

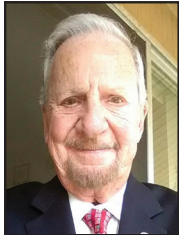


# ALL AHEAD FULL



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

SPRING 2019



## FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings, Shipmates:

“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.” It was the French writer and wit Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr who coined that phrase while serving as the editor of *Le Figaro*: “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” So it is for us as the new century staggers on. The world changes. But while it is incumbent upon us to keep pace with the ebb and flow of events around us, the mission remains the same. And our mission is, as it has been since the founding of the Navy League more than a century ago, support of the sea services and the men and women who serve therein.

As you will read in this issue we continue to pursue that mission with resolve. Our board members and others who are like minded are on call and respond swiftly when called upon to take part in the events and activities of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. There are awards to present to deserving members of the armed forces, requests for assistance to be honored with both financial aid and sweat equity from the various youth groups we sponsor, and all the ongoing business that keep the Baltimore Council at the forefront of Navy League activity.

One of our greatest challenges to date is the creation of a new trust fund to administer the funds collected for the commissioning in Baltimore of the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000). The funds will be used to provide for the welfare of the vessel and her crew with special focus on educational programs. The

third and last of the three Zumwalt class destroyers is swimming as this is being written. But there remain ongoing problems with propulsion and armament yet to be resolved.

The armed forces are growing again. The Navy needs more ships and the personnel to crew them as the geopolitical environment becomes more unstable. It is ever more difficult to discern the clear difference between friend and enemy, current and potential.

Most troubling of all is the political situation at home brought into sharp focus back in February with the arrest of a serving officer in the Coast Guard on a variety of charges. LT Christopher Paul Hasson, who was assigned to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington is a self-described “white nationalist” in whose home was found a hit list of elected officials, activists, and media personalities along with a huge arsenal of all manner of weapons he had, according to prosecutors, been stockpiling for years. LT Hasson’s arrest was the result of an investigation conducted jointly by the CGIS, the FBI, and the Justice Department. Prior to his enlistment in the Coast Guard Hasson had served in the Marine Corps and the National Guard. It is to be profoundly hoped that this is an isolated case. But there’s little doubt that, in many ways, we have become a nation that is, philosophically and politically, at war with itself; a war in which reason must prevail else we cease to “preserve thus a nation.”

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## Outside the Box

### The VFW and the NGAM

In addition to the pursuit of its primary mission the Baltimore Council often interacts with other military oriented organizations, especially in the forum of youth programs. Each year the Veterans of



Foreign Wars conducts a Voice of Democracy contest for high school students in which a subject, related to the nation, its origins and objectives is chosen. And schools all around the state are asked to select from among the essays prepared and recorded by students those deemed worthy of submission to panels of judges for entry into a national competition. In 2018 the entry chosen as best of the best by the Maryland panel won top national honors including a \$30,000 scholarship.

As he has for many years Council President Alan Walden was among the judges. And while not as successful as in the previous years the entries were, overall, well presented and worthy of consideration by the national panel.

The Voice of Democracy contest is one of the most effective means of involving young Americans in the political and social structure of the nation and preparing them for their responsibilities and the future leaders of the United States.

And, just last month, a large crowd filled the main Ballroom at Martin’s West for a major event the host of which was the National Guard Association of Maryland (NGAM). Among those in attendance were members of the Army and Air National Guard led by Major General Linda Singh, the Adjutant General, the Maryland Defence Force, and

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## The Challenge

# Our Ships, Our Cargo

Not long ago we received from Alan Kaplan, National President of the Navy League, an action alert regarding the need for active support of the Jones Act. A key element of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 it is a federal statute that provides for the promotion and maintenance of the American merchant marine and regulates maritime commerce in U.S. waters and between U.S. ports. Section 27 deals with cabotage (coastwise trade) and requires that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried on U.S.-flag ships, constructed in the United States, owned by U.S. citizens, and crewed by U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. The act, introduced by Senator Wesley Jones, also defines certain seaman's rights.

