indicative of the efforts of our board and active volunteers. Many are older; their active service in uniform long past. But advancing age has not dimmed their devotion to the nation and those who defend it. All, whether veterans of the Armed Forces or not, are loyal, patriotic citizens who continue to demonstrate their appreciation for and love of our United States. They all stand proudly when the National Anthem is played. They are contributing and dedicated stake holders in this great Nation, and I love them all.

I thank you for allowing me to lead this honorable organization for the past two years and look forward to supporting my successor to achieve future success.

God continue to bless us and provide us with the moral and effective leadership to keep America great.

"Freedom is not free!" ⚓

— Joe
Brig Gen. Sir A. J. Nattans, USA (ret),
Chevalier of the order of Knights Templar
President and Life Member

For Those Who Served Veterans Day 2017



Because "The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th month" fell on a weekend in 2017 Baltimore's annual commemoration of Veterans Day was moved to Friday, November 10th. But that did nothing to dim the enthusiasm of the crowd that gathered at War Memorial / City Hall Plaza to pay tribute to all those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and, by extension, to those who have



Walden and Davis

worn other uniforms in service to the city, the state, and the nation.

As always, the morning began with a parade from the Washington Monument on North Charles

Street through the city to the plaza where many prominent elected officials and citizens were waiting on the reviewing stand. Mayor Catherine Pugh was official host of the event and her comments, as the ceremony progressed, where appropriate to

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Star Struck General Joe



Walden and Nattans



Generals Nattans and Casey

Always a special occasion, the annual review of the 1st Battalion of the 175th Infantry was even more so in 2017, particularly for this council and one of its most prominent members. There was, as always, the ceremonial review of the troops on the parade floor of the historic Fifth Regiment Armory, a sight to behold for the scores of people in attendance. But the highlight of the occasion was the promotion of our own Joe Nattans, Colonel, AUS (ret) to the brevet rank of brigadier general!

Representing the Adjutant General was Brigadier General Sean Casey, Director of the Joint Staff of the Maryland National

Guard. As Joe, accompanied by his wife, Donna, and his three sons stood at attention, the order was read by Baltimore Council Vice President Alan Walden, Colonel of the Maryland Line and perennial Master of Ceremony for the event. Joe's sons changed the shoulder straps on his tunic from infantry colonel's eagles to a single silver star, and his new, heavily braided general's hat was presented to him by Donna. It was a seminal moment in the life of a dedicated American patriot and servant of the republic and, happily, many members of Joe and Donna's family were there to share it with them.

After the ceremony concluded there were two receptions: One in the regimental lounge for those who participated in the annual event and their guests, and another, with General Joe as the host, in the William Donald Shaefer dining room for his invited guests and friends.

We're very proud of General Nattans. He has served this council with the utmost commitment, grace, and style for many years. We owe him a great deal and it is our fervent wish that, in his new status, good fortune and success will follow his flag. ⚓

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the occasion; in praise of the service of the men and women who defend this nation with their lives. Also on the dais was Clarence "Tiger" Davis, an Air Force veteran and president of the National Association of Black

Veterans and, for almost a quarter of a century, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and of its Ways and Means Committee. As he has for more than a decade, Baltimore Council Past President Alan Walden served as Master of Ceremony and

his message was one of national unity. "Whatever our differences," he said, "whatever our race, creed, color or political inclinations, we are all Americans. This is our country; yours and mine. And thus it shall ever be."

The ceremony concluded with the ringing of the bells at nearby Zion Lutheran Church and a moment of silence for those who have given their all in defense of the United States. ⚓

Remember Pearl Harbor Infamy Recalled



Reynolds and Walden

Thursday, December 7th, dawned windy, bright and cold as a standing room only crowd gathered on the weather deck of the Coast Guard Cutter Taney at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Taney, the last fighting ship still afloat that was in action on "the date which will live in infamy" and one of the artifacts maintained by Historic Ships in Baltimore is where, each year, a special memorial event takes place to recall that terrible day in

1941 when a formidable enemy smashed the battle fleet at Pearl Harbor.

We were fortunate to have two very special guest speakers. Michael Reynolds is Acting Director of the National Park Service and Charles Ray, Deputy Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Reynolds spoke of the need to maintain historic relics such as Taney in order that future generations

will be able to learn from what is, in fact, living history. Charlie Ray, a spellbinding yarn spinner, spoke of his career in the Coast Guard, some of which was spent on board Taney, and the need for vigilance in a world every bit as dangerous as it was in the years preceding World War II.

Council Vice President Alan Walden, a member of the board of Historic Ships, was also the Master of Ceremony for the Pearl

Harbor Day event, and he spoke of the need for awareness of those who would do us harm and that the enemy, while wearing a different uniform or, in some cases, no uniform, was a persistent threat.