Sadly, relatively few of our elected officials are aware of the Jones Act and its importance to the maritime wellbeing of the nation. It is, therefore, imperative that in our interaction with members of congress,



especially since there are so many new members on Capitol Hill, this issue be given the highest priority. As pointed out by President Kaplan “the Jones Act helps support nearly 650,000 jobs across the United States with an annual economic impact of more than 150 billion dollars. More importantly,” he continued, “to the nation as a whole, the law provides important national, homeland, and economic security benefits.”

Laws similar to the Jones Act date to the early days of the nation. In its first session, on September 1, 1789, Congress enacted Chapter XI: “An Act for Registering and Clearing Vessels, Regulating the Coasting Trade, and for other purposes”, which limited domestic trades to American ships meeting certain requirements. It will be among the subjects discussed next month on National Maritime Day, an occasion to be celebrated here in Baltimore by a major event on the fantail of the Nuclear Ship Savannah, now a privately supported museum at Pier 13 in Canton. It is an event to which all are invited. ⚓

From the Bridge  
Continued from page 1

No, politics is not our affair other than as citizens of the republic. Our business was, is, and ever shall be support of the men and women of the sea services to whom we entrust our safety and security. But we cannot ignore what is happening around us; which makes our mission ever more vital.

Just a reminder here that the Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Baltimore Council, Navy League of the United States will take place on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at a venue to be announced. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to be there.

Be well, be steadfast, be honorable and, above all, be proud of our nation and those who serve her.

God Bless the United States of America. ⚓

*Alan Walden  
President and Life Member*

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representatives, both military and civilian, from Estonia and the Federation of Bosnia-Hertzeogovina. Both nations have a strong collegial relationship with the Maryland. The Baltimore Council of the Navy League was there, too, in the person of Senior Vice President Joe Nattans and his wife, Donna. Joe is, as many of you know, a retired brigadier general. It was an elegant evening; successor to the annual “Military Ball” interrupted by massive military deployments in recent years. ⚓



Donna and General Joe Nattans

# Not Just Kid Stuff

## The Cadets

With school back in session the Baltimore Council will be busy this spring with the annual award ceremonies that take place each year honoring members of the youth programs we sponsor and otherwise support. Already plans have been made for presentations at two Baltimore area high schools which include JROTC programs as electives. And the Fort McHenry Division / Training Ship Constellation units of the United States Naval and Navy League Sea Cadet Corps continue to flourish.

Though neither the Navy League nor the USNSCC act as recruiting organizations for the armed forces, many of the young men and women who take part in Sea Cadet programs choose to join the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, or the Merchant Marine when they finish their schooling. And the lessons they learn regarding self-discipline, personal responsibility, teamwork, and honorable conduct serve them well whether or not they select the uniformed services as a career path.



The new Chiefs

If you are the parent or grandparent of a young person who could benefit from involvement in such an organization we suggest you contact your local unit of the Sea Cadets. In Baltimore, the units sponsored by this council are headquartered at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) on Whetstone (Locust) Point adjacent to Fort McHenry. ⚓



Honoring Fallen Heroes

# Heroes on the Hill

## New Faces of 2019

We've been hearing a lot for the past several months about new members of Congress and what they may bring to the conduct of government in the years to come. But there are a few who've been largely overlooked by both their peers and the media. The Purple Heart Heroes in the class of 2018.

Jim Baird of Indiana, for one. He lost his left arm in Vietnam. Then there's Brian Mast of Florida. He lost both legs to an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Afghanistan. And Dan Crenshaw of Texas: He lost his right eye, also in the wilds of Whackostan.

No, they haven't received any of the attention that's been



Reps. Baird, Mast and Crenshaw

bestowed upon others. But they, more than most others, understand the meaning of sacrifice in the service of this nation. And that they have chosen to continue in its service does them great credit. Of himself and his two colleagues Representative Mast said we have "five eyes, five arms, and four legs: All American." ⚓



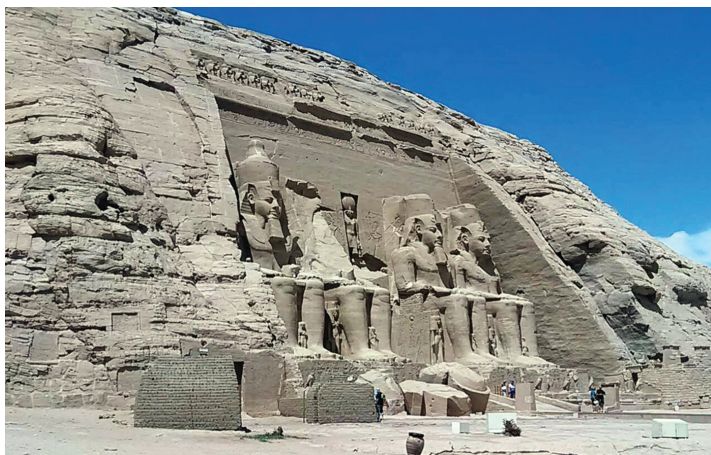
## Far Away Places

# Land of the Pharaohs

by Alan Walden

I can think of nothing that makes me happier than to come home after spending time overseas, especially in a third world country, and to compare what I found there with what we have here. A recent two week visit to Egypt was a case in point.

As a historian by avocation I was thrilled at the idea of exploring an ancient civilization which, for the better part of three millennia, on and off, had ruled the known world. And, in that, I was not disappointed. From Cairo, north to Alexandria, up the Nile (Geographically down since the river flows south to north) to storied sites at Luxor, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Aswan, and Abu Simbel my companion and I had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a remarkable array of archeological marvels, the creations of a people who were light years ahead of anyone else.



*Colossi of Rameses II at Abu Simbel*

What was distressing was to experience the state of decay into which that once proud empire has fallen since its days of glory. Modern Egypt is not a happy place. Politically it is a military dictatorship and an armed camp. Everywhere we went we were confronted by military and paramilitary forces; roadblocks, patrols, checkpoints. We even had an armed guard in close company and, often, a police escort as we made our way from site to site. Time and again we were told Egypt is still trying to recover what is euphemistically and relentlessly referred to as "The Crisis." Not the Middle East Wars of the 1960s and 70s, but the Arab Spring of 2011 that brought the Muslim Brotherhood to short-lived power. Egypt's population still identifies as around 80+ percent Muslim, 15 percent Coptic Christian, and a mere 5 percent "other" including a nearly microscopic number of Jews where once there were tens of thousands. But Islam is no longer regarded as a major factor in government. The regime of President (General) Abdel Fatah El Sisi is secular in nature. He is regarded as a geopolitical ally of the United States and a bulwark against the Islamic theocracies that constantly threaten to overwhelm the Middle East. But it is a tenuous alliance at the best.



*Valley of the Kings*

The one constant in Egyptian life is water. It's the Nile. Even the ancient pharaohs and their gods were obsessed with water and boats as is obvious in the artifacts in museums and the glyphs and cartouches found on the walls and ceilings of the tombs in the fabled Valley of the Kings. They always traveled by boat, even to the underworld.

Coming home, as I said at the outset, was a pleasure. From the dusty history of an open air museum to the clean, free, environment of this republic was not only refreshing but also a reminder of what we have and who we are. Also of how precious and fragile are the trappings of civilization. ⚓



*Ship of the Dead*

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# Coming Up

- 4/14** Palm Sunday
- 4/19** Good Friday  
Passover begins at sundown
- 4/21** Easter Sunday
- 5/5** Ramadan begins (30 days duration)
- 5/8** VE Day (1945)
- 5/12** Mother's Day
- 5/18** Armed Forces Day (Show the colors)
- 5/22** National Maritime Day
- 5/27** Memorial Day observed (Half-staff colors until noon, then full staff)
- 6/14** Flag Day (Show the colors)
- 6/21** Summer Solstice (First day of summer)

## From the Editor

As always your comments and observations regarding this publication are invited and welcome. You are also invited to contribute to All Ahead Full. You may have a story to tell of interest to our readers; something that occurred when you were in uniform perhaps; something you did or saw that lingers long after the fact. Just a few paragraphs will do nicely; more if you wish. Should you have a photo or two to accompany the article, so much the better. Simply send your contributions, preferably as an attachment in the "Word" format, to [arwmedia@aol.com](mailto:arwmedia@aol.com).



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## 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