The ceremony concluded with the drop of a memorial wreath in the waters of the inlet where Taney is tied up, and the playing of taps. ⚓

The Gala Party Time

Each year the Baltimore Council finishes the business at hand with its annual meeting and banquet. For quite a while now the event has taken place at the Eagle's Nest Country Club in Baltimore County where, in early December, the faithful gathered as they are wont to do to share their stories of the year gone by and discuss the issues that define the mission of the Navy League.

The 2017 event featured, as the keynote speaker Admiral Samuel Locklear, a highly regarded military leader and mariner whose storied career in the United States Navy took him all the way to four stars and ended only two years ago as CINCPAC, Commander in Chief-



Amb. Sauerbrey with Joe and Donna Nattans

Pacific. As such ADM Locklear was responsible for the administration and deployment of all naval assets from the West Coast of the United States to Asia and beyond. A gifted speaker, he devoted most of his remarks to the Navy League its importance to the Sea Services since its founding, at the suggestion of President Theodore Roosevelt, more than a century ago. He explained that our mission, as Navy Leaguers, is of vital importance to the men and women of the Armed Forces who need to know that, while they are

"out there" in defense of the republic and its people, those at home are aware of their dedication and sacrifice and are more than willing to support it in any way they are able.

The color guard, rotated among the youth programs supported by this council, was provided by CAPT Marty Allard, USN-ret. and his cadets from the Mergenthaler Vocational High School NJROTC program in Baltimore City. Among the special guests were Hon. Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, former

minority leader of the Maryland House of Delegates, Captain Lonnie Harrison, USCG, Captain of the Port of Baltimore, and Lieutenant Commander Rolanda Franklin, Regional Director of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

At the conclusion of his speech, Admiral Locklear was presented with an Award of Merit from the Baltimore Council for his lifetime of service to the nation and a custom designed Baltimore Council wristwatch. ⚓

Comrades in the Mist

U.S. Navy Battleships with the Grand Fleet

By John Barnard

In April of 1917 the United States finally entered World War I on the side of the Triple Entente; Britain, France, and Russia. The U.S. Navy had an adequate number of big ships although more officers and crew were needed. The core of the fleet was stationed on the East Coast with 14 dreadnought type and 19 older pre-dreadnought battleships. There were also four large armored cruisers. But the number of modern smaller cruisers, destroyers and submarines was low. The Secretary of the Navy was Josephus Daniels. In the new post of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) was Rear Admiral Will S. Benson while Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo commanded the Atlantic Fleet. All were capable leaders.

The Navy saw defense of American coastal waters and the Caribbean Sea as its principal mission, and no plans existed for combat operations in European waters. The only strategy for conflict with Germany was War Plan Black. Drawn up in 1890 it called for the Navy to concentrate in the Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean area to counter a German Fleet bringing an army to invade North or South America. But, by 1917, this plan was seriously out of date. The German surface fleet was confined to the North Sea by Great Britain's Grand Fleet, a huge, powerful and combat experienced force of battleships, cruisers and destroyers based at Scapa Flow in the far north of the country and commanded by Sir David Beatty.

After America entered the war a force of destroyers and other escort vessels was built up in both French and British waters. The dreadnought battleships, however, were kept at home. It was felt they were essential for defense in case elements of the German battle fleet went to sea on raiding missions. But not only did the American naval commander in Britain, Rear Admiral William S. Sims, call for all available escort type vessels to be sent to the combat area, he also advocated that some of our battleships also be assigned to serve with the Grand Fleet.

In August of 1917 Admiral Mayo went to London to confer with the admiralty of naval



Secretary Daniels



Admiral Benson



Admiral Rodman



Admiral Beatty

plans including the inclusion of American battleships in North Sea operations. CNO Benson also joined the discussions and, once he became more familiar with the strategic situation, recommended to Secretary Daniels that four U.S. dreadnoughts be assigned to the Grand Fleet. Not long thereafter, they were underway under the command of Rear Admiral Hugh Rodman, an experienced leader and a fine sailor. The squadron included USS New York with her ten 14" guns, USS Florida and USS Delaware, each of which mounted ten 12" guns, and USS Wyoming with her twelve 12 inchers. They arrived at Scapa Flow on 7 December 1917 and it wasn't long before Rodman and Beatty had become close friends as well as colleagues. A fifth American dreadnought, USS Texas (10 x 14") was added in February 1918.

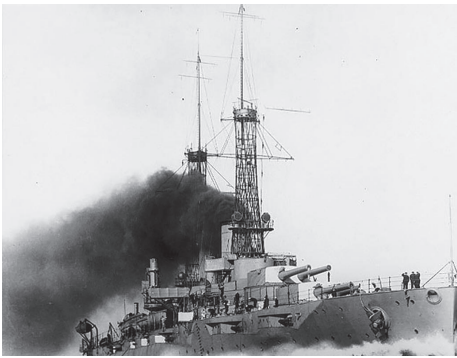
The Americans adjusted quickly to most British battle tactics (flag signaling, radio codes, etc.) But gunnery standards were difficult to meet. Beatty's men had learned the previous year, in the greatest fleet action of the war, the need for speed in loading

and accuracy of firing. Beatty was at first concerned but, with time, American crews steadily improved.

Since the great battle of Jutland in May 1916 the German fleet had remained in port except for a very few short sorties. But the Grand Fleet had to be prepared for another major action. The British also decided to move their principal base of operations from Scapa Flow to Rosyth, in Scotland, formerly home to only the battlecruiser force. And they also had to deploy their assets, including battleships, to escort convoys, mostly between Norway and Scotland.

Late April 1918 saw the German High Seas Fleet's last foray into the North Sea when it embarked on a convoy raid with the Grand Fleet in pursuit. But when one of the German battlecruisers suffered an engine breakdown, the sortie was canceled and there was no contact.

USS Arkansas arrived to relieve USS Delaware in July of 1918 and to provide better balance



USS New York



USS Delaware

to the American force since Arkansas and Wyoming were sister ships as were New York and Texas. All were, at various times, to screen U.S. minelayers engaged in creating an anti-submarine minefield in the North Sea. Then, in November, the Great War was over. Kaiser Wilhelm II's once proud High Seas Fleet steamed to its surrender between British and American ships at anchor in Scotland's Firth of Forth where most of the German vessels were scuttled by the crews. And, shortly thereafter, Admiral Rodman's American force steamed for home.

There were other American ships engaged in the war. Pre-dreadnoughts and armored cruisers were assigned to escort duty. And the Navy even established a force of modern dreadnoughts, USS Oklahoma, USS Nevada, and USS Utah at Berehaven, in Ireland. Less than a quarter of a century later all three would fall victim to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

After the war the U.S. Navy's battle fleet could reflect on a period of solid achievement. Much was learned by operating with the combat-tested Royal Navy. The only lingering concern, even then, was what mischief the ever-growing naval power of Japan might create in the Pacific. But as the guns fell silent in what was sadly misnamed "The War to End All Wars" few Americans were inclined to worry about it. ⚓

The Next Generation Sea Cadets Standing Tall



By Maria Fajardo

On December 16th, on a sunny, brisk and beautiful Saturday morning, cadets from Ft McHenry Division USNSCC and TS Constellation USNLCC took part in the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville, MD. The cadets, along with a handful of adult unit Officers, had the honor of laying Christmas wreaths on the graves of some of our great nation's fallen heroes. Typically our cadets make the trip to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia to participate in their large event. But this year, the unit felt it was important to be a part of honoring those who are laid to rest right here in Baltimore and support our community's efforts in honoring some of this country's finest men and women.

The event began with a short ceremony which included the presentation of colors, and the presentation of wreaths on the grave of a hero from branch of the Armed Forces by either a current Active Duty service member or a military Veteran. The ceremony concluded with the recitation of the Veteran's Day poem, and the playing of Taps. Afterwards all the participants began the most important task of laying the wreaths. Each of our cadets took care in making sure each wreath was in good condition, the red holiday ribbon was

straight, and at each grave, they carefully laid the wreath just right and with the utmost care. Afterwards the cadet stood at attention, saluted, and said the five most important words one can offer a military service member, both alive and laid to rest: "Thank you for your service," followed by that service member's rank and name.

It's been said that "a person dies twice: once they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken." Those who are a part of our units, both cadet and adult alike, have always put a high premium on honoring our military veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of ensuring freedom and liberty for all Americans. Every December, when our cadets participate in the Wreaths Across America, they are given the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and they forget about their Christmas wish lists or the coveted winter school break. For a brief moment, they become part of a much bigger community, a large family of grateful Americans who believe in remembering our fallen U.S. Veterans and honoring their service, who believe that each veteran deserves to be a part of that family. And in that moment, when the cadet laid that wreath and said that service member's name, that fallen hero's memory was celebrated and honored, and his/her legacy lived on. ⚓

Coming Up

- 1/15** Martin Luther King Day
- 2/12** Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (Show the colors)
- 2/14** Valentine's Day
- 2/22** George Washington's Birthday / President's Day
(Show the colors)
- 3/11** Daylight Saving Time begins (Set clocks ahead one hour)
- 3/17** St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20** First day of spring
- 3/25** Palm Sunday
- 3/30** Good Friday / First day of Passover
- 4/1** Easter Sunday

Remembering Our Mission

The NAVY LEAGUE came into being in 1902 with the express purpose "to enlighten the people on naval matters and tell them what a Navy means to the country and what it ought to mean to them."

We have always conveyed the philosophy of two of our founders, PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT and ADMIRAL ALFRED THAYER MAHAN that America is a maritime nation and that a strong Navy is the most cost-effective means of ensuring peace.

PRIDE • SERVICE • PATRIOTISM



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